

# Saturday Jam Sessions at Northeast Barbershop Finds a New Tune

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**James White, WTOP Radio**

WASHINGTON— A barbershop in Northeast Washington known for its blues tunes has closed its doors.

For more than 50 years, Archie's Barbershop located on Bunker Hill Road, brought good times, music and a community together.

Blues musician Archie Edwards owned the shop and encouraged fellow musicians to participate in Saturday jam sessions. The barbershop was originally named Alpha Tonsorial Parlor but became known as Archie's Barbershop. After Edwards passed away in 1998 his friends started a foundation to keep the barbershop open.

However, after nearly a decade, supporters say maintaining the shop became a financial burden.

"It was a business decision and we were not able to come up with the money ourselves," says Michael Baytop president of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation. "So we came to the sad, but inevitable conclusion that the barbershop was going to have to close."

The musicians are disappointed by moving to a new location. But the good times and grooves will continue they say.

Next Saturday, jam sessions will start at Club HR57 on 14th Street in Northwest.

Supporters say the new location will evoke the marriage of jazz and blues.

"We're hoping that the new location will keep the spirit alive and keep what we're doing alive," says Donna Fletcher, a board member of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation.

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