



August 2003 WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

❧ WNA July 22, 2003 Meeting Highlights ❧

❧ Guest Speaker ❧

Steve Callcott, Architectural Historian from the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) attended the July WNA meeting as the guest speaker. During his presentation, Steve explained what historic preservation is and what role his division plays in rehabilitating and renovating homes and buildings designated as historic property. HP works with property owners to maintain the facades of their buildings or homes in the original likeness it once had when the dwelling was built. This includes the replacement of windows, doors, fences and exterior façade of a building. However, this does not include foliage or paint/color of the building.

A future project of HP includes the installation of "Historic Preservation" signs around the city that identify neighborhoods as being in a historic area. HP also plans to conduct a direct mailing in the future to all residents and property owners notifying them that they reside in a historic area.

The Historic Preservation Division is part of the DC government's Office of Planning. The Division is dedicated to the historic

preservation of the District's architecture, scale and uniqueness of city buildings and dwellings that make the nation's capital a beautiful and desirable city to visit and live in.

To learn more about the Historic Preservation Division, call the District's Citywide Call Center at: (202) 727-1000 or visit them on the web at <http://planning.dc.gov/preservation/index2.shtml>. To contact Steve Callcott, please email him at steve.callcott@dc.gov.

❧ Public Safety ❧

Officer Barnes and Sgt. Wilkins from the Metropolitan Police Department attended the meeting to report on public safety issues in our neighborhood and to listen to neighbor concerns. Sgt. Wilkins reported that our area has experienced an increase in auto thefts and auto burglaries within the last several months. The thefts have occurred near 9th and U Streets. Most of the stolen autos are taxicabs. The auto burglaries have taken place near the 1000 block of T and Vermont Streets. The autos belonged to residents.

Two items of major concern that were brought to the officers' attention were last month's robbery, which took place near the Westminster Street playground and the recent drug activity taking place near the vicinity of the park. The robbery took place at approximately 8:30 p.m. on a weekday. The victim was approached by 3-4 teenagers who demanded money. The recent drug activity was reported by residents who witnessed adolescents, during late afternoon hours, smoking marijuana in the park. Officer Wilkins asked that neighbors report any suspicious activity to the police.

Also, a recent theft took place at the house near the alley of Westminster (905). The thieves broke into the house through the window in the alley, closest to Westminster (on the side facing the Playground). The thieves took a lot of workmen tools. The workmen feel it was someone outside the area who has knowledge of how to conduct this type of crime quickly.

Keeping our neighborhood safe is of utmost concern to all of us. Please keep a look out for our neighbors and any suspicious activity. Call 911 (for emergencies), 311 (for non-emergences) and (800) 673-2777 to contact the District's Crimesolvers Tip Hotline.

If you would like to volunteer to help residents monitor the Westminster Playground during evening hours, please contact Lynn by email at Lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com

🌀On-Going Matters🌀

* **Mason Parking Lot** – As you know from our past newsletters, WNA has been opposed to the Mason's continued use of their lot at Vermont and T as an accessory parking lot, especially since their zoning approval to do so expired over ten years ago.

This lot is zoned for residential use only and its use as a parking lot makes that part of our neighborhood look commercial when, in fact, it is surrounded by other residential houses.

WNA fought hard in that elongated zoning process over the last 1 ½ years, culminating in an administrative zoning hearing that took the better part of three days to just present the evidence on both sides. While WNA had pro bono counsel, over \$10,000 in legal time was spent fighting the Masons' request to continue using this lot as a parking lot. You will remember that two months ago the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) decided (5-0) to deny the Mason's their requested zoning exception. This decision was not a formal or final decision, but becomes final and effective when the Board has had time to draft and publish an written opinion. This can take several months and we have been waiting for this opinion's release.

Now a bit of disheartening news, to put it mildly. The Masons recently retained new counsel (Wayne Quinn from the law firm of Holland and Knight—a very experienced and respected lawyer in the zoning field). We have just heard that he has filed a formal withdrawal of the Mason application. While this may not seem either logical or possible, since the BZA has already publicly indicated that their application will be denied, it appears that such action is regrettably permitted by a quirk in the BZA Rules that govern these administrative proceedings. While we would like to cry “foul,” “unfair,” or “hitting below the belt,” we have to recognize that such action is legally permitted.

It's not clear what will be happening now. While the Masons are not lawfully permitted to use this lot as a parking lot at this time, since their prior authority expired a decade

ago, it will be up to each member of the community to make their complaints known if the Masons continue to allow parking on this lot. If so, they can be issued a Notice of Violation, which carries a \$500 fine. The DCRA, is the arm of our local government that enforces the zoning regulations.

The Masons have indicated that they now recognize that this site should be developed and used for something more in keeping with the surrounding community. However, at the same time, they have indicated that they will be refileing their application with the BZA to continue to use this lot as a parking lot.

WNA will hold an impromptu meeting this coming Sunday, August 17, to discuss our future course of action. Any neighbor interested in getting involved in this issue is welcome and encouraged to attend. It will be held at Lynn Johnson's house (our regular monthly meeting place) at 922 Westminster, at 2:00 p.m.

✧ **Historic Preservation Appeals** – As previously discussed in prior WNA newsletters, we had two owners in the WNA area that were appealing the Historic Preservation Review Board's (HPRB) requirement that they remove the vinyl windows they had recently installed. WNA, through its able representative, Lynn Johnson, prepared for and argued at these two hearings in support of the HPRB. As this issue of the Newspaper was just going to press, the Administrative Law Judge for DCRA issued its ruling in both cases. Both decisions denied the homeowners' request for an exception and they require the homeowners to change the windows to conform to the community standards. In its decisions, the ALJ spoke of the strong community support in our area for keeping, as well as maintaining, the architectural and historical detail in

our homes and other buildings. In large part, our success in keeping what we have is based on our prior success in saving what we had. Hopefully, this can build on itself and continue to make our community one of the more aesthetically and historically sensitive communities in our City.

✧ WNA Committees ✧

✧ **Playground & Dogs** - WNA asks that all dog owners who utilize the park as a means to exercise their pet, to please **leash their dog** when there are other people in the Playground. Many young children (for whom the park was built) have been afraid to play in the Playground when there are unleashed dogs. Letting your dog roam around without a leash is not only negligent, it is against the law. We are pleased that our Playground can be used to give your dog a place to exercise and play, but please be cognizant of any other neighbors who may be coming by the playground and hesitate to come in when they see your dog.

✧ **Playground & Filming** – WNA, in conjunction with our playground mural artist, Anne Marchand, signed a contract last month with an affiliate of BET programming to use the playground as a site in a music video. The filming has now been completed in our Playground and it will be used for marketing a music CD by the musician Yahzarah, titled "Wishing." In the process, the WNA Playground Fund picked up \$200 (as well as two lost umbrellas during the day of the filming. If you lost one, contact Lynn Johnson).

✧ **Playground Bulletin Board** – At our June 24th meeting, WNA voted to expend funds on a bulletin board to be placed in the Playground so that the neighbors could both post and read about local community events.

We're happy to report that this bulletin board has now been purchased and installed in the Playground. This bulletin board provides general information to the community. Please feel free to post any information that you think might be informative to all of us.

***Streetscape** Volunteers are needed to help with graffiti clean-up around the neighborhood. To volunteer, please contact Chuck Baxter (cbaxter67@aol.com.) CSNA has also obtained some graffiti remover. It is a gel and does an "okay" job of removing paint on natural brick and concrete. If you have a graffiti spot you would like to try and remove—whether your house or just a public eyesore—contact Chuck Baxter to get some of this gel. He was also able to get a cloth from DPW that works on smoother surfaces (stop signs, etc.) if that can be of use to you.

***Brick Repair** – Almost two decades ago, the City went to considerable expense to give us historic brick sidewalks. Due to funding and other problems, the City has not been able to maintain these sidewalks in the grandeur to which they were built. If you call for repair, the City will put in tar for any missing bricks. WNA has worked hard these last ten years to prevent this by repairing its own brick sidewalks. Because of this, we have what are likely the best looking brick sidewalks in the City.

We're happy to report that WNA was again able to make repairs to its sidewalks this month. Through individual contributions of a number of WNA members, we were able to get the sidewalk bricks repaired on both Westminster and T Streets. A heartfelt thanks to each one of you who contributed so generously to this project. It was truly a "stitch in time saves nine" project and all of WNA benefits from this effort.

While S Street technically has a concrete sidewalk, it does have bricks in the boulevard space. Due to its significant deterioration and lack of funding, we were not able to repair this street. It is hoped that an S Street neighbor will take on the task of getting the City to remove the tar that has been installed and replace it with bricks. If you have time to do this, please coordinate with Lynn Johnson (Lynn@Johnsonandpavuk.com. Tele. 232-7751).

~ 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 Association 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 Fautroy	Philip Fornaci & Michael Geller	Tarik A. Gause
Paul Hardy	Chris Harris	Holdback &

& Patty Anderson	& Becky Zimmerman	Kennickal
Loretta Johnson	Lynn Johnson	M. William & Sharon Jordan
Deborah Kobes	David & Michelle Laird	Tim & Patsy Mack
Anne Marchand	Amoy McGhee	Judy McLaughlin
Bernard Mercer	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.

Gator watering bags for your trees are also available from WNA. A donation of \$15 is appreciated. Please contact Lynn at Lynn@johnsonandpavuk.com if you would like a bag.

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 Ballestero 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 there will not be an August WNA Meeting. **The next WNA Monthly Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Westminster Neighborhood Playground, located between 9th & 10th Streets and between S & 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!

complete copy of July's WNA Meeting Minutes, monthly Treasurer's Report, or to announce a community event in the upcoming October WNA Newsletter.

☞ Please contact Nicole at nrene156@aol.com if you would like a

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 & 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 meeting	neighborhood	Once a month	Lynn Johnson
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 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

