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Vol. 33, No. 8

**FEBRUARY
2002**

**Next Issue
March 8**

The Intowner

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Neighbors Get Help from Councilmember to Improve Park in Columbia Heights

By Michael K. Wilkinson

Depending on the neighborhood in which it is situated, a local park can be a haven for dealers, drunks and prostitutes, or it can be a focal point for families, play dates, chess and card games and Sunday morning arguments over that afternoon's football game.



photo—Michael K. Wilkinson—The Intowner

Small park at 11th and Monroe Streets.

At the urging of local parent Parke Wilde, Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham held a "town hall" meeting on January 26th to kick off an effort to create a "Friends of" organization for the small park at 11th and Monroe Streets in Columbia Heights. This park had been reclaimed about four years ago by the neighborhood, with play equipment and an advanced rubber surface installed by KaBOOM!, and maintenance agreements signed by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

However, parents have recently stepped up their complaints about debris in the park including small glass shards lodged in the crevices of the rubber surface, human and dog feces under the play equipment, and broken bottles from adult drinkers scattered throughout.

For the "town hall" meeting, Graham collected officials from Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works, the Metropolitan Police, and several parks advocacy groups to discuss the Monroe Street park's problems with a crowd of over 50 local residents. In his

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Development Boom Hits Eastern Edge of Shaw; New Residents Flocking

By Michael K. Wilkinson

What's happening on Florida Avenue? If it's been a few years since you've driven along the stretch of Florida Avenue that connects the popular U Street corridor with North Capitol Street and New York Avenue, you're in for a surprise.

This section was recently dubbed "the Florida Mile" for being lined with vacant, abandoned, and derelict houses: a neighborhood that despite years of the city's best efforts, staunchly resisted redevelopment. Owners have been behind on their tax and utility bills, or sitting on property waiting for some kind of miracle, or just plain absentee.



photo—Michael K. Wilkinson—The Intowner

Looking up through gutted interior of turret section being restored at the corner of Florida and New Jersey Avenues.

Today, some three years after most other distressed neighborhoods in the area began swift turnarounds, the contractors are finally converging on Florida Avenue with a ferocity.

One of the most intriguing projects is an odd grouping of eight houses on the south side of the 400 block of Florida Avenue, curling around onto New Jersey Avenue on the east side of the block. Vacant and deteriorating for years, the houses have been purchased in a block by a development group named Florida Group LLC, and are being converted into a luxury condominium project with 16 units filling a total of 17,000 square feet.

A sign at the site prominently announces the general contractor as FEN Enterprises, and Sequoia Bank as the main backer. FEN president Frank Nicol, recently reached by telephone, stated that the condominium homes being built would feature typical luxuries found in most upscale city renovations: granite/stainless/maple kitchens, a limited number of off-street parking spaces, gas fireplaces, diverse floor plans (one- to three-bedrooms), and 21st century wiring. Several of the structures are being outfitted with roof decks.

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Residents Oppose Beer & Wine Sales at Adams Morgan Safeway

By Anthony L. Harvey



photo—Michael K. Wilkinson—The Intowner

The sudden appearance in late December, 2001 of placards in the front windows of the Safeway store on Columbia Road in the heart of Adams Morgan announcing its application for an off-premises Class B liquor license caught neighborhood activists, civic association members, and the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 1C) by complete surprise. If granted by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board, the store would be allowed to sell wine and beer along with groceries, drugs and sundries, bakery goods, and delicatessen specialties in its 34,258 square-foot store.

But with alcohol and its impact on the community being the single most volatile issue in Adams Morgan—witness the enactment last year of a three-year moratorium on new liquor licenses, with certain exceptions for restaurants—the reaction of residents was swift and succinct: Strong opposition. Ironically, it was not the usual squaring off of adversaries—the loud, boisterous, after-hours disturbers of neighborhood tranquility and cleanliness versus the quietly-settled residential dwellers. Rather, this was a squabble between responsible and constructive parties, pitting a well-liked (if large and powerful) neighborhood commercial establishment—one with an indispensable product, namely, food and plenty of it—well-displayed and fairly vended, against successful neighborhood organizations whose contributions, like those of the supermarket, are well known throughout the area.

The neighborhood likes its Safeway store and city official are eager to keep supermarkets in the inner city through such inducements as the licensing of wine and beer sales to help those stores raise their profit margins. In recognition of this need, in March of 2000 Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans introduced a bill, which the mayor signed later in March and which took effect early in April of that year, by which an exception was made to the long-standing restriction of one liquor license per company operating multiple location supermarkets and grocery stores. That exception was incorporated a year later into the comprehensive rewrite of the city's liquor laws now in effect.

Among other requirements, such full-service food stores may apply for a wine and beer retail license if they are "newly constructed with a certificate of occupancy issued after January 1, 2000," such as the P Street Fresh Fields which opened 10 days before Christmas of 2000 and would not have done so but for its ability to obtain a Class B license. Alternatively, for pre-existing stores a license may be issued if a store "has undergone renovations in excess of \$500,000 in the calendar year in which an application is made."



photo—Michael K. Wilkinson—The Intowner

Safeway asserts that \$563,663 was spent in 2001 on the Columbia Road store for renovations as part of a two-year, \$1.6 million renovation project that began in 2000 when \$1.1 million was spent. The 1990s also saw significant renovations at the Columbia Road store, especially in 1994 when another \$1.1 million was spent on major renovations.

However, during the discussion of this issue at the January 17 meeting of the Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA), its ABC licensing committee chairman, Dennis James, challenged the accuracy of Safeway's claimed 2001 expenditures as

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From the Publisher's Desk...

By P.L. Wolff

IS ALL REALLY WELL WITH DC FINANCES?

On January 29th, The Washington Post trumpeted in a Metro section headline, "D.C. Budget Has Hefty Surplus." The ensuing article, while noting that officials were tempering their enthusiasm with some cautionary notes, they appeared nevertheless to be somewhat in gloating mode. The Post even reported Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, who chairs the council's finance committee, as having repeated a remark made to him by the mayor touching on the budget woes in Virginia, to wit—"Maybe they need a control board down there." Cute, but let's not get cocky, please.

We're not discounting some phenomenal strides that occurred here in DC over the past few years, but most the credit has to go to the (now departed) control board and the booming economy of the Clinton era that translated into a booming real estate market in the city, fueled in large part by newcomers who reveled in an urban lifestyle, that translated into incredible tax receipts.

This is not to say that the mayor and his team didn't exercise a great deal of positive influence, but, frankly, we think that if it hadn't been for a vigilant city council, particularly the constant oversight provided by finance chairman Jack Evans, joined by at-large Councilmember David Catania, with the backing of the finance committee and the other council members, there would have been a good deal of money being frittered away.

Of course, \$100 million of school funds would have not evaporated if the council's education committee, chaired by Ward 7's Kevin Chavous, had been performing vigorous oversight. Where did all that money go? Lost, squandered, maybe stolen, who knows? All we get is yada yada yada excuses from the head of the school board. At the same time, the mayor's finance officials say we don't really need to be worried because there is plenty of money in the surplus to cover these evaporated millions. Great. So instead of having only \$91 million in surplus now, we could have had twice as much. Let's hold our breath that the school board doesn't lose another \$100 million by next summer!

The Post also informed us that there are council members who are pushing to continue the tax cut, although some are urging that it be suspended at this point. We hope Chairman Evans is one of the proponents of caution on this front. It would be a serious mistake to squander that small (and it really is small when one thinks of the city's vast, unmet needs) surplus on a tax cut that would not yield much noticeable individual tax relief but could find us in a position of needing to pay higher taxes down to road to cover an ensuing deficit.

Now we have said this before, but we repeat it here so there be no mistake as to where we stand: Thanks to the Congress and a long line of Presidents, we citizens have been getting the shaft for over 100 years when it comes to our local government's ability—or even right—to do what all other governments in this country can do to raise taxes. But until the time comes—and maybe it will sooner than later—we must proceed as if we will never be able to collect income taxes on commuters' wages earned in DC or real property taxes on over 50 percent of the land in the city.

We must keep on fighting the good fight, a fight which can be won without insisting that we become an actual state. But even if we get this right to raise revenue in a predictable and sane fashion as is done everywhere else, that won't mean we will not have to pay attention to how our official, elected and non-elected, spend our money.

We sometimes wonder at the inanity of decisions made when appointing people to high-level positions for which they have no qualifications or, even worse, have misrepresented their qualifications. It seems that these kinds of appointments always go to officials who occupy highly sensitive positions of trust that do affect the expenditure of public funds. And yet, the city's ability to perform the most basic vetting of candidates never seems to improve, even after the embarrassments of the Barry years. One has only to recall the recent discovery that the highly touted general counsel to the city's chief financial officer didn't even meet the required qualifications for the job, didn't have the academic degrees claimed and was not a licensed attorney. They had to let him go, but only because his deception was discovered by accident.

This is only one of a number of high-profile personnel failures, but the kind of failure that can lead to a wrecking of the improving fiscal control system that city officials have begun to put into place. We cannot afford this sort of failure and we cannot be sanguine simply because we have a \$91 million surplus this week, which could turn out to be a big fat zero next summer for all we know. □

**Editorials archived on our website
www.intowner.com**

▶ NEXT ISSUE—MARCH 8 ◀

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING SPACE
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Classifieds Deadline: Friday, March 1

(See classifieds section for information about procedures)

News, Events & Letters Deadline: Friday, March 1

NOTE: Publication date always second Friday of month.

LETTERS

Letters must be mailed, faxed, or delivered to our office or sent via e-mail to: letters@intowner.com. All correspondents MUST supply a home address AND both day and evening telephone numbers for verification purposes. Persons employed by or volunteering with entities that are the subject of their letters MUST reveal their positions with same so as to avoid misleading the readers as to their special interest. In appropriate instances, if so requested, letters may be printed on a "name withheld by request" basis. We reserve the right to edit for propriety, clarity, and to fit the available space. Identifiers below writers' names are inserted at the editor's discretion.

Special Note: Only envelopes from government agencies, recognized civic groups and other organizations, or mail from individuals in envelopes bearing verifiable return addresses that include sender's full name will be opened; any other postal or hand-delivered mail will be either returned to sender or destroyed.

The Cones of Corcoran Gone

I've read with interest your editorial on page 3 of your January 2002 issue. ["The Missing Ingredient from Public Safety: Priorities."]

I had no idea why the orange cones had been placed by the manhole covers on Corcoran Street but, like other residents of the street, had assumed that it had something to do with exploding manholes. To the inconvenience factor, I can testify: that our letter carrier's truck became ensnared on one of those cones and she had quite a bit of difficulty extricating it from under her wheels.

If the cones have been placed there at the behest of two residents of other streets, I am enraged. I would like to do whatever I can to have the cones removed—immediately. A resident of Corcoran Mews has expressed concern to me that a cone, blowing over in a wind (like the one today), could hurt his small dogs. In any case, residents of other street are not affected by events on Corcoran Street nor should they be permitted to dictate living conditions on a street where they do not reside. Corcoran Mews, by the way, has 35 units,

housing at least that number of taxpaying citizens. Our wishes, I believe, should override those of two nonresidents of the street.

Kathleen A. Lynch
Dupont Circle

Editor's Note: The writer is president of the Corcoran Mews Condominium Association. The resident who worried about possible injury to his dogs reported to us that his concern was real, since he barely avoided having one of them struck by a cone that had been lifted up by the wind and was sent crashing down on the sidewalk several feet away. At the January meeting of the Dupont Circle ANC, Third Police District Commander Peacock announced that the cones were being removed that very night. In a brief note to us following that meeting, in which he wrote, "You should run for office, you'd get my vote" ANC 2B Commissioner Irv Morgan shared with us the remark by the police commander that the cones were "never to return!"

Cont., LETTERS, p. 8

COMMUNITY FORUM

STATE OF THE CIRCLE

By Michael Schade

Editor's Note: The writer, a Caroline Street resident, on the evening of January 29, 2002, stood by the fountain in the middle of Dupont Circle and recited his annual review of the "State of the Circle" to an interested cluster of people, including John McGaw of the mayor's office. With permission, we have reproduced that portion of his talk dealing with Dupont, Logan, U Street, and Adams Morgan; we have, for reasons of space, omitted those portions dealing with neighborhoods farther away, including Georgetown and the Pennsylvania Quarter downtown. While many of the references made here have been the subject of reports in this newspaper over the past year, we thought this pulling together of all the threads was something that our readers would welcome—we certainly did, and are happy to present it below.

The past year has been unlike any other. Tonight I'll reflect on the changes to our neighborhood, but every detail is dwarfed by the tragedy of September 11. Dupont was not untouched by that event, and our hearts go out to those who lost friends and loved ones. I pray that the everyday joys that we find with friends and strangers, in our parks, our streets and our homes, will help to heal that awful wound. We take comfort in the commotion that drew us to the city in the first place, as we mingle and mix with the wonderful people who call this neighborhood home. And we will continue to work to make this an ever better place to live, in memory of those we have lost, and for the benefit of generations to come.

It is appropriate to begin this review at the Circle itself. The National Park Service, which has custody of the park, renovated the fountain's mechanical equipment, and made several other changes to the park, including the addition of posts-and-chains around the park's perimeter, and along the paths' corners.

The Park Service formalized its opposition to underwater lights for the fountain, saying it would have a negative impact on the historical integrity of the statue, since the sculptor did not intend to have his work lit from below. Having the fountain lit from a series of super-bright stadium-level lamps on the rooftop of the Jurys Hotel, however, was just fine with the Park Service. Neighborhood opposition to the lamps moved the hotel to cut back the number of lamps used, and, eventually, to turn them off entirely. I applaud the hotel's acceptance of our concern. It is commendable to use lighting to make the park safer and more attractive, but the key ingredient that's missing is underwater lights.

Some of Dupont's noteworthy institutions were in the news. The Phillips Collection announced plans for a major expansion, to include a new 55-seat cafe. The DC Jewish Community Center played two films from its summer series in the outdoor parking lot behind their

Cont., FORUM, p. 6

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AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The editor welcomes the receipt of information about community happenings, such as church-sponsored events, neighborhood and block association activities, public meetings dealing with neighborhood issues, and other events of a non-commercial nature. These may be emailed to us at newsroom@intowner.com, or sent by regular mail but not by fax.

Because we are a neighborhood newspaper and not a city-wide or regional publication, we restrict our reporting to that about news and activities occurring within the specific neighborhoods we serve—Adams Morgan, Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights; Dupont, Scott, Thomas & Logan Circles; Mt. Vernon Square/Pennsylvania Quarter, Shaw, U Street; Sheridan/Kalorama & the eastern side of Woodley Park/Zoo.

Special Note: Henceforth, we are implementing restrictions regarding Postal Service mail: Only envelopes from government agencies, recognized civic groups and other organizations, or mail from individuals in envelopes bearing verifiable return addresses that include sender's full name will be opened; any other postal or hand-delivered mail will be either returned to sender or destroyed.

Notices of selected events received after the first Friday of the month deadline may be included during the ensuing publication period in this Community News section of our website, <http://www.intowner.com>—be sure to visit it during the ensuing weeks.

• Sat., Feb. 9 (12 noon): Persons interested in participating with a group that has been organizing to improve the 11th and Monroe Streets PARK AND PLAYGROUND, are invited to attend a meeting at the site where they will be discussing how to proceed. In the event of rain (not likely, according to the weather people), the meeting will be at the nearby Mt. Rona Missionary Baptist Church (3431-13th St.). For more info, turn to page one of this issue and see our report, "Neighbors Get Help from Councilmember to Improve Park in Columbia Heights."

• Sat., Feb. 9 (12noon-2pm): Representatives of HORNING BROTHERS, the Tivoli site developer, will be making a presentation at the meeting of the Pleasant Plains Civic Association, which is to be held at the Banneker Recreation Center (2500 G. Ave. will discuss their plans for the site and the timetable for start and completion. The public is invited.

In a recent report circulated to a Columbia Heights groups, Joseph Horning, III stated, "Construction start is planned for this summer, 2002." Further, he informed the group that the city council has already enacted legislation to close the alley on Parcel 29 and that he expects the Zoning Commission to issue its decision any day now on his bid for a zoning amendment "to accommodate the supermarket and housing (on the eastern portion of the parcel)," that they are presently "in the midst of the Federal Historic 106 consultation process," and that while the theater's "murals have been consolidated and removed[,] . . . [t]his is the beginning of the ultimate complete replication and restoration process [and that] our plan is to have the murals re-installed in the Tivoli." (Note related entry for Feb., 11, below, concerning proceedings of the NCR.C.)

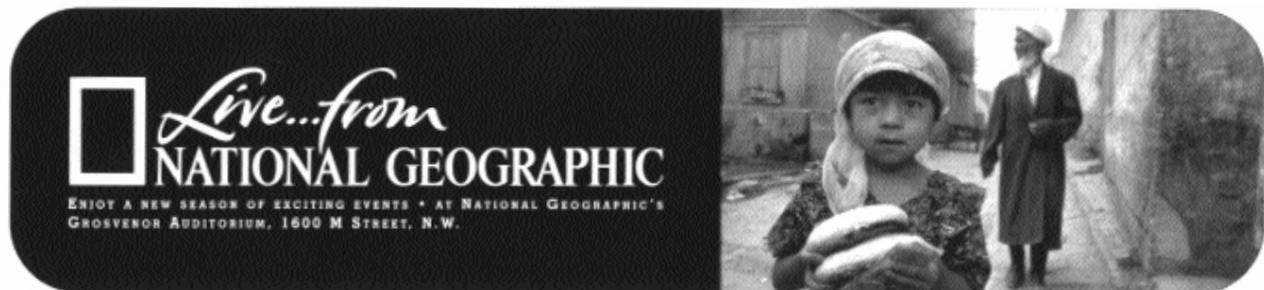
• On Sun., Feb. 10, at 3pm, the music ministries of both the National City Christian Church on Thomas Circle and Northeast's Israel Baptist Church will join forces to perform a special concert of music by black composers, "A Celebration of Unity," honoring BLACK HISTORY MONTH. The program will feature National City's Sanctuary Choir directed by Minister of Music Edward A. Moore, its Chorale directed by Associate Minister of Music Marvin Mills, and Israel Baptist's Combined Choir directed by Minister of Music Valeria Foster. Each choir will present their own separate selections, followed by all three performing as a massed choir of over 100 voices. The program will be repeated on the following Sunday, also at 3 pm, at Israel Baptist (1251 Saratoga Ave., NE). Both programs will also be interpreted for the hearing-impaired, and a free-will offering will be accepted at each performance to benefit the music ministries of both churches. For more info, call either National City at 232-0323 or Israel Baptist at 269-9676.

• Sun., Feb. 10 (8pm): The always outrageous **Cherry Red Productions** will present a one-night only WORKSHOP PRODUCTION of Billy Birmingham's *Shannen Doherty Shoots a Porno*. This parody of 1994 Americana, directed by Ian Allen, according to Cherry's announcement, "takes aim at Shannen 'She-Beast of Hollywood' Doherty, Tori Spelling, Judd Nelson, Traci Lords, Axl Rose, and a nasty lesbian Nazi prison warden: all badly imitated by Cherry Red! (Except the nasty lesbian Nazi prison warden.) (She's for real.)" One critic, exclaiming enthusiastically about the Chicago production, had this to say: "Raunchy, juvenile, violent, and tasteless. . . . Multiple episodes of projectile vomiting, a jailhouse rape with a broomstick, several bits involving severed body parts, and the spectacle of Barney the Dinosaur on a crucifix. I give it a big thumbs up!" For those who may be in an incredible sophomoric state of mind, high-tail it over to Metro Café (1522 14th St.) when doors open at 7:15 to purchase your \$10 ticket; a limited number will still be available then. For more info, go to www.cherryredproductions.com.

• Mon., Feb. 11 (11am): The National Capital Revitalization Corp. (NCR.C) board will hold a PUBLIC MEETING in Columbia Heights to announce the "short list" of developers for the seven 14th Street parcels available for development at Pierce Hall of All Souls Church (1500 Harvard St.). This meeting will be followed by a PUBLIC "OPEN HOUSE" on Sat., Feb. 23, at which time the developers on the short list will then be invited to present their proposals. Actual time and place yet to be announced. The board plans to announce its final selection on March 20 and sign exclusive rights agreements in May.

• Tue., Feb. 12 (12:10-12:40pm): The no-charge, midday series of 30-minute CONCERTS every Tuesday at the Church of the Epiphany (1317 G St.) continues with music of South Asia to be performed by Frank Guldseth and Whistlin' Dixie, the New Columbia Dixieland Band with a performance of music celebrating Mardi Gras. Further programs will feature the Fessenden Ensemble (19th); classical guitarist Jason Vieux (26th); the Washington Bach Consort (Mar. 5). A free-will offering will be received. For more info, call 347-2635.

• Wed., Feb. 13 (6-9pm): **Sisterspace and Books** (1515 U St.) will be hosting the African-American Holiday Association's (AAHA) 9th annual BLACK LOVE CEREMONY. Featured will be Spiritual Anointing, Joy Breath, Healing Harp Vibrations, as well as spoken word presentations by Kamad and Afrika M.A. Abney, plus more! Free, but donations welcome.



QUEST FOR ADVENTURE

Members: Series Tickets—\$42; Single Tickets—\$18 Nonmembers: Series Tickets—\$62; Single Tickets—\$18

February 23, *Sails Across the Pole*, with Norwegian explorer Borge Oustand, Friday, 7:30 p.m.

February 27, *Keyhole to the Northwest Passage*, with Jan Woldstad, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

April 26, *Pushing to the End of the World*, with cyclist Steven Williams, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

May 2, *Life and Death in Africa*, with safari guide Mark Pease, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

EXPLORING THE PAST

Members: Series Tickets—\$32; Single Tickets—\$12 Nonmembers: Series Tickets—\$42; Single Tickets—\$12

March 18, *Celtic Quest: The Archaeology of Ireland*, with Patrick Wallace, director of the National Museum of Ireland, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

May 1, *Who Killed a Civilization? Gullies*, with archaeologist S. Jeffrey K. Willerow, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

May 14, *Who Built the Pyramids?*, with Egyptologist Mark Lehner

SINGLE EVENTS

March 4, *Light of the Edge of the World: A conversation with Wade Davis and Boyd Matson*, Monday, 7:30 p.m., Members: \$12; Nonmembers: \$15

March 13, *Beyond the Last Village*, with Alan Rabinowitz, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m., Members: \$12; Nonmembers: \$15

March 22, *The Great Snow of Solheim*, with "Bear Hunter" Michael Jackson, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Members: \$22; Nonmembers: \$30 (21 and older)

April 11, *An Evening with Jane Goodall At DAR Constitution Hall Benefit for the Jane Goodall Institute and the National Geographic Society Conservation Trust*, Thursday, 8 p.m. *\$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50; Patron Tickets: \$250 (includes 8-15 reception and box seating)

April 18, *The Spirit of America: Lecture and tasting*, with Denise Pogue, associate director for preservation at Mount Vernon, Bill Sarawee (Miller's Mark Distillery), Booker New (Jim Beam Brands Co.), Barry Russell (Austin, Nichols & Co.), Gary Nishiwaga (Kauaihar International Inc.) Co-sponsored by the Distillery Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS). Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m.; Members: \$25; Nonmembers: \$30 (21 and older)

April 20, *Mixing Mother Nature: A Festival of Environmental Storytelling*, with Margo Bruchac, Doug Elliott, Bill Hartig, Beth Horvath, and Amanda Fleete Co-sponsored with the Washington Storytellers Theatre Society, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Members: \$12; Nonmembers: \$15

April 23, *Another Vietnam: Pictures of the War from the Other Side*, with Doug Hines, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Members: \$12; Nonmembers: \$15

May 8, *Mozambique: Land of Ganga's Kiss*, with photographer David Edwards and writer Jeremy Behrler, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Members: \$12; Nonmembers: \$15

May 9, *Radio Expeditions Highlights*, with NPR's Alex Chadwick and

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February 18, *Glimpse on the Front Lines*, with Kevin Karmichael

April 2, *Portraits of America*, with William Albert Allard

May 7, *Alphabetical A Photographer's Odyssey*, with Rick

May 14, *The Eye of the Forest: The Story of Darwin's Insects*, with Melissa Klum

WORLD MUSIC

March 14, *St. Patrick's Day Celebration*, with Lorraine Thursday, 6 & 8-10 p.m. Members: \$20; Nonmembers: \$25

April 3, *The Art of Salsa: Lessons and Dance Party* with Miriam Torres. Music by D.J. Bruce, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Members: \$20; Nonmembers: \$25

April 19, *An American Dance Party*, swing, waltz, salsa, and more with Jay Unger, Molly Mason, and Kathryn; Friday, at 7:30 p.m. Members: \$20; Nonmembers: \$25

FAMILY PROGRAMS

February 2, *Amor Project 2002 Frozen World* Live telecasts from glaciers in Alaska and the polar regions. 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.; All tickets: \$4

February 20, *Stories and Songs of African People*, with Shanté 11 a.m.; Members: \$2; Nonmembers: \$10; 12 and younger: \$5

March 22, *Environmental Animated Film Festival*, with Pio Simon. Presented as part of Environmental Film Festival in the Haller's Chapel 11 a.m., 1 p.m.; Members: \$2; Nonmembers: \$10; 12 and younger: \$5

FILMS

February 15, *Alonequest: The First Rescue* Winner of the Gemini (TV), 2001 Quebec Film Festival Co-sponsored by the Consulate Embassy Friday, 8:30 p.m.; Members: \$20; Nonmembers: \$25

March 22, 23, 24, *Best of the Best! Festival of Mountain Film* Selections from the 2001 Festival, featuring top adventure, natural history, and anthropological films Tuesday-Thursday, 7 p.m.; Members: \$15; Nonmembers: \$20

February 21, Thursday, *Films from Open Media* Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Australia 5 p.m., Aug (1995) 8 p.m., Looking for Allyn (2000) Members: \$2/50; Nonmembers: \$25/50

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FORUM
From p. 3

building, bringing outdoor films to Dupont for the first time. In another first, The Carnegie Institution opened its doors to the public, in order to present an exhibition titled "Our Expanding Universe," marking their first century of scientific exploration.

The Historical Society put its headquarters up for sale—the Heurich Mansion at New Hampshire Avenue and 20th Street. Crown Books quietly changed into Books a Million. HRC [Human Rights Campaign] announced they'd build a brand new headquarters on Rhode Island Avenue, then changed their minds and instead bought the B'nai B'rith building next door, on 17th St. Across the street, the Governors House hotel announced plans for a 50-room expansion.

Dupont got three new TV studios: 16th Street's The Embassy Building became home to Double R Productions; the National Geographic headquarters opened a TV studio for its cable channel, and the Brookings Institution built a TV studio. And just when we thought Dupont couldn't become any more glamorous, the city got two hip boutique hotels, both located, of course, in Dupont Circle, with the Topaz on N, between 17th and Connecticut, and the Rouge on 16th just south of O.

This was a year when our neighborhood was immortalized in Paul Kafka-Gibbons' novel *Dupont Circle*, which wove unlikely romances into a fight for gay marriage.

The 2000 census came out, finding 597 "Male householder and male partner" households in Dupont, and three times as many elsewhere in the city. We found out that the median age for men in Dupont is 34, and the median age for women in Dupont is 31. Over the past 10 years, central Dupont's population—bordered by 16th Street, New Hampshire Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue, Rock Creek, and Florida Avenue—gained two percent, while the area between 16th Street and 14th Street lost 10 percent.

West of the Circle, P Street also saw change. This short stretch is Dupont's most prominent entrance, with its dramatic approach over Rock Creek. There was more drama to be found in the new restaurant Mimi's, where singing waiters give Dupont some much-needed theatrical flair. Elsewhere, the news was more mundane, with a Starbucks replacing the former costume shop Backstage, and 12" Dance Records announcing its departure. The original owners of 17th Street's Elite returned from Greece to open a new Greek café called Legends, which is the only place I know of which combines ceiling panels with crown molding.

Our second-most prominent entrance is the northern stretch of Connecticut Avenue, coming downhill past the Washington Hilton. There was a significant loss when Outlook closed its doors, leaving us without a prominent gay card shop, as boring as that shop was. Nearby, however, we saw a flurry of new businesses. Peter's Passion opened in the former Dimitri's, and the old Circle bar made way for four new businesses: Chipotle, Gazuzza, Dupont Hair, and the HRC Action Center. Kulturas expanded to the old Outlook space, and eventually gave up the previous location on 20th Street, which is now home to Miss Pixie's. Some major national chains brought their luster and good design standards to Connecticut Avenue as well. We welcomed Lucky Jeans and Ann Taylor Loft, and Salon Cielo in Kulturas' original home in the 1700 block. The R Street Starbucks

added a nice patio.

South of the Circle, where Dupont blends into downtown, a Fuddrucker's came to the old Whatsa Bagel spot at Connecticut Avenue & Jefferson Place. Acropolis, a fancy nightclub, will open up at 1337 Connecticut, once home to Vertigo Books (and years before the Republican national headquarters.) Near L St, The Grooming Lounge will soon open up. A few doors west of Connecticut Avenue, at 1812 N St, the National Association of Parliamentarians erected a brass plaque commemorating the 125th year since the first publication of Robert's Rules of Order.

A little to the west, 19th Street saw changes as well. 19th & L, once home to Brooks Brothers, saw a new Corner Bakery and Mervis Diamonds. Café Toka opened at 1140 19th St. The northeast corner of 19th & M was nicely renovated, and is now home to a Penang Malaysian Cuisine, Chipotle, Starbucks, and the French Café Le Jardin. Moby Dick House of Kabob opened on N, just east of 19th. And yet another burrito joint, Baja Fresh, opened just south of the Circle, joining The Well-Dressed Burrito, Burrito Brothers, Wrapworks, The Burro, and Chipotle—making Dupont the region's burrito district.

The heart of residential Dupont has long been 17th Street, in many ways hidden from the rest of city, and the place most likely to bump into friends. Cobalt finally reopened, and the basement-level restaurant was reborn as Food Bar DC. Nearby, Shari Dixon & Friends is a new second-story store. Near the corner of 17th & R, Terenga was replaced with Oriental Café. And plans are in the works to expand 17th Street's TrueValue Hardware store.

Some of the neighborhood's most dynamic changes took place around 14th Street. It is thrilling to watch Logan Circle's premier commercial corridor undergo a revitalization. And many of the new businesses are the best kind—the home-grown variety which fill a hunger for retail while at the same time providing a unique identity for the neighborhood.

Following the wake of the new Fresh Fields, and inspired by the model offered by Home Rule, we saw Go Mama Go open up in the former dingy Ultimate Value Thrift shop space, and Fusebox, a serious art gallery became an instant hit, drawing connoisseurs and hipsters alike to its overflowing opening parties. Ultra-chic mens boutique Haute closed its door on P Street but was replaced with cozy photo gallery Ozone. Hamburger Mary's opened its first east-coast restaurant, with the spacious and fun bar Titan upstairs. Soon that block will welcome Thai Tonic, a new restaurant on the west side of 14th Street. Fresh Fields got into the café act by adding outdoor tables. Across the street, Empire Video opened its second location. Farther up 14th, Sparky's added some comfy red booths, and next door, Flowers on 14th opened up.

The Black Cat found a new, larger home by moving a few doors south into The Cage. Local pizza dive Manny and Olga's added a bastion just north of Source Theatre. We all bid good riddance to the check-cashing store at 14th & Rhode Island Avenue.

And even more changes are in the works. The Duron paint store is planning to move to 14th & Clifton, and the large Central Mission at 14th & R is for sale. Caribou Coffee is officially coming to 14th & Rhode Island. A second BodySmith gym will soon open up. And the most highly-anticipated new store will be The Garden District, opening this

SELECTED STREET CRIMES: Reported, January 11 - 27

Following is a sampling of reported crimes in the 3rd Police District and the south end of the 4th District. Times shown are when reports recorded by police; actual incidents will have occurred earlier. Occasionally we include reports not recorded by the MPD. Emphasis here is placed, for the most part, on listing crimes against persons occurring in or adjacent to public space during hours when most people might reasonably expect to feel relatively safe. In addition, in light of the popularity of late-night establishments in Adams Morgan, Dupont Circle, and Shaw/U Street, after-bar hours incidents are also included. Not generally reported are the extraordinary numbers of burglaries, thefts from autos, and actual stealing of parked cars. These crimes appear to be consistently a problem from Rock Creek eastward and from downtown north. These incidents appear to be spread fairly evenly throughout affluent, transitioning, and low-income neighborhoods.

- **Bancroft, 2100 blk.:** woman approached by man from rear claiming to have a gun, ordering her not to yell, then pushed her to ground and ripped her purse from off her back [6pm, Mon., 1/21]
- **Brown, 3400 blk.:** 2 persons robbed at gunpoint by 3 others who jumped out of car [2am, Sat., 1/26]
- **Calif., 1800 blk.:** man knocked to ground by 3 others, held down & robbed [1:30am, Sun., 1/20]
- **Clifton, 1400 blk.:** man approached by another with knife demanding money & when told he didn't have any, was stabbed in stomach [7:15pm, Fri., 1/25]
- **Clydesdale & Ontario:** woman forcibly robbed of purse by 3 men, one of whom grabbed her around her head [8:15pm, Sun., 1/20]
- **Col., 1400 blk.:** man approached by another from rear who snatched silver necklace with crucifix from neck & fled [4pm, Fri., 1/11]
- **Col., 1800 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint by another who went through pockets while holding the gun to his head & then ordered him to turn around & not move [11:45am, Thu., 1/24]
- **Euclid, 1700 blk.:** man approached by another claiming to have gun who demanded that he keep quiet, but when started to go through his pockets, man pushed him away as neighbors started yelling from their window, causing would-be robber to flee [8am, Mon., 1/21]
- **Fla., 1800 blk.:** 2 persons accosted by 4 men, one with a gun, who demanded money but were told they had none, whereupon fight ensued & both robbed of their Virginia licenses, sweater, jeans & jackets [11:30pm, Tue., 1/15]
- **Fuller, 1600 blk.:** man approached by another who threw him off his bike, struck him several times on the head with fist & then stole bike [8pm, Tue., 1/22]
- **Fuller, 1600 blk.:** man approached by 3 others who asked for \$5, stated he had no money, started to walk on but was prevented from doing so by the 3, one of whom pointed a gun at his side & went through his pockets but fled when they found nothing to take [8:15pm, Fri., 1/11]
- **Hiatt, 3200 blk.:** man walking home robbed at gunpoint by another [8pm, Sat., 1/26]
- **Hillyer, 2000 blk.:** woman returning home discovered that her English basement apartment door had been kicked in, alarm system ripped off wall, laptop, Palm Pilot & CD player stolen [2:30pm, Sat., 1/26]
- **Kilbourne, 1800 blk.:** man robbed by 4 others [9:15pm, Sat., 1/26] (all 4 stopped shortly thereafter in the 1700 blk. of Hobart, positively identified & arrested)
- **Meridian, 1400 blk.:** man accosted by another demanding money who then struck him in the face with fist when refused & fled [12:15am, Sat., 1/26]
- **Monroe, 1400 blk.:** man driving rear-ended by another car occupied by 3 men & one woman. When man got out to inspect damage driver of other car got out, punched him, got in his car & drove off, with the other men & woman following in their car [10:15pm, Sun., 1/13]
- **N, 900 blk.:** man grabbed from behind by another who rifled through his pockets & stole cash [9:45pm, Sat., 1/26]

- **N, 1100 blk.:** man's cell phone grabbed from him by man who then struck him twice in the face with a rock [1:45pm, Thu., 1/10]
- **P, 300 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint by 2 others [3:45pm, Thu., 1/24]
- **P, 2100 blk.:** restaurant patron having lunch, although noticing another patron leaning abnormally close to the chair on which her purse was hanging, did not notice that her wallet had been removed until she went to pay her bill [12:30pm, Sun., 1/27]
- **Q, 700 blk.:** man approached by 4 men, one of whom grabbed him by his throat & placed gun to his head & demanded, "Take off all your stuff or I'll shoot you—take off your boots"; which he did & handed over his Timberlands & Logi sweater [12:30pm, Sun., 1/27]
- **Q, 1300 blk.:** 2 persons robbed at gunpoint by 2 others who jumped out of car [3am, Mon., 1/21]
- **Q, 1800 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint who ordered, "Give me your money or you will die" [11am, Sun., 1/27]
- **R, 800 blk.:** man robbed of Eddie Bauer coat & Nike sneakers at gunpoint by 3 others [9pm, Mon., 1/14]
- **Rhode Is., 200 blk.:** man approached by another claiming to be a police officer who then threatened to shoot if he didn't get some money [11:15am, Sun., 1/13] (Suspect arrested)
- **Riggs, 1800 blk.:** 2 persons robbed by 2 others who approached from behind, one of whom pointed a gun at their faces & ordered them to "put your [expletive] on the ground" [11:30pm, Thu., 1/17]
- **Swann, 1700 blk.:** woman accosted by man who struck her on her head, knocking her to ground & then snatched her purse [2:30am, Sat., 1/13]
- **T & North Cap.:** man robbed of his Michael Jordan sneakers by another who threatened to shoot him [1am, Mon., 1/21]
- **W, unit blk.:** man who noticed 2 others who appeared not to be residents & who was writing down their vehicle license tag number because of concern about numerous recent crimes in the neighborhood, assaulted by one of the men with a knife who exclaimed, "I'm gonna get you" (police report incomplete as to outcome) [5:15pm, Fri., 1/18]
- **Wyoming, 1800 blk.:** man entering residence approached by another who asked for cigarette while 2 others then emerged from alley & joined first man who, upon being told that by resident that he did not have a cigarette, said, "Just for that, I'm going to rob you," but did not succeed because resident was able to get inside & shut door [1am, Mon., 1/21]
- **6th, 1300 blk. (Kennedy Playground):** woman reports that her son was attacked while playing basketball by 3 persons who pushed him to ground & kicked him in the head & body & then fled [5pm, Fri., 1/18]
- **9th, 1900 blk.:** person robbed at gunpoint by 4 others [1am, Tue., 1/15]
- **12th, 1800 blk.:** person accosted by 3 men who demanded person's coat, who then attempted to flee but was assaulted by all 3 yet did manage to escape [6pm, Thu., 1/17]
- **14th, 2200 blk.:** 2 persons robbed by several others with knives & wearing masks, one of whom placed a knife to the throat of one of the victims [6:45pm, Sat., 1/19]
- **15th & Euclid:** persons attempting to park car in verbal altercation over parking space with man who lifted his shirt to reveal gun, whereupon driver jumped back into car & fled [4pm, Wed., 1/16]
- **15th, 1800 blk.:** woman robbed at knifepoint [9:45am, Mon., 1/21] (Suspect apprehended & purse recovered following police chase)
- **16th, 1800 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint by 2 others [3am, Sat., 1/26]
- **18th & R:** woman's purse snatched by man who ran up to her [11:15pm, Thu., 1/17]
- **18th & S:** woman approached from behind by man who attempted to snatch purse, but she struggled, strap broke, but he fled without purse [6:30pm, Mon., 1/14]
- **19th & S:** woman accosted by 2 men, one of whom knocked her to ground & started pulling on her purse & both fled after obtaining it [12:15am, Sat., 1/26] (One suspect apprehended & arrested)

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Neighborhood Vignette



photo—Michael K. Wilkinson

Editor's Note: This is the third in an occasional series of portraits revealing the changing character of 14th Street north of Thomas Circle.

Photographer Michael K. Wilkinson: "It looked like, through the last week of January, that I was going to be able to provide InTowner readers with a springtime Vignette to match an unusually pleasant weather pattern. Instead, I submit this view of lush summer vegetation in the community garden behind the Tivoli Theater, 3400 block 14th Street NW, to thumb my nose at that dreadful little groundhog and his damned shadow."

LETTERS

From p. 3

Abandoned Car Gone

Thanks to ANC Commissioner Alex Padro of Shaw and The InTowner printing my letter [January 2002, page 11] complaining about an abandoned car blocking an alley for six weeks, the car was removed 48 hours after this InTowner issue hit the streets.

Larry Ray
Shaw

More About the Churches

This is just to commend Ray Milefsky on his insight and you on your willingness to publish his views. [Letters to the Editor, "DC and the Churches Are to Blame for Decades of Blight," January 2002, page 11.] His views are no doubt widely shared but seldom offered in public, even less so in print.

Name Withheld by Request
Shaw

PARK

From p. 1

introduction, he emphasized the critical importance of neighborhoods taking ownership of their local parks, suggesting the creation of a "Friends of the Park" group.

Such groups not only care for their parks and organize events in them, but also may garner more attention from city officials in seeking help addressing problems, and may even qualify for funding for beautification projects and other improvements. One key attendee at the meeting was Steve Coleman, director of Washington Parks and People, a citywide nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote cleaner, safer and more widely used city parks for all people.

Following the meeting, a large number of attendees walked over to observe conditions in the small park, and posed for a group photograph, sending a strong signal

to those who use the park, particularly after dark (such as it was at 8:30 p.m. on that Tuesday night in January), that it was being taken back.

Within days of the meeting, the overhead halogen lights, which had been extinguished for years, were burning again. The neighborhood was also promised that trees would be planted in the spring, and methods of removing stubborn glass bits from the rubber surface would be investigated. Neighbors even agreed to give the park a meaningful name, and scheduled a follow-up meeting, in the park, for Saturday, February 9th, at noon.

Washington Parks and People encourages individuals or neighborhood groups interested in receiving help with establishing a "Friends of" group, or of simply with fixing a specific park problem, to get in touch. They can be contacted at their headquarters on 15th Street across from Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park by calling 462-7275. □

photo—Michael K. Wilkinson—The InTowner



View from southwest corner of Florida and New Jersey Avenues.

FLORIDA AVE.

From p. 1

This project, the largest of numerous ones that FEN Enterprises is involved with throughout this newspaper's circulation area, according to Nicol, is particularly interesting because of the unique, and very rare, opportunity to take a full block of derelict houses and convert them all at

once. With projected sales prices of \$250 per square foot for this project, it appears as though the "Florida Mile" has become the latest northwest neighborhood to turn the corner from drugs, prostitution and violence, and attract serious investors and many eager new homeowners.

It is truly a changing cityscape for the passerby who drives Florida Avenue every day to and from work, or just once every couple of years. □

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Decisions Entered, January 23 & 30, 2002

- Approved voluntary agreement, dated January 11, 2002, regarding the transfer and substantial change filed by Perculus, Inc., t/a The Reef, 2442-46 18th St., NW, 2nd Fl., Class CR to operate a restaurant at this location. The voluntary agreement is between Brian C. Harrison, President of Perculus, Inc., and Denis I.E. James, on behalf of the Kalorama Citizens Association. The Applicant has agreed not to play music on the roof deck except for ambient dinner music played at a volume level that will not cause any disturbance to neighbors. The Applicant has also agreed that music on the roof will be provided by portable equipment only. The ABC establishment Star of Siam formerly operated at this location.

- Scheduled a protest hearing in the matter of Tydka, Inc., t/a Cassava Café, 2411 18th St., NW., Class CT, for February 27, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. The protestants are Daniel R. Brody, Commissioner, on behalf of ANC 1C and Denis I.E. James, on behalf of the Kalorama Citizens Association. Applicant is Truework Wondimaghghnu, President, Cassava Café. (The retailer's "Class CT" license is issued to taverns and permits alcoholic beverages to be consumed on the licensed premises.)

- Approved voluntary agreement in the matter of RG Corporation, t/a Logan Circle Liquors, 1018 Rhode Island Ave., NW., Class A renewal. The voluntary agreement, dated January 8, 2002, between B. Robert Hinterlong, Commissioner, and Chairperson David Stephens, on behalf of ANC 2F and Gurmeet Ghuman, President, RG Corporation. Applicant has agreed to place single containers of beer in sizes of 16 ounces or less in clear plastic bags. (The retailer's "Class A" license is issued to liquor stores. The holder of the Class A license is authorized to sell and deliver alcoholic beverages, beer, wines and light wines, directly to consumers only. Alcoholic beverages may not be opened or consumed on the retailer's premises.)

- Granted the request of Aleman Tadesse, t/a Awassa Restaurant, 1917 9th St., NW, Class CR, new application, for a stipulated license to serve alcoholic beverages while his permanent license application is pending. Glenn J. Melcher, Chairman, ANC 1B submitted to the Board a letter dated January 12, 2002, wherein he informed the Board that the Applicant had appeared before ANC 1B and that ANC 1B voted unanimously on November 1, 2001, with a quorum of eight members present, to support the issuance of the Class CR license to Awassa Restaurant. As a result, the Applicant may serve alcoholic beverages unless a timely protest is filed opposing the Applicant's liquor license application.

- Granted the request of Bielo Gold, Inc., 1428 New Jersey Ave., NW, a Class A liquor store, to place its license into safekeeping due to the licensee's eviction from the premises, for a 60 day period to expire on March 31, 2002. (Any license, the use of which is discontinued for any reason whatsoever, must be surrendered to the Board by the licensee for "safekeeping." The license is held by the Board until it is transferred or the licensee resumes business on the licensed premises.)

- Approved voluntary agreement, dated December 27, 2001, in the matter of Dae Young Enterprises t/a Flagler Market, 2200 Flagler Pl., NW, Class B. The voluntary agreement is between the Applicant and Vicky Leonard-Chambers, Commissioner, on behalf of ANC 5C04. The Applicant has agreed not to provide or sell go-cups, miniature bags of ice, single cigarettes or drug paraphernalia to customers.

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Scenes from the Past...



The Children's Hospital of Washington was incorporated in 1870, and maintained a small wood frame building at 13th and F Street until it built, in stages, this large institution facing 13th Street between V and W Street, beginning in 1878. Today the site is home to the Harrison Square townhome development.



The rear of Children's Hospital faced 12th Street between V and W Street, and included an elegant gazebo and large rear yard before additional buildings were added to the complex. Following a period of abandonment, the expanded complex was torn down in the mid 1990s.

A large and modern Children's Hospital was once located just north of the U Street corridor on what is today a whole city block of newly completed townhouses bordered by 12th, 13th, V and W Streets (Square 272). The idea for a Children's Hospital in Washington began in 1869, when Dr. S.C. Busey of the Columbia Hospital Dispensary and other doctors recognized that diseases of infancy and childhood were not being adequately addressed in the city's hospitals. Thus, on December 2, 1870, the "Children's Hospital of the District of Columbia" was incorporated and located in a small building at 13th and F Streets, with only 12 beds. In 1872, a larger facility was rented on E Street, as plans were being made to purchase a suitable site for a large facility.

In 1875, the board of directors purchased the entire Square 272 for \$15,722.88, or just 16 cents a square-foot. At the time, it was located at the edge of the city, just south of what was then known as Boundary Street, today's Florida Avenue. The directors went to work raising funds for the construction of the hospital in stages, the first building being ready for occupancy the same year of the land purchase, 1875. Just three years later, the building was expanded to the east and west, and in 1890 with larger wing expansion and an enlargement of the central building, to form its final design pictured above. The building cost a total of \$23,662.22. It was built by contractor J.G. Naylor and designed by John C. Harkness, characterized in the 1898 *Report on Charities and Reformatory Institutions in the District of Columbia* as "one of the most experienced and reliable architects and builders of this city."



Children's Hospital was open to both black and white residents of the city as specified in its charter written in 1870, although races were segregated in the hospital itself. Its surgical white ward, above, was pictured in 1898.



Children's Hospital's colored ward was photographed for an 1898 report, shown above. Opened in 1878, during the next sixteen years the Hospital provided for 20, 862 children, 70 percent of whom were "cured or improved in health."

racial backgrounds, as stated in their charter. Once admitted, however, the patients were separated by race, but attended to by white, rotating nurses serving both wings of the facility. In 1879, the hospital administrators determined that the actual expense of operating and maintaining the facility came out to a little less than 41 cents per day, with an average of 31 patients.

During its first 16 years, 20,862 children were treated and provided for and, according to the 1898 *Report on Charities*, "70 per cent were cured or improved in health." At the hospital's rear, facing 12th Street, was an expansive lawn featuring a large wooden gazebo for outdoor relaxation and refreshment. It also contained a small cemetery for burials of unknown, abandoned, or homeless children or other indigents of the city. By 1889, the building and land were valued at \$200,000, reflecting on the growth of the greater U Street neighborhood and of the city as a whole following the Civil War. A nurses training department was established in 1891, and an infant's ward created in 1894. In 1898, the hospital had 102 beds, 58 of which were reserved for medical and 44 for surgical cases, in addition to 12 beds for infants. In all, a team of 16 nurses was on duty at all times.



The site of Children's Hospital is occupied today by nearly 100 townhomes, known as Harrison Square, fronting V, W, 12th and 13th Streets that were completed in 2001.

Children's Hospital was expanded again in 1950, when a large building was constructed on the property along 12th Street. Other additions and improvements were added to the complex throughout the years, partially obscuring the original design of the hospital. Following the 1968 race riots that began in April of that year, Children's Hospital eventually relocated to more expansive land across from the McMillan Reservoir, just north of the Le Droit Park and Bloomingdale neighborhoods. Portions of the aging facility were rented to smaller health service agencies until the complex was completely abandoned in the 1980s. Subject to numerous fires, break-ins, and a significant homeless population, the city property languished for two decades before being torn down in 1998. Community groups and developers proposed myriad uses for the site, including a retirement village, grocery store and high-rise condominiums. The square was eventually developed by Bethesda developer Donatelli & Klein into nearly 100 individual town homes arranged in a traditional city square, being completed in late 2001.

—Paul Kelsey Williams
Historic Preservation Specialist
Kelsey & Associates, Washington, DC

Photos—Charities and Reformatory Institutions in the District of Columbia 1898 Report, Author's Collection

Photos—Charities and Reformatory Institutions in the District of Columbia 1898 Report, Author's Collection

FORUM

From p. 6

spring at 14th & S. And finally, one of the original champions of 14th Street, Studio Theatre, announced plans to purchase two adjoining buildings, and will be expanding its theatre space. Ace Electric will be missed, but the new theater space is highly exciting.

The Logan Circle Community Association started a new tradition by holding its first annual Easter egg hunt in Logan Circle park.

South of Thomas Circle, the Green Lantern bar reopened, looking less skanky than before, with the upstairs Tool Shed evoking a clean mean cruising machine.

The activity in Adams Morgan was comprised mostly of restaurants coming and going, to no one's surprise. The best new addition was "The Diner," two doors south of Tryst, and by the same people. Felix expanded with a new addition called "Spy Lounge." Staccato became the neighborhood's first piano bar. Chez Antoine, an authentic little French crêperie opened to much acclaim, and Cluck U to much disdain. Trios, near 18th and Columbia, was transformed into the Adams Mill Bar and Grill. Franklin's, on the perfect little corner, closed its doors. Even local pets got a new store, though not the pet café they had hoped for, when WagTime pet services opened on lower 18th Street. And finally, the long-debated garage/condo project between 18th and Champlain broke ground, with the garage portion now complete.

U Street grew in fits and starts, continuing its conflict between quality businesses and inebriating nightclubs. Starting on the west end, Results' ground-floor neighbors both folded—the gay-focused art gallery Rivaga and healthy pit stop Basics Café. Chic salon Bang has already replaced Rivaga, and a new restaurant is expected later this year. The former run-down neighborhood stalwart Julio's closed to no one's surprise, and recently had a Starbucks carved into its former spot. A sushi restaurant is expected in the remaining space. On the 1500 block, Habitat Home Accents turned a small walk-up space into a chic home furnishings store. Across the street, used-furniture shop Weathered Classics closed down. One block east, we lost our beloved Kitchen K gallery. Though secreted away in the Winter building, this gallery brought outstanding design sense to the neighborhood. Goodwood suffered the effect of a firebomb tossed into its outside vestibule, but thankfully was able to come back, looking more saintly than ever. An former post office was rebuilt into the conference center and restaurant Coda Vez. On the 1300 block of U Street, neighbors welcomed Kuna, an instant neighborhood favorite for pasta. Twins Lounge took over the space of the still-missed Andalusian Dog. Farther east, the Public Welfare Foundation did a quality restoration of the True Reformers building.

One of the best signs of a healthy neighborhood is a robust housing market, and Dupont saw much activity. New construction included small but significant projects like The Tapiés at 1612 16th Street and an infill project at 18th & R. We also welcomed the long-awaited redevelopment of 1774 U Street, near the corner of 18th and Florida.

The Gatsby opened up, bringing 52 apartments to 15th and O. Nearby, other large residential projects are under construction. Saxon Court, between Church and P Streets, SoLo Piazza at 13th and N, and Post Massachusetts Avenue, at the

corner of 15th Street, are being built from the ground up. The University of California built a building near 17th and Rhode Island which includes dorms for 300 government studies students. We also have some major renovation projects, like The Willison on Rhode Island near 14th Street, and the long-awaited Roosevelt, at 16th V Streets.

Plans progressed for two major housing projects around U Street: a large project at 14th and V, and The Ellington at 13th & U. Farther north, the once-notorious Clifton Terrace began efforts for a complete renovation.

The biggest deterrent to making the neighborhood a good place is the stubborn crime. Looking over the stats for PSAs 304, 308, and 309, which includes part of Adams Morgan and leaves out a small part of Dupont, we see that over the past year, burglaries jumped 31 percent and assaults went up 9 percent. Other categories of crime went down, including a 26 percent drop in theft from autos and a 22 percent drop in stolen autos. However, theft from autos remains the most active category, with 588 cases reported in 2000 in these three PSAs. Theft was the second-highest category, with 331 cases, and burglary was the third-highest, with 179 cases.

Amid all the new construction and new residents, the most welcome additions to Dupont were true transplants. The Dupont Circle Citizens Association planted 41 trees in empty tree boxes. Logan Circle also had a tree-planting campaign. But the big news is the Casey Foundation, founded with a whopping \$50 million gift, which has begun planning for tree planting and maintenance throughout the city.

Back in August, when Madonna brought her Drowned World tour to Washington, and, coincidentally, everyone's basement flooded, regular citizens were coping with flaming manholes, power outages, smoky eruptions and loud underground explosions at 17th and Q. For one night, the calamity brought by a massive storm and faulty underground utilities tested our moral courage. Little did we realize an even larger storm lay shortly ahead.

Samuel F. Dupont, the Navy hero who gave this neighborhood its name, gained his reputation on his ability to steer his ship in all conditions. We face a similar challenge, though ours is metaphorical. So let's set a course for adventure, our mind on a new romance. Our neighborhood is special. Party on, and be excellent to each other.



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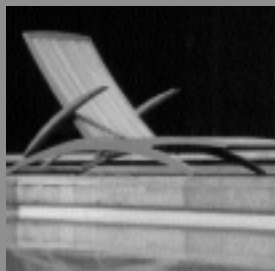
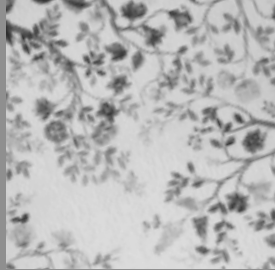
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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

By Alexandra Greeley*
PENANG
An Asian Persuasion

Let's take it from the top: The Washington metro area now hosts two restaurants called Penang. The first opened in Bethesda last summer. The second opened recently on M Street. Confusing? Related? Well, yes and no, depending upon who answers. Sifting through the replies turns up that apparently one brother owns one and another brother owns the other. And there the story can stop, for what the dining public cares to know is: How's the food?

As it turns out, DC's Penang looks like the hottest spot in town. Crowded with twenty- and thirty-somethings in the bar area, and noisy with all-ages patrons in the diminutive dining room, Penang has shot to the top as the "now" destination. That has certain drawbacks, for at peak hours on peak nights table waits may extend to at least 45 minutes; the decibel level precludes anything except intimate conversations; and harried waitstaff can mix up orders.

Consider this recent scenario. The hostess eyed guests sympathetically as they asked for tables. Discouraged and hungry, plenty of wannabe patrons trooped away rather than sit it out. Of course, the hostess told me, pointing to the already crowded bar area, if you can find a seat, you can order dinner and eat here. But, short of my crouching on the stairs, that proved impossible.

Since the object was to eat and not to hang around, I decided on a bountiful takeout order filled with some of my favorite things—except that it wasn't, for instead of the peanut-sauced gado gado salad, I ended up with a tom yam soup. A Thai-inspired soup? It was that kind of evening.

It must be that the open kitchen, upstairs from the main bar area, works on overload capacity. They have to cook for the whole restaurant, said the waitress when I asked about my very overdue order. And it looked shorthanded for staff that serves such large crowds, for eating in the bar area was an idea that obviously had appealed to others as well, a way of having it all without the wait.

But the rest of the order came intact.

And, the gold medal for the meal falls to the stunning roti canai (noted as an "Award Winning Family Recipe"), which is a thin, foldable wheel of fried Indian bread that serves as scoop for the accompanying chicken curry. No cook skimped on this dish, for the curry breathes its own fire and the bread was simply wonderful and chewy. But for that matter, the Bethesda version is also wonderful—and if this is a family recipe, then that's the explanation.

But the balance of the meal, including the tom yam soup, fell short of the mark. The beloved Penang Char Koay Teow, a stir-fry of rice noodles and assorted seafood, was here darkly disappointing, offering up a swirl of ingredients, including baby octopus that resembled a tangle of rubber bands. The beef rendang, usually hot yet sweetened by an underlay of coconut milk, lacked the requisite chili punch, and the Thai soup tasted too complex for a dish that should sing with the citrus clarity of lemongrass and the spark of sliced chilies.

Come back, urged the waitress when she handed me the order. It's usually not this crowded. Try a Monday or Tuesday night.

But maybe going to Bethesda is simpler; there's parking around (DC's Penang has only one valet who struggles to keep up; forget street parking), the menu is lengthier, and never yet has any meal disappointed or vexed. If you opt for the DC Penang, plan to come by metro or cab, and bring a crowd of six or more. That way you can make reservations and maybe not wait. Alternatively, select an off hour, like 3 p.m. on a Saturday. □

Penang, 1837 M St.; tel., 822-8770. Open: Mon.-Thur., 11:30am-11pm; Fri. & Sat., 11:30am-12mid.; Sun., 11:30am-10pm. Entrée prices: \$7.95-\$19.95.

Alexandra Greeley is a food writer who's books have been published by Simon & Schuster, Doubleday, and Macmillan. She formerly was a food editor/writer with the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, and presently contributes reviews and articles for a variety of publications, including "e-zines" and traditional periodicals such as The Washingtonian and The Washington Post

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Food in the Hood

By Joel Denker

SENSUOUS SEEDS: POMEGRANATE PLEASURES

The writer, a former Peace Corp volunteer in Africa many years ago, is the author of "Capital Flavors: Exploring Washington's Ethnic Restaurants" (1988, Seven Locks Press), which evolved from his series in this newspaper over a decade ago, known then as "The Ethnic Bazaar."

Queries, comments, suggestions can be sent to denker@starpower.net.

My mother bought pomegranates during the holiday season. Her mother had also displayed them as a festive ornament. The luscious fruit sat resplendent in a large wooden bowl in our home. Except for my sister, Dana, who savored the seeds, we gazed at the produce, but rarely fondled them or partook of their culinary bounty.

An ordinary pleasure to us, the pomegranate, I discovered, was an object of devotion to the ancients. The Koran praised it as one of the fruits of paradise. The prophet Mohammed urged believers to "eat the pomegranate, for it purges the system of envy and hatred."

The Greeks and Romans spun myths about the scarlet apple and its magnetic powers. Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, the Greek goddess of agriculture, was forced into an unhappy marriage by Hades, the lord of the underworld. She longed to escape his clutches. But after Hades made her eat a pomegranate, Persephone was forever his captive. A spell had been cast—Persephone had to spend four months of the year in the depths of his kingdom. Her journey underground marked the beginning of winter.

The Persians treasured the fruit which was native to Iran and its dominions. The botanist Bernhard Laufer unearthed a 17th century traveler's account of his encounter with the pomegranate: "They take out of them the seed . . . wherewith they drive a great trade, and the Persians make use of it in their sauces, whereto it gives a colour, and a piquant tast, having been steep'd in water, and strain'd through a cloath. Sometimes they boyl the juice of these Pomegranates, and keep it to give a colour to the rice, which they serve up at their entertainments. . . ."

Iran traded the fruit to the Chinese, on whom it exerted a strong fascination. A Chinese traveler to Persia in the 13th century described pomegranates which were "as large as two fists and of a sour-sweet taste."

Impressed by its abundant seeds, the Chinese made it a fertility symbol. The pomegranate became a popular marriage gift and a fixture of the wedding feast.

I have been learning to revel in its juices. I chanced on bottled pomegranate syrup in Middle-Eastern grocery stores, a fine substitute when the fruit is out of season. (It is available at Soltan Restaurant, 2035 P St.; tel., 293-9112 and Khartoum Grocery, 2116 18th St.; tel., 265-7100.)

The thick, dark brown concentrate imparts a delicious sweet-sour flavor to lemonade—a couple of tablespoons added to a quart of the drink will do the trick.

The syrup gives salads an exquisitely tart taste, a sensation I first discovered at Bacchus restaurant, the long-time Lebanese establishment near Dupont Circle (1827 Jefferson Pl.; tel. 785-0734). Salatet bethenjan, a salad of eggplant, crunchy fried pita bread, tomatoes, and parsley, is dressed with an infusion of the syrup.

My wife, Peggy, and I began to experiment with extracting a drink from the fruit itself.

After quartering it, we began squeezing and scooping out the seeds, as the crimson juices squirted into a bowl. We put the seeds in the blender and then strained the resulting liquid through a sieve.

I poured a glass of pomegranate juice for myself and put it in the refrigerator. The drink was cool and refreshing, sweet with a tangy undercurrent. I had read about the pomegranate "wine" that the Persians and Egyptians drunk and could imagine its allure.

Hungry for more pomegranate lore, I walked over to Adams Morgan's Persian dining room, The Caravan Grill (1825 18th St.; tel., 518-0444). I was sure the restaurant's partners, Mehran ("Mark") Parsee and Esmail ("Sam") Dehi, would have some nuggets to share. They both revered the "anar." Mark, who hails from Teheran, remembers the vendors pushing carts through the street hawking pomegranate juice. The seeds of the fruit, he told me, are "red like rubies." Persians, Mark points out, often squeeze the pomegranate, "bite a hole" in it, and drink the juice. [Mark subsequently left the Caravan.]

Sam, Caravan's chef, explained to me that pomegranates came in different varieties—the sweet, the sour, and those in-between.

The sweet were used to make juice and the sour went into sauces. "Every night I'm eating pomegranate," the enthusiastic Persian says. Anar, Sam is convinced, has health-giving properties. "It makes your blood have a good, light color."

Western science is just catching up with Persian folk wisdom. The New York Times recently reported on a study that suggests that the antioxidants in the fruits may help fight cancer and hardening of the arteries and slow down the aging process.

The Caravan serves fesenjan, a famous Persian dish for which the pomegranate is indispensable.

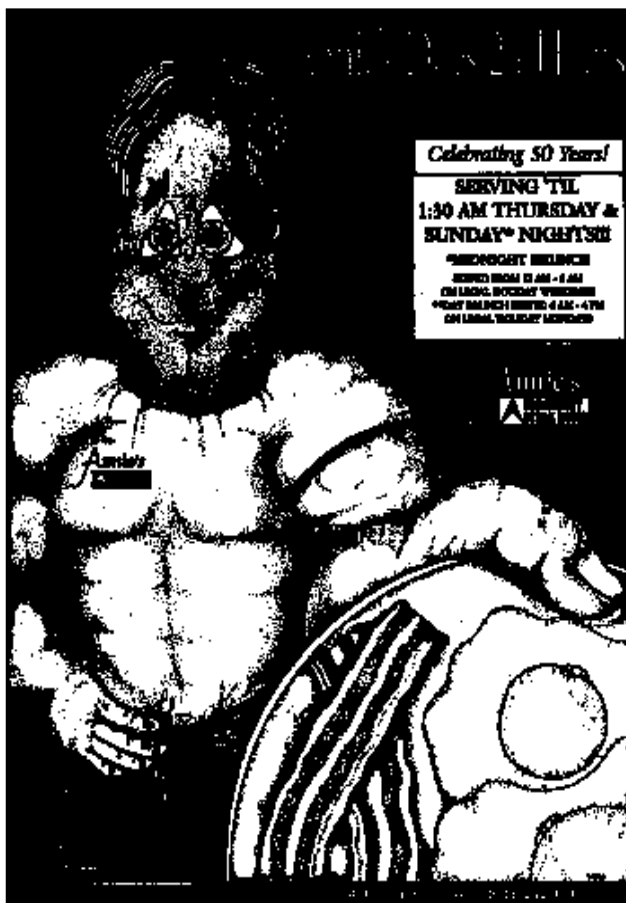
The classic, originally prepared with duck, is a thick, brown khoresh or stew of chicken in a sauce enriched with ground walnuts and pomegranate syrup. The fesenjan has a "taste that gets a little bit sweet and sour," Sam notes.

Thinking about fesenjan, I dreamed of another Middle-Eastern treat which also pairs walnuts and pomegranates.

I tried muhammara ("brick colored"), a spread common in southeastern Turkey and in the Aleppo area of Syria, for the first time this summer at the Alep restaurant in Montreal. The reddish dip, which gets its color from pomegranate molasses and roasted red pepper, is taken with pita bread.

It combines the tartness of the fruit, the pungency of red pepper and cumin, with the flavors of olive oil and lemon. According to an Aleppo adage, "Only the devil can cope with our Aysa's muhammarah, and he only comes this way once a lifetime, thank the Lord." □

Note: This article is adapted from one that originally appeared in the December 1999 InTowner.



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PURSGLOVES ON FOOD & DRINK

with Ruth and David Pursglove

Choucroute Fest at Les Halles Again Teaches About Wines

All good things happen to those who wait for them. One of the best things happen all this month: The month-long Choucroute Festival at that quintessential French brasserie, Les Halles, downtown at 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, across from the Federal Triangle.

The Choucroute Fest is an annual event

at Les Halles, but it's now part of the upscale bistro's new policy of celebrating a different province or region each month all year. The choucroute event celebrates Alsace, birthplace of the brasserie style of eating place and home of the lionized dish of sauerkraut garnished with hearty meats.

The restaurant will feature four versions of the exalted dish daily. They are:

- Choucroute Garnie—Sauerkraut slow-cooked in pinot d'Alsace garnished

with smoked pork loin, boudin blanc white veal sausage, smoked pork breast, frankfurter and boiled potatoes;

- Choucroute Les Halles—Smoked ham hock, boudin noir blood sausage, smoked pork loin, smoked pork belly, boiled potatoes and sauerkraut slow-cooked in Alsatian beer;

- Choucroute de canard—Foie gras and duck sausage, duck leg confit, duck gizzards, boiled potatoes and sauerkraut slow-cooked in gewurztraminer;

- Choucroute de poissons—A lighter version that uses cabbage braised in riesling instead of traditional sauerkraut, seafood sausage, smoked salmon sausage, monkfish medallions, sea scallops, smoked herring, salmon caviar and boiled potatoes. This is an exclusive unique to Les Halles.

All are served with moutard de Meaux grainy mustard.

In addition to the choucroute daily during February, Les Halles will offer several Alsatian beers and a broad selection of Alsatian wines, including pinot blanc, gewurztraminer, riesling, pinot gris and tokay d'Alsace by the bottle and by the glass.

This becomes a diverting exercise in learning the difference between grapes vinified in the French manner and the same grapes vinified in the German or California manner.

As we pointed out in this space last year, despite the proximity, German wines and French wines made from the same grape varieties are quite different. The French (in Alsace, at least) ferment all the sugar to alcohol, producing a relatively high alcohol, sugarless, very dry wine. (Higher in alcohol than German wines, but not nearly as high as Californian wines.) The Germans stop the fermentation, generally

with a small spurt of sulfur dioxide, before all the sugar is converted to alcohol.

As if this less than dry, slightly sweet wine were not enough, the Germans gift the lily by adding a little suss reserve, sweet reserved fresh and unfermented juice, to the wines. The result is a riesling or a sylvaner that is faintly sweet and fruity-fresh. Beautiful. The result of the French fermentation to no residual sugar is a balanced and graceful very dry wine. Elegant. In California where the weather fills the grapes with much more sugar and the culture is still a 1930s and '40s attitude that high alcohol is the sine qua non of a party beverage, the riesling is usually sweetish and the sylvaner at least "round" and faintly sweet.

The same holds true for the spicy traminer, gewurztraminer. However, the Alsace gewurz is a bit "round," but still somewhat dry. The German is sweeter and the Californian is sweet to the point of not drinking well with food.

Ah! There lies the difference, as demonstrated at Les Halles, between French and German wine making. The French aim for meal accompaniments, while the German goal is refreshment beverages. The Californians opt for the German route in spades. Choucroute dinners at Les Halles occur and are described in detail in one of David's online web novels of counter-terrorism and romance among counter-espionage senior citizens, in the thriller "You Can't Kill a Cockroach." (www.ClassActBooks.com). □

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SAFEWAY

From p. 1

not being capital expenditures but rather simply operational and maintenance costs. He repeated his assertion at the ABC Board's fact-finding public hearing on January 23.

Earlier that same week, the Adams Morgan ANC took its first crack at the controversy by weighing in with a 5-1 vote, Chairman Andy Miscuk being the lone dissenter, on a resolution to "oppose the issuance of Safeway's class B liquor license . . . on the grounds of over-concentration and the adverse effects on peace, order, and quiet in the neighborhood. . . ." By the same 5-1 vote, with the same dissenter, the ANC adopted a second resolution to "inform the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board [sic] that we believe the Safeway at 1747 Columbia Road . . . to be located within the boundaries of the Adams Morgan moratorium zone. . . ." Both resolutions were adopted at the ANC's January 14, 2002 community forum meeting.

In speaking with The InTowner, Chairman Miscuk predicated his dissenting vote on his perception of neighborhood support for Safeway's application, primarily on the grounds of convenience to shoppers. Miscuk also noted that the issue was complicated by the important question of whether or not the Safeway location falls within the Adams Morgan moratorium zone, and the opposition to liquor license applications or renewals that has for its purpose the objective of negotiating voluntary agreements with applicants to secure benefits to the neighborhood. Chairman Miscuk also voiced the concern for fundamental fairness in the new law's provision of granting more than one liquor license to an applicant who can afford to spend \$500,000 or more in a single year on

capital improvements to an existing store or who can build a brand new full service grocery store.

The question of whether or not Safeway's Columbia Road store falls within the 1,400-foot radius from the measuring point at the intersection of Belmont Road and 18th Street—and Safeway as the applicant deems itself outside the zone—was hotly debated at the January 17th Kalorama Citizens Association meeting, with a roughly two-to-one vote recorded in opposition to the Safeway application. The adopted resolution, which was crafted by Dennis James, states:

"Whereas, there exists in Adams Morgan a moratorium on the issuance of all new ABC licenses except retailers Class DR or a license sought by a hotel [and] this moratorium will continue until July 19, 2004

"Whereas, the Adams Morgan moratorium zone is described in two ways; one, as a radius extending approximately 1400 feet in all directions from the intersection of 18th Street and Belmont Road, NW, and two, in narrative form, a street by street description of the streets included. . . .

"Whereas, there also already exists a city-wide moratorium on the number of off-premises retailers licenses allowed, Class A, 250 and Class B, 300. . . .

"Whereas, . . . Safeway's list of capital investments in the Adams Morgan store for 2001 of \$563,663, [to meet the terms and conditions of the previously described exception], much of which is simply maintenance or equipment upgrades, not renovation.

"Whereas, any exception from the moratorium could create a precedent for further applications, which if granted would erode the zone and defeat its purpose. . . ."

James followed his KCA presentation with similar testimony, complete with maps and handouts at the January 23rd ABC hearing on the fundamental question

of whether or not both sides of the 1700 block of Columbia Road are within the Adams Morgan moratorium zone, as the KCA and the ANC assert, or whether the north side of Columbia Road, where the store is located, is outside the moratorium zone—which Safeway asserts.

The ABC Board concluded its hearing without giving any indication of when it might issue a ruling on this matter.

Although not present at the ABC Board's hearing, neighborhood liquor store and small convenience retailers with current Class B liquor licenses expressed adamant opposition to Safeway's application in conversations with The InTowner, Sid Drazin, who has operated Comet Liquors at 1815 Columbia Road, for 21 years, asserted that Safeway, if successful in its application, would be able to drive small Class B license holders out of business by lowering prices and exploiting its advantages of size and consequent leverage with wholesalers. Drazin also questioned the fairness of the \$500,000 expenditure rule for the new exception to the single license rule, and noted that the current moratorium on new licenses had already served to deny another applicant a license in the 1800 block of Columbia Road. Tony Kwak, whose family has operated for many years a small grocery store with a Class B license at 1795 Lanier Place (in the block behind Safeway's Columbia Road store) also raised the competition and fairness issue. Kwak further observed that his business had already suffered a \$500 a week decline in receipts from the recent change in allowable hours of sale for off-premises wine and beer from the previously allowed 12 midnight closing to the 10 p.m. closing time now mandated.

In a related action, the ABC Board recently did approve a similar application

Cont., SAFEWAY, p. 21

At The Museums

By David Barrows* and Anthony L. Harvey**



Jacob Lawrence, "The 1920s . . . the Migrants Cast their Ballots," (1974)

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART

17th Street & New York Avenue, NW
tel., 639-1700; www.corcoran.org
\$5, adults; \$3, seniors; \$1, students
Wed.-Mon., 10am-5pm; Thu. to 9pm

Consigned to the back hall of the first floor, in conjunction with a small, complementary show of photographs following, is a highly eclectic show of African-American art with the usual inclusion of works from the bequest of the late Thurlow Evans-Tibbs—which, together with such collections as that of Gordon Parks' donated photographs—has made possible the Corcoran's acknowledged collection of 500 works by 97 African-American Artists. You have only until February 25th to view this special installation.

"Celebrating the Legacy" seeks to quickly represent a 200 year span. The show's wall text informs the viewer that "African-American artists like Robert S. Duncan

*David Barrows is a published poet and painter whose work has been shown in the Washington area over the past 20 years. He studied at the Cooper Union in New York and at the Corcoran School of Art and earned his B.A. in Fine Arts at The George Washington University.

**Anthony L. Harvey is a collector of contemporary art, with an emphasis on Washington artists. He is a founding member of the Washington Review of the Arts. For many years he was the staff person in the United States Senate responsible for arts and Library of Congress oversight by the Senate's Rules and Administration Committee and the House and Senate's Joint Committee on the Library.

and Henry Osawa Tanner considered themselves artists first and foremost. Race was a secondary issue. The 20th century on the other hand is characterized by the exploration of heritage and identity in the art of African-Americans."

We start out with a pleasant still-life by Robert Duncan painted in 1849 and soon come across a mysterious and highly engaging etching by Henry Osawa Tanner, *Christ Walking on the Water*. In this work, an obscured boat hides figures in its darkness with the moon shining through haze, reflected upon smooth water barely stirred by waves.

"The first celebration and promotion of black culture," the wall text continues to inform, "came about with the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and '30s." Among the works drawn from (or connected to) this period are a couple by Jacob Lawrence representative of his use of abstracted figures resembling cut-outs in collage-like settings, a style very much suited to his penchant for presenting black figures in a story setting. One of his two works shown, *The 1920s . . . the Migrants Cast their Ballots*, was actually done in 1974 but refers back to his famous "Migrant" series done during the "Harlem Renaissance" years. Also representing that period in this show is William H. Johnson's 1940 painting, *Street Musicians*."

A 1940 oil painting further down the hall, *Indian Shops, Gay Head, Massachusetts*, represents the late Lois Mailou Jones. When interviewed by The

InTowner a few years back for an in-depth profile, she spoke of her own inner conflict about being artist foremost but also of having been politicized by black activist and philosopher Alain Locke of Howard University, where she also taught for many years.

Gordon Parks' dye transfer print, *Watermelon*, is an abstracted photograph but gets sensuously lost in deep and vivid reds. Among other delights is the oil painting, *Ticket Taker at Griffith Stadium* of 1944. Not a political picture, however.

As one will see, this highly eclectic show is split between black innovation and classically practiced art—down to the glass case containing small sculptures, including the mask-like granite figure, *The Clown*, by Marion Perkins and the realistic, small *Head of a Boy* by Richmond Barthe.

As for the question whether, with its collection of some 500 works, perhaps the Corcoran might open a permanent

African-American gallery with the dual purpose of representing its collection on rotational basis and at the same time to encourage more gifts to the museum's collections, the answer seems to be dictated by the wishes of at least one of the major donors, the late Thurlow Evans-Tibbs, Jr. It was his express wish that his contributions, as well as the works of other African-American artists, be thoroughly incorporated into the collection and be displayed and studied as part of the great panoply of American art, rather than be, as he once remarked to this newspaper's publisher, housed in a "separate but equal set of gallery rooms."

—David Barrows

Editor's Note: The museum's education department, thanks to grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the George Preston Marshall Foundation, has produced a wonderfully-designed and informative "Educators' Resource Pack," complete with some fine color reproductions, artists' biographies, and teaching guides. For teachers and their students not able to get to see this show before it closes on the 25th, these materials can nevertheless be very useful later in the classroom setting.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Constitution Ave. at 4th St., NW
info, 737-4215 / Daily, 10am-5pm

In a bravura celebration of gifts to the nation of works of art by the extraordinary conceptual, landscape, and installation artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude—gifts

from the collection of contemporary art assembled by the inspired New York collectors Dorothy and Herbert Vogel (together with additional gifts from the artists themselves and from a private collector in honor of the Vogels), the National Gallery is presenting the first United States survey of four decades of work by these pioneering artists who have changed the way the world views and

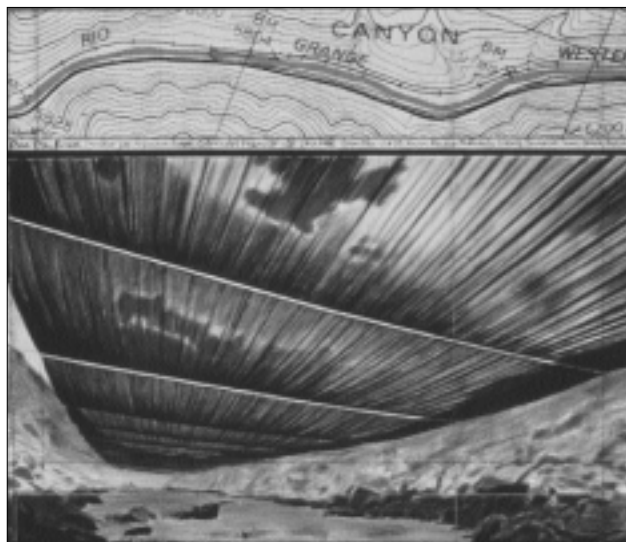
responds to out-of-doors installation/landscape art.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude's revolution has been achieved through their creation of boldly beautiful sculptural and architectural forms using miles of colorful fabric spanning whole valleys, fencing miles of imaginary separations of California open space, and surrounding man-made islands

Cont., MUSEUMS, p. 18



Lois Mailou Jones, "Indian Shops, Gay Head, Massachusetts," (1940)



Christo, "Over the River, Project for Arkansas River, Colorado," (2000)

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MUSEUMS

From p. 17

in Miami's Biscayne Bay with bright pink, beautifully woven industrial-strength fabric. The sheer beauty of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's outdoor art installations is breathtaking, and the gallery has installed 61 works both documenting this beauty and displaying finished art objects, including several of Christo's early packages and wrapped objects. One will be enraptured by the mere viewing of these preparatory drawings, collages, scale models, and photographs of the artists' large-scale projects. And to complete the experience, the gallery is showing 10 films which document the construction of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's best known projects.

In addition, Christo and Jeanne-Claude have three works currently in progress which are represented in this exhibition:

The Mastaba of Abu Dhabi, a project that includes thousands of stacked oil barrels (begun in 1977 in the United Arab Emirates); *The Gates*, a project that includes 5,500 gates and 26 miles of walkway covered with a canopy of bright, golden orange fabric in a visual celebration of Frederick Law Olmstead's innovative design for New York's Central Park; and, *Over the River*, a project for a winding, high canopy intermittently covering seven miles with a bright blue, translucent fabric over a 40 mile stretch of white water on the Arkansas River in south-central Colorado.

All of this art has been created without sponsors, grants, or commissions. Christo and Jeanne-Claude finance all of their own projects and install them in accessible urban and rural locales, where the general public is invited to see them without admission charge during the 14 days the constructed art works remain on view. Christo and Jeanne-Claude raise their own funds for these projects through the sale of Christo's preparatory drawings, collages,

models, and architectural plans. And Christo serves as his own dealer, thus avoiding any commercial gallery expenses or commissions. How this art came to be donated to the National Gallery was lovingly described by Jeanne-Claude at the January 29 press briefing, recounting that she and Christo learned from the New York donors Dorothy and Herbert Vogel that they had spent their honeymoon here in Washington visiting the gallery—which they loved because of the art and because admission was free to the public. And thus these New York collectors chose the National Gallery to receive this and many other of their important contemporary art gifts to the nation.



Christo and Jeanne Claude, "Valley Curtain, Grand Hogback, Rifle, Colorado," (1970-72)

And how Christo and Jeanne-Claude go about creating these works is fascinatingly described in a beautifully printed exhibition catalog, published by the gallery, which accompanies this show that will on view in the East Building through June 23. In addition to the gallery installations, there are scheduled multiple screenings of the 10 films on Christo and Jeanne-Claude's most famous large-scale projects. All films are shown in the East Building auditorium, and are free to the public just as is the entire National Gallery. A printed schedule of the film showings is available at the gallery or by calling 737-4215.

—Anthony L. Harvey

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Friday, March 1**

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COMMUNITY

From p. 4

For more info, call AAHA at 310-1430.

• Wed., Feb. 13 (6:30pm): Continuing its no-charge program of BAROQUE-ERA recitals in collaboration with the National Institute of Fine Arts of Mexico, the **Mexican Cultural Institute** (2829-16th St.) will be presenting in the Institute's restored mansion's elegant grand salon cellist Bozema Slawinska performing Bach's Suites Nos. 1, 2 and 3 for solo cello. A "vin d'honneur" will follow. Although no charge, RSVPs are requested by calling 728-1675.

And, on Thu., Feb. 21, also at 6:30pm, there will be free VALENTINE'S PARTY CONCERT, "Music on 16th Street, circa 1910," featuring recent graduates of

Shenandoah University (soprano Courtney Ross, mezzo-soprano Rebeca Kellerman, tenor Viane dos Santos, bass Christopher Jones). Continuing the Institute's tradition of recreating 1910-era musical evenings—the date of the Institute's restored Aeolian pipe organ—the grand salon will resound with vocal solos, duets, trios and quartets, along with organ music appropriate for the season performed by organist Dr. Steven Cooksey. As with the chamber music series, a "vin d'honneur" will follow, and although no charge, RSVPs are requested by calling 728-1675.

• Wed., Feb. 13 (7pm): The **Columbia Heights ANC** will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Youth Opportunities Office at the Latin-American Youth Center (3014-14th St.). In addition to electing a chairperson and other "housekeeping" matters, the commissioners will review its youth oppor-

tunities program, consider an ABC license change for Solo's Restaurant, and review its priorities and projects for this year. For more info, call the ANC's voice mail line at 588-7278.

• Wed., Feb. 13 (7:30pm): The regular, second Wednesday of the month MEETING of the **Dupont Circle ANC**, will be held at St. Thomas' Parish (18th & Church Sts.). Dan Tangherlini, the director of the DPW's Division of Transportation (soon to become its own department) and Teri Adams of the Parking Planning office, will talk about transportation and parking issues and be available for questions. In addition, various items of neighborhood business will be considered, along with the usual array of permit matters, including the beer and wine license renewal for Metro Supermarket a 2130 P Street and an application by the Jury's Hotel for an enclosed sidewalk café

on the 19th Street side of the building. (We wonder if this application will receive the same consideration as the action a few years ago by the hotel's owners when they chopped down the trees growing on that public space so that it could accommodate a few more tables for patrons who might enjoy being roasted to death by the brutal afternoon summer sun reflecting off the light brick all of the building, which had once been tempered by the leafy shade provided by the former trees?) For more info, call the ANC office at 296-7333.

While not on the ANC's agenda, the following notice received from the Dupont Circle Citizens' Association Environment Committee is useful to share with readers in all the neighborhoods served by this newspaper. So, here goes:

"[A]rea residents [are reminded] to store garbage in metal or heavy-duty plastic con-

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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COMMUNITY

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tainers with tight-fitting lids. Although the rat population drops in the winter, the more effective we are at eliminating sources of food and shelter now, the fewer problems we'll have during the spring breeding season. Cleaning up trash piles and other debris will help remove potential shelter necessary for breeding. According to DC law, failure to keep trash in tightly covered containers carries a fine of \$75 for residential properties, and \$1,000 for commercial properties. More information is available at <http://doh.dc.gov/information/rodent>.

• Thu., Feb. 14 (12:15-12:45pm): The no-charge, half-hour weekly lunchtime CONCERTS at the **National City Christian Church** on Thomas Circle continue inside this beautiful John Russell Pope-designed elegant and classically soaring sanctuary with a program by organist Robert Gorham, of Baltimore, who will perform on the church's magnificent 141-rank, 7592-pipe Møeller organ, widely hailed for its glorious sound, from sublime to powerful. Continuing weekly Thursday lunchtime recitals will feature pianists Rosanne Conway and Robert Snyder performing works for piano for four hands (21st); organist Edward A. Moore, the church's Minister of Music (28th); soprano Amy Bonn, of Baltimore (Mar. 7). For more info, call 232-0323 or visit www.nationalcitychristian.org

• Tue., Feb. 19 & Mon., 25th (6pm): At-large Councilmember **David Catania** has announced that his Committee on Public Services will conduct ANC OVERSIGHT hearings to review ANC compliance with financial reporting and operations regulations. Ward 2 ANCs will be on the agenda for Feb. 19 and Ward 1 ANCs for Feb. 25. All hearings will be at the Wilson Building (1350 Pa. Ave.), in Room 412. For more info or to testify, call Dana M. Patton at 724-7772

• Wed., Feb. 20 (7pm): For U Street area residents concerned about incidents such as the one reported by neighbor David Azulay below, the **Cardozo-Shaw Neighborhood Association (CSNA)** Public Safety Committee and MPD officers of PSA 306 will be holding a joint community MEETING in the upstairs room at The Saloon (1205 U St.). Herewith the neighbor's crime report:

"[On Monday, February 4, at 7:15 p.m.] . . . I was walking with a friend . . . to another friend's house on V Street, part of Harrison Square[.] . . . when a man approached us and asked for a cigarette. We both said 'no' and kept walking across the street. He then moved closer to us and asked for 'coins' [and] we both said 'no' and then he pulled out a gun and told us to stop or he would 'pop us.' He told us to give him our money. My friend emptied his pockets onto the hood of a parked car. I did not have anything to give the man, since I was only walking a block, I had left my wallet, phone, etc., at home. He grabbed about \$70-80 of cash off the hood of the car and then came closer to me to ask for more money. I again told him that I had nothing, other than a bag of groceries and my friend offered a credit card and ATM card. The man said 'no' and pulled out the cash again to show me and said that this was not enough and he wanted something else. I again told him that I had nothing and my friend offered the cards again. The man then said to 'Take off your jacket, the leather one' that my friend was wearing. He grabbed the jacket and said something to us about not calling anyone and to turn around and began to run east on V Street. We watched him run about three blocks and then head up north while we were on the phone with 911. . . .

[T]he police came quickly, took a report and drove us around the neighborhood to see if we could find the guy—we didn't. The man was a medium-dark complexion black male, probably 28-35 years-old. 5'10-6'0 tall and maybe 160-170 lbs. He was wearing a hat and a mid-length brown jacket, boots and dark pants. He had some facial hair, maybe a mustache.

"Anyway, moral of this . . . is just to let everyone know that we need to be really careful and aware of anyone around us. With the Metro so close by, I always see people walking down 13th Street and generally do not think twice. I am also still shocked that this could happen right there at the corner, in front of Harrison Square, next to a traffic light and up the street from my home."

The InTowner, however, is not surprised by this report. This is one of the reasons why we report these kinds of crimes so regularly in our monthly crime reports feature. (See, for example, page 7 of this issue.) In our introduction we emphasize this aspect by noting that our reporting focus "is placed, for the most part, on listing crimes against persons occurring in or adjacent to public space during hours when most people might reasonably expect to feel relatively safe."

While on the subject of neighborhood crime fighting, MPD Lt. LaMar West, who commands **PSA 314** over by Thomas Circle, has let us know that he will be holding his PSA's monthly community MEETING on Wed., Feb. 20, at 7pm, at the Washington Plaza Hotel. He will be "conducting problem-solving activities and developing action plans to address PSA crime problems and concerns." He concludes his notice with the following thought addressed to neighbors: "In order for this to be successful your involvement is critical. Therefore, I thank you in advance for your cooperation."

• Sat., Feb. 23 (10am-3pm): the **Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS)** will hold its 5th annual DC Public Charter School INFORMATION FAIR at the Convention Center (9th & G Sts.), in Rooms 30 and 31. Parents and students will be able to meet representatives from the city's 41 public charter schools, including those in Adams Morgan, Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights, Shaw, and the U Street area. Each of these schools innovates in a unique way, focusing on a variety of areas such as the performing arts, technology, language immersion, civics and government, and hospitality. For more info, visit www.focus-dccharter.org, call 387-0405 or send an email to info@focus-dccharter.org.

• Sat., Feb. 23 (10am-4pm): The **Textile Museum** (2320 S St.) will be having its no-charge winter FAMILY FESTIVAL DAY featuring hands-on activities and demonstrations, including silk-screening with artist Karen Brown, weaving your own coaster or placemat to take home, watching Artist-in-Residence Hitoshi Ujii create fabric designs on the computer, and observing how rugs are made with weaver Mary Alice Hearn. In addition to all this fun, the exhibits will be open for viewing, including "Technology as Catalyst: Textile Artists on the Cutting Edge," "Deceptively Simple: The Complexities of Plain Weave," "Central Asian Bags from Area Collections."

• Sun., Mar. 3 (3 pm): The **Church of the Holy City** (16th & Corcoran Sts.) will present another in its CONCERT SERIES, "Music with the Angels." The program will feature soprano Martha Richardson and pianist Mark Conrad and Leticia McDonald performing sacred music of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Fauré, Mendelssohn, and Mozart. There will be a free-will offering at the door. For more info., call 462-6734. □

SAFeway

From p. 16

by Giant Food & Drugs for its store in Shaw, at 9th and O Streets. In that neighborhood, in contrast to Adams Morgan, there was no fundamental opposition once certain operational matters were agreed to by management. According to Alex Padro, the ANC commissioner representing the area, residents welcomed the prospect of a clean, well-run wine and beer retailer which could by its very presence create pressure on other retailers to improve their own operations.

Giant's new department opened at the end of January, and is already receiving praise from customers and neighbors. □


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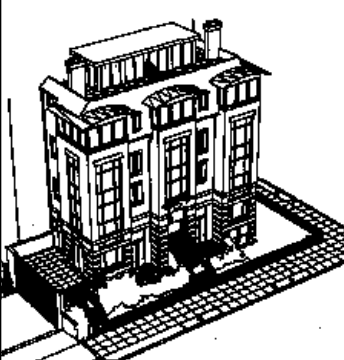
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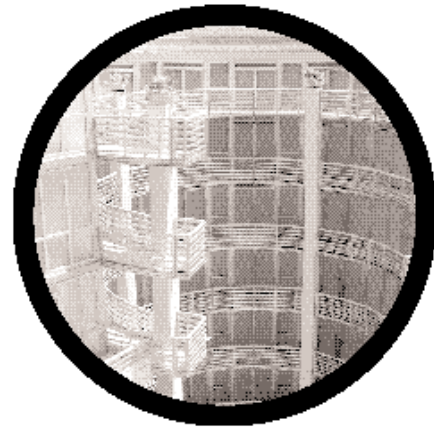
Prepared for the InTowner by Jo Ricks*
Reporting Period: December 2001

SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES			
2810 Adams Mill Rd.	925,000	1758 Corcoran St. #1	154,500
1943 Biltmore St.	840,000	2129 Florida Ave. #300	305,000
1950 Calvert St.	550,000	1109 Harvard St. #R	169,900
1725 Corcoran St.	637,500	1361 Irving St. #1	240,000
1213 Euclid St.	400,000	1900 Kalorama Rd. #56	365,000
1422 Euclid St.	329,000	1907 Kalorama Rd. #1016	310,000
756 Fairmont St.	115,000	1038 Lamont St. #3B	89,500
712 Girard St.	135,000	2501 M St. #614	348,000
539 Irving St.	149,999	2024 N St. #1	135,000
1005 Irving St.	73,000	1751 New Hamp. Ave. #D	329,000
1228 Kirby St.	125,000	1330 New Hamp. Ave. #501	184,000
522 Lamont St.	82,500	1730 New Hamp. Ave. #5	231,500
834 Lamont St.	25,000	1735 New Hamp. Ave. #301	384,000
1009 Lamont St.	105,000	1735 New Hamp. Ave. #404	335,000
1508 Monroe St.	320,000	1201 O St. #3B	287,000
22 N St.	150,000	1674 Oak St. #15	315,000
2108 O St.	770,000	1737 P St. #302	250,000
2126 O St.	725,000	1800 R St. #404	239,000
1364 Oak St.	327,000	1625 S St. #1	260,000
1674 Oak St.	315,000	1824 S St. #404	337,500
1832 Ontario Pl.	850,000	1 Scott Circle #317	106,000
314 P St.	60,000	1 Scott Circle #616	92,000
503 Park Rd.	190,000	1331 Vermont Ave. #1C	205,000
1510 Park Rd.	272,500	1736 Willard St. #103	236,250
1742 Q St.	654,000	2141 Wyoming Ave. #32	799,000
600 R St.	242,000	2001 12th St. #212	282,000
227 Rhode Island Ave.	170,000	1704 16th St. #5	565,000
1206 Shepherd St.	157,000	1520 16th St. #703	395,100
1316 Shepherd St.	280,000	2000 16th St. #106	300,000
1407 Spring Rd.	145,000	2001 16th St. #502	175,000
1737 Swann St.	536,000	2440 16th St. #204	95,000
213 T St.	180,000	2440 16th St. #317	139,900
1335 Taylor St.	185,500	3060 16th St. #302	115,000
155 U St.	204,000	3426 16th St. #602	267,500
518 U St.	184,000	1401 17th St. #404	304,000
2821 University Pl.	330,000	1830 17th St. #703	305,000
44 V St.	369,000	1916 17th St. #314	195,000
80 V St.	230,000	3505 17th St. #4	268,500
123 W St.	340,000	1545 18th St. #801	164,000
156 W St.	140,000	1747 18th St. #2	209,000
1339 Wallach Pl.	420,000	1815 18th St. #203	229,000
1341 Wallach Pl.	370,000	2300 18th St. #303	205,000
1602 4th St.	142,000	2410 20th St. #206	205,000
1115 6th St.	266,770	1301 20th St. #811	239,000
1734 10th St.	283,000	1733 20th St. #402	205,000
3823 10th St.	170,500	2410 20th St. #306	180,000
3121 11th St.	1916 16th St.	2413 20th St. #1001	329,900
1,050,000	148,000	1260 21st St. #704	160,000
3317 17th St.	488,000		
2819 18th St.	490,000		
3175 18th St.	255,200		
2328 19th St.	649,900		
2108 21st St.	389,500		

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756 Fairmont St.	115,000	1038 Lamont St. #3B	89,500
712 Girard St.	135,000	2501 M St. #614	348,000
539 Irving St.	149,999	2024 N St. #1	135,000
1005 Irving St.	73,000	1751 New Hamp. Ave. #D	329,000
1228 Kirby St.	125,000	1330 New Hamp. Ave. #501	184,000
522 Lamont St.	82,500	1730 New Hamp. Ave. #5	231,500
834 Lamont St.	25,000	1735 New Hamp. Ave. #301	384,000
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1602 4th St.	142,000	2410 20th St. #206	205,000
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Ed Downs 202-326-1300



New Listing
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\$189,000

Pride of ownership! This home shows beautifully, 2BR, 2FB, deck, finished basement.

Sheila Beasley
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Weichert Midtown
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Anacostia
\$110,000

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Eric Clarke
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Weichert Midtown
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\$199,999

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April Flint
202-326-1010



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Old City #2
\$279,000



New Listing
Photo Not Available

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Patricia Bonds 202-326-1010



Central Park
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Katie Moore
202-362-8784



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