



# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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www.savefoggybottom.com

February 25, 2009

## Stevens: The Man, The School, The Graduates' Deeds Live On— Why We Choose to Celebrate and Perpetuate It

*In times of great change, having a symbol such as Stevens reminds us of our roots, of those who came before us. It serves to strengthen our resolve for difficult tasks and our will and determination not just to endure but to prevail. It reminds us of the strength we have to draw upon, the duties we gladly undertake and the gifts we pass along to others.*

The Associated Press reported that "first lady Michelle Obama hosted nearly 200 schoolchildren for a Black History Month celebration February 18 and seemed a bit surprised when the sixth- and seventh-graders from three local schools said yes, they knew slaves helped build the White House, that President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation upstairs in a bedroom named for him, and that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders met in the building with Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson to discuss the end of segregation."

Even more surprising to Mrs. Obama might be that,



just blocks from her temporary FB/WE home, is an equally and elegantly significant threefold history. And that is of staunch abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, and his namesake Stevens School founded to educate freed slaves, and the numbers of Stevens graduates whose professional contributions have multiplied benefits to the community, our nation, and the world.

This year as we celebrate Black History Month with Lincoln's 200th birthday, we are paying special notice to our own neighborhood hero, Pennsylvania Representative Thaddeus Stevens. Stevens pressed Lincoln for the abolition of slavery and insisted that freed blacks be given the tools, through education, to preserve and prevail as free men. Stevens understood they had to be twice as good,

and had four times the obstacles to proving themselves. We also celebrate the graduates of Stevens School – each a pillar of the community and uniquely representative of the teachings and traditions that Stevens conveyed.

In this profoundly unique Black History Month, it will be the symbols such as the will of Rep Thaddeus Stevens, the education of Stevens School, and the will and contributions of its graduates that remind us that no matter how hard things get, we Americans can overcome obstacles and prevail. FBA/ANC and the community come together to celebrate and perpetuate this history: legacy with the aspiration of youth and community training, programs in keeping with the ideals that Stevens fostered, and honoring and dignifying the history with community involvement.

Mrs. Obama's reported words neatly paralleled our own regarding Stevens (*FBN Feb. 13, 2008*). "Stevens School: The Intersection Between Black History and a World

*(continued on next page)*

## FB/WE Community Properties RFP: Request for Profligacy

What do the West End Library, MPD Special Operations Division, Fire Engine Co. 1, and the closed historic Stevens School have in common? They are on prime property and according to the Office of Deputy Mayor

for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), Neil Albert, several of these real estate parcels in FB/WE's are soon to be the objects of private real estate developer bids.

*(continued on next page)*

### TOUR OF BACKSTAGE AT THE KENNEDY CENTER 4 PM Thursday February 26

The *Foggy Bottom Association (FBA)* has made arrangements for a backstage tour of the Kennedy Center. A guided tour will be given by Mickey Berra, Vice President of Production, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Berra presides over operations of the Opera House, Eisenhower Theater, and the Concert Hall. The tour is free. However, space is limited so reservations are required. Priority will be given to FBA members; non-members will be included as space permits. Those interested should contact Jackie Lemire at 337-2167 or [jglemire@aol.com](mailto:jglemire@aol.com). Please provide your name and telephone number. Participants will meet in the Hall of States.

### THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The *Foggy Bottom Association* was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

**FBA Officers**  
PRESIDENT – Jay Howell  
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Susan Telator (FBN Editor)

### RITZ CARLTON CONDO BOARD REQUESTS NH AVENUE SWITCH TO 2-WAY BETWEEN M STREET AND WASHINGTON CIRCLE

Attend Public Meeting with ANC2A-02 Commissioner Rebecca Coder  
Wednesday February 25, 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Ritz-Carlton Lobby Lounge (22 and M Streets NW)  
Jeffrey Marathoon DDOT ANC Liason, [jeffrey.marathoon@dc.gov](mailto:jeffrey.marathoon@dc.gov)  
Rebecca Coder, [rebecca.coder@anc.dc.gov](mailto:rebecca.coder@anc.dc.gov)

## RFP (cont'd)

The hitch is each of them provides key community services to residents and taxpayers who are the owners of these properties and public assets.

The FB/WE community has long recognized that there is tremendous potential for increasing the value, both tangible and intangible, of these public assets and benefiting our neighborhood and the District as a whole. Working directly with developer Trammell Crow, the FBA set the bar for sustainable development on the Columbia Condominium project and the locale by attracting retail to the complex including Trader Joe's grocery and District Hardware.

Unfortunately, our elected and appointed officials have a poor track record in valuing and vision for their projects. They invariably equate private real estate development with economic development. Less than two years ago a month-long, citywide public outcry

stopped the virtual giveaway of these same properties without any assurance that the community service redesigns would have comparable or enhanced capacities.

Apparently, our paid public servants elected and appointed District representatives still haven't gotten the message. Disposition or long-term leasing of our public assets to private parties by DMPED without required due-diligence is not acceptable. This includes a long-term community/public facilities needs assessment as well as independent property valuations to be used as a basis for negotiating or valuing the deal and its revenue flows.

FB/WE has few windows of opportunity to build or upgrade its core public services to "green"—optimal operating systems—developers who are sensitive to integrating the adjacent business with the residential communities, and architects whose mastery of function and form design spaces that

enhance our public assets. Without our voices demanding these elements as a baseline, and then lend support to our public servants in pursuing their implementation toward the ongoing value and function of these public assets—we will get what we deserve: *business as usual.*

## Stevens (cont'd)

*Class Education*”) encouraging her young audience “to look beyond the names in the history books and to think about the extraordinary people who live in your own world, like parents, grandparents and teachers, all those folks who play important roles in black history and American history every single day.”

We hope to share our grand and special FB/WE legacy of Black History with our new neighbors in this auspicious year of American History.

For more information go to *HISTORIC STEVENS COALITION* at [www.SaveFoggyBottom.com](http://www.SaveFoggyBottom.com)

### FBA'S 2008 NEIGHBORHOOD SCULPTURE PROJECT

Contender for Mayor's Arts Award – Monday, March 23, 6 pm

The *Foggy Bottom Association's* “Arts in Foggy Bottom” project, which brought the Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit to the neighborhood in 2008, has been named a finalist in the “Innovation in the Arts” category of the 24th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards based on that Exhibit. The Mayor's Arts Awards are the most prestigious honors conferred by the city on individual artists, organizations, and patrons of the arts.

Awards will be presented by Mayor Fenty in the Kennedy Center's Concert Hall Monday, March 23, 6 p.m. (It's like the Academy Awards—you find out at the ceremony whether or not you have won.) This free event is open to the public. There will be entertainment in addition to the awards ceremony. Please join us for this event!

## Welcome to Sharing Backyards DC!

*Help us build a network of shared garden spaces in the DC metro area.*

*“I am sharing my yard at N St NW There's an empty lot in the middle of the block on N St. NW between 21st and 22nd, just waiting for some intrepid guerrilla gardeners to take it over!”* From [www.sharingbackyards.com](http://www.sharingbackyards.com)

Sharing Backyards is a District non-profit that encourages urban gardening by connecting those who have space to garden and are willing to share with those who would like to have a gardening space. The program maximizes use of city space by ensuring that even those who dwell

in apartments, condos, and shared housing have ample space to garden. It brings neighbors of different socio-economic conditions together in an atmosphere of trust, doing something that beautifies the homeowner's yard and provides food for everyone.

So what makes an effective sharing backyards program? Location! The program links people geographically close to each other. A garden located near to where the gardener lives is more likely to receive the love and care it needs to thrive. Their system uses web-

mapping technology to deliver a very intuitive interactive online map where users can instantly see which listings provide a potential partner. The ‘landowner’ screens responses, asks questions, and determines when there is a ‘match.’

Add your information to the map by clicking the “Add new listing” button. Whether you're looking for a spot of earth to dig in to or you have a yard with some empty space, all posts are welcome! Send fellow urban gardeners a short, handy link: <http://dc.sharingbackyards.com>