



*Preserving the History of Union Station. Developing its Future.*

Spring 2013 | Edition II | Vol. 2



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— NEWS & EVENTS —

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**April is Earth MONTH!**

Throughout the month of April, Union Station will be promoting environmental responsibility with many displays, activities and interactive events to help educate and engage the public on our environment. Events will be held primarily in the Main Hall, East Hall and West Hall. Please check [online](#) for all the scheduled events that may not be highlighted below.

**April 1-14:** National Cherry Blossom Festival Youth Art Contest. For more information click [here](#).

**April 6:** STEM Science Fair and NASA activities and demonstrations.

**April 15-23:** Earth Fair Trade Show in the East Hall

**April 11:** I Love Buses, Union Station Bus Deck

**April 18:** District Department of the Environment (DDOE) Fashion Show

**April 22 Earth Day!!!** NEC Future Exhibit, NASA Exhibit and lots of entertainment!

**April 23:** Amtrak Sustainability Fair

**April - October:** Outdoor Market in the West Terrace

**May:** Historic Preservation Month

**May 2:** Columbus Plaza Ribbon Cutting (tentative)

**May 11:** National Train Day

**May 17:** Georgetown Senior Class Ball - Class of 2013

*Union Station Redevelopment Corporation is growing...*

The Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) has recently hired three new professionals to join our staff. In the month of April we will welcome: Cindy Petkac, Principal Planner; Thomas Whitaker, Project Manager and Dina Castillo, Contracts Manager.

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— UNION STATION PROJECTS —

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*Union Station Bus Deck Improvements*

Work is underway on the Union Station Bus Deck (USBD) to improve the facility and passenger experience. As the bus

operations have expanded over the last year so has a need for a better passenger experience. A new enclosed waiting area for all bus passengers is the first item expected to be completed in early April. Concurrently, a prefabricated retail and information pavilion as well as a separate restroom pavilion is set to be completed by mid-June. Other improvements include a new signage system, improved lighting and flooring with planters and landscaping throughout. As the construction is ongoing throughout this Spring please pardon the mess.



Rendering of proposed Retail/Information Pavilion. Image courtesy of Studio 27 Architecture



Rendering of proposed Retail/Information Pavilion. Image courtesy of Studio 27 Architecture

## *Columbus Plaza*

Nearly 18 months after the improvements began in the front of Union Station, Columbus Plaza is nearly complete.

Originally featured in our first [Union Station Dispatch Newsletter](#), Columbus Plaza has evolved as the front steps to the historic Union Station. These most recent changes include improved pedestrian and vehicular circulation with new egress lanes and pedestrian crosswalks. Additionally, security bollards were installed at the building's perimeter and increased green space was provided. Read more about the project improvements from the February 28 [Washington Post article](#).

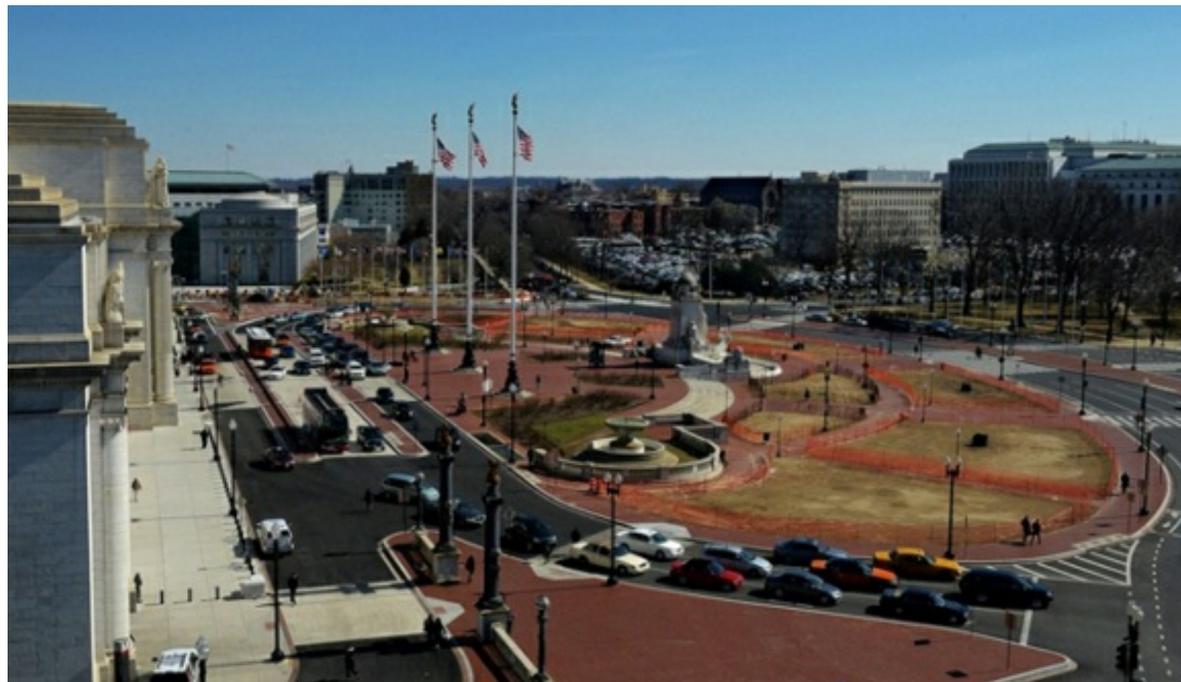


Image by Bill O'Leary/Washington Post.

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT), National Park Service (NPS) and USRC invite all to join us at the ribbon cutting ceremony tentatively scheduled for May 2 at 10:30a.m. in the newly improved Columbus Plaza. Please check our website for updates.

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### *H Street Streetcar*

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is on the final phase of construction for the [H Street Streetcar](#). The streetcar tracks will terminate near the Union Station Parking Garage Bus Exit ramp. A pedestrian connection will be constructed to connect from the street to the Parking Garage, and the existing sidewalk will be expanded. This work which will impact Union Station Garage and Bus Deck users, is expected to be in early April and be complete by October. It is anticipated the streetcar will begin service in early 2014.

Due to the construction activities impacting Union Station Parking Garage and Bus Deck we encourage all to use caution and be considerate of personnel assisting drivers and pedestrians.

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### *Union Station Retail Improvements*

Union Station has many new tenants that recently opened or plan to open in the near future. In late December, DC Lottery opened their doors in the west, lower level, portion of the shopping concourse behind the Art of Shaving. In

early March we welcomed the long awaited opening of Einstein Bros. Bagels. The Body Shop got a beautiful face-lift and re-opened in early March as well. Union Station is very excited for Le Pain Quotidien, a quaint bakery that will be a respite in the midst of all the bustle, to open in the west end of the Shopping Concourse in late May. And H&M will become the new west end anchor tenant, expected to open in the early Summer.

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### *Get to know Mark Polhemus...*



Mark is the General Manager of Union Station employed with the property management firm, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL). He started here at Union Station three and a half years ago. Mark has over thirty-four years of experience with managing commercial real estate and property engineering operations. Mark has a diverse experience base with historic buildings and facilities, hotels, office buildings, university residence halls, retail shopping centers and malls, industrial complexes and critical facility data centers. Prior to arriving at Union Station, Mark held a position of Partner and CEO for an engineering services firm that provided maintenance personnel for the local commercial real estate community. Mark started his career with the Federal Government in the Directorate of Facilities and Engineering at Fort Belvoir, which provided him with diverse experience in a portfolio of various projects and property uses. With this expansive background in property management, engineering and facilities management, Mark takes great pride in the Station and is passionate about managing the “people’s” historic Union Station.

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#### — INTERESTING FACT —

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**Historic Main Hall Clock:** During the 1980s restoration, the horologist Elton Howe (pictured), successfully restored the old Main Hall clock to functioning use. Some may notice the odd Roman numeral IIII as opposed to the IV which was faithfully restored to Daniel Burnham’s original.



Photo by Carol Highsmith.

### *What is USRC?*

In 1983, The Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) was established as a non-profit organization charged with overseeing Washington Union Station's restoration and renaissance as a multi-use transportation center and a retail/entertainment center while preserving its significant historic character. Today, USRC continues to oversee Union Station as it continues to evolve into a premier world class inter-modal facility meeting the needs of more than 80,000 people who stream through the station daily. The USRC generates its revenue through operation of the parking garage and management of the developer's lease.

Beverly Swaim-Staley - President & CEO

Nzinga Baker - Vice President & Director of Finance & Administration

Cindy Petkac - Principal Planner    Thomas Whitaker - Project Manager

Dina Castillo - Contracts Manager

Lisa Klimko - Program Coordinator    Christine Colello - Executive Assistant

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