

# AdamsMorgan MainStreet Group, Inc.

Combining Diverse Pieces to Make a Beautiful Puzzle



## Newsletter

June 2009

### The New SAKI

Saki: New owners, new menu, new atmosphere



When long-time employee Patrick Dildine was offered the opportunity to purchase the Saki Asian Grille (2477 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW), it was a no-brainer. Patrick had worked at Saki since the day it opened, and had been a major part in crafting the service, menu, and atmosphere that had made Saki a success.

Patrick quickly put together a team of skilled restaurant managers and business professionals to re-invigorate and re-invent Adams Morgan's popular Sushi and Asian fusion restaurants, including a hands-on financial partner Benjamin Dalley.

In early June, the new team took over operations of the restaurant with the goal to create a new, hip atmosphere and improve the dinner, drink, and desert offerings without compromising the unique and inventive food offerings that made Saki a place its patrons had grown to love.

The sushi menu still includes Saki's fresh specialty rolls such as the lasagna roll (shrimp tempura topped with a spicy crab salad and the surf and turf roll (crunchy lobster roll and topped with torched Kobe beef).

Saki's new menu will offer and celebrate fresh fish in ways that few restaurants do, featuring their new ceviche martinis and the 2477 roll (tempura shrimp rolled with cream cheese and topped with freshwater eel).

Vegetarians will want to try their new yum yum roll, rolled avocado and cucumber topped with aged peppers, pickles, and hand-chopped red onions.



Patrons should expect more than just a bountiful selection of Sushi. Saki's chefs have reinvented more hot food offerings with such inclusions as seared sea scallops, grilled fillet mignon, and lemon sea bass. And Saki will

soon unveil a new martini menu that will include the classics, as well as Saki's own specialty martini selections that, like its sushi, are brilliantly decorated with edible charms.

Saki Asian Grille's kitchen is open 6-days a week from 5pm until 11pm on weekdays and until 1am on the weekends. Saki offers dinner specials everyday of the week from 5-7:30pm that include 1/2 price sushi rolls, discounted appetizers, \$5.00 martinis, 1/2 price wine and Saki on Mondays and Tuesdays. **Saki is located at 2477 18<sup>th</sup> St. NW.** <http://www.sakiasiangrille.com>. 202-518-9820

### A New Hotel for Adams Morgan?



Developer Brian Freidman of Friedman Capital and his partner, Beztak Properties, have teamed up with Marriott International Inc. to develop a unique hotel in Washington DC to be located right here in Adams Morgan.

Marriott International has dubbed its new line of luxury, boutique-style hotels being created by Ian Schrager, as **Edition Hotels**. Bill Marriott calls Schrager "the undisputed creator of boutique hotels," who continually reinvents and improves the concept.

Just east of Adams Morgan's signature 18<sup>th</sup> St and Columbia Rd NW corner, the First Church of Christ, Scientist (FCCS) is the future site of the 150-room hotel and nearly 180,000-square-foot total project. Facing Unity pocket Park at Euclid and Champlain Streets NW, the submitted plans include the construction of a hotel within and behind the church at 1770 Euclid Street, NW.

Adams Morgan Main Street Group completed and filed a landmark designation petition in 2008 to apply to the church building. The package approved by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), the century-old church will undergo major restoration retaining the stained glass windows, be designated a historic landmark, and connect to a seventy to ninety foot structure in the rear that will replace the existing church parking lot and City Paper building.

According to Freidman, "the scheduled nine-story building will include eight-nine penthouse condos and incorporate some 4,000 square feet of community meeting space and offices for area nonprofits." The church's sanctuary will become a ballroom, entered from the grand Euclid street entrance as the hotel's lobby entryway.

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The First Church of Christ Scientist is continuing its long history in Adams Morgan. "We selected the partners and type of development carefully due to our hundred-year history here as a place of worship," explained Kit Kosakowski. The FCCS, the longest continuous owner of property in Adams Morgan, continues ongoing services at 1782 Columbia Rd NW, the site of its public Christian Science Reading Room.

The next step is preparation of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) package. Groundbreaking is not yet set, but Friedman hopes to begin in 2010 with the hotel to open in 2012. For more info on Edition Hotels visit: <http://www.editionhotels.com>

### Sawah Diner Opens: Friendly to Families, Stomachs, and Wallets

When he decided to enter the restaurant business five years ago, Mehmet Ayhan used a part of himself closely connected to food. "It was a gut decision," he says.



That gut instinct has served him well. As a partner in Rumi Mediterranean Kitchen, he has been satisfying downtown DC diners for five years. Its adherence to quality ingredients and homemade preparation has kept it a popular part of the DC food scene.

Ayhan brought that same gut instinct and food philosophy to Adams Morgan this summer with the grand opening of Sawah Diner. Located along the 2200 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Street between Awash Restaurant and Rendezvous Lounge, Sawah Diner brings a refreshing update to the diner concept with a focus on two important words—"comfort" and "food."

"We want you to feel as comfortable as you are in your own living room," Ayhan says. In Sawah Diner's indoor dining room, he created a living room people would dream

of having, with exposed brick and blue tiled walls. Upholstered chairs and wooden tables replace the traditional Formica and plastic diner accommodations.

Outside, a long patio allows customers to bask in sun and people watch while sipping Turkish and American coffees or enjoying a smoothie. Free Wi-Fi provides a perfect afternoon oasis for work warriors. Soon, Ayhan will open Sawah's upstairs dining area and offer the additional comfort of leather booths.

Sawah Diner's aim is to offer affordable dining and a family-friendly atmosphere. The menu includes Italian, American, and Mediterranean fare. Starters range from \$4-\$6, salads from \$5-\$7, and entrees range from \$11-\$20 for a grilled 8 oz. filet mignon. All entrees include salad and sides.

To further fit within the family budget, Sawah Diner offers generous daily specials. Lunch-goers can enjoy any sandwich, sub, or burger with fries and a soda for \$8.99.

There are daily dinner specials, including 30% off entrees on Monday, a \$12.99 steak night on Wednesday, and a Thursday deal of \$10 off the next visit with a purchase of over \$25. In addition to pasta, seafood, and steak entrees, the restaurant offers flavorful grilled Mediterranean favorites, including chicken, lamb, beef and Adana kebab, and kofte.

First-time customers should start with the Mixed Sawah Plate and enjoy a sampling of their creamy and garlicky Babaghannoush, traditional feta cheese, the fragrant stuffed grape leaves called Dolma, and smoky and creamy hummus. The food is prepared with a consistent attention to quality and focus on authenticity.

A special feature is the bread. Baked fresh in the restaurant, Avhan says it strikes the perfect, warm balance between crunchy crust and chewy soft interior.

This is considered a "soft opening" phase for Sawah Diner and a time for testing menu items and seeking public reaction. However, the establishment's commitment to quality, comfort, and affordability should make it a permanent addition to the eclectic and diverse cuisine of Adams Morgan. **2222 18<sup>th</sup> St. NW. 202-481-7820**



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### **HOT! List**

**Adams Morgan is a vibrant, dynamic neighborhood.**  
**"The HOT List" is the source to find out what's new in your neighborhood.**



**Re-Opening of Champlain St NW: Sept '09** Transportation Construction begins late June or July. DDOT will first re-open Champlain and reconfigure the Marie Reed School and Recreation Center sidewalk area entrances. This also includes Community of Hope Clinic. Historic Washington Globe streetlights, new street trees, better signage, bike racks and other amenities are planned. The dumpsters in the middle of the street and dead end area will be eliminated and beautified. When completed, traffic is scheduled to flow one-way south, out of Adams Morgan via Champlain to Florida Ave NW. Improvements will also be made on the one block of California St NW between 18<sup>th</sup> St NW and Florida St NW.

Have you checked out **Yoga Chai at 1744 Columbia Rd NW 2<sup>nd</sup> flr?** Autumn & Alex are the owners of this Adams Morgan yoga studio teaching various types of yoga such as Inner Harmony and Kundalini. Offering private and group sessions, workshops, & kids' classes in all price ranges, Yoga Chai is located across from the Safeway: [info@yogachai.com](mailto:info@yogachai.com)  
**202-746-YOGA (9642)**



**Circulator Bus route now includes Adams Morgan!** New is the Woodley Park/Adams Morgan/McPherson Square route begins at Woodley Park Metro Station and stops in Adams Morgan **on Adams Mill Road at Columbia Road** before continuing over to Columbia Heights Metro and on 14th Street to McPherson Square. **Hours** are 7am to 12 Midnight Sunday through Thursday, and 7am to 3:30am on Friday and Saturday. Metro's goal is ten minute "headways," time between buses. Cost is only \$1.

Owner of **Pizza Mart and Jumbo Slice** Mike Christi has made a bold move and statement. To discourage pizza boxes littering 18<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalks and residential streets, these establishments now charge \$.50 more per slice of pizza if you get a box. Patrons are encouraged to use a paper plate and discard thus, reducing litter and keeping our streets cleaner. The increase will occur during the late night hours. Kudos to Pizza Mart and Jumbo Slice for taking on this initiative thereby reducing waste and keeping Adams Morgan cleaner.



**Cricket Communications Now Open!** "Cricket is an affordable wireless service offering consumers and local businesses a flat-rate unlimited service from latest technology, high-quality, all-digital wireless network" says the website. Designed for customers whose basic or advanced wireless needs have not been met by 'traditional' companies, Cricket offers "unlimited services with no long-term commitments or credit checks." There is still choice from the "latest devices and feature-rich mobile applications, such as unlimited text, instant and picture messaging, Mobile Web, games, ringtones and wallpapers." For more info: [www.mycricket.com](http://www.mycricket.com) or the store at **1652 Columbia Rd. NW. 202-797-0615**

It was goodbye to a longtime ethnic venue, the authentic Ghana Café, as owner Anthony Opare reported he lost his lease. We hear that a new tenant is in the works, possibly a Ray's Hell Burgers made famous by President Obama's visit in May.



**Design Within Reach** hosts "Mod's Best Friend" on **July 25<sup>th</sup>** from Noon till 2:30 pm with an animal adoption fair by the Washington Humane Society. See the best in modern design and also meet the animal that could be your newest best friend. DWR will provide advice on pet-friendly furniture, and leashed 4 legged friends are welcome for treats by Doggie Style Boutique. For the pets' companions, DWR provides lemonade and iced tea. **1838 Columbia Rd. NW. 202-265-5640**  
<http://www.dwr.com/category/find-a-studio/adasmorgan.do>

If you haven't noticed, **Draft Pix** isn't your ordinary neighborhood sports bar. Recently opened by sports enthusiasts, Tahné Boggess and Allysea Marful, who are no newcomers to the game (pardon the pun). Allysea Marful plays for Washington's premier female professional tackle football team, the DC Divas...heading to Austin in July for the national championship. Décor at Draft Pix is vintage, with original classic boxing and sports memorabilia and photographs. Expect a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere, excellent menu, weekend brunch, attentive staff and most importantly for your sports viewing pleasure...the large flat screens tvs! **2450 18<sup>th</sup> St NW. 202-265-1014** [www.draftpix.net](http://www.draftpix.net)

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### CALENDAR

Thanks to **CM Jim Graham** for pushing to reopen **Marie Reed's Happy Hollow Pool**. Free for toddlers/ children up to 12 years old all summer. Enter this outdoor pool (1-3ft. deep) at 2200 Champlain St NW. Until August 21, open weekdays noon-5pm.

**June 19: Eames Movie Night; 7pm Design Within Reach** 1838 Columbia Rd. NW 202.265.5640 Screening of seven (of more than 100) short films by Charles and Ray Eames, whose legacy extends past classic furniture pieces. Raffle for an Eames® Plywood Lounge Chair (LCW).RSVP to [adamsmorgan@dwr.com](mailto:adamsmorgan@dwr.com) Beer and popcorn served!

**July 7: First Tuesday** Shopping and Dining in Adams Morgan on a relaxed weeknight. Food and drink for 2 persons for \$25 (plus tax & tip) Shop specials on selected items from 10 – 50%off. Choose jewelry at 50% off at Tibet Shop OR try Grill from Ipanema (2 appetizers and 2 cocktails for \$25; or 2 dinners and 2 cocktails for \$30!) Adams Morgan Main Street promotes unique finds and First Tuesday specials Save-the-date: *next First Tuesday is Aug 4*

**July 12: Gallery Talk 5pm-7pm DC Arts Center** 2438 18th Street NW [www.dcartcenter.org](http://www.dcartcenter.org) "The Twelfth Man" w/Patrick McDonough and Kenny George

**July 11 – July 20:** Summer Clearance. **Design Within Reach** 1838 Columbia Rd. NW 202-265-5640 50% off while supplies last.

**Adams Morgan Restaurant Tasting Tours** led by the incomparable and fun Tony Pitch

**July 11:** 2-5pm Bukom Café, Jyoti, Napoleon Bistro, and Las Canteras

**July 18:** 2-5pm Bukom Café, Meskerem, Napoleon Bistro, and Bardia's New Orleans Café.

**July 25:** 2-5pm Himalayan Heritage, Old City Café, Jyoti, and Churreria Madrid

(Reservations via tel. 202-357-3030 or [www.ResidentAssociates.org](http://www.ResidentAssociates.org))

**July 14:** 4pm **Adams Morgan Main Street** promotes BASTILLE DAY: Sport, Live Music, and Special events!; 4pm Learn & play petanque! 6pm Free Live Music:French & World. Both at: Marie Reed School 2200 18th St NW. 4-8pm [www.AdamsMorganNOW.com](http://www.AdamsMorganNOW.com)  
**L'Enfant Café** hosts DC's most revolutionary party, "Bastille Day Bash and French Maid Relay Race!" 8 pm [www.lenfantcafe.com](http://www.lenfantcafe.com)  
**Napoleon Bistro** ([www.napoleondc.com](http://www.napoleondc.com)) offers free champagne to anyone dressed in blue, red, & white. BASTILLE DAY in Adams Morgan dining & shopping. Eat "French" at La Fourchette, Bardia's New Orleans Café, or try other international cuisines & shopping.

**July 22:** 8pm Wes Anderson Film Series: The Royal Tenenbaums(2001) **Asylum 2471 18th St NW; FREE. 202-319-9353**

**July 9 - July 26: DCAC Theater: 2438 18th St NW** "Vincent" by Lenard Nimoy Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 7:30pm; \$15. [www.dcartcenter.org](http://www.dcartcenter.org)

**July 24 & 31:** 10pm **DCAC Theater: 2438 18th St NW** Chinese Menu Improv Comedy-Late night w/Peter Bergen; \$8 **202-462-7833**

**July 25: Sidewalk Sale** Outside discount/ clearance racks for strolling. AM Partnership/BID sponsors discounts up to 50% off clothing, antiques, furnishings, and more. **And Beige, Kobos African Clothiers, Meeps Vintage Clothing, Skyneer Furnishings, Star Trading, Stussy, Toro Mata, Capitol Hemp, Shawarma King, Rita's Water Ice, Edna Unisex Salon, Photo Service & Public Desk.** [www.AdamsMorganNOW.com](http://www.AdamsMorganNOW.com) for store information.

**July 28:** 6-9pm **FELIZ 28 DE JULIO: Toro Mata Art & Furnishings of Peru** Celebrate Peru's Independence Day: **2410 18th Street, NW.** Enjoy the ambience of this unique retail store offering art, furnishings, apparel, gifts, & jewelry. **202-232-3890**

**July 29:** 8pm Wes Anderson Film Series: The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (2004). **Asylum 2471 18th St NW; FREE. 202-319-9353**

**July 30:** 7pm - 8:30pm **18<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape Design.** DDOT design for the 18<sup>th</sup> St reconstruction btw Florida & Columbia Rd NW. Seeking Public comment. With Ward 1 CM Jim Graham. 7pm (review drawings-open house). 7:20pm – Presentation/Q&A 3D Police Station 1620 V St., NW [www.AM18thstreetreconstruction.com](http://www.AM18thstreetreconstruction.com)

**Aug 3: Bourbon 6:30-10:30pm. 2321 18th St.NW** DC Craft Bartenders Guild 2<sup>nd</sup> annual rickety recipe winner announced! Tryst & The Diner are in the running! Vote for your favorite at: <http://dc.metromix.com/rickey> (\$10 cover includes one free drink)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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