

Shepherd Park News

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

Newsletter of the

Shepherd Park Citizens' Association

Fall 2003

Calendar

NOVEMBER

1—Mayor's Citizen Summit III,

8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Conv. Center

1—Am. Diabetes Month free health screening, 11 a.m.–

2 p.m., National Museum of Health & Medicine at Walter Reed, call 782-2200

4—ANC 4A meeting, 7:15 p.m.,

Ft. Stevens Rec Center

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

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

14—Career Day, Shepherd ES, to share a career, call Ms. Yates-Timmons at 576-6140

20—MPD 4th District Citizens Advisory Council, 7 p.m., 4th District Police Station

DECEMBER

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

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

18—MPD 4th District Citizens Advisory Council, 7 p.m., 4th District Police Station

At the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library

Story Time, every Tuesday, 10 a.m. (ages 3-5)

Tales for 2s, every T, 11 a.m.

Preschool Films, every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. (ages 2-7)

Oct. 30—Halloween

Happening, 4 p.m., scary films & stories, wear your costume! (ages 6 and up)

Nov. 5—Friends of Sh. Pk. Library Gen'l Membership Mtg., 7 p.m., Sh. Pk. Library (all community members welcome)

Nov. 19—Caldecott Book Bingo Party, 4 p.m.

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

Message From The President

Ah, the things we take for granted: a dry home, electricity, clean drinking water, available food, and concerned neighbors. For almost a week in September, tropical storm Isabel and the devastation it brought demonstrated that our most important asset might be a neighbor. Our dependency on each other was plain when we gathered at the sites of the downed trees and damaged homes, expressed concerns over the plight of our home-bound seniors and others in need, demanded that Pepco and the City prioritize the power restoration in our community, sent email advice and updates about how to survive the outage, and most importantly by singular acts of kindness like cleaning debris from our neighbor's property or bailing their flooded basements, or inviting them over to dinner or to view the Redskins' game on battery operated televisions.

We saw that same community spirit at SPCA's summer picnic on June 22 when over 400 neighbors engaged in a joyous celebration of friends, food, music, games, face painting, trivia, and book raffles. Many thanks to all who worked to make the picnic happen. By popular demand, the picnic will be an annual event – mark your calendars for the next picnic on June 27, 2004! This year's community yard



sale, when over 50 families defied the weather and converted their front yards into treasure troves, also showcased the dynamism of our neighborhood. Thanks to Beth Allaben and Pam Satterfield, the yard sale has become an annual tradition for residents and bargain hunters alike.

SPCA realizes that preserving the social fabric of our neighborhood depends on the revitalization of upper Georgia Avenue which, for too long, has suffered from community, commercial and political apathy. Upper Georgia Avenue belongs to all of us, and many community voices, including Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corporation, ANC Jourdinia Brown, Voice of the Upper Georgia Avenue Community, and the Orange Hat Patrol, are to be commended for working to restore its viability and safety. SPCA particularly applauds Gateway for obtaining the coveted Main Street designation for upper Georgia Avenue. We are excited about the commercial development possibilities! We urge you to participate in the recovery: come out and patronize the few quality businesses that are already here and demand more; join, use and support our community's treasure the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Public Library (see calendar for Friends of the Library meeting); and demand that the City and property owners keep the avenue clean and repair dilapidated buildings. SPCA's recent success in getting the removal of graffiti from a commercial neighborhood building signaled that businesses will take prompt corrective measures to improve their property or service when we ask. Many communities in the City have revived their commercial corridors through this type of symbiotic relationship between residents/customers and businesses. Let us do the same!

Putting its money where its mouth is, SPCA has scheduled **two informal dinner gatherings at El Tamarindo** on Friday, October 24 from 6:30-8 p.m., and Sunday, November 16, from 5-7 p.m. Come for dinner or just a snack; bring your kids and a neighbor! Bring the El Tamarindo coupon in this newsletter for 15% off your meal price (Monday-Friday only). Also take note of our **next SPCA Community Meeting, on Wednesday, November 12, 2003, 6:45 p.m.,** at Shepherd Elementary School. Please save the date and watch for the agenda!

— 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

New Opportunities for Upper Georgia Avenue: Streetscape Improvements, Main Street Grant, Developer Interest

By Marc Loud, Executive Director GGARC

Over the past several years, a number of diverse factors have converged to present upper Georgia Avenue with a realistic chance to emerge from years of disinvestment and neglect and to become a flagship commercial corridor. Those factors include downtown Silver Spring's economic development, the evolution of the Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corporation, the recent Main Street designation for upper Georgia Avenue, and private sector investment interest.

Public/private sector development in Silver Spring has started an economic engine that by 2008 will bring over \$1 billion in investment, 1500 new employees, and 1100 new households to our community's northern border. Many of the new arrivals will be physically closer to us than to downtown Silver Spring, and aggressive DC businesses seeking to benefit from the geographic and economic windfall are eager to greet them. As Jimmy Bly of Jimmy's Deli puts it, "my business is closer to Montgomery College's new Georgia Avenue campus than any downtown Silver Spring eatery."

In April, Gateway received a 5-year \$260,000 grant from the DC Government's Main Street program. The principal goal of that grant is to recreate upper Georgia Avenue in a way that reflects the interests and needs of the surrounding residential communities. Census data for 2000 shows that upper Georgia Avenue communities spend \$38 million annually on apparel, \$39 million on entertainment, \$35 million on food "away from home," \$39 million on investments, and \$30 million on furnishings. However, residents have to purchase those items elsewhere, because the corridor is dominated by fast food carry-outs, hair salons, and other service businesses.

But new businesses will not consider upper Georgia Avenue a viable place for relocation and investment unless its blighted physical appearance is eradicated and its chronic parking shortage is addressed. Gateway has already begun work to address these two issues. With the help of Councilman Adrian M. Fenty, Gateway has leveraged a \$579,000 community development block grant into 24 renovated storefronts and architectural drawings for the renovation of an additional 18 storefronts. Area businesses have participated as well, by partially funding the installation of 29 new street banners and the landscaping of 38 tree boxes. The DC Department of Transportation is conducting a Parking Condition Survey/Study (due in October 2003) for upper Georgia Avenue, a first step toward quantifying the need for additional parking to support the area's commercial corridor.

The most sincere community driven revitalization efforts for upper Georgia Avenue will fall short if developers, lenders, gap financiers, and investors do not take interest in the area. The good news is that a steady drumbeat of private-sector interest has begun. In September, the DC Building Industry Association lunched an initiative to create a database of upper Georgia Avenue properties for its members. The National Revitalization Corporation has designated upper Georgia Avenue as a strategic

investment node for fiscal year 2004. Others, including representatives of Magic Johnson's "Urban Canyon" private investment fund, Sana Simba of Karibu Books, and Caroline Tay of York Castle Ice Cream have expressed an investment interest in the corridor.

Upper Georgia Avenue is positioned to maximize development opportunities for public and private sector stakeholders. A wonderful year ahead awaits! Take advantage of this opportunity and get involved in the revitalization effort. The Main Street program has a volunteer-driven framework. We're currently looking for **volunteers** for three Main Street Committees: **Economic Development, Design, and Promotion**. To volunteer, contact **Marc Loud** at gatewaycdc@aol.com or **291-2400**.

Your SPCA: the Fundraising Committee

By Vivian Tucker, SPCA's Fundraising Co-Chair

SPCA's Fundraising Committee has been busy in recent months researching and planning activities to raise money for upcoming SPCA events and activities. We have set an \$8000 fundraising goal to support the **Shepherd Park News**, the summer picnic, and other community activities. We are currently in the early planning stages for several projects – Shepherd Park sweatshirts, a business guide, a Fall Festival, and a citrus fruit sale. Our committee is working hard, but **we need your help** to carry out these projects. If you have fundraising ideas or are willing to help with the ones already underway, please contact **Vivian Tucker** at **291-1179**.

Changes on SPCA's Board

Hello to Gwynne Guzzeau, our newest at-large Board member. Gwynne lives on Roxanna Road with her husband and toddler son and will lead SPCA's partnership with Shepherd Elementary. **Goodbye and thank you to Nansie Word and Patrick Grobbel**.

SPCA's Executive Board

Joan Hoyte, President

882-2447 / jephh@aol.com

Dwayne Revis, Vice President

291-3415 / revis@starpower.net

Dolores Bondurant,

Treasurer

829-4989 /

FBondurant@msn.com

Vivian Tucker, Corres. Sec'y

291-1179

Sally Ethelston, Rec. Sec'y

882-9717 / sethelston@aol.com

Delegate to the Federation of Civic Associations:

Barry Hudson / 829-7676 /

blehudson@msn.com

At-large members:

Tom Black/ 291-4791 /

enviro1111@aol.com

Gwynne Guzzeau / 291-2250 /

gguzzeau@msn.com

Delegates to Federation of Citizens Associations:

Dwayne Toliver / 882-8892 /

dtoliver@nixonpeabody.com

Marc Loud / 882-3143 /

marcloud@hotmail.com

Past Presidents:

Ellie Anderson, Gracie Baten,

Ralph Blessing, Joe Membrino

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

On the Avenue ... El Tamarindo

By Ralph Blessing

When El Tamarindo arrived on Georgia Avenue in 1990, neighbors were concerned about yet another establishment selling liquor in the 7300 block. But owner Jose Reyes assured nearby residents that El Tamarindo would be a family restaurant that served alcohol only with meals. He has more than lived up to that promise, and El Tamarindo is viewed by all as a responsible neighbor and a welcome addition to the community.

And El Tamarindo is more than a good neighbor; it is a great place to go – a short walk for many in the area – for fine Salvadorian and Mexican dishes, from pupusas to enchiladas to fajitas. In addition to its broad menu and good selection of Mexican beers, Mr. Reyes has demonstrated his confidence in our community by opening the first outdoor dining area on upper Georgia Avenue. El Tamarindo's nicely landscaped patio with tiled façade opened last year. Unfortunately, this year's wet summer has prevented patrons from taking full advantage of the opportunity to dine *al fresco* right here in our own neighborhood. But that doesn't mean we have to wait until next year to enjoy the taste of good Mexican or Salvadorian food. Drop by anytime for a cozy dining experience in the indoor portion of the restaurant and show Mr. Reyes your appreciation for the commitment he has made to Georgia Avenue and to our community.



A recent Sunday night at El Tam

Thanks to all our picnic supporters!

Lowell School for the use of its grounds, Shepherd Park's own historian **Fred Shirmacher** for running the trivia contest, **Nansie Word and her Jonquil Street neighbors** for countless tasks, **Oscar Hannaway** of NAI Personnel for sponsoring the clown, **Tim Shuy's band** for providing live music, **Jack Thomas and Butch Alvarez** for sponsoring the deejay music, **Councilmember Fenty**, the **DC Dep't of Parks and Recreation** for tables and chairs, the **MPD's PSA 401** for providing the McGruff the Crime Dog, and **DC Fire Department Engine Company No. 22** for providing a fire engine and fire safety tips. Special thanks also to our business sponsors, **Safeway (Piney Branch)**, **Giant and CVS (Blair Plaza)**, **Gist Catering**, **Cater First**, **Tropicana Restaurant**, **Morris Miller**, **Jimmy's Deli**, and **American Security Co.**

How to reach Shepherd Park News—

To submit articles or volunteer to help:

Sally Ethelston at sethelston@aol.com / 882-9717

Beth Allaben at beth.dc@verizon.net / 882-2609

For advertising:

Sandy King at sking@scilearn.com / 723-5880

Say Goodbye to Single Sales

By Jourdinia Brown, Commissioner for ANC 4A02

As a Shepherd Park resident and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC), I have long been concerned about the many complaints concerning public drinking, littering, loitering, and panhandling on upper Georgia Avenue. Many of these quality of life problems stem from the high number of businesses on upper Georgia Avenue that sell alcoholic beverages. Currently ten establishments on Georgia Avenue between Fern Street and Eastern Avenue hold liquor licenses.

Affected ANCs have the opportunity to participate in the process for granting and renewing liquor licenses. As ANC Commissioner, I have raised the concerns of Shepherd Park neighbors with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration when it has considered the renewal of the liquor licenses for many of the upper Georgia Avenue businesses. In recent years, we have seen the closing of Elwood Mart, a voluntary agreement with the Nile Market to permit alcohol to be sold only with meals served in the restaurant (no carryout alcohol), and voluntary agreements with Morris Miller and Cork 'N Bottle to prohibit the sale of single containers of 70 oz. or less of alcoholic beverages. Steve Whatley, Commissioner for ANC 4A03 and I continue to work on negotiating an agreement with Mayfair Liquor to ban sale of singles.

There are other liquor license renewals coming up, including China Hut and the Geranium Market. Please attend our ANC meetings to hear more, give your opinion, and support your community.

Community News

New in the neighborhood—Shepherd Park welcomes **Interim Principal Pauline Hamlette** to **Shepherd Elementary** for the 2003-2004 school year. This is the 4th time Ms. Hamlette has come out of retirement to help a DC Public School after serving as principal of Amidon Elementary for 17 years. Welcome also to the **Rock Creek Children's Center**. Located in the Washington Ethical Society building on 16th Street, the Children's Center offers classes for children ages 2 ½ -5.

The sod is finally planted and the equipment is installed! Remember that the **lower field** at Shepherd Elementary is off limits to all use until next spring so the sod can get established. After that, the field and walking track will be open daily for community use. The **tot lot** is now open every day except 12-1 p.m. on school days when Shepherd Elementary children use the space during recess.

SPCA's Volunteer Wish List

SPCA is entirely a volunteer organization. All our programs and activities depend on the time and talent of our community members. Do your part! There is something for everyone, even if you just have an hour to spend.

- ◆ SPCA website design
- ◆ Orange Hat patrols
- ◆ Newsletter reporters

Contact Joan Hoyte at jephh@aol.com or 882-2447 to help.

Ward 4 Councilmember Adrian Fenty supports SPCA – 724-8052



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SPCA's 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.

Dues for 2nd half of 2003 -- \$10/household

Signature: _____

A fee will be assessed for any returned checks.

Make your check payable to SPCA and mail to:

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SPCA Community Meeting Wednesday, November 12

