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January 2021

Meet DC's Newest At-Large Councilmember

Exclusive Interview with Incoming Councilmember Christina Henderson

BY MIKE GOODMAN

n Nov. 3, voters in Washington, DC elected Christina Henderson as their newest At-Large Councilmember, replacing outgoing Councilmember David Grosso. Councilmember-elect Henderson served in various capacities in DC government from 2012 to 2017, including as a staffer to Councilmember Grosso. A former resident of Southwest, Councilmember-elect Henderson now lives in Ward 4 with her husband and daughter. In mid-December, The Southwester interviewed Ms. Henderson about her winning campaign, her priorities as a new Councilmember, and her goals over the coming year.

What would you say were some of the highlights of the campaign?

This was such an unconventional race. I enjoyed some of the forums that we did, like the one we did for SWNA [Southwest Neighborhood Assembly], because I appreciated the opportunity to hear thoughts from fellow candidates about what they were thinking for particular issues. In a more traditional campaign environment, I would have seen them a lot more often, but honestly the forums were really the most time that I saw any of them.

I also really enjoyed contactless canvassing, which was more just liter-

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LIGHT UP SW **WINNERS**

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ANGRY BLACK HAIR

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Amidon-Bowen Plans More In-person Learning for Term 3

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

tarting Feb. 1, things are going to change for parents and students in the DCPS community. For the first time since learning went virtual, public schools across the District will begin offering more in-person learning (IPL). Amidon-Bowen ES will also chart a path through these unknown, unpredictable waters. Here's what we know so far and what you need to know for the coming school year.

In-person learning isn't starting Feb. 1, but already started on Dec. 2 with two CARE (Canvas Academics and Real Engagement) classrooms: one 2nd/3rd grade room and one 4th/5th grade room. Just over a dozen students have attended each classroom on a daily basis. One hundred percent of students and staff were/are able to participate in asymptomatic testing.

Moving forward, there has been some

tension between DCPS, teachers, and parents about what the next steps are, and not everyone is on the same page. Since the start of the pandemic, many parents and teachers have pointed out the lack of a coherent plan and transparency, with primary stakeholders (parents and school staff) not being heard. "No one reasonable making decisions would make decisions this way," said one parent at a recent meeting about the reopening.

According to a Community Core Survey (done in early-mid December - more information below), out of 49 current responses 45% of parents said they would return for IPL and 50% of parents said that keeping their homeroom teacher is important, while 23% said they would not return if it meant losing their homeroom teacher. These results were skewed towards the lower grades.

Based on the data received from the

survey, parents and school staff indicated that preserving their current homeroom teachers is very important.

After a difficult and chaotic spring semester during the beginning of the pandemic, with app and login problems, the digital divide (which The Southwester covered in June and is an ongoing problem throughout DCPS), as well as the hiccups of the first few weeks of the 2020-2021 school year this fall, parents and staff indicated that maintaining the rapport and relationships built between students and teachers over the last few months is key to student success going forward. The staff has also indicated that changing content and grade levels is not preferable. Though some said they'd be willing to make the

Based on the ABES Draft Plan Rationale, the school wants to have "all eli-

See "Term 3," page 12



KIDS CORNER

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SW LIBRARY UPDATE

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by supporting the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund.

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The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots organization whose 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.

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Former Scholarship Recipient Directs First Play

BY VYLLORYA EVANS

onique Chambers, a SWNA scholarship recipient from 2018-2020, casted, directed, and video-edited a Christmas play with the support of Bread-for-the-Soul, SWNA, and

Westminster Presbyterian Church. Monique's 2018 scholarship was funded by Friends of Southwest D.C.

The play, *It's the Gift That Counts*, written by David W. Christine, follows

Edmond, a young man, who is disappointed because he did not receive a gift from his parents on Christmas morning. Soon a stranger appears and has Edmond repeat Christmas morning until he realizes the real meaning of Christmas. Monique cast two actors who were fellow students with her at

The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, as well as several of her friends and family.

Monique finished her senior year at the University a semester early and gradu-

ated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in directing, playwriting, and production and a minor in art therapy. She plans to continue on to graduate school where she will focus on child psychology, using her background in theater as therapy.

Monique enjoyed working with such a talented group of individuals and is thankful for the support of the Southwest Community.

It's The Gift That Counts can be seen on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKKQ2Rr6LWE.

Mission Accomplished, St. Matthews Pastor Retires after Twenty-Two Years

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

astor Phillip Huber walked into a leaky, dilapidated church for his first worship service in Southwest D.C. on April 1, 1999 – a Thursday. "I said that God had a sense of humor ever since. I'm in my 21st year of my two year commitment to St. Matthews." His short mission turned into a decades long journey that came to an end in a turbulent 2020.

Arriving from St. John Lutheran in Thurmont, MD on a mission from the bishop to "see if [they] could find a path forward," Pastor Huber had his work cut out for him. But, before coming to Southwest he was consulting with congregations to help them re-engage their communities to be a larger, positive force in the life of their communities.

Initially, Pastor Huber's main concerns were structural, literally. The building was falling apart to be able to do ministry and outreach in the community with a building in that shape. In fact, by 2001 they could no longer use the sanctuary. "There were too many holes in the roof, too many leaks...We couldn't keep it dry. Mold was growing and mildew, and we just basically had to shut it off. We lost that capacity."

Perhaps, then, it was God's mission that he ended up here in this corner of D.C.

"There was no way that the congregation could see a future in that building. Yet, St. Matthews is one of the more diverse congregations in our evangelical Lutheran church in America." Pastor Huber told me that his mission was to come to St. Matthews to find a path forward for the church. "In our language [he had] to find what God's mission was for St. Matthews and how it could re-engage the Southwest community and continue to be the positive force the way it had been for so many years." According to Pastor Huber, the Synod (equivalent to a Methodist Conference or a Roman Catholic or Episcopal diocese) did not want to lose the unique and diverse congregation in this corner of the nation's capital. "A Synod," Pastor Huber says, "means walking together. So it literally means 'a group of people walking together."

They moved into the new building in 2019, but before that they moved around a bit – a congregation without a home.

In December of 2005, they left the old building and joined St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (located in SW). They stayed there for three years until they joined First Trinity at Judiciary Square. At First Trinity, they didn't just find a space to worship but built a new alliance that exists to this day. The two congregations shared in ministry and "part of what has occurred is that as St. Mattthews was preparing to come back to Southwest," Pastor Huber explained, people wondered that because the two congregations were doing so well together, why should they stop doing that?

"St. Matthews and First Trinity have continued and have further cemented this shared ministry between them," Pastor Huber said. Now they have two administrative assistants in the two buildings that work together. They have even launched a joint website. "By having this shared ministry, we're able to provide and do even more than what we may have been able to do by ourselves. We use the phrase 'one mission but in two locations."

I asked what some of the biggest challenges were when taking over the ministry in Southwest and Huber told me it "turned out to be [the] development process and getting to the new building."

The building itself was completed in 2019 but the work actually began almost 20 years before in 2000. As early as 2002, they were talking to developers and signed a development deal in 2005. But the process wasn't straight forward.

"One of the big struggles was trying to work through all of the processes in the city and with the D.C. government. There is no preferred status for the church anymore. That's long gone. There were people in the community that opposed us building in that spot."

Resistance to new development isn't new, and these days, especially as it per-

tains to D.C., there is a constant tension between developers and the communities they want to build in.

Why did people oppose St. Matthews building a new building? "Don't need another church!" Pastor Huber said of one complaint. "You're going to block my view of the Capitol!"

He also describes a deeper issue in the 21st century that goes beyond pure aesthetics and touches upon cultural changes and a waning respect for religion. "The notion that Christendom is dead and over with was certainly felt and born out by the congregation. Fifty, 60, 80 years ago, had the congregation proposed to do what it did, it would've had open arms, but there just isn't that same kind of..." He paused on our call, choosing his words carefully, "There isn't a respect for the church in the way that there once was. In some regards, there's outright hostility towards the church."

"On the other hand," he continued, "the majority of people were very supportive. It was the people willing to speak on our behalf at hearings...that really got us through."

They hit another roadblock in 2008 with the great recession, and the development was, at that point, "dead in the water for three years."

"The real struggle is that development does not happen overnight. It's a long process." Again, he points back to his congregation, their resilience, and "perseverance" to never give up on the dream of having their own building again.

Even though this wasn't what the pastor was expecting coming to Southwest, one of his biggest challenges, and accomplishments, was seeing that a new place of worship for his congregation was erected. He emphasizes, though, that the new building went beyond just his congregation. It was for worship, yes, but it was also a place where the community could hold events. It was also a place of healing. "My ministry with some of the young African American men who've come into the

See "Pastor," page 5

2020 Brickies Honor Community and Volunteers

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n Thursday Dec. 3, Councilmember Charles Allen presented The 2020 Ward 6 Brickie Award (now in its 15th year) Winners virtually.

It was, in many ways, an odd year. The demands of the COVID-19 pandemic have required Ward 6 residents to spend indoors and out of the physical space that is the community. As a result, the awards were presented via video conferencing software rather than at a reception. However, as Allen pointed out, it was this year more than most preceding it that demanded a higher level of coordination and compassion from his constituents.

Allen recognized "five stories of hope, hard work, and resilience in the face of a global pandemic" for The Brickies, an "opportunity to celebrate members of the community who make Ward 6 great." Recipients of these awards-formerly known as the Livable Walkable Awardshave traditionally received an engraved brick in honor of their service to the community. This year, when no traditional handoff could be made. Allen mimed the act virtually by handing it over his computer screen.

In addition to the pandemic, Allen took a moment of silence to recognize the 692 lives lost to COVID-19 and the 187 to homicide and gun violence. He acknowledged the loss of life of 15-month old

Carmelo Duncan, who was fatally shot on • Dec. 2 in Southeast.

Also contributing to the ceremony with pre-recorded videos or live conversations were Mayor Murial Bowser, Chair of the D.C. Council, Phil Mendelson, Councilmember Elissa Silverman, and former Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells.

The winners of this year's Brickie awards were as follows:

Neighbor Award: Allison McGill, Founder, D.C. **Coronavirus Volunteers**

When lockdown measures went into place, Allison McGill invited anyone needing help or feeling vulnerable to contact her. Allison already had a list of volunteers running errands for seniors or parents who couldn't easily go to the store or run critical errands. Within a month, she had a list of more than 2,500 people she could call on to meet a wide range of needs as a volunteer or donor. She helped fill in gaps in the aftermath of mass closures around the spread of COVID-19.

Allison has a history of jumping into action. When the federal government shut down, she organized her fellow neighbors and local restaurants and shops to serve meals to furloughed workers and provide some relief to all those affected by the shutdown.

Community Organization Award: Darius Baxter, Troye Bullock and Danny Wright, GOODProjects

GOODProjects (Giving Out Opportunities Daily) was founded in 2016 • by D.C. natives Darius Baxter, Troye Bullock and Danny Wright, who met at Georgetown University. The organization now works to end poverty and uplift families living in poverty in D.C. by focusing on Southwest. They serve families in public housing communities in Southwest Ward 6 through summer camps and longterm, family-centered case manage-

The GOOD Projects team pivoted during the pandemic to set up the GOOD Learning Hub, providing a space for students enrolled in their camps who may not have reliable access to the internet, meals, and companionship when school shifted to virtual. Each student is provided a laptop and a hotspot, has the support of adults who can tutor and help keep focus, and gets snacks and meals throughout the day.

By 2030, GOODProjects aims to end poverty for 500 families in the "GOODZone" - the most poverty dense government-funded housing

in Washington D.C. GOODProjects provides free youth programming to GOODZone students with the goal for 100% of participants to have college as an option upon graduation.

Business Award: Erik Bruner-Yang, Chef, Restaurateur, **Creator of The Power of 10 Initiative**

Chef Erik Bruner-Yang's culinary career began on Ward 6's H Street NE and his dishes have put D.C.'s restaurant scene on the national and international map. He has remained in his community, however. During the pandemic, Bruner-Yang has worked to alleviate unemployment in D.C.'s service industry, as well as a rise in hunger and food instability.

Bruner-Yang's Power of 10 Initiative gets chefs back in the kitchen cooking meals for their neighbors and area nonprofits. Beginning in Ward 6, the Power of 10 effort seemed to multiply by a factor of 10, producing 5,000 meals within a few weeks while keeping 50 Ward 6 jobs going. Since then, the project has expanded to 30 kitchens locally and across the nation, serving 275,000 meals while keeping restaurants open and preventing layoffs.

See "Brickies," page 12

WINTER SEASON OF VIRTUAL CLASSES



Southwest Neighbors save up to 15%!

Classes for adults and students allow you to explore a variety of theater arts from the comfort of your home.

CLASSES BEGIN FEBRUARY 1



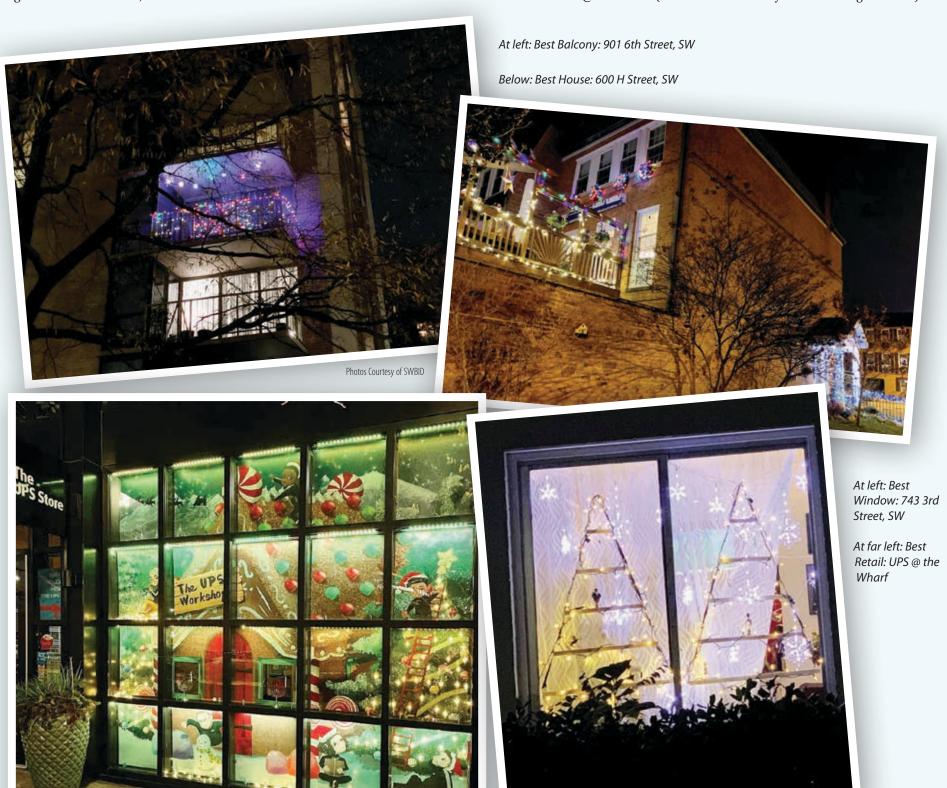


Winners of the 2020 "Light Up Southwest" Competition

ven a global pandemic couldn't stop the Southwest Business Improvement District's (SWBID) "Light Up Southwest" competition. Residents and businesses participated in the annual holiday tradition to establish who has the best holiday decorations in the area. The winners of the Best House, Best Window and Best Balcony categories all received a \$50 gift certificate to a neighborhood restaurant, and the winner of Best Retail will receive a free ad in

The Southwester. This year's winners are:

- Best House: 600 H Street, SW
- **Best Window:** 743 3rd Street, SW (This address has previously won twice, though under different owners!)
- Best Balcony: 901 6th Street, SW
- Best Retail: UPS @ the Wharf (This is UPS' second year of winning in a row!)



Obituaries

In Loving Memory of Paul William Smart

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

aul William Smart, (Bill, Billy), 94 years old, of Southport Indiana, passed away of cancer at his Florida home on Dec. 5, in Pompano Beach. He and his wife, Diane, also have a home at Town Square Towers in SW. Among many other things, Bill was the inspiration for the boat shuttle over to Haines Point from the Wharf. He was a true connector.

Bill was born on Aug. 17, 1926, at a farm on McFarland Road in Southport, IN, to Jeannette May Brown and Geoge William Smart, Jr. His sister Georgia (8) welcomed him, and his younger sister Barbara Joanned (Bobbie) was born in 1927.

He graduated from Southport high school in 1944 and served in the U.S. Navy as Seaman First Class at the Naval Air Station in Seattle, WA, from 1944-1946. He attended Butler University (1946-7) and graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a bachelor of science and design in 1952. As a student, he interned with Eli Lilly. He spent his first year after graduation as the assistant executive secretary at



Bill and Diane Smart

the Sigma Chi Fraternity International

Headquarters in Evanston, IL.

He worked in New York City as a L.W. Frohlich (1953-1957).

designer and assistant account executive with Sadler and Hennessey and L.W. Frohlich (1953-1957).

During the late 50s, he was an ordained fraternal worker missionary with the Presbytarian Church in Brazil. In 1964, he graduated from the Yale University Graphic Design Program, School of Art and Architecture as a master of fine arts.

Between 1964-1969, he was the art director in the international book division at McGraw Hill Book Corporation in NYC. From 1969-1973, he was the art director of the Donald Art Company in Port Chester, NY, and the account executive and production manager at Stuart Williams Associates in Stanford, CT.

In 1973, he returned to his beloved New York City and until 1978 was the vice president of public relations and fundraising of the Franklin International Book Program, the executive director of the West Side Association of Commerce, and the Publisher of the Manhattan Business Journal.

A virtual memorial service will be held on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2020 at 3 p.m. (EST), 2 p.m. (CST), 1 p.m. (MDT), and 12 p.m. (PDT). Information shared with family and friends.

The scattering of his ashes will be private and at a location of his request.

PASTOR

Continued from p. 2

courtyard to sit and talk with me, provided some encouragement and hope for them. And, for me! They changed my life – that they were open to this older White guy to be able to sit and talk with them. To talk about the life of the community and what we could do to improve it."

Pastor Huber says that the idea that his church was, or could become, a more vibrant town center is what drove the idea behind features of the new building, like the coffee shop, Sacred Grounds Cafe, the meeting and conference center, the audiovisual technology, etc. He even pointed out that a generator could be wheeled into the courtyard, plugged in, and the whole building could be run off grid. There are also showers in the lower restrooms, and he notes with some pride that St. Matthews could be used as an emergency shelter if the city ever needed it

Wary of the criticisms of other development projects in the neighborhood that have been accused of exacerbating gentrification, Pastor Huber defends how St. Matthews moved forward and said that "nothing could be further from the truth" as it concerns the new building. "There was no housing at all on the property." It was, in fact, an empty lot with a failed community garden at one point. St. Matthews, Pastor Huber explains, brought 220 new residential spaces into the communi-

ty "of which, 11% are affordable housing."

"We also brought, and this is what people forget – we brought, on average, \$630k of new tax base money for the city." The apartments that they built generate that revenue, he reiterates. "It's pumping that money into the economy every year. Year in and year out."

In defense of the majority market rate housing in the new building, he said he argued to the city to use that tax money for additional affordable housing. He sounded disappointed but resigned that the city isn't using the money that way. "It wasn't my decision."

He told me, though, that what the community would be missing if St. Matthews hadn't come back would be greater than the drawbacks of rebuilding. They've been providing meals for the community, worship, and a space for the community to come together and have conversation.

Instead of a divisive project, a place that separates the often disparate socio-economic groups, the church brings them together. "We sit right at the divide of those who have enough and those who don't have enough. That's always been part of the diversity of St. Matthew's congregation is that rich and poor, alike, worship together [and] make decisions about the church together. And that's a rather unique piece."

Speaking on the dynamics of neighborhood change, Pastor Huber points out that he understands the apprehension people have, especially long time residents. "There's always a concern that the

changes that occur don't allow those who have lived there for a long period of time to be able to maintain and continue to live there. So I share that concern."

"On the other hand, you look at what they're getting ready to do at the Greenleaf project and other kinds of projects on the board. I think we're going to be able to increase the affordable housing that's available in the Southwest community. It's certainly a much more vibrant community than it was 21 years ago."

Speaking generally of development throughout Southwest and Navy Yard, he says that it has brought "negative issues," but he thinks that people don't pay attention to the benefits of development. He also said that throughout the development process, St. Matthews listened to the concerns of neighbors and actually changed their plans based on community input. At one community meeting at Westminster, a community member approached him and thanked him for being the first development project to actually listen to the community. "St. Matthews has shown how you can do development and be a positive force in the neighborhood."

St. Matthews' real fight, though, was with the city.

Their vision of bringing more workforce housing to Southwest was novel back in 2002. "We wanted to try to make more of those apartments available for... lower-middle income people, workforce people, you know, fire fighters, police officers, teachers – who were losing an opportunity to live in Southwest. We wanted to try to make more of our housing available to that strata of people."

At the time, according to Pastor Huber the city was resistant to changing the formula of development, and because of what they were trying to do, there was more scrutiny on them. They needed "some kind of economic engine to be able to rebuild" and none of the congregations had the resources to build millions of dollars worth of new buildings. "The churches would have disappeared had there not been some way to be able to afford the new buildings and provide the outreach and ministry that we do in the congregation."

"So, Mary Williams was an ANC many years ago when I first came. And, whenever she spoke at the church she would always preface her remarks by saying thanks to St. Matthew again for being the town center of Southwest."

Pastor Huber clarifies that while St. Matthews isn't *the hub* of Southwest, it is a hub for anyone in the community. Before COVID, he says, they were trying to pick up a lot of the programming that used to be available at the old SW Library before it was torn down for the new building.

One of the greatest strengths of St. Matthews is its diversity, and it is that aspect of ministry in Southwest that Pastor Huber will miss most.

Contemplating his coming retirement from parish ministry, Pastor Huber explains that he has no regrets, but feels a

See "Pastor," page 19

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Civic Group Hosts Celebration Highlighting Breast Cancer Study

BY SUZANNE C. O'NEILL

utcomes for women diagnosed with breast cancer have improved over the past 25 years through a combination of screening and treatment. However, these improvements have not been seen equally across all members of our community. For example, according to the American Cancer Society, while slightly more White than Black women are newly diagnosed with breast cancer each year nationwide, Black women are 42% more likely to die of the disease.

Researchers from Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Comprehensive Center (GLCCC) are partnering with the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF), the African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA) led by Ms. Ify Nwabukwu, and the American Cancer Society on a new effort to address breast cancer disparities in D.C. through an expansion of current services. This includes encouraging women who have had mammograms through the Capital Breast Cancer Center's (CBCC) breast cancer screening navigation program in the past to continue to have regular mammograms. It also includes identifying women who would be eligible for genetic counseling and testing. These expansions are designed to become permanent parts of breast health care provided through CBCC, with the goal of creating sustained improvements in breast cancer outcomes in D.C.

As part of this effort, the TDJBCF's New Year's Virtual Breast Cancer Sup-



Dr. Lucile Adams-Campbell, Professor of Oncology, Associate Director for Minority Health & Health Disparities Research, Senior Associate Dean for Community Outreach & Engagement, GLCCC

port Group Celebration, scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m., will be dedicated to the topic of the genetics of breast cancer, including genetic counseling and testing in general.

The event will be emceed by Ms. Jaqueline Beale. Guest speakers include Melanie Nix, Chair of the GLCCC Community Advisory Council and TDJBCF Board Member, as well as a genetic counselor



Ms. Melanie Nix, Chair of the GLCCC Community Advisory Council & TDJBCF Board Member

from GLCCC. Melanie will share her personal experiences with this topic. Closing remarks will be provided by Dr. Lucile Adams-Campbell, professor of Oncology, Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research, and Senior Associate Dean for Community Outreach and Engagement at GLCCC. TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones is a member of the GLCCC Community Advisory Council.

Interested participants may attend the

support group meeting by visiting https://www.facebook.com/TDJBreast-CancerFund/ on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. For questions about the meeting or the TDJBCF, please email thelma@ tdjbreastcancerfund.org, call (202) 251-1639, or visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.

You may be eligible for this study if you are a Black woman in the D.C. area; are between 40-70 years old; and had a mammogram in the past, but have not had a mammogram in the past 12-24 months. If you are interested in learning more about the study, please contact TDJBCF at (202) 251-1639 or CBCC at (202) 784-2700.

Suzanne C. O'Neill, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at Georgetown University Medical Center and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Angry Black Hair

BY AUTUMN RISBROOK

Let me just start off by saying thank you for loving my hair

I know it's so fluffy and coily and beautiful

And I just needed to say that because I'm a little tired of having it tugged and pulled on by others who are not my mother because as you can see it is versatile and thick (pause)

I'm not upset at all...

Heck I'm pissed off

I'm mad! so mad that I'm about to carry a flip flop in my bag to break your hand in half

But imagine this as sympathetic so I can tell you why this is so pathetic

that you can even think to touch where my roots hide

I'm borderline about cry because I Autumn Risbrook



Courtesy of Author

don't know where you have been

Then u get upset when I say don't touch (pause)

Don't touch, because I'm built like this Don't touch, just because you ain't hip like this

Don't touch, because you need heat to achieve even half of what I have

And you know what stop taking all the hair products to force your edges

products reduce in price

I'm SO tired of being nice

DONT TOUCH, here you go again making me uncomfortable 'cause I paid 100 dollars plus for these braids

I can go on for days and men don't understand

Cause y'all don't need much and don't understand either (laugh) cause ard Wright PCS.

that's another topic

And I can still be treated like an animal, or test subject and no one would have any remorse to show for it... so now u understand my concerns so please admire with your eyes and love my hair from a far

Autumn's "Poem breakdown": I wrote this poem because of a trend on social media about other people and you know what, stores make the —touching black girls' hair without their permission. This has happened to me before and it was really frustrating so I decided to make a poem about it. Me writing this poem also came at the perfect time because it was for a school assignment.

Autumn Risbrook is a Junior at Rich-

JMA Solutions Celebrates 15 Years of Excellence

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

ashington, D.C. - JMA Solutions, a local Southwest (SW) D.C. based government consulting firm, celebrated 15 years in business this past December with an extravagant online event. Although JMA employees were not able to participate in person, the JMA Marketing Team found a means to develop a virtual event to celebrate this historic occasion.

To begin the evening, the JMA leader-ship welcomed its employees, customers, and community partners, including the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), the Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA) and many others who joined us in an evening of fun. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment from an illusionist, music from DJ Ease, virtual games, and raffles.

"2020 has been a challenging year," said President and CEO Jan Adams. "Achieving 15 years of excellence is a major accomplishment and would not



Jan Adams

be possible without my forward-thinking team. That in itself deserves to be celebrated."

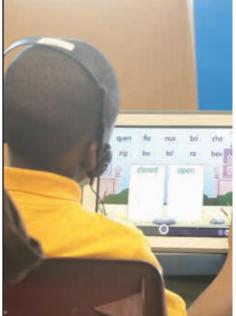
JMA Solutions was founded by its President and CEO Jan Adams, a 24-year Air Force veteran, who started the company as a one-woman consultancy in 2005. Since then, Ms. Adams has grown the company into a successful awardwinning engineering and management consulting firm that supports the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and numerous other government clients. JMA Solutions has over 170 employees and operates all over the country including offices in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, Oklahoma City, OK, and a team located in Jacksonville, Florida. A large part of the success of the company can be attributed to the contribution of its hard-working staff, who continuously delivers excellent customer service and keeps JMA at the forefront of an everchanging landscape.

In addition to being a force within the consulting management field, JMA Solutions has been recognized by many third-party organizations, including the Washington Business Journal, the DC Chamber of Commerce, and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), for its commitment to serving the community. Since its founding, JMA has donated over 1.6 million dollars to various charities around the United States and over \$350,000 to the SW D.C. community. The company is also a proud 6-year Adopt-a-School partner to Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and Jefferson Academy, both located in Southwest, D.C.

"Although JMA has had tremendous growth over the years, we have always stayed true to our roots – providing exceptional customer service and giving back to our communities to help foster the growth of the next generation of business leaders," said Ms. Adams. "The act of giving starts from within and I am so grateful that I have a team that has that same passion for Giving Back."

When asked what's next for JMA, Ms. Adams mentioned that the company has plans to pursue more grant-based research opportunities that focus on commercial or academic potential.







ENROLL NOW for 2020–2021 School Year



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

 $www.eagleacademypcs.org \bullet @eagleacademypcs$



Page 8 The Southwester January 2021





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
		9
10	*	

4	 	 	
5	 		
6			

Answers from December 2020 issue

Differences: The picture on the right has more reindeer and more presents in the sleigh; the picture on the right has stars under the blue cloud; the picture on the right has a feather in the snowman's cap; the dreidel is different in the two pictures; the picture on the right has a bicycle; the ornaments on the tree are slightly different in the two pictures.

Word Scramble: There are 324 words you can make from "Wonderland."

WORD SEARCH: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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X	L	E	R	N	N	G	K	Τ	D	F	Q	Н	F	I
K	C	S	L	D	A	K	J	G	В	E	A	A	\overline{W}	P
P	D	Н	S	L	C	Н	X	\circ	X	R	X	D	G	C
В	S	Н	L	В	S	K	Τ	C	Н	A	N	G	E	N
Н	I	P	D	U	0	D	Y	A	N	0	U	Ε	E	K
P	Τ	A	Н	E	R	E	N	0	Y	Τ	N	E	\overline{W}	Τ
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		CF	IAN(JL					REFI	イトフト	┑			

THANKFUL

TWENTY ONE

FORWARD

FRIENDSHIP

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



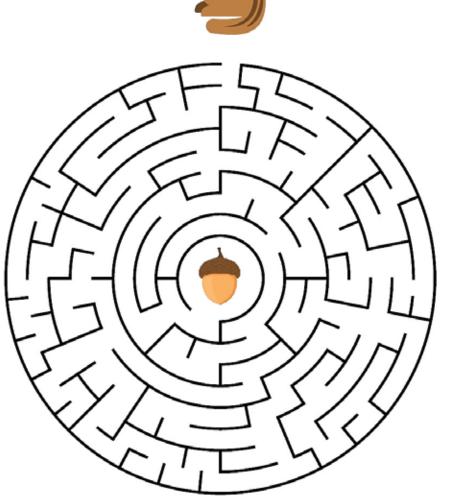
KID'S CORNER

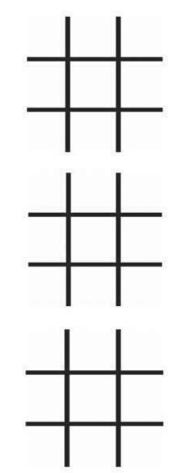


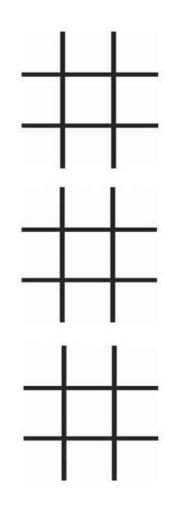
TIC TAC TOE



Can you help the squirrel find his nut?







Jokes!

What has two hands but can't clap?

A clock! (Submitted by Sydney)

What kind of hand sanitizer does Santa use? Santa-tizer! (Submitted by Ella)

Why did the bubble gum cross the road?
It was stuck to the chicken's foot!

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!



Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

a. 19 + 4 =

b.35 - 31 =

c.6 - 5 =

d.20 + 10 =

e. 10 - 9 =

f. 13 + 13 =

g.8 + 4 =

h. 100 + 100 =

HENDERSON

Continued from p. 1

ature drops, but that was really an opportunity for us to get out and see neighborhoods across the city. I really enjoyed that piece. I didn't get the chance to talk to as many people as I wanted because we weren't knocking on doors, so I was only having conversations with people I saw outside, but it definitely felt like I was doing action, and having the opportunity to introduce myself.

And then finally I would say that during early vote, leading up to election day, was a highlight because that is the time that you got to see the most voters. First time voters. Women who were excited to cast a ballot for Kamala Harris. Young people who were voting for the first time and older people voting for the first time. I really liked having the opportunity to have conversations with people, even during the pandemic, so I would say those were some of my favorite pieces of the campaign.

Looking forward, what will you prioritize in your first year on the Council?

Well I think one of the biggest priorities for the Council next year is going to be around COVID-19 recovery. And also various aspects of that, so the economic recovery, probably helping businesses come back online, helping businesses sustain through this moment. And educational recovery, how do we help our LEAs [Local Educational Agencies] have the resources necessary to support students, through overcoming the incredible amount of learning loss that I think everyone admits has taken place over the last few months. And then obviously a health care recovery, in terms of access, and vaccine distribution, and what does that look like. So, I think that is going to be the priority going forward.

I would add to the economic recovery. How are we helping families and individuals recover from this moment from a personal financial standpoint, because we have a lot of people in our city who lost their jobs. We have a lot of people, who as a result of that, are struggling to pay rent, are struggling to provide food for their families, so what are the additional types of support we're providing to our residents to make sure we're not having a massive eviction crisis at the same time we're still in the middle of a public health emergency?

How will you measure success for

I would measure success in terms of impact. There are specific things I've been thinking around, especially in the area of child care, and in the area of maternal health. For me it's not a question of how many bills did you introduce, but it's how many of those bills were you able to successfully get implemented? Ie, you have buy-in from the Executive, and agencies, to actually do the work or transform the way that they're doing something.

I think the other part of measuring success is around, you know one of my, one of the values and principles that I have is that your zip code should not determine your opportunity for success. So how are we moving towards a more equitable DC? There are lots of varying indicators, but a measure of that is do people feel like we're seeing change across the city, or do people feel like we're stuck in the very stagnant ways that we were even prepandemic? So that's how I would measure

Obviously, Councilmember Charles Allen represents Southwest. How well have you gotten to know Charles Allen so far, and are there any issues that you see yourself

transportation issues. But the committee structure of the Council is going to be shrinking, so we'll see what happens in terms of how the Chairman reconfigures the Committees and decides to place new

What are the city's biggest needs right

Top of the list, we have a big, big need around affordable housing. There are a number of people, even people who have homes right now, in the rental space, who are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of rent, while wages are still remaining stagnant in a lot of areas. So I definitely think that affordable housing is a need in lots of areas of the city, so I'll just underscore that. Fifty percent of affordround. It's how they keep up. It's how they compete. And in many ways it helps to grow and foster lifelong learners to have a type of intellectual curiosity right there at your fingertips.

You have mentioned you are a former resident of Southwest. Where did you live in Southwest?

Yes I used to live in Southwest, at 6th and Eye Street - across from Amidon-Bowen at Waterfront. That was in 2012 up to 2014, so when you talk about change that is already happening - and I loved living in Southwest - but this was also pre-groundbreaking on the Wharf. This was also pre-all of these new apartment and condo buildings that have gone up. There was just so much more greenspace. And when I drive down there now, I'm like where do the people go for the pickup soccer games that used to happen on this field? And I wouldn't even call it a field - it was just an empty space that has now been developed into something else. Southwest has changed so, so much.

In closing, what do you think that voters and residents should pay attention to, when it comes to the business of the **Council? What type of interaction would** you like to see from residents, and what differences do you think residents can make when it comes to the priorities of the Council?

Interestingly enough with COVID-19, it has made the Council far more accessible to folks, because of virtual hearings and virtual meetings and the ability for folks to be able to engage and interact where they are. Or because you don't need to do in-person testimony - you can email, you can do it through voice mail, all these different options. What I would say is that folks really need to be paying attention the first quarter of the new year to what's going to be happening, because a lot of it is going to be coming fast and furious, between the Comp Plan, between performance oversight, between the FY22 budget conversation, between a conversation about what if any cuts need to be made to the current fiscal year that we're in. I think it's just going to be very important that we continue to maintain the level of engagement that we've had over the last year of pushing and asking for questions, and asking for transparency. But also speaking up around how issues and situations have been affecting your daily life, even at this moment. The Metro proposal, for instance - you need to engage on these things to ensure that changes are not happening that are going to dramatically change how folks get around, how folks interact with the city, how folks get to work, how folks get to school, all of these different pieces. So, there is a lot going on, and it has been an onslaught. But I would say my suggestion to your readers is that you don't have to show up for everything, but don't check out completely.



Your zip code should not determine your opportunity for success. So how are we moving towards a more equitable DC?

—Christina Henderson



working closely with him on?

Charles and I have known each other since we were both staffers on the Council, way back when he worked for Tommy Wells. I've known Charles for a number of years, and I would say we had a good working relationship, and we have also developed a good friendship over the last few years since I've been gone. It's funny, literally right before talking to you I was actually on a call talking to Charles. We were talking about some public safety issues, and ways that we might be able to collaborate on those in the future. I don't anticipate that I might be serving on the Judiciary Committee, but judiciary and public safety are things that impact the entire city, so I definitely want to be involved in those issues as much as I can. So I think we're going to be able to do some good stuff together.

Obviously I think for folks in Southwest, the redistricting that is going to come up is going to be an area of deep collaboration, as it pertains to Ward 6.

Since you brought it up, do you know yet which Committees you'll be serving on, or are there particular ones you want?

I don't know which ones yet - we will find out the week of Christmas. I made some priority areas known to the Chairman - we'll see what happens. I have an interest in health care. I have a strong interest in education. And an interest in able housing is in one part of the city east of the river, and I don't consider that to be equitable or fair. So I think being more strategic around where we are placing our affordable housing is going to be largely important.

Another need is around supporting our small businesses, which are the drivers of revenue and success in the district. Every day that I go online, there is a new restaurant or bar that is closing because of the pandemic, and so our recovery is around how do we sustain what we have, but also how do we create an environment where new businesses want to pop up, and grow and thrive, here in the district.

And then finally we have a really big need - and this is not an inclusive list, these are just the top three that come to mind - but we have a really, really big need around closing the digital divide. Mostly as it pertains to young people that is certainly part of it - but with families in general. COVID has shown us what we've already known around the need for individuals who want to be successful in our city in this 21st century environment, to have access to internet, to have access to technology. We've seen some further progress happen in our downtown areas, where we now have free wi-fi, but now nobody's down there. So what are we doing to bridge that divide in our residential areas? I'm of the belief that young people need laptops not just during a pandemic, but they need laptops year-

Local Anthropologist to Share Her Films on the African Diaspora

BY REV. RUTH W. HAMILTON

s part of its anti-racism work, Westminster Church will host two virtual evenings with distinguished Harbour Square resident Sheila S. Walker, Ph.D. Dr. Walker is a cultural anthropologist and documentary filmmaker who has done fieldwork, lectured, and participated in cultural events in most of Africa and the Global African Diaspora. She has also written in numerous scholarly and popular publications. She was Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for African and African American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and Professor of Anthropology and Director of the African Diaspora and the World program at Spelman College.

• On Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Scattered Africa: Faces and Voices of the African Diaspora. The film moves from the violent scattering of African people across the earth to their current participation in a global community. The focus is on their presence in and contributions to the Atlantic World. Portraying the unre-



Courtesy of Author

Sheila S. Walker, Ph.D

munerated economic contributions of Africans and their descendants to the wealth and power of the Americas, it also highlights elements of African culture that characterize contemporary Pan-American life. Emphasizing both similarities and differences, scholars and community leaders—from nations such as Argentina and Uruguay, in which the African past and presence is

little known; and Suriname and Brazil, where African cultural forms are too obvious to deny—discuss their discovery of their African heritage and the scattered transnational community that constitutes the African Diaspora.

On Jan. 20, 7 p.m. Familiar Faces/ Unexpected Places: A Global African Diaspora offers an expansive vision of what, where, and who the African Diaspora is, highlights African knowledge and technologies that developed the Americas, and reveals similarities and differences between African Diasporan communities in distant lands. Tens of millions of Africans were involuntarily scattered throughout the world during centuries of enslavement. The African Diasporan communities that resulted contributed to the creation of the new societies of the Americas and added new presences to old societies elsewhere. Torn from the world they knew, Africans and their descendants preserved ancestral worldviews to which they adapted the cultures of those they encountered to create dynamic fusions that enrich global civilization.

Please join these enlightening evenings with Dr. Walker. To receive the zoom link for these events please contact the church through the website at www.westminsterdc.org or call 202-484-7700.

Sheila S Walker, PhD, is a cultural anthropologist and documentary filmmaker, has done fieldwork, lectured, and participated in cultural events in most of Africa and the Global African Diaspora and has numerous scholarly and popular publications. Executive Director of Afrodiaspora, Inc., her goal is to share broadly her experiences and knowledge of the Global African Diaspora. Her book, African Roots/American Cultures: Africa in the Creation of the Americas, and companion documentary, Scattered Africa: Faces and Voices of the African Diaspora, are based on her international conference on "The African Diaspora and the Modern World." Her most recent documentary is Familiar Faces/Unexpected Places: A Global African Diaspora.



Greenleaf Redevelopment Story Continues to Unfold

BY NEAR SE/SW COMMUNITY BENEFITS COORDINATING COUNCIL (CBCC)

ince Nov. 12, when the D.C. Housing Authority (DCHA) Board of Commissioners authorized Director Tyrone Garrett to begin negotiations with Greenleaf co-developers Pennrose, EYA, and Bozzuto, community leaders have been focused on making sure Greenleaf residents will enjoy vastly improved housing as a result of the redevelopment. They also want to ensure that residents are protected from multiple moves in or out of Southwest as they await places in the new development.

The Board of the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) met on Dec. 12 and identified several issues that remain to be clarified for the Greenleaf residents, for the community, and for the prospective negotiations. The Greenleaf Advisory Council, four of whom also sit on the CBCC Board, met with DCHA and the co-developers on Dec. 21 and learned that most of these questions remain unanswered and negotiable.

First among them, "Build First," as understood by the community and memorialized by a City Council resolution, requires onefor-one replacement in Southwest of all 493 units in the new mixed income development. Where and when those units will be built is not yet known. As Greenleaf Advisory Council and CBCC Board member Deb Frazier recalled, one-for-one replacement was also promised to former residents of Arthur Capper Carrollsburg in SE when replacement began in 2007, but of the 707 units to be replaced, 243 are yet to be deliv-

Furthermore, Greenleaf currently includes 149 large units with three to five bedrooms. How many large units will be recreated in the new development, or what rules will govern who occupies larger units is not known. This could be critical for large families and multi-generational households, including residents who may have temporarily relocated during the pandemic but will need to reconnect and reestablish their households in the new development.

Second, "Build First" means that the new unit must be built before any resident is moved. The goal is only one move, from the current unit to the new one, thus negating any temporary moves in or out of Southwest, with the right to return. But according to DCHA's description, "Build First" will only "minimize" resident moves, not pre-

More than an inconvenience, housing instability has been shown to be a major contributor to the variety of other domestic challenges that make steady work, success in school, and connections to needed services problematic. The properties the co-developer is considering for the first replacement units, which might ensure one move for Greenleaf residents, have not been built and their future availability must still be negotiated.

This lack of a specificity raises additional concerns. The intention of Build First is to keep current residents in their Southwest construction? In order to avoid a repeat of community and maintain critical social bonds and connections to services, as well as preserve Southwest's iconic social diversity - a first principle in Southwest's Small Area Plan. If future properties that would have been otherwise used to contribute to the overall profile of demographic diversity, instead of social diversity, it would be a net loss for Southwest. The possible use of vouchers in Southwest or elsewhere raises other concerns. Vouchers are a scarce resource and landlords who accept them are similarly scarce. Greenleaf residents should not compete with others who need subsidized housing but have fewer options.

Third, details about ownership and management of the new development will determine who will be eligible for replacement units immediately and over time. DCHA has indicated that it is not relinquishing ownership, but what that means is not clear. What remains unclear is: what role DCHA will have in overseeing public housing/public subsidy renters over time and in properties not currently in the DCHA portfolio; what tenant rights will accrue to former public housing residents and other low-income renters over time; and whether residents will be allowed to participate in policy development and have a continued role in the new mixed-income development. All of this, in part, will be determined by who controls the new properties.

Finally, what is the timing and sequence of Greenleaf demolition and replacement

the Arthur Capper Carrollsburg experience and ensure that the Southwest community is not in an unending state of flux, as well as attending to Greenleaf residents who currently live in intolerable conditions, this project, as complex as it is, needs a clear and reasonable beginning, middle, and end.

Although the details are critical to understanding what will be negotiated and toward what end, the DCHA Commissioners had not reviewed the co-developer's proposal at the time of their November meeting, nor has the Greenleaf Advisory Council to date. The CBCC Board has not taken a position in support of the proposal, but the four CBCC Board members, who are also members of the Greenleaf Advisory Council, have written to DCHA expressing their concerns.

Stakeholders are grateful that communication with DCHA has opened up, however. DCHA had its first of a promised monthly meeting with Greenleaf residents on Dec. 10, and the next of promised quarterly meetings with the Greenleaf Advisory Council will be in March 2021. CBCC/Advisory Council members asked to be notified of the monthly resident meetings and hoped to attend as observers. What the continuing role for the Greenleaf Advisory Council will be is not clear. What is clear, though, is there are critical questions that should underlie the current negotiation with the co-developer and that Greenleaf residents and community stakeholders will want answers before the final decision is made.

TERM 3

Continued from p. 1

gible teachers lead both [IPL] and [distance learning]," which Amidon-Bowen says will maintain "continuity" in case COVID forces everyone to return to distance learning at a short notice. According to the Draft Plan, the school wants to implement half-day IPL schedules for Pre-K (PK) in order to keep virtual attendance low.

Amidon is able to accommodate more IPL students while sticking to safety guide-

What is relevant, here, is that teachers who are a part of the Washington Teacher's Union (WTU) "may be assigned to in-person work - unless approved of federally protected leave." In such a case, IPL staffing will consist of volunteers.

For now, on February 1 the school plans to open 14 IPL classrooms and maintain the two CARE classrooms. Families who have already accepted an IPL seat have first priority. Following that, students that are experiencing homelessness, ESL learners or students with individualized learning plans, as well as at-risk students will have next

Principals will be able to appeal for students with unique needs to help ensure they are offered an IPL seat. There is no cap on the number of students that can be appealed but "those requests will be reviewed and approved by Instructional Superintendents."

Currently, the Draft Plan indicates that the model will look like this:

- in-person PK will be dismissed at noon
- kindergarten-5th grade in-person will observe a staggered schedule: arrival: 8:15-9 a.m.; dismissal: 3-3:30 p.m.

With this model, one teacher will teach both IPL and virtual lessons all week for PK and kindergarten (often with support staff). Student schedules may change, but small group instruction will continue to be prioritized. Students will learn content simultaneously, either virtually or in-person, from the same teacher.

So, what will be different? Right now, teachers are currently drafting new schedules, which will be shared with parents during the first week of January. This will give families at least three weeks to prepare and plan for Term 3.

Nothing is codified yet, and parents can still make their thoughts and priorities known by completing the survey and/ or reaching out to Ms. Sykes via phone: (202) 724-4867, or email: tamikka.sykes@

There will be another Term 3 orientation meeting for each grade level on Wednesday, Jan. 6, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Parentes will receive new classroom schedules for Term 3 and learn more about the changes and shifts in the instructional model. Finally, during the week of Jan. 11, IPL seat offers will be extended and parents will have two days to decline or accept the offer.

BRICKIES

Continued from p. 3

Civic Pride Award: Maurice Cook, Executive Director, Serve Your City / Ward 6 Mutual Aid

In 2020, Maurice Cook and Serve Your City stepped up to help low-income neighborhoods. It remains a powerful voice advocating for change to end inequality in educational, racial, and wealth gaps within the District.

As the lead partner agency for Ward 6 Mutual Aid, a network of more than 30 non-profits, Maurice Cook has led a team of volunteers and organizational partners in providing distance learning supplies for students; food, clothing, supplies for neighbors living in an encampment; distributing meals to families, diapers to new parents, and meeting almost any other need they spot. Its principle of "Solidarity, not Charity" helps harness the grassroots knowledge of local nonprofits with resources. For nearly two decades, Serve Your City has provided "Black and Brown children access to rowing, swimming, yoga, tennis, tutoring, and inspiring experiences often

not readily available to children from under-resourced families."

Public Service Award: Donte Lucas, DC Homeland Security and Emergency **Management Agency**

Donte Lucus, the deputy chief of operations with D.C.'s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, serves as one of the Emergency Operation Center Managers. The COVID-19 EOC has been up and running since March, with the managers and staff working almost nonstop since then.

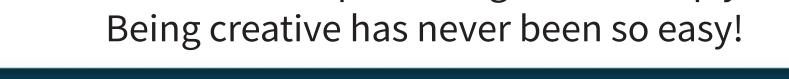
Donte Lucas has been serving our city with the D.C. Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency for nearly a decade, moving further in his career with each stop. He has demonstrated steadfast leadership and dedication during this response. His colleagues emphasize how much of a team player Donte is, so count this as a Brickie for the whole EOC team.

The Office of Councilmember Charles Allen contributed to this arti-

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The **UPS Store** at The Wharf

Waterfront Academy Holds Socially Distant Christmas Pageant



Courtesy of Waterfront Academy

BY KATE OCZYPOK

outhwest D.C.'s Waterfront Academy carried on with their Christmas pageant this year, despite the ongoing global pandemic. The school has put on an annual holiday show for parents and loved ones and didn't want to stop the tradition.

Through lots of safety measures like mask wearing, social distancing, and outdoor or virtual performances from home, Melissa Rohan, president of Waterfront Academy, created quite the extravaganza for her students and their families. There was a Nativity Play with older students playing the familiar char-

acters of Mary, Joseph, the innkeepers, and more. Younger children sang Christmas carols to go along with the performances. Rohan subtitled the show to make it easy for parents, grandparents, and new readers to understand.

Middle schoolers chimed in with a reading of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* and there were some holiday songs, including a rousing rendition of *Deck the Halls* on the piano by students from home. One student even performed a magic show in between the mini piano recital and Christmas story. The children also had handmade costumes of colorful robes, adding to the festive nature of the video.

The show had a "red carpet premiere" on Wednesday Dec. 16 via Zoom. Rohan provided a link for families to share to their extended families for a limited time.

"The students did an amazing job," Rohan said. "It ended up [being] about 20 minutes—a fun and entertaining time!" she said. She put together a credits page so her students could see their names and characters in print.

"Where there is a challenge, there is an opportunity," Rohan added. "The opportunity in this case is family members who don't usually get to come to our pageant were able to see it for the first time—it was a beautiful experience

for everybody."

Waterfront Academy, a Montessori school in the Catholic tradition, is located in SW D.C. They are currently open using a blended learning model, with students in-person for part of the week. Others who wish to learn remotely are doing so as well.

The next big event coming up for the school is an online auction on Saturday Feb. 6, 2021. If you wish to support this endeavor, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school. Visit https://www.waterfrontacademy.org/ for more information

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	Ward	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



SW Mutual Aid Finishes 2020 Strong, Volunteer Work Awarded

BY MAX GROSSMAN AND CARLEE BROWN

he Southwest Fall Food Drive was a huge SUCCESS!!! Ward 6 Mutual Aid (W6MA) and Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) would like to thank all our neighbors who generously supported the Southwest D.C. Fall Food Drive! With your help we collected over 120 large boxes of food and supplies enough to assist 120 families over the next few months.

A special thanks goes out to the residents of River Park, Tiber Inland, and VIO who gave so generously. In addition to the food supplies, we raised \$630 dollars that will be used for coats and food for our unhoused neighbors.

We'd also like to acknowledge that thanks to your support, W6MA has been

awarded the "Civic Pride" award at Charles Allen's Office's 2020 Brickies http://bit.ly/ w6ma_brickies. Thank you all!

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 4-6 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 our partner organization Serve Your

City, we are providing digital devices to local students. Please fill out the form at https://bit.ly/w6ma_laptops if you have a device to donate.

- Volunteer. The Southwest Pod of W6MA is also seeking volunteers to help staff our local food pantry and help with food distribution. 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 the courtyard entrance near the 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 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 CUMC on a community food and supply drive to serve our neighbors in response to COVID-19.

The Send Button and Other Regrets

BY DEBORAH SHERWOOD

hat a lovely, peaceful afternoon. Christmas tree and decorations are packed away, the gingerbread men cookie crumbs rest inside the vacuum cleaner bag, and according to the actuarial life table, odds are I'll make it through another year.

The pandemic prohibit-

ed me from hosting my annual New Years' Day brunch for the Red Hat Society ladies, but that's no excuse to let a few bottles of champagne continue to take up valuable space in the refrigerator vegetable bin. Besides, someday I may like to use the bin for actual vegetables.

I pour sixteen ounces of chilled, sparkling little bubbles into a large red plastic Solo cup, then lazily stretch out in my recliner. With optimistic enthusiasm, I take out a large, yellow legal pad, ready to catalog my resolutions for the brand new year.

Dusting off a pile of lofty intentions from previous years to use as inspiration, I notice they all include the same three goals: lose weight, eat healthier, exercise. Okay, that hasn't worked out; obviously I need to change tactics and be more realistic. Perhaps, instead of listing what I intend to accomplish, a better objective may be to assess my mistakes and try not to repeat

The first item I want to change in my list of historic blunders is to stop trusting autocorrect. I learned this lesson after hitting the SEND button and finding sentences such as "I would like to chat" changed to "I would like to cheat"; or "I'm unavail-



Deborah Sherwood

able to participate" to "I'm available to participate"; and "We enjoyed a delicious polenta casserole" to "We enjoyed a delicious tadpole casserole."

Another boo-boo I would like to remedy is being more discriminating about the men I go out with. Not long ago, I was enjoying coffee at a sidewalk café with a NASA physicist who specialized in space weather. I felt chilly

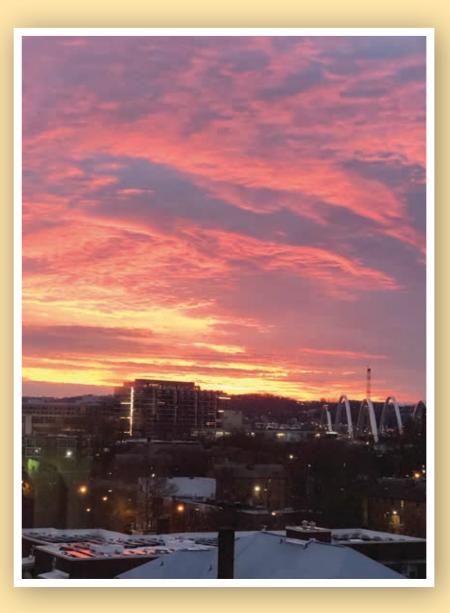
and draped my pashmina scarf around my shoulders. He leaned across the table and bellowed, "You're cold? Do you know what the temperature is right now on the moon?" I assumed it was unlikely I would see him again when he asked if I knew where he could meet women.

Then, there was the charmer who invited me to his mountain cabin in nearby West Virginia. The four foot high chiseled granite marker in the front yard inscribed "Martha Ann: Beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother" was a bit disturbing, as well as his immense arsenal of semi-automatic weapons. But I really felt like I was in a horror movie when he warned me to watch out for rattlesnakes.

Resolving not to repeat past errors is a challenge. Hopefully, I will be more cautious and use commonsense judgment prior to embarking on a potentially unpleasant adventure. Like the time I unintentionally mooned the entire Baptist congregation on Easter Sunday. But I'll save that story for another day.

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

PHOTO OF THE MONTH WINNER: SUSAN GOODMAN!



The morning sky around the new loops of the bridge, all before the snow later today.

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

Transformation Lab, Southwest Library: An Investment for the Future

BY GEORGINE WALLACE AND CHARLES ALLEN

ne of the highlights of 2020 has been the transformation of the new Southwest Library from an empty lot in February to a nearly completed building in December. In 2021, we will reopen to an exciting, active, and engaging "new" Southwest Library that will better serve all corners of the community.

We wanted to let you know of another kind of transformation taking place in the new building. Southwest will have a maker space that the D.C. Public Library has aptly named the Transformation Lab. Designed to be a smaller version of The Labs at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Southwest will be the first neighborhood library to have a maker space.

Why is a maker space like the Transformation Lab important to Southwest?

A simple definition of a maker space is a place where people of all ages can create, experiment, and invent something using an array of materials. The process of experimentation and finding solutions to problems fosters positive self-image and sparks an interest in further learning. These projects are often created in group situations which also enhances communication skills, team building skills, group problem solving, and public speaking skills. The lab will be designed to benefit residents from ages 13 and up. Note that children 6-12 will need to be accompanied by an adult or guardian while near the machines.

The Southwest Transformation Lab will have a new 3D printer that will be used for programs as well as being open to the public for personal use. Special laptops loaded with design software will be available as well. Library staff members will cover a wide variety of projects when the COVID restrictions are lifted.

New sewing machines will be part of the Lab as well. Staff will teach everything from how to perform basic clothing repairs to sophisticated projects like creating articles of clothing and quilting. Sewing related programs and after-school clubs will be created as well. Classes will be free to the public.

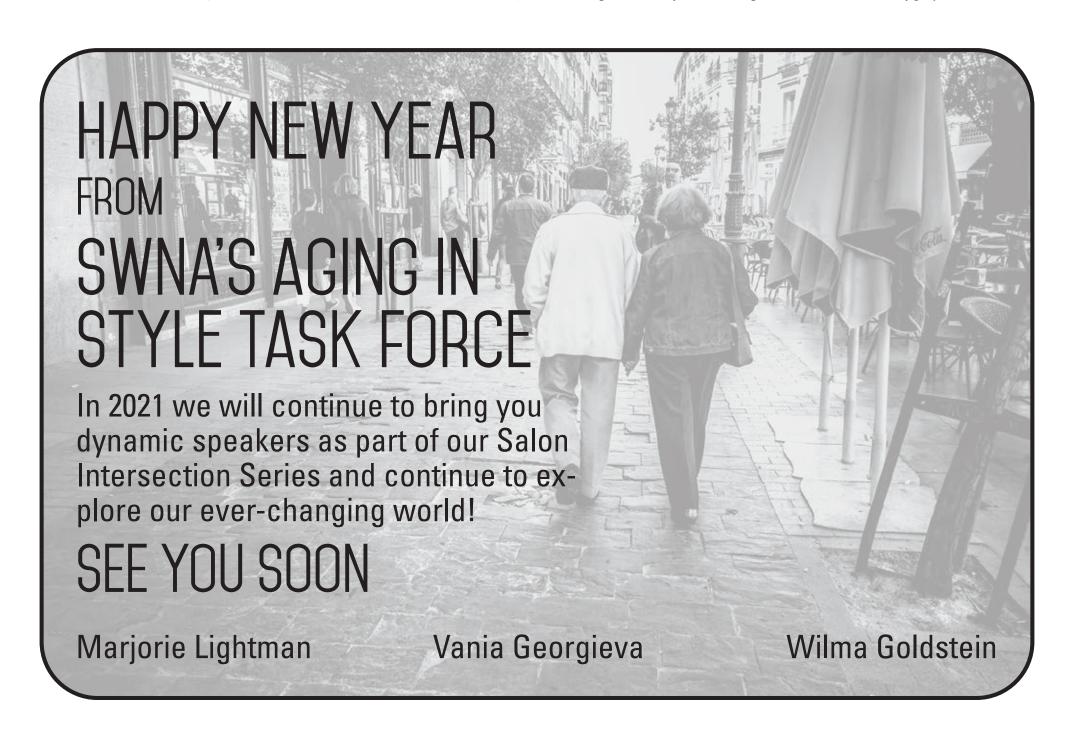
A different but very important part of the Lab will be the recording equipment for residents of Southwest to record oral history submissions into the city's archive. We are fortunate to have several amazing individuals in Southwest whose contributions to our city should be recognized. This equipment will ensure that Southwest residents are included.

Although these machines are a great addition to a maker space, the new Southwest Library will also have a great selection of simple components like Lego blocks, motors, and basic robotic equipment suitable for younger children and those who may prefer simpler tools. Craft tools to support classes in jewelry making, crocheting, embroidery, and knitting will

eventually be added to the collection. We also hope to add a couple simple microscopes for basic scientific experiments.

Our Southwest Library has always been a community hub – a safe place for children to gather and learn, a focal point for the community to gather, and a space for students young and not-so-young to explore their talents. The Transformation Lab takes this important historical role to new levels and will be an important addition to a library that will provide Southwest residents with the facilities needed to compete in a 21st century marketplace.

On behalf of the Friends of the SW Library, I wanted to take a moment to thank Councilman Allen for his support of the Southwest Library. Not only did he obtain the needed funding to build our library but, more importantly, he helped us retain that funding for five years until its construction. Not every member of the Council has displayed this level of commitment to a library project.



The Southwest Community Reflects on Civic Leader Roberta King Patrick (1946-2020)

BY THELMA D. JONES

he life and legacy of longtime Southwest community activist Roberta King Patrick, who passed on Oct. 30, was celebrated with a limited number of family members, neighbors and friends from the Southwest community whose lives she touched. Service was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW, on Nov. 7. The following was extracted with permission from Mrs. Patrick's obituary.

Roberta King Patrick was born on October 25, 1946 to the late Arlene and Willie King. She was raised and educated in the Southwest area of the District of Columbia.

Affectionately crowned the "Queen of SW," she started volunteering at the Southwest Community House at the age of 20. Over her 40-year career, she was responsible for job employment/placement, food and toy drives and a multitude of other charitable acts. She was a humanitarian, self-taught and selfless. The wealth of knowledge and love she obtained serving the community earned her an induction into the Smithsonian African American Anacostia Museum. She is featured in the Urban Renewal exhibit "A Right to the City," which can still be viewed today. Her heart was so big that she had enough love for her family, close friends and for the community.

Reunited in heaven with her beloved daughter Nicole Smallwood, this Queen leaves behind to cherish memories: two siblings, Tony Gee and Gloria Reed; her exhusband Earl L. Patrick, Sr.; four children, Earl L., Patrick, Jr., Shun Patrick, Monique Patrick and Semaj Patrick and a host of grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

Below are tributes from a family member and current and former Southwest residents and friends.

"Queen King Patrick who guided my life. Mother, best friend and most gracious wife. You lived your life and served us all. Whenever we fell, you'd cushioned our fall. Unconditional love flowed through your blood. It's kinda hard to imagine losing that type of love. SW imperious, Smithsonian honoree, Queen of the South,

Best mom you could be! Jobs, food, Christmas toys. Your community work won't be ignored.

You loved SW and treasured us all.

Life lessons from you are lived by us all.

Your babies, grands and great grands will always miss

I'm proud I had the last chance to kiss you.

The work that you've done can't be measured in

Thanks for showing us what life's all about.

For the rest of our days we'll remember all you've done

Just one last question Momma.

Now who's gonna call me meat head???"

Semaj Patrick, Son

"Ms. Patrick was an Angel who served her community and family with love, care and a spirit of compassion for all. She worked tirelessly to improve the lives of our youth, seniors and less fortunate. To God be the glory for sending her into our lives. THANKS Roberta! RIP."

Willie Borden, #4 Boy's & Girl's Club



Courtesy of Author

Roberta Patrick

"Mrs. Patrick was a staple in many of our lives. She gave my father Iran Reynolds his first job and gave my mother Joanne Paylor a place to volunteer with her at the SW House to prepare baskets for the community. I then received the benefits of Mrs. Patrick's philanthropy by being a part of the after school /recreational program they had for SW kids. She is a part of us and we are a part of her in its entirety of the SW history and culture. The SW House should be named after her and she should be included in its history in some shape or form.

Iram "Bang" Paylor, **Long-Time SW Resident**

"The Southwest Community has lost an ICON. When I think of Mrs. Roberta Patrick, the first thing that comes to my mind is jobs. She was the SW Community Department of Employment Services. Having casual conversation with community member past and present, they all had one thing in common. Mrs. Patrick secured their first job. As I took on the challenge some 15 years ago to give back to my community, I couldn't help but follow the blueprint Mrs. Patrick and others had left behind. As I reflect on my work in and around the community, I can't help but seeing a carbon copy of the dedication and passion Mrs. Patrick had displayed during my childhood and as a young adult. She always had a listening ear whenever I had returned from a brief vacation, informing me and others about jobs or training opportunities that were available. She advised me on many occasions, including on how to successfully secure sponsors for SW Family Day, Toys 4 Tots, Turkey Drives and school supplies and job placement. Mrs. Roberta Patrick will be deeply missed. I just hope I can pass Mrs. Patrick's blueprint to the next community ICON."

Paul Taylor, Former Long-Time SW Resident & **Executive Director, SW Comm-Unity Forum**

"Mrs. Roberta Patrick, your service to the Southwest Community House has been a testimony of your love of our community. Raising a family, nurturing neighborhood families, and fostering a sense of dignity are the lessons learned. Please add my voice to the countless other voices wishing your family well."

Kenneth J. Brewer Sr., Former Long-Time SW Resident

"She was STRONG with a Humbled Heart! Mrs. Roberta Patrick was the epitome of community service...pillar of strength and encouragement to the Southwest community. Definitely a queen with a loving and caring heart, Mrs. Patrick was a powerful woman who understood and exhibited the true meaning of humility. Truly a master at being genuinely interested in other people, this humble queen talked less and listened more. In conversation, she was more interested in hearing what you had to say than what she had to say. She strongly believed in others more than they believed in themselves.

Mrs. Patrick's character proved that she was a strong and faithful servant of the Lord... a true ambassador of God! Always encouraging everyone she encountered, she expressed her positive thoughts everyday with genuine words of encouragement. Through divine intervention and prayer, her motivational force was to inspire a brighter outlook on life, especially to those experiencing life's adversities. Mrs. Patrick knew her purpose and served our community extraordinarily well! I am forever grateful for her contribution. I will miss her.

Love you, Mrs. Roberta Patrick!"

Arnice Mack, **Long-Time SW Resident**

"My early memories of Mrs. Roberta Patrick were at the Southwest House. She has always been a community activist and a giving spirit. She was helping folks that always needed help."

Christine Spencer, Long-Time Southwest Resident, James Creek

"I first learned about Mrs. Roberta Patrick through her work at the Southwest House, which was known as one of the oldest social service organizations in the United States, and from the late Dale MacIver, former editor of The Southwester, who had encouraged me to meet her and other community leaders when I joined the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's board in 1982. It was, as Dale had suggested in so many ways, a "meeting of the minds." I enthusiastically worked to help support Mrs. Patrick in the many challenging efforts that she embraced, championed and inspired, all with a sense of purpose and pride. Mrs. Patrick always wanted a better life for SW residents and spent much of her life in a selfless and relentless fashion in trying to help and encourage others toward self-sufficiency and greatness, often putting others before herself.

When my son Jamal needed a project to complete his Eagle Scout requirements, it was Mrs. Patrick who welcomed his effort to organize a food drive to benefit the Southwest House. I remember it as though it was yesterday: "Sure! That will be great! What do you need for me to do?" When we arrived with the food at the Southwest House after a more than four-hour stint at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, she was there with a smile, opened arms and welcomed volunteers to help unload the heavy boxes of food that generously feed at least eight families. Now, as I reflect on that day, the look on her face was one of sheer gratitude and contentment in knowing that she could help more families in need during the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. Southwest, the city, and the country could use a few more Roberta Patricks. Her legacy will live on in the annals of SW, not just because of her caring, giving and enthusiasm, but also because she believed in a better life for others and pursued her belief with passion and a vengeance. She will always be remembered by the people whose lives she touched and changed, including mine and Jamal's, who earned his Eagle Scout in 2000."

Thelma D. Jones, Community **Activist and Breast Health Advocate**

SOUTHWEST MOMENTS



Courtesy of Mary Caufield

One day a couple of weeks ago, on a beautiful fall day, I happened to see a most unusual site on the Washington Channel. I have no idea what this structure was or where it could possibly be coming from heading east along the Channel-there isn't a whole lot up by the Wharf or the marinas that would have included such a structure.

PASTOR

Continued from p. 5

great sense of accomplishment and purpose fulfilled. "What I'll miss are the relationships with people. And, the ministry." Walking the streets, he was always able to engage people and talk to them about their lives and understand what their needs were. "What more could the church do that would assist people in their lives."

Walking into St. Matthews, Huber tells me, you could talk about Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ issues – could talk to people who have lived those experiences and work in the spheres of activism, and can teach the community something "that we can't possibly know out of our own life experiences." All of this, he said has been an important part of their congregation as well as his development as a pastor.

"There is a genuine concern for justice and for the needs of those at the margins. A lot of my time – a lot of the community's time and resources – is about the fair treatment of people. And, about [having] just systems for people to work in."

Leaving the ministry behind, Pastor Huber said:

"It's been one of the great privileges of my life to serve St. Matthews in the Southwest community. And I always saw my call, not just to [the church], but to the community as well. My parish was Southwest. For any good that I was able to do,

I am extremely grateful. I know that my perspective in life was very much changed by the people and by the environment of Southwest. I go to retirement from parish ministry really joyful that I had this experience. That God gave me the opportunity to be here, and to be here for as long as I was."

Of course, God's work is never done and Pastor Huber isn't done with his work yet.

"I'm still going to be a pastor but I will not be in parish ministry anymore. I will continue to do my disaster ministry (he says he's been a disaster consultant for the Lutheran Church for 35 years)."

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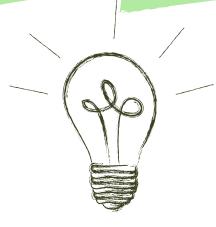
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