

Shaw Streets

BY RALPH BRABHAM

Condominiums Coming to Historic 9th Street Row House

In the 1500 block of 9th St. NW, sits a unique set of six row homes in the Shaw Historic District that comprise a symmetric set of buildings: 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547 and 1549 9th St. NW.

The brick Queen Anne styled houses were built in 1885 for a total of \$18,000. They were designed by a prolific D.C. architect, N.T. Haller, who is recognized as one of the premier architects of his era and was responsible for designing the Warder Building, now the Spy Museum, among other notable buildings.

In fall of 2007, a fire broke out in the southernmost building, 1539 9th St. NW. The resulting destruction displaced its residents and left the home uninhabitable and boarded up, which is how it has remained since. After a brief stint on the market, the home

sold earlier this year.

Under the direction of architect Makeba Gaines-Kelly and Sequar Development (developer of The Ashton at the corner of 14th and R Sts.), the dwelling will be resurrected as two beautiful condominiums. The project entails the restoration of the historic façade and the construction of a completely new, modern interior and rear addition with large picture windows, a set-back third story, and roof deck that will not be visible from 9th St.

The lower unit will have one bedroom, an office, and two full baths with an open living room/dining area/kitchen. The upper unit will have two bedrooms (including a two level master suite with dramatically high ceilings), two baths, an open living room/dining area/kitchen, and a roof deck.

Tulip Planting Planned for Upper Ninth

For the third year in a row, the Design Committee of Shaw Main Streets will plant tulips on 9th St. as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance Shaw's commercial corridors.

This year's bulb planting will take place on Sunday, October 30 (rain date of the following Saturday, November 6) in the 1900 block of 9th St., NW. Most tree boxes will receive three dozen bulbs, soil, chicken wire (to discourage squirrel disruption) and mulch. The tulip colors will be purple, lavender and dark red.

1,200 tulips have been planted on 9th Street since 2009's first project. Prior plantings have focused on the 1300, 1400 and 1500 blocks.

Frank Asher of Old City

Green (902 N St. NW) is again one of the sponsors of the project.

The planting event is sure to be a fun gathering of neighbors and stakeholders in the area. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about projects by the Design Committee, e-mail smsdesigncommittee@gmail.com.



Painting by Clyde Fowler on exhibit at Long View Gallery.

Paintings by Clyde Fowler at Long View Gallery

The latest exhibition at Long View Gallery (1234 9th St., NW) is a collection of works by North Carolina-based artist Clyde Fowler. Fowler was the long-time director of the visual arts program at the North Carolina School of the Arts, and his show will be on display through November 6, 2011.

Fowler describes his paintings as "pictorial choreography." He approaches his work in a manner similar to that of a choreographer, filling the works with orchestrated sensations and intuitive notations while giving

consideration to movement, rhythm, space and form. His art explores the associative nature of visual relationships and the dynamic potential of juxtaposition involving a language that is purely abstract. Although Fowler's imagery can reference personal experience and a range of artistic influences, especially the staged tableaux of theatrical director and designer Robert Wilson, he begins with no preconceived message or set direction. Instead, Fowler allows the paintings to develop according to the added strokes, shapes and colors while constantly revising aesthetic decisions during that process.

Pizza D'Oro Opens at 7th and T

A new restaurant called Pizza D'Oro (717 T St. NW) opened in August, providing a casual sit-down, takeout and delivery option for the U Street corridor and Howard Theatre district. Restaurant veteran and co-owner Abdelifah Souada has been cooking Italian food for 20 years, and bringing this Shaw pizzeria to fruition has been a two year labor of love.

The eatery's interior has a bright, clean industrial vibe to it, with earth-toned glass tile and lime green painted walls, a tin ceiling, exposed ductwork and an open kitchen. The small restaurant boasts only a few high top tables, but an expansive sidewalk out front forecasts future outdoor seating.

The menu offers a variety of delicious pizzas, pastas, calzones salads and subs. Homemade sauces made with organic tomatoes differentiate Pizza D'Oro from its competition.

Pizza D'Oro provides free delivery to adjacent zip codes; its phone number is (202) 588-1900 ♦



1539 9th St. is set for a major restoration and renovation and will become two condominiums. Photo: Ralph Brabham