



✿ President's Message ✿

By Lynn Johnson

Our Favorite Community Project

Ah, Spring in the air again. It can only mean one thing—yes, it's time for the WNA Semi-Annual Clean-up. This is really the time when most of our neighbors turn out and do their part to make our community look good. We are going to have it this year on **Saturday, April 29**. It will start at 9:00 am. Mark off the time now on your calendar. Remember members, you've committed to one hour per month of volunteer work as a condition of membership and this is a great way to do some of that. While most folks will generally work until noon, we may ask some of you to continue into the afternoon as we have a few special community projects we would like to complete.

There are no rules (and very little managed structure) so you need to determine what you can do that day to make our community look better. Start with the front and rear of your own house and clean or spruce up what needs to be done. If you already have something spotted in the neighborhood and it takes more than one person, go out in the street and corral some neighbors to assist you, or ask me and I'll get

March 2006 Meeting

WNA Neighborhood Newsletter

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you someone. They'll appreciate being a part of it. That's what this day is about.

We will do our best to get one dumpster, and we usually are able to do. If so, it will be placed on 10th Street, where Westminster Street meets it. The dumpster generally arrives about 9 am and is full by 10:30 am. While all types of bulk items are permitted, we cannot take any chemicals or computer-related items. We must stop taking items when the dumpster is level full so that the dumpster truck does not get ticketed while taking it to the trash site.

If we're lucky, we'll also be able to get some roving trash trucks that will pick up bags of trash (no bulk trash) from certain street corners. We'll send out a flyer the week before our Clean-up to let you know what we have arranged.

If you want to bring some coffee, donuts, sandwiches, etc. for our hard-working crew, bring them to the Playground.

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.

Jane Addams

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Trashing Bulk Trash

To schedule bulk trash pick-up (old mattresses, large items, chairs, etc.) contact the DC Citywide Call Center at 202-727-1000. They now require that we place these items in the front of the house (not in the alley). You will be permitted to put out up to 7 items.

~ Vacant Houses on S St. ~

As most of you know from our prior newsletters, New Columbia Land Trust was the selected non-profit to develop the city-owned vacant houses in the 900 block of S Street several years ago. While they were unable to attend our WNA meeting, they have given us a summary of what they have done and are doing.

923 and 934 S St. were completed by them and sold within the last two years and are now occupied. 915 and 931 S St. are still vacant. They have run out of money and are looking to the City to provide the additional funds they need. If they get it, they may start demolition this summer. At least they have put new roofs on both houses and have someone cutting the grass in the summer. Due to the inordinate passage of time, the permits they obtained are now out of time compliance and they will have to re-apply for them. If you want to contact them to complain about this delay, you might try calling them at 202/986-9225 and speak to April Gaines.

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Pocket Park Grant Not Obtained
While we had high hopes that WNA might get some funds from the TKF Foundation to renovate the two pocket parks at the corner of T, Vermont, & 10th St., we have been informed that our grant request was not chosen. Stay tuned for other ways we may get this accomplished.

~ 9 1/2 Street Issues ~

So much is happening in the 9 1/2 Street area between T St. and U St. There are a bunch of dedicated residents there that are tackling many issues at the same time. This area is now clearly an “alley,” which means it has limited rights. For instance, parking, if permitted at all, will only be on a portion of the street on the west side.

If you extend that area to the south, it would come out at what is called 917 T Street. This is currently a vacant lot. We have now learned that the 917 T St. property was one of the properties that our City’s “Home Again” process has included in a bundle of properties to be developed into housing (likely, a 2 unit condo). Once again, there was no community input into this decision. It is unclear what we can do at this time, but it may be that we need to contact our councilmember, Jim Graham, to see if he can help get community input into this decision.

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Zoning Surprise
We have learned that the southern part of the west side of the 1900 block of 9th Street (up to 1920) was zoned for residential use about a decade ago but the zoning map that the City uses has been showing it as industrial/commercial use. Many thanks to our ANC Commissioner Phil Spalding for uncovering this by doing dusky research into the annals of the City’s records.
This zoning designation is what we had been hoping to get it changed to—we had it all along and no one knew it. This will most likely greatly affect how the 1900 block of 9th Street will be developed in the future.

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⌘ Playground Sprinklers ⌘

Last month we reported that we were hoping to find about \$5,000 so that we could install a sprinkler system in the Westminster Playground. This month we are proud and gratified to inform you that we have landed those funds. We have been talking with the ANC and they have committed to getting these funds for us through a grant provided by Broadway Atlantic, LLC (who are developing the Atlantic Plumbing site). More particulars will follow next month, but we should see those funds in a few weeks and can then proceed to retain a contractor to install this sprinkler system. We already have one proposal for \$5,250 for the basics.

On a related note, this brings up the opportunity to now plant some bushes/flowers in the space between our great trees surrounding our Playground. If you would like to be on this committee to help plan what should be planted, contact WNA member Jeff Willis (cell 703/898-6616 or EM: jeffreyhw@verizon.net) quickly as we are hoping to have this all completed soon.

Congratulations to all you WNA volunteers who never fail to surprise us in what you can do and have been doing to improve our community.

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Trash Cans/Recyclables

For those of you that are new to our community, you need to put your trash cans out after 7pm on Sun. nights & Wed. nights (not before) and take them in the next evening (by 7pm). [The blue recyclable trash-can goes out only on Wed. nights.] Some of your neighbors travel the alleys and it is most helpful if the trash cans are not there. This is also the time of year when the City issues tickets for trashcans put out too early or not taken in in a timely manner.

⌘ WNA Treasurer's Report ⌘

Financial Statement for March '06

Balance as of Feb. 1, 2006	\$6,554.00	\$6,439.00
Receipts: Dues	120.00	
Disbursements: Playground lock	30.31	
Balance as of 04/01/ 06		\$6,643.69

Balance Sheet

Total	\$6,643.69
Less Playground Fund	<u>-2,536.98</u>
Total in General Fund	\$4,106.71

⌘ 2005 WNA Membership Dues ⌘

Remember that the financial part of 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. As to the non-financial part, it is one hour/month on community work. You can carry it forward during the year, but can't carry it past the end of the calendar year.

While the \$5 or \$15 membership fee will not make us rich, what is more important is that we get to count you as a member when we ask the various City agencies and other entities to help us improve our community. Take a moment now to mail or drop your check in Chuck Baxter's mailbox: 914 Westminster Street, NW, WDC 20001.



Next WNA Meeting

WNA will hold our next regular monthly meeting on April 24 (remember, the 4th Tuesday of every month) at 7:00 p.m. at 922 Westminster St., NW (basement). Put it on your calendar now.

Volunteer Projects

Playground Sprinkler System – We need volunteers to find, select, and supervise a contractor for the installation of the sprinkler system.

Sidewalks – We need a volunteer to get Wash. Gas to repair the damage they did to our sidewalks and treeboxes when they installed our new gas lines.

Historic Preservation Infractions – We need a volunteer to follow up on the infractions we obtained on developers/owners who installed improper windows and are still out-of-compliance.

