

The West End Flyer

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

November 2020

Mail Voting Does Not Set Record Here *Registration Up, Turnout Down in Precinct 4*

While all 3,655 registered voters in our precinct were mailed ballots this year according to the Board of Elections, the turnout was 56.6%. That is less than in



Voters encountered few lines at Precinct 4 on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

the 2008, 2012, and 2016 presidential elections, when most of us voted in person.

Factors probably included residents living elsewhere: some at second homes, and many out of the

District with parents—particularly off-campus undergraduates and graduate students at George Washington University, which is holding remote classes this year.

Turnout was 67.4% in 2016, when Hillary Clinton won 1,836 votes in Precinct 4, or 84.6% against 199 votes for Donald Trump. District-wide it was 90.9%.

This year, Joe Biden won 1,781 here against Trump's 230, or 86.3%. District-wide, it was 92.6%.

Registration in Precinct 4 has increased every year since 2008. It is up 53.4% since then, as the West End has become an increasingly residential neighborhood.

Covid-19 and fears of “unrest” may also have been a factor in the lower turnout. (See story below.)

However, at our polling place—the School Without Walls at Francis-Stephens on N Street—election day was calm, quiet, and color-coordinated.

Brooke Pinto showed up in a hot-pink coat and matching mask. She won a four-year term as Ward 2 Councilmember with 70.4% of the vote in Precinct 4, and 68.8% District-wide, against three challengers.

See reverse side of the *Flyer* for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A returns and rundown.

Pre-Election Streetscape: Plywood over Plate Glass

The boarding up at Squire Patton Boggs, at 2550 M Street, began on October 27, and seemed to move east, toward the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, which put up its plywood in June, after the death of George Floyd sparked unrest and sporadic looting. It is still closed.

Starbucks at 2400 M, and several nearby storefronts, went under plywood on October 29, the same day that Mayor Muriel Bowser issued an advisory that “First Amendment activities have the potential to disrupt business operations.”

A group naming itself “ShutDownDC” was encouraging people to “hit the streets” to “ensure that Trump isn’t able to steal the 2020 presidential election.” By Halloween, hard-hit Georgetown was jittery and boarding up again, with several storefronts still behind summer plywood. Some of those have already

gone out of business or decided not to renew leases.

In the West End, the Exxon station on M Street, both drug stores, and other office buildings had boarded up by election day.



Walgreens behind election plywood, November 2.

“We got hit twice in June,” said Bethany Lowery, the store manager of the Walgreens on 22nd Street.

Insurance coverage is a factor for many large companies as well as “mom-and-pop” stores.

Since it is expensive to put up and take down plywood, some owners said they might leave it up until after the January inauguration. However, the Biden election may return “transparency” to our storefronts sooner.

Election Update and New Faces for ANC-2A

Only three of the eight seats on Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A have been filled as a result of the November 3rd election. The Board of Elections has not named write-in winners as the *Flyer* goes to press, but here is the outlook:

2A02. Joel Causey won 488 votes and will be a new member for the west half of the West End.

2A03. Trupti Patel, an incumbent, won 255 votes in the only contested election. She will continue to represent the Foggy Bottom Historic District.

2A06. Jeri Epstein, an incumbent, won 409 votes, and will continue to represent the east half of the West End.

Write-ups and photos of the three commissioners above, who are now elected, were included in the October issue of the *Flyer*. (See FFF website.) The known write-in candidates are listed below.

In **2A01**, Foggy Bottom, **Yannik Ompictin**, a senior at George Washington University has been active in student government and defines himself as a progressive. According to his social media, his issues include safe housing, affordable transit, and “alternatives to policing.”



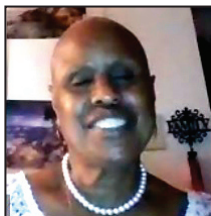
Yannik Ompictin

For **2A04**, the Watergate district, a write-in candidate needed to be recruited. **Donna Barbisch** accepted, and is likely to add a distinguished record of service and leadership to this unpaid, volunteer commission. An Army nurse in Vietnam at the age of 21, she served 38 years in the U.S. Army, and rose to the rank of major general. She also holds a doctorate degree in health administration. Why is she interested in the ANC? “Where there’s a need, giving back is important,” she told the *Flyer*.



Donna Barbisch

In **2A05**, Foggy Bottom, **Evelyn Hudson**, is an incumbent who has served for ten months, somewhat quietly. She is a resident of St. Mary’s Court on 24th Street. She cites affordable housing as one of the issues that is important to her. She has worked in special education with disabled students, and she volunteers elsewhere. “I would disappear if I didn’t stay active,” she told the *Flyer*.



Evelyn Hudson

In **2A07**, Foggy Bottom, **Adam Friend** is a 21st Street resident who did not campaign actively. He told the *Flyer* that he would “fill the seat if no one else wanted it,” and that he has affirmed his candidacy with the Board of Elections. At 31, he is a staff employee at the State Department who has worked overseas. He holds a master’s degree from Georgetown University in foreign service, and he has previously taught Arabic and English.



Adam Friend

For **2A08**, Foggy Bottom, the *Flyer* is not aware of a write-in effort at press time. This is a seat in the George Washington University campus area that is traditionally held by a student, and few are on campus now due to the Covid-19 situation.

Write-in candidates were required to have affirmed their candidacy in writing with the Board of Elections by November 6. Qualifications include being a registered voter and residing in the single-member district for 60 days prior to the election.

Commissioners serve for two-year terms. Those who are certified as being elected will take office on January 2, 2021, the first day of the new ANC term.

ANC-2A usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month, except during August and December.

The last meeting of the current commission is scheduled for November 18. (For agenda and Zoom video conference link, see its website: anc2a.org.)

The incoming commission for January 2021 will be a diverse group, with a broad mix of life experience, education, and backgrounds.

Jeri Epstein, one of the two incumbents who has served a full term, is likely to be elected chair.

There are 40 ANCs in the District. Their main job is to be the official voice in advising D.C. government agencies on matters affecting their neighborhoods, including zoning, streets, liquor licenses, planning, safety, health, recreation, and many other matters.

The agencies are required by law to give resolutions of the ANCs “great weight.”

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Listings: Foggy Bottom Historic District

November 2020

This month we are being brave, bold, and adventurous by expanding the scope of the *Flyer* listings into what is *Terra Incognita* to many of us: Foggy Bottom.

We know it—if at all—as a land of students, the site of the Watergate break-in during the Nixon presidency, and a place that one must walk through to get from the West End to the Kennedy Center.

However, there is more to it. We want to dip a toe into this territory cautiously, by first exploring the closest part of it, which lies just south of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Part of that may be considered West End turf, but once you survive the hazardous crossing and get to the far side of K Street, you know you are somewhere else. There are actually single-family houses there.

The map at right shows the Advisory Neighborhood Commission districts 2A02 and 2A06 in green and violet. These we now consider the West End from a governmental point of view.

Below them in red is 2A03. This electoral sub-division is loosely known as the Foggy Bottom Historic District, but that designation in historic preservation terms covers a larger area under a landmarking designation of 1987.

That being said, a native guide and inhabitant of 2A03, John George, has assisted in getting the Foggy Bottom listings started. Perhaps we will explore deeper someday.

HOTELS

Melrose Hotel

Ordinarily, this is an affordable, full-service hotel, but the status of the bar and restaurant are not determined. 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. 202-955-6400.

The River Inn

An all-suites, pet-friendly hotel and a vibrant part of the neighborhood for over 60 years. Unfortunately, its pleasant bar and restaurant, which we first knew as Dish, remains temporarily closed. 949 25th Street NW. 202-337-7600.

RESTAURANTS & CARRY-OUT

Charm Thai

Thai favorites, with many vegetarian options. Open for dine-in, takeout, and no-

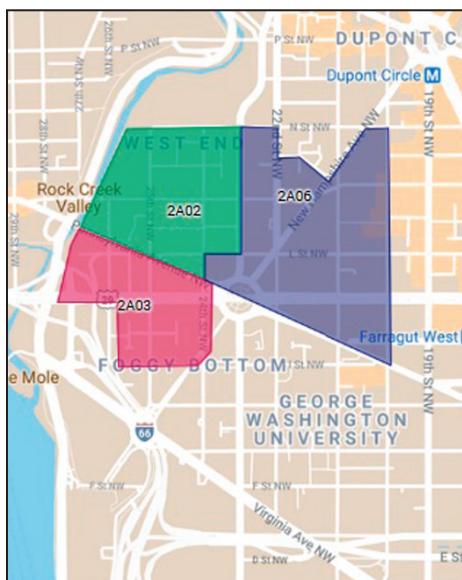
contact delivery. Open Sun-Thur 11:00 am to 10:30 pm. Fri-Sat 11:30 am to 11:00 pm. 2415 Pennsylvania Ave. 202-333-2460.

Flavors of India

Indian food at an affordable price. Open Sun-Sat 11:30 am to 10:00 pm. Dine in, takeout and no-contact delivery. 2524 L Street NW. 202-333-1155.

Marshall's Bar and Grille

This bar used to be on the other side of M Street, many years ago, and still hangs on, but upstairs now from Flavors of India



West End 2A02 & 2A06 and Foggy Bottom 2A03

at same address and phone. Open Wed-Thur 5:00 pm to 2:00 am. Fri-Sat 5:00 pm to 3:00 am.

Ristorante La Perla

Upscale Italian food by well-known Washington chef Vittorio Testa. World-class wine list. Open Tue-Sun 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Indoor/outdoor dining, takeout, and no-contact delivery. Happy hour Tue-Fri 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. 2600 Pennsylvania Ave. 202-333-1767.

MARKETS

Fabulous Market and Café

Formerly the Marvelous Market. Mostly carry-out, for sandwiches, coffee, tea, deserts, sodas and snacks. Sun-Sat 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. 2424 Pennsylvania Ave. 202-293-0049.

7-Eleven

Our go-to convenience store is open 24 hours a day. They even offer delivery. 912 New Hampshire Ave. 202-333-7550.

West End Market

Mostly a liquor store, and one of few around. It also has soft drinks and some grocery items. 2424 Pennsylvania Ave. 202-659-5000.

SERVICES

1201 Salon

A familiar name that used to be on 24th Street. Hair styling and cutting for men and women, also nails, waxing, and makeup. Call for appointment. 2526 L Street NW. 202-293-5557.

Please keep in mind that the listings are not professional reviews or endorsements by the *Flyer*, but are included as a guide.

It is best to check opening and closing days and times, as some may change during this Covid-19 period.

For West End listing, see following page.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

During the Covid-19 emergency, restaurants and cafés and other businesses are getting creative with “streateries” and “parklets” that use sidewalks, streets, and public space to facilitate outdoor tables and pick-up spaces.

Colder weather has already brought more heaters to outdoor space, but restaurants will be challenged even further in the coming months.

As we have noted in the news section of the *Flyer*, many businesses have boarded-up during the period of unrest surrounding the election. That situation may ease as a result of the Biden election.

It was perhaps a good sign that on the Saturday when the Democratic candidate reached 270 electoral votes, there was a run on Trader Joe's by paying customers who cleared the shelves of Champagne.

Inauguration and the days before and after have usually been an excellent event for our West End hotels and hospitality industry. Will the Ritz-Carlton come out from under its black-painted plywood?

In October, Mayor Muriel Bowser extended the “Phase Two of Reopening” until December 31, so we are under the same Co-

Continued on Reverse

Listings for West End Dining 2.1

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Continued from first listings page

vid-related rules for restaurants and bars that began on June 22.

Those were explained in the October issue of the *Flyer*, which is available on the FFF website (FriendsOfFrancisField.org).

George Washington University has also announced that it will remain virtual for the Spring Semester, although it will allow more students to live on campus.

The campus shut-down is affecting many of our local businesses, hotels, and restaurants, a few of which have closed permanently. The *Flyer* encourages its readers to support our local establishments while observing the District's sensible guidelines.

An edited list of West End restaurants follows. More comprehensive listings can be found in the September and October issues on the FFF website.

RESTAURANTS & CARRY-OUT

Blue Duck Tavern

Upscale. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, 7 days a week. Its sunken and sheltered patio is one of the neighborhood's best outdoor spaces. We noticed heaters this month. Carry-out crab cakes are a hit. 1201 24th Street NW, at Park Hyatt Hotel. 202-419-6755.

Bluestone Lane Café

Shares a home with the West End Library. Coffee drinks, pastries, healthy snacks and entrees. 1100 23rd Street NW. Open Mon-Fri 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.; Sat-Sun until 5:00 pm. Outdoor seating. 718-374-6858.

Bread and Chocolate

A friendly neighborhood bistro. Full breakfast, fresh pastries, baguettes, varietal coffees. 2300 M Street NW. Open Mon-Sun 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Indoor and outdoor dining. 202-833-8360.

Casta's Rum Bar

Tasty Cuban food. Interior has tables socially distanced. Serves alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; emphasis on rum drinks. Has a cigar menu. 1121 New Hampshire Ave in the Residence Inn. Open 5:00 pm to 12:00 m. 202-660-1440.

Char Bar

A kosher alternative. Online reviews call it the best kosher burger place in the DMV. The atmosphere is casual. 2142 L Street NW. Open until 9 pm. 202-785-4314.

Fairmont Hotel

The spacious and well-equipped lobby bar with its large courtyard have reopened. See article in October listings. Open Mon-Sat 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Sun 1:00 to 10:00 pm. 2401 M Street NW. 202-457-5020.

Chef Geoff's West End

Now has outdoor heaters, more sidewalk tables. The menu satisfies burger eaters, vegetarians, flatbread lovers; has full dinner options, kids' food, pasta, and desserts. 2201 M Street NW. (202) 524-7815.



Making the best of autumn at Rasika West End.

Grillfish

Open again for lunch, dinner, happy hour, and weekend brunch. Closed Sun. Has outdoor space on sidewalk. 1200 New Hampshire Ave. 202-331-7310.

Mercy Me, at Yours Truly Hotel

A South American café, restaurant, and bar. Homemade pastries and bagels, grilled pizza and craft beer served for dine-in on two patios. 1143 New Hampshire Ave NW. Brunch Sat-Sun 8:00-10:00 am. Take-out and delivery. 202-828-7762.

Nobu

Upscale Japanese restaurant with sushi, sashimi, nigiri, kushiyaki, and crafted cocktails. Now has on-line ordering, pick-up and delivery. Dine-in also, Tue-Thur 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Fri-Sat to 10:00 pm. 2525 M Street NW. 202-871-6565.

One Fish, Two Fish

Traditional Chinese restaurant with carry-out and delivery. Affordable prices. 2423 Pennsylvania Ave. On-line menu: onefishtwofishdc.com. 202- 822-0977.

The Prime Rib

Calls itself a civilized steakhouse, and it is, with good food and service. Still reigns as the best place in the neighborhood for a serious martini. Mon-Sat 5:00 pm to about 9:00 pm. Lunch on Fri 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. 2020 K Street NW. 202-466-8811.

Rasika West End

Upscale, modern Indian cuisine, and comfortably casual at the same time. 1190 New Hampshire Ave. Open for patio or indoor dining 7 days a week, serving their regular menu. See November photo at left. Also, pickup and delivery. 202-466-2500.

Ris

Chef Ris Lacoste made her reputation by using high-quality ingredients and innovative techniques that made familiar foods simply delicious. Has a dedicated, loyal, and local following. Interesting menu changes daily. 2275 L Street NW. 202-730-2500.

Soi 38

A modern restaurant dedicated to Thai market foods. The owners were from Bangkok, Thailand, where Soi 38 is a night market. Accepts reservations. 2101 L Street. 202-558-9215.

Stoney's

Best grilled cheese sandwich in DC. Families during the day, younger crowd at night. Soups, salads, burgers, lots more. 2101 L Street NW. Open Tue-Fri noon to 11:00 pm. Sat 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Closed Sun-Mon. Web: stoneysonl.com. 202-721-0019.

Tatte Bakery and Café

Open for two months now, and very popular. Breakfast sandwiches and Israeli-inspired pastry have drawn crowds. Large outdoor seating area. 1200 New Hampshire Ave., at M Street. 202-804-4950.

Uptowner Café

Fresh, over-stuffed sandwiches made while you wait. Also, omelets, breakfast sandwiches, pastries. 2400 M Street, entrance on 24th Street. 202-775-0520.

Descriptions are supplied only as a guide. Listings are not endorsements.

Support our West End businesses!