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December 2020

Greenleaf Redevelopment Process Begins with Commitment to Residents

BY DENA WALKER

outhwest is unique in so many ways, and I often refer to our little quadrant of Washington, D.C. as "a city, within a city," when describing its location to people who have never visited the District. It is a corner of the city that is rich in diversity, history, and, especially, change. There are many changes occurring in this community, as seen by the development of plots of land that remained vacant for many years. The numerous cranes in the sky punctuate the reality that only change is constant.

This change will inevitably apply to land currently occupied by residents of the three Greenleaf communities that include Greenleaf Gardens Extension and Additions, Greenleaf Senior, and Greenleaf Mid-Rise Family. These are properties positioned in the housing portfolio of the District of Columbia's Housing Authority (DCHA) and are slated for redevelopment.

On Nov. 13, 2020, the DCHA's Board of Commissioners voted to pass resolution 20-20, which authorized Mr. Tyrone

See "Greenleaf," page 18



A long time in the making, a "build first" redevelopment of Greenleaf inches forward

Op-Ed: Southwest's Connection to John Steinbeck

BY ELAINE FLORA GRAVES

ne of my claims to fame is that my father, Glenn Tracy Graves, grew up across the street from author John Steinbeck in Salinas, California and became his close childhood friend. My father lived his whole life in Salinas, except during World War II when he and my mother, Claire, temporarily moved to Oakland to work with the Moore Dry Dock Company. They returned to Salinas when I was a one month old infant, and my brother Glenn, Jr. was a 14-month old

Most of us have read some of Steinbeck's books, usually as a school assignment - Tortilla Flat, The Red Pony, Grapes of Wrath, Cannery Row, and East of Eden, to name a few. Incidentally, when the movie East of Eden was filmed at various Salinas locations, my



Courtesy of the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies, San Jose State University Glenn Graves, left, and John Steinbeck with his dog Omar, visiting at the Salinas River, their favorite place for swimming and rabbit hunting.

grandmother's home - full of attractive Victorian furniture - was photographed for interior shots, and my father was credited as a technical adviser on the film. My brother and I were so excited to see this movie but were so mesmerized by the actors that we completely forgot to check the interior shots to see if we recognized my grandmother's marble top tables and horsehair stuffed sofa!

My revived interest in Steinbeck began when I participated in a zoom Storytelling class in early June that was offered by the Waterfront Village. For my final storytelling project, I decided to talk about my father and his boyhood adventures with John Steinbeck. After all, Steinbeck is considered by many to be one of the major storytellers of the 20th century!

I searched online and discovered audio

See "Steinbeck," page 19



NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY DURING THE PANDEMIC

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KIDS CORNER

Pages 8-9



SILENT NIGHT

Page 12



LIGHT UP **SOUTHWEST**

Page 14







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

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

Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

400 "I" Street, SW Washington, DC 20024

thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org

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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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The Southwester

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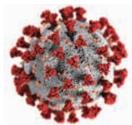


The Southwester is published and distributed by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

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COVID-19 Frequently **Asked Questions**

DC Cases on the Rise

COURTESY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV

What are Coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

What is Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The COVID-19 is the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, Hubei province, China.

What are the symptoms of this disease?

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported-ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- · New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

When should I Seek Emergency Medical Attention?

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- · Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- · New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

How is coronavirus (COVID-19) transmitted, and when will someone get sick if they're exposed?

- Currently, it is thought that the coronavirus (COVID-19) virus spreads from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Based on what we know from other coronaviruses, we think that symptoms may appear anywhere from 2-14 days after someone was exposed.
- When person-to-person spread occurred with other coronaviruses, such as MERS and SARS, it is thought to have happened via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person sneezed or coughed, similar to other respiratory viruses.

There are everyday actions to take to help prevent spread of illnesses like influenza and Coronavirus:

- · It is also flu season, so getting the flu vaccine can help prevent illness
- Wash hands, multiple times a day, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used if soap and water are not available
- · Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed
- · Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when feeling sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Should I wear a facemask to prevent COVID-19?

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 requires that everyone in our community be mindful and vigilant about staying safe. Wearing a mask or face covering is one tool to protect an individual's own health and the health of others, but it does not replace social distancing.

How can I protect myself from COVID-19?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. We recommend the following actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory disease:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Wash hands, multiple times a day, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used if soap and water are not available
- · Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the
- · Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and sur-
- · Get the flu vaccine

Can someone who has had COVID-19 spread the illness to others?

Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others. DC Health recommends that these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home (depending on how sick they are) until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.

Am I at risk for COVID-19 from a package or products shipping

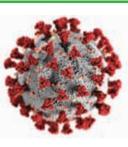
Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods.

Should I re-consider international travel?

Please review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (https://www.cdc.gov/ coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) for the most updated information on travel health notices and other important information to consider.

How can people help stop stigma related to COVID-19?

Counter stigma by learning and sharing facts. Communicating the facts that viruses do not target specific racial or ethnic groups and how COVID-19 actually spreads can help stop stigma. Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger towards ordinary people instead of the disease that is causing the problem.



Coronavirus Testing Sites

oronavirus cases are rising in D.C. and across the country. It is important to wear a mask, stay physically distant, and wash hands thoroughly. Here are Coronavirus testing sites operating daily in and around Ward 6:

Judiciary Square

Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 1 pm F St., NW between 4th and 5th Streets

Nationals Park

Monday-Friday, 2:30-7:30 pm Geico Parking Garage

Fire Station Engine 8

Tuesday, Thursday, 2:30-7:30 pm Saturday, 12-4 pm Sunday, 12-4 pm 1520 C Street, SE

• Fire Station Engine 10

Tuesday, Thursday, 2:30-7:30 pm Saturday, 12-4 pm Sunday, 12-4 pm 1342 Florida Avenue, NE

Courtesy of Councilmember Charles Allen

Letter to the Editor: Southwest Community Center Update

Greetings neighbors,

Even though you may not have heard from us in awhile, we have been busy! Our Community Engagement and Communications Committee formed in January and they have been diligently working on plans to move forward. Regina Blye is chairing the Committee and is joined by Ashton Rohmer chairing the community engagement subcommittee, Rachel Locke chairing the communications subcommittee, and members Lorraine Tracton, Michelle LaFrance, Renee Gaillard, Lisa Beal and Angela M Parks, Will Rich, and Evelyn Lugo.

As with all other areas of life, COVID-19 forced a quick pivot and a reevaluation of how we can engage the community virtually, as opposed to in-person meetings and focus groups. The community center is now not anticipated to open until October 2023 (tentative), so we have time to get it right. We are still working on it but are excited to announce that our website (https://www.swdccc.org/) is up and running – please stay tuned and stay in touch!

Would you like to get more involved? Currently we are seeking volunteers with the following skill sets:

• a finance background to serve as the



Treasurer for the Board of Directors

- a design/architecture/construction background to serve as Committee or Board members
- a graphic design/marketing/communications background to serve as Committee members
- community engagement experience to serve as Committee members
- fundraising interest and experience If you're interested in volunteering, please visit https://docs.google.com/

forms/d/1AuRP6NkHHiAdWMERDPs ZE87o46oC0ku7MhGdcUEXvvI/edit to fill out a short form to let us know a bit more about you. We look forward to getting to know you and thank you for your interest in serving the community.

Warmest thanks, Andrea Lindemann Gilliam Interim Executive Director



Former Southwest Scholar Continues to Excel and Lead

BY META WILLIAMS AND THELMA D. JONES

hen Vyllorya Evans, chair of the Education and Scholarship Task Force for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA ESTF) is asked about the whereabouts and progress of former and current scholarship recipients, her response is often exuberant, "I am extremely proud of our Southwest youth who continue to excel in many ways, reflecting the sound investment which the community and others have made and continue to make in our SW youth." She continues, "I am particularly pleased with how many are giving back or paying it forward through their involvement in the community and the gradual number of scholars who are donating to

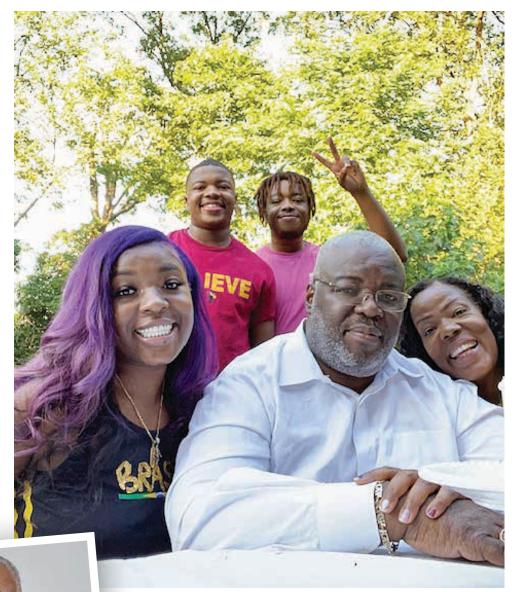
One such past scholar, who epitomizes the goal of the ESTF scholarship program, is former SW resident Kenneth "Kenny" J. Brewer, Sr., chief executive officer (CEO) of H Street Community Development Corporation (HSCDC). A native Washingtonian, he was a student at Jefferson Jr. High School (now Jefferson Middle School Academy) in 1975 when the Southwest Scholarship Program initiative became a part of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). Brewer has remained in touch with ESTF and has

given generously to the Scholarship Fund.

Kenny and his family - three brothers and four sisters - lived in the Greenleaf Gar-Extension dens Townhouses. Constructed in 1959 as a 493-unit subsidized housing development in what was then Ward 2 of D.C., the complex is now slated for demolition and "build first" rede-

velopment. Kenny's family, and many others in Greenleaf, aspired to succeed in life and saw education as key to achieving success. He is a proud product of D.C. Public Schools which, like his parents and older siblings, encouraged his excellence and forward thinking.

Kenny started his path to educational success at Amidon Elementary School (now Amidon-Bowen Elementary School), then went on to be an outstanding student at Jefferson Middle School Academy, where he was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Later, as a student at Wilson Senior High School, Kenny learned financial transactions as a member of the Wilson SHS Bank Club. There, he earned respect for processing financial transactions for school activities and events and functions, including sports events and games, class photos, class trips, and other activities. If it had to do with business and money matters and anything else related to his senior class, Kenny was the go-to guy. In addition



Photos courtesy of Author

Above: Left to right Daughter Campbell, Kenny and Wife Deidre; Standing Left to right – Sons Kyle and Kenneth, Jr.

At left: Kenneth J. Brewer, CEO, HSCDC

to his deft academics, Kenny displayed deft ball skills as a member of Wilson's basketball team.

Based on his older siblings' advice,

he attended Howard University, selecting finance as his major. His parents and older siblings impressed upon him the importance of saving, managing his money, and preparing for his financial future. As a young man beginning a career with the D.C. Government, Kenny decided to join the D.C. National Guard. As a volunteer National Guardsman, he achieved the rank of lieutenant. His rank and volunteer work became a defining characteristic of his leadership abilities, and reflects his commitment to service.

In the 1980s, the City of Washington was still at the beginning of the post Civil Rights era, and there was a feeling that Black Americans were making progress on various levels. Coming from a politically astute family, Kenny understood the connection between business and politics, as well as how political relationships could position him for success in life and help him become an invaluable asset to his community.

Shortly after graduating from Howard

in 1984, Kenny had the good fortune to meet and have Councilmember John A. Wilson (another Southwest resident) as a mentor. That year, Wilson hired him as his re-election campaign manager – a position through which Kenny cut his political leadership teeth and learned how the levers of power worked in government. Wilson is one of the people considered responsible for Washington D.C. being the world class, thriving metropolis that it is today. (Wilson was also one of the founders of HSCDC.)

Kenny had his first exposure to Capitol Hill in 1981, though, while serving as a congressional intern for the U.S. House of Representatives Full Committee on the District of Columbia, which had oversight of the District's budget. He also served as a budget analyst for the Deputy Mayor of Finance during the Anthony Williams administration. Kenny has the distinction of serving from 1996–1997 as Chair of the DC Lottery and Charitable Games Control Board, an agency that annually transferred approximately \$90 million to the D.C. General Fund/Treasury.

Proud of the work he did in the political arena, Kenny was always keen to keep the door open for private sector opportunities. From 1996-2000, some of his opportunities included serving as a business

loan specialist, senior asset manager, and development project director at HSCDC. In 2001, Brewer sharpened his portfolio in finance by serving as deal structuring manager and project manager with Fannie Mae and completed the purchase of \$36 billion in mortgage assets. He served as community development manager for E*TRADE Bank and E*TRADE Savings Bank. Kenny is also a real estate developer with his privately owned firm, Washington Financier Management Company, which he created in 2002.

As a youth, and throughout his life in Southwest, Kenny experienced the tensions between his Greenleaf community and the upscale housing for the middle and upper middle class - mainly White people - that often ended in more displacement and gentrification. HSCDC's current property portfolio includes affordable housing units in Wards 4,5,6,7, and 8, with plans to expand across the city. Kenny is deeply committed to the families, individuals, and neighborhoods that benefit from HSCDC's efforts, especially young people. Under his leadership, the organization created two programs targeting students: the John A. Wilson Scholarship, which distributes scholarships to help D.C. students enroll in and complete college; and, the Global Scholars Foundation (GSF), which gives young people the opportunity to travel internationally. Since 2008, under his leadership HSCDC has distributed more than \$650,000 in scholarships to D.C. students. Through GSF, students have travelled to numerous foreign countries and every continent except Antarctica.

Currently, Kenny is Chairman Emeritus of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., which specializes in preserving the historical records of the people and events in the nation's capital. He is also a member of the Washington D.C. Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and currently serves on the Board of Kappa Scholarship Endowment Fund, which has amassed approximately \$2 million for college-bound D.C. Public School students. As a respected leader in business and economic development, he also serves as secretary of the board of the Washington D.C. Economic Partnership.

Kenny is married and has three children, ages 14, 19 and 21.

No matter where he lives in the District, Kenneth Brewer will forever be connected to Southwest D.C. Scholarship Fund Chair Evans feels that Kenny is a shining example of someone that the SWNA ESTF helped to become a truly realized citizen.

There are other SW youth who dare to dream and share the same potential as Kenny Brewer. Please consider donating to the SWNA ESTF by mailing your check payable to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, P.O. Box 70131, Washington, D.C. 20024, and indicate ESTF in the memo line. You may donate online by visiting https://www.swnascholarship.org/.

Meta Williams is the chief of communications and external affairs for the HSCDC.



Courtesy of the Office of Councilmember Charles Alle

Councilmember Charles Allen and the Ward 6 community honor neighbors at last year's Rrickie Awards

Catch the 14th Annual Brickie Awards on Dec. 3

BY MIKE GOODMAN

n Thursday, Dec. 3 from 8-9 pm, Councilmember Charles Allen will host the 14th Annual Brickie Awards. Carrying on the tradition of former Councilmember Tommy Wells' Livable Walkable Awards, the Brickies honor local people and organizations whose leadership, commitment, and vision make Ward 6 a great place to live and work.

In years past, the Brickies were an opportunity for Ward 6 residents to come together over food and drink to celebrate neighbors and community organizations who have gone above and beyond in "building" Ward 6. This year,

the award ceremony will be held online. Award categories include:

- Neighbor Award
- Community Organization Award
- Business Award
- Public Service Award
- Civic Pride Award

Last year's winners were Christine Spencer (Neighbor Award), Steadfast Supply (Business Award), CRYSP DC (Community Organization Award), Ana the Shad and Wendy the Water Drop (Public Service Award), and Heather Schoell (Civic Pride Award).

To rsvp for the event, go to http://www.charlesallenward6.com/2020_brickies.

SW Mutual Aid Closes 2020 Serving the Community

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. Donations of groceries, cleaning supplies, and toiletries can be brought to the courtyard entrance of CUMC at 900 4th St. SW on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4 to 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. If you have a device you'd like to donate please email syclaptopsmutualaid@gmail.com.
- Volunteer. The Southwest Pod of W6MA is seeking volunteers to help staff our local food pantry and help with food dis-

- tribution. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact karenlmcmanus@gmail.com.
- **Give online** at https://www.serveyourcitydc.org/donate.
- W6MA and CUMC have a number of ways you can get the support you need:
- 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 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th St. SW; use courtyard 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 at 1 p.m. (courtyard entrance). If you can not come to the church due to health or mobility issues, call 202-554-9117 to request a delivery.

W6MA and CUMC appreciate the generosity of Southwest D.C. The community has helped provide fresh produce, pantry staples, and cleaning supplies to families throughout the year. You've also helped provide more than 50 students with digital devices for virtual learning this school year. Thank you!



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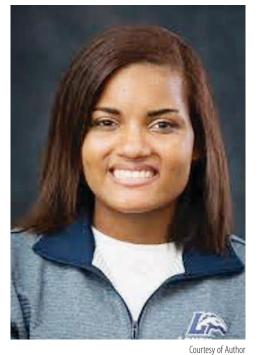
A Time of Sonder

BY HALEIGH PANNELL

ne of my favorite quotes of all time is "if you don't heal what hurt you, you'll bleed on people who didn't cut you." In essence, this means if you don't address your traumas, you will inadvertently hurt people in your life that don't deserve it.

I find this to be so powerful because I think we do this to each other every day. His job search isn't going well, now he's rude to the barista. Her partner isn't communicating, now she's zoned out and her friend feels unheard. They never received an apology from their former bully, now they are mean to anyone and everyone who looks like him. And, on it goes.

When I saw this quote, I didn't just think of how much everyone would ben-



Haleiah Pannell

efit from some form of therapy to address how their traumas affect how they act. I also thought about the (somewhat) simple fact that we all have trauma. We all have lived equally complex lives, independent of most of the people in the world. This is called "sonder" – a word created by John Koenig in 2012 in the project, *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows*. The project's goal was to create new words for emotions that don't have a singular word to define it.

This year is a representation of the project's goal.

Between a global pandemic, social tensions, and a polarizing national election where hope was on the line, how would you describe all the emotions that come with living at a time like this? I still struggle to find the perfect words. All I can find

is an amplified calling to recognize and embrace the full definition of sonder. To take the pause in typical life that we were given this year and allow others the grace I allow myself. Grace to learn, to make mistakes, to try one path and then try another.

If 2020 has been the year of acknowledging sonder and grace, 2021 will be the year of love and growth.

Haleigh is an honor graduate of Longwood College and is planning to pursue a law career. As a sophomore, she founded Promise 16 - a student organization formed to bring mental health and suicide awareness. Visit http://www.longwood.edu/news/2019/meet-haleigh-pannell-longwoods-sga-president/ to learn more about Haleigh.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Bing Thom's elegant architecture and culture of Arena Stage contrasts with Woodstock's celebration in a dairy field in 1969, but our Southwest found a way to celebrate them together. Here, as part of an effort to employ store window painters during the pandemic, Rachel Cross uses acrylic paint on an Arena Stage window to declare the words of Joni Mitchell's song, Woodstock, the Garden of Eden is still a quest.

Courtesy of Susie Humphreys

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

Meet SWBID Environmental Ambassador Mirna Monterroso

BY DONNA PURCHASE

Southwest D.C. is "the place to be." We continue to spotlight the dedicated staff of the SWBID who are focused on making Southwest a clean, safe, vibrant community to live, work, and visit.

Mirna Monterroso Deleon came to SWBID this past September. Born in Guatemala, she loves living here in Washington, D.C. She loves the city, the people, and working for the BID, which gives her the opportunity to interact with her colleagues, residents, and neighborhood visitors. Mirna says she is often stopped by people who need directions or have questions about the neighborhood. During our conversation, I could hear joy in her voice when talking about her job. Because of the Coronavirus, Mirna was out of work for almost 8 months. Being hired by the BID changed her

Mirna is currently engaged but put off the wedding until next year because of the pandemic. That just gives her more time to plan the perfect wedding! The mother of a three-yearold, she is looking forward to her new family.

SWBID COO Andre Witt says: Mirna has been an absolute delight



Courtesy of SWBID

Mirna Monterroso Deleon

to work with. She brings high enthusiasm to work each day and is well liked by the entire team!

Favorites

Music: Christian music **Sport:** Loves Soccer

Sports team: Barcelona

Proudest moment: When she was hired by the bid.

Advice: Stay strong – stay safe, especially in these times. Take care of your family.

So, when you're out and about – be sure to say hello to Mirna.

Op-Ed: Navigating Uncertainty During the Pandemic, Looming Flu Season

BY ALEXIS SMITH

he past few months have been incredibly stressful, not only on a local and national level but around the globe. I do not believe we, as a nation, were genuinely prepared for the magnitude of destruction COVID-19 could cause. Like many other citizens, I did not think when the country "shut-down" in March that we would continue to have this level of restrictions in place heading into the holiday season. Nonetheless, I kept my distance, wore my mask, only left the house for essential activities, and have continued doing so since returning

There are still many unknowns regarding the coronavirus itself. Doctors continue studying potential long-term adverse effects, and clinical trials on the vaccine for COVID-19 are ongoing as the FDA prepares for a potentially expedited approval. Stricter standards have been proposed for this process to ensure safety, which could be the tipping point in public perception. The political interference in its development is not reassuring, with the nation's political figures and medical experts at odds on the proposed release timeline. In



Courtesy of Author

Alexis Smith

a society that already struggles with compliance for a vaccination with evidence supporting its benefits, I am concerned that many will not be willing to expose themselves to the new vaccine.

And, heading into flu season I've heard conflicting opinions from friends and colleagues about the pending SARS-CoV-2 vaccination, on top of the increased push for the flu vaccine.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pan-

demic does not put the flu season on confirmed cases and deaths. hold. However, some argue the extra precautions taken in social distancing and facial covering for coronavirus could aid in minimal flu cases. Countries across the Southern Hemisphere with an early flu season saw dramatic decreases in flu cases this past year. Whether this was from an actual reduction in disease transmission or those with mild symptoms not going out to receive medical attention due to the coronavirus, cannot be determined. Nonetheless, receiving the flu vaccine is being stressed harder than ever in the U.S., so hospitals are not thrust further into overcapacity between the two illnesses. The CDC has struggled for years to improve public perception of receiving and maintaining their flu vaccination, and I do not see this opinion improving.

Prior to the recent announcement of impending FDA approval, I was reluctant to subject myself to an experimental drug. The policies set in place by the FDA are regulated for a reason, even within an expedited process. Having political officials dictate healthcare is unethical. The United States was the first country to reach 1 million cases at the end of April and has remained at the top of the list for

As a young professional in the healthcare field, I believe in science and following the necessary steps before placing a product on the market for mass consumption. I chose to dedicate my life to helping people regardless of their beliefs, and politicizing a vaccine when the country is increasingly divided is not beneficial to anyone.

This is not a bi-partisan issue.

The current administration's policy of making promises without heeding the recommendations of those whose job it is to keep the country healthy is counterproductive to slow down this pandemic. Let the medical advice come from scientists and medical experts who actually care about our country's health, and know how to respond to it.

I am comforted and encouraged by the new administration's willingness to support the medical experts. Stay Safe - wear a mask.

Alexis Smith, a graduate of Ohio State University, is currently pursuing a master's degree in Exercise Science at the George Washington University School of Medicine



ENROLL NOW for 2020–2021 School Year



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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 quidance from DC government.

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

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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	 		
3			

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	Presents	À
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4	 	 	
5		 	

Answers from November 2020 issue

Differences: The picture on the left has a butternut squash beside the pumpkin instead of flowers; the picture on the left has a hot air balloon instead of an airplane; the sun has sunglasses in the picture on the right; there are green leaves on the right side of the right picture; the turkey has a hat in the right picture; there is an owl in the right picture instead of a cardinal; the right picture has a rabbit.

Word Scramble: There are 348 words you can make from "Thanksgiving."

WORD SEARCH: HOLIDAYS!

DREIDEL

FAMILY

FOOD

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			NDL RIST		S				HAN KWA						

PEACE

SANTA

STOCKING

Word Scramble! How many words can you make from WONDERLAND?							



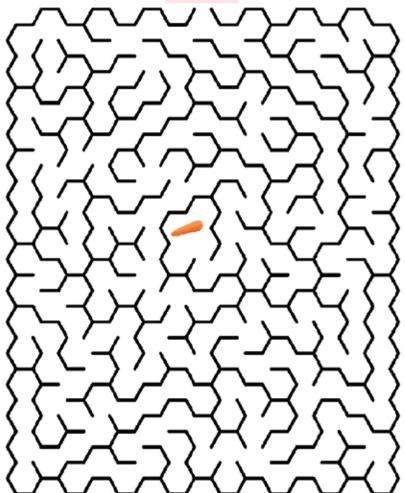
KID'S CORNER

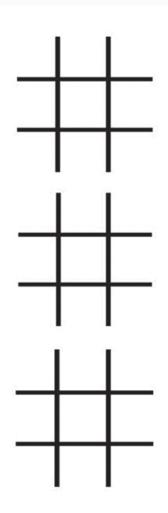


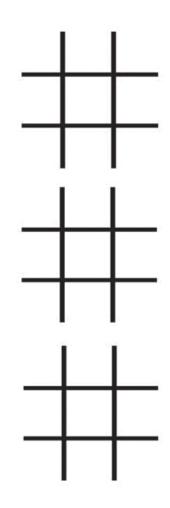


TIC TAC TOE

Maze!
Can you
help the
snowman
find his
nose?







Jokes!

Where do I want to be when it's snowing?
There is snow place like home! (Submitted by Ella)

What do snowmen like to eat for dinner? *Iceburgers!*

Is it quicker to be hot or cold? Hot is quicker, because you can catch a cold!

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?

$$a.9 + 9 =$$

$$g.4 + 4 =$$

Peaceful "Abolish ICE" Protesters March Through Southwest

RY MATT KOFHI FR

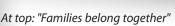
anctuary not deportation!"
Protesters chanted as they walked up 4th Street SW, before turning east on I Street towards South Capitol. CVS had boarded up all its windows, and all the newspaper dispensers outside the Waterfront Metro escalators had been removed to prevent vandalism. There was none.

A small but not insignificant "Abolish Ice" protest moved through Southwest on Saturday, Nov. 21, starting around 4 p.m. Protesters started just north of The Wharf and made their way down Maine Avenue towards Waterfront Metro. Police blocked traffic ahead of and behind protesters as they made their way through the neighborhood.

This isn't the first time protests have come through the relatively quiet Southwest Waterfront neighborhood. Earlier







Courtesy of Matt Koehler

Above left: "Total abolition for total liberation" – protesters laid down their signs for a short respite in the 4th & M Street intersection

Above right: After a short respite, protester moved north up 4th Street
At left: White protesters stood with shields facing MPD (not in view) at Waterfront Metro

A few community members I came across thought it might be another MAGA rally, but a police officer I spoke to said it was an "Abolish Ice" protest, then smiled and admitted it was also for defunding the police. He told me that they do this protest every Saturday.

Protesters I spoke with also confirmed that this protest was, and is, pretty regular, but that they usually march around Dupont Circle. That Saturday, for various reasons, they came to SW.

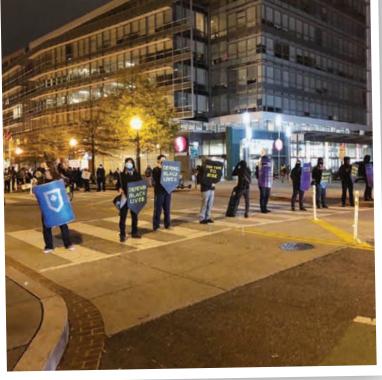
I asked a few of the protesters who were sitting in the middle of the intersection why they were marching, and they raised issues of alleged forced hysterectomies, unsafe and abusive conditions at ICE detention centers, as well as police brutality.

While the rumor of widespread forced hysterectomies spread rapidly across the internet a few months ago, only less than two dozen of those surgeries have been reported. Of those, there appeared to be several that were either forced or against the victim's knowledge.

See "Protest," page 18



After noticing all the flashing lights from my 6th floor window, I ran out to talk to police officers and protesters at the 4th and M Street intersection outside Waterfront Metro, where the entire procession had stopped for about 30 minutes.



Georgetown COVID Study Open to Breast Cancer Survivors

BY SIMINA BOCA AND ALEJANDRA HURTADO DE MENDOZA

 \P or the past several months, the COVID-19 epidemic has been wreaking havoc on societies and communities throughout the world. Many authorities have implemented counterdisease measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, ranging from social distancing recommendations to lockdowns. Due to social determinants of health, including discrimination, low health care access and utilization, occupation, and housing, Black/African American and Latinx/Hispanic individuals are more likely to suffer and die from COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Breast cancer survivors have specific additional challenges, given that they are already in a vulnerable position from a physical and emotional point of view and due to the treatment delays they experienced during the pandemic.

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) and Nueva Vida (NV) are community-based organizations that use culturally sensitive approaches to reduce cancer incidence and mortality, especially among the Black/African American and Latinx/Hispanic underserved communi-

We want to hear about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted you and your community. We invite you to participate in a research study:

Who can participate in the study?

Individuals who identify as Black, African American, Hispanic, or Latinx who have received a breast cancer diagnosis.

What do I have to do if I participate in the study?

We will ask you to complete a short 20-minute survey

Some individuals will be given the option to participate in a 30-minute interview after they complete the survey

You will receive a \$30 gift card for the survey and an additional \$10 gift card for the interview

To learn more about this study and how you can participate, please contact:

Ms. Natalia Monsalve at nem44@aymmil.awu.edu or 202-780-8814 at Georgetown or Ms. Thelmo D. Jones at thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or 202-251-1639 at TDJBCF.







ties. Since the beginning of the pandemic, these organizations have worked tirelessly to respond to the needs of the community caused by the pandemic, including with initiatives to decrease food insecurity. The TDJBCF and NV also believe in the importance of engaging underserved communities in research to make sure that they also benefit from the research findings.

For this reason, they are now partnering with Georgetown University to study the impact of COVID-19 and disease countermeasures on Black/African American and Latinx/Hispanic breast cancer survivors in the Washington D.C. area, in order to develop culturally sensitive educational materials to provide information targeted to these communities.

Our study will assess the challenges encountered by Black/African American and Latinx/Hispanic breast cancer survivors by conducting a survey asking questions related to physical, psychological, social, and financial well-being, as well as interviews to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the impact of COVID-19. Participants will receive a \$30 gift card for completing the survey and a \$10 gift card for participating in or completing the interview as compensation for their time. The results will be analyzed and used to develop online educational resources to provide information for breast cancer survivors during this pandemic.

If you have been diagnosed with breast cancer, identify as Black/African American or Latinx/Hispanic, and are interested in participating in this study, contact Thelma D. Jones from the TDJBCF at thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or (202) 251-1639 or Claudia Campos from NV at ccampos@nueva-vida.org or (202) 384-8342. Your participation can help your community!

Dr. Simina Boca is an Associate Professor and Alejandra Hurtado de Mendoza is an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University Medical Center and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
From The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly



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https://www.instagram.com/southwestneighborhoodassembly/

WWW.5WNA.ORG

Silent Night on a Silent Christmas Eve

BY DEBORAH SHERWOOD

he Christmas carol, *Silent Night*, has no definitive origin. Some accounts say it was a poem written in 1818 by an Austrian priest who asked a musician to compose an accompanying melody. Other legends tell of a broken organ with the priest and the composer singing the sweet, sacred song during a Christmas Eve mass. Regardless of how the carol originated, its identifiable melody and words define the essence of Christmas.

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Personally, I always found the beloved tune and humble lyrics beautiful, but I didn't really appreciate their significance until one Christmas Eve, when we had a "silent night" of our own.

Several years ago, I was married to the pastor of a small, rural church near Buffalo. The Christmas Eve service at that church brought a welcome calmness as ancient familiar stories about angels and shepherds gave people a chance to reflect on the significance of the Holy Season.

One snowy Christmas Eve, I spent the afternoon in the church kitchen preparing a buffet the congregation would enjoy prior to the evening service. An hour before dinner time, just as I turned to preheat the ovens, the lights abruptly went out. My husband and I scrambled to find flashlights and candles.

We quickly learned a nearby transformer had blown, and although crews were working to restore the power, there was no estimate on how long we would be without electricity. I looked around helplessly at the array of extension cords leading to hot plates, the crock pot, brimming with mulled cider, the dead coffee urns, and two stoves – each proudly proclaiming "General Electric."

Instead of bubbling away in a hot oven, my fruit compote and casseroles sat on



Courtesy of Author

Deborah Sherwood

the countertop becoming progressively colder. I ran next door to the parsonage kitchen and grabbed a gallon of milk, all the trays of Christmas cookies we had been given by our neighbors, and as many packages of cheese and crackers as I could carry.

The parishioners arrived promptly at 6:30, ready to enjoy a hot, home-cooked dinner. Instead, they found me scurrying around a dark, chilly fellowship hall filling trays with cold snacks. In place of hot cider, with its pungent cinnamon

aroma, were a white plastic jug of milk and a squeeze bottle of chocolate syrup. To my surprise, no one was disappointed. We enjoyed our cold, little meal together, as if it were a banquet. The time passed quickly with a lot of laughter and jokes about being in the dark.

Despite the dimness and chill of the sanctuary, the pews filled quickly. I recognized many of the candles, hurriedly placed on the windowsills, as the scented ones I had purchased at several after holiday clearance sales the previous year. The fragrances of ginger, citrus, and apples wafting from the candles permeated the sanctuary, lending a festive holiday spirit to the occasion.

Lyrics to old familiar carols were recalled with reverent voices softly echoing throughout the dark, chilly sanctuary. Toward the end of the service, small white candles were distributed in preparation of the traditional singing of *Silent Night*.

Each person received the flame, then passed it on. The enchanting flickers illuminated the faces of every worshiper, revealing peacefulness and unity inside an old brick church on one snowy, and nearly silent, Christmas Eve.

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



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During these difficult times we have supported food programs for SW residents in need, a SW jobs reentry project, programs and scholarships for SW students, and much more. But we need your help.

Please send tax-deductible contributions to:

Friends of Southwest DC P.O. Box 44434, Washington DC 20026

To donate by credit card or apply for a grant visit: **FriendsofSWDC.org**

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

Friends of Southwest DC is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization. All our work is done by volunteers, so your contribution goes to help Southwest residents.

We support The Southwester through our advertising.



Waterfront Village Wants You!

Waterfront Village, a SW neighborhood non-profit, helps active older adults age in place by providing social opportunities and critical home and help services. We are currently recruiting:

NEW MEMBERS

The Village is currently offering membership deals to new members. Save money and get the benefits and security of a Village membership

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for drivers, walking and phone companions, technology helpdesk members, and grocery shopping and delivery assistants. Next volunteer training session is December 9.

Contact the Waterfront Village on 202-656-1834 or visit our website at: www.dcwaterfrontvillage.org

There's a New Playground on the Block

BY MATT KOEHLER

ook out SW playgrounds, there's a brand new multi-use playground in the neighborhood. On Oct. 21, the new playground at Amidon-Bowen Elementary school officially opened (no students yet, though). Since then, many parents have found their way to the playground to unplug, unwind, or commiserate with others while kiddos burn off pent up energy.

Both the "big kids" and "little kids" playgrounds have been reimagined with more features and, maybe best of all, more slides! Although, the rope climbing feature might be my favorite (I speak as the parent of a little monkey myself).

The park also sports a track that encircles both playgrounds, the urban farm area, the new basketball court, and the soccer field. Opinions vary, but anecdotal evidence suggests that the track may be the second best feature.

Kids first impressions:

C.K. – I really like all the new slides. I especially like the basket swings.

N.W. - This swing is a lot of fun!

M.M. - I'm riding my bike around the track.

A.R. - I'm gonna practice my American Ninja skills over there [on the rope feature]!

Parent thoughts:

A parent mentioned that she felt a few of the slides in the "big kids" section of the new park were out of place – too small, but that the climbing features and the track around the park were great (the King Greenleaf Recreation Center park does sport two of the biggest playground slides in Southwest). Indeed, when I took my own child there the other day one of her

classmates ignored everyone in favor of riding around the epic Amidon-Bowen track.

Another parent seemed relieved the park was open because it gave her something new to do with the kids that didn't involve screen time.

K.G. - (also a parent) said, "So exciting!"

As for this humble parent, I took the kiddo over to the playground the other day for a social distanced playdate (masks were worn) and ran into other parents I hadn't seen in a while. In a moment that was almost pre-pandemic except for the masks, I ran into a new parent who'd lived in the neighborhood for a long time. We stood in a spread out group, shooting the breeze and talking about current events while our kids played carefree in late autumn afternoon. It was about as normal as it could be.

The (new) Amidon-Bowen playground is open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, except for school days when students are in attendance. Coronavirus guidance for parks and open spaces applies.

Photos courtesy of Matthew Koehler









Amidon-Bowen now has swings!



Light Up Southwest is Back

BY MIKE GOODMAN

nce again, the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) brings the "Light Up Southwest" competition back to the neighborhood. Decorate your home or business for the holidays and you could win a \$50 gift card to a neighborhood restaurant, or retailers will win a free ad in The Southwester.

Participation categories for the residential competition are:

- Best House
- Best Window
- Best Balcony

For retail, the contest is for Best Window.

Last year's winners were:

Best House: 1427 Carrollsburg Pl., SW

The winner for best house went all out with Natitude! They even made a homemade World Series trophy and baseball ornaments to complement the inflatable snowman and Santa spreading holiday cheer. This was Jenny and Sam Harper's second time winning it all in the Light Up Southwest competition.

Best Balcony: "Lucky Star" in Gangplank Marina

"Lucky Star" lit up their deck to help spread the holiday excitement at Gangplank. They also kept with the Nationals spirit with a baby shark and Nats flag!

Best Window: 611 G St., SW

Their elegant snowflakes made 611 G St. a winner with their bright lights and classy décor.

Best Retail: UPS Store at the Wharf, 996 Maine Ave., SW

As a newcomer to the Southwest neighborhood, the UPS store really stood out with their floor-to-ceiling window decorations bringing color and light to Maine Ave.

For more information, or to register, see https://www.swbid.org/holiday.

At left: Last year's Best Balcony winner: "Lucky Star" in Gangplank
Marina

Below: Last year's Best House winner: Jenny & Sam Harper at 1427 Carrollsburg Pl., SW





Photos Courtesy of SWBID

Above: Last year's Best Retail Window winner: UPS Store at the Wharf, 996 Maine Ave., SW

At right: Last year's Best Window winner: 611 GSt., SW

Ward 6 Youth Meal Sites

Per updated USDA guidelines, all DC youth ages 18 and younger may receive free grab-and go meals at DCPS and DPR meal site locations through **June**30, 2021. Please note that during this period, DC youth are not required to be enrolled DC Public Schools students to receive meals. Youth and or parents/guardians on their behalf may receive up to 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals daily.

(Effective November 2, 2020)

Meals Sites and Grocery Distribution Sites for DC youth age 18 and younger

School Name	Address		Meal Distribution Hours (Monday - Friday)	Grocery Distribution (while groceries last)		
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School	401 Street SW	6	10 am - 2 pm			
Arthur Capper Recreation Center	1000 5 th Street SE	6	10 am - 2 pm			
Brent Elementary School	301 North Carolina Avenue SE	6	10 am - 2 pm			
Eastern High School	1700 East Capitol Street NE	6	10 am - 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			
Rosedale Recreation Center	1701 Gales St NE	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	Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm		





At left: Reflections in Arena Stage windows

At right, top: View from the water towards P Street

At right, middle: Hues of orange, yellow, and red at Fort McNair

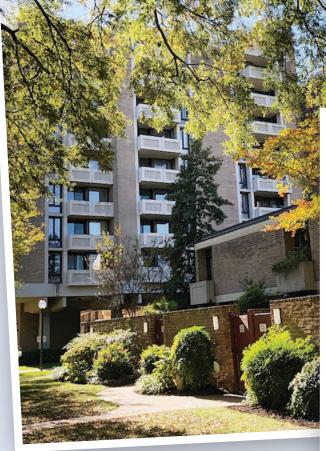
At right, bottom: A walk down P Street under the trees

Photos Courtesy of Irene Allen

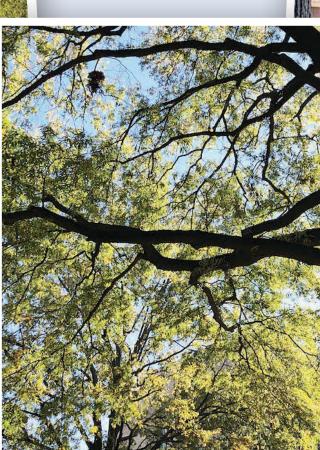
SOUTHWEST MOMENTS

Below: Willow oak in

Southwest



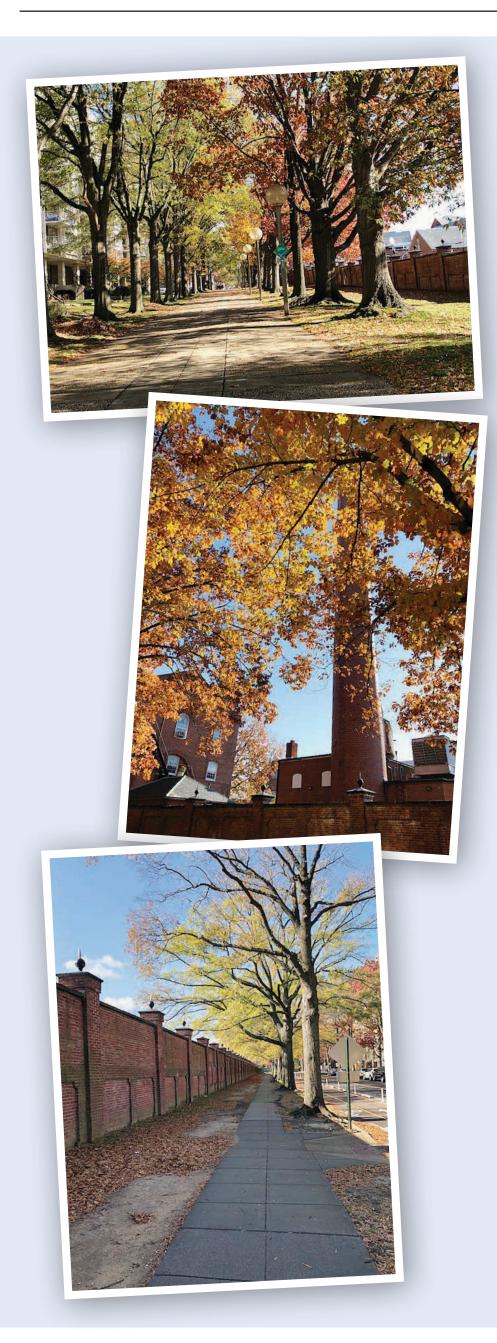
Above: Walking home from the store, the light in the trees and the beautiful building. Those people knew what they were doing!





Above: A splash of color through the trees

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Winter Fun Comes to The Wharf

he Wharf, Washington, D.C., announced today its winter programming schedule, which features a series of fun and socially-distanced seasonal activities across The District. The community programming will include a Holiday Movie Series, the reopening of Camp Wharf, and more.

Like years past, The Wharf will host a large Christmas tree on District Pier as well as holiday decor along the waterfront. The Wharf's retailers will also feature seasonal offerings.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, many restaurants and businesses are still operating in a limited capacity in order to reduce the spread of infection. Per Mayor Bowser's Order, everyone is required to wear a mask in public, except when actively eating or drinking. At The Wharf, masks are available for purchase at Shop Made in DC, Diament Jewelry, and The UPS Store

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

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

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

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

While some restaurants are offering indoor and outdoor dining, takeout and delivery remain great options to enjoy our restaurants.

Holiday Movie Series

Beginning Friday, Nov. 27 with Home Alone, The Wharf will host a series of 11 popular holiday movies including How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Elf, Miracle on 34th Street and more. For \$60 guests can reserve their own fire pit with seating up to four people on Transit Pier to watch all of the classics on the outdoor 20-foot LED screen. Guests can enjoy exclusive drinks and snacks from Cantina Bambina, and will receive a special stocking stuffed full of great offers and treats from Wharf restaurants, merchants and partners.

The Reopening of Camp Wharf

One of the most popular experiences from summer at The Wharf, Camp Wharf, is back by popular demand for the 2020 holiday season. Camp Wharf will be open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from Nov. 27-Jan. 10 with its signature fire pit and s'mores trailer.

Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting Decor

The Wharf's Christmas tree is one of the biggest in The District and starting on Nov. 27, it will be lit up with thousands of bright lights and holiday decor. In addition to the tree, The Wharf's giant Menorah will be shining brightly on Dec. 10, the first night of Hanukkah. Visitors are invited to take photos with these larger-than-life holiday decorations.

In addition to their increased sitewide cleaning measures, the Wharf is also practicing safe social distancing in our outdoor spaces for those who wish to enjoy the waterfront and outdoors. In accordance to CDC guidelines, outdoor furniture will be spread apart and on-site vehicular access will be restricted to allow pedestrians to spread out across pathways.

For more information and a complete list of offerings at the Wharf visit https://www.wharfdc.com/current-operating-status/.

D.C. Universal Basic Income Virtual Meeting

Join via Zoom on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 5 pm!
Let's discuss steps for planting #UBI pilots throughout DC!
Advance economic and social justice for our communities!
Register at: tinyurl.com/UBILabDCDec17.
Email ubilabdc@gmail.com for more information.

GREENLEAF

Continued from p. 1

Garrett, executive director of the DCHA to begin negotiations with Pennrose, EYA and Bozzuto, the development team for the proposed Greenleaf redevelopment project. Passing this resolution began the process for a redevelopment that's spent years in the rumor mill. In a peculiar way, it is almost a sigh of relief that the unknown is about to become known.

The many buildings that comprise the Greenleaf properties were constructed in the late 1950's, and are falling deeper into such disrepair that living conditions for residents have been described as "deplorable." It is not difficult to understand the financial position of the DCHA to decide to redevelop the properties rather than repair them. When asked why the Housing Authority does not take the route of rehabbing the units, instead of redevelopment, DCHA responded that repairing these units would cost more than the agency can afford to rehabilitate. For the DCHA, their solution to Greenleaf residents living in deplorable conditions is to redevelop all the properties, which includes a written commitment from the DCHA to replace all 493 units currently situated on the Greenleaf properties.

I must also mention that Greenleaf sits on prime real estate, and with that comes the contentious reality that most redevelopments of low-income housing are constructed after the market rate units are supplied. For this reason, former residents of DCHA's redeveloped properties cannot return to the redeveloped property. Many times, a proposed redevelopment of public housing is never completed. Such properties sit vacant for years while the need for housing grows, and not just for residents of public housing, but for anyone whose income never reaches levels that afford them the choice to live where they want.

Residents of public housing redevelopments are told they must temporarily move prior to the redevelopment, and are very often given empty promises of returning after redevelopment is finished. Such false promises lead many residents to believe that their temporary displacement will be rewarded with a new shiny residence in a new thriving community once the redevelopment of their former home is complete.

Residents of Greenleaf have been assured by the DCHA that its commitment to "Build First" is one of the primary principles of this redevelopment project. Perhaps I am speaking too soon, but I believe that Mr. Garrett, along with the selected codeveloper, understands and respects that transparency and the essential input of

Greenleaf residents comes first. This redevelopment is an expansive project – likely to be completed several years from now. In the meantime, the entire Greenleaf redevelopment process will be under a microscope, and I am sure the DCHA and the co-developer want to make sure this project is successful. I am also hopeful that this redevelopment project will become a case study on how public housing authorities can deliver mixed-income communities in a manner that is equitable and beneficial to the public housing residents it impacts.

Regardless of whether this project comes to fruition or not, the resident leadership of Greenleaf Gardens will continue its mission to help enhance the lives of residents. Although the COVID-19 health crisis halted in-person resident council meetings, programs, and activities, it created a unique opportunity for the resident leadership to communicate more frequently with residents via online and virtual platforms.

Furthermore, the Greenleaf Gardens Homework Assistance Program continues to support our students by assisting with homework assignments via telephone and virtually. Our 2019 Greenleaf Summer of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) was so successful that we had a waiting list for students who resided in various parts of our city. We continue to build upon the success of that

program by offering resident programs and opportunities that can enhance their educational and career abilities.

I strongly believe that preparation is key to any endeavor for which a person is eager to achieve positive outcomes.

With that said, the resident leadership in partnership with a local cyber security firm will begin our virtual business and technology classes at the beginning of next year to prepare any residents seeking a career with the skills and knowledge to confidently perform in the workplace. This program began in 2015 with in-person classes at the Greenleaf Gardens Resident Council Office and has operated every year since then. The proposed redevelopment of Greenleaf will undoubtedly leave many, especially the residents and students it impacts, with more questions than answers that are not easily answered at this time.

The passing of resolution 20-20, however, is just the first step of many. Resident input is one of the guiding principles of the redevelopment, and it will be followed prior to any red brick being knocked down on any Greenleaf property. To quote myself over six years ago at a redevelopment planning meeting, "Greenleaf residents, do not fear this process. This proposed redevelopment will not be done to us, but with us."

Developers, City Pledge to Build "One-for-One" Housing in Greenleaf Redevelopment

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) on Nov. 17 announced it is partnering with Greenleaf District Partners to start on the redevelopment of the greater Greenleaf community, according to an agency press release.

DCHA is set to begin negotiations with the team of developers – which comprises Pennrose, EYA, and Bozzuto Group – on properties including Greenleaf Gardens, Greenleaf Senior, Greenleaf Additions, and Greenleaf Extension. Among the developers that were not chosen for the project are Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners, Dantes Partners, and Gilbane Development, according to recent reporting by Washington Business Journals.

DCHA earlier issued a request for proposal to redevelop the community, which spans 10 acres and "con-

sists of 493 public housing units across 23 separate buildings, including garden-style apartments and two high-rise buildings," the press release said. The community covers five blocks near the intersection of M Street SW and Delaware Avenue SW.

Regional Vice President of Pennrose, Ivy Dench-Carter, said Greenleaf District Partners "has a long standing commitment to developing high-quality, mixed-income communities in the D.C. region." The executive added that the team understands "the significance of this endeavor to the residents of Greenleaf, the surrounding community, DCHA, and city leadership." It is critically important for Greenleaf District Partners to ensure "one-for-one replacement of the existing housing" and provide "build-first" housing options in the Southwest community for existing Greenleaf residents," the press release quoted Dench-Carter as saying.

The greater Greenleaf community project would not be the first affordable housing project in the area for the developers, according to the reporting by Washington Business Journals. Recently, Pennrose has developed a mixed-income community in Deanwood, while Paramount and EYA are working on a similar project in Fort Totten. Paramount is headed by Ben Soto, a donor of Mayor Muriel Bowser, the outlet reported.

DCHA Executive Director Tyrone Garrett said the agency intends to work with the team to "create a new, mixed-use community with a commitment to one-forone replacement for all 493 units and to provide build first options for residents." The developers and the Housing Authority plan to work "hand in glove with the residents of Greenleaf" and collaborate "with the community to shape a future that we can be proud of together."

PROTEST

 $Continued\ from\ p.\ 10$

More substantiated are the reports of abuse, rape, and neglect – especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, where multiple media outlets have reported detainees not being able to get tested quick enough and not being allowed to social distance. There are also the well-documented cases and images of small children being separated from their parents at the border in 2018, and after.

One protester wore white pants painted red as a symbol of protest against the alleged forced hysterectomies being performed at ICE detention centers.

When I asked about police brutality, another protester talked about incidents that occurred over the summer where officers violently attacked peaceful protesters after the media went home, including one night when MPD appeared to ransack a medical supply area, as well as the infamous Lafayette Square incident. Furthermore, there are heightened tensions between community members and police after several high profile killings of young Black men throughout the summer.

Police officers blocked streets and quietly observed while protesters had their say.

A spectator I spoke with said, "This is such a quiet, sleepy neighborhood. Nothing happens here unless there's an accident or a shooting. This [protest] is a nice change."

Another Southwest resident told me she would have been inclined to join the protest if her young daughter hadn't been with her

The protest was peaceful compared to last weekend's violence downtown, that exploded when pro-Trump protesters and the White Nationalist Proud Boys clashed with counter protesters in the streets of D.C. after the mostly peaceful Million MAGA March.

Down in Southwest, the community often seems far removed from all the highly televised political movements and clashes that happen just northwest and east of us. Perhaps this protest, like the one over the summer, reminds us that we are all part of the greater Washington D.C. community, and that we're all connected.

I took leave of the protest as it made its way east down I Street. They had started chanting, "Who keeps us safe? We keep us

Walking home and reflecting on the brief spurt of activity in our "quiet and sleepy" part of D.C., it dawned on me that all protesters had worn their masks.

STEINBECK

Continued from p. 1

interviews with John Steinbeck archived at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas.

I was delighted to find two tapes on Steinbeck's childhood, recorded from my father Glenn Graves, and described by a Steinbeck historian as "John's closest boyhood friend." I knew that my father had been interviewed years ago by local librarians and historians, among many other Monterey County residents, family members, and others who personally knew and interacted with John Steinbeck. I have an old copy of one of my father's tapes, but it's hard to hear, scratchy, and skips.

Another event that motivated me to talk about my father's boyhood with John Steinbeck was on Oct. 19, when I heard an author discuss his newly released Steinbeck biography - the first to be written in 25 years. William Souder - the acclaimed author of the diligently researched Mad at the World, A life of John Steinbeck, discussed his book during a Zoom event hosted by the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose State University. Several years ago, my brother and I donated our father's photo album to this Center because it includes black and white photos of the young Steinbeck. Not only did we want to preserve these photos for posterity, but as an alumna of San Jose State, it's a way to contribute to my University.

As I listened to Souder, all of a sudden, I heard my father's name. He said, "All his life Steinbeck supported anyone he thought was being treated unfairly. John befriended a neighbor boy Glenn Graves, a shy and skinny boy who was bullied and lived across the street from him." I quickly entered the chat room and identified myself as Glenn's daughter and typed how proud I am that he was a childhood friend of Steinbeck and that he is mentioned in this book. Souder was pleased to hear from me and said he had listened to tapes of my father's recollections of his childhood adventures with Steinbeck.

Souder wrote in Mad at the World..., "John told a classmate that he played with Glenn because 'somebody had to take care of him.' As an adult, John would say that the one thing he could not bear was another human being oppressed, abused, or taken advantage of by anyone more

In fact, my father is mentioned seven times throughout the book, including the

final paragraph. I immediately purchased a copy - the last one at The Wharf's Politics and Prose bookstore. And from their website I ordered additional copies and sent them to my two nephews, Glenn's grandsons he never knew, and also to his great-granddaughters, so they could know the legacy they all shared.

Glenn Graves was born Dec. 12, 1901 and lived at 147 Central Ave. A few weeks later on Feb. 27, 1902, John Steinbeck was born in his home at 132 Central Ave., across the street and half a block from the Graves' home.

When the two boys were born, Salinas, the county seat of Monterey County and surrounded by golden hills, was home to 3,300 diverse residents - mostly ranchers and wheat farmers. Beginning with grains and sugar beets, the Salinas Valley agriculture expanded in the 1920s to include lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, celery, and eventually cauliflower and mushrooms - calling itself the "Salad Bowl of the World."

John formed a little neighborhood gang of boys, including Glenn, Johnny Burchess, and Willie Welt. Mary, Steinbeck's kid sister, three years younger than her brother, tagged along too. Of his three sisters, Mary and John were very close and loval playmates.

On the taped interview, Glenn explained: "We had two club houses, one in John's dirt basement and one in my father's tool shed." They became blood brothers after they had pricked their thumbs and pressed them together. John was a big kid, and liked to be the "boss of things," according to Glenn.

Both boys loved dogs and John taught his dog Jiggs to play dead. On the tape, Glenn laughed and said you had to watch out for Jiggs because he loved to get close and stick out his long tongue planting a "big lick across your face."

Glenn continued, "Whenever we could get away with it, we climbed up to the Steinbeck attic and walked on rafters in an unfinished section of their home."

But the Graves' larger back yard, barn, tool shed, and a more welcoming mother, Flora Tracy Graves, beckoned the children to Glenn's home. John's mother, Olive, didn't like too many children at her home, according to Glenn. Flora Graves liked John and he was always ready to listen to her tales of the pretentious society folks in Salinas. She knew they were hiding their humble backgrounds and that their fathers had been miners and their mothers worked as washerwomen.

John also loved to visit the Williams sisters, Belle and Jenny - two wealthy

Salinas's history and knew all the town's gossip. Years later, some residents recognized themselves or their relatives in unflattering prose in Steinbeck's East of *Eden.* Many residents didn't like Steinbeck for that reason, but as his fame increased, they got over it!

Today, John Steinbeck is the honored native son of Salinas. The city library is named after him. Steinbeck's home is a popular restaurant. And, the National Steinbeck Center is a fitting monument to the writer - developed as a museum and a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, it houses Steinbeck archives and artifacts, in addition to showcasing the region's agriculture history. It also offers education and public programs.

Glenn continued with his stories of their childhood adventures. He told how the neighborhood children played in the sloughs all over town, including at the back of many of their homes. They gathered tulles, plastered the adobe mud on them, and like a slingshot, grabbed the stalk and sent the dried mud flying down

Glenn remembered: "We decided to gather black bird eggs from their nests in the mustard stalks, so we set off on our bikes with Mary riding on her pony and John leading her." They tramped through a farmer's wheat field leaving a wide swath of trampled wheat stalks. The farmer was not happy!

A favorite hangout was the Salinas River. The boys walked or rode their bikes to the nearby river to go skinny-dipping. Sometimes they fished too. When they were older, John and Glenn took their hunting rifles to hunt for rabbits. Glenn chuckled and said they never saw a rabbit

Another time, the little gang of boys, Mary probably was not with them this time, discovered a farmer's stash of raw tobacco leaves mixed with twigs used to make pigeon nests. So the curious boys rolled the tobacco leaves in newspapers and smoked them. Glenn remembered how sick he became and never smoked again in his life. This incident didn't dissuade John from being a life-long smoker, however.

Glenn recalled that John's parents were strict and made him mind his manners. John's mother was very proud of her son and probably spoiled him a little since he was the only boy among her four children. Glenn commented, "It was said his two sons to the big carnival during the literature."

One Christmas, Glenn recalled that he then went their separate ways.

sisters who regaled him with tales of and John, and perhaps a couple of the other neighborhood boys, received storebought two-wheel scooters as gifts. They would put one foot on the scooter and push off with the other foot, struggling to ride on the uneven dirt roads. Lots of fun, especially when they went to the lumberyard and put large sheets of smooth wood on the ground, enabling them to scoot faster and faster!

> The Graves family had a little ranch outside of the town where they raised cattle. John and Glenn ventured out there one day.

It must have been a hot day because John undressed and climbed up the water tower, jumped in and went swimming. My grandfather Ben appeared and yelled at John: "What are you doing? That's water for us to drink and for the horses. John replied, "You have a strainer on it, don't

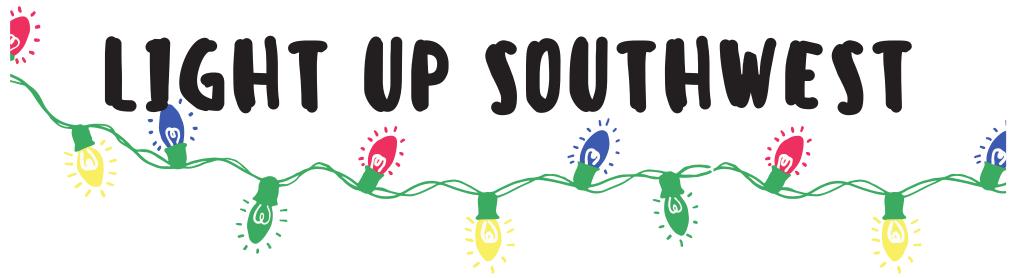
Glenn described John as a "a typical boy, but not very energetic!" Once John's father told him to scrape off the old paint on their house so that a painter could apply fresh paint. Glenn said John was very energetic when his father was around, but didn't work very hard when he wasn't there.

Once they entered high school, John, who had skipped a year in grammar school, was a year ahead of my father. The two youths were not as close as they had been. When he was 14, John decided he wanted to be a writer and Glenn noticed his bedroom light on late at night and knew that John "kept a pad and pencil by his bed so if he got any ideas in the middle of the night, he could write them down."

Souder ended his biography, writing: "A long time ago, late at night in the town of Salinas, California, a boy named Glenn Graves stirred in his sleep. He got up and walked in his pajamas to the window, rubbing his eyes. He looked out and saw curtains of fog hanging above Central Avenue. It was quiet. Nothing moved. But he could see across the way, to a window in the upstairs bedroom of the big house on the other side, and there was a light

My father had no idea that his boyhood pal would become a world-renowned author and receive the 1940 Pulitzer Prize Fiction Award for The Grapes of Wrath and the 1962 Nobel Prize for Literature.

The last time my father saw John Steinbeck was many, many years after their childhood when Steinbeck brought that she was a big influence in his love of annual Rodeo week. The two men shook hands, exchanged brief pleasantries, and



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