

www.LRCADC.org

"A Community Newsletter" —LRCA, P.O. Box 60272, Washington, DC 20039 (202)930-5473

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Lamond-Riggs,

Please join us for our next meeting on May 7. Hear about the extension of the Metropolitan Branch Trail from Brookland to Fort Totten; get an update on the Fort Totten South mixed-use townhome project that will be located on South Dakota Avenue & Riggs Road NE; and meet candidates for the DC Council At-Large and DC Council Chair primary election. In addition, we will start the meeting with a silent invocation/reflection to permit a moment to reflect on residents who have passed or fallen ill, joyous moments, or whatever is on your mind.

Please continue to gather and copy your historic neighborhood photos. Contact ANC Commissioner Tischa Cockrell at (202) 247-0547 to arrange pickup of copies of your photos. We are also looking for volunteers to donate items for our Riggs Park Day celebration on May 19 and to help with set-up and clean-up. See the inside page for the list of donations and how you can volunteer or participate in the festivities. We will also have a sign-up sheet at the meeting on May 7. You can also send a tax-deductible monetary donation to offset the cost of the event by going to <http://www.lrcadc.org/join-us> and clicking on the donate button.

Flip to the last page of the newsletter to find out how you can have a voice in the retail and public space programming at the Art Place at Fort Totten development located at South Dakota Avenue & Galloway Street NE. There is also information about how to provide input on the Lamond-Riggs Library reconstruction process. Please take advantage of these opportunities to actively participate in shaping our neighborhood.

As always, please feel free to reach out to us to let us know how we can be of assistance.

In service,
Uchenna Evans

NOTICES & AGENDA

LRCA Meetings

General meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of each month from October thru June, 7:00 pm—8:45 pm at:

LaSalle-Backus Education Campus
501 Riggs Road, NE, Washington, DC, 20011

The next LRCA meetings will be held on:
Monday, May 7, 2018
Monday, June 4, 2018
Monday, October 1, 2018
7:00 pm in the LaSalle-Backus EC Auditorium (off Madison Street).

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Updates from PSA Officers
3. Guest Speakers
4. Updates from Elected Officials
5. Officer's Reports: Minutes and Treasurer
6. Committee Updates
7. Closing Remarks

Police Service Area (PSA) Officers

PSA 405

Lt. Todd Perkins

todd.perkins@dc.gov; cell: (202) 904-5383

PSA 406

Lt. Ozetta Posey

ozetta.posey@dc.gov; cell: (202) 528-8429

MPD officers are embarking on a public awareness campaign about thefts from autos. Please do not leave anything visible in your car; do not leave your car running as you run into the house or store; and please lock your car doors. Non-community minded individuals are breaking into cars. Officers need our help in reducing crime.

**ANC 4B09 SMD Meeting with
Commissioner Tischa Cockrell**

Every 3rd Tuesday Monthly

6:30 pm

Riggs-LaSalle Recreation Center (501 Riggs Road NE)

Free Food Pantry

4:00 pm, 3rd Thursday Monthly

LaSalle-Backus Education Center (501 Riggs Road NE)

Free bags of groceries for community members

National Park Service RX Day at Fort Circle Park

April 28, 2018

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Fort Circle Park, South Dakota Avenue & Galloway Street NE

Ft. Totten walk, bike ride, games, & more

SPECIAL THANKS

Printing of this newsletter brought to you by:

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New LRCA Board Members in June

The board approved the appointment of Barbara Rogers and Thomas Blanton to replace board members Paul Garcia and Michael Nelson who will be departing the board at the end of the program year in June. We thank Paul and Michael for their contributions to LRCA and wish them the very best!

Riggs Park Day

May 19, 2018

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (updated time)

Riggs-LaSalle Recreation Center

501 Riggs Road NE

Donations needed:

Napkins

Juice boxes

Soda

Chips

Cookies

Fruit snacks

Fresh fruit

Email lrcabarb@yahoo.com to sign up to donate.

Calling All Local Small Business Owners!

Are you a maker? Do you own or operate a business in the greater Riggs Park community?

Sign up for an information table at Riggs Park Day to promote your business or sell merchandise. Contact Alex Bruce at ahbruce@gmail.com.

Photo: Lamond Community Action Group Earth Day Cleanup, April 21, 2018



LRCA

LRCA General Membership Meeting Minutes LaSalle-Backus Education Campus April 2, 2018

President Uchenna Evans called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Minutes from the March general membership meeting were approved.

Sheila King, Financial Secretary – LRCA started the year on September 1, 2017 with \$3,451 and have deposited \$4,411 for dues and copying contributions. Expense since the beginning of the year (printing and copying) total \$2,062 - \$136 for copying, \$80 for corporate filing fees, and \$25 for miscellaneous supplies. Total expenses for the year total \$2,302. Ending cash as of March 31 is \$5,529. Financial report approved by membership.

Faye Caldwell, Special Assistant to Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon Todd – Budget meetings are happening throughout the month of April. Councilmember Todd hosted a small business summit on April 11 for businesses in Ward 4 at People's Congregation Church 4704 13th street NW. Councilmember Todd submitted a letter to OSSE, which will conduct an investigation on enrollment of non-DC students at LaSalle Backus Education Campus.

LaRoya Huff, Community Liaison to Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon Todd – The Handicapped trashcan sign up is active. There is also a trashcan drive for residents who have holes in their trashcans and need a replacement. If you need a new trashcan please contact LaRoya. Alley on 4th street potholes being addressed. Signs for litter seemed to have helped a little. For more information on the Safe at Home program or tax discounts for Seniors, contact LaRoya.

Barbara Mitchell, Legislative Director to Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie – Residents are encouraged to testify whether written, or in person so that the council knows what is important to residents across different communities. No feedback has been received on when we will hear back from the Office of Planning about the map amendments. Council Committee of the Whole may take up the issue on July 13.

Philip McAuley, Ward 4 MOCR – Mayor handed her budget to council. If members want to take a deeper dive to see some of the specific items visit the website at www.mayor.dc.gov – entire presentation to council is up on the website. Fresh start Wednesdays – every Wednesday March 21 to May 9 from 5:30pm-7:00pm at UDC. Pothole Palooza initiative started the first Friday in April – call 311 to report a pothole.

Cene Ketcham, Casey Trees – Started in 2012, Casey Tree's mission is to restore, enhance, and protect DC's tree population. Casey Trees supports the River Smart Homes initiatives, which provides rain barrels, shade trees, rain gardens, native plants landscaping, impervious surfaces removal, and tree rebate program for a small copay by residents. Volunteer opportunities include tree inventory program to encourage everyone to get involved in data collection to advise on better management of trees across DC and community tree planting.

Robert Corletta, DDOT and Department of Urban Forestry – If you have any street tree issues – start with 311. DDOT decides if public trees need to be removed. If a tree is advised for removal, requests take about 1-2 weeks to get addressed and if removal is recommended it will take even longer. Positives of having trees include: public and mental health benefits, storm water reduction into the sewers, energy savings and increases in property value, lowering of urban heating phenomenon and heat related disease and mortality, and studies show that DC public school students attending campuses with quality canopy had higher test scores in math and reading.

Teresa Biagioni and Brian Alexander, DC Public Schools – The new Ward 4 middle school at Coolidge is estimated to be done July 2019. New North Middle School will open with just 6th grade class in 2019 and then add a new grade each year over 3 years. Site work hours are 7am to 7pm. Coolidge High School Modernization – Will have three academies – Health Science Academy, Early College Academy, and Mass Media Academy. Contact information: 202-442-5239 dcps.planning@dc.gov; Teresa.biagioni@dc.gov; brian.alexander@dc.gov.

Diana Young, 4th grade teacher LaSalle-Backus – Volunteers needed for watering and light weeding at the LaSalle-Backus school garden during summer months. If you have questions or are interested, contact Brooke Edgecombe, School Garden Coordinator, at (202) 671-6340.

Uchenna Evans, President – LRCA – First VP and First Trustee, Paul and Michael, are relocating to Boston in July. Will have vacancies on the board this summer – board will appoint members to fill those vacancies. LRCA is still accepting scholarship applications until April 18 – to apply, visit <http://www.lrcadc.org/scholarships>. There were a couple of home burglaries (one involved a shed). Lt. Posey asks that everyone please be cautious and aware and keep an eye out for your neighbors.

ANC 5A08 Commissioner Gordon Fletcher – There was a special meeting for ANC 5A April 3 at UDC Backus at 6:45pm.

ANC 4B08 Commissioner Barbara Rogers – Social Saturday on April 20 at Culture Coffee Too from 4-6pm. Celebrate the end of the tax season together!

ANC4B09 Commissioner Tischa Cockrell – Riggs Park Day is May 19. The Riggs Park Day committee is collecting historical pictures and documents for the scrap book. Looking for a local musician to provide entertainment.

Gwen Cofield, Development Task Force – EYA presented their proposal for townhome project for ANC 4B meeting. Commission was not able to take a vote at that time – EYA needs to go back to the April or May meeting – EYA will be at the LRCA meeting in May to give an update.

Charon Hines, 70th Anniversary Committee – 70 year Celebration – Senior Fun Walk on Tuesday, April 24, location to be determined in collaboration with DPR.

LaRoya Huff, Senior Committee – Congratulations to Barbara Lee who was appointed by Mayor Bowser to the DC Commission on Aging! Food, Fun, and Friends Friday – every third Friday in Culture Coffee Too. Culture Coffee Too has applied for a liquor license.

Robert Oliver and Rodney Foxworth, Lamond-Riggs Library Friends – Two new senior programs started April 4: senior café and senior story time. Request for Qualifications for library construction arrived April 2. Focus groups are being conducted to inform library design. Send email to focus.groups@dc.gov to participate. LRLF will reapply for an oral history grant next year.

LaSalle Backus Principal Justin Ralston – The school hosted the Math Quiz Bowl on March 14 for 35 teams from 27 DCPS schools. End of the year testing starts April 23. The school received a \$30,000 grant from the Redskins Foundation and the Dale Earnhardt Jr Foundation to renovate the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM. /s/ Helen Li, Recording Secretary



Thank you to our LRCA Spring Clean Volunteers & Sponsors

The Environment Committee of the LRCA thanks participants, street captains, partners, and sponsors for making LRCA's Spring Clean on April 14 a huge success! Special thanks to the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Culture Coffee Too, DC Mayor's Office of the Clean City, DC Water, Hellbender Brewery, Impact DMV Church, and all of the residents and groups who picked up trash around our neighborhood.

(Photo courtesy Alice Ferguson Foundation)

Art Place at Fort Totten Retail Survey & Community Workshops

The Cafritz Foundation, developers of the neighboring Art Place at Ft. Totten development located at South Dakota Avenue and Galloway Street NE, have retained Biederman Redevelopment Ventures (BRV) <https://www.brvcorp.com> to develop an online survey and lead a series of community workshops regarding retail and public space programming for the next phase of the Art Place at Ft. Totten development.

BRV is seeking ideas for the types of retail uses residents of the nearby neighborhoods would like to see in the current and future phases, as well as ideas for various uses for the open spaces in the project. You can see many of the successful projects that BRV has completed around the country on their website, such as Bryant Park: <http://bryantpark.org/programs>.

The online survey will "go live" on or about the week of May 14 and will be open for one week. The community workshop sessions will be held onsite at Art Place during the last week in May. Details will be posted on our website <http://www.lrcadc.org> so check back for details after May 7. In the meantime, if you would like to sign up to participate in the online survey or community workshops, please email ArtPlaceProgramming@gmail.com.

Lamond-Riggs Library Reconstruction Survey & Focus Groups

The Lamond-Riggs neighborhood library will be rebuilt at its current location & library officials want your input!

Complete a short survey at <https://bit.ly/2GPuORB>. If you are interested in participating in a focus group, please send an email with your name, contact information, and whether you have children who use the library, to focus.groups@dc.gov or call (202) 727-1188. The focus group is one of several opportunities where residents will be able to provide input on the new library.

Learn more about plans to design and build the Lamond-Riggs Library at <https://dclibrary.org/newlamondriggs>.

Timeline

- Winter 2017-18: RFP for design/build contract
- Spring 2018: Design/build selection
- Summer 2018: Design kick-off
- Fall 2019: Close for construction
- Fall 2019: Interim library opens
- 2021: New library opens

Contacts

- Martha Saccocio, martha.saccocio@dc.gov or 202-727-1188
- Archie Williams, archie.williams@dc.gov or 202-727-1437



LaSalle-Backus Education Campus School Library Gets a Makeover

On April 20, students at LaSalle-Backus cut the ribbon on a newly designed school library, courtesy of the Heart of America Foundation, Redskins Foundation, Dale Jr. Foundation, and lots of faculty, staff, and volunteers. Students were treated to a visit from players as well as team owner Dan Snyder. Huge thank you to the school partners who made this happen.

(Photo courtesy Principal Justin Ralston)