



# The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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September 2012

Circulation 12,000

FREE

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

## SW ArtsFest returns Sept. 29

### From the Organizers of SW ArtsFest

On Saturday, Sept. 29, Southwest DC will hold its second annual SW ArtsFest. Like last year, SW ArtsFest 2012 has the theme "Discover Southwest." Like SW ArtsFest 2011, the 2012 festival will feature live music, outdoor art and flea markets, hand dancing, a film series, walking tours, many types of food, an outdoor art studio, and much more.

Admission to everything is free.

This year's festival also has some spectacular new features. The corner of M and Fourth Streets will hold a central art market, produced by Nagaa Events, a team with extensive experience organizing artistic, cultural, and neighborhood festivals. Down the road in Southeast, Yards Park will host the first-ever FIGMENT DC, a free interactive family-friendly arts event. Starting at 1 p.m., SW ArtsFest and FIGMENT will co-

sponsor, BicycleSPACE will organize, and Councilmember Tommy Wells will lead the Festival of Decorated Bikes: A Rolling Art Parade along M Street from Yards Park to Fourth Street in Southwest. At 7 p.m., the Washington National Opera will cap the day with Opera in the Outfield, a free scoreboard simulcast at Nationals Park of *Don Giovanni*.

Launching on Twitter Sept. 1, SW ArtsFest 2012 will also include the Discover SW Challenge, a creative way to explore the neighborhood. To take the Discover SW Challenge on Twitter, use #DiscoverSW to track a series of clues. Weekly clues will point to different neighborhood locations. Once you discover each week's site, you can take a photo of yourself there and tweet it or post it.

As last year's festival, SW ArtsFest 2012 will include events at neighborhood churches. Westminster Presbyterian will host its 11<sup>th</sup> annual



Photo by Saadia Athias

A scene from last year's SW ArtsFest.

DC Jazz Preservation Festival. St. Augustine's Episcopal will hold its annual End-of-Summer Fair. Christ United Methodist will host dancing

and singing, a farmers' market, and a film series. And Second Union Baptist will hold its second

See "ArtsFest" page 11

## Amidon-Bowen: New Facilities, New Programs, New Ideas

### By Meg Brinckman & Ron McBee

Principal Izabela Miller begins her second year at Southwest's only public elementary school on much firmer ground. Remember that the ground did indeed move last year! The District experienced a 5.8 magnitude earthquake on the second day of school! Without another once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, Amidon-Bowen is prepared to move smoothly into the new school year with a long list of positives.

The \$5 million total makeover of classrooms, administrative areas and the front entrance has been completed! Technology, light and color upgrades will enhance the

learning experience for every child. An Open House will be held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to noon, to introduce the beautiful new interiors to the community. You all are invited!

Due to the high demand, an additional Early Childhood classroom has been opened.

See "Amidon-Bowen," page 10



Izabela Miller



### A work in process

Workers strip out the old in preparation for the new at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. Photo by Marty Wells, ABES PTA President

### Amidon-Bowen Open House

Saturday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.-noon

Come see the new classrooms, beautiful colors, modern lights, new technology and infrastructure improvements.

## Tour of Floating Homes to be held in October

### By Jess Dankert

For the second time ever, on Saturday, Oct. 20, the floating homes of Gangplank Marina will be open to the public. The chance to tour this unique community should not be missed.

The self-guided tour at Gangplank Marina takes visitors inside at least 20 of the most fun and unique homes (and offices) in Washington, D.C. Many shapes, sizes and styles of floating homes will give visitors a peek into life on the water. Owners and docents will also be available to answer questions about the boat-homes and the liveaboard and workaboard lifestyles.

"The tour is a great opportunity to invite people to visit the Southwest Waterfront and experience some of the exciting things going on in the neighborhood," Slipholders Association president Jason Kopp said.



Gangplank Marina is the largest liveaboard community on the East Coast.

See "Floating Homes," page 3

## Application Forms Ready for Youth Grants

### From the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force

Application forms for Youth Grants are now available from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force. New user-friendly application forms, including budget forms, must be used. They can be picked up at the Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

Typical grants to schools, churches, recreation centers, etc., have been between \$200 and \$800 for such things as sports uniforms and equipment, field trips, registration fees, books and refreshments. Besides helping other groups

fund programs for youth, YATF runs programs with its own volunteers such as Computers for Kids, Safe Sitters, Photography, and Arts & Crafts Classes.

Groups asking for financial aid from the Task Force can submit requests to YATF-SWNA, P.O. Box 70131, Washington, D.C. 20024-0131.

The Youth Activities Task Force (part of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly) has been supporting programs for youth in this neighborhood since 1982, using funds from an annual mail solicitation to SW residents and funds from local grants.



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BUTTERSCHOTCH	DOUBLE CHOCOLATE	NEAPOLITAN	STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE
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## Election 2012: Submit Your Candidate Statements to The Southwester

Election day is approaching. Will you be on the ballot on Nov. 6? If so, *The Southwester* would like to hear from you. As part of the October issue, *The Southwester* will be publishing candidate statements for all the races which will appear on the ballot in our area - this includes the contests for At-Large Member of the District of Columbia Council, At-Large Member of the State Board of Education, and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, as well as a special election for Chairman of the District of Columbia Council, among others.

If you are a candidate for one of these offices (or any other position which will be on the Nov. 6 ballot), *The Southwester* invites you to submit

a candidate statement which includes the following:

- Your name
- The position you are seeking
- Why you are a good for this position (please do not refer to other candidates' qualifications - this is about you)
- Where interested readers can get more information (website, phone contact information, etc.)

Please submit your statement by e-mail to the editor ([editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com)) by Sept. 15. If you have questions, contact the editor. Regardless of whether you are on the ballot, we hope you'll remember to vote on Nov. 6!

## RFP Seeks to Accelerate Redevelopment in Southwest

By James Duncan-Welke

On Aug. 13, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development (DMPED) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to announce DMPED's interest in selling up to 300,000 square feet of development rights in Southwest and Near Southeast.

The area in question runs along the Anacostia River from Second Street SW to First Street SE and includes Buzzard Point, Potomac Avenue SW, Nationals Park, and M Street SE from South Capitol Street to the eastern end of

the Navy Yard.

Responses to the RFP are due on Aug. 31; selected respondents will be notified on Sept. 3. For more information, view the full request at [www.dmped.dc.gov](http://www.dmped.dc.gov).

Buzzard Point and the "Capital Gateway" area are both designated as mixed-use in the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, the National Capital Planning Commission's guiding document for urban planning in and development of Washington, D.C. The "Comp Plan" was last updated in 2004. More information is available at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov).

## FLOATING HOMES

From p. 1

The event is located on the Southwest waterfront, along the Washington Channel. Historically, the waterfront was the portal for

newcomers and visitors to the Nation's capital, as well as a busy center for maritime trade and fishing. Gangplank Marina is a 309-slip marina just steps from the National Mall and its many monuments and museums, and is the largest liveboard community on the East Coast. For over 30 years, it has been home to a diverse group including professionals, families, artists, retirees, members of the military and others. The marina, along with much of the Southwest waterfront, is currently poised to undergo a multi-million dollar redevelopment.

The tour will run in two shifts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and tickets are available online at the web site [www.dchouseboat.org](http://www.dchouseboat.org). The tour is expected to sell out, so advance tickets are required (tickets will not be available on the day of the tour). Tickets are \$20, though residents of the 20024 zip code can take advantage of a "neighbor discount price" of \$15 per ticket. A portion of the proceeds from the tour ticket sales will benefit local charities in Southwest D.C.

Visitors who would like to get out on the water can take advantage of a special offer from tour partner DC Harbor Cruises, also based at Gangplank Marina. Tickets for a 60-minute Potomac cruise are available at a special discounted rate of \$15, also from our website [www.dchouseboat.org](http://www.dchouseboat.org) (cruise tickets alone are usually priced at \$30). Available cruise departure times are 12:30 and 1:45 p.m.

Several of Gangplank Marina's other neighbors will also be participating. Waterfront bar & grill Cantina Marina will offer a 10% discount to tourgoers, and local organizations such as D.C. Sail and others will also be present.

The Southwest D.C. Boat-Home Tour is sponsored by the Gangplank Slipholders Association, which is a nonprofit volunteer organization representing the boaters of Gangplank Marina, and the Port of Washington Yacht Club, a nonprofit social club promoting boating and Potomac stewardship. Additional information can be found at [www.dchouseboat.org](http://www.dchouseboat.org).



## A Closer Look at the Southwest Ecodistrict Plan

By Kamilla Kovacs

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) is currently collecting public comments on its plan to create an Ecodistrict in Southwest Washington over the course of the next several years. The proposed 15-block site of the Ecodistrict would stretch east-west from about 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW to 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW and north-south from Independence Avenue to Maine Avenue SW/Banneker Park. The aim of the plan, according to the NCPC, is to substantially improve energy efficiency in the region; the agency has set a goal of zero net energy output by the time the plan is implemented.

NCPC's ambitious goal would be implemented through the installation of green roofs, edible rooftops, solar panels and micro grids, as well as through the collection and treatment of rainwater for non-potable uses. The plan also proposes to increase the presence of porous surfaces to 35% of the region from about 20% currently, and to grow tree canopy coverage to

40% of the region from the roughly 8.6% of current coverage. The NCPC also intends to work with city government to improve recycling efforts, start a composting program and divert waste from regional landfills.

NCPC has split the Ecodistrict plan into four phases. The first phase would involve the reconstruction of 10<sup>th</sup> Street SW from Independence Avenue to Banneker Park. 10<sup>th</sup> Street SW would become a narrower, more walkable road with a more active business sector. NCPC intends to extend the Smithsonian Institution programs into Banneker Park, which would be lined with cultural buildings, such as museums or a federal memorial, on its northern end near the I-395 Freeway.

The second phase, focusing on the Independence Quarter, would open up Virginia Avenue through the reconstruction of the Department of Energy headquarters building that currently arches over Virginia Avenue, just south of Independence Avenue. The DOE's Forrestal Complex would be redesigned to enhance sustain-

See "Ecodistrict," page 10

## The Southwester

Circulation 12,000

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

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# How to Stop Bus Idling Now

By Kael Anderson

This summer both Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly passed resolutions calling on the District to enforce the ban on bus idling. But it's actually quite easy for residents to 'lead' the enforcement.

First, know the basics.

DC law states "The engine of...a public vehicle for hire...on public or private space shall not idle for more than three minutes while the motor vehicle is parked, stopped, or standing, including for the purposes of operating air conditioning..." 20 DCMR § 900.1

There are three permissible exceptions: 1. idling of non-commercial vehicles, 2. idling when commercial vehicles are operating power take-off equipment such as dumping beds, cement mixers, content delivery, or shredders, and 3. idling for up to five minutes to operate heating equipment when temperatures are at or below 32 degrees F.

Tickets for first violations is \$1,000; subsequent violations, up to \$8,000

When you notice a violation, notify the Metropolitan Police Department in one of several ways:

Call 202-698-5565 to reach MPD's Motor Carrier Unit, a special operations patrol.

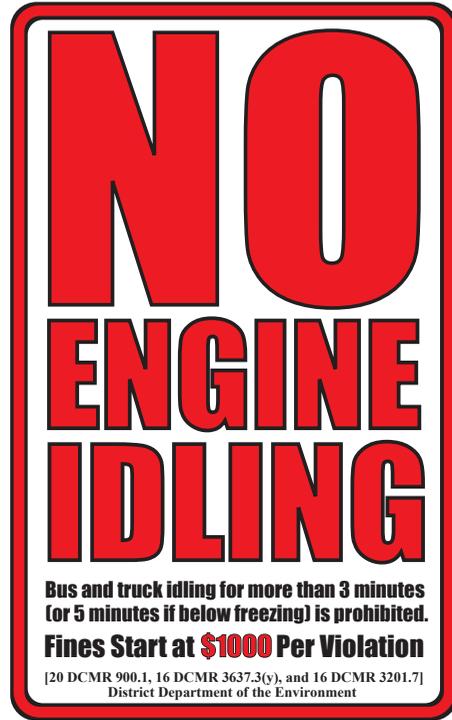
Call 202-727-4582 to reach the Harbour Police Station in case the violation is in its vicinity. Although this unit's focus is on maritime issues, they have agreed to enforce bus idling if it occurs nearby.

Call 311 to reach the District's one-stop service shop for service requests; they will route your call to the nearest available officer.

Additionally, to facilitate proper bus operations:

Contact the District Department of the Environment if you know of a repeat offender. This agency has agreed to work with other District agencies to remediate problematic companies.

Distribute 'No Engine Idling' signs and wallet-sized handout cards, available at: [http://](http://ddoe.dc.gov/publication/engine-idling-brochure-card-and-sign)



[ddoe.dc.gov/publication/engine-idling-brochure-card-and-sign](http://ddoe.dc.gov/publication/engine-idling-brochure-card-and-sign).

Educate yourself and your neighbors, visit: <http://ddoe.dc.gov/service/engine-anti-idling-law> and <http://www.turnyourengineoff.org>.

We continue to work with and request that District officials develop a sustainable tour bus management system that successfully provides routing information and proper off-street parking facilities for commercial vehicles. Without vigilance, the problem will only intensify as the volume of tourism, special events and development continues to increase within our neighborhood.

■ *Kael Anderson is president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.*



Photo by Marcellus Watson

Southwest youth get ready for a bike ride in the neighborhood. Bicycles and helmets are brought over by Gearin' Up, a local non-profit that teaches bike repair to teen-agers. Adults in the back row are program aides and staff of Greater Washington Boys and Girls Club, which, for the summer, started up a clubhouse at 205 L St. SW, the resident council office building for Greenleaf Extension housing.

## Boys & Girls Club #4 Restarts in New Home

By Marcellus Watson

There's good news for youth and families in Southwest. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW), which a few years ago operated Boys & Girls Club #4 in the gym at Bowen School, started Club #4 up again at a smaller location. This summer they operated a summer camp at 205 L St. SW for ages 5-11 from 8 a.m. 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In the afternoon and evening teen activities were from 5 to 11 p.m. Game rooms and computers are on the second floor. In the L Street SW courtyard in front of 205 L St. SW a pair of basketball hoops form a court for practice and for games. Trips, such as for bowling and movies, were held.

The day camp director was Sterling Stone.

His email address is [ssstone@bgcgw.org](mailto:ssstone@bgcgw.org). The branch director has been Ray Long. Ray's contact info is cell: 240-676-1910; email: [rlong@bgcgw.org](mailto:rlong@bgcgw.org). Program aides were Robert Lumpkins, Mykia McNair, Johnathan McNair and Aliyyah Blake.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington abandoned Club #4 a few years after Bowen moved in with Amidon Elementary School at Fourth and I streets SW and the MPD took over the Bowen School building as District One Headquarters.

Although activities for the fall are uncertain, Teen Director Domonique Cherry can be emailed at [dcherry@bgcgw.org](mailto:dcherry@bgcgw.org). The club phone number is 240-676-1877.

To support BGCGW, use United Way #8047 or CFC #44919.

## Highlights of Monthly PSA 105 Meeting

By John McGrath

July 19, 2012, 7-7:45 P.M., Riverside Condominium.

Participants: Lt. Nicholas Gallucci and Sgt. Michael Architzel of PSA 105; Naomi Monk and Irv Gamza, PSA 105 meeting coordinators/facilitators, and John McGrath, recorder. A total of 20 persons were in attendance.

1. Lt. Gallucci reviewed the June 2012 and year-to-date statistics for PSA 105. Violent and non-violent crime continues to trend lower with the exception of Theft from Auto. Lt. Gallucci stated that the perpetrators of Theft from Auto appear to be juveniles. The following other crimes were discussed:

-- In June 2012 there were three attempted robberies in PSA 105. The perpetrators were juveniles—13 to 17 years old. In two instances, the juveniles were armed with a handgun; in another a knife was displayed. The three victims of these attempted robberies (one male and two females) refused to give up their property and the juveniles fled the scene. The police have been able to identify these juveniles who live in our Southwest neighborhood but no arrests have occurred to date due to the inability of witnesses to identify perpetrators. Police caution community members about walking alone at night. Walking with or close to others is advised. Also, although no violence occurred in these three cases, resisting a robbery attempt is not advised.

-- Early morning, Sunday, July 15, 2012, at Sixth and Water streets SW, an argument between parties leaving a tour boat led to the exchange of random gunfire with no victim apparently struck. Subsequently, a police dog scented blood on Sixth Street SW between M

Street and Water Street and the street was closed to traffic.

-- Early morning, Monday, July 16, 2012, a resident of the 200 block of M Street SW was awakened by a home invasion/burglary. A window was broken and a laptop computer taken. The home alarm was not activated. The townhouse gate was not locked and a cobblestone taken from the townhouse garden was used to break the window. Police caution all community members to not leave property or valuables in plain sight in a residence or vehicle. Townhouse doors should be locked and alarms in use.

2. National Night Out, an annual citywide police/security awareness event, is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012. The First Police District will sponsor an event at J.O. Wilson School, 6th St. near K St. NE. An event in PSA 105 is being planned. A summer Southwest neighborhood event is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, at Lansburgh Park, located behind the ID Headquarters, 101 M St. SW. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

3. The PSA 105 meeting was adjourned early due to a reported shooting (later identified as a stabbing) in the unit block of Q Street SW to which Lt. Gallucci and Sgt. Architzel responded.

4. Because National Night Out is celebrated the first Tuesday of each August, there will be no PSA 105 meeting in August.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012. River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Ave SW, South Community Room.

PSA 105 is part of the Metropolitan Police Department's First District, which can be contacted by phone at (202) 698-0555. For more information visit the First District Station at 101 M St. SW or [mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov).

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ITALY 2012 and 2013 ART WORKSHOPS  
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# CELEBRATE SEPTEMBER & THE SW ARTS FEST AT THE WHARF



## SOCK PUPPET ART STUDIO

Admission is free - Socks are required  
7th Street Landing - 7th and Water Streets, SW

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
**11am to 5pm**

Join us on the waterfront and make your very own sock puppet in our outdoor art studio—bring a sock, some imagination and your creativity. All craft supplies will be provided. And, enjoy music, barbecue, and fun throughout the the SW Arts Fest Celebration.

## Farmers Market with Jazz and Blues: Thursdays from 6-8:30pm

September 6 David Cole & The Main Street Blues and Farmers Market  
September 13 Collector's Edition and Farmers Market

## September Sounds: Fridays from 6-8:30pm

September 7 Dixie Power Trio (New Orleans Rock 'n Roll)  
September 14 Wil Gravatt Band (Country Rock)

## Waterfront Workouts: Saturdays from 7-11am

September 1 Endurance Training (7am)  
YaLa Fitness (9am) and Flow Yoga (10am)  
September 8 Endurance Training (7am)  
YaLa Fitness (9am) and Flow Yoga (10am)  
September Endurance Training (7am)  
YaLa Fitness (9am) and Flow Yoga (10am)

All September activities include table tennis and bean baggo. Refreshments served by King Ribs Bar-B-Q with Grillmaster Bufus and Captain White's Seafood Shack. 7th Street Landing is a free WIFI hot spot. All musical entertainment and waterfront workouts are free and produced by Hoffman-Madison Waterfront. The Farmers Market is a collaboration of Neighborhood Restaurant Group, Churchkey, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, Star Catering, Diverse Markets Management and Jazz Night in Southwest. Summer Sounds at The Wharf is a collaboration of Cantina Marina, Diverse Markets Management and Gravatt Entertainment. Waterfront Workouts is a collaboration of Team to End AIDS Endurance Training Program, YaLa Fitness with Laurent Amzallag and Flow Yoga's Istar Guven.

The Wharf is a \$2 billion, world-class, mixed-use waterfront development by Hoffman-Madison Waterfront located on the historic Washington Channel, along the District of Columbia's Southwest Waterfront. Groundbreaking is scheduled for 2013 and the first phase of The Wharf will open in 2016. When complete, The Wharf will feature approximately three million square feet of new residential, office, hotel, retail, cultural, and public uses including waterfront parks, promenades, piers, and docks. More information is online at [www.wharfdc.com](http://www.wharfdc.com). General information is available at 202-688-3590.

Hoffman-Madison Waterfront Development Site Office 690 Water Street, SW Washington, DC 20024  
The Wharf is within four blocks of the L' Enfant Plaza and Waterfront Metrorail stops.



THE WHARF

SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT

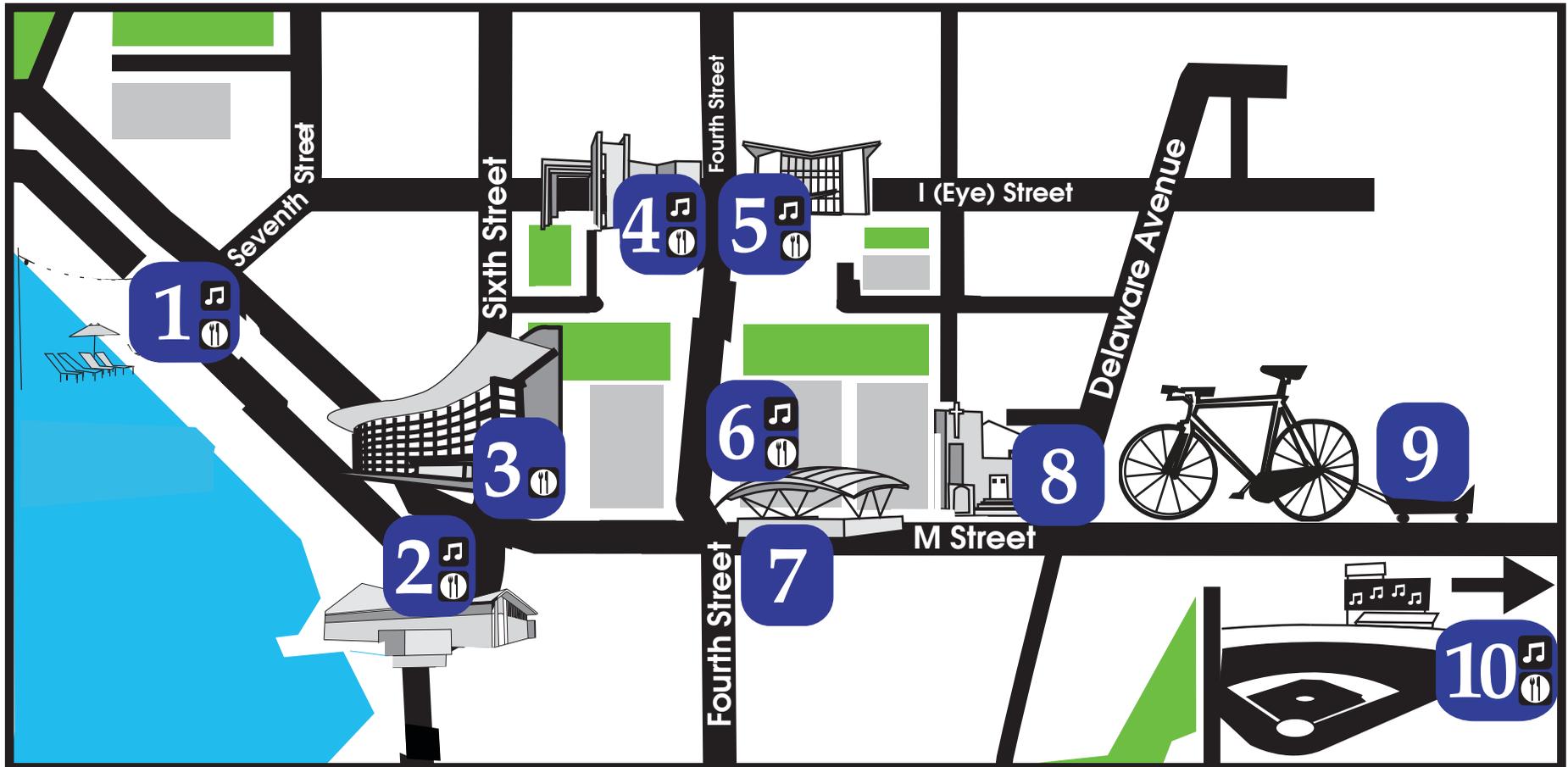
[www.wharfdc.com](http://www.wharfdc.com)

# SW ARTSFEST

“DISCOVER SOUTHWEST”

[www.swdcartsfest.org](http://www.swdcartsfest.org)

## 2012 Map & Schedule



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>1</b> <b>1</b> Sock Puppets on the Waterfront<br>The Wharf on Southwest Waterfront, 700 Water St., SW            | <b>5</b> <b>5</b> Film Series, Farmers' Market and Yard Sale<br>Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St., SW | <b>9</b> <b>9</b> Festival of Decorated Bikes<br>From Yards Park to Fourth Street, SW               |
| <b>2</b> <b>2</b> End-of-Summer Fair<br>St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW                             | <b>6</b> <b>6</b> Central Art Market<br>In front of Safeway, M and Fourth Streets, SW                              | <b>10</b> <b>10</b> Opera in the Outfield<br>Nationals Park, 1500 S. Capitol St., SE                |
| <b>3</b> <b>3</b> Hand Dancing, Theater Tours<br>Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St., SW                                    | <b>7</b> <b>7</b> Neighborhood Walking Tours<br>Meet at Waterfront Metrorail station, 401 M St., SW                |  Food for sale |
| <b>4</b> <b>4</b> 11th Annual DC Jazz Preservation Festival<br>Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW | <b>8</b> <b>8</b> Find the Art in the Flea Market<br>Second Union Baptist Church, 1107 Delaware Ave., SW           |  Live music    |

Admission to all SW ArtsFest events is free.

### Saturday, September 29

**9 A.M. to 7 P.M. - Film Series and Open House**  
Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St., SW  
Farmers' market, yard sale, choir and liturgical dancing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Film series from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
To participate or for more information, email [rokofages@yahoo.com](mailto:rokofages@yahoo.com) or call 202-554-9117.

**10 A.M. to 3 P.M. - Find the Art in the Flea Market**  
Second Union Baptist Church, 1107 Delaware Ave., SW  
Arts and crafts, jewelry, photographs, pottery, vintage clothing, water and soft drinks. To participate or for more information, call 202-486-1521.

**10 A.M. to 6 P.M. - Central Art Market**  
NE corner of M and Fourth Streets, SW, at Safeway  
Arts, crafts, food, vendors and live entertainment.  
To participate or for more information email [info@nagaevents.com](mailto:info@nagaevents.com) or call 202-681-6628.

**11 A.M. and 2 P.M. - Neighborhood Walking Tours**  
Leaving from Waterfront Metrorail station, 401 M St., SW.  
11 a.m. (Residential Southwest) and 2 p.m. (Southwest Waterfront). 90 minutes each. For more information call 202-484-1565 or go to [www.washingtonwalks.com](http://www.washingtonwalks.com).

**11 A.M. to 5 P.M. - Sock Puppet Art Studio**  
7th Street Landing, 700 Water St., SW  
Live music, barbecue, and a do-it-yourself sock-puppet art studio. For more information call 202-688-3590 or go to [www.wharfdc.com](http://www.wharfdc.com).

**12 NOON to 6 P.M. - Hand Dancing and Theater Tours**  
Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St., SW  
Hand-dancing performances and workshops, starting outside on the corner plaza, proceeding to the Ammerman Rehearsal Hall (Terrace Level). Also, hourly guided tours of the Mead Center for American Theater. For more information call 202-600-4023 or visit [www.arenastage.org/swartsfest](http://www.arenastage.org/swartsfest).

**12 NOON to 8 P.M. - 11th Annual DC Jazz Preservation Festival**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW  
Annual jazz festival with crafts and food for sale. To participate or for more information, call 202-484-7700 or go to [www.westminsterdc.org](http://www.westminsterdc.org).

**1 P.M. to 2 P.M. - Bicycle Parade**  
From FIGMENT at Yards Park along M Street to Fourth Street, SW. For more information or to participate email [contact@bicyclespacedc.com](mailto:contact@bicyclespacedc.com) or call 202-962-0125. FIGMENT DC takes place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information visit [www.dc.figmentproject.org](http://www.dc.figmentproject.org).

**5 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. - Opera in the Outfield: Don Giovanni**  
Nationals Park, 1500 South Capitol St., SE.  
Pre-opera entertainment at 5 p.m.; opera 7 to 10:30 p.m. Food for sale. For more information call 202-416-8453 or (202) 467-4600, or visit [www.operaintheoutfield.org](http://www.operaintheoutfield.org).

## Successful Movie Night at Lansburgh Park

By Kate Renner

On Aug. 13, more than 50 people came out to enjoy the Kan Kouran Dance company's performance and watch *The Karate Kid* in Lansburgh Park. DPR, Council Member Tommy Wells' office, SWNA, PAWS of SW Dog Park Group and the Lansburgh Park Community Garden group sponsored the performance and movie night. The Popped Republic Popcorn truck also joined in the fun, offering a variety of popcorn flavors for sale.

The activities started at 7:30 with a rousing dance performance by the Kan Kouran Dance company. The Lansburgh Park performance was their first in SW DC. They had a lively and amusing instructional session where they invited the children up to dance with them. More information about the Kankouran group, which practices at Southwest's Randall Recreation Center can be found at [www.kankouran.org](http://www.kankouran.org). Their next performance is September 1st at the Lisner Auditorium.

As dusk settled everyone gathered around the large inflatable screen to watch *The Karate Kid* (2010). This lively update of the classic



Photo by Kael Anderson

The Kan Kouran Dance Company performs at Lansburgh Park.

starred Jaden Smith (son of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith).

Join us Sept. 10 at 8:30 p.m. for 2012's last scheduled movie-in-the-park: *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* starring Brandy, Whoopi Goldberg, and Whitney Houston. Lansburgh Park is off of Delaware Avenue behind the police station.

## Scholarship Recipient Heads for Sports Management Career

By Joyce Bouvier

Terrence Williams, winner of the Friends of Southwest DC's (FOS) \$1,500 scholarship in 2011, completed a busy freshman year at Delaware State University in Dover and looks forward to continuing toward his goal of a career in sports management. A graduate of Bell Multicultural High School, Williams, 19, grew up here in Southwest and attended Amidon and Jefferson.



Terrence Williams

had once considered an accounting career.

The University Seminar was a practical course which included resume preparation and mock interviews. Digging into his major, he had a practicum in sports management requiring community service, which he fulfilled by managing the university's volleyball team. He had the opportunity to attend a sports

management conference where he could discuss the field with professionals, and at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis he was able to talk with players. He played intramural basketball and football. Other sports he enjoys include baseball, golf and swimming.

Friends of Southwest DC and *The Southwester* wish Williams well as he continues his college studies. Tax-deductible donations to FOS may be sent at any time to 389 O St. SW.

## Girl Scout Troop 4298 Marks a Successful Year

By Thelma Jones

Over five years ago, three young ladies – Monica Evans, Heather Foley, and Alexis Echols – decided to give back to the community by creating a Girl Scout Troop in Southwest. Ironically, two of the founders of the Girl Scout Troop – Evans and Foley – grew up in Southwest as members of the nation's capital's first integrated Girl Scout Troop during the late 1970s. Today, Troop 4298 under the leadership of Alexis Echols, Katie McWilliams and SW residents Monica Evans, Heather Foley, Audrea Hennis and Elizabeth Early is thriving, changing little girl's lives, gaining recognition and enjoying an outpouring of community support.

Recently, the troop held its closing ceremony at King Greenleaf Recreation Center to mark the end of another successful year, share their accomplishments with the community, recognize the girls' growth to the next level and acknowledge community supporters. Award categories recognized the girls' achievements as they walked up to claim their awards, proudly wearing their sashes.

Among the recognitions, Jenaiah Johnson, 7, received the coveted Juliette Gordon Low Award. Named in honor of the founder of the Girl Scouts, the award is given to a young girl who, as Troop Leader Evans indicated, "most exhibits what it means to be a Girl Scout." During the ceremony, popular traditions were demonstrated such as the Girl Scout sign using three fingers, handshake and friendship circle with the audience joining in.

Troop leaders also praised the scouts for their efforts in selling Girl Scout cookies which is their biggest revenue source for troop activities. Further recognition was also given to the troop for braving the hot sun during their participation in the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts on the Mall in July.

Community supporters recognized during

the ceremony included King Greenleaf Recreation Center, which is where the troop is housed, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force, which provided funding for their camping trip and field trip to Baltimore, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, which funded the troop's tea party and participated in their Career Day, and the SW Duck Pond, which contributed financial support.

Southwesters can look for the girls in Decem-

ber at Fourth and M streets SW as they sell their holiday jingle jewelry to raise funds for their contribution share of the scouting scholarship program which assists other needy scouts. If you love Girl Scout cookies, the troop will be selling in February.

The Girl Scout program aims to empower girls and help teach values such as honesty, fairness, courage, compassion, character, sisterhood, confidence and citizenship through activities

including camping, community service, learning first aid and earning badges by acquiring other practical skills. If you know of a young girl between the age 5 and 12 who is interested in the Girl Scouts, please contact Monica Evans at (202) 468-9620.

■ Thelma Jones is vice president of the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force and a veteran writer for *The Southwester*.

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Photos From The Southwester Archives

# 'Day Out of Time' Celebrates Peace Through Culture

By Manifest Ra

Southwest will never be quite the same. Last month more than 200 people came out and participated in the "Day Out of Time" Celebration at Westminster Church, an all-day event celebrating planetary peace through culture.

Every July 25, the 13 Moon Calendar, a Mayan-influenced natural time system, acknowledges this day as a time to honor our creativity, disconnect from the mundane affairs of life, exercise forgiveness and cancel debts.

The Day Out of Time observance began at dawn and lasted into the evening, occurring simultaneously with other similar synchronized events happening worldwide. With an overall theme of "Time is Art," and in keeping with Westminster's current "Wellness Wednesdays"



activities, the event emphasized the healing, culinary, creative, visual, musical and environmental arts through activities and presentations.

Participants started the festivities with sunrise meditation, Tai Chi-Qigong, yoga, and a walk in Westminster's labyrinth. During lunchtime, people enjoyed a variety of arts-focused activities for youth and adults, drumming and dancing, meditation, Tai Chi-Qigong, and acoustic musical performances from local artists including harpist and singer Ivy Hylton and reggae musician Baba Ras D.

The afternoon featured seated yoga, laughter yoga and Tai Chi-Qigong offered to participants. The day's activities concluded with a "Time is Art" talk, sunset meditation, and film screening of the documentary "2012: Time For Change,"

produced in part by Evolver.

The late Dr. José Argüelles (1939 - 2011), author of *The Mayan Factor*, clarified and popularized the date Dec. 21, 2012 as being the end of the Mayan Great Cycle. He wrote that, "The Day Out of Time has been celebrated since 1992, as part of a growing populist world movement, the World Thirteen Moon Calendar Change Peace Movement, whose purpose is just that - to change the calendar."

He continued, "July 25, the Gregorian calendar date of the Day Out of Time, is the 365th day of the year of the Thirteen Moon calendar. This harmonic timing standard (reflected in the lunar cycle) measures the year in 13 even months of 28 days each, a perpetual calendar of 52 perfect weeks, making a total of 364 days. The 365th day, the Day Out of Time, is no day of



the week or month at all, but truly a Day Out of Time. For this reason, this special day is observed as the day to cancel debts, to pardon and forgive, and to celebrate life through art and culture."

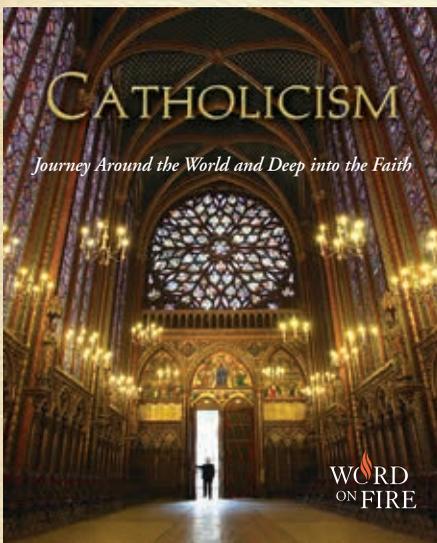
The event was produced in collaboration with Planetary Art Network-DC, Evolver DC, One Common Unity, Heal Humanity, and the Foundation for the Law of Time. For information about the 13 Moon Calendar, how to get involved

in the calendar change movement or next year's event, contact Manifest at (202) 746-4537.

■ Manifest Ra is a co-producer of 'Day Out of Time DC', and founder and chairman of Heal Humanity, a D.C.-based non-profit organization.

# CATHOLICISM

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DATE, TIMES & LOCATION:

Every Sunday from October 7 to December 16  
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
St. Dominic Church  
630 E Street, SW  
(Meeting room is mid-block on the lower level)

REGISTRATION:

No RSVP or registration required.  
  
All are welcome.

CONTACT:

St. Dominic Church office  
202-554-7863 or  
[www.stdominicchurch.org](http://www.stdominicchurch.org)



Fact sheet and content information at [http://wordonfire.org/Cath\\_FactSheet.html](http://wordonfire.org/Cath_FactSheet.html)

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- ▲ Information evening: Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Dominic Parish Meeting Room, 630 E Street, SW (lower level)
- ▲ Regular teaching evenings continue on Tuesday evenings beginning Tuesday August 28 at 7:00 p.m. and continue through Tuesday May 21, 2013. Location: St. Dominic Parish Meeting Room, 630 E Street, SW (lower level)

## Questions?

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Email: [receptionist@stdominicchurch.org](mailto:receptionist@stdominicchurch.org) • Website: [www.stdominicchurch.org](http://www.stdominicchurch.org)



Photos by Perry Klein

## SWNA Internships

SWNA's Technology Task Force received a grant recently from Friends of Southwest DC to train summer interns on computer technology for job training. Under the instruction of Joseph Xavier, the two interns are gaining hands-on experience on rebuilding and repairing computers. Over 200 computers

were donated to SWNA recently by the Graduate School for use in the Southwest community, and more are being given to Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson Academy for use by students and teachers there.

In the photo (above right) Greenleaf Gardens resident Marlon Mitchell received a notebook computer as part of his scholarship from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. The computer was one of several reconditioned by SWNA's two computer technol-

ogy interns, Andre Wilkinson and Duane Patterson. Mitchell is entering his freshman year at Kent State University. Pictured with him is Rick Bardach of SWNA's Scholarship Committee and Youth Activities Task Force.

In the photo (above left) interns Duane Patterson (left) and Andre Wilkinson show Dr. Coralie Farlee, President of Friends of Southwest DC a room full of IBM computers the two interns are rebuilding and refurbishing.

## SEPTEMBER

**SAT 1 4-5:30 p.m.** Experience Yoga Nidra at Westminster "Jazz" Church, 400 I St. SW. 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 information call 202-746-6654 or email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net.

**SAT 8 10:30 A.M.** Family Story Time, Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

**SUN 9 4 P.M.** Inspirations For a Sunday Afternoon: A Concert by David B. Whitley, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW. Visit <http://www.cumc.org/> events for information and to purchase tickets.

**MON 10 7 P.M.-10 P.M.** ANC6D Monthly Public Meeting, 1100 Fourth St. SW, DCRA Hearing Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**WED 19 NOON** AARP-Southwest Waterfront Chapter 475 The speaker will be Louis Davis Sr., State Director of AARP-DC, who will discuss "You've Earned Your Say" Initiative. Participants will be able to share their ideas and opinions with Mr. Louis regarding strengthening Social Security and Medicare, Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. For information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or (202) 488-9685.

**THUR 20 7-8 P.M.** PSA 105 Community Meeting, River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Ave SW, South Community Room.

**MON 24 7-8:30 P.M.** SWNA Meeting, 600 M St. SW.

**SAT 29 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion**, Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW. Copies of September selection "When She Was White" by Judith Stone are available at the library.

## Community Calendar

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

**SAT 29 10-11 A.M.** PSA 106 Community Meeting, 900 Fifth St. SE, Senior Citizen Community Room.

### WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

**AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751**, Third Wednesday of each month. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. For information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

**AYA COMMUNITY MARKETS** "a farmers market and holistic health experience," Saturdays through Nov. 17, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW. Visit [www.ayamarkets.org](http://www.ayamarkets.org) or phone (202) 332-1306. Provides resources for healthy and sustainable communities through farm-fresh produce; educational health speakers and live musical performances; locally produced handmade crafts and baked goods; art, youth activities and more.

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

**CHILDREN'S ROOM PROGRAM** Preschool Story Time - 10:30-11:00 A.M. September, Tuesdays and Thursdays; every Wednesday Pajama Story Time, 7 p.m. Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

**COMPUTER CLASSES**, THURSDAY 10 a.m.-noon, Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW:

**THURS 6** Microsoft Word

**THURS 13** Microsoft Excel

**THURS 20** Microsoft Powerpoint

**THURS 27** Introduction to Personal Computers

**OCT 4** No class scheduled

**KATHLEEN TURNER FILM FEST** (in partnership with Arena Stage), Mondays, 6:30 p.m.:

**SEPT 10** The Accidental Tourist

**SEPT 17** The Virgin Suicides

**SEPT 24** Prizzi's Honor

**OCT 1** Romancing the Stone

**FAMILY STORY TIME**, 10:30 a.m., second Saturdays, Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

**HAND DANCING CLASSES**, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Saturdays, noon-2 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth SW, Community room off Wesley Place SW.

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW**, Fridays, 6-9 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street S.W., Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

**KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT**, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**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 Free-Way Meeting

**WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

**POLICE SERVICE AREA 105**, Community meeting, every third Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., Location announced at previous meeting.

**POLICE SERVICE AREA 106**, Community meeting, every last Saturday, 10-11 a.m., Senior Citizen Community Room 900 Fifth St. SE.

**SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA**, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW. Information: (202) 554-3222.

**SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP**, Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW. Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and/or machine sewing skills.

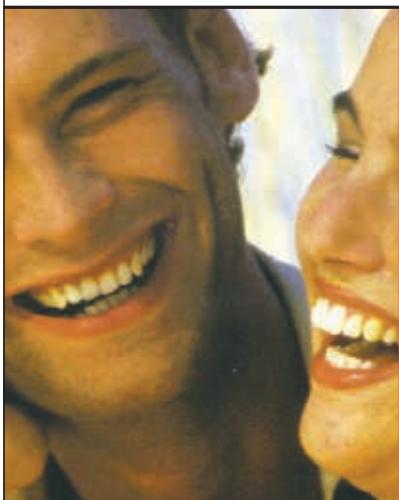
**SW FREEWAY, NA**, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW.

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB**, 7-9 p.m. First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW. Information: (202) 291-6229.

**ZUMBA GOLD**, 11 a.m.-noon. Fridays. Low-impact exercise/dance class for seniors, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St. SW. Free.

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

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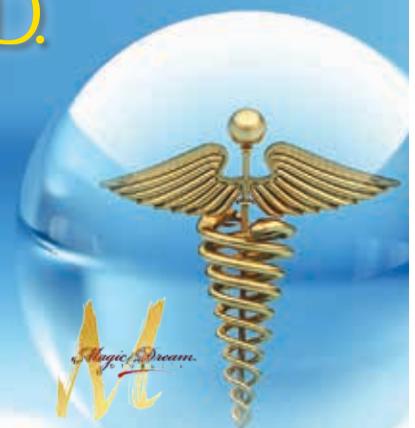
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# Onyx Tenants' Association Files to Assert Purchase Rights

By Timothy Bolden

Residents of Onyx on First, a 266-unit high-rise rental building located at 1100 First St. SE in Washington DC's new and dynamic Capitol Riverfront neighborhood have filed their intent to pursue their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) with the DC Department of Housing and Community Development.

Under TOPA, a landlord must provide tenants with an offer of sale. This can be done either before or after the landlord has signed a contract with a third party. This offer must include the asking price; a statement as to whether a third-party contract already exists; a statement that the owner shall make certain information about the property, including a floor plan of the building (if one exists), available to the tenants within seven days after receiving a written request and an itemized list of monthly operating expenses. Additionally, tenants have the absolute right to sell or assign their rights to yet another third party.

The residents recently formed the association and are trying to determine the best possible use for the building which opened in late 2008. The newly formed association represents approximately 60 percent of eligible units in the building. By pursuing their

rights under TOPA, the association hopes to reverse problems which plagued the area for years: poor housing conditions, rent increases and attempts by developers to force residents out of the District.

Some of the building's residents confessed to not reading the notice of the planned \$82 million sale (previously expected to close later this month) which was posted in the lobby as required by law. However, many residents immediately recognized that for the residents this wasn't just another real estate deal. They saw it as an opportunity to control their own destiny and preserve the affordability of their community, which has a diverse and eclectic mix of professionals.

"We are very happy that the Canyon-Johnson team brought Class 'A' housing to this emerging submarket," said Timothy Bolden, President of the association. "They've been great owners. Quite frankly, we were shocked that they would want to sell this property rather than retain it or even further their expansion in the burgeoning Capitol Riverfront neighborhood. They're not selling the Hilton in NW DC." Bolden went on to say, "By exploring our rights under TOPA, we are able to better examine our overall housing choices. Ultimately, we will have to decide if we want

to continue as rental housing, convert to condominiums, form a cooperative, or some hybrid model. And, given the renaissance of the area, all are excellent options."

Regardless of the final outcome, tenants' concerns and priorities generally have the same overarching themes in the areas of affordability, available amenities, building operations, maintenance and the ability to continuously make a positive impact in the community. Bolden went on to add, "Sure it's a daunting task to for us to learn real estate legalese, but the worst thing that we can do is to do nothing. We don't want to become the new displaced face of the new Southeast DC corridor. We have an array of talented professionals that are assisting us with our efforts moving forward. That's an added benefit of having such great neighbors. Moving forward, our challenge is to balance everyone's goals while crafting a transaction that is economically viable. The association is excited about all of the possibilities. This is an incredible opportunity and we want to be sure that everyone walks away from the table happy."

■ Timothy Bolden is president of the Onyx on First Tenants' Association.

## ECODISTRICT

From p. 3

ability and to open up Virginia Avenue to reach all the way to Independence Avenue. During this development, NCPC also proposes to expand the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station at L'Enfant Plaza into a larger railway hub to reduce the load from Union Station.

The third phase would deck the CSX railroad line currently running across 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW to 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, to establish Maryland Avenue and connect it into the street grid. This portion of the project would work in conjunction with expanding the L'Enfant rail station to increase commuter rail capacity.

The final phase would deck over the portion of I-395 that is north of Banneker Park, creating

a tunnel over the Freeway. This portion of the plan intends to reconnect the Southwest neighborhood to the region south of the National Mall, aimed in part to reverse the geographical separation created as a result of the Freeway's construction during the Urban Renewal efforts of the 1950s. NCPC proposes to use some of the space over the Freeway for development of commercial and museum buildings, complementing the proposed Banneker Park structures described in the first phase. NCPC proposes to cover the rest of the space above I-395 with a solar canopy.

The Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D has been actively involved in the Ecodistrict design process. Community leaders generally support the plan, although disagreements remain over development on Banneker Park. Bob Craycraft, Commissioner for ANC 6D01 which would house the Ecodistrict region, outlined

the following five priorities for the project in his testimony before the NCPC in August 2011:

Against the NCPC's current plans, Commissioner Craycraft requests the preservation of the Banneker-10th Street Overlook in its entirety, including the Daniel Urban Kiley-designed lawns to Maine Avenue SW and 9th Street SW.

The restoration of the L'Enfant grid, particularly including the removal of the Forrestal Complex for the restoration of Virginia Avenue SW, and unblocking the view of the Smithsonian castle structure from 10th Street SW.

The evaluation of the I-395 decking project to examine the possibility of decking over as great a distance east of 7th Street SW as the gradient will allow. Commissioner Craycraft believes that extending the decking by a short distance would support both the L'Enfant grid restoration and the District's plan to deck the

I-395 and tunnel the I-295 freeways.

The incorporation of a southern-facing entrance the L'Enfant Plaza metro station.

The incorporation of southern access points into the L'Enfant Plaza retail center.

Commissioner Craycraft can be contacted at Bobc4dcs@gmail.com or at 488-3866 with comments or feedback about the project.

The NCPC will collect public comments until September 10, and anticipates agency approval of its finalized report in January 2013. The Ecodistrict would be funded from a combination of federal, District of Columbia, and private sector sources.

■ Kamilla Kovacs is vice president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

## AMIDON-BOWEN

From p. 1

All DC families are welcome to apply. The full enrollment application, with residency verification documents, is required to secure a spot in this new class. As of this writing, there were 27 available slots available for grades K- 5. The successful "Tools for the Mind" program (evaluated by The National Institute for Early Education Research) is being expanded to include Kindergarten this year. It was implemented in the Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten classrooms last year improving classroom quality and student self-regulation.

The fall playground renovation will include areas for toddlers and 6-12 year olds at a cost of \$500,000 and will be completed this fall. The play areas will feature new equipment, specially designed play surfaces and an artificial turf play field and track. The playground will be fenced, but open to the community. The standard size basketball hoops will be installed in Lansburg Park located behind the Metropolitan Police 1D Headquarters on the currently abandoned tennis courts. This area will be totally renovated by DPR in September at a cost of \$150,000 to provide a first-class court.

The school has received several grants for the ensuing academic year. DCPS awarded a

\$240,000 "What's Possible" innovative grant plus a \$750,000 grant from Target for reading and literacy instruction. Last year Target, with the Heart of America Foundation, did a complete makeover of Amidon-Bowen's Library including the purchase of new books.

The Mandarin Oriental Hotel, one of Amidon-Bowen's Community Partners, will be holding a "5K fun walk/run or crawl" around the Mall to raise funds to purchase "Leveled Libraries," which are fiction and non-fiction classroom reading materials designed for each grade level. This gives every child a chance to enjoy reading no matter where he/she is in the learning spectrum. Paying the entrance fee of \$35 and making a \$100 donation makes you eligible for the drawing for some very nice prizes. Enter by contacting: <http://www.razoo.com/story/Fantastic-March-II-5k-Fun-Run-Walk-On-September-9-2012>.

Two language programs, French and Mandarin Chinese, funded by the Department of Transportation, will be in the school. L'Alliance Francais, the French language and culture center with chapters in 136 Countries, will provide opportunity for students in grade 3, and possibly grade 2, by creating a full French immersion program two mornings a week. The University of Maryland Mandarin Chinese program provides the opportunity for children to learn about different cultures and to acquire language proficiency.

A wide variety of clubs and activities are already a part of the enrichment activities at Amidon-Bowen. Last year students participated in Snowboarding, Cheer Leading, Choir, The Navy Yard's Science Program and National Bass

Fishing Tournament at National Harbor as well as other activities.

DC CAS scores as reported show an overall 3.3% growth. A sizable group of students moved from a "below basic" position at the beginning of the year to the "basic" category. This important trend is not apparent in the DC CAS reporting, that shows only "proficient" and above scores. The trend is in the right direction and puts students in position to move ahead this year. Amidon-Bowen will be fully invested in the Common Core Curriculum. Math and Science Common Core will be added. English and Social Studies Common Core were in the program last year. These programs are "student centered" and provide opportunities for collaborative learning experiences.

Great enthusiasm is felt in the smiles of the teachers and staff in the hallways and the beautiful classrooms. Ward 6 Council Member Tommy Wells has supported the renovation and is working to move the window replacement ahead of the original schedule. Members of the community, including Screech the Nationals Mascot, McGruff the Crime Dog and Officers from Ft. Myer-Henderson Hall will be on hand Aug. 27 to greet students and their parents as they arrive. Safeway and Potbelly will donate breakfast for the staff and parents as they have done for the last three years. I don't think anything short of another earthquake can eclipse the beginning of this school year.

■ Meg Brinckman is a longtime contributor to The Southwester on education issues. Ron McBee is the ANC Commissioner for single-member district 6D03.

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MSC

## ARTS FEST

From p. 1

annual "Find the Art in the Flea Market."

Like last year, Washington Walks will offer neighborhood walking tours, Arena Stage will host hand-dancing performances and workshops, and The Wharf (at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Landing) will hold a hands-on outdoor sock-puppet art studio (bring a sock, and some imagination).

This year's SW ArtsFest will be part of Cultural Tourism's Art4All DC, a six-week-long autumn celebration of the arts in Washington.

ArtsFest needs volunteers. Volunteers can fill a variety of needs, from public relations to litter patrol to security. Carolyn Mitchell is heading up SW ArtsFest's volunteer effort. To become part of SW ArtsFest 2012, contact Carolyn Mitchell at (202) 438-1069 or carolyn.mitchell@yahoo.com.

The neighborhood can't have a festival without funding. Contributions to SW ArtsFest are tax-deductible under federal and DC law. Make checks out to SW ArtsFest and mail to



Photo by Fred McBride

Above and below, scenes from last year's ArtFest.



Photo by Perry Klein

the festival at 400 I Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. You can also contribute via PayPal on the festival's website.

For more information about specific SW ArtsFest events, see the SW ArtsFest 2012 Schedule, elsewhere on this page. For more information generally about SW ArtsFest 2012, email swartsfest@gmail.com, call (202) 320-0286, or go to www.swdcartsfest.org.

All SW ArtsFest programming is subject to change. One thing's for sure: this year, for art at the end of September, Southwest DC is the place to be.

## SW ArtsFest 2012 Schedule

**Bicycle Parade.** From FIGMENT at Yards Park along M Street to Fourth Street SW, 1-2 p.m. For more information or to participate, email contact@bicyclespacedc.com or call (202) 962-0125. FIGMENT DC takes place from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information go to www.dc.figmentproject.org.

**Central Art Market.** At the northeast corner of M and Fourth Streets SW, in front of Safeway. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Arts, crafts, food, vendors, and live entertainment. To participate or for more information, email info@nagaevents.com or call (202) 681-6628.

**Dance and Theater Tours.** At Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW, noon-6 p.m. Hand-dancing performances and workshops, starting outside on the corner plaza, proceeding to the Ammerman Rehearsal Hall (Terrace Level). Also, hourly guided tours of the Mead Center for American Theater. For more information email durquhart@arenastage.org, call (202) 600-4023, or go to www.arenastage.org/swartsfest. For more information about hand dancing, call (866) 583-0780 or go to www.nationalhanddance-association.org.

**End-of-Summer Fair.** At St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Live music, arts, crafts, raffle and rummage sale, children's activities, and food for sale. To participate or for more information, email office@staugustinesdc.org or call (202) 554-3222.

**Film Series and Open House.** At Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW. Farmers' market, yard sale, choir and

liturgical dancing 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Film series 2-7 p.m. To participate or for more information, email rokofages@yahoo.com or call (202) 554-9117.

**Find the Art in the Flea Market.** At Second Union Baptist Church, 1107 Delaware Ave. SW, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Arts and crafts, jewelry, photographs, pottery, vintage clothing, water and soft drinks. To participate or for more information, call (202) 486-1521.

**Jazz Festival.** At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW, noon-8 p.m. Annual Jazz Festival with crafts and food for sale. To participate or for more information, call (202) 484-7700 or go to www.westminsterdc.org.

**Neighborhood Walking Tours.** Leaving from Waterfront Metrorail Station, 401 M St. SW, 11 a.m. (residential Southwest) and 2 p.m. (Southwest Waterfront). 90 minutes each. For more information call (202) 484-1565 or go to www.washingtonwalks.com.

**Opera in the Outfield: Don Giovanni.** On the high-definition scoreboard at Nationals Park, 1500 S. Capitol St. SE. Pre-opera entertainment at 5 p.m.; opera 7-10:30 p.m. Food for sale. For more information call (202) 416-8453 or (202) 467-4600, or go to www.operaintheoutfield.org.

**Sock Puppets on the Waterfront.** At The Wharf on Southwest Waterfront, Seventh Street Landing, 700 Water St. SW, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Live music, barbecue, and a do-it-yourself sock-puppet art studio. For information call (202) 688-3590 or go to www.wharfdc.com.

## Notes On the Nats

### Remembering to Breathe

By Zev Feder

Legend has it that baseball is America's favorite sport. And in the wiring of my brain, that certainly is true. I was born in Brooklyn, NY when Jackie Robinson was a rookie for one of America's classic sports love stories, the Brooklyn Dodgers. And my eight-year-old heart was easy pickings for the Boys of Summer when they first became World Champions, finally beating the pin-striped Yankees starring Mantle, Berra and Whitey Ford.

Brooklyn lived and died with the daily joys and frustrations of each pennant race of the years in between. Die-hard young fans, along with their often first or second-generation immigrant parents, were caught in an unending, perennial tide of community excitement.

When the Dodgers moved out west it broke the heart of the borough. But a new expansion team returned in the form of Casey Stengel's inept Amazing Mets, and in 1969 National League fans in Brooklyn and throughout New York got to relive the joys of a long-suffering team becoming last-to-first World Champions.

Starting to sound familiar? But here is where I am going with this:

Being the winner is not really the most enjoyable thing in sports. Winning does not equal

happiness. Being World Champion is not what makes hearts race. A racing heart makes a World Champion. Results are not as important as process, and enjoying the process IS happiness.

The 2012 Washington Nationals are a rags-to-riches story. And if the season ends with a World Series appearance or – hold your breath – a World Series Championship, it will be wonderful. I don't mean to say it won't. But there is still plenty of baseball left to play before the playoffs. And the baseball we already have had this season, and have every day, has been captivating. Our team of substantially home-grown players has learned and grown right before our eyes.

This season is amazing. The pennant race, which began with anticipation and hope in April and has been building steadily every day since, has been and continues to be a joy to experience. The team has never-quit heart and one-for-all, all-for-one character; the manager is intelligent, crafty and caring; and they all are lovable.

This is so fun. Breathe.

■ *Zev Feder is a long-time Southwest resident with a life-long passion for baseball as a player, coach and, above all, fan.*

## St. Augustine's Plans Blessing of the Animals

By Elaine F. Graves

Blessing of the Animals will be held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m. at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. In honor of St. Francis, the saint who loved all the birds and animals, the Rev. Martha Clark, priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's, invites all Southwest neighbors to bring their pets to receive blessings on the corner lawn of the church at Sixth and M streets SW, across from Arena Stage.

"Even if you don't have a pet, bring your favorite stuffed animal. This will be a fun and festive occasion and there will be treats for all pets and their human caretakers and

friends," Clark said. "It is said that St. Francis loved to preach to the birds. There won't be any preaching - just a chance to celebrate and bless your pets and get to know other Southwest pet owners."

In case of rain, the event will be held inside the church. All creatures great and small, leashed or crated, are welcome.

For information, contact St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW, at (202) 554-3222 or rector@staugustinesdc.org.

■ *Elaine F. Graves has been a Southwest resident since 1984 and an active parishioner in St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. She is a retired publicity and events expert.*



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# Want to Go?



Photo by Joy Asico

## Fashion Statement

Long-time Southwest resident and frequent Southwester contributor Thelma Jones models at the sold-out American Cancer Society Cure-By-Design Fashion Show at the Ronald Reagan Building.

### Rock 'n' Roll and Opera in September

What's your musical preference? Opera or rock and roll? This September see both in Southwest.

Washington National Opera's fifth annual Opera in the Outfield will be a live broadcast of the performance of Don Giovanni from the Kennedy Center on Saturday, Sept. 29. This is a free community event to watch the opera on the high-definition screen at Nationals Park. Gates will open at 5 p.m. and the Don Giovanni simulcast begins at 7 p.m. Seating will be available on the outfield grass (weather permitting) and in the stands.

In addition to the opera simulcast, the M&M's Opera in the Outfield features "pre-game" activities, giveaways and other entertainment such as lessons in stage combat and flamenco dancing. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early and enjoy the festive ballpark atmosphere.

**WHAT:** Opera in the Outfield with Mozart's Don Giovanni

**WHERE:** Nationals Park

**WHEN:** Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.

**TICKETS:** Free but reserved tickets available beforehand

**INFORMATION:** [www.operaintheoutfield.org](http://www.operaintheoutfield.org)

### Arena's First Musical of the Season

Arena Stage's first musical presenta-

tion of the 2012-13 season is about the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll: Janis Joplin. The musical portrait of the artist is filled with her classic songs ("Piece of My Heart," "Summertime," "Mercedes Benz") as well as spotlighting trailblazers who influenced Janis like Bessie Smith, Etta James and Aretha Franklin. Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bP0quYs-yNQ> for a preview of this event.

**WHAT:** Rock 'n' Roll Biography One Night with Janis Joplin

**WHERE:** Kreeger Theater

**WHEN:** Sept. 29-Nov. 4

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION:** Call 202-554-9066 (General) or 202-488-3300 (Sales) or check online at [www.arenastage.org/](http://www.arenastage.org/)

**SOUTHWEST NIGHT:** Oct. 31 at 7:30

### Red Hot Patriot Panels at Arena Stage

**WHAT:** Engage@ArenaStage Panel Series. Guest panelists ranging from friends and colleagues of Molly Ivins' to prominent journalists, authors and artists will join in conversation.

**WHEN:** Following the Sunday matinees of *Red Hot Patriot* (approximately 3:15 p.m.) on Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30; and Oct. 7.

**COST:** Panels are free and open to the public.

**Sept. 9: From the Front Page to the Stage: The Creation of *Red Hot Patriot*** – Former *Houston Chronicle* columnist Cragg Hines sits down with playwright Margaret Engel for an insider's look into the inspiration behind *Red Hot Patriot*.

**Sept. 16: She Can't Say That, Can She?: Women in Journalism** – Author and former *Washington Post* reporter Myra MacPherson recounts her professional journey of breaking into the old boy's club with friend and colleague Molly Ivins.

**Sept. 23: The Lone Star State Lady** – Hear from friends, colleagues and fellow Texans on how the Lone Star State impacted Ivins personally and influenced her professionally.

**Sept. 30: Curating the News** – Shelby Coffey III shares his experience with educating the public about the value of a free press in a free society and memorializing the stories of the world's important events in unique and engaging ways.

**Oct. 7: Up Close and Personal: Molly Ivins' Life and Legacy** – Join Molly Ivins' "Chief of Staff" Betsy Moon in an intimate conversation about Molly's personality, career and her continued influence on journalists today.

**Reminder:** Southwest Night for *Red Hot Patriot* is Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

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