

The West End Flyer

Serving the West End Neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

June 2020

West End Business Reopening Set Back

The combination of Covid 19 and civil unrest related to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis is substantially affecting our West End neighborhood.

During the first week in June, many storefronts along M Street were shuttered with plywood to prevent broken windows, vandalism, and potential looting from roving groups.

Both our large drugstores, Walgreens and CVS have remained open, but their windows are now protected by plywood. Other businesses, which provided needed services during the Covid 19 crisis, have re-closed rather than re-opened.

One is the FedEx outlet at 2400 M Street. On June 4 it was closed completely without so much as a note on the door. It is shown, boarded-up, in the photo at right.

In the past, hospitality has been a major industry in the West End, with its premier hotels and restaurants. Also partially boarded up in early June was the Ritz-Carlton, which has been closed for some time. The Westin, too, is still closed. Both the Park

Hyatt and the Fairmont are now open. Neither has bar or restaurant service, either indoors or out, although



both have outdoor space that could be used under D.C. guidelines. Low occupancy makes it unprofitable.

Ris, the well-respected restaurant at 23rd and

Continued on Reverse

Kennedy Concedes to Pinto in DC Council Race *Special Election: June 16, Mail Vote Again Critical*

Newcomer Brooke Pinto has narrowly defeated Patrick Kennedy in the June 2 Democratic primary election for the Ward 2 seat on the Council of the District of Columbia.

The race had been too close to call on election night and days after, as many mail ballots remained to be counted. Kennedy, chair of the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, conceded on Saturday, June 6. He told the *Flyer* he would not be campaigning in the June 16 special election (see below), and said he would support Pinto and her team where he could.

Pinto is a former assistant D.C. attorney general and a resident of Logan Circle. This was her first campaign in the District. In the June 5 count, she led with 2,967 votes to 2,620 for Kennedy. In our West

End precinct, more than 600 votes were cast.

If our local elections were not complicated enough, there will be a special election relating to the same Ward 2 Council seat on Tuesday, June 16. That is a general election to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jack Evans, the former member.

Again, voting by mail will be critical to the outcome because most polling place are closed. Mail ballots must be requested from the Board of Elections by Tuesday, June 9.

This will be a general election in which all registered voters may vote, regardless of party affiliation. The winner will serve only until January 2021. Nevertheless, it is important to have representation for the ward for this six-month period. Seven candidates are on the ballot. Pinto will now be the heavy favorite.

The 2020 general election for the four-year Ward 2 Council seat will be held on Tuesday, November 3. That winner will take office on January 2, 2021.



Francis Field Landscape Plan Approved by CFA

Rear-Field Plantings Projected for Fall Season, 2020

The revised master landscape plan for Francis Field, which has been in preparation since 2016, received its final government approval on April 16, 2020, by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA).

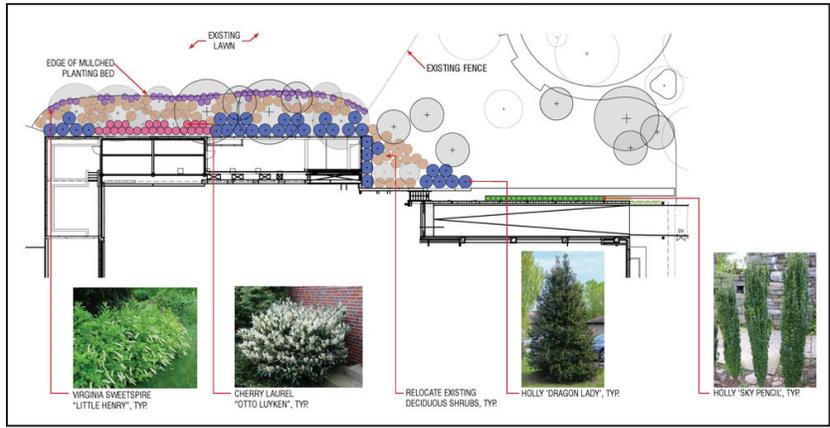
It was reviewed by the Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC-2A) in February 2019, and approved by the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation in December 2019.

The Covid 19 situation has delayed its implementation. The spring planting season is now past. Because Francis Field has no irrigation system and depends on rainfall for moisture, the hot summer months are not suitable for planting.

A fall season planting is now scheduled.

The most extensive part is the rear-field landscaping, which will complete the restoration of a construction easement granted in 2015 for the conversion of the 2501 M Street building to increased residential

occupancy. It is shown in the accompanying drawing. About 130 new shrubs and plants will be added there.



Rear-Field landscaping sub-plan for Francis Field. To be planted in Fall 2020.

West End Stores Struggle In Changed Neighborhood

Continued from Front Page

L Street remained open for carry-out and delivery during the first phase of the lock-down. It offers meals, frozen entrées, wine, and farm-market produce.

Nobu, the upscale sushi restaurant at 2525 M Street, reopened on April 29, for carry-out and delivery. It, too, includes beer and wine to take out.

Several small coffee shops like the Uptowner Café at on 24th Street near M, and the West Wing Café and 2400 M Street are also open for carry-out.

Trader Joe's, at 1101 25th Street, has been open all along, and has operated safely and intelligently to provide groceries in a neighborhood where many residents depend on it heavily.

These businesses and their employees have suffered financially from the shutdown of George Washington University, hotels, and office buildings.

The West End does not have a Business Improvement District. In this new and challenging environment, it needs some civic leadership and planning.

Some of the 11 new trees in the plan are already in the ground, having been planted earlier this year by the Urban Forestry division of the D.C. Department of Transportation.

All other plantings and labor will be done using private funds raised by FFF, which also funded the drawing of the landscape architecture plans.

The full plans are on the FFF website. (See address at bottom of page.)

ANC-2A To Meet: June 17

The Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC-2A) is scheduled to have its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 17, at 7:00 pm.

For the last two months, these have been conducted by video conference. See the ANC-2A website at www.anc2a.org for information and the agenda.

Friends of Francis Field

2501 M Street NW #805 Washington, DC 20037

This PDF edition is condensed from the more comprehensive FFF website, which is updated with new developments.
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Board of Directors: Jim O'Connell, Patricia Tith, Gary Griffith, Laura Belt, Tom Firestone

Editor: Gary Griffith, email: gary@fffdc.org

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