



✿ President's Message ✿

By Lynn Johnson

Fall Clean-Up

When it comes to getting things done, we need fewer architects and more bricklayers.

For all of you that were out there for our Fall Clean-up on Saturday, October 29, I must commend your dedication and work ethic. Due to the numbers of you that showed up, we were able to complete nearly every task on our fall wish list. We were assisted by a number of volunteers who came from the Ethiopian community to work with us. Most of them live, work, or have businesses in the 1900 block of 9th Street. Inspired by us, they also cleaned up their block. Collectively, we all:

- Repaired one wood tree box and built a new one on the east end of T Street;
- Cleaned all treeboxes on Westminster of debris and pulled out grass & weeds;
- Cleaned all streets, alleys, vacant yards (& some non-vacant yards) of all visible trash;
- Assisted all members in taking large items to the dumpster which we were

October 2005 Meeting

WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

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- able to have delivered to 10th & Westminster (compliments of BFI/Allied);
- Secured a vacant house at 1822 9th St. by putting plywood back on the windows and securing the rear door;
- Sprayed for weeds in the sidewalks & alleys;
- Swept the Playground;
- Removed all the plastic tree covers from the new trees that have been planted during the last two years;
- Removed graffiti from all utility boxes and street signs;
- Painted over graffiti on the painted walls.

This was all accomplished with two dozen doughnuts, some fruit, and a gallon of coffee. I don't think there's a neighborhood that looks quite as clean and in as good repair as ours. I, for one, am so proud to live here.

I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.

Frank Lloyd Wright

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Vice President: Nilmini Rubin (work) 202-.224.0275; (home) 202-462-7274; email: nilmini@alumni.haas.org

Treasurer & Playground Coordinator: Chuck Baxter (home) 202-232-7751; (work) 202-273-7140; email: cbaxter@aol.com

Secretary: Vacant

WNA Website: Deborah Kobes email: Deborah@our-dc.com

~ WNA Officers Selected ~

WNA voted in its officers for the coming one-year term, starting this month. They are:

President - Lynn Johnson
Vice President - Nilmini Rubin
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Chuck Baxter

These officers serve at your pleasure and need all the support you can give them. Attend the meetings, make suggestions, join a committee and get involved with those who live around you.



~ Police Involvement ~

As you old-timers know, we used to have the police come to our meetings to let us know what was happening in our particular area. We will be starting this again. We are in PSA 305 and they have been very helpful in giving our particular area attention when we need it. They continue to help us monitor our Playground on a daily basis. Tania Shand will be our contact person to get a PSA police officer to our meetings.

If you would like to attend the PSA's monthly meeting for our area, it is held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Housing Finance Agency building, 815 Florida Ave., NW.

~ Trees & Treeboxes ~

Our collective watering duties for our sidewalk trees are about over. This would be a good time to take your 'gator bag' off your tree and store it for the winter so that it doesn't get caught in a freeze and ruin your bag. We will also be turning the water off in the Playground this week. Thanks to all of you designated members who have been watering your tree and keeping it alive on one of the driest of Washington's summers.

Be on the lookout for the City to come in the next month or two to remove our dead trees. We are on their list. After their removal, they should be replacing it with a new tree before Christmas so that we will have another glorious streetscape by this Spring.



~ Liquor Licenses ~

Concern was raised at the WNA meeting about the heavy concentration of liquor licenses that have been granted—and continue to be granted—in the 1900 block of 9th Street. Currently there are over 16 liquor licenses issued for this one block strip. This is one of the highest concentrations of liquor licenses in the entire city.

There are now pending two more liquor license requests—1920 and 1926 9th Street. WNA went on record this month as opposing any more liquor licenses for this area. WNA member Todd Anderson has been researching this for us. If we want to formally protest the issuance, we must file for party status by November 28. We will decide at our next monthly

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meeting whether we want to take on this project.

🌿 Ethiopian Designation 🌿



There was discussion at our meeting about all the local and national press articles discussing the City's plans to consider designat-

ing the 1900 block of 9th Street as "Little Ethiopia" or some similar name. Most members did not favor such a designation, given the short time frame, historically speaking, that most Ethiopian businesses have been there as well as the problems that have been occurring in our area from the proliferation of restaurants and liquor licenses on this block. These problems have ranged from trash issues, to parking, and to noise.

It was felt that WNA needed to go on record, in part, from our Councilmember, Jim Grahams' recent comment that:

As I have said from the start, while I consider this to be a good idea, I will not support it unless there is community endorsement. That does not appear to be occurring, thus

[note: mid-sentence ending in actual quote.]

Accordingly, the WNA members went on record as opposing any designation of this area as "Little Ethiopia" or any similar designation.

[Postscript: While the local and national press articles indicated that legislation was pending for such a designation, Councilmember Jim Graham reports that no such legislation has been proposed.]



🌿 Triangle Park Improvement 🌿

The Triangle Park Committee has been working on the development plans for the landscape of the two triangle parks at the corner of 10th, T and Vermont. They are planning and submitting an application for most of the funding from TKF, which requires a "meditative" theme. We think our committee is up to the task and look forward to further developments. If you want to add your input and efforts. Contact Nilmini Rubin at nilmini@alumni.haas.org.

🌿 Public Trash Cans 🌿

We reported last month that public trash cans—the ones you see on the sidewalks—are only for trash that a passerby needs to get rid of (soda can s/he was drinking, etc.). It is not for use for someone's household trash. We also reported that there is a fine if you are caught dumping your household trash in these cans.

We are pleased to report that whatever neighbor(s) were using the trashcan at 10th & T for their private trash now understands the purpose of these public trash cans and has ceased putting private trash in them. Frankly, we're elated. That corner of the block looks so much better this month.

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Private Trash Cans

Okay, so the City has given us new trash and recyclable cans—with wheels. Whether we like them or not, they are easier to store in your back yard and easier to put out and take in. Surprisingly, however, we have had an *increase* in the number of neighbors who leave their cans in the alley after they have been emptied. For those of us who use the alley, it has become an obstacle course to maneuver around them to get to the street—to say nothing of the aesthetic displeasure to the rear view of our houses. In addition, they seriously mess up the guy on the alley cleaning machine. He has no choice but to make a wide swath around each trashcan, resulting in that part of the alley not getting swept.

We'd like to think there is some confusion out there about when trash and recycle cans can be put out in the alley and when they must come back into your yards. We have distributed this information to our residents so often that you should all have it memorized by now:

- * They are put out after 7 pm the day before the trash trucks come (*i.e.*, Sun. nite and Wed. nite).
- * They must be taken in by 7 pm on the day they are emptied.
- * If trash day falls on a holiday, push the above schedule back one day, *i.e.*, put them out on the holiday night and take them in the next night.

Please keep in mind that any trashcans put out too early and/or not taken in within 24 hours of being emptied may be reported to the city's Command Center for issuance of a citation (\$75 for 1st violation, \$150 for 2nd violation).



Next WNA Meeting

WNA will hold our next monthly meeting on Nov. 22nd (remember, the 4th Tuesday of every month) at 7:00 p.m. Michael & Lisa Fauntroy have graciously offered the use of the home for this meeting, so it will be held at 928 Westminister Street. Mark you calendars now.



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