

# Veterans Day event calls for D.C. rights

By **GRAHAM VYSE**  
Current Staff Writer

Two men who were among the first black pilots in the U.S. armed forces marked Veterans Day Monday by advocating full civil rights for D.C. citizens.

District residents Major Louis Anderson and William T. Fauntroy Jr., members of the pioneering Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, were honored at a ceremony at the African American Civil War Museum. After thanking D.C. officials for recognizing their service, both veterans weighed in on the District's lack of local budget autonomy and congressional voting rights, casting these issues as modern-day civil rights offenses.

Anderson, who received a Congressional Gold Medal from D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, said he saw a parallel between D.C.'s current struggle and that of black airmen more than six decades ago.

"At that time, there were those who were in charge of the country who felt that the African-American man was not fit to fly an aircraft in

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## HAVING A BALL



Bill Petros/The Current

**Harlem Globetrotters star Handles Franklin paid a visit last Thursday to St. John's College High School's Advanced Placement Physics class, where he traded basketball tricks with David Hovan. The St. John's science teacher recently garnered attention when a 15-second video of his basketball spinning skills was posted on YouTube.**

# Local gro delay on 2

■ **Land use:** Agency del extensive public input pe

By **BRADY HOLT**  
Current Staff Writer

A chorus of community is calling for the D.C. Zoning mission to postpone a decision the proposed overhaul to the district's land-use regulations. Re have ranged from 60 to 120 d

The commission is in the of two weeks' worth of public ings on the proposal from the of Planning, which has been ing on the zoning rewrite for six years. The suggested ch

# Agency see drop Clevel

■ **Transportation:** Mos input urged against remo

By **GRAHAM VYSE**  
Current Staff Writer

It's looking like the Corn Avenue service lane in Cle Park isn't going anywhere. Defenders of the road, who ag ate the parking it provides for businesses, appear to have pe ed officials that public opinio their side.

Following a protracted co nity debate over whether to pr modify or do away with the way, the D.C. Department of portation said in a stateme Wednesday that "the larges ment expressed to date by co nity members and stakeholde desire to retain the service lan exists today."

The agency based the find community feedback re through hundreds of letters, and other online communi Officials shared that outcom public forum the department last Wednesday at the Cle

# Group seeks to push Ward 4 school initiatives

By **GRAHAM VYSE**  
Current Staff Writer

With development poised to transform their neighborhoods, a small group of Ward 4 residents hopes to mobilize their community to improve schools.

Approximately 20 people gathered Oct. 29 at the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library for a discussion called "Creating an Education Pipeline on the Georgia Avenue Corridor." The Georgia Avenue Business Improvement District & Development Corp. and the Black Student Fund hosted the event.

Moderated by Black Student Fund executive director Leroy Nesbitt, the conversation focused on



Bill Petros/Current File Photo

**Coolidge High School was a topic of discussion at the meeting.**

how to use upcoming development near Walter Reed as a catalyst for local education activism.

"We know the community is going to look differently 10 to 15 years from now as a result of what's going on down the street," Nesbitt said. Several attendees agreed, saying Ward 4 neighborhoods need to

prepare for an influx of new families that could strain area schools.

Nesbitt began the evening's discussion with a bold proposal — the idea that Ward 4 should look to replicate the approach of Harlem Children's Zone, a celebrated New York City organization that provides children in 97 city blocks with "in-school, after-school, social-service, health and community-building programs," according to its website.

"I think we ought to create something like that in this Georgia Avenue corridor," Nesbitt said. He then engaged a panel of speakers that included Frank Jones, a board member of Coolidge High School's alumni association; Faith Wheeler, a

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## BUSINESS

**New market brings flavors of Europe to Dupont Circle**

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## SPORTS

**St. John's edges Gonzaga for spot in WCAC football final**

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## SHERWOOD

**Pundits wrong on school reform, says education secretary**

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## SCHOOLS

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Takoma/Brightwood Park advisory neighborhood commissioner; Coolidge High School principal Richard Lawrence; and Takoma Education Campus principal Ricki Taylor.

There were few unifying themes throughout the meeting — panelists and audience members voiced concerns about everything from family engagement to academic curriculum to school discipline — but everyone seemed to agree on the need for greater community involvement.

Taylor sounded the alarm on inadequate family engagement. "If we don't address families with the needs they have right now in the community, they'll never be the advocates for children that they need to be," she said.

Terry Goings, the parent coordinator at Coolidge, echoed her statements from the audience. "See, that's what they have over in Ward 3 — they have parents who hold the D.C. Public Schools accountable so they can get the programs they need," said Goings.

For his part, Lawrence, who moved his family from California to the District this year, pledged to focus on Coolidge's graduation rates. The new principal said he hopes to create pipelines for students from his school to attend D.C. universities.

"Sadly, if they are not graduating our schools, we know that they become problems on our streets," he said.

Nesbitt concluded the meeting by acknowledging that he wasn't sure how this concerned group would proceed, but he implored the audience to engage their neighbors.

"We hope to build collaboration, but there can't be collaboration without community communication," he said. "We don't know what we're going to do next, but we know we're going to do something moving forward."

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## LANE: Parking likely to be retained in Cleveland

From Page 1

unlikely to convince the Cleveland Park advisory neighborhood commission, which is expected to pass a resolution in favor of keeping the lane this month.

"I've polled them with a draft resolution and I've been tweaking it to incorporate their views and verbiage," commissioner Richard Steacy said of his colleagues. The commission plans to vote on the issue at Monday's meeting.

All of this delights Ricki Green, a resident who has advocated preserv-

ing the lane.

"It's not a done deal," she said. "But we feel like we're light-years ahead of where we were three weeks ago. Citizen activism worked."

Of course, many citizen activists in Cleveland Park don't see it that way. Resident Herb Caudill, who has led the charge to replace the service lane with a wide sidewalk, said in an interview that he's frustrated with the verdict the Transportation Department appears to have reached.

"It doesn't seem like a very sensible outcome," he said, though he acknowledged there had been "a

very well done political campaign on behalf of the merchants" about the loss of parking.

Caudill said several of the Cleveland Park listserve members most neighborhood agreed with him. "If you had the referendum, you'd have a lot of people voting for removing the service lane," said Caudill. He also mentioned a website change.org, a petition that advocates replacing the lane with a "wide, pedestrian sidewalk" has more than 1,000 signatures. On the same site, a petition to preserve the

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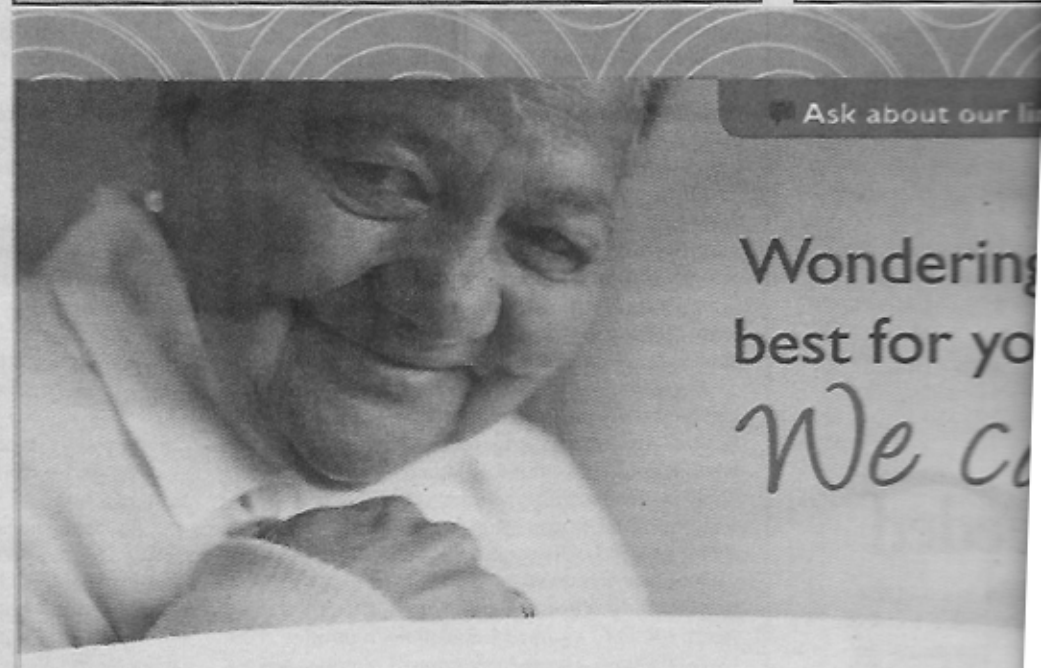
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