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Map and rendering of the Long Bridge project after completion

Courtesy of the Long Bridge Project.

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Meets with Southwest Community on Long Bridge Project

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n May 7, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) held a public meeting at the Southwest Library to discuss the Long Bridge Project. VPRA owns the existing twotrack, century-old bridge spanning the Potomac River between Arlington, VA, and Washington, DC. The proposed Long Bridge Project aims to expand rail capacity by constructing a new two-track bridge alongside the existing structure, creating a four-track corridor to better separate freight and passenger rail traffic.







Courtesy of DC360 Church

BY JACKIE L. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

n Sunday, May 4, 2025, the sun rose in the east corner of the Southwest DC quadrant. That morning, DC360 Church launched its historic debut as a rebrand from Bethel Pentecostal of the Assemblies of God Tabernacle, with a view of the U.S. Capitol Building.

"At the heart of DC360 Church's mission is a deep commitment to fostering heal-

See "Faith," page 10



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Former building-Bethel Pentecostal left, and DC360 church, right.

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City-Wide Bus Route Changes Will Impact Southwest and the DMV

BY UNA YARSKY

E arlier this year, WMATA announced the Better Bus initiative, a city-wide shift in bus routes and nomenclature across the DMV. The project aims to improve vehicles, communication, bus lanes, and transit signals. Every Metro bus route will have a new name, and many will have updated service, stops, and run times. The Metrobus fare will not change and will remain \$2.25. The Better Bus initiative will be Metro's first major overhaul of the bus system since it was first created in 1973 and takes effect on June 29.

A number of bus stops across the city were eliminated in order to streamline bus efficiency. WMATA officials took rider's suggestions into consideration and eliminated 527 low-ridership stops across the city, Maryland, and Virginia. Additionally, bus routes will be renamed, beginning with a letter to represent the area the route covers. "A" will indicate Arlington and Alexandria, "F" for Fairfax City, Fairfax County, and Falls Church. "M" will stand for Montgomery County, and "P" for Prince George's County. In the city, "C" will stand for crosstown routes and "D" for downtown. Express routes will include an "X" at the end of their designation. Bus stop signs across the region were updated in March to reflect the upcoming changes in routes, with the old bus routes sectioned in blue while the new bus routes, names, and destinations are in larger print and highlighted in red.

In Southwest, this initiative means that the #74, which runs between the Convention center to the Southwest Waterfront Station, and Circula-



The C55 takes the place of the 74 Metrobus route.

tor routes will be replaced by the C55. The C55 will run between L'Enfant and Union station, beginning at the L'Enfant Plaza Metro station, making stops by Waterfront Metro station, Buzzard point, King Greenleaf, Navy Yard, and Eastern Market before reaching Union Station. The C55 will run every 30 minutes.

For more information on the bus route shifts across the city, visit the Metro website at wmata.com/betterbus or call 202-GO-METRO.

Joyous, Definitely Not Sorrowful

BY BETH HALL

large crowd gathered at St Augustine's Episcopal Church on Sunday, May 25, 2025 to join Barbara Ehrlich in celebrating the life of David Howard Ehrlich. David left specific instructions for the occasion and music, especially Mozart, was a big part of the service. Eulogies and reflections were also given by close friends including musician Joyce Bouvier, film maker, Paul Moon and three of his "playdaughters", Kalina Dimitrova of London, Suzanne Gomez of Panama and Ramesh Mazhari of Washington. Judit Jaksa of Nagydorog and Julia Goudimova of Lexington VA are also part of their extended family. The attendees joined in to sing a song "David, Our Friend" composed by Perry Klein in honor of Barbara Ehrlich with lyrics by Joyce Bouvier. The closing hymn,



David Howard Ehrlich

his favorite, was Jerusalem by William Blake.

In keeping with David Ehrlich's love of people and celebration, an elegant dinner was served after the service. Barbara Ehrlich gave the toast.

Mr Ehrlich was born in 1937, attended Milton Academy (1961), Yale College (1958), and Harvard Business School (1961). He moved to Washington DC in 1979. He is best known in Southwest for founding an amateur chamber music series known as the Southwest Chamber Players which gave some 200 performances in Washington DC and elsewhere beginning in 1997. Music pervaded his entire life, and throughout his career he served on the boards of the Cantata Singers in New York, Cecilia Society and Chorus pro Musica in Boston and the Paul Hill Chorale and Bach Consort in Washington DC.





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Duck Pond Party Celebrates Community, Culture, and Safer Streets

BY PAMELA WOLF, SWBID

n a nearly perfect Saturday in May, residents of the Southwest neighborhood gathered around the Duck Pond for an event that has become a beloved local tradition. The annual Duck Pond Party, hosted by the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID), once again brought the community together with live music, local food, and family-friendly activities, all set against the lush, tree-lined backdrop of one of the area's most cherished green spaces.

More than just a seasonal celebration, the Duck Pond Party reflects the character of Southwest: diverse, evolving, and deeply connected. The afternoon offered the laid-back charm the neighborhood is known for. The Crush Funk Brass Band filled the park with upbeat rhythms, while King Ribs BBQ served smoky favorites. Children played duck-themed games, created duck feed, and beaded friendship bracelets, while neighbors mingled under shady trees, and newcomers found a warm welcome.

"It's always great to have a good community event where people from the local neighborhood can come



together," said Adrian Loving, a 12-year Southwest resident. "You don't need to know anybody. You could just come in and see what's happening. You have it all right here."

This year, the festivities also featured the Highway Safety Organization (HSO), which hosted a colorful, interactive set of safety-themed activities as part of its initiative for safer streets. Children participated in the "Draw the Duck with the Seatbelt" art station. In contrast, others shared visions of a "Caring Street" by writing down their ideas for safer, more inclusive roadways and pinning them to a community clothesline. Free safety equipment was distributed, and Crowds gathered to enjoy food, music and activities at the Duck Pond Party



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

attendees snapped pledge selfies as personal commitments to safer driving and walking habits.

Next to the Duck Pond, Makemie Place SW was temporarily closed to cars and transformed into a pedestrian zone. The creative collective, Chalk Riot, decorated the crosswalk with duck-themed, water-inspired designs that echoed the pond's atmosphere. These artistic interventions, while visually striking, also serve a functional purpose by improving pedestrian safety and slowing traffic through engaging, eye-catching design.

The SWBID further activated the street with classic neighborhood games. Children drew with chalk, played double dutch, and tossed bean bags in a cornhole match, turning the space into a safe and joyful zone for play.

Throughout the day, the spirit of Southwest's community was on full display. "It's green, it's nice. You got a real blend of people—a diverse group, young, old," said Nick Kaszas, a 10-year resident. "The neighborhood's constantly evolving, which keeps it really exciting."

Zoe Phillip, another attendee, added, "It's really unexpected. When you dig in, it's [Southwest] just wonderful, with lots of hidden gems like this Duck Pond area."

With another successful year in the books, the 2025 Duck Pond Party proved again why Southwest is one of DC's most cherished neighborhoods, where history, diversity, and a strong sense of community thrive.

For more information on future Southwest BID events, visit swbid.org or follow @swbid on social media.



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- Children's Chorus of Washington scholarships for SW kids
- DC STORM educational trip to Norfolk for SW teens
- EmmaUS trip to Harriet Tubman home for SW kids
- SW BID community workshops on 4th St. development
- Activities of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly
- Theater Alliance discount tickets for neighbors
- College scholarships for SW students
- Waterfront Village programs for SW seniors

With your help, we could do so much more!

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Friends of Southwest DC P.O. Box 44434 Washington, DC 20026 FriendsofSWDC.org

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Ward 6 Mutual Aid Invites You to Get Involved!

BY KATRINA AVILA

t Serve Your City/ Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA), we are committed to uplifting Black and Brown youth and families throughout Washington, DC, by providing the resources they need to thrive. Guided by our dedication to the

safety, well-being, and dignity of our neighbors, we offer after-school programs, academic support, and essential community services.

From the beginning, we've focused on addressing immediate needs, providing food, cleaning supplies, school materials, digital devices, household goods, and clothing to those most affected by systemic inequities.

Our ongoing partnership with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Southwest DC, along with other grassroots organizations, has been instrumental in this work. Thanks to the unwavering support of our volunteers and donors, we organize supply drives, collaborate on food distribution with CUMC, and introduce new initiatives rooted in solidarity. Together, we continue to demonstrate the strength of community care.

Get Involved – Here's How You Can Support SYC/W6MA:

• Support Summer Fun & Learning for DC Youth: This summer, SYC/ W6MA will offer free arts, music, and enrichment programs through our *Free School for Unlimited Youth* program, helping students



stay active and engaged in learning. But we need your *solidarity, NOT charity* to make it happen! Join SYC/W6MA in creating an unforgettable summer for Black & Brown youth across DC. Your support ensures every SYC/W6MA scholar has access to free, joyful, and enriching

opportunities that inspire learning, growth, and creativity. Donate today and help us uplift DC youth: bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate.

- Volunteer as a Virtual Tutor: Join SYC/W6MA's *Free School for Unlimited Youth* program, offering FREE virtual tutoring for Black and Brown K-12 students across DC. We're seeking dedicated college students, graduate students, and professionals to tutor in various subjects. Interested? Sign up at bit. ly/sycvolunteertutor or email us at youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org to learn more.
- Strengthen Our Impact with a Donation: Your financial support is crucial to sustaining our work. Donations made at bit.ly/ sycw6ma-donate directly contribute to our programs and outreach efforts, including our support of CUMC's 5000 Food Ministry, which helps 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. Together, we keep us safe!

Southwest Theaters Shine in Annual Awards Ceremony

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

wo Southwest theaters were among the winners at the 41st Helen Hayes Awards, held at The Anthem on May 19. The ceremony recognized the best in live theater from 165 eligible productions, with nominations for 57 musicals, 108 plays and 37 world premiers. Award categories were divided into two categories, "Helen" and "Hayes."

Arena Stage won the Hayes for outstanding play for **Jaja's African Hair Braiding** and Theater Alliance's Gisela Estrada won a Hayes for set design for **Covenant**.

Felicia Curry and Mike Millan hosted the stellar evening event. The red carpet, cocktail hour, seated dinner, and presentation of awards featured performances from some of the region's favorite artists with 1,600 people attending.

Robert Hooks was honored with The Helen Hayes Tribute for his career as actor, producer and political activist. Hooks founded three Black theater groups including the DC Black Repertory Company. In his acceptance speech, Hooks, a DC native, acknowledged leaders whom he worked with in his early career, especially the founder of Arena Stage, Zelda Fichandler.

SWNA June Meeting To Feature Youth Service Organizations

BY THELMA D. JONES

WNA's community meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025, 7-9 pm at Arena Stage will proudly feature SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) and Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF), among other youth organizations or organizations with youth-serving components. This will be an exciting youth and college financial aid fair type program like the well-attended and successful youth and education program held last year at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Approximately twenty youth-serving organizations, including MPD, have been invited to allow attendees the opportunity to speak to the organizations' representatives, receive literature, register local youth for programs, learn about college scholarship offerings, learn about volunteer opportunities, sign up to volunteer and donate to the SWNA Task Force.

Each invited organization will host a table and share their orga-

nization's mission, programs, and services so that the community is more aware of the various opportunities available. The forum will also provide opportunities for collaboration to enrich our community youth and college-bound residents.

Opening remarks will be by invited guests Hana Sharif, Artistic Director, Arena Stage, Charles Allen, Ward 6, DC Councilmember, and Brandon Best, Ward 6, DC State Board of Education.

One of the outcomes of this meeting will be a brochure to include a listing of youth-serving organizations or organizations with youth-serving components for dissemination and included on the SWNA website, swna.org.

Please share this information with others. We greatly appreciate your support and contributions. For more information on the forum, please email YATF Chair Thelma D. Jones at thelma.d.jones@outlook. com or ESTF Chair Lisa M. Matthews at ncmdesignslmm@yahoo. com.

DC DDOT is Focus of May ANC Meetings

BY BETH HALL

ach month we're sharing updates from ANC6D to keep neighbors informed about deliberations shaping our Southwest community. In May, the ANC6D held two in person meetings which addressed the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) yearly plan for dealing with traffic and parking issues for Nationals Stadium and Audi Field. These were the first in person ANC meetings since before Covid. DDOT's Traffic Operations and Parking Plans (TOPP) are intended to facilitate safe and efficient transportation operations on days when large events occur. The 2025 draft TOPP was released in April and is available on the TTOP website at topp. ddot.dc.gov. The first meeting was intended to review the contents of the plan and solicit community input. During the second meeting the commissioners agreed to communicate the ANC6D's formal recommendations and accompanying detailed analysis to DDOT. These include nine principles. For example, one principle is that there should be no loss of bus service south of R Street during events. Another principle was that

the plan should focus on the Wharf as an event in and of itself or have its own TOPP. These recommendations can be found on the ANC6D website www.anc6d.org under communications. As a final principle, the ANC is strongly recommending that the TOPP be released next year before the season starts and that there be a meeting at the end of each season to review the prior year's efforts.

Additional topics addressed at the meeting included a public safety report focusing on juvenile activity, a report from the Mayor's office about proposed development of a 1.5 million dollar economic Master Plan for Southwest, support for the yearly Lansburgh Park Party June 14, Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis administration recommendations for the area, announcement of an upcoming PEPCO public meeting and consideration of renaming 3rd street between I and M after Leona Baker. New management from the Wharf was in attendance with renewed commitment to working issues and building up trust. ANC comments on DDOTs traffic safety plan for 6th and M were postponed until the regular June meeting.



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Ms. Senior District of Columbia 2025

BY BETH HALL

Solution of the second state of the second sta

Ms. Karen Johnson, Ms. Donna M. Henderson and Ms. Joan E. Williams are contestants in 2025. All live in Southwest. Ms. Monica Jeffries and Valerie E. Robinson from Ward 6 are also running.

Ms. Johnson has been in SW for eleven years and continuously cares for seniors at the Waterside Towers Apartments. She also volunteers at DC Central Kitchen, DC Board of Elections, Black History Month Programs and back to school initiatives at her church in SW. Before retiring from the Federal Government with 43 years of service, she completed several deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. She's a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated. "Please support our neighbor and friend for Ms. Senior District of Columbia" says Mr. Charles (Chuck) Hicks, (Mr. Black history).

Ms. Henderson has lived in Southwest for seven years and was one of the first residents of the Wharf Phase 1. She works for the Smithsonian Institution. She also does fashion shows for worthy causes and truly enjoys mentoring young women. Says neighbor, Marilyn Glover, "she is such an inspiration with her passion for life. She uplifts the community with her humble and kind spirit."

Ms. Williams has worked with DC Central Kitchen and other food distribution programs. A resident of SW for thirteen years, she is a graduate and active participant in a leadership program that advocates for disabled and low-income seniors. Before she retired, she was a property manager for a number of buildings. "Ms. Williams is a pillar in the community at the Greenleaf Senior building and does a lot of volunteer work in the community" says ANC 6D05 Commissioner Cherie Phelps-El.

The judging will be June 29th from 1 pm to 4 pm at the University of the District of Columbia Auditorium, Building 46. Tickets are \$20 and are available through Eventbrite.



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Pop-Up Wonders: Exploring Iconic Architecture Through Paper Craft

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

S outhwest DC resident, architect and artist Mandira Sareen is offering an engaging two-hour workshop at the Hill Center for community members to discover the art of paper architecture.

Participants learn how to craft intricate pop-up cards inspired by iconic structures. June's session, themed for Father's Day, will focus on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, a landmark bridging the Anacostia River. Sareen combines her expertise in sustainable design with her passion for art through her startup, Vivasthu. The workshops help her share her love and skill in model making while spreading the word about her start-up.

All materials and tools are provided for use during the session, and participants take home a handcrafted piece of cultural heritage. Contact mandira.sareen@vivasthu.com, 202-240-7607 or visit https://www.hillcenterdc.org/.

Sprinkle in Some Movement Magic: The Power of "Movement Snacks"

BY DR. LISA JERRY SENIOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST ROSE PHYSICAL THERAPY

s professional physical therapists, we know that while dedicated exercise sessions are crucial, there is also value in the often-overlooked power of small, frequent bursts of activity – what we like to call "movement snacks."

In our increasingly sedentary world, where many of us spend hours glued to desks or screens, our bodies can suffer. Prolonged sitting can lead to stiffness, muscle imbalances, poor circulation, and even contribute to chronic pain. But the good news is, you don't need to carve out large chunks of time for rigorous workouts to combat these effects. The simple act of incorporating short bursts of movement throughout your day can make a significant difference.

Think of movement snacks as mini-resets for your body. Just like a nutritious snack can tide you over between meals, a minute or two of movement every hour or so can revitalize your muscles, improve blood flow, and boost your energy levels.

What exactly constitutes a "movement snack"? The beauty lies in its simplicity. It doesn't require special equipment or a change of clothes. Here are a few easy ideas you can incorporate into your daily routine:

- **Stand up and stretch:** Reach for the ceiling, touch your toes, and gently rotate your torso.
- **Take a short walk:** Pace around your office, walk to the water cooler, or step outside for a breath of fresh air.
- **Do some simple exercises:** Perform a few squats, calf raises, or arm circles.
- **Climb a flight of stairs:** Skip the elevator whenever possible.
- Dance to your favorite song: Put on a quick tune and let loose for a minute!

The key is consistency. Setting a timer on your phone to remind you to move every hour can be a helpful strategy. Even these small interventions can interrupt prolonged sitting, get your muscles working, and improve your overall posture. These small, consistent efforts can complement your regular exercise routine and contribute to long-term comfort and mobility.

So, this week, sprinkle in some movement magic into your day. Your body will thank you for these little bursts of activity.





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Kayaking Through Southwest and Beyond

BY JAMES YARSKY

y wife bought me an inflatable kayak on my sixtieth birthday. She did this because I could not connect with Washington DC or Southwest in any meaningful way. I missed my beloved Brooklyn, you see. But I always loved water and so I took the kayak to the launch point at Anacostia and that was it. Since then, I'm in the water every day that I am not at work despite the season or the weather. My wife knows me pretty well.

I take my dog, Annie, with me. She is a hound dog mix who likes the smells. Every day, when I grab her life vest to put it on her she looks like a puppy even though she's almost fourteen years old. Just two old timers paddling their way through life. When the water gets particularly choppy, she turns around from facing the bow of the boat and requests reassuring pats on the head. Which I give. She is a dear friend and asks for so little.

My inflatable kayak wore out after a year and a half and I bought a proper (used) kayak on craigslist. That's been our boat ever since. It's



Courtesy of Alexis Brandenburg Tuttle

Kayaking down the Washington Channel, across from East Potomac Park.

fast and it tracks beautifully and it can handle all of the seasonal obstacles that come with kayaking in DC and Southwest. For example, this year was particularly icy during the winter and I was able to paddle quickly and glide up onto floating ice sheets. It was great fun and the rugged plastic bottom of the kayak fared well under the duress. There are numerous places in DC from which to launch a kayak and all of them have their unique attributes.

Lately, I've been walking my kayak to the various points of entry in Southwest and Southeast. I attach wheels to the boat and pull it up to the small dock on the Anacostia near Nats Park. I think we're a fun site for the neighbors – an old man walking a dog and a boat. I can head up the Anacostia River past the boathouse or I can head toward the Potomac and paddle around to the Washington Channel and pull the boat out at the Haines Point dock. Or, if it's open, I can pull the boat up to the kayak landing on the Wharf and enjoy a shorter walk home.

There are often magnificent birds to enjoy on the trip including bald and golden eagles, herons, cormorants and gulls. I never thought I'd be a bird guy but there it is.

Mostly though, it's the water. It's the motion of the water or it's the manner in which the wind and the tide affect the journey or it's the way the sun bounces off the water or it's the sheer size of the water when you're in a small boat. There is something humbling about the experience. Every time. Every time.

If you don't own a kayak, I suggest you try it out. You can rent a kayak at the Wharf for a reasonable price. It's not for everybody but it is a singular feeling to be out there. And when your stroke improves, you may find yourself challenging your body and your mind in ways you never thought of before.

BOOK BY LAUREN YEE MUSIC AND LYRICS BY HEATHER CHRISTIAN BASED ON THE NOVEL WRITTEN BY MADELEINE L'ENGLE DIRECTED BY LEE SUNDAY EVANS

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FAITH

Continued from p. 1

ing and hope in our community. We believe that meaningful relationships and intentional partnerships are essential to addressing both the spiritual and practical needs of those around us," says Pastors Fitzerald and Sophia Carter. "We work to build a stronger, more connected community where every person can experience the hope of renewal and the healing power of grace."

This new church building is located at the corner of I Street and Half Street Southwest, directly across from the Rubell Museum. The museum building is the former site of Randall Junior High School - a historically Black public school where notable student "silky soul singer" Marvin Gaye attended. Gaye's first family home site in DC is just a few blocks away at the corner of First and Q streets Southwest.

DC360 Church builds upon the foundation of Bethel Tabernacle – a solid rock in the Southwest community. It brands itself as a community faithbased change agent that outreaches to the capital beltway, nation, and global communities.

For more than 104 years, the roots of Bethel Tabernacle date to 1921 with a mission of serving the nation's capital and the Southwest community. The original church was erected on the landscape of the former 800-acre Notley Plantation of the 1700s during the era of slavery. As an anchor of the Southwest historically Black community, it survived the urban renewal of the 1960s.

Similar to other Southwest DC congregations, the church's leadership partnered with developers to complete the seven-story project that includes the new construction of 197 apartments, a coffee shop, and a small bookstore. DC360 Church, along with St. Augustine's, Riverside Baptist, and St. Matthew churches, has helped to address the need for more affordable housing units in the Southwest DC neighborhood. Among these four redeveloped church properties, 591 affordable housing units and 107 condominiums have been constructed. In addition, there are opportunities for small business devel-

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opment, early childhood education, youth and young adult development, and space for community gatherings as an incubator of services.

More importantly, these four places of worship are the faith-based building blocks that meet the Southwest neighborhood residents at the intersection of faith and community development. Literally block by block, their network of redeveloped properties connects the geographic landscape and residents' spiritual needs from the perspective of four distinct religious denominations. Each has a unique mission to serve the congregations and the surrounding communities. From one church door to the other, they are walking distance away.

The rebranding of Bethel Tabernacle has emerged as DC360 Church in the midst of gentrification. Its new name reflects a full circle of service and commitment to "filling needs, healing hurts, and building dreams."

"We're excited to reconnect with a renewed vision for programs like Gladys' Pantry, Camp JAM, VBS, and Crossfire Basketball Camp" says Pastors Fitzerald and Sophia Carter. "Some of the new future youth and young adult programs we envision rolling out will include mentoring and leadership development programs as well as others that focus on the arts."

As the sun sets on the southern horizon of the Southwest DC quadrant, after launching a new journey for the church's leadership and congregation, DC360 Church's ministry of hope is etched in the outer wall of the building. A walk and pause by the wall offer space for inspiration and meditation as the words speak to the heart of this place of worship.

Jackie L. Williams, Ph.D. writes about people, places, and historical celebrations at the intersection of faith and public policy. She earned degrees in computer science, education, public policy, and religious studies/ethnics and social justice from Jackson State University and Howard University. A Southwest Washington, DC resident of 25 years, she is a licensed tour guide, an ordained Christian minister, a Docent at the Washington National Cathedral and a past Chair of Friends of Rankin Chapel at Howard University.





We are committed to keeping the community informed throughout this project. We invite you to attend a community meeting to learn more about the abatement process, fence replacement, and project timeline.

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Buzzard Point Steam Plant

Community Meeting

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Beginning in summer 2025, we will begin an abatement process at the generating plant,

which includes the removal of regulated

materials and interior equipment. Once this

work is complete, we plan to relocate the

existing outdoor substation - currently

situated on the facility grounds - into the

The existing perimeter fence will also be

replaced as part of this work to enhance

Abatement & Fence Replacement Project

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Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Youth Activities Task Force and Education and Scholarship Task Force Presents

Annual Youth

and Education Forum Monday, June 23, 2025 7pm – 9pm

Arena Stage At The Mead Center For American Theater Molly Smith Study 1101 Sixth Street, SW Washington, DC 20024

Join us for a fun-filled and exciting evening of learning about invited community youth-serving organizations, networking, signing up to volunteer, and donating. Organizations representing health, youth, education, employment, technology, recreation, culture, the arts, and more will be present.

HealthEmploymentCultureYouthTechnologyThe ArtsEducationRecreationAnd more

You don't want to miss this exciting opportunity to see how the community is serving, empowering, and meeting the needs of our youth.



For information email Thelma D. Jones, YATF Chair, at thelma.d.jones@outlook.com or Lisa M. Matthews, ESTF Chair, at ncmdesignslmm@yahoo.com

pepco

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plant building.

security

What's it like to be a Nationals player? Catcher Riley Adams gives Amidon Tigers the scoop!

BY AMIDON-BOWEN THIRD GRADERS CARTER CURTIS, AYLIN LIRIANO, KING MANSARAY AND MADDISON VASQUEZ-HERNANDEZ

he door creaked open - crreeeaaaaaak. I heard footsteps and I looked up and heard "Hey guys!" We all cheered, "HI!" Nationals catcher Riley Adams walked into the room. Some kids ran up to him to give him a hug or a high five. He greeted us and told us about himself. Riley said, "when I was three years old I picked up a baseball bat for the first time and started playing in my backyard." He then read us a book. We felt so excited there were butterflies in our stomachs because a real baseball player was reading us a story and giving us attention. Riley answered questions about playing professional baseball. One kid asked how he felt about reading us a story. Riley said he felt happy to read to us. The feeling was mutual. He gave us an exciting announcement, Riley said that if we read over the summer, we would get tickets to a Nationals baseball game. That wasn't the only thing. The Nationals also gave each of us our own baseball book! As you can see, we have A LOT of reading to do over the summer.

Below is an interview with Riley from our own Amidon Tigers: **Q: I remember you saying you picked up a baseball at age 3. Why is**



Photo: Donta Wades

The Washington Nationals kicked off their "Kids Opening Day" event at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School this season. Nats mascot Screech joined catcher Riley Adams, who read aloud to the third graders. The Nationals also donated 300 books, which were given out at Amidon-Bowen's literacy night, hosted that evening.

baseball so important to you?

Adams: There are a lot of things that baseball has that you see in life. Things don't always go your way in baseball, and sometimes that's what happens in life. It's also just fun to be out there with your teammates competing.

Q: What do you do outside of base-

ball?

Adams: I like to hang out with my wife, take my dog for some walks and play golf.

Q: What is it like working for the Nats? Do you feel more pressure representing Washington DC?

Adams: Working for the Nats is awesome, and being in Washington, D.C. is great. We have amazing fans that make coming to the ballpark fun every day.

Q: What kind of things do you hear behind the plate?

Adams: I don't hear too much. Every day it's a different umpire, and it's fun to have conversations with them. For the most part, we're just trying to play baseball and compete.

Q: When you walk out on the plate, how do you feel?

Adams: I feel confident and excited to face the pitcher and to try to get my job done.

Q: Why do you like playing catcher?

Adams: You're kind of the quarterback on the field. You have to work with the pitcher, call pitches and try to figure out how you're going to get the other team out. It's the most involved position on the field, so it's the best.

Q: How do you stay calm when the bases are loaded and the game is tied?

Adams: The best way to stay calm is to just focus on your breathing, take some good, deep breaths and focus on the little things. Don't worry about what's happening around you and just focus on the task that you have in front of you.



LANDSCAPING • DESIGN • INSTALLATION

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



Blessing of the Fleet Kicks off Summer



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

On May 17, the Port of Washington Yacht Club (POWYC) hosted the annual Blessing of the Fleet, honoring the waterways and its community ahead of the summer boating season. The annual tradition is POWYC's biggest event of the season, with speakers such as DC councilman Charles Allen and a representative from the DC Fire Department.

Washington Spirit Returns to Audi Field Amid Impressive Season

BY JOSÉPHINE DEMOS

udi Field reprised its role as the Washington Spirit's home-turf back in March. With five home games under their belt, the Spirit have already given Washington fans much to discuss this season.

For the first time since their loss in the playoff finals, the Spirit were set to reunite with their home crowd for the 2025 home opener on March 22nd. For the Washington franchise, the game had potential to be proof of a growing fanbase and unwavering support. Michelle Kang, owner of the Spirit, expressed nervous excitement when discussing the possibility of a sold-out crowd in a pre-game press conference. The press conference also served to announce the three year renewal of the CVS front-of-kit partnership, a historic sponsorship for the NWSL. The deal itself suggested confidence that the momentum the team built up last season is set to last.

As hoped, the game sold out, with an attendance of 19,254: both a home opener record for the Spirit, and the third consecutive sold-out home game. The night represented a win for the Spirit organization, but a loss for the team, who fell 2-0 to the KC Current.

Despite the loss, Tara McKeown, who had just come back from a stint with the U.S. Women's National Team in the SheBelieves Cup, was happy to be back at Audi with the fans: "I missed it, so I'm just so happy to be back and seeing everyone and all the fans," she told *The Southwester*. The team returned to a fan-filled Audi less than a week later, securing their first home game win of the season against Bay FC (2-0). Both Spirit goals were scored by Ashley Hatch, surpass-



Spirit Defender Esme Morgan scored two goals against Angel City FC.

ing Jessica McDonald for 5th most regular season goals in NWSL history. "Rowdy Audi" felt like the Spirit's hometown stage once again, and players put on a show of exciting play and coordinated goal celebrations for their energized audience.

Back on the road, the Spirit collected two more wins to add to their score sheet for the season before the highly anticipated home game against Gotham NY/NJ.

Unfortunately, Gotham secured the win in this year's regular season matchup. Trinity Rodman was notably absent, after the team announced a week prior that she would be out indefinitely as she met with a team doctor. Pouring rain and a red card for Head Coach Jonathan Gonzalez added salt to the wound of the loss, but Croix Bethune's highly anticipated return to the field in the 80th minute, after having been out on a knee injury since last summer, provided fans with hope for better times ahead.

In their next game, also at home, the Spirit faced Angel City FC without their head Coach as a result of his red-card suspension. The Washington team was able to respond to Angel City's first three goals with three of their owntwo from defender Esme Morgan, and another from newcomer Gift Mondaybut ultimately, Angel City took back the lead in stoppage time, and the game ended in a 4-3 loss for the Spirit.

Morgan, who scored her first two NWSL goals from the center-back position appeared unsurprised by her role in the offense. "I just had a feeling this morning I was going to score." she told the Southwester, crediting her pregame mentality for her performance. "Sometimes you get a feeling for a good game. It's nice when you have that and every thought going into the game is positive and optimistic. You just play with a lot more freedom."

Before their next game at Audi Field, the Spirit took on the Chicago Stars in an away game and left victorious, continuing the Spirit's winning streak in away games this season.

On May 17th, the Spirit came back to Audi. To fans' delight, Croix Bethune started the match after weeks of subbing in late as she managed her newly recovered knee. Other Spirit standouts, namely Midfielder Hal Hershfelt and Casey Krueger were available to play for the first time since their respective injuries.

The Utah Royals scored early in the first half, but the Spirit took back the lead with two back-to-back goals from Hatch and newcomer Megan Boade. Utah put away two more goals and were set to win the game until Krueger, playing as a fullback, placed a header into the back of the net, equalizing the score in the 102nd minute of the game.

The Spirit's season so far makes one thing clear: The team is feeling the burn of a long list of injured and unavailable players. However, the unavailability of top players has also made space for new talent to shine. The Spirit's strength is its ability to operate as a team, redistributing the starpower across the roster. Injury replacements like Boade are being given opportunities to put goals away. Monday, who was added to the roster in late March, is already one of the top scorers for the team this season. Spirit veterans have also stepped up: Hatch's increased playing time has resulted in her mov-



A Readers

It's Time for Summer Reading

BY KITTY FELDE

ibraries all over the DMV are launching their summer reading programs. The DC Public Library offers prizes from the Washington Nationals, DC United, and Nando's for completing a reading bingo card. But I rather like the Choose Your Own Adventure summer reading challenge created by a pair of educators from Charlottesville, Virginia.

Mrs. Walton, the Reading Specialist at St. Anne's-Belfield School, and school librarian Ms. Robinson came up with two lists and invited students to choose something from column A and one from column B. Then, do it over and over again. The rules let you

March 21, 2025.

olic, he attended St. Anthony's

High School, even representing his

school on the student quiz show

It's Academic, before earning his

undergraduate degree from his beloved University of Scranton,

graduating summa cum laude. He

later obtained his Juris Doctor from

local politics, holding leadership

roles in the Ward 2 Democrats and

continuing his commitment even

after redistricting moved him to

Ward 6. From 2006 to 2018, he rep-

resented Ward 6 on the DC Demo-

cratic State Committee, later chair-

ing the Constitution and By-Laws

Committee. Collins also spent six

years as an ANC 6D Commissioner,

where he contributed as treasurer.

career spanned several adminis-

trations. He began as legal counsel

and later advanced to Chief of Staff

for Ward 7 Councilmember H. R.

Crawford from 1980 to 1992. During

the Sharon Pratt administration, he

took on the roles of legal counsel

His distinguished government

Collins was deeply involved in

Penn State Dickinson Law.

read alone, with a partner, or listen to an audiobook or a book read aloud.

WHAT KIND OF BOOK AND WHERE TO READ

- A book that takes place during summertime A book set in a different time period
- A book recommended by a friend
- A newly published book
- A poetry book
- A mystery
- A book a parent loved when they were little
- A how-to book A realistic fiction book
- An autobiography or biography
- A wordless picture book
- A book with the character's name
 - in the title

Southwest Community

- A book with characters who are animals A fantasy, folktale, or fairy tale
- A nonfiction book
- A book about a place you have never been
- An award winner
- A book that's part of a series
- A book recommended by a librarian
- A graphic novel or comic book
- Read wearing a costume
- Read to a pet or stuffed animal
- Read at a park
- Read in your backyard
- Read in your favorite chair
- Read with a relative
- Read at a picnic
- Read after breakfast Read under a tree
- Read in bed

SPIRIT

Continued from p. 12

ing up on the league-wide leaderboard for goals scored this season.

Spirit defenders have also not shied away from the limelight. Between Morgan's two goals against Angel City and Krueger's equalizer against Utah, the versatility of the Spirit's back line is an evident strong suit this season. McKe-

- Read at a friend's house
- Read at a library
- Read under a blanket fort
- Read at a playground
- Read in your pajamas .
- Read wearing sunglasses
- Read on a rainy day Read in a closet
- Read by the pool, ocean, or lake.
- Read in the dark with a flashlight

Give it a try. Challenge your young reader to tackle summer reading with a twist!

Kitty Felde hosts the Book Club for Kids podcast, celebrating its 10th anniversary. Her newest Fina Mendoza Mystery is called Snake in the Grass, set on Capitol Hill.

own has also connected crucial passes, tallying up several assists to her name from the back line, and Gabby Carle, of the Canadian National team, continues to excel in all thirds of the field.

The trajectory of the Spirit's season remains unpredictable, but home games at Audi are sure to be a show not worth missing. Tickets for home games are available for purchase online and at the stadium and streaming options are available for all games.



and Chief of Staff to Department of Human Services Director Vincent Gray. From 2003 to 2007, Mayor Anthony Williams appointed him Director of the DC Office of Boards and Commissions. He later worked as Deputy Secretary to the DC City Council under Chairman Vincent Gray (2007-2011), and in 2011 was again named Director of the Office of Boards and Commissions by Mayor Gray. Collins concluded his career in government in 2012.

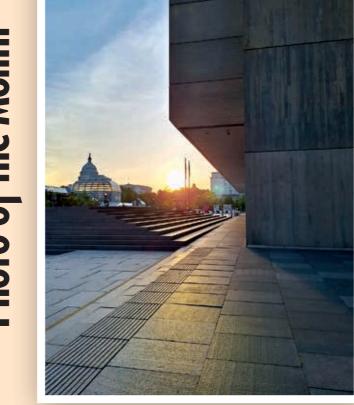
beloved mother, Shirley Hughes Brown; bonus mom, Yvonne Collins (widow of Ronald C. Collins); his brother, Eric Brown; his sister, Rhonda Dorsey (Terry); nieces, Jessica Jenkins, Jenine Brown, and Antoinette Bethea; nephew, Michael Brown; several cherished grandnieces and grandnephews; and a host of treasured friends.



Collins is survived by his

Ronald R. Collins

Photo of the Mon Courtesy of Legacy.com



Courtesy of M.M. Cunningham The sun rises over the U.S. Botanic Garden in Southwest.

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

Southwester Community Calendar | June 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

SUN 1, 11:00 A.M., DC PRIDE CELEBRATION SERVICE. Rev. Harry Stock will preach and Shirleta Settles and Friends will lead in praise and worship. All Invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW

SUN 1, 12:30-3:00 P.M., CONVERSATIONS ON AMERICAN FOREIGN AID, featuring a Photography Exhibit: Faces of Foreign Aid by Kelley Lynch. Free to the public. All invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW

MON 2, 3:30-4:30 P.M., SOLVE THE PUZZLE MYSTERY? Join us for a fun 1-hour program event, where we solve the mystery of several puzzles. Southwest Library

MON 2, 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 administrative meeting.

TUES 3, 4:00-7:00 P.M., KNOW YOUR POWER ART WORKSHOP. Art workshop for tweens and teens 12-18yrs. Southwest Library

TUES 3, PUPS IN THE PARK at Nationals Park. Special Ticket Events | Washington Nationals

WED 4TH & 18TH, 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 5^{TH,} 12th & 26th, 1:00-2:00 P.M., 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 5^{TH,} 12th & 26th, 4:00-5:00 P.M., GAME TIME. Play some of your favorites in the Children's Room after school. Ages 5 - 12. Southwest Library

FRI 6th & 13th, 27th, 10:30-11:30 A.M., SENSORY PLAYTIME. Join us in the Children's Room every Friday for fun sensory play. Birth-5, Southwest Library

SUN 8, 11:00 A.M., WORLD PRIDE CELEBRA-TION AND SERVICE. Rev. Danielle Dufoe will preach, and folk singer Jesse Palidofsky will lead praise and worship. All invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW

THURS 12th & 26th, 1:00-3:00 P.M., COFFEE & CONVERSATION. Join casual conversations with other library users and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and other light refreshments will be provided. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

THURS 12th & 26th, 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

FRI 13, 7-8:15 P.M., KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, 1200 Canal St SW. With Guest Teacher Gen Kelsang Chogden. Learning to Let Go. Embracing change and transforming every experience into growth. 1200 Canal St SW. https://meditation-dc.org/event/learning-to-letgo-making-peace-with-change/ SAT 14, 2:00-5:00 P.M. and SUN 15, 12:00 - 3:00 P.M., KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, 1200 Canal St SW. With Guest Teacher Gen Kelsang Chogden. Living Meaningfully, Dying Joyfully. Living with purpose, accepting mortality, and supporting others in their final moments.https:// meditation-dc.org/event/living-meaningfullydying-joyfully-a-buddhist-perspective-on-helping-ourselves-and-others-die-peacefully/

SAT 14, 4:00-5:00 P.M., Rainbow Heart Garland Craft. In honor of Pride Month, join us in the Children's Room to make a garland of rainbow hearts. Age group: Birth 5 - 12 Years. Southwest Library

SUN 15, 3:00-4:00 P.M., COZY; BOOK CLUB. Discuss Who Is Vera Kelly? by Rosalie Knecht with other mystery readers in Conference Room 1. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

TUES 10th & 24th, 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

TUES 10th & 24th, 6:30-7:30 P.M., KOMEN TOASTMASTERS Komen Toastmasters meets via Zoom. Please email us at KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com or call us at (202) 503-9232 a few days before the meeting to obtain the Zoom meeting 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.

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 and thought-provoking films. Club members will receive film titles, summaries and zoom link: Contact Westminster church office at: wpcdcoffice@gmail.com. All invited

MON 16th & 30th, 3:30-4:30 P.M., 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 program event. Adults 5 - 12 Years Old, 13 - 19 Years Old (Teens) are welcome.

MON 16, 7:00 P.M., ANC 6D BUSINESS MEET-ING. Please contact the office at 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/virtualmeetings/

TUES 17, 6:30-7:30 P.M., OFF SCRIPT! Celebrity Memoir Book Club Join us each month as we explore the lives of the fawned-over and the forgotten, the inspirational and the infamous! To find out the memoir of the month, please call the Southwest Library at (202) 724-4517 or register online at dclibrary.org to be added to the Off Script email list. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

SAT 21, 12-2:00 P.M., COMMUNITY EVENT Hosted by Laila's Legacy Animal Rescue, featuring other local vendors. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water Street SW **SAT 21, 6:00 P.M., GOSPEL JAZZ AND COM-EDY.** Join us at the **FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH** for an evening of Love, Laughter, and Joy featuring comedian, Reverend Ron Richardson; saxophonist, Eddie Baccus, Jr.; vocal soloists, Walter D. Jones, Lisa Carter; and jazz pianist, Tami Hayes. Refreshments will be served. Donation: \$40. Friendship Baptist Church, celebrating its 150th Anniversary Year of Service to the Community, is located at 900 Delaware Ave SW.Contact the church on 202-488-7417 for more information.

MON 23, 7:00-9:00 P.M., SWNA Annual Youth and Education Forum. Youth Activities and Education and Scholarship Task Forces. Meet local youth organizations. Arena Stage. See page 7

SAT 28, 1-3:00 P.M., Thinking About Jazz presents ROBERTA FLACK: A Quiet Storm, presented by Steve Novosel and others. Free to the public. All invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW

SAT 28, 4:00-5:00 P.M., SUNCATCHER CRAFT. Join us in the Children's Room for a fun suncatcher craft. Age group: Birth 5 - 12 Years Old.

SAT 28, 12:00-2:00 P.M., COMMUNITY EVENT. St Augustine' Episcopal Church.

MON 30, 3:30-4:30 P.M., 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 program event. Children, teens and adults are welcome. All ages

MON 30, 6:30-7:30 P.M., Brief Encounters Book Club. Explore an Author's Work by Reading Two of Their Books! Join us as we get acquainted with the works of authors you've heard of but want to know better Age group: Adults

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/bluemonday-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. Visit our website at

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

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, 10:30-11:00 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 or (202) 724-4298. Caregivers must accompany children under 9 years old. Southwest Library

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. Children ages three and older are invited to join our loving and lively Sunday School where they are introduced to a loving God who welcomes and cares for all. Through biblical stories, art, music and holy play, our children are nurtured in their natural spirituality to grow as the "littlest members" of a community of faith. 555 Water Street, SW. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or www.staugustinesdc.org.

CHURCH CLEANING, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 9:35 A.M. St. Dominic Church. 630 E Street SW. www.stdominicchurch.org/

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

FAMILY STORY TIME, Mondays 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

FARMER'S MARKET SW is back. Every Saturday, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M., Local produce, herbs, pasture meats, eggs, cheese, fresh breads & pastries, cut flowers & plants, Local coffee, hot prepared foods and more! **April 5th through December 20, 2025**. This market accepts SNAP/ Food Stamps and WIC/Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and offers the Produce Plus Program. **Location:** 4th & M Street SW, across from the Waterfront Metro.

FILM DISCUSSION. Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 P.M., Join this energetic, weekly conversation circle made of your neighbors and fellow library users centered around a short film. Ages 18+. 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 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. Each class includes guided meditations and Buddhist teachings to help you reduce your stress and anxiety and increase your peace of mind and resilience. Everyone welcome! **Tuesdays** 6:00-6:30 P.M. Buddhist Teacher Malik Johnson-Williams https://meditation-dc.org/tuesday-evenings/ **Thursdays** 7:15-8:30 P.M. Resident Teacher Kadam Michelle Gauthier. https://meditation-dc. org/thursday-evenings/ Sundays 10:00-11:00 A.M. Buddhist Teacher Sanema Naomi Hardrick https://meditation-dc.org/sunday-mornings/

MARKET SW is back. Alternate Fridays, 4:00-10:00 P.M. An evening of Arts, Food, Flea & Fun. Plus Live Music, Performances & Beer Garden. A Family & Pet-Friendly Community Gathering. June 13, 27; July 11, 25; Aug 22; Sept 5, 19. **Location**: 4th & M Street SW, across from the Waterfront Metro.

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

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTEIN PAN-TRY, 2nd Sundays, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. All are welcome! For more details contact 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

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH, Saturday Vigil: 5:00 P.M., SUNDAY MASS, 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. All are welcome and encouraged to respectfully and prayerfully visit our church, at any time when it is open. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 501 6th St. SW. www.stdominicchurch. org or Office@StDominicChurch.org

ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sunday Worship Service 9:30 A.M. Faith is strengthened when it is celebrated with others. Everyone is welcome, exactly as they are, for exactly who they are. Worship is followed by a coffee hour filled with fellowship, warmth, community, and good food! 555 Water Street, SW. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or www. staugustinesdc.org. **BEING THE IMAGO DEI ON THE SW WATERFRONT SINCE 1961!**

ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. TUES-DAY EVENING PRAYER 6:30 P.M. We gather for Evening Prayer each Tuesday at 6:30 P.M. **via Zoom**. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or www.staugustinesdc.org. Please join us!

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

TWEEN TUESDAY, 3:30-5:00 P.M. After-school activities for tweens ages 10 to 12 years old. Southwest Library, southwestlibrary@dc.gov (not June 3rd)

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

VIEW OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT WWW.SWNA.ORG

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

LONG BRIDGE

Continued from p. 1

The project will involve approximately 1.8 miles of infrastructure improvements, including the construction of seven new rail bridges, additional pedestrian bridges, and associated railroad infrastructure. One major component is a new bike-pedestrian bridge spanning the Potomac River and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. This bridge will connect Long Bridge Park in Arlington directly to East and West Potomac Parks in Washington, DC, as part of mitigation efforts related to National Park Service (NPS) parkland. Southwest residents gathered at

the library both in person and virtually. After the presentation was a Q&A session, where residents raised concerns primarily about noise and traffic impacts. VPRA committed to adhering to all applicable noise ordinances and outlined several mitigation strategies, including the use of low-decibel "whisper generators," reduced-volume truck backup alerts, and efforts to limit night work. The construction of bridges over I-395 and Maine Avenue SW in DC, and over the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Mount Vernon Trail in Virginia, will require periodic lane shifts, shoulder closures, and brief full closures. Any full roadway closures will take place during off-peak or overnight hours, with ample public notice provided in advance. For local mariners, there may be some navigational channel closures or detours. While there will be no permanent impacts to navigation, temporary impacts during construction will be unavoidable. Construction contractors will follow all U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) require-

ments for safeguarding river traffic during construction and will minimize disruptions, especially during times of heavy river traffic, such as summer holidays.

Preconstruction activities are already underway. Construction is expected to start later in 2025 through 2030. Meeting presentations and slides will be available on the website: https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/ project/longbridgeproject/. For additional questions, please email info@ longbridgeproject.com.



LIBRARY PARTY

We're throwing an exciting event packed with literary interactive activities, hands-on fun, and plenty of fun for all ages!



eswbid swbid.org/events Swbid Business Improvement District

CommUNITY Tables

JUNE 26 FROM 5:30-7:30 PM @ SOUTHWEST DUCK POND

Join us in connecting neighbors through FREE delicious food, fun activities, and a sense of community! Expect themes of joy, belonging, SW Sunsets, and SW Pride through engaging activities. This event encourages signing up, but walkups are welcome on a first-come, firstserved basis. See you there!



