

# the **Southwester**

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July 2020

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Courtesy of Betsy Wolf

Southwest took to the streets on June 12 to protest for George Floyd and police reform. The peaceful demonstration was organized by Christ United Methodist Church, SW DC Action, Southwest Voice, Westminster Presbyterian Church and St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, among others.

## Southwest Rallies Around Black Lives

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

On June 12, under the hot late afternoon sun, cars honked in solidarity with protesters lining M Street. The scene had become so commonplace that passersby likely didn't need to read the words on the physically-distanced demonstrators' signs to know why they

were there: to protest racism and police brutality. Southwest residents had been swept up in a nationwide protest, as happens in the District so often, but the focus turned inward that Friday.

Just a few weeks earlier, in late May, the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police sparked citywide protests. But the outrage that began in a Midwestern state

soon spread around the nation, and the world. Millions of Americans recognized that Floyd's murder was an outcome of systemic ills, especially in policing, that continue to permeate society as a whole. By the end of the month, residents of Southwest D.C. could be seen carrying

See "Black Lives," page 4

## My Experience with Coronavirus

### Interview with SW Resident who Beat COVID-19

BY MIKE GOODMAN

Many have wondered what it is like to be infected with COVID-19. While it varies greatly depending on the individual, "The Southwester" thought it might be helpful to hear from one of our neighbors who went through it, and was lucky enough to beat the virus.

Lisa Taylor lives in Southwest, and is an active member of the community, including Board membership on the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). "The Southwester" asked her about her experience with the virus.



Lisa Taylor

Courtesy of Lisa Taylor

#### When did you first suspect you might have Coronavirus?

I first thought maybe I had it after several days of a dry cough that got worse and worse and then eventually I got a fever. The dry cough was like nothing I've ever had before and given what information was out about COVID at that time, I thought "wow, I think I may have this thing."

#### And how do you think you got it, if you know?

I have no idea. As far as I know, there

See "Experience," page 17



COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN SPONSORS EMERGENCY POLICE REFORM BILL

Page 2

WHY BLACK HISTORY MONTH SHOULD BE ALL YEAR

Page 4



KID'S CORNER

Page 10-11



BLACK-OWNED SW SODA POP SHOP GOES VIRAL, SURVIVES SHUTDOWN

Page 16

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

## The Southwester

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# Councilmember Allen Sponsors Emergency Police Reform Bill

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The Thirty-First Legislative Meeting of the District of Columbia Council began with a moment of silence. Chairman Phil Mendelson asked Councilmembers to reflect on “deeply-rooted attitudes, often unconscious attitudes, within ourselves, that allow racism to persist in our society.” Thus began hours of debate over an omnibus emergency bill proposing policing reforms. The legislation was introduced by Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Chair Charles Allen and passed unanimously. The Democrat represents Ward 6, which includes the neighborhoods of Southwest and Navy Yard.

The legislation was circulated by Councilmember (CM) Allen’s office on June 4. In the release, Allen was quoted saying the legislation comes amid “Forceful, yet peaceful demonstration” which has “created this moment, and the Council must act to move the cause forward.” The murder of George Floyd, an African American, by Minneapolis police on May 25, sparked nationwide protests over systemic racism, as well as police brutality and abuse of power. Lawmakers around the country were under pressure to answer protesters’ demands, and, as Committee Chair, Allen spearheaded the effort in D.C.

In his introductory remarks at the meeting on June 9, Allen spoke of his “duty to pursue justice – no matter the obstacles or the people in power who stand in the way.” He added, “we are on a journey of truth and reconciliation,” and that it is “uncomfortable to seek truth to that tough on crime power.” Allen said mass incarceration is especially pronounced in D.C.; over 70,000 residents – out of a total of 700,000 – have criminal records. Allen’s legislation bans chokeholds, increases access to body-worn camera recordings, expands membership on the Force Review Board,



Courtesy of Eric Baradat—AFP/Getty Images

Police stand in riot gear in Lafayette Square just outside White House

strengthens procedural justice in consent searches, and more.

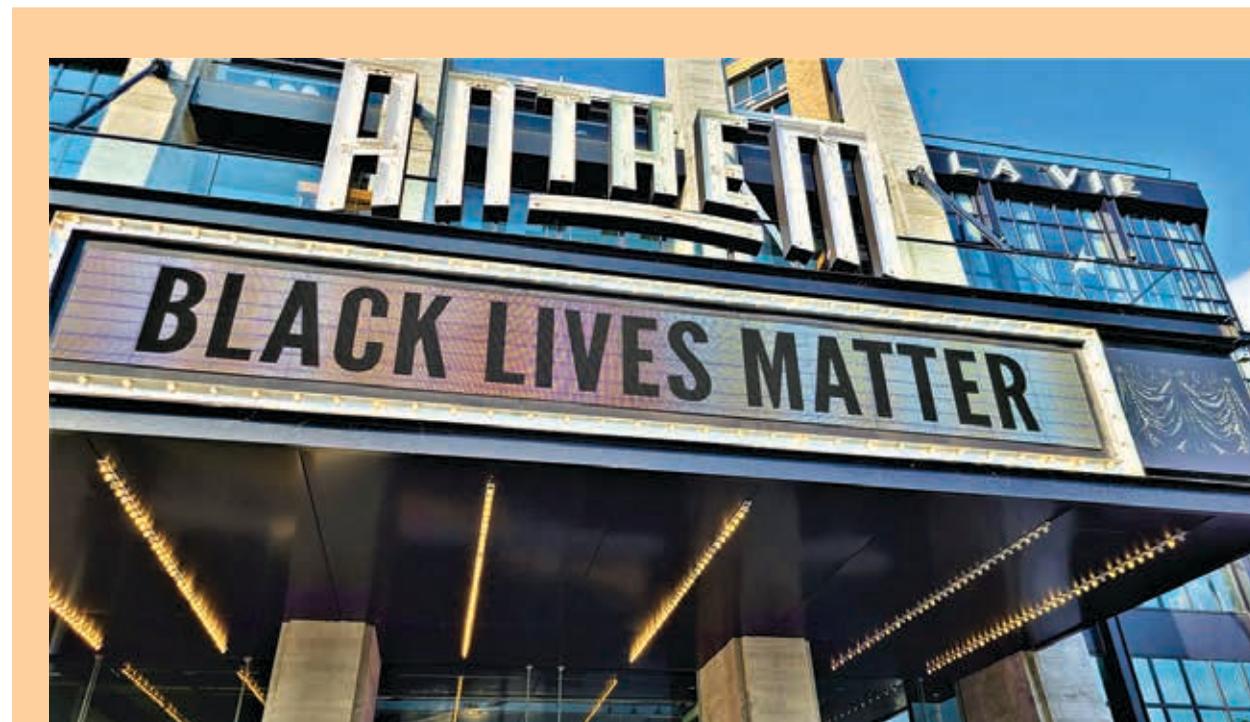
The Council proposed several amendments. CM David Grosso (I-At Large) proposed capping the number of police at 3,500 – which would still make D.C. one of the most policed of its peer cities, per capita – as opposed to the set minimum of 3,000 now required by law. There are currently 3,800 Metropolitan Police (MPD) officers. An amendment proposed by CM Trayon White Sr. (D-Ward 8) would require officers to loosen chokeholds if someone an MPD officer is restraining says they cannot breathe. Though these and other amendments were tabled to be discussed in more detail at a later session, the bill was approved unanimously.

The bill still has an uphill battle when it reaches Mayor Bowser’s desk. She’s proposed to increase funding for MPD while decreasing funding to community pro-

grams like violence interruption.

The Council also unanimously approved legislation requiring the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to “publish a report that creates a connected network for cyclists and other non-motorists to traverse the District during the public health emergency and during the recovery period.” CM Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3) highlighted protected bike lanes, expanded sidewalks and other public spaces, and the closure of certain streets to through-traffic as options. DDOT must “implement the report on a staggered timeline basis, 20 miles by September 1, and an additional five miles by November 1,” she said.

The amended measure passed despite some hesitation over DDOT’s authority to close streets and act on recommendations during the period of the public health emergency, and for 270 days thereafter.



Courtesy of Sue Klein

### Photo of the Month by Sue Klein

Marquee at The Anthem reflects the marquee that hangs over the country right now

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).

## Local Businesses Expand Services During Phase Two

As strict social distancing measures are eased, many local businesses and their employees continue to feel the economic strain. During this unprecedented time, most businesses and restaurants are still offering limited services, but with the lifting of some restrictions, others have gone back to regular working hours or have opened for dine-in services. All restaurants continue to offer take out and delivery services.

Southwest Waterfront is home to several local businesses and restaurants that are open and now offering expanded services. 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, takeout, and limited dine-in (first come, first serve).

**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, takeout, and limited dine-in services.

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

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

**Sacred Grounds Café:** Currently open Fridays and Saturdays only, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Check website for more details (<http://stmatthewsdc.org/home>).

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

**Splendor Nails and Spa:** Now open regular hours. Call-in appointments only. Check website for more details (<https://www.vagaro.com/splendor-nailsandspa>).

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

**Senate Cleaners:** Open Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Smile Beautiful Dental:** Open for all dental care! Check website for appointment instructions: <https://smilebeautifuldental.com/reopening-guidelines/>

**Waterside Fitness :** Partially open. Indoor pool open for laps and classes.

### Closed until further notice:

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

## Smithsonian Folklife Festival Moves Online

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Since 1967, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival has celebrated the power of culture, creativity, and community on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Although this year's plans were upended by the global pandemic, Festival organizers remain committed to making space for sharing ideas, food, and music. This year, it will happen online through a series of digital "Story Circles" in the form of discussions, workshops, and performances.

Called "Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Beyond the Mall," this programming has been collaboratively created with partners from the United Arab Emirates; the Brazilian states of Bahia, Maranhão, and Pernambuco; the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon; and Smithsonian Conservation Commons. In keeping with the overall theme for 2020, many of these sessions will explore how communities draw upon their cultural practices to address and adapt to environmental challenges.

"Beyond the Mall" will also add to the national conversation about racism and intersectional discrimination. True to its purpose, the Festival will host artisans, artists, educators, and others to discuss the role culture can play in fostering empathy, deepening understanding, and

creating a just, equitable world.

Real-time captioning and ASL interpretation will be available for all events. Just like on the National Mall, visitors are encouraged to participate actively in the live comments section of each program.

Visitors can experience the Folklife Festival online on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, or on the Festival website, [festival.si.edu](http://festival.si.edu). Digital programming will continue throughout the summer.

### Upcoming events for July 2020:

- **Cooking up Anjica and Amalá for Brazilian Festa Junina;** Wednesday, July 1, 2020, 5-5:45 p.m. ET
- **Corn, Beans, and Squash: What the Three Sisters Tell Us;** Thursday, July 2, 2020, 12-12:45 p.m. ET
- **Barbecue Across Cultures: UAE's Mattar Farm and the DMV's Bark BBQ;** Friday, July 3, 2020, 12-12:45 p.m. ET
- **HouseWork: Latina DJs Holdin' It Down;** Friday, July 3, 2020, 7:30-8:30 p.m. ET
- **Coffee Break: Community, Conservation, Culture;** Sunday, July 5, 2020, 12-12:45 p.m. ET
- **Sisterfire SongTalk: Barbara Dane, Martha Gonzalez, and Leyla McCalla;** Sunday, July 5, 2-3 p.m. ET

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# Why Black History Month Shouldn't Be a Single Month

BY DAWN PORTER

*Editor's Note: This essay originally ran on the website of "Reader's Digest."*

Black history is an essential part of all history—and that's something that should be acknowledged and celebrated all year long.

Like a lot of relationships, my feelings about Black History Month are complicated. On the one hand, I deeply appreciate the time to intentionally celebrate the brilliant contributions to American culture and history by people who look like me. But while absolutely worthy of celebration, the stories of African American contributions to our culture and history have become repetitive over the years. Harriet Tubman was so brave. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the best orator of all time. George Washington Carver sure was a whiz with peanuts! Year after year, I hear a dutiful recitation of the same familiar facts, so much so that I fear that the result is the mistaken impression that this is the sum total of *all* the African American contributions to history. Confining the history of an entire race of people to a 30-day period not only short-changes the significance of those contributions, but it also allows the greater truth to be erased. When I ask my African American friends about this, I often hear some version of: "I'd rather have one month than no months." But is that really the choice?

## The importance of acknowledging Black accomplishments

A quick search with Professor Google reveals that Black History Month traces its origins back to 1926 when the aptly named Association for the Study of African American Life chose a week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1926, just a little over a half-century after the abolition of slavery, Black people were still strenuously making the argument for their humanity. The creation of that week was an important historical marker; its creator, Carter Woodson, was addressing Black people as much as a larger audience. There is nothing so motivating as to know that people who look like you achieved great things.

I know this from experience. My grandmother's name before she married was Marian Robeson. She is the



Courtesy of Henry Garfunkel and Dawn Porter

Dawn Porter

daughter of Benjamin Robeson, a minister and civil rights activist. Some will know his more famous brother Paul Robeson, the scholar, activist, and entertainer. Before she died, my grandmother shared with me copies of her father's sermons. In them, my great-grandfather, a veteran, spoke eloquently about his love for a country that opposed his civil rights efforts. I first read his moving writings in law school, at a time when I began to let feelings of self-doubt creep into my consciousness. Perhaps I wasn't quite as smart as I thought, wasn't quite as capable. Reading his work pushed me to think of how the full story of the accomplishments of Black people is so buried that we think of those who we celebrate as exceptional. Here are 13 things about Black History Month you didn't learn in school. (<https://www.rd.com/culture/facts-about-black-history-month-you-didnt-learn-in-school/>)

## Telling everyone's stories

And then, I discovered Ida Wells. Orphaned as a teenager, she went on to become a journalist, mother, and activist. Working alongside Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she pushed them to include Black women in the cause for suffrage. The story of the women's suffrage movement is absolutely incomplete without understanding the efforts of Ida Wells and her Black compatriots. Full stop. Reading her words made

history so real for me, so painful but also so celebratory. Today as a documentary filmmaker, I think of Ida Wells' fearless crusade for truth often and I'm motivated to continue to work to tell important stories. Here are 15 facts you probably didn't know about Susan B. Anthony. (<https://www.rd.com/culture/susan-b-anthony-facts/>)

## Ensuring that history lives on

But my most recent reminder of the power of story has been my work directing a film about Representative John Lewis for CNN Films. Watching hours of footage of a young Lewis strategizing and organizing, watching him deftly work with white and Black activists and politicians, I lived history through his eyes and experiences.

Walking through an airport with John Lewis as I have, I was constantly struck by the fact that the Congressman cannot go more than a few feet without someone stopping him to ask for a picture or to ask to shake his hand. He always stops, acknowledges, and thanks the person. It's as if he seals each interaction with an implicit understanding that each person he connects with will become an ambassador, that when they tell the story of John Lewis, it will assure that history lives. Because of my work and my interests and experiences, I am acutely aware of the need for accurate information in our media and our history books. But don't we need this information all year long? Use these 12 ways to celebrate Black History Month all year long. (<https://www.rd.com/culture/ways-to-celebrate-black-history-month/>)

## Taking Black History Month to the next level

The Black History Week of 1926 became Black History Month in 1976. In those 50 years, remarkable battles were hard-fought and won, including landmark Supreme Court cases such as the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* requiring the desegregation of public schools, the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the other panoply of civil rights laws guaranteeing by law basic rights of full citizenship to all people, regardless of race.

So, in 2020, some 40 years later, it's time for Black history to enter the next phase. African Americans no longer need to argue that we deserve equal rights. With the establishment of a glorious museum on the National Mall, we do not need to make the case that our con-

See "Black History Month," page 7

## BLACK LIVES

Continued from p. 1

signs as they marched to Northwest to join high-profile demonstrations at the White House. It was a fortnight no resident will soon forget.

Tensions escalated in D.C. after the protests provided cover for opportunists. The break-ins and vandalism, so widely broadcast on certain media, mostly took place outside Southwest and Navy Yard. The Southwest Business Improvement District (BID) told "The Southwester" the protests were mostly peaceful in the neighborhood.

The federal response to the movement – and that of the city government until several days into protests – was to put more boots on the ground and eyes in the sky. When the curfew was being more strictly enforced, military and other helicopters made rounds low over residential buildings across D.C., including in Southwest, from 7 p.m. – well over an hour before sunset – until 6 a.m., when many residents

were getting ready for work. President Trump even deployed the National Guard in the District. On June 4, Mayor Bowser sent a letter to the President requesting that the National Guard, and unidentified federal authorities, be removed from D.C. streets, and in a City Council meeting on June 9, Councilmember David Grosso called the move an "occupation."

Though federal leadership opted not to deploy machine gun teams in D.C. – as iconic photos from 1968 show – the attack on peaceful protestors at Lafayette Square prompted immediate and widespread criticism.

After several days of tense standoffs between federal law enforcement and unarmed protestors, the citywide curfew was pushed back to 11 p.m. On the same day, photos of some Capitol PD officers kneeling with protestors emerged. The day after Mayor Bowser sent her letter to the White House requesting the removal of troops, she announced that a section of 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW would be renamed "Black Lives Matter Plaza," and authorized a massive street mural bearing the name

of the movement. Images from the day show law enforcement quietly observing music, dancing, and free speech. Protesters renewed calls for statehood and #DCStrong spread across Twitter.

Washingtonians and Americans alike congratulated Mayor Bowser on easing tensions with federal forces, though their challenge to her administration was clear: This must be the beginning of real and rapid change. Though systemic racism and abuse of power by police were seen as widespread issues, activists emphasized the need for each city and neighborhood to reform. They criticized Bowser's past policies, including a current budget that would increase spending on "traditional" policing while decreasing funding to other community programs. They also called out her opposition to Initiative 77, which would have increased the wages for tipped workers in the city – 70 percent of whom were people of color in 2018 – to \$15.

There were early signs the city was hearing demands for police reform. In a private meeting on June 5, D.C. MPD

Chief Peter Newsham told officers to "turn in badges" if they weren't troubled by the George Floyd video. On June 9, D.C. Councilmember Charles Allen (D-Ward 6) introduced a bill that would ban chokeholds, change the makeup of the Police Complaints Board, and more.

In the 2020 protest movement, what started on the pavement in Minneapolis spread to barricades across the world, and then returned to Maine – or M Street, rather. The June 12 demonstration was organized by Christ United Methodist Church, SW DC Action, Southwest Voice, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. They lined M and 4<sup>th</sup> Street holding signs that read "stop criminalizing blackness," "Southwest rise up," and more. They joined voices in chants including "we can't breathe" and "Southwest cares." And their testimonies called for the hundreds in attendance, and the community, to come together to make real and rapid change.

# JMA Solutions Gives Back During COVID-19

BY IMAN BROWN AND JONATHAN CLARK

Founded on the mission of giving back, local Southwest (SW) D.C.-based government contractor, JMA Solutions, continues to step up to serve the SW community and its surrounding areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the initial phases of the stay-at-home order, JMA has donated food and provided monetary funds to local organizations, families, and schools located here in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area.

To recognize the heroic efforts of our frontline workers, in April, JMA donated



Above: Staff and first responders pose for a photo op  
At left: The spread

Courtesy of Janice Adams



a "Dessert Bar" at the First District Metropolitan Police Department to thank local law enforcement officers for serving the

community, especially during this public health emergency. In addition to supporting frontline workers, JMA recognized the call-to-action to support local educators, and reached out to Jefferson Middle School Academy and Amidon-Bowen Elementary School - two schools who JMA has partnered with for over the past five years through the D.C. Public School's Adopt-a-School Program. This year, due

to COVID-19, JMA did not have the luxury of hand-delivering the gifts. Instead, JMA surprised all of the teachers and staff with VISA eGift cards. The company also has exciting plans to donate a surplus of resources to the students of both schools to ensure they are supported during this time as well.

over 150 hot meals to local healthcare workers at the United Medical Center. In May, JMA delivered pizzas to SW's neighbors at the D.C. Fire Department (DCFD) Engine Co. 7 and the Washington D.C. Fire & EMS Station to thank them for their service. The company also donated monetary funds to the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department to help pay for their meals. And during Police Week, JMA sponsored

community, especially during this public health emergency.

In addition to supporting frontline workers, JMA recognized the call-to-action to support local educators, and reached out to Jefferson Middle School Academy and Amidon-Bowen Elementary School - two schools who JMA has partnered with for over the past five years through the D.C. Public School's Adopt-a-School Program. This year, due

to COVID-19, JMA did not have the luxury of hand-delivering the gifts. Instead, JMA surprised all of the teachers and staff with VISA eGift cards. The company also has exciting plans to donate a surplus of resources to the students of both schools to ensure they are supported during this time as well. "Each year, JMA finds creative ways to surprise the school's teachers and staff, especially during Teacher Appreciation Week," said JMA Solutions' President and CEO Jan Adams. "Due to the current circumstances, we couldn't make the same plans but still wanted to give our support." While it may seem like JMA is responding to the pandemic specifically, philanthropy has always been ingrained within the company's culture. Since the com-

pany's founding in 2005, JMA Solutions has donated over 1.6 million dollars to charitable organizations around the United States and over \$300,000 to Southwest. The company holds a core belief in the importance of giving back and helping to uplift the community, and they are doing just that. "As a SW D.C. resident and business owner, it is my obligation to serve and take care of my community," said Adams. "We understand that now, our support is needed more than ever. Our team is committed to doing whatever we can to support frontline workers and others during this unprecedented time. We hope that our example encourages others to do the same."

**SWNA**  
Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

## Scholarship Program

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

# ANC 6D Statement on the Killing of George Floyd and Recent Protests

BY FREDRICA KRAMER

At its June 8, 2020 Business Meeting, ANC 6D unanimously passed the following resolution, expressing its sentiments around the killing of George Floyd and others, and the particular meaning of the recent protests to our community and the work of the ANC.

"We grieve for George Floyd and all those who have been senselessly and brutally killed at the hands of law enforcement. The horrific actions of the officers that caused the death and the many protests in our country and around the world force us to consider much larger issues about how racial discrimination and injustice, particularly for low-income communities of color, affect all of us. They expose multiple policies, practices, and behaviors that need to change, and change quickly, to protect the lives of black people and all people of color,

and prevent these tragedies from happening again.

The killing has called, rightly, for police reform across the country. We should redouble our efforts with our local Police to reduce violence and to ensure that all our residents are treated with care and respect. And we will watch—to ensure that commitment is never broken. The murder of George Floyd is a reminder that more work needs to be done to preserve social comity, and to ensure that all in our community understand each other's circumstance and reflect that understanding in our daily interactions. In the words of Dr. King, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'

ANC 6D also covers perhaps the most diverse community in the District, and has been a model of real social integration across race, income, age, sexual orientation, singles, couples, and families, for most

of the last 60 years. It is now a community undergoing the largest redevelopment in the City, which challenges our ability to maintain that diversity, and the sense of common purpose that comes from living and working together, understanding our differences and our sameness, and recognizing our shared membership in the same community.

We defend that diversity as we work with our schools to ensure that every child in our community can get a rich and effective education regardless of their race, income, or social circumstance. We defend that diversity when we press the City and developers to accommodate the needs of new and old residents across demographics. And we work with residents and our faith and civic organizations to bind us together, across race, income, age, and personal orientation.

We are also elected public officials, sworn

to uphold the Constitution and tasked to represent the interests of our local community. We condemn the attempt to wrest control of our city and its citizens by any law enforcement entity other than those under the direct control of the Mayor of the District of Columbia. If we cannot function with independence, if we cannot protect our even limited sovereignty, it makes a mockery of our obligation to fulfill our role as meaningful members of a functioning democracy. We applaud our Mayor for defending our sovereignty, and for trusting our City to govern itself.

We applaud those in Black Lives Matter and the thousands of individuals who have spoken up and put their own lives on the line to insist on change.

We resolve that the events of this week fortify our commitment to strengthen the remarkable community we are."

## SW Mutual Aid Continues its Mission to Provide Food

BY CARLEE BROWN & MAX GROSSMAN

Ward 6 Mutual Aid (W6MA) is an all-volunteer grassroots group working with black and brown community organizations to help keep our communities safe. Over the past four months, the Southwest Pod of W6MA has partnered with Christ United Methodist Church on a community food and supply drive to serve our neighbors in response to Covid-19. Thanks to the generosity of our neighbors who've donated items at the Southwest Farmers Market on Saturdays, we are now distributing fresh produce on Sunday mornings between 9-10:30 a.m.

Interested in ways to help?



Courtesy of Carlee Brown

Above: Fresh produce and bushels of carrots!  
At left: Red and yellow, a box of large apples



There are several ways to show your support:

- **Donate groceries and supplies.**

Come say hi and consider donating fresh produce bought at the Southwest Farmers Market on Saturdays between 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

- **Donate laptops and tablets.** Donate unused laptops and tablets to support local students. In partnership with community organizations, including Serve Your City, Momma's Safe Haven, and the TraRon Center, W6MA has helped donate over 100 devices. All donated devices will be completely wiped of all data and prepped for student use.

- **Tutor local students online.** The need for tutors doesn't end with the school year. W6MA's tutoring program is looking for college students, grad students, and professionals who want to volunteer for virtual tutoring sessions in any subject. If you are interested, please contact [syctutoringmutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:syctutoringmutualaid@gmail.com).

- **Volunteer.** The Southwest Pod of W6MA is seeking volunteers to help sew masks, staff our local food pantry, and help with our farmer's market tabling and food distribution. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact [karenlmcmamus@gmail.com](mailto:karenlmcmamus@gmail.com).

Those in the community seeking assistance can access goods and services through the following means:

- If you or someone you know has a critical need, call the **Ward 6 Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962**. You can request food, masks, cleaning supplies, and other goods for delivery.
- Obtain **fresh produce** from W6MA's community drive on **Sundays** from **9-10:30 a.m.** at the Christ United Methodist Church (900 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW; use courtyard entrance near library).
- Obtain **groceries** from the Christ United Methodist Church's 5000 Ministry Food Pantry on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays** of the month from **9-11 a.m.** (courtyard entrance).

# Delayed D.C. Sports Betting Launch May Affect SW Businesses

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The DC Lottery has pushed back the launch of on-site sports betting in retail locations to summer 2021. In a June 3 budget hearing, DC Lottery Executive Director Beth Bresnahan said the pandemic “has prevented field technicians” from visiting stores to upgrade equipment and delayed shipments of necessary equipment from overseas. Previously, the DC Lottery had projected \$9.6 million in revenue from sports betting in FY20, which has been entirely removed from the budget.

According to the Office of Lottery and Gaming’s Director of Marketing and Communication, Nicole Jordan, there are 300-400 Lottery retailers in the District that currently sell lottery tickets. While all of those independently-operated stores could technically add the D.C. sports book to their offerings, Jordan told “The Southwester” that some locations lack the physical space for the new equipment. Since DC Lottery retailers operate on commission, the delay could affect revenues. “Though some Washingtonians prefer on-site gaming, for now they can use the GambetDC online sports betting platform,” Jordan said.

Sports betting was approved in D.C. in late 2018 after a US Supreme Court decision earlier that year cleared the way for state-by-state legalization. GambetDC



Photo Courtesy of Matt Rourke / AP

had a “soft launch” on May 28, 2020. It received lukewarm reviews. For instance, a May 28 column on the “Washington Post’s” “D.C. Sports Blog” called GambetDC a “bad bet,” and a “work in progress.” In the first week, 640 GambetDC accounts were created, which wagered \$11,295 on soccer, mixed martial arts, darts, and football futures. The DC Lottery is looking to its iLottery platform to “help replace some of the revenue lost from the lack of sporting events and the slowdown of sales at store locations,” Bresnahan said.

Private sports books are not affected by the delay in retailer upgrades. According to the DC Lottery website, a Class B license costs \$100,000 and is valid for five years. Sports facilities such as Audi Field and Nationals Stadium must apply for a Class A license, which costs \$500,000

and is also valid for five years. Businesses within two blocks of Class A facilities are not eligible for a Class B license.

According to the DC Lottery’s June 5 Sports Wagering Application Status Report, there were a total of seven companies applying for sports betting licenses. Almost all applicants are seeking provisional licenses, meaning that since they operate sports books in other states, their application may be expedited in the District. Online payment company Paypal is one of the entities that has applied for a provisional license.

Jordan expects applications to increase now that lockdown restrictions are starting to be lifted. DC United and Caesars Entertainment finalized a partnership deal in February 2020, and teased a sports betting component at that time. Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW), which has a location less than a block from Nationals Stadium, has tested a sports betting platform called “BetMGM” in five other US states. United and BWW haven’t stated whether they had been planning on rolling out on-site sports betting before lockdowns began in March. United did not respond to a “Southwester” inquiry.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Continued from p. 4

tributions to American culture, science, and progress are worthy of noting and celebrating. But racism and discrimination on the basis of race continue to be a stain on our country. And only by telling true stories do we have a chance to eradicate not only racist behavior but also racist thought. We have to face head-on the untrue idea that only white people contributed substantially to our cultural, scientific, and legal advances.

To dismantle this false narrative, the first place we should look is the story we tell about ourselves. I am confident that given the opportunity, a host of scholars would gladly take a pen to outdated history books—break them apart and add the rich context that includes the contributions of not only African Americans, but native and Asian people, women, and every other marginalized group. History is not a pie; my having more does not leave you less.

### More of a very good thing

Where does this leave me? I don’t think we should abandon Black History Month.

I’m a “plus...and” person. I think instead we should challenge our educators and ourselves to consistently search out and share stories and facts that expand our understanding of history to include all who contributed to it. Acknowledging that America is a multicultural society and that the accomplishments and contributions of people who are not white are real, substantial, and important is proof that the American ideals so many of us profess to value are real.

I asked my friend, the noted historian and scholar Henry Louis Gates, for his thoughts on this, to which he quickly replied: “Every day should be Black History Month!” Yes, sir. Every day.

Next, read one woman’s perspective on why Black History Month is more important than ever. (<https://www.rd.com/culture/why-black-history-month-is-more-important-than-ever/>)

*Dawn Porter is a documentary filmmaker with family in Southwest DC. Her film John Lewis: Good Trouble premieres in theaters this spring. More about Dawn can be found at <https://www.trilogy-films.com/dawn-porter#>.*



## Recruitment of Construction Workers from ANC 6D

**Project:** Museum Place

**Developer:** Lowe

**Phase I General Contractor:** Balfour Beatty

The project is a mixed-use redevelopment of a former school property. The former school property (Randall School) will be rehabilitated to a new contemporary art museum and retail/restaurant space. The non-historic north wings of the school will be demolished and a new multi-unit residential building with a two-level underground parking structure will be built on the north half of the property. A large ground level outdoor courtyard will connect the Randall School renovation and the residential building.

**To view Construction Opportunities this quarter from Prime and Subcontractor:**

<https://balfourbeattyus.com/work-with-us/opportunities>  
<http://strittmattermetro.com/employment.html>

*Balfour Beatty is an Equal Opportunity Employer • First Source Goals Apply*

# Protests and Military Presence in Southwest



The month of June saw vibrant, peaceful protests in Southwest, as well as a larger military occupation of the neighborhood than residents have seen in years, if ever. As the days went on, the military presence subsided, while the protests remained strong.

*Photos Courtesy of Mike Goodman*

# Wharf Restaurants Offer Dine-in During Phase Two

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, many restaurants and businesses are still operating in a limited capacity in order to reduce the spread of infection. However, given the lifting of some restrictions during Phase Two Reopening, many restaurants and businesses have further expanded their hours and services.

If you're coming to visit The Wharf, please:

- Maintain six feet of physical distancing
- Wear a mask in common areas
- Wash your hands frequently
- Be courteous to others

Before you come to The Wharf to dine indoors or on an outdoor patio, please:

- Call the restaurant and make a reservation
- View the restaurant's safety protocols on their website
- Follow the restaurant on social media for timely updates

While some restaurants are offering indoor and outdoor dining, takeout and delivery remain safe options to enjoy our restaurants. The number of restaurants adding outdoor seating are continuing to grow and here are the most recent specials and announcements:

## Restaurants with Seated Indoor and Outdoor Dining, Takeout, and Delivery

- **Mi Vida (Mexican)** - Open for distanced indoor and outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery. Make a reservation, order by phone 202-516-4656 or through [www.kneadhd.com](http://www.kneadhd.com), UberEats, Postmates, Caviar, or GrubHub. Complimentary delivery for Wharf residents.
- **The Grill (Steakhouse)** - Open for distanced indoor and outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery. Make a reservation or order pick-up online at [www.kneadhd.com](http://www.kneadhd.com). Delivery is available via Caviar. Complimentary delivery for Wharf residents.
- **Kirwan's Irish Pub (Irish)** - Open Tue-Sun 12-8 p.m. for distanced indoor and outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery. View the menu here and call 202-554-3818 to order or make a reservation. Support Kirwan's staff directly through GoFundMe.
- **La Vie (Mediterranean)** - Open 4-9 p.m. for contactless carryout and delivery. Open for distanced indoor dining beginning June 24. View their menu and order online or by phone 202-560-5501.

## Outdoor Dining

- **The Brighton** - Open Thur-Friday 4-9 p.m. and Sat-Sun 12-9 p.m.
- **Cantina Bambina (Dock Bar)** - Distanced outdoor dining Tue-Fri 4-10 p.m. and Sat-Sun 12-10 p.m.
- **Canopy Central Bar and Cafe (American)** - Open



from Mon-Fri 12-10 p.m. and Sat-Sun 10 a.m.-10 p.m. for distanced outdoor dining, takeout and delivery of food, groceries, and alcohol.

- **Chopsmith (Salads and Grilled Proteins)** - Open for distanced outdoor dining, carryout, and delivery 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- **Kaliwa (Filipino/Korean/Thai)** - Open daily from 4-8 p.m. for distanced outdoor dining, as well as food and alcohol takeout and delivery.
- **Kirwan's Irish Pub (Irish)** - Open Tue-Sun 12-8 p.m. for distanced outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery.
- **Kith/Kin (Caribbean)** - Open for outdoor dining every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12-8:30 p.m. Make a reservation here.
- **The Grill (Steakhouse)** - Open for distanced outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery
- **Lupo Marino (Pizza/Italian)** - Open everyday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. for distanced outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery.
- **Mi Vida (Mexican)** - Open for distanced outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery. Make a reservation, order by phone (202-516-4656) or through [www.kneadhd.com](http://www.kneadhd.com).
- **Pearl Street Warehouse (Burgers/American)** - Open for distanced outdoor dining Tue-Thu 4-9 p.m.; Fri-Sat 4-10 p.m.; and Sun 4-9 p.m. Call ahead at 202-380-9620. Check out their Live Stream Virtual Concerts here.
- **Tiki TNT/Thrashers Rum (Cocktails)** - Thrasher's Rum and Tiki TNT bar is open for outdoor dining.

- **Toastique (Toasts/Juices/Salads)** - Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for distanced outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery via DoorDash.
- **Whiskey Charlie (American)** - Rooftop open daily for distanced outdoor dining from 3-11 p.m. Call (202) 488-2500 for reservations or email Maureen. [Samu@Concordhotels.com](mailto:Samu@Concordhotels.com).

## Carryout Highlights

- **SW Soda Pop Shop** - The family-run and black owned ice cream shop is open for takeout Fri-Sun 12-7 p.m.
- **Hank's Oyster Bar** - Now open for contactless pickup and delivery on Tue-Sun from 4-8 p.m. through Caviar.

## Wharf Operating Status

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) guidelines, many Wharf events and activations have been postponed. We have significantly increased cleaning and sanitation protocols in public spaces and essential transportation services to ensure they can continue to serve our community.

- **Parks, streets, and open spaces** - All Wharf parks and piers, streets, and open spaces remain open. Visitors are urged to maintain physical distancing.
- **Public restrooms** - Restrooms remain open with frequent sanitization and supply refills.
- **Wharf Boathouse** - Kayaks and Stand-up Paddleboards are available for rent.
- **Southwest Neighborhood Shuttle** - SW Shuttle service is temporarily suspended.
- **Water Taxi** - Water Taxi is open for service to and from National Harbor and Old Town Alexandria. The Water Taxi will begin service to Georgetown on July 3. 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.
- **Camp Wharf at the Firepit** - The Firepit and Air-stream s'mores trailer is closed until July. Upon reopening, the space will be demarcated in accordance with physical distancing protocols.
- **Buskers** - Outdoor live music program is paused, to resume in July.

In addition to their increased sitewide 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 and a complete list of offerings at the Wharf visit <https://www.wharfdc.com/current-operating-status/>.





## SWNA Scholar Selected for NOAA Meteorology Internship

BY VYLLORYA EVANS  
AND JANELLE WILLIAMS

Kendall Parks is a graduate of the Richard Wright Public Charter School of Journalism and Media Arts, and a 2019 SWNA Scholar. He is currently a meteorology major at Jackson State University (JSU), in Jackson, Miss., and has successfully completed his freshman year.

In addition to completing a rigorous schedule of classes, Kendall attended the American Meteorology Society's Student Conference in Boston, Mass., was formally inducted into the JSU W. E. B. DuBois - Harvey Honors College, and was accepted into the Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success. He was recently selected as one of nine students to participate in the NOAA Cooperative Science Center in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M) 2020 Experiential Training Summer Program.

The eight-week training program

provides rising sophomores with virtual summer experiential training in NOAA mission-relevant research. Students work with NCAS-M researchers in collaboration with a NOAA mentor on an approved NOAA mission-relevant project during the summer. The program will culminate with a virtual research colloquium to showcase students' video abstracts and poster presentations.

JSU is the only HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) that offers a degree in physics, meteorology, or earth systems science (ESS). It is becoming the country's primary source of African Americans who hold B.S. degrees in meteorology and ESS. Nationally, the JSU atmospheric sciences program has produced one out of every four African Americans who hold bachelor degrees in meteorology.

We look forward to following Kendall's educational and career accomplishments.

## News from Buzzard Point and Around South Southwest

BY FREDRICA KRAMER,  
COMMISSIONER ANC 6D05

Wondering what's happening behind the fences at once-forgotten Buzzard Point? Like the Potomac waterfront's transformation into the Wharf, Buzzard Point is in the process of morphing. In its case, from a low visibility federal office enclave, scrappy riverfront, and a few small night clubs, to a collection of 6200 residential units, offices, hotels, restaurants, educational facilities, and a new waterfront life.

With the opening of Audi Stadium in 2018, massive redevelopment has begun. Buzzard Point will have over 1000 residential units coming online at 1900 Half St. SW, 2100 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW (RiverPoint), and 88 V St. SW (the Peninsula) this summer and fall. If Buzzard Point is to continue a measure of social diversity that has distinguished Southwest, and that the community has clearly attested it wants, challenges lie ahead.

The developments so far have not been subject to Inclusionary Zoning, which would typically require 8-10% below market rate units, and so very little affordable housing is part of the mix.

RiverPoint will have 485 residential units, including 8 affordable units (at 50% of area median income), two waterfront restaurants and a small convenience market. But RiverPoint will also house the entire training and service operation of DC Central Kitchen (DCKK). A well-established and exceptionally successful program, DCKK graduates may find employment in the new hotels and restaurants that dominate redevelopment in Southwest and Navy Yard. Also, as the ANC said in its letter of support to the Zoning Commission, hosting a training program for deeply disadvantaged populations, and integrating them into the community, serves the community's interest in maintaining social diversity as massive redevelopment in Southwest and Near Southeast challenges that ideal.

When it gets its first occupants this summer, Riverpoint will have 453 studio to three bedroom rental units, including 11 at 60% of AMI. It also expects to house the Eagle Academy early childhood program, which will move in the fall from SE Navy Yard. ANC 6D voted to support the move, but asked that lease terms permit returning some of the space to retail use if Eagle does not meet its expanded enrollment targets within five years. As the ANC said in its support letter, "...we are always concerned that all our local schools, with staggered grade structures, work together to utilize public dollars in the most responsible and accountable manner. We trust that Eagle will work with the other schools in ANC 6D to ensure that recruit-

ment and graduation strategies serve all families who wish to be served by the local public schools in our community."

The Peninsula, at 88 V St. SW, will have 110 1-2 bedroom units for sale, with prices ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.4M, 8 affordable units, and a modest ground floor retail space. The Peninsula expects to be opening within weeks.

The start of development of the large lots immediately south of Audi Stadium into a complex of mixed-use projects is at least two years off. A portion was being used before COVID-19 as a kickball space operated by Volo City, whose adult amateur sports leagues underwrite free sports opportunities for children aged 6-12. The lot in front and to the east of the Stadium, to be developed by PN Hoffman, is also at least two years off. Talks were underway for an interim use when COVID-19 put all on hold.

North of Potomac Avenue, two projects, the Cambria Hotel at 69 Q St., with a ground-floor restaurant, and 1550 First St., with all 76 affordable units (50% at 50% AMI, and 30% permanent supportive housing at 30% AMI), are under construction. A second building at 1530 First St., with all 101 proposed units being affordable, will follow.

As below-market-rate and family-sized housing is scarce, so are neighborhood-serving businesses. Commissioners push for small retail and services when reviewing proposals that come before the ANC or testifying before the Zoning Commission. Part of the challenge is creating spaces that are right-sized and priced at levels that small businesses can afford. New changes to zoning on Potomac Avenue are only very slightly more accommodating to smaller spaces, about which I testified for the ANC. The ANC will continue to make the need for retail and services heard so that development strikes an appropriate balance between visitors and residents.

There is also hope for 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The lot next to CVS is to become a mixed-use residential building. PN Hoffman, the developer of the future site, expects to have a black box theater, a diner-type neighborhood restaurant, and the AppleTree early childhood school.

The need for primary health care and other essential services will continue as the population in Southwest multiplies. Unity Health Care was due to return to a space in the new transitional housing facility on Delaware Avenue. At the ANC's request, Unity has gotten an extension on its lease at the Joy Evans/Van Ness Elementary School in SE, in order to avoid a potential 5-month lapse in services until the Delaware Avenue building opens. Additional options for health services in

See "News," page 18



### FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

Over 20 years of Helping Southwest!

**Give back to your neighborhood!**  
**In these difficult times your support for neighbors is more important than ever.**

**During this time of coronavirus we have supported a SW food pantry, a SW meals program, a SW jobs reentry program, online education programs for SW students, a SW community garden, a SW online summer camp, and SWNA.**

**Friends of Southwest DC would welcome grant applications from SW groups able to conduct projects during the coronavirus shutdown.**

**Please help by sending tax-deductible contributions to:**

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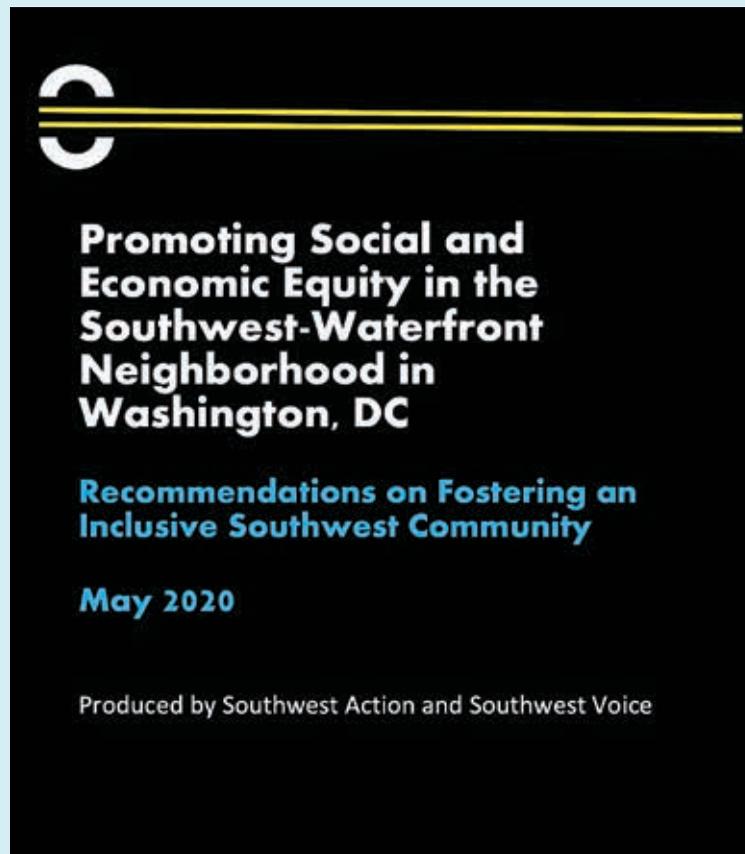
# SW DC Action Shares its Vision for Southwest

BY COY MCKINNEY OF SW DC ACTION

For too long our elected officials and policymakers have led us down a path we had no intention of going down. Residents overwhelmingly expressed their desires in the 2015 Southwest Neighborhood Plan, stating that we wanted our community to be “an exemplary model of equity and inclusion.” Yet in 2020, it has become clear that decision makers and policy-makers were not all that serious about fulfilling these dreams.

Over the last 20 years, the median income in the neighborhood has increased 117%, with the White population more than doubling while the Black population has dropped by 37%. The median rent has surged to over \$2,000/month, requiring a salary of over \$70,000 to not be considered housing-cost burdened, an amount that is nearly double the median Black household income. This is not the present we wished for in the past. If we are serious about being a model for equity and inclusion, we must adjust our trajectory, and root ourselves and policies in antiracism, and be bold in our actions.

The current moment provides us a unique window to act. The legacy of centuries of racism, explicit and implicit, are now receiving worldwide examination, and this examination is revealing what some have known all along, that racism impacts every facet of society. To rid ourselves of its destructive legacy, deep structural and personal changes are



necessary. Those seeking a path to antiracism should start by heeding the words of antiracist scholars, like Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, author of How To Be An Antiracist.

Dr. Kendi says, “in order to be truly antiracist, you have to be truly anti capitalist.” Essentially, we must put people and the environment over profit, focus on repairing past harms and injustices, and let antiracism be our guide.

To the uninitiated, this may seem a daunting task, but inaction is what got us here. Courage and a refusal to allow injustice sneak by will facilitate our transcendence from our past.

The resident group, SW Action ([bit.ly/swdcac-tion](http://bit.ly/swdcac-tion)), which is committed to antiracism, justice, and sustainability, has produced a document outlining visions and policies that can guide our pursuit towards collective liberation. The document is entitled, Promoting Social and Economic Equity in the Southwest Waterfront Community ([bit.ly/signswaction](http://bit.ly/signswaction)), and covers housing, community development, history and culture, and sustainability and climate resiliency.

The housing section proposes policies that will create permanently affordable housing and socioeconomic diversity. Rather than selling public land for \$1 and only getting luxury apartments, condos, restaurants (not to mention the displacement of Jenny’s, a 42-year institution) like the city did with the Wharf, the city should hold on to public land and use it to establish a community land trust (CLT). With a CLT model, the land comes under the stewardship of a non-profit

See “DC Action,” page 14



## ONE YEAR OF PROUDLY SERVING OUR SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

**We’re turning 1 on July 15th!**

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Best,

*Ken*

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# College Bound Executive Director to Host 2020 SWNA Scholarship Ceremony

BY VYLLORYA EVANS

When planning their 46th Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony live stream event, “Supporting Education, Building Community,” SWNA’s Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) welcomed the opportunity to have Kenneth Ward, Executive Director of College Bound, as host. Mr. Ward is a long time Southwest resident, life-long educator, and youth advocate. His accomplishments and accolades are many, but most importantly, he has a heart for young people and knows firsthand how mentoring, caring, and investing in others can unlock lifetime potential.

College Bound, Inc. in Washington, D.C., works with at-risk youth in the District to expand their horizons and refocus students on the opportunities higher education can afford. In 2009, Mr. Ward assumed the Executive Director position, and under his leadership the organization increased the number of scholarship dollars and tripled the number of students participating in the program. In September of 2019, Mr. Ward established College Bound’s newest site in the District of Columbia Department of Forensic Sciences building, located at 401 E St. SW. Since 1995, College Bound has served more than 60 students that have lived in Southwest.



Courtesy of Kenneth Ward

Kenneth Ward

Over his 15-year teaching career, he has received numerous recognitions, including the Fulbright Memorial Award, the Ward 5 Teacher of the Year honor, the College Bound Hall of Fame Award, and a Sallie Mae First-Year Teacher Award. He is a Fulbright Memorial scholar in Japan, has participated in a teacher exchange program in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, and has volunteered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mr. Ward has been instrumental in arranging study-abroad trips for College Bound students

to Ghana, West Africa.

Ward knows first-hand the power of education and works to erase the achievement gap. “Getting students out the door is not enough. We must make sure students not only graduate from high school, but also have the tools and the support to succeed once they do.”

He tells his friends he doesn’t work anymore. “I get up in the morning and do what I love.”

Kenneth Ward has dedicated his life’s work to supporting youth through mentoring programs and continues to stress the importance of applying for scholarships. At least nine SWNA scholarship recipients have participated in the College Bound program, among them is Jada Miles, four times SWNA scholarship recipient and 2020 Dean College graduate (chronicled in the June 2020 “Southwester”).

SWNA ESTF members look forward to Mr. Ward’s hosting their awards ceremony and you joining them at the live stream event.

To attend the SWNA 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Ceremony live stream event, held Sunday, August 2 at 4 p.m., please register at: [www.swnascholarship.org](http://www.swnascholarship.org). Donations can be made to the SWNA Scholarship fund at the same website address.

*Jackie L. Williams, Ph.D., JSU Adjunct Professor and Southwest D.C. resident contributed to this article.*

## DC ACTION

Continued from p. 13

that is composed of one-third, members of the community, one-third residents, and one-third industry professionals. Because the group owns the deed to the land, it can lease access to occupants at affordable rates. The CLT could be used for social housing, Housing First models, and retail and workspace for local worker cooperatives. SW Action has already created a spreadsheet of all vacant and public land in Ward 6 and has joined the Douglass Community Land Trust to get the process started.

The community development section focuses on ways to create an equitable, vibrant, diverse, economically healthy community with services that meet the needs of the people who live here. To be an equitable community, there must be employment opportunities and training for SW youth, particularly those living in public housing. SW Action pushes for the creation of worker-owned cooperatives, which are democratically operated and prevent the vast discrepancies in pay among workers. We call on the Southwest Business Improvement District to do more in helping these projects get off the ground. The ideas in this section are rooted in the belief that all residents of SW should have a voice in how SW moves forward.

SW has a rich history of being socio-economically diverse, and the history and culture sections enshrine that into the neighborhood’s culture and streetscape. Among other visions, SW Action calls for public art murals of historical figures important to SW, as well as walking tours of the entire neighborhood to ensure people know the intricacies and history of their community.

As SW moves into the future, sustainability needs to be at the foundation of what happens. Without a healthy environment to live in, none of the other initiatives matter. The sustainability and climate resiliency section seeks to expand access to open and green spaces, while also ensuring the neighborhood meets Vision Zero goals, improves access to fresh and healthy produce, and that future developments undergo mandatory traffic and environmental impact studies.

Together, the group believes this document can help move our neighborhood towards justice, equality, and ultimately, liberation. We are encouraging all SW residents to read it, and if they agree, sign on in support.

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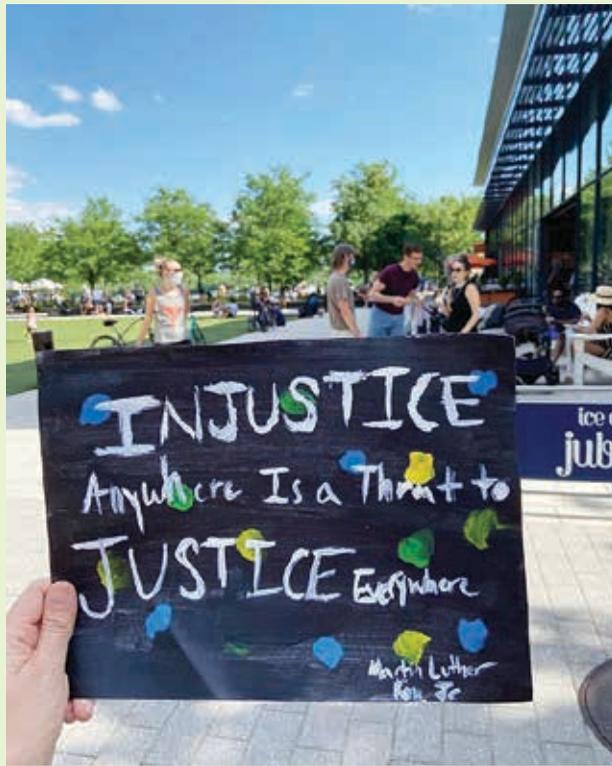
[www.swna.org](http://www.swna.org)

# Ice Cream Jubilee's Signs of Hope

BY UNA YARSKY

During these past months, businesses have worked hard to increase a feeling of community in Southwest while remaining afloat during this economic slump. One such business is Ice Cream Jubilee, a local ice cream shop that focuses on "authentic flavors," according to their website. Since early on in the quarantine, Jubilee organized takeout and delivery services. Recently, the business has re-opened in D.C. and is ready to accept customers to serve ice cream pints as well as scoops.

During the re-opening, the business launched an art project to communicate a message of love and support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Jubilee is collecting signs made by children to display on their storefront windows at all three locations in the District and Virginia. Children are encouraged to create signs that reflect a message of tolerance. Jubilee has also made coloring sheets available



Courtesy of Author

Words on which to build progress

on their website, and participants can drop these signs off at any Jubilee store, where they will be presented.

In our neighborhood, the Ice Cream Jubilee store is located in Yards Park at 301 Water Street, Southeast, where families often gather to enjoy themselves throughout the year. The message is certainly spread to pedestrians throughout the day. Ice Cream Jubilee founder Victoria Lai said, "Our goal is to use storefront windows at Ice Cream Jubilee as an opportunity to educate people of all ages that creating an anti-racist culture takes effort."

In addition to signs about the Black Lives Matter movement, Ice Cream Jubilee will also showcase signs about the Covid-19 pandemic. The store is focusing on messages of love during a time of division, as well as hopefully inspiring conversations about these issues. The Yards Park Ice Cream Jubilee is open from 2-9 p.m. during weekdays, and from 12-9 p.m. on weekends. Their two other locations are at 1407 T St. NW, a few blocks from the U Street Metro, and at 4238 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va.

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Many other items will be marked down during this sale.



# Black-Owned SW Soda Pop Shop Goes Viral, Survives Shutdown

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

The SW Soda Pop Shop is only two years old but the Jones sisters, Brittany, Brianna, Andrea, and Lena, who run the shop, have a much longer family legacy down at the Wharf. Their dad Darryl owned Virgos Fish House, which was one of the first black-owned businesses down at the fish market.

“My dad was [a small business] owner down here for 25 years,” said Brittany, the oldest of the four Jones sisters. “We were originally just going to house sodas, ‘cause my dad, he had just the...soda machines around the buildings.” Those dozens of soda pop machines Darryl owned were the genesis of the idea of the SW Soda Pop Shop.

Several years ago, Darryl realized the fish shop wasn’t making the money it used to, so he thought to change up the business model. Brittany said when her dad was reimagining their business model, the developers wanted a different look. “When he came home and gave the idea to me and my sisters, we took it and ran with it. And, that’s how we ended up being the SW Soda Pop Shop.”

The Wharf has always been one of those locations of great promise, for both tourists, business owners, and the community. Since the Wharf opened, though, several small businesses have left due to various reasons. For the Jones sisters, the last two years have been a slow start to their aspirations but the pandemic was on another level.

“Being down here is great in theory,” Brittany explained, but there wasn’t much passion down by the fish market when they first started, which means clientele, and the winter before COVID hit it was really slow. “We weren’t getting that many customers and what was sustaining us was the spring and the summer time.” She continued, “With any business, three years is when you start seeing the profits. For us, our two year mark was met



Courtesy of SW Soda Pop Shop

The Jones sisters outside their storefront at the Wharf

with COVID. Then we [had] nothing.”

SW Soda Pop shutdown March 14, by order of the Mayor and reopened May 29. However, the slow opening of the economy could not, and did not, solve their financial woes. They were hardly seeing more than a handful of customers during an average weekday, maybe a few more on the weekends. After the slow winter, they were looking forward to the start of the tourist season, which many businesses like theirs rely on to get through leaner months.

Brittany said they did apply for a PPP loan when the stimulus was released but like many small businesses, especially black-owned ones, they did not get it. They did

receive a small EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan), which helped with a few bills, but it went quickly and not far enough. That’s when they decided to change their strategy.

“We were forced [to] think about having to actually shut down. We had to put our pride to the side. My younger sister, she goes to school for mass communications... She was learning how to really reach the public, and we had to reach out.”

While they were preparing supplies to hand out to protesters before the June 6 protests, the younger sister Andrea sent out a tweet saying that SW Soda Pop had been hit hard by COVID, and if the neighborhood wanted to see them stay, then they needed support. Andrea linked their GoFundMe and fired off the tweet.

“We are very proud and independent. The GoFundMe was something we tossed around for a while.” Brittany said they opened the account around May 28 but didn’t want to go forward with it due to concerns about their image – about how starting a public funding campaign might damage their image. But, they “reached a point where it was ‘do this or close.’”

Andrea’s tweet went viral and their arbitrary GoFundMe goal of \$10,000 (Brittany explained that the initial goal of \$10,000 was more than they thought they could get) was quickly surpassed. To date, the donations are over \$36,000. “Our main marketing strategy has been to use social media. And, it’s worked!”

That few dozen customers a week turned into hundreds of customers a day. A few weeks after they went viral, SW Soda Pop now sees lines of people – more than 270 on one Saturday in mid June alone. “All we wanted was just a share [about the shop]. If you could share it and let somebody else know we’re here. The community responding to us is how we’re here.”

Weathering

See “Pop Shop,” page 19

## Ward 6 Meal Sites

These locations will serve meals to anyone under 18.

(Updated 6/15/2020)

Location	Address	Ward	Meal Distribution Hours (Monday - Friday)	Grocery Distribution (while groceries last)
Arthur Capper Recreation Center	1000 5th Street SE	6	10 am - 2 pm	
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School	401 I Street SW	6	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	
King Greenleaf Recreation Center	201 N Street SW	6	10 am - 2 pm	
Miner Elementary School	601 15th Street NE	6	10 am - 2 pm	
Rosedale Recreation Center	1701 Gales Street NW	6	10 am - 2 pm	
Walker-Jones Education Campus	1125 New Jersey Avenue NW	6	10 am - 2 pm	

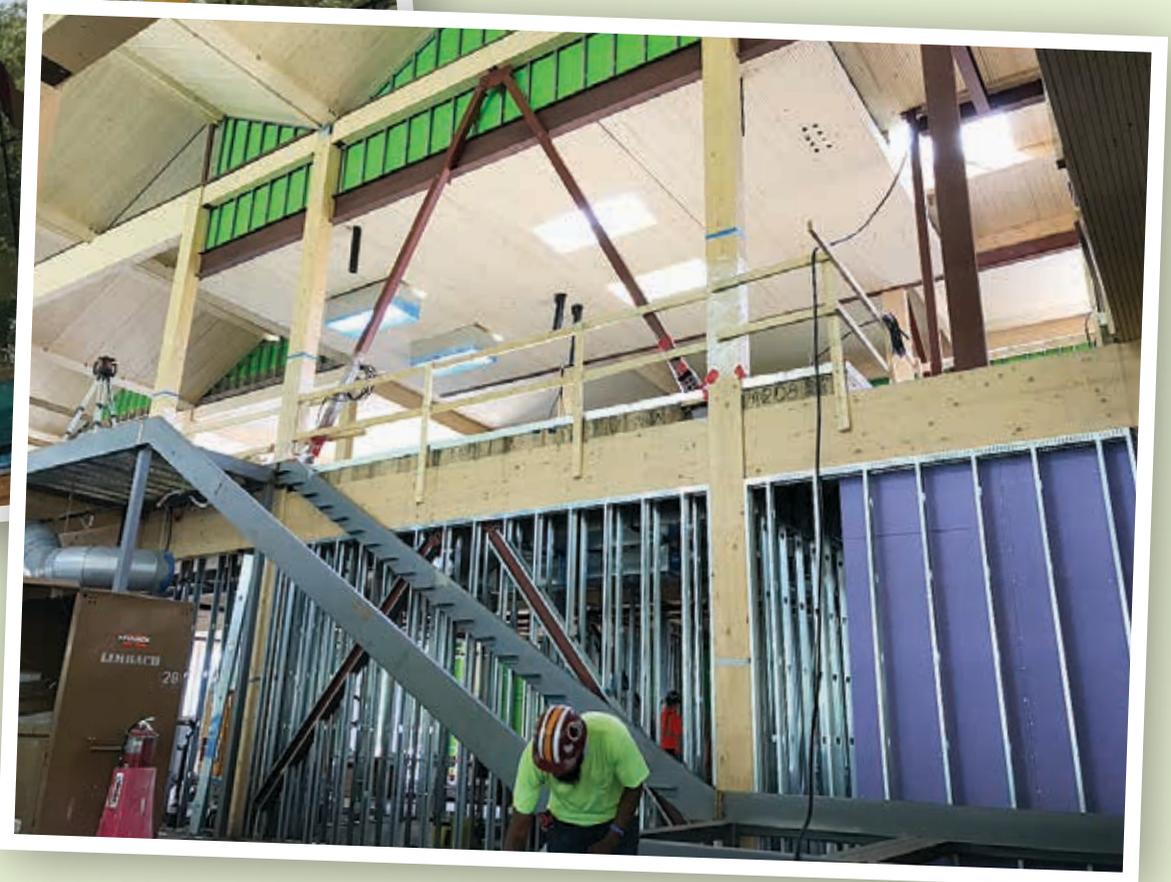
Find additional community based summer meal sites at Summer Meals Map: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>



Courtesy of DCPL

Above: "Reflected in the glass," workers continue to work on the nearly completed SW Library

At right: The makings of a stairwell



## CORONAVIRUS

Continued from p. 1

have been very little contact tracing efforts. If I had to narrow it down, it would be 1. The gym (I am an instructor); 2. The metro; 3. Lenfant Plaza (where my office is located).

### What were your symptoms initially, and then throughout?

Initially, I had this weird dry cough. It wasn't very strong so brushed it off as allergies or a cold. As the days passed, the cough got worse and worse where I could not carry on a conversation. Then I got a fever and started feeling terrible which prompted me to do a telehealth visit with my doctor who told me I had all the symptoms of coronavirus. I also experienced light-headedness and dizziness which later the doctors informed me were symptoms of hypoxia due to the lack of oxygen getting to me. The last symptom that I got that also lasted the longest was the loss of my sense of smell and taste. Several weeks after I recovered, I was reading an article in the New York Times about COVID toes and realized I had those as well! I thought I had just picked up some weird foot fungus, but nope, it was COVID!

### How long did it last?

From onset of first symptoms to full recovery, it was about 2.5 weeks.

### What was your experience like getting tested?

My initial test was very apocalyptic. I got tested at the height of my sickness which is a terrible situation to be in. I was running a 102 fever, was lightheaded and just felt miserable but since I could not be around anyone (i.e., take an uber, metro, have my boyfriend drive me) I had to drive myself to Bethesda where my doctor's testing site was. The tests were being done out of the back of a truck in a Safeway parking lot so you can imagine what that looks like. The doctors/staff were in full hazmat outfits which reminded me of the movie *Outbreak*. Prior to getting tested, you fill out a bunch of paperwork so they basically just look at your ID and then proceed with administering the test. My first test was a throat swab so they took two long cotton swabs and scraped out the back of my throat which hurt for days afterwards. I got tested two more times after that so that I could participate in a plasma donation program. Both of those tests were nose swabs and were done at Georgetown hospital so a bit less end-of-the-world feeling (though navigating the maze that is Georgetown hospital was an entire endeavor in itself!).

### What was your experience like with medical personnel?

Everyone has been great! I think everyone is still learning, trying to understand the disease and trying to keep up with all the latest information and research.

I tested positive three times which was very stressful and disheartening. However, being able to talk to the epidemiologist at Georgetown who helped explain to me that it wasn't unusual to test positive multiple times and that not to worry because I was no longer contagious, helped put my mind at ease. I mean these people are going above and beyond putting their lives at risk testing and treating people. They were calling me late in the night to follow up to explain my test results and providing me with their personal numbers in case I had any questions. It was just above and beyond anything I've experienced.

### Were you worried?

I was not worried about getting worse and ending up in the hospital. I am very healthy (haven't been to the doctor in like five years) and had just had a physical in early February so knew I was in good health. I did worry about others I might have been in contact with and whether I could have infected them or not which was an additional stressor to make a list of everyone I had been in contact with and let them know I tested positive.

### How did you feel mentally and emotionally?

I was completely overwhelmed by it all and my anxiety was very high. Since I feel I caught COVID very early on, there was just so much confusion and misinformation out there. I mean I had the disease

that shut down the planet! How do you even process that? I had to completely stop watching, reading and listening to the news and get off social media. Compounding everything is that I was in complete quarantine and so was not able to be with the people that could care for me and support me. It's a lot to handle on your own. I'm very lucky to have great neighbors, colleagues and friends who dropped food items, flowers and cards off to help me get through it all! Oh, and big shout out to my 18-year-old cat, Bozer, who was my rock during this time. Luckily, he did not catch COVID!

### What do you think SW residents should know about the virus, now that you have been through it?

It's hard to say as there is so much more information out there now and more testing that wasn't happening when I first caught this. Now we're starting to open things back up so I'm a bit concerned after the protests and everything that there will be a spike. I guess I would say be diligent and follow the guidelines. If someone you know gets it, it's OK to feel stressed and anxious and keep in mind, the majority of people who get it recover.

## NEWS

Continued from p. 12

SW should continue to be explored, particularly as Buzzard Point opens up.

The ANC provided detailed comments in February on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. While Council activity is not imminent, development in Southwest continues apace, creating repeated opportunities to reflect community interests in preserving diversity and affordability, preserving the mixed height character of the area, preserving green and open space beyond existing parks—such as in streetscape, setbacks, interior, and other elements of common space, and ensuring multiple modes of transportation and safe travel for all ages, income, and capabilities.

The Lower Anacostia/Near Southwest also played a pivotal role in the early development of Washington, in post-Civil War migration of freed slaves and con-

tinuing northern migration of African-Americans, and in the history of social integration. As the ANC noted, this history should be a part of redevelopment and preservation decisions, which applies directly to south Southwest and Buzzard Point.

Councilman Allen has introduced a bill to create a new Waterways Management Authority. The ANC continues to support the effort, which will become increasingly important for ANC 6D, bordered on two sides by two rivers, with both waterfronts under intense development.

ANC 6D05 residences include 1001 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Christ United Methodist Church, Waterfront Tower, the Leo, 301 M St., 222 M St., Carrollsburg A Condominium, Carrollsburg Square Condominium, River Park and St. James cooperatives. Please email 6d05@anc.dc.gov to be placed on the mailing list and receive periodic updates, or call 980-552-0024 to talk about concerns and issues of interest.



**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](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.

**Visit SWNA's newly designed website!**  
**[www.swna.org](http://www.swna.org)**

# House Votes in Favor of D.C. Statehood for First Time in History

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

In a historic vote on Friday June 26, the democratically led House passed H.R. 51, a bill to make D.C. the 51<sup>st</sup> state. The measure passed by a margin of 232-180 with one Democrat, Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota, voting against it.

This is the first time D.C. statehood has passed in either chamber of Congress. The last time the House voted on statehood was in 1993; it failed 277-153.

H.R. 51 carves out about two miles square for a smaller federal district that would include the White House, National Mall, the Capitol, among other federal buildings. The new state would be called Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, after famed American abolitionist and writer Frederick Douglass.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C.'s non

voting member of Congress, and tireless champion of statehood, said in a tweet: "The House just passed the #DCStatehood bill (#HR51), marking the first time since the creation of the District of Columbia 219 years ago that either chamber of Congress has passed a bill to grant statehood to D.C. residents and, with it, equal citizenship."

Calls for statehood have grown louder in recent years but quickly reached a crescendo during the coronavirus pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests. After Congress voted on the multi-trillion-dollar CARES Act, which was to allot \$1.25 billion to each state, D.C. labeled a territory in the act, only received half the amount given to other states. During the recent protests, the president was heavily criticized for flooding D.C. streets with both federal

See "Statehood," page 19

## SOUTHWEST MOMENT



Arena Stage films at Duck Pond!

Courtesy of Idania Arteaga

# Healing with Smith Center and Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In partnership with the award-winning Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) has hosted its July breast cancer support group meeting at Smith Center on U St. in NW since 2018. This year, the support group meeting will be live streamed via the Thelma D. Jones Face Book Page (<https://www.facebook.com/TDJBreastCancerFund/>) due to the coronavirus pandemic. Appropriately dubbed “An Evening of Healing with Smith Center and the TDJBCF,” the evening will be a brief respite with transformative elements. Whether you are dealing with health challenges, the impact of Covid-19 or the pain of racism, the need for self-care and healing practices has never been greater. Featured speakers from Smith Center will include Lisa Simms Booth, Executive Director, Kiersten Gallagher, Cancer Support Program Director, Tamara Wellons, Vocalist and Program Manager, Artist in Residence Program, and other Smith Center Staff.

Founded in 1996, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts is an award-winning Washington, DC-based nonprofit health, education, and arts organization. Recognized by the 2019-2020 Catalogue for Philanthropy as one of the best small charities in the region, its mission is to develop and promote healing practices that explore physical, emotional, and mental wellness



Lisa Simms Booth  
Executive Director



Kiersten Gallagher, Cancer  
Support Program Director



Tamara Wellons, Vocalist  
and Program Manager, Artist  
in Residence Program

and lead to life-affirming changes. The organization offers programs for the community and specializes in serving people with cancer and utilizing the arts in healing. TDJBCF Founder Jones was trained as a well sought-after community breast health navigator in integrative oncology by Smith Center in 2010. Since then, Jones has enjoyed both extensive consultant and volunteer work with the organization, especially as it relates to community breast health navigation where she navigated dozens of breast cancer patients through Smith's Center program at Union Temple Baptist Church in SE for more than three years. Jones also works closely with Smith Center as a trained retreat ambassador, having attended two of their retreats. Jones is passionate about the residential retreats and believes that everyone with cancer or a chronic disease should experience a Smith Center retreat. “The

retreat is such a quiet, peaceful and calming place that you enter with thoughts of trepidation and concerns of what will

happen. Is it worth my time? Or at best, will it really make a difference in fighting this dreadful breast cancer? Then near the last day you are immensely grateful for the experience you have fully embraced as it is so transformative in mind, body and spirit. You leave with a sense of confidence to live your life despite the disease while sharing the experience with others,” said Jones.

For more information on Smith Center, please visit [www.smithcenter.org](http://www.smithcenter.org) or call (202) 483-8600. For more information on the July meeting, please visit [www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org), email [thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org](mailto:thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org) or call (202) 251-1639.

## STATEHOOD

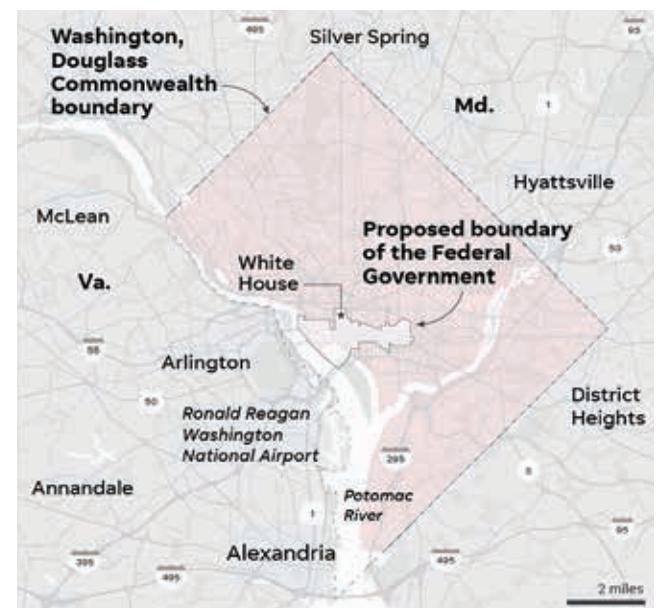
Continued from p. 18

troops and anonymous federal authorities in a show of “overwhelming dominance” against the wishes of Mayor Bowser and the city council. Because D.C. is not a state and does not have a Governor, the decision to bring in the National Guard was out of the Council and Mayor’s hands.

Statehood will next move to the republican held Senate where it is expected to be defeated. Both Mitch McConnell and the president have said that they do not favor D.C. statehood, citing that it would give democrats two senators and a voting member of the House. District residents overwhelmingly voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Regardless of its fate in

the senate, prominent democrats, including the presumptive democratic candidate for president, Joe Biden, have voiced loud support for D.C. statehood. Statehood will likely come up again in the near future.



Courtesy of District of Columbia Office of Planning

## POP SHOP

Continued from p. 16

several months of a global pandemic, especially as a small business owner, is no easy feat. Almost 70% of D.C.’s economy is fueled by small businesses and many of these businesses, like SW Soda Pop, rely on high contact (in-person) services. Many of these small businesses won’t be coming out the other side of this pandemic.

I asked Brittany what she and her family have been doing personally and professionally to get themselves through this unprecedented time, “To be honest with you, how I’ve been getting through is prayer.”

She also pointed to how the hardships have been formative in a way. From having to be there (at the shop) all the time and work through it - sort through emails and requests - there was always work that had to be done. The challenging part, she emphasized, has been learning how to handle everything and pray it (the community support) keeps going. “There will be trying times and there will be struggle...there will be other things we have to deal with,” she said, but they want to build a more permanent clientele and hopefully never have to close again.



Courtesy of SW Soda Pop Shop

A multitude of flavors and colors

Moving forward, SW Soda Pop Shop sees the last few weeks a small miracle that helped them “get back on track,” and are now looking for ways to show their gratitude for the community. “For somebody else...to stand in line for 90 minutes and say, ‘I just wanted to support you.’ Then to come back and stand in line again and say, ‘We came back!’ That means everything.”

**Southwest Soda Pop Shop (<https://www.swsodapopshop.com>). 1142 Maine Ave., SW**

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