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Neighborhood News, Week Ending May 28 (includes a new survey)

1 message

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Neighborhood News for ANC Single Member District 02

Week Ending May 28, 2023

Commemorating Memorial Day
 Reporting on Councilmember Lewis George's May 24 visit
 Recapping the May 22 ANC meeting
 Recognizing neighbors for their contributions
Launching our flash survey on Connecticut Avenue bike lanes
 Plus: opening of DC outdoor pools, continued closure of the Wilson
 pool, hazards of dogs off leash, and latest crime data

- **Memorial Day honors the lives lost in service to our country.** It is a day of remembrance for all of us and especially those who have served or are now serving in the military. This includes many neighbors at Knollwood (Oregon & Nebraska), which was established for military families (and now welcomes retired civilian government officials and selectively other retirees).
- **News of the week: Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George visited the neighborhood on Wednesday for a fast-paced, one-hour tour. She (and I) met with some 30 neighbors, including a half-dozen of our neighborhood liaisons** – to observe the problematic new construction on 30th St, brainstorm restoring E6 bus service, accelerate action on the vacant and blighted property at 2717 Tennyson, troubleshoot tree damage caused by Oregon Ave construction, and hear pleas for pickleball courts. **What now?** At the CM's request, I am (a) writing to her and Council Chair Phil Mendelson regarding 30th St and Tennyson to hold DOB (Department of Buildings) accountable for compliance with zoning and building codes (including review of the 2020 DC Zoning Administrator decision declaring the two non-conforming lots at 6116 and 6118 buildable); (b) drafting a letter to WMATA (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority) for our joint signatures requesting restoration of the E6 bus (further on bus issues below); (c) pressing DDOT on assuming responsibility for the tree damage; and (d) exploring options for pickleball.
- **Monday's ANC meeting looked at proposed M4 bus changes** in the Better Bus Network Redesign, learned of **DDOT draft plans for additional Capital Bikeshare stations** in ANC 3/4G, and heard a further DDOT update on when the DC Smart Street Lighting Project is likely to land in the neighborhood. The Commission entertained rich community input on the proposed bus changes, passing a resolution (final text to be written) to send a letter to WMATA expressing concerns about the planned M4 changes (that it would not serve Sibley Hospital) and making suggestions for improvements (that there be shorter intervals between buses given the new route would snake through Georgetown). DDOT's proposed Bikeshare locations came as a surprise, occasioning the Commission to request a close further review. Subsequently, following additional neighbor input, I learned DDOT is NOT going to include a Bikeshare station as part of the slip lane project at Tennyson and Utah. As to the new streetlights, they're indeed coming, but not until early next year.
- **Shout-out to neighbors for making their voices heard (and analyses considered).** Architect **Claudia Russell (Nebraska Avenue)** has painstakingly documented the deviations from plan and possible building code violations with the houses on 30th St. Without her close, careful assessment, we as laypeople would have little ability to hold the builder (and DOB)

accountable. Thanks Claudia! Bus rider and citizen analyst of WMATA's proposed new bus route **Cynthia Collier (Oliver St)** has broken down the proposals to clarify the implications for service to our community. She shared key parts of her analysis at the May 22 ANC meeting and subsequently in our community meeting with CM Lewis George. She's now providing input for the letter (noted above) to WMATA. Thanks Cynthia!

Now, take our flash survey.

Just one question:

Do you support bike lanes on Connecticut Avenue?

Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6NLCWZ5>.

It'll just take a minute (actually, less).

- **Why I ask:** I attended the DDOT (District Department of Transportation) open house on May 20 and asked Director [Everett Lott](#) about the bike lanes. I was curious given recent reports the city was reconsidering its plans. He affirmed they were revisiting the options, considering all views. Which intrigued me because my job is to consider all *your* views – hence, the survey.
- **Background, if you need it** (bike lanes have been publicly debated for the last two years):
 - To learn the latest, read these [Axios](#), [WPost](#), and [Fox5](#) reports.
 - To see what bike lanes are about, watch this [video](#).
 - To understand the city's plan ("Concept C," now under further review), see the city's 2021 [press release](#) and consult this [website](#).
 - To know ANC 3/4G's position (as of two years ago), read this [resolution](#).
 - To appreciate the opposing sides, see the [proponents'](#) and the [opponents'](#) statements.
- **How I will use the results:** I'll use them as a gauge of community sentiment, right now, and guide for further action on my part (i.e., if a significant number of respondents say they don't understand the issues, I'll provide more information). I'll also report the results to you, share them with the ANC, and, as appropriate, send them to DDOT as input for their review.
- **Caveats:**
 - The survey's not representative of the neighborhood as a whole; it's only going to the people on my email list: ~650 individuals (and growing) out of ~1600 adults, covering ~80% of 642 households plus Knollwood in SMD 02 (with <2% of individuals outside of SMD 02).
 - It's only online.
 - It's only a snapshot in time. If/as circumstances change, another survey might be warranted.
 - Like all surveys, it's imperfect but a worthwhile tool nonetheless, IMO.

Finally, this week:

- **Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer and the opening of DC's public swimming pools.** The two pools closest to us are [Hearst](#) at [3701 37th St NW](#) and [Upshur](#) at [4300 Arkansas Ave NW](#). Both are about ten minutes' driving distance. Hearst just opened last year and in short order has become a very popular summertime facility. The [Jelleff](#) pool at 3265 St NW is farther but also a good option. Hours at all locations are weekends only, 10AM-6PM, until June 26, when Monday-Fridays hours go into effect (check each location for days closed).
- Speaking of pools, **the latest on the ongoing closure of the Wilson Aquatic Center** is contained in a May 19 letter from various Councilmembers (including Janeese Lewis George) to the Departments of General Services and Parks and Recreation: "Additional temporary fans have failed to reduce the indoor humidity problems, and ... the facility now appears unusable until long-term repairs are completed, which could take several more months for procurement and installation." They've demanded accountability.
- **"Dog Kills Beaver in Rock Creek Park; Alarms Sound to Keep Dogs Leashed."** My mock headline captures the gist of the community outrage following the actual recent attack. With the park just down the street, the appeals hit home for many of us, walkers and dog-walkers alike.
- **Reported crime this week in PSA 201:** **Theft from auto:** 5-26/1:40PM/6400 block 33rd St.; **Burglary (ATM)** 5-25/3:57AM/5500 block [Connecticut Ave](#); **Theft from auto:** 5-25/4:33PM/5300

38th St. (I received another report of a car break-in, on Thursday night on the 2600 block of Northampton, which was not reported to the police.)

As always, be on touch with any questions, concerns, or requests for service.

Best, Bruce

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