

What's Going On?

by Naima Jefferson

I think it goes without saying that the past eighteen months have been challenging for everyone. I have met with some of our community leaders and one thing is constant — many of us are not the same people we were two years ago. Everyone has experienced some loss, whether it be family members, jobs, peace and quiet, or even just a sense of normalcy. While this edition of the *Shepherd Park News* has



MPD Fourth District Community Outreach Coordinator Mr. Derek Staten bids Shepherd Park farewell and introduces Ofc. Robert Hamrick as the new Fourth District Community Outreach Coordinator.

several articles outlining changes to our community, one thing remains constant — our desire to connect as a community. As the 2021 calendar fades, please know that plans are underway to not only bring back some of our traditional community events such as the annual meeting, the annual Halloween parade and decorating contest, the annual Garden Tour, and 2022 candidate forums, but also to create new events and ways for our community to engage. As always, we welcome your time, talents, and gifts!

The Parks at Walter Reed Neighborhood History Project

by Rachel Davis

The Parks at Walter Reed is partnering with the History Center on a history-gathering project in fall 2021 to uncover facts and stories from the people and neighborhoods surrounding the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center. We want to honor and elevate the stories of people who worked, lived, and played on and around the campus. Specific focus will be placed on the historically Black communities surrounding the campus in the neighborhoods of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, Brightwood, North Portal Estates, Takoma, and environs.

Source: *Stripe newspaper*, July 6, 1981, photo by JD Fox



Carolyn Tindal, Director of Nursing Continuing Education, goes over plans for Practical Nurse in-service programs with SFC Francisco Rodriguez.

who does? Remember someone who moved away, but would be a delightful person to interview? Please get out your photo albums and stay tuned for community meeting dates this fall! We'll hold two in-person meetings (likely outdoors) and one virtual meeting as starting points to gather information, anecdotes, and stories. Then, we'll be interviewing and filming selected participants. We'll be posting dates on social media @TheParksDC and the website at theparksd.com/

events in the coming weeks.

Questions or suggestions on who we should talk to? Contact Rachel Davis at info@theparksd.com.

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2020 US Census Data for Greater Shepherd Park

data compiled from censusreporter.org

The US Census Bureau has released census data for Washington at the census tract level. We are fortunate that census tract 16 includes most of our entire membership area: Shepherd Park, North Portal Estates, and Colonial Village, but not Walter Reed.

Here are a few highlights:

- Total population is 4,471, up 13% from 2010;
- Black population decreased 6.9% to 2,487;
- White population increased 33.5% to 1,331;
- Latino population increased 67% to 334;
- Asian population increased 30.9% to 72;
- Per capita income is \$66,244 (2019);
- Median household income is \$175,662 (2019);
- Median value of housing \$859,000 (2019);
- 55% have higher than a bachelor's degree.

For more detailed data, visit

<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/14000US11001001600-census-tract-16-district-of-columbia-dc/>

SPCA's Membership Year is January 1 to December 31

Annual Individual Dues \$25

To join/renew your membership, join a committee, or volunteer for one of the SPCA activities, visit www.shepherdpark.org

The *Shepherd Park News*, a newsletter of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, is published four times per year: October/November; December/January; March/April; and May/June.

As a matter of policy, all errors of substance are corrected in the next issue.

Report errors to shepherdparknews@gmail.com.

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Dues and donations are deductible as charitable contributions.

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patigriffith@gmail.com

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jmf613@hotmail.com

At-Large Delegates

June Confer

jconfer1225@gmail.com

Ed Atkins

okced87@gmail.com

Mark Pattison

mpattison@catholicnews.com

Citizens Association Delegate

Tony Dixon

am_dixon@hotmail.com

Civic Association Delegate

Ryan Waddy

(202) 412-2210

ryan@waddyworks.com

Contact the Editors!

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

Editor:

Cynthia Prather

(202) 882-7419

scsprather@aol.com

Advertising:

Beth Allaben

(202) 882-2609

beth.dc@verizon.net

Editing & Layout:

André R. Carley

(202) 813-3152

shepherdparknews@gmail.com



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The Garden Tour Returns!

by Cynthia Prather

On Sunday, May 16, the rain held out, and the show went on. And what a show it was! At the sign-in station, we could greet others (safely distanced but still very nice), buy seeds, donate books, and tour the garden at Shepherd Park Christian Church, this year's sign-in site. On the tour, we chatted with hosts and other admirers as we experienced an amazing array of gardens, with flowers and plants, fruits and vegetables, water features, and environmentally-conscious treatments and designs.

Thanks to SPCA President Naima Jefferson, Committee Chair Jackson Carnes, the Garden Tour Committee (Beth Allaben, Paula Edwards, and Yvette Pearson), photographer Ralph Blessing, and volunteers John Folger and Rick Toye for providing another wonderful event. Thanks also to our incredible neighbors, who shared their gardens, and to the many vendors and sponsors listed.

SPCA 2021 Garden Tour Hosts (in alphabetical order)

Ralph Blessing & Deborah Thomas, Brondi Borer, Liz Crafford, Hahva Gallagher, Barbara Gerlach, Margery Goldberg, Larry Haller, Cynthia & Bill Lightfoot, Kristopher Nelson, Ohev Sholom - The National Synagogue, The Parks at Walter Reed, Yvette & Dwight Pearson, Micah Salb, Shepherd Park Christian Church, Paige Weinberger

Vendors

Slow Food DC, Mrs. O'Leary's Books 4 Friends

Sponsors

The Parks at Walter Reed; Modern Mobler, Zenith Gallery; Kris Nelson, Realtor, Compass; Lee Goldstein Group; Rick Toye, Realtor, Coldwell Banker; Brenda Meija, Realtor, Compass; Clark & Carle, Realtor, Compass.

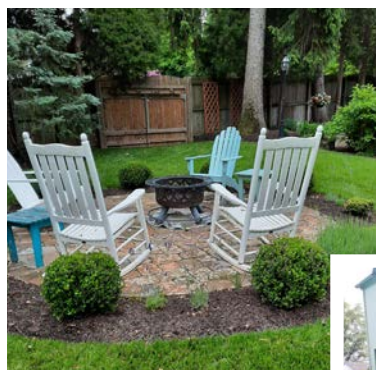


photo by Cynthia Prather



photos by Naima Jefferson



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School News

Remembering Yolanda Bush

Mrs. Yolanda Bush, remembered by some Shepherd Park neighbors as a “fixture in Shepherd Elementary’s Star Achievers program,” succumbed to complications from cancer this past June. Parents described her as kind and pleasant, gentle and caring, someone who loved every child as if he/she were her own. She will be missed. Messages of condolence may be sent to her husband, Joseph Bush, at 5809 5th St NE, Washington, DC 20011.

Shepherd Hosts Drive-by Farewell for Veteran Teacher



photo by Cynthia Prather

Principal Phyllis Hedlund poses with Beverly Johnson at Johnson’s farewell.

It was waves and thank yous on Friday, June 18, as the Shepherd Elementary School family bid farewell to Ms. Beverly Johnson, for her years of service to Shepherd Elementary. Ms. Johnson was a second grade teacher at Shepherd Elementary for many years, and later taught pre-K and kindergarten.

DCPS – Reopening Strong

by Molly Roberts

On August 30 District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) opened for full in-person learning for the school year. DCPS students have been taking classes virtually since March of 2020.

The opening of the 2021-2022 school year coincides with a rise in COVID-19 cases in our city due in large part to the highly transmissible delta variant. To reduce risk to exposure to COVID-19, DCPS kicked off the back-to-school

season with the #ReopenStrong campaign and has taken the following steps:

- Parents educated to keep kids home if exhibiting symptoms,
- Masks mandated for all students and staff,
- Enhanced school HVAC systems,
- Deep cleaning protocols established,
- Classrooms and other school spaces reorganized to maintain appropriate distance between students and adults,
- Adjustments to meal routines,
- Symptom screening and reporting,
- Notification of cases at schools.

DCPS, in conjunction with the DC Department of Health, has been offering free vaccinations to students between the ages of 12 and 18 at various middle and high schools. If exposed to COVID-19, students and teachers who are vaccinated will only need to quarantine at home if exhibiting symptoms. If exposed to COVID-19, unvaccinated students and staff will need to quarantine at home for 7 days and provide a negative test result.

For more details on the #ReopenStrong program, go to dcreopenstrong.com.



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Community News

DCYOP Starts 3rd Year at Takoma Elementary

by Cynthia Prather

The DC Youth Orchestra Program (DCYOP) began its third year of operation at Takoma Elementary School on Saturday, September 19. Founded in 1960, the program provides group orchestral instrument lessons and ensemble training to students ages 4.5 – 18 from DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Students may start a new instrument or can audition for one of DCYOP's various ensembles and orchestras. Rehearsals and lessons take place on Saturdays at Takoma Elementary during the school year. Tuition is affordable, thanks to grants and private gifts that offset program costs. Tuition assistance also is available on a sliding scale.

Although the year has already started, DCYOP accepts students at any time if they already play. "Our aim is to create the next generation of citizen musicians," says Executive Director Elizabeth Schurgin. "We accept all kids who want to play in the orchestra."

For more information, visit www.dcyop.org.



photo by Cynthia Prather

photo by Beth Allaben

Nell LaBeach Turns 100!



Nell LaBeach poses with husband, Samuel LaBeach, Jr., for her 100th birthday bash. Guest speakers included a spokesperson from Mayor Bowser's Office, Councilmember Lewis George, SPCA President Naima Jefferson, and long-time neighbor Cheryl Teare Reed.

by Cynthia Prather

Family, neighbors, friends, and local leaders joined together on May 23 to help Nell ("Doll Baby") LaBeach celebrate her 100th birthday!

Born in Albany, Georgia, on May 23, 1921, Nell moved north to study nursing and soon after began an illustrious career in the field, serving in several major hospitals along the East Coast. Nell met her husband, Samuel LaBeach, Jr., while attending classes and working in the infirmary at Morgan State. Married in 1951, they moved to Shepherd Park in 1968 where they have remained for over 50 years. An active community member, Nell was the organizer of the Leegate Road Orange Hat Patrol/ Neighborhood Crime Watch Association and served as Secretary for the Shepherd Park Citizens Association. In addition, Nell served on the city's Board of Aging under former Mayor Adrian Fenty.

Happy Birthday, Nell!

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Neighbors in Action

Walter Reed Native Plants



photo by Liz Crafford

Monarch butterfly on milkweed in Shepherd Park

by Matt Chambers

A group of local citizens, including Liz Crafford and Matt Chambers from Shepherd Park and Catherine Stratton Treadway and Tanya Topolewski from Takoma DC, have been working with The Parks at Walter Reed to encourage planting native plants and avoiding the use of non-native plants, especially invasive plants.

The Parks is currently designing and installing beautiful landscape plantings throughout the 40+ acre site. It is a unique opportunity to make a large-scale impact bringing birds, butterflies, and bees to the site situated next to Rock Creek Park.

Global bird and insect populations have declined precipitously, due to habitat destruction, particularly the loss of native plants on which birds and insects depend. Non-native plants do not provide the food, nectar, pollen, and nesting materials that caterpillars and bees need.

The group contacted the developers of The Parks earlier this summer. The developers have expressed a willingness to use more native plants and avoid invasive plants.

New FaceBook Group for Shepherd Park Parents

by Diana Banks

If you're a parent in Shepherd Park, please join us on Facebook! Shepherd Park DC Parents is a private Facebook group for parents in Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, and North Portal Estates, as well as parents with an interest in Shepherd Park, including parents of students at Lowell and Shepherd Elementary. The group shares resources related to children and items of interest. Recent posts have included back-to-school giveaways, announcements regarding a local ice cream truck, and summer camp options. Neighbors Diana Banks, Kristin Baldwin, and Artemis Benedetti are moderators.



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Walter Reed News

compiled from *The Parks at Walter Reed website, theparksdc.com & walterreedlra.com*

The Walter Reed site was humming with activity this summer. Several projects are well underway. For more information see theparksdc.com.

Fern Street Townhouses

The Walter Reed Development team proposes to construct 144 townhomes and “two over two” condominiums along Fern and Elder Streets. The team presented its proposal to the Walter Reed LRA at its community meeting on July 12 and to other neighborhood groups throughout the summer.

Primrose School Opens Its Doors

Primrose Schools at the Parks DC is currently scheduled for a mid-October 2021 opening in the ground floor of The Vale at Aspen Street and Georgia Ave. Primrose Schools® is a national system of accredited private preschools that provides early education and child care experience for children from six weeks old to age five.

Senior Affordable Assisted Living

Construction started in April 2021 for 54 assisted living units in Building 14 “North”. They are slated to be delivered next year.

Building IJ (“The Hartley”)

Demolition of the former main hospital building is complete. Construction of the structure to house 323 apartments and 60,000 square feet of retail including a Whole Foods grocery is well underway. The opening is currently scheduled for mid-2022.

Town Center

The Town Center, between The Hartley and Georgia Avenue and composed of retail spaces, is well underway. Utilities, roads, and plaza work are emphasized. Completion of the work will align with the opening of The Hartley in mid-2022. Construction on Buildings O and P begins later this fall.



photo by Cynthia Prather

Aspen Ave Parcel WXY

Construction is scheduled to begin on 50 townhomes next year.

Georgia Ave Parcel QRS

The design and bidding process for this apartment building to be constructed along Georgia Ave is ongoing. Construction for this approved project is scheduled to begin next year.

Fun in the Parks at Walter Reed

by Helen Moorehead



photo by Alex Kincannon

Helen tests the group swing at Walter Reed's new playground.

Youth reporter and neighbor Helen Moorehead is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Alice Deal Middle School who loves to bake and play with her dog, Suki. This is her second article for the Shepherd Park News.

The Parks at Walter Reed is growing and changing every day.

A great example of this is the new playground. The playground has something for all ages, including swings, slides, a sand pit, a see-saw, and a beautiful landscape. It is definitely worth a visit.

There is also a new dog park that has accommodations for both large and small dogs in separate fenced areas. The dog park has large gravel areas for running around and also obstacles for dogs to train on, or just have fun on. If you have a dog that needs to get out of the house and meet some new dogs, this will be a great place to go.

These facilities are both very helpful if you have kids or a dog, because they are new and exciting. Overall, they are a great addition to the neighborhood. The playground is to the right just inside the entrance at Butternut Street and Georgia Avenue (posted hours are dawn to dusk). The dog park is on the first left after you enter, opposite the fire station. Parking is available.



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Living with COVID-19

Outdoor Concert at Center

photo by Naima Jefferson



by Naima Jefferson

Neighbors swayed as they were entertained by the sultry sounds of Jazz Vortex at the Shepherd Field. Shepherd Park Community Center manager, Mrs. Shirleta Settles led Jazz Vortex as she teased and entertained the crowd with the smooth sound of her voice and mixed each of our personal life experiences into some of the greatest songs ever sung. Although a storm was brewing that warm summer evening, neighbors remained in a celebrative mood. Should Jazz Vortex perform in our community again, this is one performance you don't want to miss.



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Free Testing at Library

photo by Cynthia Prather



by Cynthia Prather

Shepherd Park/Juanita Thornton Library is one of 16 DC public libraries participating in DC Health's Test Yourself DC Program, which provides free coronavirus tests for anyone who needs them. Do-it-yourself kits are available outside the library during library hours. Completed kits should be turned in by 8 pm the same day. The gate is ajar after the library closes. Results are returned either by email or text approximately 3-5 business days after drop off. For more information or other Test Yourself locations, visit testyourself.dc.gov.



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Other Developments

UGAMS Names New Director

by Cynthia Prather

Welcome to Jackson Carnes, who joined the Upper Georgia Avenue Main Street (UGAMS) as the Executive Director on July 1. A Shepherd Park resident with nearly ten years of experience working with communities across the District of Columbia, Jackson is a person with a vision.



Jackson Carnes

Having served as the Director of Constituent Services for former Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon Todd and a regular volunteer for SPCA clean ups and other events, Jackson brings firsthand knowledge of the avenue's strengths and challenges.

As Executive Director of UGAMS, Jackson's focus is the 19 blocks + side streets of Georgia Avenue from Missouri Avenue to Eastern Avenue that make up the longest main street in Washington, DC. His plan is ambitious: supporting existing small businesses and attracting new ones; beautifying tree boxes and other public spaces; filling vacant properties; hosting special events; and leveraging with Walter Reed to maximize impact. "My vision for Georgia Avenue is a place where everyone wants to go and a place that serves the community.... If you have ideas and suggestions.... If you know of a good business that is growing or wants to open a second location, let me know.

For more information, or to volunteer contact Jackson Carnes, jacksonc@nonprofitadvancement.org
Cell: 202-316-3537

Garden Apartments Get New Lease on Life

by Cynthia Prather

Plans are underway to remake 7428 Georgia Avenue NW, the garden-style apartment building next to the Shepherd Park Library. Lock7, owners of the property since 2014, will be expanding the building up and out to create 66 units, offering a mix of studio, 1, 2, and 3 bedroom residences. Amenities will include a lobby, fitness room, club room, bike storage, and some parking. There is no retail component. All units



The revamped apartment complex at 7428 Georgia Ave will have 66 units.

will be for lease only and not available for sale. Built in partnership with DCHD, the units will be 100% affordable. The building renovation is fully "by right," and Lock7 is not requesting zoning relief for any items.

Construction is slated to begin in November, with an estimated 18-month construction period. The owners are working to relocate the eight existing tenants until the project is completed, and those tenants will have first rights to return to the building upon completion.

For more details about the project, visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/111X6igYKVLsRJLgqVfALiZ7jbi17Fpi/view?usp=sharing>

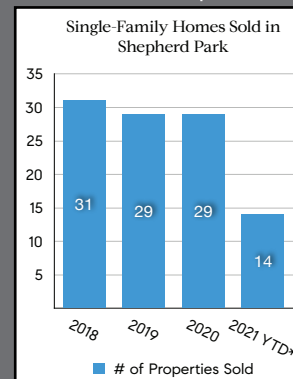
Condos Are Coming

A few blocks north on Georgia Avenue, next to the former China Hut, is Seven700, an all-new collection of 32 condominiums, with 1- and 2 bedroom units and penthouse residences. Promotional materials highlight "generous proportions" and luxury amenities, including quartz countertops, flush insert appliances, and Juliet balconies

Continued on page 11

How will 2021 end?

From January – August, 2021, 14 single-family homes have sold in Shepherd Park. With prices on the rise



and only a few months left, will we reach the previous years' average of 30?

If you're ready to move and are curious about the current value of your home, give me a call for a complimentary market evaluation. Need to update first? I can help with that, too! Check out my miniseries about renovating a 1928 center hall colonial in Shepherd Park at:

*January - August, 2021

RenovatingShepherdPark.com



Jason Cohen

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Business Beat

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Kuku's Beauty Supply: Diversity-Driven Products and Services

by Cynthia Prather

Kuku Rose Smith is the founder and owner of Kuku's Beauty Supply, a registered and standard hair, beauty, cosmetics, and fragrance business that services the diverse community in the Washington, DC area. A Liberian/Ghanaian native, Kuku moved from New York to DC in 2004 with a dream of owning her own business. In August 2019, she secured a storefront at 7327 Georgia Avenue NW, and opened her shop

just months before the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite various challenges, she celebrated her 2-year anniversary in September 2021. The store offers an array of products for all hair and skin types, as well as jewelry, African-inspired clothing, and merchandise from a variety of local vendors. She recently added a braiding salon and provides makeup services. Committed to giving back to the community, Kuku did free hair and makeup for residents at the Casa Ruby Shelter, and is now offering a space for pop-up shops. She is also planning training workshops for neighborhood teens. Kuku seems optimistic about the future. "Never give up on your dream" she shared. "Don't quit."



photo by Kuku Rose Smith

Kuku Rose Smith



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blog.lowellschool.org



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Community Calendar

October

Every Sun, 10:30-11:30am

Sunday Platform Service

All are welcome to join us on Zoom for our Sunday services. zoom: tiny.cc/wesplatform
Washington Ethical Society
Every Sun morning, 11:30 am

Community Coffee Hour

Join our community on a zoom call for a virtual coffee and social hour! All are welcome!
zoom: tiny.cc/wescoffeehour
Washington Ethical Society

Tue, Oct 5, 7 pm

ANC 4A Meeting (Virtual) Visit Anc.4A.org for update

Thu, Oct 14, 7 pm

MPD 4D Sector One Meeting (WebEx Platform)

Wed, Oct 20, 4 pm

MPD 4D Citizens Advisory Council Meeting (WebEx Platform)

Mon, Oct 25, 7 pm

ANC 4B Meeting (Virtual) Visit Anc.4B.org for update

November

Tue, Nov 2, 7 pm

ANC 4A Meeting (Virtual) Visit Anc.4A.org for update.

Wed, Nov 10, 4 pm

MPD 4D Citizens Advisory Council Meeting (WebEx Platform)

Thu, Nov 18, 7 pm

MPD 4D Sector One Meeting (WebEx Platform)

Mon, Nov 22, 7 pm

ANC 4B Meeting (Virtual) Visit Anc.4B.org for update

Condos from page 9

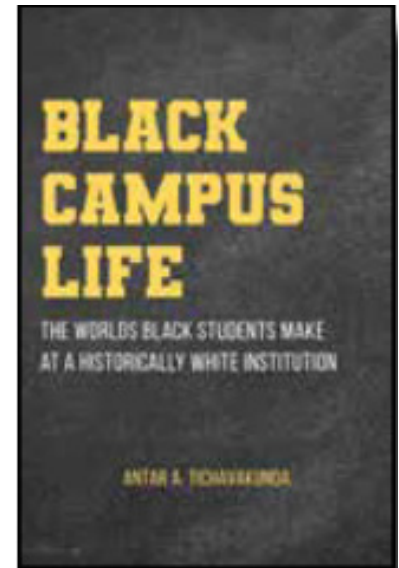
offering views of downtown Washington DC. Units start at the high \$400s. For more information, visit <https://7700georgia.com>.



photo courtesy Seven700
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Blacks on Campus: A New Perspective

Congratulations to Dr. Antar Tichavakunda on his newly released publication, *Black Campus Life: The Worlds Black Students Make at a Historically White Institution*. Scheduled for release in November, the book is described as “an in-depth ethnography of Black engineering students at a historically White institution.” Tichavakunda grew up in Shepherd Park and graduated from DCPS before earning an undergraduate degree from Brown University and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. He is currently Assistant Professor of Higher Education at the University of Cincinnati. For more information about the book or to place an order, visit https://www.sunypress.edu/catalogs/2021-fall/Fall_2021_PDF_Catalog.pdf, p. 15. (Corrected 9/30/21)



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SPCA Upcoming Events


Winter Coat Drive Oct. 1-31	SPCA Garden Tour Sun, May 22, 2022
Halloween Parade Sun, Oct 31	2022 Candidate Forums Fall 2022
Children's Holiday Gift Drive Nov. 1-30	
Grocery Gift Card Drive Nov 26-Dec. 18	
2022 DC Council at-Large and Mayoral primary race candidate forums Spring 2022	



Stay tuned to the Shepherd Park email group, the SPCA twitter account,
and other social media outlets for more information on upcoming
meeting dates and activities.

COVID-19 Local Information

Up-to-date information and statistics: coronavirus.dc.gov
District's COVID-19 Hotline: 1-888-349-8323
COVID-19 Testing Hotline: 1-855-363-0333
Department of Human Services Hotline: (202) 727-5355
Local updates, information, or assistance:
Councilmember Janeese George (202) 724-8052



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