

# FOXHALL News

[foxhall.org](http://foxhall.org)

## **Halloween Special for Trick or Treaters!!**

Where: Lower Q Circle, Foxhall Village

When: 5:15 to 6 PM on Halloween night

All are welcome. Come in costume. No need to bring anything. Just yourself!

## **In-person FCCA Membership Meeting**

Where: Hardy Rec Center, 45th and Q

When: Wednesday October 19th, 6:30 to 8 PM

Special “meet and greet” meeting with local ANC 3D Candidates J.P. Szymkowicz and Marilyn Nowalk.

Everyone welcome. This will be informal. A time to get to know our representatives.

## **Local ANC Candidate Positions**

The election on Tuesday November 8th will not just determine who holds District-wide offices but local ANC representatives. The District is divided into about 40 ANCs. An ANC is a non-partisan, neighborhood body made up of locally elected representatives called Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. These are nonpaid positions elected for 2-year terms. Each commissioner represents about 2,000 persons. The FCCA spans the boundaries of two ANC Commissioners both of which are part of the 7-member ANC 3D which covers **ANC Candidates Con't on Page 4...**

## **MacArthur High School Community Working Group Activities**

Janet Nash

Since Spring 2022, the District Public School agency (DCPS) has held five meetings with the MacArthur High School (MHS) Community Working Group (CWG). The Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Education created this group in early 2022 to plan the way to use the newly-acquired Georgetown Day School property at 4530 MacArthur Boulevard. There are 41 CWG members, including DCPS officials, parents, school leaders, and neighborhood association reps. FCCA Board members Janet Nash and Carter Beach and Colleen Crino, Foxhall resident and Hardy Middle School (Hardy) rep, are on the **Macarthur CWG Con't on Page 6...**

## **DC State Board of Education Ward 3 Candidates**

On Tuesday November 8th the District will hold an election in which one of two people will be elected to succeed Ruth Wattenberg as the Ward 3 representative on the District's Board of Education. This is a non-partisan office. Because the future of the Foxhall and MacArthur schools have special relevance for the Foxhall Community, we invited both candidates for the Board of Education to provide their views on the proposed schools and agreed to distribute their statements unedited and without commentary.

**SBOE Candidates Con't on Page 3...**

## **Introducing 'Foxhall Families'**

**Organization Meeting: Nov 6, 11am-12pm Q St. Circle**

Annie Selak

I am happy to announce the start of a new neighborhood group: Foxhall Families. We're bringing together families of young children in an informal setting to get to know each other. The past 2.5 years have been isolating for everyone, and parents with young children have experienced this isolation in a unique way. Now that pediatric covid vaccines exist, we are starting to venture out more and get to know one another. On Sunday, November 6 from 11 am - 12 noon, we will gather in the Q street circle to get to know one another. The FCCA will provide snacks for kids and adults. Feel free to bring some balls or toys to play with. November 6 marks the end of daylight savings time, so we can all be together while schedules are thrown off and we're struggling through one of the harder days of the year with little kids.

Our hope is that this initial gathering helps us get to know **'Foxhall Families' Con't on Page 5...**

## **Join the FCCA Listserv!!**

Keep up-to-date with all happenings in your community, such as developments with the schools, issues before ANC, community parties, recommendations for repairment, etc. by joining the FCCA Listserv. For more information and to join, check out: [groups.io/g/FCCAlistserve](https://groups.io/g/FCCAlistserve)

When possible, please contact the appropriate FCCA Board Member directly to discuss issues and concerns—Focus Areas are listed after the board member’s name. General issues can go to Bob Avery.

**FCCA Board**

**Bob Avery, President and Police Liaison**  
338-3834, [raverydc@gmail.com](mailto:raverydc@gmail.com)

**Carter Beach, Clark Place Liaison**

**Vipul Bhagat, Treasurer**  
725-0144, [vipbhagdc@gmail.com](mailto:vipbhagdc@gmail.com)

**Michael Delaney, Special Projects**

**Conrad J. DeWitte, Jr., Secretary and GCP Steering Committee Representative**  
321-1700, [cjdewitte@hotmail.com](mailto:cjdewitte@hotmail.com)

**Brian Donahue, FCCA Listserv Administrator**

**Paul DonVito, Historic Preservation & Listserve Liaison**

**Nikki Farison, Community Events & Welcome Committee**

**Ann Haas, At Large**

**Janet Nash, At Large**

**Michael O’Connell, GU/Medstar Construction Liaison**

**Sara Paulson, Aging-in-Place, Palisades Village Liaison, & Chair of the Foxhall Call Box Restoration Committee**

**John Szymkowicz, Bylaws Committee**

**Peter Van Allen, DC Fair Skies & Colony Hill Liaison**

FCCA Administrator

**Brittany Aguilar, Administrator**  
[britt.aggie@gmail.com](mailto:britt.aggie@gmail.com)

**FCCA Listserv**  
[FCCAlistserv+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:FCCAlistserv+subscribe@groups.io)

**Who Do You Call?**

**City-Wide Call Center**

Go to [311.dc.gov](http://311.dc.gov) or call 311 to request free bulk trash and yard waste pickups, and to report burned out street lights, illegal dumping, graffiti, cars obstructing sidewalks or displaying suspicious guest parking permits, and other issues.

**DC Animal Shelter** 576-6664

**Police and Fire Departments**

Call 911 for both emergency and non-emergency Police matters.

**Georgetown 24/7 Community Hotline**

Report student activities that negatively impact our community including noise after 10 pm at GU’s 24/7 Hotline, 687-8413

**PEPCO**

Power Outages 877-737-2662  
Street Lights Out 269-0855  
Washington Gas 624-6049

**Ward 3 City Council Member**

Mary Cheh, [mcch@dccouncil.us](mailto:mcch@dccouncil.us)

**Ward 3 Mayor’s Liaison**

Emir Gur-Ravantab, [emir.gur-ravantab@dc.gov](mailto:emir.gur-ravantab@dc.gov)

**Our ANC Commissioners**, Jason Rao

(ANC 3D06) [3D06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:3D06@anc.dc.gov), J.P. Szymkowicz (ANC 3D09) [jp.szymkowicz@anc.dc.gov](mailto:jp.szymkowicz@anc.dc.gov). For more information, go to [anc3d.org](http://anc3d.org).

**Foxhall Village Historic District**

Planning to work on the exterior of your Foxhall Village home? See work going on that seems contrary to our Historic District guidelines? Please call or email our DCHPO rep, Anne Brockett, (202) 442-7600 or [anne.brockett@dc.gov](mailto:anne.brockett@dc.gov). Historic District Guidelines can be found at [http://foxhall.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/FVHD\\_Design-Guidelines.pdf](http://foxhall.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/FVHD_Design-Guidelines.pdf)

**Going out of town?**

Email MPD Officer Tony McElwee to check on your home periodically, [anthony.mcelwee@dc.gov](mailto:anthony.mcelwee@dc.gov).

**Join the FCCA Listserv!!**

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**Scheduled Meetings with Local Private Schools**

Share comments and concerns so they can be aired at these public meetings that institutions are required to schedule with local communities according to their agreements with the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

**Lab School – All at 6pm**

- Monday, January 9, 2023
- Monday, March 13, 2023
- Monday, May 8, 2023

**St Patrick’s – All at 7:30pm**

- Tuesday, October 25, 2022
- Tuesday, January 17, 2023
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023
- Tuesday, July 18, 2023

**FCCA Newsletter Submissions**

Send to [cjdewitte@hotmail.com](mailto:cjdewitte@hotmail.com) for the next newsletter. Generally submissions should be under 300 words, but longer pieces may run by advance arrangement.

## ... SBOE Candidates Con't from Page 1

*Here are their responses:*

### **Eric Goulet**

I want to thank the Foxhall community for your support during the Ward 3 Council race. Even though I finished second overall in the Ward, it was truly special to meet so many wonderful people during the campaign. I am running now for the Ward 3 seat on the DC State Board of Education to ensure that every child in DC has access to an education that helps them achieve their full potential. I have been endorsed by The Washington Post, and I would respectfully ask for your vote. As the DC Budget Director and as a Council attorney, I wrote legislation that financed the modernization of all DC Public Schools, increased per-pupil funding, expanded childcare, and implemented DC's School-Based Mental Health Program.

In Ward 3, we must tackle the unique challenge of school overcrowding. Overcrowding has prevented parents from being able to have Pre-Kindergarten for 3-year-olds in any of our Ward 3 elementary schools and has increased class sizes. Citywide, we need to develop a curriculum that improves graduation rates and ensures every student stays engaged on a path to college or a career.

As many of you know, a proposal has been advanced that seeks to open an 800 to 1,000 seat citywide high school at the former Georgetown Day School site and then a new Foxhall Elementary School on top of a portion of Hardy Park. I am concerned that this proposal will create unresolvable traffic congestion and will reduce community green space, which the city just recently spent millions of dollars to renovate.

While these two schools in Foxhall may have seemed like the best available option at an earlier time, the DC Council recently delayed funding for both projects by one year to provide the opportunity to explore all currently available options through the Attendance Zone Boundary Study. I am grateful for this time, because I believe this process, which occurs every 5-10 years, provides us with a chance to see if a better site is now available. This issue draws a key distinction between my opponent and I in this race because he has repeatedly stated that he won't support exploring other alternatives to the current MacArthur High School proposal.

I will work with Ward 3 parents to advocate for the following priorities in the Boundary Study: ensure that all Ward 3 neighborhood elementary schools have the physical ca-

capacity to guarantee by-right Pre-K for all three- and four-year-olds; ensure that we have an adequate number of classrooms to reduce class sizes; and to examine if there is a more suitable large parcel site in Ward 3 available for a high school.

If elected, I will strongly encourage the Mayor and the Council to purchase or lease 4000 Connecticut Ave, and I would encourage you to join me in this advocacy. This is the former Intelsat site, which was recently planned for the Whittle School, until it went into bankruptcy. I believe that this site would be ideal for a new Ward 3 high school, because it more accessible by both Metrorail and Metrobus, than the GDS site, where the current MacArthur high school is currently proposed.

If we can secure another site for the high school, then I would like to see the GDS site used for a 500-seat Pre-K 3 to 5th grade elementary school. Using GDS for a new elementary school would eliminate overcrowding at Key, provide a walkable elementary school to the Foxhall community, guarantee Pre-K for 3-and-four-year-olds, and eliminate any need to build on Hardy Park.

### **Michael Sriquei**

I am the only candidate running for this important seat whose family chose to send our children to public schools in DC as a basic starting point of demonstrating support for them. I am the only candidate who has first-hand experience with school budgets; the only one who has partnered with parents from all 8 DC wards to help families navigate the school system and promote transparency; and the only one who has worked within our community on neighborhood issues, schools and beyond. The choice when it comes to commitment and activism is clear.

I support giving children in the Foxhall community the opportunity other students in Ward 3 have to attend a neighborhood elementary school that isn't up to almost 2 miles from home. Not only would this cut down on a number of car trips within our community but would help relieve the chronic school overcrowding across Ward 3 that eats at educational quality and forces families to spend well over \$20,000/year on private pre-k options. As the ANC I serve on has pressed for going on 2 years, the new school's design should echo our shared commitment to green space and be a size to effectively serve neighborhood kids.

With trailer classrooms just delivered to Jackson-Reed, it's also time for the District to stop sitting on its multi-mil-

**SBOE Candidates Con't on Page 5...**

**...ANC Candidates Con't from Page 1**

ers, Foxhall, Spring Valley, Wesley Heights and the Palisades.

ANC 3D meets monthly and provides opinions on private and public developments that might impact our area. For example, District law says that DC agencies cannot take any action that will significantly affect a neighborhood unless they give the affected ANCs 30 days advance notice. This includes zoning, streets, recreation, education, social services, sanitation, planning, safety, budget, and health services. The ANC's opinions are advisory, but District offices are required to give them "great weight."

Both candidates for the ANC representing the FCCA area are unopposed. Nevertheless, the FCCA asked both of them to appear before the community in the next FCCA membership meeting on October 19th as form of "meet and greet." Both responded enthusiastically. In addition, both provided brief introductions to themselves as follows:

**J.P. Szymkowicz (3D-07)**

My name is J.P. Szymkowicz. I am currently serving my second term as Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Foxhall Village and Colony Hill. I am a fifth generation Washingtonian. I have lived on 44th Street in Foxhall Village with my wife, Lauren, since 2006. My parents have lived in Foxhall Village since the 1990s. My wife grew up in the Palisades and was in the last public 8th grade class at the Old Hardy School in 1996. I graduated from Georgetown University in 1991. I am an attorney in private practice with my father and am admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and New York.

The most important thing that I have done during my tenure as Commissioner is being available for community concerns and problems. My constituents can call me at (202) 607-5500 or email me at [jp.szymkowicz@anc.dc.gov](mailto:jp.szymkowicz@anc.dc.gov) if they have any concerns or problems with the delivery of Governmental services.

My first major accomplishment was facilitating the construction of the sidewalk adjacent to the French Embassy. It had long been needed but had never been built. My advocacy worked and we now have a sidewalk to use on the French Embassy side of Reservoir Road from Foxhall Road all the way into Georgetown.

I worked on the design of the \$5 Million renovation of Har-

dy Park and led the effort to include a Dog Park at Hardy Park. As many of you know, a group of people who do not live near Hardy Park want to build a new school on Hardy Park and I am the ONLY Commissioner fighting to prevent this idiotic idea from actually happening. Destroying any park is terrible. I would fight to protect a park in Ward 8. Destroying a park that has just been renovated, shows a complete lack of planning and waste of money. I will continue to fight to prevent a school from being built on Hardy Park or any other park. I will also work with to find solutions for school needs.

In fact, I introduced the resolution to purchase the former Georgetown Day School property on MacArthur Boulevard for the District of Columbia to use as a school. I have fought to make sure that this school is not opened without a clear plan for what kind of school will go there, how many students will attend and how these students will get there. Unfortunately, it appears that the District of Columbia Government does not currently have a clear plan for getting students to and from the school or even for the types of programs that the school will offer, so I will need to continue my efforts for Governmental accountability.

I fought to protect existing residents of apartment buildings on MacArthur Boulevard from having individuals who are suffering from homelessness, mental problems and substance abuse issues from being "dumped" in these buildings by the Government without adequate support services for them. Also, I have argued that paying landlords a 75% "premium" over the market rental rate in order to entice them to rent to such individuals both depletes the market of affordable housing and forces existing tenants to move. This has already happened with some of my, now former, constituents.

I also introduced the resolution to make Colony Hill an official historic neighborhood to protect this beautiful gem from destruction via houses being knocked down for multi-unit apartment buildings and ugly modern buildings.

I was the ONLY Commissioner to vote against the conversion of a two-family duplex home on MacArthur Boulevard into a 17-unit apartment building with only five parking spaces built on the site. This type of "upzoning" and increased density will ruin our City and destroy the nice neighborhood that we have. I will continue to fight against these efforts.

**...ANC Candidates Cont. from Page 4**

As many of you know, crime has increased exponentially in the District of Columbia due to ill-conceived policies for arresting and prosecuting people accused of crime. As a lawyer who worked in two State Attorney's Offices, I know that a small percentage of people commit a large percentage of crimes and that it is essential that these individuals are caught, brought to trial and punished. Our Government has not done its job and the effect, which I predicted, is that criminals are running around the District of Columbia placing law-abiding residents at risk of personal injury and death. I will make it a priority to force our government officials to stop catering to criminals, and instead, bring them to justice.

**Marilyn Nowalk (3D-06)**

Marilyn lives on Salem Lane with her husband, Steve Kirk, and recently became an empty nester as her twin sons headed off to college in the Fall of 2022. As a first-time ANC commissioner, Marilyn is excited for the opportunity to serve the community in this volunteer position. She looks forward to finding new ways to make the neighborhood more welcoming to new and existing families, more accessible by public transportation, safe, environmentally friendly, and a great place to raise a family. As the parent of DCPS and DC charter school graduates, she cares profoundly about publicly funded schools.

While this is her first civic position, Marilyn has served on several boards, including the Vestry of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, where her long service culminated with three years as Senior Warden. She is also the Co-Chair of the St. Etienne (Haiti) Partnership, Treasurer for BSA Troop 666, and is an Assistant Scoutmaster and founding leader of BSA Troop 248, the first all-girls BSA troop in the nation's capital.

Professionally, Marilyn has served in leadership positions in financial services and high-tech firms, and for 10 years, managed a DC-based consulting firm which she founded. Her experience as a project and manager provides much-needed skills for the ANC commissioner position: data analysis, communications, stakeholder management, negotiation, conflict resolution, and risk management, among others.

Marilyn is a graduate of Rutgers University with a BA in Economics and English, and an MBA from Seton Hall University. When not working, volunteering, or spending time with family, Marilyn can be found traveling the world, reading, cooking, camping, and snuggling her two dogs.

**... SBOE Candidates Con't from Page 3**

lion-dollar investment at the former GDS site. To the extent possible, students shouldn't be greeted by an active construction site on their first day. While the new school will generate fewer and shorter car trips than GDS did, I look forward to leaning on the city, as I have through the ANC, to think seriously and proactively about investments to address traffic and parking, ultimately, improving the educational experience at both new schools.

Don't forget about DC students - remember to vote for the Board of Education and Stand with Sriqui.

**...'Foxhall Families' Con't from Page 1**

one another so that we can build a neighborhood filled with more connections, leading to passing friends while on a stroller walk, playing at Hardy Park, or going to Jettie's for their addictive kids meals once again. Kids can make new friends AND adults can make new friends too.

Who can join? We're focusing mainly on children age 5 and younger, but recognize that all families need connection. Feel free to come if you're interested, even if you don't fit neatly into this category. We also know that all families and situations look different, and all are welcome at this event. The name "Foxhall Families" isn't meant to be exclusive or all encompassing, and we can evolve as we grow.

I have an idea to bring together kids, families, etc! GREAT! We're hoping that this is the start of a series of events, both planned and impromptu, that can start with our youngest Foxhall residents. If you're interested in collaborating, taking the lead, or just want to be involved, email Annie at [annie.selak@gmail.com](mailto:annie.selak@gmail.com)

**...Macarthur CWG Con't from Page 1**

CWG. The DCPS CWG background materials can be found at <https://dcplanning.wordpress.com> Your feedback and questions may be emailed to [dcps.planning@k12dc.gov](mailto:dcps.planning@k12dc.gov).

**Two-Phased Opening of the MacArthur High School**

The school will open in two phases. Phases I and II: MHS will be located at the former GDS campus on MacArthur Boulevard and will be opened in two phases. Phase I in August 2023 will have approximately 200 9th and 10th graders and will require interior modifications to classrooms and common spaces, as well as carving out space for a new kitchen. Phase II, which is slated to open in 2025/26, may require building a second story to accommodate about 1000 students. The Phases I and II architectural plans are not available now. Construction for Phase I will begin later this year, but the beginning of Phase II construction is unclear.

Hardy Middle School students will attend the MHS as a matter of right. Students across the District may apply to MHS through DCPS programs, such as the lottery program. DCPS estimated that 43 to 82 of 163 Hardy 8th graders would move up to MHS in 2023; enrollment is on the low side primarily because all Hardy 8th graders have the

right to choose Jackson Reed (J-R) until 2025.

Traffic Study, Parking, and Public Transportation: DCPS conducted a mandated traffic study in March 2022 to measure traffic increases from MHS commuters and potential commuters to the 550-student elementary school planned for Hardy Park land. The survey gathered data on levels of service (potential delays) at six nearby intersections; five levels of service were studied, ranging from green to red, only red representing unacceptable traffic congestion. The model assumed that 50% of students and 15% of staff will reach the two schools by public transportation, 35% of students and 75% of staff will drive, and the remainder will walk or ride bikes. With traffic light cycle time adjustments to remediate delays at the most congested intersections, in particular Foxhall/Reservoir, DCPS found that no intersection would experience delays in the red zone. Many on the CWG challenged the study's findings. DCPS in response agreed to revise some of its inputs, which will be shared later this year.

There are 115 parking spaces on the MHS campus. In Phase I, MHS will have about 30 staff. (Student parking is not provided.) When the student body expands in Phase II, staff will increase to

about 150, substantially exceeding the lot's capacity. Currently, only the D6 bus serves MHS. DDOT and WMATA indicated that no new city buses will be available to shorten student/staff commutes. DCPS does not provide student school buses, e.g., J-R is served by 14 city buses and Metro's Red Line.

DCPS acquired the 5-acre property in 2021 in an effort to alleviate overcrowding in Ward Three schools.

**Pay by check or go to [www.foxhall.org](http://www.foxhall.org) and join or renew using PayPal!**

**Thank you for your support!**

If you would like to talk about how your interests might mesh with the FCCA's current needs for volunteers - including newsletter delivery and attending ANC meetings - let us know!

Sure, call me!

**Membership Form for the Calendar Year**

Members must reside within FCCA area, be present, and be over 18 years of age to vote at meetings. Memberships are for the calendar year. Please make checks out to the Foxhall Community Citizens Association. Send to FCCA c/o Vipul Bhagat, FCCA Treasurer, 4435 Volta Place, N.W. or bring to a meeting!

**Standard Memberships**

- \$25 Household
- \$15 Senior Household
- \$25 Non-Resident

**Booster Memberships**

- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Advocate
- \$50 Sponsor
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names (LAST, First, as you wish listing to appear, Ex: DOW, Jane & John Smith)

Complete Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address for FCCA Updates \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_