

## The Press Makes Masks for the District

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

At the beginning of March, when the threat of a global pandemic at home still seemed remote, and the dire news from abroad had not yet pushed national leadership to action, Dianne Lee and her husband Je Kang, owners/operators of The Press dry cleaning at the Wharf, heard from affiliates on the West Coast that the threat was real. They were hearing about the drop in revenue, people not showing up for work, layoffs, and especially shortages in personal protective equipment, or PPE. Specifically, there was, and still is, a nationwide shortage of masks for frontline workers.

As professionals in the garment care industry, they were perhaps in a unique position to do something about the shortages of masks, at least as it pertains to Southwest and the rest of the District. "You're one of the first people to actually ask me this, and this is a real cool story,"



Courtesy of The Press

*The Press has delivered over 3000 free masks to first responders, staff around the Wharf, and passersby*

Dianne Lee told me over the phone.

"We're a part of America's Best Cleaners, which is the most stringent accreditation for the garment care industry. We're

technically paying them a monthly fee for them to tell us how bad we are. [B]ut, the benefits that come along with it is that they [are] able to host a weekly discussion. [T]hey were just telling us things that we couldn't even imagine. And this was about over 5 weeks ago (from our April 10 phone call) because we started making masks three weeks ago. When they told us there was a shortage [of] masks, we started making masks."

Dianne Lee officially got into the dry cleaning business 10 years ago when she and her husband took over the business from his family, who had been in the game for more than 40 years. Their first retail location was on Capitol Hill where they built a solid reputation by word-of-mouth. They were also the only dry cleaners open seven days a week, which she says really set them apart. "He loved the whole D.C. local community," Dianne

*See "Masks," page 4*



## HOMETOWN HEROES

Page 3

## ADVENTURES WITH THE DCPL ONLINE COLLECTION

Page 9



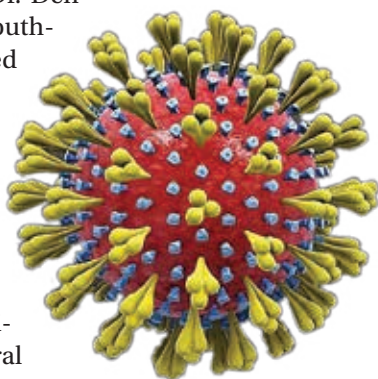
## KID'S CORNER

Page 10-11

## Community Forum Offers Latest Coronavirus Tips

BY MIKE GOODMAN

On April 27, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) hosted an online community meeting featuring guest speaker Dr. Dennis Carroll. Dr. Carroll, a Southwest resident born and raised in Washington, DC, served for 15 years as the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Pandemic Influenza and other Emerging Threats Unit. He currently heads the Global Virome Project, a collaborative scientific initiative to discover unknown viral threats and stop future pandemics.



Moderated by SWNA Board Chair Donna Purchase, the forum kicked off with a brief presentation by Ben Curran and Regina Blye, Co-Chairs of the Southwest Strong Task Force. They discussed the Task Force's vision "to build a disaster resilient Southwest," and the values of inclusion, coordination, and building on the hard work of those who worked on community response issues in the past. Following that presentation, Thelma Jones, founder of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, introduced Dr. Carroll,

*See "Forum," page 14*



Courtesy of DCPL

*Construction workers assemble the bones of the new Southwest library*

## The New Southwest Library Takes Shape

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

At the start of the construction in March, the new Southwest Library was described in a Tweet as designed by Ikea because the first wooden beams resembled a chair more than a building. However, a few short weeks later, the building is starting to take shape. In the included picture you can see the Northern side with the wood accents starting to form. The architect's render-

*See "Library," page 17*



## HOME ALONE

Page 19





### Help Save Lives in the District by supporting The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

Donations support outreach and education strategies for young girls and link low-income, uninsured and underinsured women and men with information, screening diagnostic services and counseling. Donate on line at [www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org).

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots organization with local, national and global recognition. Our mission is to advocate and improve the overall health and wellness for women and men through outreach, education, and prevention. We promote early detection strategies for breast health and access to the best biomedical and evidence-based complementary therapies to reduce the incidences and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision is to save lives, embrace and achieve a world community free of breast cancer.

When donating by mail, please make check or money order payable to the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and mail to:

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[www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org)  
(202) 251-1639

# Local Businesses Still Serving the Waterfront Community

With nationwide shutdowns and social distancing being implemented to slow the spread of Coronavirus, many local businesses and their employees are feeling the economic strain. During this unprecedented time, many businesses and restaurants are struggling to stay open in some capacity. Some storefronts have shortened their hours to limit contact and crowding, others have limited their hours but also expanded some of their other services.

Southwest Waterfront is home to several local businesses and restaurants remaining open to continue serving Southwest clientele. The following is a list of Waterfront businesses that are

still open, with their amended operating times and instructions.

**Momo Chicken & Grill:** Open from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Delivery and takeout only.

**Masala Art:** Open from 5-9:30 p.m. Monday-Sunday, delivery and takeout only. Curbside pickup is available.

**Station 4:** Open from Noon-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday, delivery and takeout only.

**All About Burger:** Open during regular business hours. Delivery and takeout only.

**Subway:** Open during regular business hours. Delivery and takeout only.

Food can be ordered via Grub Hub, Door Dash, Uber Eats, Postmates, and

Caviar.

**Waterfront Cleaners:** Open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

**Senate Cleaners:** Open from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Closed Friday and Sunday.

### Closed until further notice:

**Elevate Interval Fitness:** Check website for more details (<https://www.elevateintervalfitness.com/southwest>).

**Splendor Nails and Spa:** Check website for more details (<https://www.vagaro.com/splendornailsandspa>).

**Sacred Grounds Café:** They will continue to post updates. Check website for more details (<http://stmatthewsdc.org/home>)

# Grant Program Continues Supporting Volunteerism in Southwest During Pandemic

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In both good times and troubled times, Southwest residents can be proud of the spirit of volunteerism that imbues our community. Local volunteer groups are constantly at work to make our neighborhood a better place. This spirit shines through in the newly released annual report of Friends of Southwest DC, which details how more than a dozen local organizations used grants from Friends of Southwest DC for college scholarships, summer camps, elementary school tutoring, educational outings for neighborhood youth, Girl Scout programs, senior citizen programs, community days, and other worthy projects in our Southwest neighborhood.

"We're incredibly proud of how much our grantees have accomplished for Southwest," said Friends of Southwest DC President Peter Eicher, "and we're deeply grateful for the contributions from Southwest neighbors who make it all possible." For Friends of Southwest DC, 2019 was a banner year, with more grants than ever before awarded to neighborhood groups.

Like much of America, Friends of Southwest is being impacted by the coronavirus. Despite the shutdowns, however, some grantees have been able to continue or refocus their programs. Community Scholar, for example, writes that "You have no idea how helpful this grant is going to be during this trying period!" as they switch to on-line tutoring for Amidon-Bowen Elementary School students. Southwest Community Gardens has been able to proceed with spring planting using tools and materials obtained with a grant.

While many grantees will have to delay programs, Friends of Southwest's flexible approach and rolling grant cycle means they can reschedule when the time is



Courtesy of DC STORM (Students Taught Organization and Respect through Mentoring)

A visit to the USS Wisconsin in Norfolk in 2019

right.

Over the course of 2019, most Friends of Southwest grants focused especially on youth activities. A local Girl Scout Troop took an overnight trip to southern Maryland to visit sites associated with Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. A group of teen boys enjoyed a three-day historical and educational trip to Norfolk to visit universities and historic sites. A group of elementary children participated in a trip to the Turkey Hill Dairy in Pennsylvania to learn about dairy culture and how ice cream is made.

Other youth activities benefitting from Friends of Southwest included Camp Arena Stage and Jefferson Academy's participation in Arena Stage's "Voices of Now" program. In one of the longest standing programs supported by Friends of Southwest, five Southwest high school

seniors received scholarships of \$1,500 each through SWNA: Nicla DeBiasi (Northeastern U.), Kendall Parks (Jackson State U.), Dayonna Queen (Hartford U.), Aaliyah Wilkinson (Johnson C. Smith U.), and Donja Wilkinson (Georgia State U.).

Beyond activities focused on youth, Friends of Southwest grants supported the Waterfront Village for seniors, the opening of Dent House in Buzzard Point where the Living Classrooms Foundation has a new home in Southwest, and a number of SWNA programs.

In total, Friends of Southwest DC awarded over \$37,000 in grants in 2019 to over a dozen local organizations. Cumulatively it has awarded over \$280,000 in grants since beginning its work in 1998.

Sadly Friends of Southwest's founder

See "Grant Program," page 19

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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly or *The Southwester*, call (202) 320-4414.



# Hometown Heroes

BY RHONDA HAMILTON

**O**n March 12, a fire erupted in an apartment unit in Syphax Gardens on P St., SW. The fire was so intense that smoke could be seen coming out of the roof of the building as well as the apartment unit.

Thanks to the quick response from good samaritans in the community, the individuals trapped in the apartment complex were able to escape the building. They also notified residents in other units that the building was on fire so that they were able to escape to safety.

The community gives a special shout out to our hometown heroes: Dennis Clayborne and Antione Ratliff for saving lives, as well as fire and emergency response teams, including MPD, for their heroic efforts that helped contain a potentially deadly fire, and prevented a greater tragedy.



Courtesy of Prince of Petworth

A burnt out unit from the Syphax Gardens fire

# Piecing Together Care Packages to Stay in Business

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

**“R**ight away, like most other businesses, I kind of went into panic mode. Like, oh my gosh, how am I going to pay my rent? How am I going to pay my employees? [It] was a day or two of total shock,” Libby Diamant, owner of Diamant Jewelry, explained to me over the phone. Like many small business owners affected by the pandemic, she too had to take a deep breath, readjust, and move the pieces of this new reality into place like a puzzle.

Shortly after non essential businesses got the notification from the Mayor that they needed to shut down, or find a way to continue operating while maintaining safety and social distancing, Diamant rapidly switched her business model in order to survive: sell care packages. The idea came to her after a friend asked her to send a “fun package” for \$50. “So I was, like, done. Get my mind off things. Then a second person reached out asking to send a nice care package to a nurse and then it really struck [me that] this is what we need to do.”

With this piece in place, Diamant took to Instagram and within 24 hours, she sold 30 care packages and she knew she was on to something. After two days, she

was up to 100 packages, and as of the last time I spoke with her, she had sold more than 900 care packages.

Given that everyone is social distancing, perhaps sending and receiving a package is one activity that can break through social isolation. Many people love receiving gifts but the feeling of giving someone a gift, especially one that surprises them, is a powerful reinforcement of our shared humanity and connections. “It makes your day as much as it makes the recipient’s day to hear how happy somebody is, so it’s like this snowball effect,” Diamant pointed out. “A lot of the people who have ordered once are now ordering 3, 4, 5, 6 times.”

Diamant only opened her eponymous jewelry store at the Wharf two years ago, but is a veteran of the craft and jewelry world, having attended shows all over the country. As she slowly built her reputation over the past eight years, she has expanded and grown her business model beyond selling jewelry as a solopreneur, and maintains a connection to the small business world by supporting other small producers. “It is a grind to have a small product business,” Diamant said. “I know how hard it is to get yourself out there, so I wanted to just provide another platform

See “Care Package,” page 14

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Weekly conversations with the best thinkers and creative firebrands led by Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith.

All Molly Salon’s take place from 7-7:30 p.m.

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**Camille Busette**  
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**Nicholas Rodriguez**  
Actor and singer

#### THURSDAY, MAY 7

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Playwright

**Ken MacDonald**  
Set designer

**Maria Manuela Goyanes**  
Artistic Director, Woolly Mammoth Theatre

#### THURSDAY, MAY 14

**Jenn Sheetz**  
Properties Director, Arena Stage

**Aerica Shimizu Banks**  
Public Policy & Social Impact Manager, Pinterest

**Mary McBride**  
Singer and songwriter

#### THURSDAY, MAY 21

**Lauren Yee**  
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#### MONDAY, MAY 25

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The classes are from 6-7:00 p.m.

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Deputy Artistic Director Seema Sueko and Artistic Director Molly Smith.  
Photo by Ryan Maxwell Photography.

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# Mission Navy Yard Offers Take Home Happy Hour

All our favorite restaurants and bars are temporarily closed for in-person dining for the foreseeable future, which also means no happy hours out on the town with friends. But, that is no reason not to enjoy a happy hour in the safety and comfort of your own home!

Mission Navy Yard is now offering a take home happy hour for all its customers. From 4-6 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, Mission is offering food and

drink specials at happy hour prices. Get \$2 El Jimador Blanco shots, \$8 Quesadillas and \$25 32oz containers of Mission's signature margaritas and Tito's Basil Lemonade. Mission is also offering to-go food and delivery (through Caviar) Wednesday-Sunday.

While ordering online at MissionNavyYard.com for pick-up or delivery, guests can also sponsor a meal for Mission employees who have been furloughed.



You can find Mission Navy Yard at 1221 Van St. SE at N Street or call: (202) 810-7010.

Perhaps a margarita is in order for your next video happy hour with friends, family, or even your colleagues.

*Mission Navy Yard is now serving happy hour (to go)!*

*Courtesy of Mission Navy Yard*

## MASKS

*Continued from p. 1*

said of her husband, "everyone was just super supportive." They now have four retail locations and deliver to over 200 residential and commercial properties.

What does a dry cleaner have to do with making masks? Well for starters, when thinking about industries that could be converted or repurposed to perhaps make PPE's, a dry cleaner with training and knowledge in fabrics, including a professional seamstress, is not that much of a stretch.

According to Dianne, who spoke on behalf of her husband, it seems their business, or him personally, were perfect to take on this initiative. "This is kind of ironic. He studied biology [and] he actually specialized in rare and infectious diseases." Specifically, Lee said Kang did not study the family of coronaviruses, but "that kind of background made him a lot more cautious and conservative [in] dealing with packages." Lee stressed that in taking on this initiative, her husband was very adamant about following the CDC guidelines about making, washing, and disinfecting the masks, "He was very very strict on that."

How many masks do they make and what specifically do they make the masks from? At the time of our interview, Lee told me that they were up to 100 masks a day. They are made with muslin fabric, which is 100 percent cotton, and usually used for wedding gown preservation. Their in-house seamstress makes them and Lee has been handing them out to security officers, custodial teams, first-responders – anyone they see on the streets. "We've been visiting local fire stations, police stations...[a]nd just dropping off the masks and offering free delivery to their stations..."

Why do this at a time of unprecedented economic constriction? Lee stresses that her husband wants this initiative to be more about community and service, not money, which is why they have declined to take any money for the masks, even for the cost of production. He's "been really adamant that everyone who needs a mask can get one." They've had offers from companies to put their logo on the masks



*Courtesy of The Press*

*A prototype face shield The Press is making as part of their new community initiative*

but Dianne reiterates that her husband is doing this as a community service and doesn't want anything artificial on the masks "keep it as natural as possible."

"[It's] also getting our name out there, you know. A lot of people out there, our regulars, have bought \$500, or \$1000 in prepaid dry-cleaning credits from us so we can keep this initiative going, too. Or keep our staff... to do stuff."

With economic hardships in mind, and millions of layoffs heavily concentrated in the hourly/minimum wage sector, I asked Dianne whether or not they have had to make some hard decisions about downsizing. "We're really trying to use this time to cross-train people instead of lay them off because we want to give them the option [to stay employed]. If they want to take off or file for unemployment... We're trying to help them as much as we can." At the time of our call, she was out finishing deliveries with one of their employees.

She told me that they had to reduce pay, but that they are still paying their employees above the minimum wage. "We paid our employees better before, and when we had to do the wage reduction... I think more people were worried about getting their families sick, but we've actually kept on most of our employees. Almost all of them," she added.

"Our team, drivers, have been driving

to homes and even delivering groceries. We've dropped off lysol and toilet paper."

So, has the initiative been successful?

At first, she says people were resistant to the idea of the masks, especially given early guidelines from the CDC, which did not suggest the wide use of masks for uninfected or non vulnerable people. They were meant more for people who were at risk or already sick, so they would have less of a chance to transmit the disease. There were also concerns that people would reuse the masks without washing or disinfecting them, which can lead to bacteria growing on them and making people more sick. Furthermore, at the beginning of the social distancing measures there was a concern that people would rely on the masks too much and not practice social distancing.

Initially, the masks The Press made were one-time use only – for essential personnel who didn't have time to wash or disinfect them, but as their usage became more widespread to the general public, Dianne says they expanded the types of masks they were making and people were less reticent to accept them

"We had been making surgical masks, but now we've seen that there's been [more of] a need from the community, right? We want to [save] the N95 masks for the hospitals. We want to save the surgical masks for the hospitals. Now [we're] making two different kinds of masks. We still make our surgical masks with the twist ties on top for first responders. And then we're making cotton masks without the twist ties."

The twist ties at the top N95 masks make a more complete seal, which is necessary for people working in high risk/high exposure jobs, but aren't as necessary for going to the store or walking around outside. Masks they hand out to the general public don't have the added twist ties, which makes them machine washable. She tested hers out in the washing machine (at the highest temperature you can) and it came out just fine.

To date, they have given out over 3,000 masks and are now working on building face shields – one made of plexiglass, which is their next initiative (see photo). They won't be able to make as many face shields as facemasks but want to be able to donate those to any hospital employ-

ees.

Before ending our interview, I asked Dianne if she had any advice for the community. "Definitely try to stay home. We always try to get our information from the CDC, right? We [are] able to use our ADC/ABC affiliation and study everything that's going on in Seattle, and that's what we're still doing. [So] we're seeing all these trends in Europe, even in China where [the curve] might've flattened, but people are still worried that a second wave could come... We're just trying to really encourage people to stay home. Only use a mask when going to get essential groceries, or things like that."

She also pointed out that with the increase in hand washing and use of sanitizer to use moisturizer "because people are getting really dry, chapped skin on their hands, and those can be crevices for bacteria too."

A final word of warning on washing clothes or sending them to the dry cleaners, especially given the highly contagious nature of COVID-19. We are likely all doing a lot of laundry right now, which is necessary, but it's important to do it the right way. According to experts, certain fabrics like polyester may preserve the virus longer than others fabrics like cotton. Washing clothes via standard methods – some detergent, hot water, and some time in the dryer – is not enough. A combination of high heat and a disinfectant, like a detergent with a bleach compound, will be more effective at eliminating the virus.

"Dry-cleaning *does not kill all pathogens* [emphasis added], and we've seen dry-cleaners with a horrible horrible, like, advertisement saying dry-cleaning will kill viruses and COVID-19. And, we're totally against that." Dianne explained that they use a different process in addition to dry cleaning. Their garments are quarantined in an O2 room for more than 24 hours, which is longer than CDC guidance. Ozone has long been used in the dry cleaning process to deodorize garments. "We always say, 'We're your garment care specialists, we're the professionals. We don't want to give you any false information.'"

With that in mind, if you find yourself in need of some dry cleaning, maybe ask about their process first.



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*The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA)'s ESTF Scholarship Program was formed to encourage and assist youth in the Southwest Washington, DC, Ward 6, Zip Code 20024 neighborhood to pursue a post-secondary education. To make a tax-deductible donation to this worthy cause, please donate on our website or make your check payable to SWNA, noting Scholarship in the memo line, and mail it to: SWNA Scholarship Fund, PO Box 70131, Washington, DC 20024-0131.*

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## Online Exhibits Explore Native American History, Offer Insight into Modern Life

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Unlike sculpture or painting, which is best experienced in person, photography is an art form that can be appreciated through images and prints outside of art galleries.

*Developing Stories: Native Photographers in the Field* at the National Museum of the American Indian features two photo essays that explore Native American history and offer insights into 21 century Native American life. It also gives nuanced perspectives on an American experience that is invisible to mainstream society.

The first of these photo essays, along with maps, timelines and text, is *The Genízaro People of Abiquiú*, by Russel Albert Daniels, which explores a history “born out of violence and slavery.”

For centuries, the Apache, Navajo, Pueblo, Ute, Tewa and Other Pueblo people forged trails through and farmed around the rugged Rio Chama valley. The creation of New Spain in 1535, and then the extension of the Spanish Empire into

the Southwest in the 17 century, transformed the region. This imperial frontier was the scene of deadly clashes, retaliatory raids, and a brutal trade in Native slaves that forever altered the lives of Native peoples, including the Genízaro of Abiquiú in northern New Mexico.

The online link to the exhibit intersperses Daniels’ black and white photographs with personal narratives of the people, blending their sense of place and history in their Indigenous and Hispanic heritage.

The second sequential photo essay is *Reservation Mathematics: Navigating Love in Native America* by Tailyr Irvine. It will be on view starting July 14.

Irvine’s photo essay delves into the legacy of U.S. government regulations impacting Native Americans’ most personal decisions, including with whom they have children – decisions deeply affecting young adults and their families.

Visit <https://americanindian.si.edu/developingstories/index.html> for more information and to view the online exhibits.



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## Hirshhorn Video Initiative Presents *Artists in Quarantine*

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Is cabin fever getting you down? Then head to Hirshhorn’s online video portal to explore how today’s artists are navigating self-quarantining, and the wider pandemic.

“Art is one of the world’s great unifiers, and in times like these, it is the mission of the national museum of modern art to look to our artists – those creating, at this very moment, the works that will live on and become a part of our collective memory.” So said Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Director Melissa Chiu at the launching of *Artists in Quarantine*, a global initiative that aims to capture the responses of contemporary international artists to the COVID-19 pandemic in their own voices.

Artist Theaster Gates sparks the ongoing investigation of the months long quarantine on almost 100 fellow artists. “The goal of the project is to collect insights during a time when artists, like billions

around the world, have had their daily lives and routines disrupted in extreme ways,” Gates said. “*Artists in Quarantine* will give the public unique insights into artists, art making, and artists’ perspectives.”

Besides Gates, artists included are Shirin Neshat, Christine Sun Kim, Ragnar Kjartansson, and Tony Oursler, along with additional contributions from Marilyn Minter, Kent Monkman, and Hank Willis Thomas.

The short diary-style videos about the impact of the global pandemic on artists, their art-making practices, and their views of the world will be offered across the museum’s social media channels and website on a twice-weekly basis. Look for the diary posts on the Hirshhorn’s Instagram (@hirshhorn) and YouTube channels (<https://www.youtube.com/hirshhorn>), and housed on the museum’s website (<https://www.hirshhorn.si.edu/>) as part of #HirshhornInsideOut.



# New Reverend at St. Augustine's Leads Through Discussion and Engagement

BY THELMA JONES

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church on the SW Waterfront welcomed the Reverend Scott Lipscomb in November 2019 as priest-in-charge. Scott joined St. Augustine's after serving as the Assistant Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill. Upon graduating from the General Theological Seminary in 2014, Scott went on to pursue doctoral work in philosophical theology at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, VA. While continuing his academic work, however, Scott realized that God was calling him to ministry rather than academia, and so in 2015 he began discerning a call to ordination. He was ordained in Baltimore in 2018.

Since arriving at St. Augustine's, Scott has demonstrated a strong desire for outreach and service to the community. He has embraced the church's overall mission of "continually seeking to build a community that shows love for all" and its long legacy of ethnic diversity.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, St.



Courtesy of Author

Rev. Scott Lipscomb

Augustine's continues its Bread for Life breakfasts each Sunday at 8 a.m. To safeguard both volunteers and guests from infection, the breakfast has transitioned away from the sit-down buffet meal that had been the hallmark of the program for 25 years, to instead offering a to-go bag with a breakfast sandwich, carton of juice, piece of fruit, and dessert.

Weekly worship, Bible Study, and fellowship continues at St. Augustine's online and by phone. Sunday morning prayer service and sermon is at 9:30 a.m. each week. Rev. Lipscomb also hosts a

thought-provoking weekly forum after the service at 11 a.m., which includes topics from the morning sermon, passages of scripture, current events, history, theology, or whatever the community has a passion to discuss. The Sunday forum, which includes a robust question and answer session, is a time for participants to learn, engage each other intellectually and to deepen their understanding of the topic being discussed. Throughout April and May, sermons and the forum, alike, will focus on seeking "Hope in a Hopeless Time."

St. Augustine's was preparing to launch a new social justice initiative this summer, but these plans have been temporarily postponed due to the threat of the COVID-19 virus. Instead, the parish is focused on ways to assist neighbors in need during the pandemic. We invite anyone interested in serving their community to contact Scott as he is directing people to various service opportunities in Southwest and beyond.

St. Augustine's welcomes anyone

interested to join our services, classes, and discussions. Learn more by visiting [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org), or get in touch with Scott by email: [priest@staugustinesdc.org](mailto:priest@staugustinesdc.org) or phone: (202) 554-3222. St. Augustine's also hosts sermons, discussions, and a weekly video about faith in the face of the pandemic on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXNoBejRav2YQK5kpCdGPbg>

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# Businesses Offering Takeout, Delivery, and Curbside Pickup at the Wharf (Updated)

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Last month, we posted a list of businesses still operating down at the Wharf. Below is an updated list, including new information about the Fish Market and possible openings later in June. This is a difficult time for everyone in the community as we are all trying to adapt to the new norms.

It's especially hard for the restaurant industry, which had to layoff or furlough most of their staff from March 16, and local businesses and employees need your support more than ever.

In order to weather this period of mandatory, but necessary, social distancing, the Wharf is ramping up its efforts to maintain a clean and safe environment, and many restaurants are offering a variety of services to patrons. If you are able, consider supporting local businesses by ordering take-out or delivery food and alcohol, tipping generously if you can afford it, shopping on the local business' web store, purchasing gift cards, and showing your love for your neighbors' businesses on social media.

You can also support service workers directly by tipping your favorite bartenders and servers through the DC Virtual Tip Jar: [docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1tz2uyhgy3MsBS68MHPzO8H455\\_879fqfIaRPyUUw3QE/htmlview?usp=sharing&sle=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1tz2uyhgy3MsBS68MHPzO8H455_879fqfIaRPyUUw3QE/htmlview?usp=sharing&sle=true).

*Note: As of 4/10, the District of Columbia has approved the vendors at the Municipal Fish Market to reopen with additional physical distancing protocols, staffing, and protective equipment. The Wharf neighborhood remains open for access to peoples' homes, offices, hotels, and businesses—including groceries, carryout and delivery food service, in accordance with the Mayor's Order.*

## Businesses that are Open

- **Canopy Central Bar and Cafe** (American) - Open from Mon-Fri 12 p.m.-10 p.m. and Sat-Sun 10 a.m.-10 p.m. for takeout and delivery of food, groceries, and alcohol. View their menu online. Complimentary delivery at The Wharf and The Banks. Check their Instagram ([instagram.com/canopycentral/](https://www.instagram.com/canopycentral/)) for the latest updates.
- **Chopsmith** - Open for carryout and delivery 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Order through DoorDash. Now offering a grocery and produce section!
- **District Doughnut** - Open for takeout and delivery from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Order online!
- **Dolcezza Gelato** - Open for delivery only. Order a pint of gelato via UberEats or GrubHub.
- **Fish Market** - As of 4/10, the District of Columbia has approved the vendors at the Municipal Fish Market to reopen with additional physical distancing protocols, staffing, and protective equipment. Vendors are operating 8 a.m.-8 p.m., with no cooking on-site. Call 202-554-5520 to order ahead and pick up.
- **Grazie Grazie** - Open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m. for takeout in-store and delivery through Caviar.
- **Kaliwa** (Filipino/Korean/Thai) - Open daily from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. for food and alcohol takeout and delivery. View the menu online. Order takeout via phone (202-516-4739) or through the [www.kaliwadc.com](http://www.kaliwadc.com). Order delivery through GrubHub, UberEats, or personal car/bike delivery within 3 miles. Support Kaliwa by purchasing a Gift Card.
- **Kirwan's Irish Pub** - Open Tue-Sun 12 p.m.-8 p.m. for food and alcohol takeout and delivery. View the menu at [www.instagram.com/kirwanson-thewharf](https://www.instagram.com/kirwanson-thewharf) and call 202-554-3818 to order. Support Kirwan's staff directly through [www.gofundme.com/f/kirwans-staff](https://www.gofundme.com/f/kirwans-staff).
- **Lupo Marino** - Open for food and alcohol takeout and delivery 3 p.m.-11 p.m. Order by phone (202-506-1306) or through SliceLife, UberEats, or DoorDash. View their Daily Specials online and their bar menu ([lupomarinodc.com/bar-menu](http://lupomarinodc.com/bar-menu)). Happy Hour lasts all day!
- **MI VIDA** - Open for takeout and delivery 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Order pick up online at [www.kneadhd.com](http://www.kneadhd.com). Delivery is available via UberEats, Postmates, Caviar, or GrubHub. Complimentary delivery for Wharf residents. For all restaurant workers: MI VIDA owner KNEAD HD is also offering a Restaurant Worker Relief Center at Succotash downtown ([dc.eater.com/2020/3/18/21185054/succotash-relief-center-free-meals-coronavirus-penn-quarter-dc](https://dc.eater.com/2020/3/18/21185054/succotash-relief-center-free-meals-coronavirus-penn-quarter-dc)).
- **Officina and Mercato** (grocery mar-



ket) open Tue-Fri 2 p.m.-8 p.m., and Sat-Sun 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Offering prepared foods, produce, alcohol, and essentials (including toilet paper!). Restaurant offering delivery and takeout via Caviar and ToastTakeOut. Subscribe to their weekly grocery delivery service, Officina Provisions ([www.officinadc.com/officina-provisions](http://www.officinadc.com/officina-provisions)).

- **Pearl Street Warehouse** - Open for takeout Tue-Sun 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Free tots for Wharf residents and workers with purchase of burger or beer. Also offering family meals (feed 6 for \$40), cocktail kits, margarita pouches, bottles of liquor, and wines to go. View their menu ([www.pearlstreetwarehouse.com/togopickup/](http://www.pearlstreetwarehouse.com/togopickup/)). Order takeout by calling 202-380-9620 or online via ToastTakeOut. You can also support PSW by purchasing a gift card at [www.toasttab.com/pearl-street-warehouse/giftcards](http://www.toasttab.com/pearl-street-warehouse/giftcards). Check out their Live Stream Virtual Concerts at [www.facebook.com/PearlStreetWarehouse/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/PearlStreetWarehouse/events/?ref=page_internal).
- **Praline Bakery** - Open for takeout Sun-Thu 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Fri-Sat 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
- **Rappahannock Oysters** - Open for takeout and delivery orders 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. Order through UberEats and DoorDash. View their To-Go Menu at [drive.google.com/file/d/1bqeklu5pLL15zx2FI590qiHOyXFZHs\\_A/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bqeklu5pLL15zx2FI590qiHOyXFZHs_A/view). Place orders at 202-484-0572. Support staff by donating to the Rappahannock Employee Relief Fund ([www.gofundme.com/f/rappahannock-employee-relief-fund](https://www.gofundme.com/f/rappahannock-employee-relief-fund)).
- **Southwest Soda Pop Shop** (Ice Cream) - Open for takeout.
- **The Grill** - Open for pickup and delivery 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Order pick-up online at [www.kneadhd.com](http://www.kneadhd.com). Delivery is available via Caviar. All wine bottles 50% off. Now offering Grocery + Butchery: order masks, gloves, TP, produce, dairy, prepared foods, and alcohol to your door! Complimentary delivery for Wharf residents. Finally,

for all restaurant workers: The Grill owner KNEAD HD is also offering a Restaurant Worker Relief Center at Succotash downtown.

- **Toastique** (Toasts/Juices/Salads) - Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for takeout and delivery via DoorDash.
- **Whiskey Charlie** (American) - Open for takeout and delivery of food and groceries in conjunction with Canopy Central Bar and Cafe (above).

## Shops, Services, and Hotels with Current Offerings

- **A Beautiful Closet** - Shop online ([abeautifulclosetdc.com/](http://abeautifulclosetdc.com/)) only until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/abeautifulclosetdc/](https://www.instagram.com/abeautifulclosetdc/)) for the latest updates.
- **Cordial Wine & Spirits** - Open for takeout Mon-Sat 12-8 p.m. and Sun 12-6 p.m. Call 202-803-2677 to place an order! View their Instagram ([instagram.com/cordialwharfdc/](https://www.instagram.com/cordialwharfdc/)) for the latest updates.
- **CVS Pharmacy** - Open Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sun 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- **Diament Jewelry** - Shop online ([www.diamentjewelry.com/](http://www.diamentjewelry.com/)) only until further notice. Offering COVID Care Packages ([instagram.com/diamentjewelry/](https://www.instagram.com/diamentjewelry/)) to ship to your friends, or purchase a gift card on their website.
- **District Flow Yoga** - Online classes only until further notice. Access online yoga classes by emailing [info@districtflowyoga.com](mailto:info@districtflowyoga.com) or signing up via their website ([www.districtflowyoga.com/online-yoga-members](http://www.districtflowyoga.com/online-yoga-members)).
- **GLO30** - Shop your favorite skincare products in their online store ([www.shopblushmed.com/](http://www.shopblushmed.com/)). View their Instagram ([instagram.com/glo30facial/](https://www.instagram.com/glo30facial/)) for the latest updates.
- **Martha Spak Gallery** - Currently closed to the public. Appointments are available to tour the current exhibition solo. Reach Martha through



Instagram ([instagram.com/marthaspak/](https://www.instagram.com/marthaspak/)) to plan your visit.

- **Orangetheory** - Studio closed until further notice. Participate in their free daily at-home workouts online ([www.orangetheory.com/en-us/athome/](https://www.orangetheory.com/en-us/athome/)). Support the studio by purchasing Gift Bucks and 10-, 20-, or 30-class packs on the OrangeTheory App ([www.orangetheoryfitness.com/get-the-app](https://www.orangetheoryfitness.com/get-the-app)). Support OTF Wharf staff on GoFundMe ([https://www.gofundme.com/f/otf-the-wharf-fam-help-those-who-have-helped-us?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=sms&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/otf-the-wharf-fam-help-those-who-have-helped-us?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=sms&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)). View their Instagram ([instagram.com/otfwharfdc/](https://www.instagram.com/otfwharfdc/)) for the latest updates.
- **Politics and Prose Bookstore** - Order books online ([www.politics-prose.com/shop](https://www.politics-prose.com/shop)) or over the phone at 202-364-1919. Support P&P by purchasing gift cards online!
- **Shop Made in DC** - Shop online only ([www.shopmadeindc.com/shop](https://www.shopmadeindc.com/shop)) until further notice. Offering care packages, gift cards, and unique handmade items.
- **The Press** - Open with reduced business hours. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/thepressdc/](https://www.instagram.com/thepressdc/)) for the latest updates.
- **The UPS Store** - Open regular business hours ([www.wharfdc.com/shops/the-ups-store/](https://www.wharfdc.com/shops/the-ups-store/)). Email your printing projects to [store7109@the-upsstore.com](mailto:store7109@the-upsstore.com) and they will bring you the product curbside on Maine Ave. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/ups\\_at\\_the\\_wharf/](https://www.instagram.com/ups_at_the_wharf/)) for the latest updates.
- All **Wharf Hotels** are currently accepting reservations and walk-in guests.

## Businesses that are Temporarily Closed

- **12 Stories** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/12storiesdc/](https://www.instagram.com/12storiesdc/)) for the latest updates. Contribute to the Gerber Group Team Member Relief Fund.
- **Array Florals** - Shop closed until further notice. Arrangement classes postponed until further notice. Floral delivery continues. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/arrayflorals/](https://www.instagram.com/arrayflorals/)) for the latest updates.
- **Bella Moda Salon & Spa** - Temporarily closed. Call (202) 290-1950 or email [wharf@bellamodasalonspa.com](mailto:wharf@bellamodasalonspa.com) to schedule a future appointment, and visit their website ([www.bellamodasalonspa.com/](https://www.bellamodasalonspa.com/)) for the latest updates.
- **Ben & Jerry's** - Closed until further notice. Call 202-290-1277 for more information.
- **Blue Bottle** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([www.instagram.com/bluebottle/](https://www.instagram.com/bluebottle/)) for the latest updates. Blue Bottle is currently offering Free Shipping, shop online at [bluebottlecoffee.com/store/coffee/](https://bluebottlecoffee.com/store/coffee/)
- **The Brighton** - Temporarily closed.

Support The Brighton by purchasing gift cards ([www.brighton-dc.com/gift-certificate](https://www.brighton-dc.com/gift-certificate)) and donating to the H2 Collective Family Fund ([www.gofundme.com/f/the-collective-family-fund](https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-collective-family-fund)).

- **Cantina Bambina** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/cantina\\_bambina/](https://www.instagram.com/cantina_bambina/)) for the latest updates.
- **Del Mar de Fabio Trabocchi** - Closed until further notice. Purchase an eGift ([fabiotrabocchi.myguestaccount.com/guest/egift](https://www.fabiotrabocchi.myguestaccount.com/guest/egift)) for a future visit; spend \$150 and get \$25 more. Plus, 50% of your purchase will go to the Fabio Trabocchi Disaster Relief Fund ([www.fabiotrabocchi.com/donate](https://www.fabiotrabocchi.com/donate)). Show your support for workers through the Del Mar Tipped Employees Disaster Fund ([www.gofundme.com/f/del-mar-tipped-employees-disaster-fund](https://www.gofundme.com/f/del-mar-tipped-employees-disaster-fund)). View their Instagram ([instagram.com/dcdelmar/](https://www.instagram.com/dcdelmar/)) for the latest updates.
- **Falafel Inc.** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/falafeldc/](https://www.instagram.com/falafeldc/)) for the latest updates.
- **Hanks Oyster Bar** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/hanksoysterbar/](https://www.instagram.com/hanksoysterbar/)) for the latest updates.
- **H BAR By Hyatt** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/hyaththousethewharf/](https://www.instagram.com/hyaththousethewharf/)) for the latest updates.
- **Hornblower Odyssey Cruise and Spirit Cruises** - Closed until April 28. View their website ([www.hornblower.com/coronavirus-covid-19/](https://www.hornblower.com/coronavirus-covid-19/)) for the latest updates.
- **InStyle Nail Bar** - Closed until further notice. Contact them ([www.wharfdc.com/shops/instyle-nail-bar/](https://www.wharfdc.com/shops/instyle-nail-bar/)) for the latest updates.
- **Kith|Kin** - Closed until further notice. Support Kith/Kin staff via GoFundMe ([www.gofundme.com/f/kithkin-staff-support?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_campaign=p\\_na+share-sheet&rcid=de582e18708b4eafb13671b908746cb6](https://www.gofundme.com/f/kithkin-staff-support?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&rcid=de582e18708b4eafb13671b908746cb6)). View their Instagram ([instagram.com/kithandkindc/](https://www.instagram.com/kithandkindc/)) for the latest updates.
- **La Vie** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/lavie\\_dc/](https://www.instagram.com/lavie_dc/)) for the latest updates.
- **Maggie O'Neill** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/maggieoartist/](https://www.instagram.com/maggieoartist/)) for the latest updates.
- **Milk Bar Store** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/milkbarstore/](https://www.instagram.com/milkbarstore/)) for the latest updates.
- **Patrick's on the Wharf** - Temporarily closed. View their Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Patricksdesigns](https://www.facebook.com/Patricksdesigns)) for the latest updates.
- **Shake Shack** (Burgers/American) - Wharf location closed until further notice.
- **The Anthem** - All shows in March and some in April are cancelled.

Support The Anthem staff by purchasing gift cards (purchases will be matched with donations by I.M.P. Family Fund), purchasing advance tickets, and donating to the I.M.P. Family Fund. View their website ([the-anthemdc.com/](https://the-anthemdc.com/)) for updates.

- **Tiki TNT/Thrashers Rum** (Cocktails) - Thrasher's Rum and Tiki TNT bar closed until further notice. View their website ([www.tikitnt.com/](https://www.tikitnt.com/)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/tiki\\_tnt/](https://www.instagram.com/tiki_tnt/)) for the latest updates. Support TikiTNT staff by purchasing eGift cards at [www.toasttab.com/tiki-tnt/giftcards](https://www.toasttab.com/tiki-tnt/giftcards).
- **Union Pie (Pizza)** - Closed until further notice. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/unionpie/](https://www.instagram.com/unionpie/)) for the latest updates.
- **Union Stage** - Closed through 5/15. View their Instagram ([instagram.com/unionstage/](https://www.instagram.com/unionstage/)) for the latest updates. Most shows are postponed until later in the year, so save your tickets. Support Union Stage staff members through GoFundMe.
- **Water Taxi** - Water Taxi service is suspended until further notice.

## Wharf Operating Status

- **Parks, streets, and open spaces** - All Wharf piers are closed until June 1. Parks, streets, and open spaces remain open, visitors are urged to maintain physical distancing.
  - **Public restrooms** - Restrooms remain open with frequent sanitization and supply refills.
  - **Southwest Neighborhood Shuttle** - SW Shuttle service is temporarily suspended and will resume June 1.
  - **Water Taxi** - Water Taxi service is suspended until further notice. View the Potomac Riverboat Company website for the most recent information.
  - **Wharf Jitney** - Ferry service between Recreation Pier and East Potomac Park is temporarily suspended and will resume Friday, June 5.
  - **Camp Wharf at the Firepit** - The Firepit and Airstream s'mores trailer is closed until Friday, June 5. Upon reopening, the space will be demarcated in accordance with physical distancing protocols.
  - **Buskers** - Outdoor live music program is paused, to resume Friday, June 5.
  - **Wharf Boathouse** - Kayaks and Stand-up Paddleboards will be available for rent beginning Friday, June 5.
- In addition to their increased site-wide cleaning measures, the Wharf is also practicing safe social distancing in our outdoor spaces for those who wish to enjoy the waterfront and outdoors. In accordance to CDC guidelines, outdoor furniture will be spread apart and on-site vehicular access will be restricted to allow pedestrians to spread out across pathways.
- For more information visit <https://www.wharfdc.com/current-operating-status/>.

# Adventures with the DCPL Online Collection

BY GEORGINE WALLACE AND  
THE FRIENDS OF THE SW LIBRARY

When the March 16 closure of the DC Public Library was announced, book lovers swarmed to their branches to both return and check out items. The idea of a bookless spring seemed too much to bear, but thankfully DCPL has online resources that may help ease the loss.

As the local "boots on the ground" for the library system, The Friends of the SW Library was given the mission of making sure the good people of Southwest and Navy Yard knew of the digital collection. Some of us, however, came to the somewhat scandalous realization that they had not looked at that section of the DCPL site for a few years. In fact, a couple members had never looked at it. In an effort to avoid a scandal so far reaching that we may be asked to hand over our library cards, we decided to explore GoDigital.

Located at [www.dclibrary.org/godigital](http://www.dclibrary.org/godigital), the collection is divided into four sections: Watch (movies and documentaries), Read (books and magazines), Listen (music and audiobooks), and Learn (job search tutorials, online courses to learn business skills, foreign languages, historical research, and more).

The reaction most members had was "wow, there is a lot here!" If you have not looked at the Library's online options in a couple years, they have dramatically increased them. There is something for everyone, and it is all free. A couple components may ask for payment after a trial period but most just ask for your library card number, zip code, and email address. Note that the reason they ask for zip codes is that the Library reports usage based on Wards. Your email address and library card are used for login purposes.

## Watch – Movies and Documentaries

This section contains thousands of free videos for adults, teens, and kids. Access Video provides shorter videos and documentaries for all ages – everything from

See "DCPL," page 12



## SW DC Condo

2BD 1BA 1150sqft.  
New windows. Lots of light.  
Hardwood floors.  
CPV: G St/3rd St SW.  
Close to Metros  
Waterfront / Federal Center  
**\$2590/Month**  
[TRAVEL1JC@YAHOO.COM](mailto:TRAVEL1JC@YAHOO.COM)





# KID'S CORNER

Each month check out the most recent issue of the paper for activities and games to help you discover SWDC! Have a suggestion? Email us: [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com). Check out next month's issue for the answers!

## Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?



## Answers from April 2020 issue

**Differences:** The picture on the left has an airplane while the one on the right has a rocket; the picture on the left has a bee while the one on the right has another butterfly; the picture on the left has a ladybug while the one on the right has an owl; the picture on the right has a Japanese flag, in celebration of the gift of the cherry blossom trees; the picture on the right has a bunny; in the picture on the right the boy has a cap.

**Word Scramble:** There are 179 words you can make from "Songbird."

## WORD SEARCH: INDOOR GAMES!

Z	G	I	C	L	G	F	F	U	V	Y	Z	E	T	V
Y	G	F	Y	H	F	W	F	L	R	L	A	C	U	G
Z	B	X	K	J	A	H	G	A	C	K	P	N	M	I
N	A	X	B	E	C	R	N	I	T	N	V	A	L	R
L	Q	S	X	A	E	O	A	N	A	P	D	D	N	G
O	Q	D	R	M	I	S	B	D	W	M	O	E	O	G
X	Y	D	X	T	E	T	D	S	E	T	G	Z	T	C
Q	S	W	C	Y	P	S	I	N	K	S	Z	E	V	X
P	X	I	S	I	M	O	N	S	A	Y	S	E	W	S
R	P	E	X	O	P	E	N	R	Y	E	K	R	E	P
R	L	Y	A	F	S	R	L	U	G	U	D	F	C	U
K	B	P	A	P	L	R	L	P	X	F	I	I	T	Z
T	N	U	H	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	J	H	Z
I	W	T	W	P	Z	D	V	S	Z	H	D	R	N	L
N	Z	X	W	M	K	X	F	U	R	V	N	X	J	E

CARDS  
CHARADES  
FREEZE DANCE  
HIDE AND SEEK  
I SPY

PICTIONARY  
PUZZLE  
SIMON SAYS  
TREASURE HUNT  
UNO

# Word Scramble!

How many words can you make from LEMONADE?

[illegible]

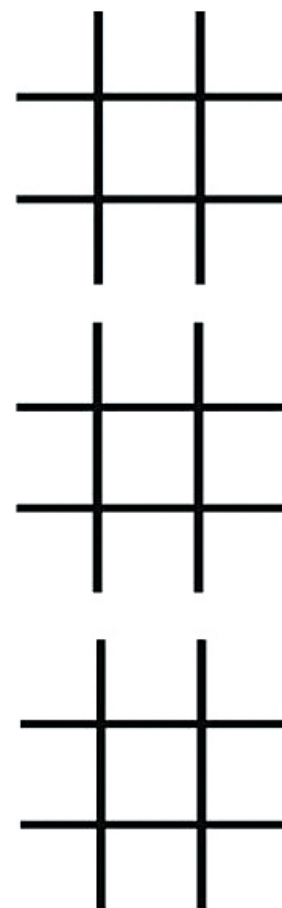
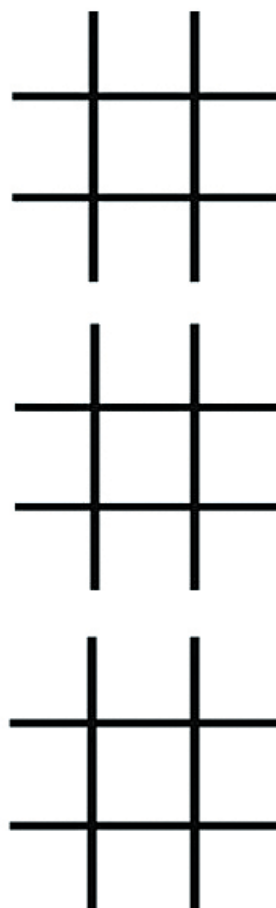
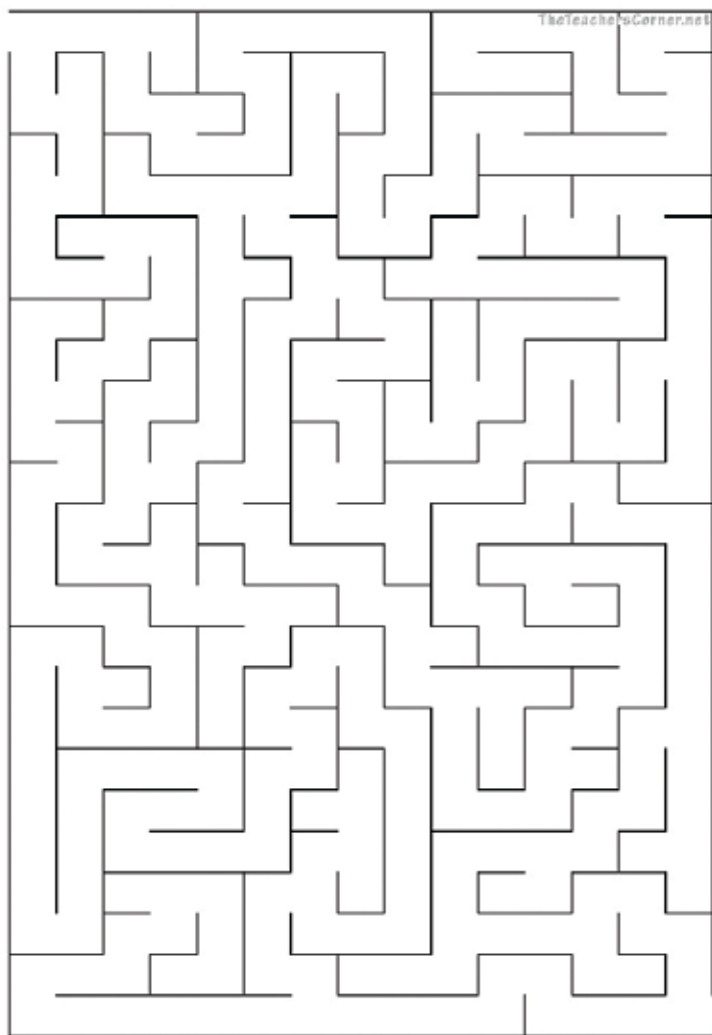




# KID'S CORNER

SPRINGTIME  
EXTRA!

# TIC TAC TOE



## Jokes!

***A palm tree!***

**Slippers!**

***An onion ring!***

***A mushroom!***

# Double Puzzle

PAYL				
DENCA				
DARW				
NIATP				
NFYUN				

Take the letters that appear in  boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

## Math Moment!

## h. $15 - 10 =$



## DCPL

Continued from p. 9

HBO to Sesame Street. Longer movies and Courses are available under Kanopy. Kanopy allows you to check out six movies per month on a three day rental. Some movies are available as no credit and can be downloaded even if you have exceeded your monthly allowance. You can also bookmark selections to view later on. You will need to create an account but the process is simple.

### Read – Magazines, Newspapers and Books

According to Renee Gaillard, a new member, “I knew their Overdrive/e-book borrowing has always been there but with self-distancing, it inspired me to get an e-reader, and I’ve been borrowing books consistently. A good problem is that there are plenty of books I’d like to read, but are in such high demand that some of the wait times are 7-8 weeks! But I’ll take the long wait if it means others are reading it and that I get to read other things in the meantime. The Overdrive system makes it really easy to borrow or put holds on books. I like that there is an automatic return too, and you can choose to borrow for 7, 14, or 21 days, which encourages me to read more because I want to finish the book before it automatically gets returned back.”

You will need to use Chrome as the browser but Tumblebooks, an ebook collection for children, may help occupy young ones bored with their book col-

lection at home. Note that magazines, including Southwest favorites like the New Yorker, and newspapers are also available for checkout. Historical newspapers, both national and from abroad, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century are also available.

### Listen – Music and audiobooks

Download music and your favorite audiobooks (via Overdrive) in this section. Fregal is the music gateway and offers albums from artists and also special collections from libraries across the country. You may find it helpful to view the tutorial prior to using these tools.

### Learn – Databases and online tutorials

This section is full of online tutorials that can teach you anything from how to write a resume to learning a language, and provides research assistance for students. Also found here is access to the Library’s special collection under DigDC. DigDC should come with a warning label as it is very addictive to history lovers. Historical maps, photographic collections, oral histories, newspaper archives, and cartoon collections abound. For Southwesterners, The Buzzard Point Oral History Project has special meaning in that it contains submissions by many members of our community. You can spend months just in DigDC alone.

Though it is not the same as walking into the Library and perusing a long row of books, GoDigital is a great way to learn new skills, entertain your family, and laugh.



Courtesy of Author

Farmers Market SW practices strict social distancing guidelines

## Farmers Market SW Remains Open, with Rules

BY MIKE GOODMAN

Farmers Market SW is operating under a government issued waiver, and is still operating every Saturday, from April 4 through Nov. 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the COVID-19 emergency, communities need provisions, and DC has deemed farmers markets as an essential business that can operate so long as they follow strict safety protocols ensuring that customers are able to practice proper social distancing.

Farmers Market SW is located at 425 M St., SW at 4th and M Streets, SW, in “The Lot SW,” across the street from Waterfront Metro station. Products typically include meat, produce, pastries, salsa, prepared foods, pickles, empanadas, coffee, and more.

Rules for shoppers include:

- Maintain a 6-foot distance between yourself and others
- Wear a face covering
- Do not attend if you are sick
- Only one household member should attend
- No pets
- Do not pick up products or produce at stands; ask an employee to help
- Sneeze or cough only into a tissue or your elbow
- Thoroughly wash hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds
- If hand-washing is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Wash all produce thoroughly before using it
- Regularly wash reusable bags

## Southwest AARP Does its Part

The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter continues its neverending goal of increasing efforts to support seniors and others in the community, in order to improve lives.

In our most recent initiative, we donated \$200 to the World Central Kitchen in support of their COVID-19 relief efforts to get fresh, healthy meals to seniors. We also made a \$100 donation to the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund for their assistance in coordinating and distributing these meals to seniors and to immune-suppressed River Park residents. Residents received meals throughout the week of Monday, April 13-Friday, April 17, 2020.

We appreciate all of World Central Kitchen’s efforts on behalf of seniors to provide nourishing meals during this health crisis. We believe that this is an opportunity, and responsibility, to lend support to our country’s and community’s call to action during this unprecedented pandemic.



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For more information visit our website: [FriendsofSWDC.org](http://FriendsofSWDC.org)

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Friends of Southwest DC

P.O. Box 44434

Washington DC 20026

To donate by credit card visit: [FriendsofSWDC.org](http://FriendsofSWDC.org)

*We support The Southwester through our advertising.*



# Washington Nationals Work to Get Shift Done

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In late April, Washington Nationals Philanthropies and the Greater Washington Community Foundation announced a new partnership with Get Shift Done to launch the Get Shift Done DMV initiative to coordinate, schedule, and pay adversely affected hourly workers in the hospitality industry to work shifts for local food access providers.

Get Shift Done DMV provides wages of \$15 an hour to workers left jobless by the coronavirus pandemic. These workers are filling the critical roles of providing meals for neighbors in need that, prior to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, were performed by volunteers. The program was created to fill the gap between the reduction of volunteers and the increased need among food banks and other nonprofits with those from the food and service industry in need of supplemental income. Interested restaurants, non-profit partners, and individual workers can visit [getshiftdone.org/dmv](https://getshiftdone.org/dmv) to access sign-up portals.


Through its work supporting food

access in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nationals Philanthropies became aware of the innovative program and convened Get Shift Done along with local service industry leaders, credible nonprofits addressing food insecurity, and influential funders to help the Greater Washington region meet the surging demand for food access.

“Food insecurity is both a systemic problem and an ever-increasing concern for families across the DMV. Through our work to open Nationals Park as a cooking and packaging site for meals and delivering grants to on-the-ground partners getting food to those who need it most, it was evident that even more was needed to meet demand,” said Nationals Philanthropies CEO Tal Alter. “Get Shift Done complements and extends the incredible coordination of food banks and providers across the region while simultaneously filling critical packaging, preparation, and delivery roles with members of our local hospitality community who are out of work.”

For more information or to support this fund, go to [getshiftdone.org/dmv](https://getshiftdone.org/dmv).

SOUTHWEST MOMENT



Courtesy of Matthew Koehler

Relevant messaging down at the Wharf



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# National Defense University Brings Mindful Innovation from the Surface Down

BY MAJOR SHANNON VAUGHN

When most people think of the words “innovation” and “Army” they likely think of larger weapons and faster tanks. On Fort McNair, however, the National Defense University (NDU) is building more resilient and mindful leaders than ever before. Through a program sponsored by the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace, NDU is putting senior officers through intensive resiliency training using transcendental meditation.

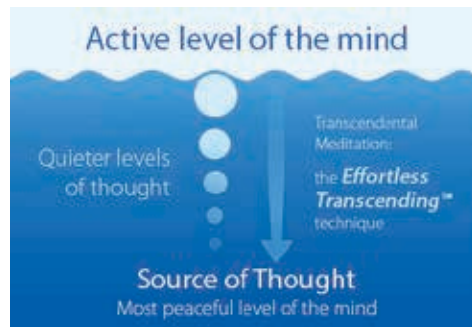
What is transcendental meditation? Transcendental meditation, or TM, by definition is “a practice or technique for detaching oneself from anxiety and promoting harmony and self-realization by meditation, repetition of a mantra, and other yogic practices.” You might remember it better, however, as what Indian guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi taught the Beatles in February 1968.

So how did the teachings of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi make its way to the home of the National War College? Obviously, that would be through the former Assistant Strength and Conditioning coach of the Washington Redskins, Tony Spinoso, a former career Army officer who is now the Director of Health Fitness at NDU. Roundabout? Sure. Effective? Even more so. But, remember, a resilient soldier is more combat effective than a cache of weapons.

Tony was crucial in bringing innovative ways to train resiliency in our senior military members. As Bob Roth, CEO of the David Lynch Foundation, says, “We send these young men and women off to harm’s way, and they come back with post-traumatic stress or TBI [traumatic brain injury], and transcendental meditation is a huge help. But what can we do to equip these courageous young people before they go out? (Now) they are more resilient. When something happens, they heal much faster.”<sup>1</sup>

So how did I come to join this program? The 75th Innovation Command, which falls under Army Futures Command, seeks out key individuals to leverage their civilian careers to make the active Army more innovative. This means using that breadth of knowledge built up daily in our civilian careers and leveraging it to make “weekend warriors” more valuable to the active Army than ever.

Over the years I have searched for ways to be more effective in my home, work, and military lives, coming across TM last year while reading Bob Roth’s book *Strength in Stillness: The Power of Transcendental Meditation*, which I checked out on a whim from the DC Public Library. As with most things, I was skeptical. “What could



go wrong?” I thought.

As Dr. Hassan Tetteh, the Command Surgeon at NDU, says, “What could go wrong? As it turns out not much. The side effects of medications we prescribe ... the side effects of pills, therapies, and even surgeries can be far worse than the side effects of TM. So, what are the potential side effects? I guess you could potentially become calmer. And in doing so you may have better relationships with people. So, succinctly, not much.”

If you ask me, the worst that can happen is you lose a few minutes each day. But if I am being honest, I doubt I need any extra time staring at a screen.

What I can say, however, is the effect TM has had so far has been beneficial. Although I am only 100 consecutive days into the practice, TM has given me that much-needed break each day to pause and recenter. I have found that over the past decade or so work has sped up to the point where the deluge of information and requests are only broken by the nightly requirement of sleep. The equivalent of that nocturnal break is what TM has brought me each day—but in the middle of it.

By taking 20 minutes for a TM session, I can create hours of energy and effectiveness. Previously I would need high-intensity exercise to give me that boost, but with TM I do not need to worry about the ramp up or sweaty cool down time, plus the levels of awareness are higher post-TM session.

So, what is the best analogy for TM? I think it is an ocean. The daily grind in that churn atop the water (or “Active level of the mind” in Figure 1)—constant, unpredictable, and often an effort just to stay afloat. The practice of TM, however, gives you a simple mantra of no meaning that you can repeat and let the mind sink deeper toward the ocean bottom where waters are calmer. As the mind settles, the body lets off stressors. This cycle could repeat a dozen times or more in 20 minutes; churning waters followed by a peaceful restfulness over and over. Other days, a single cycle may not happen at all. And even on those days, I cannot say I have missed staring at a screen.

Is it right for you? I cannot say. But I can say that I am thankful that NDU and the 75th Innovation Command are promoting another type of innovation:

## FORUM

*Continued from p. 1*

noting his ongoing efforts to help educate and inform Southwest residents about COVID-19.

Dr. Carroll began the conversation with an emphasis on the unprecedented nature of COVID-19, and the community’s extraordinary response, while stressing that unfortunately, we do not yet know how the virus will proceed. “We don’t really understand what it has in store for us as we move forward through the summer and into the fall. We need to be thinking about this as a marathon, not as a sprint,” stated Dr. Carroll.

Dr. Carroll emphasized that social distancing and improved hygiene has had a major impact on the number of people affected and who died. If these measures had not been taken, we would be in a far worse position. While there is still more about this virus that we do not know, we have at least built our knowledge of the virus, and that knowledge is helping us to combat it.

Originally, medical experts thought the symptoms associated with this virus were traditional respiratory symptoms. But as we move further into this pandemic, we learn that there are other symptoms that must be paid attention to. For example,

says Dr. Carroll, we have learned that an early indication of infection may be a sudden loss of taste and smell, and encouraged residents to contact their physician if they feel that they have lost sense of taste and smell. We also have learned that people may become more tired than they typically are, and may show high levels of exhaustion, even without exhibiting other symptoms.

Dr. Carroll praised the city of DC’s leadership and response to the virus, while identifying “political mismanagement” from our federal leaders. “I find it unconscionable that there has not been a dramatic federal effort to ensure that the 330 million people who live in this country have access to rapid and accurate diagnostics,” says Dr. Carroll.

We are also seeing more and more discussion around relaxing the restrictions we have utilized over the last six weeks. Dr. Carroll stressed that we must be very cautious with the process of relaxing efforts like social distancing, as the virus could come back in an even more dramatic fashion if we relax restrictions too early. “It’s a new way of living. We have to be patient. But this too will pass and it will pass quicker if we are diligent and patient,” stated Dr. Carroll.

## CARE PACKAGE

*Continued from p. 3*

for people to sell their goods.”

“When I opened this store I knew that it was really really important to me to sell their products, and I think that our store has been really well received because it feels good knowing that basically everything in the shop goes literally towards putting food on the table, or paying for child care for a small business.”

When Diamant first started putting these care packages together she was focused on just selling her existing inventory, but has since purchased over \$4000 in new merchandise from the same small businesses she likes to use. “Every single order that people are making with these care packages, not only impacts my business, but 250 of our small businesses.”

Aside from helping the many small producers she continues to purchase from, she also has a staff of one full-time and one part-time employee. So far, though, she has managed to keep her employees on the payroll and break even.

So how much are these care packages and what is in them?

Most customers spend \$25, \$50, \$100 and choose from a variety of themes including tropical vacations, a girl’s night out, etc. From there, people can find examples of packages on their Instagram, or do a custom package. “A lot of people



are telling us a little bit about the person, that they like cats or they like to travel or they love bath and body products. When we can, we try to make them funny and try to make people laugh a little bit.” Most packages come with an assortment of treats, like caramel popcorn, some self-care items like soap, bath bombs, lotions, hand washes, and lip balms. If it’s in the store it can go in your personalized care package.

And her hottest care package item? “Puzzles are selling out like crazy. We probably won’t be able to order puzzles much longer because they are selling out by the second.”

For the time being, it seems that Diamant Jewelry has at least figured out this piece of the puzzle.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipt7gjpduik&feature=youtu.be&t=59m32s>



# Waterfront Village Tests New Approaches for COVID-19

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

When Mayor Muriel Bowser issued her emergency COVID-19 declaration on March 13, 2020, she effectively suspended the normal operations of the Waterfront Village, a non-profit organization providing social opportunities and services to older residents of the Southwest DC and Navy Yard neighborhood. The Village leadership team did not panic; instead, they decided to view the situation as an opportunity for testing new approaches.

"Our services and programs emphasize engaging members face-to-face in their homes or at group gatherings," said Len Bechtel, the Village's executive director. "The Mayor's directive for D.C. residents to remain inside and not congregate threw a wrench in our business model and demanded an immediate and dramatic response."

Bechtel led the Village through a number of steps to ensure the safety and health of its members. He cancelled all in-person group social events including open houses, happy hours, seminars, and book club meetings, as thought was given to how to maintain the vibrant Village activity level. Transportation services were updated to provide better protection for both volunteer drivers and passengers on trips for urgent medical appointments only, while home companion visits, in-home technology assistance, and minor home repair services are now conducted exclusively by phone.

The Village's social, educational, and wellness programs seek to fill that social gap created when the circle of friends and family seniors counted on all their



Courtesy of Author

Joanne Lamphere teaches a cooking class for members via Zoom

lives begins to shrink. Key people begin to move away to be nearer to their children, transition to assisted living, or pass away due to illness. The COVID-19 challenge for the Village was figuring out how to prevent members from feeling lonely and isolated in a world where physical contact is considered a risk.

The Village made calls to all of its members following the Mayor's announcement. "We wanted our members to know that they were not alone, and they could count on the Village for support," Bechtel

said.

All of the Village's social events were transitioned to an online meeting platform. For example, the book club traded its group discussions at Politics and Prose at the Wharf for split screen exchanges on Zoom. Happy hours, a music program, and even a cooking demonstration are also being conducted online.

"Everybody needs social interaction," said Village Vice President Carroll Quinn, who spent her career as a registered nurse. "We also were forced to come up with new ways to reach our members. The COVID-19 situation basically gave us a hard shove into the digital world."

During the period of the crisis, Waterfront Village will continue to check in with its members to identify and anticipate their needs. A few weeks ago, the Village began hearing from members that the commercially-available grocery store delivery services were not meeting customer needs for prompt delivery. In response, the Village began to offer its full members grocery shopping and delivery services twice a week. With many members sheltering in place to avoid infection, the ser-

vice gained quick support and is continuing to increase in popularity.

"This service is very important to me, and exactly the kind of thing I joined Waterfront Village for," stated Village Member Anne Rensberger, who has become a regular subscriber of the service.

One positive aspect of this pandemic is the number of people who have stepped up to help others in Southwest DC, including Village members, according to Village President Anne Martin.

"A crisis like this reminds us that, at heart, most people are generous and caring," Martin said. "We have been thrilled by the number of people who have offered to support our members."

Martin also hopes that other older residents will learn about the Village's activities and decide to check out the organization. She added that the value of the Village is not just the social gatherings and interaction with peers in the neighborhood, it is also the just-in-time services offered by the Village.

"It might be easy to take the Village for granted," Martin explained, "but when you need surgery or you hurt yourself in a fall at home, it is good to know the Village is there to provide a ride, deliver meals, or even change a light bulb. As one member once told me, at our age it's good to have a little 'help' insurance."



**The Waterfront Village is here to provide social opportunities and a range of services to members throughout the COVID-19 crisis.**

During this time, Waterfront Village is deploying its network of volunteers, vendors and staff to meet the needs of members 62 years and older who want to age at home with dignity. Among services currently offered to ensure the health and well-being of our members are:

- Telephone companion check-ins
- On-line social and educational events
- One-on-one technology assistance by phone
- Grocery shopping and delivery
- Transportation to urgent (non COVID-19) medical appointments
- Emergency handyman help and/or referrals

**To learn more about becoming a Village member or serving as a community volunteer, please call 202-656-1834 or visit our website: [www.dewaterfrontvillage.org](http://www.dewaterfrontvillage.org)**

\*Waterfront Village is a neighborhood-based membership organization of paid staff, volunteers, and vendors supporting Southwest Waterfront and Navy Yard residents who wish to age in place. Waterfront Village is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity #81-1859871 incorporated in the District of Columbia, a member of the DC Villages Collaborative and national Village-to-Village Network operating under the guidance of the District of Columbia Department of Aging and Community Living.



Courtesy Susie Humphreys

## Photo of the Month Winner: Susie Humphreys

Buckets are announced by chimes in code representing the location of impending bucket arrival so the workers below will be safe to finish their bucket list in Wharf Phase 2

If you would like to submit a photo for consideration for Photo of the Month, please email it to [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com).





## Comprehensive Meal Sites

These locations will serve meals to anyone under 18.  
(Updated 4/13/2020)

School Name	Address	Ward	Meal Distribution Hours (Monday - Friday)	Grocery Distribution (while groceries last)
Banneker High School	800 Euclid Street, NW	1	10 am – 2 pm	
Cardozo Education Campus	1200 Clifton Street, NW	1	10 am – 2 pm	
Columbia Heights Education Campus	3101 16th Street, NW	1	10 am – 2 pm	Friday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Marie Reed Elementary School	2201 18th Street, NW	1	10 am – 2 pm	
The Next Step Public Charter School	3047 15th Street NW	1	Monday & Thursday (closed April 13 & 16) 11 am - 1 pm	
School Without Walls @ Francis Stevens	2425 N Street, NW	2	10 am – 2 pm	
Thomson Elementary School	1200 L Street, NW	2	10 am – 2 pm	
Wilson High School	3950 Chesapeake Street, NW	3	10 am – 2 pm	
Capital City PCS	100 Peabody Street, NW	4	Mondays (7 meals, 7 snacks) 10 am – 2 pm	
Coolidge High School	6315 5th Street, NW	4	10 am – 2 pm	Wednesday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
LaSalle-Backus Education Campus	501 Riggs Road, NE	4	10 am – 2 pm	
Paul PCS	5800 8th Street, NW	4	12 pm – 1 pm	
Roosevelt High School	4301 13th Street NW	4	10 am – 2 pm	
Truesdell Education Campus	800 Ingraham Street, NW	4	10 am – 2 pm	
Brookland Middle School	1150 Michigan Avenue, NE	5	10 am – 2 pm	Monday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Friendship Armstrong PCS	1400 First Street, NW	5	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am – 11:30 am	
Friendship Woodridge International PCS	2959 Carlton Avenue, NE	5	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am – 11:30 am	
KIPP DC Webb Campus	1375 Mount Olivet Road NE	5	Monday and Wednesday 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches 10 am – 1pm	
Langdon Elementary School	1900 Evarts Street, NE	5	10 am – 2 pm	
Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS	1404 Jackson Street, NE	5	9 am – 12 pm	
McKinley Education Campus	151 T Street, NE	5	10 am – 2 pm	
Wheatley Education Campus	1299 Neal Street NE	5	10 am – 2 pm	
Eastern High School	1700 East Capitol Street, NE	6	10 am – 2 pm	Monday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Friendship Chamberlain PCS	1345 Potomac Avenue, SE	6	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am – 11:30 am	
Howard University Middle School of Math and Science PCS	Outside of Shaw Metro Station	6	12 pm – 1 pm	
Jefferson Middle School	801 7th Street, SW	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Miner Elementary School	601 15th Street, NE	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Walker-Jones Education Campus	1125 New Jersey Avenue, NW	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Friendship Blow Pierce PCS	725 19th Street, NE	7	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am – 11:30 am	
Friendship Collegiate PCS	4095 Minnesota Avenue, NE	7	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am – 11:30 am	



School Name	Address	Ward	Meal Distribution Hours (Monday - Friday)	Grocery Distribution (while groceries last)
IDEA PCS	1027 45th Street, NE	7	8 am - 9 am - breakfast 10 am - 2pm - lunch	
Kelly Miller Middle School	301 49th Street, NE	7	10 am - 2 pm	Tuesday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Kimball Elementary School	3375 Minnesota Avenue, SE	7	10 am - 2 pm	Thursday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
KIPP DC Benning Campus	4801 Benning Road SE	7	Monday and Wednesday 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches 10 am - 1pm	
Ron Brown High School	4800 Meade Street, NE	7	10 am - 2 pm	
Thomas Elementary School	650 Anacostia Avenue NE	7	10 am - 2 pm	
Woodson High School	540 55th Street, NE	7	10 am - 2 pm	Wednesday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Anacostia High School	1601 16th Street, SE	8	10 am - 2 pm	Thursday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Ballou High School	3401 4th Street, SE	8	10 am - 2 pm	Friday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Eagle Academy PCS	3400 Wheeler Road, SE	8	11 am - 1 pm	
Friendship Southeast PCS	645 Milwaukee Place, SE	8	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am - 11:30 am	
Friendship Technology Prep PCS	2705 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE	8	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am - 11:30 am	
Hendley Elementary School	425 Chesapeake Street, SE	8	10 am - 2 pm	
Howard University Middle School of Math and Science PCS	Outside of Anacostia Metro Station	8	12 pm - 1 pm	
Ingenuity Prep PCS	4600 Livingston Road, SE	8	8 am - 9 am - breakfast 11 am - 12 pm - lunch (closed April 16)	
KIPP DC Douglass Campus	2600 Douglass Road, SE	8	Monday and Wednesday 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches 10 am - 1pm	
National Collegiate Prep	4600 Livingston Road SE	8	9 am - 12 pm	
Simon Elementary School	401 Mississippi Avenue, SE	8	10 am - 2 pm	
Stanton Elementary School	2701 Naylor Road, SE	8	10 am - 2 pm	Tuesday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Thurgood Marshall Academy	2427 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE	8	10 am - 1 pm	

LIBRARY

Continued from p. 1

ing is also included so you can see how the angled wood supports fit into the design.

The roofing and staircase will be built over the next few weeks. In May, the exterior walls will be erected and some of the glass installed. Installation of the brick masonry work around the windows on the western and southern facades will begin in June.

Most of the work over the next several months will not create any additional noise or disturbance. Local residents will be able to hear the crane as it operates and the sound of trucks delivering materials. If truck traffic increases at any point, the community will be notified and advised of what to expect. At one point the block of K Street next to the Library will need to be closed for utility work. That closure, however, will not be for several weeks and



A rendering of the future library

the community/local officials will be notified in advance as to the date and estimated duration of the work.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the availability of supplies at one point but thankfully other US suppliers were identified and the supply chain firmed up. The Library is aware this can change again with minimal warning and they are monitoring the situation.

Construction of the new Southwest Library continues as it is viewed as an essential service, but the Library recognizes that the status can change and the construction halted at any moment. The construction crew has established safety protocols and will react accordingly if any employee tests positive for the COVID-19 virus. The Regulatory body, DCRA, is around the corner from the site and visits regularly.

Now that construction has started, we will update you on the project on a more regular basis and include photos.

Courtesy of DCPL



# Youth Task Force Graduates Largest Class in a Decade

BY THELMA JONES

The SWNA Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA YATF) completed its largest Computer-for-Kids Computer Training (CFK) class in almost 10 years, with 12 students completing the 8-week program in early March. Created in October 2007 with the goal of reducing the digital divide in Southwest, the program has graduated more than 170 students ages 5-14, as well as nearly two dozen Southwest senior residents.

What contributed to this significant increase in graduates?

First, there was consistent parental support and engagement with at least four parents attending on a regular basis and remaining throughout the class, including helping as a classroom assistant and serving healthy refreshments. Second, most of the students had either a younger or older sibling in the class, which provided support and a tad bit of friendly competition. Thirdly, the students ranged from ages 7-12 and had good chemistry.

Held in partnership with the James Creek Resident Council at 100 N St., SW, under the leadership of Christine Spencer, Resident Council President, the students completed eight weeks of one-hour evening training that always included brief sessions on healthy eating and teachable moments. All the students met the graduation requirements of good attendance,



Photo by Perry Klein

Gerald Brown (left), Instructor, and Tarshe McEachin (right), parent and volunteer CFK assistant, and Southwest kids at work in the computer lab

good participation, and good behavior.

Taught by veteran volunteer instructor Gerald Brown from the World Bank Group, the students learned the parts of the computer, keyboarding, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, as well as how to research on the internet. Upon completion of the training, the students were awarded a desktop computer – one per family – to take home and share with the entire household. The computers are refurbished and provided by the SWNA's Technology Task Force under the leadership of Perry Klein.

In appreciation of the students meeting their graduation requirements, YATF chair Thelma D. Jones, and SWNA ESTF Chair Vyllorya Evans, organized an all-day cultural outing on Saturday, March 21, to the Harriet Tubman Museum and Education Center and Historic Book Store in Cambridge, MD; the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park in Church Creek, MD; and the Harriet Tubman Banquet and Soul Food Dinner in Cambridge, MD. However, because of the closing of Maryland's museums and public sites due to the COVID-19 virus,

the trip will be rescheduled.

The CFK's graduation was also delayed until the pandemic has ended, so stay tuned and join us for the graduation at some point in the future! The graduation is a chance for the students to have their efforts and hard work celebrated by their instructors, family members, and friends.

The CFK graduates included Londyn Allen, Taniya Graves, Tyrone Graves, Oliver Kiss, Tamera McEachin, Terrance McEachin, Colin Mauldin, Elliott Moore, Olivia Moore, Lae'Jah Toney, D'Juan Walker, and Warren Walker.

Program supporters and volunteers included SWNA ESTF Chair Vyllorya Evans, Jamal O. Jones, Washington Cable, and the students' parents who also contributed toward the refreshments and set up.

A special thanks to volunteer parent Tarshe McEachin who attended every class, ensured that several students, including her daughter, were safely transported to and from class, assisted with attendance and maintaining class decorum, assisted with serving the refreshments, and restored the center to its proper state after each class. A special thanks is also extended to Christine Spencer at James Creek and to the Friends of SWDC who provided a grant to the SWNA Technology Task Force to help ensure that the computers were refurbished and available for the graduating students.

## Cancer Support Group Stays Strong, Virtually

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group (TDJBCF) was a virtual success with more than 100 guests joining in on Zoom and Facebook Live. Guests represented the DMV, Durham, NC, Virginia Beach, VA, and New York City, among other areas. Emcee Jacqueline Beale, two-time breast cancer survivor and 2019 TDJBCF Inaugural Evelyn B. Curtis Award recipient, kicked off the program with an upbeat tone of hope, which lasted throughout the program.

In paying tribute to the TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones, Beale noted: "We come together this evening to celebrate a visionary, a pioneer and an advocate." The celebration started with a video montage of days gone by, produced under the leadership of TDJBCF Ambassador Roney Minor and his A-Team.

TDJBCF Founder Jones warmly welcomed the group and thanked the speakers, with special recognition going to JMA Solutions for its Platinum Sponsorship and overall involvement in the Southwest community. Jones also thanked the virtual audience and indicated that their outpouring of support continued to speak

volumes about their confidence in the organization's work.

TDJBCF Ambassador Angela "Angie" O. Walker, a breast cancer survivor, gave a blessing.

Jan Adams, President and CEO, JMA Solutions, gave opening remarks and a heartwarming tribute to both the support group and founder Jones, noting her unmatched passion and drive, and efforts that will continue to change so many lives. "You have instilled gems of knowledge within every person in this room and I am more than honored to call you my friend," said Adams.

Emcee Beale shared tributes from 18-year survivor and TDJBCF Ambassador Denise K. Triplett, and the Evelyn B. Curtis Family in Bermuda. The Curtis Family expressed how pleased they were that their family member, the late Evelyn B. Curtis, "was so fortunate to be a part of the support group and found a lot of joy and comfort in attending the meetings, sharing her story and being among true friends and survivors." In honor of Evelyn's commitment to breast health and

philanthropic efforts, the TDJBCF established an award in her name to help preserve and perpetuate her legacy, which can be viewed at <https://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org/evelyn-b-curtis-spirit-award/>.

Prior to the Q&A, Emcee Beale invited an online shout out, including welcoming comments on how and what they were doing for coping mechanisms during the pandemic crisis. Dr. Richard O. Kennedy, MD, Former Chief Medical Officer, The World Bank Group, and TDJBCF Board Member, provided an overview and update on the coronavirus. He discussed the symptoms, how the virus spreads and how to help prevent spreading the virus by washing your hands regularly with soap and water or using sanitizer, staying at home, practicing social distancing if you must venture out, and contacting your doctor if symptoms occur. He also shared studies showed that one of the first signs of the coronavirus is usually a loss of appetite and loss of a sense of smell, which surprised most as they were thinking that the first sign was a fever or

a cough.

In addition, Dr. Kennedy addressed a question about the disproportionate number of African Americans and Latinx that are being affected by COVID-19. He stressed that to help reduce the spread of the virus among minorities, we must "reach people where they are" and do outreach and education that's appropriate and culturally sensitive. "If they live in public housing, then we must reach them there" and provide the appropriate and culturally sensitive information.

Acknowledgements and closing remarks were provided by founder Jones, followed by a wonderful video of tributes to the Support Group, which can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/TDJ-BreastCancerFund/>. The tributes were produced under the leadership of Rodney Minor and the A-Team.

The next virtual support group meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 6 p.m. Details to follow. For more information on the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund or the support group, please visit [www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org) or follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/tdj.breastcancer.fund](https://www.instagram.com/tdj.breastcancer.fund).





# Home Alone in the Time of a Pandemic

BY DEBORAH SHERWOOD

My voracious craving for news of the latest coronavirus statistics and updates has not proven beneficial to my general stress level. After witnessing the TV weatherman coughing, I decided it was time to curtail my obsession for awhile.

As a septuagenarian with a compromised immune system, I fall into the “Elderly and High Risk” category. My consolation is that I am not alone in this club; we have several million members. Our next meeting is...oh, wait. Never mind.

Since I have always been a bit of a hermit, I am well trained for extended seclusion. In the interest of extreme vigilance of this highly contagious pathogen, I have added a few new social distancing precautions to my list, like not sharing an elevator with another person or going to a grocery store.

Amazon Prime and I are longtime buddies, however. Any hour of the day or night, while comfortably clad in my jammies and fuzzy pink slippers, I am able to casually peruse an infinite assortment of electronics, jewelry, household goods, and various objects that can make my life more pleasant. This is a tremendous benefit for someone who is becoming even more acclimated to voluntary isolation. That brings me to my dilemma of how to obtain groceries without leaving home.

As with the solution to most modern problems: there’s an app for that. It’s called INSTACART.

I simply set up an account, choose a store, and begin a pleasant virtual stroll through the aisles. Do I want bread? *Click*. How about milk? *Click*. Apples, Bananas, Lettuce, Onions? *Click*. I deserve a package of Mallomars for being housebound. *Click*. My personal shopper quickly filled my cart, whisked me through checkout, bagged my items, and sent me a text con-



Courtesy of Deborah Sherwood

Deborah Sherwood

firmed the charges for groceries, delivery, and service fees – plus a tip for the courier.

I met the driver at the entrance to my building. While I stood the required minimum six feet away, she placed four bags in my old reliable navy blue Bed, Bath and Beyond VersaCart.

Health experts warned that the virus can live on plastic and cardboard for hours and even days. Continuing with my aggressive germ warfare, I looked like a contortionist as I unloaded my groceries, juggling each item between two disinfectant wipes, while wearing a pair of Nitrile gloves (purchased online), then spritzing each item with 93% Isopropyl alcohol.

My hiatus from incessant news bulletins has left me with plenty of time to indulge in any activity I choose, like completing a 1000 piece puzzle map of Europe. Plus, I get to find out how long it takes six green bananas from my Instacart purchase to ripen.

Deborah Jones Sherwood happily resides at River Park in Southwest, DC.

Friends of Southwest is always open for grant applications from local organizations and would particularly welcome proposals for projects that can be implemented during these difficult times. And, of course, donations are always welcome. Please see the Friends of Southwest website [FriendsofSWDC.org](http://FriendsofSWDC.org), to apply or to donate, or send a letter or check to Friends of Southwest DC at P.O. Box 44434, Washington, DC 20026.

*Major Shannon Vaughn is a member of the 75th Innovation Command, which drives operational innovation, concepts, and capabilities to enhance the readiness and lethality of the Army's Future Force by leveraging the unique skills, agility, and private sector connectivity of America's Army Reserve.*

## SW Mutual Aid Group Working Hard to Help

BY MIKE GOODMAN

A Southwest pod of the DC Mutual Aid Group has been set up to assist neighbors in need during these difficult times. In particular, the focus is to collect and distribute food, hygiene items, toiletries, baby supplies and technology. “The Southwester” interviewed the SW Mutual Aid Group to learn a little more about them and their mission.

### How was the SW group formed, and what is the affiliation with the DC Mutual Aid Group?

A number of SW residents joined the DC Mutual Aid network looking for ways to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mutual Aid is a community-led grassroots effort, and residents across the District have become active in city-wide and Ward-specific mutual aid efforts. The SW Mutual Aid Pod is affiliated with the DC Mutual Aid Team through the Ward 6 Mutual Aid Team. These members joined together into a “Pod” focused on the SW community. The SW Pod established a partnership with Christ United Methodist Church to collect donations at the church to serve the SW Community. The church is reaching out to the community through its network to distribute food pantry items in particular; the SW Mutual Aid Pod is receiving direct requests through the Ward 6 Mutual Aid hotline. This hotline is available for anyone in need in Ward 6 to request support, including food, cleaning supplies, and personal care items.

### What are the types of services provided and amount of aid that has already been provided?

The SW Mutual Aid Pod has partnered with the Who Speaks for Me? Project to provide personal hygiene supplies, clothing, and shoes for a newly-established temporary women’s shelter. Donations of clothing and supplies are brought to Christ United Methodist Church where volunteers sort and organize them. Over the last two weeks we have sent over 50 large bags of clothing and shoes along with soap, deodorant, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and towels for 100 women.

Food donations support the Christ United Methodist Church’s 5000 Food Pantry. The 5000 Ministry is named after the miracle of the 5000 people Jesus fed from five loaves and two fish. The pantry is providing an average of 40 bags of food every two weeks.

Separately, the Mutual Aid Network has delivered 20 bags of food and personal supplies to families in SW. These bags are meeting the need of requests received through the Ward 6 Mutual Aid hotline. The hotline receives an average of 3 requests from the SW neighborhood each day and we are working to assist as supplies become available.

### How can Southwest residents help?

Southwest residents can help in three ways:

First, residents can drop off donations to Christ United on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m., and Saturday 12-2 p.m. Below are items to donate:

- Food: canned tuna and chicken, cereal, pasta, rice, bread, fresh fruit, and vegetables
- Personal care items: soap, shampoo, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, towels, washcloths
- Cleaning Supplies: disinfectant spray and wipes, gloves, bleach, trash bags, and empty cleaning spray bottles
- Children’s Goods: books, cards, art supplies, working or broken laptops
- Mask materials: scrap fabric (100% cotton, tight weave fabric such as sheets and t-shirts), elastic strapping or hair ties

These items will be used to serve requests we get through our hotline as well as support the Christ United Methodist Church’s 5000 Food Pantry and the temporary women’s shelter.

Second, residents can donate through PayPal at [ServeYourCityDC.org](http://ServeYourCityDC.org), the non-profit that helped start the Ward 6 Mutual Aid Team. Please make sure to indicate in your donation “Mutual Aid.” These funds will be used by our volunteer shoppers to purchase the same goods we are asking our neighbors to donate, and will serve the same hotline and partners.

Third, volunteer! If you would like to help intake and sort donations, please email Karen McManus at [karenlmcmanus@gmail.com](mailto:karenlmcmanus@gmail.com). The SW Pod is enforcing a strict policy of 3 volunteers per shift to make sure we are practicing social distancing. Masks and gloves are also required. If you are interested in ways to help, or have other questions, please contact the Ward 6 Mutual Aid team at [ward6mutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:ward6mutualaid@gmail.com).

*Families in need of assistance from Mutual Aid can contact the Ward 6 Mutual Aid hotline at 202-683-9962.*

## GRANT PROGRAM

Continued from p. 2

and longtime president, Coralie Farlee, passed away in January. We will deeply miss her leadership and guidance. The new Board of Directors is committed to carrying forward the vision and principles that have guided the organization’s work for the past two decades.

## INNOVATION

Continued from p. 14

mindful and resilient soldiers who appreciate that their brain is another powerful weapon in the cache.



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[Your sign here?]

— sign

**SWBID**

SOUTHWEST BUSINESS  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

[www.swbid.org](http://www.swbid.org)  
[@swbid](https://twitter.com/swbid)

Looking for a good sign? Take a walk ☑. We've worked with local artists to bring little signs of joy and positivity to the neighborhood.

Join the artists! Create your own and put it on display. We'll have signs available for pick-up at the SW Farmers Market during the month of May until supplies last.

The Lot at 4th and M | Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.