serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

**FREE March 2021** 

### Community Concerned about DDOT Plans for I Street

#### Concerns over child safety, traffic congestion and loss of affordable parking

BY MIKE GOODMAN

ccording to emails obtained by The Southwester, as well as conversations with community members, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is planning to install protected bicycle lanes on I (Eye) Street, SW. Many community members first learned of these plans in February, and had not received any prior outreach by DDOT. Southwest residents are raising questions about the plan, including around the safety of young children who attend Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, increased traffic congestion, especially at the I (Eye) and 4th Street intersection, and loss of parking spots.

The installation of protected bike lanes typically means the bike lane directly abuts the sidewalk, with a row of parked cars or other barrier between the bike lane and the traffic lanes. DDOT recently made these types of changes along 4th Street, SW. The intention is to create a safer bike lane, by having a barrier between the bike lane and car traffic.

However, community members have noted this would not be a feasible con-



Courtesy of Author

Parents can currently drop-off and pick-up elementary school children directly on the sidewalk. Residents are concerned that a Department of Transportation plan could change this.

struct along I (Eye) Street, particularly in front of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, as it would require parents and school buses to stop in the middle of the street to pick-up or drop-off children. The current DDOT proposal would have

children entering or exiting vehicles in the middle of automobile traffic lanes, and then having to cross an active bike lane to get to the main entrance of the school. Community members have also

See "DDOT," page 19

### Don't Wait to Sign Up for Rental Assistance

BY MATT KOEHLER

n DC, according to a November 2020 report from the Department ■ of Employment Services (https:// does.dc.gov/release/district-columbiaunemployment-rate-improves-82-percent-october), the DC economy is slowly crawling back, and employment numbers are slightly up across several industries. However, there still remain hundreds, if not thousands of families, in the District that are struggling to pay bills and rent, especially as it relates to COVID-19.

There are several options to receive emergency rental assistance, but the path can be long and tricky, and those who counsel renters suggest that, if you are struggling, it is best to start the process of obtaining assistance sooner rather than later. The Southwester recently spoke with Kay Pierson, director of the United Planning Organization, who explained how renters should go about getting the financial assistance you need.

Pierson told me that as it was originally conceived, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), was meant to help those in extreme poverty. "You had to be at or below 125% of the poverty level. You had to prove that you could pay your rent going forward. You had to document your hardship." Hardships are anything from falling ill and not being able to work to the breadwinner in the family dying to being laid off or unemployed. Whatever the circumstances,

though, you needed to provide detailed documentation of what your hardship

"But, the pandemic hit and all the rules changed," Pierson said, "DHCB (Department of Housing and Community Development) started a different program called 'COVID Housing Assistance Program' (CHAP for short)." Pierson explained that CHAP "allowed people who made up to 80% MFI (Median Family Income) to apply for rental assistance."

Like ERAP, you still have to show documentation that your hardship was caused, in some way, by COVID whether you were sick, you were taking care of someone else who was sick, or

See "Assistance," page 16



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Page 7



KIDS CORNER

Pages 8-9



CAPX LAB **CONTINUES PARTNERSHIPS** 

Page 12

**OPPOSITION GROWS TO** PERMANENT **FENCING** AROUND **US CAPITOL** 

Page 13





by supporting the Thelma D. Jones **Breast Cancer Fund.** 

Donations support outreach and education strategies for young girls and link low-income, uninsured and underinsured women and men with information, screening diagnostic services and counseling. Donate online at www.tdjbreestcancerfund.org.

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, edu cation, 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

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 (202) 251-1639

#### The Southwester

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

For advertising information and rates, see https://swnaforms.wufoo.com/forms/ q83w6o31jmfsx3/

or contact ads@thesouthwester.com

Remittance address for ad payments only

#### The Southwester

P.O. Box 70131 • Washington, DC 20024

#### **Southwester Staff**

Editor-in-Chief: Mike Goodman Editorial Staff: Matthew Koehler (Copy & Web) Advertising: Beth Hall & Donna Purchase Distribution: Perry Klein Design & Layout: Electronic Ink Printer: Print Innovators



The Southwester is published and distributed by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

Donate to us: www.mightycause.com/ organization/Southwest-Neighborhood-Assembly

Copyright © 2021 Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. All rights reserved.

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



Dear Editor of The Southwester,

We write to you as members of SW DC Action, a group of Southwest residents who organize and advocate for anti-racist development, as well as equitable and environmentally sustainable neighborhoods. We stand in solidarity with Buzzard Point Concerned Residents & Friends for Better Air Quality & Environmental Justice and their public comments regarding the renewal of Vulcan Material Plant's permit.

For many years, SW communities have been living close to Buzzard Point facilities such as Vulcan Concrete and have experienced higher environmental exposures, including poorer air quality. For example, a 2016 Buzzard Point Community Health Status Assessment found higher rates of heart disease and cancer among residents who live near Buzzard Point compared to the rest of the District. Vulcan Concrete's operations in Southwest have violated permitting requirements protected by the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Clean Water Act (CWA). These violations relate to emitting and discharging pollutants such as particulate matter, iron, and total suspended solids into the air and water, which has jeopardized the health of our community.

Vulcan Concrete is currently seeking renewal of its permit to operate in SW DC, and their application is under review at the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). SW DC Action reaffirms that we are all protected under the CAA and CWA. Vulcan has already proven to disregard their polluting impacts on the SW community, as evident by their multiple permitting violations. Given this truth, we urge the DOEE to deny the renewal of Vulcan Concrete's permit to operate.

DOEE officials have agreed to attend the next ANC 6D meeting on March 8 to answer questions about Vulcan Concrete's air/operating permit. To help encourage DOEE to do the right thing, we encourage SW residents to report air or water quality problems, violations, or suspected issues by calling 311. 311 is open 24/7. If you have photos or video footage to submit, you can email air.quality@ dc.gov. You may also file a report through their website at https://311.dc.gov/citizen/request/OUTODOR/location (if that is unsuccessful, use the "chat" feature). If possible, consider making your complaint by Sunday, March 7. Complaints received by then will help demonstrate the impact to our community and send a clear message that we want Vulcan Concrete to be held accountable for their polluting operation.

If DOEE chooses to renew the permit, we need to know:

- 1. What will be done to address permit violations and improve program coordination, including all Vulcan project components and construction, to minimize impacts on the community?
- How will community notification, engagement, and input be enhanced with respect to Vulcan project
- How will prevention and control measures, as well as enforcement of policies and regulations to control dust and improve air quality, be implemented?
- How will consistent and periodic field monitoring of soil, water, and air quality be conducted?

As Southwest DC continues to be redeveloped, we need to do more to protect the health, environment, and community of existing residents. In line with DC's 2019 Comprehensive Plan Framework, this means actively creating and supporting an equitable and inclusive city. This starts with denying the renewal of permits if polluters are not meeting basic regulatory requirements intended to protect human health and the environment of our community.

> Sincerely, Members of SW DC Action www.swdcaction.com

#### ARTECHOUSE's Annual Cherry Blossom **Installation Comes with a Conservation Twist**

Washington, DC - Artechouse, presents its fourth annual cherry blossom inspired installation, Renewal 2121. This original ARTECHOUSE production utilizes the power of creative technology to transport visitors into an imagined future 100 years from now where nature's resilience takes center stage amongst an overdeveloped metropolis, empowering visitors to interact to help the blooms of our future continue to renew. Open to all ages, Renewal 2121 is on view March 15 to Sept. 6, 2021 at ARTECHOUSE DC.

The technology-driven art installation is an official part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival for the fourth year in a row. "Our fourth annual partnership with ARTECHOUSE will engage the D.C. community with a visual art installation focused on the feelings of renewal sparked by the blooming of the cherry blossoms," said Diana Mayhew, president and CEO of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

#### **TIMES & TICKETS:**

http://artechouse.com/program/renewal-2121 Renewal 2121 is on view March 15-Sept. 6, 2021 Daily / 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (9 p.m. last session) (July 4 Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Sessions after 7 p.m. Daily are Adult price, but all ages.

- Adults: \$24
- Children (Ages 4-14): \$17
- FREE for children under the age of 4
- Students, Seniors, Military & First Responders:

• Families: \$50 for 2 Adults & 2 Children (Mondays-Friday only)

#### **Exclusive Savings on Previews!**

Preview Weekend for Renewal 2121 is March 12-14. Save 30% off your visit to be part of the creation process before we fully open to the public on March 15. Elements of the installation may still be in the works as our Creative Team finalizes the installation for the full, official opening.

#### **Locals Save!**

Visit Renewal 2121 on Monday-Friday only to receive a \$5 off discount for DMV locals. Click on full price option to see discount offer. Tickets are requested to be reserved in advance at artechouse.com.

ARTECHOUSE is located between the Smithsonian and L'Enfant Plaza Metro stations at 1238 Maryland

Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20024 in close proximity to the Mandarin Oriental hotel, the Wharf, and the National Mall.

#### **ACROSS LOCATIONS:**

Safety protocols that have been put in place by ARTE-CHOUSE due to the ongoing pandemic. Read more at https://www.artechouse.com/covid-19-update.

### Op-Ed: Become a Member of Southwest Kiwanis Club

BY LINWOOD N. WATSON, **CLUB SECRETARY** 

t has always been essential that children be prepared for the future and expected that preparedness starts at home. But the old African proverb, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child," suggests that outside support is also vital; that an entire community must interact with children so they can experience life and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

When the "Kiwanis" was born in August 1914, the organization provided fellowship and experiences in new ideals in human relationships. During the 90th anniversary in 2005, "Serving the Children of the

World" became their new motto, emphasizing Kiwanis's primary focus of service over nine decades and making a commitment for the years to come. The Kiwanis Club's primary objective is to provide means to form enduring friendships, render altruistic service, and build better communities. To accomplish this, Kiwanis Clubs take on humanitarian and civic projects, focusing on youth and the community's special needs.

Here are some of the clubs established for youth: "K-Kids" at the elementary level; "Builders Clubs" at the middle school level; "Aktion Clubs" for people who are living with a disability; "Kiwanis Junior" for young adults in Europe only, between the ages of 18 and 32; "Key Clubs" at the high school level; and "Circle K



Courtesy of Jacqueline Lowe

Members of SW Waterfront's Kiwanis Club

Clubs" at the college level.

The organization provides young people the opportunity to help others and become personally involved in their community and build a positive future for themselves.

Kiwanis

All in all, KIDS NEED KIWANIS.

In Washington, DC, the Kiwanis Club of Southwest Waterfront has been helping kids since it was formally organized in July 2001. We ask advice from community leaders where our support might be needed most. We believe we can make a difference with the youth by supporting projects that replace school and civic events that have been reduced by budget cuts. Our projects not only help to keep kids engaged and entertained but offer opportunities for nurturing, to practice new skills through interactions with peers, making positive choices, learning the concept of accountability, resolving conflict, showing respect, communicating effectively, and becoming self-confident. We believe social skills help our youth succeed because it is necessary for all of us to get along with others.

We are remarkably diverse in our outreach efforts, which includes (but is not limited to) partnering with schools, churches, and other community organizations. Our support includes supplying back-to-school supplies, school uniforms, food distribution to families, funds for students to attend Key-Leadership Programs and swimming lessons, helping to send Junior Ushers to conventions, sponsoring trips to baseball games and fishing, donating Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts in the Southwest DC area. We also nurtured and supported Miss Kyan King, a cancer survivor who we called "Our Little Angel."

Additionally, through "The Eliminate Project," Kiwanis International and UNICEF joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This deadly disease steals the lives of nearly 31,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. We received special recognition in 2019 as a "Model Club" for donating \$12,000 to this worldwide service project.

Last year (2020), the Southwest Waterfront club initiated a scholarship program. Aaron K. King, a graduate of DC's Wilson High School, was our first recipient. He is currently pursuing a degree in Journalism at West Virginia University. Aaron's focus is in line with the Kiwanis' objective in that he "believes whatever he does will involve some advocacy concentrating on the underserved members of our society."

"KIDS NEED KIWANIS" - AND KIWANIS NEEDS YOU. Being a Kiwanis member can be rewarding in many ways because we believe that the greatest gift you could ever give yourself is the gratification in knowing you are contributing your help, time, and efforts to people who are in dire need. Giving something back to your community is the highest level of selfsatisfaction you can ever encounter.

Because we have struggled with membership over the years, volunteers are needed to help us meet our objectives. To find out how you can help, please email Clay Goldston at clay1231@verizon.net or Linwood N. Watson at bepbear@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Op-Ed: GOODProjects Is Doing Good Things in Southwest

BY PERI HAMLIN

OODProjects has committed to "getting 500 families out of poverty and into selfsufficiency by 2030," and the organization has chosen SW as a place to do this.

GOODProjects has a unique, holistic approach to combating poverty and it addresses poverty from multiple angles. A key part of what GOOD-Projects does is family centered case management, or what it calls "Family Success Planning." The organization recently accepted 20 SW families into its Success Planning program.

Furthermore, GOODProjects cleverly adapted to the challenges of the pandemic as well. Because DC Public Schools (DCPS) halted inperson learning, the organization has been providing a safe space to bridge the education divide since last fall. The organization created the GOODLearning Hub for SW students - most of whom attended their summer camp.

Each student is provided a laptop, a hotspot, breakfast, and lunch throughout the day. They



also have support from staff who tutor and help them keep focused during the day. The students get educational and emotional support and the companionship they miss by not being in the classroom. Thus far, GOODProjects has provided over 4,000 hours of tutoring to SW students through the GOODLearning Hub.

Affluent families have been able to form education pods and hire private tutors to get them through the pandemic. By creating the GOODLearning Hub, though, GOODProjects helped close the education gap for low-income students in Southwest. According to CEO Darius Baxter, GOODProjects will continue to provide a stable learning environment at the GOODLearning Hub for students through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Baxter also made clear, "We look forward to continuing to build with the SW community long into the future."

GOODProjects has partnered with numerous organizations such as GW Hospital, DC Central Kitchen, Kajeet, CityBridge Education, Amerigroup DC, and has received contributions from prestigious organizations like the Ford Foundation. The organization recently won the Ward 6 2020 Brickie Award for Community Organization and was featured on NPR. Baxter was honored by Forbes magazine in its 2021 30 Under 30 list for the Social Impact category.

You can learn more about GOODProjects, make a donation, and volunteer by going to www.good projects.org.

### Local Civic Leader Continues Helping Neighbors, Despite the Pandemic

#### Exclusive interview on the actions and activism of Thelma D. Jones

BY MIKE GOODMAN

helma D. Jones has been a resident of Southwest since July 1976, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been handing out meals and essential supplies to her neighbors. While active in the community for many years, she is best known for founding the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Support Group in April 2010, which then grew into the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) in September 2012 on the occasion of her 60th birthday.

Jones is also very active with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). She joined the board of SWNA in March 1982 as a District Representative and held positions of increasing responsibilities,

including vice president, president, chair of the nominating committee (at least eight consecutive times), elections chair, assistant editor and staff writer of *The Southwester*, fundraising chair, chair of the Education and Scholarship Task Force (at least twice), and co-chair of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force. Currently, she serves as the Chair of the History Task Force Subcommittee on Black History,



Courtesy of The White House

Thelma D. Jones of Southwest, pictured with then-Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden, at a Breast Cancer Awareness Month celebration in 2012

chair of Youth Activities Task Force and member of SWNA's Communications Committee, which organizes monthly forums. She created SWNA's Black History program in 1985 and organized SWNA's first Black History Program in February 1986, having been involved with almost all of the Black History Programs since its inception.

With this depth of experience and

leadership in the neighborhood, *The Southwester* sought out her plans and advice as DC, and the country, seek to turn the page in 2021.

#### What does the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund have planned for this year?

We have several plans for this year. The TDJBCF plans to stay the course on mission driven efforts while being more aggressive in the grantmaking and fundraising area. In that vein, we plan to continue our ongoing partnership efforts with Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center on three grants involving breast cancer survivors while developing other partnerships through grant efforts. The TDJBCF would like to provide greater financial support in the area

of utilities (gas, water, electricity, phone bills), thereby developing a Utilities Fund to help defray the cost of utilities during this difficult period. The TDJB-CF is really excited about the possibility of conducting breast health awareness classes with the Richard Wright Public Charter School students and has held some positive and encouraging conversations on this proposed effort.

# You have really stepped up during COVID, leading local efforts to feed Southwest residents. Tell us how you got involved with that and a little more about your work in this space during the pandemic.

For more than four years, Christine Spencer at James Creek Resident Council would share "surplus" food from the Capital Area Food Bank with the seniors at River Park. Consequently, when COVID-19 struck, we had an established relationship to build on. Since April 2020, the TDJBCF and its dedicated volunteers have distributed more than 13,000 daily meals from World Central Kitchen and other sources to the seniors, and immune compromised residents at River Park, thanks to the support of River Park Management. SWBID has also been a valuable partner in this effort. In addition, we have distributed approximately 10 distributions of fresh food from RJ Williams Seafood and other sources. Also, through a partnership with the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project, the African Women Cancer Awareness Association, Ford Warriors in Pink, and the Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center, we have distributed dozens of masks, hand sanitizers, personal products and cleaning supplies to hundreds of River Park residents. The meals program is not just about food insecurity. It's decreasing a lot of social isolation, providing emotional support, reducing grocery bills, reducing their risk of COVID-19 by not having to visit the grocery stores, connecting them to a range of social services and encouraging physical activity.

## Turning to more of a national outlook, you have some history with President Biden and Dr. Biden. Tell us about that history.

As the State Lead Ambassador for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN), I was selected to participate in a White House panel discussion on breast cancer. Shortly thereafter, I was invited by The White House to serve on a panel with Dr. Jill Biden, Actress Jennifer Anniston and then HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in preparation of the opening of a new state-of-theart breast cancer treatment center in Alexandria, VA. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month for two consecutive years, I was invited to the residence of Vice President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden. In June 2016, I was selected by ACSCAN to represent the organization at Vice President Biden's White House Moonshot Summit held at Howard University with over 350 guests present. I believe that having been selected as a White House Champions of Change in 2011 positioned me to be selected for our national opportunities during the Obama-Biden Administration.

### If you could tell your Southwest neighbors one thing right now, what would it has?

I would share how badly we needed a plan to slow or stop the growth of gentrification and the rising cost of housing in this area so that a welcome balance of residents could reside here. Then I would organize a coalition to help create a model plan that would benefit our neighborhood as well as other neighborhoods that are experiencing the same challenges. Living on a fixed income that's not keeping up with the rate of inflation while still faced with high out-of-pocket medical bills from an aggressive form of cancer, I am experiencing anxiety and concern that I will be unable to live here. This is so unfortunate as this is my home, and I have dedicated and committed a significant amount of my life, as demonstrated by the various positions held with SWNA, in trying to support, grow and maintain this community. To those who ask why don't I move to a more affordable location, this is my home that I helped to

# • WATERFRONT • Wavigating Together

### Waterfront Village is here when you need us!

- Assistance for securing vaccine appointments
- Fun and informative virtual programs during pandemic
- Rides to medical appointments
- Assessments to help make your home safer and more comfortable
- Special discounts for new members

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

### FLYER DESIGN CONTEST

TO

### **ANNOUNCE**

### **2021 SWNA SCHOLRSHIP PROGRAM**

**ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2021** 

The winning design will be used on the website and on social media

for the 2021 SWNA Scholarship Program

All entries will be posted on the SWNA Scholarship website www. swnascholarship.org

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA)'s Scholarship Program was formed to encourage and assist youth in the Southwest Washington, DC, Ward 6, Zip Code 20024 neighborhood to pursue a post-secondary education.



# FLYER DESIGN CONTEST

Submit your entry by March 15, 2021

e-mail to

swnascholarship@ gmail.com

OR

post on





# Amidon-Bowen Ranks #1 in DonorsChoose Funding

BY MIKE GOODMAN

midon-Bowen Elementary School was recently ranked DC Public Schools' most funded school from donations through www.DonorsChoose.org. To date, the charity website has delivered resources for 553 projects at the school.

"Like many schools, we have needs that cannot be met through our school budget or traditional fundraising. DonorsChoose is a resource that ensures that our students and teachers have the tools and materials they need," says Principal TaMikka Sykes. "The kindness and generosity of the donors—community supporters and strangers—reminds us that we have a virtual village supporting our work. It goes a long way to boost teacher morale."

The 553 Amidon-Bowen projects total nearly \$300,000. At the district level, DC Public Schools have had 10,600 projects funded from just over 3,000 DC teachers. That is \$7.1 million, 76% of which came from donors

outside of DC.

Keya Wondwossen, Director of Advocacy and Public Partnerships at DonorsChoose, states, "We're so inspired by Principal Sykes and all of the teachers at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School for their commitment to going above and beyond for their students. The resources they've secured through DonorsChoose are a reflection of the school's leadership and determination to provide the best education possible."

Since 2000, nationwide, more than 4.7 million DonorsChoose people and partners have contributed \$1 billion to support 1.8 million teacher requests for classroom resources and experiences. Charity Navigator and GuideStar have awarded DonorsChoose, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, their highest ratings for transparency and accountability.

"Amidon-Bowen is extremely grateful for the generosity of our community. Supporting projects on DonorsChoose provides our teachers with the resources necessary to continuously challenge our children to be creative and think outside of the box. Thank you all so much!" says Nicole Renard, President of the Amidon-Bowen Parent-Teacher Association.

Examples of Amidon-Bowen projects that have received funding through DonorsChoose include:

- We Can Do Virtually Anything!
   Whiteboards, markers, colored pencils, mechanical pencils and composition notebooks to assist with student learning from home;
- Art at Home! Lyra Opaque Watercolor Pan Set, Prang Washable Watercolor Set, and paint brushes so students can continue to be successful artists during virtual learning;
- Playing With Math! Math manipulatives such as base ten blocks, unifix cubes, clocks, shapes, measurement kit, counters, snap cubes, fraction towers, hundreds charts to engage in virtual group experiences and at-home independent enrichment experiences;
- Warm Bodies for Warm Hearts
   & Minds: 20 sets of cold weather compression tops and bottoms,

so that students can compete at the highest level without being uncomfortable from the elements and cold:

- The Power of Choice: Getting Comfy While Reading and Writing! Classroom table and flexible seating options to ensure students all have a seat that meets their needs;
- Fuel Power for Strong Brains:
   Healthy snacks to send home
   and to help students stay focused
   throughout the school day; and
- Coding in Kindergarten! Materials to help students learn how to code. Mats that go along with Bee Bot robots and help students learn how to program/code the Bee Bots.

"I would encourage others to get involved and support projects at your local schools. On behalf of the students, staff, and families at Amidon-Bowen ES, I would like to thank everyone who has sponsored a project. Your support means we can provide high-quality programming to all students regardless of income," says Principal Sykes.

### Why Genetic Cancer Testing Could Be Right for You

BY KAVITHA KOLLA, MS, MPH, CGC

he Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund's (TDJBCF) virtual Support Group celebration back in January focused on genetic counseling and breast cancer genetics. During the event, I had the pleasure of discussing genetic counseling and genetic testing, and this article seeks to expand on that theme.

Approximately 10% of breast cancers are due to a genetic risk factor that we can identify through genetic testing. We all have genes in our bodies that help prevent cancer from forming. If one of these genes has a harmful genetic change (or mutation), that can increase the risk of developing cancer. Genetic counseling can help you learn if your personal or family history of cancer is suggestive of a genetic factor increasing the risk for cancer, whether genetic testing is recommended, and how you and your family can be proactive about your health.

There are some features that are suggestive of a genetic risk factor and these are reasons to consider genetic testing. These include a personal or family history of breast cancer diagnosed before age 50, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, male breast cancer, aggressive or metastatic prostate cancer, or multiple relatives on the same side of the family diagnosed with breast cancer. This is not a complete list of reasons to consider genetic cancer testing, and meeting with a genetic counselor can help you understand your risk factors.

If genetic testing is appropriate, speaking with a genetic counselor before and after testing can



Courtesy of Author

Kavitha Kolla, MS, MPH, CGC

be beneficial in many ways. Before testing, the genetic counselor provides an overview of how genetic testing works, the pros and cons, the type of information it can provide you and your family, and discussing whether it is the right time to pursue genetic testing. Genetic testing provides valuable information about whether there is a genetic risk factor increasing your cancer risk and informs whether there are proactive steps you and your family can take for screening or to reduce the risk of developing cancer. As this can be a lot of information to process, the genetic counseling appointment provides a space for you to address

any questions or concerns before deciding whether you want genetic testing.

Genetic counselors also go over insurance coverage and the cost of testing during the appointment. The cost of genetic testing has gone down in recent years and there are many ways to cover the costs of this care, sometimes resulting in no out-of-pocket costs to the patient. Genetic testing labs offer options to get an estimate of the out-of-pocket cost early in the testing process or before genetic testing, and many labs have patient assistance programs to help make genetic testing affordable.

After test results are available, the genetic counselor discusses the results with you and explains how those results may change any medical recommendations for you and your family. For example, genetic counseling and genetic testing can help inform if additional cancer screenings or risk reducing options would be beneficial.

If you are interested in learning if genetic testing is indicated for your personal or family history of cancer, talk to your healthcare provider or a genetic counselor. To learn more about genetic counselors or to find a local or telemedicine genetic counselor, please visit www.aboutgenetic-counselors.org.

Kavitha Kolla is a certified genetic counselor at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital who provides patients with cancer risk assessment and counseling for hereditary cancer predisposition syndromes.

#### Where Are They Now?

### SWNA Scholarship Recipients, Past and Present

BY WILMA GOLDSTEIN

t the 2020 SWNA Scholarship Awards Program, one of the recipients said it would be nice to have caring adults checking in with them while they are at college. Even though many may now be home, the Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) organized to meet that need. Two of our members, Delmar Weathers and Rick Bardash, came up with the idea of a "Check-in-Facilitator" group to keep in touch with our current scholars during the year. Each ESTF member was assigned two scholars and asked to check in with them every month or so to make sure their funding had arrived and find out if there was anything else they

We also held a Zoom event for our scholars in January, chaired by ESTF member Audrey Hinton, inviting current and past scholars to meet with us and share their progress before returning to school. This month we are profiling Eleanor Holt, one of our 2020 scholars.

To write this profile, I interviewed Eleanor using a questionnaire created by ESTF member Bonita White. We hope to do more of these interviews in the future and feature former scholars in a series called "Where Are They Now?"



Courtesy of Author

Eleanor Holt with family pups

Eleanor, a lifelong resident of Southwest, is a freshman at Clark University in Worcester, MA., which allowed dormitory living and held a combination of virtual and in-classroom courses for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Eleanor has been back in DC since Thanksgiving of last year and hopes to return to Clark this month. While here, she worked part-time at the Souk Bakery on 8th Street on Capitol Hill.

She lives in SW with her parents, two younger siblings, two family dogs and seven puppies the family is fostering during the Pandemic. Her brother is a junior in high school who is thinking about furthering his education at one of the military academies; her sister started high school this past fall.

Eleanor went to grade school at Brent Elementary School on Capitol Hill, then onto Basis Middle School – she finished her K-12 education at The School Without Walls. As a freshman, she has not yet had to declare a major, but is considering some combination of Political Science and Gender Studies. Nor has she decided what to do with her educational path but is more interested in service than in pursuing wealth.

She is grateful to her grandmother and her mother for their influence and is an admirer of Eleanor Roosevelt. Her grandmother advised her to "always do the hard things" – advice she tries to follow when confronted with tough choices. In keeping with her interest in gender issues, she chose "Well behaved women rarely make history" as her favorite slogan.

While we were filling out the questionnaire, Eleanor and I continued to discover how much we have in common. We share the same faith, Judaism, and both have members of our family who emigrated from Eastern

Europe (from Lithuania and Ukraine). We also love music and always had our noses in books while we were growing up. Furthermore, we believe much of what we learned before college was learned outside the classroom, engaging with teachers, and classmates.

One of Eleanor's fondest memories is her time spent at summer camp, where she made long-lasting, deep friendships with people whom she shared an interest in social justice. She devotes a fair amount of time pursuing art and plans to learn sculpture next. She and her family have traveled extensively and when finished with college, she would like to visit Africa and South America - two places she has not yet been. Whether she eventually comes back to live in DC or not, she would like to spend some time living in Portland, Ore. Right now, though, she is looking forward to her return to Clark.

We have all enjoyed getting to know Eleanor better and wish her well!

Since 1974, when residents of River Park Cooperative raised \$1,650 to help send three of our local students to college, the Cooperative has been involved in providing scholarship assistance to our high school graduates. Following that initial effort, the

See "Where Are They Now," page 10











### ENROLL NOW for 2021–2022 School Year



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

We opened in 2003, in Ward 6, as the first early learning charter school in Washington, DC. Eagle Academy Public Charter School sets the standard for educating young children in Washington, DC. We take pride in meeting the needs of the whole child and helping each of our students grow academically, socially and emotionally. We are a technology based school and each student is provided a take home iPAD, Chromebook and a vast assortment of school supplies to help children learn remotely.

Virtual classes are ongoing for all DC locations and we will re-open our school upon guidance from DC government.

Take a virtual tour of our Capitol Riverfront campus via our website.

Enroll today and secure your child's spot.
Visit www.myschooldc.org or call (202) 459-6825

www.eagleacademypcs.org • @eagleacademypcs



The Southwester Page 8 March 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			
2			
,			



4.			
5.			

#### **Answers from** February 2021 issue

**Differences:** The picture on the right has "Love You" in the heart; the word "Love" is different in each picture; the card is different in each picture; the girl has more flowers in her hair in the picture on the left; the picture on the right has a cupcake at the end of Cupid's arrow; there is an additional heart in the picture on the left. **Word Scramble:** There are 320 words you can make from

"Inauguration.""

#### **WORD SEARCH: SPRING!**

Н	S	Ε	R	F	Ε	R	В	W	I	Ε	I	W	В	Q	
K	G	Р	А	I	Υ	В	D	L	0	Ε	Ρ	Р	А	Υ	
I	G	V	V	٧	Z	Н	Q	$\subset$	0	Z	G	I	F	W	
R	Ν	U	L	F	W	Ε	L	М	W	S	U	Q	Н	J	
Α	R	U	Ν	$\subset$	G	А	0	М	Ε	$\times$	S	$\times$	V	Υ	
W	R	Ε	U	D	V	0	R	Ε	I	U	L	0	I	Т	
F	0	F	J	Q	L	М	L	М	S	М	Q	V	М	W	
Ν	К	R	М	В	Ρ	Ν	М	F	Н	В	R	F	0	I	
W	G	В	G	Ν	L	V	Z	Z	W	Ε	А	S	G	J	
Н	I	D	U	U	K	G	Р	D	S	$\subset$	I	В	V	Р	
М	R	F	А	S	Т	X	$\subset$	В	Н	S	Ν	V	L	D	
0	Ε	V	W	U	В	F	L	0	W	Ε	R	S	$\subset$	Р	
Н	0	Р	Ε	Ν	D	М	$\subset$	I	А	L	٧	I	I	F	
F	Ν	$\subset$	Q	Ν	Н	Υ	К	J	U	$\subset$	J	J	J	Υ	
C	В	Т	D	Υ	Ν	F	J	Т	D	А	I	А	R	К	
		BL	001	M				FI	UN						
		RA	ΝI					$\bigvee$	/ARI	M					
		BL	OSS	SON	١			G	RO۱	$\bigvee$					
			FRE						LOV		S				
				J11							)				
		Hί	DPE					51	UNI	٧Y					

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

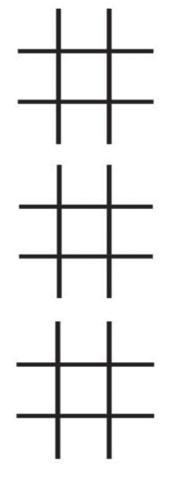


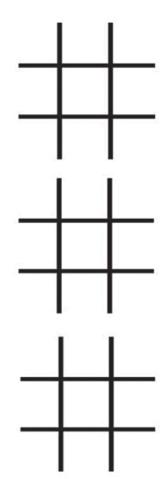
# KID'S CORNER





### TIC TAC TOE





### Jokes!

What does a berry say when it has a good idea?

A berry good idea! (Submitted by Ella)!

What does Monkeyboo say on Halloween?

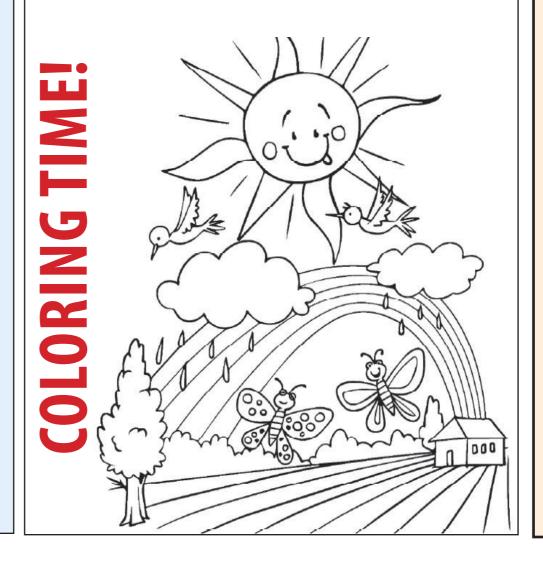
Monkey-BOO!
(Submitted by Chase)

Why don't dinosaurs eat clowns?

Because they taste funny!

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.500 + 500 =

b.4 + 4 =

c. 2 + 12 =

d. 20 - 13 =

e. 18 – 7 =

f. 20 - 10 =

g. 15 + 13 =

h. 26 - 20 =

### **Community Needs and Resource Assessment for District Residents**

very three years the United Planning Organization (UPO), the District's designated Community Action Agency, is required to conduct a District wide Community Needs and Resource Assessment that will become the basis of the design and redesign of programs administered by the organization. Completing the survey will assist UPO in identifying the types of programs and services that are most needed by District residents who have low incomes.

Below is the link to the survey. UPO would greatly appreciate it if those of you who are DC residents will complete the survey and share the link with your friends, contacts, and relatives who are also DC residents.

Note: Only DC residents should complete this survey. Any DC resident may complete the survey. DO NOT complete the survey if you do not currently live in DC  $\,$ 

#### **Survey Links:**

English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VNHXYGJ Spanish: https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/5N6QQ39

#### **How You Can Help:**

- Encourage DC family members, friends, and residents to complete the survey.
- Contact District seniors, family members, friends, or those that do not
  have access to a computer and or internet services to assist them in
  completing the survey.
- You as a DC resident should also complete the survey.

#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Continued from p. 7

scholarship program was incorporated as a Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) task force, now known as

The Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF). Contributions to

the scholarship fund come from individuals, organizations, and local businesses

If you were an ESTF scholar in the years from 1974 through 2019, please send your contact information to swnascholarship@gmail.com or mail to: SWNA/ESTF, P.O. Box 70131/WDC 20024, so we can find out "Where Are You Now?"

#### **AARP Foundation Tax-Aide**

### Tax Preparation Services for DC Residents Available 2/12/2021 – 4/15/2021

Type of service	rvice What we can do for you					
DC Tax-Aide Help Desk	DC Residents: send a text to or leave a message at 202-642-9037 or email the DC Tax-Aide Help Desk at DCTaxAide.Help@gmail.com if you have questions or need help with your federal or DC tax return. One of our counselors will get in touch with you by email or return your call using the number 617-675-4444.  If your 2019 or 2018 tax return was prepared at one of the DC Tax-Aide sites, be sure to include the name of the site in your message.					
Alternate Tax Preparation (Self-preparation)	You do your own taxes, but we're available to answer questions or help you through rough spots! To get started, go to www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or contact the DC Tax-Aide Help Desk.					
Contact-free	You send your scanned documents to us and we prepare your return! All contact is by video chat or telephone. A copy of your completed return is emailed to you. You sign and we eFile your return. To get started, go to www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or contact the DC Tax-Aide Help Desk.					
Low-contact  BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  Available when pandemic conditions allow	By appointment, you bring your documents to us at a designated site and either (1) we scan and return them or (2) you leave them with us. All further contact is by video chat or telephone. You get a copy of your completed return. You sign and we eFile your return. To get started, contact the DC Tax-Aide Help Desk.					
2019 Returns	If you were unable to complete your 2019 tax return, we may be able to help. Contact the DC Tax-Aide Help Desk for more information.					

For more information contact: bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com

### March Mutual Aid Clothing Drive and More

BY MAX GROSSMAN AND CARLEE BROWN

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

For the month of March, W6MA and partner organization Serve Your City are launching the "Southwest DC Duckling Clothing Drive," a campaign to provide clothing to 150 children in Southwest DC. Throughout the month, the Southwest Mutual Aid Pod will be accepting gently used and new clothing for infants through teens. Also needed are new socks, underwear, and shoes. Donations can be dropped off at the courtyard entrance of CUMC at 900 4th St., SW on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. You can also support the campaign by making a donation online at bit.ly/swdc Ducklings.

Interested in other ways to help W6MA and CUMC? Here are some other ways to help:

- Donate groceries, cleaning supplies, and household items. Examples include:
  - Non-perishable foods: tuna, chicken, cereal, pasta sauce, soup, snack food, and micro-

- wavable meals
- Cleaning supplies: disinfectants, laundry soap and paper towels
- Kitchenware: pot, pans, utensils, dishes, towels and small appliances
- Help make sure every student can access the online classroom. Alongside our partner organization Serve Your City, W6MA is working to bridge the digital divide by providing laptops and tablets to students. Please fill out the form at bit.ly/w6ma\_laptops if you would like to donate a device.
- Tutor local students online. W6MA's tutoring program is looking for college students, grad students, and professionals who want to lead virtual tutoring sessions in any subject. If you are interested, please contact syctutoring mutualaid@gmail.com.

W6MA and CUMC have a number of ways you can get the support you need:

- If you or someone you know has a need for food or cleaning supplies, call the W6MA Hotline at 202-683-9962. You can request food, masks, cleaning supplies, and other goods for delivery.
- Obtain groceries and fresh produce at the CUMC's 5000 Ministry Food Pantry on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month at 1p.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.

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH WINNER: YVONNE THELWELL!



Phase 2 of The Wharf on Jan 29th, taken at sunset from the 7th Street Recreation Pier

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

# Local Cancer Support Group Teams up with Georgetown University

BY SUZANNE C. O'NEILL

he Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) New Year's Virtual Breast Cancer Support Group Celebration occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. This event was a partnership between TDJBCF and the Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Comprehensive Center (GLCCC). Emceed by Ms. Jacqueline Beale, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN) Maryland State Lead Ambassador and TDJBCF Evelyn B. Curtis Spirit Award Recipient, this first event for 2021 was dedicated to the topic of the genetics of breast cancer, including genetic counseling and testing.

The event included opening remarks from Ms. Melanie Nix, Chair of the GLCCC Community Advisory Council & TDJBCF Board Member, who shared her personal experiences. This was followed by a presentation from Ms. Kavitha Kolla, MS, MPH, CGC, a certified genetic counselor at GLCCC. She shared information about when it would be suggested to meet with a genetic counselor to talk about breast cancer risk. The appro-





priate times for individuals to do these types of meetings would include having a family member diagnosed with breast cancer before age 50, as well as either ovarian, pancreatic or male breast cancer, aggressive or advanced prostate cancer, or multiple relatives on the same side of the family diagnosed with breast cancer.

Dr. Lucile Adams-Campbell, Professor of Oncology, Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Dis-

parities Research, and Senior Associate Dean for Community Outreach and Engagement at GLCCC, provided closing remarks. She shared her family's experience with genetic testing for cancer and her thoughts on the importance of knowing one's family history of cancer. Scientists from the National Institutes of Health and GLCCC are working together on the FAMILIES Share study. The purpose of this study is to develop a workbook that will help Black residents collect family history data on a number of diseases, including breast cancer, while providing important information on preventing these diseases.

This effort to educate the community about genetic counseling and testing is part of a larger effort to improve breast cancer outcomes for Black women in the District of Columbia (DC) metropolitan area, in partnership with the African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA) and the American Cancer Society. This includes encouraging women who have had mammograms in the past to continue to have regular mammograms and on identifying women who would be eligible

for genetic counseling and testing and making sure that eligible women receive this important care.

You may be eligible for this study if you are a Black woman in the Washington DC 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.

TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones is a member of the GLCCC Community Advisory Council. The next TDJBCF support group meeting is on Wednesday, March 17, at 6 p.m. via Zoom and the TDJBCF Facebook live and will be celebrating Women's History Month. For questions about the meeting or the TDJBCF, please email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund. org, call (202) 251-1639 or visit www. tdjbreastcancerfund.org.

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

### Southwest DC is Southwest Strong!

Support SWNA - Get Your SW Strong mask today! https://swnaforms.wufoo.com/forms/sw-strong-masks/

### Wear a Mask! Save Lives! Stop The Spread!

Proceeds support SWNA Task Forces AND The Southwester (offered free and online)

Questions? contact President@swna.org



### Awaiting Charter Decision, CapX Lab Continues Partnerships in Southwest

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

apital Experience Lab (CapX for short) is a group of educators who on Jan. 29, submitted an application to open a 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade public charter school in the vicinity of the L'Enfant Plaza Metro after four years of pilot programs in Southwest. CapX offers a unique learning model that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum and hands-on experiences in DC's museums, government agencies, and other community learning spaces. As CapX awaits the



Courtesy of Regina Saravia

Courtesy of Alison Gillmeister

Above: CapX Students at the Natural History Museum At left: CapX students in front of the mural at the US Botanic Garden

Public Charter School Board's public hearing (March 15) and a vote on their application (April 19), the team continues to connect with youth and

organizations in Southwest. CapX describes itself as a school designed by DC teachers, students, and families to leverage DC resources for DC students. The team has a particular focus on increasing rates of postsecondary success for Black, Latinx, special education, English learners, and at risk students in the District of Columbia. Drawing on years of DC-based classroom experience, the team has developed an experiential learning model that supports student achievement, personal agency, and a sense of ownership within the city.

The CapX team hosted their first summer program in Southwest in July 2017, thanks to hospitality from Washington Global Public Charter School, who offered a space for CapX to give a free full-day academic program that summer. One group of rising 7th and 8th graders studied civil rights and the First Amendment by visiting the Newseum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the American History Museum. CapX arranges for students to interact

with experts as part of every unit, so students met journalists Nia Malika-Henderson and Jonathan Capehart, as well as best-selling author Kitty Kelley.

Another student group that summer studied solar energy and the grid by visiting the American History Museum and the US Department of Energy. Community

organization Grid Alternatives came to Washington Global so that students could participate in a mock solar panel installation. Students also met with a former organizer from DC Sun who answered questions about what it took for neighbors to work together to purchase solar panels collectively at a cheaper rate. Student and family feedback after the summer program was positive. One rising 8th grader stated in his end-of-summer survey, "Every day I would wake up looking forward to what we were gonna do later on that day. Especially when we would go to the museums." The most common piece of parent feedback was to offer additional programming.

CapX summer programming developed from initial groundwork laid by native Washingtonian and CapX Board Chair, Nik Apostolides. He began imagining a public or public charter school that immersed students in DC's museums and cultural scientific institutions in 2010, when he was Associate Director of the National Portrait Gallery. Some community members had written letters and called the museum to complain about young people hanging out on the gallery steps. Nik saw this as an opportunity for the museum to step

up its youth engagement efforts and invite more teens into the museum for meaningful programming. As a result, he entered a collaborative effort with the DC Public Library and the Hirshhorn Museum. This led to a program in the summer of 2011 in which teens used the resources of DCPL, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Hirshhorn's Art Lab to design clothes, plan a fashion show, and host a community event in the Portrait Gallery's Kogod courtyard.

In a 2013 interview with London's *Financial Times*, Nik described the philosophy that guided the collaborators' approach to supporting teen leaders: "We needed to give them creative control and a way to tell their own story." The program at the Portrait Gallery was a one-off event; however, it inspired Nik to imagine a school that more intentionally supported DC students in harnessing the resources of their city's institutions.

Nik searched for educator team members to join him in testing a school model that integrated social emotional supports as well as visits to community learning sites, including museums, into the school day on a regular basis. Founding team members Alison Gillmeister, Patrice Jones, and Bethany Fleming, who all taught together at Center City PCS, joined his team. These teachers collaborated with Nik and a broader team to begin defining and testing the CapX approach with a wide range of student needs and interests in mind.

Alison, Patrice, and Bethany led teachers in offering CapX summer and Saturday programs in a continuous cycle following their initial success in 2017. Within Southwest, students visited and learned from the US Botanic Garden, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Air and Space Museum, and the Holocaust Memorial Museum. CapX led students on meaningful learning experiences in other parts of the city as well, including at the Washington Youth Garden and the Frederick Douglass House.

These experiences allowed the CapX team to collect feedback from students and families. They also gathered academic data about what worked and did not work in the community-based learning model. Each program allowed the team to build awareness of how to ensure academic progress by combining both traditional and experiential learning methods. From the beginning, the team also placed a heavy emphasis on social emotional learning, identity work with students and staff, and structures to support positive teacherstudent-family relationships.

By 2019, CapX began considering a charter application to become a school. As Executive Director Lanette Dailey-Reese joined the team, she supported the teaching team in deepening community connections in a way that included but also extended beyond students and families. She and Alison met with Donna Purchase of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and received recommendations of where to learn more Southwest history.

CapX hosted a reunion for former students at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Thanks to the advocacy of community leader Thelma Jones, members of the CapX team volunteered at Amidon Bowen's math night. CapX shared a presentation with ANC6D. The educator team got connected with GOOD Projects and KidPower DC and had the opportunity to host programming in partnership with these organizations. Alison attended after-school special events at the Southwest Interim Library. CapX volunteers interviewed Saturday morning visitors to the SW Farmers Market at the Lot at 4<sup>th</sup> and M St.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CapX continued to find space for collaboration in Southwest. Beginning in the summer of 2020 and continuing through this winter, CapX has offered virtual programming to Kid Power DC, which provides after school support to students at a range of DC Public Schools, including Amidon Bowen and Jefferson. CapX has also provided weekly in-person support and

See "CapX Lab," page 13

### Opposition Grows to Permanent Fencing Around US Capitol

BY MIKE GOODMAN

s of Feb. 24, over 21,000 people, many of them residents of DC, had signed a www. change.org petition opposing permanent security fencing around the US Capitol. The petition, created by www. DontFenceTheCapitol.com, states "... permanent fencing punishes not the domestic terrorists who engaged in the attack, nor the law enforcement entities who failed to adequately protect the Congress, nor do they change the systemic governance issues preventing DC from protecting itself. No, a permanent fence punishes we, the people, from seeing and accessing the People's House. Visitors and residents of DC

would be punished by a permanent fence, a permanent scar on our beautiful city, and would lose access to this beautiful beacon of democracy."

Cityleaders have begun speaking out against permanent fencing as well. On Feb. 23, a letter signed by every Member of the DC City Council was sent to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressing "...opposition to any permanent expansion of the security perimeter surrounding the United States Capitol Complex or any loss of public access to the Capitol grounds and adjacent public space." In addition, Councilmember Charles Allen put in a request to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton that she support legislation requiring that someone representing the interests of DC be added to the Capitol Police Board (CPB), which has oversight of the US Capitol Police (USCP).

"Notably, no one on the Board represents the interests of the District government or our residents, including those who live near the U.S. Capitol Complex," states Allen. "If the USCP's only duty were to protect Members of Congress and staff, that might make sense, but the USCP's actions significantly impact District residents and our neighborhoods, as well. As just one example, the USCP's decision to fence off the U.S. Capitol Complex affects emergency vehicle response in the District, meaning that Metropolitan Police Department and Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department vehicles have to take longer routes to respond to critical emergencies."

In response, Norton announced on Feb. 25 that she would introduce a bill that would make the chief of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department an ex officio, non-voting member of the CPB. "Currently, no one on the CPB represents the interests of DC residents," Norton said. "This bill will ensure that DC will have a role in the decisions of the CPB, which affect DC residents more than any other Americans. The actions of the CPB significantly impact residents of the District, and this bill will ensure DC has a role in these important decisions."

### Sold! Waterfront Academy Hosts Virtual Auction

BY KATE OCZYPOK

outhwest DC Montessori school Waterfront Academy has continued hosting virtual events this year, allowing for their community to come together safely. The latest, their school auction, offered donations from area shops and restaurants with proceeds supporting expanding Waterfront Academy programs, accommodating a growing student body, acquiring additional square footage, hiring and training additional staff, and offering more extracurricular activities.

Donors included 123 Andres, Big Bus Tours, Boating in DC, Dolce and Bean, Giant, Orangetheory, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Schneider's of Capitol Hill, and more. Winning bids were placed on over 30 items.

The item with the most bids of all was an East City Bookshop gift card, donated by a Waterfront Academy family. The item that raised the most money was four tickets to 2019 World Series champions Washington Nationals (also donated by a school family). Naturally, what attracted the most bidding was a tie between an Amazon gift card and Knead Hospi-

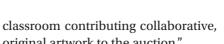


Courtesy of Miranda Woolston

Above: Held in the hands of the next At right: Student artwork inspired by the season of love

tality restaurants (Mi Vida, The Grill, and Succotash).

"We are incredibly grateful to the community and businesses that helped make this fundraiser a success," said Miranda Woolston, auction chair and Waterfront Academy parent. "The Waterfront Academy students even joined the effort, with each



Earlier this school year, Waterfront Academy hosted a virtual Halloween costume contest and also had a red carpet premiere via Zoom of their annual Christmas pageant.

"I am very pleased with the success of our virtual auction. We have been able to accomplish many online

make the most of a trying year."

Waterfront Academy is Southwest DC's only Montessori school.

events this year, from our virtual original artwork to the auction." Christmas pageant to our Halloween costume contest," said Melissa Rohan, president of Waterfront Academy. "I'm so grateful that we have come together as a school community to

Continued from p. 12

enrichment to students who attend the GOOD Projects Learning Hub at Greenleaf Garden Apartments.

In January 2021, the CapX team submitted its charter application to the PCSB for the second time. The CapX team was denied approval in 2020 in a 4 to 3 vote. Board mem-

ply. PCSB Board Chair, Rick Cruz, described the board's "unanimous" belief in the CapX vision and potential "value add" of the CapX model to students and families in DC. The board is currently in the midst of the 2021 review process, which will determine whether CapX receives approval to launch with a 6th grade class in fall

As the CapX team prepares to par-

bers encouraged the team to reap- ticipate in this year's public hearing, for joyful, free, neighborhood-based which will be hosted on Zoom on March 15, and to hear the vote on their application on April 19, they continue their routines of student and family engagement both in and beyond Southwest. Recently, the team supported two youth leaders in the Pocket Change competition, sponsored by SWNA and the SWBID. The team is also looking ahead toward this summer and planning opportunities

learning that will bring together pods of approximately 11 students with two teachers. CapX anticipates offering at least one pod in Southwest.

To learn more about Capital Experience Lab, visit them online at www. capxlab.org or via social media using the Twitter and Instagram handle @ capxlab. Feel free to send feedback or suggestions for community projects to information@capxlab.org.

### Setting the Stage for 2021: Interview with Molly Smith

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

he 2019-20 season celebrating Arena Stage's 70th Anniversary was planned with performances of people "fighting for what matters to them." Early in 2020 and throughout the year, though, things changed dramatically, from on-stage stories of people fighting to real protests and riots in the streets.

We talked with Molly Smith, Artistic Director of Arena Stage, about what it is like to create works in a time of great changes.

While Arena productions have always been relevant to the issues, has there been more focus on what is happening now? What is behind the choices of shows that have been selected for Spring 2021?

Our previous films focused on speaking to our immediate community and our Winter/Spring 2021 Looking Forward Season is broadening our focus. For Arena Riffs, we commissioned three teams of musical artists to create 20-30 minute musical theater pieces - on topics and themes burning in their hearts at this moment. They will be reflections of what our American society is think-

Indigenous Earth Voices is a film



woven together into one film. All the

artists (writers, interviewees, actors,

directors) are Indigenous.

Ongoing programming, such as masterclasses, classes for youth and theater lovers, my weekly Molly's Salon, and the Artists Marketplace provide ongoing connections to our audiences as well, until we can be on stage and in the theater together again.

Courtesy of Arena Stage

play out over time. The virtual world can feel rushed, and these beautifully detailed letters can be cherished and shared over time.

Everyone from financial planners to therapists is offering advice on how to cope in this difficult time in history. What advice does an artistic director of a major theater company have?

> Find the glimmers of hope. I was listening to a lot of Yo Yo Ma early on, and I am a voracious reader. I think a nice phone call is great too. Reaching out with your mind and heart - taking time to watch a sunset from a window and not on a screen.

#### What keeps you going?

Honestly, it's the tenacity of artists. In that, I include the wonderful staff at Arena, whether you might recognize them all as artists or not. How much everyone has pitched in and worked together. Artists have not stopped creating at all! There is so much art out there in this remote and virtual world. Strong and important messages from artists around the country.

project featuring Indigenous play-Ken Ludwig's Dear Jack, Dear Louise: wrights, interviewees, actors and Love Letter Experience will continue directors exploring their relationship with the Earth. Six playwrights will to be available for purchase. How are write a 10minute monologue each patrons responding to this unique opbased on interviews with tribal leadportunity of theater via mail? ers and storytellers, which will be performed by an actor, filmed, and

With enthusiasm. I think everyone is really looking forward to having something arrive in the mail - something tangible and to have a story

### **Arena Riffs with New Virtual Musical Performances this Spring**

Beginning in March, Arena will debut Arena Riffs - a threepart commissioned musical series that features three different composer and lyricist teams with musical selections infused with sounds of folk, indie, and hip-hop. Performances will premiere on March 17, March 31, and April 14. Each original musical will be 20-30 minutes long and will be available to stream on Arena's website.

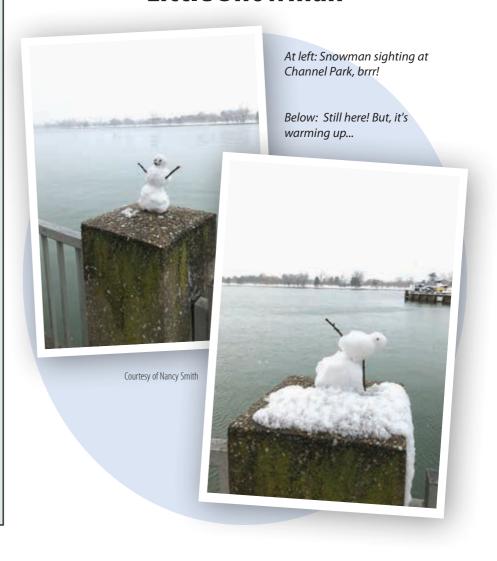
Each artist was given free rein in terms of what they wanted to compose. Themes in the musical series include the grief and void created by the pandemic, the nationwide reckoning on racial injustice, finding joy in difficult times, and the exploration of one's relationship to the country.

As previously announced, Arena Stage is excited to bring a love story directly to mailboxes nationwide. Inspired by Ken



Ludwig's Dear Jack, Dear Louise, patrons can relive, or experience for the first time, the joyous, heartfelt drama through a series of nine letters in the mail that follow the love story of Ludwig's parents, Jacob S. Ludwig and Louise Rabiner. For \$35, the Love Letter Experience includes letters, personal photos and telegrams specifically designed and handcrafted with period details by the Arena Stage prop shop. Mailings will start in early March, with new letters placed in the mail twice a week. Recipients should expect to receive all nine packets within a six-week period.

### The Evolution of Southwest's **Little Snowman**

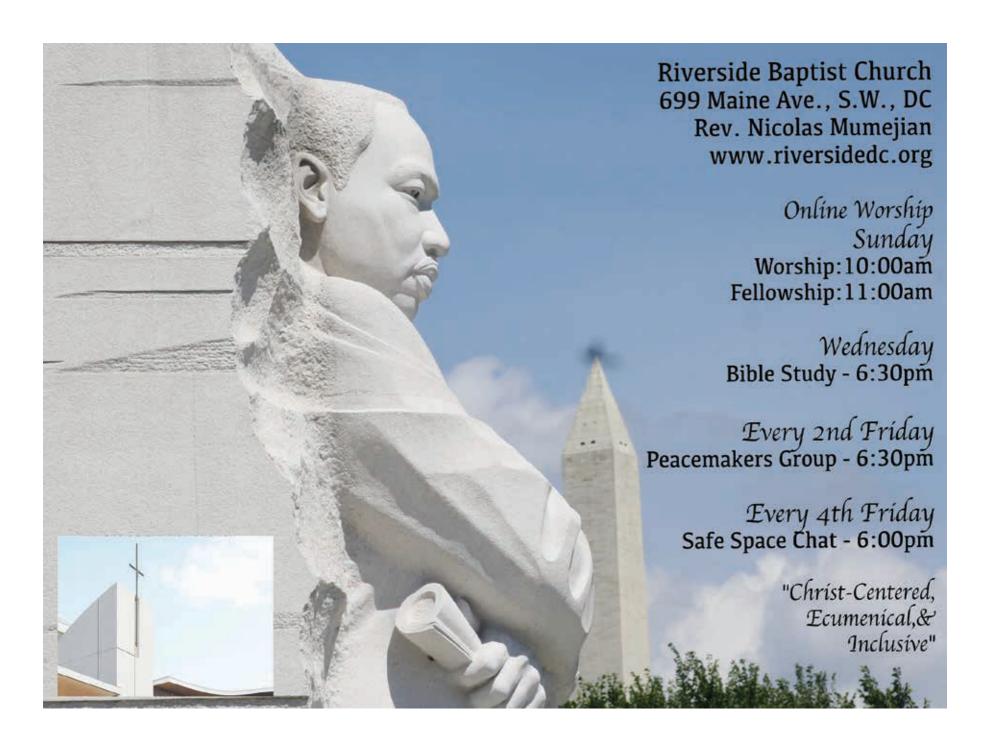


March 2021 The Southwester Page 15

#### **Ward 6 Youth Meal Sites**

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 February 16, 2021)

School Name	Address		Meal Distribution Hours (Monday - Friday)	Grocery Distribution (while groceries last)
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School 401 I Street SW		6	10 am - 2 pm	
Arthur Capper Recreation Center	1000 5 <sup>th</sup> Street SE		10 am - 2 pm	
Brent Elementary School	301 North Carolina Avenue SE		10 am - 2 pm	
Eastern High School	1700 East Capitol Street NE		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		10 am - 2 pm	
Tyler Elementary School	1001 G Street SE		10 am - 2 pm	
Walker-Jones Education Campus	1125 New Jersey Avenue NW		10 am - 2 pm	Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm



#### **Southwest Obituaries**

### In Loving Memory of Dr. Carlton P. Alexis (1929-2020)

#### Published in The Washington Post on Dec. 6, 2020.

ALEXIS CARLTON PETER ALEX-IS, M.D. Carlton P. Alexis passed away peacefully on November 27, 2020. He was born June 29, 1929 in Port of Spain, Trinidad to Vivian and Octavia Alexis. The third of five sons, his brothers, John, Kenneth, Arthur and Horace all preceded Carlton in death. Dr. Alexis, was one of Tiber Island's longest term residents (since the 1970s).

A quick learner, he graduated at age 15 from Osmond High School. His gracious Aunt Violet Williams encouraged the family to permit him to move to the United States to attend college. He moved to New York with only a few dollars in his pocket and found employment in the City's garment district and as an elevator operator. He enrolled at New York University where he graduated in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in science. He graduated from Howard University's College of Medicine in 1957. Through the course of his career, he was bestowed three honorary degrees-one from Georgetown University, one from Brown University and one from the University of



Courtesy of Author

Carlton P. Alexis, M.D.

Shortly before medical school graduation, Carlton enlisted in the United States Army where he was a proud member of the 25th Medical Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. He served at Walter Reed, Tripler, and Veterans Administration Army Hospitals and rose to the rank of Captain.

Upon his honorable discharge in 1961, he returned to Washington, DC and after a one-year fellowship in endocrinology at Georgetown University Hospital, Dr. Alexis was appointed a Professor of Medicine at Howard University's Medical School. He was valued tremendously at

Howard, including honors as most outstanding professor. His demonstrated leadership skills and command of the medical sciences led to an appointment to be Howard's Vice President for Health Affairs where he was responsible for leading the Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Colleges.

In 1988, he was elevated to the role of Executive Vice President at Howard University where he was responsible for making leadership decisions for the entire University. He ultimately served as Interim President of Howard University from 1989-1990, retired in 1990 and was named President Emeritus.

Carlton was very active in the medical, business, and social community in DC. He served on multiple Mayoral Councils and Committees, including the Committee on Drug Abuse, Prevention and Treatment, the Task Force on Reorganization of the Department of Human Resources, and the Commission on Budget and Financial Priorities of the District of Columbia. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors of both The National Bank of Commerce and

Dominion Bank.

He presented multiple papers on medical and social issues throughout his career. In 1990, Carlton moved to St. Thomas, USVI to retire where he envisioned he would dine, swim, boat, and play golf. Instead, his passion for medicine drew him to work at St. Thomas Hospital, and later, he served as the Director of Community Based Outpatient Clinics for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Carlton married DC native, Ogbonia (nee Fearing) Alexis in June 1956. They remained married until his passing. He had three children: Carla, Anthony (Julia), and Lisa, the youngest, who preceded him in death earlier this year. He had four grandchildren: Anthony Jr., Brenden, Matthew, and Jessica and two great-grandsons, Ryan Carlton and Anthony III.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, cards or other forms of sympathy, the family asks that you make a contribution to Howard University School of Medicine, 520 W St., NW, Washington, DC 20059. www.mcguire-services.com www.mcguire-services.com

#### **ASSISTANCE**

Continued from p. 1

you were laid off or had reduced hours due to the pandemic. And now, with changes made to ERAP several months ago, qualified renters no longer have to prove they can pay the rent going forward. It also increased the income eligibility to 40% Area Median Income (AMI) and raised the amount of rental assistance they could receive.

To begin the process of applying for rental assistance you need to go to the DHS website (DHS.dc.gov) and click on the "Emergency Rental Assistance" tab. There you will find another DC government page explaining ERAP with links for documents you will need to fill out. "And when you do that, you're given one of the seven or so providers and then we follow up with you and make sure you get an application, and that that application is processed." (You can read about and apply for CHAP here: https://dhcd.dc.gov/service/covid-19-rental-assistance.)

It's not that straight forward, though, according to Pierson who says that most tenants cannot get all the necessary documents right away. "In addition to your own application and personal documents, you have to get a rent ledger (a written record of rent money paid by the tenant that includes: date, amount paid, method of payment, and any outstanding balance) and a W-9 from your

landlord." All this can take several weeks to obtain and Pierson says they can't process an application until all the right documents are in hand.

Part of the problem, according to Pierson, with obtaining all these documents is that many landlords are working remotely or they are out-of-state or country, and so counselors end up spending a lot of time tracking them down. "So that is a bottleneck right there."

"Right now, there's just a lot of people... Literally hundreds of people trying to apply at the same time. So it just takes time to cull through all of those applications and process them."

Since the beginning of COVID, Pierson says that they have been able to help somewhere just north of 250 families compared to approximately 331 for FY 2019. "And, we're expected to process hundreds more before the end of this year."

Again, the process has many turns and the biggest hurdles those seeking assistance face are getting the proper documents together and simply understanding what documents they need. "For CHAP, you still have to show a hardship. You still have to produce some kind of income documents. It can be what they call a HUD-5 (found here: https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/administration/hudclips/forms/hud5), a bank statement, or a 1040."

"Some people just drop off their applications and call you a month later

and say, 'Well, I sent my application in a month ago, you know, why haven't I gotten my money?' I have [to tell them] that it doesn't work like that. You gotta get all those documents together. Sometimes they do all they can on their end and the landlord just, you know, takes their time getting."

Pierson suggests that you make sure you have all your documents before you try to fill out an application, check with your landlord, and get a W-9. She says that with the bigger landlords, they usually have the necessary documents on file, but they often have to track down the smaller operators, which causes further delays.

COVID, of course, has presented its own set of challenges to people applying for assistance. Although the virtual platform makes things easier, many people applying for rental assistance either don't use it, or can't. *The Southwester* has highlighted the digital divide before as it applies to education, but the divide applies here too. Pierson says "there are people who don't have access to computers or don't have the internet."

If you cannot fill out an application online, a list of places you can call can be found here:

**Catholic Charities** - The Southeast Family Center | (202) 338-3100 | www. CatholicCharitiesDC.org

Housing Counseling Services, Inc. | (202) 667-7006 | www.HousingEtc.org | ERAP Recorded Information Line: (202) 667-7339

Salvation Army (NW Office) -National Capital Area Command | (202) 332-5000 | www.SalvationArmyN-CA.org

**Salvation Army (SE Office)** | (202) 678-9771 | www.SalvationArmyNCA.org

**The Community Partnership (TCP)** | (202) 312-5510 | www.Community-Partnership.org

The United Planning Organization (UPO) | (202) 562-3802 | www.UPO.org

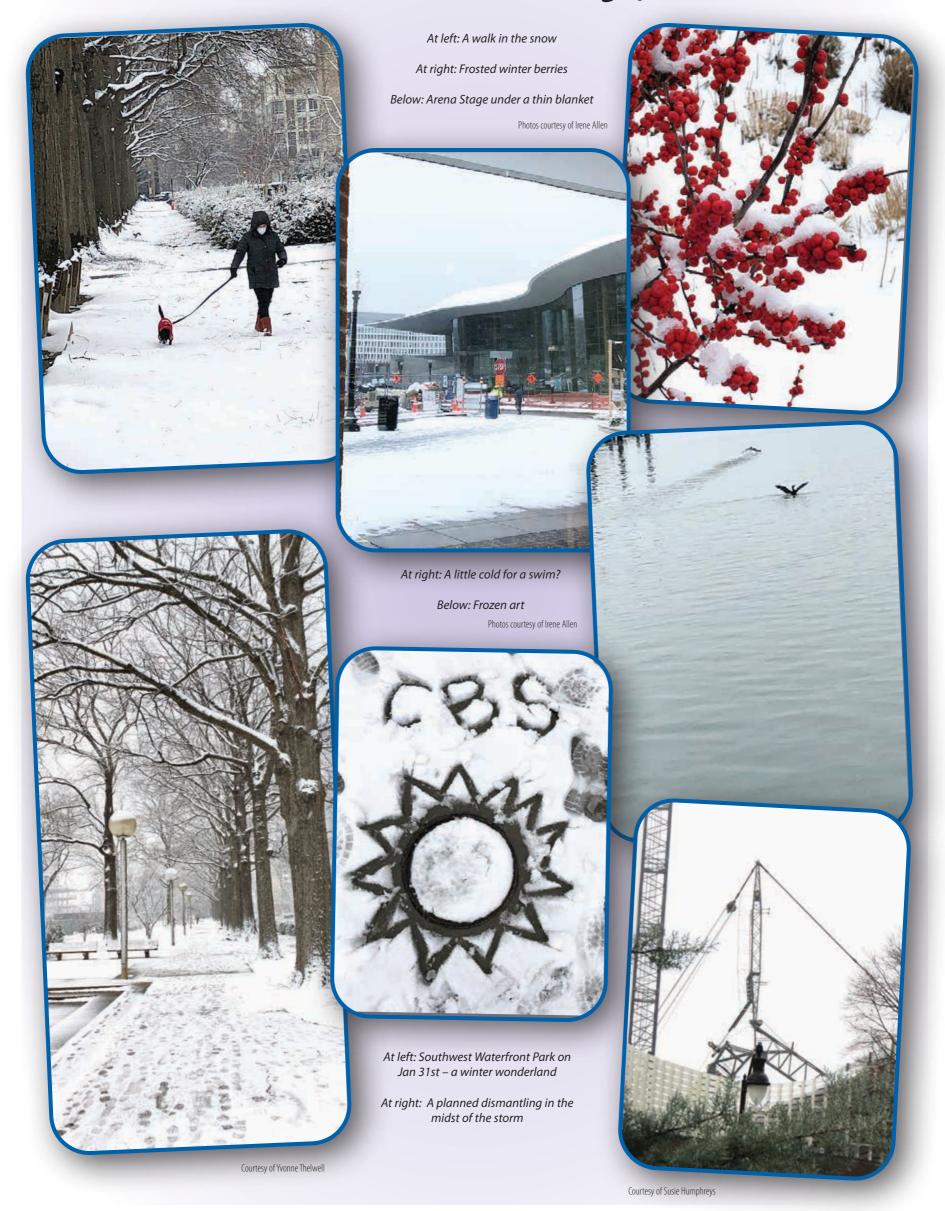
The Greater Washington Urban League | (202) 265-8200 | www.GWUL.

The best thing a renter can do right now, Pierson told me, is to start the process right away. Even if you haven't paid rent in 10 months, don't know when you are going to get a job, and you are avoiding your landlord, communicate with them and "apply for where you are now"

"Their rules have now been relaxed so you can apply again in a few months if you are still not able to find employment and pay your rent. But, don't wait to get... even though we are busy, I still say don't wait to apply. Get your application in now. ASAP. And communicate with your landlord."

Kay Pierson is the director of the United Planning Organization, Community Reinvestment Division Petey Greene Community Center 2907 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE. Phone: 202-562-3800.

# SW Winter Mix



### Op-Ed: SWNA Scholarship Helped Build Success

BY NATASHA RODRIGUEZ, M.ED., CDP

am a mother, travel addict, educator, diversity/inclusion/equity advocate, and storyteller. I was born and raised in the Southwest region of Washington, DC, yet identify as a global citizen. Growing up in an immigrant household, I realized at a young age how big the world was after traveling to my family's native country, Panama, at the age of seven. Being raised in a multicultural home shaped my identity over the years, indirectly shaping my life's work in diversity. When I attended undergrad, I lived with the foreign exchange and international students, invigorating me to study abroad for three semesters in Latin America and Europe.

As my passion for global travel naturally increased post-college, I found myself traveling to over 20 countries, touching five continents. Global education has had a major impact on my life, teaching me more about myself



Natasha Rodriguez

and the spaces I occupy in the world. The biggest lesson I have learned from my travels is to value the similarities while honoring differences across cultures. The numerous eye-opening experiences I gained from traveling motivated me to create Journey Mom LLC, a woman-owned small business

focused on advocacy and education in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This is accomplished via workshop facilitation, speaking engagements, and blog writing.

I also serve as the acting director for multicultural training and programming at University of Maryland Global Campus where I provide programming and workshops to faculty and staff to enhance their DEI initiatives. My volunteer efforts include serving as a staff representative for the University System of Maryland Women's Forum and Board of Directors for New Futures DC. Both organizations strive to bridge equity gaps in areas such as opportunity, access, education, and pay. A 2007 honor graduate of School Without Walls Senior High, I am a certified diversity professional with a bachelor's degree in social and cultural history from the University of Maryland, a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean studies from the University of Maryland, and a master's degree in education from Lesley University.

My life mission is to travel the globe, create more social change agents, and develop more culturally competent global citizens. I attribute my success to a strong support system, and village, including the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force (SWNA ESTF). Many people have taken the time to believe and invest in my dreams and therefore I try to pay it forward to other members of the community. I put my time, energy, and resources into places that are looking to break cycles, disrupt social inequities, and increase educational opportunities that will have generational impact. Many thanks to the SWNA ESTF and its donors for their investment in future leaders.

Natasha Rodriguez is a two time scholarship recipient of the SWNA ESTF and a recipient of the Friends of SW Scholarship.

### Norton Responds to Increased Helicopter Traffic in DC Skies

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

eing a densely populated city and the seat of the nation's capital, we are no strangers to helicopter traffic, especially preceding the summer of 2020 up through the present. Recently there has been an uptick in chopper traffic overhead, and the noise is fraying already frayed nerves.

The District's long-serving but non-voting member of Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton, who cochairs the Quiet Skies Caucus, sent a letter to the acting director of the National Park Service (NPS) asking him to consider the fact that people live here. "D.C. residents must be factored into NPS's decision-making regarding the necessity of helicopter flights in D.C., as well as the time, place and manner of such flights," Norton said.

Her full letter to the Acting Director of NPS is below.

Dear Acting Director (Shawn) Benge,

As a co-chair of the Quiet Skies Caucus and as a senior member of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I am very concerned about helicopter noise and safety in the District of Columbia. When flying helicopters in the District, to the greatest extent possible, I ask the National Park Service



Photo courtesty of britannica.com

Eleanor Holmes Norton

(NPS) to fly helicopters at higher altitudes, limit nighttime flights and flights over residential areas, and provide advance notice to residents of prolonged training missions in a particular area. D.C. residents must be factored into NPS's decision-making regarding the necessity of helicopter flights in D.C., as well as the time, place and manner of such flights.

D.C. residents contact me frequently about helicopter noise in their neighborhoods. Residents say that it affects their sleep and their ability to think and have conversations, and that it causes structural dam-

age to their homes. Helicopter noise is such a concern that my national capital region (NCR) colleagues and I requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on the issue. GAO found that, of the 88,000 helicopter flights within 30 miles of Reagan National Airport between 2017-2019, 18,000 were law enforcement flights, which includes flights by the U.S. Park Police. GAO recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration develop a mechanism to exchange helicopter noise information with operators in the NCR. My colleagues and I plan to introduce legislation to implement this recommendation, which will help us develop solutions in the future. I also understand that the U.S. Park Police is looking at relocating its helipad in the long-term. Still, there are steps NPS can take in the immediate term to address helicopter noise.

While I recognize that there are many helicopter operators in the NCR and that there are law enforcement and national security reasons for many of the helicopter flights in the NCR, NPS must take into account the fact that the District is a densely populated city when making decisions to fly helicopters in this region. Low-flying helicopters in

densely populated urban neighborhoods raise not only noise issues, but safety issues as well. I understand that NPS helicopters are likely single engine helicopters, and that in the case of an engine failure or partial loss of power, pilots may be unable to make a safe landing in the dense urban environment of the District

In the event helicopter flights are necessary and will be prolonged in a particular area, I ask that NPS give residents advance notice. For example, I have received reports from constituents that NPS helicopters have been flying many late-night flights and engaging in prolonged hovering in Anacostia. The residents have observed a pattern of helicopters circling between 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. While I recognize there is a helipad at Anacostia Park if this is a training program or other ongoing mission, residents should be notified about the reason and the expected duration. These repeated and prolonged flights not only cause noise disturbances, but also frighten residents, coming on the heels of the attack on the U.S. Capitol and the heightened threat environment in D.C.

I request a written response to this letter by March 26, 2021.

#### **DDOT**

Continued from p. 1

pointed out that bicyclists utilizing the bike lane will be forced to use a lane with hundreds of young children and parents crossing throughout the day, which creates safety and liability concerns for cyclists. Amidon-Bowen currently educates children as young as three years old.

"It is unfortunate that DDOT has not made proactive attempts to engage the school community to provide details about their plans or receive input on the potential impact these plans will have on students. We are concerned they are taking a misguided approach to the I street bike lanes between 4th and 6th streets. The safety of our elementary school children should be the top priority, period," says Nicole Renard, President of the Amidon-Bowen Parent-Teachers Association (PTA).

When asked about details for this article, a DDOT Spokesperson told The Southwester, "DDOT will consider additional treatments around the school to address safety concerns. Possible measures include green paint 'hatching,' cyclist speed bumps, and school-zone signage and ground markings to prompt both cyclists and drivers to slow down and watch for pedestrians."

However, this does not satisfy the demands of parents, who note regardless of signage, children as young as three years old will still be forced to cross an active bike lane under the current proposal. "Any proposal that leads to children exiting vehicles in the middle of the street, and having to cross bicycle traffic just to enter their school, will be unacceptable to parents, residents and our community. We need DDOT to ensure they are prioritizing the safety of schoolchildren," savs Renard.

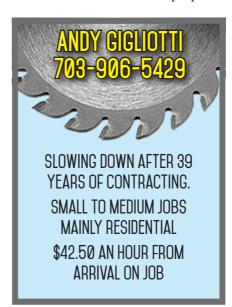
Additional concerns have also been raised about DDOT's plans. Pick-up and drop-off occurs at Amidon-Bowen four times throughout the day, due to before-care and after-care. If parents and buses are forced to stop in the middle of the road, this will put traffic at a literal stand-still during peak rush hours. Furthermore, traffic congestion is expected to be even worse with the completion of the new Shakespeare building at 6th and I (Eye) Street, which is currently slated to have a drop-off and pickup zone on I (Eye) Street, just down the block from Amidon-Bowen's main

"Many of our children need to be walked into the building. Therefore it is essential that DDOT maintain a dedicated pick-up and drop-off zone that allows parents and bus drivers to pull up and park directly by the sidewalk. As far as we are aware, DDOT is not proposing to remove a dedicated lane for any other elementary school in the city, and it is not appropriate for Amidon-Bowen Elementary School," says Renard.

Other residents have expressed concern over a loss of parking spots in the neighborhood. While DDOT has stated varying numbers on the exact number of parking spots the neighborhood will lose, it is clear a loss of parking will occur under the current proposal. While some Southwest residents have access to, and are able to afford, off-street parking, many others rely on street parking in the neighborhood. Furthermore, health care workers, child care workers, contractors and visitors to the neighborhood's many attractions rely on street parking.

Ruth Hamilton, co-pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church at 4th and I (Eye) Street, SW, notes that "Although DDOT did not reach out to Westminster about the proposed bike lane on I Street SW, we would heartily agree with Amidon-Bowen's serious concerns. With our new project coming just across the street, we'll lose some spaces on our side for a drop-off/pick-up area for seniors. We need every available parking space for the full houses we have on Mondays and Fridays and other community events. It does seem that there ought to be a better way to accommodate bikes. Those evening parking places have been critical for our heavily senior crowd."

In response to these concerns, a DDOT Spokesperson committed to perform outreach to the community, stating, "Through continued analysis and community outreach, DDOT will formalize a plan for the corridor to present in future community meetings."



#### **Because You Can Fitness** Lori Murphy

- Outdoor Classes
- Personal Training
- Virtual Training
- · Specialty Bootcamp Classes
- Virtual Classes
- Nutrition Plans

202-669-9017 facebook.com/BYCLoriMurphy www.becauseyoucanfitness.com

### SOUTHWEST MOMENTS



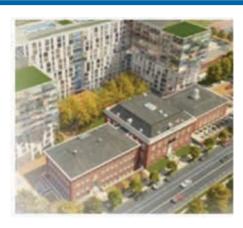
Photo Courtesy of Melissa Jane Taylor

Subtle tones of dusk guide an incoming flight

Visit SWNA's website! www.swna.org

#### Recruitment of Construction **Workers from** ANC 6D

**Project:** Museum Place **Developer:** Lowe **General Contractors: Balfour Beatty and** The Christman Company



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

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

#### **Ballour Beatty**

https://balfourbeattyus.com/work-with-us/opportunities Contact rlipscolm@balfourbeattyus.com for a list of Subcontractors



https://www.christmanco.com/Careers Contact tom.whitmore@christmanco.com for a list of Subcontractors

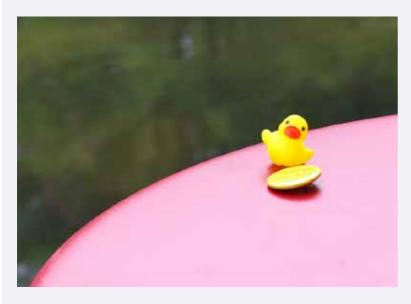
Balfour Beatty and The Christman Company are an Equal Opportunity Employer First Source Goals Apply

## SPRING IN SW

### THE FARMER'S MARKET IS BACK IN FULL SWING!

After braving a long winter, Farmer's Market SW will be back in full force for the first weekend of April. All your favorite warm-weather vendors will return just in time for Mid-Atlantic growing season (Strawberries! Asparagus! Spring!). Find them every Saturday from 9am to 1pm at 4th & M. For more info, visit www.marketswdc.com.







### SHOWING OUR PARKS SOME LOVE

Social distancing is easier outdoors, and we're taking this time to care for our beloved neighborhood parks.

The 3rd and I Street Park and Banneker Park both have upgrades in progress. You can expect to see better lighting, repaired pavement, and new landscaping in both parks this spring.

The Southwest Duck Pond and Lansburgh Park have also gotten some TLC this winter and should be fully reopened for all to enjoy this month. Look out for a re-filled pond soon.

We'll see you outdoors in no time!