

THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

INSIDE: **COMMUNITY GUIDE**

Cookbook serves up best of Dupont Circle

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Dupont Circle devotees have always praised the flavor and spice of the neighborhood. Soon, they'll have a cookbook to back them up.

Paul Williams, executive director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, is collecting recipes from chefs, restaurateurs and residents for a cookbook designed to highlight the many components of Dupont Circle's culinary landscape.

"It's really diverse — just like Dupont Circle," he said. "We've got some recipes that are really complex and take two days to make, and then we've got a simple soup by someone who lives on 17th Street."

According to Williams, a Dupont farmers market vendor has submit-

ted one of his favorite recipes, as has a local instructor who's been teaching Washingtonians to cook from her apartment for 20 years.

One neighbor's recipe — for "chicken in the hood" — features herbs he collects from window boxes.

Meanwhile, many neighborhood hotspots — including Restaurant Nora, Ruth's Chris Steak House and Twist Dupont Restaurant, to name a few — are pitching in.

Ruth's Chris has revealed the key to its creamed spinach. Twist Dupont, at the Carlyle Hotel, has unlocked the secrets behind its mini beef Wellington.

JoAnn Dana, vice president of the Carlyle, said she was a little startled to learn Twist's chef was willing to give diners a glimpse behind

the kitchen door.

"I was like, 'Really, chef? You want to give out our best recipe?'" But Dana said she's thrilled about the book. "It so exemplifies the small-town culture of Dupont Circle," she said. Plus, she said, "It's a smattering of everything. That's what makes it wonderful."

Williams said the cookbook will be published through a company called Morris Press Cookbooks, which has been publishing hometown recipes since 1933. The Main Streets organization will cover publishing costs, and will sell the books for \$5 or \$6, probably around the holidays.

Businesses have the opportunity to advertise in the back of the book, and Williams said he hopes the effort will raise funds for the group.