



March 2003 WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

❧ WNA February 25, 2003 Meeting Highlights ❧

❧ Guest Speaker ❧

Mr. Stanley Mayes, President, Urban Forest Council attended our WNA February 25th meeting as the guest speaker. Mr. Mayes spoke about partnering with WNA to plant trees on Vermont Avenue to help transform this street into a more tranquil and aesthetically beautiful location. He proposed that a row of trees be planted down the concrete median of Vermont Avenue, in addition to two small sites in the vicinity.

Two concerns that Mr. Mayes has with this proposed project involve: 1). the ownership of the land where the trees will be planted and 2). how sustainable the project will be. Other issues that were raised during the meeting include: what District departments will be responsible for the maintenance of the trees; who will be responsible for raising initial capital for this project and; how far along Vermont Avenue will the trees be planted.

Mr. Mayes suggested that the WNA conduct its own site visit to provide feedback on this proposal and asked for WNA's approval to begin the process of making this project come to fruition. The WNA made a motion

to approve the beautification of Vermont Avenue.

The Urban Forest Council of Washington, D.C. is a non-profit corporation that partners with local community organizations and city and government agencies to promote urban forestry and environmental stewardship in the District. Also, the Council assists communities to develop strategies to start or maintain programs that promote planting and cultivating trees, parks and gardens in urban areas. They provide funding in the form of grants; give technical assistance; assist in networking opportunities to meet professionals in the environmentally related fields and; provide a volunteer network for community projects.

The Urban Forest Council also sponsored the shrubs that we planted in the WNA Playground alley borders two years ago.

❧ Public Safety ❧

Sergeant Wilkins and Officers Milton and Barnes from the Metropolitan Police Department attended the meeting to listen to neighbor concerns and to update the group on current public safety issues. Sgt. Wilkins

reported that in early February a person was robbed at approximately 4:30 p.m. on the 1300 block of T Street. The perpetrator is described as a male, 18-20 years old, with scarring on his face. In addition, Sgt. Wilkins reported that a search warrant was executed in the 1700 block of 9th Street. Police officers recovered an automatic machine gun and narcotics. The same occupants remain in that house, so we need to keep an eye on it.

F.Y.I.

Chief Charles Ramsey announced in January that all MPDC marked police cruisers will operate at all times with two flashing white alternating lights on their overhead light bars. This new policy is aimed to alert citizens of police presence in their communities and to make police units more readily recognizable to citizens should they need immediate assistance. The Department recognized that this new procedure was causing some confusion among motorists who thought officers may have been responding to an emergency or attempting to stop the motorist.

The flashing white alternating lights are designed to be more easily distinguishable from the full emergency police lights. If a police unit is on an emergency assignment or attempting to stop a motorist, the officer will have all of their emergency lights activated and, in many cases, the siren.

F.Y.I.

The Metropolitan Police Department has *phased out its seven-digit non-emergency telephone number, 727-1010*. All **non-emergency calls** will be redirected to the toll-free **3-1-1** phone number.

Non-emergency callers from outside DC will be directed to call the Metropolitan Police Department on (202) 737-4404.

For more information about 9-1-1, 3-1-1 and other MPDC hotlines, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtm>.

~Fundraising~

Mr. Tim Mack, WNA President and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, announced that the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities have asked WNA to participate in their International Festival, June 20-22, 2003. The WNA Playground will be the event site for the U Street area. The Fundraising Committee proposed that the first WNA fundraiser scheduled to take place, June 8th, be rescheduled to coincide with the International Festival. The Fundraising Committee still anticipates including the “garden party” theme for this event, as well as having a silent auction and a musical and arts component.

The Commission will underwrite the city-wide advertising for all of the sites included in the International Festival.

WNA approved a motion that the fundraiser be included in the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities’ International Festival. Aditional information will be forthcoming. To volunteer for this event planning, please contact Tim at: ir004286@mindspring.com.

~WNA Committees~

Mr. Chuck Baxter, Chair of the Playground Committee, reported that new wood chips and plants are needed in the playground. The new plants will replace the ones that have died during the year. During the meeting, it was discussed that WNA will

ask for donations to help with the costs of maintaining the playground.

Mr. Lynn Johnson speaking on behalf of the Streetscape Committee suggested that WNA look into putting-up signs that will remind dog owners to curb their dogs. He suggested forming a committee to: 1) design/buy signs that will remind owners to curb their dogs and 2). investigate where WNA can legally post these signs.

Mr. Chuck Baxter spoke on behalf of the Refuse Committee about Spring Cleanup 2003. It was suggested at the meeting to hold the WNA Spring Cleanup 2003 on a weekend to coincide with Earth Day which is scheduled for April 22, 2003. The finalization of the date will be discussed during WNA's March meeting.

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. More importantly, your membership adds strength to WNA's efforts wherever membership is counted. You may either mail your check or just drop it in the mailbox at 924 Westminster St., Attn: Ms. Margie Perko, WNA Treasurer. Make it payable to simply "WNA."

2003 WNA Membership		
Chuck Baxter	Derek & Sally Cole	Lisa & Mike Fauntroy
Loretta Johnson	Holbback & Kennickal	Chad Koratich

David & Michelle Laird	Tim & Patsy Mack	Maura & John Moore
Nicole Pas-cua	Margie Perko	Juan de la Vega Puente
Matthew Ruest	Tania Shand	Phil Spaulding & Lynn Coffin

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to everyone who tirelessly worked to keep our neighborhood sidewalks free from snow during February's snow storm! Your time and effort made it so much easier for all of us to get around.

Announcements

The Masons invite graduating high school seniors in the Washington, DC metropolitan area to apply for the Daughters of Isis and Masons Scholarships.

- For additional information on how to apply for the Daughters of Isis Scholarship, please contact Ms. Venecia C. Bessellieu, Scholarship Chairperson by phone at: 301-630-3776. The deadline for this scholarship is midnight, Friday, April 25, 2003.
- For additional information on how to apply for the Masons Scholarship, please contact the Scholarship Committee by phone at: 202-462-8877. The deadline for this scholarship is March 31, 2003.

Please note that the next Westminster Neighborhood Association Meeting will

take place on Tuesday, March 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 14th 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.

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

CRITICAL PHONE NUMBERS
LAW ENFORCEMENT & SAFETY
(March 2003)

Emergency (police, fire, rescue)	911
Emergency using a cell phone:	
Suspicious activity	311
DC specific.....	202 727-4404
Bomb Squad..	202 727-4580
DC 4th District--Immediate response backup phone numbers:	
Desk Sergeant.....	202 576-6745/ 6746/ 6732
Midnight Watch Commanders.....	202 576-6741/6742
Lt's Desk.	202 576-6723
DC 4th District—Detectives:	
Focused Missions/Violent Crimes	202 576-3728/7000
Property Crimes.....	202 576-6727
WMATA (Metro) Transit Police (emergency)	202 962-2121
Detectives/Investigations.....	202 962-1792
Walter Reed Army Medical Center	
Military Police.....	202 782-7511/ 7513/ 7513
Guard Shack.....	202 782-9760
DC Urban Park Rangers	
Nuisance Issues at Recreation Centers	202 441-2605
Truancy-- 311 & Truancy Hotline.....	202 576 6985
DC GOVERNMENT & RELATED AGENCIES	
DC Citywide Call Center.....	202 727-1000
DC Citywide Call Center online.....	dc.gov/citizen/request.shtm
Pepco-powerlines.....	1 877 737-2662
DCRA-private prop. health hazards.....	202 442-4610
Streetlights out or intermittent.....	202 269-0855/0856 [24x7]
WASA-hydrants,storm drains, etc.....	202 612-3400 [24x7]
ANC 4B.....	202 291-6282
Ward 4 Councilmember.....	202 724-8052
Ward 4 Service Coordinator.....	202 576-8103
Safeway: shopping cart pickup etc	202 723-5644
GETTING HELP	

DC Hypothermia Hotline.....	1 800 535-7252
DC homeless shelters (general).....	202 724-3932
DC Child Abuse Hotline.....	202 671-SAFE
DC Rape Crisis Center Hotline.....	202-333-RAPE
Domestic Violence Hotline.....	800 799-SAFE
DC Adult Protective Services Hotline (elder abuse & exploitation).....	202 541-3950
Animal Shelter.....	202 576-6664
Alcohol Abuse Hotline.....	1 888 294-3572
Drug Abuse Hotline.....	1 888 294-3572
Not sure who to call? get referrals from 'Answers, Please'	202 463-6211

More detailed explanations for law enforcement & safety issues (March 2003)

POLICE EMERGENCIES: Always start with 911 so that there is an audio record of the call. Cell phone calls may not be answered by the closest jurisdiction, so make a backup call directly to the jurisdiction (DC or MD). Example 911 calls: fire & medical emergencies, violent crimes, crimes in progress, domestic abuse, home/business intruders, gunshots, persons with guns, vehicle crashes involving personal injury or serious traffic tie-ups.

POLICE NON-EMERGENCIES: Always start with 311 so that there is an audio record of the call. Make additional calls to 4D if you want to followup later. Example 311 calls: property crimes not in progress (vandalism, theft, stolen car, garage burglaries, etc), animal control problems, minor vehicle crashes.

NOTES ON WALTER REED MILITARY POLICE: MPs do not have any jurisdiction off the compound, but if you're in the immediate area, call them anyway; it can't hurt.

NOTES ON DC URBAN PARK RANGERS: Try calling UPRs for non-emergency issues at Recreation Centers and city parks. The outfit is understaffed and under-funded, so it may be worth it not to tie up a regular officer. Most likely you'll have to call 311 to follow-up. MPD does have jurisdiction over the parks.

STREETLIGHTS (202 269 0855) [24X7]

Get as much detail as you can (e.g., light is out or intermittent; metal or wood pole; pole # (the vertical number); exact address/location). If possible, put an orange piece of tape on the pole.

CITY WATER ISSUES-- WASA 202 612 3400 [24X7]

Call ASAP for standing water, water leaks, open hydrants, busted manhole covers, and clogged catch basins.

TRASH/DEBRIS/MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE PROPERTIES-- 727-1000 and DCRA 202 442-4610.

Make use of DC's "clean it or lien it" policy! For example, is there an apartment building or business that always overflows its dumpster? Take them to task for causing a health hazard.