

# Volunteers Undergird SWBID's Over 30,000 Meal Deliveries



Courtesy of SWBID  
A helping hand

BY ANNE MCNULTY

Over 1000 meals are being delivered to seven sites throughout Southwest D.C. each weekday. When kids began remote schooling, there was an immediate need to provide meals that would have otherwise been provided at school, and that need has only grown as the negative effects of coronavirus sweep through our region.

The daily meal deliveries are a part of a formal partnership between the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID), the Washington Nationals Philanthropies, Chef José Andrés' World  
See "Volunteers," page 6



## KID'S CORNER

Page 10-11



## The Digital Divide: A Crisis We Can Solve in DC

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series on the Digital Divide

BY GRACE HU, PARENT AT AMIDON-BOWEN ELEMENTARY AND PARENT LEAD FOR DIGITAL EQUITY IN DC EDUCATION

When I joined the Amidon-Bowen Elementary PTA in 2016, I never dreamed that four years later I would be leading a coalition of parents to push the city to close the digital divide—the gap between those who are  
See "Digital Divide," page 9



Courtesy of Lisa Curtis

Amidon-Bowen Elementary student uses computer for distance learning during the pandemic.



Courtesy of Rodd Santomauro

Emergency services block off a portion of M Street, between 4th and 3rd Streets, while responding to a two alarm fire at Carrollsburg in Southwest this past Sunday around 2 p.m. Smoke damage can be seen on the balconies of units above the burnt out third floor unit where the fire originated.

## Fire at Carrollsburg Shuts Down Part of M Street

BY MATT KOEHLER

Around two p.m. on Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, a 2 alarm fire broke out in a third

floor apartment at the north tower of Carrollsburg in Southwest D.C., across from Waterfront Metro.

See "Fire," page 14

## MUTUAL AID SERVES UP FOOD

Page 12



## IN MEMORY OF DR. MORAGNE

Page 15

## RANDALL SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

Page 14



### 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:

**Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund**  
400 "I" Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
[thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org](mailto:thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org)  
[www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org)  
(202) 251-1639



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor of the Southwester,

For the past seven weeks, DC Police and DC National Guard have descended on The Wharf – dozens of cops, an abundance of tow trucks, police cruisers blocking entrance to Maine Avenue, etc. It's a huge inconvenience for residents and the few essential businesses still trying to survive.

You can't sit on benches that overlook the water without the police quickly asking you to "move along." On District Pier, where the sign says outdoor relaxation is permitted, an officer told me that meant, "walking around while breathing in the fresh air."

I'm a Wharf resident and am tired of seeing our neighborhood being over-policed. This isn't happening in other neighborhoods across the City, and it shouldn't be happening here. Visit

somewhere like Lincoln Park or Capitol Hill, and sunbathers and people sitting on benches are in plain view of the police without getting told to move on.

If you share similar concerns about policing at The Wharf, I encourage you to reach out to City leaders to help make change happen. Here's where you can start:

- Mayor Muriel Bowser: [eom@dc.gov](mailto:eom@dc.gov), [muriel.bowser@dc.gov](mailto:muriel.bowser@dc.gov)
- Ward 6 Councilmember, Charles Allen: (202) 724-8054, [callen@dccouncil.us](mailto:callen@dccouncil.us)
- ANC 6D04 Commissioner, Andy Litsky: [6D04@anc.dc.gov](mailto:6D04@anc.dc.gov)

Sincerely,  
A concerned resident

To submit a letter to the editor, email [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com).

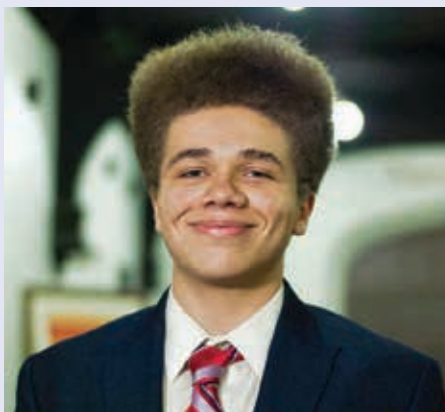
## 2020 Graduates – SWNA Salutes You!

BY VYLLORYA EVANS

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Education and Scholarship Task Force (SWNA ESTF) congratulates four-time SWNA scholarship recipients and Class of 2020 graduates, Jada Miles, Bachelors in Business Management, minor in Dance from Dean College in Franklin Massachusetts and Philip O'Sullivan, Bachelor of Arts in History, minor in Mathematics from the University of Chicago. We applaud their dedication, perseverance, and achievement.

Jada's academic journey has been studded with noteworthy accomplishments. Her college extracurricular activities included membership in the National Honor Society and the Black Student Union. She also traveled to Eastern Europe for three weeks where she studied the history and culture of several nations. Her strong commitment to her academic studies and the arts can be traced to a successful academic career at Duke Ellington School of the Arts, where she graduated in 2016 with honors. As a university student, she continued to nurture her creative talents in dance. Having danced in the Nutcracker in 2010 at the Kennedy Center with Misty Copeland, Jada looks forward with great anticipation to what the future holds for her as she contemplates dancing professionally and opening up a Fitness Center.

Philip has always been a model academic student, earning excellent grades during his four years at the School Without Walls Public High School and Chicago University where he spent copious amounts of time at the cam-



Courtesy of SWNA

Philip O'Sullivan



Courtesy of SWNA

Jada Miles

pus library. It was there that his thirst for knowledge was nurtured but never quenched. He developed formidable research skills that landed him a job as a research assistant for a J.S.D. student at the law school. In addition to his time as research assistant, heavy involvement in student leadership and government has kindled Philip's desire to continue his studies at Harvard Law School in the fall of 2022. Phillip will take a brief hiatus to refocus his goals on the pressing needs of our rapidly changing society in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The graduates fondly look back at their university experiences and they, with their families, thank SWNA and the Friends of Southwest for the financial support. There are many more students who need help.

SWNA ESTF is currently collecting scholarship donations for the 2020-21 academic year and needs your help. You can make a tax-deductible donation to this worthy cause by sending a check payable to SWNA addressed to SWNA Scholarship Fund, PO Box 70131, Washington, DC 20024-0131. Please note "Scholarship" in the memo line.

Do you know of a student in need of financial assistance for the 2020-21 academic year? SWNA ESTF is still accepting applications. The deadline is June 30, 2020. Applications should be completed online at <https://www.swnascholarship.org/>.

For more information about SWNA's commitment to Southwest youth over the past 46 years, visit <https://www.swnascholarship.org/>.

## The Southwester

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

## Local Businesses Still Serving the Waterfront Community

With strict social distancing measures still being observed in most of the country, many local businesses and their employees continue to feel 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 take out/delivery 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/splendornail-sandspa>).
- **Sacred Grounds Café:** They will continue to post updates. Check website for more details (<http://stmatthewsdc.org/home>).



Courtesy Shelby Poage

## Photo of the Month Winner: Shelby Poage

### Blue Angels fly over the District

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).

# VIRTUAL CAMP ARENA STAGE

AN ONLINE, MULTI-ARTS PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 8-15



**REGISTER TODAY!** [ARENASTAGE.ORG/CAMP](https://arenastage.org/camp)

# Local Community Garden Continues to Grow

BY MATT KOEHLER

Every spring, we look forward to the opening of the SW Community Gardens at Lansburgh Park in Southwest DC. For the last several years, during the growing season we've been going to Gardens at least once a week to drop off compost (more on that below), plant, weed, do projects (I once showed up to weed but instead helped put several new wheelbarrows together), get some exercise, chat with neighbors, or generally help out with whatever needs to be done.

This year, the Community Gardens opened up as per usual but due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, there was no celebration to set the season off. Instead, the Garden opened up with less fanfare but still with a mission to grow food, provide a safe outdoors space for people to work and learn, and connect the community. I asked the Garden managers, Coy and Pam McKinney, what they are doing this season in terms of gardening and about their guidelines during the pandemic. Here's what they had to say:

## When did you open this season?

Pam: We opened the communal section on March 28. Given the current pandemic, we are only allowing four volunteers per scheduled work hour.

## What concerns did you have opening during a pandemic?

Pam: I was and am concerned about not allowing kids in the garden like we normally would. We usually have a lot of kids come visit. Now we can only allow them in if a parent signed up to come by. I hate telling kids they can't come into the garden because of social distancing.

## On that note, what rules do you have for people coming to the Garden this season?

Pam: We ask that volunteers sign up before coming to a work day, and only four volunteers can come during a work hour. They must also wear gloves and a mask, which we take home and wash (the gloves) after each work day.

## Have you been seeing a steady stream of people coming in to help out?

Pam: Yes! We've had new and returning volunteers come to the garden. We've had a few families come, which is really fun to see them work together to care for the garden. Our digging bed is still popular with kids. We just have to ask parents to stay with their kids if they are younger. Some kids that come to the garden with their parents have been coming for a while, so they are used to the garden rules. We haven't had any problems finding volunteers, even when it was colder in April.

## What projects is the Garden doing right now? A wish list for readers who may show up to help out at some point?

Coy: We have spent the spring expanding sunflower alley, and we'd like to extend it even further (pro tip: check out Lansburgh Park in July). This involves some digging and weeding. A volunteer, Mark, spent a few



Courtesy of SW Community Gardens

Above: Volunteers prep a community bed for planting

At left: Sunflower alley, waiting in anticipation

Below: Great green stalks of growing garlic!



weeks getting rid of all the weeds inside the garden, which was a huge help. We're sure the weeds will be back though.

Other projects could include painting garden signs, watering, and planting as seeds come in.

## What are you growing right now? Anything different from last year? Anything in particular you're looking forward to seeing in the next few weeks/months, vegetation-wise?

Coy: Right now we're growing garlic, spinach, kale, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, Swiss chard, peanuts, beets, snap peas, grapes, hardy kiwis, some herbs, strawberries, and blackberries. We're waiting on our backordered seeds to plant the rest of our crops.

Pam: I always look forward to the blackberry harvest. They should be ready in mid-June, and since they grow

along the southern side of the garden fence, anyone coming by can grab a blackberry to taste. Just remember that the darker the berry, the sweeter the juice! In other words, they should look dark purple and not have any pink on them. I'm also excited about our sunflowers. Our volunteers planted a lot more this year, especially as they helped expand this section of the garden. It's going to be so beautiful come July!

## How's composting going? I assume there will be no competition this year but that doesn't mean SW Community Gardens isn't still producing high quality compost, right?

Coy: Our compost cooperative still functions 24/7/365. Every Sunday, a small group of cooperative members sign up to aerate, water, and move the piles. Last fall, we joined a pilot program that was launched by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in conjunction with Loop Closing to track how much our neighbors are composting. While some members use it consistently, others do not. Nonetheless, since November 2019, SWesters have diverted over 400 pounds of food waste from contributing to climate change, by decomposing in a landfill where eventually it creates the greenhouse gas methane, to instead organic soil we can use to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

## Speaking of Composting, do you have any more open slots for future composters looking to reduce waste?

Coy: Our compost cooperative still has room to grow. Interested neighbors should read through DPR's best practices handbook, then stop by the garden during a work day for the in-person tutorial, and in addition the cooperative's Google Group.

## Do you have any words of encouragement for the community? Perhaps expound on the values of getting outside and possibly doing some good old-fashioned gardening?

Pam: I think this experience has felt very isolating for a lot of people, and I hope the garden can offer

some sense of connection to Mother Earth

and each other. Personally, I've noticed so much more all the flowers and trees around SW and their subtle changes I never took time to see before this. If you have children, a fun activity for them could be to create a garden journal in which they observe the same plant each week and write or draw what they see. It helps them to develop curiosity in nature and recognize the little changes that lead to a big change (e.g. a few little leaves and stem turn into a beautiful bloom with bees searching for nectar).

## Anything I missed that you want to include?

Coy: If you'd like to stay connected to the garden, email [swgardensdc@gmail.com](mailto:swgardensdc@gmail.com) to be added to our e-newsletter list. You'll receive notification of our harvests and other activities, as we plan to give away everything we grow for free.



# APPLY NOW 2020 SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$1,000 – \$5,000**

Scholarships are available to residents residing in ZIP Code 20024 who wish to pursue, or are pursuing, any course of study at an accredited undergraduate college, university or technical institution.

Scholarships are available for multiple years!

To Apply Visit [www.swnascholarship.org](http://www.swnascholarship.org)

Over the past 45 years, SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) Scholarship program has awarded more than 400 scholarships, totaling more than \$250,000 to approximately 200 neighborhood youth!

*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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# Zooming in on Decor

BY DEBORAH SHERWOOD

During this time of social distancing, meetings, concerts, reunions, sports events, and celebrations are on hold. Even glossy, multi-colored flyers with pictures of luxury vacation resorts, graduation announcements, and embossed wedding invitations on elegant vellum no longer tumble out of my tiny pigeon-hole mailbox.

Participating in an online Zoom forum is a practical and safe alternative to the tangible personal contact of a friendly handshake or quick hug. It offers the ultimate pairing of social interaction and social distancing, while also providing an opportunity to visually connect with people, enjoy lectures, classes, and, of course, share Happy Hour.

After receiving a Zoom invitation, I  
See "Zooming," page 9



Courtesy of Deborah Sherwood

Deborah Sherwood



## Mi Vida Delivers the Goods

BY MIKE GOODMAN

It's a Friday night during quarantine, and our family has a personal reason for a celebratory dinner. So we turn to a neighborhood favorite, Mi Vida, for this special night. As usual, Mi Vida delivers.

Literally, they deliver—through GrubHub or directly through their website. For tonight, I choose not to go with one of my favorites on the menu, the Enchiladas Rancheras, which is a vegetarian medley of flavors that is so good you would not even know it's vegetarian! Chopped vegetables fill the corn tortillas, with a sauce that is heavy on cream and Chihuahua cheese, which is a delicacy for under \$20. For this Friday night, however, the family goes with the skirt steak with a mushroom and poblano sauce; the pollo quesadilla; three carne tacos; plantains; and of course, a side of guacamole.

I was pleased to see that even through an online order, we could choose how we prefer the steak to be cooked. And it showed up a perfect medium-rare, with

the mushroom and poblano sauce on the side, allowing diners to combine to their own tastes. The sauce is exceptionally flavorful, and not very spicy, as poblanos are a mild pepper with a distinctive taste.

Mi Vida's tacos always come through, and the carne tacos stick to the basics with marinated steak and a light dusting of onion and cilantro. Accompanying them is a unique salsa with a smoky mol that, along with Mi Vida's signature fresh guacamole, completes the dish.

The plantains work as an appetizer, side or even dessert. They are sweet, salty and crispy, and they arrived hot, fresh out of the fryer. The delivery driver deserves some credit for that, as well as the chef and restaurant workers.

Considering it was a Friday night, there was one more addition to our order. Mi Vida provides delivery margaritas, so a 750 ml bottle of El Jimador silver tequila accompanied our food, along with the restaurant's homemade margarita mix, salt and limes. Mi Vida delivers the full package.

## Camp Arena Stage Moves Online

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

"Art connects people even when they cannot be in the same physical space." So says Camp Arena Stage Director Anita Maynard-Losh, who together with co-camp director Rebecca Campana, is now re-imagining this unforgettable summer experience with classes in theater, music, dance, media, and visual arts in an online format.

Virtual Camp Arena Stage will provide young campers from the Washington metropolitan area, and around the country, the opportunity to discover, explore, and create art while building long-lasting, meaningful relationships.

Campers choose their own schedules from a selection of classes, including acting for the camera, hip-hop and contemporary dance, songwriter's studio, virtual rock band, musical theater, podcasting, fashion design, sculpture, and more.

"To help young people make tremendous art and memories this summer, we have been able to assemble a dream team of instructors," says Campana. Classes will be taught by talented professional artists in musical theater, like Maria Rizzo, who won a Helen Hayes Award for her performance in Arena Stage's *Anything Goes*.

This new form enables campers to receive instruction from artists who have relocated to New York and California but are able to teach again. Campers will also be able to share their art in a supportive and enthusiastic environment during a daily camp-wide performance.

Together, Maynard-Losh and Cam-

pana, who co-founded Camp Arena Stage 16 years ago, say that they look forward to experiencing exciting art and community in a new way this summer.

### LOGISTICS FOR VIRTUAL CAMP ARENA STAGE FOR SUMMER 2020

Camp Arena Stage features half-day camps (morning or afternoon) that run Monday-Friday for two weeks:

For Ages: 8-15 as of July 1, 2020  
Morning Camp: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Afternoon Camp: 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m.  
June 22 - July 3  
July 6 - July 17  
July 20 - July 31

Registration for Virtual Camp Arena Stage 2020 is now open. Register at [arenastage.org/virtualcamp](http://arenastage.org/virtualcamp).

**Location:** Online via Zoom

For security purposes, links requiring passwords will be emailed to parents/guardians.

### How to Register

Click the "Register" button to register your camper for classes, make any friend requests, and pay in full.

Classes are selected upon registration on a first-come, first-served basis.

An additional link will be sent to you to complete your camper's information, and to sign off on our technology policies and waivers.

### Tuition

Camps are half day. Tuition is per camp (morning or afternoon). Campers can register for more than one camp:

Returning campers: \$325  
New campers: \$340



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2509 Good Hope Rd SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
(202) 793-2141

[www.skylandworkforcecenter.org](http://www.skylandworkforcecenter.org)

Reference: 250 M Street, SE

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

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

**D**ue to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, many restaurants and businesses are operating in a limited capacity in order to reduce the spread of infection.

To weather this period of mandatory, but necessary, social distancing, the Wharf is continuing its efforts to maintain a clean and safe environment. Many restaurants are still offering a variety of services to patrons. If you are able to, 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, and purchasing gift cards.

You can also support service workers directly by tipping your favorite bartenders and servers through the DC Virtual Tip Jar: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1tz2uyhgy3MsBS68MHPzO8H455\\_879fqf1aRPyUUw3QE/htmlview?usp=sharing&sle=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1tz2uyhgy3MsBS68MHPzO8H455_879fqf1aRPyUUw3QE/htmlview?usp=sharing&sle=true).

## Takeout + Delivery: Regular Menus, Family-Style Meals, and Grocers

- **Officina at The Wharf** is offering everything you need for the perfect Memorial Day Weekend - a weekly delivery subscription that includes both meal kits and prepared dinners. The Provisions menu features local produce, hand-crafted butcher products, fresh bread, and artisanal snacks and preserves. Cases of fine wine curated by Officina's sommeliers are also available to add to your order. Typical restaurant fare, alcohol and essentials are also available Tue-Fri 2pm-8pm and Sat-Sun 12pm-8pm through Caviar and ToastTakeOut.
- **The Grill** is now your grocer and your butcher! Open daily 11:30am-8:15pm for pickup at ToastTakeOut and delivery at Caviar, the menu offers a full grocery experience, 50% off wine bottles and grill-at-home fare with The Butchery. Wharf residents receive complimentary delivery.
- **The Canopy Hotel at The Wharf's Canopy Central Cafe & Bar and Whiskey Charlie** have teamed up to sell family-style meals, alcohol, produce and other grocery items via takeout, open Monday-Friday 12pm-10pm, and Saturday-Sunday 10am-10pm. Order at 202-730-2399 or



- on UberEats, GrubHub, Caviar and DoorDash.
- **Chopsmith** (Salads and Grilled Proteins) offers Mon-Fri dinners for two available to order on its website by 2pm the day prior, along with daily 12pm-6:30pm carryout/delivery through DoorDash. The restaurant is also now serving breakfast 9am-11:30am daily.
- **Toastique** is available 8am-5pm for toasts, juices and salads via takeout and delivery on DoorDash.
- **Grazie Grazie** (Sandwiches and Salads)- Open daily 11am-8pm for takeout in-store and delivery through Caviar.
- Seafood at **Rappahannock Oysters** is open for takeout 11:30am-8pm daily by calling 202-484-0572.
- **Union Pie** pizzas are still available to all through takeout 11:30am-9pm weekdays and 11am-8pm Fri-Sun by calling 202-506-3329, but large orders should email [luke@union-piepizza.com](mailto:luke@union-piepizza.com).
- **Kaliwa** (Filipino/Korean/Thai) is open 4pm-8pm for takeout and delivery. Call at 202-516-4739 or email [togo@kaliwadc.com](mailto:togo@kaliwadc.com) for free delivery within a 3 mile radius. Also order through GrubHub and UberEats.
- **Kirwan's on The Wharf** is open for takeout and delivery 12pm-8pm Tuesday-Sunday by calling 202-554-3818 or emailing [kirwanson-thewharf@gmail.com](mailto:kirwanson-thewharf@gmail.com). The bar is also offering free food delivery to first responders.
- Italian fare from **Lupo Marino** is available 11am-11pm for food and alcohol takeout and delivery via

SliceLife, UberEats, DoorDash, or calling 202-506-1306. Buy a gift card and receive 25% extra credit at all Lupo locations.

- **MI VIDA** is now serving breakfast 7 days a week! Breakfast is available for takeout and delivery 11:30am-3pm daily. Order through ToastTakeOut, UberEats, Postmates, Caviar, or GrubHub.

## Virtual Experiences

- **Politics & Prose Live!** Politics & Prose will continue their event programming through a livestream series. The Crowdstream software allows readers to submit questions for a Q&A session. A full schedule can be found here.
- **Pearl Street Warehouse** is livestreaming their own series of virtual concerts including acoustic sets. Check out their Live Stream Virtual Concerts here.
- **Cantina Bambina** is hosting Zoom happy hours through its Facebook page.
- **Cordial at The Wharf** is offering virtual wine tastings on Facebook Live.

## Sweets

- D.C.'s own **District Doughnut** is available 7am-7pm for takeout and delivery to cater to any dessert needs. Order online at its website.
- **Classic Southwest Soda Pop Shop** is open for takeout through 202-981-6999.
- Order **Praline Bakery** — open Monday-Sunday 8am-8pm — for takeout at 202-484-0500.

## Brunch Specials

- **Chopsmith** has a weekend brunch for 2 for just \$45 dollars available to order on its website — all orders must be placed by noon Friday.
- **Canopy Central Bar & Café** offers a Sat-Sun brunch 10am-2pm. Order on Caviar or call 202-730-2399.
- **Grazie Grazie** is offering Sunday at Nonna's: This family style meal is now available for pick up AND delivery on Caviar, GrubHub and DoorDash and UberEats. Feeds 4-5: Pesto Parmesan Chicken Cutlets (4), 1 Pound of Rotini w/ Nonna's Marinara, Huge Caesar Salad, Vanilla Toffee Cookies (4) — \$65.

## Happy Hour + Drinks

- **Shop Made In DC** just launched their happy hour boxes! Boxes are available for order and will include Samantha Testa etched rocks glass ("Lift Your Spirits" or "Alcohol Kills Germs"), Godet pair coasters (3 Star or Blossom), Yoco Chocolate Pretzels, Choice of Pre-made Cocktail Negroni (NRG) or Shrub (if shipping outside of DMV must substitute for Element Mixer). With local delivery, boxes can be in your hands by Wednesday!
- **The Grill** has specialty cocktail pouches available on its ToastTakeOut and Caviar menu.
- **Canopy Central Bar & Café** — in partnership with **Whiskey Charlie** — has special family-style cocktails to serve 8, and a discount when you bring in your own bottle for a refill. Order on Caviar or call 202-730-2399.
- **Cordial at The Wharf** is offering pickup order by calling 202-803-2677 until 6:30pm Mon-Sat and 4:30pm Sunday for same day pickup. Get your drinks no later than 7:30pm Mon-Sat and 5:30pm Sunday.

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/>.

## DIGITAL DIVIDE

*Continued from p. 1*

able to effectively access and use technology and those who are not. Nor could I have predicted that a pandemic would worsen existing inequities by limiting physical access to education and critical services that are increasingly based on internet access. More than 160,000 DC residents, including thousands in Southwest DC, lack high-speed home Internet service and are being left behind due to a problem that is fixable, if only our leaders would prioritize fixing it.

### Residents Left Behind

Even before the pandemic, residents needed reliable access to high-speed internet (broadband), computer literacy skills, and a computer device to fully participate in education, the economy, and civic life. Much of DC Public School (DCPS) curriculum, testing, and remediation programs are now online. Applying to jobs, city services, and maintaining many connections with our neighborhood, friends, and family are done online. Many independent reports show that high-speed internet access has a direct impact on jobs and the economy.

Despite this increasing reliance on technology, 1 in 4 DC residents, including many in Southwest DC, lack high-speed home Internet service. Nationally, 25% of black teens report trouble completing homework due to lack of a reliable computer or Internet connection. Even when internet service is available at home, it may only exist through a cellular data plan that may have monthly usage limits and be prohibitively expensive to maintain or expand. Sharing such a limited internet connection among many family members puts an even greater strain on those families who now have to, for example, decide whether to cut off a video call for work or for school.

The digital divide impacts both the young and old in our community, especially during this pandemic. Students have been expected to complete online learning and attend virtual class meetings. Children as young as five may be the only family members who can try to navigate websites if others in their family are illiterate, non-native English speakers, or unfamiliar with technology. While DCPS has loaned out laptops and hotspots to some students, many of those will need to be returned and serve only as a stopgap measure. Summer programming for children is expected to occur online, with the city's website stating that registration must be completed on a computer, not a phone or tablet. Meanwhile, seniors without technology are unable to access virtual church services and community functions that have moved online during this public health emergency. For seniors, maintaining the social connections that are vital to their health and well-being can be much harder now that they are dependent on unfamiliar devices and online tools.



*Courtesy of Author*

*Markus Batchelor, candidate for At-Large council seat and current Vice President of State Board of Education, speaking to residents before the pandemic*

In the midst of these challenges, volunteer organizations have stepped up. Since 2008, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) has collected and supplied computers to families and offered computer training for seniors and students. During the pandemic, Serve Your City, which manages the Ward 6 Mutual Aid Team, has collected used computers and distributed them to residents. While helpful and needed, these volunteer-led efforts are limited in scope (reaching at most hundreds at a time) and usually are focused on providing computer hardware rather than Internet access. Unfortunately, we cannot close the digital divide, either in Southwest or the city in general, by relying solely on the volunteer work and generosity of neighbors. To close the digital divide, the DC government must step up.

### City Leaders Need To Step Up

The role of city government in solving the digital divide is especially pertinent during a year in which several Council positions are up for election. The DC Council plays a critical role in holding the mayor and executive branch accountable, and for funding city government. On May 18, I participated in an online discussion on the digital divide with Markus Batchelor, current Vice President of the State Board of Education and candidate for At-Large Council position. Batchelor, who grew up and still lives in Congress Heights in Ward 8, recognizes the urgency of closing the digital divide and said: "It's going to take bold investment for improving Internet connection, expanding municipal Wi-Fi, and making sure that we have technology for every student."

Batchelor also discussed the need for city leaders to provide oversight, stating "there was money put in the [mayor's] budget to help upgrade units across our public housing communities, and we need to make sure there's oversight from the Council to make sure there is money invested in upgrading the technology systems in those

public housing units." He stated that city leaders should "intentionally target" senior communities, senior centers, and seniors at home for the provision of technology and computer literacy training. "We've got to think about this from different angles with the goal of making sure that everyone, no matter your traditional station or barrier in life, has that access."

DC government has tried to address the digital divide for many years, but its efforts have fallen short of providing technology access for all residents. In 2010, DC used more than \$17 million from the federal government to build out broadband infrastructure to provide Wi-Fi for DC government agencies and community institutions such as schools, libraries, and senior centers. However, DC did not build out "last mile" service to neighborhoods, opting instead to rely on internet providers such as Comcast to provide services to residents for a monthly fee. DC also created an office, Connect.DC, to lead outreach and computer training efforts to lower-income residents who lack both computer hardware and Internet. Connect.DC's funding has been stagnant the past few years and is significantly reduced in the mayor's FY21 budget, from \$1 million in FY20 to less than \$400,000 in FY21. The small scale of these efforts means that, if the current lack of priority persists, we will not close the digital divide for years to come.

Other cities, such as Seattle and Chattanooga, have prioritized technology access for their residents and have funded everything from library hotspot loan programs and grants for local digital equity projects to free Wi-Fi on buses and in public housing, and publicly-owned networks designed to keep the Internet affordable.

### How You Can Help

With DC Council budget hearings coming up, Southwest residents have the opportunity to urge city leaders to make investments to close the digital divide. The currently proposed Mayor's budget underfunds the DCPS technology needed to support both in-school and at-home learning and includes no additional funding to support expansion of Internet access or computer literacy training. Here's what you can do:

E-mail or submit written testimony to the DC Council on the digital divide. E-mail [digitalequitydc@gmail.com](mailto:digitalequitydc@gmail.com) for details.

Tell us your story of how the digital divide has impacted you, your family, or your community. We will use these stories to write part 2 of this Southwester series on the digital divide. E-mail [digitalequitydc@gmail.com](mailto:digitalequitydc@gmail.com) or leave a voicemail at 202-556-1610 to set up an interview to tell your story.

Stay informed on the advocacy efforts of our parent group, Digital Equity in DC Education, by following us on twitter at [@DigitalEquityDC](https://twitter.com/DigitalEquityDC).

## ZOOMING

*Continued from p. 7*

click on the link and 'whoosh' my image is instantly sucked into cyberspace then magically plopped into a little square box inside the monitors of other participants already in their virtual square boxes.

Networking with others in isolation is enjoyable, but confidentially, I sometimes pay less attention to the context of the conversation while exploring their personal surroundings.

Often in view are immaculate environments displaying fresh flowers, silver framed family portraits, and stylish furniture upholstered in luxurious fabrics.

Shiny glass-topped coffee tables present an array of intellectual books with titles like 'The Political and Economic History of Europe' and invariably, the most recent issue of *Psychology Today*.

I've begun to wonder how my surroundings are being perceived. On the wall behind me haphazardly hangs a collection of oil paintings done years ago when I fancied myself an artist. My coffee table (purchased in 1993 at a yard sale) boasts a *Where's Waldo* paperback, half a completed jigsaw puzzle of Santa's Workshop, and a large green pump bottle of Purell.

Happy little dust bunnies blithely snooze in their undisturbed haven beneath my sofa.

Creating a pristine, sophisticated environment to impress my fellow Zoomers is fast becoming a paramount obsession of mine.

Wayfair offers an extensive Internet bonanza of home décor. I could order a few rolls of bookcase image peel and put up wallpaper, giving the illusion that I possess an extensive library of scholarly books. A burgundy damask slipcover, embroidered linen throw pillows, and a handmade needlepoint Aubusson area rug would suggest warmth and charm. Perhaps a rosewood coffee table topped with a contemporary sculpture and an array of silk ferns in blue and white porcelain planters might add stately elegance. A couple of crystal table lamps with black

shades could imply I've actually read all my wallpaper books.

Leaning back in my comfy pink computer chair, I contemplate the substantial cost of new décor, plus the hours of vacuuming, dusting, and polishing required to complete my desired cultured ambiance.

Content with my decision, I put down my calculator, close out the Wayfair website and pour myself another glass of chilled Chardonnay. Now, I just need to choose which of Zoom's free virtual backgrounds I'll use.

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



# 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!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers from May 2020 issue

**Differences:** The picture on the left has a koala while the picture on the right has a turtle; the dog on the right has a birthday cake; the picture on the left has a grasshopper in the tree while the picture on the right has a bird with a present in the tree; the red and yellow flying birds are different in each picture; the raccoon's hats are different in each picture..

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

## WORD SEARCH: SUMMER!

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

BIKE  
CLIMB TREES  
EXERCISE  
FUN  
HOPSCOTCH

HOT  
LEMONADE  
PICNIC  
RELAX  
WALK

# Word Scramble!

How many words can you make from SUMMERTIME?

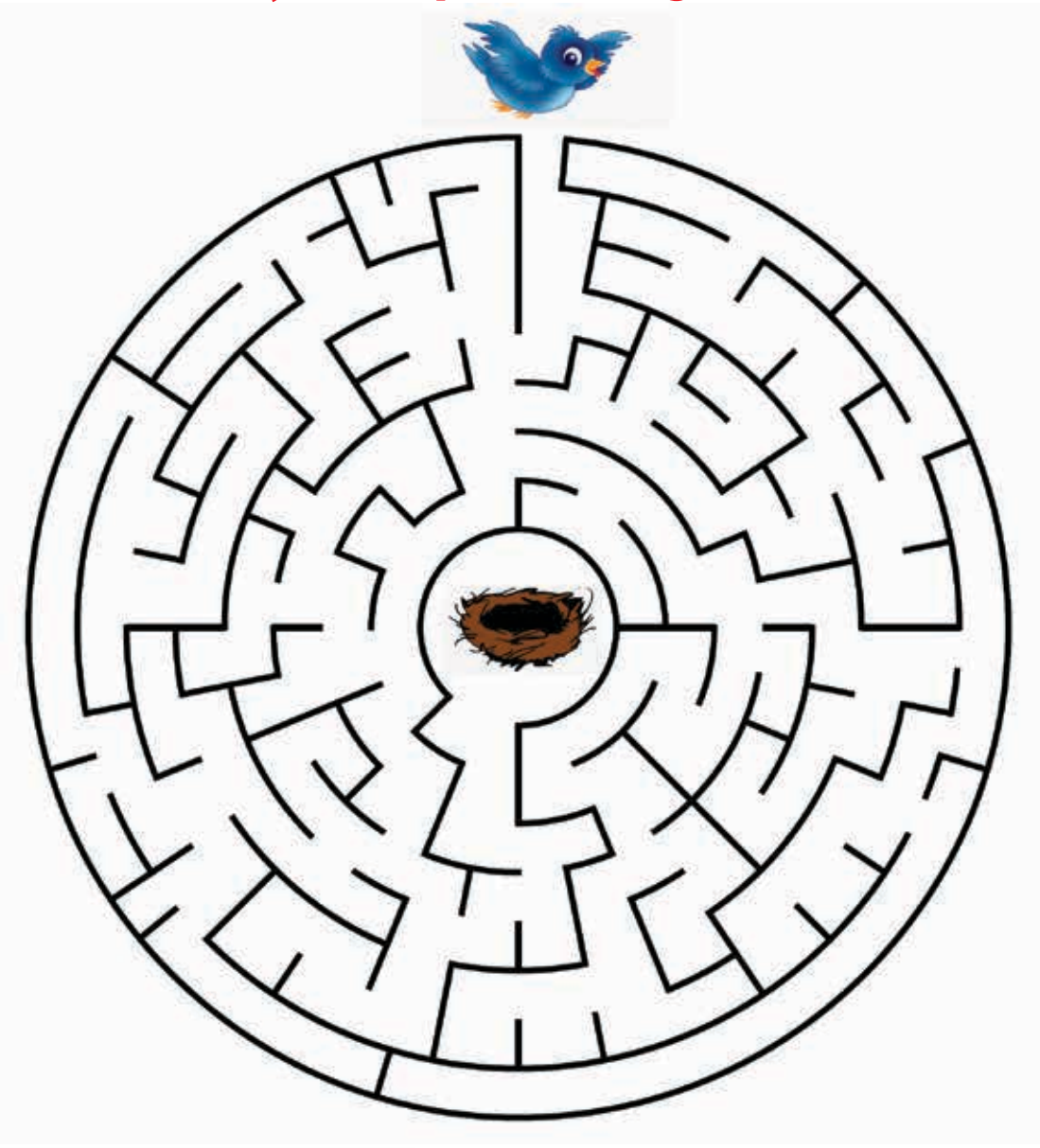
This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



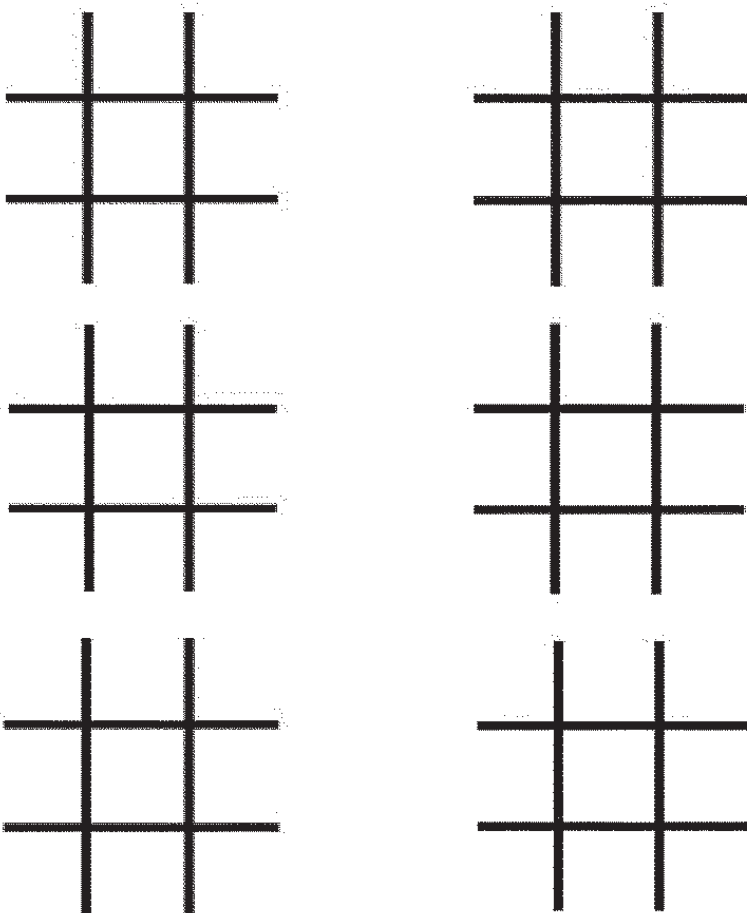
KID'S CORNER

SUMMERTIME  
EXTRA!

Maze! Can you help the bird get to the nest?



TIC TAC TOE



Jokes!

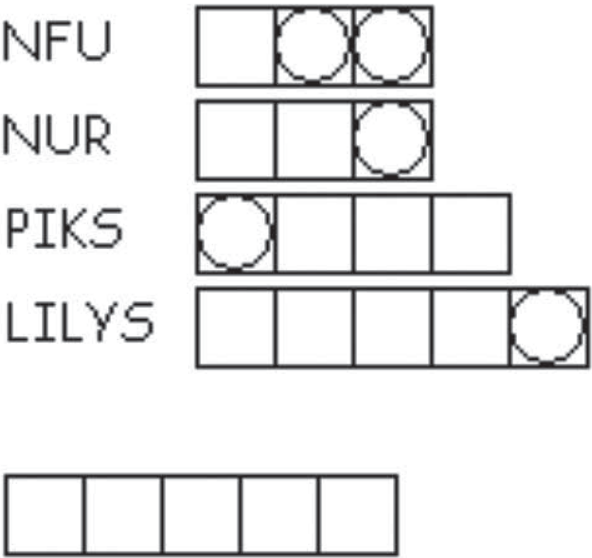
What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping?  
*A dino-snore!*


What is a witch's favorite school subject?  
*Spelling!*

What falls in winter but never gets hurt?  
*Snow!*

Would you like to submit a joke for Kid's Corner?  
Email it to [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com).  
Include your first name so we can tell other kids who sent it in!

Double Puzzle



Unscramble each of the clue words.  
Take the letters that appear in  boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

- a.  $3 + 7 =$
- b.  $9 + 4 =$
- c.  $15 - 5 =$
- d.  $4 + 4 =$
- e.  $9 - 4 =$
- f.  $10 + 10 =$
- g.  $6 + 5 =$
- h.  $15 - 14 =$

# SW Mutual Aid Serves Up Food to Needy Families

BY CARLEE BROWN & MAX GROSSMAN

Ward 6 Mutual Aid is an all-volunteer grassroots group working with black and brown community organizations to help keep our communities safe. Over the past two months, the Southwest Pod of Ward 6 Mutual Aid has partnered with Christ United Methodist Church on a community food and supply drive to serve our neighbors in response to Covid-19. Through their partnership, the Southwest Pod and Christ United Methodist Church have provided groceries and supplies to 230 families in Southwest DC, along with



Courtesy of Author

Above: "Ready for delivery" Southwest Mutual Aid helps feed residents in need  
At left: All bagged up

175 donated and handmade masks.

Interested in ways to help? There are several ways to show your support.

**Donate groceries and supplies.** Donations are accepted at Christ United Methodist Church (900 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m., and Sat-

urdays from 12-2 p.m. This month the team is in particular need of canned tuna and chicken, soup, beans, rice, cereal, and canned or fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Give online.** Monetary donations made to the Mutual Aid partner organization Serve Your City at [serveyourcitydc.org](http://serveyourcitydc.org) will directly support Mutual Aid efforts throughout Ward 6, including here in Southwest.

**Sponsor a donation box in your building.** Encourage your neighbors to donate by setting up a box in your building. The Southwest Pod can help with materials and management. Contact Whitney at [wrolig@live.com](mailto:wrolig@live.com) for more information.

**Volunteer.** The Southwest Pod is seeking volunteers to help sew masks, staff our local food pantry, and pitch in on the Mutual Aid hotline to field calls from home from our neighbors in need. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact [ward6mutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:ward6mutualaid@gmail.com).

The Christ United Methodist Church's food pantry will change its distribution hours in June to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. The church's effort is called the 5000 Ministry Food Pantry, named after the miracle of the 5000 people Jesus fed from five loaves and two fish.

If you or someone you know has a critical need, call the Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962.

## "The Bard" Shelved Amid Financial Uncertainty

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Along a nearly empty sidewalk adjacent to a closed elementary school, the screen over a chain link fence in Southwest flutters gently in the unseasonably cool spring breeze. It surrounds an empty lot where, were it not for the COVID-19 pandemic, the sounds of children playing might be intermingled with workers shouting orders over hammers and saws. The future of the site now seems as unclear as the prospect of returning to so-called normal anytime soon.

As financial markets are roiled by the pandemic, some building projects are being put on hold. The Shakespeare Theatre Company's "The Bard" project has been shelved until further notice, according to the press office.

The Shakespeare Theatre Company (STC) and the developers on "The Bard," Erkiletian Development Company, "are taking a pause to see how the financial markets respond to Covid-19," said an STC spokesperson in an email. The project was approved by the D.C. Zoning Commission last June, and construction was set to begin in the fall, according to a 2019 STC news release.

The project's planned unit development (PUD) was approved in January 2020,

explained STC Executive Director Chris Jennings. "During this time," Jennings wrote to the Southwester, the company "proceeded with the schematic design and development phase to create a LEED Gold certified building that will be energy efficient, environmentally conscious, and externally in accordance with nearby residential spaces."

On March 24, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered the closure of non-essential businesses, including theaters. Meanwhile, construction projects were excluded from the order as essential businesses. The STC had begun "implementing some special considerations for the SW community, like special discount nights," which Jennings explained have been suspended temporarily "while...theatres are closed."

"The Bard," as approved by the city last year, is to include "administrative offices, rehearsal spaces, and a costume shop for Shakespeare Theatre Company, as well as condominiums, including several affordable three bedroom options for D.C. families," according to the STC news release. The site marked for development is the empty lot on the corner of I and 6<sup>th</sup> Sts. SW,

See "The Bard," page 15



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# SOUTHWEST MOMENTS



Courtesy of Tina Scott Lassiter

### Capitol

*At left: A beautiful body perishes, but a work of art dies not - Leonardo da Vinci*

### Sunset on the Channel

*At right: You don't have to be in Key West to watch dramatic sunsets*

### River Park at Night

*Below: River Park at night*



Courtesy of Anne Rensberger



Anonymous



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# Randall School Redevelopment Moving Forward Despite Pandemic

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

One major building project in Southwest will not be disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and Lowe Enterprises, lead developer on the project, the Randall School redevelopment on I Street is going forward this year as planned.

Randall's 2.7 acre site will contain a 12-story apartment building with 489 units, including 98 affordable units. The plan also includes a contemporary art museum, related office space, and a one-acre quad. The original 49,000 square foot Randall School, which will be restored, will also contain the Rubell family's art collection. The Rubell family has a his-

tory of involvement in DC and Southwest. The Skyline Hotel, which is directly across I Street from Randall School and adjacent recreational facilities, was bought by Rubell Hotels in 2002. According to Skyline's website, the company aims to transform "architecturally significant historic hotels into affordable cultural hubs."

Last April, the DC Council voted to approve tax abatement legislation for the project. Preparations are underway to begin demolitions of certain buildings this summer, and foundation works will commence in the fall of this year. Lowe expects the Randall School project to be completed on schedule in 2022, according to D.C.'s Planning and Economic Development office.

While the coronavirus pandemic has

disrupted or halted many sectors of the District of Columbia's economy, and that of the United States at large, construction projects have largely been left untouched by social distancing measures and movement restrictions. The governments of DC, Maryland, and Virginia deemed construction workers "essential" in March. Other states, such as Pennsylvania and Vermont, have halted many projects deemed unnecessary. There are concerns over the safety of workers who have to work in close proximity to each other.

Across the country, though, construction projects are being accelerated to take advantage of a plentiful supply of labor – as many workers want to be considered essential and continue to be able to make an income – as well as decreased traffic.

In Florida, for instance, Governor Ron DeSantis called the pandemic the "golden time" to speed up major projects such as the I-395 redesign in Miami. In DC, there is support for continuing, if not accelerating, Metro's Purple Line construction while ridership is down.

Some neighboring residents have expressed relief that the project is continuing on schedule. Bob Hall, President of the Board of Directors of the adjacent Capitol Park IV Condominium, said he is "eager and relieved" to know progress is being made. Once a "blight" on that block of the neighborhood, the new art museum and ground-level apartments, as well as the "preservation and restoration of the historic Randall School," will bring "new life to this corner of Southwest," Hall said.

## The Press Expands its PPE Production

BY MATT KOEHLER

Last month, I spoke to Dianne Lee at The Press about their community initiative of making face shields and two kinds of face masks, and giving them away for free. Since speaking with the part owner and spokesperson, The Press has increased their efforts to produce even more masks and face shields per day.

I reached out to The Press to find out more about their continuing efforts to help the community during this unprecedented pandemic. This is what Lee had to say.

### What has been the community response from your efforts?

Amazing support. We've had people calling to make donations or wanting to buy masks in bulk.

### How many masks and shields have you distributed so far? And to whom?

Face shields are only 100 but currently 10,000 masks. We've donated to individuals, senior living homes, Children's National Hospital, police departments, court houses specifically for victims of domestic abuse, custodians, security guards, concierges, and leasing offices.

### How have you ramped up your initiatives since we last spoke?

We converted our retail store to a small mask production facility. No one is allowed in the store except employees. This is at our Mosaic District location. We have gone from making 100 masks a day to an average of 400-500. One day we made 699. This is a huge feat because these are home made.

### Have you had requests from hospitals/first responders and the like for more masks or shields?

Yes, they are in need of PPE. We just received a call today, on a Sunday from a government agency as well.

### On that note, how much longer do you think you will keep these initiatives going?

We were planning to slow down but see that as more openings are being planned people are sourcing more masks. We thought we would be slowing down but might have to continue.

### I saw that you've been able to bring some employees back to part time/full time? Were you able to do this because you started covering the cost of your masks and face shields – not for profit, though, right?

We as owners make zero profit but cover the costs of our employees labor in the mask making process. We were able to receive community support with dry cleaning and laundry so we opened our Calvert location [and our] Wharf location, in addition to our Fairfax and Capitol Hill locations. We were able to open all our stores!!

### How's business been going? Did I hear that you've gotten donations or more business since last month?

We have! We were able to fine tune our cleaning process with an amazing solvent called Trebon from Kreussler. It's our go to cleaning solvent for uniforms which is in high demand for police uniforms [...]etc. We've seen an

See "The Press," page 17

## FIRE

Continued from p. 1

At least 100 fire and EMS quickly responded to the fire, blocking off a portion of M Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets, and brought the inferno under control before it spread. Several people had to be rescued from their balconies as smoke filled up the hallway. Smoke damage heavily coated the several balconies above where the fire occurred, blackening their facades.

Two cats were left in the burning apartment and sadly succumbed to the fire and smoke. Fortunately, there were no other fatalities or major injuries, although one person was taken to a local hospital and treated for exposure.

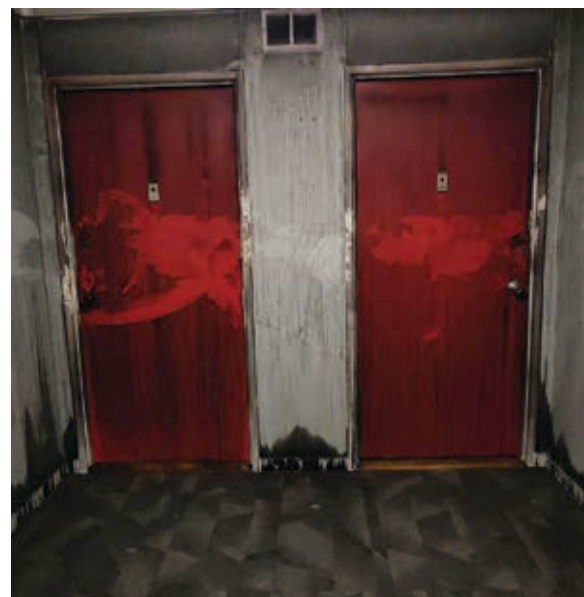
There was serious smoke damage to the hallway of the third floor and the above units, as well as water damage to the units below the fire. One resident, who lives in the same building but on the opposite side of the fire described the damage this way:

Fortunately, I live below where the fire started, and on the other side of the



Courtesy of Matthew Koehler

A resident stands on her balcony and watches on as flames and smoke pour out from the unit next door.



Courtesy of Gina Genis

Smoke damage done to other units on the third floor.

hallway, so I did not suffer any damage. The people who are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, where the fire originated were not able to go home, and will not be able to for several days. The 3<sup>rd</sup> tier (103, 203, 303, etc.) all suffered damage. All of the hallways are smoky. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors have soot in them, even the ones across the hall. I don't know about floors 6, 7 and 8 as far as what it is like inside the units facing west (the side the fire was on), but I checked on a friend's place on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor facing east and it was fine.

The cause of the fire is unknown and authorities are still assessing what caused the blaze.

## Southwest Obituaries

# In Loving Memory of Dr. Lenora Moragne

BY NEO H MORAKE

**D**r. Lenora Moragne, a Southwest resident since the early 1970s and a youth advocate, passed away on April 1 at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Community in Washington, D.C. of advanced dementia and complications from a recent stroke.

Lenora was born on September 29, 1931 in Evanston, Ill. to Joseph and Linnie Lee Moragne. They provided a loving home for Lenora and her three brothers, Joseph Jr. and twins, Drs. Adolph and Rudolph Moragne, all of whom predeceased her. In 1954, Dr. Moragne earned her B.S. in nutrition at Iowa State University, and her M.S (1959) and Ph.D. (1969) in nutrition from Cornell University.

In Southwest, she was a member of the board of River Park Friends, Southwest's Youth Activities Task Force, and the Southwest Educational Excellence Team (SWEET), which awarded students from Amidon Elementary, as Amidon-Bowen Elementary was known at the time, and Jefferson Jr. High Schools with funds to start sav-



Courtesy of Neo H Morake

*In loving memory of Dr. Lenora Moragne*

ings accounts. She also spent weekend mornings tutoring Jefferson Jr. High school students.

Dr. Moragne's varied professional career, which spanned 60 years, included positions in hospitals, nutrition publishing, academia, and government. From 1977 to 1979, she served as Senator Bob Dole's legislative assistant, becoming the first African Ameri-

can woman to join The United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry as coordinator of nutrition policy for the Health and Human Services Division.

In the late 1980s, she became the founding editor and publisher of the Black Congressional Monitor, a monthly subscription newsletter that reported on the legislative activities by African Americans in the U.S Congress, as well as federal government departments, agencies, and programs. JET Magazine cited her newsletter as "the most comprehensive listing of Black input on Capitol Hill."

Dr. Moragne is survived by a large extended family, including seven nieces and nephews, their children and grandchildren, and her adopted granddaughter, Neo Morake.

To honor Dr. Moragne's memory, donations may be made to The Joseph and Linnie Lee Moragne Scholarship. Please contact Ms. Joanne Bertsche, Executive Director, Evanston Township High School Community Foundation, at [BertscheJ@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:BertscheJ@eths.k12.il.us) for more information or to make your donation.

## THE BARD

*Continued from p. 12*

adjacent to Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and across I Street from the Duck Pond. The lot currently sits vacant.

The STC has "decided to pause" The Bard "due to the current coronavirus crisis." However, Jennings wrote, the STC is "looking ahead" to when it can "break ground on STC's new administrative home."

*Author's Note: This is part of a series on the redevelopment of the old Southeastern University site in Southwest. These articles serve to provide information for the greater community, and not to take a side on the development debate.*

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**[ginkgogardens.com](http://ginkgogardens.com)**

**Hours:**  
M-F 8-7 | SAT. 9-6 | SUN. 10-5  
Please check our website for updated store hours each week.



## Comprehensive Meal Sites

These locations will serve meals to anyone under 18.

Updated 5/12/2020

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	
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 Riggs Recreation Center	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	
IDEA PCS	1027 45th Street, NE	7	10 am – 2pm – lunch	Thursday 12:00 - 2:00 pm
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	

School Name	Address	Ward	Meal Distribution Hours (Monday - Friday)	Grocery Distribution (while groceries last)
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	
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 Meal site will close on May 16th	

# Defining Essential on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

A man paces along the boardwalk at the Navy Yard in Southeast D.C. during the COVID-19 pandemic. His sweatshirt reads, “What’s your 1619?” The year refers to the arrival of the first slave ship in Virginia, an event that inaugurated centuries of oppression for African Americans. Other passersby in Navy Yard enjoy the eerily pleasant vacancy of this post-industrial space in the nation’s capital. The neighborhood’s deserted old factory buildings are now seamlessly interwoven with new restaurants and boutique shops. Most lay dark and quiet – unable to open their doors for fear of spreading the deadly virus.

Seven decades ago, the streets and factories of the Navy Yard bustled with a different kind of activity. It was the largest naval armaments factory in the world at the time, sending countless tons of ordinance to U.S. troops fighting in Europe and the Pacific, and this month we mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

Historic newsreel footage of the Navy Yard, which can be found on YouTube under “U.S. Naval Gun Factory Washington, D.C. 1940s,” gives a bird’s-eye view of the 125-acre campus. In the 200 buildings that still largely fill that part of Southeast D.C. – comprised of factories, shops, warehouses, foundries, rail lines, laboratories, and much

more – the “tremendous potential” of the workers, scientists, and military personnel built the wartime machinery that helped us defeat the Nazis.

Down the waterway in Alexandria, Va., in another old torpedo factory, Jewish historian, Gerhard Weinberg, supervised the team microfilming the countless captured German war documents. During the Cold War, he would be representative of a cornerstone of the United States’ power in the subsequent history of our country and of the world. While global superpowers fought each other by supporting so-called proxy nations, rather than deploying the full might of their own militaries, the information industry thrived in Washington, D.C.

While Weinberg and the U.S. military were bringing the German war machine home to build up our wealth of intelligence, African Americans, who fought and died in that war, demanded equality with renewed fervor. They brought back the “tremendous potential” of the wartime mindset, and won desegregation of the military in 1948. The Capital City wouldn’t start to see similar measures in institutions until subsequent decades. And, the DistrictThe city wouldn’t be allowed to vote in federal elections until the 1960s.

According to the above mentioned Navy newsreel, the “gun factory’s greatest resource” was its “master craftsmen,

its master mechanics and supervisors, its scientists and engineers, specialists in a multitude of fields,” and so on. Among those “men and women, representing a great variety of skills,” were the workers described as the “great rank-and-file of the gun factory’s veteran employees.” In effect, essential workers.

Today, 75 years after VE Day, we are again confronted with how essential certain workers are. Whether it is because they have no choice but to work in the service industry, in close contact with possibly infected patrons, or because they cannot work their job remotely and have been laid off, they are fighting in this war.

With so many federal and private sector

researchers housed in Southeast D.C., we ought to once again recall that we serve our community and country on the backs of essential workers. Like Weinberg, many of us produce information rather than bombs, and we are considered essential to national institutions, and receive the requisite visibility. Yet the working class is too often taken for granted, overlooked.

In reflecting on the anniversary of our triumph over the Nazis, we ought to consider what progress we will have made in the next 10 or 20 years. What changes and innovations – what new kinds of understanding – will we bring back from the COVID-19 pandemic? Essentially, what will we bring back that pushes us forward?

As a business owner we want to see the economy opening back up but as someone who makes donations and deliveries for PPE, I am still wary.

**Any final thoughts?**

I have seen a huge difference in our community with the way masks are being perceived. In the earlier phases of the pandemic, I was yelled at by someone in DC for walking away from her while we were both wearing masks. She said it was insulting. Now I see almost everyone wearing masks and “dodging” me as we practice social distancing.

## THE PRESS

Continued from p. 14

increase in wash and fold and household items as well.

**Do you have any thoughts on whether opening up the economy, i.e. more businesses slowly and partially opening their doors to customers, is a good idea?**

The Press Dry Cleaner has been in DC for almost 10 years now. We always tell our staff, we’re here to serve DC. Ask of DC [...]

# Summer Resources Online at DCPL

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

A few resources have been added or expanded on the DC Public Library's online collection since the last issue.

**AskDCPL Chat Feature** – Need help finding what you need on the library's digital collection? Library staff are available to assist customers live via the AskDCPL chat feature 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday at [dclibrary.org](https://dclibrary.org).

**New Digital Resources Available** – The Library expanded access or increased the offsite access for the following online resources. Some will need a card to access. If you do not have a card, obtain a temporary card at [www.dclibrary.org/catalog/account/application](https://www.dclibrary.org/catalog/account/application).

Name	Internet address	Description
Ancestry Library Edition	<a href="https://www.Dclibrary.org/ancestry">www.Dclibrary.org/ancestry</a>	Research your family history
Consumer Checkbook	<a href="https://www.Dclibrary.org/consumer-checkbook">www.Dclibrary.org/consumer-checkbook</a>	Reviews on local services
JSTOR	<a href="https://www.dclibrary.org/JSTOR">www.dclibrary.org/JSTOR</a>	Archive of journals in arts and science
Rosetta Stone	<a href="https://www.dclibrary.org/rosettastone">www.dclibrary.org/rosettastone</a>	Learn a new language or culture
Gale Kids Infobits	<a href="https://www.dclibrary.org/infobits">www.dclibrary.org/infobits</a>	Educational Facts for elementary school students.
Gale Health and Wellness	<a href="https://www.dclibrary.org/healthandwellness">www.dclibrary.org/healthandwellness</a>	Consumer health resource
RBdigital Magazines	<a href="https://www.dclibrary.org/rbdigital">www.dclibrary.org/rbdigital</a>	Additional magazines added
Oxford Short Introductions	<a href="https://www.dclibrary.org/vsi">www.dclibrary.org/vsi</a>	Concise introductions to various subjects

# Local Community Garden Continues to Grow

BY MATT KOEHLER

Every spring, we look forward to the opening of the SW Community Gardens at Lansburgh Park in Southwest DC. For the last several years, during the growing season we've been going to Gardens at least once a week to drop off compost (more on that below), plant, weed, do projects (I once showed up to weed but instead helped put several new wheelbarrows together), get some exercise, chat with neighbors, or generally help out with whatever needs to be done.

This year, the Community Gardens opened up as per usual but due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, there was no celebration to set the season off. Instead, the Garden opened up with less fanfare but still with a mission to grow food, provide a safe outdoors space for people to work and learn, and connect the community. I asked the Garden managers, Coy and Pam McKinney, what they are doing this season in terms of gardening and about their guidelines during the pandemic. Here's what they had to say:

**When did you open this season?**

Pam: We opened the communal section on March 28. Given the current pandemic, we are only allowing four volunteers per scheduled work hour.

## What concerns did you have opening during a pandemic?

Pam: I was and am concerned about not allowing kids in the garden like we normally would. We usually have a lot of kids come visit. Now we can only allow them in if a parent signed up to come by. I hate telling kids they can't come into the garden because of social distancing.

## On that note, what rules do you have for people coming to the Garden this season?

Pam: We ask that volunteers sign up before coming to a work day, and only four volunteers can come during a work hour. They must also wear gloves and a mask, which we take home and wash (the gloves) after each work day.

## Have you been seeing a steady stream of people coming in to help out?

Pam: Yes! We've had new and returning volunteers come to the garden. We've had a few families come, which is really fun to see them work together to care for the garden. Our digging bed is still popular with kids. We just have to ask parents to stay with their kids if they are younger. Some kids that come to the garden with their parents have been coming for a while, so they are used to the garden rules. We haven't had any problems finding volunteers, even when it was colder in April.

## What projects is the Garden doing right now? A wish list for readers who may show up to help out at some point?

Coy: We have spent the spring expanding sunflower alley, and we'd like to extend it even further (pro tip: check out

Lansburgh Park in July). This involves some digging and weeding. A volunteer, Mark, spent a few weeks getting rid of all the weeds inside the garden, which was a huge help. We're sure the weeds will be back though.

Other projects could include painting garden signs, watering, and planting as seeds come in.

## What are you growing right now? Anything different from last year? Anything in particular you're looking forward to seeing in the next few weeks/months, vegetation-wise?

Coy: Right now we're growing garlic, spinach, kale, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, Swiss chard, peanuts, beets, snap peas, grapes, hardy kiwis, some herbs, strawberries, and blackberries. We're waiting on our backordered seeds to plant the rest of our crops.

Pam: I always look forward to the blackberry harvest. They should be ready in mid-June, and since they grow along the southern side of the garden fence, anyone coming by can grab a blackberry to taste. Just remember that the darker the berry, the sweeter the juice! In other words, they should look dark purple and not have any pink on them. I'm also excited about our sunflowers. Our volunteers planted a lot more this year, especially as they helped expand this section of the garden. It's going to be so beautiful come July!

## How's composting going? I assume there will be no competition this year but that doesn't mean SW Community Gardens isn't still producing high quality compost, right?

Coy: Our compost cooperative still functions 24/7/365. Every Sunday, a small group of cooperative members sign up to aerate, water, and move the piles. Last fall, we joined a pilot program that was launched by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in conjunction with Loop Closing to track how much our neighbors are composting. While some members use it consistently, others do not. Nonetheless, since November 2019, SWesters have diverted over 400 pounds of food waste from contributing to climate change, by decomposing in a landfill where eventually it creates the greenhouse gas methane, to instead organic soil we can use to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

## Speaking of Composting, do you have any more open slots for future composters looking to reduce waste?

Coy: Our compost cooperative still has room to grow. Interested neighbors should read through DPR's best practices handbook, then stop by the garden during a work day for the in-person tutorial, and in addition the cooperative's Google Group.



## Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Waterfront Village is open and ready to serve the senior residents of the Southwest DC and Navy Yard neighborhood.

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](https://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.

# Don't Struggle with Coronavirus Anxiety and Fear Alone

BY KATE MILLER

**W**OW! We're completely living a new normal and it's disorienting, confusing, worrying, and even irritating.

There is so much news to filter through – some informative, some contradictory, and some just straight up garbage. Sometimes it's hard to know who or what to believe. We may find ourselves in a state of constant information overload, not knowing what to feel or think, yet still need to "act normal".

You know, the normal life that we all lived before we ran the risk of falling ill to a deadly virus. You know... The normal life we all lived that didn't require facial coverage or a specified distance between each other. Normal. And yet, here we are, quite abnormal and certainly interrupted with no endpoint or comfortable conclusion to this chapter in world history.

Let's review our new normal with a small sample of "2020 norms":

Prior to March 2020, it was the norm to send kids to school and now we home-school them. I can only imagine your



Courtesy of Kate Miller  
Kate Miller

home, but as I share a peek into my world – "new math" has been replaced with "old math";

Pre-March, it was a luxury for people to work from home; it's now the new norm. Many companies may consider reviewing their policies about teleworking post COVID. As the economy slowly opens up, the discussion around changes to how and where we work is one to closely monitor;

Post-March, going to the grocery store, the pharmacy, the doctor, or any other location now requires a mask and 6-feet between people;

Pre-March, the definition of essential worker had many of us perplexed and worried about family, friends, and colleagues who are on the front lines – putting themselves at risk or dealing with potentially unfriendly people.

Our new normal is emotionally tough, especially if you're an outgoing, extroverted person who loves getting out there. You know what – even if you don't enjoy going out all the time, but are the occasional get-out-and-take-advantage-of-all-that-DC-has-to-offer kind of person, you likely find the new norm to be somewhat

suffocating.

No matter what your out-on-the-town persona used to be or where you are in the process of navigating the new norm of COVID-19 – **Please Do Not Struggle Alone**. There are plenty of qualified people who are ready to help you think through your daily activities providing encouragement, strength through ideas, connectivity through tailored conversation, and support as you figure out the next days, weeks, and months.

There are ads, referrals, google searches, and other methods of finding qualified mental health practitioners and support. I'm one of several certified coaches in the SW and greater Capitol Hill area who are helping those on the front lines of COVID-19, and am ready to help you too. (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/katemillerlifecoach/>)

I'll have an update in the coming weeks about a website that can connect you with certified coaches who are helping people navigate COVID-19. If you are ready to speak to someone now, please reach out to me, and I'll put you in contact with a coach.

In the meantime, **please do not hesitate to reach out** to someone for help. Sometimes, all we need is someone to HEAR us and remind us that LIFE is good!

## GARDEN

Continued from p. 18

**Do you have any words of encouragement for the community? Perhaps expound on the values of getting outside and possibly doing some good old-fashioned gardening?**

Pam: I think this experience has felt very isolating for a lot of people, and I hope the garden can offer some sense of connection to Mother Earth and each other. Personally, I've noticed so much more all the flowers and trees around SW and their subtle changes I never took time to see before this. If you have children, a fun activity for them could be to create a garden journal in which they observe the same plant each week and write or draw what they see. It helps them to develop curiosity in nature and recognize the little changes that lead to a big change (e.g. a few little leaves and stem turn into a beautiful bloom with bees searching for nectar).

**Anything I missed that you want to include?**

Coy: If you'd like to stay connected to the garden, email [swgardensdc@gmail.com](mailto:swgardensdc@gmail.com) to be added to our e-newsletter list. You'll receive notification of our harvests and other activities, as we plan to give away everything we grow for free.

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We're compiling some good things on our website, take a look for neighborhood eats and activities, plus some initiatives from yours truly. Stay connected, SW.

**[WWW.SWBID.ORG/COVID-19](http://WWW.SWBID.ORG/COVID-19)**

