



# The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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April 2013

Circulation 11,000

FREE

Published by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. (SWNA) — a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation.

## Harbour Square Designated Historic Landmark

By Cecille Chen

On Feb. 28, the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board voted unanimously to approve Harbour Square's application for historic designation. As an historic landmark, Harbour Square takes its place in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites alongside Tiber Island, Potomac Place Tower, Arena Stage and others in Southwest. The Board further recommended that Harbour Square's nomination be forwarded to the National Register of Historic Places with a recommendation for listing at the national level of significance.

Designed by Chloethiel Woodard Smith, Harbour Square was completed in 1966 and includes 430 apartment units housed in multi-story buildings and 10 single-unit row houses. Smith's design seamlessly incorporates some of the District's oldest



The Historic Preservation Review Board found that Harbour Square's green spaces were of "extreme importance."

existing residential structures, including Wheat Row (1794), the Barney House (1794), and the Lewis House (1817). These buildings, which were designated as historic landmarks in 1963, were saved from demolition during the urban renewal era and subsequently incorporated into the Harbour Square development, making it one of the city's first major historic adaptive reuse projects.

Smith introduced many design concepts that are still utilized within urban historic districts today: breaking down large, new construction into smaller components to improve its scale and avoid relentless repetition; varying heights and streetscapes, but relating to the size and scale to historic buildings; using building materials compatible with traditional buildings; and deferring to the primacy of historic buildings in setting the visual character.

The Historic Preservation Office report found that Harbour Square is characterized by its plantings and hardscape, designed by the acclaimed landscape architect Dan Kiley. Kiley's ambitious landscape plan was divided by the buildings themselves into multiple themed gardens, the most impressive being the one-acre "Aquatic Garden," which contains a pool with its own willow tree on a square island.

See "Landmark," page 5



## Cherry Blossom Time

Southwest residents and visitors have some of the best views of the District's historic cherry blossoms. For details about the 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival and Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival, see page 2. See related story, page 7. (Photo by Paul Heaton)

## SWNA Announces Board Election Results

By Morgan Gable

On March 9, 2013, hundreds of Southwesterners cast their ballots for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Board of Directors election. The results are as follows:

President: Kael Anderson  
Vice-President: Kamilla Kovacs  
Treasurer: Brent Wilson  
Secretary: Donna Purchase  
District 1: Jason Kopp, Sam Marrero  
District 2: Saadia Athias, Daniela Petrilli  
District 3: Amira Badawi, Kenneth Prater  
The District 4 results are still pending due to a

tie in the tallies. They will be announced shortly.

A special thanks goes to Perry Klein and Thelma Jones for their work on ensuring the success of the election. Another big thank you goes to Cara Shockley and Ron McBee for counting and verifying the results.

Thanks to everyone who voted, and congratulations to all of the winners. This year's board promises to be one of the best with such hardworking and dedicated individuals leading the way to help ensure that Southwest will remain a thriving and exceptional community.

■ Morgan Gable is Nominating Chairperson for the SWNA 2013 elections.

## Affordable Luxury for a Lucky Few

By William Rich

Construction is beginning to wrap up at Camden South Capitol, the first new apartment community to be built in Southwest in decades.

The 276-unit high-rise is located at the corner of South Capitol and O streets SW, across the street from Nationals Park. Some of the units will have views of the stadium, Anacostia River, and the Capitol building. Twelve of the units will be set aside as affordable dwelling units (ADUs) for households earning up to 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

Rents for market-rate units will range from \$1,300 for studios up to \$4,000 for 2BR units per month. The leasing team at Camden South Capitol is finalizing what the actual rents will be for the ADUs, but that information will soon be posted on their website at [www.camdenliving.com](http://www.camdenliving.com). Applications for both market-rate and ADUs will be accepted online starting two weeks prior to their grand opening on April 11.

A community benefit negotiated by the ANC during the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process includes a 50% reduction in the cost of parking in the building over a 20-year period for residents who live in



Camden South Capitol at 1345 South Capitol St. SW is nearing completion. (Photo by William Rich)

the townhomes adjacent to the apartment building on the Unit block of O Street SW. Currently, the market-rate parking fee for the building will be somewhere between \$150 and \$250 per month. In addition, once the building has reached stabilization (defined as 94% occupied), the remaining parking spaces will be available for lease by the rest of the community at market rate. Residents of ANC 6D are also supposed

See "Apartments," page 5

## Community Garden Receives Makeover Grant

By Bernice Boursiquot and Kamilla Kovacs

Community gardening is about to expand in Southwest DC. Southwest Community Gardens, one of the local organizations for which the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) serves as fiscal sponsor, has received a national garden makeover award from Fiskars Brands, Inc. which will allow the group to build a community garden in Lansburgh Park (on Delaware and I Streets SW) with a budget of \$50,000.

The so-called "Garden Makeover" is a program of Fiskars's Project Orange Thumb, which is dedicated to supporting and developing community gardens throughout the United States and Canada. Southwest Community Gardens was the only garden to be selected for this makeover out of over 400 applicants across the United States.

The Fiskars Garden Makeover will take place on one day in the summer of 2013, much like popular television shows that remodel houses. The community garden is expected to be built in late July or early August. Because of the tremendous neighborhood support that the garden group and SWNA have received from the Southwest community, both organizations pledge to keep their neighbors and other community-based organizations up to date on the progress of construction as well as community partnerships that will create important educational and other activities in the garden.

Lansburgh Park has been the focus of renewed investment from the city and from local organizations, in order to enrich community activities in this large city park that has been underused for decades. Southwest Community Gardens has ambitious plans to introduce a variety of unique programming into the garden. The group has reached out to community organizations, including veterans groups, youth activities groups and local schools, to formulate partnerships that will develop the garden into a space of learning, connecting and healing.

Plans for the garden's layout include both an area with individual garden plots, which will be rented on an annual basis by community members; as well as a communal section which will be tended collectively by any people who wish to get involved. A portion of the garden will be accessible to individuals with disabilities, including those using wheelchairs.

Southwest Community Gardens was established in 2011 with the mission to create gardens throughout Southwest DC that are accessible to all members of the community. To keep abreast of the group's activities, including how to volunteer on the day the garden will be built, visit their website at [swgardens.org](http://swgardens.org).

# Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6 FROM 1:00-9:00PM



The Southwest Waterfront community, home of the cherry blossoms, honors the nation's greatest springtime celebration with eight hours of free entertainment, live music, water-related activities, cultural experiences, delicious food and spectacular fireworks. The first 500 people attending the 1:00pm kickoff at Kastles Stadium will receive a free Festival eco-bag courtesy of Safeway.

### Kastles Stadium at The Wharf

Supported by Navy Federal Credit Union and Pepsi-Cola

A waterfront arena at 800 Water Street, SW presenting:

- 1:00-8:30 pm: Cherry Blossom Stage
- 1:00pm: Festival Kickoff
- 1:30pm: Musical Presentation and Opening Ceremony
- 2:15pm: Blue Tips Rhythm Revue
- 4:15pm: JohnStone Reggae Band
- 6:00pm: The U.S. Army Band Downrange
- 7:30pm: The U.S. Army Blues
- 1:30-8:30pm: Food Truck Rally presented by Safeway
- 1:30-8:30pm: Cherry Blossom Beach with games and activities
- 1:30-8:30pm: Waterfront Beer Garden
- 1:30-8:30pm: Very Cherry Marketplace with fine art and crafts

### The Washington Channel Stage

Supported by Entertainment Cruises — Odyssey and Spirit

The Washington Channel at 700-900 Water Street, SW showcasing:

- 2:00 and 4:00pm: John H. Glenn Fireboat spectacular
- 2-5:00pm: Paddleboard and Dragon Boat excursions
- 3-5:00pm: DC Sail sailing activities and displays
- 7:00pm: Pink Palooza from vessels along the seawall
- 7:30pm: Nen Daiko Japanese Drummers
- 7:45pm: Welcome Lighted Swimming Koi in the Channel
- 8:00pm: Grand Lantern Illumination
- 8:15pm: Imaginative Pink Prelude to the fireworks display

### Gangplank Marina Park

Supported by Cantina Marina and Carefree Boat Club

A water view park at 600 Water Street, SW including:

- 2:00-3:30pm: AU Takabushi So-Ran Dance and Bach 2 Rock
- 4:00-6:00pm: The Diggity Dudes
- 6:30-8:30pm: Wil Gravatt Band
- 2:00-8:30pm: Face Painting and Strolling Costumed Characters
- 2:00-8:30pm: Model Boat Making and Launch
- 2:00-8:30pm: Japanese Inspired Balloon Art
- 2:00-8:30pm: Refreshments by Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's "BOSS" soldiers

### 7th Street Landing

Presented by The Washington Examiner

A waterfront park at 700 Water Street, SW featuring:

- 2:00-3:00pm: YALA Fitness Dance Party
- 3:30-5:00pm: Levi Stephens Band
- 5:30-7:00pm: Blame It on Jane
- 7:15-8:00pm: The Seacocks
- 2:00-8:30pm: Japanese Koinobori (windsock) making
- 2:00-8:30pm: Japanese Lantern Crafting and Origami

### Fireworks Spectacular

Presented by Safeway and The Washington Examiner

Fireworks light up the Channel from 600-700 Water Street, SW

- 8:30-9:00pm: Fireworks begin promptly at 8:30pm

Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival is presented by:

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Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival is a 2013 signature event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival produced with the Washington Waterfront Association and Hoffman-Madison Waterfront

through the generous support of

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Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall • The Office of The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2013 Festival, March 20 – April 14, includes three spectacular weeks and four weekends of events commemorating the 101st anniversary of the gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. For information call 877.44.BLOOM (2.5666) or visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org



# Amidon-Bowen Introduces Saturday School

By Lucy Rojansky

Sitting in class might not be every student's preferred way to spend the weekend, but for those who choose to attend Saturday School at Amidon-Bowen, the enthusiasm and the payoffs are real.



Amidon-Bowen fifth graders wear their Saturday School Scholar tee-shirts with pride. (Photo by Izabela Miller)

"The kids absolutely love it," said Amidon-Bowen Principal Izabela Miller. "They get semi-private attention from their teachers, and immediate feedback on their work."

Saturday School, which began in January, was an innovation born of the realization that some students needed additional time learning

effective test techniques in order to improve their scores.

"We did not want to take time away from classroom instruction to focus on test-taking strategies," said Principal Miller.

But with the growing importance of standardized testing, teachers, parents and students recognized that a certain amount of test-taking acumen would help students achieve improved results. Devoting off-hours to the pursuit seemed like a reasonable compromise.

The 20 students who regularly attend Saturday School enjoy a 5-1 student to faculty ratio and spend 1.5 hours on math and 1.5 hours on reading, with additional time on computational fluency using computers. They learn to read test questions looking for transitional words and do short readings and written responses. All of their work receives immediate feedback from their teachers, a highly effective way to ensure that the students retain what they have learned. The students re-write their responses as many times as necessary to get the exercise right. After the work is finished, the school provides lunch.

Principal Miller hopes to expand Saturday School next year, with longer hours and more

students and volunteer teachers.

"There are many retired teachers in our community, and we would be delighted to have them help us on the weekends," she said.

In order to participate in Saturday School and other mentoring and tutoring capacities, volunteers are required to receive their volunteer certification through the DCPS website at: [dc.gov/DCPS/Parents+and+Community/Volunteer+in+Our+Schools](http://dc.gov/DCPS/Parents+and+Community/Volunteer+in+Our+Schools).

In addition to hands-on community involve-

ment, Principal Miller said Saturday School students would benefit from tangible incentives — small trinkets they could keep as a token of their hard work and dedication. For now, Amidon-Bowen's budget cannot support such extras, and often the principal provides the treats with her own money.

Looking ahead to the future, Saturday School promises to be its own reward as students reap the benefits of their practice with higher test scores.

## A Call to Southwest Artists and Art Lovers

You are invited to join a conversation about creating and executing art projects in and around Amidon-Bowen Elementary School on April 18 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium at the school at 4th and I Streets.

Imagine the wonderful impact that engaging Amidon-Bowen youth will have, helping give form to images and concerns that resonate with them. Together we could give life to these visions

and surround the school's physical and learning environment with engaging color and shapes. An infusion of art and creativity done as a partnership between community residents and our school's students could have a profound impact on our community.

Amidon-Bowen seeks volunteer artists-in-residence to assist this effort of creating art for the school. Ideally, the artists will be able to create art in conjunction with the children for permanent or temporary display within the building, on the playground, or on the exterior building. Amidon-Bowen also seeks donations of money and materials such as fabric, metal for fabrication, pottery clay and any other ideas to create public art.

Please contact Amidon-Bowen PTA President Martin Welles at [martinwelles@hotmail.com](mailto:martinwelles@hotmail.com) or Reverend Brian Hamilton at [beh@westminster.org](mailto:beh@westminster.org).

## From The Southwester Staff

This month marks the last issue of The Southwester for the current editorial staff. We are honored by all the positive feedback we have received over the past year as we worked to bring the website online, expand our social media presence, and keep abreast of emerging issues and stories in our neighborhood, all while producing a high quality newspaper each month. The Southwester is truly unique, not only in its staying power and value as a record of Southwest history, but also in the depth of its commitment to bettering our community through the exchange of information. We are all pleased to have played our small part in this worthy endeavor.

Next month The Southwester will welcome a new editorial team which we are confident will continue to produce a high-quality paper that serves the Southwest community. We wish them success and hope that you will join us in welcoming them into their new roles.

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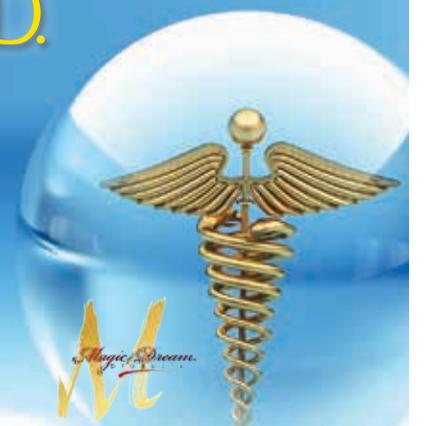
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## The Southwester

Circulation 11,000

Send submissions and questions to *The Southwester* by e-mail at [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com). Submissions for each monthly issue are due on the 15th of the preceding month.

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Printer: Silver Communications

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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc., please leave a message at 202-580-8188.

By B. K. Lunde

## ANC 6D Meeting Report

About 50 people, in addition to the commissioners and staff, attended the March ANC meeting.

It was reported that the National Cherry Blossom Festival will run from March 20 to April 14 this year. You can see or ride all kinds of boats, including paddleboards, paddle boats, sail boats with pink sails, dragon boats, houseboats decorated with pink lights and cruise ships. The National Park Service is predicting that the cherry blossoms will peak March 26 to March 30 this year, just at the beginning of DC's Cherry Blossom Festival. Most of the blossoms are around the Tidal Basin and Hains Point, right here in Southwest.

Saturday, April 6 is the Southwest Waterfront part of the Festival, starting at 1 p.m. and culminating with fireworks. Events are all on the Washington Channel. The ANC endorsed a request to have a beer garden for April 6 between the former Zanzibar building and the Kastles Stadium. Barbara Ehrlich, Secretary of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, told the commissioners about the planned events. Jay Nickerson spoke in support of approval for the Beer Garden.

Saturday, April 27 is National Take Back Prescription Drug day. It lasts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This occurs only twice a year, but DC police stations will accept unwanted drugs any time. They prefer them in the original container, but any tight container will do. Our police station is at the old Bowen school location at 101 M St. SW.

Andy Litsky thanked Martin Welles, the president of the Amidon PTA, for alerting Commissioner Ron McBee to a meeting on December 6 that resulted in DC programming \$1,770,000 for new windows for Amidon-Bowen school.

DC Mayor Vincent Gray's 2014 budget will be presented to Ward 6, our ward, on Thursday,

April 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Logan School at 215 G St. NE.

The commissioners endorsed three projects for our parks.

Felicia Coutts reported that the playground project for the park at 3<sup>rd</sup> and I St. SW, just north of the library, is going to add swings. They will have four swings, two with bucket seats for babies or those with special needs and two with strap seats. Also, there will be a large butterfly structure for climbing, a special log structure as a tunnel, mushroom shapes to climb on and leaves that spin. The group has raised \$88,000 and will get \$250,000 from DC for infrastructure improvements, such as revitalization of the large trees on the site, leveling of the sidewalks and other improvements, including drainage. They hope to start construction in six months, getting memoranda of understanding with the various parts of the DC government that will be involved with the project, and have continuous fundraising for maintenance of the park.

Jessica Seeperstad said that the PAWS of Southwest is proceeding with their project for a dog park in Lansburgh Park, north of the police station. They have raised money and are now fully funded. The park will have a 2,000 square foot area for small dogs and 8,000 square feet for large dogs.

The community garden project, also for Lansburgh Park, won the top prize in the Fiskars national community garden contest. The prize is up to \$50,000, which will be used to help establish the garden this year.

The commissioners endorsed the petition by Ramsey Meiser and Lyle Blanchard for the Forest City developers to continue using three sites in SE

for parking lots for five more years, until development is feasible.

The commissioners voted to write a letter to Mayor Vincent Gray asking him to call on Congress to honor the law they passed in 2009 to eliminate all coal burning in the District, permanently, by 2011. The Capitol Power Generation Plant now burns coal to heat and cool the Capitol and other federal buildings. It is the only remaining coal burning facility in the District. The District's Department of the Environment is considering an application to increase emissions so that the plant can be expanded to produce electricity for the first time in decades. They wanted the plant to use gas instead. Commissioner Donna Hopkins abstained from the voting. She wanted more time to study the question. She mentioned that fracking for gas may also cause environmental problems.

The commissioners unanimously endorsed all the other issues, including a resolution in opposition to DC legislation that would mandate an existing bus and car parking lot on Buzzard Point.

They endorsed the petition by Justin Ross of Justin's Cafe to have a block party with beer on Saturday, April 13. That is the first Nationals home game this year. They also agreed to a new voluntary agreement presented by Michael Fonseca, a lawyer for Ziegfeld's Secrets that adjusted their operating hours.

They endorsed the petitions for the 10th Annual Race to Stop the Silence on Sunday, April 14; the Race for Hope on Sunday, May 5; and the Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 27.

Diane Shultz noted that there were big signs for bus parking near the parking lot for the Spirit Ships. She wanted the DC Council to tell the

District Department of Transportation to get rid of bus parking there. A representative of that department was at the meeting, so she took it up with him.

**The next ANC meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on April 8 in the DCRA Conference Room at 1100 Fourth St. SW.**



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\*Source: Preventable Risk Factors Attributed to Preventable Causes of Death in the District of Columbia, 2007, Department of Health Center for Policy, Planning, and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics

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# PSA 105 Meeting Highlights

By John McGrath

February 21, 2013, 7-8:30 p.m., Harbour Square Cooperative, 500 N St. SW.

Participants: Sgt. Michael Architzel and Officers Mopkins and Wong of PSA 105; Naomi Monk and Irv Gamza, PSA 105 meeting coordinators/facilitators and John McGrath recorder. A total of 22 persons were in attendance.

Sgt. Architzel reviewed the PSA 105 crime statistics for the last 30 days: (a) Assault with a Deadly Weapon – one drug-related incident on 1<sup>st</sup> St. SW; no arrest; (b) Robbery – 3 incidents, including one at 1100 block of 4th St. SW when a woman tackled the 17-year old assailant; arrests in all 3 incidents; (c) Burglaries – 4 incidents; (d) Theft including shoplifting – 9 incidents; (e) Theft from Auto – 5 incidents; (f) Stolen Auto – 4 incidents but all were determined to be autos towed during the inauguration weekend. In addition, 4 arrests were made for intent to distribute drugs including 2 incidents in or near the O St. circle (300 O St. SW).

A townhouse owner in the 1300 block of 4th St. SW had the front door kicked open and personal items taken. An alert citizen who witnessed

the crime in progress called 911. Police stressed the importance of a good deadbolt lock and an alarm system for townhouses.

Incidents of homeless persons using townhouse courtyards to relieve themselves were discussed. Owners should call 911 with a description of the offender to assist the police.

Police stated that they are monitoring local school children at afternoon dismissal with special attention to the Safeway, CVS and Metro.

Monthly and year-end crime comparison reports previously provided by MPD remain unavailable. An MPD taskforce is working to resolve database reporting and data accuracy issues.

The annual MPD awards ceremony will be held on February 28, 2013. The 1st Police District is being recognized as the best district for 2012. Congratulations to Commander Daniel Hickson! Officer Alexander Vogel, PSA 105, is being recognized as the outstanding patrol officer for the 1st District. Officer Vogel has worked tirelessly to reduce street crime in PSA 105.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2013, 7-8:30 p.m., River Park Mutual Homes.

	February 2013	February 2012	% Change
<b>Sold Dollar Volume</b>	\$2,973,500	\$1,428,900	108.10%
<b>Avg Sold Price</b>	\$247,792	\$238,150	4.05%
<b>Median Sold Price</b>	\$257,000	\$229,500	11.98%
<b>Units Sold</b>	12	6	100%
<b>Avg Days on Market</b>	51	110	-53.64%
<b>Avg List Price for Solds</b>	\$254,117	\$239,650	6.04%
<b>Avg Sale Price to Original List Price Ratio</b>	95%	92.90%	2.33%

## February Real Estate Update

As you are hearing in the media, the housing market is starting to recover, and DC is way ahead of the national curve. These stats certainly confirm that – almost every category has increased compared to the same time one year ago. The only statistic that is lower today than it was last year is average days on the market, which has been cut by more than half from 110 to 51. (The information above is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.)

■ Courtesy of Jason Martin, a real estate professional & resident of Southwest. He may be contacted by phone at (202) 641-0299 or by e-mail at [jason@jasonmartingroup.com](mailto:jason@jasonmartingroup.com).

## Mental Health First Aid Courses Offered

By Cecilia Daly

Mental health disorders affect everyone. In any given year, nearly one in four Americans will experience a mental health disorder. One in 17 adults lives with schizophrenia, severe depression or bipolar disorder, and one in 10 children suffers from a serious mental or emotional disorder.

To address this serious issue, a certified MHFA instructor will offer a program to help individuals learn more about how to recognize the symptoms

of mental illness, what types of community services are available and how to better interact with individuals who suffer from mental illnesses.

The MHFA program ([www.mentalhealth-firstaid.org](http://www.mentalhealth-firstaid.org)) began in 2001 and is now in 17 countries. It is managed by the National Council on Community Behavioral Health and the states of Maryland and Missouri. Recently, President Obama endorsed this program for teachers in order to help them better identify signs of mental health disorders in young people and help them get treatment.

The two-part course will be offered in the St. Dominic parish meeting room, 6<sup>th</sup> and E Streets SW, from 1-5 p.m. on April 14 and 21. This course is open to anyone who has an interest in learning more about mental disorders, but anyone who has a close friend or relative who suffers from a mental disorder is especially encouraged to attend.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Registration will close on April 3. The course is free, but the cost of materials is \$15. To register, please call 202-554-7863 or email [social@stdominicchurch.org](mailto:social@stdominicchurch.org).

## LANDMARK

From p. 1

The Historic Preservation Review Board found that Harbour Square's green spaces were of "extreme importance" and that "the work of Smith and Kiley together is not separable as part of the overall concept." The complex was praised as "a benchmark for good design" and "a model for new urban renewal."

There was a palpable sense of accomplishment among the Harbour Square residents who gathered in the hallway after the vote. Marilyn Scarborough, a long-time resident who spearheaded the landmarking project, proudly shared copies of a brochure that the residents had created, entitled "The Art of Harbour Square." The brochure discussed the history of their community and featured biographies of Smith and Kiley, as well as anecdotes about Harbour Square's most famous resident, Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

## APARTMENTS

From p. 1

to be given preference when tenant applications are being reviewed.

Camden South Capitol is the first of three apartment buildings that will deliver in Southwest in 2013. Sky House at Waterfront Station will have a total of 106 ADUs in the two-building complex, or 20% of all units. In addition, 1212 Fourth St. SE under construction in Near Southeast will have approximately 36 ADUs included when it delivers next year. The inclusion of affordable dwelling units in these new developments will help to maintain socioeconomic diversity as our community continues to grow.

■ William Rich is a member of the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council Board of Directors.

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# Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at [www.swdc.org/calendar](http://www.swdc.org/calendar).

## APRIL

**WED 3 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse.** Bethesda Chamber Singers. (Rescheduled from March 6.) An a cappella singing group, will plan a program of Jewish and Anglo-Catholic liturgical music, a Renaissance travelogue, an African-American spiritual and a selection of popular classics from the 1920's and '30s. Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222; [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org) or [rector@staugustinesdc.org](mailto:rector@staugustinesdc.org)

**THURS 4 8-9:30 A.M. Councilman Tommy Wells office hours,** Channel Inn café, 7th & Water Street S.W.

**FRI 5 6:30 P.M. potluck, 7 P.M. games. St Augustine's Game Night.** Bring a potluck dish to share. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. All ages welcome. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222 [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org) or [rector@staugustinesdc.org](mailto:rector@staugustinesdc.org)

**SAT 6 3-4 P.M. Walk a Sacred Path.** The LABYRINTH opens the first Saturday of each month. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street, SW. The Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool for meditation, prayer, inner guidance, and contemplation. Walking guides will be present to answer questions. [www.westminsterdc.org](http://www.westminsterdc.org).

**SAT 6 4-5:30 P.M. Experience Yoga Nidra: Westminster Presbyterian Church.** Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with the opportunity to set your intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email [wilsonpj108@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonpj108@verizon.net).

**MON 8 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Public Meeting,** 1100 4th St. S.W., DCRA Hearing Room on 2nd floor.

**SAT 13 10:30 A.M. Family Storytime,** SW Library.

**MON 15 7 P.M. "Play by Play"** This community discussion, presented in partnership with Arena Stage, will focus on Arena's production of "Mary T. and Lizzie K." Copies of "Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckly" by Jennifer Fleischer (Broadway Books, 2003) are available for checkout at the SW Neighborhood Library.

**WED 17 12 Noon Luncheon Meeting, AARP Southwest**

**Waterfront Chapter 4751.** Wendy Gadson, Community Liaison of Vitas Hospice will speak about "Five Wishes, A Living Will." Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., S.W. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, [Dorseydear@aol.com](mailto:Dorseydear@aol.com) or 202-488-9685.

**TUES 19 7:30 P.M. Southwest Chamber Players in Concert,** performing various musical selections. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222; [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org) or [rector@staugustinesdc.org](mailto:rector@staugustinesdc.org)

**MON 22 7-8:30 P.M. SWNA Community Meeting**, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M Street S.W.

**SAT 27 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion,** SW Neighborhood Library. Copies of the April title, "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis, are available for checkout at the library.

## WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

**AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751, 12 NOON,** Third Wednesday of each month, except June, July and August. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., S.W. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, [Dorseydear@aol.com](mailto:Dorseydear@aol.com) or 202-488-9685.

**AEROBICS WITH Ms. Dee, 6:30-7:30 P.M.,** Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. FREE

**BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M.,** Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W., Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

**COMPUTER CLASSES, Thursday 10-12 Noon,** SW Neighborhood Library

- THURS 4** PC Basics
- THURS 11** Introduction to the Internet
- THURS 18** DC Public Library website
- THURS 25** Email Basics
- MAY 2** Microsoft Word

**GIRLS SCOUTS Troop #4298 WEDNESDAYS, 5:30-7:30 P.M.,** ages 5 to 12. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. Call: 202-

570-4475, Email: [girlscoutsswdc@gmail.com](mailto:girlscoutsswdc@gmail.com)

**HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12-2 P.M.,** Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W., Community room off Wesley Place, S.W.

**HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:30-3:30 P.M.,** Mr. Zeke is teaching 18 years and older, **King Greenleaf Recreation Center,** 201 N Street S.W. FREE

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, FRIDAYS, 6-9 P.M.** Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

**THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M.,** every first and third Monday Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W.

**NARFE-THE NATIONAL Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, 12:30-2:00 P.M.,** every fourth Thursday, September through May, at SW Neighborhood Library.

**POLICE SERVICE AREA 105,** Community meeting, **7-8:30 P.M.,** every Third Thursday, Location announced at previous meeting.

**POLICE SERVICE AREA 106,** Community meeting, **10-11 A.M.,** every Last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th Street S.E.

**PRE SCHOOL STORYTIMES, 10:30-11:30 A.M.,** Tuesdays and Thursdays SW Neighborhood Library.

**SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon, Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M.,** Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind. This is part of Westminster's Wellness program.

**SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA,** Alcoholics Anonymous group, **8:30 P.M.,** Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street S.W., (202) 554-3222.

**SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, 9:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.,** Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street S.W., Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except June, July and August.

**SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M.,** Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W.

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7-9 P.M.,** First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W. 202-863-0564

**WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS, 6:30-8:30 P.M.,** SW Neighborhood Library.

**WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS,** Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W., **4 P.M.** Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). **5 P.M.** Tai Chi (Manifest Ra). **5:30 P.M.** Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). **6:45 P.M.** Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). **7 P.M.** Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.

Please submit calendar items by the 13th day of the preceding month to [calendar@thesouthwester.com](mailto:calendar@thesouthwester.com).



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## Smithsonian Celebrates National Cherry Blossom Festival

Courtesy of Sheila Wickouski

With the city in bloom for the National Cherry Blossom Festival (March 20–April 14), the Freer and Sackler Galleries are hosting activities celebrating Japanese arts and design.

On the weekend of April 5-7, the Galleries will open with *Hand-Held: Gerhard Pulverer's Japanese Illustrated Books*. The exhibit will show how Edo-period artists and writers created woodblock-printed designs for mass circulation and entertainment. Students from Virginia Tech, along with architect and assistant professor Aki Ishida, will create an audio-visual Japanese lantern installation. Kyoto Kimono will host a vintage Japanese garments trunk show.

On Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m., IMAGINASIA FAMILY PROGRAM will

hold a book binding workshop in which participants will create their own Japanese book featuring cherry blossoms and scenes and activities related to springtime.

On Friday, April 12, Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming and Dance Troupe will perform at noontime on the National Mall.

On the weekend of April 13-14 at 11 a.m., the eleventh annual National Cherry Blossom Festival Anime Marathon will show all 26 episodes of Shin-ichiro Watanabe's landmark animated television series, "Samurai Champloo." This smart, hip series is the story of three eccentric outcasts traveling across Edo-era Japan in search of "the samurai who smells of sunflowers." The program gleefully incorporates hip hop music and graffiti with historical figures.

On Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14,

1 and 3 p.m., IMAGINASIA FAMILY PROGRAM Anime Artists Workshop will give participants instruction in anime and manga drawing from anime artists to create their own work.

Tours on *Arts of Japan* will be held most days from March 21–April 14 at 2:15 p.m.

The Freer's exhibit *Arts of Japan: Edo Aviary and Poetic License* (until August 4) traces how depictions of birds, long part of the Japanese visual repertoire, were influenced by natural history painting in the Edo period (1615–1868) and shows how the interpretation of classical Japanese and Chinese literary traditions, previously the domain of an educated aristocracy, was absorbed into the merchant and artisan classes during the Edo period, producing energetic reconsiderations of time-honored themes.

Visit [asia.si.edu/events](http://asia.si.edu/events) for more information.



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### Arena Announces New Season

Artistic Director Molly Smith described Arena Stage's 2013-14 season as one filled with "ideas and stories that will powerfully remind us what it is to be human." For details of the new season, visit [www.thesouthwester.com](http://www.thesouthwester.com), or look for the complete lineup in the May issue of The Southwester.

### Southwest Night at Arena

Southwest Night for *The Mountaintop* at Arena Stage is March 31 at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org), by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St. SW. For info on discounts visit [arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs](http://arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs)

## Yield Not To Temptation

By Rev. Ida Moss, Senior Pastor • [www.MyGreaterWorks.org](http://www.MyGreaterWorks.org)



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## Shaping Southwest

## Understanding the Past and Envisioning the Future

By Cecille Chen

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, in cooperation with the DC Preservation League, has organized a three-part lecture series on the architectural history and development of our community. The first lecture, "Shaping Southwest: Understanding the Past and Envisioning the Future," took place Feb. 26. The guest speakers were Richard Longstreth, Director of the Historic Preservation program at George Washington University, and Todd Ray, a principal architect at Studio Twenty Seven Architecture. The lecturers discussed how our neighborhood came to look as it does and why both individual buildings and the overall planning are significant.

Longstreth discussed the conditions that led to major changes in Southwest during the urban renewal period of the 1950s and 1960s. Established in 1791, Southwest flourished as a commercial waterfront with a diverse, working class community. Residential developments consisted mainly of rowhouses that had begun to deteriorate by the 19th century, and living conditions in alley houses were particularly dire as they lacked electricity and indoor plumbing. By the early 1900s, the area became known as a breeding ground for crime and sickness, and photographs from this era were used by Russian leaders during the Cold War to illustrate the ill effects of capitalism. Southwest became a major concern for the federal government, with its slums "in the shadow of the Capitol." Various reform efforts culminated in a comprehensive plan to raze almost all existing buildings in Southwest, resulting in the displacement of 23,000 residents during the 1950s. They not only lost their homes, but their sense of community as well, and majority of those displaced were unable to return. Although

initial plans included provisions for low-income housing, financial shortfalls resulted in the reversal of those plans in later years.

Washington planners saw an opportunity to rebuild the community, using modern materials and concepts to house a massive urban population in the city. Young architects schooled in Modernist architectural principles were brought in to design the New Southwest. Among them were Chloethiel Woodard Smith, who collaborated with landscape architect Dan Kiley on Capitol Park and Harbour Square. Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon won an architectural competition and created Tiber Island and its sister complex, Carrollsburg. I.M. Pei designed the four Town Center towers, and Charles Goodman created River Park's iconic barrel-roof homes. Harry Weese, designer of Washington's Metro, applied his skills to Arena Stage and Channel Square, while Morris Lapidus brought his Miami Modern aesthetic to the Capitol Skyline Hotel, Riverside,

Edgewater, and Chalk House West. Hideo Sasaki created the visually striking Waterfront Park. These architects employed Modernist concepts such as integrating nature in living environments, creating pedestrian-friendly pathways and courtyards, raising buildings on pilotis and encasing first floor lobbies in glass to increase light, and siting multi-story buildings among clusters of town homes to create spatial variety.

No matter how much time passes and how integral the buildings and people of the New Southwest have become to the area, the wholesale clearance and relocation of an entire community has left a lingering sense of loss. Yet where one community was lost, another has developed over time. Indeed, SWNA was founded in 1963 to serve the needs

of the entire community, replacing two previous bodies of the old Southwest that had separately represented blacks and whites. Today, our community tells a fuller story, supplementing a history of physical destruction and racial injustice with one of innovative and enduring physical rebuilding and boundary-crossing community formation. Longstreth emphasized that we should not discount the difficult history of urban renewal in Southwest, but we should make history public and clear. At the same time, we should not discount what was accomplished in the New Southwest.

Todd Ray's firm, Studio Twenty Seven Architecture, recently published "Southwest Washington DC: (A)Mending L'Enfant's Plan," which provides a wealth of information and incisive analysis of our physical and social environment.

Drawing upon demographics, Ray noted that 2.1 percent of the District's residents live in Southwest, and that our current population is now only one-third of the population that existed in the 1920s. Using satellite photographs, he portrayed the circulation problems inherent in the overall layout of our quadrant, with the Southwest Freeway acting as a physical barrier that cuts off access and creates pedestrian-unfriendly walkways along the transportation corridor. Ray also noted that we are surrounded by inaccessible or underdeveloped spaces. What he calls our "Lost Waterfront" takes up approximately 27 percent of the land area in Southwest. This includes the underdeveloped stretch along Maine Avenue, Fort McNair and the industrial zones at Buzzard Point and south of Nationals Ballpark. Altogether the amount of waterfront land that is inaccessible to the public is equivalent to 37 football fields.

Finally Ray analyzed the types of housing struc-

tures currently available, and noted that a large amount of land is taken up by surface parking. He juxtaposed the lively façade of Potomac Place Towers with an image of a barren parking lot. Ironically, there was once a garden in the space now occupied by the parking lot behind Potomac Place Tower. To the dismay of residents, it was demolished, along with a reflecting pool and a pavilion, when infill buildings were built in 2004. This underscores the present need to carefully assess the significance of our built environment in order to facilitate a well-managed process for bringing good design and sensible development to Southwest.

## Next lecture April 22

The next lecture will take place on April 22 at Arena Stage and will focus on assessing of our physical environment and exploring innovative concepts for development. John Burke, principal at Studio 27, will present an urban vision for reconnecting Southwest to the rest of the city, both physically and psychologically, to prepare it for the future. The Office of Planning will be represented by Tarek Bolden, who is managing the Southwest Small Area Plan. SWNA is currently working on securing the participation of the Historic Preservation Office, as well as architects and planners who live in the neighborhood and can provide local expertise and insight to the discussion. Details will be announced through SWNA's e-blast and via the Southwester website at [www.thesouthwester.com](http://www.thesouthwester.com).

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