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# Shepherd Park News

A quarterly newsletter for residents of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village and North Portal Estates

Newsletter of the

**Shepherd Park Citizens Association**

Spring 2003

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## Calendar

### MAY

**6—ANC 4A meeting**, 7:15 p.m.,  
Ft. Stevens Rec Center

**\*10—SPCA Community  
Cleanup**, 9 a.m.—noon

**10—PSA 401 meeting**,  
11 a.m., Sh. Pk. Library

**15—MPD 4<sup>th</sup> District Citizens  
Advisory Council**, 7 p.m.,  
4<sup>th</sup> District Police Station

**16 & 17—Music Man**, 7 p.m., &  
**18** at 3 p.m., Shepherd ES

**20 & 22—Nat'l Park Service  
hearings on Beach Dr.  
closings**, 6–10 p.m., UDC

Auditorium

**\*28—SPCA General Meeting**,  
6:45 p.m., **Shepherd ES**

### JUNE

**1—Third Annual Ward 4  
Family Fun Night/13th Annual  
Shakespeare Theatre Free-  
for-All**, picnic 4:30 p.m.,  
Hamlet 7 p.m., Carter Barron  
Amphitheater, call 724-8828

**3—ANC 4A meeting**, 7:15 p.m.,  
Ft. Stevens Rec Center

**7—Nat'l Safety Month & free  
health screening**, 11 a.m.—  
2 p.m., National Museum of  
Health & Medicine at Walter  
Reed, call 782-2200

**8—Nat'l Kidney Month free  
kidney health screening**,  
11 a.m.—2 p.m., see above for  
location & contact info.

**\*7 & 8—Shepherd Park  
Community Yard Sale**,  
9 a.m.—3 p.m.

**14—PSA 401 meeting**,  
11 a.m., Sh. Pk. Library

**\*22—SPCA Community  
Picnic**, 1:30–5 p.m., Lowell  
School field

### JULY

**12—PSA 401 meeting**,  
11 a.m., Sh. Pk. Library

For more news, join the  
Shepherd Park email group by  
sending a blank email to  
shepherdpark-subscribe@  
yahoogroups.com or contact Beth  
Allaben at beth.dc@verizon.net.

## Message From The President

*“Dedicated to improving the quality of life for all members of the Shepherd Park community through programs and activities that focus on safe and clean streets, regular communication among community members, responsiveness to community concerns, economic development that benefits our community, proactive involvement in relevant business and political matters, and support of Shepherd Elementary School.”*

This is the SPCA Mission Statement that, along with the goals for 2003/4 and the committees and chairs charged with achieving those goals, were presented and unanimously accepted at our March 12 community meeting. (A list of the committees and their chairs is on page 2.) And what a successful meeting it was! We anticipated a turnout of about 50 residents; instead, almost three times that number came, and many became SPCA members or volunteered either to be block captains or to participate in other community activities. If you haven't already volunteered, take a look at the list of committees and see if there's an area where you could help support our community.

The large turnout for the March meeting demonstrated how much Shepherd Park residents care for their neighborhood. Guest speakers — including DC Councilmember Adrian Fenty, DC Police Captain Andy Solberg, Daniel Parr (aide to Montgomery County's Thomas Perez), Montgomery County Police Lt. Allen Goldberg, and representatives of both the Silver Spring Ramada Inn and Silver Spring Days Inn/Travelodge — were subjected to vigorous audience questioning. Discussion focused on burglaries and other property crimes in Shepherd Park allegedly committed by criminals operating out of rooms at the Ramada and Days Inns. Assurances were given that quick action would be taken to shut down the crime gangs, and within days, the police notified us that several gang members had been arrested.

On a more recent note, a new Shepherd Park homeowner sent an email inquiry about joining SPCA and added that she had heard “great things about Shepherd Park, especially the close-knit nature of the neighborhood.” Bravo Shepherd Park! Your mantra has attracted many of us to Shepherd Park and it continues to work, thanks to many past residents like Marvin Caplan (see page 2) and present residents like Jourdinia Brown who have committed themselves to making Shepherd Park truly “A Neighborhood that Lives and Works Together.”

To continue this togetherness, SPCA has scheduled four community events — including our next General Meeting — for spring and summer 2003:

- **Community Cleanup** on Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m. to noon
- **SPCA General Meeting** on Wednesday, May 28, 6:45 p.m. at Shepherd Elementary
- **Annual Community Yard Sale**, on Saturday and Sunday, June 7 & 8, and
- **Community Picnic** on Sunday, June 22, 1:30 to 5 p.m., at the Lowell School grounds.

These events are described more fully on page 2. The “community” in each of these events means we need your participation to make them successful. We encourage every resident living in the area enclosed by Georgia Avenue, Eastern Avenue, Rock Creek Park and Aspen Street to help with the planning and to attend these events.

— Joan Hoyte, SPCA President

**Shepherd Park News is back ... We need your help to keep publishing!** Become a dues-paying member of the Shepherd Park Citizens' Association and help defray the cost of this newsletter and other activities. **Fill out the form at the back of the newsletter. We know you care about our community, so please become a member TODAY!**

**Dodson/Long & Foster salutes SPCA!**

**202-882-2121, www.MetroDCHomes.com, email: GeorgiaAv.dc@longandfoster.com**

**Community Cleanup**

Shepherd Park's **Community Cleanup** will take place on **Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m. to noon**, during the Great American Cleanup program sponsored by DC Clean City and Keeping Washington Beautiful Inc. DPW will provide some tools and trash pickup. There will be four residential teams and one Georgia Ave business area clean-up team. SPCA and Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corporation will provide a breakfast of danish pastries, juice, and coffee for the teams. We urgently need more team leaders. Contact Joan Hoyte at 882-2447 or jeph@aol.com to volunteer.

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Shepherd Park Community Yard Sale**

Treasure hunters and sellers shouldn't miss this year's event, **Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8** — a good way to meet your neighbors or to enjoy the beauty of this wonderful community. **How does it work?** Neighbors who want to participate set up their own sales at their own homes. Each participating location pays a \$10 fee to the Shepherd Park Citizens Association to cover advertising costs. We do the rest — placing newspaper ads, posting signs, even printing a directory for shoppers showing all participating locations and major items being sold. Last year more than 50 families participated in the yard sale.

**To participate, complete the form on the back of the newsletter.** If you want to be included in the directory of participating sellers, we must have this information and your \$10 check **NO LATER THAN Friday, May 23.**

**Community Picnic**

Our **Community Picnic** on Sunday, June 22, from 1:30 to 5 p.m., at the Lowell School grounds is sure to set a standard for years to come. Neighbors will mix and mingle while they enjoy crabs, barbecue, and ethnic cuisine. Maybe we'll even have a sack-race to help burn off the calories. The kids can try out the many playgrounds, take a kid-ride, or listen to storytellers. Contact Joan Hoyte at 882-2447 or jeph@aol.com to volunteer.

**Looking for a Few More Block Captains**

A network of Block Captains has been organized to help distribute important information to residents of the Shepherd Park community. We have over 50 volunteers, but **WE STILL NEED HELP!** Being a Block Captain should take about 30 minutes per month. **Volunteers are still needed:** On 16th St North of Leegate • East of 16th St: Roxanna • Eastern Ave. North of Northgate • West of 16th St: 17th, Jonquil, Juniper, Kalmia, Myrtle, Primrose, Roxanna. Please contact Mike Binder at 726-8313 or by email at mbinder@reality-alt.com.

**Express Yourself on Public Safety**

*Tom Black* reminds everyone to participate in PSA (Police Service Area) meetings, held the second Saturday of every month, at 11:00 a.m. in the Shepherd Park Library — your chance to air your complaints and concerns ... but don't forget to inform Chief Ramsey as well!

**SPCA's Executive Board & Committees****Communications** (newsletter)

**Sally Ethelston, Rec. Sec'y** / 882-9717 / sethelston@aol.com  
To advertise: Joan Hoyte / 882-2447 / jeph@aol.com

**Constitution & By-laws** (review and revision)

**Tom Black, At Large** / 291-4791 / enviro1111@aol.com  
**Ralph Blessing, Past President** / 726-0587 / rblessin88@hotmail.com

**Economic Development** (Georgia Avenue)

**Marc Loud, At Large** / 882-3143 / marccloud@hotmail.com  
**Dwayne Revis, Vice Pres.** / 291-3415 / revis@starpower.net

**Education** (partnership with Shepherd Elementary)

**Nansie Word, At Large** / 726-6965 / nsw1430@hotmail.com

**Environmental** (Community appearance & beautification)

**Patrick Grobbel, At Large** / 882-7505 / patgrobbel@hotmail.com

**Fundraising**

**Barry Hudson, Delegate** / 829-7676 / blehudson@msn.com  
**Vivian Tucker, Corres. Sec'y** / 291-1179

**Legislative** (contact with elected officials)

**Marc Loud, At Large** / 882-3143 / marccloud@hotmail.com  
**Dwayne Toliver, Delegate** / 882-8892 / dtoliver@nixonpeabody.com

**Member Recruitment**

**Dolores Bondurant, Treasurer**  
829-4989 / FBondurant@msn.com

**Neighborhood Outreach & Activities**

**Joan Hoyte, President** / 882-2447 / jeph@aol.com

**Public Safety** (liaison with Metropolitan Police Dept.)

**Tom Black, At Large** / 291-4791 / enviro1111@aol.com

**Shepherd Park's Triangle Gets a Name**

*Carl Bergman*

Thanks to Councilmember Adrian Fenty, Shepherd Park's only park, the small area bounded by Alaska Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> and Holly Streets, has been named in honor of Marvin Caplan, the former neighborhood organizer, writer, and Civil Rights pioneer. Caplan Park is the small area bounded by Alaska Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> and Holly Streets. The naming was proposed in a petition originated by the Geranium Street Neighborhood Watch and sponsored by Neighbors, Inc.

A formal dedication ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, June 7. The Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for maintaining the park and its landscape architect will develop a plan for improving the plantings and adding a sign and plaque honoring Mr. Caplan. Neighbor's, Inc. is raising money for the plaque, estimated to cost \$1500-2000. To contribute, send your check to: Neighbor's Inc., Caplan Park, c/o Susan Learmonth, 1309 Floral St., NW, DC 20012.

**Jimmy's Deli supports SPCA — 7828 Georgia Ave., 202-726-8231**

## Gateway Georgia Ave Updates

*Marc Loud*

The final phases of the Storefront Improvement Program for upper Georgia Avenue are slated for completion by mid to late June. The next areas to be renovated are 25 storefronts from the 7300 to the 7700 blocks of Georgia Avenue and the Kalmia Strip Mall (located on the east side of Georgia and Kalmia). Gateway, ANC Commissioner Jourdinia Brown and several businesses and local residents have concluded a series of meetings with District government staffers to finalize a parking study for upper Georgia Avenue. The study will focus on parking enforcement, off-street parking enhancement opportunities, and parking relief for businesses and residents most directly impacted by Georgia Avenue parking shortages. The study is scheduled for completion in June. Contact GGARC at 291-2400 or gatewaycdc@aol.com.

## New Stop Signs to Help "Calm" Traffic

DDOT's Traffic Services Administration has approved the request for **all way stop signs at Geranium and Alaska Avenue**; installation will likely take place by the end of this summer. To further improve safety, DDOT plans to lengthen the no parking area to 40 feet on both sides of Alaska at the intersection with Holly. An **all way stop at 17th and Holly** should be installed by the end of the summer as well.

Later this summer DDOT will perform a **Traffic Calming Study** in the 7900 block of 14th Street. To request such a study for other problem streets, residents should contact Damon Harvey, Ward 4 Transportation Planner. For more information, go to [www.ddot.dc.gov](http://www.ddot.dc.gov), click on "Transportation Planning", then "Transportation Studies", then "Draft Traffic Calming Policies and Guidelines."

## Vivian and Ramona Cohen: Shepherd Park Pollworkers Extraordinaire

*Dolores Bondurant*

If you have ever voted at Shepherd Elementary School, then you have surely chatted with Vivian and Ramona Cohen. For every election since the 1960s — primary, mayoral, and presidential — this mother-daughter team has staffed the Ballot Clerk desk at the polls. The Cohens are true Washingtonians. Vivian and her late husband, Herman, moved to 14<sup>th</sup> Street in 1954. Daughters Ramona and Judy both attended Shepherd Elementary, Paul Junior High, and Coolidge High School. A long-time volunteer at Shepherd Elementary, Vivian still donates materials for arts and crafts.



Today, Ramona is employed at Kator & Scott, a labor law firm, and with her mother enjoys gardening, volunteering with Hadassah,

and doing together what they can to help their neighbors, whom they treat like family. And they still say Shepherd Park is a wonderful place to call home.

## May Hearings for Rock Creek Park Road Plans

*Paul McKenzie*

The National Park Service (NPS) has drafted a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement to analyze three action alternatives and a no-action alternative for general management of Rock Creek Park for the next 15 to 20 years.

The NPS's preferred alternative would close three segments of Beach Drive in the northern portion of the park to motorized vehicles for a 6-hour period, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., on weekdays. These would be the same segments currently closed on weekends, although Sherrill Drive and Bingham Drive would remain open except on weekends. A second alternative would implement high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV2) restrictions on Beach Drive during rush hour. The third alternative would permanently close these selected segments of Beach Drive. The no-action alternative would continue current practices.

*To make your opinion known*, write to:

National Park Service, Rock Creek Park Superintendent  
3545 Williamsburg Lane NW, Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

**OR** fill out the electronic form at:

<http://planning.nps.gov/parkweb/comments.cfm?RecordID=135>

The National Park Service will hold public meetings in May (see calendar on page 1).

## Tree trimming resumes; help keep trees alive!

DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) will be back in Ward 4 **trimming trees** for three weeks in May. UFA will trim trees in all the even number Wards for three weeks, switch to odd number Wards for three weeks, and then maintain this schedule throughout the year. The next open **planting season** begins November 1, 2003. If you know of a public space tree that needs trimming or an empty tree box, make a service request by calling 727-1000 or going to [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov).

According to the UFA, newly planted street trees need special care during their first two years and, in particular, frequent watering during hot, dry spells — an hour once a week of a trickling hose or a Treegator. If you notice a new tree has died, make a service request and notify Ralph Blessing at 726-0587 or [rblessin88@hotmail.com](mailto:rblessin88@hotmail.com) for tracking purposes. Include the address closest to the tree box in question.

## Orange Hats on Patrol

Another opportunity to get involved in neighborhood affairs is by joining the Orange Hats for their weekly patrol along Georgia Avenue. Meet at **Northminster Presbyterian Church**, Alaska and Kalmia (the steps on Alaska Avenue side) at **7:30 p.m. on Thursdays**. For information contact Joan Hoyte at [jephh@aol.com](mailto:jephh@aol.com) or 882-2447.

**Lowell School supports SPCA, Summer Program June 23-Aug 1, call 202-577-2007**

**Lower Shepherd Field & Tot Lot Update**

After all the snow and rain, renovation of the lower field adjacent to Shepherd Elementary School began in April and will last about a month. After all work is completed, the field will be **totally closed to all use for 9-12 months** after the work is completed so the sod can get firmly established. Neighbors are asked **not** to use the field for any purpose during this time and to report anyone seen using the field to the police by calling 311.

Plans to build a tot lot on the school's blacktop area inside the fence on the Kalmia Road side are also proceeding. The tot lot

will include a state-of-the-art "poured in place" rubberized surface in bright colors, one large play structure and two smaller ones (all designed for children ages 2-5), benches and new fencing. Resurfacing of the remaining asphalt and repair or replacement of existing play equipment will also be done.

DC Parks and Rec. must now get approval from the DC Public Schools in hopes that construction can take place this summer while school is not in session. All of this work will be paid for by Parks and Rec., thanks to Director (and Shepherd Park neighbor) Neil Albert and Councilmember Adrian Fenty.

**Yard Sale Registration Form — Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to sell on  Saturday  Sunday  Both days — Describe any major items or types of things you plan to sell (e.g. a sofa, toys, clothes): \_\_\_\_\_

**Make your check (\$10) payable to SPCA and mail to: Beth Allaben, 1321 Jonquil St., NW, DC 20012**

Registration forms must be received by Friday, May 23.

**SPCA Annual Membership Application — 2003 — Please Print**

Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Add me to the Shepherd Park email group  I'm already part of the email group

I live in the area bordered by Eastern Avenue on the north, Aspen Street on the south, Georgia Avenue (west side) on the east, and Rock Creek Park on the west and want to join SPCA — 2003 dues \$20 per household.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**A fee will be assessed for any returned checks.**

**Make your check payable to SPCA and mail to:**

**SPCA, 7600 Georgia Avenue, NW #404, DC 20012**

**Shepherd Park Citizens' Association**

7600 Georgia Ave., NW #404  
Washington, DC 20012

PRESORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SILVER SPRING, MD  
PERMIT NO. 1721

**Jane Davis Adams, Neighbor & SPCA Supporter**  
**For your real estate needs, call 202-726-0276**  
**Long & Foster Realtor**  
**www.JaneDavisAdams.com**

**See calendar (page 1) for community events!**

# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY !!

JOIN

## THE FRIENDS OF THE JUANITA E. THORNTON/SHEPHERD PARK LIBRARY

### Membership Form

**Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library**  
7420 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012-1722

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form with a check to:

Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library  
7420 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20012

\$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Student/Senior Citizen

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit Organization

\$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual

\$75 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor/Business

\$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Family

\$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron

*Please Sign Up Below if You Want to Get More Involved*

I'm interested in:

\_\_\_ Annual Book Sale

\_\_\_ Becoming a Board Member

\_\_\_ Children's Activities

\_\_\_ Planning Events (Staff

\_\_\_ Health Fair

appreciation night, boat cruise)

**Gymboree supports SPCA, 8625 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Silver Spring, 301-589-0064**

## The Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/ Shepherd Park Library

The Friends of Shepherd Park Library has been in existence since the Shepherd Park Library opened. The Friends host community-oriented activities, raise funds for the Library, advocate for the Library and assist the staff in implementing library activities.

The Friends of Shepherd Park Library is a volunteer neighborhood organization that operates within the Federation of the District of Columbia Public Libraries. Each Friends organization assists its branch library in fulfilling its mission of being a central and vital asset to the community. The Friends' members pay modest dues and volunteer as much or as little time as a member can spare. The central work of the Friends is done through a Board elected annually by the membership.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/ Shepherd Park Library, please fill out the form on the other side of this flyer. Thank you.

### *The Board of the Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/ Shepherd Park Library*

Vida Anderson	Ernie Jackson
Lori Dodson	Georgina McGuire
Tommy Duren	Liz McNichol
Ronald Flowers	Donald Squires
Ora Hall	Beverly Wilbourn
Winnell Montague	

### *Honorary Members*

Doris Collie  
Rasheed Jelani  
Jackie Holt  
Dyanna Tardd  
Barbara Petty  
Barbara Clark

### *Past Presidents*

Ronald Flowers  
Natalie Howard  
Janice Spencer  
Paul McKenzie  
Genelle Fry