

Shaw Streets

BY RALPH BRABHAM

Seasonal Pantry Coming to 9th Street

By mid-June of this year, the small and long empty storefront at 1314 1/2 9th St. will be occupied by a unique food shop called Seasonal Pantry. The business – billed as a tribute to roadside farm stands and old-fashioned markets – will stock a variety of deliciousness sure to please.

Founded by Ali Bagheri and Daniel O'Brien, Seasonal Pantry began its operations in 2009 as an online purveyor of artisan foods. It quickly developed a loyal following, particularly for its specialty of the month clubs (like its ice cream club, sausage club, soup club, supper club, and pasta club). As a web retailer with no brick and mortar store, Seasonal Pantry's business model until now has been that customers purchase products online and then Sea-



1314 1/2 9th St., NW, future location of Seasonal Pantry. Photo: Adam Crain



Best New Shaw Business of 2010 Award Winners from A Divine Shine at the Shaw Main Streets Annual Meeting Manager Michelle Payne (center) and owners Stanley Mayes and Cheryl Lofton accepted the award. Photo: Pleasant P. Mann, Courtesy Shaw Main Streets.

sonal Pantry designates a time and place for pickup.

Its first store will sell all of the online offerings, plus dry goods (from wild rice to beans), weekly local farmers produce (like eggs and milk), jams, and more. Bagheri and O'Brien are designing the space themselves, and are shooting for a nice, simple look. While they're not allowing photos of the work-in progress, O'Brien hinted at the aesthetic in saying "We will have a barn door in the space for sure."

Shaw Main Streets Celebrates Ground- breaking Year

On Wednesday, March 23, 2011, Shaw Main Streets held its Annual Meeting at the site of the garment-DISTRICT Temporium at 1005 7th St., NW. The theme of this year's meeting was "Breaking New Ground," a nod to the handful of major development projects that

commenced in the Shaw neighborhood in the last twelve months and to the organization's innovative work and strategies for ensuring the economic vitality of the Shaw neighborhood for years to come.

Executive Director Alex Padro highlighted the numerous and varied accomplishments by Shaw Main Streets in 2010, which included everything from planting tulips on 9th St. to handing out Thanksgiving dinners to needy families to First Saturday events attracting patrons to the area to analyzing and providing technical assistance to local businesses. He also provided an exciting glimpse of things to come in 2011, such as a transformation of the area's historic police and fire emergency callboxes into historic and artistic markers and an all night arts festival in the fall.

Perhaps the most anticipated component of every Shaw Main Street Annual Meeting is the crowning of the Best New Shaw Business

of the prior year. In the weeks leading up to the meeting, twelve eligible new businesses competed for votes for the award. This year's winner was A Divine Shine, a fantastic shoe care business at 723 T Street, NW. First runner up was Jordin's Paradise, a dance exercise studio at 1121 7th St. NW. Second runner up was Dickson Wine Bar at 903 U St., NW.

Special guest speakers included Hon. Kwame Brown, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, and Antonio Hunter, Interim Director of the D.C. Department of Small and Local Business Development.

Shaw Skatepark Renovation Complete

In 2003, a slew of volunteers gathered to assemble the Shaw Skatepark on what had previously been a tennis court at the southwest corner of the Shaw Recreation Field. Orchestrated by American Eagle Outfitters Foundation, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, KaBOOM!, Shaw Main Streets, and other partners, the project took less than a day to execute. The 11,000 square foot park has been consistently well used since that time, necessitating upgrades and renovations that commenced late last year.

In March, D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation reopened the skatepark after five months of construction. The new skate park features a new concrete surface (the old asphalt surface was cracked and not an ideal skating surface), new precast concrete skate park ramps, stairs, grindboxes, half-pipes and more. There is also a new fence surrounding the park.

The skatepark is open daily from dawn to dusk. ♦