SWNA Takes the Lead, Announces Waterfront Development Task Force

The District of Columbia does not have a governing body to coordinate and regulate waterfront development along the District’s waterfront properties on the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. While the Office of Zoning regulates land development, that body has deferred to the MPDC Harbor Patrol and the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on waterfront (over-water) development. The MPDC Harbor Master fulfills a law enforcement and public safety function, but does not weigh in on waterfront development matters, deferring to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ensures that waterfront developments comply with current laws and regulations, but does not have a process to ensure that community priorities for water use and access are factored into the permit process.

The lack of a body to coordinate and regulate waterfront development in the District of Columbia puts all District residents at risk of loss of access to our treasured waterways and/or loss of ability to undertake activities on the water due to development. Currently, residents in the District take part in a variety of water activities on the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, including rowing, kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, sailing, power boating, water skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, swimming, and fishing. Public access to the water is limited or nonexistent in many areas of the District’s waterfront due to past development decisions. Many residents wish to access the water with a personal watercraft, but are currently unable to do so.

SWNA’s Waterfront Development Task Force, led by former District 1 representative Jason Kopp, will work to provide a forum for residents who are currently users of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers for recreational purposes, as well as those who wish to gain access to the water in the future.

“Many individuals and organizations have worked hard over the years to improve the water quality of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, but there is still more work to be done. When we can interact with our waterways with better recreational access, we will in love with our rivers and work to protect them and keep them healthy,” Jason says.

Since moving to Gangplank Marina in 2007, Jason notes that “it is interesting to watch how organizations using the South-

See ‘Development’ page 2

March 31: Expert to Speak about Socioeconomic Diversity in Schools

By: CBCC Education Committee

As part of a series of community conversations about the dynamics around race, class, and education in our neighborhood, the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) will be hosting Richard Kahlenberg, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation, to talk about the upside and challenges of socioeconomically diverse schools at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31 at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The event is open to the community and has been generously funded by a donation from Westminster. The title of Kahlenberg’s talk is: “Why economically diverse schools are good for kids.”

Dubbed the “intellectual father of the economics around race, class, and education in our neighborhood,” Kahlenberg has written extensively about school diversity and integration, and is a recognized expert on a wide range of school reform topics. His talk will focus on the challenges and opportunities that arise in the context of neighborhood schools in diverse urban settings -- precisely the sort of issues that parents throughout the neighborhood grapple with as they decide where to enroll their children in school.

In an effort to help our neighborhood school populations grow to reflect the racial and socioeconomic diversity of the families that live in our neighborhood, the CBCC’s Education Committee has undertaken a series of initiatives to help Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, Van Ness Elementary School (opening in 2015), and Jefferson Academy Charter School with the decision to enroll children in diverse schools. His remarks will follow a sermon that was delivered by Michelle Moliner, an expert on race and equity in schools, co-founder of the Living Room Chats throughout the community. These talks are focused on changing the perception of Jefferson Academy from an elite private school to a school that feeds into the Anacostia Senior High.

Kahlenberg’s talk will complement these outreach efforts by giving parents and community members a deeper understanding of the risks and rewards that accompany the decision to enroll children in diverse schools. His remarks will follow a sermon that was delivered by Michelle Moliner, an expert on race and equity in schools, co-founder of the Living Room Chats throughout the community. These talks are focused on changing the perception of Jefferson Academy from an elite private school to a school that feeds into the Anacostia Senior High.

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Celebrating Billie Holiday’s 100th Birthday

By: Brian Hamilton

In celebration of her amazing life and legacy, Thinking About Jazz at Westminster Church will present a special program marking her 100th birthday on April 25 at 1 p.m.

Born Eleanora Fagan in Philadelphia on April 7, 1915, Billie Holiday survived incredible odds, including isolation, racism, sexism, and a persistent drug addiction, to become one of the most remarkable musicians of her time. She was a prolific artist, an innovator, and a vocal wonder who is distinguished in such classics as Fine and Mellow, Lover Man, Body and Soul, God Bless the Child, and the haunting Strange Fruit, the protest song against lynching with which she often ended performances.

This special presentation will be offered by Jessica Boykin-Setsel, a DC jazz vocalist and educator who has become a diligent student of Holiday’s music. Thinking About Jazz is an educational activity of the Jazz Night initiative on a bi-monthly schedule at Westminster Church (600 1 St. SW). The program happens from 1-3 p.m. and offers lunch, door prizes, and great discussion about various artists and subjects from the world of jazz. Jazz Night has been a tremendous benefit for the Southwest community and our local art scene. For more information, call 202.641.8220. We hope you will join us.

A Date with Justice Scalia

By: Shannon Vaughn, Editor-In-Chief, The Southwester

Currently running at Arena Stage is one of the strongest performances of the season in ‘The Originalist.’ Likely the most famous stage actor in the District, Edward Gero plays the iconic Antonin Scalia, Justice Scalia. Through the single act, one hour and 45 minute play, Gero takes on a mentor role to a young law clerk with decidedly opposing views to Scalia’s. As the two spar over the course of the play, we see a true respect and beliefs for each others’ intellect and passion for their side. Gero’s take on the famed justice is as striking as his looks—he is a near mirror to the real man and his far right-wing views. As Nino and Cat tread heavily into the politically sensitive issues of same-sex marriage, abortion, and Second Amendment rights, the audience follows along into areas not conventionally discussed except behind closed doors. As the story grows, so does the relationship of the mentor and his young law clerk.

Serving the Waterfront Communities of Southwest and Navy Yard

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

By: Vyllorya A. Evans

Youth from Southwest DC attended a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fair at the Oxon Hill Library in Oxon Hill, Md. on Wednesday, Feb. 25. The event was sponsored by Friends of Oxon Hill Library.

The event provided an opportunity for PerChaya Hardison to complete an application for South Carolina State University. The application fee was waived during the fair. PerChaya graduated from Wilson High School in 2014. After taking a year off, she is making plans to enter college in the fall. She was excited to have the opportunity to speak to a representative from the college. She has also applied to West Virginia State.

LaVance Parks is a junior at Wilson High School with an interest in attending Gallaudet University after he graduates. He wants a career that will allow him to use his sign language skills. He was able to speak with a person who had worked at Gallaudet and encouraged him to pursue his dream.

The Friends of Oxon Hill Library wanted to celebrate and support Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) during Black History Month. There were representatives and materials from the following schools: Virginia State University; Virginia Union University; Benedict College; University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; Morgan State University; Tuskegee University; and South Carolina State University.

The youth were escorted by ANC Commissioner Rhonda Hamilton and Co-Chair of SWNA’s Education Task Force, Vyllorya A. Evans.

DEVELOPMENT

From p. 1

west waterfront for water-related recreational activities approached phase one of The Wharf development. The reality is that most of these organizations are focused on their core mission and don’t have the bandwidth to coordinate a community response to waterfront development."

The Task Force will aim to identify the shared interests of the various individuals and groups and communicate their priorities to elected officials and developers in the District. The Task Force’s ultimate goal is to preserve access to the District’s waterways to ensure that residents and those who visit the District will be able to safely enjoy water-related recreation. Maybe it starts with small steps, but the key is re-engaging the waterfront.

“Many neighbors have asked me if they can bring a kayak or a canoe down from their waterfront. They are looking for a place to fish, to swim, to enjoy water-related recreation. Maybe it starts with something small, but the key is getting people back into the water.”

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M Street Yoga Settles In
By Christy Aldridge

As an update to the "Know Your Neighborhood" article from our October 2014 issue, I met again with Pamela First-Walsh, owner of M Street Yoga, to see how the studio has been doing since opening seven months ago.

I first attended a class taught by James Fraser, who has been instructing yoga for four years. This class was a 1.5 level Vinyasa Flow class, which is a type of yoga practice that connects breath and movement into a flowing sequence offering a physical challenge and requiring mental focus. After participating in this class, I felt strong yet relaxed. James offers many different options for movements during the class so you can personally tailor it to your strengths and needs.

This time, I partook in the 1.5 level class again, which is aimed at students who are comfortable and familiar with yoga positions. M Street Yoga offers the Vinyasa Flow class at many different levels as well as a multitude of other types of yoga including Prana, Sivananda, Nidra, Restorative, and Gentle Flow. They also offer classes aimed at specific parts of the body such as the neck, shoulders, and lower back.

The studio is located far back from M street, which has its pros and cons. The location is perfect for practicing yoga as it is away from the hustle and bustle of the main street. However, it is hard for newcomers to find. There is now a sign in front of the 300 M Street building, which is helping. To locate the studio, walk away from M Street with Senate Cleaners on your left. If you think you've gone too far, keep walking! Eventually you will come to a door with the studio's name on it.

In the future, Pamela plans to hold workshop-based classes for specific needs such as Yoga for Beginners or Yoga for Runners. Pamela also hopes to add Pilates classes to the schedule.

To find out more information, including pricing and class schedules, visit www.mstreetyoga.com.

An Interview with Sherri L. Edelen of ‘Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike’
By: Sheila Wickouski

Sherri L. Edelen appears as Sonia in Arena Stage's telling production of Christopher Durang's Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. The show opens on April 3, just in time for Cherry Blossom celebrations.

I started off by asking Sherri if she has any cherry blossom stories.

"In my 27 years in the area, only one," Sherri responded. "Years ago, my mom was in town and I asked if she wanted to walk around the Tidal Basin to see the cherry trees. We spent most of the time looking for a place to park. We ended up getting a parking ticket that day... but the blossoms were beautiful!

Now, I am happy to look at the cherry trees from a distance as I ride into DC on my commute to Arena for the show. Plus, I have cherry trees in my yard. The blossoms look like snow on the branches in spring."

Sherri now lives in Fredericksburg with her husband, actor Thomas Adrian Simpson. When asked what she thought about being in a Chekhov spin-off play, she said she had never seen a production of any Chekhov - ever! So, no judgment there.

I then asked Sherri if she had had any real life experiences similar to the rocky and comedic sibling relationships depicted in Christopher Durang's hit comedy?

She laughed, "This play is actually a little too close to home for me, minus the comedy. So I'm discovering the comedy in my experiences as we work on the play. It's good therapy!"
There is Deepness Hidden In You!

By Pastor Ida Moss - www.MyGreaterWorks.org

Jesus would often end his teachings by saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” He would say, “Those who have eyes to see, let them see.” Jesus was not talking about physical eyes and ears — everyone has those. He meant a third eye — another way of seeing the world that comes for a deepness hidden within us. We will never find peace if we look at life only through our physical eyes and ears. The struggles are too great, and the possibilities for disaster are many. But when we learn to tap into the power and strength that exists deep within us, God guarantees “a peace that passes all understanding!”

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National Cherry Blossom Festival
THE NATION'S GREATEST SPRINGTIME CELEBRATION™

Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival

Saturday, April 4 | 1 – 9 PM | Fireworks Spectacular at 8:30
Southwest Waterfront, 600 Water Street, SW

Celebrate spring at the Southwest Waterfront, Home of the Cherry Blossoms!
Don’t miss out on fabulous food from local food trucks, family activities and crafts, and a beer garden!

MARINA STAGE
Presented by the Washington Waterfront Association and through the generosity of The Wharf & Hoffman-Mandell Waterfront
Welcoming remarks
The U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band
and Color Guard
1 – 1:30 PM
Wil Gruwell Band
2:15 – 2:45 PM
Blues Alley Youth Orchestra
3:30 – 4 PM
The U.S. Army Band Downrange
5 – 6:30 PM
The U.S. Army Blues Swamp Remp
6:30 – 7:15 PM
Nen Daiko, Japanese taiko drumming
8:15 PM

BLOSSOM STAGE
Big Chumney
1:30 – 2:15 PM
Freudel Band
2:45 – 3:30 PM
Bafta Maras
4 – 5 PM
Joe Keyes & The Late Bloomer Band
7 – 8:15 PM

PARK STAGE
Amidon Bowen Elementary Youth Choir
1:30 – 2 PM
Shizumi Kadoma Dance Troupe
3:30 – 4 PM
Cantaré
4:30 – 5 PM
American University Taiko
Sorin Dance Team
6:15 – 7:30 PM

WATER PROGRAMMING
DC Boats! Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival Regatta
1 PM
Dragon Boat Excursions
2 – 6 PM
John Glenn Flyboat
1:30, 3:30, and 5:30 PM
Pink Palooza of Lighted Vessels
8:15 PM
Floating Lantern Spectacle
8:15 PM
Koi Flotilla
8:20 PM

ALONG THE WATERFRONT
1 – 8:30 PM
Koi Windsound Crafting
Maritime Balloon Art
Face Painting
Make and Float a Sailboat
And other make and take activities

The Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival is a 2015 Signature Event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and is presented with additional support from: Bollingham, Metzler, Clark Construction, Cooley LLP, Polsin Electric Inc., Holland & Knight LLP, J. Lacole, Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Moffatt & Nichol, Perkins Eastman.

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Southwest Waterfront Moms Group Forms

Two recent transplants to Southwest, Emily Kelley and Patricia Davis, decided there were other mothers in the neighborhood who might need a support group. After talking on the Nextdoor forum, the moms decided to form the Southwest Waterfront Moms Group. While the group is still in its infancy, the goal of the Google listserv is to connect with other moms in Southwest Waterfront.

“We hope it will function as a space for moms in our neighborhood to build a community with one another and our children,” said Emily, mother of three, and Patricia, mother of one. “We will try to coordinate play dates, museum trips, and other events using a shared Google Calendar. Membership is by invitation only. Once a member, any mom is welcome to post to this listserv.”

To request an invitation to the group, moms can message Emily and Patricia on Nextdoor directly with the cross streets of their address and they will happily send an invitation. For more information, visit: https://swwaterfrontsouthdc.nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=10081693.
APRIL

WEED 1,4:30-5:30 P.M. Game Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us to play board games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library, 200 Eye Street SW, 202-744-4752.

SAT 4, 1-2:30 P.M. Yoga NinDa For Self Healing. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with a focus on healing body, mind and spirit. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of $10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email: wilson10@verizon.net. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW.

MON 6, 2-4:30 P.M. Monarch Slim Line Games. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for arts & crafts activities. Southwest Neighborhood Library

SAT 11, 1 P.M.-3:30 P.M. Animal Friendly DC. Learn about the Age-Friendly DC Healthy aging initiative from a representative from the Mayor’s Office on Aging. Southwest Neighborhood Library

SAT 11, 2 P.M. Children’s Writing Workshop. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for fun story-writing activities. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library 202-744-4752.

MON 13, 4:30-5:30 P.M. Wii Games. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us to play Wii games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library 202-744-4752.


TUES 14, 7-8:30 P.M. JAZZ DANCE WORKSHOP featuring instructor Tommy Hurt presented in partnership with Joy of Motion.

WEED 15, 12 noon, The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter 4375 will hold its Luncheon Meeting. PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS: Financial Literacy: Savings and Investments. Eric Dillracio, Regional Director, CUNA Mutual Group and Nelson Thomas, Director, Vice President, Wealth Management, CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. located at Signal Financial Federal Credit Union. Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcomed to attend. Washington National Community Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. COST: $0.00 for lunch.

WEED 15, 4:30-5:30 P.M. LEGO Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to design, create, and build structures with LEGO bricks. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library

FRI 17, 9-8:30 A.M. Councilmember Charles Allen, Southwest Neighborhood Office Hours, Starbucks/Safeway, 1100 Fourth Street SW.

SAT 18, 9:30 A.M. The Near SE/SW CCBC’s SW Play-ground Project presents an “Earth Day Beautification Day” at the 3rd and I Street Park and Playground! Bring your kiddos, balloons and supplies and help clean up and help plant some flowers with our Felicia Coutis, Coordinator, (202) 368-5865 (cell). email: fo@ccbcsb.org; Website: Near SE/SW CCBC.

SAT 18, 2:00 P.M. Movie Madness. Children & families are invited to join us to watch a movie together. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library

WEED 22, 4:30-5:30 P.M. Karaoke Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us in karaoke singing. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library

THURS 23, 7:00 P.M. ABC Committee, ANCCD. Alcohol license applications, renewals, enforcement, and other issues. To be added to e-mail list for agenda & notifications contact: Carole Farley, Chair, ABC Committee. 202-554-4407, cltere1@msn.com. Southwest Library, Wesley Place & K Street, SW.

SAT 25, 1-15 P.M. Southwest Book Discussion will feature the novel “Devil in the White City” by Erik Larson. Copies of this month’s title are available for check out at the Information Desk. Southwest Neighborhood Library

SAT 25, 4:00 P.M. Weekend LEGO Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to design, create, and build structures using LEGO bricks. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Pkwy SW, 202-744-4752.

SUN 26, 2:00 P.M. Build-it Studio. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us in creating, hands-on fun building structures using everyday materials. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY


AARP TAX ASSISTANCE. Free Tax-aid in information in 2:30-8:00 p.m. on Mondays and 1:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays until April 15th. SW Neighborhood Library.

ADULT RECREATION, 10-12 Noon, Saturdays, Ages 18 & up, King Greenleaf Rec Center, 201 N Street SW, 202-744-4752. For more information, contact Paul Taylor, Gary Williams, Tiletia Harris-Walker 202-645-7454.

ARTS AND CRAFTS, 5-6 P.M., Tuesdays, Ages 5-14, King Greenleaf Rec. Center. Contact: Tiletia Harris-Walker 202-645-7454.

BABY/TODDLER STORY TIME 10:30 A.M., TUES, Wednesdays & Thursdays, Ages 18 mos. to 3 years and parents/ guardians. southwest Neighborhood Library.


BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. For information, call 202-744-7000.

BOOK & FILM CLUB, 5-6 P.M. Tuesdays, Sasha Bruce Youthworks at Randall Community Center. Contact: Paul Taylor, 202-645-7454.

BOYS BASKETBALL, 6-7 P.M., Wednesdays and Fridays, Ages 7-10, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Paul Taylor, 202-645-7454.


DANCE CLASSES, 4:30-5:30 P.M. Thursdays, Ages 4-6, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Coach: Safiya Ameen-Woods.

DANCE CLASSES, 4:30-5:30 P.M. Thursdays, Ages 6-8, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Coach: Safiya Ameen-Woods.

THE KNITTY GRITTY COMMITTEE, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Come join us every 3rd Thursday of the month to knit, swap tips, and get to know your fellow neighbors. Staff will be available to teach basic skills such as casting on, yarn and the purl and knit stitches. Please bring your own needles & yarn. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by adult. SW Neighborhood Library.

KOMEN WASHINGTON DC CUP 2015, Saturday, April 26, 2014, 8:15-1:00 a.m. The bi-annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® is the world’s largest 5K race and the most significant source of funds for the fight against breast cancer. King Greenleaf Rec Center, 200 Eye Street SW. Use Eye Street entrance.

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TOILITIES, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Thursdays, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Coach Taylor Paul 202-645-7454.

TOYLES, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Thursdays, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Coach Taylor Paul 202-645-7454.

WALK FOR WELLNESS, 11-12 P.M., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, while walking to music, in the gym of King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR’S CLUB, 7, P.M., First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Contact: Paul Taylor 202-645-7454.


YOUTH CAREERS, 4-5:30 P.M., 6-7 P.M., Tuesdays, Ages 12-15, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact: Paul Taylor 202-645-7454.


ZUMBA classes with Roshaunda Jenkins, Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 P.M. SW Neighborhood Library.
February Real Estate Update
By Jason Martin

These numbers are very telling. The average sold price is up over 11%. Southwest continues to keep pace with some of the top selling markets in DC!

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<th>Feb 2015</th>
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Welcome to the Neighborhood!
Name? Bill and Corinne Irwin
Where did you move from? Annapolis, MD
When did you move here? December 2014
What is your first impression of Southwest? Southwest is a hidden jewel in the District with an exciting future ahead of it.
What are you looking forward to most after moving here? Embracing our new community and finding ways to engage and make a difference.

Know someone who just moved in that you would like to recommend? Send a photo and answers to the above questions to editor@thesouthwester.com.

Opening in April!
We’re putting the finishing touches on our new cafe space at 668 Water Street. Jenny’s at the Wharf will be open in April for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We look forward to seeing you on the Southwest Waterfront soon!

JASON MARTIN GROUP
www.jasonmartingroup.com
202-641-0299

Jenny’s AT THE WHARF
www.jennysdc.com