



Winter/Spring  
Issue

March 2019

# NEWS FLASH!

## Stronghold Civic Association Newsletter

### Message from the President

Dear Stronghold Family,

On behalf of the Stronghold Civic Association, we extend greetings to all neighbors - those that have been here for generations as well as those who recently made Stronghold home. We are family! We hope you enjoy this newsletter. We are grateful to our neighbors Doris Newton and Devi Keller for all their work with the newsletter. We are also so grateful for those that paved the way for us with their vision, dedication and hard work to make this a great neighborhood.

We lost one of our founding members, **Mrs. Hallie Burton**, of the Stronghold Concerned Citizens Group, which later became Stronghold Civic Association. Mrs. Burton was the first president of the Stronghold Civic Association (SCA).



She and others paved the way and laid the foundation for neighbors to take pride in the community and look out for one another.

We welcome the new additions to Stronghold - both new families and new additions to family. It's a wonderful sight to see the growth and development in the children. Children are our future!

We have formed a committee to help connect our senior neighbors with resources to assist them in general needs. Please tell our senior neighbors that need assistance available through the SCA.

We hope to see you at the monthly meetings as we strive to make Stronghold even stronger.

In unity,

**Laura Jackson**

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*“We are so grateful for those that paved the way for us with their vision, dedication and hard work to make this a great neighborhood.”*

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SCA meets monthly on the first Monday (except holidays) at the Inspired Teaching School, 200 Douglas Street, NE

SCA webpage:  
[www.strongholddc.org](http://www.strongholddc.org)

SCA phone (voicemail):  
202-656-7431

Email:  
[Strongholdcivicassociation@gmail.com](mailto:Strongholdcivicassociation@gmail.com)

SCA listserv:  
[strongholdcivicassociation@yahoogroups.com](mailto:strongholdcivicassociation@yahoogroups.com)

Nextdoor:  
[https://stronghold.nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/](https://stronghold.nextdoor.com/news_feed/)

# In Memoriam



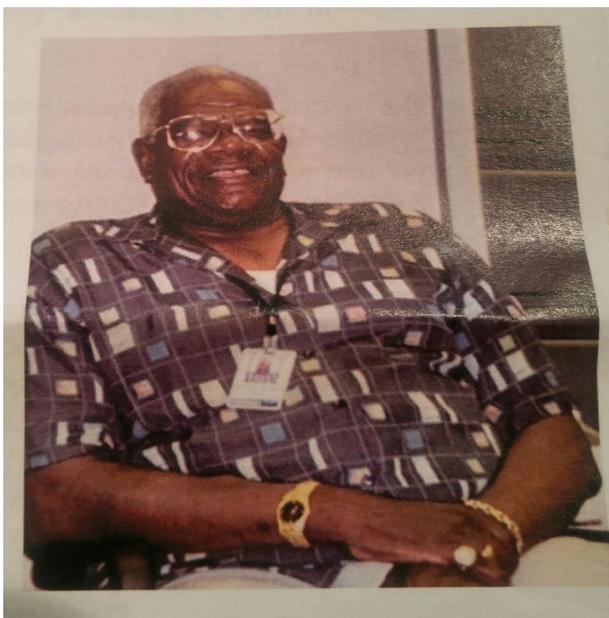
**May 1, 1923-March 16, 2019**

**Mrs. Hallie Burton** was the first president of the Stronghold Concerned Citizens group, founded in 1990-91. The original members first came together as a neighborhood watch group, walking the neighborhood during the evenings to try to stem drug and gun violence that plagued the neighborhood in those years. Stronghold concerned Citizens evolved into the Stronghold Civic Association which still exists, sharing the concerns of the Stronghold community, evolved slightly in form but not at all changed in purpose or goals: to keep our community together. Ms. Burton is the founding spirit of this Stronghold community

organization and will always be remembered for the crucial role she played in it.

[*Editor's note:* Several Stronghold neighbors and friends attended Mrs. Burton's Celebration of Life service. Special appreciation goes to Kirby Vining, who gave a very moving tribute to Mrs. Burton as he remembered having first met her when he and wife, Kit moved to the neighborhood in the 1980s. Kirby acknowledged how well Mrs. Burton had welcomed his family to the Stronghold community.]

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**January 12, 1937-December 31, 2018**

**Alfred Barnes, Sr.** was a beloved long-time Stronghold resident. Many of the Strongholders that had grown up around him spoke at his celebration of life service and shared how he had positively influenced their lives. He was known for his strength, hearty laughter, and love of his community.

Please keep the families of both these fine citizens in your prayers for comfort in the days ahead.

# Oh Baby! Stronghold's Newest (and Most Adorable) Members!

Stronghold Neighbor Spotlight: Highlighting residents, telling stories, and building connections one neighbor at a time



Devi and Andy Keller welcomed **Camala Devi** on October 18, 2017. Camala loves to run, climb and explore, and enjoys greeting neighbors with a loud "HI!" She's a fantastic traveler and has visited 10 states (including DC) and four countries.



## And Baby Makes Three (Or Four or Five!)

Like many DC neighborhoods, Stronghold's baby boom continues, with the arrival of new babies and siblings! We're happy to introduce you to some of the neighborhood's youngest members! If you want your little Strongholder (or have one on the way) featured in the next issue, or if you're interested in joining a neighborhood babysitting co-op, email contributing author Devi Keller at [devi@bengfort.com](mailto:devi@bengfort.com)!



Sega and Tiana call February 16, 2018 "Black Panther Release Day," when twins **Lando** and **Okendo** joined big brother **Ajanja** (age 6) to make a family of five! Although Lando was the underweight one at birth, he now weighs more than his brother Okendo.

Leah and Marcus are proud to introduce **Malia**, born October 2018. **MJ** (8 years old) is her big brother. Malia is a super happy baby who loves to laugh and have cooing conversations at people. MJ is a Master Lego Builder and loves making new friends.



Melanie and Jeff have bundle of joy **Benjamin Hudson Rezmovic**, born February 15, 2018. Ben rolled over for the first time when he was only 4 days old!



Jason & Erin Orfanon welcomed 2<sup>nd</sup> child **Robin John Thomas** on November 29, 2018. Robin is a chunky little ball of giggles, grunts and gas. He has recently discovered his toes and thinks they are fascinating.

## Oh, How Time Flies!

Stronghold Neighbor Spotlight: Highlighting residents, telling stories, and building connections one neighbor at a time

### Zooming Around the Neighborhood...

In our December 2015 issue, we featured five young Stronghold residents. Here is where they are today!



**Manny Orfanon**, newly minted big brother to Robin, is almost 4 years old and proud to be a Langley Tiger! He spends most days building elaborate magna-tile structures, pretending to be a super hero, and practicing his “ultimate powerful speed” on his scooter.



**Bailey Olivia**, daughter of Vanessa and granddaughter of newsletter editor Doris Newton, is now 4 years old and attends Appletree Learning Academy. Big brother Breon is 8 years old.



**Leo**, son of Sarah and Jim, is almost 4! He loves trucks and started PreK this year in a bilingual school. So say “Hola!” when you see him zooming on his scooter around the neighborhood!



**Amira**, daughter of Anitra Holbrook is now 4 years old and attends KIPP.

**Otis**, son of Ben and Tiffany, is an imaginative and hilarious almost 4-year old and a deep thinker. He is currently training to be a Jedi and is shown here thinking about the Force.



**Contributing Author: Devi Keller**

**SCA Newsletter, Winter 2019, updates from Planning -Kirby**

**McMillan development:** The D.C. Court of Appeals ruled in December, 2016 that the District's proposed development for the site was not consistent with the District's laws concerning zoning and historic preservation. The same court is now reviewing arguments concerning justification for proposed deviation from those laws, following hearings in October and January, but no date for the court's decision is known. The proposed development will proceed or stop depending on the court's decision. The District conducted some historic preservation and rehabilitation work on the sand silos and regulator houses at the site in 2018 but no work is going on at the site now.

**Bloomingdale Historic District:** The Bloomingdale neighborhood just across North Capitol Street is the District's newest Historic District, effective September 9, 2018. Many Bloomingdale residents, deeply upset with some pop-up additions to houses there, sought a remedy, and historic district status was the only remedy available. Houses and buildings built after 1948 (the end of the period of significance) are not affected, but those built before 1948 are restricted in modifications to the front and roof, parts visible from the street.

**Rhode Island Ave. Construction – DC Water Tunnel:** DC Water is continuing the tunnel it built down 1<sup>st</sup> St. NW from the corner of Rhode Island Ave. all the way to the Blue Plains sewage treatment facility. There will be major disruptions of traffic on Rhode Island Ave. from about 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW to about 10<sup>th</sup> St. NW all year, narrowing traffic lanes in both directions and temporarily removing the medians in some parts of the street. More information here: <https://www.dewater.com/nebp>

**North Capitol St. Parking:** Residents of North Capitol Street in Stronghold are now eligible to apply for Residential Parking Permits or RPP stickers allowing their cars, and their visitor's cars, to park on the RPP restricted streets in Ward 5. All other streets in Stronghold have long been RPP zone parking restricted. See details at this web page: <https://dmv.dc.gov/service/residential-parking-permits> or call 311 and inquire about "Residential Parking Permits."

**Amendment Cycle for Comprehensive Plan:** The DC Comprehensive Plan by law guides zoning and building permissions since 2006. The Plan is updated periodically and is currently being amended. The Mayor proposed abolishing the various height limitations in the plan by insertion of the phrase "but not to preclude development," but the Council has reacted negatively to that and is working to both add language about affordable housing and reject the Mayor's proposed loosening of the height restrictions. All Stronghold is zoned R-3, limiting our houses to 40' in height and a maximum of three stories, and that is unlikely to change with the Council's proposed language (contrary to the Mayor's language). We are permitted to have one "auxiliary dwelling unit," meaning that we can rent out one part of our houses but not sell any portion of our houses as a condo.

**Updates from Planning (cont'd.)-Kirby**

**OPC to begin oversight over DC Water this Fall:**The Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) will have some oversight over DC Water consumer issues starting probably in October, 2019, as the result of DC Council legislation in 2018. The OPC now has oversight over consumer issues with other utilities but not water, until later in 2019.

**Air-BnB regulations start in October 2019.** The Council passed legislation regulating short-term rentals such as Air-BnB that go into effect in October, 2019. The legislation bans property owners from renting out their properties, **other than their primary residence**, for fewer than 30 days at a time (longer than 30 days would be a regular lease of the house, permitted now and in the future). It also restricts homeowners from renting out their primary residence for or more than 90 days per year. More details available here: <https://dc.curbed.com/2018/11/15/18095658/dc-airbnb-regulations-short-term-rentals-council>.

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**NEW!!!**

**“STRONGHOLD NEIGHBOR VOLUNTEERS”**

*If you or a family Senior could use assistance with general needs:*

- Grocery Shopping, Library visits, Errands, Medical appts.
- Access to information on DC gov't or private programs for Seniors.
- Visits, calls to check-in, book club circle,
- Help with home repair resource ideas, yard/trash issues

*Please leave your name/phone # at the SCA number:*  
**202-656-7431**  
*Or send an email to Kit (kitamit@hotmail.com)*

[Editor's note: My apologies for the look. I quickly took a photo of the information that had been distributed at an earlier meeting. However, please contact Kit or call SCA number to learn how you can help! -Doris]