**Stevens to reopen as public school**

**Education:** West End site to hold Walls early childhood

*By GRACE BIRD*

Current Staff Writer

The long-vacant Stevens School will return to public education use for the 2018–19 school year as an early childhood center and an expansion of the nearby School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, officials announced last week. Mayor Muriel Bowser’s decision is expected to end years of twists and turns regarding the fate of the 1050 21st St. NW school. After it closed in 2008 due to poor enrollment, the Foggy Bottom-West End community fought off efforts to sell the property to a developer. The school’s advocates instead secured a deal in which a private development team would construct an office building on the school’s playground but would also renovate the historic Stevens building for Ivymount, a private special needs program that has worked with D.C. Public Schools.

In the most recent upheaval, new Schools Chancellor Antwan Wilson objected to Ivymount’s inclusion in the project, preferring to educate more special needs students in-house. To fill the vacuum, many West End community leaders worked with D.C. Public Schools.

**Ellington premiers modernized campus**

*By GRACE BIRD*

Current Staff Writer

No one, not even Mayor Muriel Bowser, claims that Duke Ellington School of the Arts’ $165 million renovation was cheap. Instead, most supporters contend that Ellington’s cost, which exceeded its initial budget by nearly $100 million, is justified because it is the city’s only public arts high school.

Bowser made that case at Ellington’s opening Saturday morning on the Burleith building’s front steps. “Let ‘em talk about how much it cost,” Bowser told onlookers. “You’ll see; it’s worth it.”

The Duke Ellington School opened in 1974, taking over the shuttered Western High School building at 3500 R St. NW. Citing deteriorating conditions and a lack of space and modern arts amenities, the District broke ground in 2014 on its large-scale modernization

**Raze plans approved for 1870s 13th St. building**

*By ZOE MORGAN*

Current Correspondent

Plans to demolish an 1870s row house and construct a modern new condo building in its place have won Historic Preservation Review Board approval, despite community objections to the 1312 13th St. NW project.

The four-story building had been listed as a contributing building to the Greater 14th Street Historic District, a status that usually protects against demolition or major alteration. But developer Acumen Cos. has been modified so heavily over the years that it was no longer valuable historically.

“The board determined that the building really didn’t have any integrity of design, materials or feeling,” Steve Callcott of the D.C. Historic Preservation Office said in an interview. “It didn’t really relate to the historic district as a historic building any longer.”

The board’s 5-1 vote on Aug. 3 reclassified the 13th Street building as non-contributing to the historic district and endorsed the site’s redevelopment plans. Acumen intends to construct a five-story building similar in size to the four-story structure it will

**ANC supports replacement of 4000 Wisconsin building**

*Development: Mixed-use plan includes 716 apartments*

*By GRACE BIRD*

Current Staff Writer

Redevelopment plans for the commercial building at 4000 Wisconsin Ave. NW won support from the local advisory neighborhood commission last month, with commissioners unanimously endorsing the ambitious new mixed-use project.

Donohoe Development is planning to replace the existing 1980s building with 716 apartment units, a grocery store, a health club and other ground-floor retailers. Although the project will comply with zoning regulations, the project’s grand scale is sending it through the city’s “large tract review” process, which is coordinated by the D.C. Office of Planning with involvement from various city agencies. This procedure grants less leverage to the community than a request for zoning relief, yet still grants a formal opportunity for public review and comment.

ANC 3C (Cleveland Park, Massachusetts Avenue Heights, Woodrow Wilson) also renovated the and expanded Duke Ellington School of the Arts includes dance studios, a fitness center, a rooftop classroom and an 800-seat theater.
DC trusts McEnearney Associates

McEnearney.com

Kelly Garrett

Kelly Basheer Garrett is a REALTOR® who holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning from Virginia Tech and a Master of Business Administration in Real Estate from American University. Her dedication and loyalty, and her savvy business skills have contributed greatly to her success in buying, selling and renting real estate for her clients.

Kelly loves helping first-time home buyers and enjoys connecting with people. She can often be found walking up and down Connecticut Avenue and chatting with passers-by along with her beloved Samoyed, Alta. She is a lifelong Washingtonian, growing up in McLean, Virginia, living for many years in Washington, D.C. and currently residing in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Kelly will make your real estate experience seamless. She firmly believes a real estate transaction is only successful if her client is satisfied. Her business background and extensive knowledge of the DMV area, combined with her commitment to customer satisfaction, makes her the ideal choice for all of your real estate needs.

Clients trust Kelly Garrett

Licensed in DC, MD & VA
202.258.7362
kgarrett@McEnearney.com
www.kellygarretthomes.com

DC trusts McEnearney Associates

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.
4315 50th St. NW, (ph) 202.552.5600 | 1803 14th St. NW, (ph) 202.903.2200

McEnearney. Associates REALTORS®

there when it counts
Emerson Prep departs Dupont for U Street

By ALEXA PERLMUTTER
Current Correspondent

Emerson Preparatory School, a longtime fixture in Dupont Circle, is set to welcome students to its new home on the fourth floor of the Thurgood Marshall Center, 1816 12th St. NW. Beginning tomorrow, the first day of the new school year, students will take classes in this new location complete with renovated classrooms, a new kitchenette and a gym.

Emerson — the city’s oldest non-denominational college prep school — had occupied a large town house at 1324 18th St. NW since 1939, but has been searching for a new location for some time. “As a school we’ve been discussing a move for several years as the Dupont area is becoming more prime real estate for residential development,” said Jon Stickler, Emerson’s head of school. “Rather than have to respond in the moment should changes force our hand, we were more proactive about it.”

The owner of the building in which Emerson had

San Francisco, the city’s oldest non-denominational college prep school — had occupied a large town house at 1324 18th St. NW since 1939, but has been searching for a new location for some time. “As a school we’ve been discussing a move for several years as the Dupont area is becoming more prime real estate for residential development,” said Jon Stickler, Emerson’s head of school. “Rather than have to respond in the moment should changes force our hand, we were more proactive about it.”

The owner of the building in which Emerson had

Fields, playgrounds shut due to failed safety test

By BRADY HOLT
Current Staff Writer

When D.C. students returned to school this month, some were faced with closed fields and playgrounds. According to Ward 3 D.C. Council member Mary Cheh, various outdoor facilities — both school play areas and public parks — recently failed the city’s shock absorption tests and are shuttered until the situation can be rectified.

A complete list wasn’t available as of The Current’s deadline yesterday, but a representative of Cheh’s office said that it included outdoor areas at Janney, Eaton and Mann elementaries and Wilson High. Some Department of Parks and Recreation facilities are also affected, though Cheh’s office didn’t have a list available. Affected locations may have use restrictions or be closed off entirely.

In a letter sent last Thursday to several D.C. officials, Cheh blasted the lack of information on the closures. She said her office had been seeking information on shock absorption or “g-max” testing for more than a month, yet only heard about the closures anecdotally from parents and school staff.

Cheh’s letter requests a complete list of affected locations, their estimated reopening dates, the District’s plan to address a failed or inconclusive test, and what alternative play areas exist at each affected park or playground.

At the same time, Cheh is also raising concerns about the continued use of crumb rubber infill on playgrounds. As part of the council’s budget act for the 2018 fiscal year, a ban on that material at Janney and to remove any that had already been installed.

To safety concerns about its absorption, heat and possible chemical leaching. According to Cheh, the D.C. Department of General Services is rushing to install a similar material at Janney before the end of September.

“We have to ensure that our children are safe at school, and that includes the buildings and grounds they occupy,” Cheh wrote in a statement to The Current.

“Questions have been raised about the danger of using crumb rubber on fields and, until those questions are resolved, we have to err on the side of health and safety. That’s why we voted for a moratorium on the use of this substance.”

In a Monday letter, Cheh threatened to pursue emergency legislation to prevent installation of such material at Janney to remove any that had already been installed.

The week ahead

Friday, Aug. 25
Mayor Muriel Bowser and the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation will host a Family Fun Day from 4 to 8 p.m. to celebrate the completion of renovations and new facilities at Friendship Recreation Center/Turtle Park, 45th and Van Ness streets NW. Activities will include popcorn, a moon bounce, face painting and more, with a screening of “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” set to begin as soon as it gets dark at around 8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 26
The D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation will host the second annual Taste of the World Festival to highlight the diversity of international communities in the District. The festival will include displays, music and dance performances, a food court and a market area. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Emery Heights Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Ave. NW. Admission is free; to RSVP visit tasteoftheworld.splashthat.com.

Wednesday, Aug. 30
The D.C. Office of the Tenant Advocate will hold a “Renters 101” training session. The training will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the agency’s office in Suite 300N, Reeves Center, 2000 14th St. NW. To RSVP, call 202-719-6560 or email delores.anderson@dca.gov.

The D.C. State Board of Education’s High School Graduation Requirements Task Force will meet at 6 p.m. in Room 1114, One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St. NW.

The Ward 3-Wilson Feeder Education Network will meet at 7 p.m. at the Tenley-Friendship Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave. NW.

Thursday, Sept. 7
The National Capital Planning Commission will hold its monthly meeting at 1 p.m. in its offices in Suite 500, North Lobby, 402 9th St. NW. Agenda items will include preliminary and final site and building plans for the renovation and expansion of the Carnegie Library and a presentation on the Metropolitan Washington Coastal Storm Risk Management Study.

Sunday, Sept. 10
The Black Student Fund and the Latino Student Fund will hold their annual school fair, offering families the opportunity to learn about independent school admissions, financial aid, testing and curriculum. The event will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW. Admission is free.
Road closures slated near Kennedy Center

Weekly short-duration closures are affecting the westbound lanes of the Roosevelt Bridge and both directions of the Rock Creek Parkway adjacent to the Kennedy Center, according to the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority.

DC Water says the construction-related closures will each last about 10 minutes and will take place every Monday at some point between noon and 3 p.m. through the end of September. Pedestrian access will be closed along westbound lanes of the bridge and along Rock Creek Parkway near the Kennedy Center, according to a news release.

The closures stem from DC Water’s construction in the southern portion of the Kennedy Center property as part of its Clean Rivers Project. The work may result in a series of air hurns, a brief plume of smoke at the southern end of the Kennedy Center, a mild vibration and a loud noise, the release states.

49th St. block shut for emergency work

The stretch of 49th Street NW between Fulton and Dexter streets closed last week for 12 to 16 weeks of emergency road work, according to the D.C. Department of Transportation.

The block-long closure affects all traffic — motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians except for the block’s residents — while crews replace a culvert and restore the roadway. Both incurred damage in recent storms.

The affected roadway runs alongside Battery Kemble Park on the edge of Wesley Heights.

Mann modernization obtains LEED Gold

The recently renovated Mann Elementary School has received LEED Gold environmental certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The renovation of the existing 17,000-square-foot school building at 4430 Newark St. NW was completed in 2016, along with the creation of a 33,000-square-foot addition.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification was based on features including the use of recycled content and regional materials; the use of low-emitting materials and natural light; views of and access to the outdoors; and a 20 percent reduction in water use, including the incorporation of water-efficient landscaping. The school also includes communal open spaces throughout the campus, a green roof for urban gardening, the use of glass walls and moveable partitions, and a gym/multi-purpose room that opens to the outdoors.

The project also won a Best Project honor in the K-12 category for 2017 from ENR Mid-Atlantic. The award is based on contribution to the industry and community, as well as construction and design quality.

Banned Books Week offers varied prizes

In celebration of Banned Books Week, the DC Public Library Foundation will hold its annual scavenger hunt throughout September, hiding more than 600 controversial books in over 50 locations across the District, including library branches, public spaces and community businesses.

With the theme of “Texts Against Tyranny,” this year’s event will run from Sept. 5 through 30 and will feature six titles: “The Handmaid’s Tale,” “Fahrenheit 451,” “Parable of the Sower,” “The Giver,” “We” and “Who Fears Death.” Each book is wrapped in a cover with a quote written on it and when all six titles are put together, the spines create an image.

Anyone who finds a hidden book and shares it on social media (Facebook, Instagram or Twitter) using #uncensoredDC will be entered for a chance to win prizes from partner businesses. In addition, anyone who finds one of 15 “golden ticket” books and shares it on social media using the hashtag will automatically win a pair of tickets to Uncensored Underground, the library foundation’s annual fundraising event on Sept. 30 at Dupont Underground, 19 Dupont Circle NW.

Clues for finding the hidden books will be featured on WAMU Morning Edition, library social media accounts and the library’s website, as well as through partner organizations. There will also be a separate scavenger hunt for teens inside library branches.

Corrections

As a matter of policy, The Current corrects all errors of substance. To report an error, call the managing editor at 202-567-2011. The Current reserves the right to edit contributed content for clarity. All advertising and editorial matter is fully protected by the publishers, under law and copyright.

For more information, please visit www.currentnewspapers.com.

Visit us online

At currentnewspapers.com, you’ll find more of the community-oriented news, features and sports you’ve accustomed to reading each week. You can also find us on Twitter @currentnewspaper and on Facebook at Current Newspapers. To sign up for a weekly email newsletter with a listing of the week’s stories with links to the website, contact currentnewspapers@gmail.com.
DEVELOPMENT: Plans advance for 4000 Wisconsin Ave. replacement

From Page 1

ley Park) was generally enthusiastic about the plans. In part, that’s due to disappointment with the current building. “It just doesn’t work very well,” commission chair Nancy MacWood told The Current, adding that she’s optimistic that the new retail offerings will help enliven the area around Wisconsin and Upton Street NW.

At the commission’s July 17 meeting, Andy Czajkowski of architectural firm SK+I said the designs will be attractive as well as functional — with a clearer, more accessible entrance. “We’re going to be transforming that entire ground floor level to be neighborhoody-friendly,” he said, without “walk-up ramps or staircases.” Donohoe hopes to begin construction in 2019 and open the new building in 2024.

Despite the broad support, commissioner Gwendolyn Bole implored designers to promote access to affordable housing by increasing the project’s number of two- and three-bedroom units. “That’s really the affordable housing we need in this city,” Bole said at the meeting. “I would urge you not to make those studios or all one-bedrooms.”

While Czajkowski said the project will comply with the Zoning Commission’s affordable housing regulations, the makeup of the units isn’t yet fixed, and developers are currently “digesting and processing” Bole’s concerns.

The project, which at its highest is 70 feet tall, reduces the current number of parking spaces from 1,039 to 883. This reduction will accommodate new D.C. Department of Transportation standards that encourage internal loading to avoid trucks backing out onto the street, according to Czajkowski.

“Because we’re internalizing all the loading, we’re losing a lot of the spaces,” Czajkowski said. “It’s sort of a complicated issue that we’ve kind of accepted and we’re working through.” Developers are optimistic that the remaining parking will be sufficient thanks to the ample public transit options nearby. The site is a half-mile from the Tenleytown Metro station and within a quarter-mile of nine Metrobus routes. The project’s traffic consultant suggested making “minor adjustments to the signal timings at the Wisconsin Avenue/Van Ness Street and Wisconsin Avenue/Upton Street intersections,” according to the large tract review application. Plans also include an update on the structure’s lackluster 1980s stormwater systems by improving current infrastructure. Additionally, designs promote bicycle and pedestrian access, allocating room for 325 bicycle parking spaces.

Donohoe president Peter Gartlan told The Current he was pleased to secure ANC 3C’s backing. “We hope to bring a first-class community to the neighborhood that all the residents are happy with,” Gartlan said.

MacWood urged developers to continue communicating with neighborhood representatives as the review process continues.

---

Does your Hospital Make the Grade?

This is a sponsored column by Catherine Bertram, Attorney at Law. Catherine is a Northwest Washington, D.C.-based attorney with over 25 years experience in medical malpractice cases, including those involving wrongful death.

You may see a heartwarming ad on TV or on the side of the Metrobus, but does it tell you anything about how safe that hospital is? According to the Journal of Patient Safety, about 1,900 patients die every day day as the result of medical errors, making it the third-leading cause of death in the United States.

Every day we choose where to eat, what products to buy for our homes, pets and family, and numerous similar decisions. We read consumer publications, consult with friends or co-workers or seek out online ratings before making a decision. Yet, there is often so much left to the unknown when it comes to selecting a hospital.

Needless to say, this choice can be life or death. Hospitals vary greatly on things like infection rates, surgical errors, and patient injuries—not to mention ER wait times and patient satisfaction.

There are several free resources available to assist you in finding the safest care for you and your family. A national not-for-profit organization, The Leapfrog Group works to reduce medical errors and infections by advocating for public access to quality and safety data.

The annual Leapfrog Hospital Survey measures the performance of over 1,800 U.S. hospitals, and is a trusted, transparent and evidence-based tool in which hospitals voluntarily participate. You should never refuse emergency care because of a hospital’s Leapfrog Safety Grade, but it provides a research tool for planned medical events and other future health needs.

According to Leapfrog, a hospital with an “A” is 9% safer than one with a “B” grade, and 50% safer than a hospital with a “D” grade.

District-based hospitals ranked 47th (by state) in Leapfrog’s Spring 2017 Hospital Safety Grade. None of the hospitals in D.C. earned an “A; and three were given a “D.” By comparison, Virginia ranked 9th, while Maryland’s hospitals were not ranked and not required to share their data.

Leapfrog allows you drill down on each hospital’s performance into each area of care—before you need to go to the Emergency Department.

If you need complex surgery, you can compare incidence rates for specific procedures. If you are pregnant, you can search records of managing high-risk deliveries. You can even review ICU staffing protocols and how each hospital uses computerized prescribing and bar-code technology to keep patients safe from medication errors.

As always, before making a decision, do your homework and talk to your doctor. Hopefully, we can work together to ensure that our local hospitals earn “Straight A’s,” and make our community as safe as possible.

---

Catherine Bertram is a Washington, D.C. trial lawyer who has been working on issues involving patient safety for more than 25 years. She was previously the Director of Risk Management at MedStar Georgetown Hospital, and she currently resides and practices law in the District of Columbia. She works as a patient advocate for families, as well as those who are seriously injured or lose their lives as a result of preventable medical errors.
Here in the real world...

The national news, it is exhausting. We cannot look away, nor should we, nor could we. Even if we were trying, it would be through our cellphones and conversations and not there.

As we wrote last week, associating with or promoting Nazi ideology ought to be the brightest red line. Former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich is a conservative shirker, said simply, “Good people don’t march with neo-Nazis.”

On CBS’s “Face the Nation,” the Atlantic editor Jeffrey Goldberg succinctly summed up Trump’s stumbling inflation of the nation, saying Trump and his supporters may not realize that the president is “accelerating the demise of Confederate statues. He’s accelerating the demise of Southern Romanticism.”

Make no mistake, the statues and symbols of the old Confederacy and its embattled leaders are doomed. The emerging debate now is, What next? Do we remove and destroy all vestiges of them? Do we add on-site context to show that these statues and memorials were not just honoring brave soldiers but also were venerating slavery and the states’ rights argument that supported it? Or do we remove them to places of museum and historical study?

Lonnie Bunch, director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, knows the power of historical artifacts that tell the abusive, murderous treatment of slaves on the ships heading here and in our own country. It is often easier to take our attention away from the harsh realities of history,” he wrote in a lengthy statement released over the weekend. “At the [museum] we are committed to bringing history to all of its pain and promise — front and center.”

Whatever is done with each Confederate statue, the issue of “ honoring” the Southern rebellion is being put to rest. The Confederate battle flag itself now mostly rests only in museums or in racist hands. We may look back and see these issues as symbolic if we as a nation turn more squarely to deep racial and cultural divides.

“We need to take our attention away from the harsh realities of history,” he wrote in a lengthy statement released over the weekend. “At the [museum] we are committed to bringing history to all of its pain and promise — front and center.”

Whatever is done with each Confederate statue, the issue of “honoring” the Southern rebellion is being put to rest. The Confederate battle flag itself now mostly rests only in museums or in racist hands. We may look back and see these issues as symbolic if we as a nation turn more squarely to deep racial and cultural divides.

“We need to take our attention away from the harsh realities of history,” he wrote in a lengthy statement released over the weekend. “At the [museum] we are committed to bringing history to all of its pain and promise — front and center.”

Whatever is done with each Confederate statue, the issue of “honoring” the Southern rebellion is being put to rest. The Confederate battle flag itself now mostly rests only in museums or in racist hands. We may look back and see these issues as symbolic if we as a nation turn more squarely to deep racial and cultural divides.

“ „We need to take our attention away from the harsh realities of history,” he wrote in a lengthy statement released over the weekend. “At the [museum] we are committed to bringing history to all of its pain and promise — front and center.”

Whatever is done with each Confederate statue, the issue of “honoring” the Southern rebellion is being put to rest. The Confederate battle flag itself now mostly rests only in museums or in racist hands. We may look back and see these issues as symbolic if we as a nation turn more squarely to deep racial and cultural divides.

A lingering hazard

In more than two decades of headlines about hazardous contamination in Spring Valley, it’s easy to become numb to the Army Corps of Engineers’ slow cleanup process. But a recent incident serves as a reminder that dangers still lurk in the peaceful-looking community.

The neighborhood of Spring Valley was built in previously undeveloped woodlands, which the Army had used for testing chemical weapons during the World War I era. The Army Corps has been cleaning up the mess since 1993.

A key trouble spot is 4825 Glenbrook Road NW, located adjacent to the American University campus. There, the Army had to raze a home to fully excavate the property. Nearly five years after the demolition, the work remains incomplete.

But lest there be any impatience, the need for the project’s methodical pace is perhaps clearer than ever. On Aug. 9, seven workers were hospitalized with symptoms of possible chemical exposure. They had been hand-digging 5 to 10 feet below the surface and had been wearing protective gloves, but were nonetheless treated for eye and skin irritation. The 4825 project has been paused while the Army investigates the incident and whether additional precautions are still needed.

Officials emphasize that there was never any risk to the public from this month’s incident. But the fact remains that seven people needed hospitalization due to Spring Valley’s contamination. The Army’s extensive cleanup is essential to undoing the damage it did a century ago.
In Series offers valuable cultural exposure

VIEWPOINT NAN HUIDEKOER

In a diverse world, it is theater, music and dance that remain a common humanity. Carla Huber — founder and producing/artistic director of the In Series — brings intimate, affordable opera, zarzuela and cabaret to those fortunate to know of the In Series — brings intimate, affordable opera, zarzuela and cabaret to those fortunate to know of this Series’ productions at various D.C. venues, including many in the historic GALA Theatre in Columbia Heights. The In Series reflects Carla’s interest in new works and the synergy of the performing arts. Its source is the global culture and talent of our cosmopolitan city.

For shows at GALA Theatre, the size of the auditorium — about 267 seats — and the staging give one a visceral sense of contact and communication with the actors. Aesthetic distance is reduced. Sometimes audience members are seated at candlelit tables on the stage, like an evening out at a cabaret. For last season’s innovative musical, “Oberon,” fanciful characters lit up in white lights came down the aisles and mermaids with cascading pink/green hair sang from the stage. While a chamber orchestra played near audience members. I was transported to a fairyland where things actually work out — a wonderful escape from reality, and a true midpoint of night’s dreams!

Carla, with her characteristic Chilean charm, welcomes each patron warmly upon entering the theater. She has committed her time, talent and gracious ways to the In Series for many years, but Carla has announced that she will retire after next season.

Carla’s career in the arts began as a concert pianist when she was a protege of the great Chilean pianist Claudio Arrau. She has won recognition in Europe and Latin America as well as in her native Chile.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Project inappropriate for low-scale AU Park

Recent letters to the editor about the proposed Superfresh development completely missed the point. This development site is entirely within American University Park. None of Massachusetts Avenue is part of AU Park. The site will and should be redeveloped, but the Valor Development proposal is and always has been totally out of scale with the quiet residential neighborhood of AU Park:

- AU Park now has no apartment buildings.
- An increase of 200 or more apartments would be a huge disruption here!
- There are now no buildings in AU Park more than three stories high. Almost all are one or two stories. A seven-story building would be another huge disruption here.
- Then there is serious traffic, air pollution and parking concerns with Valor’s plans. No wonder there is a focus on No Massive Development at Super Fresh!” signs within a few blocks of the site.

Planning for Massachusetts Avenue should be done by those connected to Massachusetts Avenue, not Massachusetts Avenue interest groups should not be allowed to impose their interests on AU Park residents.

It is curious that two very similar letters to The Current promoting a joint Massachusetts Avenue-Superfresh development came from apparent American University Park residents. Do they have some interest in Massachusetts Avenue development or represent others having such interests?

Robert L. York

American University Park

Don’t risk damage to successful retail area

The Current’s July 19 issue included an article on the alarm over the decline in the Connecticut Avenue NW corridor between Macomb and Porter streets. Despite the presence of a Metro rail station, restaurants, a well-established commercial history, and such amenities as a movie theater and a library, the area is in decline. The message is that growing and maintaining an active, vibrant urban area is difficult and cannot be taken for granted. As the article describes, once the balance of success factors is lost, it is hard to find the way back.

In light of what has happened on Connecticut Avenue, the plan to sequester street parking for police use in the very successful Cathedral Commons area should be reconsidered. Starting around 1990, with the opening of Cactus Cantina, this area has grown organically to create a balanced ecosystem that includes street parking. While I don’t believe in promoting street parking as a solution for a commercial area, it is a fact that the growth of this area is commensurate with the current level of street parking.

The city’s plan to take this essential parking resource from visitors to this area is a poisoned arrow aimed at the heart of this urban success story. It is the easy solution for the city’s planners as they pursue one particular objective, but, in the larger context, such a self-inflicted wound is not in the best interest of the city.

LaRary Schor

Spring Valley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Current publishes letters and Viewpoint submissions representing various points of view. Because of space limitations, letters should be no more than 400 words and are subject to editing. Letters and Viewpoint submissions intended for publication may be sent to newsdesk@currentnewspapers.com. The mailing address is Letters to the Editor, The Current, Post Office Box 40400, Washington, D.C. 20016-0400.
Police Report

This is a listing of incidents reported to the Metropolitan Police Department from Aug. 14 through 20 in local police service areas, sorted by their report dates.

PSA 202  ■  FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS TAILLIGHTS / AU PARK
Motor vehicle theft  ■  4500-4599 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 11:11 a.m. Aug. 15.
Theft  ■  4404-4499 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 10:30 p.m. Aug. 15.
■ 5300-5399 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 4:05 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 5300-5399 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 8:49 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 5300-5399 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 9:47 p.m. Aug. 18.
■ 5300-5399 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 5:24 p.m. Aug. 20.

PSA 203  ■  FOREST HILLS / VAN NESS CLEVELAND PARK
Motor vehicle theft  ■  5100-5133 block, Linnean Terrace; 10:27 a.m. Aug. 19.
■ 3600-3699 block, Everett St.; 12:24 p.m. Aug. 19.
Theft  ■  4200-4399 block, Connecticut Ave.; 5:22 p.m. Aug. 15.
Theft from auto  ■  3000-3099 block, Connecticut Ave.; 6:08 p.m. Aug. 17.

PSA 204  ■  MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS / CLEVELAND PARK
Motor vehicle theft  ■  2301-2499 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 11:31 p.m. Aug. 18.
Theft  ■  3800-3899 block, 39th St.; 4:59 a.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1000-1025 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 2:03 p.m. Aug. 15.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 3:16 p.m. Aug. 15.
■ 1400-1499 block, 36th St.; 7:20 a.m. Aug. 16.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 8:24 p.m. Aug. 16.
■ 3000-3029 block, K St.; 7:20 p.m. Aug. 16.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 11:30 a.m. Aug. 17.
■ 3600-3699 block, 0 St.; 12:48 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 7:26 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1224-1299 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 9:11 a.m. Aug. 17.
■ 3000-3029 block, K St.; 5:15 p.m. Aug. 18.
■ 3030-3099 block, M St.; 12:25 p.m. Aug. 19.
■ 1000-1039 block, Potomac St.; 6:30 p.m. Aug. 20.

PSA 205  ■  PALISADES / SPRING VALLEY CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
Theft  ■  5300-5338 block, H St.; 4:30 p.m. Aug. 15.
■ 1300-1399 block, 35th St.; 6:44 p.m. Aug. 16.
■ 3600-3699 block, Prospect Ave.; 8:10 p.m. Aug. 16.
■ 1400-1499 block, 31st St.; 1:20 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1400-1499 block, 31st St.; 1:23 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1800-1899 block, 35th St.; 1:23 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1020-1051 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 6:40 p.m. Aug. 17.

PSA 206  ■  GEORGETOWN / BURLEITH
Robbery  ■  3300-3399 block, N St.; 5:39 p.m. Aug. 17.
Burglary  ■  3000-3049 block, M St.; 11:59 a.m. Aug. 15.
■ 1000-1025 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 2:03 p.m. Aug. 15.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 3:16 p.m. Aug. 15.
■ 1400-1499 block, 36th St.; 7:20 a.m. Aug. 16.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 8:24 p.m. Aug. 16.
■ 3000-3029 block, K St.; 7:20 p.m. Aug. 16.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 11:30 a.m. Aug. 17.
■ 3600-3699 block, 0 St.; 12:48 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 3200-3275 block, M St.; 7:26 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1224-1299 block, Wisconsin Ave.; 9:11 a.m. Aug. 17.
■ 3000-3029 block, K St.; 5:15 p.m. Aug. 18.
■ 3030-3099 block, M St.; 12:25 p.m. Aug. 19.
■ 1000-1039 block, Potomac St.; 6:30 p.m. Aug. 20.

PSA 207  ■  FOOSY BOTTOM / WEST END
■ 400-699 block, 15th St.; 3:17 p.m. Aug. 19.
Assault with a dangerous weapon  ■  900-999 block, Jefferson Place; 4:42 a.m. Aug. 16.
■ 1400-1499 block, M St.; 5:29 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1500-1599 block, K St; 2:08 a.m. Aug. 19.

PSA 208  ■  SHERIDAN-KALORAMA DUPONT CIRCLE
Robbery  ■  1800-1899 block, Rhode Island Ave.; 5:02 a.m. Aug. 15.
■ 1700-1799 block, Rhode Island Ave.; 5:27 a.m. Aug. 15.
■ 1700-1799 block, P St.; 4:21 p.m. Aug. 15.
■ 1800-1899 block, 19th St.; 4 p.m. Aug. 16.
■ 2200-2299 block, P St.; 11:11 a.m. Aug. 16.
■ 1500-1599 block, 0 St.; 10:38 p.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1200-1219 block, Connecticut Ave.; 5:34 a.m. Aug. 17.
■ 1400-1499 block, 21st St.; 10:22 p.m. Aug. 18.
■ 1900-1999 block, Sunderland Place; 10:37 p.m. Aug. 18.
■ 1400-1499 block, Hopkins St.; 5:45 a.m. Aug. 19.
■ 1900-1913 block, 24th St.; 9:04 a.m. Aug. 20.
**Former Eagle continues NFL push**

By BRIAN KAPUR
Current Staff Writer

Former Gonzaga and University of Maryland star defensive lineman A.J. Francis played his first game at FedEx Field as a member of the Washington Redskins on Saturday night.

While he had played there during his college days and as a member of the Miami Dolphins, it was a special moment for the former Eagle.

“Came to games @ FedEx as a kid...played here b4 but the 1st time in Burgundy,” he posted on Twitter before the Redskins’ 21-17 preseason loss to the Green Bay Packers.

The nose tackle finished the game with four stops and found a way to be near the ball at the end of most downs.

“My last play, I ditched the guard and got a tackle for a loss,” he said. “It was a good play. But there is always something you can learn from. I want to make more plays and show up every play — everybody does. That’s unrealistic in football, but it’s still what I want to do.”

While Francis was constantly in the fray, he is also anxious to re-watch the game to find ways to improve.

“I feel like I judge my games harder than anybody else. Maybe I think I played good, but I know there’s stuff on tape that I can get better at,” he said.

Francis was also involved in a few stops where he didn’t directly make something happen, yet still showed hustle and indirectly affected the play.

“It was a play that didn’t make, but it was the most athletic thing I have ever done in my life,” said Francis. “I was running after the quarterback, and he dove to the ground to slide. I didn’t want to hit him so I dove over the top of him, and in the process I flipped up to my feet. That was pretty cool. I’ve never done that before.”

The Gonzaga grad also helped force a strip sack in the third quarter when he pushed the middle of the pocket and helped linebacker Pete Robertson get an opening to sack Green Bay Packers quarterback Joe Callahan, forcing a fumble and collecting a turnover.

“Any time someone else can make a play because you helped make a play, fans might not see it, but coaches see it on film,” Francis said. “Anytime one of my d-ends says, ‘Let’s do a game here, let’s do something.’ I’m always down. If one of us eats, all of us eats. If he gets a sack because I helped set it up, I’m just as responsible for the sack as he is. He’s just going to get to the stat, and he owes me a steak. That’s how we do that.”

While Francis seeks to ensure himself a roster spot after bouncing among five teams since his NFL career began in 2013, he has already endeared himself to his teammates, including second-year defensive lineman Anthony Lanier, who overheard The Current interviewing Francis and threw in his opinion of the former Terrapin: “He did great!”

Before Saturday’s game, Francis got members of what he calls the “Bully Club” — his fellow defensive linemen — to high-five with a “two-sweet” hand gesture. This move was made famous in professional wrestling by a faction called the Bullet Club, one of Francis’ favorite things besides football, comics, politics and music.

His voice has also become a new fixture at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va. The aspiring hip-hop artist has some of his music on the team’s workout playlists.

“There are a bunch of guys on the team that love my music,” said Francis, whose artist name is FRAN4. “My music gets played during weight lifting every day. The strength coaches like my songs — they like them, and they put them on the playlist.”

Francis will be providing his fans with more music on Sept. 8 when his debut album “O.T.A.” drops on iTunes.

Once the defensive end finished dressing after Saturday night’s Redskins preseason game, Francis — ever the renaissance man — threw in his opinion of the former Humane Society of the United States magnet high school, said in an interview. “Early-childhood aspect of the project: a 10-story

*MERVINS: City to locate Walls early childhood center at vacant school*

From Page 1

ers rallied for extra School Without Walls capacity — a request that the Bowser administration accepted last week.

“The community always felt that this facility deserved a public education use,” Patrick Kennedy, chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (Foggy Bottom, West End), said in an interview. “If you told us six years ago about the public school, we probably would have opted for it.”

The latest plans for Stevens represent a remarkable turnaround for public education in the West End area. Built in 1868 for African-American children in post-Civil War Washington, Stevens was the oldest surviving public elementary school in the city until it was closed in 2008 due to low enrollment. The city consolidated it with Francis Junior High School at 2425 N St. NW to form the Francis-Stevens Education Campus, serving pre-K through eighth grade, which itself barely survived closure in 2013.

In recent years, interest in Francis-Stevens has swelled amid a concerted push to sell the school to prospective parents, especially when the District established links between the program and the prestigious School Without Walls magnet high school nearby. Now, enrollment pressures at School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens — which has 471 students and a waiting list of more than 900 — are leading the city to reopen Stevens just a decade after it was shut down.

Several charter school programs also expressed interest in the site, including some that had previously lost out to Ivymount. But Jennifer Niles, the District’s deputy mayor for education, said last week that adding the Stevens building to the charter school dials program will help address its long waiting list. “It’s a solution that I’m really excited about,” Niles said.

After Ivymount was dropped, Niles said the city’s next question was: “Do we need it as a D.C. public school?” In Niles’ view, “that’s what the question always is about any of our closed buildings” — and in this case, the answer was yes.

The program’s specifics, including its student capacity, haven’t yet been established. The original Stevens building featured 16 classrooms across four stories. “As soon as school is off to a great start, we can figure out those details,” Niles said. Officials intend to include the Francis-Stevens community in its plans, she added.

Walls principal Richard Trogisch, who oversees Francis-Stevens as well as the Foggy Bottom magnet high school, said in an interview that he is pleased that the school will expand but said it is premature to comment further.

Ward 2 D.C. Council member Jack Evans, who had helped block the Francis-Stevens closure in 2013, expressed particular enthusiasm for the early-childhood aspect of the Stevens plan.

“I’m very excited about it,” Evans said in an interview. “Early learning is very critical. … Children can be left behind.”

Changes to the Stevens School haven’t affected the commercial aspect of the project: a 10-story office and retail building at 2100 L St. NW, occupying both the former Stevens playground area and the former Humane Society of the United States headquarters site. An Akridge representative told The Current that its renovations to the Stevens building may be altered slightly to accommodate additional students, as Ivymount hadn’t expected its enrollment at the site to exceed 30.
ANC 2C: DOWNTOWN / PENN QUARTER

At the commission’s Aug. 14 meeting:
- commissioners voted to support a liquor license application for the planned 175-seat Union Square Cafe and its 45-seat summer garden at 200 Massachusetts Ave. NW, part of the Capitol Crossing project. Opening is planned for fall 2018. Commissioners also supported a beer and wine license for an adjacent restaurant serving light fare, including breakfast.
- commissioners voted to recommended conditional approval of a stipulated beer and wine license as well as a "tasting license" for the Trump Hotel gift shop at 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, provided that notification placards are clearly visible. Two local residents reported that this has not occurred since they’re often behind barriers. Commissioners voted to support the Sept. 9 Race to Cure Breast Cancer event, which last year had 13,000 participants on the Mall.
- commissioners voted to support the Race to End Women’s Cancer 5K run/1-mile walk on Nov. 5.
- commissioners recommended the height be limited — probably to five stories — so as not to be visible from across the street.
- CityCenterDC’s Brian Ekland described plans for installing glass in a building under construction at 900 New York Ave. NW, across from rental apartments. He said the work would take place between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. but assured neighbors that noise would not be a problem. ANC 2C will consider the matter next month.
- The commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, in Room G-9, John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.
For details, visit anc2c.us or contact 2C@anc2c.de.gov.

ANC 2E: GEORGETOWN / CLOISTERS

At the commission’s Aug. 9 meeting:
- commissioner Lisa Palmer reported that progress had been made to abate crime near Georgetown’s waterfront, following the July 8 homicide in the 3500 block of Water Street NW. The D.C. Department of Transportation repaired several lights under the Whitehurst Freeway, and other safety fixes are in the planning stages. Palmer said that she intends to update members at the commission’s Sept. 6 meeting.
- commissioners voted 8-0 to support a public space application by the Georgetown Business Improvement District to install tables, chairs and planters at 1046 Potomac St. NW (adjacent to Blue Bottle Coffee, behind Dean & Deluca). Commissioners said that the installations would prevent illegal parking and would serve as a community amenity.
- commissioners voted 8-0 to support Church’s application for a Class C restaurant license at 3222 M St. NW on the grounds of peace, order and quiet, until applicants clarify how they intend to prevent noise violations.
- commissioners voted 8-0 to allow Joe Gibbons to replace Lisa Palmer as the representative to protest Café Georgetown’s application for a new retailer’s Class D restaurant license.
- commissioners voted 8-0 to protest The Wine Outlet’s application for a Class B license at 3210 Grace St. NW. Applicants told residents that the store would serve alcohol during wine tastings, but the amount would be less than one glass of wine. A Georgetown resident discussed her plans to submit a petition by the end of August to protest the application due to proximity to residences.
- a representative of Mayor Muriel Bowser’s office said Bowser recently released her 30-month report, which highlights such initiatives as a private security camera rebate program, where residents can receive up to $500 for installing two cameras in their homes, and a food waste drop-off program that encourages residents to compost at farmers markets, including the Glover Park-Burleith market. The representative also reported that several new energy-efficient buses have been added to the city’s DC Circulator fleet and that Jeff Marootian, a former ANC 2A member, has been named interim director of the D.C. Department of Transportation.

ANC 3B: GLOVER PARK / CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS

The commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, in the community room at the 2nd District Police Headquarters, 3320 Idaho Ave. NW.
For details, visit anc3c.org.

ANC 3C: CLEVELAND PARK / WOODLEY PARK

The commission will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6, in Room K-106, Kresge Building, Wesley Theological Seminary, 4500 Massachusetts Ave. NW.
Tentative agenda items include:
- police report.
- community concerns.
- consent calendar review of sidewalk cafe hours for Sweet Agave and the American Diabetes Association’s Tour de Cure cycling event.
- consideration of a public space application at 5201 Cathedral Ave. NW.
- presentation by American University on its proposed science building.
- other commission business, including presentation on a new ANC 3D website.
For details, visit anc3d.org.

Citizens Association of Georgetown

There likely is no need for green infrastructure to be installed on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue NW, based on the findings of Walter Gromezky, the Citizens Association of Georgetown’s expert on sewers and water in our neighborhood. Such a project would require intrusive construction that would tear up the area’s streets and sidewalks.

The measured overflows are much less than predicted by the model that served as the rationale for installing green infrastructure in western Georgetown. There is sufficient capacity in the main interceptor sewer that originates in Montgomery County and runs along the Georgetown side of the Potomac River. The peak flow capacity of the interceptor sewer at Key Bridge is 44 million gallons per day, and the pumps at the Rock Creek Pumping Station are rated at 50 million gallons per day. The per capita water use in west Georgetown — assuming that 10,000 residents, visitors and workers in west Georgetown use 70 gallons of water a day — would be 700,000 gallons. That is well below the capacity of the existing sewers.

— Bob vom Eigen

The Northwest, Georgetown, Dupont and Foggy Bottom Current Newspapers

Target your market in Washington D.C. through advertising, sponsored content and more... Real Estate Guide
With a total circulation over 48,000 including home delivery to upper Northwest homes west of Rock Creek, Foxhall, Spring Valley, Palsades, Cathedral Heights, American University Park, Embassy Park, Sheridan, Kalorama, Kalorama Heights, Wesley Heights, Shepard Park, Sutton Place, Tenley Town, Crestwood, Adams Morgan, Petworth, Georgetown, Logan Circle, Foggy Bottom and Dupont Circle.

Don’t forget to ask about your Corporate Rate Discount and special combination packages for print & digital advertising.

Deadline: 
For ad material | Wednesday, September 13th 
For Space Reservation Contact Richa Marwah... Phone 202.567.2017 
e-mail | richa@currentnewspapers.com

Under contract, multiple offers! 1858 California St., NW #30 $565,000

Fabulous 2 BR 1 bath in the heart of Adams Morgan

ERICH C Abe

COMPASS 
www.acerealtor.net 
M: 202.320.6469 
O: 202.298.0001 
erichcabe@gmail.com

• Proven Marketing Strategies 
• Expert Staging Consultations 
• Effective Internet Marketing 
• Skillful Negotiations
Rittenhouse ownership mired in court battle

By MARK LIEBERMAN

A long-running legal saga involving ownership of The Rittenhouse apartments in Brightwood remains much farther from a conclusion than residents had hoped. In the latest step, a judge agreed last month to take a stab at settling the most recent dispute. But the possibility of further appeals continues to loom — as the aging building continues to deteriorate.

Tenants said their painful, draining process began when they tried to exercise their right of first refusal when the property went up for sale in fall 2014. Under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, or TOPA, tenants associations have the option to purchase a for-sale building or, if they don’t have the funds, partner with a new owner of their choosing. The effort has endured a bewildering array of lawsuits from various firms interested in taking over the 208-unit building at 6101 16th St. NW.

“Nobody in the building knows what the heck is going on,” tenants association president James Spanelli told The Current in July. “This has gotten so protracted over time and complicated, that the regular folks living in the building, except for a few people on the board, and the very few people that actually pay attention, don’t even know what’s going on.”

The Rittenhouse was developed in the mid-1950s by Abe Pollin — one-time owner of the Washington Capitals, Wizards and Mystics — and local architect Joseph Abel. The nine-story International Style building opened in 1957 and marked the first large-scale luxury apartment dwelling of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.

“It has made us so strong and pulled us together … .”

— James Spanelli

of its kind in the Brightwood area, according to several local history books. Civil rights activist and former D.C. shadow senator Rev. Jesse Jackson lived in the building during the late 1980s.

But the building has since fallen into disrepair. When investment firm TIAA-CREF put The Rittenhouse up for sale in fall 2014, tenants expected to take advantage of their TOPA rights with few complications. Instead, they’ve had to pass an exhausting series of hurdles which has had the effect of uniting them as a group never before, Spanelli told The Current.
Ellington: School returns to modernized campus

From Page 1

and expansion of the 1988 build-'

ing, with students shifted to tempo-

rary facilities near Howard Univer-

sity.

Three years later, the result is

striking both in scale and opulence. The 280,000-square-foot landmark is

framed by impressive white col-

umns and boasts a gleaming lobby,

dance studios, a fitness center, a

rooflop classroom and an 800-per-

son, egg-shaped theater that runs

from the cafeteria below-ground and juts through the ceiling.

In certain ways, Ellington
crosses among as much trialal

compared to the typical public

school, an impression reflected

in the price tag. Originally pitched as a $71 million project, the estimated
cost ballooned over the years to

$178.5 million.

D.C. Department of General

Services chief project delivery

officer Joc Cole Burton defended

Ellington’s budget during an Aug.

17 site tour, saying that the project

was appropriate — $250,000 to

approve the funding. In Silver-

man’s view, many of the requests

were inappropriate — $250,000 to

bleach the terrazzo flooring, for

example — and reflected a lack of

organization.

“They’re never going to be seri-

ous about oversight unless we

occasionally say no,” Silverman

said in an interview. “We have a

finite, limited amount of capital
dollars.”

In the end, all but one, at-large

member Elissa Silverman, voted to

approve the funding. In Silver-

man’s view, many of the requests

were inappropriate — $250,000 to

bleach the terrazzo flooring, for

example — and reflected a lack of

organization.

“They’re never going to be seri-

ous about oversight unless we

occasionally say no,” Silverman

said in an interview. “We have a

finite, limited amount of capital
dollars.”

The overruns at Ellington have

ripple effects, Silverman added.

“There are many more schools

in the lineup,” Silverman said.

“When one school goes way over

budget, it pushes another one

back.”

More than 20 city public

schools are scheduled for modern-

ization in the coming year. Ward

4’s West Education Campus is con-

sidered to be a high priority on that

list, yet its $78.5 million plans

continue to be delayed, with

designs now projected to start in

late December. West is slated to

begin construction in February

2020 and to reopen by 2022.

The District’s full-scale push to

modernize its public schools began

in 2006 and has transformed many
deteriorated campuses, drawing

scores of new families to the pub-

clic systems — leaving, in some
cases, to overcrowding issues.

However, the modernization ini-

tiative comes at a cost. Silver-

man’s budget often end up

doubled the projected amount.

D.C. Auditor Kathy Patterson

released a report in 2015 that

accused the D.C. Department of

General Services of poor project

management on Ellington in par-

icular. Among Patterson’s criti-
cisms was the decision to redevel-

op Ellington’s original R Street

location. The site was originally

a regular high school, and because

it is also a historic landmark, the

planned expansion had to contend

with costly and complicated pres-

ervation requirements. Despite

this difficulty, Patterson said, alterna-
tive sites like the nearby Ellington
Field location and the school’s

former principal Agent were

considered to be a school for

the arts and its configuration has

inherent problems in accommodat-
ing the multi-faceted programs

included in the Ellington curricu-

lum,” the email stated. “The need
to retain the basic historic structure

will always limit the extent of

which this facility can be made to

serve the interests of the school.”

Also, Patterson’s audit conclud-
ed that project managers failed to

include performing arts facilities in
cost projections. The initial $71
million budget, Patterson wrote,
did not account for sound-insulat-
ed rooms, a dance studio, makeup

dressing rooms, a costume

room, a scene construction shop or

a box office for ticket sales.

Patterson also concluded that

Ellington’s designs did not use

space effectively. Ellington’s 600

students would attend academic
classes in the morning and per-

forming arts classes in the after-

noon — meaning “substantial por-
tions of the facility are unused a

large proportion of the time.”

But at-large Council member

David Grosso doesn’t see filling

Ellington’s vacant slots with other

students as a realistic option.

“It’s a simplistic view, to think

that we could just pop in other

kids,” said Grosso, chair of the

council’s Education Committee.

In Grosso’s analysis, Ellington

is an asset to the entire city, and

the school’s long hours and rigorous
curriculum justify its comparative-
ly low 600-student enrollment

(575 students were accepted this

year). However, the modernization

process that started with an unreal-
istically low cost estimate and

required repeated budget increases

won’t be repeated, Grosso said.

“Ellington is the end of an era.

We now have a full year of plan-

ning before we actually budget,”

he said. “We’ll budget more accu-

rately upfront.”

Overall, Ward 2 Council mem-

ber Jack Evans said he’s pleased

with the results of the Ellington

renovation. However, he conceded

that oversight was inadequate.

“There are too many cooks in

the kitchen in a lot of these proj-

ects,” Evans said in an interview.

“Everybody wants to have their
two cents about what it should

look like.”

At Saturday’s opening, students

donned “Straight Outta Ellington”

T-shirts, chatting and handing out

water bottles to onlookers. To ris-
ing senior Ira Lindsay, the new

school is a sparkling antithesis to

the cramped interim facilities stu-
dents had been attending.

“We’re very excited,” Lindsay

told The Current.

Kendall Barrett echoed her

classmate’s excitement, saying she

looked forward to beginning her

final year at the gleaming campus

alongside classmates and teachers

who feel like family.

“You walk in, and it feels like

home,” Barrett said.
RITTENHOUSE: Legal battle continues over Ward 4 apartment building’s ownership

From Page 3

Akelius could still appeal the decision to a higher court. Meanwhile, maintenance of the building has started to deteriorate, according to Spanelli — a parking garage elevator was inactive for days, the lock on the garage door has stopped working several times, and water began leaking onto one resident’s exterior wall. On several mornings, a pungent smell of sewage wafted in the building’s lobby. “Things just aren’t getting fixed,” Spanelli said.

The building’s management company, Greystar, declined to comment.

EMERSON: Prep school takes over part of Thurgood Marshall Center

From Page 11

Though the winning developer, Urban Investment Partners, still has the tenants’ favor, it hasn’t gotten away unscathed. Legal fees on behalf of the tenants totaled “many hundreds of thousands of dollars,” according to Urban Investment principal Steve Schwat. The company also hired a staff of five to manage the property and then shuffled them around to other properties while the Rittenhouse was tied up in litigation. Still, Schwat stayed resolute.

“It couldn’t possibly become unsustainable. You couldn’t have that much legal costs that it would be unsustainable for us,” Schwat said. “And we are 100 percent certain that we are in the right.”

All of the involved developers told The Current they were genuinely eager to purchase The Rittenhouse and saw great potential for improving it in the long term. Marty Saturn, Orlo’s executive vice president, told The Current he still lamented the outcome.

“I think the tenant mix is fabulous. I think they care about where they live, and there’s a lot of pride of ownership in the building,” Saturn said. “It would have been a lot of fun to renovate the building and give the tenants who have been living there for so long a first-class asset.”

Assuming the agreement with the tenants is eventually successful, Urban Investment Partners hopes to initiate a “significant amount of capital improvements and management improvements” as part of the development agreement the tenants signed back before Orlo sued, Schwat said.

For Spanelli, the legal fight has provided motivation to stay in the building. He and his husband likely would have moved out by now if not for his role in the litigation, Spanelli said. Still, he’s emotionally invested now, for the sake of his neighbors and the building itself, which he still loves.

“I’m sticking this fight out for sure,” he said. “They’re fantastic apartments.”
AUGUST is
National Make-a-Will Month
GET IN ON THE EXCITEMENT!
And take advantage of a special offer - - If federal Tax Reform is adopted (statute, regulation and/or Executive Order) during the 12 months following the signing of your documents, then at your request we will review and discuss with you the planning impact of the tax changes on your paperwork, and make needed modifications without further charge. This program applies to legal work initiated by Engagement Letter during August and September 2017. Please call for an appointment.

LAW OFFICE OF NANCY L. FELDMAN
Wills and Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Medical Directives, Probate Estate and Trust Administration, Pe-Marital and Marital agreements
Admitted in DC, MD, and VA
Telephone: 202.965.0654
www.nancyfeldmanlaw.com nancyfeldmanlaw@icloud.com

THE CURRENT NEWSPAPERS presents
COMMUNITY GUIDE
2017
With a total circulation of 48,000 including home delivery to homes west of Rock Creek, Foxhall, Spring Valley, Palisades, Cathedral Heights, American University Park, Embassy Park, Sheridan, Adams Morgan, Kalorama Heights, Westley Heights, Shepherd Park, Petworth, Sutton Place, Friendship Heights, Tenleytown, Crestwood, Cleveland Park, Glover Park, Georgetown, Logan Circle, Dupont Circle and Foggy Bottom.

LAW OFFICE OF NANCY L. FELDMAN
Wills and Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Medical Directives, Probate Estate and Trust Administration, Pe-Marital and Marital agreements
Admitted in DC, MD, and VA
Telephone: 202.965.0654
www.nancyfeldmanlaw.com nancyfeldmanlaw@icloud.com

13TH STREET:
Board accepts redevelopment plan
From Page 1
replace, according to the compa-
y’s Beck Vissat. The nine condo-
its will be a mix of one- and
two-bedrooms, he said.
The board signed off on the pro-
duct despite opposition from
Advisory Neighborhood Commis-
sion 2F (Logan Circle), which
voted 5-1 against the develop-
ent. This in part because of 12 at-
risk windows in a neighboring
condominium building, Solo Pia-
zza, which would have been blocked
by the new project.
The plans presented at the pre-
ervation board meeting had since
been changed and no longer block
the windows. The Solo Piazza con-
dominium board initially spoke at
the meeting in opposition to the
plans despite the design changes.
However, after asking for a break
during the meeting to have a last-
moment discussion with the devel-
oper, the condominium board
withdrew its opposition.
While the Solo Piazza board
left the room to negotiate with the
developers, other residents of that
building testified against the proj-
et. These residents discussed the
importance of the eclectic nature
of the block, with buildings from
different periods in the city’s his-
tory.
“I consider 1312 also [to be] one of the historic buildings,” Solo Piazza resident Mansour Abu-Rah-
neh said. “I don’t think everything
has to be pretty and conforming.
It’s part of where we live and why
I enjoy living in Logan.”
Despite the revised designs and
the condo board’s support, ANC
2F chair John Fanning said he still
has reservations about the project.
In particular, Fanning told The
Current that he is concerned about
whether these kinds of reclassifica-
tions will become a broader trend,
allowing new developments to
continue replacing historic build-
ings.
Fanning also expressed doubts
about whether the design of the
new project at 1312 13th St. will fit
in with the rest of the neighbor-
hood.
“Any time you have a property
within a historic district reclassi-
fied, it jeopardizes the architectural
character of the block,” Fanning
said in an interview. “We thought
this would obviously happen if
they were granted a reclassifica-
tion.”
While deliberating on the case,
preservation board members con-
sidered sending the proposal back
to ANC 2F, but ultimately decided
to vote on the project without seek-
ing further input from the commis-
sion. In part, this was based on
Callcott’s report, which whole-
heartedly endorsed the application.
The existing structure is a four-
story building built in the 1870s,
which has undergone significant
renovation since. As early as the
1920s, there were changes to the
building that stripped it of defining
architectural details, according to a
staff report prepared for the preser-
vation board. The exterior was
covered in stucco in 2000 after it
was discovered that the original
brick was too deteriorated to
restore.
“The extent of alteration is sig-
nificant enough that the building
no longer conveys integrity of feel-
ing or association with the historic
district,” the report said.
Now that the preservation board
has approved the project, Acumen
will move forward on creating a
full design for the project and
begin getting permits, Vissat said.
Demolition and construction are
slated to begin in early 2018.

13TH STREET:
Board accepts redevelopment plan

13TH STREET:
Board accepts redevelopment plan
**Organic wellness shop opens in Georgetown**

By GRACE BIRD  
Current Staff Writer

Becky Waddell, owner of a new Georgetown wellness shop, didn’t arrive in D.C. to pursue a wellness brand. Waddell’s first career was nuclear waste management, but after moving to the city and taking a policy job four years ago, government bureaucracy quickly took its toll.

“It didn’t last long,” Waddell said in an interview. “It was not a lifestyle or approach that I liked. Things would never seem to get complete.”

Waddell’s environmental expertise, however, did not go untapped. In 2014, Waddell started a natural skin care shop called Be Clean’s first store and then out of a third-story studio in Northeast. Be Clean’s studio doubled as a community space, offering yoga, makeup and floral arranging classes, as well as private shopping events.

Waddell’s aspirations outgrew Be Clean’s small studio and in May, she created Take Care: For Self & Sanctuary, located at 1338 Wisconsin Ave. NW.

While Be Clean was focused on skin care, Take Care offers products to care for the body as a whole. The shop, which offers a selection of natural, independent brands including cosmetics, hair care, cleansers, toners, moisturizers, perfumes, clothing and, soon, jewelry, is also fitted with a studio, where Waddell plans to run yoga and DIY classes for the community.

She selected the Georgetown storefront for its abundance of natural light, and local designer Veronica Revilla optimized the bright space, ensuring that sunshine ricocheted off its white walls and wooden floors.

“I hope the shop lets you take a break for a second, and check in, and experience your senses and how you’re feeling, and look, for things in a way that isn’t parceled and rushed,” Waddell said. “It’s a respite from the rush of the city.”

Lively chatter filled the shop at its grand-opening event on Aug. 17, and many of the women in Waddell’s network of business owners in the wellness industry were on hand to offer their support. Susannah Compton, owner of organic perfume startup Fluorescent, gave out samples of healthy, homemade scents that Waddell stocks in the shop.

A female-owned juicery, Green Heart Juice Shop, handed out drinks and homemade health balls, and Almila Kakinc-Dodd, a health blogger behind “Thrifty,” offered rock salts that she’d crafted for the occasion. Katie Marshall, a holistic health coach, plans to give yoga classes in the studio in the coming months.

Waddell launched Take Care the same month that her daughter, Lily, was born. Waddell takes Lily to the shop most days.

“I’m truly lucky and beyond blessed that I’m able to bring her to work with me,” Waddell said. But she conceded that balancing motherhood with a new business has been challenging. “You can’t get a full thing done because your attention gets broken up so quickly. It’s been a challenge to feel like I’m accomplishing as much as I would like to.”

But Waddell is looking to the long term. She was delighted to learn that Take Care’s retail space was previously occupied by a family-owned clothing store for almost 30 years and hopes to similarly embed herself in Georgetown, getting to know residents and merchants alike. “I can’t wait to be a part of the community for many years to come,” said Waddell.
A Listing of What to Do in Washington, D.C.

**July 24 – August 27, 2017**

**Performances**

- The Washington Improv Theater will present "Impro vizapalooza," its annual celebration of experimental improv, 7:30 p.m. $15 to $40, Sources, 1835 14th St. NW. w Credit card only. The five-day festival will continue Friday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at noon and 6 p.m.; and Sunday at noon.
- The Shakespeare Theatre Company will present a "Free for All" performance of director Ron Daniels' production of "Othello," one of Shake- speare's most haunting tragedies. 8 p.m. Free; tickets required. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW. shakespearetheatre.org. Performances will continue Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

**Tour**

- "Visit DuPont Underground" will offer a chance to explore the city's newest art space—a former trolley station with 75,000 square feet of underground platforms and tunnels. 6 and 7 p.m. $16. DuPont Underground, 1500 19th St. NW. dupontunderground.org. The tour will also be offered Friday at 6 and 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

**Friday, August 25**

**Concerts**

- "Live! Concert Series on the Plaza" will feature the DC Jazz Collective. Noon to 1 p.m. Free. Peirce Mill, Woodrow Wilson Bridge, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW. dupontcircus.org. A sustainability fair will showcase partner groups and institutions, as well as the community will present an advance screening of "1919." Noon to 6 p.m. Free. National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F streets NW. tinyurl.com/turtlepark.
- "Military Family Appreciation Day" will feature opportunities to create art, learn about American heroes, design your own t-shirts, and tour photo taken and listen to live music in the courtyard. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F streets NW. 202-336-1000.
- "A Guided Garden Tour" will trace two centuries of landscape history reflected in 5.5 acres of heritage trees, heirloom plants and flowers, and abundant English boxwood. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. $10; free for members. Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1464 31st St. NW. tudorplace.org.
- "The Heurich House Museum will host a "Brewmaster Tour," featuring a one-hour guided tour through the manor and a half-hour craft beer tasting in the conservatory. 4 to 5:30 p.m. $25. Heurich House Museum, 617 17th Street NW. tinyurl.com/heurich.

**Classes and Workshops**

- "The Petworth Jazz Project will present a children’s show by Baba Ras D at 3:30 p.m.; and a collaborative concert by the Washington Bach Consort and the Art Murka, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- "Talk to the head of the historic house in celebration of August 24, 1814, during the burning of the Maryland capital during the War of 1812." Noon to 3 p.m. Free. Heurich House Museum, 617 17th Street NW. tinyurl.com/heurich.
- "A guided garden tour will trace two centuries of landscape history reflected in 5.5 acres of heritage trees, heirloom plants and flowers, and abundant English boxwood. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. $10; free for members. Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1464 31st St. NW. tudorplace.org.
- "A guided garden tour will trace two centuries of landscape history reflected in 5.5 acres of heritage trees, heirloom plants and flowers, and abundant English boxwood. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. $10; free for members. Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1464 31st St. NW. tudorplace.org.
- "A guided garden tour will trace two centuries of landscape history reflected in 5.5 acres of heritage trees, heirloom plants and flowers, and abundant English boxwood. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. $10; free for members. Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1464 31st St. NW. tudorplace.org.
- "A guided garden tour will trace two centuries of landscape history reflected in 5.5 acres of heritage trees, heirloom plants and flowers, and abundant English boxwood. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. $10; free for members. Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1464 31st St. NW. tudorplace.org.

Tour guide Dwane Starlin will lead a walking tour of Georgetown Heights, featuring a look at the mansions, servants’ quarters and cemeteries of the apogee of Georgetown. 1 to 3 p.m. $18. Meet at 27th and Q streets NW. dumbartonhouse.org/events.

Sunday AUGUST 27

Children’s program
- A park ranger will host a drop-in program on “Colonial Arts and Crafts.” (for ages 5 and older). 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Old Stone House, 3051 M St. NW. 202-895-6070.

Class
- Local yoga instructors Alia Peera and Amy Mitchell will present “Sunday Serenity: Yoga in the East Park.” 10 to 11 a.m. $5 donation suggested; reservations encouraged. Dumbarton House, 2715 Q St. NW. dumbartonhouse.org.

Concerts
- Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ will celebrate jazz greats Todd Damron, Ellis Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk at its annual jazz worship service with music by the Davey Yarborough Jazz Ensemble. 10 a.m. Free. Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, 4704 13th St. NW. peopleschurchdc.org.
- The D.C. Public Library and Goethe-Institut Washington will present “Jazz in the Basement,” featuring father-daughter piano and saxophone duo Fred Hughes and Sarah Hughes. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Goethe-Institut Washington, Suite 3, 1990 K St. NW. goethe.de/washington.
- The Asian American Music Society will present musicians from George Mason University’s Jazz Quartet performing Asian traditional melodies and Western classical music. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

Discussions and lectures
- Franklin Kelly, deputy director and chief curator at the National Gallery of Art, will discuss “Curators and Their Roles: Collections, Exhibitions, Acquisitions, and Research.” 2 p.m. Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

Film
- “Ganymont at 120: Twelve Unseen Treasures” will feature Max Ophüls’ 1937 movie “Yoshwara,” about an upper-class woman sold as a geisha to ward off her family’s disgrace. 4 p.m. Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

Special event

Monday, AUGUST 28


Monday AUGUST 28

Classes and workshops
- The weekly “Yoga Mondays” program will feature a gentle yoga class. 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Free; tickets distributed at the second-floor reference desk beginning at 10:15 a.m. to the first 30 people who arrive. Tenley-Friendship Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-727-1488.
- The West End Interim Library will host an all-levels yoga class. 6 p.m. Free. West End Interim Library, 2252 Virginia Avenue NW. 202-724-8707.
- Yoga Heights instructors Becky Paris, Gregory Turk and Juliana Cole will present the third annual #Yoga4All all-levels yoga class. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

Concerts
- “Live! Concert Series on the Plaza” will feature MD & Company performing at 7:30 p.m. Free. Tenley-Friendship Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-833-6287.
- The U.S. Navy Concert Band will present its third annual #Yoga4All all-levels yoga class. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

Walk
- A park ranger will lead a walk through Georgetown Waterfront Park and discuss Georgetown’s evolution from an active port town (for ages 7 and older). 11 a.m. Free. Meet at the fountain in the Georgetown Waterfront Park, Wisconsin Avenue and K Street NW. 202-895-6070.

Monday AUGUST 28

Classes and workshops
- The weekly “Yoga Mondays” program will feature a gentle yoga class. 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Free; tickets distributed at the second-floor reference desk beginning at 10:15 a.m. to the first 30 people who arrive. Tenley-Friendship Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-727-1488.
- The West End Interim Library will host an all-levels yoga class. 6 p.m. Free. West End Interim Library, 2252 Virginia Avenue NW. 202-724-8707.
- Yoga Heights instructors Becky Paris, Gregory Turk and Juliana Cole will present the third annual #Yoga4All all-levels yoga class. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

Concerts
- “Live! Concert Series on the Plaza” will feature MD & Company performing at 7:30 p.m. Free. Tenley-Friendship Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-833-6287.
- The U.S. Navy Concert Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. Free. West End Interim Library. 202-727-1488.

Discussion
- “Feeder’s Advisory: A Book Club for Those Who Love Food” will discuss Amanda Cohen’s “Dirty Candy; A Cookbook: Flavor-Forward Food From the Upstart New York City Vegetarian Restaurant.” 7 p.m. Free; reservations requested. Edith T. Daniels/Shaw Library, 1630 7th St. NW. dolibrary.org/node/57822.

Film
- The “Marvelous Movie Monday” series will present the 1999 film “October Sky,” the true story of Homer Hickam, a coal miner’s son who was inspired to take up rocketry against his father’s wishes. 2 and 6:30 p.m. Free. Chey Chase Library, 5625 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-282-0021.

Sporting event
- The Washington Nationals will play the Miami Marlins. 7:05 p.m. $12 to $370. Nationals Park, 1500 South Capitol St. SE. shalomdc.org/events.

AUGUST 29

Classes and workshops
- A certified yoga instructor will lead See Events/Page 18

The U.S. Army String Quartet will perform. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band will perform. 8 p.m. Free. West Terrace, U.S. Capitol. 202-433-4011.

Discussions and lectures

Kimberly Bender, executive director of the Hebrew House Museum, will discuss the legacy of Myrtlella Miner, a dedicated teacher who founded the first school for formerly enslaved African-American women in Washington, D.C., before the Civil War. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; $5; reservations required. Hebrew House Museum, New Hampshire Avenue and Vermont Ave. NW, northwest.house.org.


Films

The West End Interim Library will present the 2017 film “Passengers,” about a space shuttle that wakes up two passengers 90 years later). 6:30 p.m. Free. West End Interim Library, 2522 Virginia Ave. NW. 202-724-8701.

The NoMa Sum- mer Outdoor Cinema will feature the 1976 political comedy film “All the President’s Men.” 7 p.m. Free. Storey Park Lot, 1005 1st St. NE. nomabid.org/noma-summer-screen.

Concerts


The Air Force Strings will perform. 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Free. National Air and Space Museum, 200 Independence Ave. SW, usafband.af.mil.

The eight-piece R&B band Nobody’s Business will perform. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

The East Bay Weekend Music Festival — three nights of jazz, blues, hip-hop, pop and more, presented by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities — will include sets by Fly Aito (shown), Morgt MacDonald and Laura Taggert. 7 p.m. Free; reservations required. Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW. dcarts.dc.gov/page/labor-day-weekend-music-festival.

The Dinosaur String Quartet will present “Haydn in Plain Sight,” featuring two master-works by the German composer, 7:30 p.m. $20 to $40; $10 to $15 for students. Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW, cathedral.org.

Discussions and lectures


Film

Union Market will present “Days of Thunder” as part of its monthly drive-in movie series. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.; film begins at 8 p.m. $10 per car; free for walk-up fans in the picnic area. Parking lot, Union Market, 1305 5th St. NE. unionmarketdc.com.

Performances and readings

We Happy Few will present a reading of “Cyrano de Bergerac,” the classic French tale of love, heroic bravado and deceitful poetry. A discussion will follow. 7:30 p.m. Free; reservations suggested. Black Box Theatre, Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, 545 7th St. SE. reeni@wehappysfew.com.

Special event

The D.C.-based Museum of Science Fiction will present the second annual “Escape Velocity,” featuring panel discussions, exhibits, films, speakers and other activities for adults and kids that combine science fiction with real science. 8:30 to 2:45 a.m. $25 to $30 for a single-day pass, with a $10 add-on for ages 11 to 16 and free add-on for ages 10 and younger. Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road NW, escapelocity.events. The expo will continue Saturday and Sunday.

Sporit event

The Washington Mystics will play the Seattle Storm, 7 p.m. $18 to $107. Capital One Arena (formerly Verizon Center).

See Events Page 19
Continued From Page 18
ter), 601 F St. NW. 800-745-3000.

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 2
Children’s program
Children will hear a story about John F. Kennedy and then create a special piece of art, 1 to 4 p.m. Free. National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F streets NW. 202-633-1000. The program will repeat Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Class
The Kennedy Center will offer an all-levels vinyasa yoga class led by Kate MacDonnell, 10 a.m. Free; reservations suggested. Grand Foyer, Kennedy Center. kennedy-center.org.

Concert
The Labor Day Weekend Music Festival — three nights of jazz, blues, rock, pop and more, presented by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities — will include sets by the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra, Rose Monroe and Harold Little, 7 p.m. Free; reservations requested. Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW. dcarts.dc.gov/page/labor-day-weekend-music-festival.

Tours and walks
Washington Walks: “Get Local!” series will explore the U Street corridor and its legacy as a neighborhood known as the “Black Broadway” for its entertainment offerings and shared by African-American intellectuals, business leaders and families of all economic levels, 11 a.m. $15 to $20. Meet outside the 12th Street NW exit to the U Street/Cardozo Metrorail station, washingtonwalks.com.

“Close-up Tour: Symbolism and Iconography” will explore the significance of the Washington National Cathedral’s stone, stained glass and fabric art (for ages 10 and older), 2 p.m. $18 to $22; reservations suggested. Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW. cathedrals.org. The tour will also be offered Sept. 7 at 2 p.m.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 3
Concerts

The Labor Day Weekend Music Festival — three nights of jazz, blues, rock, pop and more, presented by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities — will include sets by Pablo Antonio y La Firma, Kush and Aztec Sun, 7 p.m. Free; reservations suggested. Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW. dcarts.dc.gov/page/labor-day-weekend-music-festival.

Discussion

Family programs and festivals
The 2017 Library of Congress National Book Festival will feature more than 100 authors of books in all genres and for all ages, including historian David McCullough, essayist Roxane Gay (shown), novelist Anne McDermott and children’s author Kate DiCamillo. 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW. loc.gov/bookfest.

The Kennedy Center’s 16th annual Page-to-Stage New Play Festival will feature readings and open rehearsals by more than 60 area theater companies. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Free. Various locations, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600. The festival will continue Sunday from 8 to 7:30 p.m. and Monday from 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Film
“Gaumont at 120: Twelve Unseen Treasures” will feature Robert Siodmak’s 1939 movie “Pâgès (Personal Column),” at 1:30 p.m.; and his 1938 movie “Milenian,” at 4 p.m. Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

Performances
Washington Improv Theater will present an assortment of short, comedic, family-friendly pieces inspired by audience suggestions. A discussion will follow. 8 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

KhenKouran West African Dance Company will present “1001: Bridge of Togetherness,” a journey into the influence that African dance and culture have had on contemporary dance styles, and how today’s choreographers are now reaching back to bring an African influence into their work, 8 p.m. $20 to $25. Lerner Auditorium, George Washington University, 730 21st St. NW. 202-994-6800.

Firma, Kush and Aztec Sun. 7 p.m. Free; reservations requested. Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW. dcarts.dc.gov/page/labor-day-weekend-music-festival.

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 2
Family program: “Celebration of Textiles,” a family festival celebrating cultures from around the globe, will feature artist demonstrations, hands-on crafts, international performances and a chance to explore the new exhibit “Scraps: Fashion, Textiles, and Creative Reuse.” 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. George Washington University Museum and Textile Museum, 701 21st St. NW. 202-994-5200. The festival’s art activities will continue Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See Events/Page 20
The Current's Pet of the Week

From the Humane Rescue Alliance

Meet Lady! This sweet girl cannot wait to find her forever home. At 13 years old, she might seem destined to be a couch potato, but she still loves to go for walks, meet new people, friends and stop to smell the flowers. At her age, Lady has learned what makes people happy, and she can’t wait to show her new family. The faster she wags her tail, the more her body wiggles! Lady is a delightful dog. She does suffer from some skin allergies and not every type of food agrees with her, but that doesn’t stop her from being sweet and social. Come out to the Humane Rescue Alliance’s Ogletorpe Street Adoption Center, and she will show you her adorable wagging gait that keeps everyone smiling.

The Current’s Pet of the Week

From the Humane Rescue Alliance

Meet Lady! This sweet girl cannot wait to find her forever home. At 13 years old, she might seem destined to be a couch potato, but she still loves to go for walks, meet new people, friends and stop to smell the flowers. At her age, Lady has learned what makes people happy, and she can’t wait to show her new family. The faster she wags her tail, the more her body wiggles! Lady is a delightful dog. She does suffer from some skin allergies and not every type of food agrees with her, but that doesn’t stop her from being sweet and social. Come out to the Humane Rescue Alliance’s Ogletorpe Street Adoption Center, and she will show you her adorable wagging gait that keeps everyone smiling.

Continued From Page 19

comedy and a Capital Fringe Festival audience favorite (recommendation for ages 13 and older due to explicit lan-
guage and themes), 6 p.m. Free. Millennium
Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

Special event

— The National Museum of Women in the
Arts will host its monthly Community
Day, featuring an opportunity to explore
current exhibition and the museum’s
recently reinstalled collection. Noon to 5
p.m. Free. National Museum of Women
in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave. NW.
202-783-7370.

Tour

— The National Museum of Women in
the Arts will host a “Fierce Women” tour
highlighting artists, activists and innova-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their
place and rejected the limited roles soci-
tors who refused to let men define their

??IF NOT NOW? WHEN??

Decreasing Inventory (inside but not outside the beltway)
mortgage rates sink again = High demand for new listings!

??TIME for Condo/Apt. ALTERNATIVE??

$574,475

Hilltop Front Porch 2BA 1951 Jewel box*Garret Park*close to 2 metros, schools, parks, farmers’ market, Strathmore & olde Kensington. Clean contemporary flair- fully fenced sunny rear garden! See at:

Tour.truplace.com/property/52/58514.

Elizabeth.Russell@longandfoster.com
4400 Jennifer Street NW. Washington, DC 20015
202-966-2598 direct • 301-580-0540 mobile • 202-364-1300 office
www.ElizabethRussell.info Call Elizabeth, your local realtor, proud mother of a Marine

I Want To Be Your Realtor

If you have a friend, family member, or neighbor who might benefit from my services, please let them know it would be my pleasure to work with them; and give me a call so I recognize your kind referral and support of my business.

PROVEN • PLEASANT • PRACTICAL • PERSISTENT