



The Past is Present

An Old Restaurant Returns to The Waterfront, An Old House is Looking for New Owners, And An Old Yacht Makes Its Maiden Voyage to A New Pier

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY KYLE JOHNSON

Kristina Noell spent four years as the director of sales and marketing at H2O, becoming familiar with the southwest neighborhood and adding to her experience in restaurant and food management. Now Noell is opening Hogate's by Kristina at H2O's old location, the massive 35,000-square-foot waterfront building at 800 Water St. SW. The site will feature a place for everyone, with a café and coffee shop in the southeast corner, a large formal dining space in the back, an overflow room for private gatherings, two patio spaces on either side of the building and plenty of lounge space scattered throughout.

"The great thing about this building is it offers so much flexibility," Noell said. "I really picture this as being a place for everyone."

The café will open Sept. 9, with the rest of the building opening gradually throughout the rest of the month.

If the name Hogate's sounds familiar, that's because it is. Hogate's, famous for its rumbuns and seafood platters, closed in 2001. Noell has no connection to the former Hogate's, but the District (which owns the building) is allowing her to reuse the name to help get the business off the ground.

Like its predecessor, Hogate's will offer an American seafood menu, with some Cajun influence mixed in and some "unique" offerings at the café. The full restaurant menu will be available for order in the café, Noell said.

The café will also help to fill a coffee shop void in the neighborhood. Those opting to start their days with

a lot of caffeine will be pleased with the full menu of coffees. The café, with white and cushy booths lining the walls, will also have free wireless Internet for customers.

"I'm excited about this. I just always felt that this neighborhood needed a café," Noell said.

That café is also an important

come in," she said.

If all goes according to plan, Noell's establishment will be around the area for the long haul – even after the waterfront is redeveloped.

"It would be a shame to have that name disappear. I would like to stick around and continue the tradition. This could be amazing," she said

day, when it will only be open for dinner, and the lounge hours are still being determined. For more information, visit www.hogatesdc.com.

Still Standing, and Ready to Sell

The southwest doesn't feature many things older than 50 years. Virtually nothing was sacred when the area was rebuilt, but somehow a group of six homes built in the late 1700s survived the bulldozer.

The Harbour Square co-op, on N Street SW, incorporated those homes – the Edward Simon Lewis House, the Barney House and four others – when it was built, and the Lewis house is now for sale.

The number four features prominently throughout the house, for no particular reason: four bedrooms, four full bathrooms, four floors and 4,000 square feet of space. Plus, the house, located at 456 N Street SW, has been for sale for four months.

Realtor Joan Carmichael says the large home would be perfect for a family that enjoys entertaining guests frequently.

The Lewis home was built in 1795 for a nephew of George Washington, and the home, although renovated numerous times since then, still feels like a home from the past. With some minor exceptions, of course.

"A period house would have one closet per room. Maybe," Carmichael said.

The Lewis home has plenty of closet space in the bedrooms, and has been updated with a few pieces that George Washington never saw – an elevator and something called a "Talk-a-phone," a 60s-looking



Kristina Noell is set to open Hogate's at 800 Water St. SW. The establishment will feature a café and coffee shop, restaurant and lounge.

component of efforts to communicate with the community better than H2O did, Noell said.

"With H2O, the community felt that they couldn't access the building when they wanted. This café will be open early every day for them to

while looking out at the waterfront. "I'd love to be a part of it."

The café will initially be open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner every day except Satur-



The Edward Simon Lewis house, built in 1795 for a nephew of George Washington, is a rare old building in the Southwest. The 4,000-square-foot home is now for sale.



intercom system that may or may not still be operable.

The home is in great shape even though it's been more than a few years since the last renovation, largely because the owner uses the building primarily for parties and lodging for visiting guests. In a similar vein, the home currently has a decided nautical feel, with diving suit helmet lamps and a large buoy in the front landscaping.

For a slice of history, an old house in great shape and a good location, prospective buyers can expect to pay a large sum – the house is listed at just under \$900,000, and the next homeowner will have to pay a \$3,500 monthly co-op fee that covers utilities, taxes and other expenses.

"A similar house," Carmichael said, "in other parts of town would run well over \$1 million."

For more information on the Lewis house, contact Carmichael at 202-274-1888 or realcarm@aol.com.

Water Taxi Service Starts Up

A new pier for water taxi service opened at Diamond Teague Park in August. The park, located just south of Nationals Park, will have another pier for environmental education and smaller boats open later this year.

To help break in the new pier, the U.S.S. Sequoia Presidential Yacht was sailed over from its dock in southwest. The Sequoia was purchased by the federal government and

served as the official presidential yacht from Presidents Hoover to Carver. The latter sold the boat.

Since then, the Sequoia has been privately owned but is still used to shuttle dignitaries ranging from presidents to CEOs and even Cal Ripken Jr. around the region.

Sergio Cespedes, the administrator of the Sequoia for the past two years, said the new pier at Diamond Teague Park signals an exciting development in the area. More piers for water taxi service are planned along both sides of the Anacostia River.

"This gives people going to baseball games another option versus driving or public transportation," he said. On its initial voyage to the pier, the Sequoia had some members of the Lerner family and members of Congress aboard. Later this year, President Obama will take his first voyage on the vessel with injured soldiers recovering at Walter Reed.

Cespedes said the water taxi plans for the southwest and Capitol Riverfront neighborhoods will help to reduce traffic congestion and introduce more people to the area.

"This is pretty much a door-to-door service. If you have the budget to own a boat or charter a boat, this will be great," he said.

For more information on the Sequoia, visit www.sequoiayacht.com. For information on water taxi service schedules, contact the Gangplank Marina at 202-554-5000.



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