

To make our local democracy work takes work – individual and collective advocacy and activism. Sometimes it requires extraordinary effort, as the stories in this newsletter issue reveal. Please read down.

Tonight (4/30), 7PM:

Briefing on ranked choice voting at Knollwood

Tomorrow (5/1), 8:30AM:

Bioretention bed cleanup, 29th & Tennyson

Neighborhood News

ANC Single Member District 02

April 30, 2026

Residents push DCPS to engage ECC

ANC presses DMPED on Civic Core

Vsev prevails in fixing his road

Oliver St continues to contest a sidewalk

Lafayette ballfield nears full opening

G4G extends acts of kindness

Plus:

Lafayette Spring Auction

Residents push DCPS to engage ECC. The fact that there is no pre-K3 and only limited pre-K4 at Lafayette, due in significant part to capacity constraints (enrollment is now 926, the largest among elementary schools in DC), while two blocks away the Episcopal Center for Children, an historic educational institution, sits largely idle is a disconnect few neighbors can understand.

As demonstrated by our recent [survey](#) and [ANC resolution](#), the community and the commission strongly support DCPS to engage ECC on purchase, lease, or partnership opportunities for an early childhood education annex – which Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis Geore has also endorsed.

This week we kicked off our letter-writing campaign for neighbor appeals to DCPS Chancellor Lewis Ferebee. I'm pleased to report dozens of neighbors have responded. Here's a sample of what they're telling the Chancellor:

Our son will be eligible for Lafayette's PK4 in September 2027, but we've already been warned by parents in the neighborhood that he won't be enrolled, unless he has an older sibling already at Lafayette for sibling preference (he does not.)

Lafayette Elementary ... has repeatedly increased its post-modernization capacity without any corresponding physical expansion. Demand for early childhood seats far exceeds supply — last year by nearly three times the applicants for pre-K4 alone — leaving children with no older sibling preference no chance of getting in. Further, Lafayette offers no pre-K3 nor does any other nearby school in the Rock Creek West area. As such, my daughter with an October 1 birthday will not be able to attend school until she is nearly six years old, and when she does it will be in an over-capacity facility.

My husband and I moved into the neighborhood last year before the arrival of our first child. We live on Utah Avenue, only a few houses away from the ECC, and would welcome it being annexed for the education of our own children and to serve the needs of our friends and neighbors in the community.

As a resident of Chevy Chase DC, the grandmother of a Lafayette School first grader, and the mother of 2 Lafayette graduates, I am writing to express my strong support for DCPS finding a way to use the Episcopal Center for Children as an early education annex for Lafayette ... The school now has a much larger enrollment than when my daughter and son (father of the current Lafayette student) attended it. The ECC property provides an excellent way to increase classroom space for Lafayette students without the cost and delay of new construction.

I am a Chevy Chase resident in ANC 3/4G ... (and) also the parent of the sole in-bounds pre-K student who was admitted without having an older sibling. We got lucky, and we know several neighbors who did not have the same luck.

The (ECC) campus buildings are a remarkable resource – already a dedicated, historically significant, contributing landmark, with a proud history, zoned for institutional purposes in the District's future land use plans.

I am a FIRM BELIEVER IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. We owe it to the children of DC to have the same excellent facilities that the numerous private schools have. The great divide in DC is the educational divide between the private schools and public schools. If only the financial resources could be brought to bear for all children. This is an opportunity to close that gap.

Please to join the campaign to urge Chancellor Ferebee to engage ECC. Attached is a sample letter, to use as is or modify as desired, drawing on points from the ANC resolution or CM Lewis George's letter, also attached.

ANC presses DMPED on Civic Core. At Monday's (April 27) ANC [meeting](#), the commission approved a [letter](#) to the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, again pressing for a meeting with the commission on the Civic Core redevelopment and forwarding commission questions for DMPED's response (Yes: Gosselin, Grunewald, Nagy, Phinizy, Sherman; No: Simmons; Recuse: Gore). The gist of the letter was to protest DMPED's refusal to date to meet with the commission on the [winning bid](#) by developer Rift Valley and partners.

As the letter notes, after Mayor Bowser announced the award to Rift Valley on January 16, the commission repeatedly reached out to DMPED to present to ANC 3/4G and take questions. DMPED declined, opting instead to hold its own community meeting on February 28 — with just seven days' notice, in person-only with no virtual option, and no official recording. The commission followed up with DMPED on April 1 to ask again for a meeting. DMPED demurred once more, saying it would not be able to engage with the ANC until the first week of June.

Meanwhile, there are pressing questions the commission wishes to ask on behalf of the community, including these:

What explains the reversal from 70:30 to 30:70 affordable-to-market-rate housing?

What are the current program elements (e.g., uses, density, mix) and how have they shifted?

What are the financial assumptions and public subsidies, and how have they changed?

What is the timeline and phasing for the project?

What are the impacts on public assets and community-serving uses (library, community center, etc.)?

How will the project affect the surrounding neighborhood (traffic, scale, access, etc.)?

How will the distinction between public and private areas be defined, monitored and secured?

The ANC is now seeking DMPED's attendance at the commission's next regular meeting on May 11

Meanwhile, in other business on April 27, the commission:

Approved a grant to local charity Goods for Good in the amount of \$2000 for its May 9 *Acts of Kindness* fair (7-0);

Approved a motion to engage Chevy Chase business owners and operators for their perspectives on the Civic Core redevelopment, including the proposed 8000 sq ft of retail space (6-0; Recuse: Gore);

Heard a statement regarding recent resignations from the commission's Racial and Social Equity Committee; and

Rejected a motion to sunset the RASE committee (Yes: Gore, Gosselin, Simmons; No: Grunewald, Nagy, Phinizy, Sherman).

Vsev fixes a road. For nearly two years, the stretch of Unicorn Lane in front of Vsev Horodyskyj's house had crumbled from broken asphalt into loose rubble, and then into a persistent mound. Cars only made it worse. Vsev filed 311 request after request, with DDOT closing each one as "completed" despite no actual repair.

His patience wore thin, not just because the road remained hazardous, but because the District repeatedly claimed to have fixed what it hadn't. Still, Vsev persisted. He kept filing requests and reached out for help. In July 2025, I pressed our DDOT representative to visit the site and see the problem firsthand. The visit seemed promising — the rep said he'd push for repairs, though it might take a few months.

A few months became many months, with no action. By March of this year, I escalated the issue to DDOT Director Sharon Kershbaum — because at some point, accountability must land somewhere. To her credit, she responded immediately, on April 7, directing her team to act. But when still nothing had happened by April 19, Vsev sent one more follow-up.

That finally did the trick. On April 21, a crew arrived and patched the road. DDOT confirmed the work and noted they are now evaluating whether the entire stretch should be resurfaced, potentially as part of the 2027 paving plan.

Moral of the story: while it shouldn't take such dogged persistence to get a simple road repair done, if that's what it takes — and, in this case, it was — then that's what we'll do.

Oliver St continues to contest the sidewalk — further to DDOT's proposal for the 3000 block, between Utah Ave and Moreland St. As previously reported, Oliver St residents have requested that DDOT grant an exemption from the proposed sidewalk installation.

While supporting pedestrian safety goals, the neighbors argue the project is unnecessary, costly, and disruptive. They emphasize that the block has low traffic, minimal pedestrian demand, and is safely shared by residents, including children. The proposal would require significant property impacts — removal of landscaping, disturbance to tree roots, and alterations to driveways — reducing green space and neighborhood character. Residents also note the street is not a key route for school travel, with nearby sidewalks already available, and that community opposition is overwhelming as shown in a [resident survey](#).

Neighbors and I have been in detailed discussions with DDOT, which says this block ranks highly for sidewalk need — currently #3 in Ward 4 and #1 in ANC 3/4G — based on its prioritization framework, including missing sidewalks on both sides and overlap with key “walksheds.” DDOT applies a high bar for exemptions, especially claims that a sidewalk wouldn’t be used; in practice, a project must be essentially unusable to qualify. The agency rarely waives sidewalks but does give significant weight to ANC support for them.

Next: DDOT is expected to release a near-final plan soon, after having already shared a preliminary version. Neighbors will have a 30-day window to comment and are asking whether meaningful revisions will be possible. Some have proposed alternatives, like extending the curb on the north side for the sidewalk. DDOT says it would only consider a change if standard installation in the public right-of-way proves infeasible — which it believes is unlikely, even if the impacts are disruptive.

Lafayette ballfield nears full opening. Neighbors have been asking when the Lafayette-Pointer Park ballfield will be fully open and playable. New sod covering the southern half was laid two weeks ago and is now getting established. The field is expected to reopen once the sod sets, certainly in time for the early June Field Day (around June 5).

The field’s prior deterioration dated to the 2015–2016 school modernization, when drainage failures and heavy use led to long-term damage. Although the Department of General Services acknowledged these issues for years, it was persistent community pressure that pushed DGS to act.

A core dispute was grass vs. artificial turf. Through multiple 2024 resolutions ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)), ANC 3/4G opposed the District’s proposed turf conversion — arguing it violated prior commitments, lacked transparency, and ignored concerns about heat, environmental impacts, and long-term costs. The ANC emphasized that the field’s past failure had stemmed from fixable drainage and maintenance problems, not from grass itself. In the summer of 2024, with leadership from Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, the DC Council passed legislation requiring a natural grass field.

With the field now restored, the priority is on securing commitments from DGS for routine aeration, reseeded, and maintenance. This is especially important as the underground irrigation system has been nonfunctional for years, necessitating manual watering.

G4G extends acts of kindness. I frequently note the current initiatives, donation drives, and volunteer opportunities at Goods for Good. I do so, first, because I want you to know how you can contribute, and, more broadly, because it’s continually noteworthy that we have a local charity right here in our neighborhood that’s extending its acts of kindness and generosity to those in need across DC and the DMV. Tens of Chevy Chase neighbors volunteer for G4G, including our middle school and high school students. G4G thus builds community and, in turn, builds on that community in service to others.

So, I’m especially keen to promote G4G’s Acts of Kindness Fair on May 9 from 11 AM-2 PM (rain date May 16) at Nebraska and Utah Avenues. This family-friendly event will bring the community together at scale through hands-on service activities for all ages (students can even earn service hours) along with lawn games, a bake sale, free pizza, and more.

I urge all neighbors to stop by and participate. It will be a perfect occasion to see and experience firsthand what G4G does. Folks are encouraged to bring donations, including warm-weather clothing, shoes, jewelry, toys, and linens — and any loose change you can spare to support G4G’s work.

Come and be part of a day that celebrates how small acts of kindness can make a big impact. ANC 3/4G is sponsoring the event with a grant to G4G, as noted above.

Announcement

The [Lafayette Spring Auction](#) is this Saturday, May 2, 7-10 PM, outdoors on the playground side of the school. There will be a silent auction, refreshments, and DJ. This year's theme is *Life in Color!* Buy tickets and browse online items [here](#). All proceeds benefit the Home School Association, providing critical funds for various programs (e.g., the Peace program), teacher supplies, gardens, and more. This is an adult-only event.

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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