



FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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www.savefoggybottom.com

June 10, 2009

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Developers to Present Proposals for Stevens Elementary School Project to Community

6:30 pm, Thursday, June 11 at Francis-Stevens Education Campus. The public's comments will be collected.

Stevens School, located at 21st and L Streets NW, was built in 1868 and served as the first modern school in the District built for African American students and named after Thaddeus Stevens—the motivating force and major abolitionist pushing Lincoln on slavery. (See *FBN 2/09 archives* at www.savefoggybottom.com)

The Mayor's Office of Economic Development announced a short list of three teams' plans that include various combinations of new

housing, office space, hotels and neighborhood-serving retail. The short-listed teams are led by:

- EQR (Equity Residential)/ Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Moddie Turay Company
- Peebles Development LLC/ The Walker Group

The Francis-Stevens Campus is located at 2425 N Street NW and is where the teams will discuss their proposals, starting at 6:30 p.m. The District will collect public comments.

GUEST EDITORIAL:

District Plastic Bag Tax

Dear FBN Editor--

The June 2 initial passage of DC Council Bill 18-150: "The Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009," like all "feel good" legislation of this kind, will most likely not serve its stated purpose, although it will raise revenue. The money raised from this back-door tax has been pledged to clean up the Anacostia riverfront. If this occurs, it will be an anomaly in the District but IF it does prove true, it still doesn't get rid of plastic trash in Foggy Bottom/West End or any other District neighborhood.

Moreover, this is a prime example of regressive taxation. This means that larger families—typically those that have the least discretionary money—with a volume of groceries and bags will require either huge numbers of "bring your own bags" or payment of greater "fees," giving these consumers another reason to shop in Maryland or Virginia.

Our Chief Financial Officer Natwar Gandhi (who still cannot figure out how some \$50-million-plus tax dollars were stolen under his watchful eyes), claims that this legislation will remove 80 per cent of the District's plastic litter. From where did he ever pluck that figure? Is he a trash expert, too? Or, is this a "guesstimate" and, like most of his other guesses, wrong?

No legislative decree has changed—or ever will—the fact people behave responsibly or not. By far most District residents, particularly apartment dwellers, use their plastic bags to wrap and dispose of their trash. If they don't have shopping bags to do so, they'll buy thicker and larger plastic bags than the store bags. Landfills will get more, rather than less, plastic. Irresponsible folk and tourists will pay the 5 cents per bag and continue to litter.

This legislation, while well-intended, is not well thought out, and is really a regressive tax that will most adversely affect those who can least afford the "creativity" of this government to find "new revenue sources." If pollution really is the issue, the Council should be mandating District retail establishments to use biodegradable plastic, an available technology that would help our serious landfill concerns.

Ron Cocome, *Immediate Past President of the FBA*

FRANCIS FIELD BEAUTIFICATION DAY Saturday, June 13, 8 am–Noon

Join neighbors in sprucing up our community green space at Francis Field, 25th and N Streets NW as part of DC Dept of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) first-ever, citywide Beautification Day, this

Saturday, June 13, 2009, from 8 am to 12 noon. DPR invites all residents and community organizations to support a DPR center or park by volunteering.

Activities will consist of trash pick up, interior cleaning, and

light landscaping. Advance registration is not required; volunteer registration will take place on-site.

For more information, call (202) 258-6021 or e-mail DPRpartnerships@dc.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

LOOKING FOR WHEELS: Do you have an extra bike in your garage? This summer, Casey Trees high school interns will be watering trees by bicycle. The industrial bike trailer is on the way (<http://bit.ly/BikeStewards>), and you can help us outfit our bicycle-mounted tree stewards. Email a photo or description of your bike to mfried@caseytrees.org, and he'll be in touch to arrange pick up.

BUG ALERT: Emerald Ash Borer is working its way towards Washington D.C. It's an exotic invasive insect that has killed more than 20 million ash trees in 12 states, including Maryland and Virginia. For a good identification source (for what it looks like), go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm>. Another source: University of Maryland entomologist Mike Raupp, who was at Casey Trees a week ago giving diagnostic tips on how to identify insects, maintains a "Bug of the Week" website, www.raupplab.umd.edu/bow. A good diagnostic tool is at <http://plantdiagnostics.umd.edu/>.

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.

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