



Shepherd Park News

A quarterly newsletter for the residents of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village and North Portal Estates

Annual Potluck
Sunday, Jan 25, 5-7 pm

2014 Vol., Issue 4

www.shepherdpark.org

DECEMBER 2014/ JANUARY 2015

Candidate Forum Provides Important Exposure

by Mark Pattison

The SPCA Candidate Forum for attorney general and D.C. Council at-large candidates on October 22 at Tifereth Israel Congregation went well, with lots of politicking going on. Three of five attorney general candidates, and 12 of 15 council candidates – including some who hadn't RSVP'd – turned out.

Courtney Snowden, who grew up in Shepherd Park, must have impressed the crowd by moving in front of the table to address neighbors. She finished second to Anita Bonds in Precinct 62. Elissa Silverman, who with Bonds won at-large seats, proudly waved her tickets for "Shepherd Park Day" (Shepherd Elementary's annual Fall Fest) in her closing remarks.



Many thanks to **Washington Post** columnist Robert McCartney, who moderated, as well as SPCA members Carl Bergman, Mark Pattison, and Aeva Doomes, who coordinated the event. The SPCA was not alone in this forum, with co-sponsors including Tifereth

Israel, Congregation Ohev Shalom, the Friends of the Shepherd Park Library, Neighbors Inc., the Takoma DC Neighborhood Association and the Washington Ethical Society.

With Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser winning the mayor's race, a special election to fill her seat will be necessary. Does this mean the SPCA will host another candidate forum? It's too early to tell. Yet another reason to join the Shepherd Park listserve, so you can stay atop what's happening! To subscribe, send a blank message to shepherdpark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

The SPCA Annual New Year's Potluck Dinner - YUM-TASTIC!

by Rosalyn L Coates, Potluck Committee Chair

Once again the SPCA community of neighbors and friends will celebrate the new year, our community, and our culinary talents at the Annual New Year's Potluck. This year's event will be January 25, 5-7 pm. The place will be announced later.

The event will feature a smorgasboard of delightful edibles from you, the neighbors. As in past years, we will have a kosher table, which will be coordinated by Sarah Gershman (sarah.gershman@gmail.com). There also will be music, door prizes, and games for the kids. Neighbors new and old are welcome to join us for this opportunity to renew old relationships and make new acquaintances.

Of course, we need some help. If you can volunteer to set up, serve, or clean up, contact Rosalyn Coates at rwil730@aol.com. We also are looking for toys for the play area and two responsible teenagers to provide babysitting services. The what-to-bring assignments this year, by last name, are as follows:

- A - L - Desserts
- M - R - Main Dishes
- S - Z - Side Dishes/Vegetables/Salads

The SPCA will supply beverages.

Happy holidays, everyone! We look forward to welcoming the New Year with you soon.

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ANC 4A Election Results

by André R. Carley

Below are the results of the little heralded but very important positions of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC). The ANC 4A commissioners for single member districts 4A01, 4A02, and 4A03 serve the SPCA membership areas. With the exception of Acqunetta Anderson, who was challenged by Karl Kennedy, all incumbent commissioners ran unopposed.

ANC 4A Commissioners, 2015-16

Acqunetta Anderson, 4A01
Dwayne Toliver, 4A02
Steve Whatley, 4A03
Patience R. Singleton, 4A04
Kimberly A. Worthy, 4A05
Karrye Y. Braxton, 4A06
Dave Wilson, 4A07
Gale Black, 4A08



Congratulations to all the winners!

Lt. Vines Retired

by Paula Sanderlin Dorosti



Community members hosted thank you for Lt. Vines.

SPCA says thank you and happy retirement to Lt. Moses Vines, who served PSA 401 for over 20 years. During that time, he attended the PSA 401 meetings on the 2nd Wednesday each month from 7-8 pm at the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library.

Lt. Vines' meetings were a direct link to the 4th District. These exchanges were an effective way to address crime prevention and get answers to our neighborhood safety questions. Lt. Vines retired in June. He will be missed.

Corrections

In the September-October *Shepherd Park News* "Meet the Board" article on page 3, the new board member is Yvette (not Yvonne) Pearson.

As a matter of policy, all errors of substance are corrected in the next issue. To report an error, contact André R. Carley at shepherdparknews@gmail.com or (202) 813-3152.



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Whether it's a letter to the editor, info on community event, or an ad, we'd love to hear from you!

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Pansies Provide Fall Color Along Georgia Avenue

by Cynthia Prather



Photo by Ben Schumin

Prather grandchildren helped with planting.



Photo by Cynthia Prather

San Miguel students planted pansies along upper Georgia Avenue.

In late October and early November, almost 200 pansies and dozens of tulips were planted to replace the fading geraniums in the clay planters and in public spaces along upper Georgia Avenue. As in previous years, the flowers were purchased by SPCA. Volunteers did the planting.

This year's planting occurred in phases, with the first planting completed on Saturday, October 25. On the second planting day, Wednesday, November 5, students from San Miguel School at 7705 Georgia Avenue, planted pansies in several of the planters at the intersections near Kalmia Road and Eastern Avenue. Days three and four involved planting at the "Welcome to Washington" sign and the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library. Thanks to the following people for their help with this year's plant-in: Marty O'Rourke and

Danielle Hunter of Ledo Pizza and Pasta; James Dorsey; Kennis, Naomi, and Samuel Prather; Addisolme Wlodebehn; and the enthusiastic group from San Miguel School: Alfonso Motta, outgoing Community and Outreach Coordinator, and students, Giovanni Zelaya, Frank Hernandez, Gerson Garcia, Stefen Rincon, Jeff Leon, Michael Mazariegos, Victor Hernandez, Alden Romero, Jason Reyes, and Ryan Flores. Thanks also to Ledo Pizza and Pasta for coordinating delivery and storage of the supplies, and to Ledos, 7 Eleven (at Georgia and Geranium), and the Park Laundromat (7721-7723 Georgia Avenue) for water refills.

The next planting day will be May 16, 2015. Watch future newsletters and the list serve for details. Contact Cynthia Prather, scsprather@aol.com if you have ideas or suggestions.



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Shepherd /TI Tutoring Partnership Continues

by Susan Catler

As reported in the *Shepherd Park News* this fall, neighbor Dan Nathan recently “retired” after 16 years as the head of the Shepherd/Tifereth Israel Tutoring Program, which provides free weekly tutoring for Shepherd Elementary students.

The tutoring program lives on. This year’s program started on October 19 and will run until the end of school in the spring. Nearly 20 Shepherd Elementary students are cheerfully participating. The tutoring, which is provided by high school and middle school students, and a few

adults, is best for students in second grade and above. The program meets every Sunday (except holiday weekends) from 5-7 pm at Tifereth Israel, the synagogue at the corner of 16th and Juniper Streets.

If you would like your child to participate or if you know of someone who would like to tutor, email Susan Catler, liaison for the program, at shepherd tutoring program@gmail.com. For more information, go to the Shepherd Elementary website at www.shepherd-elementary.org and look for “Tutoring.”

Curating a Love of Libraries and Literature

by JT Tarransky

One of the best parts of city life is the number of free programs for kids that are both educational and entertaining. My kids and I count on the story times at DC Public Libraries for fun, free enrichment. Every library is different, and you should make a habit of checking <http://dclibrary.org/calender> to see what story times, tween craft projects, teen movies, or other activities are available.

Our neighborhood library, Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library (7420 Georgia Avenue NW), not only has a great kids’ section and plenty of computers for the use of children only, but also has an excellent children’s librarian, Elaine Pelton. Ms. Elaine is a great resource. She also hosts a slew of events every week:

- Mondays at 5:30 pm - Teen Game Night
- Tuesdays from 11-11:30 am – Baby/Toddler Story Time (Birth-3)

- Every 3rd Wednesday at 4 pm – Teen Movie Night (ages 8-19)
- Saturdays from 11-11:30 am – Family Story Time (up to age 7)

Right down the road is Petworth Library (4200 Kansas Avenue NW). One unique program is the Wednesday afternoon Lego Free Build Time at 4 pm, just for tweens. Saturday mornings at 11 am is yoga time for adults and teens.

Monday is a special day at the Takoma Park (DC) Library (416 Cedar St NW), with movie time at 10:30 am and 11:30 am for the 3-5 year old set and Pajama Story Time at 7 pm. Children bring stuffed animals and jammies for bedtime stories in front of the fireplace!

Libraries are a great place to set your children on a lifelong path of passionate reading and learning!

Tifereth Israel Congregation Completes Environmental Demonstration Project

by Carla Ellern and Cynthia Prather



Photo by Earl Dotter

The TI rain garden project culminated with planting.

On November 9, Tifereth Israel (TI) Congregation formally unveiled a combination of linked rain gardens and permeable pavers that it developed as a demonstration project with the aid of \$83,000 in funding from the District Department of the Environment. Designed to absorb rain, the project’s development strategies keep storm water from running across the landscape, picking up pollutants that poison the Chesapeake Bay, and badly eroding our rivers and streams.

The project, which was initiated and planned by laypeople from TI, is part of a broader city effort to encourage institutional and residential landowners to invest in storm water infiltration. Tifereth Israel is the first religious institution to showcase multiple landscape development strategies that help reduce storm water runoff. The occasion was marked by the planting of bulbs and native perennials.

For more information about the TI rain gardens project, contact Carla Ellern, carla.ellern@gmail.com. For more information about DC’s program, see <http://ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes>.



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East Rock Creek Village Reports Progress Towards Aging in Place

by Shannon Cockett

Enthusiasm and interest are growing in East Rock Creek Village (ERCV), a non-profit dedicated to helping seniors stay connected to their communities and thrive in the upper Ward 4 neighborhoods of Brightwood, Colonial Village, Crestwood, Manor Park, North Portal Estates, Shepherd Park, and Takoma DC. As a result of the ERCV board's extensive outreach efforts over the past year, there are now 67 pledged members who have promised to join and 68 volunteers who have promised to deliver services to seniors through ERCV when it opens its doors in the spring of 2015. We are over halfway to our goal of 125 members and 100 volunteers when we launch!

We also are engaged in raising the funds needed to support the first year of operations, and we are beginning the search for office space. A funding request has been made to the DC Council.

But we will not be able to open our village doors without your help. Supporters can send their fully tax-deductible checks in any amount to East Rock Creek Village at P.O. Box 60622, Washington, DC 20039. In addition, if you have a neighbor who might be interested in joining or volunteering for ERCV or if you are interested in hosting a membership event in your home, please contact either Susan Learmonth (202) 722-1042, susan.learmonth@gmail.com) or Marjorie Odle (202) 726-6414, margiedc@gmail.com). If you have a fundraising idea or would like to host a morning coffee or evening get-together, please contact Shannon Cockett (202) 341-7775, shannon.cockett@yahoo.com). Finally, if you know of free or low-cost office space, please contact Carroll Green (202) 723-6063, todo4u2@aol.com). Together, we can ensure that we help our neighbors live and age well.

Neighbors Collaborate on Outdoor Swimming Pool in Shepherd Park

by Acqunetta Anderson and Sarah Gershman

As temperatures drop and winter approaches, summer feels like a distant memory. But the hot, humid DC summer will be back soon enough. Families all over Shepherd Park are working to make our summer even better by advocating for a public outdoor pool in our neighborhood.

This past August, ANC Commissioner for Single Member District (SMD) 4A01, Acqunetta Anderson, Sarah Gershman, chair of SMD4A01's Outdoor Pool and Recreation Committee, and other neighbors met with representatives of DC Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Walter Reed Redevelopment Team – Hines-Urban Atlantic-Triden – to discuss the possibility of an outdoor pool in SMD4A01 and/or at the former Walter Reed campus.

At the meeting, we found DPR had recently issued a "vision framework" indicating areas in DC with the greatest need for pools. We learned that DDPR has set a general goal of having an outdoor pool within 1.5 miles of every resident, and that one outdoor pool has already been proposed for Ward 4! (Right now, Ward 4's only outdoor pool is located at the Upshur Pool, which is over 3 miles away from us.) To

review the vision framework, visit <http://dpr.dc.gov/page/play-dc-master-plan-vision-framework-march-2014>, pp. 34-35.

In response to this exciting news, Commissioner Anderson and more than 45 neighborhood families wrote a letter to DPR requesting that they consider building the new pool right here in our neighborhood. Several meetings are planned to obtain community input. We look forward to working together with each of you to help make this summer dream come true.

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Photo by Kathy Lentz



Putting the 'We' in Hal

Article by Mark Pattison, Photos by Ed Sawvoir, www.savvoir.com

In so many words, Shepherd Park's 11th annual Halloween Parade at Shepherd Field was fantastic. Turnout maybe was down a tad – or maybe not. The SPCA bought 150 extra pieces of candy to avoid running out like last year, and had just three dozen left by parade's end. Children and adults alike had a grand time. One neighbor invited visitors from Pittsburgh to take in the parade, and they said they had never seen anything like it before!

Much thanks to Adrienne Antoine and Cheryl Teare for purchasing candy and supplies and to a big bunch of helpers for assembling glow sticks, handing out candy, and performing other

needed tasks for the parade: Leonard Taylor and daughter Cydni, Leo Alexander, Robin Pressman, Michael Matthews, Debra Harrison, Diana Hossack, Rosemary Reed Miller, Ed Sawvoir, Tim and Kelly Shuy, and Cynthia Prather. Thanks also to two neighbors, Debra Harrison and Diana Hossack of Primrose Road, who came over to share some of their Halloween bounty with paraders; the 122 neighbors who put their houses on the trick-or-treat list, and the five decorating contest entrants.

As for Halloween spirit at home, Damon and Tori Robinson in the 7500 of Morningside Drive not only swept the judges' scorecards,



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but swept the categories: best house, funkiest house, and funkiest pumpkins! Thanks to our judges, the brother-sister team of Adrien and Floriane Chatain.

The weather was great, the atmosphere festive. Together, we made Halloween safe, simple and simply fun for Shepherd Park.

What more could you ask for? Only to repeat it next year – which the SPCA will!

Editor's Note: Thanks to the organizer, Mark Pattison, named by one neighbor as the "hardest working man in show business."



Photo by Kathy Jentz



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Blair Towers to Be Redeveloped

by Ed Atkins



Current construction site at Blair Towers.

Shepherd Park is about to have new neighbors. Part of The Blairs apartment complex that borders our community along Eastern Avenue will begin redevelopment early next year.

Phase One of a multi-year, \$650 million redevelopment will start in January. The first activity, which should take two or three months, involves demolishing the Blair Towers, the four original mid-rise buildings at Eastern Avenue and Blair Mills Road. There will be no evening or Sunday work during demolition or construction, according to Sri Velamati, Vice President of the Tower Cos., The Blairs owner and property developer.

Construction of 507 new apartments to replace the existing 267 units should begin during the late spring or early summer of 2015 and should be completed by summer of 2017. The new units will have more two- and three-bedroom units than most other new apartment construction. In accordance with Montgomery County procedures, at least 12 percent of the units will be reserved for moderate-income persons and families.

The new buildings will range in height from five stories along Eastern Avenue to 18 stories toward the interior of the parcel. The units along Eastern will resemble independent buildings with townhouse-type entrances but will be connected to each other through a series of skywalks and corridors.

An innovative feature of the new construction is that the green spaces and pathways are designed to permit access for pedestrians to walk from Eastern Avenue to East-West Highway. The new buildings will be built above two levels of underground parking, greatly increasing options for residents.

Future phases of the site could include more apartment development, new retail offerings, underground parking, and parks. Such construction, however, depends on the real estate market and could be at least five to ten years away, according to Velamati.

For more information contact construction@blairapartments.com.



New Blair Towers artist concept.



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Upper Georgia Avenue News

Food Is Art at Taste Art Gallery

by June Confer

One of the newest businesses in Shepherd Park is Taste Art Gallery at 7610A Georgia Avenue, three doors north of the Diversified Engineering Building. Co-owners Jamila Tolbert and W. James Canty, Jr. opened the gallery this past June, after deciding our community offered the perfect blend of people interested in food and art. The business highlights the creative works and products of their clients through events, tastings, and exhibits.

Jamila is the Art Director of the gallery. She's found her talent in art in the last few years and enjoys creating



Co-owners Jamila Tolbert and W. James Canty in Taste Art Gallery.

works in mixed media, joining oil and acrylic on canvas with flowers, leaves, newspaper clippings, and CDs. Although the art in the gallery has changed every two months since opening, it has displayed at least one of her works continuously.

Jamila also coordinates the workshops, events, and use/rental of the space. Raised in East Louisville, she's lived in DC for about seven years and works in housing development. She and her two sisters are involved in support for non-profits, helping raise funds for her sister's foundation and school in South Africa as well as organizations working for social justice, education, and poverty reduction.

James is known as the "Foodographer," joining his education and experience in the culinary arts with photography of his culinary creations and those of his clients, who come to him for help in business branding, graphics, networking, and financial aspects of their start-ups. Trained at Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island, he has worked in the hospitality industry as a chief

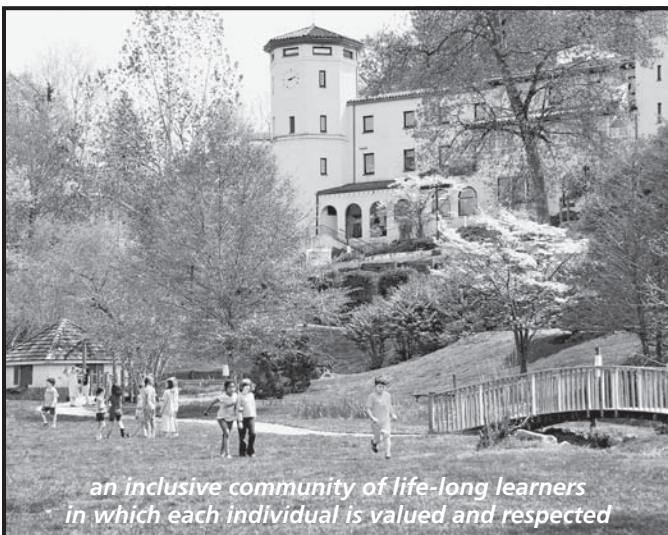
event chef and IT manager. He learned photography to help his employees produce standardized creations for events and now enjoys the art of his food presentations.

A good listener, James looks forward to talking with his neighbors while getting to know them and finding out how Taste Art Gallery can serve their needs. He and Jamila want people to stop by and perhaps attend one of their painting workshops or events.

Taste Art Gallery

7610A Georgia Ave NW
Washington, DC 20012
(202) 674-5853

www.tasteartgallery.com
james@tasteartgallery.com
& jamilla@tasteartgallery.com
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Membership benefits (depending on the level) include a listing on the SPCA website, an online business profile, coupons in our quarterly newsletter and on our website. Visit www.shepherdpark.org for a list of all of our business and community members. We encourage our neighbors to check out their goods and services.

Renewing Gold Member St. Mary's Baptist Church

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Dress for Success DC Sets Up Shop in Shepherd Park

Dress for Success Washington, DC recently moved its DC office to the Terra Nova Building in Shepherd Park, 7826 Eastern Avenue NW. Dress for Success works to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

The DC affiliate of Dress for Success accepts donations of women's professional attire (current season only) every Thursday from 5-7 pm and on the 4th Saturday of each month from 10 am -1 pm. Donations should be taken to the rear of the Terra Nova Building. If no one is there, call (202) 269-4805, and someone will come out to assist you. Donation receipts are available.

For more info, go to www.dressforsuccess.org/washingtondc or contact them at (202) 269-4805 or washington@dressforsuccess.org

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Community Calendar, December 2014-January 2015

At the Shepherd Park Library

Job Seekers Drop-In Clinic

Guidance and advice on cover letters, resumes, and job searching.
Every Wednesday, 11 am-1 pm

Teen Game Night

Come play video games, board games, and more! Ages 10 and up.
Every Monday, 5:30-6:45pm

Downloadable Media Walk-In Clinic

Hands-on assistance with e-books, e-audio books, and digital materials available from the library.
Every Tuesday, 6-7 pm

Baby & Toddler Lap Time

Music, movement, rhymes, and stories. Best for children ages birth-3 years.
Every Tuesday, 11-11:30 am

Family Story Time

Fun family story time for children ages birth to 5 years and their caregivers.
Every Saturday, 11-11:30 am

Computer Crash Course

Learn or brush upon basic computer skills, including internet, email, and typing.
Every Sunday, 3 pm

Kids and Teens Activity Night

Explore arts and crafts, technology activities, science experiments, and more.
Wed, Dec 3 & Jan 7, 5:30 pm

Kids Movie Night

Movies and snacks for kids and teens.
Wed, Dec 17 & Wed, Jan 21, 5:30 pm

Hanukkah Crafts for Kids

Create your own dreidel ornament. Children ages two and up will enjoy this simple holiday craft.
Sun, Dec 21, 3:00 pm

At Tifereth Israel Congregation

Torah Study and Lunch
Every Mon, 11 am-1 pm
Discussion of the Torah portion of the week, followed by lunch and friendly conversation.

December

Tues, Dec 2, 7 pm

ANC 4A Mtg

Fort Stevens Recreation Center
1327 Van Buren Street, NW

Wed, & Fri Dec 3, 5, 10 & 12, 8:45-10:30 am

Lowell School Admissions Tours

More information at www.lowellschool.org.

Sun, Dec 7, 14 & 21, 10 am ; Dec 24, 7 pm

Advent and Christmas Eve

Services, Spiritual preparation for Christmas culminating with Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Shepherd Park Christian Church

Mon, Dec 8, 15 & 22, 11 am

Holidays With Integrity

Wash Ethical Soc'y

Wed, Dec 10, 7 pm

PSA 401 Meeting

Shepherd Park Library

Fri, Dec 12

SPCA Holiday Community Activity

Fri, & Sat, Dec 12 & 13

Shabbaton with Peter Pitzele, Bibliodrama

See www.tifereth-israel.org for more details.

Sun, Dec 14, 6 pm

Winter Festival! Celebrate the spirit of peace, love, giving, hope, and joy with story, song, and lots of audience participation, \$10 adults, children free, Wash Ethical Soc'y

Mon, Dec 16, 4-10 pm

Shepherd Elem PTA Family Dinner Night

Ledo Pizza, 7435 Georgia Ave, NW

Wed, Dec 17, 6:15 pm

Hanukkah Extravaganza

Dairy dinner, candle lighting, and activities for children of all ages.

See www.tifereth-israel.org for more details and to reserve a place.

Thu, Dec 18, 7 pm

4D Citizens Advisory Council Mtg

4D Headquarters
6001 Georgia Avenue NW

Sat, Dec 20, 11:10 am

Tot Shabbat

Monthly program for children 18 months to 5 years and their parents.

For more information, see www.tifereth-israel.org/tot-shabbat.

January

Thurs, Jan 1

Lowell Summer Camp

registration opens.

More information at www.lowellschool.org.

Tues, Jan 6, 7 pm

ANC 4A Mtg.

Fort Stevens Recreation Center
1327 Van Buren Street, NW

Wednesdays, Jan 7-Feb 11, 7-9 pm

A Beginner's Guide to Jewish History

Course covering Ancient Jewish History through Modern Israel, taught by Cynthia Peterman.

6-session class: \$120 for TI members, \$160 for nonmembers

Fri, Jan 9, 7 pm

Shabbat Dinner

Join us for a friendly, community dinner, following our 6 pm Shabbat service. Cost for TI members: \$18 per adult; \$13 per child 8-12; \$8 per child 3-7; \$60 family maximum; nonmembers: \$21 per adult, \$15 per child 8-12; \$10 per child 3-7; \$70 family maximum.

Wed, Jan 14, 7 pm

PSA 401 Mtg

Shepherd Park Library

Thu, Jan 15, 7 pm

4D Citizens Advisory Council Mtg

4D Headquarters,
6001 Georgia Ave NW

Wed, Jan 21, 7 pm

Concerned Neighbors, Inc. Comm. Ass'n Meeting

Shepherd Park Library

Sun, January 25, 5-7 pm

SPCA Annual New Year's Potluck

Place TBD

SHEPHERD PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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SPCA Upcoming Events



Annual New Year's

Potluck

Sun, Jan 25, 5-7 pm
Place to be determined

Community Meeting

Tues, Mar 10, 7 pm
Shepherd Elementary

Community Meeting/ Elections

Tues, May 12, 7 pm
Shepherd Elementary

Spring Plant-in

Sat, May 16, 8:30-10:30 am

SPCA Garden Tour

Sun, May 17, 2-5 pm

Yard Sale

Sat-Sun June 6-7, 9 am-3 pm

SPCA Picnic

Sun, Jun 14, 2-5 pm
Place to be determined

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