



February 2003 Neighborhood Newsletter

☞ WNA January 2003 Meeting Highlights ☞

☞ Guest Speaker ☞

Mr. Jose Sueiro, Ward One Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Office of the City Administrator attended our WNA January 28 meeting as the guest speaker. Mr. Sueiro, who works in the Mayor's Office, was hired to improve the District's government services by developing community action plans, coordinating between the city's services departments and improving the rapport with local business owners and private citizens.

Two key areas of Mr. Sueiro's job are to: 1. ensure that citizen requests and problem situations are resolved within a reasonable period of time and 2. increase the overall quality of life for citizens in the District by focusing on "clean and safe" issues in our neighborhoods. He spoke about his efforts to improve the living conditions in our area by focusing on problems such as: rundown or neglected buildings, deteriorated sidewalks, vacant lots, graffiti, broken street lamps, illegal dumping and unclean alleys.

During his presentation, several questions regarding the increased crime in our area were brought to his attention. He suggested that one way to combat this problem is to start a neighborhood "orange hat" patrol, which

would help to disrupt the flow of illegal activity and increase community activism on our streets. He also suggested that the WNA keep in contact with police officers and their supervisors in our area to stay abreast of crime patterns and public safety issues that concern our neighborhood.

Mr. Sueiro can be contacted by email at: jose.sueiro@dc.gov or by phone at: 671-2338.

☞ **F.Y.I.** ☞ The District's Citywide Call Center phone number is: 727-1000.

☞ Public Safety ☞

Officer Schwartz, Metropolitan Police Department attended the meeting to listen to neighbor concerns and to update the group on current public safety issues. Officer Schwartz cited street robberies and car break-ins in our area are on the rise. The street robberies are perpetrated by a group of men armed with handguns. These street robberies are occurring near Clifton and T Streets, as well as between 13th and 15th Streets. Officer Schwartz also spoke about the creation of an auto theft unit, which began in January. This unit is comprised of 3-4 officers that will spearhead the District's rising auto theft problem. He indicated that Toyotas and Hondas are the most

commonly stolen autos. Lastly, Officer Schwartz mentioned that police have arrested a group of individuals responsible for many of the home robberies taking place in our area.

Ronnie McGhee, Chair of the WNA Public Safety Committee, also spoke on the subject of increasing neighborhood awareness and crime prevention on our streets. He reiterated the importance of being alert to suspicious activity in the neighborhood and to call the police if necessary. There has been a lot of activity around the corner of 9th and S Streets. Mr. McGhee also suggested starting a “phone tree” to alert neighbors of a crime or an emergency situation occurring in our area.

Please contact Ronnie by email at: rmcjka53@aol.com to discuss any neighborhood public safety concerns.

F.Y.I. The non-emergency phone number for the District is: 727-1010 or simply by calling 311.

☞ Fundraising ☞

Mr. Tim Mack, WNA President and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, announced that the first WNA fundraiser for the playground will be held on **Sunday, June 8th at 1:00-4:00 p.m.** (☁ rain date is June 29th). The fundraiser will be the first of possibly several events to help raise funds for the playground and WNA.

The Committee envisions this event as another way for the entire community to come together for a positive community purpose. The funds from the event will help cover the playground’s summer water bill and maintenance costs. The event will include a *dessert extravaganza* and silent auction. The Committee anticipates coordinating the fundraiser with the 14th & U Street Events Committee and area churches for promotional purposes.

Additional information will be forthcoming. To volunteer for this event planning, please contact Tim at: ir004286@mindspring.com.

☞ Community Concerns ☞

The concern over the **Masons’** application to continue and/or 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 coordinate and report on the work accomplished by the WNA took place on January 27th. Ms. Shand and the WNA Mason Committee has drafted an application on behalf of WNA which will permit WNA to speak on par with the ANC and the Masons regarding WNA’s opposition to the Masons’ parking lot. The WNA has taken the position that the lot should be returned to its intended and zoned use, which is housing. The parking lot is located on the corner of Vermont Ave. and T Street. All WNA neighbors are encouraged to attend the following meeting to oppose the Masons’ application to obtain a variance to continue to operate the parking lot in a residential zone.

☛ Zoning Board Hearing, 441 4th St., Ste. 210, Washington, DC, Tuesday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m.

☎ **Action** ☎ Please contact Tania by phone at: 202-226-0597 or Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham by email at graham-wone@aol.com or by phone at 724-8181 to express your concerns or thoughts regarding the Masons’ application to continue or extend their parking lot.

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The issue of **refuse** being left on 10<sup>th</sup> Street during trash collection days was discussed during the meeting. It was suggested that

neighbors who normally leave their refuse on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, should move their trash to the alley adjoining Vermont Avenue and S Street. However, the problem of the trash not being put in proper receptacles and the potential of it not being picked-up by the Department of Public Works on a regular basis was brought-up. It was suggested that a Committee be formed to discuss this issue in-depth so that all interested parties can formulate an workable solution. Lynn Johnson will be working with [This article continues in next column.]

the residents of both Vermont Ave. and 10<sup>th</sup> Street to help alleviate this long-standing problem. Any resident of these streets who can help or offer solutions should contact Lynn at 202/371-0962 or [Lynn@JohnsonandPavuk.com](mailto:Lynn@JohnsonandPavuk.com).

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**⌘ 2002WNA Year End Financial Report ⌘**

Total Income generated from membership dues (including a total gift from the Lairds and Fannie Mae in the amount of \$1,050.00): \$1,855.00

Total expenses (including service charges from the bank in the amount of \$96 [does not include expenses in December]): \$548.00

- Any funds from/for the ANC (playground repair fund) are tracked separately.
- In 2003, the total gift from the Lairds/Fannie Mae will be \$498.00.

**⌘ WNA Membership ⌘**

\* **2003 WNA Membership Renewal** is upon us, so get that checkbook out! [Remember, you need to pay your dues every time you celebrate New Year's Eve.] Please make your check payable to "WNA" in the amount of \$15 per household (\$5 per senior citizen). Remember, your dues payment is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. You may either mail your check or just drop it in the mailbox at 924 Westminster St., Attn: Ms. Margie Perko, WNA Treasurer.

|                        | 2003 WNA Membership    |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Derek & Sally Cole     | Margie Perko           | Matthew Ruest                |
| David & Michelle Laird | Nicole Pascua          | Tania Shand                  |
| Maura & John Moore     | Juan de la Vega Puente | Phil Spaulding & Lynn Coffin |

**⌘ Special Thanks ⌘**

The Westminster Neighborhood Association takes this opportunity to thank everyone involved in making the 2002 WNA Holiday Party and Tree lighting Ceremony a smashing success!

**⌘ Announcements ⌘**

⌘ Please note that the next Westminster Neighborhood Association Meeting will take place on February 25, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at 922 Westminster Street (lower level). Mark your calendar now.

⌘ **Easter Stroll 2003** has been reborn on U Street! The Easter Stroll will take place on April 20, 2003 and is sponsored by the 14<sup>th</sup> and U Main Street Initiative. This social event is open to the community at large. Partakers

may stroll the streets, shops, and greet neighbors and friends. Activities included in the Easter Stroll 2003 are: story telling, Easter egg hunt, musical entertainment, and child and poster decorating. Additional information will be forthcoming.

œ Please contact Nicole at [nrene156@aol.com](mailto:nrene156@aol.com) if you would like a complete copy of January's WNA Meeting Minutes, monthly Treasurer's Report, or to announce a community event in the upcoming March WNA Newsletter.