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Vol. 38, No. 2

The InTowner

AUGUST
2006

Next Issue
September 8

Since 1968 • Serving Washington D.C.'s Intown Neighborhoods

Adams Morgan Day Festival Set for Sunday, Sept. 10

By Janet Lugo-Tafur*

The lazy hazy days of August hide the bustle of activity as residents and businesses prepare for the 28th annual Adams Morgan Day Festival, to be held on Sunday, September 10th, between 12 Noon and 7 p.m. Successfully reorganized by Adams Morgan Main Street in 2004, the popular cultural street festival now attracts both local residents and patrons from around the metro region. "One of our best accomplishments is the wonderful crowd flow around the single row of vendors, which safely accommodates throngs of thousands while retaining the neighborhood feel," explained festival Co-Chair Maria Gomez of Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care.



photo—courtesy, DCPages.com

The behind-the-scenes diligent work by the Adams Morgan Main Street Group and its volunteers underpins a festival now profiled in national travel guides, and known for celebrating international cuisine, cultures, diversity, and music. Festival-goers will enjoy a variety of live music and dance acts across several stages, interesting and diverse vendors, and the unique Dance Plaza and Kids Fair on the Marie Reed School grounds.

Adams Morgan Main Street is proud of the support shown by the local businesses and non-profit community organizations that are participating in various ways. "We

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Explosion of New Retail Set for 14th From Thomas Circle to Columbia Hgts.

By Michael K. Wilkinson

The Mid-City Business Association hosted the 7th annual "Dog Days of Summer" event during the weekend of August 5-6, 2006, to promote the many businesses around the 14th and U Streets corridors. In conjunction with the "Dog Days" event, the Cardozo-Shaw Neighborhood Association (CSNA) held a "MidCity Development Showcase," during which developers with current and future projects in the 14th Street corridor met with community residents to discuss their projects.



photo—Michael K. Wilkinson—The InTowner.

Emblematic of the ongoing construction along the 14th Street corridor is this shadow image of a member of the crew building the Tivoli Square parking structure on Park Road.

While 14th Street is over a decade into a remarkable resurgence, there is still a steady stream of new residential and commercial developments, from Thomas Circle to upper Columbia Heights, to report on; hence this survey of the retail and other commercial spaces that are under construction or planned. They range from "signed and sealed" deals in which all parties are willing to be named, through the "letter of intent" stage where negotiations between specific parties are underway but the deals are not complete or public, to tentative discussions and parties openly marketing their spaces to general categories of retailers.

Lower 14th Street Thomas Circle to Q St.

- **The Alta at Thomas Circle.** The Alta is a 126-unit luxury condominium building on 14th Street just south of Thomas Circle, and with residents set to begin moving in around press time, the building is essentially complete. It features two retail spaces on the ground floor. The larger, at 4,000 square feet, has not been leased yet, but developer PN Hoffman is in discussions with a number of restaurant groups in the fine dining (non-chain) category. An agreement is expected in the fall. Generally, once a deal is inked, restaurants take about six months to build out, so it is likely that the space will be open some time during 2007.

The other space, at 1,100 square feet, will be occupied by **Daily 14**, a locally owned coffee shop and newsstand which will be geared to residents in the building and the immediate vicinity. The business is re-opening (under a different name) after it was forced to close due to renovations at its previous location at 1101 Vermont Avenue. Build-out is expected to commence within

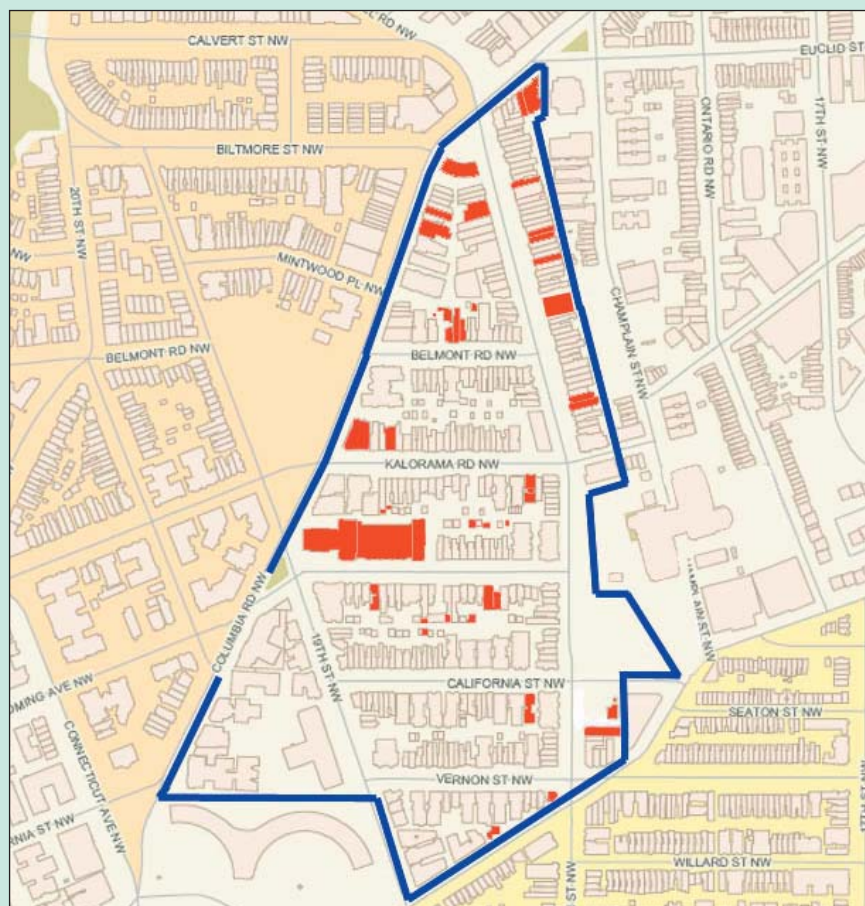
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Washington Heights Historic District Now Official in Adams Morgan Despite 82% of Business Owners in Opposition

By Anthony L. Harvey

After a brief presentation of a wealth of fascinating architectural and historical data regarding early to mid-20th century buildings located in the Adams Morgan area, and identified on an 1888 subdivision plat as Washington Heights, the city's Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) unanimously adopted a motion by Board Member James Kane to establish Washington Heights as the District's newest, statutorily protected historic district.

Within the boundaries of a roughly triangularly shaped section bordered by 18th Street on the east, Florida Avenue on the south, and 19th Street to Columbia Road on the west and north, the new district comprises 386 individual structures which were mostly built between the late 1890s and 1930s



map—EHT Tracerics, courtesy DC Historic Preservation Office.

The overall final boundaries are denoted by the thick border line; specific properties highlighted in red are designated as "non-contributing" structures.

Armed with a voluminous and professionally constructed formal application, and a crisply informative 20-minute Power Point presentation, both prepared by Laura Trieschmann of EHT Tracerics — under a contract with the Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office (HPO) — and supported by the indefatigable efforts of Ann Hughes Hargrove and members of the Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA), HPRB Board members and a packed hearing room audience were visually and articulately informed of a stunningly intact section of handsome turn-of-the-century and early 20th century houses and apartment buildings which, together with colorfully and eclectically altered commercial structures, are located in the heart of one of the city's most vibrant mixed-use commercial and residential neighborhoods — Adams Morgan.

The individual dwellings and row house structures, together with the small

apartment buildings in the purely residential portion of this neighborhood range in style from Queen Anne to Romanesque and Classical Revival; this five-block wedge of residences from Vernon Street to Belmont Road presents an instructive sampler of a dozen distinguished architectural expressions, many with façades and fenestration of extraordinary beauty.

Although tear-downs and defacements within this area have been few, such recent controversial out-of-scale additions to existing row houses on Belmont and Ontario Roads, popularly referred to by neighbors as "towers," the first of which involved destruction as well, alarmed historic preservations throughout Adams Morgan. And, tall penthouse apartment structures constructed on top of the old Alwyn — now Kalorama — apartments on Columbia Road, and

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EDITORIAL

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brings an important sense of balance to the Council's debates and thus is truly a stabilizing influence. While some members want to just plunge right in and "do something" for the sake of doing, this council member understands the importance of stepping back and imposing some analysis and discipline before proceeding.

So, we urge Councilmember Mendelson's re-election not only for these reasons but also because he has proven himself to be fair and equally caring of the concerns of all citizens across the city no matter where they live or their economic or social status. What a perfect quality for a legislator who must represent everyone! One thing we do urge, however, is that if he is re-elected he be assigned to chair the Committee on Government Operations; the mandate of that committee is such that he would make an absolutely ideal chairman to conduct the kind of oversight necessary when confronted with the highly

technical aspects of overseeing the government's management affairs.

Finally, a few comments about the Ward 3 race. Bill Rice is presumed to be the odds-on favorite; certainly he has received lots of good press, no doubt from having developed some close relationships with certain members of the press who have extolled his apparent (to them) responsiveness when he served as the DDOT spokesman. Our experience, however, does run counter to what we have heard said by others. We have found that his attention span is short, frequently not even evident, that he has – again, in our experience – demonstrated a lack of follow-through or even a true get-up-and-go approach. He's a nice guy, but we don't think there's a lot there.

One thing we will say about Bill Rice is that if he is elected his personality is not such that he would be a destabilizing force. We cannot say the same about the most vocal and in-your-face angry candidate, Jonathan Rees. He has so absolutely polarized everyone he has come into contact with, has become infamous for his over-the-top rants, his personal character attacks

on individuals who disagree with him, and worse that we fear his presence on the Council could completely destroy any hope for continued collegiality which is essential if it is to function effectively.

But there is one candidate that we believe would be able to make a significant contribution not only to the work of the Council but also on behalf of his constituents. We refer to Eric Goulet, possibly not a household name, but a candidate who the voters should take a serious look at. First off, he has the kind of personality and genuine intellect that will contribute greatly to the work of the Council; he is not only collegial, but he is patient and communicates well and is a true breath of fresh creativity. But beyond that, he knows his stuff.

One of his major strengths is his impressive knowledge and understanding of the complexities of DC finance, and has served

admirably as clerk of the Committee on Finance and Revenue. He would bring another crucial voice of fiscal rationality that continues to be so desperately needed. In addition, thanks to his years of service as legislative counsel for health and aging issues when serving as a member of former Councilmember Sandy Allen's Committee on Health, he was immersed in a range of critical issues that require the attention of council members who truly understand the health crisis affecting such a large portion of our citizens; he would bring to the table much needed insight and ideas. All we ask is that voters make an effort to learn more about him; they will be very impressed indeed.

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ADAMS MORGAN

From p. 1

forgo revenue by allowing only a single row of vendors, and giving discounts and preferences for Adams Morgan businesses," said Main Street's president and festival Co-Chair Lisa Duperier. "Not only do our businesses all stay open now, but a group also takes advantage of the discounted vendor space. "The new festival layout originated by Main Street highlights the neighborhood scale architecture and leaves all the business storefront façades visible to Festival strollers.

Brand new last year, and back by popular demand, is the Dance Plaza located on the basketball court of Marie Reed School. Packed with hundreds of people, the Dance Plaza features such groups as



photo—courtesy, Adams Morgan Day Festival.

Afro-Cuban rumba, Bolivian dance troupe, West African dance, and a youth step group. People watched, learned, and then jumped up themselves to dance on the temporary wooden dance floor set up for the event.

The always popular commemorative T-shirt this year will feature local artist Jennifer Golden's original artwork, titled *Dancers*. New this year according to Festival Director, Cassandra Kearse, "is a partnership with the U.S. Postal Service which will be offering a "one day only" Adams Morgan Day Festival postmark cancellation envelope for purchase which combines the T-shirt artwork and Festival logo." Some of the local businesses with logos on the commemorative T-shirts include Adams Mill Bar & Grill, Chloe, El Tamarindo, Millie-'n-Al's, and Tom Tom.

The signature Florida Avenue and Columbia Road live music stages return to

bookend 18th Street. *Washington Post* Radio's Jerry Phillips celebrates his 20th year producing the Florida Avenue stage with such acts as The Ed Hahn Quintet (Contemporary Jazz), Cubano Groove (Latin/Salsa), and Third Eye Reggae Band (Caribbean), making their Festival debut. New to that stage is a performance by the Dance Institute of Washington.

Bank of America is sponsoring the Cultural Stage on the church steps at Euclid Street and Columbia Road. Coordinated by Celestino Zapata, it will showcase a broad mix of musical genres, theater, dance, and cultural performances, including the Sitar Center students. Other major sponsors are PNC Bank, Radio Shack, the Adams Morgan Business Improvement District, and BB&T Bank.

"Arts on Belmont" with over 30 artisans displaying original artwork in a variety of media will line the shady residential side street. Coordinated by Avner Ofer, who also produces Western Market each Saturday, attendees can expect high-quality artisans from contemporary to traditional.

Kid's Fair Coordinator Samantha Cribari plans a mini-stage this year with face-painters, jugglers, clowns and other performers to wow the crowd, in addition to the moon bounce and rock wall. Educational exhibits about the human body, mechanics, nature and biology, will be offered by Celebra La Ciencia/Celebrate Science in English and Spanish to encourage kids to think about science in different ways.

Harris Teeter, Adams Investments, DC Lottery, Hilton Washington, DC Chartered Health, Safeway, and Comcast are also participating as sponsors. But the success of the festival can be attributed to the efforts of local volunteers, who gather petition signatures, work on vendor layout, plan for stages, and work the "day of"! Volunteer opportunities abound including pre-festival through "day of" and breakdown. To volunteer, email Irving Washington at VolsAMDay@AMMainStreet.org or call festival director Cassandra Kearse at (202) 232-1978 or send email to AMDay@AMMainStreet.org. Check for Festival updates on: www.AMMainStreet.org. □

* *The writer, a proud mixture of the Guatemalan and Peruvian cultures, is a DC native and Executive Director of AdamsMorgan MainStreet Group.*

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