



July 2003 WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

❧ WNA June 24, 2003 Meeting Highlights ❧

❧ Fundraising ❧

WNA would like to thank the residents, business owners, organizers and volunteers who donated their time and efforts to make the FIRST ANNUAL WESTMINSTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GARDEN PARTY a wonderful success! WNA would also like to thank the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities who helped advertise and organize the event. The success of this community fundraiser is a testament of the strength and promise of our community.

All proceeds of the Fundraiser will benefit the playground and assist in the yearly maintenance costs of the park.

❧ Guest Speaker ❧

Kenneth E. Howley, Project Manager, North Capital Neighborhood Development, Inc. (NCND) attended the June WNA meeting as the guest speaker. Mr. Howley spoke about the work being performed by NND on both 9th and T Streets. During the meeting, WNA expressed its concerns about the current rehabilitation of single-family

homes into two-unit condominiums in the neighborhood. The majority of WNA members who were present during the meeting expressed their preference for single-family dwellings to not be converted into condominiums. WNA asked to be invited to future NCND Board of Directors' meetings to discuss the process in which the decisions to convert homes into two-unit dwellings are made.

❧ Public Safety ❧

Officer Barnes, Metropolitan Police Department, attended the meeting to report on public safety issues in our neighborhood and to listen to neighbor concerns. Officer Barnes reported that our area has experienced an increase in auto thefts within the last couple of months. The thefts have occurred near 9th and U Streets where several nightclubs are located.

Ronnie McGhee, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, reported on the recent rash of thefts involving plants in the neighborhood. The plants have been pulled from the ground by their roots. He advised neighbors to be wary of individuals going door-to-door selling plants.

WNA Committees

***Playground** volunteers are needed to help with brickwork for sidewalks and tree boxes, as well as for lawn maintenance and repair work in the playground. To help with these activities, please contact Lynn Johnson by email at lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com.

WNA is in need of a grease gun (the type that is used to grease the zerks on a car or farm implements). If you have a grease gun that you can lend or donate to WNA, please contact Lynn Johnson by email at lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com.

For those of you who have volunteered to help water the playground azaleas, lawn and trees for the past two years, you'll be pleased to know that WNA has installed two garden hose reels on the northwest brick wall in the playground. The location of the garden hoses will allow volunteers to water the plants more quickly and easily.

WNA has installed a dispenser for doggy bags near the dog litter can on the outside fence in the playground. Any dog owner who forgot their doggy bags when walking their dog can use the bags. The catch, however, is that all of us need to pitch in and donate our plastic bags to fill the dispenser. So save your plastic bags and add them to the dispenser when you go by the playground. *SPECIAL THANKS to Kevin Daily who has volunteered his time by emptying the doggie litter can everyday this year as well as the two Playground trashcans on trash days.*

WNA obtained a professional plumber to work on the one slow drain we have had in the Playground all year. It appears they were able to find the problem and we expect it is now resolved.

***Mural** Additional copies of the playground mural poster, "Community" can be purchased by contacting our Art Coordinator, Chuck Baxter at 202-232-7921. The poster is 12"x18" and cost \$15.00 (they are signed by the artist).

We are currently in negotiations with another film company to shoot part of a music video, using our Playground and the Mural as a backdrop. It is with no less than Robert Johnson, the chairman of BET. We will keep you posted on our success.

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

SPECIAL THANKS to Matt Ruest and Derek Cole who volunteered to install "Scoop Your Dog's Poop" signs around the neighborhood. The posting of the signs were in response to the increased "dog poop" in the playground and on neighborhood streets. The signs are located near the beginning/end of each street and are posted underneath "No Parking" signs. WNA paid for these signs (\$180, with our large-order discount). They are not provided by the City and are not related to any City services. This is pure and simple community work at its best.

***Refuse** WNA asks that residents look around the front and back of their homes for evidence of rat burrows. Several neighbors have noticed evidence of large rat burrows in the neighborhood. WNA asks that if you see or think you may have rat burrows on your property, please contact Patsy Mack at patsymack@ipbtax.com.

WNA also asks neighbors to PLEASE dispose of their trash properly and to keep the alleys free of debris. In addition, please help to keep the alleys free of empty

trashcans and recycle bins when it is not trash day. Not only does this provide easier and safer access to our homes for cars and city vehicles, it helps to prevent vermin infestations and makes our neighborhoods and homes look cleaner. We've come a long way since WNA started. We can do even better.

☞ Good Neighbor of the Month
☞

The WNA Good Neighbor Award is reserved for those people who have given of themselves to make our community a more enriching place to live. Now, you have all been enjoying the beauty of our little pocket park at the corner of Vermont and T Street this year, but who has been caring for this wayward strip of land? None other than our WNA members Mark Jordan and Sharon Heller. And no, they don't live next door. They live over at 932 T Street. Since growing season started this Spring, they have tended to that plot, weeding it, mulching it, watering the two trees. They even planted flowers in there, making it look like a 'Better Homes and Gardens' site. Thank you, Mark and Sharon, for caring about our community. WNA is proud to give your our Good Neighbor Award this month. May you continue to spark that energy and community spirit that we need to keep our neighborhood a safe and proud place to live.

☞ 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! Join the list that does so much for all of us.

2003 WNA Membership		
Chuck Baxter	Jacqueline Brower	Derek & Sally Cole
Bill & Deborah Crews	Leonard Crumm & Moses Lofton	Charles Dittrich
Kevin Dailey & Claire Donelan	Reid Dunavant	Charles & Doris Edwards
Lisa & Mike Fauntroy	Philip Fornaci & Michael Geller	Tarik A. Gause
Paul Hardy & Patty Anderson	Chris Harris & Becky Zimmerman	Loretta Johnson
Lynn Johnson	Holdback & Kennickal	Deborah Kobes
David & Michelle Laird	Tim & Patsy Mack	Anne Marchand
Amoy McGhee	Misa & Kerry Meyer	Maura & John Moore
Susan, Marquan, Andre Ousley & Stillman Bruhier	Nicole Pascua	Caleb Patten & Leah Beltz
Jay Pearson & John Castellani	Margie Perko	Phil Spaulding & Lynn Coffin
Juan de la Vega Puente	Matthew Ruest & Chad Koratich	Delores Satterfield
Geoff & Lucia Seaver	Tania Shand	Tim Shannon & Paige Van

		Wirt
Richard Smith	Denise & Brown Wilson	

🌳 Trees & Tree box Care



We continue to need neighborhood volunteers to water our trees and care for the tree boxes. Check out the list below to see if you are responsible for a tree and tree box. If not, consider taking over a tree and box that has not yet been chosen. You might remember five years ago when our community had almost no trees. They don't just happen. It takes community input. If you can handle 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 one
- 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 Ballesterero at 923
- 925 Rachel at 925
- 927/29 Tim/Patsy Mack at 929
- 931 Tim/Patsy Mack at 929
- 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 has 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, street & alley cleaning, rat abatement, graffiti removal, 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 below. 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 collectively.

🌿 Next WNA Meeting 🌿

☞ Please note the next Westminster Neighborhood Association Meeting will take place on *Tuesday, July 22, 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!

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

WNA Task List

Task	Type	Frequency	Volunteer
Water azaleas	playground	Once a week as needed	
Water lawn	playground	Once a week as needed	
Edge lawn	playground	4 x per season	
Water plants under front tree	playground	Once a week as needed	Tim Mack
Water cherry tree	playground	15 Gal. once a week as needed	Margery Perko
Water sidewalk trees in front of playground	playground	15 Gal. once a week as needed	
Empty trash cans	playground	Once or twice a week as needed	Kevin Daley
Empty dog pot	playground	Once a day as needed	

Sweep or blow chips off cement, equipment, front sidewalk	playground	Once a week as needed	Mark Jordan
Rake chips (to keep them level)	playground	4 x per season	Boys/Girls Club
Pick up litter	playground	Once a week as needed	Patricia Crisman
Wipe down benches & remove spots	playground	Twice a month as needed	Boys/Girls Club
Wax benches & equipment	playground	Once a year	
Pull weeds in lawn and planters	playground	Spring & fall	Mark Jordan
Rake, bag, discard leaves	playground	2 – 3 times in the fall	
Inspect equip., lighting, & fence	playground	Four times a year	
Fertilize azaleas	playground	Once a year in the fall	
Inspect & protect damaged azaleas	playground	Twice a month as needed	
Turn water on/off & remove spray heads	playground	Twice a year	Lynn Johnson
Drain water lines in fall / turn water on in spring	playground	Once a year	Lynn Johnson
Reset timers for lights	playground	Twice a year or as needed	Lynn Johnson
Report bulk trash in the alleys	playground	As needed	
Record trash, cans, and bins left in the alleys	neighborhood	Twice a week	Chuck Baxter
Talk to neighbors about trash violations, etc	neighborhood	As needed	Lynn Johnson
Replace missing bricks in sidewalks, tree boxes	neighborhood	As needed	
Spray sidewalks & alleys for weeds	neighborhood	Three times a year	
Fertilize trees	neighborhood	Once a year	Kerry & Misa Meyer
Clean trash out of 9th Street stairwells	neighborhood	Once a month as needed	
Report trash in vacant properties	neighborhood	As needed	
Draft WNA newsletter	neighborhood	Once a month (secretary's duties)	Secretary
Coordinate WNA newsletter distribution	neighborhood	Once a month (secretary's duties)	Secretary
Copy & distribute newsletter to North side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Dittrich
Copy & distribute newsletter to south side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Lucia/Jeff Seaver
Copy & distribute newsletter to S, 9th, 10th, Vermont	neighborhood	Once a month	Clare & Kevin Dailey
Copy & distribute newsletter to Westminster St.	neighborhood	Once a month	Kerry & Misa Meyer
Develop meeting agenda (invite guests, etc)	neighborhood	Ongoing each month (pres. duties)	Tania Shand
Notify police of monthly	neighborhood	Once a month	Lynn Johnson

meeting			
Draft agenda/notice of WNA meetings	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Baxter
Coordinate agenda/notice distribution	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Baxter
Draft/make copies of agenda/notice for distribution	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Baxter
Distribute agenda/notice to north side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Chuck Dittrich
Distribute agenda/notice to south side of T	neighborhood	Once a month	Lucia/Jeff Seaver
Distribute agenda/notice to S, 9th, 10th, Vermont	neighborhood	Once a month	Clare & Kevin Dailey
Distribute agenda/notice to Westminster St.	neighborhood	Once a month	Kerry & Misa Meyer
Send e-mail notice of meetings	neighborhood	Once a month	Lynn Johnson
Send WNA newsletter by e-mail	neighborhood	Once a month	Lynn Johnson
Maintain WNA e-mail list	neighborhood	Continuous	Lynn Johnson
Keep storm drains free of trash	neighborhood	Once a month as needed	
Coordinate street tree waterers	neighborhood	Spring through fall	
Report dead trees to City	neighborhood	As needed	
Get new trees	neighborhood	Spring & fall as needed	
Board up vacant houses	neighborhood	As needed	
Conduct monthly WNA meetings	neighborhood	Once a month (president's duties)	President
Organize spring cleanup with CSNA	neighborhood	Several meetings starting in Feb.	
Organize fall cleanup	neighborhood	Once a year	
Weed tree boxes that no one has adopted	neighborhood	Four times a year as needed	
Maintain financial records	neighborhood	Ongoing (treasurer's duties)	Treasurer
Attend PSA meetings	neighborhood	when scheduled	
Report on public safety issues	neighborhood	monthly	Ronnie McGee
Collect reports on crime from neighbors	neighborhood	ongoing	
Present neighborhood crime reports to police	neighborhood	monthly	