



November/December
2002
Neighborhood
Newsletter

❧ **Happy Holidays** ❧

Please join the Westminster Neighborhood Association for our 2nd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Annual Potluck Holiday Party.

The Tree Lighting event will take place on Saturday, December 14th at 5:30 p.m. at the Westminster Street Neighborhood Playground. Please bring an ornament if you can. Hot apple cider and cookies will be served.

Our Annual Potluck Holiday Party will take place after this event and is scheduled to be held at 1813 Vermont Ave., N.W., from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Babysitting will be available.

Please contact Ms. Patsy Mack at 202-662-3441 to let us know what you plan to bring. Potluck items needed for the party include: entrees, salads, desserts, juice, soda, wine, beer and ice. Volunteers are also needed to set-up and clean-up after the party.

❧ WNA November 2002 Meeting Highlights ❧

❧ Community Initiatives ❧

Mr. Chris Shaheen, Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, spoke on the **New Convention Center Area Strategic Development Plan** sponsored by the

District of Columbia Office of Planning. The Plan is a study on the area that is bordered by New York Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, 12th Street, Vermont Avenue, U Street, Florida Avenue and New Jersey Avenue. The objectives of the study

include: Strengthening Neighborhood Businesses, Generating Quality Housing and Improving the Public Realm. The Strategic Development Plan will be developed to assist the Shaw community in implementing prioritized objectives for revitalization, in addition to setting high standards for design in commercial and residential development, reconstruction, site planning and new development. The planning process includes an opportunity for residents to evaluate and comment on the conceptual models that will be proposed by several consultants. Community residents will be allowed to ask one question during the consultant interviews which are scheduled to take place on December 19, 2002 at the Washington Convention Center. Please contact Mr. Chris Shaheen, Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator by phone at 202-442-7631 or by email at chris.shaheen@dc.gov for more information.

☞ Public Safety ☞

Lieutenant Gary J. Durand and Officer Tommy Barnes attended the meeting. Lt. Durand introduced himself as the new Lieutenant assigned to our PSA. During our public safety discussion, Lt. Durand mentioned that most of the crime in our area occurs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and is in conjunction with the club activities that take place near U Street. He also reported that there have been several day-time home robberies in our area. The crimes occurred when the owners were away or if a home was left unattended due to construction. In addition, the issue of decreased parking on our streets at night was discussed. Lt. Durand cited that vehicles with out-of-state license plates that occupy parking spaces as a significant part of the problem. To combat this problem, the Dept. of Public Works is ticketing vehicles with out-of-state license plates that are parked in

our neighborhood late at night. Lastly, Lt. Durand encouraged residents to call the police if they see suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Lt. Durand can be contacted by phone at 202-673-6821 or by email at GARYDURAND@hotmail.com (please reference PSA 306). The non-emergency phone number for the district is: 727-1010 or 311.

☞ Fundraising ☞

Mr. Tim Mack, WNA President and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, proposed having a “**Garden Party**” which will take place during the summer in the playground. The Garden Party will be the first of possibly several events to help raise funds for the playground and WNA. The Committee envisions this event to be a way for the entire community to come together and raise funds to help cover the playground’s summer water bill and maintenance costs. The Committee anticipates the Garden Party to include a *dessert extravaganza*, silent auction, and members of our arts community showcasing their talent. Additional information regarding the Garden Party will be forthcoming. To volunteer to help with this event, please contact Tim at: ir004286@mindspring.com.

☞ Community Concerns ☞

The concern over the **Masons** application to extend their parking lot was discussed during the meeting. Ms. Tania Shand, WNA Vice President, has spearheaded the Association’s effort to address our neighborhood’s concerns over this matter. A meeting to devise an action plan regarding this issue took place on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 3:00 p.m. Please contact Tania by email at:

Tania.Shand@mail.house.gov to express your concerns or thoughts.

The concern of using **pesticides** in our neighborhood, especially in the playground was brought up during the September 2002 WNA meeting. Mr. Matthew Ruest volunteered to look into the negative effects of using weed pesticides in our neighborhood. After looking into various

products, it was suggested that a sign be posted for several hours in the playground after weed pesticides have been used. The sign will alert parents and dog owners that chemicals have been used on the playground foliage. *The National Capital Poison Center's emergency phone number is: 1-800-222-1222.*

❧ WNA Membership ❧

* **2003 WNA Membership Renewal begins in January** so get that checkbook out! To become a member please make your check payable to "WNA" in the amount of \$15 per household (\$5 per senior citizen). You may mail your check or just drop it in the mailbox at 924 Westminster St., Attn: Ms. Margie Perko, WNA Treasurer.

2002 WNA Membership		
Hershel Bagley	Betty Hightower	Susan, Marquan, Andre & Sarah
Chuck Baxter	Loretta Johnson	Ousley & Bruhier Stillman
Emmanuel Blackwell	Lynn Johnson	Timothy Owens & David Cooper
Jacqueline Brower	Mary Jane Jones	Nicole Pascua
Patricia Crisman	Joletha Jordan	Margie Perko
Kevin Dailey & Clare Donelan	Daniel Katz & April Fulton	Gennet & Will Purcell
Charles Dittrich	Kennickal, & Holback	Mathew Ruest
Reid Dunavant	David & Michelle Laird	Geoff & Lucia Seaver
Charles & Doris Edwards	William and Michelle Lewis	Tania Shand
Philip Fornaci & Michael Geller	Amoy McGhee	Tim Shannon & Page Van Wirt
Eileen & Jesse Foster	Tim & Patsy Mack	Leola Smith
Sophia Frimpomaah	Ann Marchand	Dana Voorhees
Lamont O. Hames	Kerry Meyer & Misa Rossetti	Michael & Denise Wardlaw
Paul Hardy & Patty Anderson	Brenda Ntim	Gift dues from Joletha Jordan
Emily & Stephen Henn	Suleika Oakley	

❧ Announcements ❧

☞ Is starting an exercise routine part of your New Year's Resolution? If you are interested in starting a walking group for Saturday mornings, contact patsymack@hotmail.com with your ideas.

☞ Please note that we will not have a December Westminster Neighborhood Association Meeting (we're having a holiday party instead!).

☞ Please contact Nicole at nrene156@aol.com if you would like a copy of November's WNA Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report, or to announce a community event in the upcoming January WNA Newsletter.