



## January 2006 Meeting

### WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

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### Vol. 11, Issue 1

#### 🌿 President's Message 🌿

*By Lynn Johnson*

#### Community Involvement

What would our community be without all you great neighbors volunteering your time for the benefit of all of us? We would have no Playground, no street trees, no clean alleys, no graffiti-free buildings, no holiday and other events that bring us together. In short, we would be one of the countless communities that most of us were either raised in or came here from in the hopes of finding other people who care about where they live and show it.

So what better time than our first Newsletter of the year to take a minute to thank the countless neighbors who toil for us without mention all year long. We're talking about Kevin and Claire Daly who take the trash from our playground each week, about Patricia Crisman (& Dakota) who open our Playground each morning for us and Chuck Baxter who makes sure it is locked each night.

We're talking about Tania Shand who gave her house to us for our Holiday Party, Lisa

Williams-Fauntroy who managed the food process, Susan Ousley who handled the tree lighting, and Joe Carmack who donated the great holiday tree.

We're talking about Chuck Baxter who files our annual corporate returns, James Rawlings who has repaired our tree boxes and other unsung construction matters that needed attention during the year, Juan Puente who sprayed our area for weeds, and Todd Anderson who is representing us in two liquor board hearings.

And we're taking about the many chair persons and members that have headed the WNA committees to get our trees replaced, sidewalks repaired, gas lines improved, and historic preservation infractions enforced.

When you put this in context—that the entire universe of WNA consists of 165 households—this is an impressive, if not awesome, display of community support coming from *within* our community.

#### WNA Contacts:

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Secretary: Vacant

WNA Website: Deborah Kobes email: [Deborah@our-dc.com](mailto:Deborah@our-dc.com)

There have been so many other particular tasks that many of you have done that go unmentioned and which are of great benefit to all of us. Most home dwellers are not aware of the significant amount of work that needs to be done—and which is NOT the responsibility of their local government—to keep a community looking good. Our collective thanks to all of you, and our collective hope that more of us will recognize the need for each of us who live in a community of homes to carry our weight for the benefit of all.

*Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually.*

HH the Dalai Lama - 1989



### **☞ Protest of Two Liquor Licenses ☞**

Due to the heavy concentration of liquor licenses that have been granted in the 1900 block of 9th Street, WNA has become involved in any new license applications. There are two currently pending. WNA member Todd Anderson is working on these. Roll Call hearings took place in December and Todd got WNA formally admitted as a protesting party.

The applicants are now charged with bringing the protesting parties to the table to discuss possible language and/or negotiations, but have not done so to date. If the applicants continue this behavior, it will be held against them by the liquor board.

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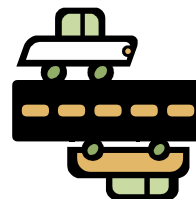
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### **Tree Replacement**

You may have noticed that our street trees that had died during the last year have now been removed, thanks to WNA members John Roegner and Simon Bell. They will now be moving on to the task of getting replacement trees. Stay tuned.



### **☞ Curb Cut on 1829 Vermont Denied ☞**

As you remember from our prior Newsletters, the owners of 1829 Vermont Ave. had made a request to the City for a curb cut on 10<sup>th</sup> Street so that they could park their car in their yard, which is open to and faces 10<sup>th</sup> Street. There was some concern expressed about the car being visible from the street as well as losing a public parking spot on the street due to the curb cut. The countervailing argument was that homeowners need a place to park their car now that we've become a 'hot spot' in the city, especially on weekends. The owners had proposed installing a 6 foot fence to help hide the car, but had not yet determined what type of fence this would be. WNA tabled the matter and encouraged the owners to come back and present more definite design plans and information about the type of fence and gate they intended to install.

We have now learned that the Historic Preservation Office has denied their request. While there is no written opinion, it appears the decision was made, in part, because the car would be visible from a public street. While a 6 foot fence may have helped to rectify that prob-

lem, only 3 foot fences are permitted in yards that face a street.

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**Doggie Bags**

Many thanks to those of you that are filling our doggie bag container in the Playground with the plastic bags that cover the Wash. Post newspapers. We have had an (almost) continuous supply for our neighbors to use. If you also get the Wash. Post delivered, consider putting some of your bags in this container periodically. What a great way to recycle them.



**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. They have now changed their procedures so that lieutenants no longer attend community meetings, but will send a patrol officer. However, we have not been able to even get a patrol officer to attend our meetings. Our ANC commissioner, Phil Spalding, offered to raise this issue at the next PSA meeting to find out why they are not following the new procedures.

For general knowledge of what is happening in all of PSA 305, you can attend the PSA 305 meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at the Housing Finance Building at 7:00 p.m., at 815 Florida Ave., NW. The meeting to be held Feb. 7 will be primarily about the 1900 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The folks on 9 1/2 Street are preparing to raise some collective issues and

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you might want to contact them if you have some input.

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**Mason Parking Lot**

The Mason's are now in breach of their agreement as to the agreed timetable for building residences on their parking lot. WNA will be following up on seeking appropriate measures to get them into compliance.

**WNA Treasurer's Report**

**Financial Statement for Dec. '05 & Jan. '06**

Balance as of Dec. 1, 2005		\$6,479.00
Receipts:		
Dues	45.00	
Donation	35.00	
Poster Sale	15.00	95.00
Disbursements:		
DC Filing Fee	75.00	
Party Expense	60.00	-135.00
<b>Bal. as of Feb. 1, 2006</b>		<b>\$6,439.00</b>

**Balance Sheet**

<b>Total</b>	\$6,439.00
Less Playground Fund	<u>-2,567.29</u>
<b>Total in General Fund</b>	<b><u>\$3,871.71</u></b>

**2005 WNA Membership Dues**

Remember that your membership dues are payable on the first day of the calendar year. If you haven't paid your 2006 WNA dues, please do so now so we can record you as a member for this year. The list below shows the paid-up members. Make out your check, payable to "WNA" in the amount of \$15 per household (\$5 per senior citizen household). Dues are tax deductible as a charitable contribution so it's a win-win for all of us. You may mail or drop your check in Chuck's mailbox: 914 Westminster Street.

### 2006 WNA Current Paid Members

Baxter, Chuck  
Bell, Simon / Roegner, John  
Blackwell, Emmanuel  
Hightower, Betty  
Lewis, William & Michelle  
Meyer, Kerry & Misa  
Seaver, Geoff & Lucia  
Woors, Alisha  
Woods, Yvette



#### ~Next WNA Meeting~

WNA will hold our next regular monthly meeting on Feb. 28 (remember, the 4th Tuesday of every month) at 7:00 p.m. at 922 Westminster St., NW (basement).

#### ~Future Projects~

*Playground Watering* – Speaking of volunteers, we need to get a number of volunteers in place for this Spring/Summer/Fall to water the Playground. This includes the raised vast space between all the trees on the north and east sides as well as the lawn in the northeast corner and the plot of liriopes on the north side. Generally, this will take one or two persons about 6-8 hours on a Saturday or Sunday, as needed.

Speaking of which, isn't it time that we looked into getting a bare-bones sprinkler installed so that we don't have to keep fighting with those hoses? For those of you with any knowledge in this area, consider coming to our

next monthly meeting where we will try and get this project started.

*Lawn Walls* – For want of a better name, these are the short brick walls that most of us have next to the sidewalk and they hold in the dirt for our front yards. They are often topped with a light-colored pillar made of concrete. These walls constitute a prominent part of our streetscape and can add to the ambience of our urban homes.

Now, have you looked at your lawn wall lately? While they seldom take much work, they are likely over 100 years old and some are in need of repair. Just as importantly, dirt often washes over the edges of the walls during a rain and they consequently need periodic cleaning. When I tried cleaning mine recently, I discovered that due to my lack of periodic cleaning, it took a power washer to get some of that dirt off the bricks and pillar cover.

So why do we all have to invent the wheel on this task? Maybe we could hire someone to clean all our walls—if we're lucky maybe we can find someone good to also do minor repairs. This will be discussed at our next WNA meeting and maybe we can set up committees—one for each block—to help tackle this.



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