



November 2003 WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

Vol. 8, Issue 9

WNA OCTOBER 28, 2003 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

~ Welcome Message From the (New) President ~

By Lynn Johnson

In case you missed the October monthly meeting, I was voted in as your new president. No one opposed my nomination, so I would like to take that to mean we are a neighborhood with minimal strife and contention. Our past president, Tim Mack, has done a yeoman's job this past year managing our organization and completing all the tasks that were outstanding at the beginning of his tenure. Please thank him personally when you see him as he is the type that has gives without grandstanding.

So this is my *State of the Neighborhood Address*. I'll try to keep it brief.

Monthly Meeting Attendance is Encouraged and Will be Kept to One Hour or Less

Now that's a tall order. But I realize that you all have lives outside the neighborhood. Because we hold our meetings in the geographic center of

WNA, it takes any of you only a few minutes to get to the meeting place (& you know there is no dress code). If we hold it to an hour or less, it will not take your whole evening. This means we cannot have extended argument on issues, but I ask each of you to limit your comments to concise, factual presentations. Let's save this time for the many physical improvements that are still needed in our community.

Ask Not What Your Neighborhood Association Can Do For You . . .

You know the rest. We need your help. A neighborhood association is not like a city agency or our school district that, combined, take in a couple of thousand dollars in property taxes from you each year and provide services in return. WNA is totally non-profit. Our officers receive no remuneration. They hold these positions simply to help their community. We need your member support to carry out the various tasks we identify or it just doesn't get done.

In spite of this, WNA has accomplished so much in our eight year existence. For those of you who

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Treasurer: Margie Perko – (home)202/332-7594; email: largemargery@aol.com

Playground Coordinator - Chuck Baxter – (home)202/232-7751; (work)202/273-7140; email: cbaxter67@aol.com

WNA Website Administrator - Deborah Kobes – (home)202/345-8982; (work)202/261-5500 email : deborah@our-dc.com

were here back then, you need not be reminded of our efforts: The too numerous houses owned by the City but protected and cared for by us, the lack of not only trees on our street, but tree spaces in which to plant them (the City had bricked over all the spaces), the Playground that was used by only our local drug business. Back then the City was not working and we used our "we'll do it ourselves if you don't" attitude. Many a regulation was not followed, but it was not a time for following convention.

This City has come a long way since then. It has now established what is called the "Nelson System." If you need a City task performed, you can call 727-1000. Your request goes into a database that is not only not lost, but has established timetables for execution. You are given a confirmation number so you can follow up. Today, WNA has established a working relationship with the City and gets many of the tasks we used to complete now done by city workers. I encourage all of you to use the 727-1000 number for your public city repairs. It is working.

But we have much work left for us to do, this year, and the next, and the next.... We need neighborhood support to continue our efforts. Every hour (and dollar) contributed to your neighborhood association will come back to you in the form of increased resale value for your home. You plan to stay here long-term? Great. Then, your quality of life will be better, as evidenced by a simple walk through our clean, well-landscaped community.

I want to ask you to do three most important things this coming year to help your neighborhood and, in so doing, help yourself.

1) *Contribute one hour per month to improving your community.* Call the City for some repair that you have noticed. Pick up the trash in the streets or alleys. Offer to take on one of the many tasks on the WNA Public Task List (see prior Newsletters) or by calling me directly (202/371-

0962). It is only by each of us doing more than our share that we will make a difference in our community. United we stand - - - .

2) *Manage you own individual trash.* Make a new habit of tightly containing everything you are throwing away on trash day. When you take your trash out on Sunday and Wednesday nights, make sure it is put in trash cans, that the bags are tied shut, and the trash can isn't so full that the lid won't close down (if you need another trash can, call 727-1000). It's the loose stuff that blows into other peoples' yards. And please, keep those trash cans out of sight the rest of the week . Let's be proud of both our streets and our alleys.

3) *Pay your dues timely.* It is only when you pay your dues that we can call you a member of WNA. Life is political. The more members we have, the more political clout we have with the City. We have made the annual dues extremely reasonable so as not to leave anyone out financially. You can find out how to pay them later in this Newsletter. Remember, they are due on a calendar year basis. The sooner we can get your dues, the sooner we can claim you as a member.

YOU are what makes the Westminster Neighborhood Association work and as more and more of you become involved, our association can only grow stronger. Whatever your talent, we NEED it and we need you. Volunteer and make a difference, not only for us but for yourself. Ultimately, our worth comes from what we do for others. I am your president for the next 12 months and I am dependent on your volunteer efforts.

☞ 2003 WNA Holiday Party ☞

WNA will again throw a gala Holiday Party for all the neighbors. The scheduled date of the party is Saturday, Dec. 13th. *We are taking offers on houses to host the party.* In prior years, many of the neighbors have taken this opportunity to

showcase their house, while other neighbors have taken this opportunity to be host to the community they love. Let us know ASAP if you are willing to offer your house to host the 2003 WNA Holiday Party. WNA will provide the food, refreshments, etc. We will provide a caterer to organize all the donated food and clean-up, as well as providing a babysitter for the youngsters (and adults ?) who need one.

Please contact Lynn Johnson if you can host this year's holiday party.

**~ The Eastenders
Neighborhood Association ~**

The Eastenders, a group that focuses its civic activities on the east end of U Street, met for the first time this past August. The group's boundaries, though not firmly stated, include Vermont Ave., 10th St., and 9 ½ Street. The group generally meets on the 3rd or 4th Sunday at 7:00 p.m., depending on scheduling, at 1813 Vermont Ave. Since its inception, the Eastenders have worked with local officials, including Councilman Graham and the Corrections and Fire Departments, to address parking and Grimke Building maintenance issues; organized, along with the African Civil War Memorial Director, fun activities and entertainment on 10th Street during the Dog Days of August festivities; and joined WNA in its Fall clean up. Issues to be addressed include lighting along the rear of the homes on Vermont Ave. between S and T St., rat and trash containment, the planting of trees and flowers along Vermont Ave., and infrastructure concerns behind the Grimke Building and 9 1/2 St.

For more information on the Eastenders Neighborhood Association, please email Matt Ruest at bbruest@aol.com.

~ 2004WNA Elections ~

The 2004 WNA Officer Elections occurred during the October meeting. The following WNA members were elected into office: Lynn Johnson, President; Margery Perko, Treasurer, and Nicole Pascua, Secretary. *WNA is still looking for a 2004 Vice President.* The vice-president job description is as follows:

- Attend monthly WNA meetings
- Facilitate monthly WNA meetings in the absence of the president
- Participate in WNA activities
- Represent the president in his/her absence at planned WNA events
- Participate in "pre-planning" sessions with the Executive Board as appropriate
- Edit the newsletter each month prior to the Secretary sending it to be printed
- Help out/volunteer when you can..

If you are interested in nominating someone for WNA vice-president or if you are interested in holding this office, please contact Lynn Johnson Nicole Pascua. The 2004 officers have the support and resources of past officers. Please consider the possibilities—it's a great way to be involved and to get to know your community. Only current paid-up WNA members can become an officer. If you would like to become a WNA member, please drop your \$15.00 membership dues in the mailbox at 924 Westminster St., Attn: Margie Perko, WNA Treasurer.

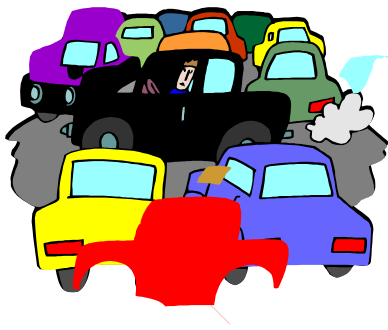
~Public Safety ~

Officer Barnes from the Metropolitan Police Department attended the October meeting to apprise attendees of public safety issues in our area. There has been a rash of home thefts occurring in our area during the day. Thieves have not only broken into homes, but into garages and sheds as well. On several occasions, workmen's tools and other large items were taken from the homes. It was discussed at the meeting that the

robbers may be targeting homes and watching to see when the owners are away.

A recent mugging took place on the corner of 10th and Westminster Streets was discussed at the October meeting. The victim was walking outside at 10:15 pm when she was approached by two individuals with knives.

Important phone numbers to keep in mind: 911 (emergencies), 311 (non-emergencies) and 800-673-2777 (crime solvers tip hotline).



~Mason Parking lot ~

The Masons have reapplied with the Office of Zoning for an exception to the zoning regulations to use their lot, located on the corner of Vermont and T, as a parking lot. Despite the fact that the Masons have historically used this lot for parking, it is zoned for a residential dwelling.

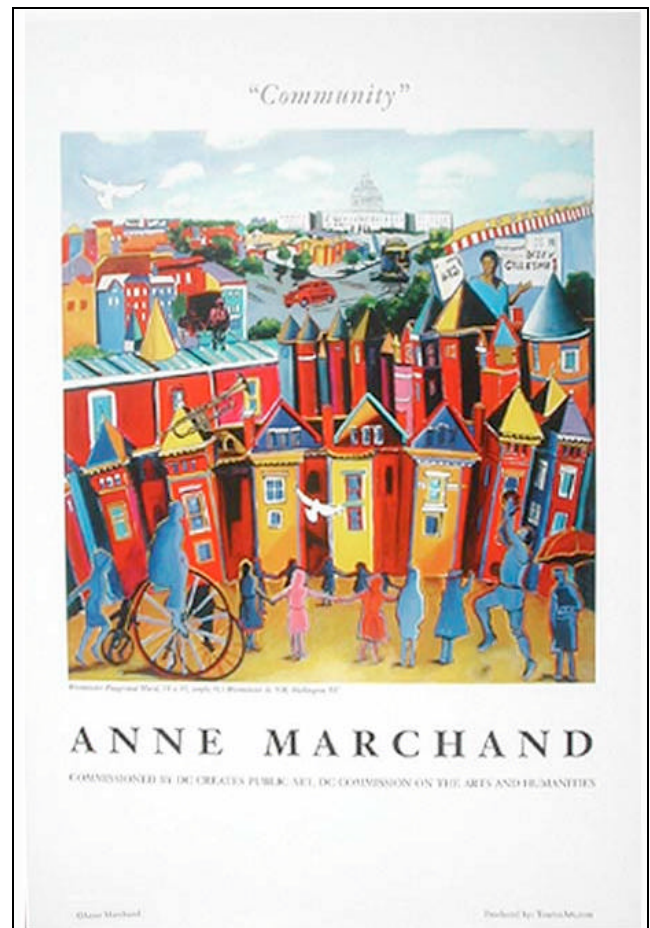
They have hired another attorney, no less than Wayne Quinn from Holland and Knight, to see if they can win this time. As you remember three months ago, their application was orally denied by the Zoning Board (then they withdrew the application before a decision could be written).

The WNA members have again voted to oppose this application. Since the law firm of Johnson & Pavuk represented WNA last time, pro bono, WNA asked them if they would do it again—on the same terms. [Note: the Johnson in Johnson & Pavuk is the same Johnson that is currently

president of WNA.] They have agreed to represent us but caution us that zoning law is not their field of practice. They have also indicated that the majority of the preparation (research, studies, preparing witnesses, etc.) will need to be done by the WNA members. We have had a few members already agree to work with J&P. If you have any experience in legal or administrative proceedings and could volunteer some time, contact Lynn Johnson for this most significant project again facing WNA.

~WNA Committees ~

* **Playground** - Poster copies of our famous WNA Playground Mural “Community” are on sale for \$15. All proceeds go toward the WNA Playground Fund. If you would like this awesome poster for your home or for a Christmas gift, contact Chuck Baxter.



* **Streetscape – Fall Cleanup** – And cleanup we did! This was held October 18 when many of you came out in mass to do your magic to neighborhood. This was WNA’s 16th semi-annual cleanup and you’d think we’d have most of the trash out of our area by now. Now way. While DPW told us that they did not have a roving trash truck for us this year and that we likely would not be able to find a roll-off dumpster, we defied the odds once again. Two days before our cleanup, the WNA committee was able to get Urban Services, Inc. to donate a 30 foot dumpster for our use. That dumpster came at 10:00 a.m. It was full by 11:30.

And neighbors helped neighbors. People roved the streets offering to help their neighbors carry their bulk items to the dumpster. Another small band of neighbors tackled a trash site in the common walkway area behind T Street and bordering the Grimke building. The site had not only trash that had accumulated for over ten years, but fallen trees and limbs. So neighbor Jeffrey Willis, a local gardener and landscaper, brought his chain saw over there and made short work of a decade-old eyesore.

On behalf of all of us who live in the WNA community, thanks to each of you who participated in this volunteer public service. It takes a village---

* **Streetscape – Flowers** - WNA distributed over 1,00 perennial flower bulbs this month to our neighbors. Many of them were planted in our tree boxes, so look for these beauties to come up this spring. While we had hoped to get even more bulbs, we have just learned that the well is dry. For those of you that didn’t get any, watch places like Costco for great sales during this time of year.

* **Streetscape - Attention all Tree Stewards!** Please remember this is the time of year we need to prepare our trees and tree boxes for the winter. Please pull out weeds and grass from the tree

boxes as they take nourishment from your trees. Also, please add mulch to your boxes. (There’s still a little mulch left in the rear yard of 1808 9th Street for WNA use). Place the mulch 2-3 inches deep around the tree, making sure the mulch doesn't touch the bark (in case there are “germs” on them). A 6 inch buffer is best!

You no longer need to water your tree when the leaves have fallen off. Looks like we’re about there for this year. *Also, remember to bring your tree “gator bag” inside at this time so the water does not freeze and break your helpful tool.*

Please call our friends at D.C. Greenworks with any questions. You can reach Greenworks by contacting Bethie Miller, Community Outreach Organizer, by phone at: 202-518-6195 or by email at: bethie@dcgreenworks.org. Website info: www.dcgreenworks.org.



* **Refuse (Regular Trash Pickup)** - The WNA Refuse Committee reported on the number of homes that leave trash or trashcans in our neighborhood alleys the day after trash pick-up (you’re supposed to take them in on the evening of the trash pickup day). WNA has tried to increase resident awareness of the problems that exist when empty trashcans or debris are left in the alleys. Keeping the alleys free of debris and trashcans help to provide easier and safer access to our homes for cars and city vehicles. In addition, it helps to prevent vermin infestations and

makes the neighborhood and homes look cleaner and more appealing.

Regular trash pick-up for our area occurs on Monday and Thursday (assuming no holiday during the week). The recycling bins are picked up every Thursday. Please set your trashcans or recycling bins out the night before pick-up day, and remember to bring your trashcans into your yard the day they have been emptied.

To schedule bulk trash pick-up (old mattresses, large items, chairs, etc.) please contact the DC Citywide Call Center at 202-727-1000, then 1, then 1, then 0 (max 5 items).

WNA has some free trashcans, trashcan lids, and recycling bins for those of you who have lost yours during the year. If you want one, contact Lynn Johnson to schedule a time to pick it up. You can also contact the DC Citywide Call Center to have trashcans or recycling bins delivered to your house (202-727-1000).

* **New Neighbor Committee** - We're proud to let you know that the WNA New Neighbor Committee has developed a customized artfully decorative welcome watering can for newly arriving neighbors to the WNA community. The watering can includes pamphlets providing pertinent information on city and local businesses, as well as the history and accomplishments of WNA and the surrounding communities. The information is intended to help individuals acclimate into the neighborhood.

🌀 Neighbor of the Month 🌀

Our neighbor of the month award is dedicated to *pickup trucks*, and therefore must go to Jeffrey Willis on Vermont Ave. and Polly and Lisa on T Street. During our fall clean-up (discussed above) we were desperately in need of a way to carry all the bulk trash to our donated dumpster.

Now if you know any pickup truck owners, you recognize how most of them don't like to get their trucks dirty. They might use them to haul something new and in a box, but trash? Please. That didn't stop Jeff, however. He brought his truck out early in the morning and didn't stop hauling until we were done with not only the bulk trash, but all the tree debris from the passageway next to the Grimke building.

When the dumpster got full, the WNA members working on the debris by the Grimke building did not want to stop. We needed a pickup that we could load up our last debris in and have it taken to the Ft. Totten dump. Jeffrey's pickup did not have DC tags (a requirement for dumping at Ft. Totten), so Polly and Lisa came to our rescue. Now Polly and Lisa's pickup is one sleek looking hunk of metal and wheels. Without hesitation, they let us fill it up with all that decayed wood and dirty bags of trash. We may no longer have the nicest looking pickup trucks in our community, but we surely have one of the nicest looking neighborhoods.

🌀 Local Hidden Treasure 🌀

Periodically we like to showcase and support the local businesses in our community. This month it is **Kuna Restaurant** at 1324 U Street. The owner, Mark Giuricich, opened his restaurant a few years ago when U Street had not yet been discovered. It's the kind of place you will want to go when you want a comfortable and casual night out. It's laid-back soft brown interior adds to the mellow atmosphere and although it has two floors, it is cozy and home-like.

The wine list is impressive and will satisfy the most persnickety connoisseur. And if you don't know your wines so well, Mark has a number of them open on the counter when you enter so that you may sample them. No Gallo brands here. The appetizers, such as the grilled asparagus with lashings of cheese and spicy chickpeas, will make the night especially memorable. Kuna spe-

cializes in "Italian farmhouse cooking" and you will not leave this place wanting. Check it out, it's a short walk from home.

☞ **WNA Membership** ☞

※ **2003 WNA Membership** Time is running out to pay your 2003 WNA dues. If you haven't paid your 2003 dues yet, there's still time. *You can also pay your 2004 dues now if you wish. Please indicate "2004 dues" on your check.*

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
Marissa Colburn & Michael Sketete	Bill & Deborah Crews	Leonard Crumm & Moses Lofton
Kevin Dailey & Claire Donelan	Charles Ditrlich	Reid Dunavant
Charles & Doris Edwards	Lisa & Mike Fauntroy	Philip Fornaci & Michael Geller
Tarik A. Gause	Nilmini & Joel Gunaratne	Paul Hardy & Patty Anderson
Chris Harris & Becky Zimmerman	Loretta Johnson	Lynn Johnson
M. William & Sharon Jordan	Holdback & Kennickal	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, Sarah Ousley & Stillman Bruhier
Nicole Pascua	Caleb Patten & Leah Beltz	Jay Pearson & John Castellani
Margie Perko	Justin & Yamaona Pierce	Juan de la Vega Puente
John Roegner & Simon Bell	Matthew Rust & Chad Koratich	Delores Satterfield
Geoff & Lucia Seaver	Hagos Seyoum	Tania Shand
Phil Spaulding & Lynn Coffin	Tim Shannon & Paige Van Wirt	Richard Smith
Denise & Brown Wilson		

☞ **Oct. 2003 Financial Report** ☞

WNA Fund (dues-supported)	\$2275.19
<u>Playground Fund</u>	<u>\$2349.17</u>
Total	\$4624.36

☞ **Announcements** ☞

The next Cardozo Shaw Neighborhood Association (CSNA) meeting will take place on Thursday, November 17, 2003, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the True Reformer Building at 1200 U Street, NW. For more information, please contact CSNAbiz@hotmail.com or 202-588-5808.

Remember that WNA is now providing this Newsletter, photos, and other information at its web page on www.our-dc.com. WNA member Deborah Kobes is maintaining this for us. Just click on "Neighborhoods" and look for WNA. If you would like to add anything to the Website, please contact Deborah by email at: deborah@our-dc.com. If you want to contribute to this Newsletter, contact the WNA secretary, Nicole Pascua.

~Next WNA Meeting ~

☞ The next WNA Monthly Meeting will NOT be at our regular meeting place. Rather, it will be graciously hosted by Mike and Lisa Fauntroy. They live at 928 Westminster Street, which is only 3 doors to the west of our regular meeting place, so we are sure you can all navigate that. If the outside restoration of their home is any indication of the inside, we think you may be in for a pleasant circa 1895 surprise. As usual, our meeting will be on the 4th Tuesday of November, which makes it *November 25, at 7:00 p.m.* Mark your calendar now.

☞ Please contact Nicole Pascua if you would like a complete copy of this month's Meeting Minutes, to announce a community event in the upcoming December WNA Newsletter, or to contribute an article.

WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

