



### 🌿 President's Message 🌿

By Lynn Johnson

#### **Fruition Finally Approaches**

In early 1970's, when many folks were fleeing this community and vacant houses abounded, the Masons stayed. They had been here for decades. They were part of this community and they were not going to desert just because times were tough. Due to the decline in population, they had a vacant lot that had no real value. So they asked the Zoning Board for permission to start parking on this residential lot at the corner of Vermont, 10<sup>th</sup>, & T Streets. And why not? There wasn't anything else to do with it. At that time, any type of use of was better than none. Who could argue that such parking would be an eyesore—it was an eyesore as a vacant site and there were plenty of other eyesores around it. In many ways back then, using it as a parking lot was its highest and best use.

Some 30 years later, times changed and such use no longer fit the character of the neighborhood. Houses were being reclaimed and rehabilitated. In 1998 historic preservation was voted in. A parking lot visible from the streets in a residential area no longer fit.

## February 2006 Meeting

### WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

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### Vol. 11, Issue 2

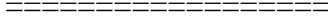
But change does not come easy for any of us. Its very recognition is an amorphous quality that touches all of us at different times. So in May 2002 the Masons asked that their parking permit to be extended. WNA believed that time was over and formally contested their petition with the Zoning Board. As some of you know, it was a tough legal fight that lasted two years. In the end, the Masons acknowledged that change, indeed, had occurred in our community and we ended up reaching an agreement where the Masons would not only cease parking on that lot, but would develop that lot into residential use.

As you'll read later in this Newsletter, the Masons are moving rapidly to now transform this lot into housing. Interestingly—and surprisingly not so uncommon—those who duel hard and honorably often recognize the merits of the other side and gain a respect for the opposing party. This has happened in this case. In this long process WNA has come to understand the Mason's position much better than before this dispute started. While we may call this a win, we hope that it is a win/win for both sides.

*The price of the democratic way of life is a growing appreciation of people's differences, not merely as tolerable, but as*

*the essence of a rich and rewarding human experience.*

Jerome Nathanson



### 🌀 Community Prosecutor 🌀

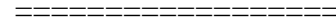
The main speaker for our WNA meeting was Eddie O’Connell from the U.S. Attorney’s Office. He is one of two attorney’s that are now assigned to our 3<sup>rd</sup> District. While we are the smallest District in the City, we have a lot of residents and a lot of crime. The main crime problems for us currently are:

- Burglary (homes and businesses);
- Robberies (by snatch/fear/intimidation);
- Theft from autos; and
- Prostitution

While one U.S. Attorney is in court on any given day, the other one is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, interviewing those charged with crimes, making direct contacts with our police officers and speaking with victims or anyone else from the community that wants to report crime in their area. Their task is to not only prosecute those that have been arrested in our area, but to seek out and find those that have been causing perennial problems in our community, such as nuisance properties due to drug use or selling.

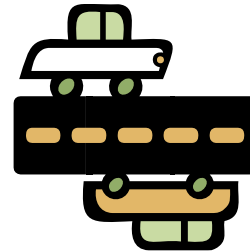
He emphasized the importance of calling “911” or “311” (non-emergency) for problems that you personally witness in the community. This is because the number of calls complaining of illegal activities from an address get recorded and is often considered by the court when it comes time for sentencing a defendant.

If you want to speak with Eddie O’Connell, you can reach his office at 514-5766. To reach him directly, call 514-5156 or email him at: Edward.O’Connell@usjoj.gov.



### Property Tax Values

From our informal study, many of you may have seen your tax-assessed property values increase to the \$850,000 – \$890,000 range. Fear not. You were not struck individually. Most of our residents were hit in this range..



### 🌀 Masons Parking Lot 🌀

The Masons have been making some serious decisions on the development of their parking lot since WNA and the local ANC entered into an agreement with them on ? to get this lot developed. They have now chosen a developer, Macy Development—led by Topher Cushman—who has already obtained an architect, Greg Zahn, to start construction plans. Both of them attended our WNA meeting to get our visions and concerns at the inception of their work.

We’re pleased to report that they are not considering any commercial development, not considering any mixed use, *i.e.* part office and part residential, not considering a planned unit development. As WNA has been arguing for years, this property is zoned residential, and that is now what they are going to do with it. No longer will it be a parking lot. No longer will it remain vacant.

Their tentative plan is to build solely two-unit condos on this site. It appears that the site will permit the building of seven townhouses, with each of them containing two condos. They are planning for 12-14 off-street parking spaced (all of them hidden behind the condos). This is well above the zoning requirements of only 7 parking spaces. These condos will have a maximum height of 40 feet (well below the

height of the apartment building on this site that was destroyed by fire in the 1950's). The building footprint will cover approximately 60% of the lot area.

After obtaining feedback from the WNA members at our meeting, it is their intent to go back and continue working on their plans to incorporate much of what WNA suggested. They will be presenting this to the Historic Preservation Board in about April and have asked WNA to support them in this process, which we had initially agreed to do when we reached an agreement with the Masons to start developing this property.

If you have any suggestions or concerns about this development, you should bring them to the attention of the WNA Mason Committee in the next week or so. Address them to Chuck Baxter at 202/232-7921 or email: [cbaxter67@aol.com](mailto:cbaxter67@aol.com).

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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.



**☞ Liquor Licenses ☞**

The applications of the liquor licenses for 1920 and 1924 9<sup>th</sup> Street, are moving along slowly—all the better as they can't start serving liquor until they are approved. The problem for at least one of these applications is that the attorney for the applicant is not meeting with

the community participants to try and resolve the issues. The ABC Board expressed their frustration with this at the hearing this month and admonished the applicant to make more progress. WNA member Todd Anderson has been handling this for WNA and has represented us at every meeting held by the ABC Board.

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**Trash Cans/Recyclables**

For those of you that are new to our community, you need to put your new trashcans out after 7pm on Sun. nights & Wed. nights (not before) and take them in the next evening (by 7pm). Some of your neighbors travel the alleys and it is most helpful if the trashcans are not there .

**☞ WNA Treasurer's Report ☞**

**Financial Statement for Feb. '06**

Balance as of Feb. 1, 2006	\$6,439.00	\$6,439.00
Receipts:		
Dues	107.00	
Donation	5.00	
Disbursements: None	0.00	
<b>Balance as of Mar 1, 2006</b>		<b>\$6,551.00</b>

**Balance Sheet**

Total	<b>\$6,551.00</b>
Less Playground Fund	<b><u>-2,567.29</u></b>
<b>Total in General Fund</b>	<b><u>\$3,983.71</u></b>

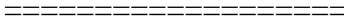
**☞ 2005 WNA Membership Dues ☞**

Remember that your membership dues were 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

- Anderson, Todd
- Baxter, Chuck
- Bell, Simon
- Blackwell, Emmanuel
- Crumm, Leonard & Lofton, Moses
- Dailey, Kevin
- Donelan, Clare
- Edwards, Charles & Doris
- Hightower, Betty
- Lewis, William & Michelle
- Marchand, Anne
- Meyer, Kerry & Misa
- Ousley, Susan, Andre, Sarah & Bruhier, Stillman
- Rawlings, James Mott
- Rubin, Nilmini and Joel
- Seaver, Geoff & Lucia
- Woods, Alisha
- Woods, Yvette



**Next WNA Meeting**

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

**Future Projects**

*Playground Sprinkler System*— We have a chance for a grant to get a sprinkler system installed in the Playground. Considering that it takes our members an average of 8 hours to water the Playground each time, this would be a great benefit. We need a volunteer(s) to carry our request through the process and to manage the installation. If you can carry this, contact Pres. Lynn Johnson.

*Front Lawn Retaining Walls* —These are the short brick walls that some of us have next to the sidewalk and they hold in the dirt for our front yards. We have discovered that that these walls exist only on Westminster Street, so this cannot be a WNA project. If anyone on Westminster wants to work on getting them ALL cleaned by someone with a power washer (& possible repairs also made), contact Lynn Johnson for some ideas and contacts.

**Emergency Planning**

As you know, some WNA committee members have been working on developing a plan to assist our neighbors in the event of an emergency. You will find a 3 page questionnaire that will help them to develop this plan. Please take a few moments to complete this questionnaire and return it to WNA member Clare Daley. If you are going to deliver it by hand or U.S. mail, it goes to 908 Westminster St., If you are going to fill it out on your computer and email it to her, the address is: cdonelan@verizon.net. If you're not going to fill it out at this time, be sure to get it to her by March 20.

**Help a man when he is in trouble and he will remember you when he is in trouble again.**



## WNA Emergency Plan Questionnaire to Gather Information about WNA Households

The overall objective of the WNA Emergency Plan is to provide the capability for stabilization and recovery within the first few hours to the first few days (72 hours) of a disaster when governmental services may be unable to respond to all requests for assistance and/or public telephone facilities aren't available for communicating requests for aid. As a minimum, please complete the first page.

The information collected by this questionnaire will be only used for the purposes of the WNA Emergency Plan. We will protect your privacy. In an emergency, the contact information collected will be used by your neighbors to contact you.

- If your household doesn't wish to be recorded in the emergency plan database, please fill in your address below, check this box, and return the questionnaire to 908 Westminster St.

### Description of Household

In an emergency it will be critical to know who lives in the neighborhood households so that an accounting can be made and emergency personnel can be directed to special needs.

- Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of people in household: \_\_\_\_
  - Infants under 1 year old \_\_\_\_
  - People with limited mobility \_\_\_\_
  - People with special needs \_\_\_\_\_ specify needs:
- Languages spoken in household:
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Other: (please specify)
- Number and type of pets in the household:
  - Dogs \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cats \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Check any of the following situations during which you might need help. Specify the type of help you could need.
  - Evacuation
  - Community-wide emergency
  - Extended interruption of water or power service
  - Public transportation outage

## Stuff You Have and Would be Willing to Share in an Emergency (Optional Information)

During an emergency it will be helpful to know what materials, supplies, and equipment people in the neighborhood possess and would be willing to share. Please check any items your household possesses that can be shared in an emergency.

### Medical/Dental

- First-aid supplies
- Special-needs equipment/supplies (e.g. generators, oxygen tanks) List here (use back of form if more room needed):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Sanitation supplies (e.g., bleach, antibacterial soap)

Transportation (specify number in household) (if you feel comfortable, please show the license number for each vehicle)

- 2-passanger car \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- 4-passanger car \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Pick-up truck \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Van \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Sport-utility vehicle \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Vehicle equipped with towing hitch \_\_\_\_\_
- Four-wheel drive vehicle \_\_\_\_\_
- Bicycles \_\_\_\_\_
- Wheelbarrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### Rescue/Repair Equipment

- Gasoline-powered chain saw
- Crowbar
- Crosscut saws
- Lantern-style lights
- Gas-powered generator

### Cooking and Living Comfort Equipment

- Propane and/or charcoal grills
- Spare blankets, sleeping bags, etc
- Large tents (four or more persons)
- Camping gear
- Spare flashlights and batteries
- Other (specify):

(Optional Information)

## Skills Possessed by WNA Residents

During an emergency it will be helpful to know what skills people in the neighborhood possess. Please check any skills your household possesses that are willing to be shared in an emergency.

### Emergency Response

- Security/Law enforcement
- Firefighter (active or retired)
- Persons with search and rescue training
- Other – specify

### Medical Skills/Experience

- Doctor
- Nurse
- Emergency medical technician
- First aid/CPR provider (certified)
- Dentist/Dental technician

### Social/Family Services Resources

- Mental health professional
- Faith Leaders

### Others

- Photographers (record damage, clean-up efforts, etc.)
- Volunteers who will pitch in wherever needed
- Other: (specify)

## How to be more involved

For the emergency plan to be useful, we will need people to fill some communication and/or leadership positions. If you would like to be more involved in the project, please check one or more of the items below:

- Could serve as a team leader in an emergency
- Could attend an occasional emergency plan development meeting
- Could serve as a communication runner in an emergency
- Could help review and edit printed material
- Could help distribute materials
- Could reproduce material for distribution