

The West End Flyer

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

October 2020

Upgrade On Tap for 2100 M Street *Edgy Adaption Faces Duke Ellington Park*

Plans for a major renovation and expansion of the building at 2100 M Street NW will have a hearing before the Board of Zoning Adjustment on October 7.



Morris Adjmi, architect, *M Street Perspective, 2100 M Street.*

This is a large corner building that used to house a Social Security branch office. It was built in 1969 on the south side of M Street, where New Hampshire

Avenue and 21st Street intersect. It is located across M Street from the small, triangular Duke Ellington Park, which was officially given that name in 2009.

The new plans were shown before ANC-2A at its September meeting. They include the addition of three stories, and a nine-story tower to be added in front, giving “a more artful expression” to its “street presence.”

Ground-floor retail and restaurant space would extend into the plaza out front.

The Advisory Neighborhood Commission had no objection to the project. If completed as planned, it would further activate the eastern half of the West End where the restaurant Rasika and new the Tatte bakery have been well received.

This will be an interesting implementation of a pre-pandemic plan filed on April 6, 2020. Sam Hollman, of the development firm Network Realty Partners told the ANC: “We are prepared to go forward.”

There will be time to find tenants and make adjustments; a completion date was projected for the second quarter of 2022. Interior demolition has begun.

Election Day Is Now Election Month *Precinct 4 Gets Reinvented with Mail-In Voting*

The D.C. Board of Elections says: “During the first week of October, every registered voter will be mailed a ballot for the November 3 General Election.”

This is a change from past procedure. It also turns election day into election month, as voters can mail ballots back as early as they receive one.

Some of us, however, may like to see how events are unfolding before we vote, or examine local candidates before voting. That is possible, too.

In our Precinct 4, the in-person polling place on November 3 will be the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, at 2425 N Street NW. That location is also an early vote center, which will be open beginning on October 27. Check BOE website for changes.

We are also told there will be a “mail-in ballot drop box” at the West End Library at 2301 L Street NW which will be open until 8 pm on November 3.

That sounds civilized and safe.



The turn-out figure in this first ballot-by-mail election will be an important record. Our neighborhood’s voting participation percentage has usually been high in the past.

What we know at the beginning of this month, is that Precinct 4 has about 3,400 registered voters, of which 63% are Democrats, and 13% are Republicans. “No Party” was the registration of 23%.

Continued on Reverse

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

Here is the line-up for the November 3 election for two-year terms on ANC-2A. Only four candidates qualified to be on the ballot for the eight seats.

2A01. Foggy Bottom. No one filed papers for this seat held by former chair Patrick Kennedy for four terms.

Yannick Ompictin, a George Washington University (GWU) student is running a write-in effort.

2A02. This is the western half of the West End. The seat was held from 2009 to 2018 by Rebecca Coder, who died in office. Her successor, Nicole Goldin, has announced that she is not running for a second term.



Joel Causey

Joel Causey will be unopposed on the ballot. He is a 23rd Street homeowner, and a project manager in the construction industry.

He says he wants to promote neighborhood retail, and stresses his management experience in working with the District government. He is a board member of the Westhaven Cooperative residences.

2A03. This is the Foggy Bottom Historic District. One-term incumbent **Trupti Patel** is running for reelection. She is a 25th Street resident and a hospitality worker who describes herself as an activist and lobbyist.



Trupti Patel

At the September ANC meeting she asked for District assistance in closing an illegal cannabis shop in Snows Court. She has been a vocal advocate for eliminating the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers.

This is the only contested election on the ANC-2A ballot.

Challenger **John George** is a 26th Street homeowner who works as an information technology consultant. He survived Patel's challenge of his ballot petitions in a unanimous decision by the Board of Elections.



John George

He was a local opponent of the GWU hospital helicopter pad. He is in favor of what he terms "a positive balance with GWU," and of coordinating city services "to address transient populations."

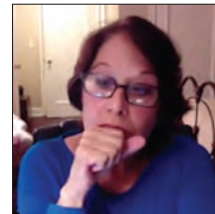
2A04. This is the Watergate area of Foggy Bottom. No one filed papers for this seat, which was held for three terms by William Kennedy Smith, who has moved.

Donna Barbisch, a Watergate West resident, has been recruited as a write-in candidate, friends say.

2A05. Foggy Bottom. The one-term incumbent, Evelyn Hudson took out ballot papers but did not return a petition. No other information as *Flyer* goes to press.

2A06. This is the eastern half of the West End. One-term incumbent **Jeri Epstein** will be unopposed on the ballot for re-election.

She is a long-time 23rd Street homeowner and has been a teacher of foreign languages, a business executive, and is a trustee of the Arena Stage theater.



Jeri Epstein

With Smith already gone, and Kennedy—another former chair—not running for reelection, Epstein is being looked to for leadership. She has become a stronger presence since March, when the ANC's monthly meetings began being held by Zoom video conference.

2A07. Foggy Bottom. No candidate filed papers for this seat formerly occupied by Detrick Campbell, a GWU student who served two terms.

Adam Friend, a 21st Street resident and State Department employee, says he plans a write-in effort.

2A08. Foggy Bottom. No candidate filed papers for this seat currently occupied by James Harnett, a GWU student who is finishing his second term on the ANC. No other information as *Flyer* goes to press.

You are Invited
Annual Membership Meeting
Friends of Francis Field
7 :00 pm, Wednesday, October 28, 2020
For details see www.FriendsofFrancisField.org.

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www.FriendsofFrancisField.org

Listings for West End Dining, 2.0

October 2020

As we go to press this month, the District is still operating under Covid-related orders. We are in what the Mayor calls “Phase Two of Reopening,” which began on June 22 and extends to October 9.

Thus, there could be a change this month—or Phase Two could be extended.

Restaurants, bars, grocery stores, gyms, salons, and other businesses are currently required to adhere to guidelines for preventing the spread of the virus.

Basically, restaurants can serve indoors, but only with 50% capacity, and 6 feet of social distancing between tables. Tables for more than 6 persons are not allowed.

You may not stand or sit at a bar that has a bartender. You are not supposed to have a drink without purchasing one food item per table. Bars are required to have a food menu with at least three items.

Some of our neighborhood restaurants and hotels have remained closed, but most are trying to make a go of it.

For October, we’ve updated the listings we began last month, which were well-received. Thank you. Input is welcome.

The *Flyer* encourages its readers to patronize our local businesses. We are leaving the September listings on the FFF website where they can be easily accessed, with the original write-ups, most of them (and several this month, too) by Jeri Epstein.

(Please keep in mind that listings are not professional reviews or endorsements.)

NEW THIS MONTH

Fairmont Hotel has reopened its lobby bar and large courtyard since our September issue. Our staff has made a visit and has written up some impressions. See photo and listing on this page.

Grillfish is open again. **The Prime Rib** never closed. Both have been added to the restaurant listings.

Trader Joe’s has changed its Covid-inspired “senior hours” to two days a week from seven. And we have visited **Streets Market**, on 22nd Street and have added some impressions in the Groceries section on reverse.

RESTAURANTS & CARRY-OUT

Aroma Café

Inexpensive. A small, pleasant “mom and pop” coffee shop. Makes sandwiches to order. 2401 Pennsylvania Ave, but the entrance is on 24th Street. 202-296-6383.

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. Pickup and delivery. The carry-out crab cakes are a big hit, and you can order on line. 1201 24th Street NW, at Park Hyatt Hotel. Web: blueducktavern.com. 202-419-6755. (Photo in September listings.)

Bluestone Lane Café West End

Shares a home with the West End Library. Coffee drinks, pastries, healthy snacks and entrees. 1100 23rd Street NW. Open Mon-

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 say that this is the best kosher burger place in the DMV. The atmosphere is casual. 2142 L Street NW. Open until 9 pm. DoorDash delivers. 202-785-4314.

Fairmont Hotel

The spacious and well-equipped lobby bar with its large courtyard reopened in September. It’s a nice setting for a socially-distanced cocktail while the weather is good. The outdoor decor seems a work in progress, but has promise. See photo below.

We’d like to see this venerable West End institution find its groove again. The \$23 burger on the ample and interesting bar



The Fairmont Hotel courtyard is adjacent to the lobby bar, and newly re-opened in Phase Two garb.

Fri 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.; Sat-Sun until 5:00 pm. Outdoor seating. 718-374-6858.

Bourbon Coffee

Coffee varieties from Rwanda. Croissants, sandwiches, bagels. 2101 L Street NW. Some outdoor seating. 202-525-1886.

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.

Castá’s Rum Bar

Tasty Cuban food. Interior has tables socially distanced. Serves alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; emphasis on

menu we will test later. Meanwhile, have the cast-iron cornbread (\$11) with your gin martini (\$15-\$17), beer (\$8-\$9) or a flute of Veuve Clicquot champagne (\$26).

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

The menu satisfies burger eaters, vegetarians, flatbread lovers; has full dinner options, kids’ food pasta, and desserts. It’s hard to turn down skillet chocolate chip cookies with vanilla ice cream. Chefgeoff.com. 2201 M Street NW. (202) 524-7815. DoorDash delivers.

Continued on Reverse

RESTAURANTS & CARRY OUT

Continued

Grillfish

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

Mercy Me, at Yours Truly Hotel

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

Nobu

Upscale Japanese restaurant with sushi. Has had a couple of changes in managers since it opened in 2017, with a *Washington Post* review calling it the District's "most pretentious restaurant." We're glad that has changed. 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.

Papa John's Pizza.

Delivery and carry-out. On-line ordering. 2525 Pennsylvania Ave. 202 293-7272.

Potbelly's Sandwich Shop

Toasted sandwiches, salads. Take out and delivery. 1200 New Hampshire Ave. Open 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. 202-349-1613.

The Prime Rib

It is comforting that this elegant and upscale room with its leopard-print carpeting has remained open, even while its legendary bar must be closed for social distancing. It was a "K Street" power spot in the late 20th century and 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. In 2014, chef Vikram Sunderam was awarded the James Beard Award for best chef in the Mid-Atlantic. Is an Ashok Bajaj restaurant that reflects his ability to provide upscale dining and be comfortably casual at the same time. 1190 New Hampshire Ave. Open for patio or indoor dining 7 days a week, serving their regular menu. Also, pickup and delivery. 202-466-2500.

Ris

Ris Lacoste is one of the most respected chefs in D.C. She made her reputation on using high-quality ingredients and innovative techniques that made familiar foods simply delicious. Her Wednesday night spaghetti and meatballs dinner has a dedicated, loyal following. Dine-in, take out and delivery. Menu changes daily with soup and salad, more substantial dinners, fresh farmer's market vegetables, baked goods, and wine delivery. 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.



Food shopping at 1225 22nd Street NW.

Starbucks

Coffee shop. One at 2109 M Street and another at 2400 M Street NW.

Stoney's

Best grilled cheese sandwich in DC. Families during the day, younger crowd at night. Soups, salads, burgers, lots more. Dine-in, takeout, delivery. 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.

Subway

Sandwiches made-to-order. 2517 Pennsylvania Ave. 202-885-0451,

Sweetgreen

Fresh, local food. Salads, warm bowls, plates and sides. 2238 M Street NW. Delivery from sweetgreen.com, and other options. 202-629-2100.

Tatte Bakery and Café

Opened last month. Breakfast sandwiches and Israeli-inspired pastry has drawn crowds. Large outdoor seating area. 1200 New Hampshire Ave., at M Street. 202-804-4950. (Photo in September listings.)

Upper West Side Café

A casual, Mediterranean-themed restaurant with a bar. Diners can watch squash matches while dining. There is a Smoothie and Juice Bar. Curbside pickup and delivery. 2233 M Street NW, upstairs at Squash on Fire. Opens daily at noon. 202-241-2233.

Uptowner Café

Specializes in fresh, over-stuffed sandwiches that are made while you wait. This deli-style restaurant and take-out has omelets, sandwiches and pastries. There are also dine-in and delivery options. 2400 M Street NW, but actually located on 24th Street. Open until 9:00 pm. GrubHub, UberEats and DoorDash delivery. 202-775-0520.

West Wing Café

Inexpensive. 2400 M Street NW. Asian cuisine, eat-in and carry-out. 202-525-4442.

GROCERIES

Trader Joe's. Since it opened in 2006, this has been a place that many residents rely on for basic groceries. Has fresh produce, fresh meat and fish, staples, beer and wine. Neighborhood friendly, with good service. 1101 25th Street NW. Open 8:00 am-9:00 pm Mon-Sun but first hour on Wed and Sun is "senior hour" for those over 60 years of age or with disabilities. 202-296-1921.

Streets Market. Although this store has been open about a year, the staff visited for the first time recently to poke around. See photo at left.

The inside has a lot of aisle space for groceries, produce, staples, beer and wine. It is a bit like a modern version of the old corner grocery, with a touch of 7-Eleven here and there, but with French wines among the selections on the shelves.

We picked up, for example, a 2015 Haut-Médoc for \$23.99, an affordable red from that sub-appellation of Bordeaux. We are eager to give this popular cabernet a try, and were glad to see the other choices.

Open 8:00 am to 10:00 pm (Mon-Sun). 1255 22nd Street NW. 202-652-0843.

Note: See the September listings on the FFF website for dry cleaners, barbers and salons, FedEx, and USPS post office locations and hours.

Please notify the *Flyer* of changes, inaccuracies, or West End businesses that should be added. Descriptions are supplied only as a guide. Listings are not endorsements.

Support our West End businesses!