



The Southwester

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Serving the Waterfront Communities of Southwest and Navy Yard

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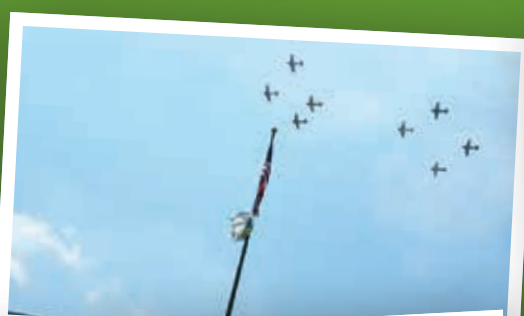
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World War II Airplanes over SW DC



Missing Man Formation



One of the most diverse arrays of World War II aircraft ever assembled flew over Southwest DC on May 8 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, as part of the Arsenal of Democracy World War II Victory Capitol Flyover. The flyover included dozens of World War II aircraft flying in 15 historically sequenced formations overhead. The formations represented the war's major battles, from Pearl Harbor through the final air assault on Japan, and concluding with a missing man formation to "Taps." Never before has such a col-

lection of WWII aircraft been assembled at one location, to honor the large assemblage of veterans gathered at the WWII Memorial for a ceremony.

These photographs were taken by Perry Klein as the airplanes flew over the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Energy (Forrestal), and the Federal Aviation Agency buildings in Southwest DC. Co-piloting the Missing Man plane in the Missing Man Formation was General Jack Dailey, director of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

I Love Being a Part of Voices of Now!

By: **Keniya Brown, Jefferson Academy Middle School sixth grade student**

Have you ever had the one program, that one sport, one activity that not only improved you as a person but has also brought you closer to your true passion? I have and this phenomenal program is called Voices of Now. In this program people are not only taught to work together as a whole but they are taught to progress. Through this, all their work is shown in a well maintained organization that expresses everyone's creativity, a play!

Many people assumed that you had to be a certain way to participate in Voices of Now. However, this is an assumption and it is totally untrue; Voices of Now welcomes people from different backgrounds and uses them to unite all kinds of different people as one beautifully successful group.

During the three months, Voices of Now members become family. There are by far too huge and dynamic things that make Voices of Now the place to be in middle school or in any chapter of your life for that matter. Number one is the constant traces of love and excitement. In Voices of Now there is always an unconditional amount of love, freedom, and support. In Voices of Now there are people who genuinely care about me. I find it incredibly hard to stay down or in a funk. This quality makes the area of Voices of Now homey and also makes the group members feel safe.

See "Voices," page 4

Why SW Families Are Choosing Neighborhood Schools

By: **CBCC Education Committee**

Families in Southwest and across the District enjoy a wide array of options when choosing a school for their children. There are private schools, charter schools, and public schools in other quadrants. Then there is the neighborhood school, sometimes considered a last resort for families striving to find the best education for their children.

In the case of Amidon-Bowen—the elementary school that serves most of Southwest—word of improving test scores, high-quality teachers, academic rigor, and varied extracurricular offerings have begun to overtake the lingering perception of an underperforming school.

The CBCC Education Committee seeks to support all of our neighborhood schools by helping tell the story of the positive changes taking place within their walls. In the interest of demonstrating the wide range of Southwest families who increasingly are choosing Amidon-Bowen for their children, the Committee believes it is time to provide these neighborhood families with a platform to describe their choice and experience of the school in their own words. This article marks the first in a series of profiles.

Noah and Rachana Sprafkin moved to Southwest just over four years ago. Their daughter, Noor, is a kindergartner at Amidon-Bowen. This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.



The Sprafkin family.

Where did you move from? We moved from overseas.

What do you do for a living? Rachana is a graphic designer and Noah works for the federal government.

What were your initial impressions of Amidon-Bowen? Not so great. When we moved to the neighborhood, we walked by the school a few times, and it seemed a bit run down. We also heard from other parents that the school was not good.

What compelled you to enroll your child there? Our daughter was attending the AppleTree Charter School program, which was in the same building at that time, and I saw Marty Welles, the Amidon PTA president, almost every day working hard to improve the school's environment and community engagement. His kids were in Amidon, and he was determined to make this school and community better for them. We talked to him, and Amidon seemed to be making some really positive changes so we decided to send our daughter there for kindergarten.

What has your experience been thus far? We love the school curriculum, the extracurricular activities, and, most importantly, my daughter's class teacher and teaching assistant, Ms. Young and Ms. Ylli. The school principal, Ms. Miller, and all of the staff are excellent and deeply committed to the school.

How would you rate the quality of the teachers? Great! Our

See "Schools," page 8



Jacqueline Walker
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ANC 6D May Update

By: Dave Balajthy

The ANC 6D held its monthly meeting on May 11 at 7 p.m. An officer from First District MPD gave a PSA report discussing a recent shooting at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. Some of the center's property was damaged in the incident, but has since been repaired. The Police Department is also looking for a host for its monthly PSA 105 public safety meetings, which are generally held on the third Wednesday of the month. They would like to rotate the locations of these meetings each month, as they had in the past. Anyone able to host these meetings at their building on an occasional basis is encouraged to contact the First District MPD.

The ANC meeting was well attended, with a number of residents from Capitol Park Tower present. Commissioner Rachel Reilly Carroll appeared on behalf of the apartment complex to provide an update on renovation efforts. The complex has upgraded the lobby, gym, and laundry room. Two new buildings are planned, one seven stories high and the other four stories. Several residents voiced their concerns over the renovation efforts and the destruction of several trees in the area.

Representatives of Mill Creek Places also appeared to give an update on the construction efforts for its complex, The View at Waterfront. The proposed buildings will be 85 feet high, with construction expected to start in April 2016 and be completed in November 2018.

The ANC also issued a Letter of Support to DDOT for the quelling of construction truck traffic in the area.

A representative appeared on behalf of "MuralsDC," an organization that replaces illegal graffiti with artistic works. The organization is currently working to provide an artistic piece for Eagle Academy.

Last, it was announced that the ANC's administrative assistant is leaving and the commission is seeking applications for the position. The position is paid and on a part-time basis (approximately 40 hours a month.) Interested applicants should contact Roger Moffatt, ANC 6D chairman (Moffatt@verizon.net). The commission's next meeting will be on June 8.

Friends of SW Library Book Sale a Great Success

By: Friends of the SW Library

The Friends of the SW Library want to thank Southwest residents for your support at our March book sale. With your help, we earned enough money to pay for three months of programs at the SW Library and to contribute to the 2015 Summer Reading program!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with us, we accept donations of gently used books (no magazines or text books), sell at our book sales, and then provide the money to the library staff. We fund all of the after school programs such as Garden Club, Lego Club, Create Club, and Karaoke Club. This includes the purchase of all garden supplies and equipment, Legos, craft supplies, music, and a karaoke machine. We

also pay for the refreshments for all programs such as our Summer Reading Program Kickoff because the library is unable to pay for food at sponsored events. In the past, we purchased laptops for computer classes, provided a stipend for the instructor of the 2014 Zumba classes, and bought a defibrillator. All of these items were purchased with funds derived from book sales, but you can support the library year round.

Below are free, simple ways in which you can support the SW Library.

Attend an event at the library—Each month the library sponsors dozens of events for people of all ages, including computer training, author visits, music, children's story time, Zumba, and yoga. The calendar is online. Paper copies are available at the Information Desk at the Southwest Library.

Hold a meeting at the library—The library has a large room on the basement level that is open to the public during regular library hours.

Contact the library for detailed information on usage and scheduling guidelines.

Visit the library on Sunday and check out a book—Help preserve summer hours, which are so important for students and working adults, by not only visiting the library on Sunday, but also checking out at least one book.

Return books inside the library—If you have time, return books to the circulation desk as you enter the library instead of using the outside dropbox.

How does this help? Every person entering the library is detected by a thermal counter. The door numbers, event participation, room usage, and circulation are all reported to the Main Office of the library. The numbers are announced regularly and provided to elected officials responsible for the library's budget.

Our next book sale is June 6 from 10:00–3:00 and June 7 from 1:30–4:00 on the library's second floor. We hope to see you there.

The Southwester

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The Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation serving as the fiduciary agent of The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund.

CBCC's SW Playground Project Anchors Neighborhood Library

By: Felicia Coutts, CBCC Coordinator

By now, many neighborhood residents have had an opportunity to visit and enjoy the new playground at the 3rd and I Street Park adjacent to the Southwest Library. This beautiful new toddler playground—complete with swings for older siblings and those with special needs—has reactivated and transformed this sorely neglected park. What some residents may not know is that this is one of several projects of the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC). It may



The park before the playground was installed.



The new playground.

appear to be “just a playground” to some, but this project has spurred significant improvement of parks and recreation in our community and the preservation of the District’s public lands.

The improvements at the 3rd & I Street Park not only have influenced families to stay in our community and new families to move here, but it has served a pivotal role in keeping the Southwest Library in place as a stand-alone building. During the recent DC Parks and Recreation budget hearing on May 1, 2015, Ward 6 Coun-

cilmember Charles Allen acknowledged this community’s effort at the park and reinforced his commitment to keeping the Southwest Library in place.

“The playground is a really great space. I brought my own daughter there to play. It’s well-used and a central gathering spot for the neighborhood [that brings] all of the parts of Southwest together,” Allen stated. He highlighted the importance of the relationship between the Southwest Library and the park, stating, “I am all-in on the fight to make sure we have protected the Southwest Library funding” and noted “[we must] make sure we marry them (the library and playground) ... that’s why we fought for the library so hard—to keep that green space and that open space.” Allen also stated that he fully expects there will be full funding for capital renovations to the Southwest Library with the FY ’17 budget.

In the five years since its inception, CBCC has become a trusted entity for city and local leaders and developers when community benefits are at stake. Working with new community partners and long-term residents, CBCC continues to grow its financial base to support ongoing and new, multi-year projects that will ensure the benefit of Southwest and near Southeast communities as development continues. One of only a handful of neighborhood 501(c)(3) nonprofits that serve the entire ANC6D with a paid, part-time staff person, CBCC accomplishes its mission through four main committees: Community Enrichment, Education, Housing, and Workforce Development. Current major projects include:

Securing a formal community benefits agreement with enforcement provisions with DC United in December 2014 that includes jobs for ANC6D residents and young adults, summer camp scholarships, opportunities for improved health services to Southwest residents, use of the stadium by ANC6D nonprofits, vendor space during events, and other fundraising opportunities;

Collaborating with Sasha Bruce Youthwork, SWNA, DPR, DGS, the Bernstein Companies, and Telesis Corporation to keep Randall Recreation center in operation on a shoestring budget while putting together a million-dollar

plan to transform Randall into a 21st century community center to serve the entire ANC6D community;

Outreach efforts with the principals and staff of Amidon-Bowen Elementary and Jefferson Academy Middle School to support the schools and engage broader enrollment of Southwest families; and

Surveying and convening all of the residential complexes in ANC6D to assess current issues and future interests in order to better advocate before City Council and DC Housing Authority for policies and plans to preserve Southwest’s unique diversity.

CBCC recently received a \$15,000 grant

from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation to help it continue its mission and to help maintain its paid, part-time coordinator. In addition, the Cafritz Foundation has offered CBCC a \$5,000 match, challenging CBCC to independently raise \$5,000 by April 2016.

It started with a playground, but CBCC’s work has expanded to significantly impact the ANC6D community for the future, while upholding the community’s core values of diversity and access by all residents. To learn more about the CBCC’s vision of advocating and coordinating benefits for a caring community, to join, or to donate in support, please visit www.seswbcc.org.

Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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Najeé Eddy (left) and Keniya Brown (right) participate with the Jefferson Academy Ensemble in the 2015 Voices of Now Festival at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater on May 14. (Photo by Cameron Whitman Photography)

There is Deepness Hidden In You!

By Pastor Ida Moss - www.MyGreaterWorks.org



Jesus would often end his teachings by saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." He would say, "Those who have eyes to see, let them see." Jesus was not talking about physical eyes and ears — everyone has those. He meant a third eye — another way of seeing the world that comes for a deepness hidden within us. We will never find peace if we look at life only through our physical eyes and ears. The struggles are too great, and the possibilities for disaster are many. But when we learn to tap into the power and strength that exists deep within us, God guarantees "a peace that passes all understanding!"

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VOICES


From p. 1

As much of importance as having the love of Voices of Now, you are also treated with pride and responsibility. You are expected to exceed the expectations of having the respect and accountability of a young adult. These expectations may sound very authoritative, however these expectations are a set only to be exceeded by those who can grow to be able to show amiable behaviors.

As a sixth grader whose life has in fact been changed due to the fact that I am a part of Voices of Now, I would most definitely recommend it to any age group if they're interested in theater. I would especially recommend Voices of Now to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. These grades are singularly important because they are the grades when you make the biggest decisions of your life. Sixth grade being the first and smallest grade in middle school is one of the hardest.

It is where you transition from childish play to the strict and serious middle school you've only heard about until now! Sixth grade is when you learn to adapt with teachers and peers. And it is one of the biggest transitions in life. Seventh grade is that awkward point between sixth grade, where you have just learned to abide by the new strict rules, and eighth grade, where yet again you will have to adapt to a new stricter law. Eighth grade is where you're almost an adult yet still unsure where you belong and through all this you are transitioning to a new and different environment. Voices of Now helps with all these transitions because it is a program that will ground you and help you find things about yourself that you've never known.

Overall my experience in Voices of Now has been exceptional. I find that I have grown as a person in just a short period of time and that I have matured and learned how to sample professional work.



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EVERY FRIDAY: Summer Sounds and Sizzlin' BBQ: 6:30-8:30pm

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June 5 — La Unica

June 19 — Levi Stephens Band

June 12 — 19th Street Band

June 26 — Wil Gravatt Band

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Robotics at Jefferson Academy Middle School

Makiyah Hicks,
sixth grade.



Photos courtesy of Hope Witherspoon of Jefferson Academy.

By: Reese Pauling, Jefferson Academy
Middle School student

Robotics is an after-school activity at Jefferson Academy Middle School. This class uses legos to strengthen your creativity and analytical skills. During my first day attending the class, we built battle drones. The two instructors were showing us a model that would inspire us to create our own battle drone. I really like the robotics class because it allows us to express ourselves through building and it displays our creativity.

During robotics class students are always engaged in creating their inventions while music plays in the background. Our instructor Mr. Doug plays music because he says that it stimulates our mind and opens it up more. The music that he plays is instrumental and it relaxes us as we create our designs. I really enjoy robotics and, like our other instructor Mr. Fonz said, robotics is about opening your mind to the different things that you want to do in life.

I believe that robotics is a great after-school activity for students to have fun while creating something awesome!

Kasmira Fudge,
eighth grade.



Oliver Guarjardo,
sixth grade.



Jade Ferguson,
seventh grade.



Isaiah Lattimore,
eighth grade.



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Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

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9:30 a.m.

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JUNE 2015

WED 3, 4:30-5:30 P.M. Garden Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for hands-on fun in the library’s outdoor garden. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752.

SAT 6, 10 A.M.-3 P.M. Friends of SW Library Summer Book Sale. Brush off your reading glasses and stop by the SW Library to get some new-to-you books at the SW Library Summer Book Sale! Most books \$1 or under.

SAT 6, 1-2:30 P.M. Yoga Nidra For Self Healing. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with a focus on healing body, mind and spirit. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net .Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW.

SUN 7, 1:30-4 P.M. Friends of SW Library Summer Book Sale. Brush off your reading glasses and stop by the SW Library to get some new-to-you books at the SW Library Summer Book Sale! Most books \$1 or under.

MON 8, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd floor. Agenda at www.anc6d.org

WED 10, 4:30-5:30 P.M. Create Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for arts & crafts activities. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SAT 13, 2 P.M. Movie Madness. Children & families are invited to join us to watch a movie together. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SUN 14, 2:30 P.M. P.A.L. (People Animals Love) Dog Visit. Children ages 4-12 are invited to read aloud to a P.A.L. dog. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 16, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Meeting Room of SW Library. Eugene Allen was a waiter and butler who worked for the White House for 34 years until he retired as the head butler in 1986. The film ‘The Butler’, released in 2013, was inspired by his life. Charles Allen, his son, will speak about his father in honor of DCPL’s Summer Reading program.

WED 17, 4:30-5:30 P.M. LEGO Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to design, create, and build structures with LEGO bricks. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

THURS 18, 7 P.M. Film Screening “Southwest Remembered”, preceded by short documentary “One Punch at a Time.” Southwest Neighborhood Library.

FRI 19, 8-9:30 A.M. Councilmember Charles Allen, Southwest Neighborhood Office Hours. Jenny’s at the Wharf, 690 Water St., SW (note new location).

SAT 20, 2 P.M. Father’s Day Crafts. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us in creating handmade gifts & cards in honor of Father’s Day. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SUN 21, 2:00 P.M. Build-It Studio. Children aged 6-12 are invited to join us in creative, hands-on fun building structures using everyday materials. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

THURS 25, 7:00 P.M. ABC Committee, ANC6D. Alcohol license applications, renewals, enforcement, and other issues. To be added to e-mail list for agenda & notifications contact: Coralie Farlee, Chair, ABC Committee, 202-554-4407, cfarlee@mindspring.com. SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 27, 1 P.M. Southwest Book Discussion will feature the novel “Room” by Emma Donoghue. Copies of this month’s title are available for checkout at the Information Desk. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP, SWWF Chapter #4751 Day Trip to Allenberry Resort & Playhouse-Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania on Wed June 24, 2015, 9 am-6pm. Play: Lively Musical Comedy –“Damn Yankees” – Baseball lovers dream to win games. Package includes: Round Trip deluxe motor coach; Buffet luncheon, dessert, beverages; Taxes, gratuities, ticket to the play. Cost \$80.00 per person. Checks payable to SWWF/AARP Chapter 4751. Proceeds to support the SWWF AARP Chapter’s Educational Awards/Scholarship Program. Mail to: Ms. Inez Davis #3-16th Street N.E., Washington, DC 20002-6509. Contacts: Inez Davis, Membership Chair, 202-544-2313; Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, Chapter President, 202-554-0901 or bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com

ADULT RECREATION, 10-12 Noon, Saturdays, Ages 18 & up, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

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

SW., 202-645-7454.

ADULT YOGA & TEEN, 6 P.M. Mondays, **FREE, Mats available. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center,** 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW, Use Eye Street entrance.

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM, 4-5 P.M., Monday – Friday, Ages 6-14. **King Greenleaf Recreation Center.** Contact Paul Taylor, Gary Williams, Tiletia Harris-Walker, 202-645-7454.

ARTS AND CRAFTS, 5-6 P.M., Tuesdays, Ages 5-14. **King Greenleaf Recreation Center.** Tiletia Harris-Walker, 202 645-7454.

AYA COMMUNITY MARKET, 10 A.M.-2 P.M., Saturdays, through November 21st. **425 M Street** (across from Water-front Metro). Enjoy local fruits, vegetables, eggs and assortment of other food products.

BABY/TODDLER STORY TIME 10:30 A.M., Tuesdays. (Not on 6/23 & 6/30) Join us for fun songs, finger plays, baby bounces and rhymes as we work together to develop early literacy skills. Designed for children ages birth to 2 years and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

BINGO FOR SENIORS, 1-3 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, Ages 55 & up, **King Greenleaf Recreation Center,** 201 N Street SW. Contact Tiletia Harris-Walker, 202-645-7454.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale. 400 Eye Street SW, 202-484-7700.

BOYS BASKETBALL, 6-7 P.M., Wednesdays and Fridays, **Ages 7-10, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact:** Paul Taylor, 202-645-7454.

BOYS BASKETBALL, 6-7 P.M., Mondays and 7-8 P.M. Wednesday, Ages 11-12, **King Greenleaf Recreation Center.** Contact: Coach Paul Taylor, 202-645-7454.

CAREER & COLLEGE CLUB, 6 P.M. Wednesdays, For Tweens and Teens at Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, Fellowship Hall, downstairs, **rear of Christ United Methodist Church 900 4th St SW.** Children ages 3 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.

COMPUTER CLASSES, 10 A.M.-12 Noon, Tuesdays, SW Neighborhood Library, 724-4752.

TUES 2	Microsoft PowerPoint
TUES 9	Introduction to Personal Computers
TUES 16	Introduction to the Internet
TUES 23	D.C. Public Library Website
TUES 30	No class scheduled
JULY 7	Email Basics

COMPUTER TIME, 4-7 P.M., Monday-Friday. Open computer use. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

DIGITAL DROP-IN, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Tuesdays. Smartphone, laptop, and eReader users are welcome to stop by and have staff help them troubleshoot, as well as give step-by-step instructions on how to download free books, music, and movies from DC Public Library’s website. SW Neighborhood Library, 724-4752.

DRAWING: BASIC 101, 6 P.M. Tuesdays P.M. Ages 12-up. “For those who think they can’t draw, but can.” Supplies provided. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (eye) Street S.W. Use I Street entrance.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Thursdays. Practice your English with other English learners. Participants will read a variety of news articles and chat with others in a relaxed and welcoming environment. SW Neighborhood Library, 202-724-4752.

FAMILY FILMS OUTSIDE SCREENING, 7 P.M. Fridays, Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance. Bring your lawn chairs, blanket and favorite snacks. Check FACE-BOOK for more information.

GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 4298, 5:30-7 P.M, Wednesdays, Ages K-12, **King Greenleaf Recreation Center.** Contact: Monica Evans, 202-468-9620.

GIRLS SOFTBALL, 5pm-6pm Monday and Wednesday, **Ages 8-11.** King Greenleaf Recreation Center Contact Coach: Safiyyah Aleem – Woods.

GIRLS SOFTBALL, 6pm-7pm Monday and Wednesday **Ages 12-15.** King Greenleaf Recreation Center Contact Coach: Safiyyah Aleem – Woods.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, with Mr. Zeke, **12:30-3:30 P.M.** Saturdays, all ages welcome, King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, 6-9 P.M., Fridays, **Westminster Presbyterian Church,** 400 Eye Street SW. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

JOB SEEKERS PROGRAM, 1-6 P.M., Thursdays. By Appointment. One hour length, one-on-one appointments offering assistance with cover letters, resumes, applications and other aspects of the job search process. Call 724-4298 to schedule an appointment. SW Neighborhood Library.

The KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St SW.

KNITTY GRITTY COMMITTEE, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Come join us every **3rd Tuesday** of the month to knit, swap tips, and get to know your fellow neighbors. Staff will be available to teach basic skills such as casting on yarn, and the purl and knit stitches. Please bring your own needles & yarn. Children under 12 yrs of age must be accompanied by adult. SW Neighborhood Library.

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS, 10:30 A.M.-Noon, every 1st & 3rd Saturday, Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work. SW Neighborhood Library.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Tuesdays and Fridays is offering help in areas of Family Law, Public Benefits and more in Southwest. Free for DC residents who meet certain income guidelines. Friendship Baptist Church, 900 Delaware Ave SW. Call 202-863-9014 or Legal Aid Society 202-628-1161.

LITTLE FARM STAND-CSA Program & Farmstand, Saturdays. **Noon-2:00 P.M.** Offering Seasonal Produce May-August at the Duck Pond on 6th & I Sts SW. www.LittleFarm-Stand.com

MACHINE PITCH, 6:30-7:45 P.M., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Ages 7-8, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Paul Taylor, 202-645-7454.

NARFE-The National Active and Retired Federal Employees, 1:30-2:30 P.M., every fourth Thursday through May. SW Neighborhood Library, basement meeting room.

NO FLEX ZONE, Anger Management Teen Group, 4:30 P.M. **Wednesdays,** Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

PAJAMA STORYTIME, 6 P.M., Thursdays. **(Not 6/25)** Put on your pajamas, grab your teddy bear and join us in the Children’s Room for a story time before heading to bed! We’ll read stories, sing songs and perform finger plays together. For children of all ages and their families. SW Neighborhood Library.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, **10-11 A.M.,** every Last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room at 900 5th Street S.E.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 A.M., Wednesdays. **Not on 6/24/15.** Join us for books, songs, rhymes, and finger plays as we continue to strengthen early literacy skills while enjoying stories together. An easy craft activity follows story time each week. Designed for children ages 2 to 5 and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

SASSY SENIORS, Mondays & Thursdays. Monthly trips to play bingo, have parties, chat and chews, exercise and a great deal of other things. Come and sign up to participate. King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact Tiletia Harris-Walker. 202-645-7454.

SEATED YOGA TWICE A WEEK, 11 A.M.-Noon on Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M., Westminster **Presbyterian Church.** Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind.

This is part of Westminster’s Wellness program.

SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER #4751. Monthly Luncheon meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Monthly Meetings are held every third Wednesday at 12:00 noon. Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes Community Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones,bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. COST: \$5.00 for lunch.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, **7 P.M. Mondays,** Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

SOUTHWEST SEWING & TAILORING CIRCLE, 12 noon-2 P.M. Mondays, Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

SPANISH 101, 4-7 P.M., Monday-Friday. Self-paced online program. **Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center,** 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

STEP 2 IT, 6-7 P.M., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ages 18 & up. Come work up a sweat with Instructor Paul Taylor. **King Greenleaf Recreation Center.**

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, 4-8: P.M., Monday-Friday, Ages 13-18. Beginning Mon. June 29 through Fri. August 7, 2015. Activities and Events provided by Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, South Capitol & I Sts SW.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

TEE-BALL, 6-7 P.M., Mondays and 5pm-6:15 P.M. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Ages 4-6, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Coach Paul Taylor. 202-645-7454.

TEEN GAME NIGHT, including Wii, 7-8:15 P.M., Thursdays, **Ages 13-18.** SW Neighborhood Library.

TEEN CLUB, 7-8 P.M., Every Other Friday, Ages 14-19. King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact Angela Venable. 202-645-7454.

TEEN RELATIONSHIP GROUP, 5-6 P.M. Thursdays, Come and talk about having a healthy relationship with yourself and others. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

TOT LOT Program, 10-11:30 A.M. Thursdays, thru June Activity time for toddlers, ages 18 mos. to 3 years and parents/caregivers. Movement and activities that develop gross motor skills that can enhance balance, coordination, socialization, strength, self-esteem and reinforce cognitive development in a safe, nurturing and fun environment. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR’S CLUB, 7-9 P.M., First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW. 202-863-0564.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW, **4 P.M.** Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). **5:30 P.M.** Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). **6:45 P.M.** Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). **7 P.M.** Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.

YOGA FOR TEENS and ADULTS, Tuesdays, 7 P.M. (No meeting on 16th). All fitness levels welcome for this free yoga program, with Yoga Activist instructor Mary Koehler. Mats are provided, or you can bring your own. SW Neighborhood Library.

YOUNG LADIES ON THE RISE, Thursdays, **5:30-7 P.M., Ages 6-14.** King Greenleaf Recreation Center Contact Safiyyah Aleem-Woods.

YOUNG MEN FUTURE LEADERS, 5-6 P.M., Wednesdays, **Ages 6-12.** King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact Gary Williams.

ZUMBA, 6 P.M. Thursdays, **FREE, Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center,** 9 “I” (Eye) St & So. Capitol St SW, Use Eye Street entrance.

ZUMBA for Teens and Adults, Wednesdays 7:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. — Come join the party! Instructor Roshaunda Jenkins will lead this one-hour fitness and dance class — all fitness levels welcome! **SW Neighborhood Library.**

First Grader Social Held at SW Duck Pond

By: Ms. Shaina Kirschenbaum
First Grade Teacher, Amidon-Bowen Elementary School

First grade students and their families from Amidon-Bowen Elementary were invited to attend a social event at the Southwest Duck Pond on May 16. Students and their families from Ms. Kirschenbaum and Ms. Roberts' classes had a pleasant time with crafts, playing on the playground, and socializing. Their teachers believe that teach-



ing involves more than just teaching the child, but also reaching out to families. This is their second social at the Duck Pond this year, and this one had the biggest turn out with about 40 attendees.

SCHOOLS

From p. 1

daughter's teachers have really helped her thrive.

How would you rate the quality of the administration? Awesome. From the admission process to the present, everything has been done very efficiently and professionally.

What do you like the most about the school? The individual attention and encouragement that our daughter receives.

What does your child like best about the school? Her class teachers.

Has your child had opportunities at Amidon-Bowen that you do not think she would have had elsewhere? Amidon's use of technology has really helped our daughter's learning.

Have you felt any benefits from enrolling your child at the neighborhood elementary school (as opposed to a charter or other public school elsewhere in the city)? We are happy that our daughter can get a high-quality education and can participate in a range of enriching activities at a school that is only a short walk away.

Did you have any concerns before you enrolled your child? If so, have they been addressed? We were concerned that our daughter would not be challenged, but after speaking with her teachers, they have done a wonderful job of encouraging her and making learning interesting and fun.

If you could tell your neighbors one thing about the school, what would it be? It is a very good school, and it needs more community support to keep getting better.

What do you think the school's greatest challenge is? There needs to be more community engagement, and parents should get more involved.

What would you advise prospective parents to consider when evaluating their school choices in DC? Visit prospective schools, meet the teachers and the administrators, find out about the PTA, and go to a school event to get a sense of the community.

What is one thing you wish your neighbors knew about the school? Amidon has a great team and is on the rise!

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