DC Parks and Rec Requests Community Input on SW Town Center Parks Redevelopment

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

The District’s Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) launched a series of public engagement events on the planned redevelopment of a project called Southwest Town Center Parks. The land, which is already owned by DPR, consists of two L-shaped parcels on either side of 4th Street SW just south of I Street SW.

Parcel A is made up of the sidewalk and land in front of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the alley that runs from 4th Street SW west to the Duck Pond, next to the Eliot apartments.

Parcel B is made up of the sidewalk and land in front of Christ United Methodist Church and the alley that runs from 4th Street SW east to the library, next to the newly completed Westerly apartments.

The proposed redevelopment includes a multi-purpose market space and event stage with terraced seating, which are envisioned as potential permanent homes for the Saturday Southwest Farmer’s Market and Friday Night Art Market if the Lot at 4th Street and M Street SW where they are currently held were to be developed.

DPR’s initial concept for a Southwest Town Center Parks would also include lighting, utilities, plantings, landscaping and plumbing, including an eventual possible water feature.

According to a presentation delivered by DPR Community Engagement Manager Christopher Dyer, the reimagining

See "Redevelopment," page 15

Local Civic Leader Honored for Service, Volunteerism

BY MIKE GOODMAN

As the country looks forward to celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – a day of service and “a day on, not a day off” – The Southwester sat down with one of our own community’s volunteer leaders, Thelma D. Jones. Jones was recently honored for her lifetime commitment to volunteer work, receiving the President Joseph R. Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, commemorating over 4,000 community service hours. The President’s Volunteer Service Award, established in 2003 and led by AmeriCorps, recognizes the important role of volunteers in America’s strength and national identity, and honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities throughout the country. There will be a reception honoring Jones on Saturday, Jan. 13 at Westminster Church (400 I Street, SW), hosted by the Board of Directors of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF). All are welcome to attend.

Jones is known throughout the community for her work providing food to those in need, her founding of the Southwest-based TDJBCF, and her volunteer work with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), St. Augustine’s and Westminster Churches, and Southwest DC Action. The Southwester sat down with Jones to catch up on her latest efforts, ask her about the award, and get her thoughts about our community. The following are excerpts from that interview:

See “Honored,” page 4
Op-Ed
Southwest Town Center Parks Are Not Fit for Purpose

By Southwest DC Action

On November 30, 2023, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the DC Department of General Services (DGS) held a town hall at the Southwest Library to discuss a proposed redesign of the Southwest Town Center Parks.

Developers shared that the Southwest Town Center Parks are intended to replace the Lots at 4th Street SW and M Street SW, which are a treasured gathering space that has hosted the Southwest Farmers’ Market for several years. With its unique size and location at the heart of 4th and M, the Lots brings together all members of our community, whether to invest in small local businesses, listen to music, sit and talk with friends, or just enjoy being outside.

The future of the Lots is currently unknown. Southwest DC Action has been advocating for public ownership of the space under a Community Land Trust since 2022. The land is currently privately owned, and the Zoning Commission already approved plans to build 598 units at the site with only 8% of those units to be “affordable,” which would eliminate the openness and accessibility of the space for public events, including markets and festivals that have long supported Black, Brown, and minority-owned small businesses.

Under the proposed design for the new Southwest Town Center Parks, Parcel B would include a multi-purpose market space and serve as the new location for the Southwest Farmers’ Market. Parcel A would include an event stage and serve as the new location for music nights. Currently, there is only funding for the build out of Parcel B. Additional proposed features across both sites, which are separated by 4th Street SW, include a plaza, terraced seating, paved walkways, commissioned artwork, and a water feature (e.g. a fountain).

Community Concerns
Southwest DC Action has major concerns about the proposed project design of the Southwest Town Center Parks as a “replacement” location for the amenities and community provided at the Lots at 4th Street SW and M Street SW. Our concerns and requests reflect the views amplified by community members at the November public meeting.

Size: The size of the Lots at 4th and M is larger than the new Town Center. Prioritizing the preservation of the Lots has been expressed directly to the DC Mayor, who offered to look into purchasing the lots, but has taken no action as of yet. To echo the words of one town hall attendee, the space is “not fit for purpose” – i.e. it is not large enough to accommodate the amenities and the crowd of the Southwest DC Farmers’ Market and other gatherings like the Friday night markets.

Loss of Green Space: The Southwest Town Center Parks design team opened the floor for questions by affirming their commitment to “preserve trees and green space as much as possible” but may lack the accountability to follow through on this activity. This point appeared to spark concern among community members, with one participant recounting promises made, and broken, to preserve six massive oak trees on Maine Avenue during the development of the Wharf in 2021. Mature trees and greenspace should be valued and preserved as a top priority. How will the developers be held accountable for preserving green space to ensure that what has happened in the past, does not happen again?

Lack of Public Input: The proposed designs for the Southwest Town Center Parks are concerning because they appear to have been created in isolation from the community, a sentiment echoed by ANC Commissioner Gal Fast at the November meeting. Fast went on to share the success of the Southwest Library redesign, largely because it was grounded in community input. Participants at the town hall agreed, with many noting that this project was a surprise to them. How have community members’ input been integrated into the design since the process began more than five years ago?

Lack of Communication with DPR:
Southwest DC Action is a group of Southwest residents who organize and advocate for a more equitable, anti-racist, and environmentally sustainable neighborhood. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, or check out our website southwestdc.org. Anyone is welcome to join our meetings by emailing sud@swdc.org.

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D.C. UNITED SCHEDULE

February
- SATURDAY FEB. 24 - 7:30PM
  VS. NEW ENGLAND

March
- SATURDAY MAR. 2 - 10:30PM
  @ PORTLAND TIMBER
- SATURDAY MAR. 10 - 8:30PM
  @ FC CINCINNATI
- SATURDAY MAR. 16 - 2:00PM
  VS. INTER MIAMI CF
- SATURDAY MAR. 23 - 8:30PM
  @ ST. LOUIS CITY SC
- SATURDAY MAR. 30 - 7:30PM
  VS. CF MONTREAL

April
- SATURDAY APR. 6 - 7:30PM
  @ COLUMBUS CREW
- SATURDAY APR. 13 - 7:30PM
  VS. ORLANDO CITY SC
- SATURDAY APR. 20 - 7:30PM
  @ NEW YORK CITY FC
- SATURDAY APR. 27 - 7:30PM
  VS. SEATTLE SOCCER FC
- SATURDAY MAY 4 - 7:30PM
  VS. PHILADELPHIA UNION

May
- SATURDAY MAY 11 - 7:30PM
  @ ATLANTA UNITED FC
- SATURDAY MAY 15 - 7:30PM
  VS. NEW YORK RED BULLS
- SATURDAY MAY 18 - 7:30PM
  @ INTER MIAMI CF
- SATURDAY JUN. 4 - 7:30PM
  VS. CHICAGO FIRE FC
- SATURDAY MAY 25 - 7:30PM
  VS. CHICAGO FIRE FC
- SATURDAY MAY 29 - 7:30PM
  @ CF MONTREAL

June
- SATURDAY JUN. 1 - 7:30PM
  VS. TORONTO FC
- SATURDAY JUN. 15 - 7:30PM
  @ CHARLOTTE FC
- SATURDAY JUN. 19 - 7:30PM
  VS. ATLANTA UNITED FC
- SATURDAY JUN. 22 - 7:30PM
  VS. HOUSTON DYNAMO FC
- SATURDAY JUN. 26 - 7:30PM
  @ NEW YORK RED BULLS

July
- SATURDAY JUL. 3 - 7:30PM
  VS. FC CINCINNATI
- SATURDAY JUL. 6 - 7:30PM
  VS. ORLANDO CITY SC

August
- SATURDAY JUL. 13 - 7:30PM
  VS. NASHVILLE SC
- WEDNESDAY JUL. 17 - 8:30PM
  @ MINNESOTA UNITED FC

September
- SATURDAY JUL. 21 - 7:30PM
  VS. FC DALLAS
- SATURDAY AUG. 24 - 7:30PM
  VS. FC DALLAS
- SATURDAY AUG. 31 - 7:30PM
  @ TORONTO FC

October
- SATURDAY SEP. 7 - 6:00PM
  @ CHICAGO FIRE FC
- SATURDAY SEP. 14 - 7:30PM
  VS. NEW YORK CITY FC
- SUNDAY SEP. 22 - 6:00PM
  @ PHILADELPHIA UNION
- SATURDAY SEP. 28 - 7:30PM
  VS. COLUMBUS CREW

November
- SATURDAY OCT. 5 - 7:30PM
  @ NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
- SATURDAY OCT. 19 - 6:00PM
  VS. CHARLOTTE FC

MEMBERSHIPS AND TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
DCUNITED.COM

Time zone set to EST. Schedule subject to change.
HONORED
Continued from p. 1

We’re entering 2024, and these last few years have certainly been a time of change in DC and the country. What have the past few years meant to you? What has kept you busy recently?

Thank you for asking. What has kept me busy have been a few things. One is the food program that the TDJBCF started at the outset of COVID in March 2020 at River Park, in partnership with the James Creek Resident Council and the SWBID. It is a COVID outreach program with dedicated volunteers who distribute meals to seniors and others in need. Originally, we were distributing 50-60 meals daily, including on Saturdays from sources such as World Central Kitchen and DC Central Kitchen. We’d also take the surplus lunches around the community where I knew seniors and others in need lived. Shortly after, we started receiving bags of fresh produce from at least two or three different sources. Today, we receive meals and fresh produce at least six times monthly with the Capital Area Food Bank being one of the main providers.

It’s wonderful that we don’t live in a food desert, as some communities do, but we do have a lot of seniors here and with COVID occurring, it poses a challenge for them to go grocery shopping which could put them at greater risk of catching the virus. So, we feel good about being able to reduce the likelihood of getting the virus and, because some are shut-in, we help to reduce their loneliness. As you know this is a big problem now in our country. We also helped them with picking up their prescriptions, transporting them to get their COVID vaccinations, and doing additional grocery shopping for them.

The other thing that has kept me busy is my breast cancer organization. We were handing out masks and hand sanitizer, and Georgetown University Cancer Center, who motivated me to some issues with breast cancer here. Time, but I was aware that there were areas that I do, especially after COVID shut down everything. So, the people that I met at the support group at the World Bank instantly pivoted to an online format. We now reach people in six different countries, including Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, Mexico, Guatemala, and Spain and about 20 to 20 states in the US. So, the online platform has really helped to reach a diverse audience.

Prior to that, I started the TDJBCF. I didn’t know about the breast cancer death rate or that many breast cancer survivors lived in Southwest at the time, but I was aware that there were some issues with breast cancer here. I am grateful to George Washington Cancer Center, who motivated me to start my breast cancer organization.

When I was there for an appointment as a newly diagnosed survivor and mentioned something about starting a support group, they said “you really should start that, as there’s a lot of people in Southwest who could use your help” because they were GW patients. So, my personal journey became a motivation to start my support group which was modeled after the support group at the World Bank which is where I retired from after more than 33 years.

When was that when you started the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund?

The TDJBCF was born in April 2010 as a support group and ever since then we have had a monthly support group meeting except for once, and that was when the metro shut down. We do not only address the need of Southwest residents but also it is a regional nonprofit serving the DMV and beyond to help reduce the incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer. Of course, when COVID occurred, and everything shut down, we instantly pivoted to an online format. We now reach people in six different countries, including Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, Mexico, Guatemala, and Spain and about 18 to 20 states in the US. So, the online platform has really helped to reach a diverse audience.

Let’s switch to a little more recently, in October 2023, when you were awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and service. What does that award mean to you?

It was a big surprise that I received the award. I really said to myself that someone noticed what I was doing, that they appreciated it, and that what I was doing was making a difference and impacting the lives of many people.

I was really honored when I got the award. Jan Adams, Founder and CEO of JMA Solutions, a philanthropist and a TDJBCF honorary board member nominated me. I instantly thought “Oh gee! My parents would have loved to have seen me receive this,” or at least known about it, because they are the alpha of my involvement in volunteerism. They were actively involved in the community in rural Snow Hill, NC, which is in the eastern part of the state. So, I grew up on a farm. My parents were sharecropper farmers, and my mom was also a midwife. Anytime you’re involved in the health care field, you see the gamut of what’s going on. In addition to the farm work and her midwifery career, they were actively involved in the community. My mom was a member of the NAACP and my dad always drove her to all the meetings and events. My mom was also a PTA president. They were both actively involved in the voter registration drives and my dad was the substi-
January 2024

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SWNA Scholarship Fund is 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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Winter Warmth from Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid

BY KATRINA AVILA

The enduring mission of Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) remains steadfast: to provide resources to Black and Brown youth and families across DC that others may already possess. Whether it involves offering after-school enrichment and tutoring programs or essential support, SYC/W6MA plays a pivotal role in ensuring community safety and supplying our neighbors with necessary provisions. The collaboration between Christ United Methodist Church and the Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA, coupled with joint efforts with grassroots organizations serving Black and Brown communities, has made a significant contribution to this cause.

SYC/W6MA consistently explores innovative approaches to community support, spearheading various initiatives throughout the year. Activities such as the distribution of food and the organization of clothing drives through the Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA represent just a fraction of the initiatives undertaken by SYC/W6MA to uplift our communities. The Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA expresses profound gratitude for the continuous donations and support that sustain these efforts year-round.

Curious about Ways to Contribute? Discover various ways to engage with Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid:

- Help the Unhoused: Our unhoused neighbors here in Washington, DC still need essential supplies to thrive, not just survive! You can make a difference this winter by purchasing items from Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid’s Wishlist at bit.ly/sycterlist. If you have any questions about the wishlist, reach out to us at info@serveyourcitydc.org.

- Virtual Tutors Needed: Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid’s “Free School for Unlimited Youth” program provides FREE virtual tutoring to Black and Brown K-12 students across Washington, DC. We are constantly seeking passionate volunteer members to join our team! We welcome college students, graduate students, and professionals who are committed to making a difference in any subject. If you’re interested in becoming a virtual tutor, please visit bit.ly/sycvolunteertutor or contact us at youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org for more details.

- Upcoming Holiday/Winter Hours: The Southwest Pod of Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid, located at Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th Street SW - access through the courtyard gate at the back of the building on the side street off Wesley Place SW), will temporarily suspend our table at the Southwest Farmers Market and the related produce distribution operations until Spring 2024. During this period, Christ United Methodist Church’s 5000 Food Pantry will continue to offer food and supplies on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, with no distributions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. SYC/W6MA’s Southwest Pod will be open on Saturdays exclusively for receiving donations but will be closed from December 21 to January 3.

- Support SYC/W6MA’s Southwest Pod! We are in need of donations such as:
  - Non-perishable foods like canned tuna, canned chicken, pasta, pasta sauce, soup, canned fruit, boxed milk, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil, condiments, hot and cold cereal, Ensure, tea, coffee.
  - Toiletries including toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, deodorant, feminine products, and Depends.

- Monetary Donations: Contribute online at bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate. Your contributions enable us to secure food from the Capital Area Food Bank, effectively tripling the impact compared to purchasing from a store.

- Want to Learn More? For further details, feel free to reach out to us at: swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org.

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January brings a new calendar year for making resolutions and trendy lists of what’s in and what’s out. It’s still the middle of the planned theater year, however, and Arena Stage has five more shows lined up to close out its 2023-24 season.

Each has its own unique theme and offers an experience of entertainment and inspiration. That is the special gift of live theater all year long. Here’s a preview:

“Swept Away” Continues to Make Waves

“Swept Away” has garnered widespread acclaim since its opening on November 25 and has been extended until January 14. The show, featuring music and lyrics by The Avett Brothers, is a 19th-century tale of survival during a violent shipwreck off the New England coast. With a memorable set featuring a rollicking boat, this production may be on a voyage to Broadway. Discounted Southwest Night performances are on January 4 and January 10.

Vinny DePonto Takes Center Stage in “Mindplay”

Mentalist and theater artist Vinny DePonto will explore the realms of magic and memory in “Mindplay” from January 19 to March 3, 2024. The performance promises to captivate audiences, with Southwest nights scheduled for January 19, 20, 21 and 30 (see the Arena Stage ad below).

“Tempestuous Elements” Connects Black History and Women’s History

Timed to celebrate Black History Month and Women’s History Month in February and March respectively, “Tempestuous Elements” (February 16 - March 17, 2024) is the eleventh entry in the Arena Stage’s Power Play cycle. It narrates the inspiring story of Anna Julia Cooper, a visionary Black feminist and educator. Born into slavery in 1858, Cooper’s life was dedicated to education and she is noted as the fourth African American woman to earn a doctoral degree.

This play has a strong connection not just to American history but to DC history, as it focuses on Cooper’s tenure as principal of Washington’s historic M Street School, where she fought to keep Black education alive, despite the racism and sexism that threatened to consign her efforts to obscurity. Southwest Nights are on March 5 and March 15.

“The Unknown Soldier” Unravels a Musical Elegy

From March 29 to May 5, “The Unknown Soldier” takes the audience on a musical journey through time. The story unfolds as a woman discovers a picture of an unknown soldier in her grandmother’s keepsakes, sparking a poignant exploration of the past. Southwest Nights are scheduled for April 24 and May 3.

“The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence” by Step Afrika!

To close the season, Step Afrika! presents “The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence” from June 6 to July 14. The production uses percussive dance-theater to portray one of the largest movements in U.S. history, the migration of six million African Americans from the rural South to the industrial North in the 1900s. Original artworks by Jacob Lawrence from his iconic “The Migration Series” are currently on view at Dupont Circle’s Phillips Collection, providing a visual complement to Step Afrika’s performance. Southwest Nights are on June 11 and July 11.
D.C. United Celebrates Holidays with Community Engagement

**BY GUY ALDRIDGE**

The Washington Wizards' Kyle Kuzma visited Southwest on December 14 to bring holiday cheer to the children of DC. The Kyle Kuzma Family Foundation, partnering with Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, the nonprofit GOODProjects, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, and others to make the event happen, donated over 10,000 home goods and toys to around 600 DC families at King Greenleaf Recreation Center as part of the Golden Ticket Family Drive, according to Allen's office.

"DC and the DMV – this is where I lay my head," Kuzma said in a video posted to the foundation's website. He added, "giving back to the community is important to me." Kuzma, founder of the foundation, was accompanied by his mother Karri, who serves as the foundation's president, as well as Santa Claus, who brought Christmas cheer to Washington's youth.

Planning came together quickly, beginning only a couple weeks before the event, thanks to the hard work and quick thinking of all partners, Allen said.

The visit to Greenleaf was one of several trips on Kuzma's Golden Ticket Family Drive. On December 9, he returned to his hometown of Flint, Michigan to bring the same outreach to children there. In all, Kuzma's foundation donated about 20,000 toys between the two cities.

Allen said in his acknowledgments the event was a great way to bring the community together. Turning to face Kuzma, Allen added the "partnership with Kyle Kuzma, the Family Foundation, and the Wizards" means "a lot to the community." Allen said "it's a special relationship, we're grateful for it." But DC may not be where the franchise lays its proverbial head for much longer. The event came amid tension between city leaders and the owner of the Wizards, Monumental Sports and Entertainment owner Ted Leonsis. Just a day earlier, plans were announced to move the NBA team and the Capitals National Hockey League franchise to a new arena in Northern Virginia. Allen has been an outspoken critic of the proposed move since it was made public. He has accused the DC government and Mayor Muriel Bowser’s administration of having overlooked the possible move in past months. Bowser and the City Council announced they are making efforts to keep the franchises downtown and modernize Capital One Arena.

Late December Shooting on Half Street SW Leaves Two Dead, Two Injured

**BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF**

Just before noon on December 21, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers responded to a shooting in the 1300 block of Half Street Southwest.

According to information published by MPD, three men and a woman were found at the scene with gunshot wounds. The woman, who neighborhood residents identified to Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen as a beloved mother of two children, was pronounced dead at the scene. The men were transported to the hospital, where one later died and the others were treated for critical injuries.

Photos taken at the scene showed bullet holes in the brightly painted murals outside Friendly Food Market at Half Street SW and Q Street SW. In a press conference, DC Police Chief Pamela Smith said shots were fired from inside a moving Jeep Grand Cherokee and the victims were struck as they stood outside the store. Video surveillance captured the vehicle, which matched the description of a car taken in an armed carjacking the previous evening in Northwest DC.

In the press conference, Smith acknowledged a history of neighborhood disputes in the area, but stated that “over the past 30 days, we have not seen any violent crime in this area.” Smith stressed that officers have an “increased presence in this area” due to frequent events at nearby Nationals Park and Audi Field.
Top Boats, Captains Take Home Prizes in 31st Annual Holiday Boat Parade

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The 31st annual District Holiday Boat Parade took place along the Washington Channel on December 2, 2023. More than 60 boats decorated with holiday lights and boasting timely, pop-culture resonant themes sailed down the river from Alexandria to The Wharf.

The Wharf announced prize-winning boats and captains for this year’s event, which supported the Washington Area Fuel Fund. Prizes for winning boats ranged from $100 to $1,000.

- **Best in Parade:** “Thanks for the Memories, Jimmy Buffett” on power boat It’s Always Something – Captain Steve Gwensberg
- **1st Place:** “Ken’s Mojo Dojo” on power boat Hold My Pier – Captain John Stevens
- **2nd Place:** “Cheeseburgers in Paradise” on power boat All In – Captain Jeff Deem
- **3rd Place:** “The Naughty List” on power boat Nauti List – Captain Matt Martelli
- **Showstopper Award:** “Hippopotamus” on power boat Magical Knots – Captain Brian Dollinger
- **Partner’s Award:** “Dreams Do Come True” on power boat Tuesday – Captain Joe Landa
- **Founder’s Award:** “Coexist” on power boat Sante – Captain Dan Ricks
- **Best Motorboat:** “Lightning McQueen” on power boat Aqua-holic – Captain Chris Johnson
- **Best Sailboat:** “Barbie Let’s Party” on sailboat Bullet Proof – Captain Brian Terhaar
- **Waterfront Wow:** ‘Hard Rock Holidays’ on power boat Lake Effect – Captain Chris Lake
- **Most Likely to Capsize:** “Capsizable” on power boat Capsizing – Captain Walter Weis
- **Best Crew:** “Skull Crew” on sailboat Hiatus – Captain Joe Caminiti
- **Most Ingenious Idea:** “Elves on Shelf” on power boat Little Nauti – Captain Paul Cianciolo
- **Spirit of DC:** “Rockin’ Round the Tree” on power boat Big Sky – Captain Tim Locke

The 32nd annual holiday boat parade has been scheduled for December 7, 2024.

**Friends of Southwest DC**
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- Alpha Phi Alpha/OHA SW Day school supply drive
- Bread for the Soul SW holiday family assistance drive
- Camp Arena Stage SW scholarships
- Carron Baptist Church SW holiday meals and coat drive
- Children’s chorus of Washington SW student participation
- Christ United Methodist SW food pantry and garden
- Coralie Farlee Graduate Scholarship
- DC STORM trip to Norfolk for SW youth
- GOODProjects learning hub for SW
- James Creek Winter Wonderland
- Jefferson Middle School Voices of Now Program
- Nathaniel Pickett Foundation SW mental health fair
- Serve Your City SW food pantry
- SW Academy summer intern program
- SW Community Center “Mutt Strut”
- SW Comm-Unity Forum SW Day and Toys-for-Tots
- Southwest Community Gardens
- SWNA college scholarships
- SWNA emergency preparedness event
- Waterfront Village subsidized memberships and aging class

Thanks for your good work for Southwest!

You can help, too! Please donate to support your neighbors!
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!

WORD SEARCH: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY!

TIC TAC TOE

Put Those Gift Cards to Good Use

By Kitty Felde

It’s likely that among your children’s holiday gifts this year, there were more than a few gift cards. Left to their own devices, kids will head straight to the electronics store. But if there’s flexibility in what kids can spend their gift card money on, take them to the bookstore. Find them a book so intriguing, they’ll take a break from their screens and just read. Here are some suggestions from a convention of librarians:

Read Aloud Picture Books

Rebecca Opalca from the Phoenix Public Library reads to kids in the hospital. “These books get a big laugh from both the teenage brother and the dad. They’re really funny.”

Hatchet - Gary Paulsen (Rebecca says she’s never met a boy who didn’t like it.)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (National Book Award Winner) by Sherman Alexie.

Graphic Novels and Anime

Anne of Green Gables - Mariah Marsden’s adaptation of L.M. Montgomery’s classic tale in a graphic novel format

Five Nights at Freddy’s - Scott Cawthon’s series of books based on the video games

Demonslayer - Koyoharu Gotouge

Middle Grade Classics that Kids Still Love

Hatchet - Gary Paulson (Rebecca says she’s never met a boy who didn’t like it.)

Island of the Blue Dolphins - Scott O’Dell (“Still amazing,” she says. “When you get a kid to start reading it, they totally get into it.”)

Each one of these books has something that will appeal to kids of different ages, so it’s worth considering when choosing a gift card for a young reader.

For something more modern, may I humbly suggest my own middle grade mysteries set on Capitol Hill, Welcome to Washington Fina Mendoca and State of the Union.

Kitty Felde hosts the award-winning Book Club for Kids podcast and writes the Fina Mendoca mysteries series of novels and podcasts.
Brickies Head Northeast for 2023 Ceremony

BY GUY ALDRIDGE

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen held this year’s Brickies awards ceremony in December at the Atlas Performing Arts Center on H Street, NE.

The Brickies are an annual award ceremony honoring “the people in our community who make it such a special place to call home,” Allen said in a press release. Award winners receive a symbolic brick, giving the ceremony its name.

In years past, the Brickies have included community members from Southwest and Navy Yard, but this year, all award recipients — apart from the Metropolitan Police Department’s First District Community Outreach Team, which represents that entire district — hailed from Ward 6 north of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Tommy Wells, Ward 6 Councilmember from 2007 to 2015 and Charles Allen’s former boss when Allen was a staffer, snagged the Neighbor Award in honor of his long and devoted career in public service. Wells also notably started the Livable, Walkable Awards, which are now known as the Brickie Awards.

The Community Organization Award went to Capitol Hill Little League for “creating a fun, welcoming, and supportive youth sports environment.” Earning the Business Award was Old City Market and Oven (6th and K Streets, NE) “for its unique and deep connection to the Near Northeast community.”

The Metropolitan Police Department’s First District Community Outreach Team took home the Public Service Award for building relationships to promote public safety. Last but not least, the Civic Pride Award went to Hill Family Biking for “offering a safe and welcoming experience for those who want to explore DC’s streets and trails.”

In years past, the Brickies have been held in more central locations in Ward 6, such as the Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital. This year, Allen’s choice of H Street made the trip difficult for Southwest and Navy Yard residents who do not have cars.

For those able to attend, the event offered music and food in addition to the awards ceremony. Vendors donating food included The Queen Vic, Tunnicliff’s Tavern, Hill East Burger, and numerous other Ward 6 businesses.

Waterfront Village has New Executive Director

Pictured above are the two prior and the current Executive Director of Waterfront Village: Bob Craycraft, Len Bechtel and Pam Troutman.
HONORED
Continued from p. 4

tute bus driver for our Sunday school, where I also did a lot of volunteer work. I taught classes, and was the Secretary of our Sunday School, and occasionally had to fill in as Acting Superintendent of the Sunday School.
I still appreciate what Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church, my childhood church, did in terms of being a tool or vehicle to help me develop. We often think about our parents and our mentors, but not establishments being able to be a part of my Sunday School - did a lot to help develop me. And then when I was in school, I played in the school band, which was something else to help me in terms of developing team spirit and discipline. I was on my school debating team, which helped to build my speaking abilities. And years later, I would join a Toastmasters Team, which really helped develop me and prepared me for different roles in the community.

What would you say are some of your proudest accomplishments over the years?

Interestingly what I am most proud of is growing up in a strong, loving family environment. I grew up in a household with four generations. It was my siblings, my parents, my father’s mother, and my father’s mother’s father. As a single parent, I see the greatness and benefits of being in a large, loving family, and my siblings and I are still close.

Another accomplishment was being educated in a Rosenwald School in Snow Hill. The Rosenwald Schools were built by Julius Rosenwald, a philanthropist, and I’m still part of my high school alumni association. Also, in 2018, I was one of the gentlemen here at the Georgetown University breast cancer conference who helped to get my college, Durham College, on the national scene. Durham College was founded by an African-American woman in 1947 so you can imagine what it was like for a woman creating a school back then, that ended up graduating more than 5,000 students by the time it closed in 1980. So when Durham, NC had its 150th anniversary in 2018, Durham College and its president were represented, to show what Durham was all about, and we were selected along with the likes of John Hope Franklin. We feel very good about that.

One other proud accomplishment is the years at the World Bank Group where I worked with more than 150 different nationalities for more than 33 years. I appreciate the things that the World Bank allowed me to do, much of it because of my history of volunteering.
I would say that the World Bank has had a profound impact on me.

When I asked the Bank to allow me to start an internship program at Howard University (HU), the Bank said, “we have never had good success in trying to employ students from Howard University,” and all I could think was, “but we have kids from Georgetown, George Washington, American and Catholic, so why not the world’s premiere African American institution?” I have never convinced the Bank to do this, but I have convinced them to start an HU internship program. We did it thanks to Otisfield Dukes, an instructor at HU who was a longtime Southwest resident who received numerous public relations rewards. So, my other accomplishment is that I did a lot of work with racial equality at the World Bank. As much as I love the institution, the World Bank has some serious challenges in racial equality, and I helped create a staff African American Association to address some of the racial challenges around recruitment, and just the general recognition of African Americans skills and abilities. That association was created on the 45th Anniversary of Brown versus Board of Education. As you know, the chief legal counsel for that case was Thurgood Marshall, a southwest resident. I have been proud to have been a close friend with his cousin, W. Marshall who attended St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church where I am a member.

What other Southwest residents have had an impact on you, and how are you feeling about the current state of Southwest DC?

The late Dale MacIver [former Editor-in-Chief of The Southwester] and Neal Peirce were great mentors. I miss both. Sometimes I ask myself what would Dale or Neal advise me to do on this?” And they both shared a fear, and one that I have, having to do with the gentrification that is occurring in Southwest. We are seeing the African American population and its demographics in our community are changing, and I work with SW Action on these issues. We know that Greenleaf is slated to be demolished, essentially. When you think about urban renewal, and the history of urban renewal, and how it has impacted this community, and its effects are still very prevalent, I can’t help but wonder what else it is going to do in terms of maintaining harmonious relationships and growing as a community.

I’ve been at River Park since 1993, but the co-op fees are rising high, so that for the last two years I have been worried about whether I’ll be able to afford to live here. That really bothers me because I’m on a fixed income. My health is declining as I live with the side effects of a rare, aggressive and late stage of breast cancer in remission. To know that I have generously given my life to this community and go to bed at night wondering if I’ll still be able to live here, it bothers me. It makes me think about people who don’t have the resources or advocacy wherewithal to do it. Or even worse those that haven’t been involved in the community. So, if I’ve been involved, and I fear that I’m going to die before that, I cannot imagine how the people in Greenleaf and other people in the community must be thinking. I don’t think that is fair. I welcome change and growth, but they should never be at the expense of the people who have been here first and who have made this their home.

When people decide to come here from wherever they’re coming from, they should come with an attitude of learning about the people and history and not coming with their money and personal values. They are going to fix what’s broken.

So much of society is rooted in structural, institutional or systemic, and interpersonal racism that impacts housing, jobs, health care and all the other things. And because all of this tied to Dorothy Height’s dream of how we can we help them, while building trust as opposed to coming in with that great white hope attitude.

What would you like to see happen in our community over the coming years?

One would be a more dedicated and coordinated expanded effort around youth. We could benefit from having a paid person to work with the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) and the Youth Activities Task Force (YATF), which I chair, in carrying out some of the wonderful programs and activities we are or have been doing for decades as volunteers. In both task forces, most of the people are over 70 years old. We would benefit from a coordinator, who should come with an attitude of working with us to bring in the institutional knowledge to educate and orient this person on what the community can do to help our youth. They are tomorrow’s future.

I think The Southwester has done a great job and obviously I’m biased, although I know how to be objective too – in highlighting our community activities, especially the things SWNA has done, from Black History, Emergency Preparedness, ESTF, and YATF. Also, my breast cancer programs and activities have all been highlighted. When we look at the changes in the community, through our Black History Program, we try to look at famous African Americans in our community like George Washington Carver, Thurgood Marshall, Dorothy Height, W. Marshall, among others. One of the projects I hope to finish, which I started with Dale MacIver, as he kept encouraging me to work on an exhibit of famous African Americans who have lived in Southwest. We need to do this exhibit while giving credit to these many famous people who lived here in Southwest.

Any final thoughts about the award itself that we haven’t covered?

I would hope this award would be an inspiration to others when they complain and say, “things aren’t the way they should be.” Perhaps this is inspiration, motivation, encourage them. More important, it is a person who really loves her community, and loves making a difference in the lives of the community they were born in, the church that nurtured them, their high school, their college, their place of employment and anything they were involved in and the challenges they saw along the way were used for the greater good. We should take our life experiences to help improve and change life in general.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly’s Education and Scholarship Task Force Catches Up with Multi-Year Winner Sergio Rozelle

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) has supported young people in the Southwest DC community for more than 45 years. All together, more than 530 scholarships totaling $444,000 have been awarded to 230 young people who have gone on to great educational, cultural and business success.

In our “Where Are They Now” series, we catch up with some of our scholarship winners to see where their talent and hard work has taken them.

Sergio Rozelle was a three-time ESTF Scholar, earning scholarships in 1988, 1989 and 1990.

His journey to Southwest DC began in the early 1970’s, when his mother Margaret Rozelle’s career as a distinguished educational career began in the early 1970’s, when his mother Margaret Rozelle’s career as an architectural engineer for the U.S. Navy brought her to the DC area. At age 7, Sergio Rozelle moved to the Navy Yard, and she and Sergio are both still proud Southwest residents to this day.

After Sergio Rozelle graduated high school, he was accepted at the nation’s first degree-granting Historically Black College & University, (HBCU) Lincoln University, located near Oxford, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1854, Lincoln’s famous alumni include the first Black Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall, and the poet, author, playwright and activist Langston Hughes. Rozelle majored in political science at Lincoln, then went on to Clark University in Atlanta, also an HBCU, where he received a Masters of Science in International Affairs and Development/ International Business Marketing. He also earned a Doctorate in Divinity (Community Service Studies) and the title Dr. Sergio Rozelle.

His ambitious nature first set him on a path toward politics and later he became interested in economics, gravitating toward wealth management. Knowing that either profession could use his experience and talents, he chose to continue his education and gain experience in the corporate and government worlds while building his work as a strategic consultant in international wealth acquisition.

He spent his first five years after graduating from Clark at Delta Air lines in the Executive Training program at their Atlanta headquarters, which he enjoyed immensely. It was during his time at Delta he also began pursuing his future as a wealth acquisition entrepreneur. He then joined the Fulton County, Georgia government where he spent the next five years as the Senior Grants Manager. His portfolio included timely issues from workforce development, home-less and transitional housing, chil-dren and youth services, HIV/AIDS, seniors and aging services and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Following his work with the Fulton County government, Rozelle also gained experience working for the federal government, with stints at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Labor. His portfolio included timely issues from workforce development, home-less and transitional housing, chil-dren and youth services, HIV/AIDS, seniors and aging services and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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He continued building his entre preneurial effort to attract people who could use his experience and talents as a consultant in building businesses, acquiring wealth and successfully managing it. Working from Georgia and then DC, he co-founded a $200 million debt-free holding company and became an internet marketing consultant, mentor, coach, trainer, speaker and community volunteer.

Rozelle has been featured on news and financial programs on most national network and cable television stations, as well as in financial publications such as Fortune, Business Week, and Entrepreneur. He has served on the board of several 501(c)3 organizations, including the United Way. He has built teams of thousands for direct sales companies. He also co-authored a book, The Art and Science of Success, Volume 5, that spent time on Amazon’s #1 Best Sellers List in three separate categories: Global Marketing, Work-Life Balance and Business & Investing.

Rozelle has a desire to help people in every area of their lives. He thinks of his three scholarships from ESTF as one of the lights of his life, along with his daughter Jessie, now 24, and continues to drive toward his dreams in asset management, real estate and as a volunteer working in community service.
TUES 2, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Administrative Meeting. To view the meeting, send request to 60@ancdc.gov.

THUR 4, 8 P.M. additional Southwest Night at Arena Stage. Musical, “Swept Away”

SUN 7, 14, 21, 28 (and all Sundays through March 17, 2024). Cycle 2 of “Modern Well-Married Saints & Holy Couples” 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW.

SUN 7, 7 P.M. Solemn Vespers in the Church followed by a reception in the Parish. Meeting Room, St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW.

MON 8, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Business Meeting. For information about ANC 6D meetings and agenda, visit https://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/

TUES 9, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Komen Toastmasters. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month. If interested in attending our meeting, please contact us at: kometoastmasters8714@gmail.com

WED 10, 7:30 P.M. 2nd added Southwest Night at Arena Stage. Musical, “Swept Away”

THURS 11, 5:30 P.M. Let’s Play SPADES. SPADES is a trick-taking partnership game where players bid the number of tricks each expects to take. Games are played to 500 points and the team with the highest score wins. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SAT 13, ALL DAY, Origami Fox Craft Bookmark. Children ages 3-12 are invited to drop by the Children’s Room to make an origami fox bookmark! Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SAT 13, Faith & Film Zoom. Presentation of AIR. Release Date: 2023 Genre: Biographical Drama Runtime: 1h 52m Rating: R Sonny Vaccaro and Nike pursue basketball rookie Michael Jordan, creating a partnership that revolutionizes the world of sports and contemporary culture. Join us for a lively after film discussion. Official Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Euy4Yu6BnJu For Zoom link, email the office at wpcdcoffice@gmail.com. All Invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

SUN 14, 1 P.M. Sit & Stitch. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Library! Basic guided instruction for beginners in crochet, knitting, embroidery, and cross-stitch available.

SUN 14, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW.

TUES 16, 7:00 P.M. ANC6D Transportation Committee meeting online. Registration details at https://www.anc6d.org/anc6d-transportation-committee/.

TUES 16, 5:30 P.M.Game On! For Adults and Seniors. Play CLASSIC board games, checkers, uno, dominoes, backgammon and scrabble for this fun 2 hour program event. Are you bored? Do you like playing games? If you do, come out to our Adult/ Senior Game on event, where you will have a chance to play CLASSIC board games against others in this fun event. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 16, 6:30 P.M. Off Script Celebrity Book Club. Join us each month as we explore the lives of the faved-over and the forgotten, the inspirational and infamous! January’s Pick : Viola Davis’ Finding Me. This group will meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 17, 12 Noon-2 P.M. The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter Come meet our guest speaker, Hana Sharif, the new Artistic Director at Arena Stage! Everyone is welcome. Please come out and join friends, neighbors, meet new people and have a conversation about her creative plans, community engagement and theatrical productions for Arena Stage. Everyone welcome: Current AARP Members, Prospective Members, Guests, Neighbors, and Visitors to our Community Luncheon Meeting at River Park Mutual Homes. Location: River Park South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. River Park South Parking available and Waterfront Metro, (Green Line) is two blocks away. Bus #74 stops in front of the River Park Delaware Avenue Gate. Lunch Available: Cost $5.00. Masking is optional but strongly encouraged. We will also provide masks for attendees. For further information contact - Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202/554-0901.

THURS 18, 1 P.M. Coffee & Conversation. Customaries are invited to join a casual conversation with other library customers and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and Tea provided. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

THURS 18, 4 P.M., Teen Bingo. Teens are invited to play as many rounds of BINGO we can fit into an hour! Prizes are available for the winning players. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SUN 21, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW.

THURS 25, 5:30 P.M. Let’s Play SPADES. SPADES is a trick-taking partnership game where players bid the number of tricks each expects to take. Games are played to 500 points and the team with the highest score wins. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

FRI 26, 6 P.M. 25th Jazz Night Anniversary **Special Admission Fee-$25**. Join us for special music and community as we celebrate with the best jazz performers the DMV has to offer! Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 1st, SW

SUN 28, 1 P.M. Sit & Stitch. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Library! Basic guided instruction for beginners in crochet, knitting, embroidery, and cross-stitch available.

SUN 28, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW.

TUES 30, 5:30 P.M. Game On! For Adults and Seniors. Play CLASSIC board games, checkers, uno, dominos, backgammon and scrabble for this fun 2 hour program event. Are you bored? Do you like playing games? If you do, come out to our Adult/ Senior Game on event, where you will have a chance to play CLASSIC board games against others in this fun 2 hour program event. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 31, 3:30 P.M. Urban Fiction Book Club. Join us as we read and discuss Urban Fiction short-stories. Our first selection is from Girls From Da Hood 10 by Treasure Hernandez, Blake Karrington and T.C. Littles. We will discuss “Sack Chasing Star” by T.C. Littles. Southwest Neighborhood Library

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, Mondays-Fridays at Noon (St. Dominic Catholic Church) or Wednesday evenings (St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church). Post-pandemic we have resumed live meetings. This fellowship is open to all men and women who desire to recover from alcoholism. You will be welcome; for more information, contact Josie at 202-880-6971. https://aadc- meetings.org/ https://aadc-meetings.org/meetings/st-g-1-f

AFTER SCHOOL GAMES, Thursdays 4 P.M. End the school day at the Southwest Library and join us for some self-directed after-school games on Thursdays from 4-5 PM! We have board games, card games, and occasionally some larger games to play, or we can help you join your preferred computer game if computers are available.

BABY LAP TIME, Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 P.M. Babies under 1 who are not yet walking, and their caregivers are invited to join us for a special 20-30-minute story time full of songs, bounces, and good books. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Various Blues musicians and singers are featured each Monday. $10 cover and food for sale. Schedule at Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/blue-monday-schedule

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 theta081828@hotmail.com. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church Community Room, 555 Water Street SW. www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life.

BUILDING BLOCKS, Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M. Children birth to 5 and their caregivers are invited to a special early literacy play date themed around building, knocking down, and building back up again! Come explore constructive play with us. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

CHAIR YOGA, Mondays, Fridays 11 A.M. - Noon. Gentle movements to increase flexibility, strength, balance & endurance, adapted for all body types. Careful instruction promotes proper breathing, meditation, positive thinking, & deep relaxation. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Any questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilkison, wilkison108@gmail.com

CHURCH CLEANING, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 9:35 A.M. St. Dominic Church. www.stdominicchurch.org/ 


ENCORE CREATIVE FOR OLDER ADULTS, Tuesdays, 6:30-8 PM. DC Rocks Rehearsals. For more information, contact: https://encorecreativity.org/ (Resumes January 9, 2024)

FAMILY STORY TIME, Mondays, 10:30 A.M. Come to the Southwest Library for story time fun. On Mondays, we have family story time or music and movement for young ones of all ages, birth to 5. Craft to follow.

FILM DISCUSSION CLUB, Tuesdays, 12 P.M. Join this lively conversation circle composed of your neighbors

See “Calendars,” page 15
REDEVELOPMENT
Continued from p. 1
process for the area was launched in 2018 by the Southwest Business Improvement District (BID). In 2022, the DC Council approved $3.5 million for the project, which DPR confirmed is sufficient to cover only the design and a portion of the build. First to be built with approved funding would be Parcel B, which sits on the east side of 4th Street SW and abuts Christ United Methodist Church.

Parcel A, which sits on the west side of 4th Street SW and abuts Westminster Presbyterian Church, could only be redeveloped if additional funding is allocated. Westminster’s private redevelopment plan, which is also underway, is not related to DPR’s project, but Dyer assured community members there would be communication and collaboration between the two design teams.

Using the city’s Request for Proposal process, a design and build team for the Southwest Town Center Parks redevelopment was selected in August 2023. Since being selected, architect Lee and Associates and general contractor Thihla, Inc. have been conducting existing conditions analysis, a tree survey with an arborist and a geotechnical survey.

On November 30, 2023, representatives from the architect and contractor joined Dyer and other DPR staff members to brief the community during a meeting at the Southwest Library. The team also hosted a community walk-through of the proposed parks space on December 15, 2023.

At the public events, community members expressed strong views on the potential approach, design and use of space. Concerns ranging from traffic, noise, construction and environmental impact, including potential flooding and tree preservation, were raised.

According to Dyer’s presentation, the project’s goals include “preserving green space and trees as much as possible” and utilizing “resilient design – especially flood mitigation.”

The DPR team stressed their desire to coordinate with leaders at both Christ United Methodist Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church, whose property lines run parallel to the outer boundaries of the project.

DPR also responded to community concerns about cooperation with the District Department of Transportation, which would ultimately make the determination whether to issue temporary closures of 4th Street SW during the hours of operation of the Friday or Saturday markets.

Dyer gave examples of Eastern Market and the Dupont Circle Farmers’ Market where regular, temporary street closures are utilized for pedestrian access and safety. As long-time neighborhood residents know, 4th Street was previously permanently closed to traffic as the site of the Waterside Mall, described by Nena Perry-Brown, writing for Greater Greater Washington, as “a bulky, modernist office/retail shopping center completed in the early 1970s.” The mall was demolished in 2007, opening the artery of 4th Street for regular pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

For community members interested in the next phase of the Southwest Town Center Parks redevelopment, DPR is conducting a survey to gather input. The survey is available at https://dpr.dc.gov/SWTownCenterParkSurvey and will be open through Friday, January 12, 2024.

Information from DPR about the Southwest Town Center Parks development project can be found at https://dgs.dc.gov/page/sw-town-center-park. The project website includes a link to the slides Dyer presented at the November community meeting.

To sign up for email updates from DPR, visit dpr.dc.gov/stakeholder.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7-8 P.M. Contact Westminster Presbyterian Church for more information at wpdcoffice@gmail.com www.narcotics.com/na-meetings/washington-dc/

NEW HYBRID ADULT EDUCATION CLASS Sundays 10-11 A.M. Led by Rev. Dr. Alice Bells (Howard University) and Jeff Nocc (author of Strange and Gaudy Fruit: Toxic Theology). Westminster Church. To register, contact: wpdcoffice@gmail.com. FREE. https://westminстерdc.org/

RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM), Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. Discuss timely issues on Jesus and Social Justice. For zoom link, contact: wpdcoffice@gmail.com. https://westminsterdc.org/

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTEIN PANTRY, 2nd Sundays, 11:30 A.M. All are welcome! For more details contact rbc@riverside.org. Riverside Baptist Church, 699 Maine Ave SW, https://riverside.org/

SEASONAL CRAFT, All Day. Join us in the Children’s Room for a seasonal or book-themed craft. Children ages 3-12 can drop in for a fun craft. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SEATED YOGA (In Person), Mondays & Fridays, 11 A.M.-12 P.M. Low impact stretches and mobility exercises performed under the direction of Pamela Wilson. Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

SENSORY PLAY TIME, Fridays, 10:30 A.M. Babies, toddlers, & preschoolers are invited to play and explore their senses in this fun program. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TECH HELP, Wednesdays, 2-3 P.M. Need help navigating a new device, setting up an email account, connecting with friends on social media, or something else tech-related? Drop by Tech Help, a one-hour technology assistance clinic for guidance from library staff. Come prepared with any necessary log-in information and your charged device. Be ready to learn new skills and get comfortable in the digital environment while accomplishing the tech tasks you need done. Southwest Library. https://dlclibrary.libnet.info/events

THEMATIC BIBLE STUDY (Virtual), Second Thursdays, 7 P.M. For people who are looking for a new Bible study option or have had Bible studies in the past. There is no need to attend the prior sessions. This is an introductory discussion or Bible reading. To register by phone call: 202-477-0689. https://www.wscce.org/matters/

YOGA AT THE LIBRARY, Saturdays, 11-12:45 P.M. Join us for weekly yoga classes. Chair Yoga 11:00-11:30 A.M., Mat Yoga 11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M. Please come in comfortable clothes to move in and bring your own mat for mat yoga. Southwest Library, Large Meeting Room.

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.
Thanks for being great neighbors in 2023!