



June 2003 WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

☞ WNA May 27, 2003 Meeting Highlights ☞

☞ Guest Speaker ☞

Scott Pomeroy, Executive Director, 14th & U Main Street Initiative attended the May WNA meeting as the guest speaker. Scott highlighted the recent activities of the 14th & U Main Street Initiative. Their most recent activities entail the promotion, membership, economic restructuring and design of the program.

The 14th & U Main Street Initiative is part of the DC Main Streets Program and was designated one of five DC Main Streets in 2002.

The DC Main Streets Program was instituted by Mayor Anthony A. Williams to bring economic development to District neighborhoods by strengthening neighborhood businesses and attracting new retail stores to the area. The Program stresses the: promotion and marketing of neighborhood business districts; improving the appearance and economic health of commercial corridors; and strengthening the internal capacity of District government offices and other organizations engaged in community revitalization programs.

For more information about the 14th & U Main Street Initiative and to volunteer, please contact: Scott Pomeroy, Executive Director, by phone at: 202-550-0769 or by email at: info@14thandU.org.

☞ Fundraising ☞

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The First Annual WNA Garden Party Fundraiser will take place on June 22, 2003, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Westminster Playground located at 911 Westminster Street, NW.

The WNA Playground is an event site for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' International Festival. The event will celebrate the diversity and richness of the Shaw community. Martial arts, musical and arts entertainment, as well as a silent auction will be included in the Fundraiser. Mural posters that commemorate the playground, signed by the artist Anne Marchand, will also be on sale.

Admission to the Fundraiser will be free and all proceeds will go toward the maintenance of the WNA Playground.

Volunteers are needed to help with the silent auction, “Join the WNA” booth, bake sale, and set-up and clean-up for the event. To volunteer, please contact Tim at: ir004286@mindspring.com.

To donate baked goodies and bottled drinks for the fundraiser, please contact Patsy at: Patsymack@hotmail.com.

🌀Mason Parking Lot 🌀

As most of you know, WNA won a David-and-Goliath matched administrative hearing last month before the Board of Zoning Adjustment. We reported then that the BZA ruled in favor of no longer granting an exception to our residential zoning requirements. The Masons’ request to continue parking on their residential property was denied. The BZA has not yet issued their formal written decision, however. This is expected in the latter half of June. For anyone that wants a copy of this Decision, please contact our WNA attorney, Lynn Johnson at 202/371-0962.

🌀Preservation Issues 🌀

Historic preservation designation status was voted in by our larger Shaw community in 1998. While the District of Columbia’s umbrella Historic Preservation Act is much too large to cover in this Newsletter, one of the purposes of this Act is to protect the significance of the architecture in those neighborhoods that choose its coverage. The majority of neighborhoods in DC have not yet been able to find the time and energy it takes to get this coverage. We were able to obtain ours when CSNA and many other organizations worked together to get the Greater U Street Preservation plan approved.

As part of the protection for the owners, this Act does not permit other owners to change out their wooden exterior windows and

replace them with vinyl windows. While there are many other requirements with respect to the types, style, etc. of the windows you would need, it is the vinyl aspect that catches most people’s attention. Part of the reason for this is that if you go through the expense of keeping the architectural integrity of your own windows, your neighbor can hurt not only the value of your house but of others on the block by putting in the inferior vinyl windows. If this is permitted to continue long enough, you will soon lose this architecturally significant feature of your block.

Two owners in the WNA area just had an administrative hearing about their having installed vinyl windows. One house is located on the south side of Westminster and the other is at 9th and S Streets. Both owners claimed they were unaware of the Historic Preservation requirements in our area and were also unaware that they needed to obtain a building permit to change their windows. Had they applied for a building permit with DCRA, of course, DCRA would have directed them to the historic preservation office for final approval. In fairness, neither owner actually lives in these houses and may not have heard of these requirements. There appears to be no entity responsible for spreading the word of the historic preservation requirements when they are enacted in an area. To that extent, it falls on each of us to educate our neighbors.

So, in any event, WNA had to gear up for these two hearings. They were held June 4. WNA, through both photographs and testimony by Lynn Johnson, attempted to present evidence showing both the architectural and historic significance of our Westminster area. While there has been no decision yet, it appears that we made a favorable showing and are hoping for the best. Stay tuned.

~WNA Committees ~

***Playground** volunteers are needed to help with brickwork for sidewalks and tree boxes as well as for lawn maintenance and repair in the playground. Brickwork experience is not necessary. Neither is a union card. To help with these activities, please contact Lynn Johnson by email at lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com.

WNA asks that all dog walkers remember to leash and pick-up after their dogs in the playground and neighborhood. PLEASE be sure that you get all of your dog's poop, and if you see other owners with dogs in the Playground (with no plastic bag on their bodies), please remind them of this neighborhood requirement (to say nothing about the city regulations that require the same). We are getting a lot of parents complaining about this when they take their children to the Playground.

WNA is so pleased to announce that City Ornamental Iron Works has now completed the punch list for our front gate on the Playground. The company also repaired the broken latch for the rear gate for no charge because of the time delay. The gates are both fully functional and lockable. The right side of the front gate can be used as well. WNA will keep both front gates open during playground hours. WNA has also installed a latch on the front gate so that individuals may manually close the latch to keep small children from wandering away from the playground. The latch was intentionally placed higher on the gate so the children do not have access to it. The latch is located at eye-level height. Please notify the caretakers of the children from the daycare centers about this latch if and when you happen to run into them. [We don't have telephone numbers on these folks.]

***Streetscape** Volunteers are needed to help with graffiti clean-up around the neighborhood. To volunteer, please contact Chuck at: cbaxter67@aol.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.

The 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 current copy of the Trash & Cans graph is attached.

~ WNA Membership ~

* **2003 WNA Membership** If you haven't yet paid your dues, 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: Margie Perko, WNA Treasurer. Your dues go 100% for neighborhood activities—not a penny for administration or salary!

2003 WNA Membership		
Chuck Baxter	Derek & Sally Cole	Leonard Crumm & Moses Lofton
Kevin Dailey & Claire Donelan	Charles & Doris Edwards	Lisa & Mike Fauntroy
Philip Fornaci & Michael Geller	Paul Hardy & Patty Anderson	Loretta Johnson
Lynn Johnson	Holback & Kennickal	David & Michelle Laird
Tim & Patsy Mack	Anne Marchand	Amoy McGhee
Misa & Kerry Meyer	Maura & John Moore	
Susan, Marquan, Andre Ousley & Stillman Bruhier	Nicole Pascua	Margie Perko
Phil Spaulding & Lynn Coffin	Juan de la Vega Puente	Matthew Ruest & Chad Koratich
Tania Shand	Tim Shannon & Paige Van Wirt	Denise & Brown Wilson

Announcements

☞ The first annual citywide D.C. *Fête de la Musique*, an internationally recognized music festival that marks the first day of summer, will be held in Washington, D.C. June 20, 2003 – June 22, 2003. *Fête*, hosted by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, offers free concerts by professional musicians and spontaneous performances by amateurs and local artists. Local and national musicians will represent a wide range of genres including: jazz, salsa, gospel, classical, go-go, blues, Celtic, Latin, pop and rock. Indoor and outdoor venues

include the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Theatre, Union Station, Smithsonian Institution, French Embassy, National Zoo and Malcolm X Park. For a complete schedule of events and venues go to: <http://dcarts.dc.gov>. OK. Test question: How did WNA get so lucky so as to have its Playground be one of the sites at which the D.C. *Fête de la Musique* chose to perform? [For the answer, come to the festival on Sunday, June 20, and ask a WNA officer.]

☞ Howard University's Center for Urban Progress (HUCUP) is offering free Microsoft Computer Skills Training Courses. Courses include: Introduction to the Computer, Introduction to Windows, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Introduction to the Internet. Other services offered by HUCUP include: job development and career counseling, resume writing and interviewing skills assistance. To qualify for the HUCUP program, you must be a DC resident and unemployed or underemployed. For more information on the job training courses offered at Howard University's Center for Urban Progress, call: 202-806-4620 or 202-806-9558.

☞ **HELP WANTED:** Community horticulture educator for a part-time temporary position, beginning in July 2003 pending grant funding. Seeking organic gardener with teaching experience, to provide hands-on workshops, educational materials, and related field trips to low-income inner-city DC residents. Must know vegetable, herb, fruit, flower gardening; habitat and native plants landscaping; soil preparation; composting; companion planting; natural pest control; water conservation; construction of raised beds, trellises and other garden structures. Must have valid drivers' license. Prefer candidate with strong knowledge of and interest in nutrition and cooking. Graphic design, illustration, web design, garden arts a plus (mosaic,

murals, sculpture). Spanish-language fluency also a plus. Mail resume and cover letter to GROW, 1419 V Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. Inquiries emailed to grow19@aol.com must include a phone number to receive a call back from GROW, but attachments will not be accepted or opened.

🌳 Trees & Treebox Care 🌳

As you know, neighborhood volunteers have been both watering our trees and caring for the treeboxes for the past several years. It is time to look at that list again and put on any new people that would like to provide this service to one or more trees. This can be quite a daunting task when the tree and treebox are not located in front of your house, but please give serious consideration to the many sites we have in our area where there is no one close to care for the tree and box.

Several neighbors have taken the time out of their busy schedules to perform this service in the past. If you would like to take over a tree and box, please contact Lynn Johnson at 202/371-0962 or by email at: lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com. If your name is on this list and you can no longer care for this tree or box, please contact Lynn so he can find a replacement.

T Street - South Side

- 902 Polly/Lisa
- 904 Hagos Seyoum at 907
- 910/08 Tim Shannon @ 914
- 914/12 Tim Shannon @ 914
- 918 Dan Katz/April Fulton @ 916
- 924 Angela Fresne @ 924
- 928 Jeff/Lucia Seaver @ 930
- 930/32 Jeff/Lucia Seaver @ 930
- 936 [young tree]] No noe
- 940/42 Mrs. Grant @ 940
- 944/46 Loretta Johnson @ 949

T Street - North Side

- 905 Polly/Lisa.
- 907 Hagos Seyoum at 907
- 911/13 Ron Massengal at 909
- 915 Jim/Maura Moore at 915
- 919/21 Niilante Mills at 919
- 923/25 Niilante Mills at 919
- 927/29 Denise Wilson at 927
- 935 Charles Dittrich at 935
- 939 Connie Rich at 939
- 941/43 Lamont/Glenn Hames at 941
- 947/49 Loretta Johnson at 949

Westminster Street - South Side

- 902 Kevin Dailey/Clare Donelan at 908
- 904 Kevin Dailey/Clare Donelan at 908
- 908 Kevin Dailey/Clare Donelan at 908
- 912 Kevin Dailey/Clare Donelan at 908
- 916 Romes Calhoun at 918
- 922 [empty box, but Lynn Johnson @ 922]
- 928 Michael/Denise Wardlaw at 926
- 932/34 Jacque Brower at 932
- 936 Jacque Brower at 932
- 944 John Brown at 944
- 948 Parnace Williams at 946
- 950 [Dead tree]
- 952 Mary Nelson @ 943

Westminster Street - North Side

- 1820 [9th St.] Dorothy/Scheera Whitaker
- 9XX (in front of playground)Kevin/Claire
- 9XX (in front of playground) Kerry/Misa
- 915 Kerry/Misa Meyer at 917
- 919 Kerry/Misa Meyer at 917
- 921/23 Marcos/Sundrea Ballestero at 923
- 925 Rachel at 925
- 927/29 Tim/Patsy Mack at 931
- 931 Tim/Patsy Mack at 931
- 933/35 Susan Ousley at 935
- 937/39 Susan Ousley at 935
- 939/41 Robert Bullock @ 941
- 943 Mary Nelson @ 943

S Street - North Side

- 907 Moses Lofton at 903
- 909/11 Holback Kennikal at 911
- 913/15 No one
- 917 Jack/Doris Edwards to keep clean
- 923 Ronnie McGhee at 919
- 927 Ronnie McGhee at 919
- 933 David Carl at 933

- 937 Analia Perez at 937
- 941 Darryl Coales at 941
- 945 Paul Hardy/Patti Anderson at 945
- 949 Emmanuel Blackwell at 949
- 1003 Lynn Boynton/Derek at 1003
- 1007/09 Jackie Herdon family at 1009
- 1013 Bob Holum at 1013

9th Street - West Side

- 1800 Boys/Girls Club at 1800
- 1802/04 [No one]
- 1806 Peaches
- 1812 (1st tree) Lisa at 1808
- 1812 (2nd tree) Patricia at 1812 (basement)
- 1824 [No one]
- 1828/30 Tarik/Sachi Gauze
- 1836 Tarik/Sachi Gauze

10th Street - West Side

- 1800 [young tree] –No one
- 1802 [young tree] – No one
- 1806 [young tree] – No one

10th Street - East Side

- 1801 [new tree] Emmanuel Blackwell at 949 S St.
- 1801 [mature tree] Emmanuel Blackwell
- 1803 Emmanuel Blackwell.
- 1815 [mature tree] No one
- 1817 [new tree] No one
- 1817 [mature tree] No one
- 1819 [new tree] No one
- 1819 [new tree] No one
- 1823 [mature tree] No one
- 1831 [new tree] No one
- 1833/35 [mature tree] No one
- 1835 [mature tree] No one

~ Neighborhood Chores ~

As WNA is becoming more established and well-known, the breadth of our responsibilities have grown as both the needs and requests for our assistance have been increasing exponentially. We now

need other neighbors who care about their community to pitch in and take over some of those duties. There are so many tasks that only a government or a community group can handle (such as our playground, tree planting, etc.). Our City is not quite there yet and we have learned to lean on each other to keep our community clean and healthy.

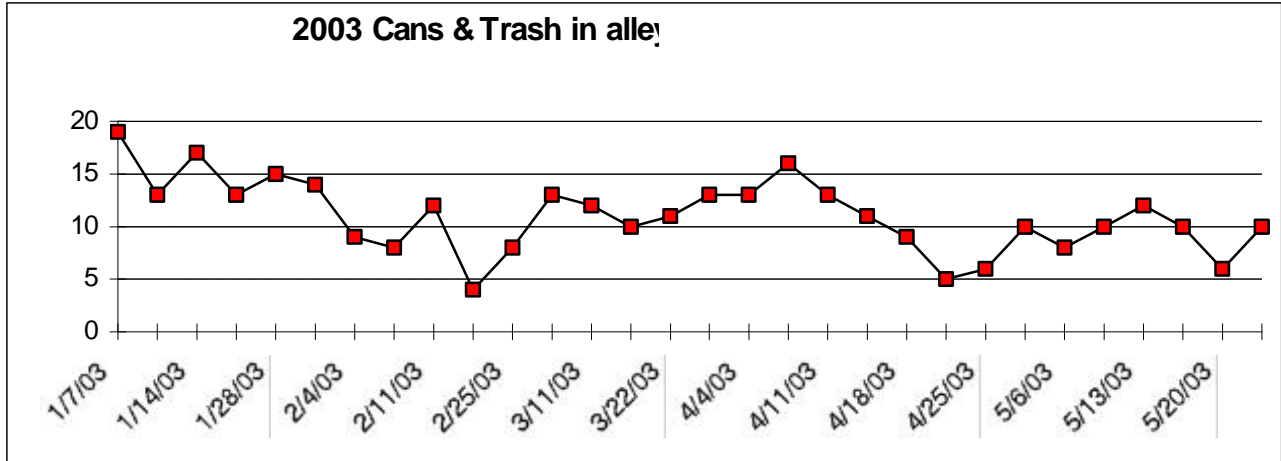
Please spend some time reviewing the Task List at the end of this Newsletter. If you can handle some of these tasks for your community, let WNA know by contacting Lynn Johnson at 202/371-0962. Ask yourself, “If not me, who?” We are all in this together—we will sink or swim only as a group.

~Next WNA Meeting ~

☞ Please note the next Westminster Neighborhood Association Meeting will take place on *Tuesday, June 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.* in the Westminster Neighborhood Playground located at Ninth Street between S and T Streets, NW. If there is inclement weather on this day, the meeting will be held at 922 Westminster St., NW (in the basement). Mark your calendar now!

☞ For District neighborhood information check-out: www.our-dc.com.

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



WNA Task List

Tasks	Type	Frequency	Volunteer	Committee
Water azaleas	playground	Once a week as needed		Playground
Water lawn	playground	Once a week as needed		Playground
Edge lawn	playground	4 x per season		Playground
Water plants under front tree	playground	Once a week as needed	Tim Mack	Playground
Water cherry tree	playground	15 Gal. once a week as needed	Margery Perko	Playground
Water sidewalk trees in front of playground	playground	15 Gal. once a week as needed		Playground
Empty trash cans	playground	Once or twice a week as needed	Kevin Daley	Playground
Empty dog pot	playground	Once a day as needed		Playground
Sweep or blow chips off cement, equipment, front sidewalk	playground	Once a week as needed	Mark Jordan	Playground
Rake chips (to keep them level)	playground	4 x per season	Boys/Girls Club	Playground
Pick up litter	playground	Once a week as needed	Patricia Crisman	Playground
Wipe down benches & remove spots	playground	Twice a month as needed	Boys/Girls Club	Playground
Wax benches & equipment	playground	Once a year		Playground
Pull weeds in lawn and planters	playground	Spring & fall	Mark Jordan	Playground
Rake, bag, and discard Leaves	playground	2 – 3 times in the fall		Playground
Inspect equipment, lighting, & fence	playground	Four times a year		Playground
Fertilize azaleas	playground	Once a year in the fall		Playground
Inspect & protect damaged azaleas	playground	Twice a month as needed		Playground
Turn water on/off & remove spray heads	playground	Twice a year	Lynn Johnson	Playground
Drain water lines in fall / turn water on in spring	playground	Once a year	Lynn Johnson	Playground

Reset timers for lights	playground	Twice a year or as needed	Lynn Johnson	Playground
Report bulk trash in the alleys	playground	As needed		Refuse
Record trash, cans, and bins left in the alleys	neighborhood	Twice a week	Chuck Baxter	Refuse
Talk to neighbors about trash violations, etc	neighborhood	As needed	Lynn Johnson	Refuse
Replace missing bricks in sidewalks, treeboxes	neighborhood	As needed		Streetscape
Spray sidewalks & alleys for weeds	neighborhood	Three times a year		Streetscape
Fertilize trees	neighborhood	Once a year	Kerry & Misa Meyer	Streetscape
Clean trash out of 9th Street stairwells	neighborhood	Once a month as needed		Refuse
Report trash in vacant properties	neighborhood	As needed		Refuse
Draft WNA newsletter	neighborhood	Once a month (secretary's duties)	Secretary	Administration
Coordinate WNA newsletter distribution	neighborhood	Once a month (secretary's duties)	Secretary	Administration
Copy & distribute newsletter to North side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Dittrich	Administration
Copy & distribute newsletter to south side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Lucia/Jeff Seaver	Administration
Copy & distribute newsletter to S, 9th, 10th, Vermont	neighborhood	Once a month	Clare & Kevin Dailey	Administration
Copy & distribute newsletter to Westminster St.	neighborhood	Once a month	Kerry & Misa Meyer	Administration
Develop meeting agenda (invite guests, etc)	neighborhood	Ongoing each month (pres. duties)	Tania Shand	Administration
Notify police of monthly meeting	neighborhood	Once a month	Lynn Johnson	Administration
Draft agenda/notice of WNA meetings	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Baxter	Administration
Coordinate agenda/notice distribution	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Baxter	Administration
Draft/make copies of agenda/notice for distribution	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Baxter	Administration
Distribute agenda/notice to north side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Dittrich	Administration
Distribute agenda/notice to south side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Lucia/Jeff Seaver	Administration
Distribute agenda/notice to S, 9th, 10th, Vermont	neighborhood	Once a month	Clare & Kevin Dailey	Administration
Distribute agenda/notice to Westminster St.	neighborhood	Once a month	Kerry & Misa Meyer	Administration
Send e-mail notice of meetings	neighborhood	Once a month	Lynn Johnson	Administration
Send WNA newsletter by e-mail	neighborhood	Once a month	Lynn Johnson	Administration
Maintain WNA e-mail list	neighborhood	Continuous	Lynn Johnson	Administration
Keep storm drains free of trash	neighborhood	Once a month as needed		Refuse
Coordinate street tree waterers	neighborhood	Spring through fall		Streetscape

Report dead trees to City	neighborhood	As needed		Streetscape
Get new trees	neighborhood	Spring & fall as needed		Streetscape
Board up vacant houses	neighborhood	As needed		Community Enrichment
Conduct monthly WNA meetings	neighborhood	Once a month (president's duties)	President	Administration
Organize spring cleanup with CSNA	neighborhood	Several meetings starting in Feb.		Refuse
Organize fall cleanup	neighborhood	Once a year		Refuse
Weed tree boxes that no one has adopted	neighborhood	Four times a year as needed		Streetscape
Maintain financial records	neighborhood	Ongoing (treasurer's duties)	Treasurer	Administration
Attend PSA meetings	neighborhood	when scheduled		Public Safety
Report on public safety issues	neighborhood	monthly	Ronnie McGee	Public Safety
Collect reports on crime from neighbors	neighborhood	ongoing		Public Safety
Present neighborhood crime reports to police	neighborhood	monthly		Public Safety