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MARCH 2022



Courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival returns in-person on March 20. You can view the status of the cherry blossoms from live cameras at www.bloomcam.org

"Hope and Renewal:" National Cherry Blossom Festival is Back In-Person

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he National Cherry Blossom Festival is bringing back its celebrated in-person events this year, but with added safety precautions. With vaccinations and natural immunity to COVID-19 on the rise after the Omicron

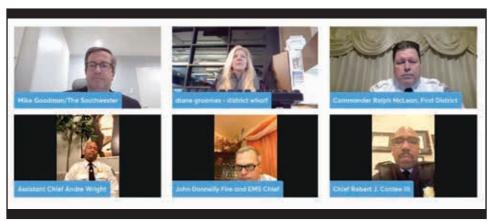
variant swept through the District, the Festival is ready to revive the events in a "safe and responsible" way with its opening day on Sunday, March 20, according to President and CEO Diana Mayhew.

Last fall, Mayor Muriel Bowser, announced that the District "is open

and that means that the National Cherry Blossom Festival is back in person." Those remarks came on November 9. Only weeks later, on November 24, the Omicron variant was first reported to the World Health Organization. The first Omicron case was discovered in DC on

See "Festival," page 8

Public Safety Sparks Community Concern, Calls for Coordinated Response



Courtesy of the Author

Speakers at a February 28 Southwest Neighborhood Assembly community meeting discuss public safety.

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

n February 28, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly hosted a community meeting with the District's top public safety leaders, who fielded a wide range of questions on topics from gun violence to opioid abuse and property crime.

The forum was opened by Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and attended by Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert J. Contee III, Assistant Chief Andre Wright, 1st District Commander Ralph McLean, Fire and

See "Public Safety," page 2



CHAMBER PLAYERS 25TH **ANNIVERSARY**

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REV. RUTH **HAMILTON TO** RETIRE

Page 6



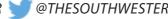
DC UNITED **WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**

Page 7

Correction:

The February 2022 issue of The Southwester included an article entitled "Southwest Resident **Announces Black History** Celebration Kick-Off." The keynote speaker's name was incorrectly spelled "Dr. Ben Chavez." It should have been spelled "Dr. Ben Chavis."

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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.

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The Southwester

P.O. Box 70131 • Washington, DC 20024

Southwester Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Mike Goodman Editorial Staff: Melissa Silverman (Copy & Web) Advertising: Beth Hall & Donna Purchase Distribution: Perry Klein Calendar: Jein Park calendar@thesouthwester.com Design & Layout: Electronic Ink Printer: Print Innovators



The Southwester is published and distributed by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from p. 1

EMS Chief John Donnelly and Diane Groomes, Director of Wharf Security and Public Safety. Southwester Editorin-Chief Mike Goodman moderated the conversation.

Panelists cited the need for an integrated response to the range of public health and safety issues, committing to ongoing cooperation for a response that includes government agencies, community groups and the private

"No one entity will be able to navigate the maze of all the challenges we experience in a community," Chief Contee said. "MPD is focusing on individuals, not just through law enforcement, but a whole of government approach to bring services to individuals who need them."

Contee told participants that the police department is focused on a strategic, scalpel-like approach to combating violence, one that focuses on the small number of people who commit the majority of crime in the city. He highlighted a "hot spot" approach to policing and a federal Homicide Reduction Partnership as high-priority initiatives during a challenging time for the community.

"Coming out of two years of a pandemic that completely upended many support systems for people who were vulnerable to begin with, I think we are seeing in the rise in crime nationally and locally what that fallout looks like," Councilmember Allen said in a statement to *The Southwester*. "People

are hurting and desperate. It's a both/ and approach to gun violence that can produce long-term reductions."

1st District Commander McLean cited a shift as the COVID-19 pandemic recedes, with violent crime down 9% in the area that makes up lower Southwest and property crime down about 10%, yet the effects of the pandemic continue to be felt in the use and abuse of opioids.

Fire and EMS Chief Donnelly described opioid abuse as a widespread problem across the city and across socioeconomic lines. He cited a city response that includes more than transporting residents to the hospital, but also bringing social workers to areas where overdoses are reported and providing wraparound service including sobering centers and access to addiction treatment.

During a deadly period around January 28th, Southwest saw 13 fentanyl overdoses causing five deaths in less than two days.

"Southwest will be working through the trauma and loss of that Friday in January for years to come," Allen said. "In a single afternoon, more lives were lost in Southwest than all those lost to gun violence in Southwest during 2021. The holes left in our community and the pain felt are deep."

In response, local harm reduction organization HIPS hosted a community conversation at the Southwest Library on February 17, welcoming about a dozen community members for a frank discussion on opioid use as well as life-saving training on the use of Narcan, a medication that can temporarily reverse the symptoms of

opioid overdoses.

HIPS Community Outreach Coordinator Johnny Bailey offered an "Opioids 101" explainer,

noting that fentanyl, which is at least 50 times stronger than prescription medications like Vicodin, is the leading cause of death from opioids in DC, and is driving an overdose crisis that has spiked in recent years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Bailey, DC residents are more likely to die of an opioid overdose than violent crime or COVID-19.

Community members inquired about neighbors most impacted by the opioid crisis, and HIPS educators noted that 70 percent of overdoses are adults over 40. In the January 28th cluster in Southwest, publicly identified victims of overdoses included neighbors aged 69 and 72.

"The community came together in the last few weeks," Bailey said when describing the aftermath of January 28. "I'm impressed by how much we came together."

HIPS works in Ward 6 to provide services such as syringe exchange and access to overdose prevention supplies, as well as linkage to broader support services, including mental health support, access to housing, and substance use treatment in a client-centered, harm reduction environment. A drop-in center hosts support groups and provides clients with access to showers, laundry and a clothing closet.

Harm Reduction Program Provides Essential Support

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

n January 28th, the Southcommunity lost friends from Half Street to Fourth Street in a devastating twoday span of fentanyl-related overdoses. Local leaders quickly organized a response, including those who have long worked to address the deep-seated challenge of opiate addiction.

In 2019, Westminster Presbyterian Church on I Street SW received a grant from the DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to conduct educational programming on opiate addiction and treatment possibilities. This included distributing Narcan, the brand name for a medication sprayed into the nose cavity of unconscious individuals who appear to have overdosed on opioids. The active ingredients block receptors in the body that opioids

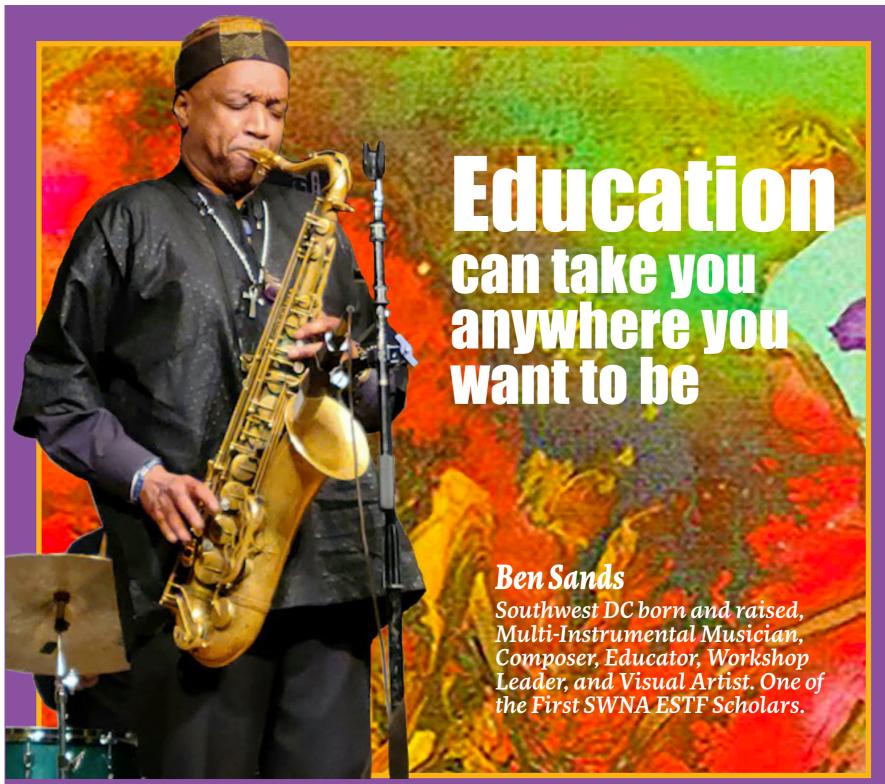
attach to and temporarily reverse the symptoms of opioid overdose. Expanding access to Narcan, and training neighbors on its use, can save lives in the critical moments after an overdose.

The program at Westminster, formerly known as Building Rhythm Through Recovery, follows Harm Reduction principles, which makes it a different approach than treatment programs requiring participants to abstain from using substances immediately. Harm Reduction acknowledges how difficult this can be and incorporates several other components, such as ways to safely use drugs, manage their use and reduce the stigma. For example, a key component of the program at Westminster is distributing fentanyl test strips, which allow users to test the level of fentanyl in a drug before it is consumed. Harm reduction

measures like this could have saved lives ahead of the January 28 health emergency, but access to the strips and other tools remains limited.

The program is led by George Kerr, III, who remains a trusted source for opioid education, treatment, and crisis intervention. Though the grant from DBH ran out on September 30 of last year, Kerr has worked with the Reverends Ruth and Brian Hamilton and fellow Westminster parishioners to continue serving the community at this critical moment. Kerr aims to create special kits with Narcan, instructions, and fentanyl test strips to save lives in Southwest and beyond.

More information about the Westminster Harm Reduction program is available at westminsterdc. org/harm-reduction. If you would like to support the program, please visit westminsterdc.org/donate.



The background image is a detail of a painting by Ben Sands - bensandsmusic@gmail.com

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SWNA ESTF - Education and Scholarship Task Force was established to encourage and assist youth in the Southwest Washington DC, Ward 6, Zip code 20024 neighborhood to pursue a post-secondary education.





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Courtesy of David Ehrlich

Members of the Southwest Chamber Players include: Molly Simonau, soprano; Marje Palmieri, soprano; David Ehrlich, piano; Harold Yaffe, clarinet; Julia Goudimova, cello; Mary Norris, flute; Dilyana Kirova, bassoon and Mark Furth, violin.

Southwest Chamber Players Present 25th Anniversary Shows

BY DAVID EHRLICH

he Southwest Chamber Players announce their triumphant return to the concert stage of Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church with a pair of concerts Friday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 3 at 2:30 p.m. Following a twoyear hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this happy occasion will mark the amateur organization's 25th anniversary. Founded in March 1997, the Players' history has paralleled the growth and development of our Southwest neighborhood, resulting in the presentation of nearly two hundred concert programs.

April's two different programs will feature works of the great masters Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Dvorak, Poulenc, Shostakovich and others. Performers will include Southwest residents Gwyn Jones on flute and her pianist Rosanne Conway; Caleb Johnson on violin and viola and Joyce

Bouvier. The will be augmented by longtime favorites Julia Goudimova on cello; Nancy Genovese and Harold Yaffe on clarinet; Dilyana Kirova on bassoon; Marje Palmieri, a soprano, and Stephen Brown and David Ehrlich on piano. In addition, attendees can expect cameos from the DC Public Library's Brown Bag series' Vasily Popov on cello and Ralitza Patcheva on piano. Newcomers include Mayron Tsong on piano; Paul Blanchard, a tenor; U.S. military band members Luke Wedge on violin and Hrant Parsamian on cello and the Mtingo clarinet quartet.

The public is invited to join these celebratory concerts. Coronavirus precautions, including social distancing, will be observed and it is requested that all attendees are fully vaccinated. Attendance will be limited to 75 guests per performance, but the April 1 concert will be livestreamed and available to all at www.southwestchamberplayers.org.



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See page 16 for additional information

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A New Chapter at Westminster Presbyterian Church

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

o many of us, they are treasured friends and partners in neighborhood projects, and to the parishioners of Westminster Presbyterian, Co-Pastors Ruth and Brian Hamilton are the heart of their church. Long-time member Vyllorya Evans describes Ruth Hamilton as their "spiritual leader" and "connection to the community" while Brian Hamilton "challenges our intellect" and teaches about broader social issues. The Hamiltons have served Westminster and Southwest DC since February, 1996.

Ruth Hamilton recently announced that she will retire this April after 26 years at Westminster and 29 years as a minister. When asked why she decided to step down now, she said, "it was time." Ruth will still be active in some neighborhood activities while Brian will take over as full-time pastor and monitor the construction of a new Westminster Church.

The Hamiltons met while serving as Associate Pastors at different churches in Detroit. Shortly after getting married, they began to look for a location where they could serve as co-pastors, and a friend advised them about Westminster. The history of the church and its commitment



Reverends Ruth and Brian Hamilton of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

to social issues won them over. They purchased a home in Southwest DC and moved in during the blizzard of 1996, when nearly two feet of snow blanketed the area.

From the start, the duo displayed a deep commitment to equal rights and social justice. Ruth and Brian officiated gay and lesbian unions before many pastors considered the addition of members of the LGBTQIA+ community into their congregation. The trailblazing food service organization Food and Friends was created at Westminster before moving out on



Courtesy of Westminster Presbyterian Church

its own.

Ruth soon developed deep and trusted friendships across the community. She served on multiple boards, including the former Southwest Family Strengthening Collaborative, which sought to provide counseling, parenting and financial services to families, and the United Planning Organization, which links individuals to job and other opportunities. In 2004, Ruth was part of a group of residents who recognized the development coming to Southwest and sought to ensure residents received

valuable services and opportunities. The Near Southeast/Southwest Community Benefits Coordinating Council was created to strengthen schools, develop workforce opportunities and maximize affordable housing. Ruth served as its chair from 2005 to 2015.

Brian's impact is equally impressive but felt in the performing arts, social justice, AIDS education and harm reduction. The iconic Westminster Friday night jazz sessions began as a 1999 conversation on racial and ethnic reality by African American church members. Since that time, the best local artists in DC have graced the Westminster stage. A Monday blues session was added in 2006. Working with church member George Kerr III, Brian created the Building Rhythm Through Recovery program, which is now known as harm reduction.

If you would like to extend your best wishes to Ruth, Westminster is holding a Zoom retirement party on Thursday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. A Palm Sunday Lawn Party will then be held at Westminster (400 I Street SW) on Sunday, April 10 at 12:00 p.m. Additional details, including the Zoom link for the March 31 event, can be acquired by emailing wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

Boardwalk Bar & Arcade Opens at The Wharf

n Feb. 18, the Boardwalk and Arcade opened its doors, welcoming diners, drinkers and gamers to carnivallike entertainment inspired by beachside boardwalks like those in Ocean City, MD. The new restaurant features a menu of beachy bites, creative takes on cocktails, and a range of games including pinball, ski ball, Ms. Pac Man, Mario Kart, Streetfighter II, claw games,

a basketball game, a fortune teller mannequin, and more.

The food menu has enough varidogs, corn dogs, pizza, sandwiches) or just to provide some bites while you enjoy the games (popcorn, giant pretzels, hummus). The atmosphere is kid-friendly (cotton candy is also on the menu), though children must be accompanied by a 21-and-over guardian. There is a daily happy hour with savings on food and drinks.



Women Leaders Drive DC United Forward

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

s the 2022 D.C. United soccer season gets underway at Audi Field in Southwest, two dynamic female leaders are making history with senior-level positions in the organization.

As the United's General Manager and Head of Technical Recruitment and Analysis, Lucy Rushton is only the second woman to ever serve in a Major League Soccer general manager position. Rushton grew up with the sport in her native England and was an early convert to the use of statistics to improve sports performance with rigorous, data-based analysis.

"Fifteen years ago, it was still in its infancy, an up-and-coming thing," Rushton said of the approach.

Her expertise in sports management and leadership – and skills with statistical analysis — earned her a job with the Reading Football Club, where she worked with players and coaches, giving daily feedback on performance. Rushton crossed the pond to build the inaugural roster for Major League Soccer's Atlanta United, an effort that resulted in the club winning the MLS Championship in just their second season and earning enough fan support to smash league records for attendance.

Rushton moved to Washington to step into the role of general manager, taking her day-to-day work beyond data to managing the roster and daily tasks of running the team with Head Coach Hernán Losada.

"It was a big change for me," Rushton said. "I felt like I had a lot to give within the role. It just felt like the right move at the right time, and it's been fantastic. Going into the 2022 season, I'm really excited with the growth we've had as a group, together."

In 2021, D.C. United missed the MLS playoffs by a single point, but Rushton has spent the off-season reshuffling the roster to find players best suited for Losada's style and approach.

"We are ambitious. We come in here every day and our aim is to win the MLS Cup," Rushton said. "First and foremost, as a stepping stone and going forward to improve on where we were, we have to make the playoffs. Ultimately, we want to be champions."

While Rushton's day job keeps her too busy to spend much time outside the stadium, she has quickly seen the value of the team's connection to the Southwest community.



Courtesy of D.C. United

Danita Johnson, D.C. United President of

"Since I've been here, one of the things that has really stood out to me is the way the club and the community work together and interact," Rushton said. "From my experience being at Audi Field, what we see from fans every match day, the atmosphere they create is huge to us. This is the most historic club in the league, so there is real opportunity for growth and it stems very much from us as a club reaching out to the community."

Lucy Rushton, D.C. United General Manager

While Rushton has only one female predecessor who ascended to the position she now occupies, she hopes that her engagement with the community will demonstrate to other women and girls that sports management is a career path open to them.

"The more that young girls can see women in positions within professional sport is only going to show them that there is an avenue for them, and give them the confidence that it is something that is achievable," Rushton said. "Being part of an organization that is clearly at the forefront of that is really important."

Rushton has company as a pioneering woman leader in the United organization. As she works to shape the team on the pitch, President of Business Operations Danita Johnson builds the club's profile from the front office. Johnson is the first Black President of an MLS club and is believed to be only the third woman in league history to serve in this role.

Johnson is new to soccer, but brings deep experience from a range of roles with the Women's National Basketball Association, including the local WNBA franchise, the Washington Mystics.

"The piece that attracted me to D.C. was not only the leadership of our organization, but the city itself," Johnson said.

After working for the Mystics in 2013 and 2014, Johnson has seen the city change, including waves of development in Southwest. In thinking about the club's community relations, Johnson said, "it's so important to serve not only the newcomers to this community, but the people who have been a part of this community for generations. We are very aware that we are in somebody's backyard every day."

For Johnson, Southwest is also her own backyard. "I'm a member of this community," she said. "I think it's important for me to be in this neighborhood and be a part of it."

From her local vantage point, Johnson saw the need for community support from the club grow during the COVID-19 pandemic. From hosting graduations that had to be moved outdoors to partnering with the D.C. government on vaccinations, Johnson stressed the importance of being present and showing up in good times and in bad.

As the deepest impact of the pandemic begins to wane, Johnson sees a new opportunity for community engagement. "We are in a place where we can truly show up now, and I'm looking forward to those things this upcoming season," she said.

Johnson and her team are working to elevate the fan experience for

the 2022 D.C. United season, including pre-match music and entertainment and theme nights for families and children. Her day-to-day work includes a clear focus on the consumer experience and delivering the right product at the right time. Her understanding of business fundamentals supports her view on and approach to leadership.

"It's a craft, it's something you have to study and work at day in and day out. It doesn't happen overnight," Johnson said of leading people.

She also feels a responsibility to move women forward, whether she is working with women's or men's sports leagues. Johnson said she had both male and female mentors, and aims to pay forward their support to create opportunities for the next generation.

"I see my leadership here as an opportunity for women to hopefully feel a little inspired," she said. "There has to be a sense of belief in yourself, and let that overpower doubt. And when you do so, you can reach your greatness."

The D.C. United kicked off their 2022 season at Audi Field on February 26, and will be joined in Southwest by the defending National Women's Soccer League champions, the Washington Spirit, who will play several home games at Audi Field this season. For schedules and more information, visit dcunited.com and washingtonspirit.com.



Business Operations

Op-Ed: Community Groups Thrive with Help from Friends of Southwest DC

BY RUSSELL MCINTYRE

hroughout the course of 2021, Southwest residents continued to adapt to the 'new normal' that has come to define our lives over the past couple of years. Unfortunately, for many individuals and local community organizations alike, this simply prolonged the need for assistance. Friends of Southwest DC stepped in to help fill the gap.

Since 1998, Friends of Southwest DC has actively supported local organizations working to make DC's smallest quadrant a better home for all. Throughout the past two decades, Friends of Southwest has helped to fund a wide variety of activities—from food banks and clothing drives to after-school programming and college scholarships—and 2021 was no different.

Friends of Southwest just released our 2021 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our work in 2021 and highlights the incredible community groups that we were able to support over the past twelve months.

One of our foremost goals heading into the year was to build upon our established relationships, none of which is more prominent than our relationship with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). For the twenty-third straight year, Friends of Southwest partnered with SWNA to provide college scholarships for Southwest students. In 2021, we were able to provide five scholarships of \$1,500 apiece to help students attend prominent institutions such as the George Washington University, Virginia Tech, Clark University, and Xavier University of Louisiana.

Friends of Southwest was honored, for the sixth straight year, to award a grant to DC STORM



(Students Taught Organization and Respect through Mentoring) to help fund their annual cultural trip to Hampton Roads for aspiring students to visit Hampton and Norfolk Universities. A second, smaller grant was provided to DC STORM to conduct radio interviews of current members on WOL 1450AM to help spread the word of this amazing group.

Friends of Southwest was also thrilled to continue to provide scholarships for Southwest youth to attend Camp Arena Stage, a summer program that was conducted virtually in 2021 due to the pandemic. The grant also helped fund the Voices of Now program for Jefferson Middle School Academy.

Additionally, Friends of Southwest was able to support groups providing food, clothing, and other essentials to those in need. A grant in March to Serve Your City provided funds to carry out their SW Duckling Clothing Drive. Another grant that same month was provided to St. Augustine Church to help establish a new lunch program which provides meals for fami-

lies with children in transitional housing. In September, we worked with the Christ United Methodist Church to provide a grant for their food pantry operations. And in November, as the holidays approached, Friends of Southwest grant money went toward the Living Classroom Foundation's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, as well as the SW Comm-Unity Forum's Toys for Tots rogram.

Finally, Friends of Southwest was honored to support family-oriented events and programs in Southwest. A grant to SW Comm-Unity Forum assisted with their annual Lansburgh Park SW summer community event. And a grant to GOODProjects helped fund their Family Success Planning Program, which provides personal success coaches, resource centers, and other community resources for Southwest families in need.

"We couldn't be prouder of the wonderful work so many community groups are doing in Southwest," said Friends of Southwest president Peter Eicher. "And we're grateful to our donors, almost all of whom are individual neighbors, for making this all possible."

With spring fast approaching, Friends of Southwest is already working hard to ensure that we build upon our past successes in 2022. For more information on the work that we do—or for details on how to contribute or apply for a grant—please visit FriendsofSWDC.org. Donations can be made online on our website or by mailing a check to: Friends of Southwest DC, P.O. Box 44434, Washington, DC 20026.

FESTIVAL

Continued from p. 1

December 12.

Bowser's remarks stood in stark contrast to last year's "hybrid" model festival, as *The Southwester* previously reported. Washingtonians have been looking forward to the much-hyped return to normal. Mayhew said this year's events represent that return "one step at a time."

Attendees are "encouraged" to be vaccinated against COVID-19 per Centers of Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, according to the Festival website. In addition, guests at specific venues may be subject to requirements put in place by operators or other authorities. Masking "may be recommended or required where social distancing is not possible," the site adds. Mayhew stressed to *The Southwester* that the Festival is

working directly with the DC Department of Health and the National Park Service (NPS) to monitor the virus and make adjustments to health protocols as necessary.

Mayhew is not worried about the arrival of visitors from states or countries where health guidelines may be less strict than those being observed during the Festival. The District "deals with this every single day," she said. Her organization will aim to "help communicate what those guidelines are" and ask people to be "as safe and responsible as possible."

This year's historic event marks the 110th anniversary of Japan's gift of trees in 1912. The "Sakura," or the flowering cherry tree, has important symbolism in Japan, according to the NPS website. The trees have helped the District mark the transition to springtime for over a century. This annual moment of "hope and renewal," said Mayhew, has added significance this year.

The opening ceremony on March 20 will feature a performance from the Minyo Crusaders, a "10-piece band that combine[s] Japanese traditional folk songs, Minyo, with various rhythms from Latin, Afro-Cuban, and Afro-Caribbean music," according to the Festival website. Musicians Keisho Ohno and Toshihiro Yuta, as well as Samurai Artist KAMUI, will also be performing. For the opening ceremony, masks are required in addition to proof of vaccine or negative COVID-19 test.

This year's festival will also see the return of the Blossom Kite Festival, National Cherry Blossom Parade, Petalpalooza, and more. The Pink Tie Dinner Party is returning "in a new format showcasing an exclusive, intimate fundraiser celebration," the Festival website says.

The Festival is always looking to make its new events part of a plan for growth rather than a "one off," Mayhew explained. As a result, the Petal Porches that marked last year's hybrid event, when the "community became a part of the Festival," will be on display again this year from March 20 until April 11. This and other programs are a way to bring "joy" and "celebration" to the city in all eight wards. Hundreds have already registered for this year's Petal Procession.

Mayhew wants to offer "something at different comfort levels" this year, so there will be a variety of events for those more or less ready to return to large public gatherings. A full line-up of events can be found on the Festival's website (https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/). Prospective attendees are also strongly encouraged to sign up for the organization's email updates and monitor the website. *The Southwester* will be following these updates closely and will keep the neighborhood informed.

Op-Ed: Expanding a Community-Led Model for Permanently Affordable Housing

BY SOUTHWEST DC ACTION

o address Southwest's affordable housing crisis in a way that does not exacerbate racial inequality, we must adopt a different approach for producing housing, especially on public land.

The D.C. Council Office of Racial Equity (CORE), whose mission it is to eliminate racial disparities and achieve racial equity in the city, agrees. CORE recommended that public land should be developed, "to include innovative, long-term models such as coops and community land trusts to address the current racial disparity in homeownership rates."

We will soon have the opportunity to apply this recommendation in our neighborhood by establishing a Southwest chapter of the Douglass Community Land Trust at the current site of the fire truck and repair station on M and Half Street SW. If you are curious about the community land trust (CLT) model, this article will serve as a primer.

What is a CLT?

A CLT is a non-profit organization that owns land and leases access at affordable and below market-rate prices. CLTs can host housing, both rental and ownership, single-family or multifamily, small businesses, community spaces, and anything else that can be built on top of land.

CLTs are not a new idea for providing affordable housing and preventing displacement. The first CLT in America was established in Georgia in 1969 as a means of keeping Black farmers on their land. Since then, CLTs have continued to be used to counter Black displacement from cities and provide homeownership opportunities to people who may not have been able to obtain it otherwise. According to a study from Grounded Solutions, the number of minorities living in shared equity housing, like CLTs, has jumped from 13% to 43% in recent years. The study also "confirm[ed] that shared equity models provide affordable homeownership to lower income families generation after generation [...] [and] provides financial security and mitigates risks for homeowners facing housing market turmoil."

Can a CLT be a housing model for Southwest?

Southwest has an opportunity to host the first CLT in Ward 6 at the Fire and Engine repair building. The Fire and Engine Station will be relocating to Blue Plains, and the zoning for the site allows for mixed use development, which provides an opportunity for the site to be transferred over to the Douglass CLT. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen has already expressed support for the idea, writing in a let-

ter to the Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development that the benefits of economic development of Southwest and Navy Yard over the last 10-15 years had "not accrued to all District residents equitably," which made the site a "good candidate for a CLT."

How does a CLT provide affordability?

CLTs provide permanent affordability through renewable, 99-year leases that contain covenants that restrict how much properties can be sold for, while still allowing the accrual of some equity. The covenants can also be passed on to other family members as well.

Here is a DC example to show how it works: if a person wants to purchase a home valued at \$555,000 but earns half of the area median income, an initial subsidy of \$393,000 is required to make the home affordable at \$162,000. Using a traditional approach to purchasing a home in the housing market, the market-rate price of the home will continue to rise year after year, increasing the amount of subsidies future modest-income buyers would need. Under a CLT model for the same buyer and home, future modest-income buyers will not require any additional subsidy.

Why does this matter?

The permanent affordability of the units allows residents to "have the time and resources to focus on other aspects that affect our lifestyles such as saving up to buy a car or house, saving for college and having kids," according to

Silvia Salazar, a resident of the 1417 N Street NW limited equity housing co-op that is part of the Douglass CLT. In fact, over 60% of people who live on a CLT and decide to sell are able to afford a market-rate house.

Belonging to a CLT not only provides residents with the ability to save money, but it also allows them to control their living situation, support each other in times of need, and engage in more civic activity.

The residents of the 1417 N Street NW co-op are an example of this. Ms. Salazar's building had more than 200 housing code violations when they bought it, but they were able to bring it up to code while also involving the members of the co-op along the way. Ms. Salazar explained, "We involved members of our coop during the renovation process and made sure they had a say about the changes in our building. Once we were able to bring the building up to code, our standard of living immediately improved."

Despite the financial hardships the COVID-19 pandemic caused for residents of the co-op, members joined together to make sure no one was evicted. "For people who fell behind on their monthly housing payments, we set up payment plans and made sure that nobody [would be] evicted as a result," Ms. Salazar said. "Our net value is [...] measured by how we deal with adversity and seeing families thriving and prospering."

In sum, CLTs put residents and their

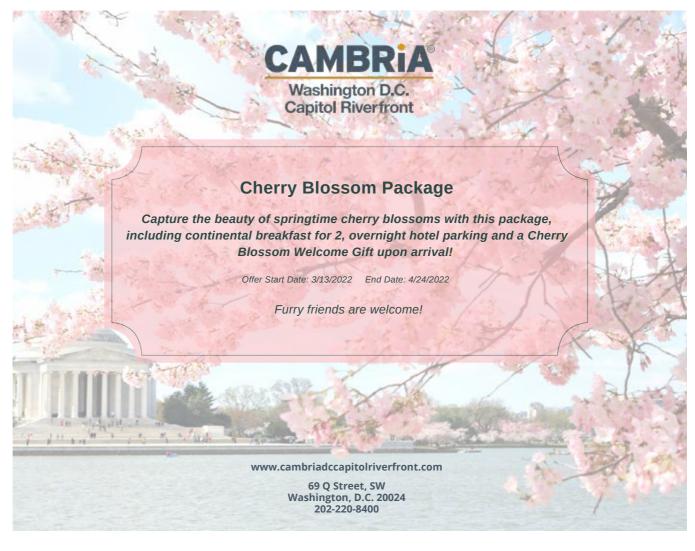
needs over the pursuit of profits and provide an alternative, equity-focused, community-driven approach to development.

What is the Douglass CLT?

The Douglass CLT was born out of concern for preventing Black displacement in Washington, DC. When Kymone Freeman, a native Washingtonian and the force behind the awardwinning We Act Radio, which operates out of Anacostia, was approached asking for support for the 11th Street Bridge project, he expressed his concern that the walkable park would remove the "last stigma" of living "East of The River" and open the area up for

See "Model," page 12





Page 10 The Southwester March 2022



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?



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***	1/20

4.		 	
5.	 	 	

Answers from February 2022 issue

Differences: The cupid on the right has a bow in his hair; the heart-shaped box on the right has a bow; the hearts on the right say "I love you;" the flowers are different on the right side of each photo; the rose near the top left of each picture is slightly different (the one in the right photo is more pink); the picture on the left has two pieces of candy.

Word Scramble: There are 198 words you can make from "Valentine."

WORD SEARCH: SPRINGTIME!

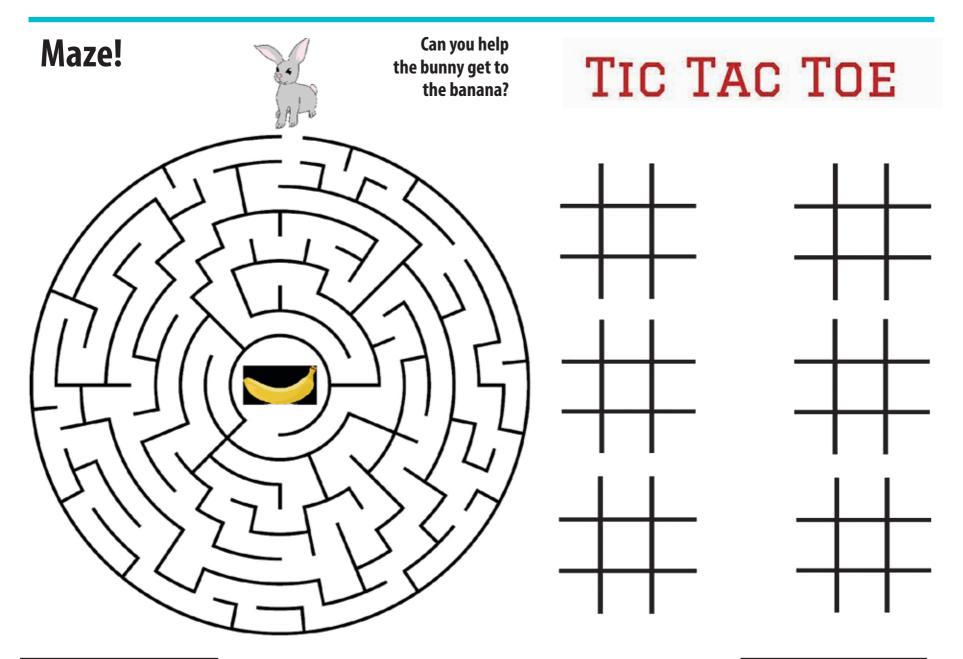
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Z	J	Ν	Z	R	Н	J	0	W	U	А	Υ	Р	0	W
٧	R	W	E	E	В	L	E	Ν	Т	В	E	D	E	J
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CHERRY SUNNY LEAF					GROWTH									
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Word Scramble! How many words can you make from FESTIVAL?									
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KID'S CORNER





Jokes!

What did one cherry blossom tree say to the other cherry blossom tree?

Cherry nice to meet you! (Submitted by Ella)

What did the mechanic say in the springtime? These springs are out of control!

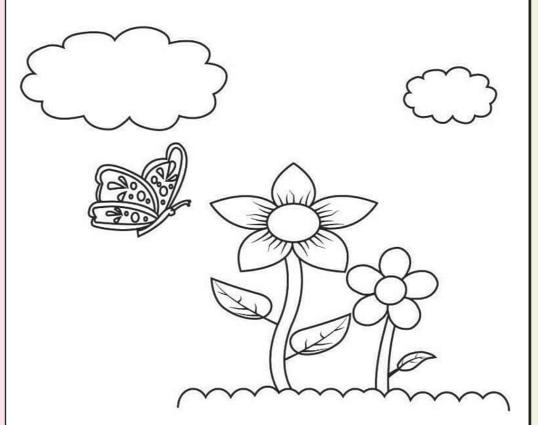
What goes up when the rain comes down?

Umbrellas!

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

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

COLORING TIME!



Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

a. 25 + 25 =

b. 227 + 13 =

c. 1000 + 200 =

 $d. 10 \times 10 =$

e. 82 - 80 =

f. 11 + 11 =

g. 55 - 6 =

h. 5 x 3 =

Serve Your City/ Ward 6 Mutual Aid March Update

BY REGINA MAZUR

eeping our community safe has been a long-standing priority of Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA). This includes a continuous effort to provide our neighbors with food and supplies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Partnership between the Christ United Methodist Church and the Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA as well as collective work with Black and Brown grassroots organizations have delivered important contributions to this cause.

For the past 22 months, the Southwest community has been coming together, providing invaluable support to each other with food, cleaning supplies, household items and clothing. The Southwest Pod is incredibly grateful for the donations and support that we continue to receive. These supplies are critical

to providing assistance to our neighbors in need. It is a great accomplishment to unite as a community and support each other.

Interested in ways to help?

SYC/W6MA continues to collect non-perishable foods, toiletries, and household cleaning items on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church's back courtyard gate (900 4th Street Southwest, entrance near library).

If you are interested in hosting a short- or long-term donation drive in your building or amongst friends, please contact us at swmutualaid@ serveyourcitydc.org for more details.

This month's donation needs:

 Food/beverage: soup, chili, tuna, chicken, corn beef hash, coffee, tea, salad dressing, graham crackers

- Personal hygiene: hand lotion, deodorant, hygiene pads, wipes, diapers (size 1 or 2)
- Cleaning: spray disinfectant, allpurpose household cleaner (like Spic and Span)
- Other: bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, pots and skillets, (in good condition) plastic bowls, silverware

You can find a Southwest Pod table at the Southwest Farmers Market on 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month (weather permitting). Donations of fresh produce, meat and dairy products are accepted and help to provide a healthy selection of food. Please stop by to say hi and donate

Food Distributions take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 2:30 pm at Christ United

Methodist Church. To request support, please call the Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962 or email ward-6mutualaid@gmail.com.

Information Table. The Southwest Pod recently launched an effort to provide residents with information on community and government resources that could provide assistance to them. An information table will now be set up at food distribution events (times listed above) to ensure that resources and opportunities reach the Southwest community. The Southwest Pod welcomes those with experience or information on any socially available resources to stop by or contact us.

Want to learn more or get involved? Contact us at swmutu-alaid@serveyourcitydc.org.

MODEL

Continued from p. 9

development and displacement. When asked what could be done to address this, Mr. Freeman, who was familiar with the history of CLTs, suggested that one be established. With the help of the non-profit Building Bridges Across The River, the Douglass CLT was established. Since then, Freeman has served on the Board of the Douglass CLT and works to see the CLT model embraced as a "city-wide policy."

How is the CLT structure maintained?

The maintenance and management

of CLTs comes from community and resident participation. CLTs have a Board of Directors that includes residents, business owners and industry professionals. Decision-making and initiatives are not limited to just the Board, but also includes the general membership of the organization (for the Douglass CLT, anyone who lives in DC can become a member). Members not only elect the Board but can also serve on the organization's various committees to ensure that the CLT thrives and stays aligned to its mission.

Financial support for CLTs comes largely from grants, the government and philanthropy. Similarly, CLTs can obtain land through government dis-

position, donation, or purchase.

To obtain the best results from the CLT model, research shows that it should be applied at scale. Rather than several CLTs competing against each other for limited resources and land, a city-wide CLT should be established, perhaps, composed of different neighborhood chapters. SW Action and the Douglass CLT are working together to establish the first neighborhood chapter in hopes of not only bringing community-driven development to Southwest, but also to provide a framework for how future neighborhood chapters may be established throughout the city.

If you would like to learn more or support the expansion of the Douglass

CLT into Southwest, visit bit.ly/swclt. If you'd like to learn more about CLTs more broadly or the Douglass CLT in particular, you can sign up to attend a monthly webinar on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm held by the Douglass CLT. Visit bit.ly/registerDouglassCLTOrientation to register.

Southwest DC Action is a group of Southwest residents who organize and advocate for a more equitable, antiracist, and environmentally sustainable neighborhood. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter or join our meetings the first Sunday of each month. Email swdcaction@gmail.com for the location and time.

Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Phillip A. Losco The Hirshhorn renovations continue on the National Mall.

Photo of the Month



Courtesy of Christina M. Cerna

The sun sets over the Southwest waterfront.

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



Young Readers

Falling in Love Again: Top Five Questions to Ask a Kid About Reading

BY KITTY FELDE

erhaps I'm still thinking about Valentine's Day, wondering about how we fall in love with another person. What is it about them that makes them irresistible?

A much tougher question is: how do we get a kid to fall in love with

It's hard enough to get a reluctant reader to pick up a book. But once they've done it, how do you get them to keep going? Suppose your reader has gotten into a slump, how do you get them excited about books again?

In other words: how can you find

another book they'll love?

Heidi Vonmayrhouser is a children's librarian in Milpitas, California. As an investigative librarian, she likes to "dig into the interests" of her readers by asking lots of questions and then finding the perfect next book that fits the reader's interests and pas-

You don't have to be an investigative reporter - or an investigative librarian - to find out what might tempt the child in your life to pick up another book. Just ask a few specific questions. Here's Heidi's guide to interviewing your child:

Heidi's Questions for Readers Looking to Fall in Love with Another Book:

- 1. What do you do for fun?
- 2. Which books have you read recent-
- 3. Is there a book that you couldn't put down?
- 4. What book would you read in the summer for fun?

And because this should be a Top Five list, let me add one more. It's the question we ask everyone who appears on the Book Club for Kids podcast:

5. What's your favorite book of all time...and why?

Take the answers to one of the clerks at your favorite indie bookstore. or talk to the children's librarian at our beautiful new Southwest Library. They'll guide you to your child's next read, the one they could truly fall in love with. The one that could keep them reading and reading and read-

Kitty Felde is the host and executive producer of the award-winning Book Club for Kids podcast. Her newest book in The Fina Mendoza Mysteries series of books and podcasts is State of the Union.

National Museum of African Art Offers Intimate Portraits of Nollywood Stars

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art has laid out a red carpet for guests to enter its latest exhibit: Iké Udé: Nollywood Portraits.

Udé's world spans from homeland of Nigeria to his current base New York. In 2014, he returned to Nigeria to create portraits of film stars, directors and producers in Nigeria's \$3 billion film industry, known as "Nollywood."

As a multimedia artist, Udé takes performative, autobiographical

approach to photography. By uniting the arts of performance and portraiture, he creates vibrant works that celebrate the beauty and mystique of the talented artists while simultaneously making a bold statement of the power of African iden-



Artist Iké Udé's exhibit Nollywood Portraits, on view at the National Museum of African Art through February 2023, highlights the talents behind Nigeria's \$3 billion film industry.

art and notions of beauty.

"Iké Udé is a true visionary who presents himself and the world around him with a combination of outrageous style, cutting intellectu-



Karen Milbourne, senior curator for the National Museum of African Art. "He reveals how each of us performs our identity, and in the case of these Nollywood stars, he takes us

beyond the façade of celebrity. He invites us to see how they, themselves, want to be seen."

In addition to Udé's portraits, some of the glamorous garments styled by the stars and a bespoke set will be on display at the exhibition, as well as film clips and interviews with Nollywood celebrities such as Alexx Ekubo Taiwo Ajai-Lycett.

Visitors are invited to bring their best selves and outfits to the museum to take a photograph in an Udé-style set. Visitors can also explore portrait art using

tity, not to be erased by Eurocentric al humor and exacting detail," said interactive tools in which they can combine set, stage and costume to envision lustrous compositions of their own. The exhibition is on display until February 2023.

Southwester Community Calendar | March 2022

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

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

Due to COVID-19, there may be last-minute changes to these events. Be sure to check the web references or telephone numbers in the listings.

WED 2, 1-4 P.M. FREE AARP Tax Foundation Aid. Free tax preparation services for DC/MD residents at Southwest Library – only by appointment. Be sure you have, or will have, all your 2021 tax documents, photo ID, Social Security card, and health insurance information before scheduling an appointment. You can make an appointment by calling (202) 656-0442 or by sending an email to 2001018@aarpfoundation.org.

WED 2, 4-5 P.M. Teen Crochet Club. Beginners welcome, materials provided! Crochet with a group to practice while working together to build a blanket to be donated. https://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/5969212.

WED 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 6-7 P.M. Lenten Labyrinth (In-Person). (Every Wednesday through Lent). On March 2, we welcome Hye Yun Bennett who will play her harp while we walk the labyrinth or enjoy a quiet time of listening. Westminster Presbyterian Church

WED 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 7 P.M. Hybrid Lenten Study: Holy Solitude. (Every Wednesday through April 13th). The seven-session-Lenten series runs March 2- April 13. Rev. Ruth Hamilton will lead the study sessions. Study book: Holy Solitude by Heidi Haverkamp. Make it part of your Lenten spiritual discipline. All invited. Contact the church office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

SUN 6, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar. "A Man Called Peter" (The Story of Rev. Peter Marshall) – Richard Todd, Jean Peters & Marjorie Rambeau. (1955) 119 minutes. St. Dominic's Parish Meeting Room. See schedule at www.stdominic-church.org/.

MON 7, 11 A.M. Hybrid Seated Yoga with Pamela Wilson. Return of Yoga with Pamela Wilson! Low impact stretches and mobility exercises performed under the direction of Pamela Wilson. Westminster Presbyterian Church. wilsonpj108@verizon. net; 202/746-6654.

TUES 8, 12-5 P.M. American Red Cross Blood Drive at Arena Stage. See ad on page 15.

WED 9, 4-5 P.M. Teen Advisory Club. Share your thoughts on the library to earn volunteer hours, make new friends, and more. Discuss future programs, services, and other library offerings to be a leader in your community and make a difference. Join us in the Southwest Neighborhood Library STEAM Lab. Ages 13-19. https://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/5969075.

THURS 10, 7 P.M. Wrestling with the Angel: Bible Study. We will gather with one theme or topic in mind, and draw from a number of passages from Scripture as we seek to learn together. We will meet once a month at 7pm on the 2nd Thursday. Each class stands on its own; you are welcome to join whenever you can and like! If you don't know our Zoom channel address, just email Rev. Scott at priest@staugustinesdc.org and he will be happy to send you the info! All are very welcome to join us. St Augustine's Episcopal Church. www.staugustinesdc.org/.

FRI 11, 6-9 P.M. Jazz Night in DC. Return of Jazz Night! Every Friday, \$10 (cash or credit card), proof of vaccination required. Westminster Presbyterian Church https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule

FRI 11, 8 P.M. Catch Me If You Can (Southwest Night). People who reside or work in Southwest D.C. can buy

discounted tickets for specially designated Southwest Night performances of each production. Tickets are \$36 for musicals and \$26 for non-musicals, plus fees. Proof of Southwest D.C. residency or employment for each member of the party must be presented at the time of pick-up. Tickets are based on availability. Use promo code SWNIGHTS to purchase your tickets online! https://tickets.arenastage.org/events

SAT 12, 7-9:30 P.M. Faith & Film (Zoom). "Don't Look Up". Release Date: 2021; Rating: R; Duration: 2h 18m; Genre: Comedy; Starring: Meryl Streep. Two astronomers go on a media tour to warn humankind of a planet-killing comet hurtling toward Earth. After film discussion lead by Rev Brian Hamilton. Contact the church office for Zoom link (202- 484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

SUN 13, 7:45-11:30 A.M. Prevent Cancer Health Fair & 5k Walk/Run. The Prevent Cancer Foundation® invites you to join us for the 13th Annual Prevent Cancer Health Fair and 5k Walk/Run on Sunday, March 13 at Nationals Park in the beautiful Capitol Riverfront neighborhood. This year, all kids 12 and under are FREE so, bring your entire family — dogs too — for a day of exercise, education and fun. After getting in your morning exercise at the 5k, stop by the health fair for free health and wellness screenings, healthy food, kids activities and so much more! USE PROMO CODE SOUTHWEST FOR \$5 DISCOUNT. Full event description here: https://www.preventcancer.org/event/prevent-cancerhealth-fair-5k-walk-run-2022/.

SUN 13, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar. Movie TBA. St. Dominic's Parish Meeting Room. See schedule at www.stdominicchurch.org

MON 14, 6-9 P.M. Blues Monday. Return of Blues Mondays! Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$10 cover and food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-%26-blues-1, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

MON 14, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting. 2nd Monday each month (no meeting in August). Online via Zoom. See https://www.anc6d.org/virtualmeeting/.

WED 16, 4 P.M. Teen Writing & Critique Club. Join us for a writing and critique session where you'll respond to writing prompt, share your work (if you want!), and get critique comments from peers. Share something new or something old. Prefer not to read your work out loud? No problem! Arrive early to have your work photocopied to share with the group. Ages 13-19. Event meets in the Southwest Neighborhood Library STEAM Lab. Southwest Neighborhood Library. https://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/5970003.

WED 16 & 30, 6 P.M. ANC Redistricting Ward 8 Meeting. Register at https://tinyurl.com/redistrictingward8.

THURS 17, 12 P.M. Bookworms Zoom Presentation. TBA. Read a great book and discuss it with fellow book aficionados. Contact the church office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

SAT 19, 1-6 P.M. Ireland at the Wharf. We're bringing the luck of the Irish to the waterfront with our Ireland at The Wharf festival! Celebrate the beauty and tradition of the Emerald Isle with bagpipers, live music, dance performances and a beer garden on District Pier. Sip a pint and enjoy all the fun of a true Irish festival. All ages welcome, must be 21+ to consume alcohol. Slainte! District Pier.

SUN 27, 6:30 P.M., Religious Movie Seminar. Movie TBA. St. Dominic's Parish Meeting Room. See schedule at www.stdominicchurch.org/.

THURS 31, 7 P.M. Rev Ruth Hamilton's Zoom Retirement Party. Enjoy a fun and meaningful hour looking back on Rev. Ruth's 38 years of ministry including the 26 here in DC. Will include special musical numbers, photos, testimonies, laughter, and tears. Contact Westminster office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/wpcdcoffice@gmail.com).

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP Tax Foundation - Free Aid, Mondays and Tuesdays 1-4 P.M until April 18th, 2022. Free tax preparation services for DC/MD residents. Southwest Library – only by appointment. Be sure that you have, or will have, all your 2021 tax documents, photo ID, Social Security card, and health insurance information before scheduling an appointment. You can make an appointment by calling (202) 656-0442 or by sending an email to 2001018@ aarpfoundation.org. Southwest Library.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, 4th Thursdays of the month. 11 A.M. to 12 noon.Free and open to the Public. Are you caring for someone with dementia? Every 4th Thursday of the month at 11AM, nurses Vickie Henrikson and Carroll Quinn host a support group that's sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association which is designed to provide emotional, educational and social support for caregivers of dementia patients. This group currently meets virtually via Zoom, but looks forward to returning to St Matthew's for inperson meetings soon! To receive the Zoom link or for any questions, please reach out to Vickie Henrikson (202) 251-7117 or Carroll Quinn (513) 673-9921.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., beginning March 14. Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$10 cover and food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-%26-blues-1, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

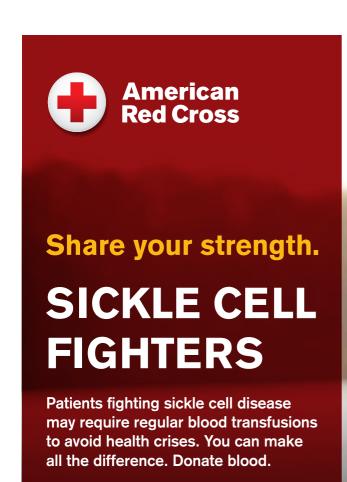
BREAD FOR LIFE - BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M. Free Breakfast, The pandemic has forced us to change how we serve breakfast—but we still offer a free breakfast every week as a to-go bag with a breakfast sandwich, juice, fruit, and slice of cake. If you would like to volunteer with Bread for Life, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen manager for the program at vacooking1@ hotmail.com. Contact: chee-cheemathis@staugustinesdc.org. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Community Room, 555 Water Street SW. www. staugustinesdc.org

BREAD FOR LIFE - LUNCH, Saturdays, noon. Beginning in the spring of 2020, we launched an additional meal: we offer free lunches to students and other young folks every Saturday at the Greenleaf Recreation Center at 3rd & N streets SW. www. staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life

CHURCH CLEANING, Saturdays after morning service, St. Dominic Church. www.stdominicchurch.org

DAKINI YOGA - HIGHEST YOGA, Tuesdays, 5 P.M. This session is open only to those who have received the Highest Yoga Tantra empowerments from the New Kadampa Tradition. If you have not received this empowerment please join us for another puja, such as Heart Jewel and Wishfulfilling Jewel. Dakini Yoga is the tantric practice of Vajrayogini, a female enlightened being. This prayer session is open for in-person and online participation. To get the link for online participation please email epc@meditation-dc.org. Kadampa Meditation Center DC. https://meditation-dc.org/

See "Calendar," page 16





Blood Drive Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater

1101 6th St SW Washington, DC 20024

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please go to redcrossblood.org and submit sponsor code "Arena Stage" to make your life saving appointment. Donors must be fully vaccinated by the date of their donation and will be required to show proof of vaccination (either paper or electronic documentation, such as photo of vaccination card) as well as a photo ID. Masks will also be required for the duration of your visit. For the most up-to-date information on health and safety protocols at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, please visit arenastage.org/tickets/safety-protocols. Remember to hydrate and eat iron rich foods. DRIVE DAY ONLY: Save time with RapidPass. Complete your pre-donation reading and health history at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or with the Blood Donor App before your appointment. For detailed donor eligibility questions, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

Your blood can save lives. We'd like to thank all donors at this blood drive for coming to give blood to help meet the urgent need for blood in the Black community. Get a \$20 Gift Card by email from our friends at Amazon.









an appointment.

Titanic 110th Anniversary

Celebrating the future of Titanic Memorial Park Commemorating the 110th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic

Gala & Tribute

Please join us as we celebrate five years of partnership with the National Park Service, share plans for Park improvements over the next five years, and commemorate the lives of the passengers and crew of the RMS Titanic on the 110th anniversary of its sinking.

Tickets on

Arena Stage

Mead Center for American Theater
Saturday, April 16, 2022
6:30 - 9:30 pm



Meet NPS Park Rangers & Community Leaders
Reconnect with friends and neighbors

6:30 - 7:30 - Welcome and Speakers

- Jeff Reinbold, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorials Parks
- Andy Litsky, ANC6D Commissioner
- Chris Williams, President, Anacostia Watershed Society
- Nancy Stoner, President, Potomac Riverkeeper

7:30 - 9:30 - Reception on the Terrace

- Titanic inspired, heavy hors d'oeuvres
- Red and white wine



For more information and tickets, visit: https://fotmpdc.org/events



Over 20 years of helping Southwest!

Since 1998, Friends of Southwest DC has provided small grants to more than 40 non-profit organizations working in Southwest.

Is your organization working to make Southwest DC a better place? Would your work benefit from a small grant?

We welcome grant applications from SW organizations.

Friends of Southwest DC

P.O. Box 44434
Washington, DC 20026
FriendsofSWDC.org
FriendsofSWDC@gmail.com

Friends of SW DC We're here to help!

Please join us! Donate by mail or on our websiste.

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

We support The Southwester through our advertising.

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WALK-IN CLIN-

IC, Wednesdays, 1-4 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church. In person clinics are unfortunately suspended until further notice due to COVID. Call (202) 425-7573 or visit http://www.dcvlp.org/ for more information.

EVENING PRAYER, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. https://www.staugustinesdc.org/

HYBRID GODLY PLAY FOR CHIL- DREN, Sundays, 10 A.M. 4-12 years old. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

HYBRID WORSHIP SERVICE, Sundays, 11 A.M. All Welcome to share in inspiring worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6-9 P.M., beginning March 11. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$10. Food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule . Westminster Presbyterian Church.

LENTEN LABYRINTH (In-Person), Wednesdays through Lent, 6-7 P.M. On March 2, we welcome Hye Yun Bennett who will play her harp while we walk the labyrinth or enjoy a quiet time of listening. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

LENTEN STUDY: HOLY SOLITUDE (Hybrid), Wednesdays through April 13th, 7 P.M. The seven-session-Lenten series runs March 2- April 13. Rev. Ruth Hamilton will lead the study sessions. Study book: Holy Solitude by Heidi Haverkamp. Make it part of your Lenten spiritual discipline. All invited. Contact the church office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

MONDAY NIGHT MEDITATION, Monday, 6 P.M. These classes include a guided meditation, short teaching, and beautiful chanted prayers for world peace. The focus is on solutions to problems in daily life, authentic

optimism, and the development of altruistic love and compassion. Suitable for everyone. Each class is selfcontained and can be joined on a drop-in basis. Everyone is welcome. Kadampa Meditation Center https:// meditation-dc.org/

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (ZOOM), Wednesdays, 7-8 P.M. Contact: Linnaea Scavone. Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM), Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. Discuss timely issues on Jesus and social justice. Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

REST AND REFLECT, Tuesdays, 6 P.M. To participate in-person for this chanted prayer session doors open 15 minutes before start time and lock promptly at start time. Kadampa Meditation Center. https://meditation-dc.org/

THEMATIC BIBLE STUDY (Virtual), Second Thursdays, 7 P.M., If you don't know our Zoom channel address, just email Rev. Scott at priest@staugustinesdc.org and he will be happy to send you the info! All are very welcome to join us. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. https://www.staugustinesdc.org/

YOGA WITH PAMELA WILSON, MONDAYS, 11 A.M. Restarts March 7th. Low impact stretches and mobility exercises performed under the direction of Pamela Wilson. Westminster Presbyterian Church. wilsonpj108@verizon.net; 202/746-6654.

20's AND 30'S HAPPY HOUR - VIRTUAL, Second Thursdays, 6-7 P.M. The 20's & 30's group meets virtually every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 P.M. for Happy Hour, and you're invited! Here, you'll find young adults creating time and space for intentional community. All are welcome to this space. This Happy Hour is meeting VIRTUALLY via Google Meet. - https://meet.google.com/yny-tdqk-iir. For additional information or questions, please email Lori at Lopitts12@gmail.com.

Annual DC JazzFest set for Labor Day Weekend at The Wharf

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he DC Jazz Festival announced the permanent move of the annual DC JazzFest to Labor Day weekend. The 2022 JazzFest will take place August 31 through September 4 in more than a dozen DC neighborhoods, ending with a marquee weekend of events and performances at The Wharf.

Venues in Southwest include multiple waterfront stages and the DCJazzPrix international band competition at Union Stage. The 2022 festival marks the 18th annual DCJazzFest, and will include emerging and established talent from the DC area and around the



world. More than 50 performances will also include "Meet the Artist" conversations and panel discussions.

The DC Jazz Festival will announce its full lineup and more details in late spring. To learn more, visit www.dcjazzfest.org.

Glass and Light Inspire in New Exhibit at National Museum of the American Indian

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

f the thousands of stories of Raven the trickster told by the indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest, international glassmaker Peston Singletary has chosen to tell one version from his Tlingit clan in the exhibition *Preston Singletary:* Raven and the Box of Daylight now on view at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Glass, while not a traditional media of these clans, has an infinite variety of possible uses from small fine jewelry like brooches and beads to practical housewares like glasses and dishes. It ranges from functional, letting light through windows, to a revered form of art like stained glass windows.

In the theatrical presentation Singletary has created, he explores all these possibilities with 60 glass objects and sculptures, accompanied with background recordings of storytellers speaking the language in which the legend was first told and paired with layers of original music and coastal Pacific Northwest sound-scapes.

Starting in darkness and moving to the dimly lit first gallery, the story unfolds as Raven asks "Where is the daylight?" A stunning reproduction of a life-sized canoe of bronze and glass hovers over a river of blue glass with



Courtesy: The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

The exhibition Preston Singletary: Raven and the Box of Daylight is now on view at the National Museum of the American Indian.

fish above catching the glitter and brilliance of glass.

The next gallery reveals how Raven is transformed into a human boy. He has been looking for a wealthy person who hoards treasures and finds the rich man's daughter. After trying many ways, he finally, as a hemock needle in water, enters her body

where he shifts from part bird to part boy as he grows in his mother's belly.

Using old anthropological photographs, a replica of a clan house has been recreated with screens and house posts of decorative eagles and killer whales. Glass-headed cedar manikins accompany the display of treasured objects.

Once in the clan house, Raven stares in curiosity at three shimmering boxes. He opens one and sends stars scattering. He is reprimanded by his grandfather, a clan chief, but is remorseful. His grandfather forgives him and gives him a box with the moon. He plays with the moon, which repeats the lunar cycle of day and night. The mischievous boy then opens the third box and the world is drenched in sunlight.

The final gallery is bright with lights over twelve glass heads representing the different ways people responded to the surprise of daylight. Some people become water people like fish, some go into the forest like animals, some take to the sky like birds. The fourth group, humans, become a clan people, the Tlingit.

The complex story offers endless possibilities for retelling, and the exhibit presents much to discover in a delightful walk among art objects washed in sound and light, helping to inspire lingering thoughts about our own stories of creation and transformation.

Preston Singletary: Raven and the Box of Daylight has been organized by the artist and Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington and will be on view at the National Museum of the American Indian until February 2023.



Arena Stage Launches New Production of Catch Me If You Can

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

of Catch Me If You Can, Arena Stage adds to the list of acclaimed Broadway productions, Oklahoma!, The Pajama Game, Anything Goes and Disney's Newsies, that have been brought to its iconic in-the-round Fichandler Stage.

The story of a charming con man, Frank Abagnale Jr, was a Tonynominated musical and a critically acclaimed film. The Arena Stage production of the musical comedy is a never-before performed version of the book by Terrence McNally, which includes two new songs not in the original Broadway musical: "50 Checks" and "Here I Am to Save the Day."

"Con men are rampant and the 60's are roaring," said Arena Artistic Director Molly Smith of the show. "In this moment of con men and con women, this is a perfect time to dive into a musical about a young con man who gets caught."

Christian Thompson takes on the multiple roles as Abagnale Jr., posing as an airline pilot, a lawyer and a doctor. A veteran of Broadway, where



Courtesy of Arena Stage

Christian Thompson

he originated the role of Smokey Robinson in *Ain't Too Proud*, Thompson answered questions for *The Southwester* ahead of his Arena Stage debut.

The Southwester: As many people who come to this show will have a story to tell about a scam, what can you share about con artists from playing this role? What does it feel like to

play a con man on stage?

Christian Thompson: It is a rush getting to play a con man in *Catch Me If You Can.* I often imagine what my life would look like if I hadn't fallen in love with theater, and this role gives me the chance to be a plethora of people. Who hasn't dreamed of being a doctor, lawyer, or pilot? Now I get to be all three!

SW: What has it been like to work on *Catch Me If You Can* with Parker Esse, the choreographer behind some of the most memorable moments of Arena musicals, and with music director Laura Bergquist, in this production that mixes big band, jazz, gospel and R&B?

CT: The production we are creating is so much fun! The entire company, creative team, design team, and cast are at the top of their game. I think audiences will really enjoy what we've done with the show. I think whether you've seen it before or not, you aren't going to want to miss this go around.

SW: This musical has been described as "a love letter to the 1960s imbued with a modern sensibility." You recently completed the Broadway run of a homage to 1960's music, *Ain't*

Too Proud. What is it about that we so love about the music of this era?

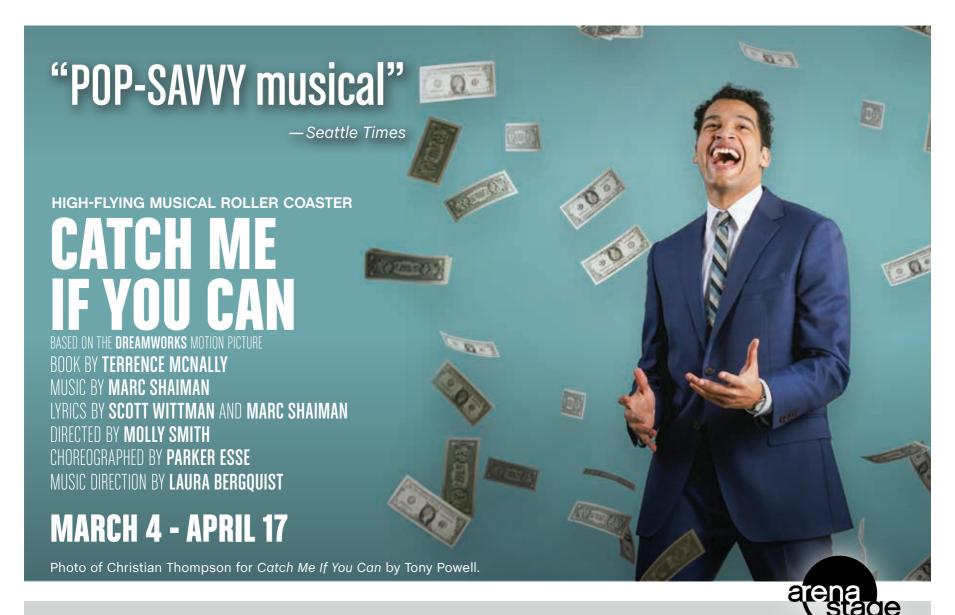
CT: The 60's is just a fantastic decade for culture. The music, the fashion, the vibe of the 60's is so much fun to dive into!

SW: This role is not just a combination of many characters that the con man plays, but requires a combination of musical skills, storytelling and dancing as an athletic form. Any advice for actors, especially for live musicals about developing multitalents?

CT: Such a great question! I think the big thing is to allow yourself to be great in all aspects. We often like to qualify our talents, "oh I'm mainly a this or that." I've recently given myself the grace to be a whole performer. I sing, dance, act, and write, and I believe I can be great at all of them. We talk to ourselves more than anyone else. Make sure it's a positive conversation.

Catch Me If You Can runs from March 4 - April 17, 2022. Discounted tickets for Southwest neighbors are available for the productions on March 8 and March 11. For more information, visit arenastage.org.

the mead center for american theater



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Meet the Team Behind the Southwest DC Community Center: Will Rich

BY THE SWDCCC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICA-TIONS COMMITTEE

he Southwest DC Community Center (SWDCCC) that is planned to open in our neighborhood in the next few years will serve as a vibrant, central hub for the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront communities that provides an inclusive space for a wide range of services and activities that foster personal and collective growth. As a way to get to know your neighbors who are volunteering their time to bring the SWDCCC to life, we present the Meet the Team series. These profiles will highlight each member of the SWDCCC Board of Directors and Community Engagement and Communications Committee. Don't be shy, when you see us around the neighborhood, say hi!

Name: Will Rich

Please tell us about your back-



Will Rich

ground: I am a 19-year resident of Southwest DC. I work in commercial real estate consulting as president of Delta Associates. Previously, I ran a community blog called Southwest ... The Little Quadrant That Could. I also served on the Board of Directors of the Near Southeast/Southwest Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC). One of the projects of the CBCC I was involved with was the 3rd and I Street Playground. I currently serve as an adviser to the Southwest Business Improvement District and I'm on the Board of Directors of the Washington DC Economic Partnership.

How are you involved with the SWDCCC: I have been on the Board of Directors of the SWDCCC since 2019 and board chair since the end of 2020. I also serve on the Community Engagement and Communications Committee.

Why did you become involved with the SWDCCC?: I wanted to lend

a hand to help get the SWDCCC on its feet and bring a new community center to the heart of the Southwest neighborhood.

What do you hope the SWDCCC will offer to the community?: I hope it is a place that is welcoming to all. Because it will be only 6,000 square feet, the SWDCCC won't be able to provide everything on people's wish lists, but it will offer a variety of programming that compliments what's currently available in the neighborhood.

What's your favorite part of our neighborhood?: I like living close to the water. I also like the tree canopy in Southwest.

To learn more about the SWDCCC please see our website at https://www.swdccc.org/and if you're interested in getting involved, please submit your information at https://www.swdccc.org/volunteer-form.

Storytelling is what connects and brings us together.

George Mason University students, led by a Southwest resident, are partnering with the SWBID to learn about your connection to the neighborhood and what impacts the community.

We are gathering anonymous stories about belonging and identity in the neighborhood to create opportunities for improving life for all Southwest residents.





What does being a Southwester mean to you?

Visit planwell.link/storiesofsw to learn more and share!

We're raffling several \$100 gift cards to participants! Stay tuned for a community event in April to come together and share the stories!

Meet a Few SWBID Ambassadors and Their Favorite Southwest Spots.

We caught up with some of the team and asked what their most treasured part of their BID route is and why. Don't forget to visit these spots in the neighborhood!



Jerome "Oatmeal" McCrae – Federal Center SW

Oatmeal loves this spot because of how many people he interacts with. "It feels like things are getting back to normal here."



Charlene Smith C St. and 4th St.

"This is my happy place. It's soothing to be outside and I get to see people I know—and I love happy meals."



Jerome Horne L'Enfant Plaza

Jerome's a people person who loves talking to the public and giving information.

"I know everybody here. I love helping tourists too."



Haji Mtambo Hancock Park

"It's a central spot in DC and a green place people love to hang out in. I like Interacting with everyone. It's great when the weather's nice."



Michael Dawkins Luci's Park

"This park shows you who we are. The BID brought it back to life and shows the best of our abilities."



Ana Granados Banneker Park

"People always compliment this area and it gives me a sense of pride. They get to enjoy picnics and read books because it's a great park."



Mirna Monterroso Deleon – Arena Stage

"Everyone's very friendly. I love Arena Stage because it's a culture center where diverse people can come in and enjoy all kinds of things."



Pamela Hatton Southwest Duckpond

"It's my place of peace. It's quiet and when it's nice, it's wonderful to see people relax. I get to embrace the community here too."



This only scratches the surface. Learn more about our Ambassadors and how they spent their day with us sharing their stories and love for the community. **swbid.org/news**