

'MoveDC' study looks at how to improve transportation over next 30 years

By **GRHAM VYSE**
Current Staff Writer

District officials are seeking public input on long-term transportation plans aimed to reduce city traffic in a region with the most congested roadways in the country.

The D.C. Department of Transportation will hold its final public meeting on initial concepts for its "moveDC" initiative tonight at 6:30 at the Petworth Library, 4200 Kansas Ave. NW. The dinner will present three

decades' worth of proposals, including building a massive structure like from Tallinn south to Buzzard Point, designating dedicated lanes throughout the city, and trying first on drivers entering D.C.'s downtown business district at peak times.

Those proposals come on the heels of a Texas A&M Transportation Institute study earlier this year that ranked the D.C. metro area No. 1 for traffic congestion. They also arrive amid rapid population growth — 1,100 new residents per month over the past two

years — which the Transportation Department anticipates will continue.

Agency spokeswoman Colleen Hawkins said Saturday that the "moveDC" plans will continue to evolve based on public feedback until they are released in final draft form in February.

"We'll tweak some things. We'll eliminate some things," she said, speaking at a public event at the DC USA retail center in Columbia Heights. "And then what we'll do is prioritize the projects to determine when each will move

forward."

But D.C. residents shouldn't expect to see most of those projects completed anytime soon.

"Because it is a 30-year plan, there are some things that probably won't get into a budget for the next 20 or 25 years," Hawkins said.

First and foremost, the Transportation Department will need to figure out how to fund those investments. Hawkins said D.C. will

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Council set to consider bills on education

By **GRHAM VYSE**
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The D.C. Council is scheduled to vote Tuesday on a pair of education bills from at-large D.C. Council member David Catania that are among seven pieces of legislation he has introduced to help overhaul District schools.

In an interview, Catania spokesman Ben Young said the Focused Student Achievement Act of 2011 and the Parent and Student Empowerment Act of 2011 aim to end social promotion of students not achieving at grade level, enforce the role of D.C.'s education ombudsman and create a new office advocating exclusively for the interests of parents and students.

Asked about the legislation's prospects for passage, Young said, "I see no reason to be anything but optimistic." Both bills drew strong responses when they were introduced.

Catania has been making his case for the legislation to various community groups recently, including an Oct. 17 appearance before the Charles Park-Cathedral Heights advisory neighborhood commission.



At-large member David Catania is seeking to end social promotion.

Discussing social promotion in elementary and middle schools, he said current law allows schools to hold back struggling students only in the third, fifth and eighth grades.

"What that has resulted in is the social promotion of kids through the schools," he said, adding that a pair of high school principals recently told him that some of their ninth-grader perform at fifth-grade levels.

Catania's Focused Student Achievement Act would establish promotion standards for students in third through eighth grades; push to identify students at risk of retention and intervene to aid them, and require that retained students attend summer school.

"We have to start forcing accountability," he said.

Catania also told Clover Park meeting attendees about his bill dealing with the education ombudsman and advocacy for parents and students.

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Gypsy Sally's aims to bring music to Georgetown

A new spot along the Georgetown waterfront aims to become a catalyst for reviving the neighborhood's once-thriving music scene.

Since opening in September at 3801 K St., Gypsy Sally's has already showcased a variety of national, regional and local acts from the American folk music scene including Ben Lounsbury, Nina Jane Stratham and the Madmores Days.

Music lovers Kevin and David Traver are behind the enterprise. The couple — who are fans of musicians like the Grateful Dead and Frank Zappa — have been looking for two years for the perfect location to house their dream venue.

Karaoke at the recent live music event in Georgetown, which was near known for venues like the Caliber Club, Desperado and the legendary Bayou. "We found this lovely piece of property down at the Georgetown waterfront which really dug the bill for us because of the location of the Bayou, which was here for so many years," she said.

She added that "the main fact that [Georgetown] is now down to one

ON THE STREET

KAC LUCERO

invitation" — just across Blues Alley — seemed to invite "an opportunity to bring live music for the masses."

That opportunity ended up being the top floor of an early-20th-century ice factory next to the Whitehurst Parkway. David, a singer-songwriter, disc-jockey and the spot's weekly radio host.

"We took a chance," said Kevin, a former Wall Street lawyer. "This was an old warehouse. We understood it had to be — all new concrete and brand-new restaurant."

The couple transformed a large part of the space into a 4,000-square-foot main concert hall called the Music Room, which offers a standing area near the stage, as well as

general admission.

The Travers also included an area focused on healthy food, which the couple found was uncommon at music venues. In the kitchen — which they had to build from the ground up — David forbids fryers and microwaves, instead offering dishes like kale Caesar salad, deviled eggs, cheese boards and an assortment of sandwiches and flatbreads. He says

the menu features inexpensive options — all under \$20 — that people can eat quickly.

"We want it to keep it simple, want it to keep it healthy," he said. "The quickest way to get things, but you could do that anywhere."

Performers also want to appreciate Gypsy Sally's due to

"I enjoyed it quite a bit," said David Sidman, guitarist of Washington, D.C., band The Bluegrass Project, a Charlottesville-based

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3801 K St. The Current

Gypsy Sally's has already booked a variety of performers.

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BUSINESSES

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Magnus band that has been trying to play more shows in D.C. "The folks who created the place were very nice. We had a very good crowd, which I was very pleased with. ... [The owners] have a good thing going."

Sokolan also praised Oxygy Sally's location along the waterfront, saying he loved getting out of his car after a long drive to walk by the street.

In creating the new space, the Emers found inspiration from their favorite music spots across the country, including D.C.-area venues like The Blackstone in Alexandria and the 930 Club in Silver Spring.

"Someone came here the other day and just said, 'Oh my god, the 930 Club and The Blackstone had a baby,'" Karin said.

On the other side of the large performance hall is the Vinyl Room, a bar named for its use — playing and listening to an assortment of vinyl records.

Next to that is the Microbar Gallery — modeled by an old Volkswagen van — that the Emers want to use as exhibition space for up-and-coming local artists. They'll be working with Chris Murray from the famed Gwyneth Gallery to curate it.

The Emers, who live in Northwest D.C., a few miles from their new business and have daughters attending National Cathedral School, describe themselves as a "team and pop operation." During the construction process of Oxygy Sally's, Karin said she "pretty much hand-delivered everything" to the D.C. regulatory offices to obtain a variety of licenses and permits.

The pair also designed the entire space, adding personal touches. The Micro Room showcases old concert ticket stubs and photos of family and friends on the bar, while the Vinyl Room bar and lounge shelf incorporate David's old records.

New businesses

Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt recently opened at 1717 Wisconsin Ave., at the top of Georgetown. The soft-serve, pay-by-the-ounce yogurt chain offers more than 20 flavors and extensive toppings. This is the first D.C. location for owners David and Elliot Staley.

• Children's clothing boutique Egg by Susan Lazar will be opening soon at 1001 Wisconsin Ave. N.W. The shop will offer designer apparel for babies, toddlers and preteens.

• In Dupont Circle, the Mediterranean Wyn Gourmet Market is now open from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 1717 Connecticut Ave. The market and deli specializes in olive oil, organic products, balsamic vinegars and other items from family-owned artisanal producers in Mediterranean countries. Owners Mike and Oana Alexandrescu opened the spot to bring their Mediterranean experience of living in Timisoara and Oradea in D.C., according to their website.

DC Chamber of Commerce fetes Fort Myer, other businesses

Current Staff Report

At the DC Chamber of Commerce's annual awards ceremony over the weekend, the Fort Myer Construction Corp. took the title of Business of the Year.

Founded in 1972 as a small masonry and concrete contractor, Fort Myer is now one of the District's largest private employers, with more than 700 staff members, according to chamber materials.

The chamber's Business Leader

of the Year was Thomas J. Baltimore II, president and chief executive of the RLF Lodging Trust hospitality investment firm. RLF is one of the largest American publicly-traded real estate investment trusts.

The Recreation With List Committee, a nonprofit founded by Coe Mastenberry, was honored with the Community Impact Award. The committee's mission is to provide enrichment services to help youth in underserved communities become

academically competitive.

The chamber's Economic Impact Award went to the Fort Lincoln New Drive Corp., which recently completed a 200-home community in Ward 5. The firm is currently constructing a \$22-million project nearby, and has formed a joint venture to develop the 40-acre "Shops at Dakota Crossing" shopping center.

Industrial Bank, the District's only family- and minority-owned bank, won the Lifetime Legacy

Award. The bank was founded in 1934 by Ross H. Mitchell, the grandfather of the current chair, B. Doyle Mitchell Jr.

The chamber's chair, Anthony Ford, presented Grant Ford and Gene Adams of FedEx with the Chairman's Choice Awards. Grant, which built D.C.'s first supermarket, now has 170 area stores. Adams is a lobbyist responsible for shaping and promoting her company's policies and interests locally and worldwide.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NOVEMBER 2013

NEWS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING SLATED FOR DEC. 3
American University's Community Liaison Committee (CLC) will hold a quarterly meeting on Tuesday, December 3. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Room 204 of the Hubert Arts Center. Parking for the event will be available in the Hubert garage. The CLC meeting will be followed by a "Town Hall" meeting with 800 President Paul Patton in the Alexander Family Recital Hall, and a welcome reception.

The CLC was established to foster positive relations, and to maintain regular communication between the university and its neighbors. As specified in the DC Zoning Commission's plan for ADU and Street Closures Plan, the CLC comprises individuals from neighboring community organizations and associations, from the university. Additional information on the CLC can be found at www.american.edu/neighborhood.

CHEER ON! WASH. STATE BASKETBALL AS SEASON KICKS OFF

The 2013-14 season tips off a new era for American University basketball as 100-year veteran head coach Mike Gonzalez and women's head coach Megan Wallace bring an exciting, high-paced style of play to Dunder Arena. Show your support for Washington State as our first live home court event for the season. Tickets may be purchased at www.wa.gov, or call (202) 342-1111, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri, or visit the Dunder Arena Box Office, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday.

Individual tickets for men's games (seated seating) are \$19. Reserved and premium tickets are \$20 for adults and \$7 for youth, with special pricing available for groups of 10 or more. Specialty games are general admission seating, with adults costing \$4 for adults and \$4 for youth. For 2013-14 tickets to both men's and women's basketball, please contact Dunder Hall at dunder@american.edu.

WATCH LIVE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW

Get a first-hand view of demolition and construction at the new Washington College of Law (WCL) at the historic, Tenley Campus. Construction activities can be viewed live on YouTube at <http://www.wcl.amu.edu>. When construction is complete in fall 2015, WCL will be among the most technologically advanced law schools in the country and the only one with a courtyard.

The new ten-story building will support a student population of 2,000 and a faculty and staff of 500, providing for several times more space than its current location and feature 30,000 square feet of offices and underground parking for 600 vehicles. The Tenley Campus site is located one block from the Metro, along the local community, business district, government offices, and within walking distance to the new cultural and performing arts center with a direct line to the heart of Georgetown, D.C. For additional information and regular updates on WCL construction, please visit www.american.edu/washingtoncollegeoflaw.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 19** **CHINA WILDLIFE STATISTICS WITHOUT A STATE**
Tuesday, Nov. 26, 3:00 p.m.
American University Professor of the Arthur J. Gensler Lecture by Janice Robinson, President of the Greater Philadelphia, Drexel University President Emerita, Richard J. D'Amico, Professor of History, and Director of the Center for the Study of European Jewry. Dr. Robinson's two-volume biography of Chaim Weizmann, the first president of Israel, has won many prizes in Israel and the United States.

Dr. Michael Brennan, Deymour and Libbin Adams, Chair in Israel Studies, will introduce the lecture. This lecture is part of the series: The Founders of Israel and Their Remembrance Today. The lecture will be followed by a reception, 5:00 p.m. Required: www.american.edu/neighborhood/Israel

ATHLETICS

Nov. 8, 7:00 p.m., Dunder Arena
Women's Basketball vs. Norfolk State

Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m., Dunder Arena
Women's Basketball vs. University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Nov. 14, 8:30-10:00 p.m., Dunder Arena
Men's Basketball vs. UMBC

Nov. 22-23 p.m., Dunder Arena
Women's Basketball vs. University of Massachusetts

AN FARMERS' MARKET

Nov. 6, 12, & 20, 9:00 a.m., on the Quad
Come visit the 4th Farmers' Market on the Quad. Wednesday through November 20. Enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, honey, delicious meats, cheeses, and more.

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