

FACES OF THE FRONT

Jack Whitsitt

Residents, Onyx on First

A Surprisingly Active Community

For two Capitol Riverfront newcomers, the long wait for a perfect apartment came during a short wait for exhibit space at Artomatic.

Armed with a wish list that included a place with more space and a more flexible floor plan than their Northwest D.C. apartment, Jack Whitsitt and Paivi Salonen were standing on line to register for exhibit space at the tenth annual arts festival when a sign for The Onyx caught their eye.



In less than an hour, they knew their hunt for a new home was over.

“We liked the apartment so much,” says Jack, who does projection and installation art. “It’s on the Metro and the neighborhood is so unusual in a good way. It’s not often that you get to be in a neighborhood being built from scratch.”

They also love the ease of getting around, especially since they don’t have a functional car. Jack, who by day works in cyber-security, commutes by Metro to his job in Pentagon City.

“I thought it would be harder to get to things but it’s much closer than we realized.”

Jack and Paivi, a photographer, moved in at the end of May and have been enjoying roof top parties, the short walk to Eastern Market and Capitol Hill, and an exploration of the restaurants on Barrack’s Row. And while neither Jack nor Paivi are baseball fans, they’ve found an unexpected delight in the fireworks and energetic bustle of the Nationals Ballpark.

“For a newly established community,” Jack says, “It’s much more active than we thought.”