

# THE CAPITAL NEWS

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The Untold Stories

## Art All Night DC 2021 in the Soul of the City Recap

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month



*Pictured: Congress Heights Arts and Culture Center, Executive Director, Keyonna Jones and DC SBA*



*Pictured: Getty Image*

By: Christen Hill

Two nights of city activations, 10 years in the making, across all 8 wards. There were hundreds of local artists in 16 main streets who came out to Art All Night. And after a nearly two year hiatus, Soul of the City brought Art All Night back to Congress Heights. During the Art All Night festival, the Congress Heights Arts and Culture Center (CHACC) spearheaded a large-scale activation on the Martin Luther King Avenue Corridor.

“I think Art All Night 2021 was incredible although we’ve been down

Special to The Capital News

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and it is an opportunity to spread awareness and offer people experiencing domestic violence available resources, as well as share their stories.

According to the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DC-CADV), 40% of women in DC have experienced intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence, and/or stalking in their lifetime while 25% of men in DC reported experiencing the same. With these numbers being higher than the national average, it is important to....

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# THE CAPITAL NEWS

## THE UNTOLD STORIES

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## 17 Ways to Have a Safe Spooktacular Halloween



We all want to hit the streets for a fun and cooky time on Halloween but as you head out of the house use these tips to assure you have the best time.

1. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
2. Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
3. Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
4. Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
5. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
6. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
7. Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.
8. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
9. Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
10. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
11. When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
12. Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
13. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
14. Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
15. Get rid of any distractions - like your phone - in your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
16. Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
17. Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Be alert for kids during those hours.



## All Adults Regularly in Schools and Child Care Centers Now Required to get COVID-19 Vaccination

As of November 1, 2021 all adults who are regularly in schools and child care centers facilities in the District must be vaccinated against COVID-19. The Mayor's order further requires that, beginning November 1, 2021, students aged 12 and older must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to participate in school-based extracurricular athletics.

"We know that vaccinations are the most effective tool to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect children who are not yet eligible to receive the vaccine," said Mayor Bowser. "This new mandate requirement, without a test-out option, will add another critical layer to the robust measures we have implemented to reopen our schools and keep our child care centers safe. We also know that sports are a high-risk activity. Requiring athletes to get vaccinated will ensure they not only stay safe, but also stay in the classroom and are able to participate in school-based extracurricular athletics."

### THE VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, INTERNS, AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN PERSON IN A:

- DC public school
- Public charter school
- Private school
- Parochial school
- Child care facility regulated by the Office of State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

### THIS REQUIREMENT APPLIES TO, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OF ADULTS:

- Teachers, student teachers, teaching aides, substitute teachers, and teaching fellows;
- Before- and after-school teachers,



[Pictured: Student vaccinations being administered.]

- program leaders, and assistants;
- Guidance counselors;
- Principals and other school leaders, program coordinators and administrators;
- Coaches, trainers, athletic directors, referees, meet or game officials, and school-based media specialists filming games and training sessions;
- Librarians and school library-based personnel;
- Technology support personnel who work in schools;
- Social workers;
- School bus drivers;
- School security personnel;
- Aides for children with special needs in schools;
- Cafeteria, janitorial, and building

**maintenance staff; and**

- **Volunteers who are regularly at schools; but do not include adult students in schools.**

Student-athletes who will turn 12 between September 16, 2021 and November 1, 2021 must be fully vaccinated before December 13, 2021 to be eligible to practice or compete in school-based extracurricular athletics. DCPS, the Public Charter School Board, and each private and parochial school must establish systems for ensuring compliance with this rule among their student-athletes,

These requirements include exemptions for religious or medical reasons.



*Art All Night 2021 Recap continued from pg. 1*

for 2 years because of the COVID-19,” said Founding Exec Director - Keyonna Jones, “We didn’t miss a beat and we were able to have a fun time while also being safe.”

CHACC is determined to be a catalyst for change in Congress Heights. They are hellbent on changing the narrative of what people say about their part of the DC. The Art All Night festival was a way to showcase all the positive things going on while also putting a spotlight on local businesses.

And there were more than just singers and painters showcasing their talent on this night. There was a corridor of innovative outdoor festivities at Soul of the City. Congress Heights had a Kid Zone at the Dorothy Heights Mural from 6-9pm. It was sponsored by the Creative School, and Season Settlers. There was a photobooth, table vendors, caricature drawings and even a horse.

After the kids were put to bed, the music turned up and there was a live music jam session that lasted well past midnight. with free-style open mic session,

A Live radio broadcast from Revive POC from Philadelphia was made, a photo exhibition by local photographer Dee Dwyer, was projected onto the station 25 firehouse for all to see.

CHACC’s mission is to expose, inspire, and educate both youth and adults to the rich arts and cultural opportunities, specifically in Wards 7 and 8 East of the Anacostia River.



“This year, unlike prior years, we did not do a full activation inside, instead we even did a gallery walk-through. I think it was better to allow people to experience the Congress Heights Arts and Culture Center for what it is - an art gallery.





*Domestic Violence continued from pg. 5*

“The first time I experienced domestic violence, I was 21,” says Ronetta Johnson, 32, of Marshall Heights in Southeast.

“Me and my boyfriend had been together for about five years and we were living together during the process of breaking up. He came over to the apartment to get some of his things while he was moving out and we started arguing. He smacked me with a wine bottle that night. I had glass in my eye, but I fought back. I thought that would be the first and last time something like that would happen to me. I never spoke to him again,” Johnson continued.

Housing is one of the barriers that can prevent victims of domestic violence from escaping their abuser. Many don't have the resources to leave, and even for those who have the means, it can become complicated. “The worst experience I've had was when my child's father took our son for the weekend for a birthday party. He was supposed to return with our son, but he ended up coming back to my house without him. He wouldn't tell me where our son was. And the police didn't help,” said Johnson. “He lives close to me. I went over to his

home and demanded to know where my son was and who had him. He punched me in the face, bit me, and broke two of my teeth.”

Many people experiencing domestic violence express their frustrations with law enforcement when trying to distance themselves from their abuser.

“The police were no help initially. My child's father broke all my windows on the first floor of my house. They wouldn't even drive two streets over to arrest him. It took several stay away orders, and a long track record of me contacting the authorities for them to take him in. And because he violated the stay away order I had in place, he's still there! That's the only reason I'm safe now. He's locked up!”

While Johnson grew frustrated with law enforcement's response to her calls, her establishing a timeline of events helped her get out of a bad situation. However, many people decide not to involve law enforcement.

“I never involved the police in situations with my oldest children's father,” said Brittney Hill-Lee, 33, of Southeast.

“I have a bad temper myself, and there were times I felt like I started it. We were young and had started a life together. Kids and work were so stressful, and we couldn't communicate.

That played a part in both our frustrations.” Children are another reason it can be so hard for people to get out of a domestic violence situation. Unless a parent can gain sole custody of their child, it can even be seen as kidnapping to escape without informing their abuser of their whereabouts.

“The last time that we fought, he fled to New York City. That's how bad it was. He would hate for me to walk away from him or ignore him. I fought him back though! I refused to be like my mother and grandmother. I saw them take a lot of abuse. I wasn't going to be walking around with bloody noses and black eyes if he wasn't too,” Hill-Lee concluded.

After speaking to both Johnson and Hill-Lee, it becomes clear that everyone's situation is different. While many people push for victims of domestic violence to involve the authorities, there are blind spots in our police districts and court systems. It is necessary that a wide variety of resources be readily available for those trying to overcome their abuse as these two women were able to do.

If you or a loved one is experiencing domestic violence and need assistance, please contact The Domestic Violence Hotline at 1(800)-787-3224.

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**ART EXHIBITIONS**

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CHACC'S MISSION IS TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE AND EXPOSE YOUTH AND ADULTS TO THE RICH ARTS AND CULTURAL OPPURTUNITIES IN WARDS 7 AND 8, FROM A HISTORICAL AND MODERN DAY PROSPECTIVE.

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# Judge Blocks Sale of Historic African American Cemetery: Poor People's Rev. Barber

**By: Dr. Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, BAR  
editor and columnist  
Special to the Capital News**

Activists secure a legal victory in the fight to save the Moses African Cemetery in Bethesda, Maryland.

A Montgomery County Circuit Court ruled Wednesday, September 1st, 2021, that Montgomery County may not sell the land that includes the historic Moses African Cemetery in Bethesda, Maryland. Judge Karla Smith issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) forbidding the sale of the cemetery, currently owned by the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC.)

This ruling is seen as historic because of the rarity of communities prevailing in court over multi-million-dollar corporations and government agencies. The sale of the cemetery took place without a hearing or public notice, essentially under the cover of darkness. The next step is a hearing on a preliminary injunction which will be held Sept. 27th, 2021. A question central to the outcome is how many times will black bodies be placed on the auction block and sold – whether dead or alive?

The Moses African Cemetery, where more than 500 enslaved and free people were buried, now lies under the parking lot of the Westbard Towers, built by developers in the 1960s. The cemetery served the historic African River Road Community in Bethesda – a community that survived slavery but was wiped out in the 1960's through racist development/gentrification plans in collusion with county officials and agencies leaving Macedonia Baptist Church as the sole surviving church and institution representing the descendant community. Montgomery County Executive, Marc Elrich, claims that he is powerless to stop the sale.

The historic Black River Road community in Bethesda, Maryland is a living laboratory for the study of U.S. structural and foundational white supremacy and the racist violence carried out against the Black people who once lived there, and against the Black community that worships there today. A study of Moses Macedonia African Cemetery and the displaced African American community inherently explores the monetization and trafficking of black bodies, the sexual violation



**July 27, 2020 approximately 50 dump trucks removed unscreened soil from the cemetery.  
Photo by Gail Rebhan**

endured by Black girls and women during slavery via the corporate breeding system and the desecration of Moses Macedonia African Cemetery. In every respect, Montgomery County has shown a callous disrespect and disregard for the humanity of African people.

The HOC, a quasi-government agency had planned to sell the cemetery for more than \$51 million to a white-owned private land developer, Charger Ventures, LLC, on September 14.

“Among my most sacred duties,” said the Rev. Dr. Segun Adebayo, Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church and a plaintiff in the suit, “is committing the souls of the deceased, and ensuring the sanctity of their burial ground. Because of HOC, we can’t do that at our Moses Macedonia African Cemetery. The Black community literally has to watch the desecration of our ancestral land from behind the fence of a nearby McDonalds. This is equivalent to the community sitting at the back of the bus. We have trouble, at times, deciding whether we live in Montgomery, Alabama or Montgomery County, Maryland. The racism is as blatant around this issue as forcing African people to drink from separate water foun-

tains. However, this ruling from the court is a small but crucial first step toward racial justice for the living and the dead in Montgomery County.”

Steven Lieberman, co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs argued that “HOC’s actions are outrageous and violate the law. Maryland statutes specifically require that any person or entity selling property for non-burial purposes that is or was used as a burial ground approach the court for permission to make such a sale. The court, after taking testimony from members of the affected community, can then determine whether the sale should be permitted, and if so, under what terms and conditions.”

Lieberman asserted:

“HOC is fully aware that the property was used for more than a century as a cemetery, and yet it has ignored the law and is planning to move forward with the sale in violation of the law. Such misbehavior cannot stand unchallenged. Judge Smith’s careful and well-reasoned decision, issued from the bench after a two-hour hearing, properly evaluated the evidence and



*Poor People's Rev. Barber from pg. 6*

the statutes protecting the sanctity of burial grounds and blocked the sale.”

Poor Peoples' Campaign leader, Rev. William Barber, will express his support of the Bethesda African Cemetery Coalitions struggle to end the desecration of Moses Macedonia Cemetery. Rev Barber will speak via Zoom to a rally at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Bethesda on Friday, September 10th at 11am. The public is invited to access the speech via live streaming or in person.

Leaders of the Maryland State Poor Peoples' Campaign also pledged their support. Rabbi Alana Suskin and Rev. Angela Martin, Co-Chairs of the Maryland State Poor People's Campaign said: “We stand solidly behind the Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition's struggle to end the continued desecration of Moses Macedonia African Cemetery.”

The visit from Rev. Barber and Rev. Dr. Theoharis comes at a critical time in the years-long campaign by the BACC, the Macedonia Baptist Church and the Descendent Community to win back the land that was among the first freed African communities in Montgomery County.

Montani Wallace, a plaintiff in the case and a descendent whose ancestors were buried in the Moses Cemetery upon hearing about the TRO, said “ I thank God for this victory, and I know that my ancestors are rejoicing in heaven. As a family, we lost a piece of our history and ancestral connection,” Wallace, whose deceased husband was a descendant of a relative buried at the cemetery, said at a recent news conference. “Great-Great-Aunt Rosa lived in this community and was buried in the Moses Cemetery. ...The Moses Cemetery has been destroyed.” The Court's ruling will hopefully inspire Black communities around the country, indeed the world, to continue to fight for stolen Black land and sacred spaces.

The first National Conference on the Preservation & History of African American Sacred Burial Grounds will take place virtually on October 2nd, 2021. The goal of the Conference is to pay homage to African American ancestors by creating a network of non-governmental and independent organizations determined to safeguard the cultural, historic, and archaeological integrity of African American communities. The Conference plans to share information and platforms that will allow members of the Black community to efficiently communicate with others to defend Black lands against white private and public sector encroachment.

## Mugabe, My Dad & Me review – a powerful personal tale of celebration and healing



*Millie Chapanda and Tonderai Munyevu in Mugabe, My Dad & Me. Photograph: Jane Hobson*

**YORK THEATRE ROYAL**

**TONDERAI MUNYEVU'S SEMI-AUTOGRAPHICAL SHOW ADDRESSES ZIMBABWE'S TRAUMATIC HISTORY WITH HONESTY AND HUMOR**

By: Clare Brennan

Clothes hang in broken rows above the bare stage (Nicolai Hart-Hansen's design). Dresses, suits, uniforms – they are presences that suggest absences, the “ghosts” of the people in the stories that Tonderai Munyevu and Millie Chapanda are bringing to life through words and music.

The text of *Mugabe, My Dad & Me*, written by Munyevu, is an assemblage of the events that have shaped his complicated identity as a “gay, black Zimbabwean man.” The narrative is set in motion by a white man's question: “Where are you from?” Never shrinking from confronting the (overwhelmingly white) audience with the lazy tropes of the colonial mindset, Munyevu sets before us intersecting histories, both personal and political, “bouncing, non-linear” between Zimbabwe and the UK, past and present.

Now accompanying, now counterpointing Munyevu's storytelling, Chapanda plays the mbira, a set of metal tines fixed to a wooden board and plucked by the fingers. This, she

tells us, is an instrument of the sacred and the social, of celebration and of healing, creating a shared link between our world and that of the ancestors. Placed inside a hollowed-out pumpkin hull to amplify the sound, the mbira resonates dissonant harmonies throughout the auditorium. The enveloping sound brings an extra dimension to the performance, one that integrates the diverse elements of the narrative with our own here and now.

Munyevu's delivery style, as directed by John R Wilkinson, is relaxed and humorous. He talks directly to the audience, taking us into his confidence: “Be kind – my impressions are dodgy!” (They aren't.) His script, by contrast, is tightly constructed. Like the mbira, it sets off resonances to effect: between the complex personalities of Munyevu's father and Mugabe, for instance; between his own land inheritance and land redistribution issues resulting from Britain's betrayal of promises made to Zimbabwe. His story and history are mutually enlightening. Co-produced with English Touring Theatre, the show tours next year – catch it if you can.

## DC Seeks to Control of the DC National Guard

**By: Sherice A. Muhammad**

WASHINGTON, DC— To control or not to control the DC National Guard is an intense debate among congressional members, of which DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton has been leading the charge to shift control of the DC National Guard from the President of the United States to DC Mayor Muriel Bowser (D). As it stands, without statehood, Mayor Bowser must obtain Pentagon approval to mobilize the forces of the DC National Guard.

On September 2, the District of Columbia National Guard Home Rule Act introduced by Congresswoman Norton supported by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), and Congressman Anthony Brown (D-MD) passed in the House Armed Services Committee as part of the fiscal year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The bill goes on to the U.S. Senate for discussion and the vote.

“The District of Columbia mayor is the chief executive for our jurisdiction and has the best knowledge and most reliable expertise about when to deploy our own National Guard,” Norton said. “The D.C. National Guard Home Rule Act, which I had introduced for years before the January 6th insurrection, simply gives the District’s chief executive the same authority afforded to governors of states and territories over their Guards. If our bill had been law on January 6th, it would have brought that day’s insurrection to an end, hours earlier and would afford D.C. a critical element of home rule as we simultaneously fight for statehood. Today’s passage of our bill out of committee is another step toward granting full equality to D.C. on our road to statehood.”

As the city braced itself for the Justice for J6 Rally, and law enforcement on high alert, great emphasis has been placed on Mayor Bowser’s lack of control of the DC National Guard, in real time, as not to repeat the hor-



ror of January 6th, and how ill-prepared the city appeared because of the delay of deployment of the DC National Guard. At the time, President Donald J. Trump (R) was in office and President-Elect Joseph R. Biden (D) was to be sworn in weeks later, on January 20th. As noted, the insurrectionists were beckoned by President Trump on the basis of a “stolen election,” to “fight, and fight like hell.”

The world watched in awe the storming of the U.S. Capitol by hundreds of insurrectionists, some in military gear, charging passed barricades, assaulting police officers, breaking windows, taking doors off hinges, carrying Confederate Flags, defecating in hallways, and ravaging Congressional offices. The preparation and response of law enforcement was nil compared to the anticipation of the Black Lives Matter rally. Gaining national attention, news pundits drew analysis of the stark differences in how law enforcement prepared for both rallies. Nonetheless, it is instances of this magnitude that only amplify lack of control of the DC National Guard on the part of Mayor Bowser.

In case it wasn’t clear, the severity of the violence and mayhem on January 6, the House Select Committee chaired by Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) led the Capitol and D.C. Police Testify on January 6 Attack hearing where officers of the U.S. Capitol Police and Metropolitan Police Department testified of their accounts with the insurrectionists and

that of their colleagues on that fateful day. Their testimonies detailed how officers were deployed, and how massively overwhelmed they were in handling the insurrectionists. Among the accounts were also the details of awaiting Pentagon approval to deploy the DC National Guard. It lay bare the shortage of officers to adequately respond to the levels of those who had stormed the U.S. Capitol.

The provisions of the Executive Order 11485, of October 1, 1969, the supervision and control of the National Guard of the District of Columbia, which predates DC Home Rule, renders the alignment of power from the Secretary of Defense, Attorney General and to the Commander-in-Chief, which would fully explain what happened regarding the delay in deployment of the DC National Guard on January 6. (Below are excerpts of the executive order)

Section 1. The Secretary of Defense, except as provided in section 3, is authorized and directed to supervise, administer and control the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard of the District of Columbia (hereinafter “National Guard”) while in militia status. The Commanding General of the National Guard shall report to the Secretary of Defense or to an official of the Department of Defense designated by the Secretary on all matters pertaining to the National Guard. Through the Commanding General, the Secretary of Defense shall command the military operations, including training, parades and other duty, of the National Guard while in militia status. Subject to the direction of the President as Commander-in-Chief, the Secretary may order out the National Guard under title 39 of the District of



*DC National Guard continued from pg. 8*

Columbia Code to aid the civil authorities of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 2. The Attorney General is responsible for: (1) advising the President with respect to the alternatives available pursuant to law for the use of the National Guard to aid the civil authorities of the District of Columbia; and (2) for establishing after consultation with the Secretary of Defense law enforcement policies to be observed by the military forces in the event the National Guard is used in its militia status to aid civil authorities of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. The Commanding General and the Adjutant General of the National Guard will be appointed by the President. The Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Attorney General, shall at such times as may be appropriate submit to the President recommendations with respect to such appointments.

As the NDAA goes before the Senate, the discussion becomes even more germane due to the numbers of Trump supporters in the Senate who quietly stood down as the insurrectionists attempted to derail the validation of the electoral ballots. As Vice President Michael Pence and his family and staff were escorted out and taken to an undisclosed location for security purposes, clearly indicates how vulnerable the remaining Congressional members were at the mercy of those whom Vice President Pence narrowly escaped.



Congresswoman Norton continues the fight for the NDAA bill as it goes through the Senate, working to get more onboard to support it. The rally for more support isn't without its challenges. The Senate version of the NDAA does not include the DC National Guard provision. While an amendment is essential to include the DC National Guard, the question becomes will it make it past Republican scrutiny? Will the Democrats flex enough muscle and finesse to gain bipartisan support to carry the vote? Time will tell.

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## DC Celebrates NEW Artists at DC's Go-Go Corner

By: *Christen Hill*

There's a brand new Go-Go mural at the District's "Go-Go music corner" at 7th and Florida Avenue, NW. The new mural, which abuts the CVS parking lot and The Shay apartment building, is directly across from the building where Go-Go music plays daily. The mural, painted by local artist Kaliq Crosby, features a young boy on percussion. It is a throwback to Go-Go's early roots, when local youth would beat out a Go-Go rhythm on empty 5-gallon plastic jugs. Crosby's mural is the first of three distinct works of art to be featured on the wall. Another section is currently being painted by frequent MuralsDC artist Aniekan Udofia, whose work is sponsored, in part, by Shaw Mainstreets.

"We close out our 14th season of MuralsDC in the midst of 202Creates with a fitting mural – an installation that uplifts DC culture and DC creatives," said Mayor Bowser. "The message at 7th and Florida couldn't be clearer – you can't and won't mute DC. Go-Go is DC and DC is Go-Go."

Two years ago, the Go-Go music that boomed from the front of 1915 7th Street halted after complaints from some in the community. This sparked an instantaneous response from community activists and a pop-up Go-Go concert at 14th and U Streets NW, which drew thou-



sands of Go-Go fans. "Don't Mute DC" activists Ron Moten, Natalie Hopkinson, author of *Go-Go Live: The Musical Life and Death of Chocolate City* and a member of the city's arts commission, spoke about how important art is to the movement. Donald Campbell who has deejayed the "Go-Go Corner" for 26 years, also attended.

"It has been over a year since legislation declared Go-Go the official music of DC and I'm happy to see that it continues to be celebrated," said Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure Lucinda Babers. "I'm particularly excited that DPW's MuralsDC program unveiled the mural on this corner at the heart of Go-Go culture and where the 'Don't Mute DC' Go-Go movement began."

"This mural is one of nearly a dozen MuralsDC projects in Wards 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 this year," said DPW Director Davis, "When all three sections of the wall are complete, it will be an 80-foot-long tribute to DC culture that will celebrate parts of our history and provide a glimpse into our future."

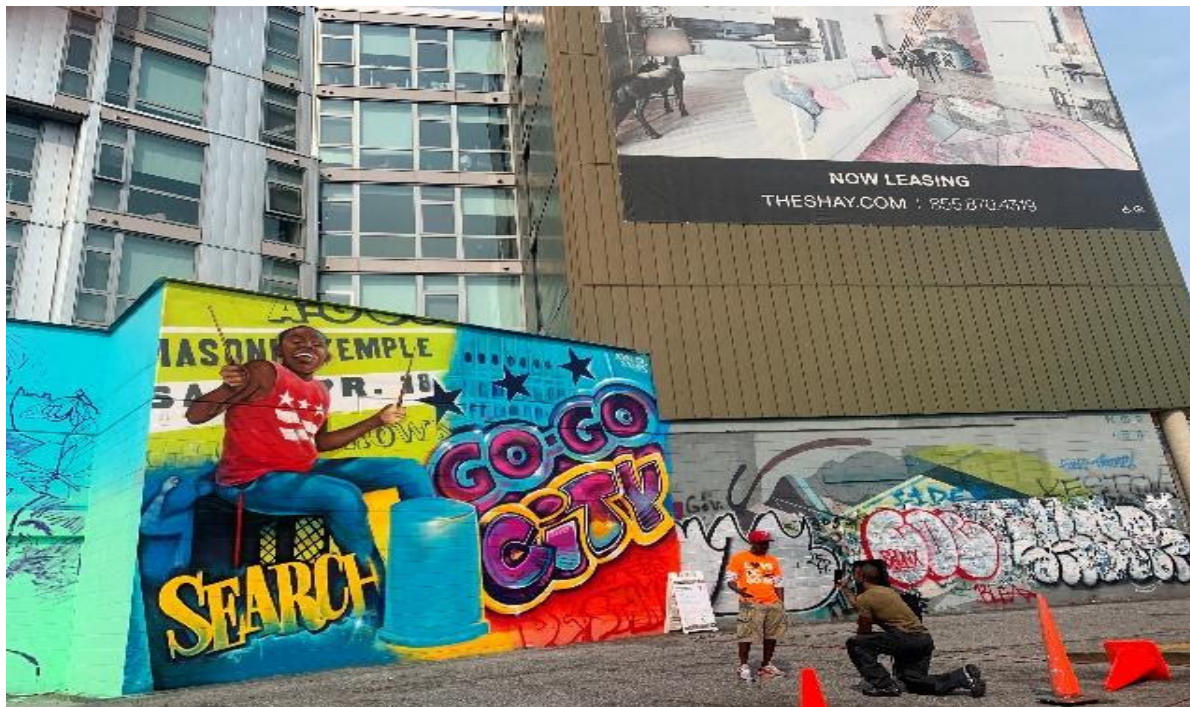
"This season has been a true celebration of the DC spirit," said CAH Executive Director Heran Sereke-Brhan. "We kicked it off with a mural in support of the natural and protective hair styles worn by so many in our community and are closing out with a celebration of our music. There is a common thread of embrac-



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Artists Go-Go Corner continued from pg. 10



ing our roots—literally and figuratively—throughout all of our 2021 murals.’ Artists for the 2021 season were asked to touch on themes that reflected DC pride, social justice, statehood, and/or gender/racial equality. Their mural locations are as follows:

WARD	LOCATION	ARTIST	STATUS
1	1900 7th Street NW (CVS Parking Lot) 3 murals at this location	Kaliq Crosby	1 of 2 Complete
		Aniekan Udofia	In Progress
2	1564 Wisconsin Avenue NW	Victor Quiñonez	In Progress
5	1564 Okie Street NE	Federico Frum	In Progress
5	2725 Bladensburg Road NE	Justin Nethercut	Complete
6	801 Virginia Avenue SE 3 murals at this location	Hannah Atallah	Complete
		Shani Shih	Complete
		Daniel Barojas	Complete
6	800 D Street SW, L’Enfant Plaza	A.L. Grimes	Complete
8	2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue SE (PNC Parking Lot)	Candice Taylor	Complete





## Beautiful Baskets of Heritage, Made by the Gullah Weavers

**By: Stephanie Moise**

There is nothing in the world quite like a Gullah basket. Highly regarded and intricately stitched, each one showcases the maker's artistry, as well as the centuries of skill passed down through Gullah families in South Carolina's Low country region.

This storied American craft dates back to the 1700s, and is a tradition rooted in West African culture. Enslaved rice farmers first brought the art form to South Carolina, and post-emancipation, it flourished as a method of expression. For more than eight generations, the Gullah community has continued the legacy, sharing their expertise and showcasing their wares at local markets. And now, these incredible designs—made entirely with locally harvested sweetgrass, pine needles, bulrush, and palmetto—are available for purchase on Etsy in partnership with Nest and Bloomberg Philanthropies. In joining our community, the weavers have the opportunity to showcase their works to a larger audience, earning 100% of the sales from their handwoven creations.

Below, in their own words, 16 Gullah weavers tell us the inspirations behind their baskets, each one as unique as its creator. Read on to learn more about these talented crafters and discover their distinct pieces of history.



**Gail Wright**

"Sewing baskets is not just an art to me; it's a passion." Gail Wright comes from seven generations of Gullah basket weavers, learning the craft from her mother and grandmother at age six. "Seeing them work hard to take care of the family, how strong they were as women, made me want to be like them," she



says. "Basket weaving reminds me of where I came from—it's an important part of me." "I weave to show the next generation something different and beautiful."



**Ruth Johnson**

"I weave to show the next generation something different and beautiful."

Growing up, Ruth Johnson helped her mother and grandmother sell designs at the local market stand, and those memories feed her creatively to this day. "A lot of my inspiration comes from everything my mother taught me," Ruth says. She also relishes the quality time spent sewing with her family. "I like to work outside with my siblings to compare ideas and talk. I want to keep the history alive, keep the culture going."



**Andrea "Annie" Cayetano-Jefferson**

"My ancestors inspire me to weave...I sew to continue my heritage."

Andrea "Annie" Cayetano-Jefferson's family has been showcasing their designs at the Charleston City Market for over 30 years, giving each other support and feedback as their work evolves. "[They] sometimes help me decide what direction my baskets should take," she says. And the world is taking notice: In 2020 Annie's work was featured in the 2020 Vandiver Gallery Exhibition at Anderson University in South Carolina. "My favorite style is the bread basket—it's perfect because it can be used for just about anything!"



**Sarah Manigault**

"I love to sing while I sew, under the tree in my yard and on my porch." Everything is inspiring for Sarah Manigault, whose grandmother, mother, daughter, and granddaughters are basket weavers as well. "Some ideas come from me, while others come from seeing things on TV, in catalogs, or in stores," she says. "I challenge myself to create them in the form of a sweetgrass basket, thinking about every detail I want to put in." Her favorite styles to make are round bread baskets with a loop. "I love to see how my designs turn out," she adds.



*Gullah Weavers continued from pg. 12*



**Nicole D. Williams**

“I love surprising even myself with what I come up with.” In some way, shape, or form, Nicole D. Williams has always expressed herself through art. “During my school years, I loved to draw graffiti and breakdance! In high school, I learned to sew and cross-stitch, which I continue to do today,” she recalls. Being a left-handed sewer, Nicole spent many hours learning to adapt the traditional weaving process her grandmother used to make baskets into her own signature style. “Most people don’t realize that left-handed rows flow in the opposite direction of those done by right-handers. There aren’t many left-handed basket makers, so any piece made is unique in and of itself.”



**Bella Cousette**

“Sometimes I find that you can get started and go on sewing for hours, the time just flies by!” Shop Bella’s items from Etsy shop Bella C Unique Designs, priced from \$45. “I remember we often sewed together on the porch as a family,” says Bella Cousette, a sixth-generation basket weaver. “It was a nice way for our family to get together and practice basket sewing.” For inspiration, she looks to the beauty of every day. “I always enjoy creating something new. For example, I had noticed a teacup, saucer, and teapot, and I thought it was a unique challenge. So I tried it.” Challenge achieved—in 2010, the Smithsonian Museum displayed a tea set Bella created.



**Gillettie Bennett**

“I am proud to continue the legacy, and I love that it lets me be creative.” Shop Gillettie’s designs from Etsy shop Sweetgrass by Design, priced from \$22. Basket weaving is Gillettie Bennett’s favorite way to relax. “I get home from work, settle in, watch television, and sew,” she says. The third-generation weaver loves to make smaller baskets in unique styles—she begins each one with a particular idea in mind but isn’t afraid to change direction as her creation develops.



**Vera Mae Manigault**

“Every basket I make is a labor of love, and there is so much history that comes with each one.” Shop Vera’s baskets from Etsy shop Gullah Weavers, priced from \$500. Eighth-generation basket weaver Vera Mae Manigault is continually inspired by the people she loves. “I sit around with family and friends sewing and sharing ideas, stories, and recipes,” she says. The artist has taught basket-weaving classes and has been featured in magazines and books. “My signature is adding colors to the sweetgrass—I’m proud to share my heritage!”



**Lillie Mae Jefferson**

“I weave with pride and dignity, working hard to continue the tradition.” Shop Lillie’s designs from Etsy shop HnL Sweetgrass Baskets, priced from \$80. Lillie Mae Jefferson comes from three generations of Gullah basket weavers; her mother, Roselee Johnson, and older sister, Henretta, were the ones who taught her to weave. “I learned in the ‘60s at a young age—I was so eager, and it was one of the few things I enjoyed,” she says. “Of course, I still love it today!” Commitment to craft and entrepreneurship are what inspire Lillie most; in her downtime she also enjoys cooking and traveling.



**Renesha Wolfe**

“I feel like it’s my mission, my life’s path. Why would I not sew baskets?” Shop Renesha’s baskets from Etsy shop Sankofa Sweetgrass, priced from \$115. For Renesha Wolfe, a fourth-generation Gullah basket weaver, creativity has always been a big part of her life. “Everyone in the neighborhood sews baskets,” she says. “Literally everybody! All the moms would be on their porches at 7:30 in the morning, weaving as we walked to the bus stop.” It also played a crucial role at family gatherings. “It was our thing: radio playing, cousins cranking up the grill, uncles preparing food, and us ladies right in the mix, making baskets.”





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*Gullah Weavers continued from pg. 13*



**Jennifaye Singleton**

“Each basket I make starts with an image in my head.” Shop Jennifaye’s designs from Etsy shop Geechee Gyal Baskets, priced from \$30. Jennifaye Singleton learned the art of basket making at the age of seven. “My aunt, Martha Wright, and my great-grandaunt Dotsie taught me,” she says. A fifth-generation weaver, Jennifaye has sewn for most of her life and even performed a demonstration in a communication class in college. “When I work, I love to sit outside with my family to talk, laugh, and joke around. It relaxes me, and I enjoy creating items that originated with my ancestors—I handcraft each basket with love.”



**Vanessa Robinson**

“I sew to honor my family and my culture.” Shop Vanessa’s items from Etsy shop Vanessa R Baskets, priced from \$30. Vanessa Robinson began making baskets when she was six years old, thanks in part to the five generations of family weavers who came before her. “It’s an art I learned from my ancestors, and I love to keep the craft going,” she says. These days, Vanessa often sews under an oak tree at home, a great source of inspiration and relaxation. Her favorite design is the elephant ear, featuring precise stitches and playful swoops.



**Shaneka Simmons**

“Knowing where this all started makes me want to keep at it.” Shop Shaneka’s baskets from Etsy shop Elizabeth Sweetgrass, priced from \$800. Shaneka Simmons, a sixth-generation Gullah basket weaver, is proud to continue the family craft. “My mother and grandmother taught me how to make baskets,” she says. “Seeing my great-grandmother, grandma, aunts, and my mother sewing makes me want to teach my kids, too.”



**Nancy White**

“I weave to keep the art alive; I just love it so much.” Shop Nancy’s designs from Etsy shop Nancy’s Sweetgrass, prices vary. Nancy White’s artistic path is full of notable achievements—one of her designs has appeared in a postcard at the Smithsonian! The third-generation Gullah basket weaver learned to sew from her family at a very young age. “I get inspired by my ancestors and the beauty of baskets,” she says.



**Martha Cayetano**

“I craft each basket with love, using my two hands.” Shop Martha’s baskets from Etsy shop Baskets by Martha, priced from \$100. For Martha Cayetano, a fifth-generation Gullah basket weaver, arriving at the finished product is the best part of the process. “I find inspiration through creating new styles and love seeing how it all comes together,” she says. “That, and meeting all the wonderful people who are interested in my designs.”



**Chelsea Cayetano**

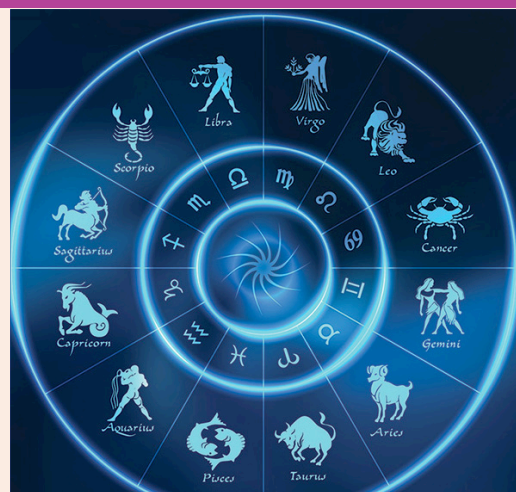
“I want to help inform others my age about basket making and all the work that goes into it.” Shop Chelsea’s designs from Etsy shop SevenG, priced from \$20. Chelsea Cayetano, a seventh-generation basket weaver, sees sewing as an ever-evolving journey. “My mom and my granny both taught me a lot about the history,” she says. “And every day, I learn a new skill from them.” A recipient of the 2021 Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grant (awarded by the South Carolina Arts Commission), Chelsea is inspired by the shared love of weaving across all ages. “I sew to show that it’s not only for ‘older women,’” she says. “It comes naturally to me. I make every basket with love.”

Chelsea Cayetano and Gillettie Bennett’s product photos by Lesa Scott on behalf of Nest; all other photos by 1212 Design on behalf of Nest.



## October Horoscopes

Source: [www.yearly-horoscope.org](http://www.yearly-horoscope.org)



### VIRGO

(August 23 to September 22)

What a powerful month! This will be a good test for you. You are burning with inspiration, ambition and likely yearning for a new sense of direction. It's time to re-balance that rational, analytical part of you with your feeling, heart and passion for life. Feel the power of your passion for life. Your passion represents your sense of Knowing and Truth about who you are and why you are here. Trust yourself and the Universe. Being in control is vastly overrated.



### LIBRA

(September 23 to October 22)

Happy Birthday! Use this time to 'lighten up' with your sense of over-responsibility. If you can't love your work, then try to work with love. Take the pressure off of yourself wherever you can. Do things around the home to make you feel more cozy and special. Your perceptions of yourself and what you value are changing. Enjoy the ride. Finances can show improvement at the end of the month just in time to buy yourself the birthday present you really deserve.



### SCORPIO

(October 23 to November 21)

Get a good grasp on your idealism and expectations so you don't torpedo the potentially powerful results. You simply can not change other people. Change the lens through which you view them by adjusting your beliefs about yourself. There is a big 'ah-ha' to be found in reading or studying higher teachings that you are drawn to.



### SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21)

There are some deep issues percolating which require your awareness. Your inspiration and motivation will be piqued soon enough, however. The portal is open if you would like to do some healing or service-related work. This is the time for you to dream things as they could be and say 'Why not?'



### CAPRICORN

(December 22 to January 19)

Health: Say goodbye to sedentary life and put aside excess food. Money: Buy yourself that wish you long for. It's the moment! Love: So many frictions with your partner end up taking their toll ... If you are single, your sex appeal will increase this summer. Seize it.



### AQUARIUS

(January 20 to February 18)

Health: Meditation is ideal for those concerns that worry you so much. Money: Cinema! Invite your friends to a good meal and don't worry so much about your savings. Love: If you are in a relationship, you will promote complicity and respect. If you are single, you will consolidate that idyllic relationship.



### PISCES

(February 19 to March 20)

Health: Your skin will be very dry this summer, do not forget to hydrate as much as possible with creams or after sun. Money: Stop thinking so much about your economy, invest more money in quality leisure with your family or friends. Love: Take advantage of your physical attractiveness to conquer or win back that person you love so much.



### ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

This is a great time to learn more about surrender and to synchronize with the timing of the Universe. This will be a very important lesson at mid-month when Sun and Mars (two powerful planets for Aries) conjoin in your sixth house of ambition and life direction. In advance of this period take the time to feel passionately about what you'd like to manifest in your life.



### TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

This will be an important time for matters particularly communication, writing and business. What would you like to communicate or accomplish? Where do you hold back in these areas and how can you change that? Use this period for home improvement and getting closer to the family. Give special attention to the children. The energies of romance and creativity are in the air.



### GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Things may feel just a bit overwhelming in the first half of the month. Challenges appear on the 9th as karma revealing in your relationship. This is a time to nurture yourself, sort out relationship needs sensitively and be with the family. There may be deeper, nagging questions about career and life direction that are at the heart of your frustration. What do you need in this regard? It's time to be really honest with yourself so you can achieve the fulfilment you deserve.



### CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

Your mind is fertile and active and can help you out of a creative rut. The enlightenment or attitude adjustments near the 9th can be turned into action in the second half of the month. September offers great opportunities to make new friends, promote yourself, advertise your business or create an internet presence.



### LEO

(July 23 to August 22)

You feel creatively fertile, ready to give birth to some new talent or aspect of who you are. This is a good time for precisely that as doors are opening in your job or your career field. Don't let your anxiousness get the best of you early in the month. Pay close attention to family and home needs so that they receive appropriate and conscious attention. Finances should be doing well but avoid increasing your debt load without due consideration. Better to save up for bigger and better things ahead.



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## WORD OF FAITH



### Spotlight

**Rev. Donald Isaac, Co-Pastor  
S.E. Tabernacle Baptist Church**

**4101 1st St SE, Washington, DC 20032**

“THE PEOPLE CAME TO MOSES AND SAID, ‘WE SINNED . . . NOW PRAY TO THE LORD TO TAKE THESE SNAKES AWAY.’ SO MOSES PRAYED.”

NUMBERS 21:7 (GNT)

### THERE’S NO RECOVERY WITHOUT PRAYER

What happens when you add prayer to your recovery process? You begin to heal from your hurts, habits, and hang-ups. But many people try to recover from problems without turning to God in prayer. This never works because there is no lasting recovery without prayer.

There are many examples of prayer leading to recovery in the Bible. After God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, there was a 40-year delay getting to the Promised Land. This delay was their own fault. They didn’t like where they were, and they didn’t like the food that God provided for them. (Numbers 21:4-5 TLB). They could have taken their problems to God in prayer, instead, they turned against God.

Then God sent poisonous snakes, and many people got bitten and became sick. The Israelites knew the only solution was to ask Moses to pray for them—and he did. Then God told Moses: “Make a snake image and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will recover” (Numbers 21:8 CSB). And they did recover!

God is a God of recovery. The entire mission of Jesus was (and is) a search and recovery mission (Luke 19:10 GW). Maybe you’re feeling lost and discouraged. You’re thinking, “This is just taking too long. I should be further down the road. I’m too old to not be where I thought I’d be at this stage in my journey.”

That’s okay! Don’t let your discouragement keep you from God. Instead, let it lead you to pray.

No matter what kind of delays and difficulties come into your life, recovery is on the way when you turn to God in prayer.

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[www.acamec.org](http://www.acamec.org)

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Office: 202/889-3660

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Christ Ministries  
30 Atlantic Street, SE WDC 20032  
Services: 11 am and 3pm

Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ  
Dr. Dennis and Christine Wiley, Co-Pastors  
3845 South Capitol St. SW WDC 20032  
(202) 562-5576  
Sunday Worship 10:00am  
[www.covenantbaptistucc.org](http://www.covenantbaptistucc.org)

East Washington Heights Baptist Church  
Rev. Kip Bernard Banks, Sr., Pastor  
2220 Branch Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 582-4811– Office  
(202) 58202400– Fax  
Sunday Worship 11:10am  
[www.ewhbc.org](http://www.ewhbc.org) [ewhbc@aol.com](mailto:ewhbc@aol.com)

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Christopher L. Nichols, Pastor  
2409 Ainger Pl., SE WDC 20020  
(202) 678-0884– Office • (202) 678-0885– Fax  
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:45am  
[www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org](http://www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org)

Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church  
Archbishop Alfred D. Owens, Pastor  
Evangelist Susie Owens, Co-Pastor  
610 Rhode Island Ave. NE WDC 20002  
(202) 529-4547  
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Israel Baptist  
Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Pastor  
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE WDC 20018  
(202) 269-0288  
Sunday Worship 10:45am  
<http://www.israelbaptistchurch.org/>

Johnson Memorial Baptist Church  
Rev. Henry A. Gaston, Pastor  
800 Ridge Rd. SE WDC 20019  
(202) 581-1873  
Sunday Worship 7:45a. & 11:15am

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Greater Fellowship/Gospel Baptist Church  
814 Alabama Ave SE, WDC 20032  
Phone: 202-561-5594

Macedonia Baptist Church  
Rev. Garfield Burton, Pastor  
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Sunday Worship 10:00am  
[www.macedoniadc.org/](http://www.macedoniadc.org/)

Matthews Memorial Baptist Church  
Dr. C. Matthew Hudson Jr., Pastor  
2616 MLK Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 889-3709 Office  
(202) 678-3304 Fax  
Sunday Worship 7:30am & 10:45am

New Life Ministries DC  
Reverend Ernest D. Lyles, Sr.  
Sunday Worship 10:00am  
<https://newlifeministriesdc.org/>  
Phone: 202-304-2005

Pennsylvania Ave. Baptist  
Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry  
3000 Pennsylvania Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 581-1500  
Sunday Worship 10:45am  
<http://www.pabc-dc.org/>

St. John C.M.E. Church  
Reverend John A. Dillard III  
2801 Stanton Rd. SE, WDC 20020  
(202) 678-7788  
Sunday Worship 11:00am  
<http://www.stjohncmecdc.org/>

St. Matthews Baptist Church  
Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington, Pastor  
1105 New Jersey Ave. SE WDC 20003  
(202) 488-7298  
Sunday Worship 9:05am  
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4200 Kansas Ave, NW

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5425 5th Street NW

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6234 3rd Street NW

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1400 41st St. SE

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