



## Safeway Celebrates Grand Re-Opening



Courtesy of Perry Klein

In late July, the Safeway at 4th Street and M Street SW publicly recognized its extensive renovation. In addition to a ribbon-cutting and giveaways, the store offered contributions from the Safeway Foundation to neighborhood organizations.

BY BETH HALL

Over the last year, customers have noticed changes and improvements to the Safeway at Fourth Street and M Street SW. On the morning of July 26, Safeway held a Grand Re-Opening to celebrate completion of the remodeling and introduce neighbors to some of the new additions. There was a large turnout.

Safeway took the occasion to present several large grants to area organizations including the Capital Area Food Bank, the National Foundation for Cancer Research, Medstar Georgetown Medi-

cal Center, Children's National Medical Center, Arlington Free Clinic and DC Central Kitchen. Together, the grants totaled \$225,000.

Safeway also has a relatively new manager, Steve Newman. He is not a stranger to the neighborhood, as he was also here to close down the old Safeway in 2010. Newman is on site daily.

"We are particularly proud of our sushi, enhanced floral selection, larger produce area, hot bar, taco bar, made to order sandwiches, expanded beer and wine and charcuterie section," Newman said. Among other highlights are fresh

oysters in the seafood department.

According to Newman, the 125-person staff is a mixture of veterans and newcomers.

Safeway is pleased to have a strong pharmacy team in place, under the direction of Peter Mina. "The transition when CVS closed was a challenge, but everything is running smoothly," Newman said.

Newman noted that security efforts have had an impact and lead to a decrease in shoplifting. He urged neighbors who have not explored the significant changes in the store to come take a look.



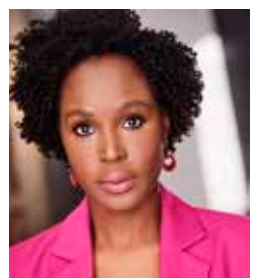
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## DC Circulator to Phase Out Beginning October 1

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) announced that DC Circulator bus service, including the Eastern Market to L'Enfant Plaza route that runs through Southwest DC, will phase out of service.

Service reductions will begin October 1, and service will end on December 31. In a July press release, DDOT cited DC's 2025 budget as the reason for the change, and noted that employees were provided with written notification of the planned



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

See "Circulator," page 14 The DC Circulator will cease service due to budget cuts.

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Donations support outreach and education strategies for young girls and link low-income, uninsured and underinsured women and men with information, screening diagnostic services and counseling. Donate online at [www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org).

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When donating by mail, please make check or money order payable to the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and mail to:

**Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund**



400 "I" Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
[thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org](mailto:thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org)  
[www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org)  
(202) 251-1639

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# Southwest's 5000 Food Ministry Forges On

BY MARVA JENNINGS

The 5000 Food Ministry of Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC), located at 900 4th Street SW, has distributed non-perishable food since 2020 in service to the Southwest community. The ministry was started to address the lack of food pantries in Southwest and, in recognition of the pandemic's impact on the growing food insecurity in the neighborhood, and with permission from the Mayor's Office and the development of safety protocols, the 5000 Food Ministry continued and grew significantly. Based on the biblical story of Jesus miraculously feeding 5000 people with two fishes and five loaves, this ministry served 3,265 clients in 2023. In the first half of 2024, 1,577 clients have already been served.

Thanks to a partnership with the Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) pod, the 5000 Food Ministry has expanded its mission. Even with the pod closing at the end of August 2024, CUMC is committed to providing bags of non-perishable food and basic cleaning supplies twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Frozen items, pastries, and fresh produce are also distributed when possible.

The SYC/W6MA popular clothing distribution service, now renamed the Dorcas Clothing Closet, named

after a disciple of Christ who was always doing good and helping those in need, will also continue and will be open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please enter through the white gate at the entrance closest to the Southwest Library on the alley parallel to Maple Drive, across from the new Westerly Apartment and the Apple Tree school. Donations of gently used clothing will also be accepted during these hours.

Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) has occupied the corner of 4th and I Street SW since 1961 when the merger of two churches — Gorsuch Memorial and Lewis Memorial— was the embodiment of an interracial worshiping community during the height of the civil rights movement. The unique mid-century building also showcases some unusual architectural and interior design features.

Throughout the years, CUMC has engaged the community through social justice initiatives, including advocating for affordable housing, supplying food to DC area shelters, serving as the SW location for the SHARE program, providing the first farmer's market in SW on the front steps of the Church with the Dreaming Out Loud organization and a host of other individual and group projects.

Volunteers to support the min-

istry are always needed, and roles include:

- Helping to bring in pounds of food delivered to the church by a food bank, once a month on the second Thursday of the month, starting at noon.
- Packing individual and family food (for households with kids) bags every second and fourth Fridays of the month from 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
- Setting up the distribution area in front of the church on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Distributing the bags of food and produce on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To volunteer, send an email to [cumcdc@gmail.org](mailto:cumcdc@gmail.org), Subject Line: 5000 Volunteer.

Visit our website, <https://christchurchinthecity.org/>, to contribute financially to the 5000 Food Ministry and learn more about CUMC's ministries and our Pastor, Keisha R. Dukes. Sunday services start at 10:15 a.m. and all are welcome.

A special tribute and heartfelt thanks go out to Karen McManus, the heart and soul of SYC/W6MA. We also thank the Serve Your City/Mutual Aid organization for their pledge to continue their wonderful partnership and ongoing support.

# Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Celebrates Youth for Back to School

BY KATRINA AVILA

At Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA), our enduring mission remains steadfast: to ensure that Black and Brown youth and families across DC have access to the resources they need—resources that others already have. From after-school enrichment and tutoring programs to vital community support, SYC/W6MA has been instrumental in ensuring community safety and providing essential provisions to our neighbors. Our ongoing partnership with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) and collaboration with grassroots organizations serving Black and Brown communities are key contributors to these efforts.

SYC/W6MA is always seeking innovative ways to uplift our community, leading a variety of initiatives



throughout the year. From distributing food to our neighbors to organizing supply drives for the youth we serve, these efforts are just a glimpse of the comprehensive support we provide. The unwavering donations and support from our community

make these initiatives possible, and we deeply appreciate everyone who contributes to our cause.

## Celebrating Our Youth: The Fifth Annual #WeKeepUsSafe Back-to-School Bash

Thanks to the dedication of our supporters and community partners, the Fifth Annual #WeKeepUsSafe Back-to-School Bash (B2SB) was a tremendous success! We distributed over 2,000 backpacks and 500 digital devices to Black and Brown students across all eight wards. The event, held at the end of August, was a joyous celebration filled with families, fun, and food as we kicked off the 2024-2025 school year. Your continued solidarity is crucial in ensuring that Black and Brown K-12 youth across DC have the tools and resources they need to succeed this school year. To learn more and contribute to providing

See "Ward 6," page 15



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Audi Field



# Summer College-Educational Tour for DC Storm Students

BY JAY SHORTER  
DIRECTOR, DC STORM, INC.

Over the weekend of June 21 to June 23 the non-profit organization DC STORM, Inc. (Students Taught Organization and Respect Mentored) traveled to the historical Hampton Roads Area of Virginia. The travel group consisted of fourteen boys who attend Jefferson Academy Middle School and three adult mentors. The generous grant fund from the Friends of Southwest DC gave the members of DC STORM, Inc. the opportunity for a great learning experience.

The group visited the campuses of Hampton University, Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University. Hampton University provided a strong educational and an important cultural opportunity with the viewing of the Emancipation Oak Tree. This historical landmark was the site of the first Southern reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The historical value of the tree did not stop the boys from climbing on it. The group visited and learned about the



Courtesy of the Author

DC STORM's trip highlights included a stop at the Casemate Museum and posing with real cannon balls.

Casemate Museum in Fort Monroe. The museum covered the history of the defense of the southern part of the east coast in the 1600's from the British naval invasion and later held Jefferson Davis as a prisoner after the American Civil War. The

kids really enjoyed the site of the cannons, cannon balls, and other ammunition during those areas of history. Fort Monroe originally guarded the navigation channel between the Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads.

In Norfolk, in addition to walking around the campuses of Old Dominion and Norfolk State Universities, the big attraction was the Nauticus Science Museum which offered a lot of hands-on activities.

See "DC Storm," page 15



## Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders: Youth Leadership Institute Scholars Meet Howard University Dean Phyllicia Rashad

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® was founded at Howard University on January 15, 1908, and is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women. Alpha Beta Upsilon Omega Chapter is a graduate chapter of the sorority, chartered on June 26, 2022, to serve the residents of Southeast and Southwest Washington, DC.

When it involves the youth, Alpha Beta Upsilon Omega Chapter sets a high standard. Seventeen middle schoolers participated in a 6-month youth-led program held at Riverside Baptist Church in Southwest. Students in the program either attended school or lived in the Southeast or Southwest quadrants of the city. The highly interactive leadership development program was free to students and consisted of more than 10 hours of programming led by the partici-



Courtesy of Cherise Cole

Southwest middle schoolers visited Howard University in May as they developed their leadership skills and artistic expression.

pants. This is the chapter's second cohort. Youth-led topics included growth mindset, goal setting, and career exploration, to name a few. The program included a community service component where the students spent their morning picking up trash on M Street in Southwest.

The topic on civic and social awareness gained the scholars an opportunity to meet with Howard University Dean Phyllicia Rashad, who is best known for her role as Claire Huxtable on the television sitcom "The Cosby Show," (1984-1992) which earned her two Primetime Emmy Award nominations in 1985 and 1986. Rashad was most recently Dean of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at Howard University, an institution renowned for its rich history and commitment to excellence in education. The students researched civil rights events and crafted personal artistic interpretations of the pivotal moment

See "Leadership," page 15



# Southwest DC Academy Wraps Up Successful Summer Program

BY ERIC SMITH, CO-FOUNDER,  
SOUTHWEST DC ACADEMY

The Southwest DC community continues to build on its transformational legacy, focusing on empowering youth through education, exposure, mentoring, and love. Southwest Academy DC (SWADC), located in the basement of Westminster Presbyterian Church, is continuing to do its part in this change for the second consecutive summer. SWADC recently concluded another successful summer, marked by a growing number of participants, an expanded curriculum, and increased support from local DC organizations.

Over seven weeks, SWADC's dedicated staff mentored and introduced young people to the world of IT, audio-video engineering, financial literacy, substance use disorder education, and various other topics. Through patient guidance and unwavering support, these young "ambassadors of goodwill" discovered and unlocked their potential. Each week, SWADC educated, exposed, and empowered



Courtesy of the Author

SWADC recently concluded another successful summer, marked by a growing number of participants, an expanded curriculum, and increased support from local DC organizations.

See "Program," page 16

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# Washington Spirit Hosts Arsenal W.F.C. in Historic International Friendly at Audi Field

BY FREDO VASQUEZ

On August 18, Audi Field witnessed a landmark event as the Washington Spirit faced off against Arsenal W.F.C. in a highly anticipated international friendly. This match marked the first time the Spirit hosted an international opponent at their home ground and was also part of Arsenal's inaugural tour in the United States.

The game drew a passionate crowd, eager to see the clash between these two prominent women's soccer teams. Arsenal started strong, with forward Alessia Russo making an immediate impact by scoring an early goal. Russo's clinical finishing put Arsenal ahead, showcasing why she is regarded as one of the top forwards in the game today.

Despite the early setback, the Washington Spirit demonstrated resilience and determination. The Spirit's persistence paid off at the end of the first half when forward Oulemata Sarr found the back of the net, leveling the score and reigniting the energy in the stadium.

The second half saw both teams battling intensely, with the Spirit holding their own against the visit-



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

Arsenal got the best of the Washington Spirit in a historic match at Audi Field.

ing Arsenal side. However, in the 74th minute, Russo struck again, securing her second goal of the match and ultimately sealing a 2-1 victory for Arsenal.

This match was also special for the Spirit as it marked the debut of Colombian international Leicy Santos. Santos, who recently joined the Spirit, showed flashes of brilliance in her first appearance, hinting at

the potential impact she could have on the team going forward.

While Arsenal emerged victorious, the match was more than just a scoreline. It was a celebration of women's soccer, bringing together fans from different parts of the world and setting the stage for more international encounters in the future. The game was a testament to the growing popularity and quality of women's soccer, leaving fans eager for more high-profile matches at Audi Field.



**WATERFRONT VILLAGE**

**Homes of the Southwest Waterfront**

Sunday, October 6, 2024 | 1:00 PM

Celebrate the amazing diversity of architecture and design in our wonderful community. Start at St. Augustine's Church and enjoy a walking tour of the special homes and views that make Southwest so special. Proceeds from this event support Waterfront Village, a local non-profit that provides older adults in SW and Navy Yard with opportunities to stay engaged and connected and offers volunteer services to those in need.

Visit [www.waterfrontvillagehometour.org](http://www.waterfrontvillagehometour.org) or use the QR code to learn more or to purchase your ticket today.



Founded in 1964, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) is the local volunteer civic organization in Near Southwest Washington, DC (zip code 20024). SWNA produces The Southwester, a monthly news publication.

**SWNA has a long tradition of holding community meetings**

**Youth Safety Forum  
September 23, 7 p.m. Arena Stage  
Watch [SWNA.ORG](http://SWNA.ORG) for more information.**

SWNA also has issue focused task forces. For example,

- The Education and Scholarship task force has been in place for 50 years. *Since inception, 632 scholarships totaling more than \$660,000 have been awarded to 277 neighborhood youth.*
- This year, SW Strong! – the SWNA emergency preparedness task force will focus on community outreach at the SW Farmers' Market and preparedness literature distribution through the SW community. The next talk, (TBD) will focus on pandemic preparedness planning in the city (yes, it could happen again)
- The Youth Activities Task Force nurtures young people 5 – 25. To learn about its impactful work, please visit <https://swna.org/swna/task-forces/youth-activities/>.
- SWNA's History Task Force Subcommittee on Black History works to identify, raise awareness, and educate about the accomplishments and achievements of prominent and notable Blacks and African Americans in our community.

**To learn more and get involved visit [www.SWNA.org](http://www.SWNA.org)**



**“Receiving a SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force scholarship opened doors I never imagined. College has been an incredible journey, and I feel so embraced and supported by SWNA ESTF and my Southwest DC community every step of the way.”**



*– Camille Norris, 2023 and 2024 SWNA Scholarship recipient*

**For more information and to donate**  
**[www.swnascholarship.org](http://www.swnascholarship.org)**



Your donation helps more than a few young scholars. It benefits all of us for generations to come.



**Southwest  
Neighborhood  
Assembly**



# Arena Stage Kicks Off New Season with Tony-Award Winning Production of Jaja's African Hair Braiding

By Sheila Wickouski

On September 6, a new era will begin at Southwest's Arena Stage. The first season programmed by new Artistic Director Hana S. Sharif will launch with the Tony-award winning comedy *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*. Written by celebrated Ghanaian-American playwright Jocelyn Bioh, the show is set in the pulsating heart of Harlem, and addresses the complexities of cultural identity, assimilation, and the pursuit of the American dream within the African immigrant community.

The show will run through October 13, and many performances will include special events for audiences. This includes discounted tickets for Southwest residents on September 10 and 21, ASL interpreted performances, Pride night, National Pan-Hellenic Council Divine Nine night, a civic dialogue around the CROWN Act and race-based hair discrimination, a marketplace for entrepreneurs and beauty enthusiasts, and the Howard University Homecoming kickoff.

The show's dialogue is brought to life through the influence of Dialect and Voice Coach Yetunde Felix-Ukwu. An actor herself, Yetunde most



Courtesy of Arena Stage

Yetunde Felix-Ukwu

recently appeared in Arena Stage's production of *Tempestuous Elements*. For *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, she worked with actors on the unique sounds and inflections needed for each character's voice.

Yetunde shared her perspective with *The Southwester* in an interview that has been lightly edited for clarity.

**The Southwester:** Your theatrical experience is on both sides of the curtain, as an actress and as part of the creative team as a dialect and vocal

coach. How would you say the two work together? How have your skills as a dialect coach assisted you as an actor?

**Yetunde Felix-Ukwu:** The journey of how I became both a dialect coach and an actor was quite organic. As a grad student studying acting, I was in a production where we had to learn an accent. My ears were already attuned to the sound changes of that accent, and I was hearing some discrepancies in what we were being coached to do. I approached the dialect coach about the discrepancies, and he graciously asked me to take over coaching the production, while I was acting in it. Since then, I've fully embraced the duality of my career as Actor and Dialect Coach. There is a great deal of trust required in the Actor-Dialect Coach relationship and I'd like to believe that actors trust me because we approach the work through a shared lens. Learning a new accent is incredibly important, but I approach my work as a Coach with a keen understanding of all the components floating around in an actor's head. When it's my time to be onstage, I have to remember to then practice what I preach in regard to vocal technique.

**SW:** What about this production

resonates with you the most? Is there something about it that is special (or personal) to you? What can you share about your experience in hair salons?

**YFU:** This production (along with everything else Jocelyn Bioh has written) resonates so deeply because as a child of African immigrants, so many of our experiences have not been represented in popular media until just recently. Hair is such a major theme in the lives of Black and African women, and the braid shop specifically, evokes such visceral feelings and memories in all of us. My aunt worked in a braid shop when she first immigrated from Nigeria. She worked alongside women from Sierra Leone, Senegal and Ivory Coast. When she would braid my hair, it often meant spending the entire day at the shop as she would squeeze me in between paying customers. What Jocelyn has written is such an authentic depiction of braid shops across the country. As a young girl I remember sitting in the chair and hearing the different languages and accents flying around the shop. To think that I get to help recreate that experience for the stage is quite humbling.

**SW:** Our voices and our hairstyles

See "New Season," page 14

arena stage

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# Disaster Preparedness Group Elects New Leaders

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

**O**n July 26, the coalition of DC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (DC VOAD) members elected former FEMA staffer and chair of a grassroots preparedness group SW Strong! Ben Curran as the new chair. VOAD members also voted Peggy Keller of We The People Community Health Care Workers and Rolando Delgado of SAMU First Response into office as treasurer and secretary.

The DC VOAD voting membership is comprised of several independent non-profit organizations that focus on promoting disaster prevention and preparedness in the District of Columbia. In addition, DC VOAD members partner with District government agencies to provide response and recovery support to disaster survivors, as needed and as feasible.

Members include the American Red Cross, Churches of Scientology Disaster Response, Crisis Clean Up, DC Amateur Radio Emergency Services, DC Baptist Disaster

Response, Green Cross Academy of Traumatology, Islamic Medical Association of North America, Islamic Relief USA, Operation BBQ, Operation Blessing, Reach Out America, SAMU First Response, St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services, SW Strong!, Team Rubicon, Tzu Chi Foundation, US Veteran Relief Corps, Ward 7 Resilience Hub, and We the People Community Health Care Workers. Additional groups are expected to join in the coming months.

With the increased frequency of devastating disasters in many parts of the country, our new DC VOAD leadership team is deeply committed to working with District government partners, civic associations, Business Improvement Districts, social service organizations, DC clubs, youth groups, and private sector partners to strengthen the “unity of effort” among these sectors and together to help build a disaster resilient city.



## FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

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**Take a moment to help a neighbor.**

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

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P.O. Box 44434, Washington DC 20026

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.*



Photo by Tricia Johnson

Waterfront Village celebrated National Senior Citizen day along with Colin Hall, First District Commander and Captain Paul Hrebenak at All Purpose Pizza on the Navy Yard waterfront.



The Resistance Bible Study Group at Westminster Church  
&

Indivisible Waterfront

are teaming up

Sunday 9/15 at Noon

to reach out to PA Voters with

non-partisan letters focused on health care.

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We look forward to seeing you!

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The Resistance Bible Study Group also extends an invitation to attend services at 11am.



# District Government Provides Update on Southwest Parks Renovation Projects

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In late July, the DC Department of General Services (DGS) and DC Parks and Recreation (DPR) provided an update on Ward 6 project improvements underway for local parks and recreation spaces.

Ongoing improvements in Southwest include:

- East Potomac Pool, 972 Ohio Drive, SW (Hains Point). Project vision entailed replacement of the pool, pool deck and pool house to deliver a state-of-the-art competitive aquatics facility.
  - Start Date: Winter 2018
  - Cost: \$14.3 million
  - Status: DGS reports deteriorating site conditions from significant and unforeseen groundwater intrusion made the continuation of the project safety and cost prohibitive. Deliberations about next steps continue, and DGS will follow up with the community once there is further direction for the project.



Courtesy of DPR

At a community meeting on July 18, District agencies presented the vision for a redesign of Randall Recreation Center and community pool.

See "Projects," page 19



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# KID'S CORNER

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](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com). Check out next month's issue for the answers!

## Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?



### Answers from August 2024 issue

**Differences:** The picture on the right has an extra person; there is a blue hat on a kid on the right; the picture on the right has a beach ball; the words are different; the balloons are different; the umbrella is different; the woman on the right side is a different size.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
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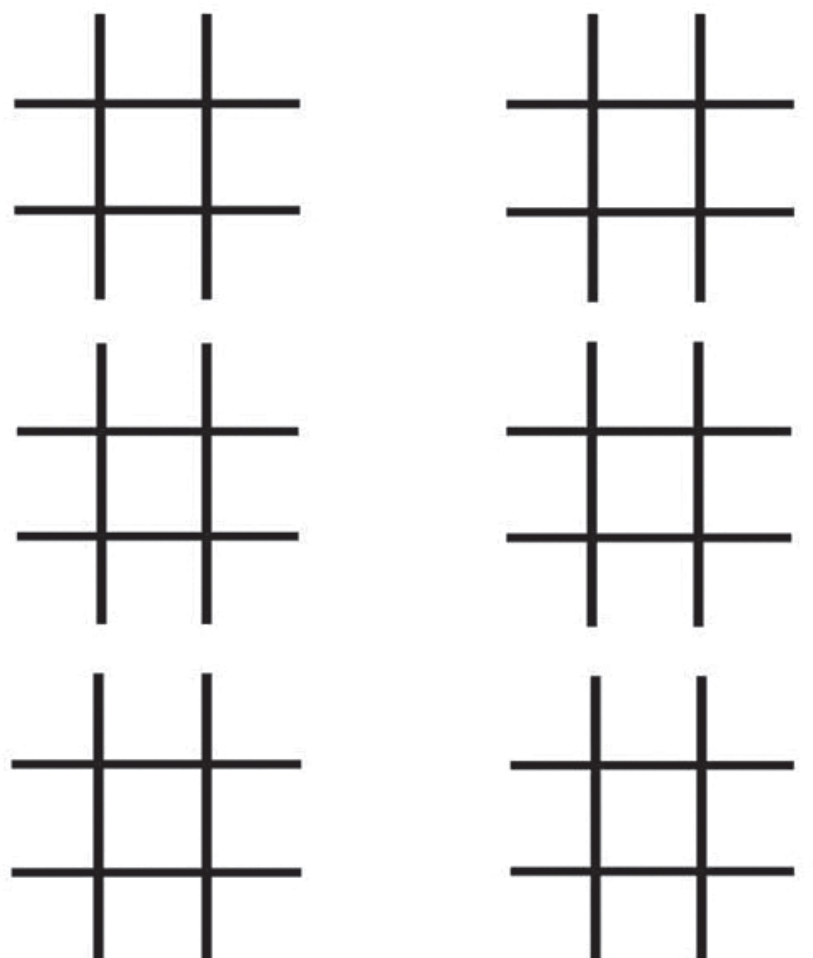
## WORD SEARCH: BACK TO SCHOOL!

C	Z	W	D	D	Z	T	S	L	I	M	B	L	G	M
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TEACHER  
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## TIC TAC TOE







# KID'S CORNER

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](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com). Check out next month's issue for the answers!

## Math Moment!

Can you solve these equations?

$150 + 150 =$

$10 \times 10 =$

$800 - 250 =$

$697 - 13 =$

$30 \times 80 =$

$8 \times 8 =$

$150 / 10 =$

$12 \times 12 =$

$35 + 25 =$

$80 / 10 =$

$9 \times 9 =$

$50 \times 50 =$

## Jokes!

Why couldn't the skeleton cross the road? (submitted by Ella)  
*Because he didn't have the guts for it!*

Why was the cucumber late to class?  
*Because he was in a pickle!*

Why are fish so smart?  
*Because they live in schools!*

Write Your Own Joke!

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If you would like to submit a joke to *The Southwester*, email it to [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com)

## Drawing Time!

*What would you like to draw?*





# The Conversations That Lead to Books

BY KITTY FELDE

I was at a surprise birthday party last weekend for a friend and found myself sitting next to a 12-year-old who wasn't a big fan of reading. He couldn't remember the last book he read. I was determined to find something he'd love. By the time the candles were blown out and the cake was cut, I found out he loved graphic novels - particularly fantasy - but he wasn't a Harry Potter fan.

Librarians at the American Library

Association's annual conference told me over and over again that you have to really interview a kid to get to know their reading interests.

McKena Wilkerson, a librarian with the Val Verde Unified School District in Perris, California says she always interviews kids to find out something about their personalities, and then matches the book to the kid. For the goofballs, she steers them toward James Patterson's "Jackie Ha-Ha" series or Mo Willems' pigeon books like "Don't Let the

Pigeon Drive the Bus!"

"If they're going for something a little more serious or spooky or adventurous," she says, "I'll do the 'I Survived' books. Those are always a good choice."

Jamie McCraw from the Surprise Public Library in Arizona says parents do their best interviewing on a hike or in a car. "The best conversations you can have with a kid," she says, "are always when you're not looking at each other."

But she does offer one caution about literary tastes. "I think you also have to be ready for it to change. In an instant." Your kid may love Pokemon today, but tomorrow they'll love sharks. "You've got to pivot," she says.

*Kitty Felde hosts the Book Club for Kids podcast. Her latest book, "Losing is Democratic: How to Talk to Kids About January 6th," is now available from Chesapeake Press with free curriculum.*

## Creating Your Own Mental Wellness Plan

BY SMITH CENTER FOR HEALING AND THE ARTS AND THE THELMA D. JONES BREAST CANCER FUND

Smith Center for Healing and the Arts and the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) partnered for an evening of healing on Wednesday, July 17. The evening, hosted via Zoom and live streamed via Facebook Live, offered information on the stress and anxiety that comes with a cancer diagnosis and tools to help create a mental wellness plan.

Smith Center Executive Director Lisa Simms Booth said, "We are thrilled that our annual tradition of joining our friend Thelma D. Jones and the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund continued for the sixth year. This year's convening aligned perfectly with our guiding mission of supporting the whole person on their cancer journey. We believe that taking care of one's mental health is just as important as one's physical health."

The evening featured Erin Price, Smith Center's Young Adult & Psychosocial Support Program Director. The presentation began with an overview of topics for discussion - the normal responses to a cancer diagnosis, the stress response, ways to cope, and building your coping plan.

Following the discussion of agenda, Price led a robust presentation about the definition of stress, the difference between stress and emotions, and the connection between the mind and body.

Price said to the group, "There is not one way to handle a cancer diagnosis. It is different for each

person." She then surveyed the group about how they handle stress and led them through a breathing/mindfulness exercise. The presentation continued by laying out coping skills and strategies for easing stress. At the end of the presentation, Price led a discussion of how to create your own mental wellness plan by asking attendees to write down the following: three stressors, three warning signs of mental distress, three self-care activities, three coping strategies to manage problems, and three people to call in times of stress and anxiety.

At the end of the presentation, the presenters shared about how to get support in applying these practices by utilizing programs offered by Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, as well as ways to find professional help. To bring this powerful program to the community residents in Southwest, a workshop in the spring is currently being planned by Smith Center and the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund.

For more information on Smith Center for Healing and the Arts and its programs, please visit [www.smithcenter.org](http://www.smithcenter.org) or call (202) 483-8600. For more information on the next meeting of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, please visit [www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org](http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org), email [thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org](mailto:thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org) or call (202) 251-1639. For more information about Cancer Choices, please visit [www.cancerchoices.org](http://www.cancerchoices.org).

## NEW SEASON

Continued from p. 8

are both highly personal and unique attributes. How do all the elements of a production, from vocals to costumes, stage designers and actors, work together to create characters that are true to life?

**YFU:** The collaborative nature is the most beautiful element of live theater. What we see on the stage is the synergistic creativity of dozens of artists and artisans. Audience members get to enjoy fully developed characters because the Lighting Designer has crafted a unique lighting combination specifically for that skin tone, that hair and that costume. The Costume Designer has crafted a costume that amplifies the essence of the character, but cooperates with choreography of the Actor. The Actor has created a vision for how they see the character moving through the world and I get to help them express those choices vocally. We are not taking in these

characters in a void, because the Scenic Designer has created a beautiful world for them to play and exist in. Don't even get me started on the stage management team and the production assistants. The audience is blessed with the culmination of a collaboration that allows each discipline to shine. If we've done a good job, it all feels nuanced and seamless.

**SW:** From your variety of theatrical experience, what advice would you give to students looking to find a spot for themselves in the theater?

**YFU:** Bop around. I remember being in school and sitting quietly next to the Sound Designer as they entered cues during a technical rehearsal. I did the same with my Lighting Designer friends as they discussed color theory. Don't be scared to poke around a discipline that is unfamiliar, because it may end up being interesting and informative to your area of focus. Having trouble choosing one area? Don't! I'm a testament to the fact that you can do more than one thing!

## CIRCULATOR

Continued from p. 1

service closure.

"We greatly appreciate the valuable service DC Circulator provided to the District over the past 18 years," Acting DDOT Director Sharon Kershbaum said in the same press release. "We are grateful for the employees who supported the program and the riders who chose Circulator as part of their commute."

As services wind down, DDOT says it will work with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to determine service levels to help reduce the impact to the public.

Effective October 1, 2024, the following route adjustments will be implemented:

- Termination of Rosslyn-Dupont Circle (RS-DP)
- Elimination of late-night service on Woodley Park-Adams Morgan (WP-AM) and Georgetown-Union Station (GT-US)
- Remaining routes will operate on 20-minute headways, a 10-minute increase from current arrival times.
- Woodley Park-Adams Morgan (WP-AM), Georgetown-Union Station (GT-US), Congress Heights-Union Station (CH-US), and Eastern Market - L'Enfant Plaza (EM-LP) routes will end service at 9 p.m. daily, rather than midnight. The National Mall route will continue to operate until 7 p.m. daily. Riders who need assistance navigating alternative travel options are encouraged to visit [wmata.com](http://wmata.com) and use the Trip Planner



## LEADERSHIP

*Continued from p. 4*

in preparation for the visit. Artistic expressions included poetry, skits, and monologues.

On May 8, 2024, the enthusiastic middle schoolers walked onto Howard University's campus prepared and poised. The expressions they had created for months were on the tip of their tongues, as they were appreciative of the opportunity to perform and gain leadership insights from one of the most respected figures in theater arts education. Rashad lauded the students for their performances and spent two hours having a spirit-filled discussion around leadership, social issues, and the impact students were making in their communities. Rashad conversed with each student, holding their hands, and reiterating their necessity to the future of our world. The interaction was not just a one-sided conversation; it was an engaging dialogue that allowed the middle schoolers to express their thoughts and aspirations. The students shared their own experiences

in leadership roles, whether it was through school clubs, community service, or personal projects. Rashad listened attentively, offering feedback and encouragement that resonated deeply with the young leaders.

The day concluded with a group photo, smiles all around, and a sense of accomplishment. The YLI students left Howard University not only with cherished memories but also with a renewed sense of purpose and motivation to pursue their dreams. The meeting with Dean Phylcia Rashad serves as a testament to the power of mentorship and the importance of providing young people with opportunities to connect with those who have paved the way. As these middle schoolers continue their journeys, they carry with them the leadership nuggets from one of the most influential figures in the arts, reminding them that the leaders of tomorrow are being shaped today.

Alpha Beta Upsilon Omega will be hosting its third cohort of YLI participants this fall. For more information, visit [www.akaabyo.org](http://www.akaabyo.org).

## DC STORM

*Continued from p. 4*

Telescopes, radar trackers, Morse Code devices, and the different types of artillery kept the students occupied. The kids also enjoyed climbing an obstacle course which ended with a sliding board. Docked outside of the museum is the USS Wisconsin Battleship. There DC STORM, Inc. members got an opportunity to see living quarters of the Navy, along with the workstations, long cannons, mess hall and what tools and technology were available to our Naval personnel.

The DC STORM, Inc. young men also had some fun things to do on the tour. They got to swim in the hotel swimming pool, play a little basketball and they spent time at a trampoline park. The funding support for this educational tour was made possible with the help of the Friends of Southwest DC. During the entire educational tour, the view of the Atlantic Ocean was incredible. This event will be remembered by the young men of DC STORM, Inc. for a long time thanks to Friends of Southwest DC.

## WARD 6

*Continued from p. 2*

these essential tools for a fantastic academic journey, please visit [serveyourcitydc.org/b2sb](http://serveyourcitydc.org/b2sb).

### Southwest Pod Closure and Continued Support

On August 28, SYC/W6MA's Southwest (SW) Pod at CUMC officially closed. However, our commitment to the community continues. We will continue to provide essential supplies such as diapers and feminine hygiene products to CUMC and food to their 5000 Food Ministry, which will maintain its food distributions on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 2:00 p.m. at CUMC (900 4th St SW). Additionally, we will keep supporting the James Creek Resident Council by providing food, diapers, and feminine hygiene products on a monthly basis. We are immensely grateful for the generosity and assistance that have been pivotal to our partnership with CUMC, highlighting the strength of solidarity and mutual support in Southwest.

### Support Our Work

Your financial contributions are essential to our continued efforts. When you donate online at [bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate](http://bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate), you help us significantly increase our support for CUMC's 5000 Food Ministry in addressing food access in Southwest. This allows us to obtain food from the Capital Area Food Bank, multiplying our impact compared to buying directly from stores.

### Stay Connected

For the latest updates on our programs and efforts across DC, please visit [serveyourcitydc.org](http://serveyourcitydc.org).



**PUT AN EXPERT ON YOUR SIDE AND SAVE \$\$\$**

Let's get together and discuss your Selling and Buying options in the neighborhood. Our real estate company has kept pace, adapting to the rapid growth and a changing economy while maintaining exact standards and integrity. This is why I am introducing the **"CASH BACK PROGRAM"**.

GET CASH BACK WHEN YOU USE REALTY PROS	
Purchase/Sales Price of Property	Amount of Cash Back
Up to \$99,999	\$400
\$100,000 - \$149,000	\$700
\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$975
\$200,000 - \$249,999	\$1,250
\$250,000 - \$299,999	\$1,500
\$300,000 - \$349,999	\$1,825
\$350,000 - \$399,999	\$2,100
\$400,000 - \$499,999	\$2,525
\$500,000 - \$649,999	\$3,225
\$650,000 - \$799,999	\$4,100
\$800,000 - \$999,999	\$5,000
\$1,000,000 - \$1,499,999	\$6,000
\$1,500,000 - \$1,999,999	\$7,000
\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999	\$8,000
\$3,000,000 - and above	\$9,000



Contact Reone Brown  
at [Reonebrown@gmail.com](mailto:Reonebrown@gmail.com)  
or call 202-374-2817

to register for the program and put money in your pocket when you are buying or selling a property. I look forward to working with you during your real estate process.



4626 Wisconsin Ave., NW | Washington, DC 20016  
202-537-3800 - Office | 202-374-2817 - Mobile  
[reonebrown@gmail.com](mailto:reonebrown@gmail.com)



# PROGRAM

Continued from p. 5

(SWADC's three core principles) students using a simple schedule: three days of interactive classroom learning, one professional day introducing ambassadors to professionals from different industries, and a Friday Field Trip.

Throughout this experience, up to 19 youth ambassadors gained knowledge in areas such as technology (cybersecurity, hardware support, software support, networking, ethical hacking, artificial intelligence), audio/video production (soundboard management, stage setup, lighting, video recording, beat making), marketing & videography (graphic design, reel/movie creation, website and logo design), and life skills (substance use treatment, health and wellness, law and civic engagement, financial literacy). This success is made possible by SWADC's founders: George Kerr of GIII Associates, Eric Smith of Go Green Cares (STEAM+), and Clarence Turner. SWADC was thrilled to hire former program alum, Southwest native, and Delaware State University junior Camille Norris as the Program Manager.

"We believe this represents the significance and impact of what SWADC continues to strive toward," said George Kerr Co-Executive Director of SWADC.

Through partnerships with local organizations, SWADC Ambassadors learned healthy cooking skills and the power of food and community



Courtesy of the Author

George Kerr, Camille Norris, Clarence Turner, and Eric Smith on a field trip with the Ambassadors to the White House.

from the talented chefs at DC Central Kitchen. They gained a deeper understanding of the intersection of art and technology with Artechouse, explored community roles and civic engagement with MPD, and even visited the

White House to learn about the political process and the importance of civic involvement.

The Southwest community has been critical to the success of this program, including organizations like

SWBID, Living Classrooms, SWNA, and the Spy Museum. SWADC also partnered with other local organizations like Jerk at Nite, Sasha Bruce, SWBID, YHelp!, Zen Wellness Studio, and Good Money Give Back.

This narrative is a testament to the power of education and mentorship, demonstrating how the cultivation of technical skills and mentorship can pave the way for a future free from violence and substance use disorder. It proves that these young people hold the keys to their success and the transformation of their community. This program would not be possible without the support of SWADC's fiscal sponsors: Westminster DC, the Local Mission Grant for DC Congregations from National Capital Presbytery, Friends of Southwest Foundation, and Sasha Bruce. The program is also partially sponsored by the State Opioid Response grant through the District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health. Additionally, SWADC extends its gratitude to the DC Government for the continuation of the Mayor Marion Barry Summer Youth Empowerment Program, which allowed SWADC to compensate Ambassadors while providing them with real-life work experience to enhance their resumes.

The program's ethos, beautifully encapsulated by Maya Turner (2023/2024 SWADC Alumni), "There's always a light at the end of the tunnel. You just need to find it even if it seems impossible," is a beacon of inspiration. It reflects the academy's unwavering commitment to guiding

See "Program," page 19

# JUMPSTART YOUR TREES!

Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs—give them a headstart for next spring! We have a great selection to choose from, plus soils, mulches, seeds, perennials, garden accents and so much more!



Ginkgo Urban Home & Garden Center  
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON CAPITOL HILL  
[ginkgogardens.com](http://ginkgogardens.com)

911 11th Street, SE  
Washington, DC  
202.543.5172

Mon - Fri 8 am - 7 pm  
Sat 8:30 am - 6 pm | Sun 9 am - 5 pm





# REMAINING HOME GAMES



**SAT. SEP. 14 | 7:30PM** - VS. NEW YORK FC \*FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT



**WED. JUN. 19 | 7:30PM** - VS. COLUMBUS CREW \*NOCHE LATINA



**SAT. OCT. 19 | 6:00PM** - VS. CHARLOTTE FC

**SCAN FOR TICKETS →**



Audi Field



# Southwester Community Calendar | September 2024

Please check the web references or telephone numbers in the listings for details

**TUES 3, 7 P.M. ANC 6D, ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING.** To view the meeting, contact 6D@anc.dc.gov

**WED 4, 2:00-3:00 P.M., Opposing Viewpoints: A Conversation Circle.** A purposeful chat on a current subject. Learn about a topic that's new to you and express your growing concern or excitement regarding a new trend. This is a group discussion. Participation is optional. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org)

**SAT 7, 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M., COMMUNITY YARD SALE,** on the walkway between Harbour Square and Tiber Island, SW.

**SUN 8, 1-2:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH.** Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels. Join us for an hour of stitching and community at the Southwest Neighborhood Library! Basic instruction for beginners in crochet, knitting, embroidery, and cross-stitch is available. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years (Teens). **Registered Event.** [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org)

**MON 9, 10:30-11:00 A.M., FAMILY STORY TIME.** Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Library.

**MON 9, 3:00-4:30 P.M. STEAM LAB PRESENTS:** Explore The World Through A Microscope. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. We will explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a MICROSCOPE for this fun 1 hour event. Seniors, Adults, 5-12 years old, 13-19 (Teens) Southwest Library.

**MON 9, 7:00 P.M. ANC 6D -Business Meeting.** **Link to join Webinar:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81412484576>. Phone: 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC). The agenda will be posted prior to the meeting @<https://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/>

**TUES 10, 5:30 -7:30 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. Adults. Southwest Library.

**TUES 10, 7:00-8:00 P.M., SWAN: Southwest Al Anon.** Starting on September 10, this fellowship is open to all those who have been affected by a loved one's drinking. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting/>

**WED 11, 3:30-4:30 P.M., Kids/Tweens LEGO Club.** Join us for a fun 1hr activity building LEGOS. For kids and tweens ages from 6-12. Kids under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Educational Program – Gaming. 5 - 12 Years Old. Southwest Library.

**WED 11, 6:00-7:00 P.M., Get Real: Nonfiction Book Club.** Discuss *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures* by Merlin Sheldrake with fellow nonfiction readers. Adults. Southwest Library.

**THURS 12, 1:00-3:00 P.M. Meeting Room 1: Coffee & Conversation.** Customers are invited to join a casual conversation with other library customers and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee provided. Conversation Circle. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Library.

**THURS 12, 5:30-7:30 P. M. LET'S PLAY SPADES.** SPADES is a trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks each expects to

take. Games are played to 500 points and the team with the highest score wins. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years (Teens). Southwest Library.

**SAT 14, 7:00 P.M., FAITH & FILM.** Monthly Zoom presentations every 2nd Saturday. Join the Faith and Film Club to view and discuss timely, thought-provoking films. Club members will receive film titles, summaries, and Zoom link: Contact the church office at: [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com). All Invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SUN 15, 11:00 A.M.-Noon, Resistance Bible Study (RBS) Sunday Worship.** Join us for inspiring stories, testimonials and music. **12:15 pm** Your Voice Is Your Vote & Your Vote Is Your Power. Westminster's Resistance Bible Study (RBS) and Indivisible Waterfront are joining forces to Kick Off the election season with a letter and postcard writing party to encourage individuals in the swing states of *Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania* to Register and Vote in the 2024 Election. Free to the Public. Materials provided. Refreshments served! All are welcome! Westminster Presbyterian Church

**MON 16, 3:30-4:30 P.M., Solve The Mystery Puzzles.** Solve the mystery of several puzzles from a cube to a pyramid in this fun 1-hour program event. Seniors, 5 - 12 Years Old, 13 - 19 Years Old (Teens). Southwest Library.

**MON 16, 10:30-11:00 A.M., FAMILY STORY TIME.** Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Library.

**TUES 17, Off Script! 6:30-7:30P.M.,** Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Registered Event. Book Club, Seniors, Adults. Southwest Library.

**MON 23, 10:30-11:00 A.M., FAMILY STORY TIME.** Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Library.

**MON 23, 3:00-4:30 P.M. STEAM Lab Presents:** Explore The World Through A Microscope. We will explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a MICROSCOPE for this fun 1 hour event. Southwest Library.

**TUES 24, 5:30 -7:30 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. Southwest Library.

**WED 25, 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER** and D.C. Office on Aging and Community Living & Partners sponsors the 11th Annual Community Health Fair at River Park Mutual Homes South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue S.W. Meet top DC service agency reps including the Office of the Peoples Counsel, Fire/EMS, Blood Pressure and Glucose Screenings & more. Box Lunch will be provided to Health Fair attendees. Sponsored by AARP DC State Office and SW BID.

**WED 25, 3:30-4:30 P.M., Kids/Tweens LEGO Club.** Join us for a fun 1hr activity building LEGOS. For kids and tweens ages from 6 thru 12. Kids under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Educational Program – Gaming. Southwest Library.

**THURS 26, 1:00-3:00 P.M. Meeting Room 1: Coffee & Conversation.** Customers are invited to join a casual conversation with other library customers and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee provided. Conversation Circle. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Library.

fee provided. Conversation Circle., Seniors, Adults. Southwest Library.

**THURS 26, 5:30-7:30 P. M. LET'S PLAY SPADES.** SPADES is a trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks each expects to take. Games are played to 500 points and the team with the highest score wins. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years (Teens) Southwest Library.

**SAT 28, 12:00 P.M.-DUSK, 23rd Annual Jazz Preservation Festival.** Jazz on the church lawn. Free performances by the best jazz musicians in the DMV. Food and crafts for sale. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**MON 30, 10:30-11:00 A.M., FAMILY STORY TIME.** Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Library.

**MON 30, 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! Adults. Southwest Library.

## WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.** Mondays: Informed; Tuesdays: Life Saver Big Book; Wednesday: New Beginners; Thursdays: Out to Lunch; Fridays: T.G.I.F. at 12:00 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>

**BABY LAPTINE, Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 P. M.** These 20-30 minute story times are specially designed for infants until they begin walking along with their grown ups! Southwest Library. [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org)

**BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9:00 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>. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**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. Birth to 5 years old. Southwest Library.

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

**ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS-DC**

See "Calendar," page 19



## CALENDAR

*Continued from p. 18*

Rocks Rehearsals. Resumes Sept. 3, 2024. For more information, contact: <https://encorecreativity.org/>

**FILM DISCUSSION, Tuesdays, 12-1:00 P.M.** Join this energetic weekly, conversation circle made of your neighbors and fellow library users. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Library.

**FRIDAY MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY.** Fridays, 1:00-3:00 P.M. From the silver screen to your neighborhood library. Southwest Library.

**GAME TIME.** Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 P.M. **Let's play. 5-12 years old.** Southwest Library.

**GODLY PLAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN,** Sundays 11 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 10-11 A.M. Led by Rev. Dr. Alice Bellis (Howard University) and Jeff Nicoll (author of Strange and Gaudy Fruit: Toxic Theology). Westminster Church. To register, contact: [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com). FREE. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

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

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW,** Fridays, 6 - 9 P.M. Various Jazz musicians and singers are featured each Friday.

\$10. Food for sale. Schedule at <https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule> Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**JOB SEEKERS, Mondays, 1-3:00 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. Southwest Library.

**KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Weekly Drop-In Meditation Classes.** Tuesdays: 6-6.30 P.M., Thursdays: 7:15-8.30 P.M., Sundays: 10-11 A.M. 1200 Canal St, SW. [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org)

**KOMEN TOASTMASTERS.** We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30-7:30 P. M. If interested in attending our meeting, please contact us at [komentoastmasters8714@gmail.com](mailto:komentoastmasters8714@gmail.com).

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS,** Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 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. 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. 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.

**SUNDAY MORNING MEDITATIONS,** 10:00-11:00 A.M. Weekly Drop In Class, Kadampa Meditation Center DC 1200 Canal St SW., (202) 430-6540 [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org) me

**TECH HELP, Mondays 11:00 A.M. - Noon.** Get help with digital devices and accounts for free at the Library! Seniors, Adults. Southwest Library.

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB (WSSC)** meets at 7 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 Westminster office: [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com).

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

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

## PROJECTS

*Continued from p. 10*

- Jefferson Athletic Field, 720 9th Street, SW. Replacement project includes conversion of the existing grass field into a multipurpose, synthetic turf field to improve usability and field conditions.
  - Start Date: Spring/Summer 2025
  - Cost: \$1.5 million
  - Status: Currently in the design and build stage, delivery is expected in Fall 2025.
- Randall Recreation Center, 820 South Capital Street, SW. project includes renovating the existing rec center and a feasibility study on expanding and modernizing the pool.
  - Start Date: Spring 2024
  - Cost: \$18.5 million
  - Status: Expected to conclude by Winter 2026, the design vision includes a concept of a series of outdoor rooms, with gathering

spaces for eating and socializing as well as exercise. Design elements would reinforce the connection to the nearby Rubell Museum with a focus on outdoor art.

- Southwest Town Center Park, corner of 4th Street and I Street SW, near 900 4th Street SW. With elements of the project intended for both the eastern and western side of 4th Street SW, the vision includes café seating, terraced seating, an event stage, public art display, and a multipurpose area to host a farmers' market, craft fair, holiday festival, and pop-up commerce.
  - Start Date: Fall 2023
  - Cost: \$3.5 million
  - Status: After a series of community meetings, the project is in the design and build stage. Delivery is expected in Fall 2025.

For more information, visit: <https://dgs.dc.gov/page/dpr-park-and-recreation-center-projects>

## PROGRAM

*Continued from p. 16*

students through learning challenges, helping them uncover their potential and empower them to pursue boundless opportunities in technology and creative arts.

SWADC has already begun planning for Summer 2025, aiming to expand its offerings and curriculum to include community-facing services and age-based programming. To learn more about Southwest Academy DC, you can visit [swacademydc.com](http://swacademydc.com) or their Instagram account @SWAcademyDC.



## Inaugural DC Compost Bike Tour Invites Participants

BY SASHTI BALASUNDARAM, WERADIATE

Community members are welcomed to join the Inaugural DC Compost Bike Tour of gardens and compost sites, including the Southwest Community Garden and Southwest Farmers Market on Saturday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. This unique hands-on tour blends bicycling, learning, and sustainable living. Participants will explore how organics waste management and composting contribute to healthy soils for our plants, community, and city.

The event is designed to be both educational and engaging, offering residents a chance to see composting in action and under-

stand its benefits for our community. Whether you're a seasoned compost enthusiast or looking to learn, this compost bike tour provides an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow eco-conscious residents and learn about creating a greener DC.

Participants must bring their own bicycle, helmet, and curiosity and make sure to register using this website: [bit.ly/CBT24\\_DC](http://bit.ly/CBT24_DC). The tour is free with donations welcomed. The final stop will occur at The Well at Oxon Run Park (SE) ending in an optional community meal. This year's tour is hosted by Patagonia D.C., Southwest Community Garden, and WeRadiate.

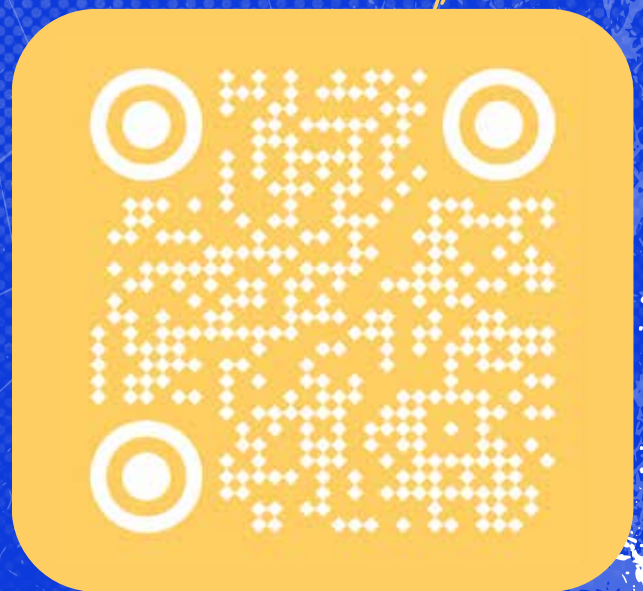


swbid Southwest Business Improvement District

# LANSBURGH BLOCK PARTY

DJ ADRIAN LOVING • FREE FOOD  
ROLLER SKATING • VIDEO GAME  
TRUCK • COMMUNITY MURAL  
CREATE YOUR OWN SLIME  
LAWN GAMES • TIE DYE  
AND MORE!

SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 28  
3-5PM  
LANSBURGH PARK



SWBID.ORG/EVENTS

