



Norman Bethea, Tim Mamadou, and Greg Malone at Common Good City Farm, now at the Gage-Eckington site in Ledroit Park. Photo: Amanda Abrams.

Broadway. Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham is scheduled to preside over the street name-changing ceremony outside of Busboys and Poets and Eatonville restaurants. Both venues reference Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance. To help observe the occasion, the Greater U Street Historic Foundation will hold a parade with local high school and college marching bands and local and national celebrities. The parade begins at 11 a.m., and the press conference marking the street name change follows at noon. The festival follows at 12:30 p.m. at three separate locations in the U Street area. A special Lincoln Theatre celebration is scheduled for 7 p.m. with a tribute to former '80s sitcom star, Jasmine Guy.

### Columbia Heights Day and Adams Morgan Day Festivals

The neighborhood of Columbia Heights, the emerging star of Ward 1,

celebrated itself on Aug. 29. The field at the Harriet Tubman Elementary School, located on 13th Street NW between Irving Street and Columbia Road, was the site of the day-long celebration featuring vendors, booths, food, entertainment and the diverse crowds that Columbia Heights, and Ward 1 in general, is known for.

Adams Morgan, which has long been considered the city's most popular neighborhood for nightlife and entertainment, these days gets a run for its money, especially from Shaw and Mid City. Nevertheless, for the last 30 years, crowds from the entire metro area have been drawn to the neighborhood for the annual Adams Morgan Day celebration. Sept. 13 marks the 31st annual Adams Morgan Day street festival, which means that 18th Street between Florida Avenue and Columbia Road plays host to the city's biggest block party, full of food, entertainment, vendors of all

kinds, music and lots of other visual stimulation. Adams Morgan Day is one of the largest and most popular block parties on the entire East Coast.

Visit [www.adamsmorganandayfestival.com](http://www.adamsmorganandayfestival.com) for more information. ★

## New Growth in Ledroit Park

BY AMANDA ABRAMS

Last year, when Common Good City Farm found out it had to leave its home on 7th Street, co-founder Liz Falk wasn't sure where the project would wind up. Her feeler emails soliciting suggestions resulted in a response from some-

one she barely knew. "Call me," it said.

Thirteen months later, the urban garden and education center is part of the redevelopment of Gage-Eckington School in Ledroit Park. Not simply a side project, the farm wound up being an integral element that kept the redevelopment plans moving forward.

When Falk sent out her email, she got lucky. Included on the list was Dana Bryson, whom farm staff knew from the Bloomingdale farmers' market. Bryson, it turned out, was also heading up the Gage-Eckington working group for the Ledroit Park Civic Association, helping to decide how the school would be used after it closed for good at the end of the 2008 school year.

Neighbors' hopes for the site were mixed: some wanted to see social services agencies filling the old school; others thought the building should be

torn down and a park built in its place. But everyone agreed on a garden.

Falk, of course, said yes. “So we worked with them for 13 months, back and forth with the group and the mayor, about what they wanted the site to look like. It was a very long process,” she explained.

Jeff Herron, president of the civic association, was involved in negotiations all along. The planning process wasn’t a smooth one: stakeholders spent months seeking agencies and nonprofits to fill the old school, only to see those plans scrapped when the city determined it couldn’t afford the renovations. Changing direction, the groups finally decided the site would become a three-acre park, with areas for sports, dogs, and kids.

But the garden was crucial from the very beginning. “[Common Good] needed a place to move to and wanted to start preparing, so that drove us to get something done,” said Herron,

adding that even when the initial plan was nixed, the garden proposal wasn’t touched. In October, Common Good moved to its new half-acre home.

On a recent afternoon, Falk was busy watering bean plants designed to improve the soil of the former baseball diamond they were growing on. Nearby was a spiral bed planted with eggplant, beets, and squash.

Falk says the Gage-Eckington site and residential neighborhood around it is a great fit for the farm. “Our kids’ program has grown at least threefold, and our workshops are always full.” The organization also just received unofficial notice that it will be awarded a USDA grant allowing Falk to finally begin paying her staff, so the mood at the farm is upbeat.

Sitting at a picnic table eating tomatoes from the garden were three program participants who live nearby: Norman Bethea, 13; Tim Mamadou, 12; and Greg Malone, 10. All three

said they’d continue helping out at the farm when school started again, and they all agreed watering was the best task. Why? “You’re creating new life,” said Norman. ★

## Pitango Gelato A Newcomer Offers Cool Treats

BY AMANDA ABRAMS

The 1400 block of P Street has a new resident that’s proved pretty popular with local consumers this summer—and takes the neighborhood one step farther in its process of reinvention.

In May, Pitango Gelato opened across from Whole Foods to some

fanfare. As word spread, consumers began flocking to the parlor every evening; by late summer, the shop was rarely without a line after 8 p.m. The addition of Pitango cements the block’s image as a healthy, upscale place to shop, exercise and hang out.

At 8:05 on a recent evening, the line was firmly in place, with nine people waiting to give their orders and newcomers arriving steadily. Posted on a wall was a list of flavors that included gelatos like Sicilian almond, chocolate hazelnut, and crema, as well as sorbets to the tune of apricot, mojito and concord grape.

Greg Ferro and John Heikel, former P Street residents who now live in Arlington, came specifically for the ice cream. “It’s worth the drive,” said Ferro, adding that the texture was lighter than typical ice cream and felt healthier.

According to Chris Novashinski, Pitango’s manager, Ferro wasn’t far

Pitango Gelato, Photo: Amanda Abrams

