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## Neighborhood News, Week Ending November 5

1 message

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Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 9:21 PM

### Top two things:

- (1) If you still haven't taken the Chevy Chase Community Center and Library Survey, kindly drop everything and do so now, [here](#). It closes at midnight on November 12. And please urge your spouse, your partner, your Chevy Chase friends and neighbors, any adult children in your household, et al to do the same.
- (2) Attend our emergency meeting on stopping the neighborhood car break-ins and thefts with MPD Asst Chief Morgan Kane and Second District Commander John Branch on Thursday, November 9 from 4-5PM at St. John's College High School. RSVP to me. Background below.

## Neighborhood News for ANC Single Member District 02 Week Ending November 5, 2023

### Urgent meeting with MPD

Rezoning upper Connecticut Ave: ready for "set down"?

DDOT set to report on traffic safety measures

Lafayette enrollment and capacity numbers

Tennyson St: pavement cutouts, the big green house

Plus: DPR's winter programs, the labyrinth at St. Columba's,

MPD's winter coat drive for the homeless, etc.

- **Background for Thursday's meeting with MPD on halting the car break-ins and thefts.** As I reported last week, on October 30, DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson hosted his quarterly virtual meeting with ANC Commissioners. MPD Asst Chief Morgan Kane was one of the guest speakers. I attended and addressed with her the epidemic that car break-ins (and now thefts) have become in our neighborhood. I noted we'd tried everything, from repeatedly reminding residents not to leave anything in their vehicles to recommending they install Ring-type doorbells to engaging MPD Second District. I said we were running out of options, that the neighbors were losing confidence and patience, and that we needed to try a qualitatively different approach. **I called for an MPD "intervention."**
- On Thursday, neighbors will tell their stories, share their suggestions, and appeal for MPD action. At the same time, we'll also say what we can do to help. Please plan to attend – 4-5 PM at St. Johns – and RSVP to me. **If coming by car, park at St. John's in the upper lot off 27th St. Use the Scaggs Center entrance. Signs will direct you to the meeting room.**
- **Also on Thursday, the Zoning Commission will hear the Office of Planning's case for a "set down" hearing on the proposed rezoning of upper Connecticut Avenue.** The recommended rezoning is key to the proposed redevelopment of the Chevy Chase Community Center and Library site as well as the rest of Connecticut Avenue from Livingston Street to Chevy Chase Circle. Here's how this works: OP goes before the ZC to lay out its case for the set down, essentially arguing everything is in order to move ahead; the ZC concurs or not; if it does, it then schedules the hearing. The hearing would likely not be until Q1 2024.

**But the question is, is OP's case ready to be heard?** Recall what OP previously told the ANC about the proposed new zoning. It allows a building as tall as 80' at the Community Center and Library site and up to 70' elsewhere on the Avenue. Also, OP told the Commission in May we would have the opportunity to express our views to the ZC as to the case being ready to be set down The ANC, which serves as the neighborhood voice, is right now asking residents (via the survey) if in fact they (you) favor buildings as high as the proposed zoning would allow. Moreover, the ANC is on record three times over, urging the District to hold off until the survey is completed: first (January 23), second (May 8), and third (July 24).

**So no, the case is not ready to be set down until the ANC hears from you,** the neighbors, as to your views on what the District is proposing. The ANC is now assessing options for a response.

- **DDOT (District Department of Transportation) is about to announce its review of neighborhood locations for traffic-calming and -control** based on the July 21 neighborhood walk-around with DDOT Director Everett Lott (now departed) and our Councilmember Janeese Lewis George involving some 50 neighbors at a half-dozen streets and intersections. Traffic safety is a huge neighborhood issue. Problem is, we rank low in DDOT's prioritization because we (fortunately) have had few (if any) crashes or accidents. When DDOT does its quarterly ranking of pending Traffic Safety Input requests, ours habitually fail to make the cut. However, DDOT has indicated it would seek to address "low-hanging fruit" in our neighborhood. We'll see. I'm expecting news this week.
- **Lafayette enrollment and capacity: first 2023 number is in.** Last year Lafayette had 892 students based on audited enrollment. Audited enrollment has not yet been released for this school year (2023-2024). But the preliminary count, as of October, is 933, per the DC Office of the Deputy Chancellor, DCPS. This is on par with Lafayette's pre-Covid enrollment. As to capacity, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) publishes annually building capacities of all DCPS schools on their website. DME is currently assessing the Master Facilities Plan (MFP). Schools will receive their revised capacities soon. Lafayette's capacity last year was 873, according to the 2022 MFP, which carried this relevant note: "DCPS will recommend this school for special consideration in the 2023 Master Facilities Plan and 2023 Boundary and Student Assignment Study." I know this is a topic of great interest to families with children at Lafayette; I'll have more on this in future newsletters.
- **Tennyson St issues: pavement cutouts and the big green house – what's up on both counts?** The pavement cutouts between Utah and 29th are the result of gas line replacement at selected homes by Washington Gas contractors that began in August. That work is long finished, and the scarred pavement remains a daily nuisance for drivers. WG tells me **the permit to repair the road is to be issued on November 10, and the work should be completed within four weeks of that date.**
- **If only the resolution of the big green house were so simple.** I'll try to summarize the confusing explanations from DOB (Department of Buildings) in a stream of back-and-forth emails this week after I wrote to the DOB Acting Director to complain of gross lack of follow-through to resolve the matter. The property remains under a "vacant and blighted" designation. DOB officials say they continue to conduct inspections to ensure the property is maintained and to monitor payment of all taxes. Meanwhile, they further report the owner is moving to complete construction, evidenced by his architect's soliciting reissuance of the required permit and assuring that funding is available to complete the project. When exactly work will resume, I'm still trying to find out.

## Notices and Events

- **Donate to the MPD Second District Winter Coat Drive for men and women experiencing homelessness.** Place gently used adult winter coats in the collection box at 3320 Idaho Avenue NW through December 1.
- **Walk the labyrinth at St. Columba's, Nov 7, 7-8:30 PM,** indoors in the Great Hall on the 3rd floor surrounded by candlelight and recorded music or outdoors also by candlelight. Either way, transit the ancient path and enjoy the meditative experience. 4201 Albemarle St, NW (one block west of Tenley Metro). Please arrive by 8 PM to walk. No experience necessary. All ages, faiths, and abilities welcome. More at [www.columba.org](http://www.columba.org).

- **Register your kids for indoor Winter Youth Tennis**, sponsored by the Lafayette Tennis Association. Tailored to boys and girls aged 4-10, classes run for one hour weekly at 3:30, 4:30, and 5:30 PM for ten weeks, Dec 4-Feb 23, at the Chevy Chase Community Center. Instruction prioritizes fun, using games and drills to improve hitting skills (think foam balls over mini-nets), strength, and balance. Register here: [www.lafayettetennis.org](http://www.lafayettetennis.org).
- **Have a look at DPR's (Department of Parks and Recreation) winter programs, including aquatics.** Registration is now open. All offerings are at [dprprograms.com](http://dprprograms.com). There's a reduced rate program for qualifying families.
- **Attend Aaron David Miller's free talk "The Biden Administration and the Israel-Hamas War: Challenges and Consequences,"** Thursday, November 9, 2023, 11:00 AM to noon on Zoom only. Miller is a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a former State Department Middle East analyst and negotiator in Republican and Democratic Administrations. Sponsored by Northwest Neighbors Village.
- **Be careful driving or parking in bus lanes – starting November 15, the District will begin issuing \$100 tickets.** Buses will have cameras to detect violators. On the bright side, the fine is down from the previously proposed \$200. Read WaPo's recent story for additional details.

Finally, [here's](#) the weekly newsletter from the office of our Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George.

As always, be in touch with any comments, questions, or requests for service.

Best, Bruce

**Bruce Sherman**

*Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner*

ANC 3/4G Single Member District 02

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