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Jennifer DiMauro, 31, pedestrian, fatally injured on 7/20/2019 while crossing Tuckerman Lane at the Bethesda Trolley Trail in Bethesda.



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Jacob Cassell, 17, bicyclist, fatally injured on 7/31/2019 while bicycling on the sidewalk on Old Georgetown Road near Beech Drive in Bethesda (photo from Councilmember Andrew Friedson).



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Adin Martinez, 24, pedestrian, fatally injured on 8/27/2019 while crossing Randolph Road at Glenmont Circle in Glenmont.



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Eleanor Cohen, 78, pedestrian, fatally injured on 9/11/2019 while crossing Copley Place at Crown in Gaithersburg.



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Julio Vargas Valerio, 67, pedestrian, killed while crossing University Boulevard East at Seek Lane in Silver Spring.



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Chandra Perera, 77, pedestrian, killed on 11/6/2019 while crossing McAuliffe Drive at Linthicum Street in Rockville.



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Rita Sultan, 81, pedestrian, killed on 12/9/2019 while crossing University Boulevard West at the Warwick Towers Apartments in Wheaton.



Sophia Chen, 9, pedestrian, killed on 12/12/2019 at Tanglewood Drive and Millwood Road in Bethesda.

Bethesda BEAT 2020 | BETHESDA BEAT

Girl fatally struck by bus dreamed of becoming a surgeon

Family encouraging donations to dog rescue organization in her memory

BY DAN SCHERE [FOLLOW @DANIEL_SCHERE](#) JANUARY 20, 2020 | 10:22 AM

Nine-year-old Sophia Chen, who was fatally struck by a school bus last month, had high hopes for her future, her stepbrother said.

"She had mentioned many different things she wanted to be when she grew up. Her biological dad is a surgeon, and she wanted to be a surgeon," her stepbrother Jon Shao told Bethesda Beat on Wednesday.

Sophia, a fourth-grader at Bradley Hills Elementary School in Bethesda, died on Dec. 12 after she was hit by her school bus near the intersection of Tanglewood Drive and Millwood Road.

Police said at the time that she had gotten off the bus and "for reasons unknown," ran back toward it when she was struck. She was pronounced dead about four hours after the crash at a hospital in Washington, D.C.

Last month, neither Montgomery County police nor the school system released the identity of the girl who died.



Sophia Chen, a fourth-grader at Bradley Hills Elementary School, died on Dec. 12 after she was struck by a school bus

PHOTO COURTESY OF JON SHAO

Shao contacted Bethesda Beat and offered to talk about Sophia.

Sophia is technically Shao's cousin, he said, because she was born to his uncle in China. But Shao said that after his uncle went through a divorce, his parents in Bethesda legally adopted Sophia. She came to the United States in 2015, when she was 4, he said.

Sophia was interested in everything from music to animals, Shao said. She "dabbled in a little bit of everything, from instruments to sports" as hobbies and was "always happy and full of energy," he said.

Shao said he was at his job as a firefighter in Fairfax County, Va., when he heard what happened to his stepsister.

"I was at work and got a call from my dad that she had been involved in an accident and that she was being transported to the hospital," he said.

Shao, who lives in Culpeper, Va., said he "has experience in dealing with traumatic events" because of his job. He said he and his family have been "hanging in there" for the past month.

"They're holding up. They're doing the best they can," he said of his parents.

Shao said at the time of the crash, police told the family that their investigation would likely take several weeks, although it could be longer because of the holidays. He is still waiting on the report, as well as the results of an autopsy from the D.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

"I think most people want to know what happened and why it happened," he said.

Cheryle Adams, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner, wrote in an email on Friday that Sophia's death was ruled an accident and was caused by "multiple blunt force injuries."

Officer Rick Goodale, a police spokesman, wrote in an email Wednesday that there were no additional details.

As a tribute, Sophia's family has asked the community to donate to the organization [Operation Paws for Homes](#) — an Alexandria, Va., nonprofit that helps get dogs adopted and helps with their rescue and treatment. Shao said a fund has been set up in Sophia's honor to help with the cost of medications and exams for the animals.

"She loved dogs growing up, so we wanted to channel that passion," he said.

Dan Schere can be reached at Daniel.schere@bethesdamagazine.com

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Jose Guillen, 75, pedestrian, killed on 1/6/2020 while crossing Georgia Avenue at Aspen Hill Road in Aspen Hill.



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Michael Gamboa, 40, pedestrian, killed on 1/15/2020 while crossing Rockville Pike at Federal Plaza in Rockville.



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Brett Badin, 32, pedestrian, killed on 1/16/2020 while crossing Rockville Pike north of Wootton Parkway in Rockville.



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Adonias Gomez, 62, pedestrian, killed on 2/12/2020 while crossing Midcounty Highway at Pier Point Place in Montgomery Village.



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Douglas Perez Martinez, 33, pedestrian, fatally injured on 2/21/2020 while crossing South Frederick Avenue at North Westland Drive in Gaithersburg.



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Hector Caballero Herrera, 49, pedestrian, killed on 2/22/2020 while crossing New Hampshire Avenue at the median crossover south of Lockwood Drive in White Oak.



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David Velasquez, 65, pedestrian, killed on 3/19/2020 on the sidewalk of the New Hampshire Avenue service road at McCeney Avenue in White Oak.



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Michael O'Connor, 61, “unintended” pedestrian, killed on 6/1/2020 while working in a trench on Old Georgetown Road at Executive Boulevard in North Bethesda.



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Robert Lawrence, 62, “unintended” pedestrian, fatally injured on 8/11/2020 while standing next to his vehicle on Bel Pre Road at Georgia Avenue in Aspen Hill.



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Santos Yool Gonzales, 23, pedestrian, fatally injured on 9/5/2020 while crossing University Boulevard East at Langley Drive in Long Branch.



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Wilmer Gomez Gonzalez, 24, pedestrian, killed on 9/20/2020 while standing on Carroll Avenue near New Hampshire Estates Elementary School in Silver Spring.



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Jose Lopez Hernandez, 36, bicyclist, fatally injured on 10/9/2020 on Snouffer School Road west of Sweet Autumn Drive in Gaithersburg.



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Kenneth Zirkle, 62, pedestrian, killed on 10/30/2020 on Germantown Road at Middlebrook Road in Germantown.



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Jose Flores Amaya, 59, pedestrian, killed on 11/2/2020 while crossing Shady Grove Road at Briardale Road in Derwood.



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James White, 74, pedestrian, killed on 11/20/2020 while crossing Rockville Pike at Grosvenor Lane in North Bethesda.



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Larry Willis, 53, bicyclist, killed on MacArthur Blvd at the C&O Canal National Historical Park at Great Falls in Potomac.



Alberto Barreto, 15, skateboarder, fatally injured on 11/27/2020 while crossing Montrose Road at Evelyn Drive in Rockville.

Bethesda BEAT 2020 | POLICE & FIRE

Teen skateboarder dies after he was hit by car last month

Police said he died of his injuries on Friday

BY DAN SCHERE | DECEMBER 11, 2020 | 2:42 PM

A 15-year-old boy who was hit by a car last month while skateboarding in Rockville died of his injuries on Friday, Montgomery County police said.

Alberto Barreto of Rockville was riding a skateboard across Montrose Road on Nov. 27 just after 10 p.m., police said in a press release.

Najeem Amin Jan, 47, of Dumfries, Va., was driving west on Montrose Road in a 2012 Toyota Prius.

Police said Jan's car hit Barreto in the area of Evelyn Drive. Barreto was taken to the hospital with injuries considered life-threatening. They did not identify Barreto at the time.

Police said Barreto died of his injuries at a hospital on Friday.

Jan has not been charged in the crash.

Police said the crash remains under investigation and asked anyone with information to call them at 240-773-6620.

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Kelly Vanaman, 34, “unintended” pedestrian, killed on 12/8/2020 after leaving her vehicle on the shoulder on I-270 in Gaithersburg.



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Ricardo Jimenez, 53, pedestrian, killed on 12/22/2020 while crossing Georgia Avenue at University Boulevard West in Wheaton.



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Mark Henderson, 66, pedestrian, killed on 1/15/2020 while crossing New Hampshire Avenue at Elton Road in Hillandale, as well as Jenet Costa, 43, killed on 5/24/10 at the same intersection, and Jesus Perez, 62, killed on 3/14/2006 at the same intersection.

