



# April 2003 WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

## WNA March 25, 2003 Meeting Highlights W

### Guest Speakers

**Ms. Helen Scott-Hooks from the Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), Housing Regulations Administration - Rental Accommodations Office** attended the WNA March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as a guest speaker. Ms. Hooks, a veteran of DCRA for 17 years, spoke to the group about renting homes and housing regulations in the District of Columbia. During her presentation, Ms. Hooks pointed out that her office is the first place a landlord goes to in order to begin the eviction process. Her office also assists individuals who want to learn more about landlord-tenant laws and regulations, as well as rental inspections and housing codes.

Ms. Hooks said that homeowners can call 202-442-4477 if private property in their neighborhood is kept unclean or in disrepair.

Ms. Hooks can be contacted by phone at 202-442-4473 or by email at [helen.hooks-scott@dc.gov](mailto:helen.hooks-scott@dc.gov) for additional information.

**Mr. Matt Comstock from Shaw Main Streets, Inc.** also spoke at our WNA March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as a guest speaker. Shaw Main

Streets, Inc. is an organization comprised of area residents, business and property owners, and non-profit and faith-based organizations working together to help revitalize the central Shaw area.

During Mr. Comstock's presentation, he asked that WNA support their Restore DC Program application that was filed with the District of Columbia in March. This Program is aimed to help the economic revitalization of Shaw's 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Street commercial corridors by: 1) strengthening businesses currently operating in Shaw, 2) attracting new businesses and jobs to Shaw, 3) providing residents with retail establishments that fit their needs, 4) helping keep revenue in our neighborhoods and within the District, 5) strengthening the perception of the Shaw neighborhood as an historic and safe community, and 6) restoring the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Street commercial corridors to the prominence that it historically held.

The central Shaw area encompasses New Jersey Avenue at the east, 11<sup>th</sup> Street at the west, Mount Vernon Square at the south and Florida Avenue/ U Street at the north.

A motion was made and approved at the meeting to have the WNA support Shaw Main Streets, Inc.'s Restore DC Program.

For more information concerning Shaw Main Streets, Inc. or the Restore DC Program, please contact Mr. Alexander Padro, Commissioner, ANC 2C01, by phone at 202-518-3794 or by email at [PadroANC2C@aol.com](mailto:PadroANC2C@aol.com)

~Public Safety~

**Lieutenant Gary Durand from the Metropolitan Police Department** attended the meeting to listen to neighbor concerns and to update the group on current public safety issues. We were very pleased to have Lt. Durand show up himself to speak with us. He is always on top of what is going on in our PSA and takes a “hands-on” approach to any WNA concerns. Lt. Durand reported that crime and police activity have been stable in our area for the past month. He noted that police officers have closed several cases and made multiple arrests in our neighborhood. Police cases that have been closed include the recent rash of street robberies and home burglaries in the area. Lt. Durand also informed us that the increased police patrols between 9<sup>th</sup> and T Streets are conducted by police officers on their own volition and not because of any specific directive. Our utmost admiration goes to each of those officers who have recognized the problems that this area has been causing the community.

The rumor that the Police Department plans to reorganize the PSAs was also discussed. Lt. Durand said that while a reorganization of PSAs may occur, there has been no final word from the Chief of Police. He indicated that the total number of PSAs may decrease because it is too labor intensive for the Department to maintain the number of police officers/patrols throughout the District. WNA expressed its concern about the reorganization since the community will lose its officer contacts in the process.

Lt. Durand can be contacted by phone at 202-673-6821 or by email at [GARYDURAND@hotmail.com](mailto:GARYDURAND@hotmail.com) (please reference PSA 306 when corresponding to him).

~Fundraising~

**Mr. Tim Mack, WNA President and Chair of the Fundraising Committee**, updated the group on the current status of the First Annual WNA Garden Party Fundraiser taking place in June.

During last month’s WNA monthly meeting, Tim announced the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities invited WNA to participate in their International Festival, June 20-22, 2003. We are pleased and proud to report that the WNA Playground will be the event site for the U Street area. While the emphasis of the international festival will be music, the WNA Fundraising Committee will still keep the “garden party” theme for our part of the fundraiser. A silent auction, musical and arts component, and bake sale will be included in the event. Admission to the Fundraiser will be free and all proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward the maintenance of the WNA Playground.

The DC Arts Commission will underwrite the citywide advertising for all of the sites included in the International Festival. The Fundraising Committee will also advertise the fundraiser and solicit donations for the silent auction from neighborhood schools, churches and businesses.

To volunteer for the event planning, please contact Tim at: [ir004286@mindspring.com](mailto:ir004286@mindspring.com).

To donate baked goodies and bottled drinks for the fundraiser, please contact Nicole at: [nrene156@aol.com](mailto:nrene156@aol.com).

~Spring Cleanup~

**The WNA 2003 Spring Cleanup** will take place Saturday, April 19, 2003 and will be held in partnership with the French Street Neighborhood Association. The event will start at 9:00 a.m. We are again fortunate enough to get a trash dumpster. We will be able to place it directly in front of the Playground on Westminster Street. We never know when we can get those dumpsters, so if you have items in your basement or backyard you have been meaning to get rid of, you would be well-advised to take this opportunity on April 19.

If you have any public or community “odd jobs” that you’ve had your eye on and that needs a group of volunteers, this is the time to do it. Lynn Johnson will help you get together the critical mass of hands and expertise needed. Call him at 202/371-0962.

Please bring your own trash bags, tools and gloves (Chuck Baxter will have extra gloves if you need them). Volunteers will also be available to assist anyone who needs help removing refuse. If you have a teenager that needs volunteer credit for school, send them to us as we can give them work and can sign their school form.

~WNA Committees~

**The Streetscape Committee** needs volunteers to help with brickwork and lawn repair in the playground. Brickwork experience is not necessary. To help with these activities, please contact Lynn Johnson by email at [lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com](mailto:lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com).

**The Membership Committee** reported that a New Neighbor Package is being developed and will consist of pertinent neighborhood information such as local city and government phone numbers and business directo-

ries. To volunteer for this committee, please contact Patsy Mack by email at [Patsymack@ipbtax.com](mailto:Patsymack@ipbtax.com).

**The Refuse Committee** reported on the number of homes that leave trash or trashcans in our neighborhood alleys the day after trash pick-up. WNA has tried to increase resident awareness of the problems that exist when empty trashcans and debris are left in the alleys or put out on the wrong days. Keeping the alleys free of debris and empty trashcans helps to provide easier and safer access to our homes for cars and city vehicles. In addition, it helps to prevent vermin infestations and makes neighborhoods and homes look cleaner. Remember all the rats we had a few years ago? We like to think that our efforts in the alleys were a significant factor in bringing this population down to almost zero.

A copy of the Trash & Cans graph is attached.

~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.] If you haven’t, 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: Margie Perko, WNA Treasurer.

2003 WNA Membership		
Chuck Baxter	Derek & Sally Cole	Leonard Crumm
Charles &	Lisa & Mike	Philip Fornaci

<b>Doris Ed-wards</b>	<b>Fauntroy</b>	
<b>Michael Geller</b>	<b>Loretta Johnson</b>	<b>Lynn Johnson</b>
<b>Holbback &amp; Kennickal</b>	<b>Chad Koratich</b>	<b>Moses Lofton</b>
<b>David &amp; Michelle Laird</b>	<b>Tim &amp; Patsy Mack</b>	<b>Maura &amp; John Moore</b>
<b>Susan Ousley</b>	<b>Marquan Ousley</b>	<b>Andre Ousley</b>
<b>Nicole Pas-cua</b>	<b>Margie Perko</b>	<b>Juan de la Vega Puente</b>
<b>Matthew Ruest</b>	<b>Tania Shand</b>	<b>Phil Spaulding &amp; Lynn Coffin</b>
<b>Bruhier Stillman</b>	<b>Denise &amp; Brown Wil-son</b>	

⌘ Announcements ⌘

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

- 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.

☞ Please note the next Westminster Neighborhood Association Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Westminster Neighborhood Playground [For you out-of-towners, Westminster St. is located between Ninth & 10<sup>th</sup> Streets and between S and T Streets, NW]. If there is inclement weather on this day, the meeting will be held at 922 Westminster Street (in the basement). 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 (sharply-dressed, hopefully) may stroll the streets, shops, and greet neighbors and friends and otherwise put-on-the-air. Activities included in the Easter Stroll 2003 are: story telling, Easter egg hunt, musical entertainment, and child and poster decorating. It should be a most positive and happy event for the whole family.

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

### Trash & Cans In Alley

