



Jane Sherman &lt;janetillinghastsherman@gmail.com&gt;

## Neighborhood News, January 22 (ANC Meets Tonight on Zoom)

1 message

Sherman, Bruce (SMD 3G02) <3G02@anc.dc.gov>  
To: "Sherman, Bruce (SMD 3G02)" <3G02@anc.dc.gov>

Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 4:56 PM

I'm addressing urgently with DPW lapsed trash collection on various blocks. Be in touch if you need assistance.

ANC 3/4G [meets](#) tonight from 6:00-8:30 PM on [Zoom](#) only. The agenda includes a briefing on the [Boundary and Student Assignment Study](#) with implications for Lafayette, Deal, and Jackson-Reed.

Thanks, one and all, for clearing snow and helping neighbors clear snow last week. (A few notes below for future reference.) How'd DC snow crews do? Take my 30-second survey; I'll let the District know.

### Neighborhood News ANC [Single Member District 02](#) January 22, 2024

**Tonight's ANC meeting**  
**Civic Core RFP**  
**The snow**  
**Plus:**  
**Mayor Bowser at St. Columba's Church (1/25)**  
**Chevy Chase Library events**  
**Lafayette events**

**Tonight's ANC 3/4G meeting.** The [Boundary and Student Assignment Study](#), to be addressed by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, is foretelling the possibility of an increase in designated lottery seats for at-risk, out-of-boundary (OBB) students at Lafayette and reductions in OBB students as well as boundary changes for Deal and Jackson-Reed given overcrowding. These changes are still in draft, which is why we want to hear from DME now and offer the community an opportunity to weigh in. DME has been holding individual briefings for schools across the District and presumably will schedule those for our local schools soon. None has taken place yet, to my knowledge, so this will be the first neighborhood briefing and discussion.

Tonight's meeting will also address further concerns the Commission has regarding DDOT's (District Department of Transportation) plans to expand bioretention beds in ANC 3/4G, notably on Chevy Chase Parkway and 28th St, where neighbors have raised strong objections. In our neck of the woods (SMD 02), as discussed with residents last fall and in this weekly newsletter, we have two new beds scheduled for installation at Utah and Nebraska, near the intersection of the two avenues. We've also addressed the 26 current beds in our SMD and the maintenance they require with DOEE (Department of Energy and Environment) and its contractors, Rock Creek Conservancy and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Numerous neighbors have volunteered to help maintain the beds, led by local [Weed Warrior](#) John Burwell. In fact, John and I have a scheduled call this week with the head of DOEE's bioretention bed maintenance program to anticipate additional collaboration this spring.

**Civic Core Request for Proposals (RFP).** Last week the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) issued the [RFP](#) for the redevelopment of the Chevy Chase Community Center and Library site to build new facilities for both and incorporate housing, including affordable housing. Prospective bidders have until April 18 to submit their proposals. The RFP is the result of a year-long process, beginning last January, that included various DMPED community engagements and presentations to the ANC (as well as those by the Office of Planning), ANC discussions and resolutions, and the ANC community survey – all to understand DMPED's plans and solicit resident feedback on those plans.

The RFP cites the following community preferences stemming from DMPED's consultations:  
Reflection of Chevy Chase History: Proposals should include dynamic and creative ways to reflect the historical legacies and learnings of our shared community.

**Sustainability, Resilience, & Accessibility:** This Project must be built to meet the needs of both the present and the future through an “above and beyond” commitment to sustainable building practices, resilience, and accessibility.

**Exemplary Architecture:** Proposals should present a forward-looking Project that respects the context of this community and is inspiring, not overwhelming.

**Transportation and Parking:** Transportation planning must accommodate current users and projected new demand. Vehicular parking and electric vehicle charging should be underground and accessible, with at-grade space that prioritizes public transportation, walking, and bike/scooter parking.

**Open Space:** Proposals should seek creative ways to ensure the maximum amount of open space through incorporation of at-grade open space, accessible rooftops, terraces, and other inclusive outdoor and gathering spaces.

**World-Class Library & Community Center:** Drawing from both hyperlocal and global best-practices, this facility should set the standard for co-located civic integration and engagement, in design, delivery, operation, and maintenance.

**Housing:** Proposals should thoughtfully integrate as much housing as possible across a broad range of affordability levels, while preserving open space, ensuring that designs respect the neighborhood context, and reflect the other priorities above.

**Not to belabor differences between DMPED’s takeaways from its community engagement and the ANC’s own outreach, including the community survey, but they are significant.** As newsletter readers know, the expressed sentiment on the survey was 60:37 opposed to the redevelopment. A larger majority opposed “surplussing” (declaring no longer needed for public use) any part of the current Community Center and Library site to enable the development. Housing ranked fourth among five main elements of the proposed project (behind the Community Center, the Library, and open/green space and ahead of underground parking). And seventy percent of survey respondents opposed buildings taller than six stories. The ANC’s resolution on the proposed redevelopment favored the project notwithstanding community opposition (again, I dissented based on our ~500 SMD survey responses) but did urge DMPED to head community preferences regrading surplus, building height, etc. DMPED, while highlighting the many criteria above from its community outreach, has failed in the RFP to incorporate critical input from the ANC’s outreach. Indeed, the RFP only makes passing reference to the ANC survey. And yet the [OurRFP](#) process DMPED is following states it “will ensure that the public’s perspective and priorities are understood in conjunction with the District’s goals when crafting and issuing the RFP for this District-owned parcel.” Therein lies the disconnect for many community members. DMPED listened to residents but in its orchestrated community engagements and on its own terms. One might argue this is what the District does, that DC agencies have their mandates and entertain citizen input only to a point. But, then again, an OurRFP process to reflect true community input as well as an ANC [mandate](#) “to be their neighborhood’s official voice in advising the District government ... on matters that affect their neighborhoods” create an expectation by residents that our voices will be heard (and honored) more fully – and not only on the means but on the ends as well.

**With the RFP issued, attention now turns to OP’s (Office of Planning) proposed amendments to current zoning** for the Chevy Chase Connecticut Avenue corridor from Livingston St to the Circle. Those amendments, to recall, would permit 80’ buildings at the Community Center and Library site and 70’ buildings elsewhere on the Avenue. With the ANC’s resolution opposing such heights, will the Commission now oppose OP’s amendments when they come up for a hearing before the Zoning Commission? Hearing date and ANC further action all TBD.

**The snow.** The news of last week was of course the snow and cold weather and likely knock-on effects, including the burst water main at Aberfoyle and 31st that caused (at least in part) the water outage. The current forecast calls for warmer temps and rain as this week progresses, so the snow will likely be gone soon. Looking ahead to the next winter storm event as well as next year, a few things to know or recall:

If you sign up for [AlertDC](#), the District’s communications system, you’ll receive emergency alerts, notifications, and updates on adverse weather (and all manner of other emergencies) directly from the DC public safety officials. You can choose what kind of notifications you want to get and the neighborhood or neighborhoods of interest to you.

Per the Mayor’s Office, “Residential property owners not enrolled in the [Sidewalk Shoveling Exemption Program](#) (for those 65 or older or disabled) are required to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks within the first eight hours of daylight following the end of a snow event.”

Those 65 or older or disabled can request assistance with snow removal from the DC [Volunteer Snow Program](#), which assigns volunteers to program participants on a two-year basis. However, registration is in the prior summer and fall, so the program is now closed for 2023-24. We’ll revisit this ahead of next winter. Residents can also [volunteer](#) to serve.

If snow crews do not visit your street, you can request service by calling 311 or going to [DC 311](#).

If you see anyone anywhere in the city in need of shelter, call the 24-7 Shelter Hotline at 202-399-7093.

If you see animals left outside in extreme temperatures, call the Humane Rescue Alliance at 202-723-5730.

**Again, please take a few seconds to assess – [here](#) – DC's snow removal** last week and offer any comments.

## Notices and Announcements

**The Ward 3 Democratic Committee will host Mayor Muriel Bowser on Thursday (1/25) at 7 PM at St. Columba's Church** (4201 Albemarle St NW) for discussion of District 2024 priorities and topics of community interest. The event will also be carried on [Zoom](#).

At the Chevy Chase Library ... **Family Story Time** takes place every Tuesday, 10:30-11:00 AM. Free tickets are distributed 30 minutes in advance at the information desk ... **Handcrafters Meetup**, for those interested in learning a new handcraft or just gathering with other handcrafters, happens every Thursday, 10:30 AM -12:00 PM, in the basement meeting room. Sarah Stout, a lifetime artisan, leads the group and shares her extensive knowledge of all types of handcrafts.

At Lafayette ... **the Winter Concert** is this Thursday (1/25) at 6 PM and 7 PM. Students in band, concert, and show choir will perform .... the **LSAT** (Local School Advisory Team) will meet virtually ([click here](#)) on Wednesday (1/24) to discuss budget matters with the DCPS and HSA (Home School Association) budget seasons quickly approaching.

And to remind, other neighborhood events this week:

**MPD (Metropolitan Police Department), Second District invites residents to join their upcoming Community Walk** for [PSA 201](#)(our area) on Wednesday, January 24 at 12pm, starting at Jocelyn St & Connecticut Avenue.

**Rock Creek Park NPS Acting Superintendent Brian Joyner and historian Joan Zenzen will lead a [virtual discussion](#) entitled "Race, History, and Rock Creek"** on Wednesday (1/24) from 5:30–7 PM on the park's establishment and management over time in the context of public use, park management, and the field of preservation. [Sign up](#) to attend.

Finally, [here's](#) the latest weekly newsletter from CM Lewis George's office (the boil water advisory noted in the newsletter has of course expired).

As always, be in touch with any comments, questions, or requests for service (in addition to trash collection).

Best, Bruce

## Bruce Sherman

*Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner*

ANC 3/4G Single Member District 02

m. [202-798-1420](tel:202-798-1420)

e. [3G02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:3G02@anc.dc.gov)

