the Southwester 1963

serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

October 2020

SWNA Hosts Three Nights of Debate with At-Large Candidates for City Council

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER AND SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he At-Large City Council race in Washington, D.C. has become a battleground of ideas in local politics. In October and November, D.C. voters will choose a City Councilmember to replace the outgoing Independent David Grosso, as well as voting whether or not to keep another incumbent. In a virtual debate, hosted by Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Sept. 14-16, their different priorities and personalities were on display.

Grosso announced he would not run for reelection last year, saying he was "proud of" his accomplishments, but that "there needs to be other voices on the council." He endorsed Christina Henderson, a former staffer for the D.C. council's education committee, to take his place. However, the race quickly widened, requiring SWNA to spread the debate out over three days.



Fenit Nirappil of the "Washington Post" moderates a forum with Councilmember Robert White and candidates Claudia Barragan, Mario Cristaldo, Vincent Orange, Monica Palacio, Eric Rogers and Ann Wilcox.

At-Large Candidate Forum Day 1

The first night of the community forum was moderated by Fenit Nirappil, a report-

er for "The Washington Post" covering City Hall. The candidates in attendance

See "Debate," page 17

Jefferson Modernization Done but No Students... Yet

BY MARTIN R. WELLES, ESQ.

rom the curb to the cupola, Jefferson Academy's modernization is nearly complete - except for one critical aspect - the students and teachers who are unable to enjoy the newly refurbished school due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Courtesy of Martin Welles

Jefferson's path to modernization took nearly 10 years. At one point, there was \$35 million in the District of Columbia budget to start a renovation - an amount that would have only covered a partial rehabilitation. While a new HVAC system and exterior doors were added, the \$35 million was soon redirected to other school building projects.

Due to robust community activism and outreach to the Mayor's office, District Council, and DCPS, in 2017, Jefferson's modernization was fully funded. The District of Columbia's Capital Budget was funded with \$76 million to fully modernize Jefferson Academy by the start of the 2020/2021 school year.

"Whether programming or facilities,



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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.

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

400 "1" Street, SW Washington, DC 20024

thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org

(202) 251-1639

How to Vote in Southwest

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

.C. voters will head to the polls soon, but with expanded early voting and vote-by-mail options. Many of the District's residents will have their vote tallied before the final election day, Nov. 3. "The Southwester" hopes you will take a moment to review the following procedures to make sure you get your ballot to the D.C. Board of Elections (BOE) so your voice can be heard

District residents can register to vote on the BOE website, or by email, regular mail, or fax. October 13 is the voter registration deadline. If you miss that deadline, you can still register sameday by bringing proof of residence to your vote center. If you don't bring valid proof of residence, you can still cast your ballot based on the Ward and ANC you believe you live in. However, your ballot will be considered a "special ballot," meaning it will be sent to the BOE for review rather than being counted on-site.

District residents are all eligible for absentee voting, or vote-by-mail. They may seal their votes and send them through the U.S. Postal Service to the BOE or drop them off at ballot drop boxes. There are ballot drop boxes at the interim Southwest Library and BOE Headquarters, which is located on Half Street SE.

If you're unsure whether or not you're registered, you can check on the BOE website. While D.C. voters can visit any vote center to cast their ballot in

person, BOE offers a search tool where residents can enter their address to see the closest location. The search tool also shows you where the closest mail ballot drop boxes and early vote centers are located. Nationals Park is an early vote center. The wait times are online at http://earlyvoting.dcboe.org.

The BOE has taken steps to ensure voting in-person will be as safe as possible during the pandemic. Volunteers will wipe down voting machines after each use. There will also be bottles of hand sanitizer that voters can use for free stationed throughout each vote center. Masks will be mandatory. Vote centers in Southwest include Jefferson Middle School, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, and Nationals Park.

The BOE website also says you can vote from your car if "you are unable to enter a Vote Center due to a disability, seniority, or illness." In that case, voters could drive to their vote center, check in from their car, and have their ballot brought

Those who are incarcerated, under court supervision, or living at a halfway house can vote, and the BOE will hold a voter registration event at facilities where one is requested. If someone requested an absentee ballot while incarcerated, but have since been released, they may still vote in-person in early voting or on Nov. 3. The BOE will count the first vote you submit, whether it is received as an absentee ballot, special ballot, or live ballot.

to them.

Live ballots will be tabulated on-site as soon as you run yours through the counting machine at the vote center. Those who submit special ballots or vote-by-mail can check the status of their ballot on the BOE website.

Southwester

Send submissions and questions to *The Southwester* by email at *editor@thesouthwester*. *com*. Submissions for each monthly issue are due on the 15th of the preceding month.

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Eisenhower Memorial Finally Opens to the Public

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n September 18, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial on Independence Avenue SW opened to the public, a project that took two decades to complete.

The night before, on Sept. 17, speakers at the dedication ceremony included former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former Sen. Bob Dole (R-KS), and Frank Gehry, the Memorial's designer. The speakers, like the Memorial itself, emphasized Eisenhower's humble origins. Rice compared him to George Washington, saying, "President Eisenhower didn't seek political life. It sought him."

The Memorial is nestled between the National Mall and the U.S. Department of Education's LBJ Headquarters building. Two tall stone columns are situated at both ends of a long rectangular grassy area. Adjacent to the Education building

are two large monuments, one commemorating his service as the 34th President of the United States and the other his role in World War II as a five-star General. The monuments have large quotes on the front and back, and the top third of the heavy stone platform is rotated slightly



Courtesy of Author

Todd Parker, of Arlington, Virginia, donates his time helping visitors to the Eisenhower Memorial navigate the space and learn about the 34th President. Parker has been a volunteer with Volunteers in Parks (VIP) for eight years.

off-center, evoking a sense of both stability and disjointedness. The Memorial is connected to the geography of the District by two footpaths cutting diagonally through the grassy area, demarcating and extending historical Maryland Avenue SW.

The most attention-grabbing aspect of

the memorial is the imposing stainless steel tapestry directly adjacent to the Education building. The tapestry, created by artist and architect Tomas Osinski, "depicts the Pointe du Hoc promontory of France's Normandy coastline during peacetime," according to the National Park Service. Pointe du Hoc symbolizes "the peace Eisenhower won during World War II and maintained as President."

Another noteworthy monument is a bronze statue of Eisenhower as a child, when he was a "barefoot boy," as described in a speech he gave in 1945. The statue was created by sculptor Sergey Eylanbekov.

The designers faced the challenge of creating a monument imposing enough to convey the magnitude of Eisenhower's role in shaping the American 20th century while celebrating his oft-touted humility. With its simplicity and scale, the Memorial

looms large one block from the National Mall, accessible and navigable to all D.C. visitors and residents. "We will forever tell the inspiring story," said Interior Secretary David L. Bernhardt at the dedication ceremony, "of President Eisenhower and his unparalleled legacy through this iconic memorial in Washington D.C."





Courtesy of Author

Rotary Interact Club students from Richard Wright PCS present Unity healthcare workers from the Minnesota Avenue and Southwest clinics with a special banner

Across States, Interact Teens Celebrate Healthcare Heroes

BY AMORA CAMPBELL, RICHARD WRIGHT PCS

hank you so much! It's not every day that we get thanked for all that we do here," said Angela White, a faculty member of the Southwest Unity Health Care site. Healthcare workers from Minnesota Avenue and Southwest took a short break from their busy schedules to greet the Richard Wright Public Charter School Interact Club Officers and receive a 'Thank You' banner with the words: Not All Heroes Wear Capes.

This summer, in an effort to spread

community awareness and service, Rotary Interact Clubs from Haas Hall Academy Bentonville in Arkansas and Richard Wright Public Charter Schools in Washington, D.C., joined forces to do a community service project. Each club was full of eager teenagers hoping to make a positive difference in someone's life during quarantine. After many icebreakers, discussions about the differences in our communities, discovering each other's talents, and a few power points later - the decision was made. Both Interact clubs decided to make a 'Thank You' banner for local healthcare workers to show their

efforts they've made to protect everyone during the pandemic.

Interact club presidents Amora Campbell and Sebastian Barajas paired up to run the meetings, while members from each club participated in decision-making and presenting the banners to healthcare workers. The banner was designed by a student named Katelyn Bennet from Haas Hall Academy and sponsored by the two Rotary Interact Clubs.

Richard Wright Interact Members presented their banners to Unity Health Care Centers because of Unity's commitment

support for the overwhelming and heroic and dedication to providing excellent care in underserved neighborhoods for 35 years. Their work has never been more consequential than now with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Haas Hall Interact Members in Arkansas thanked their local hospitals for being an amazing resource and staple in their community.

> All the workers were thrilled to get a surprise 'Thank You' from the people they have promised to protect. During this experience, students and healthcare workers became allies who can and will continue to encourage each other through the toughest of times.



Civic Group Celebrates 8th Anniversary & Birthday of Founder Thelma D. Jones

BY LISA SIMMS BOOTH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SMITH CENTER
FOR HEALING AND THE ARTS

ommunity members, neighbors, family, and friends joined the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) monthly support group meeting to celebrate the Fund's 8th Anniversary on Sept. 15. In addition to commemorating the anniversary, the evening also served as a birthday celebration for its founder Thelma D. Jones.

Emceed by Lisa Simms Booth, Executive Director, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, the celebration was filled with tributes from former colleagues, family members, high school and college classmates, breast cancer advocates, and support group members.

Noting that the evening started with the popular O 'Jays "Family Reunion," Jones shared:

This evening is a family reunion; there are people representing every part of my life at this celebration. Our vision is to achieve a world free of breast cancer. I don't want anyone else to go through what I went through, so I started the support group to provide outreach, support, and education.

Various speakers highlighted Jones' dedication to breast cancer patients throughout the evening, including comments from Corrine Bombowsky from the American Cancer Society. Bombowsky said:

I want to thank Thelma and the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund for their sponsorship of the [upcoming] Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Virtual Walk on, and the efforts of the D.C. team – Undaunted Determination. I love our partnership and encourage everyone to join us as we fight back and work for a cure for breast cancer.

Sheri Denkensohn-Trott, co-founder and team leader, Happy on Wheels, Undaunted Determination, thanked Thelma for her work:

Through your support group, I found community and heard from world class speakers that increased my range and expanded my connections. We are united in this fight and united with you, Thelma. We hope you all join us and get involved with Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Kermit A. Crawford, Associate Professor, Avalon Endowed Chair of Psychology, Hampton University and Emeritus Clinical Associate Professor,

Department of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Crawford reminded the attendees to take time to appreciate yourself instead of always taking care of others.

Speaking on the theme of "Strength Unknown and Beyond," Dr. Crawford thanked Jones for being



Courtesy of Author

Recording Artist Jean Carne sang "Happy Birthday" to Breast Cancer Fund founder Thelma D. Jones

a fighter and said, "To meet the challenge of breast cancer, you have to be a fighter. [You] have to push beyond... You have to do even more to get beyond strength unknown. You have to be prepared to fight the war. The battle is just for the individual but the war,[is] for all of us to be better people, to have better health, and to make a difference in our lives."

Dr. Crawford shared stories from growing up in North Carolina, including lessons learned from the Class of 1970, and offered some insights of living in this time of COVID-19. "We've seen a lot in our lives, and so much change in the past six months. Whatever your life was before COVID-19, it is different now. [We] are normal people dealing with an abnormal situation. We have to be extraordinary."

Dr. Crawford also shared tools to get through this time:

- 1. Keep focus on your health. Get exercise, sleep, and eat healthy.
- 2. Manage your stress, do self-affirmations, appreciate the small things and try to find your silly (have fun).
- 3. Stay connected, find your supportive people and community. Seek feedback from trusted individuals. Manage your relationships to avoid conflict and drama
- 4. Be aware of signs of depression and anxiety. Seek out professional help if needed. Manage your media consumption.
- 5. Take care of your spiritual life. Stay focused on your sense of peace and purpose. Practice faith. He concluded, saying:

Think beyond the limitations and think about the possibilities. There are opportunities out there since we are starting from zero in many ways. This is your time to shine. Seize the opportunity. Clinging to the past will prevent you from seeing the possibilities of the future. We are asking you to go beyond. We are... saying that if you are still standing, you are already standing in the strength beyond.

Additional tributes were made by Avis Dillard-Bullock, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Programs, JMA Solutions on behalf of TDJBCF Honorary Board Member Jan Adams; Dr. Jerome Goodwin, former Durham College classmate and university registrar, North Carolina Central University, who also read a poetic tribute to Jones written by Dr. Constance Sartor Walker, former dean and professor, Durham College (1947-1980); Stella-Maris Adamu, President, The Michael Mauritia Patcha Foundation; Lois S. Jones, former elementary school teacher; and, Danett Speight Canty, MSNRN, CNE, CHSE, niece, and clinical nurse educator, Duke University School of Nursing.

Dr. Richard Kennedy, Breast Cancer Fund Board member, gave an anniversary and birthday toast.

The evening closed with a special appearance and birthday serenade by renowned recording artist Jean Carne, known for such hits as "My Love Don't Come Easy" and "Don't Let It Go to Your Head." Ms. Carne, a long-time friend of Jones, said that she was thrilled to share in this celebration. "Every birthday is special but especially in 2020 – it is very special."

Jones's son Jamal Jones and cousin Nathan Bagby also gave remarks.

Throughout the evening, friends and supporters offered financial contributions to further the work of the Fund. Those supporters included: TDJBCF Board Chair Mamie W. Mallory; Breast Cancer Survivors Sheri Denkensohn-Trott and Anthia Peters; World Bank Group-IMF Staff African American Association President Gerald Brown, CHUMS DC Chapter Myla Moss; Durham College Alumni Dr. Jerome Goodwin and Brenda S. Young; and neighbors Candice Bryant and Wilma Goldstein. The donations raised that evening totaled over \$2,000, along with pledges of additional donations.

Simms Booth closed the evening, praising Jones. "It's a testament to who you are that we have your elementary school teacher, high school, and college classmates and relationships that span 50 years or more, that shows the person that you are. Relationships matter to you and that's why the work you do with breast cancer patients is so important. It's those relationships and that support that helps people walk through a cancer diagnosis and treatment. You are a special person in this world."

The closing song for the evening was Jean Carne's hit song "Don't Let It Go to Your Head."

SW Mutual Aid October Dates and Volunteer Opportunities

BY CARLEE BROWN AND MAX GROSSMAN

ard 6 Mutual Aid (W6MA) is an all-volunteer grassroots group working with Black and Brown grassroots organizations to help keep our communities safe. The Southwest Pod of W6MA is partnering with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) on a community food and supply drive to serve our neighbors in response to COVID-19.

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

- Donate groceries and supplies. Come say hi and consider donating fresh produce bought at the Southwest Farmer's Market on Saturdays between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Donations of groceries, cleaning supplies and toiletries can be brought to the courtyard entrance of CUMC at 900 4th St. SW on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Help make sure every student can access the online classroom. W6MA is working to bridge the digital divide, providing devices and school supplies to students to make sure that D.C.'s virtual school year is a success. Alongside partner organization Serve Your City, we are providing digital devices to local students. Please visit http://dcbackto schoolbash.com for more information or email syclaptopsmutualaid@gmail. com if you have a laptop or tablet to donate.
- Tutor local students online. W6MA's



Volunteers separate clothes for donation

tutoringmutualaid@gmail.com

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 syc-

Volunteer. The Southwest Pod of W6MA is also seeking volunteers to help 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 karenlmcmanus@gmail.com.

W6MA and CUMC have a number of

ways you can get the support you need:

Stop by the **Ladies' Community Closet** Cleanout hosted by Christ United Methodist Church Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 **p.m.** on CUMC's front lawn at 4th and I St. SW. The event will offer a huge selection of women's clothing, men's, kid's, and baby's clothes, as well as household items. There will be no charge, but donations to CUMC School Uniform Fund will be accepted.

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 4th St. SW: use courtvard entrance near library).

Obtain groceries from the Christ United Methodist Church's 5000 Ministry Food Pantry on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9-11 a.m. (courtyard entrance). If you can not come to the church due to health or mobilities issues, call 202-554-9117 to request a delivery.



DO YOU NEED FREE INTERNET AT HOME FOR YOUR DC STUDENT?



Mayor Muriel Bowser wants to make sure your student has internet at home during this virtual school term.

DC Government will be paying for residential internet service for eligible households provided by Comcast and RCN.

Beginning Tuesday, September 8, DC Government will begin reaching out to SNAP and TANF eligible households with PK3-12th grade students enrolled at DC traditional and charter public schools, according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, September 8 - Text Message at 3 pm

Wednesday, September 9 - Phone call at 3 pm

Thursday, September 10 - Email at 3 pm

Tuesday, September 15 - Text Message at 11 am Wednesday, September 16 - Phone call at 11 am

Thursday, September 17 - Email at 11 am

Please contact your student's school for additional information.

- DC will pay for at home internet (Comcast Internet Essentials or RCN Internet First) for approximately 25,000 households with PK3-12th grade students enrolled at DC traditional and charter public schools that receive SNAP or TANF benefits.
 Comcast and RCN both recognize SNAP and TANF as eligibility requirements for their low-cost internet programs.
 DC Government will not disclose household SNAP or TANF participation.
 Comcast or RCN will then contact the household to initiate the internet installation process.



Westminster Church Hosts First Pop Up Shop

BY REV. RUTH HAMILTON

n Aug. 30, Aaliyah Wilkinson organized a suc-

organized a successful Pop Up Shop that featured 18 different tables of products made and sold by young Black residents-many, like Ailiyah, from SW.

At the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Scholarship event this summer, headed by Vyllorya Evans, a longtime Westminster member and Scholarship Committee Chair, we heard that Aaliyah had hopes of doing event planning. We wanted to be supportive of her and offered our sanctuary

space for free so she could try an eventone of our first public events since the start of the COVID era.

Ailiyah writes, "I couldn't thank Pastor Ruth and Vyllorya Evans enough for letting me have my first Pop Up shop there. Their customer service was amazing. They checked in on me and my family, asking if we [were] okay and if we needed anything. Their instructions were very clear on what they needed regarding the

social distancing, mask-wearing and then they let me do my job. They introduced me to good people of the Church and SW



Courtesy of Author

Aaliyah Wilkinson, organizer of Westminster's first Pop Up Shop

who got to see my work ethic. They treated me and my family with kindness, and I look forward to working with them again."

Westminster is a community where Black lives matter, and we saw an opportunity to support young Black entrepreneurs-both their creativity and their ideas for business. We hope to build on the success of the first Pop Up event and see what can happen in the future.



VOTE!!!

Nov. 3 may be the election of our lifetimes. This is a watershed moment for the District too— all the way down the ballot.

If you live in ANC 6D05* I hope I have your vote. If you vote somewhere else, make sure you are registered—and that you vote.

As redevelopment continues, and Southwest population doubles, we are working to preserve our iconic social diversity, with:

- More affordable housing—and preserving what we've got
- More family-sized units—for a multitude of household types
- More spaces to mingle—common space, greenspace, and neighborhood-serving businesses

We need to maintain the strong civic engagement that has made our community a force to be reckoned with.

- Enforce the principles in our Small Area Plan—esp. "equity and inclusion" (and preserving "green oases" and our "Modernist gem"),
- Press the Council to strengthen the laws that will support equity and inclusion across DC.

Stay safe, stay healthy, Fredrica ("Rikki") Kramer

*ANC 6D05 includes 1001 3rd Street, The Leo, Waterfront Tower, 301 M St., 222 M St., Carrollsburg A Condominium, Carrollsburg Square, River Park, St. James, Ft. McNair, Audi Stadium and the new residences on Buzzard Point (RiverPoint, the Peninsula, the Watermark).

Paid for by Fredrica D. Kramer, 387 O St. SW, Washington DC 20024. (980)-552-0024

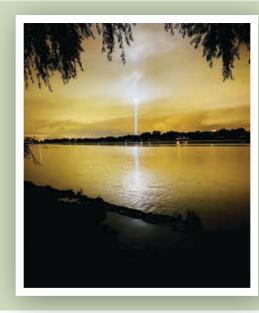


Photo of the Month

Courtesy of Max Cook

A beam from the Pentagon lights up the night sky, dedicated to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001 (Taken from West Potomac Park)

If you would like to submit a photo for consideration for Photo of the Month, please email it to editor@ thesouthwester.com.



Above photo courtesy of Tony Carcaldi

Photo at right courtesy

of Erik Anderson

Southwest Moments

At left: A beam of light shot to the heavens

Below: On Sept. 6, supporters of President Trump held a boat parade on the Washington Channel in Southwest. In response, Southwest residents turned out to voice their concerns about the President. Those protesting against President Trump far out-numbered the boats.



Oktoberfest at The Wharf on Saturday, Oct. 3

Stop by The Wharf from 2-5 p.m. on Oct. 3 to celebrate Oktoberfest. Walk around the neighborhood to see Oktoberfest decor and listen to German festival music through the surround sound system. Look out for specials from restaurants and retailers including:

- Pearl Street Warehouse is showing the movie Beerfest;
- While there will be no Weiner 500 race this year, dachshunds can stop at Camp Wharf for a special treat bag from 2-5 PM extra treat if they're dressed up;
- Praline Bakery will offer an assortment of German desserts for purchase;
- Twisted Pretzels will be offering authentic Oktoberfest-style pretzels from a cart in the main area of The Wharf.

If you're coming to visit The Wharf on Oct. 3 or at anytime, please:

- Wear a mask at all times, unless you are eating or drinking;
- Maintain six feet of physical distancing;
- Wash your hands frequently; and
- Be courteous to others.

Visit https://www.wharfdc.com/current-operating-status/ for more information on how to navigate The Wharf during the coronavirus pandemic.

Charity Car Wash Cleans Up

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

hen Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Youth Activities Task Force members Thelma D. Jones and Gabriele "Gabi" Strauch, Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, began discussing plans last summer for the firstever car wash fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 12, they had no idea that it would turn out so successful. The morning was gloomy and overcast, and the first customer did not arrive until around 11 a.m.,

yet the rain stayed away. But as they say, when it rains, it pours, and after that first car, the cars did not stop rolling in until after 3 p.m. Benefiting the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force's (YATF) proposed mural painting and photography class for SW Youth to document their everyday living, the fundraiser netted approximately \$400 and achieved its goals. The effort produced washed vehicles, brought the community together in a socially distanced car-washing fashion, provided a volunteer opportunity for a host of community residents and friends, and created a lot of fun on what turned out

to be a beautiful day. A special thanks goes to Perry Klein, the entire SW Action team, SW BID, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, and Amy Billingsley, as well Pastor Ruth Hamilton, Vyllorya Evans,

At left: volunteers hold up a "Support SW Youth Car Wash" sign

Below left: Michael Jackson puts in a little elbow grease

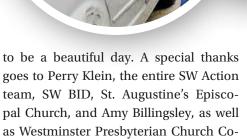
Below right: It was a busy afternoon of suds and sponges at Westminster

Photos Courtesy of Perry Klein

dents and other patrons who tipped generously for the service, including one person who tipped \$35 and washed her own car. Others donated as they passed the car wash and felt that it was for a great cause. Special thanks to volunteers Douglas Hall, Michael Jackson, Jeanne Mattison, Mary Beth Moore, Kathleen O'Neill, Joneis Sterling, Logan Sterling, Yvonne Thelwell, and Barbara Keary.

> While washing an oversized vehicle and standing atop of a chair, which his Nana Thelma D. Jones was holding securely, Seneca Jones, 10, splashing water everywhere and at times making a big mess, enthusiastically summed it all up. "Nana, this is great," he said with a twinkle in his eyes! "Why is this so much fun?" SWNA YATF will host a spring car wash benefit again in 2021,

so if you missed getting your car washed this time around, never fear! A spot can be reserved in the spring. For information on SWNA YATF, call Thelma D. Jones at (202) 251-1639 or email thelma@swna.org.



and Debbie Jefferson for providing the complimentary space and needed supplies, including water and a long hose.

While the volunteers washed at least 15 vehicles at \$15 each, much of the proceeds from the fundraiser came from resi-



ENROLL NOW for 2020–2021 School Year



📮 EAGLE ACADEMY PCS

Congress Heights | Capitol Riverfront

STEAM, Spanish Classes, Arts, and Social & Emotional Learning

For the first term of the 2020–21 school year Eagle Academy has decided to follow the recommendations of DC government and medical experts and educate ALL students virtually. Eagle Academy students will receive individual iPads, Chromebooks, WiFi hot spots, and sanitized school supplies. All virtual learning will take place in Google Suite for Education. We will bring students back into our buildings upon guidance from DC government.

Virtual classes start for all DC locations of Eagle Academy Public Charter School Monday, August 31st.

Enroll your child today in our virtual school option. Visit www.myschooldc.org or call (202) 544-2646 and secure your child's spot today

www.eagleacademypcs.org • @eagleacademypcs



Page 8 The Southwester October 2020





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. Check out next month's issue for the answers!

Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?



1	 	 	
2	 	 	
_			



4		 	
5		 	

Answers from September 2020 issue

Differences: The bird in the top left corner is different in each picture; the items in the bottom left corner are different in each picture; there is a boy in the window of the right picture; the doors are different colors; there is a chick in an egg in the tree in the right picture; the right picture has a red flower instead of a purple leaf on the ground; there is a girl playing in the right picture..

Word Scramble: There are 182 words you can make from "learning."

WORD SEARCH: HALLOWEEN!

Y	N	Z	K	В	Y	U	S	Z	R	Τ	Q	P	С	J
U	Ι	Q	G	L	\overline{W}	\overline{W}	P	Τ	Ε	J	Y	\overline{W}	0	N
R	E	Τ	S	N	0	M	S	R	D	U	\bigvee	D	S	F
N	0	Р	E	Р	L	0	M	Χ	I	L	В	Q	Τ	Z
E	K	D	A	0	Η	\mathbf{W}	Н	G	P	N	Χ	Y	U	Τ
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С	D	Y	0	Р	С	D	В	С	R	F	С	0	S	P
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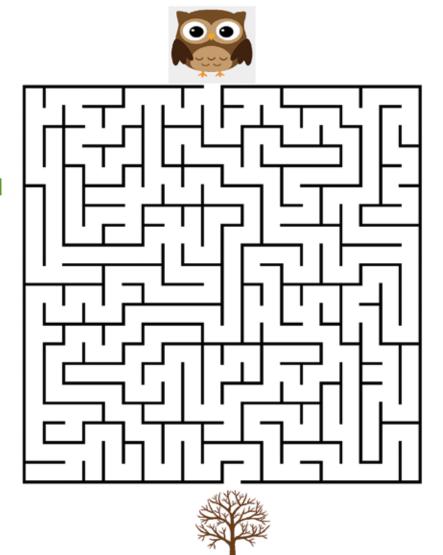
Word Scramble! How many words can you make from WEATHER?						



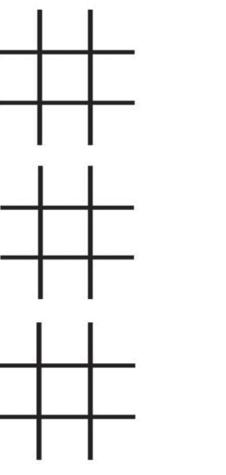
KID'S CORNER

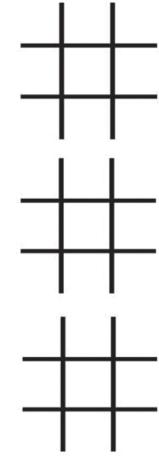


Maze!
Can you
help
the owl
get to
the
tree?



TIC TAC TOE





Jokes!

What does a bird say on Halloween?
[Submitted by Ella]

Trick or tweet!

What instrument does a skeleton play?

The trom-bone!

What do you call a witch who goes to the beach?

A sand-witch!

Would you like to submit a joke for Kid's Corner? Email it to editor@ thesouthwester.com.

Include your first name so we can tell other kids who sent it in!

COLORING TIME!



Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

a. 10 + 4 =

b. 5 - 4 =

c. 12 - 5 =

d.30 + 20 =

e. 19 – 9 =

f. 3 + 3 =

g. 17 + 3 =

h.8 + 8 =

Meet the Candidates!

Exclusive Interviews with At-Large Council Candidates

BY MIKE GOODMAN

hrough mail-in ballots during the month of October, and on election day of November 3, voters in Southwest, and throughout the city, will have the opportunity to vote to fill two At-Large City Council seats. Voters can cast two votes for the two seats, though by DC law, only one vote can be for a Democrat.

Incumbent Councilmember Robert White is up for re-election, and widely expected to be reelected. Councilmember White is running as a Democrat. The other seat is to fill the vacancy of retiring Councilmember David Grosso, so the majority of candidates running to fill that seat are running as Independents.

There are 24 candidates vying for this position. "The Southwester" reached out to all of these candidates and requested answers to three questions: 1) Please provide a brief biography; 2) Why are you running?; and 3) What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

The following interviews outline the responses of those who replied to our request. The submissions have not been edited, other than to abide by limits on word count, or to ensure consistent formatting for print.



Robert White (Incumbent)

Please provide a brief biography.

Robert White is a Democrat

who has served on the DC Counmissions (ANC) play a critical Committeeman for DC's Young ties in Southwest DC. As Council for our rights. It is time we have cil since 2016. Robert is also vice- role in communicating with local Governments. As a lawyer, Robert has worked for DC residents woman Norton, and with Attorney General Racine, building relationships between the Office of the Attorney General and the community. Robert is a 5th generation Washingtonian. He lives in Ward 4 with his wife Christy and two young daughters, Madison and Monroe.

I ran for office because I was

Why are you running?

watching my hometown change around me - my family members getting displaced, businesses that I grew up around closing, and everyday people being left behind. I knew that I could use my skills as a lawyer, my experience working on Capitol Hill for Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and in the Office of the Attorney General for Attorney General Karl Racine to help my community. That's what I have fought to do every single day. I have authored nationally recognized early childhood education and voting rights legislation, led the fight to increase funding for public housing, and conduct strong oversight to hold our government agencies accountable to residents. We have a lot of work to do to make Markus Batchelor DC more equitable and inclusive. I want to keep leading this fight, so I am asking you for your started.

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

Part of making DC more equito make sure we aren't turning made Southwest the diverse and wonderful place that it is. Our

businesses, developers, and government officials. As the Chair of the Committee on Facilities and Procurement, I oversee the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and I have worked hard to increase funding for Commissioners, improve their technology, and expand access to ANC meetings through new technology and additional communication tools, like foreign language translation and ASL interpretation. If re-elected, I will continue to invest in tools to bring more people to the table.



Please provide a brief biography.

Markus Batchelor is a native vote so we can finish what we've Washingtonian, advocate and activist who currently serves as the Ward 8 Representative, Vice I have been committed to that President and the youngest-ever work. I'll use my experience, like profit and as an elected leader invest in a green economy that when we see economic develop- working to close the city's deep advances our climate goals and ment, like what we are seeing divides and advocate for our provides the infrastructure that in Southwest DC, we are com- most vulnerable neighbors and protects our communities with previously served as an Advisory change. our back on the community that Neighborhood Commissioner in Congress Heights where he was an issue that has plagued our raised and still lives, President of city for decades and continues to

usher in a new generation of DC leadership rooted in community and focused on expanding equity, opportunity and government gal guns off of our streets. accountability.

Why are you running?

I stand for truly affordable housing across incomes, equitably funded and supported public schools in every community, and a moral economy that expands and protects the dignity of livand reforms that will help ANCs ing wage work. I'm fighting for healthy, safe, and accessible com-Southwest DC still has several munities that are ripe with opporprojects that are currently under tunity and free from gun violence. construction or in planning stag- I've proven through over a decade es, and it's important that each of service to our city that I am neighborhood feels they have a a leader DC residents can trust, Franklin Garcia say in their community's future. with the experience and perspective needed for the critical decisions ahead; one who has the unique ability to build broad and diverse coalitions inside and

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

COVID-19 has highlighted the deep digital divide that exists in our city. One of the programs that I plan to implement in my first term is an Internet for All plan, which includes expansion of municipal wifi and tech literacy.

Our entire city, especially our waterfront communities, must also be focused on efforts to build our city's climate resiliency and

Gun violence has also been Advisory Neighborhood Com- the Ward 8 Democrats, National impact a number of communi-

Democrats and, as a student, member, I fight for a public health DC's 52nd Youth Mayor. He is approach to ending gun violence, running for the DC Council to focused on expanding opportunity, community-based violence interruption, mental health and trauma recovery, and getting ille-



Please provide a brief biography.

Franklin Garcia is serving as

the US Representative (Shadow) for the District of Columoutside government to get things bia. He is the former President and founder of the DC Latino Caucus, and current President of the non-profit DC Latino Leadership Council. He holds an undergraduate degree in Finance from the George Washington University and a Master of Arts degree in Financial Economics for Public Policy from the American University. He is the founder of the DCiReporter, and the DC Statehood Today shows. He works in IT, and lives in the Woodridge neighborhood in Ward 5.

I'm running because there elected member of the DC State my members as a DC delegate to needs to be representation that Board of Education. He has spent the Chesapeake Bay Local Gov- reflects the true composition his career in government, non- ernment Advisory Committee, to and diversity of our city. A diveris a substantial factor and that makes us a center of attraction mitted to engaging residents disinvested communities. He the impending impacts of climate for professionals and businesses alike that seek to settle and make our city their home, as we **Christina Henderson** have seen in the past decade and more. This diversity lacks a rep- **Please provide a brief biography.** resentative voice that advocates

a representative from the diverse communities of the District to take our rightful place at the decision making table and advocate for fair and balance services and resources, focused on minorities which for many decades have been systematically denied. I believe I speak for all of our ethnic communities when I saying that we are tired of crumbs.

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

Change for our city and across our nation can only happen once we begin to recognize our misdeeds from the past, and fast track corrections that will bring fair balance to those who have historically been left behind.

- My priorities include: Economic investment
- attracting business anchors to attract development, including relocating governmental offices by decentralizing our local government operations
- provide real ownership opportunity to housing for low and middle income families
- affordable rental properties, with strong guidelines for fair and dignified housing
- · Quality educational public, charter and private institutions with 21st century infrastructure and educators
- Safe and quality communities Quality health centers



Christina Henderson is a ded-

rience fighting for equitable policies not only here in DC, but also nationwide. A trusted political advisor, she has counseled US Senators, DC Councilmembers, and state and local education officials on array of domestic policy issues that deeply impact working families and children. Christina served in various capacities in DC government from 2012 to 2017. As a staffer at the DC Council, she crafted and helped advance over 40 pieces of legislation on an array of issues like DCPS facilities, early literacy, and healthcare. A former resident of Southwest, Christina now lives in Ward 4 with her husband and daughter.

Why are you running? I am running to serve on the

DC Council because I believe we need more leaders who are focused on policies to make DC more equitable and sustainable for us all. I also believe we need fresh, innovative voices on the Council who will represent communities often overlooked in policy discussions. The global pandemic and ensuing economic fallout underscore DC's need for leaders who take a commonsense approach to policy making, embrace a collaborative working style, and possess a tireless commitment to equity. That is my kind of leadership.

Ms. Henderson submitted the following policy ideas:

As a Councilmember, I will work to stabilize our childcare market, while improving quality and bringing down costs for families. I will fight to radically improve our delivery of health care, especially for Black and brown women in DC. I will focus on affordable housing, not just for our families and community. what policing would look like if new construction but also pres- We're in a crisis and we have an ervation, helping families who've been in DC for generations stay in DC. I want to invest more in public transportation, especially the bus, making it more reliable for residents. And I will fight for safe streets for our communities

icated public servant with expe- and young people, while ensuring their schools are welcoming environments for learning and success. My life's work has been guided by the principle that your zip code should not determine your opportunity for success, and as a Councilmember I will fight each and every day to make that a reality. Learn more about my policy ideas at: www.christinahenderson.org.

Chander Jayaraman

Please provide a brief biography

I immigrated from India when I was 10 and have called DC home for 25 years. I live on Capitol Hill with my wife, Suzanne, and son, Kol. I'm an experienced community leader, devoted husband and father and an emergency planner. I directed a job-training program for atrisk youth, fought for the disability community and now run my own small business. During eight years as an ANC Commissioner, I've earned a reputation for honesty, and getting results. I will work to reopen schools safely, reimagine policing to rebuild community trust, and help small businesses survive.

Why are you running?

obligation not only to recover, trust between our officers and but to fix the inequities and failures that have been laid bare by the pandemic.

As a Council member I will focus on three areas: making sure we don't lose a generation of learning to the pandemic by ensuring a safe and effective reopening of schools that ensures equity of opportunity for our kids; supporting our small businesses and their employees, the lifeblood of our communities, in recovering from the pandemic; and making our neighborhoods safe for our families and children.

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

Lack of opportunity is killing our kids. Literally. When they cannot see a path to a successful future, it takes away their hope for success, stunts their future. This is a root cause of gun and other violence. We must do better for them and for our communities. One solution: expand opportunities for the 60 percent of young people who are not ready for and will not go to col-

DCPS should restart career and technical education and use our community college system as the post-secondary career

pathway to a good paying job I will advocate for paying youth and returning citizens enrolled in job training programs so they don't have to choose between training for a good job and providing for their families. When I directed the YouthBuild job training program for at-risk youth at the Latin American Youth Center, I saw how relevant training changed their outlook and their lives. I recently convened ANC

Commissioners from every ward, Council members, the Deputy Police Chief, NAACP, and the Deputy Mayor to discuss how policing is experienced in our diverse neighborhoods, we got it right, and rebuilding



Ed Lazere

Please provide a brief biography.

I came to DC in the mid-1980s to teach math to 5th graders in low-income families and have been here ever since. My wife Suzanne and I have lived in Brookland for nearly 30 years. raising our sons. David and Adam, through DCPS.

I've devoted the last two decades to promoting economic and racial justice in DC, through leadership of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute. At DCFPI, I highlighted DC's deepest inequities - in housing, schools, and jobs -and built relationships and coalitions across the city to address them through the DC budget. I have contributed to historic wins for DC residents, like paid family and medical leave, steering more school resources to high-poverty schools, and property tax assistance to ensure seniors are not pushed out by rising taxes.

Why are you running? [This answer also responds to the third guestion: What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?1

I'm running because our prosperity has come at the expense of rising homelessness wider school inequities and displacement of Black residents. I want to put racial and economic equity at the heart of DC's agenda and tackle DC's biggest challenges at the scale they demand.

The Southwest-Waterfront neighborhood is one of the

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CANDIDATES

Continued from p. 11

most racially and economically diverse communities in the city. I know many Southwest residents are concerned about declining affordability, lack of housing to raise families or age in place, and the lack of neighborhood-serving, affordable amenities.

As a Council member, I pledge to support an array of housing types and significant investments in affordable housing. I fully back a "build first" commitment for Greenleaf redevelopment and believe that all public housing redevelopments need legislative oversight to prevent displacement.

I want to address the transit needs of Southwest. The District should thoroughly evaluate foot and vehicular traffic patterns and their impact on the Southwest community, and mitigate adverse effects on air quality and livability. For decades, the environmental health needs of Black residents living near industrial activity in Buzzard Point have been neglected and abused.

Southwest holds historical, cultural and architectural significance dating to the start of our history as the nation's capital. I support SW community organizations' desire for public memorials for historic figures, buildings, and events, such as the Pearl Incident – the largest escape attempt of enslaved persons – urban renewal, and SW's many famous residents.

I pledge to the Southwest community to fight to preserve your economic, racial, and social diversity and look for innovative solutions to meet pressing problems in housing, neighborhood character, and equity.



Jeanné Lewis

Please provide a brief biography.

For 20 years Jeanné has built bridges between groups to create just and empowered communities. As VP at the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP), Jeanné leads strategies to drive grant dollars to empower marginalized communities. In a previous position, she directed bipartisan initiatives about race and policy among members of the U.S. Congress. Jeanné has volunteered with the DC Initiative on Racial Equity, the Washington Interfaith Network, is a board member of Faith in Public Life, and previously served as president of the Women of the Dove Foundation through a local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Why are you running?

We need leadership that can respond to this crisis and empower us to thrive in the future. It's possible to grow our economy and improve our quality of life without pushing residents out. As Councilmember I will bring people together across divides to find creative solutions for these unprecedented times.

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

Improving the quality of life for residents is a key focus on my candidacy and includes students. Excellent schools are a pillar of my platform and addressing the overcrowding problem in Southwest is a priority. In addition we must re-imagining community safety in a way that supports the residents of Greenleaf Gardens and makes them partners in the solutions. Though we may be a long way off from normal traffic levels we should think about how we address parking issues in Southwest. Adding a shuttle to Navy Yard station to help east traffic congestion might be ideal. These are just a few ideas I would like to get buy-in from Southwest residents about.



Will Merrifield

Please provide a brief biography.

Will Merrifield now lives

in Deanwood in Ward 7 with his wife Renata. Will has been an attorney at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless for the past eight years, defending people facing displacement and eviction.

Why are you running?

I am running because I have seen first hand how special interests influence housing, healthcare and education policy in Washington DC. I have been fighting against these special interests for the last 8 years during my work as an Attorney. I am running because I have been and will continue to be a frontline fighter for human rights including the right to affordable housing, quality education and employment, and free healthcare. There is no reason that DC should not have one of the best public school systems in the United States, be a model for the creation of a new housing system that guarantees housing as a human right and employ a forward thinking preventive healthcare model that connects the dots between housing, food and access to quality medical care. I have a plan to accomplish these things anchored in a proven housing model called social housing.

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

It is essential that public housing residents are not displaced from Southwest DC. Public Housing in SW should be repaired and made safe, not demolished and privatized. Further, more affordable housing needs to be incorporated into the booming development projects in SW DC. I am running on a housing model that builds deeply affordable mixed income housing units that are available to everyone at 30% of household income. I would also fight to make sure that neighborhood public schools in the Ward are properly invested in and that the community has a say in their local schools.

Alexander Padro

Please provide a brief biography.

During my 20 years as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and 16 years as executive director of Shaw Main Streets, I have been an agent of change. I've led the effort to transform Shaw from a neighborhood primarily known for drugs, prostitution and gang



violence to a world-renown dining and entertainment destination filled with public art and restored African American landmarks, adding thousands of new residents while maintaining the neighborhood's economic and ethnic diversity.

Why are you running?

My campaign's slogan is "Dreams Come true," short for "I want to help make every DC neighborhood's dreams come true." The top three issues I want to focus on if elected are affordable housing, equitable development, and helping our small businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic. As an At-Large Councilmember, I would use my proven leadership and successes in protecting and expanding affordable housing, serving seniors, supporting small businesses, improving libraries, helping the arts flourish, and promoting equitable development and historic preservation to help rebuild the District as a city of healthy, clean, safe and prosperous neighborhoods. I want to help District neighborhoods that are still waiting for brighter days to get the new development, businesses, and public safety and civic improvements that others already enjoy, without displacement. I helped make it happen in Shaw, and I can help make positive change happen in all eight wards as an At-Large Councilmember. I would add diversity to the DC Council as a representative of both the Latino and LGBTQ communities.

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to Southwest DC?

During the campaign, I have heard from Southwest residents that among their top concerns are gentrification; the redevelopment of public housing, such as Greenleaf, and the suggestion that new housing be built before existing buildings are demolished; transportation congestion, including the need

to better manage traffic during multiple sports and entertainment events at venues in Southwest, improved signage directing event attendees to existing parking lots and garages, and nighttime and weekend parking enforcement. I have demonstrated experience in preventing gentrification and supporting existing tenants' efforts to be part of redevelopment plans. I helped address neighborhood parking issues related to the opening of both the Washington Convention Center and the Howard Theatre and pledge to be engaged with residents and responsible District government agencies to address traffic and parking concerns, in conjunction with the Ward 6 Councilmember.



Monica Palacio

Please provide a brief biography.

I am a civil rights lawyer, an advocate, and a government executive who has devoted her career to public service in the District and is now a candidate for Washington DC City Council At-large 2020. I have lived in DC for thirty years. I believe in a vision for our city that supports economic progress while honoring our values as a city: Respect, Inclusion, Equity, and Accountability to all our residents. As Director of the Office of Human Rights, the District's civil rights enforcement agency, I led a team that investigated thousands of civil rights investigations, built partnerships with housing advocates, local businesses, law enforcement, and hundreds of District programs in order to get services to residents. I am a proud Latina and social entrepreneur. I am a mother, a community leader, a survivor, and a bridge-builder. Raised most of her life by a single mother, I know how hard it can be to make ends meet when you have a family and need to

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CANDIDATES

Continued from p. 12

pay for child-care, groceries, and a safe place to live.

Why are you running?

I am Monica Palacio and I am running for a seat on the DC City Council At-Large because I am tired of seeing people being crushed. Crushed by lack of healthcare, police brutality, our education system, unemployment and lack of food access. I am tired of seeing the human rights of entire communities crushed. I am tired of immigrants being an afterthought. During this pandemic, I have grown tired of waiting for our government to do something about it. I am a civil rights attorney, a single mother and an immigrant. I am determined, I am qualified, and I am committed to fixing our system. This election is an opportunity to bring about the change our city needs - for our business owners, our children, and our frontline workers that were long overdue.

What specific ideas, proposals, changes, or thoughts would you consider related to **Southwest DC?**

This election is about saving lives and protecting families. My top priorities are: 1. Housing: Funding for residents to pay their rent and mortgage during this economic crisis; 2. Education: Investing in schools and students who need us the most right now and build an equitable education system; 3. Public Safety: Ending police brutality and ensuring all District residents feel safe in the hands of the government.

Those need to be our priorities as a city. Together we can really make DC home for us all.



Marya Pickering

Please provide a brief biography.

Mrs. Pickering has extensive experience in Government and industry, including startup of small techni-

cal services firms and management positions at Fortune 500 companies. She previously served as Vice President, Business Development for Vertical Jobs, Inc., a Virginia-based woman-owned small business providing experienced role players for law enforcement and security training exercises.

Mrs. Pickering's career has encompassed acquisition of various Navy ships and intelligence community assets. Mrs. Pickering was Senior Advisor in the General Services Administration's Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer during the second term of President George W. Bush. Her first Government position was Professor of Systems Acquisition Management at Defense Systems Management College (now part of Defense Acquisition University).

Mrs. Pickering is an immigrant and the daughter of Polish Army veterans. She holds a B.A. in History from Emmanuel College and an M.B.A. from Boston University. She recently translated "A Legionnaire's Story" her late Uncle's account of his adventures with the Second Carpathian Brigade during WWI.

Why are you running?

My campaign motto is "No more business as usual." It is time to bring true diversity of ideas and prudent management to the DC Council. My experience in industry and government uniquely qualify me for the Council's oversight role.

- As a mother, I believe that all DC children deserve a quality education; I support choice for parents, including vouchers and charter schools;
- · As a homeowner, I support a strong and well-trained police force for keep our city safe;
- · As a businesswoman and taxpayer, I support improvement of our contracting process;
- As a senior, I favor reduced taxes on pension income and support passage of the Pension Exclusion Restoration and Expansion Act, 23-0060.

Why vote for me? As a former small business owner, contract management professional with an MBA degree, and government employee, I am the best qualified candidate to effect positive change for all D.C. residents.

Non Profit's Annual **Home Tour Goes Virtual**

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

mong the unfortunate consequences of COVID-19 is its impact on community non-profit groups that count on major events for the donations necessary to support their activities. The situation has forced these organizations to cancel annual events and either brace for a lean year or come up with alternatives to traditional fundraising.

For Waterfront Village, a small member-based organization serving older adults in the Southwest and Navy Yard neighborhood, the coronavirus meant the cancellation of its single most important

fundraising event, its annual walking home tour of the Southwest Waterfront. In its place, the Village will broadcast a virtual home tour in a celebration of life in Southwest on three Sundays, October 11, 18, and 25, at 4 p.m.



Courtesy of Liner and Lens Virtual tour

goers can expect visuals like these, along with interesting commentary

"We were sad that the coronavirus forced us to cancel the walking tour since so many people look forward to it each year," said Len Bechtel, the Village's executive director. "We believe the new approach is both innovative and entertaining, and I hope that people are willing to give the broadcasts a shot."

Bechtel said that COVID-19 forced the Village to think about fundraising in different ways, since it is tough to bring people together for a cause when you cannot assemble them together physically. As the Village's management team assessed the possibility of a virtual tour, there were some advantages to the virtual format that jumped out at them immediately.

Primarily, the virtual tour will connect with people at a more emotional level because the broadcast will include narration directly from owners and offer an opportunity for viewers to ask the owners direct questions. Depending on the home, viewers could be treated to stories on the history of the home, details about renovations, and/or revealing information about personal items shown on camera. Each week, three homes and a houseboat will

Some of the things viewers will learn through the homeowner stories include: what life was like for a U.S. vice president when he lived in the neighborhood; when and where to park your car if you live within a stone's throw of Nationals Park during baseball season; and how to gut a houseboat and rebuild it to your own taste.

"As we started to film the home seg-

ments for the virtual tour, we realized how fascinating it was to hear the stories directly from the owners. Viewers are going to be amazed at how interesting and informative this show is," Bechtel said. "What the program may lack by not having a physical presence in the homes, it more than makes up for in emotion and the personal touch provided by homeowners."

Anne Martin, the president of Waterfront Village, added that she is very impressed by the work done by the home tour committee, especially the filming and production of the video segments by Bruce Moody and Vania Georgieva. "They took the idea of a virtual tour and gave it life. If you live in Southwest, you will feel good about your neighborhood after watching this show."

Instead of selling tickets, the broadcast of the tour will be free to viewers and rely on sponsorship and donations to raise funds. Registration will be required, and links to the broadcast will be sent to registrants shortly before the broadcast. Anyone interested in viewing the home tour can register on the event website at: www. WaterfrontVillageHomeTour.org.

Waterfront Village is a community nonprofit organization that enables its members to age in place comfortably and safely, by providing them with a range of practical services, referrals, advocacy, and an active and enriching social calendar. While membership is open to everyone and includes all programs and events, home and health services are only provided to those 62 years and older.

The Elderly Lady Next Door

BY DEBORAH SHERWOOD

am a Baby Boomer-part of a group of post-war Americans born between 1946-1964. As a child, I hula-hooped, watched the Mickey Mouse Club, and dreamed of being a carhop at the local A&W.

As a teen, I swooned over The Beatles and danced "The Twist." My hair parted in the middle and hung straight down to my waist. I wore mini-skirts, white go-go boots and hip-hugger pants. Today, my

wardrobe consists of polyester elastic waist pants, loose blouses, and jackets that cover my expansive middle. I often wear a feather clip that covers my thinning hair and makes people think I'm quirky.

When I became a septuagenarian, I experienced a magical, cosmic conversion transforming me from an annoying old woman into a Cute, Little Old Lady (CLOL). Being a CLOL is like having a *Get out of Jail Free Card*. No matter what I say

or do, people just sigh and give me a tolerant smile.

Recently, a young woman walking toward me said, "Excuse me, but did you know your shoe is untied?" (I didn't.) I thanked her and leaned over to tie it when she offered, "Let me do that for you."

Last December, a few friends I had invited for a Holiday Luncheon inadvertently knocked on my neighbor's door. They were told, "This is the wrong apartment. You want the elderly lady next door."

The physical aspects of aging are obvious; my skin no longer fits, I don't walk as quickly or as far, and I could swear I used to be taller. On the upside, I am no longer terrified when I catch my reflection in a store window, since I've finally concluded my mother isn't still haunting me.

A woman I met at a church conference suggested I join their ministry to senior ladies in nursing homes. "That sounds nice." I responded. "Do you play cards with them?" She answered, "Oh, no. We pluck their chin hairs."

As I rapidly slide down the short slope of the actuarial life table, my brain and body have become sluggish. Although I make an effort to keep up with the fast pace of changing technology, I am embarrassed to confess I asked a sales associate



Courtesy of Author

Deborah Sherwood

Deborari Srierwood

at Staples for a new printer ribbon.

This month, I will celebrate my 72nd birthday. My mailbox is incessantly stuffed with catalogs sent by companies eager to sell me items that are all allegedly beneficial to my aging body. Compression socks, oversized cell phones with gigantic buttons, and vitamin supplements top the list. One by one they get tossed into the recycle bin.

Although, I have considered an *I've* Fallen and I Can't Get Up button. Might be worth looking into...

Deborah Jones Sherwood happily resides at River Park in Southwest D.C.



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Dear Friends,

Won't you help a neighbor? Many Southwest residents are struggling in these difficult times. Friends of Southwest DC is doing what it can, but we need your help.

Since the pandemic began, Friends of Southwest DC has supported a SW food pantry, a SW hot meals program, a job reentry program for SW residents, online tutoring for Amidon-Bowen students, scholarships to virtual Camp Area Stage for SW youth, a community garden, college scholarships for outstanding SW students, and other vital programs.

The need now is greater than ever. Please give back to your neighborhood. Send a check or donate by credit card at the addresses above. Your neighbors will thank you.

Sincerely,
Peter Eicher
President

Friends of Southwest DC is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit. All its work is done by volunteers so your donation will support projects.





Comprehensive Meal Sites

Due to USDA regulations, students, parents, or guardians will need to access meals from the school system in which they are enrolled. DC students or their families may pick-up meals at any DCPS location. Charter school students will not be served at DCPS locations.

(Effective August 31, 2020)

DCPS Locations

School Name	Address	Ward	Meal Distribution Hours (Monday – Friday	Grocery Distribution (while groceries last)
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School	401 I Street SW	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Brent Elementary School	301 North Carolina Avenue SE	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Eastern High School	1700 East Capital Street NE	6	10 am – 2 pm	Monday 12:30 – 2 pm
Miner Elementary School	601 15th Street NE	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Payne Elementary School	1445 C Street SE	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Seaton Elementary School	1503 10th Street NW	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Tyler Elementary School	1001 G Street SE	6	10 am – 2 pm	
Walker-Jones Education Campus	1125 New Jersey Avenue NW	6	10 am – 2 pm	

Homes of the Southwest Waterfront

A virtual celebration of our neighborhood to benefit the Waterfront Village Sundays October 11, 18 and 25 at 4:00 pm

Waterfront Village provides social opportunities and critical home and health services to active older adults in Southwest DC who want to age in place



Tour 12 incredible homes and houseboats and hear amazing stories about the history, people and locations of Southwest from the comfort of your home

For more information and to register for the broadcasts, please visit our website at:

www.waterfrontvillagehometour.org





Photos courtesy of Martin Welles

JEFFERSON

Continued from p. 1

our school planning reflects the evolving needs of the communities served. As one of the District's fastest-growing neighborhoods, SW will benefit greatly from the completion of this project. Together with the modernization of the Southwest Library, these top-notch education facilities will contribute to both student success and the vibrancy of a dynamic SW community," said Deputy Mayor of Education Paul Kihn.

The ongoing pandemic, however, prevented the reopening of schools this year, as well as any grand opening and ribbon-cutting celebration.

In August 2019, Capital Community Partners (CCP) (501(c)(3)), the Capital Yacht Club Community Chest (501(c)(3)), and the Jefferson PTO sponsored a Community Open House complete with tours of Phase I modernization, a hot dog cookout, and a bounce house. "CCP plans to sponsor a repeat of the Phase I soft opening with a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony with all the dignitaries invited. The community can see the magnificent transformation of Jefferson's Phase I and Phase II completion," said CCP President Bruce DarConte.

Phase I of the two-phase project was completed in August 2019; this allowed students, staff, and the community to utilize the facility and get a glimpse of what was coming. Phase I focused on completing the building's academic portion – including classrooms, administrative offices, the lobby, and library. By completing Jefferson's academic wings first, the students only had to spend a year in the temporary classroom trailers. These trailers, and the temporary trailers from Appletree Preschool, were removed from the premises in July before the comple-

tion of Phase I. Students were able to learn in the new building during the 19/20 SY. When the coronavirus pandemic struck in the Spring of 2020, the building was shut down for in-person learning.

According to the District's Department of General Services (DGS), Jefferson Middle School, originally built in 1939, never had a major renovation. The building's

original footprint is 109,000 square feet, and was modernized to accommodate roughly 540 students from grades 6 through 8. The original building layout was not optimally spaceefficient. It was dark and gloomy, with very little natural light reaching common areas and the interior. The cafeteria was a ½ grade below ground, and the windows permitted very little light into the lunchroom. The modernization scope included hazardous materials abatement, interior gutting and demolition, and a complete interior renovation of furniture, technology, building systems, corridors,

stairwells, elevator, administrative areas, and academic areas, with possible modest enhancements to the exterior of the building. The exterior site/property will also be updated through the modernization.

One of the most striking renovations to Jefferson was the re-imagining of the cafe-

teria. As a member of the School Improvement Team (SIT), I can tell you that it was a depressing place to eat lunch and take a break from studies. Prior to being fully funded, I asked Perkins Eastman, a well-known architectural firm in D.C., to donate a conceptual drawing that featured the cafeteria amphitheater, a glass wall facing Southwest, a double high lobby,

a separate entrance for the gymnasium and auditorium, and a semi-circular drop-off so children could safely exit school buses and cars. I'm thrilled to report that the pro bono work resulted in the project being fully funded and many of the design elements being incorporated into the new building.

Upon walking into the main entrance, those familiar with the "old" Jefferson will remember the dark lobby with metal double doors, low ceilings, and lack of natural lighting. Now, the entrance is twice as high and aesthetically pleasing after cutting out the floor above and

installing the glass and acoustic panels, which allow light and dampen sound.

"The old Jefferson was very dark, and the new Jefferson brings in new energy with light and colors," explained Michele Mays, Jefferson's Director of Strategy and Logistics. Mays says the lobby is her favorite part "because the old lobby used to be dark and oppressive; now, the first impression is light and bright. It is very open."

Being able to preserve the old library's history, which opens up and unifies the spaces, was also essential. "The new library is simply amazing," Mays said. The administrative office is visible right off the lobby entrance, and visitors no longer have to roam the hallways looking for the door into the said office.

The auditorium was also redone. The old wooden seats were replaced with new seats but still look like the old ones – just minus the creaks and splinters. A new sound and lighting booth was constructed in the back of the auditorium, and acoustically engineered panels were installed to help with the sound quality. A new light bar was hung from the ceiling that can shine a spotlight on students performing on stage.

Perhaps many readers will remember that the 1st floor hallway had a kink in it requiring navigation by a series of sharp turns in order to get to the library. Well, that hallway was straightened out, providing a clear sightline from one end of the building to the other. A skylight on the second floor offers natural light from above, and beckons visitors to the intellectual space.

The multi-purpose room, another major part of the Jefferson makeover, is now a reclaimed space. From 1939 until around 2015, three huge boilers kept the school warm. These mammoth, steam train engine-sized pieces of steel were absolute workhorses, but inefficient. New heating and cooling units were placed on the roof, and the boilers were removed in pieces. A space that was once off-limits to students is now a two-level multi-purpose room and health suite. It comes complete with a rock-climbing wall (Yes, a rock-climbing wall!) – for those days when you

See "Jefferson," page 19







DEBATE

Continued from p. 1

were Claudia Barragan, Mario Cristaldo, Monica Palacio, Eric Rogers, Ann Wilcox, Robert C. White, the incumbent, currently serving his first term and Vincent Orange, a former council member who lost his council seat to White in 2016.

Nirappil began with a series of rapid fire questions that required a show of hands. If there appeared to be some splits, or interest in the question, he teased out discussion or debate. The questions covered a variety of topics, ranging from initiatives like supporting a ban on e-cigarettes, a tax on sugary beverages, to policing and mayoral control over DCPS. The latter two garnered lots of discussion and debate from all the candidates.

The big takeaways from night one centered around Mayor Bowser's job approval, education, policing reforms, taxes, where the candidates felt the Council had made mistakes, and Initiative 77. There was also significant debate over what government office or program the candidates would make cuts to.

There was some split among the candidates on whether or not the Mayor is doing a good job. Palacio, Rogers, and Orange all praised her for her COVID response. Wilcox, who ran against the Mayor in the previous election, called her a "nice person" but said she was "developer driven." White said the mayor hasn't been progressive enough on social justice and said her focus is not on the people in D.C. now, but rather those she wants to bring in. Palacio, who worked in Bowser's administration, also said she mostly agreed with the mayor's COVID.

Moving on to education, Barragan highlighted the digital divide (a topic "The Southwester" has covered before), and how the Mayor failed on virtual learning. White pointed out the wide gap in education between Black and White students, and said voters would support mayoral control of schools if the statistics for students of color were better. Orange, however, broke with White and Barragan over mayoral control of schools, arguing she's able to make quick decisions when a board can't. He blamed the Council for the lack of oversight, and also cited the digital divide. White, though, shot back and pinned the digital divide, especially in concern with preparation for distance learning, squarely on the Mayor who he said told everyone the schools were set. "This is what happens when you have Mayoral control," White Said. Rogers disagreed and said Mayoral control was a good thing because "you need to be able to make changes at the drop of dime, have that maneuverability." He highlighted the Mayor's openness to alternatives to public education.

When asked about whether or not Chief of Police of the Metropolitan Police Department Peter Newsham was doing a good job, only Orange approved of the police chief's job, saying that George Floyd never would have happened in the District, but he didn't elaborate.

All the candidates split over the idea of defunding the police, though. Three



Courtesy of Matthew Koehler

Markus Batchelor, Franklin Garcia, Marcus Goodwin, Chander Jayaraman, Ed Lazere, Alexander Padro

candidates, Palacio, Orange, and Rogers all agreed that the number of police on District streets is appropriate, and, in fact, we may need more. There was agreement that serious changes needed to take place. Orange said, "We do need police officers in the District of Columbia," and mentioned taking away some of their deadly tools but didn't go into specific details about reforms. Palacio agreed that there were not too many police on the streets but detailed how there needs to be a human rights code of ethics for police behavior. She elaborated, "You don't turn off the switch and take all the police officers off the street."

Rogers didn't agree that D.C. needs less police, but did agree with his fellow candidates that reforms were necessary. White agreed with this point but he, Barragan, and Cristaldo all reflected current public sentiment that perhaps there were too many police. Barragan and Cristaldo hammered down on providing resources and money to emergency services that were not the police – saying that giving communities other options besides calling the police would save lives and reduce police interactions.

One of the topics that came up both night one and two of the forum was whether or not to tax high earners a little more. Barragan, Cristaldo, Wilcox, and White all said they would raise taxes. Wilcox said she would reverse the Trump tax cuts, and that she agrees with Councilmember Allen on taxes. Rogers said that we should look to "scrubbing" government agencies to make them more "efficient," but that now is not the time to raise taxes. White pointed out that the tax is for those making \$250,000+, and that it would only be a few hundred a year. Palacio agreed with Rogers, saying that people with six figure incomes are suffering, too.

On the question of whether or not to use taxpayer dollars to bring back the Washington football team, Orange supported the idea, citing the increased tax base of Navy Yard as a huge benefit brought on by the tax-payer funded Nationals Park. The other candidates were wary of having taxpayers foot the bill for another expensive stadium. Rogers said, "I'm tired of giving money to these folks," and suggested that \$150 million to investors and developers for a new stadium could be better spent funding housing and infrastructure projects.

Moving on to congestion pricing, White and Orange agreed that out-of-state workers and drivers, who use our streets and transit services, don't spend their money or pay taxes in the District. Palacio, Rogers, and Barragan said they were against taxes and charges that would make traveling for low income workers, especially those in the outer rings of D.C., more expensive. Wilcox simply stated, "We should discourage car ownership."

When touching on the question of what city agency was the poorest performing, Orange aggressively went after the Office of Contracting and Procurement. Visibly heated, Orange said that the agency "has been violating the law for 15 years. They've let us down." Palacio smiled briefly, also calling out the agency for the same reasons Orange pointed out. White, who has overseen that agency since 2018, said he wanted "to be careful not to demoralize the people who work for our gov't agencies," further defending himself by saying you could point out problems in all agencies, and tried to turn the conversation to education and employment services. Palacio said, "we need to have high standards but not destroy people who work there." Rogers agreed saying that demoralizing workers was not what they wanted to do.

Orange and White tried to steer the debate towards universal paid leave, and White said it broke his heart that they "weren't able to save Washington Metropolitan High School." Barragan could be seen shaking her head, saying, "We need to start listening to residents." Cristaldo then brought up Initiative 77 as being a significant mistake. Wilcox agreed with Cristaldo and said that there's good evidence to suggest that one fair wage works.

Around Initiative 77, again, another group of like-minded candidates emerged: Palacio, Rogers, and Orange. Palacio said restaurant workers overwhelmingly were not in favor of Initiative 77. Orange argued that restaurant employees already make \$15 per hour and that it's the restaurant's job to cover what they don't make, but didn't raise the issue of power dynamics that hourly restaurant workers have to deal with. Rogers said that sometimes it is the job of elected officials to overturn the will of the voters. White explained that he didn't agree with the legislation but said that overturning the will of the voters is a bad idea.

At-Large Candidate Forum Day 2

Day 2 of the debate was moderated by Mitch Ryals, a reporter for "Washington City Paper." The participants in the debate were Markus Batchelor, Marcus Goodwin, Chander Jayaraman, Ed Lazere, and Alexander Padro. Two of the candidates, Batchelor and Lazere, stood out as progressives – at times even nodding in support of each others' comments – while the rest often took more moderate stances.

Many of the same topics from day 1 were featured on day 2, but there was a substantive conversation on preserving green spaces in Southwest. Discussions of issues pertaining to higher-income residents – especially whether or not to consider raising taxes on the highest income bracket, as proposed by Lazere – were less central than those seen particularly affecting lower-income Washingtonians.

The issue of police reform, following the passing of emergency legislation earlier this year, drew most candidates to a stance largely critical of police tactics and culture. However, Jayaraman stood out as the only candidate in a show-of-hands question, to support current Chief of Police Peter Newsham. Jayaraman called gun violence and homicides the "heart of the issue," saying "we need to get guns off our streets." In response, Goodwin spoke about the recent shooting of Deon Kay, a teenager in Anacostia who was shot by police while disposing of a firearm. Goodwin said he was shot "just as a reaction, an instant flinch," and criticized Newsham for having "over-policed and under-policed communities." Jayaraman quickly rebutted it was "clear" Goodwin "had never been on a ride along." Goodwin responded saying, "you've never been Black in D.C."

A point of distinction for Batchelor came when Ryals asked whether the candidates support a tax on sugary drinks. While progressive Lazere supported such a tax, along with Padro, Batchelor opposed the proposal. He spoke again of his background, and that he still currently lives in a "food desert" - an area where there is no fresh or healthy food within walking distance. Lazere argued that a so-called soda tax would help low-income residents who disproportionately suffer the health consequences associated with highsugar diets. Batchelor responded that he wouldn't support a tax on sugary drinks "until it's easier" for residents in his neighborhood "to get access to fresh fruits and produce than...a sugary drink." Until that time, he said, "this excise tax is going to be a tax on the poor."

The participants were asked about how they would prioritize green spaces in Southwest, where Lansburgh Park, the Duck Pond, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, and other outdoor spaces are being modified or upgraded. Lazere said protecting D.C. green spaces from encroaching development is especially important during the pandemic, when "being outside is the thing that keeps us sane" and is "safe for us to do." He said the best way to do this is by "investing in parks and other green spaces." Goodwin agreed, saying the "great outdoors" in D.C. should be "preserved and protected." He

See "Debate," page 19

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

If you have events that you would like to add to next month's Community Calendar, please email them to calendar@thesouthwester.com.

Many organizations have moved to online meetings and classes. Check these websites for up-to-date calendar notices:

Christ United Methodist Church Calendar (https://www.umc.org/en/umc-calendar)

Riverside Baptist Church Calendar (https://riversidedc.org/calendar/)

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Events (https://www.staugustinesdc.org/events1)

Westminster Presbyterian Church Events (https://www.westminsterdc.org/church-calendar.html)

SWBID CommUNITY (https://www.swbid.org/sundaysuppers)

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Meetings (SWNA) (https://swna.org/events/)

OCTOBER EVENTS

Oct. 13: ANC 6D meetings begin at 7 p.m. and the schedule is published on our website here: https://www.anc6d. org/anc-6d-meeting-schedule/. While we operate under ReOpen DC guidelines, our meetings are being held virtually at: www.anc6d.org/virtualmeeting/.

Oct. 13: Celebrate International Disaster Reduction Day. 7 p.m. SW Strong! is hosting a zoom event by Mr. Mohamed Hilmi, Senior Coordinator, Humanitarian Policy and Practice, Interaction on "International Humanitarian Crises: Lessons from the Field"

Oct. 21: SW Waterfront AARP Chapter to host First District Commander Morgan C. Kane of the Metropolitan Police Department. Noon. All are welcome. Dial in: 425-436-6376; Code: 701215. More information, contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901.

ARENA STAGE

https://www.arenastage.org/tickets/virtual-events)

Oct. 7 and 9: 5-7 p.m. Choreography with Parker Esse

Oct. 14 and 16: 5-7 p.m. Hip Hop Theater with Psalmayene 24 and DJ Nick tha 1da

Oct. 21 and 23: 5-7 p.m. Create and Collaborate: Devise a Performance in 4 Hours with Arena Stage's Community **Engagement Staff**

Oct. 28 and 30: 5-7 p.m. Sound Design with Roc Lee

KADAMPA MEDITATION OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Sunday Meditation 10-11 a.m.

Wednesday afternoon Meditation 12:30-1 p.m. Wednesday evening Meditation 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Oct. 3: A life Less Distracted. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Saturday AM Meditation with Gen Demo

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday Evening Meditation 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Oct. 3: Peace of Mind Retreat 2-5 p.m. with Gen Demo

Oct. 9: Friday Night Lecture, 7-8:30 p.m. Impermanence, Accepting the Changeable

Oct. 16-18: Purifying Negative Karma. Guided Vajrasattva Retreat with Gen Demo. Website. www.meditation-dc.org

National Voter Registration Day: a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy. Since the day was first observed in 2012, nearly 3 million voters have registered to vote on the holiday to date. https://nationals.app.box. com/s/s1zsyesrst3yv99s48qut7272ql7q9ja

View our on-line calendar at www.swna.org

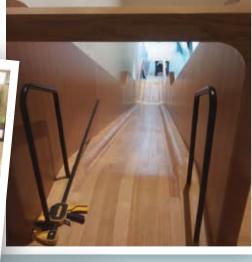
Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.



he newly renovated Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Library is scheduled to open for limited service on September 24th. You will be able to pick up holds and access one of 12 public computers. Given the current Phase Two restrictions, public access will be limited to the first floor. Video of the opening ceremony and a 360 virtual tour of the entire building should now be available on the DC Public Library website dclibrary.org. A cool new addition is the cafe - a new workforce development site. It won't be open for a while.











Above: The slide is in the children's library.

Top left: The sewing machines are inside the Fabrication Lab.

Middle far left: The bright room with a curved case is part of the Children's Library.

At left: The table in the shape of DC is in the Special Collections







Courtesy of Georgine Wallace

DEBATE

Continued from p. 17

added that legislators need to ensure the Greenleaf redevelopment comes with a "profound community benefits agreement that is agreed to by the District and by the developer, that promises one-for-one unit replacement."

The ballot, Initiative 77, which was approved by a margin of 10% - in a city with some 50,000 tipped workers in the restaurant industry alone – in the primary election that year, would have removed the minimum wage exemption for tipped workers. The D.C. Council voted 8-5 to overturn the measure before it was enacted. The minimum wage for those workers is currently \$5 per hour. Lazere said he supported Initiative 77, and that it was "shameful" for the Council to overturn the vote. Batchelor argued industry voices in opposition to the ballot initiative were "front of house folks," leaving out "back of house" workers, valets, and other service workers who "struggle from day to day." Jayaraman called the ballot initiative "fundamentally flawed" because of "the way it was written," and because it was put on the primary ballot rather than general election. Padro weighed in, saying he opposed Initiative 77 based on anecdotal evidence from personal conversations he had with restaurant workers. He said he "would be in favor of" a "higher minimum wage" for workers who make less from tips, but not for those who "benefit from having access to tips."

At-Large Candidate Forum Day 3

On Sept. 16, SWNA held its third and final At-Large Candidate forum. Mike Goodman, Editor in Chief of "The Southwester" moderated. The candidates in attendance were Christina Henderson, Kathy Henderson (no relation), Jeanné Lewis, Will Merrifield, Marya Pickering, and Dr. Michangelo Scruggs. A'Shia Howard was invited to the forum but couldn't make it due to an emergency.

Many of the questions for Day 3 were culled from the previous nights, although the conversations differed, and there were substantive discussions around other issues.

K. Henderson said she would defund the McMillan Reservoir Development project as there is "too much controversy." Contingent on her position with McMillan, she said she doesn't support "developer backroom deals." Dr. Scruggs pointed to the use of a corporate community investment tax, which could be earmarked to invest in communities. He also reflected K. Henderson's



Courtesy of Matthew Koehler

Mike Goodman of "The Southwester" moderates a forum with candidates Christina Henderson, Kathy Henderson, Jeanne Lewis, Will Merrifield, Marya Pickering, Michangelo Scruggs.

sentiment about giving developers money to build in D.C. without significant investment in the community. "If you want to build in D.C.- you want to be a part of D.C., then you need to invest in D.C." Dr. Scruggs added. Merrifield, an attorney who has fought inequitable development projects, said "District residents don't know how much the city government is subsidizing luxury housing." Merrifield said he would also ax the Trump tax cuts. Pickering said she'd review services that are duplicated throughout the city and streamline. Lewis, though, would cancel rent and look into implementing a mini bonds program, similar to what Denver, CO. has, which would allow residents to own the debt that can provide an immediate source of targeted capital for small businesses. C. Henderson said that this might be a good time to put some projects, like the street car, on hold.

In light of heightened tensions around the country due to several high profile killings of unarmed Black people in 2020 alone, like other nights of the forum, policing took more of a center stage. In a show of hands, Pickering and K. Henderson said they supported Chief Newsham, both praising his demeanor as Chief and the training that MPD goes through. Lewis, related to a retired MPD officer, sympathized with the difficulty of policing but pointed to the problem of officers who live outside the District policing neighborhoods they don't know and communities they don't understand. Dr. Scruggs brought up the death of Deon Kaye and criticized Chief Newsham for warning his officers that the reforms passed earlier in the summer would put his officers at risk.

Goodman pressed the candidates by asking what more police reform they would enact as Council Members and there was a wider range of answers. C. Henderson

focused on police interaction with young people, saying that they need to pass laws that provide standards in how police interact with young people and juveniles. At that age, she pointed out, their brains aren't fully developed. Dr. Scruggs said, "We need stiffer penalties for officers who commit police brutality and excessive use of force." He also reflected Lewis' statement about police being from the communities they serve, which Merrifield agreed with. Lewis also said the city needs to end qualified immunity and limit the power of police unions to protect bad police. K. Henderson said that having a "use of force review board" would be a good idea, but in her opinion, policing is moving in the right direction.

When asked about defunding the police, though, there was more split between the candidates. K. Henderson warned of conflating a national narrative with what's not happening here in the District. "This rhetoric is emboldening criminals," she added. Lewis and Merrifield raised the issue of lack of opportunities in certain communities, which leads to crime. They also talked about the lack of funding for other services that could be called upon in place of the police. Dr. Scruggs chimed back in to focus on community mentoring programs, but said he also believes in stiffer penalties for criminals

On whether or not the Mayor was doing a good job, C. Henderson was the only one to raise her hand in favor of Bowser, praising her COVID response. Both K. Henderson and Merrifield, though, hammered the Mayor's housing development and employment strategies, especially as it concerns communities of color. K. Henderson pointed out the hypocrisy of D.C. having one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation while having a woman as Mayor, "The Mayor is not doing the job she should

be doing."

By a show of hands, all candidates, save C.Henderson, opposed mayoral control of public education. Dr. Scruggs, Merrifield, and Lewis centered on the statistics for at-risk students and Black students. They argued it showed a failure on part of the Mayor, and that they believe that parents and teachers should have more of a say in policy. Pickering called the mayor's infrastructure academy a "boondoggle" that needs to go on the chopping block.

One of the failures of the Bowser administration raised by moderators on all nights was the digital divide, pointing out how it showed wide gaps between Black and White students before the pandemic. Merrifield said that the pandemic has more greatly "exposed inequities" that existed before the pandemic. Lewis said that D.C. could use other cities as models on how to bridge the divide. She again criticized the street car and said that that money should've been used to address the digital divide. Dr. Struggs added, "We need to start looking at tech as a necessity, not a luxury."

Regardless of where the candidates stood on other issues, one area of development they all agreed upon was that developers have had the run of the city for too long. "I believe we have to take developer influence out of this equation," Merrifield said. He talked about social housing, where municipalities build the housing, which is open to anyone, and 30% of a renter's income goes to rent. The rent is reinvested back into the cost of the building. K. Henderson said, "I like the developers but you have to reign them in." She would convene a task force of developers who have a track record of building affordable housing. Both C. Henderson and Lewis said the wider use of housing cooperatives and community land trusts would help ameliorate the affordable housing crisis.

None of Wednesday night's candidates said that bringing back the Washington Football team on the tax payer's dime is a good idea, especially during a economy-crippling pandemic. And, regardless of their personal opinions on Initiative 77, they all said that overturning the will of the people was a bad move by the Council.

Throughout the three days of forums, moderators broached other topics, which are not detailed here, but we at "The Southwester" tried to give a rundown of each candidate's position on some of the biggest issues facing the city, and give the readers the information they need to make an informed decision.

You can view the forum in-full at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyDs-B8rKREkCxRCToJeEVPA.

JEFFERSON

Continued from p. 16

feel like climbing the walls.

It is easy to imagine the Jefferson Cheerleaders leading a pep rally in this space, or Principal Dohmann standing on the second level and addressing the student body. A brand new acoustically designed music room is just off the multi-purpose room and will undoubtedly help the Jefferson orchestra and jazz band excel.

From the outside, the playground received a complete make-over, too. The amphitheater outside the cafeteria will undoubtedly become a popular gathering place for students – providing a college-like setting to read a book or talk with friends and meet new people. On those days where having class outside is necessary, the amphitheater can serve as a learning venue as well. In addition, the basketball court was reconfigured to

include a soccer pitch. The playground also invited two new neighbors: a shaded area and the school garden. A brand new 10 foot high fence surrounds the playground to keep balls from traveling into traffic, and keep the kids safe.

The parking lot and new entrances are striking. In a town where all parking is premium, teachers, staff, and visitors needed a place to park without getting ticketed or towed. The black glass pillbox entryways provide an architectural reference point for

after-hours access to the gym and auditorium, and blend a modern touch with the old school red brick. Now, when the sports teams are competing in the gymnasium, visitors can enter and exit the building without having to walk through the academic portion of the building.

DGS has a website with a project timeline, overview, and photos, which can be found here: https://sites.google.com/a/dc.gov/dcps-school-modernizations/home/jefferson-academy.

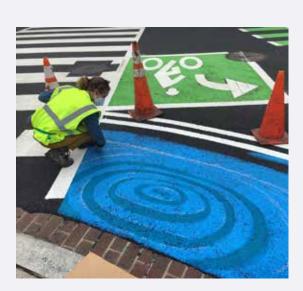
3 INTERVENTIONS FOR

VISION ZERO

Vision Zero aims to have zero transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries by the year 2024. The SWBID has received a Vision Zero grant from DDOT to make safety updates to the Southwest neighborhood. We believe that the inclusion of public art can help create safer public spaces by bringing attention to new safety measures.

PUBLIC ART AS TRAFFIC CALMING

The intersection of 4th and I Streets SW has received major design improvements to help with pedestrian safety. DDOT installed bulb outs at three corners of the intersection to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians and help slow turning vehicular traffic. We have also hired local artist Chalk Riot to help beautify the space and bring more attention to the new safety measures by installing murals in the bulb outs. By creating a more vibrant design on the pavement, both pedestrians and drivers will be more aware of the crosswalk and the pedestrians using it.



COLORFUL MICRO MOBILITY PARKING CORRALS

We have installed five micro mobility corrals throughout the Southwest neighborhood in locations that are popular pick-up or drop-off locations for dockless vehicles. The corrals have racks to hold bikes and scooters securely in place while safely removing them from the sidewalks and the pedestrian right of way. The new corral spaces are decorated with bright and playful designs to make them more noticeable and fun.



ON 4TH STREET

The bike lane on 4th Street between M and I Streets SW are in need of safety enhancements. We are installing low-profile lane separators that will alert inattentive drivers that they are leaving a travel lane and entering into a bike lane. The separators will maintain the ability for vehicles and bikes to cross between the lanes, but users will encounter an additional reminder to proceed with caution as they move between the two lanes.

