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## Second Trump Administration Brings Sweeping Changes to Southwest

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

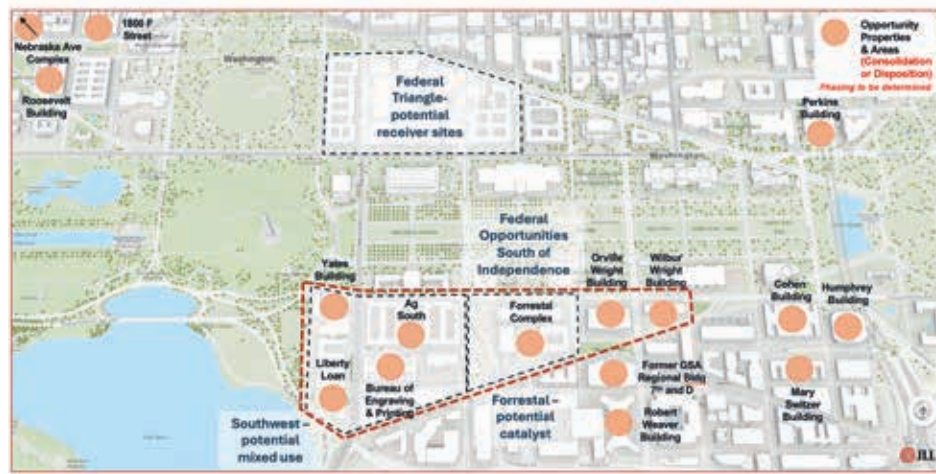
In just the first month of the second Trump Administration, a dizzying array of changes across the federal government had a direct impact on Southwest DC. In a quadrant packed with federal buildings and buzzing with federal employees and DC residents who are denied full voting rights, all politics might be local, but they are national, too.

The fast-paced change from the executive branch was felt in Southwest across a number of sectors in the early months of 2025, including jobs and the economy, real estate and development, and Home Rule and self-governance.

### Jobs and the Economy

Southwest is home to more than half a dozen federal agencies, from the Department of Agriculture and Department of Energy to the Department of Education and NASA, with several more just across South Capitol Street in Navy Yard and Near Southeast. Whether they live, work,

PBRB Evaluation of Federal Buildings in the National Capital Region



Courtesy of the Public Buildings Reform Board

At the end of January, a public meeting highlighted federal buildings in Southwest that may be redeveloped as the Administration aims to reduce the size of the federal workforce.

shop or dine near their offices, the tens of thousands of federal employees who pass through these buildings are part of the Southwest community and economy.

Following Executive Orders from

President Donald Trump to reduce the number of federal employees, limit future hires, and require federal agencies to work with the Department of

See "Change," page 8



COMMUNITY HONORS CRASH VICTIMS AT TITANIC MEMORIAL

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SOCCER RETURNS TO AUDI FIELD

Page 13

## Overflow Crowd Packs Westminster to Discuss Amidon-Bowen Reconstruction Plan

BY WILLEM DICKE

On Thursday February 6, a Southwest community meeting was held at a packed Westminster Presbyterian Church during which Amidon-Bowen Elementary School parents and teachers voiced widespread concerns over DC Public Schools' (DCPS) plans to bus Amidon-Bowen students to Meyer Elementary in Northwest for two years during the school's reconstruction starting in school year 2027.

Meyer Elementary is 3.5 miles away from the current school location and the commute could take up to one hour both in the morning and afternoon, causing hardships for all Amidon-

See "Reconstruction," page 10



Community members and elected officials come together to discuss renovation plans for Amidon-Bowen Elementary.

Courtesy of the Author.



KIDS CORNER

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Back issues in searchable PDF are available back to 1964 on request from [perry@thesouthwester.com](mailto:perry@thesouthwester.com) Specify the range of years of interest.

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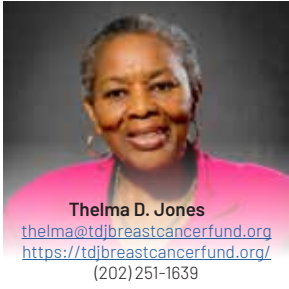


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(202) 251-1639

# Get Involved With Ward 6 Mutual Aid

BY KATRINA AVILA

At Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA), our commitment remains unwavering: to prioritize the safety, well-being, and dignity of our neighbors. Since our founding, we have worked tirelessly to provide essential resources—including food, cleaning supplies, school materials, digital devices, household items, and clothing—to those who need them most.

A key part of this work is our partnership with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Southwest DC, alongside other grassroots organizations committed to uplifting Black and Brown communities across the city. The generosity of our donors and volunteers has been vital in sustaining these efforts, ensuring that critical support reaches those facing hardship. Together, we continue to demonstrate the strength of community solidarity and mutual care.

### Interested in Contributing? Discover Ways to Get Involved with SYC/W6MA:

- **Support Our Unhoused Neighbors:** Help us provide essential



- **Supplies to Unhoused Community Members:** You can browse and purchase much-needed items from our wishlist at [bit.ly/sycw6ma-tentlist](https://bit.ly/sycw6ma-tentlist). If you have any questions, reach out to us at [info@serveyourcitydc.org](mailto:info@serveyourcitydc.org).
- **Get Involved as a Volunteer Member:** We create collective support systems within and beyond the District, providing essential resources like food, clothing, feminine hygiene products, diapers, student

laptops, school supplies, online tutoring, and more. Your commitment to “solidarity, NOT charity” sustains our efforts, ensuring that all our neighbors have what they need—not just to survive, but to thrive. Join SYC/W6MA as a volunteer today! Visit [bit.ly/SYCW6MAgetinvolved](https://bit.ly/SYCW6MAgetinvolved) to learn more or email us at [members@serveyourcitydc.org](mailto:members@serveyourcitydc.org) with any questions.

- **Strengthen Our Impact with a Donation:** Your financial support is essential in sustaining our work. Donations made at [bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate](https://bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate) directly contribute to our programs and outreach efforts, including our support of CUMC’s 5000 Food Ministry, helping to combat food insecurity in Southwest DC. Every contribution enables us to purchase food in bulk, maximizing our ability to serve those in need.
- **Stay Connected:** Keep up with our latest programs and initiatives by visiting [serveyourcitydc.org](https://serveyourcitydc.org). Together, we keep us safe!

## The Southwester

Send submissions and questions to *The Southwester* by email at [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com). Submissions for each monthly issue are due on the 15th of the preceding month.



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**Southwester Staff**  
*Editor-in-Chief:* Melissa Silverman  
*Managing Editor:* Una Yarsky  
*Photo Editor:* Fredo Vasquez  
*Advertising:* Beth Hall & Donna Purchase  
*Distribution:* Perry Klein  
*Calendar:* Maya Renee  
[calendar@thesouthwester.com](mailto:calendar@thesouthwester.com)  
*Design & Layout:* Electronic Ink  
*Printer:* Print Innovators



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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly or *The Southwester*, call (202) 329-5727

# Komen Toastmasters Still Meeting after 29 Years

BY CHRISTINA SCHELTEMA

Komen Toastmasters, a club that teaches public speaking and leadership skills, continues to meet after 29 years. The meeting time has changed from the first and third Saturday morning of each month to the second and fourth Tuesday evening. Specifically, Komen Toastmasters now meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., via Zoom. After meeting on Saturdays for many years, the club members voted to change the meeting time to accommodate schedules.

When COVID-19 quarantines closed public meeting places, Komen Toastmasters transitioned to online meetings, via Zoom. Komen Toast-

masters, known for its resilience, only missed one meeting due to the COVID-19 closures. To learn more about this club and to arrange a club visit, please email LeRoy Potts, the vice president of membership at [KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com](mailto:KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com).

Visitors are always welcome to come learn about this Toastmasters club, which has been dedicated to helping its members become better speakers and leaders since it was chartered in December 1996. Komen was founded to help people affiliated with the Susan B. Komen Foundation learn public speaking skills to advocate on behalf of those with breast cancer. It is now a community club open to all.

Members practice public speaking

by presenting prepared speeches in a supportive environment that provides constructive feedback. Members also practice extemporaneous speaking through an exercise called Table Topics. Speakers learn confidence by doing and by receiving constructive feedback on what they did well and where they can improve. Meetings are structured so that members know what to expect, which helps quell anxiety.

Komen Toastmasters is affiliated with Toastmasters International, a nonprofit international organization dedicated to teaching people public speaking skills. With clubs in 150 countries, Toastmasters International is 101 years old.

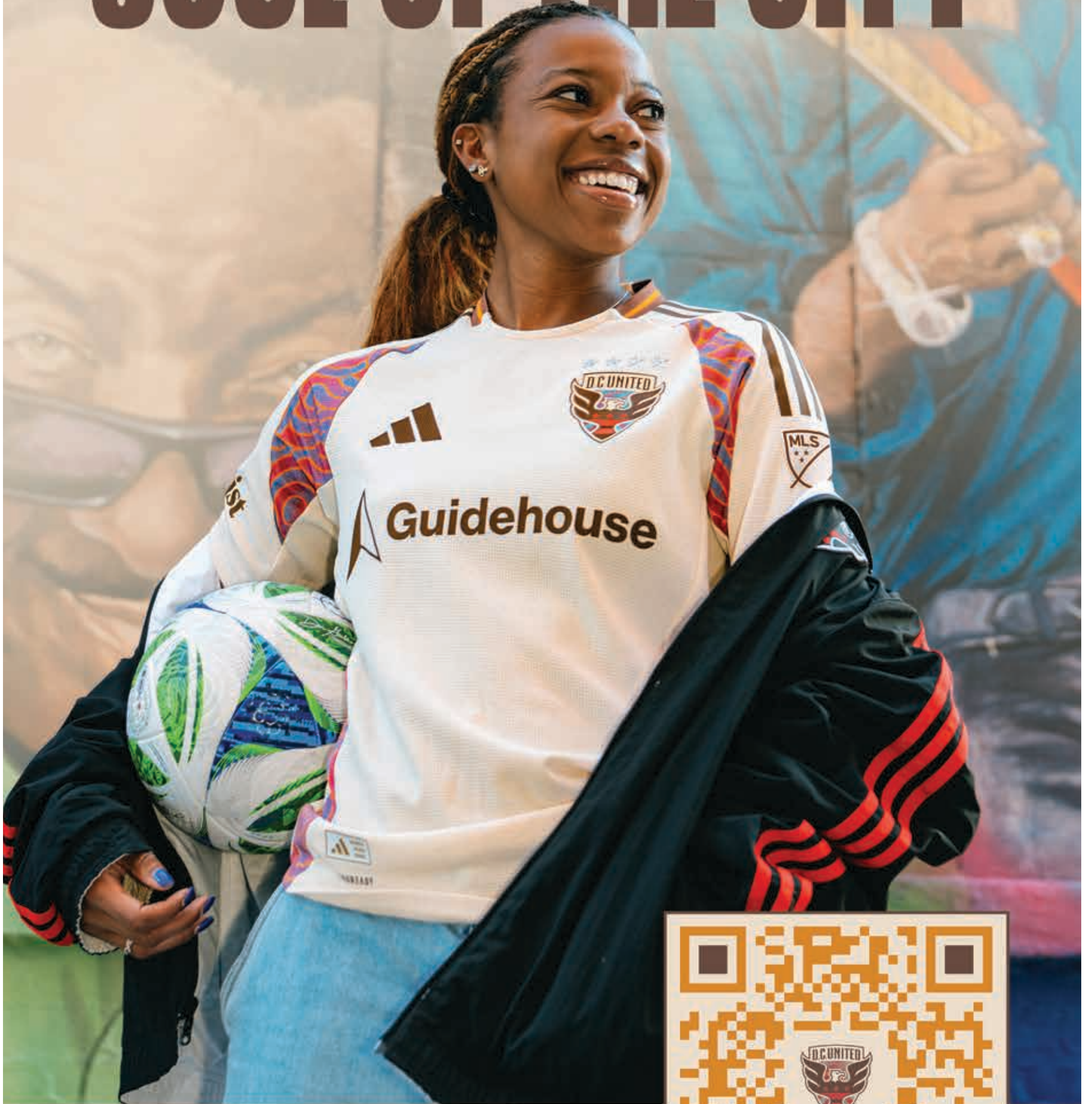


## SWNA Hosts Black History Month Community Meeting

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly hosted a Black History Month meeting on February 25. Panel members Gottlieb Simon (moderator), Paul Taylor, Malonda Richard and O. Delmar Weathers discussed "Perspectives on the Legacy of Urban Renewal." The meeting also featured the Richard Wright Public Charter School Choir, directed by Roger Murray, performing *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

Courtesy of Lisa Taylor

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# Southwest Architecture on Display in Capital Brutalism Exhibit

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

There are many museums in Southwest, but what Southwesterners see daily in their cityscape is now in a museum exhibit of its own. **Capital Brutalism**, through June 30, 2025, at the National Building Museum features seven DC buildings in the Brutalist style of architecture that first arrived in Washington in the 1950s and 1960s as homes were razed to build less expensive public buildings of concrete. Four of the buildings featured in the exhibit are in the Southwest quadrant.

The 1962 “Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture” emerged from President John F. Kennedy’s Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Office Space and is still in use today. Its purpose was to design federal buildings that represented the best in contemporary architecture and reflected local design. Through archival documents, drawings, models and photography, **Capital Brutalism** follows the timeline of how these buildings were constructed and includes a glance into the future of what can be re-imagined as possible architectural updates for the 21st century.

## THE WEAVER BUILDING

The first federal building to be constructed under these principles was the Robert C. Weaver Federal Building, home to the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD) on 7th Street SW, which was constructed between 1965-68.

At its dedication, President Lyndon B. Johnson touted it as “a lasting architectural asset to our capital city and our country.” Decades later, HUD Secretaries would label it “among the most reviled in all of Washington—and with good reason” and as “10 floors of basement.”

The exhibit presents a re-imagination of the Weaver Building that would address both the growing housing crisis and decline in the office building market with an effort to repurpose rather than demolish. The architec-



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

*The Robert C. Weaver Federal Building, home to the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on 7th Street SW.*

ture firm Brooks + Scarpa’s design converts almost half of the existing building into over 300 units of affordable housing while preserving the original structure.

## THE FORRESTAL BUILDING

The James V. Forrestal Building was completed in 1969. It was first built for the Defense Department as “the little Pentagon” and then in 1977 became the headquarters for the newly created U.S. Department of Energy.

A *New York Times* article by Ada Lousie Huxtable in 1965 summarized the design as “too big to be trivial and too competent to be offensive.”

*Splitting for Difference, Reimagining the Forrestal Building*, a 2024 Unbuilt project, courtesy of the Studio Gang architects, proposes a “third way” forward for the building, pushing to work with the visual monotony but structural flexibility of the design while considering issues like the climate crisis in order “to allow our cities to grow and evolve in a healthy

way while minimizing carbon emissions.”

## THE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY BUILDING

The Hubert H. Humphrey Building houses the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and was completed in 1977. It was among the first DC buildings to apply for air rights in order to build directly above a tunnel, specifically the Interstate 395 tunnel.

Architects Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard of Marcel Breuer & Associates, in collaboration with Nolan-Swinburne and Associates, worked to accommodate the tunnel and an Independence Avenue sewer line which ran diagonally under the building. The text at the exhibit describes, “they carefully placed large, load-bearing columns that could support bridge-like trusses at the penthouse level. These trusses support vertical hangers, which hold each of the six office floors. Because the office floors are hanging from the trusses, the primary mass of the

building appears to float above the plaza level.”

Fast forward to 2025, when DC-based architecture firm BLDUS, led by Andrew Linn and Jack Becker, reimagines the Humphrey Building as the “Temple of Play.” This would require the creation of a new executive Department of Play with the stated purpose of “fundamentally reorienting the perspectives of Americans toward play and happiness.” Their proposal describes this new Temple of Play as the largest playground in the world... it would attract people of all ages during every season.”

## THE HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Several blocks away is the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Established in 1966 by an act of Congress, with the collections and funding from Joseph Hirshhorn, designed by architect Gordon Bunshliff, the museum opened in 1974. A standout among the buildings on the National Mall both for its shape and design, the Hirshhorn’s roundness provides circular galleries to view art exhibits in a continuing path, rather than divided into separate galleries. The *New York Times* described it as “a fortress of a building that works as a museum.”

In 2009, the Hirshhorn Museum hired the architecture firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DSR) to design an additional 11,000 square feet of event space for the museum. The unconventional “Bubble” is described as “a seasonal inflatable space that “oozes” out the top and from underneath the relatively petite, hollow-core building.” However, after years of striving to bring the Bubble to fruition, the project was canceled in 2013 due to cost concerns.

A trip to the National Building Museum helps visitors make connection between art and architecture, and to wonder at the contrasts of what we see in museums and what we see around us as part of the cityscape that we share.

## Community Activists Organize in Reaction to Second Trump Term

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Congressional offices are fielding thousands of calls a minute, protests are being held at government agencies and advocacy organizations are mobilizing, including in Southwest DC.

Indivisible Waterfront (IW) held

a meeting on February 8, where over sixty volunteers brought energy and a sense of urgency. Focused groups talked about their interests in pushing back against threats to democracy, connecting to friends and neighbors in other states, and reaching out to voters. In addition, because

what happens in Virginia impacts us all, they anticipate supporting Abigail Spanberger for Governor.

Indivisible Waterfront has been active since 2018 and works both independently and cooperatively with other DMV groups, as well with national organizations such as

Swing Left and Indivisible.

Working in a fast-moving environment, IW welcomes new participants and is not restricted to just those in Southwest. To join interest groups or the Indivisible Waterfront mailing list, contact [getinfo.iw@gmail.com](mailto:getinfo.iw@gmail.com).

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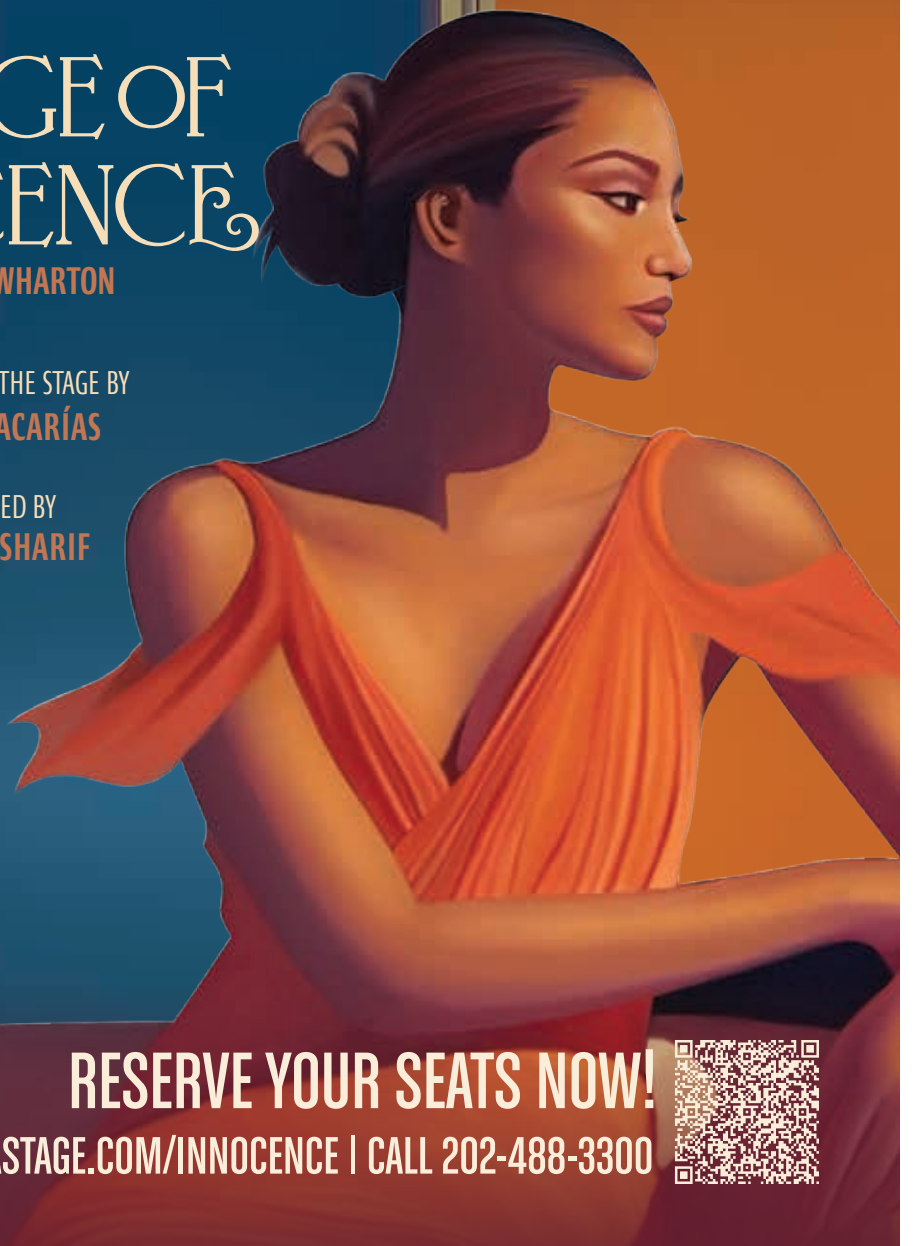


# THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

BY EDITH WHARTON

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY  
**KAREN ZACARÍAS**

DIRECTED BY  
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# Neighborhood Organizations Succeed with Help from Friends of Southwest DC

BY RUSSELL MCINTYRE

Despite our desire for life to slow down, the world continues to move at breakneck speed, and 2024 was no exception. From the Summer Olympics to a presidential election; from astronauts stuck in space to Hollywood reboots in the box office; from Caitlin Clark and expanded interest in women's basketball to Ozempic and the rise of weight-loss medication – the news in 2024 seemed to constantly be “defyy-ing gravityyy.”

Thankfully, many of our charitable organizations in Southwest DC were undeterred by this constant commotion, providing ample opportunities for Friends of Southwest DC to invest in projects and events that benefit our local community.



Courtesy of the Author

The Board of Directors of Friends of Southwest DC.

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-and-a-half decades, Friends of Southwest DC

has helped to fund a wide variety of activities – from food banks and clothing drives to after-school programming and college scholarships – and 2024 was no different.

For the twenty-sixth straight year,

Friends of Southwest DC partnered with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) to provide college scholarships for Southwest DC students. In 2024, we were able to provide three scholarships of \$2,000 apiece to help incoming freshman students pay for their tuition. Furthermore, we provided a \$5,000 scholarship to one local Southwest DC resident to continue her education in a graduate-level program.

In addition to our annual scholarships, we were able to support multiple other educational opportunities for local Southwest DC students. This included a grant to Arena Stage to help fund the annual Voices of Now theater program; a grant to DC STORM for prospective college students to visit multiple colleges in the mid-Atlantic area; a grant to Emma U.S. for local students to visit the Harriet Tubman home; a grant to GOODProjects to support their Learning Hub; and a grant to Richard Wright Public Charter Schools to help pay for science, technology, and math-related educational supplies.

Our donations this year also included a focus on local community events. Friends of Southwest DC provided funds to the Omicron Eta Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to fund distribution of school supplies at the annual Southwest Community Day; to the SW Comm-Unity Forum for their annual Summer in Lansburgh Park event; and to the SWDC Community Center for their Fall Fest and Mutt Strut event.

Finally, Friends of Southwest DC was able to provide a number of grants to help those who need it most. This included multiple grants to Christ United Methodist Church to support their 5000 Food Pantry; a grant to the SW Comm-Unity Forum for their Toys for Tots event; and a grant to Waterfront Village to support member subsidies and outreach.

“It's amazing how small donations from neighbors can make such a meaningful impact,” said Peter Eicher, president of Friends of Southwest DC. “There are so many wonderful organizations in Southwest that are ready to do so much if we can provide them with the means. I hope readers will be inspired to pitch in.”

With spring fast approaching, Friends of Southwest DC is already working hard to ensure that we build upon our past successes in 2024. 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](http://FriendsofSWDC.org). Donations can be made online on our website, via Venmo (@FOSWDC) or by mailing a check to: Friends of Southwest DC, P.O. Box 44434, Washington, DC 20026.

Russell McIntyre is the Treasurer of Friends of Southwest DC.



## FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

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*Your donation will fund college scholarships, programs for SW kids, food for SW residents, assistance to SW seniors, community events, and much more. See our website for details.*

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Or donate at [FriendsofSWDC.org](http://FriendsofSWDC.org)



**We welcome grant applications from organizations working in Southwest.**

*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.*

# From Southwest to Success ...and giving back

After graduating from Hunter College, Una Yarsky is pursuing a career in medicine.

She has been a writer for The Southwester and is giving back to Southwest and staying engaged in her community as the new Managing Editor of The Southwester.



Una Yarsky  
SWNA Scholarship recipient  
2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

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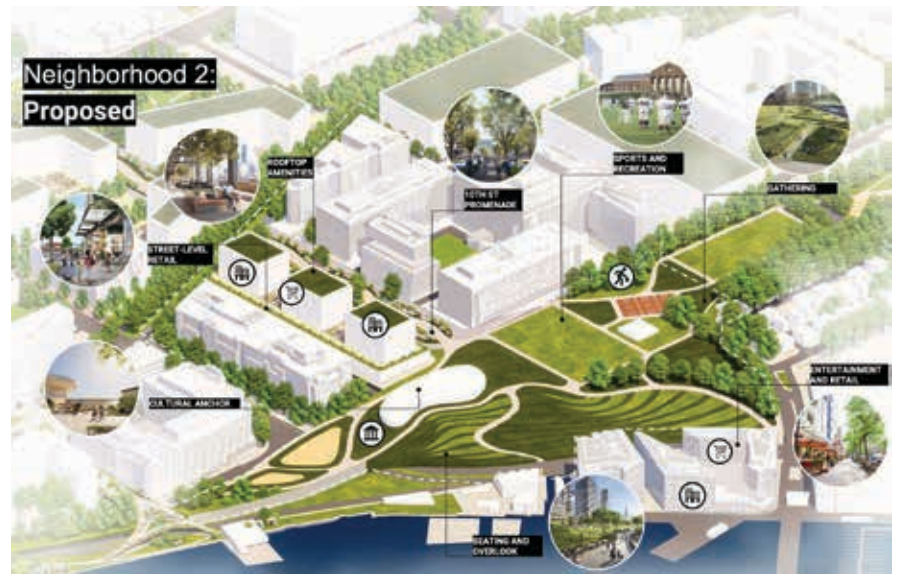
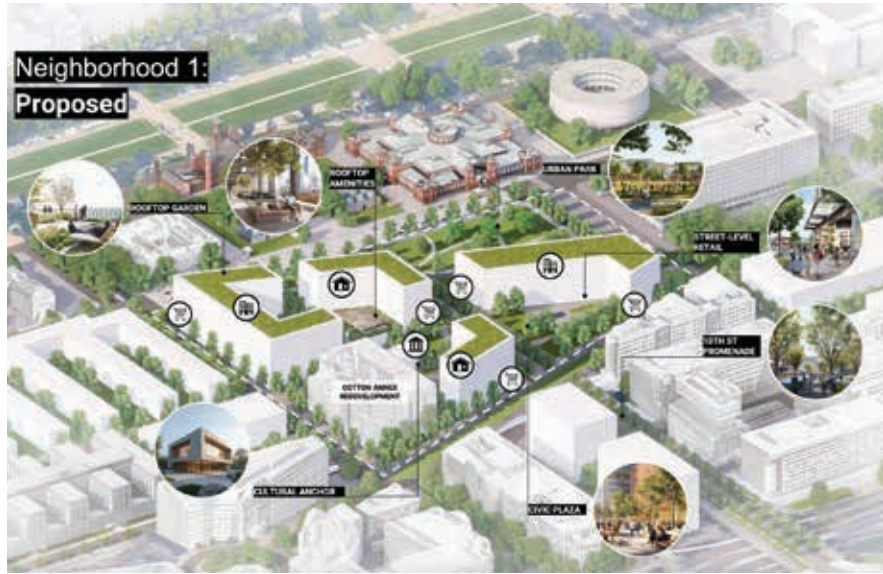
[www.swnascholarship.org](http://www.swnascholarship.org)



Your donation helps more than deserving young Southwest DC scholars. It benefits all of us for generations to come.



Southwest  
Neighborhood  
Assembly



Courtesy of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill

Slides from architecture and design firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill envisioning repurposed federal buildings in Southwest DC.

### CHANGE

Continued from p. 1

Government Efficiency, (DOGE) Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) said in a press release

that “dedicated public servants are losing their jobs without cause, and the Americans who depend on the services provided by the federal government are Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike.”

In his constituent newsletter, Ward

6 Councilmember Charles Allen noted that “rapid-fire attacks on so many different agencies – and the people who have given so much of their careers to serve others – hits DC, and especially Ward 6, hard.” Allen noted that “these public servants have not only dedicated their lives to serving their country but making their homes in the District” and that he has heard from “many neighbors working in the federal government who are anxious, frustrated, angry, and waiting for what’s going to happen next.”

Allen offered a reminder that the “District government is still here,” and encouraged impacted constituents to reach out to his office for information about local resources.

renewal failed to deliver on its promise” while also asserting “a vision is needed to transform the Southwest Federal District into a series of vibrant mixed-use neighborhoods.”

### Home Rule

On February 6, Republican members of Congress from Tennessee and Utah introduced legislation to repeal the DC Home Rule Act and assert Congressional authority over DC and its 700,000 citizens. The title of the bill, which would eliminate the position of DC Mayor, is an unusually personal jab at a duly elected official, as the acronym for the “Bringing Oversight to Washington and Safety to Every Resident” Act is indeed BOWSER.

Holmes Norton pledged to defeat the legislation, as she has with previous attempts to roll back rights in DC. “This response from two Republicans from far away states is, predictably, to try to take away what small measure of democracy the more than 700,000 D.C. residents, a majority of whom are Black and Brown, have,” she said in a press release.

In the early days of the Trump Administration, the credo of “a troll for a troll” seemed to take hold, as DC shadow Representative Oye Owolewa promptly planned and executed a trip to Utah, home of BOWSER Act sponsor Senator Mike Lee. In Salt Lake City, Owolewa said in a press release he engaged with community leaders to advocate for equitable representation.

“Senator Lee should be focused on the needs of Utahns rather than meddling in the affairs of D.C. residents,” Owolewa said in the release.

Ward 6 Councilmember Allen called the bill “a continuation of the District’s special place as a punching bag to score political points on the national stage.” Allen emphasized the city’s recent success in balancing budgets and reducing violent crime, but told constituents, “until we have full statehood, DC residents’ right to self-govern will remain uniquely vulnerable to the whims of any elected member of the federal government.”

### Real Estate and Development

On January 28, just eight days after Inauguration Day, an open meeting of the Public Buildings Reform Board, an independent federal agency created in 2016 to identify underutilized federal properties for sale or redevelopment, highlighted the possibility of a radically transformed Southwest stretching from the waterfront to the National Mall.

Board members were joined for the public meeting, titled “Opportunities for Changing the Federal City,” by current and former DC officials, including Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Nina Albert and former mayor Anthony Williams in his current capacity as CEO of the Federal City Council.

Architecture and design firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill delivered a presentation titled “A New Vision for Our Nation’s Capital,” proposing to utilize 28 government owned or leased buildings in Southwest to connect “the Mall’s cultural institutions to the Wharf’s waterfront entertainment.”

The proposal stretches across 42 city blocks, identifying over 15 million square feet of office space as 87% “available or underused” and suggesting a transformation across 250 acres with more than 13 million square feet available for redevelopment.

The presentation, available to the public at [www.pbrb.gov](http://www.pbrb.gov), explicitly states that past attempts at “urban

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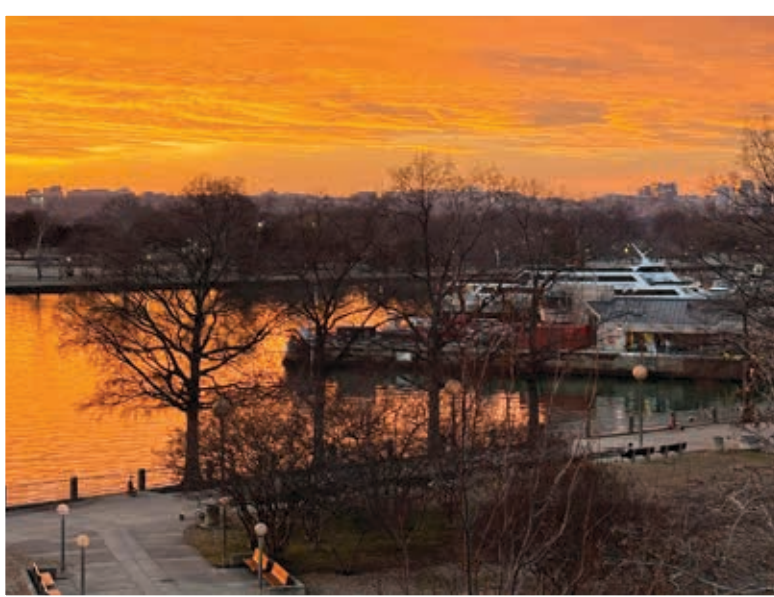


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## Photo of the Month



Courtesy of Anne Rensberger

A sunset lights up the Southwest waterfront.

If you would like to submit a photo for consideration as Photo of the Month, email it to [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com)



# SWNA's Digital Empowerment Task Force Offers Practical Tips to Community Members

BY MELISSA DALEY

In today's world, having fast and reliable internet is important for most homes. There are many daily activities and devices that depend on access to the internet. In the past few years, use of the internet has expanded for job applications, accessing services, sharing forms and documents, learning and working together, communicating with family and friends via voice and video, and entertainment.

There are a lot of choices that aren't always clear. It's important to have the right internet setup for your needs. A typical setup will involve an internet "router" (often wired) for connecting to a provider network, and a wireless transmitter/receiver ("wifi") for sharing the connection with your personal equipment. Here's a simple guide to help you get the best affordable internet for your home.

Step 1: Figure Out Your Internet Needs (measured in Mbps, or megabits per second): Think about how many devices you have and what you use them for. Here's a basic idea:

- Light Use: Email, web searching and browsing, basic audio-video entertainment streaming for one or two screens at a time, and voice calls. (Plus, you may get better cell phone calls at home using your wifi calling).
- Moderate Use: High resolution video streaming, online gaming, and working from home with video meetings, for up to a few users.
- High Use: Lots of devices streaming high resolution video on big screens, interactive online gaming, and heavy downloading/uploading of files, especially video files.

Step 2: Estimate or calculate the Bandwidth You Need: Based on your needs, figure out how much internet speed you need.

- Light Use: 3-8 Mbps for one or two devices at a time.
- Moderate Use: 12-25 Mbps per device.
- High Use: More than 25 Mbps per device.

For example, if you have four devices for moderate use at the same time, you may need at least 50-100 Mbps.

Step 3: Check Internet Providers and Plans

Look up the internet service providers (ISPs) in your area. In the Washington area, the largest providers include Xfinity/Comcast and Verizon (Fios). Compare their residential plans, speeds, and customer reviews to find the best one for you. They usually offer basic plans with speeds at 100 Mbps or less, moderate ones in the 100-500 Mbps range, and high bandwidth ones.

Most of these plans won't have

a monthly data cap, or only a very large one, unlike most cell phone data plans. The plans usually include renting wireless (wifi) hardware from the provider, but if you are willing to become familiar with some tech options, you can save some money over time (and sometimes improve performance) by providing your own wifi hardware. The providers often offer a discounted rate for the first year, but you might want to explore options for cheaper offers once your initial agreement period is completed.

Step 4: Test Your Current Internet, and Optimize Your Home Network

Once you get home internet con-

nected, or if you already have internet, you can use online tools like Speedtest.net to check your speed. This helps you see if you need an upgrade. If you notice slow speeds, lots of dropouts, or failed connections, consider adjusting or upgrading your plan or equipment.

If you're experiencing slower performance than expected, several adjustments are available. You may want to explore options like:

Moving your wifi router: You can put your router in a central spot for better coverage. You can also reduce interference by keeping your router away from other electronic devices.

Upgrading your equipment: Most people are fine with the wifi routers included by the provider, but often modern routers that support the latest Wi-Fi standards can be substituted for better covering hard to reach areas. You can monitor and adjust as needed by keeping an eye on your internet usage and performance.

With these steps, you can make sure your home has the right internet speeds at the right price for you to support all your devices and activities, and make online experiences smooth and enjoyable.

**BINGO**  
Night in SW

B 12    I 23    N 41    G 55    O 74

**MARCH 13, 2025**  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM  
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church  
555 Water Street, SW

**\$10 Entry Includes 4 Bingo Games**  
**Prizes and Refreshments Available**

Register Here! 

A Community Event  
Hosted by the  
**SOUTHWEST DC COMMUNITY CENTER**   
[www.swdccc.org](http://www.swdccc.org)

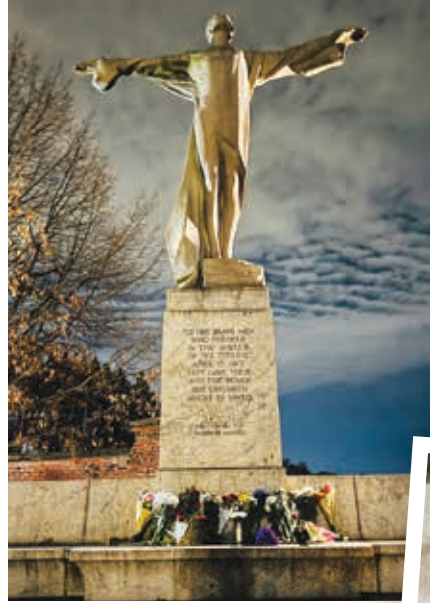
# History Inspires Local Outpouring of Support at Titanic Memorial

BY MAX AGUILAR

Just days before the Titanic passenger ship sank, first-class passenger and British businessman Richard William Smith from Cork, Ireland mailed a postcard to Olive Dakin in Norwich, England. Mr. Smith wrote on the postcard, “Have had a fine run around Queenstown. Just leaving for the land of Stars and Stripes. Hope you are all quite well at home. Kindest regards, R.W.S.”

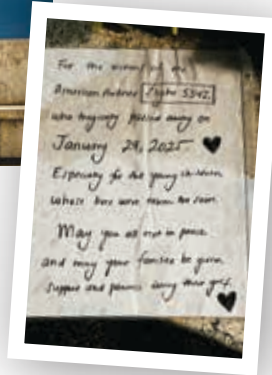
Unfortunately, Mr. Smith, a tea broker, never made it to America. The postcard was postmarked April 11, 1912, just four days before the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean with Mr. Smith and 1,500 other passengers and crew members onboard.

The press in November of last year reported the postcard was part of an auction lot of Titanic memorabilia placed up for bidding. The 112-year-old



Courtesy of Tigercat

A community tribute to the victims of American Airlines Flight 5342, which crashed into the Potomac River on January 29, was placed at the Titanic Memorial.



postcard garnered more than \$12,000 at auction plus fees for a grand total of \$25,000. The historic card was one of hundreds of Titanic artifacts that were auctioned off as part of an auction lot of a “Titanic, White Star and Transport Memorabilia” sale. The managing director of the auction house commented to the press that the card was, “a very powerful and poignant object because this is one of the last things that Mr. Smith wrote, first and foremost.”

Another piece of Titanic memorabilia was sold for an even higher price tag. The press reported that an 18-carat gold Tiffany & Co. pocket watch gifted to ocean liner captain Arthur Rostron by three women he

saved, sold for a winning bid of \$1.976 million. The captain is credited with saving the lives of 700 Titanic passengers. An inscription inside the pocket watch case reads, “Presented to Captain Rostron with the heartfelt gratitude and appreciation of three survivors of the Titanic April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1912, Mrs. John B. Thayer, Mrs. John Jacob Astor and Mrs. George D. Widener.” The three women’s husbands went down with the ship.

Closer to home, the Titanic Memorial in Southwest DC became the site of a spontaneous outpouring of support for victims of the plane and helicopter crash near Reagan National Airport. In early February, there were several bouquets of flowers left along with a note paying tribute to the victims, especially the children. The memorial serves as an opportunity for neighbors to reckon with tragedy and remember those whose lives were lost.

## RECONSTRUCTION

Continued from p. 1

Bowen families. It would be especially difficult for parents with small children in Pre-Kindergarten and for those with special learning or accommodation needs. DCPS’s plan would cause severe disruptions in the schedules for many families, especially after the school day ends, since the fate of Amidon’s extensive aftercare programs upon which many working parents depend is unclear.

There was broad and vocal support among those who attended the meeting for building temporary modular units on the field behind the school.

The field, however, is owned not by DCPS but by the DC Parks and Recreation (DCPR). DCPR declined Amidon’s advocacy team’s invitation to attend the meeting, although Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, who was present, stated that he did not think DPR ultimately would be opposed to the school using the field.

Allen stated that “I do not think that Amidon-Bowen should swing (temporarily relocate) to Meyer. It is too far, and we have to find a different way to get this done.”

However, approval by DPR would have to occur within the next two months and is not the only hurdle for temporary units. Funding for the units would need to be included in the bud-

get that DC Mayor Muriel Bowser will introduce to the DC Council in late March or early April.

DCPS Deputy Chancellor Patrick Ashley, while repeatedly telling the packed crowd that he was at the meeting to “listen to the community’s concerns” nonetheless seemed skeptical of building modular units on the DPR field. “We don’t want to put folks in swing spaces that don’t function as proper schools,” and added that because of the recent development boom in Southwest, empty space is difficult to come by. According to the Howard University News Service, Meyer had been in need of repairs since 1991 and was shuttered in 2008. It was reopened in 2011 after a 2010 fire at the Takoma Educational Center. It will also serve as a temporary home to Brent Elementary during its reconstruction over the next two years.

Amidon’s parents in the question and answer sessions were clear in their response: keeping students in Southwest, even if they were housed in temporary units, far outweighs concerns related to busing them to an existing school miles away from their homes. They also argued that they have been willing to work with DCPS to address possible alternatives but haven’t been included in the discussions.

Amidon parent Erica Walker enumerated a long list of problems with putting especially younger children on long bus rides. Walker told Allen and the DCPS representatives, “just on the disability issue, if your child has a seizure and they have a syringe that has to be administered rectally or if your child has an asthma attack and the people don’t know how to administer their inhaler there is no one on the bus qualified to do administer that.”

A number of parents indicated that they would leave Amidon and Southwest altogether rather than have them bused to Meyer, given that many currently walk or bike to the school.

The severe lack of nurses at DCPS schools has also required numerous parents and guardians to come to the school on a daily basis to administer medications to their children that nurse technicians—who have in most cases replaced full-time nurse—are not authorized to administer. Many of these parents and guardians worry about the extra time it would take for them to reach Meyer in an emergency and having to take off work, and others noted they would not be able to afford Ubers or taxis in such circumstances.

Amidon also serves as an important feeder school for Jefferson Middle School, and Jefferson teacher Leticia Nero emphasized the consensus of almost all at the meeting for the school staying in Southwest. To raucous applause, she emphasized that “Amidon has been one of the feeder schools that has consistently sent their students to Jefferson, just as the chancellor (Lewis Ferebee) has been asking. When Jefferson underwent its renovation trailers were built so our students could feel safe, where they could still pick up their siblings from Amidon. This is a multi-billion dollar section of the city, and there is no way that the Wharf is more important than the children who grew up in Southwest.”

Former Amidon student and current Jefferson sixth grader Malakai McLaughlin added that “knowing Amidon was close by really helped our family.”

Southwest residents and Amidon-Bowen parents, guardians and teachers were urged to contact the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education at [dme@dc.gov](mailto:dme@dc.gov), Kevin Donahue at the Office of the City Administrator [oca.eom@dc.gov](mailto:oca.eom@dc.gov), and the DC Department of Parks and Recreation [dpr@dc.gov](mailto:dpr@dc.gov) to voice their concerns.

*Willem Dicke is a member of the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School PTA and a DC Scores coach.*

## Save the Date!

Join Us for SWNA’s March 2025 Community Meeting  
**Digital Opportunities for our Community**  
 Hosted by the SWNA Digital Empowerment Task Force

**Date: March 24, 2025**

**Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Location: Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater**



Explore the States Digital Equity Program from the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Learn about:

- DC’s approved Digital Equity Plan
- Over \$100 million awarded to the District to implement DC’s Plan
- Digital Equity Capacity Grant for More Than \$3.8 Million

How will these funds impact you and our community?

We Want to Hear from You!

For more information contact :

**JLeonard.DETF@gmail.com**

**KBrown.DETF@gmail.com**



We look forward to seeing you there!

# Southwest Resident's Global Travels Stretch from North Pole to South Pole

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

On December 7, 2024, Le Quan Turner, a DC native and Southwest resident, embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland, where she crossed the Arctic Circle, joining the ranks of fearless Arctic explorers.

Having traveled solo to over 50 countries and all seven continents, Le Quan's journey includes a remarkable 11-day expedition to Antarctica (South Pole) in 2023. During this trip, she participated in several thrilling



Courtesy of Le Quan Turner

Southwest resident Le Quan Turner has traveled across the world, including both the North and South Poles.

excursions, including the Antarctic Plunge, where she braved water temperatures of just 2.4 degrees. She calls this experience "the most daring thing she has done in all her years as a solo world traveler."

For Le Quan, travel is not only about exploring new places but also about self-discovery and connecting with the people and cultures she encounters along the way.



## Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Christina Cerna

Winter 2025 brought several snowstorms and freezing temperatures to Southwest.

### Urban Garden Center on Capitol Hill

# Visualize Spring

warm days ahead



**March Hours:**  
M-F 8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Sat 9 am - 6 pm  
Sun 10 am - 5 pm

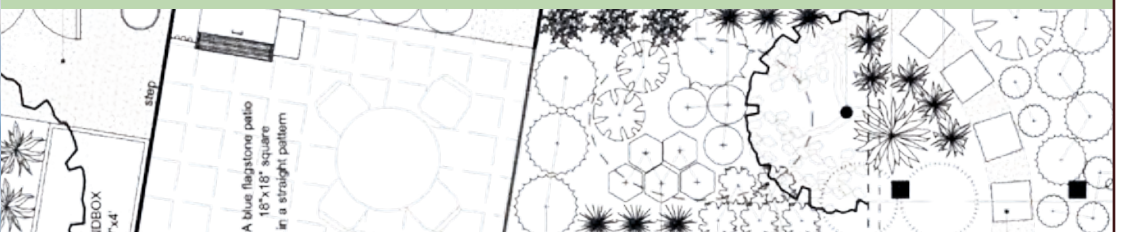
trees - shrubs - perennials - pottery - houseplants - seeds - soils - mulch - stone - tools - gifts - more

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We have a full-service landscaping team offering **on-site consultation, design, installation, & maintenance.** Whether you need to start from scratch or spruce up your existing look, Ginkgo Gardens will work closely with you to create a customized design for your home or business.

**Visit our website or call us today!**







## Young Readers

# The Five Finger Rule

BY KITTY FELDE

Learning how to read doesn't mean that we immediately possess the vocabulary and skills to read everything. At least not yet.

Library Media Specialist Jill Schechter has students who "look at the bright, shiny sparkly cover and go and pick up a book that is much too hard for them." She uses the "5 Finger Rule." She opens the book and asks the student to read a page to her. "See how many words on the page you don't know," she tells them, "and if you don't know more than five words, that's not a good book for you."

Some argue that reading is a process of making sense out of the whole paragraph. But for a brand

new reader, a paragraph of unfamiliar words can stomp on that new-found enthusiasm for reading.

So what do you do if the child is wedded to that particular book?

Take it home. Read it together. And have a backup book that you know they can read. Reading shouldn't make us feel stupid. It should inspire us to pick up the next book. And the next. And the next...

*Kitty Felde is author of the forthcoming middle grade mystery "Snake in the Grass." It takes us backstage at the Congressional Baseball Game as our 10-year-old detective investigates who's leaving snakes in the gym bags of lawmakers.*

## Sounds of Southwest

BY FREDO VASQUEZ

A selection of concerts coming to Southwest's music venues.

### Post Sex Nachos (Alternative) -

Formed at the University of Missouri, this up-and-coming band aims to make people dance with their groovy sounds full of synths and guitars. The band is currently touring to promote its fourth and most mature album, Prima/Vera. For a taste, listen to "Talk About It," the band's most streamed song so far. March 8, Pearl Street Warehouse. Tix \$21.00

### Amaria (R&B)

Tampa native Amari has a modern sound that builds on the mellow yet engrossing aspects of neo-soul. Her music features a sultry blend of smooth vocals and mellow production. For a taste of her delicate vocals, listen to her 2020 song "Twilight." March 11, Union Stage. Tix \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show.

### Madeline (Pop)

Rising pop singer Madeline describes her genre as "Mary Poppins core", blending whimsical musical theater with early 2000s pop. Her hit "Dopamine" is a good example of her style and ability to keep the audience engaged on social media, releasing English and French versions

of the song as well as a version that combines both languages at the same time. March 18, Pearl Street Warehouse. Tix \$20-\$30

### Lane 8 (Electronic)

American DJ Daniel Goldstein, a.k.a Lane 8, comes to Southwest to promote his latest album, Childish. By raising his children, Lane 8 was inspired to create expansive yet nostalgic melodies that invite listeners into a world that's both playful and deeply emotional. March 29, The Anthem. Tix \$53-\$78. No video or photo allowed; attendees will be required to lock their phone into Yondr pouches.

### Underground Springhouse (Funk/Rock)

This jam band from Atlanta combines elements of reggae, country, and funk to create a laid back sound to transport the audience to their favorite tiki bar. If you are curious, you can listen to their song "Joyfell" or play one of their live albums available on Apple Music. March 29, Pearl Street Warehouse. Tix \$20-\$30

All shows are subject to cancellation. As of this writing, all shows have available tickets. If you attended any of the shows highlighted in this column or wish to suggest upcoming shows for future columns, email editor@southwester.com and give us your feedback.



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

The Washington Spirit return to Audi Field this spring.

# Washington Spirit Gears Up for New Season at Audi Field

BY JOSÉPHINE DEMOS

March brings the return of the Washington Spirit to Audi Field in Southwest DC. The Spirit reached the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) final last season, finishing second in the league after winning both of their home playoff games.

The team garnered nationwide attention during their run to the championship game, creating new fans and invigorating old ones. The Spirit sold out Audi Field twice during their postseason run. The crowds were made up of more than 19,000 fans at both games, drawing Southwest locals and other Washingtonians. These numbers represent monumental growth in the support of women's soccer in DC. The attendance at the NWSL Quarterfinals in 2021 was around 5,379 fans - this past year more than tripled that.

The numbers don't just represent moments of victory and opportunistic support. The endurance of the community's support was felt during October's Fan Appreciation Night, where fans bundled up and gathered outside Audi to hear from their favorite players, despite the championship loss a week earlier. Win or lose, rain or shine, fans show up to support their team. The Spirit have gotten the attention of DC locals, and they're not set to lose it any time soon.

In advance of the regular season, the Washington squad will go up against the Orlando Pride in the Challenger's Cup, a hotly anticipated rematch of last season's championship game. What

could have the potential to be a sour reminder of the team's loss against the Florida team is also an opportunity for redemption for the Spirit.

In fact, the Spirit are well positioned to reach their full potential in the 2025 season. The team will start their season with Head Coach Jonatan Giráldez for the first time. The Spanish coach, who previously led Barcelona Femeni to repeated and historic success, only joined the Spirit mid-season in 2024. Additionally, star players who suffered season-ending injuries last year are likely to be added back into the playing mix. And to join them, the club announced the signing of Japanese midfielder Narumi Miura, who is coming off an impressive season with the North Carolina Courage. New rookies, who have been a strong suit for the Spirit in the past, have also been announced. Fans have good reason to be excited for this upcoming season.

The Spirit's 26 regular season matches will be played between late March and early November, with half the matches to be held at Audi Field in Buzzard Point. Locals will have the opportunity to experience exciting rematches of last year's best games. Audi Field will also host internationally renowned stars like Tamwa Chawinga and Barbara Banda as they face off against the Spirit with their respective teams.

Tickets for home games are available for purchase online and at the stadium. Streaming options are available for all 26 games.

# Southwester Community Calendar | March 2025

Please check the web references or telephone numbers in the listings for details  
Southwest Neighborhood Library events are at <https://tinyurl.com/5n8c929r>



SW Library  
Events

**SAT 1, 1:00-3:00 P.M. THINKING ABOUT JAZZ- Rhythms of Resistance and Resilience:** How Black Washingtonians used Music and Sports in the Fight for Equality. Join us for a riveting discussion and documented footage on how music and sports have played a central role in the lives of African Americans. Free to the public. All Invited! Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**SUN 2, 5:30 P.M., SOLEMN VESPERS, The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** in the Church. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 501 6<sup>th</sup> St. SW. [www.stdominicchurch.org](http://www.stdominicchurch.org)

**MON 3, 10:30 - 11:00 A.M., FAMILY STORY TIME,** is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Ages 0 - 5. Southwest Library

**MON 3, 3:30-4:30 P.M., SOLVE THE PUZZLE MYSTERY.** Solve the mystery of several 3D puzzles in the STEAM Lab! Ages 5+. Southwest Library

**MON 3, 7:00 P.M., ANC 6D -ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING.** Please contact the office at 6d@anc.dc.gov if you wish to have a Zoom link to view the Admin meeting

**TUES 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 P.M., GAME ON: Adults & Seniors.** Play classic board games, checkers, Uno, dominos, backgammon, and more in this fun two-hour event. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**WED 5, 6:00-7:00 P.M., GET REAL: NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB.** Discuss *A Quantum Life: My Unlikely Journey from the Streets to the Stars* by Hakeem Oluseyi and Joshua Horwitz with fellow nonfiction readers. Place a hold or pick up a copy at Southwest Library. Ages 18+

**WED 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:30 P.M., KIDS/TWEENS LEGO Club.** Build with LEGOs and meet new friends for an hour. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Ages 5-12. Southwest Library

**THURS 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 2:00 P.M., BABY PLAY TIME.** Meet new friends at baby play time! Southwest Library

**THURS 6, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M., COFFEE & CONVERSATION.** Join casual conversation with other library users and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and other light refreshments are provided. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**THURS 6, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M., LET'S PLAY SPADES.** Play this trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks in each hand in this fun, two-hour event. Ages 13+. Southwest Library

**THURS 6, 6:30 P.M. LENTEN LABYRINTH WALK.** Join us for a meditative labyrinth walk with music and prayers. Free to the public. All Invited! Westminster Church office at: [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com)

**FRI 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, MID-ATLANTIC DHARMA CELEBRATION, Kadampa Meditation Center.** The Mid-Atlantic Dharma Celebration is a very special annual event that connects practitioners around the Mid-Atlantic region. This incredible weekend of practical teachings, powerful meditations, and energizing empowerment is an event not to be missed. If you are new to Buddhism, the Celebration weekend provides a perfect opportunity to gain a deeper understanding and experience of Buddha's teachings. Everyone is welcome! **Kadampa Meditation Center**, 1200 Canal St SW. For more details about this event please visit: <https://midatlanticdharmaceleb>

**SAT 8, 9:00-11:55 A.M., SATURDAY MASS AND**

**JUBILEE RETREAT.** Blessed Carlo Acutis and the Hope of the Eucharist. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 501 6<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. (202) 554-7863. [www.stdominic-church.org](http://www.stdominic-church.org)

**SAT 8, 4:00-5:00 P.M., PAPER ROCKET CRAFT.** Join us in the children's room to make fun paper rockets and learn about women in space! Ages 0-12. Southwest Library

**SAT 8, 7:00 P.M., FAITH & FILM** monthly zoom presentations every 2nd Saturday. Join the Faith and Film Club to view and discuss timely and thought-provoking films. Club members will receive film titles, summaries and zoom link: Contact Westminster Church office at: [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com). All Invited

**SUN 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00-2:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH,** Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for stitching and community. Basic instruction available for beginners. Want a reminder? Please email [abigail.hargeaves@dc.gov](mailto:abigail.hargeaves@dc.gov). Ages 13+. Southwest Library

**MON 10, 10:30-11:00 A.M., Music and Movement.** Join us for a children's dance party! Ages 0 - 5. Southwest Library

**MON, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:30 P.M., Explore the World through a Microscope.** Explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a microscope for this fun, one-hour event. Ages 5+. Southwest Library

**TUES 11 & 25, 6:30-7:30 P.M., KOMEN TOASTMASTERS** Komen Toastmasters meets via Zoom. Please email us at [KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com](mailto:KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com) a few days before the meeting for the Zoom link. We are a public speaking and leadership club affiliated with Toastmasters International. We were founded to help people advocate on issues related to breast cancer, but we are now open to all

**WED 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm: SIT & STITCH.** Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at the library. Please note: No instructor available on Wednesday sessions. Ages 13+. Southwest Library

**FRI, 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-4:00 P.M., Friday Movie: STATELESS.** In 2013, the Dominican Republic's Supreme Court stripped citizenship of anyone with Haitian parents, rendering 200,000 people stateless. Rosa Iris forms a campaign to defend their citizenship. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**TUES 18, 7:00 P.M - ANC 6D BUSINESS MEETING.** Please contact the office at [6d@anc.dc.gov](mailto:6d@anc.dc.gov), if there is a concern you'd like to raise at a business meeting. Also submit a 3-minute maximum transcript of your community concern at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Link to join and draft agenda will be posted prior to the meeting on <https://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/>

**TUES 18, 6:30-7:30 P.M., OFF SCRIPT!: Celebrity Memoir Book Club.** Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**WED 19, 12:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.,** Everyone is invited to join us in the **CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH with the Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter 4751.** Luncheon Meeting and Speaker Series. At 12:00 noon Women's History Month Luncheon Meeting and Speaker Series. PROGRAM-A Community Conversation With **Council Member Anita Bonds.** Everyone is welcome to join us and learn about legislation, programs and initiatives in support of and benefitting adults age

50 and over and all of the residents of Washington, D.C., Location: River Park Mutual Homes Charles Goodman Common Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW, Street Parking available and Waterfront Metro, (Green Line) two blocks away. Bus #74 stops in front of the River Park Delaware Avenue Gate. Lunch Available: COST: \$5.00. A vegetarian lunch will also be available. Masking is optional but strongly encouraged. We will also provide masks for attendees. For further information contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, [bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com) or 202-554-0901. Thank you for your continued support of our chapter programs.

**THURS 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:00pm: BABY LAP TIME.** These 20 - 30-minute story times are specially designed for infants from birth until they begin walking, along with their grownups! Southwest Library

**THURS 20, 3:00-5:00 P.M., SCRABBLE FOR ADULTS.** Stimulate your mind and meet new people while playing your favorite word game. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**FRI 21, 1:00-4:00 P.M., FRIDAY MOVIE: Slaying the Dragon: Media Stereotypes of Asian & Asian American Women.** Slaying the Dragon is a comprehensive look at media stereotypes of Asian and Asian American women since the silent era. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**SAT 22, 1:00-3:00pm: PICTURE THIS! Free Professional Headshots** Need a new professional photo of yourself for job hunting or professional media profiles? Get a free headshot at the library! Walk-ins only, email required. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**SAT 22, 2:00-5:00 P.M. RETURNED CITIZEN ASSISTANCE NETWORK (RCAN)** viewing/discussion on the documentary film "Daughters." Four young girls prepare for a special Daddy Daughter Dance with their incarcerated fathers, as part of a unique fatherhood program in a Washington, D.C. jail. Free to the public. All Invited! Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**SAT 22, 4:00-5:00 P.M., PAPER FLOWER WREATH CRAFT.** Join us in the children's room to celebrate spring by making cute paper wreaths featuring flowers and butterflies! Ages 0-12. Southwest Library

**SUN 23, 11:00 A.M.-Noon, SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICE** DEDICATED TO Returned Citizen Assistance Network (RCAN). All Invited! Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**MON 24, 6:30-7:30 P.M., BRIEF ENCOUNTERS BOOK CLUB.** Join us as we get acquainted with the works of authors you've heard of but want to know better! March's selection: *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. Place a hold or pick up a copy at Southwest Library. Ages 18+

**MON 24, 7 - 8:30 P.M. SWNA Community Meeting.** Join us for a conversation on digital empowerment. Arena Stage, Mead Center for the Performing Arts, Molly Smith study. For more information, contact Jenelle Leonard [jleopard@digitalequity.us](mailto:jleopard@digitalequity.us).

**THURS 27, 5:00-7:00 P.M., THE WILD ROBOT SCREENING.** Join us in celebrating the Environmental Film Festival with a screening of *The Wild Robot*, about a shipwrecked robot who learns about his new environment and its inhabitants. Rated PG. All ages. Southwest Library

See "Calendar," page 15

# CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

**FRI 28, 1:00-3:00pm: FRIDAY MOVIE: WICKED,** Elphaba, a misunderstood young woman, and Galinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

**FRI 28, 1:30-3:00 P.M., JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY'S CHANGEMAKERS EXPO: Pathways to Success,** a powerful youth development event designed to inspire and guide our students as they explore their future pathways. Light refreshments will be provided. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to share your personal story of success and career journey with our students. We are looking for community members from various pathways, including **college, military, vocational careers, and apprenticeships,** to engage with students and provide insight into different opportunities available to them after high school and beyond. Your participation can make a meaningful difference in shaping the aspirations of our students, helping them see the many possibilities ahead. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the form linked [here](#). **We would be honored to have you join us for this impactful event.** If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your time and consideration—we look forward to welcoming you to the Changemakers Expo! **Jefferson Middle School Academy, 801 7th Street, SW**

**SAT 29, 12:00-3:00 P.M. DC BLACK HISTORY MONTH HEALTH FAIR.** Join us for health panel discussions, information tables and health screening. Free to the public. All Invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

## WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.** Mondays: Informed; Tuesdays: Life Saver Big Book; Wednesdays: New Beginners; Thursdays: Out to Lunch; Fridays: T.G.I.F. at Noon. (St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW) or Wednesdays: Creative Arts, 7:00 (St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St SW). This fellowship is open to all men and women who desire to recover from alcoholism. You will be welcome; for more <https://aa-dc.org/meetings/t-g-i-f>

**BLUES MONDAYS, 6:00-9:00 P.M.,** Various Blues musicians and singers are featured each Monday. \$10 cover and food for sale, (cash/credit card accepted). Schedule at Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/blue-monday-schedule>.

**BREAD FOR LIFE - BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M.** Free breakfast every Sunday morning beginning at 8:00 A.M., St A's offers a free hot breakfast to go. Our breakfast includes eggs, cheese grits,

sausage, juice and a pastry. If you would like to volunteer with Bread for Life, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen manager, for the program at [thor081828@hotmail.com](mailto:thor081828@hotmail.com). Visit our website at [www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life](http://www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life). Please come pick up a hot breakfast at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, the rear door is located at 6th St & Maine Ave. SW

**BUILDING BLOCKS, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 A.M.,** Come explore constructive play with us! Children birth to 5 and their caregivers are invited to a special early literacy play date themed around the building, knocking down, and building back up again. Questions about events may be directed to [southwestlibrary@dc.gov](mailto:southwestlibrary@dc.gov) or (202) 724-4298. Caregivers must accompany children under 9 years old. Southwest Library

**CHURCH CLEANING, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 9:35 A.M.** St. Dominic Church. [www.stdominicchurch.org/](http://www.stdominicchurch.org/)

**DORCAS CLOTHING CLOSET, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 3:00-5:00 P.M.** Donate gently worn coats, jackets, winter clothing, and footwear. **Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St., SW.** Enter the basement, by the white gate, across from the SW Public Library

**ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS-DC Rocks Rehearsals. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M., DC Rocks Rehearsals.** For more information, contact: <https://encorecreativity.org/group/dc-rocks> Westminster Presbyterian Church

**GAME TIME. Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 P.M.,** Play some of your favorites in the Children's Room after school. Ages 5 - 12. Southwest Library

**GODLY PLAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, Sundays 11:00 A.M.- Noon.,** Ages 4-12. Fun sessions including videos—and interactive activities about the life and teachings of Jesus. Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**HYBRID ADULT EDUCATION CLASS, Sundays 10:00-11 A.M.,** Led by Rev. Dr. Alice Bellis (Howard University) and Jeff Nicoll (author of Augustine's Problem: Impotence and Grace). Westminster Church. To register, contact: [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com). FREE. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**HYBRID SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE, Sundays, 11:00 A.M.-Noon.** All welcome to share in inspiring worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6:00-9:00 P.M.** Various Jazz musicians and singers are featured each Friday. \$10. Admission & Food for Sale (c/cc accepted). Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**JOB SEEKERS, Mondays, 1:00-2:00 P.M.** Stop by for this drop-in clinic where we answer your questions and provide guidance and assistance to job seekers in their search. Age 13+ Southwest Library

**KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Weekly Drop-**

**In Meditation Classes.** Tuesdays: 6:00 -6.30 P.M., Thursdays: 7:15-8.30 P.M., Every week Resident Teacher Kadam Michelle Gauthier guides meditations and offers teachings to help you to reduce your stress and anxiety and to increase your peace of mind and resilience. **Everyone welcome!** <https://meditation-dc.org/thursday-evenings/> Sundays: 10:00-11:00 A.M. Every week Buddhist Teacher Sanema Naomi Hardrick guides meditations and offers teachings to help you deal with everyday stress and to assist you in having a more peaceful mind. Everyone welcome! <https://meditation-dc.org/sunday-mornings/> 1200 Canal St, SW.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7-8:00 P.M.** Contact Westminster Presbyterian Church for more information at [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com)

**RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTEIN PANTRY, 2nd Sundays, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.**

All are welcome! For more details contact [rsbc@riverside.org](mailto:rsbc@riverside.org). Riverside Baptist Church, 699 Maine Ave SW, <https://riversidedc.org/>

**SEATED YOGA, Mondays and 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. \$5.00 donations suggested. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Any questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilson, [wilsonpj108@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonpj108@gmail.com)

**SENSORY PLAYTIME. Fridays, 10:30-11:30 A.M.,** Join us in the Children's Room every Friday for fun sensory play. Birth-5, Southwest Library

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sunday services. 9:30 A.M.** with fellowship and conversation for the Coffee Hour. 666 Water Street S.W., (202) 554-3222 [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org)

**SWAN: SOUTHWEST AL ANON, Tuesdays, 7-8:00 P.M.,** This fellowship is open to all those affected by a loved one's drinking. **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church** <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting>

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB (WSCC) meets at 7:00 P.M.,** on the **First and Third Wednesdays** of every month at **Christ United Methodist Church**, 300 Eye Street, SW. Visitors are always welcome to take part in our meetings. Ring the church's doorbell at the Eye St. entrance to enter the meeting. <https://www.dcstampclub.org/>

**ZOOM RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M.,** Discuss timely issues on Jesus and Social Justice. For Zoom link, contact: [rbswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:rbswestminster@gmail.com)

**VIEW OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT WWW.SWNA.ORG**

Submit Calendar events to [calendar@the-southwester.com](mailto:calendar@the-southwester.com) by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.



Courtesy of Nasdaq

## GOOD Rings Projects Opening Bell

On February 7, Darius Baxter, CEO of Southwest-based nonprofit GOODProjects, traveled to Wall Street in New York City to ring the opening bell of the Nasdaq market. The occasion honored GOODProjects' work empowering local youth and their families to lead fulfilling, poverty-free lives while fostering a mindset that enables them to thrive within their communities. Darius is a new member of the Board of Directors of SWNA.



## SWBID Celebrates Women’s History Month by Thanking our Managing Director

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, the SWBID is filled with immense pride and gratitude to have Lexie Albe as our Managing Director. Lexie is not just a leader; she is a visionary, a trailblazer, and the very embodiment of the spirit and essence of Southwest. Her unwavering dedication, tireless work ethic, and profound commitment to our community have transformed the neighborhood and inspired us all.

Lexie has spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives that have reshaped the fabric of Southwest. From the vibrant 4th Street Underpass Murals and rebranding overhaul to collaborating with the Department of Parks and Recreation to create the Town Center Parks, Lexie has consistently demonstrated her ability to turn vision into reality. Her thoughtful touches, like placing iconic red rocking chairs at the Duck Pond, have added charm and character to our public spaces. At the same time, her relentless efforts to secure funding for the Mobility Innovation District have positioned Southwest as a hub for forward-thinking urban development.



One of Lexie’s most remarkable qualities is her ability to listen to and empower the community.

Through initiatives like the Pocket Change program, she has created opportunities for residents to actively participate in placemaking, ensuring that the neighborhood reflects the voices and aspirations of those who call it home. Beyond that, Lexie has always made the community her number-one priority by bringing folks together through events. Her collaborations with prestigious institutions like the Hirshhorn Museum have bridged the gap between art and community, bringing world-class public art to our streets and fostering a sense of pride and belonging.

Lexie’s strength and resilience are unparalleled. She faces the most uphill battles with grace, determination, and an unshakable belief in the potential of Southwest. Her leadership is not just about achieving results; it’s about inspiring others to believe in what’s possible. She is the leader people seek in all cases—a trusted guide, a passionate advocate, and a tireless champion for progress.



As we honor the contributions of women this month, Lexie Albe stands as a shining example of what it means to lead with courage, compassion, and conviction. She has not only improved our neighborhood but has also strengthened the bonds that unite us as a community. We are profoundly grateful for her leadership and proud to have her at the helm as we continue to build a brighter future for Southwest.

Thank you, Lexie.