



The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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SOUTHWEST LOSES ITS MAYOR

By: Kael Anderson

Save Southwest's Open Spaces!

Southwest is a locus of development interest, from the waterfront to L'Enfant Plaza, from the Randall Rec Center to the Buzard Point Soccer Stadium, not to mention our town center. This development brings energy and opportunity, whether it's cash for recreational programming, added retail, or new tax revenue. Yet as many wise sages have said, all in balance.

By all accounts, most Southwest residents value the parks and recreational spaces in our neighborhood that make our little quadrant the greenest in the city. The quiet, small-town feel of our community is a result of thoughtful planning by the mid-century architects and planners who believed that nature ought to be an integrated feature of modern city living. Rather than packing in as many residential units as possible onto a plot of land, they planned open spaces and landscaped gardens as an affirmation

of quality of life issues over economic concerns. These open spaces are distinct feature of our community that ought to be conserved as an increasingly rare amenity in a crowded city.

Despite popular sentiment, our open spaces are threatened. We've seen a panoply of proposals to develop our open spaces. Some are widely known, like the Randall Rec Center, but others, like the recent approval to let a developer build over L'Enfant Plaza, are less known. Yes, you heard that right: JBG recently got the approval to "take the plaza out of L'Enfant Plaza" by filling it in with a new highrise.

Most recently, the city's Office of Planning released a set of design guidelines for development in Southwest. The guidelines were buried in a staff report released less than a week before the hearing on Bernstein's Town Center East infill development proposal. Despite the pro-

found and far reaching impact on Southwest residents, there were no opportunities for residents or community organizations to review, much less participate in, their formation.

The report pronounces that Southwest's "overall density is low for an urban neighborhood, and...there is a surfeit of open spaces." It summarily dismisses the value of Southwest's cul-de-sacs, fences, open spaces, and residential buildings, and concludes that the solutions are more density, more streets, and fewer visible security features.

Undoubtedly, Southwest could benefit from redevelopment and additional investment, but the cursory repudiation of neighborhood features valued by our residents is unhelpful and harmful.

The report's rationale for re-opening streets and breaking up cul-de-sacs is that these features

"stymie both traffic and pedestrian circulation." Indeed, that's the very reason cul-de-sacs were created, and they are still valued by Southwesterers. This need for traffic calming devices like cul-de-sacs to discourage cut through traffic is becoming even more necessary with the new and planned regional entertainment destinations, whether it's the Wharf's concert hall or the Nationals Stadium. It is bad enough that residents crossing 4th or M street during rush hour feel like they are risking their lives through the zooming traffic. Are we to give up our quiet residential streets too just so that suburban commuters can shave a few minutes off their drive times? And by reducing vehicular traffic, Southwest's cul-de-sacs generally promote pedestrian circulation, rather than the opposite.

Due to prevailing security concerns, some residential communities have erected fences along their perimeters. Those decisions generally were not taken lightly, if for no other reason

See "Open Spaces," page 6

Remembering Ron McBee

Wells: ANC Commissioner Ron McBee was More than a Community Leader

Today, Councilmember Tommy Wells extended his condolences to the friends and family of DC ANC-6D Commissioner Ron McBee, who recently passed away.

"My deepest sympathies and condolences go out to the family and friends of Ron McBee. Ron McBee was so much more than a community leader serving on the ANC. He was a friend to us all. With a quick laugh and a sincere interest in our well-being, he enriched our lives. While Ron championed issues to improve the lives of his constituents, many living in public housing, he also found time to mentor youth needing a father figure in his neighborhood.

"The staff in my office loved Ron, especially our community outreach coordinator Naomi Mitchell. I often told them we needed to give Ron his own office, as he spent so much time at City Hall working on behalf of his constituents.

Ron, working with Ms. Mitchell, spent countless hours planning activities and coordinating resources to assure the seniors in Southwest were engaged and supported.

"Words will not suffice to express the full measure of our grief over this loss. Ron McBee, a tireless worker for our city, made all of us better for the time he was here."

-Councilmember Tommy Wells

Councilmember Wells' office will send out updated information as it becomes available regarding the services for Commissioner McBee, which will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW.

"Ron leaves a rich legacy that proves how the service of one man can make an extraordinary difference in the lives of many. He will be greatly missed," said ANC-6D Chairman Andy Litsky.

Comment on Ron's Passing

By: Meg Brinckman

To all my friends in Southwest,

I am, as you are, saddened by the passing of Ron McBee. He was rightly known as "The Mayor of Southwest," but of course he was more than that: an astute observer of the political process, one who saw the humor in the world around him, and most of all a good friend.

We must stop at a time like this and reflect

on the importance of people like Ron in our own lives and in the community. We grow to expect that they will always be at our beck and call, willing to step in when others pull back. We must remember that they are vulnerable also and will not always take the steps needed to protect themselves. We are always at a loss as to when and how to intercede. There are no easy answers to this dilemma. We are facing the enormous void now that he is gone.



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My Friend Ron

By: Bruce DarConte

When we, as a community, are both shocked and saddened over the passing of our friend and colleague, Ron McBee. Over the years, Ron touched so many lives in such a positive way and rejected accolades for his community and public service.

Little could I have imagined, when I first met Ron through our early work to reopen Van Ness Elementary School and as I got to know him during the 2011 re-districting effort, that we would become great friends. I have only known Ron for four years, and what an impact he made in my life. I am grateful for every day I knew him, although the days were far too few.

Ron took me under his wing as I began my journey into community service. He introduced me to so many people – citizens, community leaders, elected and appointed officials, school principals, decision-makers, and others. He helped guide me through the agencies, processes, and politics of it all. He gave me the gift of helping to make a difference by working together for the greater good.

Ron and I spoke practically every day. We discussed community issues facing both the Southwest and the Capitol Riverfront areas. The topics ranged from helping our low-income residents and seniors with housing, food, and health care needs to quality education for all DC children. We discussed crime and safety as well as recreational facilities and dog parks.

I knew, when my phone rang and Ron was on the other line, I was going to end up at a meeting, and there were plenty.

He encouraged me to learn as much as I could about an issue, to do so by asking intelligent questions of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, and to listen with an open mind and heart. He encouraged me to join the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council. We attended education roundtables with the Mayor and supported Amidon-Bowen, Jefferson, and (the soon-to-reopen) Van Ness Elementary.

Then there are what I call our great adventures. Walking tours around Greenleaf and Syphax talking to residents, painting Lansburgh Park, taking the King Greenleaf kids to Nationals Park for a baseball clinic, grilling food during job fairs for residents, cleaning a local playground, and meeting with Council members at the Wilson building. The list is quite extensive and the

adventures were time consuming, but it was all time well spent.

During every outing or meeting, his phone would ring non-stop. If you knew Ron, you knew that dinosaur of a phone he carried around - the blue flip phone that looks like it had survived a tsunami. His voicemail was always full; I gave up leaving messages knowing he would call right back, and he did.

I will miss meeting Ron at his "office," the Starbucks at Safeway. I will miss our 30-minute, 3 block walk along 4th Street from M to I St. Speed was not important; the people stopping him on the street or calling his old phone were his priority.

I once told Ron that if he were in the Vatican standing near the Pope, people would look and ask: who is the guy in the funny hat standing next to Ron?

In addition to being an ANC Commissioner and CBCC board member, Ron was simply a selfless person who looked out for everyone and always put himself last.

Not too long ago, my friend Marty and I went to visit Ron in the hospital. As we walked into his room, he was surrounded by papers and his phone was ringing. We weren't surprised. We jokingly told him we were tired of carrying his load while he was hospitalized. He was out of the hospital that afternoon. Coincidence? Probably. However, knowing Ron, one can never be sure.

The unthinkable news of his passing came as we were getting ready for an education meeting at Amidon. I had expected him to walk in late, like he tended to do, running from one thing to another. I am not afraid to admit that I had a hard time keeping my composure due to my sadness and disbelief.

I am honored to call Ron McBee my good friend and my mentor, and, as some said tongue-in-cheek, to have been part of his "posse." I am glad that I had the chance to truly thank him for all that he had done for me. I told him that he was great leader and mentor and that I was grateful. He laughed at me and called me an idiot for even thinking that.

Rest in peace my friend. You've done a great deal of good on this Earth. I'm sure you are up there setting up shop and ensuring that all the angels have secure jobs, safe housing, and a quality education..

■ Bruce DarConte, Education Chair, Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council, (CBCC)

Ron McBee Memorial Education Sunday

Event: Ron McBee Memorial Education Sunday

Event Date: Sunday, November 24, 2013

Location: Westminster DC, 400 I St SW

Contact: Rev. Ruth Hamilton, 202-641-8221, rwh@westminsterdc.org

On Sunday, November 24th, 11am, Westminster Presbyterian will celebrate its annual Education Sunday in memory of the late Ron

McBee, who was a friend of the public schools serving Southwest. The Wilson Senior High School Choir, under the direction of Lori Williams, will provide music. The interactive service will also involve participants from Jefferson Academy and Amidon-Bowen Elementary. All are invited. A reception will follow. For more information see www.westminsterdc.org.

All written tributes to Ron can we found online at thesouthwester.com

DC Launches Community Plan for Southwest

By: **Melissa Bird**

On September 11th, 2013, the DC Office of Planning (OP) publicly launched a community planning process involving local stakeholders and District government agencies to create a Small Area Plan (SAP) for the Southwest DC neighborhood. This plan, called the Southwest Neighborhood Plan, will create a community-led vision and urban design, land use, and neighborhood conservation framework to guide future development in the Southwest neighborhood over the next 5 to 10 years. The Southwest Neighborhood Plan study area extends from South Capitol Street to Maine Avenue SW and from P Street SW to the south, north to the I-395 Freeway. The OP team began the pre-planning effort for this project in the Spring of 2013 which included discussions with other District agencies, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC) and community stakeholders to develop a comprehensive work scope to best address community concerns.

There are a number of reasons why now is the right time to be embarking on a plan for the Southwest neighborhood. Area residents are already familiar with the tremendous amount of change that has taken place in recent years in Southwest, as well as plans for further development in and around the neighborhood. While this change is exciting and likely to bring many new and much-needed amenities to the Southwest community, it can also cause concerns about the impacts to long-time residents within the adjacent areas. Additionally, the community has voiced the desire to enhance existing parks and open spaces. There is an abundance of District and federally-owned parcels in the neighborhood, many of which are currently underutilized

and/or underdeveloped. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has completed a transportation study for M Street, which calls for a future streetcar line in the community. Given all these factors, there is a great opportunity to continue the area's progress toward a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use neighborhood rich with amenities, while addressing neighborhood concerns and ensuring development reflects a community-led vision for the future.

A SAP is a specific type of plan that is meant to provide more fine grain, neighborhood-level goals and recommendations to complement the District's Comprehensive Plan, which offers broader-based, long-term policy recommendations (<http://www.planning.dc.gov>). SAP recommendations provide a shorter outlook of 5 to 10 years versus the 20-year horizon for the citywide Comprehensive Plan. SAPs present the community-led vision of how a neighborhood should grow, and are useful for guiding future development and land use decisions, revitalizing commercial areas, providing design guidelines for both buildings and open space, and improving access for all residents to amenities and transportation choices. SAPs are not driven by any single property concern or community group, and are truly meant to be comprehensive and reflective of the community as a whole.

The planning process will be highly interactive with several public meetings, online forums, and other participation activities held over an approximately 6-8 month period, culminating in a Mayoral Public Hearing. A draft plan will be circulated for community review and comment. The plan will then be submitted to the DC Council for its consideration.

The OP team, as part of the pre-planning process, has presented at ANC 6D, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, the Community Benefits Coordination Council and the Greenleaf Residents Council. The team has received invaluable feedback from these organizations and individuals; this information has helped shape the planning approach and process. In addition, OP has met with other District Government agencies, such as Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Department of General Services (DGS), the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH), the Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD), and the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) to better understand their initiatives in and around the Southwest neighborhood. Agency and community coordination will be ongoing throughout the planning process. The OP team is also working with an Advisory Com-

mittee comprised of ANC Commissioners and representatives from community organizations who will assist with outreach efforts to maximize transparency and participation in the planning process.

"One of the great strengths of the Southwest neighborhood is the community's knowledge of its history and the shared desire to celebrate the great parts of that history while learning from the past and the Urban Renewal missteps," said Tregoning. "We see this level of personal investment in long-time residents as well as newer residents. We're really excited to see how it translates into the planning process over the next year or so."

The first public kick-off meeting was held on September 11th at Arena Stage. If you were unable to make this meeting, please be sure to check out the project website at www.swneighborhoodplan.org. Please join us in an online dialogue about the community vision at www.engagesouthwest.org. The plan's website will contain regular plan updates and post meeting notes, maps, photos and other planning information, as well as upcoming meetings and other ways to get involved. You may also contact Melissa Bird, Project Manager and Ward 6 Neighborhood Planner, directly at 202-478-1323 or melissa.bird@dc.gov.

Councilmember Catania Attends Amidon-Bowen PTA Meeting

By: **Lucy Rojansky**

As part of an ongoing effort to visit all DC public and charter schools, DC Councilmember and Education Committee Chairman, David Catania, attended the Amidon-Bowen PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 8th.

Catania's visit gave Amidon-Bowen parents and interested community members the opportunity to learn first-hand about a number of proposals that the Councilmember has introduced this year in an effort to improve the District's education system. It also allowed Catania to hear directly from the school community about issues of concern to parents and students alike.

Throughout the evening, Catania emphasized his commitment to "removing the barriers between students and success" through a variety of measures, such as funding, accountability, changes to the lottery process, governance, and facilities management.

In response to Amidon-Bowen parents' concerns about issues that affect the school's ability to educate and serve its students most effectively, Catania offered insights into his legislative philosophy, which favors a rational, flexible approach to the needs of individual schools, to the benefit of their students.

Catania said that he believed it should be possible for DCPS to count the number of students actually enrolled at a school beyond simply the current "count day" that takes place once per year. The inflexibility of this practice has deprived Amidon-Bowen of deserved funding in the past several years when enrollment has continued to rise steadily after the official count has taken place.

Nevertheless, the challenge of allocating resources equitably among schools whose students face unequal circumstances remains one of the primary hurdles faced by Catania's committee, and the DC education system as a whole.

Among other initiatives, Catania has introduced legislation that would re-establish the



Office of the Student Advocate as of January 2014, giving families and students a dedicated resource to address their issues and needs. Catania has also proposed raising per-pupil funding for poor children and granting principals more direct control over how to spend their school's allocated funds.

Councilmember Catania's visit to Amidon-Bowen points to the parent and communi-

ty involvement that continues to bolster the school's success.

"I have attended over 25 PTA meetings since last Spring, and my experience at Amidon-Bowen was among the most enjoyable," said Catania. "I was thrilled to see the energy among the parents, and I appreciated their thoughtful questions and feedback. I look forward to returning soon."

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The District Dog Pound Nominated as a Historic Landmark

By: Kael Anderson

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly recently submitted to the city's Historic Preservation Review Board a nomination to give protection to the southeastern portion of the Randall Rec Center. Now used for recreation purposes, the red brick building on the corner of South Capitol and I St SW, which sits across the street from the Capitol Skyline Inn, used to be the city's animal pound. If approved, landmark designation would protect the outside of the building and ensure that any modifications would preserve the general appearance of the structure and its yard. The



ANC, interested community organizations and neighbors will all have an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed designation.

The research on the building's history was conducted by volunteer local historian Hayden Wetzel (who also researched the now-landmarked Dent House at 2nd and Q St SW), who has become so intrigued by the history of pound operations and animal control in DC that he has continued his work and plans to write a book on the subject. The building that we see today, still looking very much as it did when it was dedicated, was constructed for \$10,000 in 1912 with the central connecting section added seven years later. The architect was the Municipal Architect at that time, Snowden Ashford, who also designed numerous schools and fire stations in the city, most notably the old Western High

School (now Ellington School of the Arts), and the northern addition to Eastern Market.

The new building was "one of the best equipped institutions of its kind in the country." It held twelve pens for impounded dogs (holding 12 animals each) plus four separate pens for mad dogs, "an up-to-date asphyxiating plant," the Health Department stable (12 stalls), an office and an interior court, and sheds for wagons. It also incorporated "an experiment room for the bacteriological branch of the department." By the time of the 1919 addition the Pound Service, like all DC agencies, was replacing its horses with motorized vehicles, and so the stable became a garage. There was no substantial modification to the building after that time, although the interior has, naturally, been gutted of the pens and the asphyxiating plant is gone.

Older neighbors still remember visiting the pound before it moved to its present location on New York Ave NE in 1966, where it is now operated for the city by the Washington Humane Society. No one today remembers the time when it held not only dogs, and briefly cats, but also horses and the occasional cow or hog. By 1912 these stray farm animals had pretty much disappeared from Washington streets, but the earlier pound facility, located at 23rd and C St NW from 1871 to 1912, just west of the Dept. of State building, took in nearly as many larger animals as it did dogs in its early days. Cats were never a major factor in pound operations, largely because they are so difficult to catch.

The old District Pound and Stable represents a significant, if quirky, souvenir of the city's history and its efforts to bring order and sanitation to our public areas. We are fortunate to have it in such good condition and ready for a new, if probably less exotic, use.

Scenes from the Early Days of Washington's Pound

By: Kael Anderson

■ **An unhappy dog-owner** eliza jenkins charged john wells and two other colored men employed by poundmaster einstein as dog-catchers with using profane language toward her. The men pursued dogs in the division and she had come to the window and told them to let the dogs alone, when they began to curse her. The men were returning to the wagon when the complaining witness [jenkins] began to curse them and throw missiles at them until they were required to beat a hasty retreat. Judge snell dismissed the case. (Evening critic, 31 mar 1882, p. 4)

■ **A crazy mule** in his report of the work done last week, poundmaster einstein says that 152 dogs, 2 horses, 2 steers and 1 mule were captured. The mule appears to have made a record as a kicker and gave more trouble than all the other animals. This particular animal, says the poundmaster, was crazy. "He actually tried to climb a telegraph pole," the chief dog-catcher said to a star reporter. "The animal broke away from the bazaar [horse market] and had to be killed." (Evening star, 21 aug 1893, p. 8)

■ **An embarrassing mistake** yesterday evening, while out on their usual tour of capture, one of the poundmen espied a little way off a fine-looking canine asleep on a porch [on f street sw]. Preparing his net, he started for the animal, thinking of an easy capture. He drew nearer to the noble-looking fellow but the dog did not even so much as raise his head. Thinking him sleeping the dog-catcher approached nearer, but still no movement of the animal was perceptible. Making one more step forward and preparing to cast his net, he took a final look and to his disgust found that he was attempting to capture a bronze dog. Some of the neighbors roared with laughter, and the canine capturer departed quickly out of sight. (Nat. Republican, 28 july 1874, p. 4)[1]

■ **The president's cow** mr. Einstein recalled an exciting incident shortly after his appointment. A complaint was made that cows were running at large over the stony, ungraded lot now known as the white house ellipse, in 1873. When he gathered the herd, he discovered that he had impounded a cow belonging to col. Babcock, then superintendent of public buildings, and another belonging to president grant. He wanted to collect \$2 for each cow before releasing the animals. The superintendent protested, but when he called on president grant to collect, the chief executive praised him for discharging his duty. (Evening star, 23 march 1909, p. 19)[2]

■ **An evil woman** some days ago johanna quill had a warrant sworn out for mary walker, one of her neighbors, for keeping a barking dog, though, as it afterward proved, not only the bark but the dog was in the plural. Mary heard of the warrant and "vamoosed the ranch" till she could see about getting bonds or bail. While she was absent johanna [broke] into the walker house, set all the furniture on the street and sent for the pound master, and, beguiling mr. Einstein, induced him to kill all of mrs. Walker's dogs. When mrs. Walker returned she found a woeful vacuity of dogs and had mrs. Quill arrested on charge of destroying private property. (Wash. Post, 29 july 1894, p. 8)

■ **Another embarrassing mistake** one of [the poundmen] saw a dog in the gutter on a south washington street last week. He sneaked slowly and stealthily along with the net, and finally got near enough to throw it over the animal. "Come along!" He yelled, "i've got him." The driver came and when the two attempted to lift the pup, they discovered they had captured a dead dog. (Wash. Post, 18 dec 1899, p. 12)

■ **A clever ruse** a well-known washingtonian has a pet bulldog, and both have congenial prejudices against muzzles. In this dilemma, the owner used paint and brush to good effect, and gave doggie an imitation muzzle that looked like the real thing and fooled everybody. The scheme worked brilliantly until a day or two ago. Then the bulldog forgot himself, playfully strolled up to a hobble skirt and gave a cute little tug with his teeth. The result was complete wailing and gnashing of teeth at the home of the canine. The poundmaster does not know whether he ought to prosecute or have a laugh on himself. (Wash. Herald, 15 july 1911, p. 7)

[1] Some readers might recall the mock advice given by "veterinarian" James Thurber (reprinted in *The Thurber Carnival*) to a couple complaining that their dog neither eats nor exercises; "Doctor Thurber" concluded from the accompanying drawing that it was a brass statue.

[2] See also *Wash. Times*, 7 Aug 1904, p. 4 for a fuller account. Another prominent citizen to deal with Einstein was Admiral George Dewey, whose dog Prince developed rabies and led the poundmaster a lengthy chase (*Wash. Post*, 8 Nov 1902, p. 2, and an admiring editorial in the next day's edition). He also impounded Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge's two untagged Scotch terriers, over the Senator's strong protests (*Wash. Times*, 24 Mar 1895, p. 12).



PARADE of LIGHTS

from the docks of Old Town Alexandria to the District's Southwest Waterfront

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, FROM 6-8PM
 Along the District's Southwest Waterfront at 7th and Water Streets SW

Join us for a magical night of merriment as we celebrate the holidays with a colorful parade of lighted boats and the first snow fall of the season

- 6:00PM:**
- ★ Delight as snow begins to fall along the waterfront
 - ★ Dance to live music from Nadine Rae and the All Stars
 - ★ Marvel at the decorated houseboats and docked vessels
 - ★ Watch the lighting of the Southwest Christmas Tree
 - ★ Pose for a photograph with a very jolly Santa Claus
 - ★ Be warmed by the 7th Street Landing's roaring bonfire
 - ★ Test your skill at s'mores making and marshmallow roasting
 - ★ Sip hot chocolate and savor warm apple cinnamon cider
 - ★ Show your creativity and decorate gingerbread cookies
- 7:00PM:**
- ★ Herald the arrival of the parade of boats from Alexandria
 - ★ Vote for your very favorite decorated boat in the parade
- 7:45PM:**
- ★ Cheer at a water-filled salute to the John Glenn fireboat
 - ★ Applaud as parade and in-slip prize winners are announced

Parade of Lights is FREE and co-produced by Washington Waterfront Association and the Old Dominion Boat Club through the generosity of Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association and Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, developers of the District's new, world-class, mixed-use waterfront, The Wharf—with the support of Alexandria Fire Department, Cantina Marina, Capital Yacht Club, Destination DC, District of Columbia Fire Department, Entertainment Cruises, EventBrite, Gangplank Marina, Gangplank Slipholders Association, Jazz Night in Southwest, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, MPD Harbor Patrol, PhotoGenics, Port of Washington Yacht Club, Potomac Riverboat Company, RedPeg and Visit Alexandria, VA

This is a FREE outdoor event, held rain or snow. The Parade of Lights is best viewed in the District at 7th and Water Streets SW. 7th Street Landing is within four blocks of the L'Enfant Plaza and Waterfront Metrorail stops. Capital Bike Share is located at 700 Water Street SW. More event information regarding the District of Columbia Parade of Lights activities is online at www.wharfdc.com or available at 202-688-3590. To register a boat in the holiday parade visit www.paradeoflightedboats.eventbrite.com.

OPEN SPACES

From p. 1

than their expense. Rather than promulgating guidelines that categorically repudiate fences, the city should instead consider an open and positive discussion about how we might best manage our private spaces while addressing the security concerns of residents.

The report determines that Southwest has a "surfeit of open spaces" that "upsets the intended balance of built and natural." This far-reaching determination seems to contradict the concerns of Southwesterers looking for both more active recreation opportunities as well as more passive parkland. This is to say nothing about needs of the thousands of additional Southwesterers who may move into new developments in the coming years and decades.

For many years, dog lovers have been seeking a place to let their canine friends run around. Parents have been looking for an effective play space for their children. Gardeners, recognizing that existing community gardens were poised to become the sites for shiny new towers, have been pining for alternative locations. Fortunately, after years of effort, we've developed agreements with the city to use park space to meet these needs. During this time those needs have multiplied: upon completion of the new Lansburgh Park garden, demand for plots had become so great that the gardeners realized they would have to subdivide the plots and squeeze in more planting spaces.

As a consequence of these needs, we're losing our unprogrammed open spaces. After toiling for years to bring new uses to Lansburgh Park, I was struck when the late Ron McBee reminded me that Lansburgh was designed to be a passive space set between our two recreation centers.

Certainly some of these active recreation and communal uses could be accommodated on private open spaces as they are in some cases, but these private spaces are also threatened. Concluding that Southwest's "inward-facing super-blocks have starved the streets of activity," the report's guidelines call for rows of infill buildings to line Southwest's streets.

The guidelines pose a near complete reworking of Southwest. Our residential communities were designed as a delicately balanced network of built and open spaces, connected by pedestrian pathways and landscaped gardens that were carefully separated from the noise, pollution and dangers inherent in vehicular traffic.

While acknowledging the "pleasant secluded spaces" characterizing our residential communi-

ties, the report's guidelines invite a dissolution of Southwest's pedestrian corridors and open spaces by calling for new buildings lining the street regardless of whether the prevailing open spaces are parking lots, courtyards or intricately landscaped yards.

This leaves one to wonder what we'll be left with when all our open spaces, whether parking lot, park, plaza, or cul-de-sac, become development pads. One certainly hopes we aren't following NoMa's destiny. That area, which has some commonalities with Southwest, used to have a surfeit of open spaces. Several years ago the city released a set of design guidelines inviting new development activity. Soon there was such a dearth of open space that the city resigned to spend tens of millions of dollars to acquire land for 3-4 new parks. Why must we give up our valuable park spaces just so that developers can maximize their bottom line?

We do not accept that that indiscriminate development is the panacea to several real or perceived shortcomings. We welcome a comprehensive discussion about how to better manage Southwest's public and private spaces.

One resource to consider is the Project for Public Spaces, which has developed perhaps the most universally acknowledged set of best practices. Their global survey and subsequent recommendations for successful open spaces include improving maintenance; adding amenities like public art, bus shelters, and bike racks; and more programming like celebrations and other community events.

We call on all Southwesterers who value the open spaces in our community to add their voices to the forum provided by the Office of Planning via the Southwest Neighborhood Small Area Plan (SAP). As Planning Director Harriet Tregoning stated during her remarks at the SAP kickoff event last month, they are counting on Southwest residents to express what is important to them and to hold the Office of Planning accountable for accurately documenting and addressing community concerns in the plans to be developed in the coming months.

There is a lot of investment happening in our community, but development should not and does not have to be at the expense of current residents. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. If you care about the future of our community, we encourage you to raise your voice now to conserve the open spaces of our neighborhood.



Westminster Celebrates Founding of Food & Friends 25 Years Ago

On Sunday, November 17th, at 11am, Westminster Presbyterian Church will celebrate another special anniversary in the midst of its 160th year in SWDC. It was in 1983, when the awful reality of AIDS was hitting home, that the congregation decided to take action and start a ministry that would prepare and deliver nutritious meals to homebound persons with AIDS. The ministry was called "Food & Friends." The average period of service to clients was 6 weeks in those early days, so many were dying.

Earlier this year, Westminster celebrated the 30th anniversary of declaring itself open and inclusive to all LGBT persons, the first Presbyterian church in the Metro Area to do so. When AIDS began as a "gay disease" the church was ready to step out with compassion. For ten years, Food & Friends operated out of the Westminster church basement and hundreds of volunteers made it happen. Now, 25 years later, Food & Friends has prepared and delivered over 16 million meals to people living with a variety of chronic illnesses.

You are invited to help celebrate the spirit

Want To Go?

EVENT: Westminster Celebrates Founding of Food & Friends 25 Years Ago

EVENT DATE: Sunday, November 17, 2013

LOCATION: Westminster DC, 400 I St SW

CONTACT: Rev. Ruth Hamilton, 202-641-8221, rwh@westminsterdc.org

of compassion and justice that founded and sustains this ministry during the special service on November 17th. Guests will include the Rev. Carla Gorrell, the first executive director, along with the early Food & Friends staff and volunteers. Music will be provided by Westminster's new Minister of Music Shirli Hughes and the Rock Creek Singers of the Gay Men's Chorus. A reception will follow. For more information see www.westminsterdc.org.

St. Dominic Church to Celebrate Heritage

By: Fr. George P. Schommer, O.P.

Founded in 1852, St. Dominic Church remained a stable presence in Southwest Washington when almost everything was cleared away in the work of urban renewal in the 1950s. Parishioners relocated to Maryland and Virginia, but retained an affinity for the church and the Dominican Friars who have ministered to the people of the parish since the beginning. Graduates of St. Dominic School advanced to further their education and begin their careers, yet they have remained in contact with many of their classmates and school mates. Now, St.

Dominic Church is reviving its annual reunion and celebration of its heritage. Parishioners past and present, students who attended St. Dominic School, and neighbors past and current are invited to a Heritage Day celebration on Sunday, October 13th, 2013. The celebration begins with the celebration of Holy Mass at 10:45 a.m. in the church. A reception will follow in the Solarium Room of the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. Attendees are asked to bring pictures and other memorabilia. RSVP to St. Dominic Church at 202-554-7863 or receptionist@stdominic-church.org.



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Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life at Arena Stage

By: Sheila Wickouski

Tap dancing greats, Broadway's Maurice Hines and Southwest DC's Manzari Brothers, add another page to the history of American tap dance in this incredible production coming to Arena Stage in November.

The show celebrates Hines' brother Gregory and the singers, such as Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Nat 'King' Cole, Judy Garland, and Lena Horne, who inspired them. The Diva Orchestra, an all-female nine-piece big band, joins in the fun.

Hines has said that his wonderful mother once told him and his brother Gregory that no matter what they did on stage, always do it with class and make sure the audiences leave saying WOW! I HAD A GREAT TIME, BABY.



Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life sounds like just the ticket for that!

Southwest night at Arena Stage for *Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life* will be Friday, November 29th, at 2:00pm.

SWDC residents may buy discounted tickets for specially designated performances of each production. Tickets are \$35 for musicals and \$25 for non-musicals, plus fees. Proof of Southwest DC residency or employment for each member of the party must be presented at the time of purchase. Tickets are limited to four per person and are based on availability. Sales Office at 1101 6th St SW.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs/>

Want To Go?

WHAT: *Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life*

WHERE: Arena Stage

WHEN: November 15-December 29, 2013

MORE INFORMATION: arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/maurice-hines-is-tappin-thru-life/

"Humor: Ain't No Way to Treat a Lady"

By: D. Sherwood Chamberlain

When I was a young woman I considered a wedge of brie, a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken, and a bottle of Mateus Rosé the perfect menu for a picnic or a romantic dinner. That was four decades and two divorces ago, when the men I dated had iron stomachs and teeth. Today, my idea of a romantic dinner is the Senior Early Bird Special and the company of a gentleman who isn't lactose intolerant.

The internet has been a blessing for us single seniors looking for a life partner, or rest-of-our-life partner, or just someone to chat with who remembers skate keys, Hopalong Cassidy, TV test patterns, winding watches, and the game of Pong. For us elderly folks, online dating sites can be a tremendous time-saver, a precious commodity at any age, but more appreciated by those of us who are at the time of life where estate planning and "arrangements" are common topics.

There are numerous dating sites appealing to the senior market differing only slightly in price and search options. The standard format is a brief essay and a questionnaire about interests, education, retirement hobbies and personal history. A pull down menu opens a list of possibilities for finding a match. I am partial to the nerds, geeks, and absent-minded bowtie-wearing professors with tweed jackets and suede elbow patches.

I am particularly attracted to the nerdy types, not just because I appreciate their logical super brains, but because they remind me of puppies. They are typically gangly, not quite sure what to do with their arms and legs, they generally seem happy, they have an insatiable curiosity about everything, and they genuinely appreciate a decent meal and a little scratch on the belly.

The challenge with dating these tremendously intelligent, analytical left-brained men is that they don't take hints very well, or at all. I appreciate their directness, although it's a challenge for me since it's my inherent southern

nature to coyly flutter my eyelashes and subliminally transmit whatever I want through mental telepathy. One afternoon, while standing in line to buy movie tickets, my date, a brilliant computer engineer, asked which movie I wanted to see. I batted my eyelashes and sweetly crooned, "The new Sandra Bullock movie has gotten great reviews, but whatever you choose will be fine." I need to work on being more direct because half an hour later we were sitting in a theater watching the kiddie matinee of "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs."

I prefer first meetings to be at a coffee shop during the day, often near a Metro station since many of these elderly gents no longer drive. During one of these first dates, I sat across the table at a downtown sidewalk café chatting with a retired surgeon about things we enjoy doing. I mentioned I like going to the movies. The good doctor told me he never went to the movies, he preferred watching DVDs at home so he could turn on the subtitles. I knew things were going well and he wanted to see me again when he asked if I had any infectious diseases. After several dates in public places, I invited a physicist I was especially fond of to my apartment for a romantic candlelight dinner on my balcony. He thanked me for the meal then went back inside. I found him fifteen minutes later asleep on my sofa.

Dating older men can be entertaining as well as challenging. Whether they have been widowed, divorced, or never married, they all need a bit of instruction in courting more mature ladies. Training an elderly man is much like training a puppy: reward good behavior, ignore bad behavior, and if they really get out of line, whack them on the nose with a rolled up newspaper.

■ D. Sherwood Chamberlain is a professional speaker and writer specializing in the history of America's First Ladies. You can view her website at: deborahjonesherwood.com.

St. Dominic Christmas Bazaar

Welcome to the St. Dominic Christmas Bazaar and gift sale, to be held at 630 E St SW from November 15-19, 2013. The Bazaar will feature crafts and suitable Christmas gifts. Beside crafts made by members of the parish, we will have china, household items, framed pictures, jewelry (costume and sterling), silver plate tableware, decorative bowls, collectibles, lamps, etc. We will not have clothing or shoes.

Dates and times are as follows: Fri. Nov. 15, 11 am to 2 pm; Sat/Sun Nov 16/17, 9 am to 2 pm and 5 to 7 pm; and Mon. Nov 18, 11 am to 2 pm.

Prayers and best wishes.

Fr. Norman Haddad

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Saving Southwest's Vital Public Transportation Line

Save Our 74 Bus

By: B. K. Lunde

A standing room only crowd of about 300 people listened to a panel of representatives of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) present modified bus routes and ask for comments. The hearing was in the meeting room of the DC Tax and Revenue building at 1101 4th St SW on September 17th.

Route 74, which WMATA started when the Southwest Circulator was cancelled last year, will either be replaced by realignment of the V7 and V8 extension or with reduced frequency and span. Service to Half St would be abandoned. The realignment, coming south, would turn south from I St SW at 6th St, turn east on M St, some busses would turn south on Delaware Ave., go on Canal St, turn west on P St, and north 4th St, back to 4th and M St. The reduced frequency option would also eliminate the service to Half St, going only as far east as 1st St. Low ridership was cited as the reason for the change.

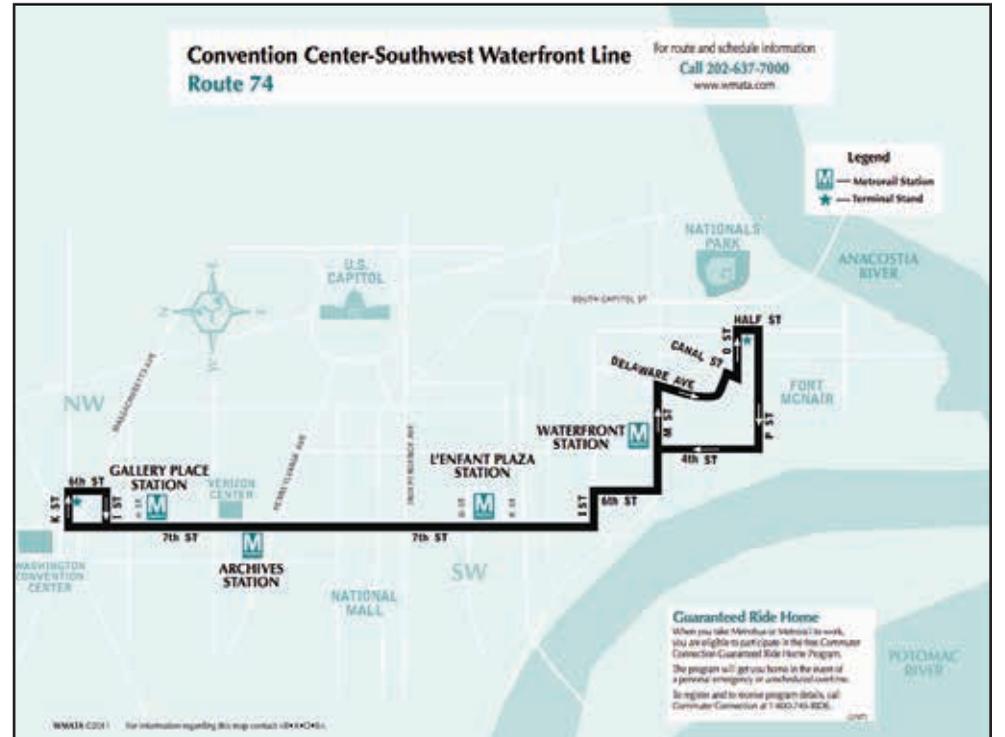
The routes can be found at: http://www.wmata.com/community_outreach/B13-02_landing/DC%20bus%20service%20changes.pdf

Also the 5A line that currently goes from the L'Enfant Plaza metro station to Dulles Airport would be discontinued, or just go

from the western end of the new silver Metro line to the Herndon Monroe Park & Ride and Dulles Airport.

ANC 6D Commissioners Ron Mc Bee, Rhonda Hamilton, and Andrew Litsky, as well as many others testified in support of the continuation of the 74 bus. This is especially important for the elderly, lower income, and handicapped people who live on the route. The witnesses made many passionate speeches, including one by a woman who had been a student at Gallaudet University for the deaf. She used an interpreter, but she could be heard, as well. The bus is well used and on time on weekday mornings, but the people said that it was often late at other times, making connections to other buses difficult. The deaf woman had a problem getting to her church on Sundays.

Most of the testimony was about Route 74, but others testified about the drastic shortening or elimination of the 5A route. Some commuters from the Herndon Monroe and Wiehle Avenue stations said they depended on it for their commute, and the suggested alternate transportation would add half an hour to their commute each way. Passengers from Southwest will have to travel on two trains and a bus to get to the airport, rather than just hopping on the 5A bus. This is difficult with international luggage.



#SaveThe74

By: Sam Marrero

Shockwaves were sent through Southwest when WMATA proposed two bus service reductions on August 28th. If either amendment is approved, changes will be implemented in June 2014. Operating at an already unreliable frequency, bus lines servicing Southwest could get more complicated, and less reliable.

As seen in the WMATA figure provided: Option 1 proposes slashing our beloved 74 bus line altogether. Option 2 would reduce 74 bus service on evenings and weekends.

Option 1 proposes rerouting the V7/V8, an inadequate compensation for the loss of the 74 bus line. This option eliminates bus service altogether along a looping span equating to five city blocks in Buzzard Point, between Canal Street SW and Half Street SW.

Option 2 proposes reducing the frequency of the 74, and discontinuing a crucial line of the V9 which runs along M St SW from Pennsylvania Ave to L'Enfant Plaza.

If these options sound confusing, it's because they are. Both proposed amendments further complicate bus routes for Southwest bus riders, and both would result in reduced bus service in Southwest.

Low-ridership was cited as justification for the proposed reduction. Low ridership can be attributed to already existing problems with reliability and comprehension of the "spaghetti bowl" of bus lines serving Southwest. Who among us can parse the differences between the V7, V8, and V9 bus lines, for instance?

A society is measured by how well it cares for its most vulnerable and the Southwest residents most affected by potential cutbacks live in Buzzard Point. As noted by ANC 6D 06 Representative Rhonda Hamilton at the WMATA Fall Hearing, some of Southwest's struggling residents would lose their jobs for lack of dependable transportation. Scooter and wheelchair-bound individuals, who can currently access the 74 from near their front doors, would fall victim to inclement weather.

Southwest needs more public transportation options, not less. Consider our community's most vulnerable: senior citizens, the handicapped, and low-income riders. Dialogue with WMATA should address a bolstering of

Washington Elderly Handicapped Transportation Service (WEHTS) in the form of increased white WHETS van presence. Instead, Southwest residents must unite to defend and improve the threadbare bus service that we really do treasure. Such a central quadrant with diminishing bus access in our nation's capital in 2014 is unacceptable.

Dependable bus access allows low-income communities to utilize affordable bus passes, thus saving money to perhaps feed dependents. Reduced access to these provisions is the sort of strain that can lead to criminal activity out of necessity for survival. Saving the 74 is therefore a security issue, and is in the best interest of both the Southwest community and municipal service providers.

Proposing reduction to Southwest's main bus lines while DC Office of Planning (DCOP) simultaneously primes Southwest for a boom in urban development, via the Small Area Plan, makes little sense. Perhaps the proposed reductions in bus service to Southwest are merely an appalling lack of coordination between WMATA and DCOP? Mercifully, savvy elected representatives in Southwest, Hamilton and Ron McBee (ANC6D03), boldly called out the injustice at the WMATA Fall Hearing on September 17th.

Residents used to enjoy the straightforward SW Waterfront - Shaw Circulator bus route that was reliable and cost just one dollar. That Circulator line was ultimately discontinued in September 2011. The 74 line was introduced to replace that Circulator line.

Alex Padro, ANC 6E01 representative in Shaw, said: "The Circulator bus was a vital link between Shaw and Southwest. An expanded 74 bus route would help restore the connection between these two neighborhoods undergoing rapid development and revitalization. The new 74 route would serve as a stopgap until construction on the major projects that caused the Circulator service to be interrupted is concluded and the Circulator route can be restored."



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Above, Three of Southwest's Wolfpack teams – Black, White, Gold – pose for the camera. The SW Assembly's Youth Task Force each year helps finance their uniforms, safety equipment and supplies. Half a dozen pompom cheerleaders keep the teams' spirits up.

Wolfpack Football Season in Full Swing in Southwest

By: Dale MacIver

Over 50 Southwest young men practice two hours a day all week and compete in Saturday games at recreation centers across DC. These four teams, with ages ranging from 5 to 13 years, attend an hour of study hall for school homework at the King-Greenleaf Recreation after school. More than a dozen adult coaches, some who learned the game at SW's Police Boys and Girls Club #4 and went on to high school and college ball, then train the teams in safe but winning football tactics.

Competition started in September, with SW Wolfpack teams scoring well for a successful season so far.



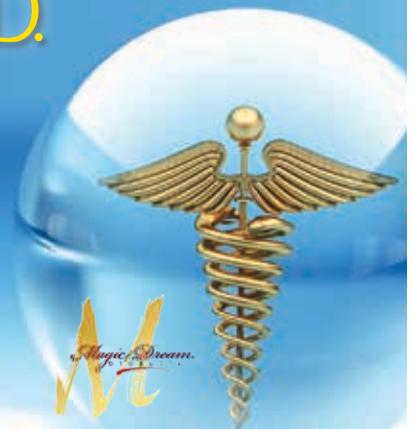
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NOVEMBER

FRI 1 @ 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 SW, 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SAT 2 @ 3-4 P.M. The Labyrinth, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW. Walk a Sacred Path. The LABYRINTH opens the FIRST SATURDAY of each month. Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool for meditation, prayer, inner guidance, and contemplation. Walking guides will be present to answer questions. www.westminsterdc.org.

SAT 2 @ 11 A.M. DAV Auxiliary, Federal Unit #1 meets at DAV National & Legislative Headquarters, 807 Maine Ave SW. This meeting is open to family members of military veterans; please join us. For more information, please contact Commander Gloria Simon at ghs919@msn.com or 202-554-0573.

SAT 2 @ 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

MON 4 @ 7-8:30 P.M. PAWS of Southwest. The monthly meeting is open to the public in the downstairs community room of in the SW Neighborhood Library. Also find us on Facebook: **PAWS of Southwest.**

WED 6 @ 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse. Cello and Piano. Alison Decker, cellist with Elspeth Fager, pianist, will perform a

variety of classical, jazz and world music. Coffee and desserts, followed by audience Q&A. Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW. 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SAT 9 @ 12 P.M. Pet Parade and Veterans Day Salute at the Southwest Duck Pond, 6th & I; Cosponsored by Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond and PAWS of Southwest.

SAT 9 @ Christ United Methodist Church, Celebration of 50 years of service.

MON 18 @ 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th St SW, DCRA Hearing Room on 2nd floor.

WED 20 @ 12 P.M. The Southwest Waterfront AARP #4751 chapter. The two-part program includes: Part One: 2014 Medicare Program with Kenneth R. Brown, Director of Sales and Marketing, Evolent Health. Part Two: Update on Senior Financial Fraud Prevention with: Idriys J. Abdulah, Consumer Protection Advocate, District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking. representative from the AARP Legal Counsel For The Elderly representative from the U.S. Attorney's Office-DC. Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

SAT 23 @ 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Neighborhood Library. Copies of the November title "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by psychologist Daniel Kahneman, winner of the 2002 Nobel prize in economics. Copies available for checkout at the library.

THURS 28 @ 10:00 A.M. Thanksgiving Day Service. Canned or shelf-stable foods are needed for St. Augustine's Food Pantry to give to community members who need a little help. Donations are gratefully accepted. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW. www.staugustinesdc.org. 202-554-3222 or rector@staugustinesdc.org.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULTS/SENIORS BINGO BRUNCH, 1-3 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW. FREE

AEROBICS WITH Ms. Dee, 6:30-7:30 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW in the Multipurpose Room.

AYE COMMUNITY MARKETS, 9 A.M.-1 P.M., Saturdays, Dreaming Out Loud is running the farmers market on the grounds of Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St SW (near the Waterfront Metro on the green line)

BABY STORY TIME, 10:30 A.M., Tuesdays, songs, finger plays, and games to promote development of literacy skills. SW Neighborhood Library

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW. Children ages 3 and older are invited to join our loving and lively Sunday School where they are introduced to a loving God who welcomes and cares for all. Through biblical stories, art, music, and holy play, our children are nurtured in their natural spirituality to grow as the "littles members" of a community of faith.

COMPUTER CLASSES, Tuesdays 10-12 Noon, SW Neighborhood Library

TUES 5 Microsoft Word

TUES 12 Microsoft Excel

TUES 19 Microsoft Powerpoint

TUES 26 No Class scheduled

DEC 3 Introduction to Personal Computers

FAMILY GAME NIGHT, WEDNESDAYS, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Join the SW Neighborhood Library for game nights! Come play a host of Wii video games or enjoy a nice board game. Wed 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th. Call for times 202-4752

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 4th St SW, Community room off Wesley Place SW.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:45-3:45 P.M., King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW. 645-7454

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

JOB SEEKERS PROGRAM, WEDNESDAYS 1-7:00 P.M. By Appointment Only; Call 724-4298. Help with resumes, cover letters, applications and other aspects of the job search process. Nov 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th & December 4th. SW Neighborhood Library.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St SW.

LITTLE FARM STAND at the Duck Pond, 10 A.M.-2 P.M., Organic produce, baked goods and preserves from Loudoun County.

MOVIE SEMINAR, St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, Free. This year's religious movie seminar starts with the movie Joseph (1995). Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share, but no one is obligated.

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 St SE.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIMES, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Tuesdays and Thursdays, featuring stories, songs and fingerplays, suitable for children 18 mos.-3years. 2-2:30 P.M. every Wednesday, **Read Aloud Book Club** for 8 years and up, SW Neighborhood Library

SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon on 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 St SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW.

TUESDAY WALK FOR WELLNESS while walking to music, 11-12 P.M. in the gym of King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW.

TODDLER STORY TIME. 10:30 A.M., stories, picture books, and rhymes and a take home craft project, SW Neighborhood Library.

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 4th St SW. 202-863-0564

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW, 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.



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Q&A with Steve Moore

Southwest will be the next Washington, DC neighborhood to get a Business Improvement District, or BID for short. A BID is a geographic area in which property owners agree pay for services on top of what the city already provides. In the case of Southwest, commercial property owners and large apartment building operators will be taxed, while condo and co-op buildings, as well as single-family/townhouse owners will not. That money then goes to the "SW BID", which uses the funds to reach a higher standard of street cleaning, public area maintenance, security services, homeless services, marketing, and special events programming, to name a few. Initial services should emerge in the Spring of 2014.

Some of Southwest's more complex challenges are decades in the making: obsolete architecture, inadequate "walkability," and persistent crime. Southwest has a variety of zones (federal, commercial and residential), Southwest runs the gamut of residential demographics (income, race and age), and Southwest is a federal-employee commuter hub. For such an assortment, administering BID services to Southwest will be a huge undertaking. Sam Marrero sat with Steve Moore, a SW BID Organizing Taskforce Member and former Deputy Executive Director of the Downtown BID to discuss these challenges.

Sam Marrero: I'd heard the SW BID was almost called the SOMA BID?

Steve Moore: Yes. SOMA was not such a great idea and people told us about it. We thought that being "South of the Mall," or SOMA, might be a clever name. We got a bit too creative (laughs). Southwest is a large, diverse area. We could not decide if it should be the Federal Triangle BID? Or is it the L'Enfant Bid? In my summer meetings with businesses and neighborhood groups, people said "yes we need a BID, but we want you to call it something other than "SOMA." "Southwest" is a strong identity that this area has had for decades. The name "Southwest" is real; it's clear and communicates a lot. SWBID is a better choice.

Sam: Is a goal of the SW BID to attract new residents to Southwest?

Steve: There's a strong neighborhood identity here. This corner of the city has residents who want to plug-in and contribute to this neighborhood. A goal of the BID is not to merely attract people to the neighborhood, but to provide opportunities for these meaningful connections to be made. I had breakfast with Rich Bradley who founded the Downtown BID almost 20 years ago and who is the mentor to many of us who run BID's in DC. I was his Deputy for 6 years and he put it this way "the work of a BID is more about the community you create, and less about the services you provide."

Sam: We need some more shopping in Southwest. Will the SW BID actively recruit businesses to Southwest?

Steve: Yeah, I think so. But it's not just

about filling vacant retail space. We want to make a commitment to the neighborhood, hand pick up and coming entrepreneurs and provide the right set of circumstances so those entrepreneurs can succeed here in Southwest. I like "Mom and Pop" stores. A BID can help with a business plan, assist in approaching financiers, find the right retail space and sit with the small business owner when they meet with the landlord. I'd love to find someone (entrepreneur) with a great business idea who's local. Maybe that person is right here in Southwest? Muffins, vegan, barbeque, dog walking, etc. There is tremendous opportunity for small business here in SW especially in the next few years. We need however to better understand what is here now and what merchandise categories are missing. That is where we start.

Sam: What about the parks in SW?

Steve: While the Wharf has designed and will build some the most beautiful public spaces in the region right by the water, if you are a government worker you have no place to sit when you get lunch from a food truck at 7th and D. The SW Duck Pond is an opportunity for a new partnership. The SW Duck Pond has come so far, and it can be even better...parks in Southwest need attention. Good people are working hard on the Duck Pond. They want to ensure that it is maintained and is all it can be. The organization they have formed may be an example for other areas of SW. The SW BID will want to work with them.

Sam: We both agree that Southwest is unique. Talk to me more about Southwest's unique challenges, and also the existing community-led efforts to address these challenges.

Steve: Unique in lots of ways. Southwest is about to have a new waterfront, it had a well-established neighborhood, it is minutes from some of the greatest museums in the world, it is the home to 20+ federal agencies. It has Arena stage, the historic Fish Market, strong neighborhood Churches. This is a combination of assets unlike any BID in the city maybe anywhere.

Sam: Do those assets come together adequately? or could it be better?

Steve: Well, those assets could come together better. There is not a very high standard, for example, for the standard of cleanliness for public spaces. There is great concern about the condition of the CSX overpasses, for example. This has been the focus of a lot of effort of the ANC, and others. These should be cleaner, and the name of the person who is responsible for making sure they are spotless should be common knowledge.

Sam: So How does a BID help with that?

Steve: We would start with comprehensive public space inventory. This is an analysis of the entire BID area to identify

See "Q & A," page 12

September Real Estate Update

By: Jason Martin

	Sep-13	Sep-12	%Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$5,384,900	\$3,508,900	53.46%
Avg Sold Price	\$336,556	\$233,927	43.87%
Median Sold Price	\$295,750	\$223,000	32.62%
Units Sold	16	15	6.67%
Avg Days on Market	23	34	-32.35%
Avg List Price for Solds	\$339,100	\$237,913	42.53%
Avg SP to OLP Ratio	99.2%	97.9%	1.34%

God Allows U-Turns!

By Rev. Ida Moss, Senior Pastor • www.MyGreaterWorks.org



Have you ever taken a wrong turn while driving and really messed things up? The best solution is often to make a U-Turn and start over. In Jeremiah 18, we find the story of a potter attempting to shape clay into a beautiful vessel. Jeremiah noticed that when the vessel turned out badly, the potter did not simply discard the clay. Instead, he took that same old clay, started over, and made it into another more perfect vessel. God then told Jeremiah, "I can do the same thing with you!" It is never too late to ask God to help you make a U-Turn! You CAN out-live your past mistakes!

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Coffeehouse**
7:00 pm –
1st Wednesday
of the month

**Game Night
with Gourmet
Potluck**
6:30 pm –
1st Friday
of the month

"Embracing our
diversity we are
searchers for
Justice, Truth
and Beauty ...
aware of and
responding
to community
need."

Q&A

From p. 11

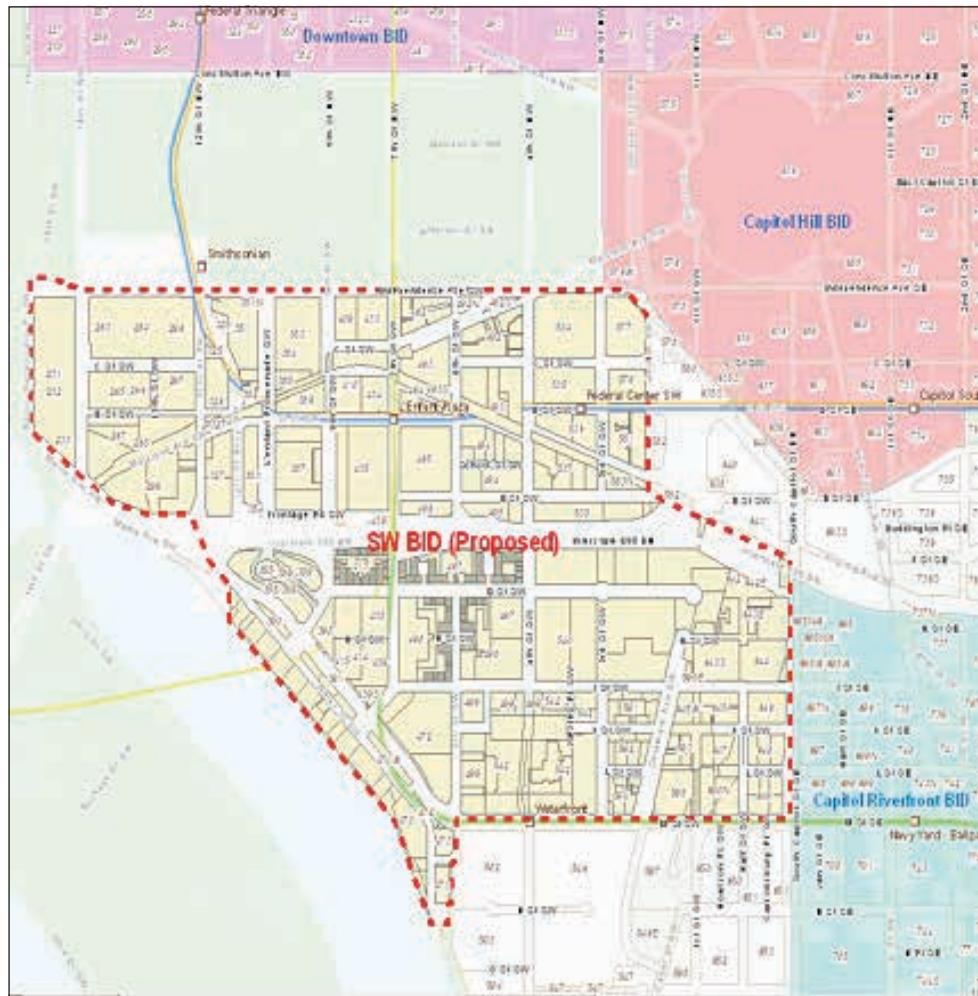
where "Clean Teams" need to give regular attention. The BID will create a very high standard for Southwest's public spaces. The challenge is the high standards of the Sculpture Garden right next door.

Sam: What About Special Events.... Southwest has a history of culturally rich public events. Do you see that changing much?

Steve: There are some great, unique events here: The SW Arts Fest, the Gangplank Marina boat show, Cherry Blossom Fireworks Festival, the Parade of Lights. The SW BID will be available to plug in and help with those. Some of these don't need much help but we want to pitch in where we can.

Sam: Southwest is being hit from all angles: the SW Ecodistrict (National Capital Planning Commission), Maryland Avenue Small Area Plan (DC Office of Planning), GSA "Request for Information" (21.5 acres of federal buildings near Federal Triangle South looking to be sold), the SW Small Area Plan (DC Office of Planning), The Wharf, DC United Stadium... and now the SW BID. Is this normal for a neighborhood in Washington, DC?

Steve: No, its not. There is a tremendous amount of thinking and planning going on right now. This level of attention and planning is the envy of anyone who would want to implement a BID. As far as the federal properties north of



I-395, GSA is very clear that they want an entity that is not the government to re-conceptualize that area, which shuts down after 5pm. The BID can enter that void and ensure coordination between these plans. Consider the federal enclave, down the road, it'll be perfectly safe, you

can walk at night and there will be lots of choices of where to go to dinner. The federal enclave can become a post-5pm amenity, something that it isn't right now. This may be 10 years away, but the possibility for a fantastic experience is there!

Sam: Is that experience for everyone? Or just rich folks?

Steve: It's for everyone. There will be restaurants and some hotels, but there will be a ton of things to do that don't cost any money. Consider the Wharf plans, which have acres of beautiful public spaces on the water. The access to the water alone will be an enormous transformation for Southwest. A six foot chain link fence now blocks any resident from just sitting by the water and reading a book. The interaction between SW residents and the fish market and the waterfront will only get stronger.

Sam: If Southwest becomes more of a destination, how do we avoid making Southwest a tourist trap?

Steve: You build it for the locals. The primary audience, for the SW BID and all this development, is the people that live right here in Southwest. This is a lesson that has been learned over and over again in places like Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston, Pioneer Place on Portland, Westlake Center in Seattle, Covent Garden in London. When people travel to a new place, the first thing they say is "Take me where the locals go." Any planner or urban developer who violates that rule will pay the price as soon as the opening buzz subsides.

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