



NEWS

www.chrs.org

March 2006

Public Meeting Will Explore NoMA's Impact on NE Capitol Hill

On March 14, 2006, CHRS and SPNA (Stanton Park Neighborhood Association) will sponsor a DC Office of Planning presentation on how NoMa (North of Massachusetts Avenue) will affect Northeast Capitol Hill. The meeting will be in the community room of the Rumsey Natatorium behind Eastern Market, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

As widely reported, development in the larger NoMa area will result in a segment of commercial buildings and condos as large as the current downtown in Boston. These developments have put exceptional pressure on residential areas from Florida Avenue, NE, to H Street, NE, (including areas originally in the Historic District), making the affected row houses vulnerable to developer speculation and tear downs.

The presentation by Patricia Zingsheim, principal planner for NoMA, should shed light on what is being proposed and what activity is already underway—and what, if anything, OP will do to help preserve the threatened row house neighborhoods. This is an important meeting. Please ask your neighbors and friends to attend. ✧

CHRS Backs NNRG Effort to Stop AppleTree



Contribute to the Northeast Neighbors for Responsible Growth (NNRG) which, as noted in the March Zoning Committee report, was formed to oppose the conversion of the property located at 138 Twelfth Street, NE, into a charter school. NNRG objects to the use of this property for a charter school in a residential area of restored Victorian townhouses in the Capitol Hill Historic District.

NNRG is not against charter schools but wants them sensibly sited and subject to zoning controls. The organization is seeking donations to defray the costs of the lawsuit they have brought to enjoin the city from issuing permits for this project. Your donation is needed. Please send your contribution to NNRG, c/o Charley Donnelly, Treasurer, 144 Twelfth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. ✧

The Comprehensive Plan: A Clash Between “Growth” and Neighborhoods

Implications for quality of life and future population

by Dick Wolf

A major conflict is developing within the Comprehensive Plan Task Force that is supposed to advise on the shape and content of the new version of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capitol. On one side are the city's neighborhoods—on the other, the businesses and develop-

already-built city is being rebuilt—denser, higher, and bulkier. It will change the existing residential neighborhoods everywhere in terms of light, air, open space, and congestion. Such re-development is encroaching upon and destroying all the inner city row house neighborhoods that are not protected by historic district designation.

This is the nature of the dispute on Capitol Hill where the Northeastern fringes are being eroded by such developments as the Dreyfus condo project at Second and G Streets, NE, and the

There is not growth in population, but rather a churning, with families being replaced by singles and empty-nesters who are occupying the new condominiums. Public policy is oriented only to supporting and enlarging housing opportunities for low and moderate-income persons who qualify for assistance under HUD standards. The middle and upper middle class family is not even mentioned as a valued part of the community, except at tax time.

Further, the implications for public policy are striking. Why are we embarking on a three billion dollar reconstruction of schools and libraries when there will be fewer and fewer persons to use them? All this concern for vital civic infrastructure comes after the city has spent almost all its resources on business growth—sports and entertainment. Not only are population issues in play but also economic issues.

Although several of us have made request after request for economic information that would tell us what activities generate what taxes, the information has not been forthcoming. Estimates at our Comprehensive Plan Task Force meetings are that the bulk of locally generated taxes come from residents. But neighborhoods continue to be ignored in the planning process at the expense of so-called larger economic and social goals that are never quantified.

Planning and its progeny, zoning, continue to be creatures of politics—just look at who is contributing to who this election season. If all this concerns you, this is the time to ask those running for office, even ANC seats, for their views on these matters. ✱

There is not growth in population, but rather a churning, with families being replaced by singles and empty-nesters who are occupying the new condominiums.

ers (at least those represented by the major business groups and the university consortium). At stake is the quality of life for city residents.

These are not academic arguments. George Washington University has just filed for a series of major zoning changes that would have the effect of further squeezing Foggy Bottom into an even smaller space as the campus expands. The Soldiers Home along North Capitol Street is seeking to build many millions of square feet of office/commercial/condominium space on one of the major historic open spaces in the District. Nearby McMillan Reservoir would be similarly developed. And, of course, the NoMA area and the Anacostia Waterfront will contain even more millions of square feet of office/commercial/condo development.

What this means is that an

tear-downs along Second, Third, and Fourth Streets, NE, north of H Street, NE. We will learn more about the planning for this area, its limitations, and the developments that are in the works at our NoMA meeting planned for March 14 (see page 1 for more information).

The implications of these developments on the city are manifold. Not only will the quality of life in the neighborhoods be drastically altered, but also the nature of the population. The Mayor and other politicians have made it an article of faith that the city should grow by 100,000 residents. That is not occurring according to the census figures and, probably, will not happen. What is happening is that families are being pushed out or leaving the city. The only areas of the city that are growing in numbers of families are Capitol Hill and upper NW.

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President Dick Wolf
1st Vice President Barbara Eck
2nd Vice President Gary Peterson
Treasurer Mike Canning
Secretary Beth Purcell
Past President Rob Nevitt
At Large Tom Grahame
At Large Joan Joshi
At Large Elizabeth Nelson
At Large Monte Edwards

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Paul Cromwell, *Budget*
 Dick Wolf, *City Planning*
 Barbara Eck, *Community Development*
 Amanda Molson, *Communications*
 Beth Purcell, *Environment*
 Nancy Metzger, *Historic Preservation*
 Ann Richards, *House and Garden Tour*
 Joan Joshi, *Membership*
 Tom Grahame, *Transportation*
 Gary Peterson, *Zoning*

NEWS:

Larry Janezich, David Holmes, Jane Ruyle, Allison Lewis, editors
 Roxanne Walker, design and layout

WEBSITE:

Martha Huizenga, DC Access,
 Webmaster

OFFICE MANAGER:

Jeff Fletcher

To contact any of the above, please contact the Society offices by calling 202-543-0425 or sending email to CapHRS@aol.com.

www.chrs.org

Celebrating our fiftieth year helping to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is now the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the entire District of Columbia. From the beginning, the Society has played a key role in maintaining the diverse, residential character of our neighborhood. With your participation we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Start or Renew a CHRS Membership

- * On the Web at www.CHRS.org
 - * Call 202-543-0425 and choose option 2
 - * Pick up a form at one of our meetings
- Starting at just \$25 per year for a single membership, it's a great deal.

Forty-Ninth Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour



Mother's Day Weekend

**Saturday, May 13, 5:00-8:00 pm
with reception 5:00-7:00 pm**

**Sunday, May 14, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm
with reception 2:30-5:30 pm**

Ticket prices are \$25 per person in advance of tour weekend, \$30 on tour weekend. Current CHRS members are offered 3 tickets at the members-reduced rate of \$20.

Order forms will be mailed to members in March. Tickets also will be available weekends beginning in mid-April at the CHRS kiosk at Eastern Market and various ticket outlets around the city.

Please check www.chrs.org for more information about the tour. For information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tour Chair, Ann Richards at 202-543-0425. *

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, sponsors and patrons.

NEW MEMBERS

Marc Aragon
 John J. Connelly
 EHT Traceries
 Michael & Ann Grace
 Emily & Paul Kallaur
 Carol & Denis Klisz
 Michelle & Joe Marin

PATRONS

Sharon Ambrose
 Diane Brockett
 John & Marcia Duncan
 EHT Traceries, Inc.
 Peter & Constance Robinson
 James E. Taylor

SPONSORS

Elizabeth Hannold & Douglas Delano
 Kitty Kaupp
 James Skiles & Lynne Church

March Zoning Committee Report

by Gary Peterson

AppleTree. The Northeast Neighbors for Responsible Growth (NNRG) has filed suit asking the DC Superior Court for a preliminary injunction prohibiting the District of Columbia from issuing any permits to the AppleTree Institute for the establishment of a charter school at 138 Twelfth Street, NE, (for previous articles see the CHRS NEWS November 2005, page 7 and December, page 9). AppleTree plans to expand the existing building for 54 pre-school and 12 staff members. The initial plans had called for 70 students and 20 staff.

The NNRG was formed by residents in the area surrounding the site. NNRG is not opposed to charter schools but, according to the suit, NNRG believes that, "The building of a school of this size in a totally residential neighborhood will have a devastating effect on the residential and historical character of the Neighborhood. The increased

noise, traffic and congestion will have an irreparable harmful effect on the neighborhood and its residents." NNRG has started fund raising to finance their fight against this threat. CHRS supports NNRG's efforts (see page 1).

Zoning Commission (ZC) agrees to setdown for Emergency Text Amendments to clarify the zoning regulations regarding charter schools. The ZC has agreed to consider at a public hearing amendments to the zoning regulations proposed by the Office of Planning (OP). The OP proposal will include "charter school" in the definition of 'public school'. Currently a charter school is not deemed a public school for the purposes of the zoning regulations. The proposed changes will increase the minimum lot area required from 4,000 square feet to 9,000 square feet, increase the minimum lot width from 40 feet to 120 feet; increase the maximum lot occupancy from 60 percent to 70 percent, and reduce the maximum allowable



height from 90 feet to 60 feet. The AppleTree property does not meet all of these requirements.

In its report to the ZC, OP recognized the need to amend the regulations because the placement of a charter school "... can cause friction in small sites in residential neighborhoods where access is limited or the affects of a school would be more acute." OP coordinated this proposal with the DC Public Schools, charter schools groups and CHRS. AppleTree, in a letter to the ZC, states that "...the 'emergency' designation proposed by the Office of Planning is nothing other than an ill-considered response to a concentrated effort by a small, but influential group to stop AppleTree from educating children in this neighborhood."

OP is to be congratulated on its actions in this matter. The CHRS Zoning Committee will consider the proposed amendments at the April 13 meeting.

Capitol Hill Day School must file new BZA application. On January 24 the Capitol Hill Day School was advised by the Office of Zoning Compliance Review Program that the special exception to operate a private school of 30 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade and five staff in the basement through the second floor at 214 South Carolina Avenue, SE,

Zoning Report continued on next page

Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metager

For over 40 years Chris Calomiris has worked at his family's produce stand at Eastern Market. While many know that Chris has been at the Market "forever," many may not know that Chris was born and raised on Capitol Hill. Like generations of Hill children, both before and after him, Chris has very personal memories of the political figures of his childhood. In a 2001 interview with Bonny Wolf for the Ruth Ann Overbeck Oral History Project, Chris recounted a time when he and a group of neighborhood friends would occasionally have a rather famous "team mate."

'Right across the street [First Street] was this balcony where Vice President Garner used to be, the Vice President for Roosevelt. ... He used to come out and watch us play football and we would throw the football up to him. It's just a little balcony, maybe about twelve feet high. But anyway, he would come out and ... he'd catch the ball and throw it back to us. He had a big Texan hat. He was nice. ...'

(Editors Note: John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner, 1868-1967, served two terms as Vice President (1933-1941) to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, but declined to run for a third term.) ✧

Historic Preservation Briefs

By the Numbers: Every year, the Historic Preservation Office compiles a numerical summary of the Office's activities to accompany the report that is sent to the Mayor and the City Council. The Capitol Hill Historic District, as the city's largest historic district, accounts for a substantial percentage of permit and enforcement activity.

In FY 2004 (October 1, 2004–September 30, 2005), the historic preservation staff reviewed a total

of 4,312 permit applications. These included alterations, repair and replacements, public space, etc. Of that grand total, 921 were from Capitol Hill, including 740 alteration permit applications, 118 for public space, and 20 for concept for new construction.

These permit applications were reviewed by five staff officers, who were also responsible for 159 Section 106 reviews of projects using Federal funds and 347 tax act

applications for the National Park Service. (There were 102 easement certifications granted in the Capitol Hill Historic District.)

The two Historic Preservation Building Inspectors performed 969 inspections (of which 232 were in Capitol Hill) and issued 201 Stop Work Orders (of which 61 were in Capitol Hill). Yes, it is a very busy staff that accomplishes a great deal. ✧

Zoning Report *continued from page 4*

will expire on July 26, 2006. The Day school will have to file for a new special exception before the expiration date. The CHRS Zoning Committee will consider the application for a new special exception as soon as it is filed.

Anyone wanting to comment on the Day School application should contact Gary Peterson at pgarylaw@aol.com.

Planned Unit Development (PUD) filed for 300 block of H Street, NE.

The Steuart Investment Company and Steuart-H Street LLC have applied for a PUD for the property located on H Street, NE, between Third and Fourth Streets. A large majority of the property is currently zoned C-2-A, a low to medium density zoning category. The project will have as many as 250 dwelling units and 60,000 square feet of grocery and neighborhood retail. It is anticipated that a major grocery store will occupy this space. The applicant proposes to provide 376 parking spaces.

Of major concern at this time is the proposed building height of 90 feet. A meeting has been scheduled with Office of Planning to lower both the height and density of the project. The Zoning Commission has not set this PUD for a hearing but one is expected within the next three months. ✧

CHRS To Co-Sponsor DC Democratic Primary Candidate Forums

CHRS and other organizations will co-sponsor several forums for candidates for public office this spring. As a matter of policy, CHRS does not endorse any of the candidates or party. Some information is preliminary, but what is currently available follows:

DC Candidates for Mayor Forum

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 pm

Eastern High School Auditorium

Moderator: Tom Sherwood

Confirmed Participants (in alphabetical order)

Michael Brown, Linda Cropp, Adrian Fenty, Marie Johns and Vincent Orange

This forum will be co-hosted by the Ward 6 Democrats and "The VOICE of the Hill" newspaper" and cosponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, CHAMPS (the Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals), the Mini Commission for Ward 6 of the Office on Aging, and other community organizations. A brief Ward 6 Democrats meeting will precede the forum.

Ward 6 Council Candidates Forum

Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 pm

(Application pending to use the Hine Jr. High Auditorium)

Confirmed participants: (in alphabetical order)

Curtis Ethridge, Keith Jarrell, Leo Pinson, Tommy Wells

Council Chair and At-Large Council Candidates Forum

Week of May 24, date TBD, 7:00 pm

(Site in SW—probably Jefferson Jr. High)

Moderator: Mark Plotkin

CHRS Weighs in On Proposed Changes to Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

An excerpt of comments on the Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor that CHRS President Dick Wolf sent to Citywide Transportation Planner Colleen Hawkinson on January 30, 2006 is reprinted below. The full comments are available at www.chrs.org.

It was a pleasure meeting with you the other night at the Old Naval Hospital regarding plans for the DC Scenic Byways program as it affects Pennsylvania Avenue SE in particular

... To give you some background concerning my interest and that of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society ... ever since the development and enactment of the Comprehensive Plan, District Elements, there has been special attention paid to Pennsylvania Avenue SE. That interest—policies and actions—is represented in the Urban Design Element where Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, is called out as a special street; in the Ward 6 Ward Plan in both the Urban Design and Historic Preservation sections; and in the fact that as part of the L'Enfant street plan, it is now on the National Register of Historic Sites. It is of secondary importance only to the portion of Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between the Treasury building and the Capitol.

The importance of the Avenue, as described, is derived from its construction, its location, and its viewshed. The street is very wide – as many as four lanes in each direction if parking is removed. It has a wide esplanade that has some landscaping. It runs for most of its length through the Capitol Hill Historic District, which is also listed on the National Register. Finally, the view of the Capitol from Pennsylvania Avenue as one comes down into the Anacostia River valley, moving from east to west, is unobstructed and spectacular. In order to enhance the Avenue and achieve its full

glory, it needs certain upgrades, some of which are spelled out in the Comprehensive Plan

... The central business district is composed of the 600 blocks of Pennsylvania Avenue, Seventh Street and Eighth Street, SE, and Seventh Street from the Avenue to North Carolina Avenue, SE, in front of the Eastern Market. There are a series of streetscape activities and upgrading of businesses currently ongoing but it appears that none of this is coordinated among the various responsible agencies ...

... Beyond Ninth Street, SE, the business district does not start again until Eleventh Street, SE. In between there are a several large open reservations, houses zoned for business uses (which are mostly used for offices), and the Old Naval Hospital. Both the Old Naval Hospital and the reservations are opportunities for interesting upgrades and uses. The Old Naval Hospital has been proposed as both a community center and/or a new library.

Beyond Eleventh Street, SE, to Barney Circle there is a gradually diminishing coherence to the buildings flanking the Avenue, which is attributable to a lack of design control. There are newer buildings and older buildings: some used for businesses and some for residences. The Avenue continues in its splendor but the neighborhood needs work, although there is development occurring. Finally, just before the bridge there is Barney Circle, which presents an opportunity to create an appropriate entryway to Capitol Hill.

All along the Avenue there are various things happening—some in progress, some planned, and some things that will not change, except in subtle ways.

The two and three hundred blocks of the Avenue are built and will not change because of his-

toric preservation controls. What is needed is streetscape upgrading—sidewalks, lighting, and trees. There should be a unified design for streetscape that binds together the entire avenue on Capitol Hill.

The Seward Square reservations should have some design studies done that relate those areas to the residential district.

Recent development activities along and near the Avenue offer promise and some challenges. The most notable changes have occurred in the “central business district.” Over the years a great deal of community attention has been paid to this area. Forty years ago community action saved Eastern Market and community action resulted in changing the name of the Metro stop at that location from Marine Barracks to Eastern Market. It may be in the future that the name should be changed again to “Eastern Market/Barracks Row.” Since then there have been actions to create a Main Street/Barracks Row down Eighth Street, SE, to M Street, SE. In the course of that activity a new streetscape was created and the historic district was extended below the freeway along Eighth Street, SE, to M Street and the Navy Yard gates. Façade improvement loans have been provided and new businesses attracted.

A similar if smaller scale streetscape improvement is planned for Seventh Street SE, and over the last several years there have been sidewalk upgrades and a new shed constructed in front of the Market. There is no comparable effort for streetscape improvements along the 600 block of the Avenue. There should be.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) and the Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals (CHAMPS) jointly

Pennsylvania Ave. continued on next page

Neighborhood Prepares for Critical MedLINK Zoning Hearing

by Monte Edwards

The Zoning Commission will hold a hearing on March 23 about whether to reduce MedLINK's current R-5C zoning level, which permits high density and a height of 90 feet. ANC 6C filed the application requesting downzoning, pointing out that MedLINK's current zoning is inconsistent with the surrounding neighborhood and should be brought into compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. The Office of Planning filed a supportive Report, but recommended the property be rezoned to R-5B, rather than R-4 as the ANC requested.

Community leaders have been meeting with city planners and MedLINK officials to define options for the site. On January 27, ANC Commissioner Bill Sisolak attended a meeting with MedLINK officials and DC Office of Planning staff where MedLINK presented a plan to build the southern portion of the previously approved "Holladay

design" in the event of a downzoning. The footprint would be about 30 percent smaller than the project currently proposed by architect Robert Sponseller, would use existing buildings, and would have approximately 100 units, with parking—according to MedLINK—for 60 percent to 85 percent of the units. Because of market forces and financing requirements, it is doubtful that the project could go forward with less than one parking space for each unit. The "Sponseller design" for the same section rises a floor higher and has substantially more units with a parking space to unit ratio of 1.1 to 1.

MedLINK also confirmed that the north portion of the block would operate as an acute care hospital for ten to fifteen years, removing any speculation about possible residential use. In 1992, the Capitol Hill Hospital deed incorporated several restrictions regarding future use of the site, including prohibitions against use as a correctional facility, shelter, substance abuse clinic or youth halfway

house. Acute care, however, is a permitted use.

On January 30 representatives from the community and ANC 6A met with OP and discussed how the two designs compare in terms of height, density, zoning levels, retention of existing buildings and parking requirements. Although the parking capacity of the Holladay design might be lower, the general impression was that the smaller number of units would result in less traffic congestion and less pressure on street parking.

Neighbors can express their preferences regarding the proposed downzoning by testifying at the March 23 hearing and by writing letters (Attn: Sharon Schellin, Secretary, Zoning Commission, 441 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001 and sending a copy to Mr. Stephen Mordfin, Development Review Specialist, DC Office of Planning, 801 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 4000, Washington, DC 20002). ✱

Pennsylvania Ave. *cont. from page 6*

funded a concept plan for the creation of a "town square" at the Eastern Market Metro Park—both the north and south portions ... (As a result) ... Congress has appropriated \$500,000 for planning and \$2.5 million for construction. The work includes not only the two plazas but several small pieces of property north and south of the intersection. In addition, there is a small park at Eighth and M Streets, SE which is also being planned

... Beyond Ninth Street, SE there are significant development activities and numerous challenges. The Old Naval Hospital is still in play for various community uses and currently is being partially restored. It is still owned by the federal government. Beyond that site are several significant reservations still controlled

by the Park Service that are basically simply open spaces—particularly between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets, SE, on the north. At Eleventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, a 40-unit condominium is under construction, replacing a former gas station.

Further down the Avenue, still in the historic district in the 1200 block, there is a condo complex development just going into the ground. The most significant development is the JPI project at Fourteenth Street, Potomac and Pennsylvania Avenues, SE, of some 250 condos and a large Harris Teeter grocery store. That is outside of the Historic District. Of course, there has been a DDOT one-day study of the Potomac Avenue Metro Station. That needs more work. Several more community organizations have focused on Pennsylvania

Avenue from Twelfth Street, SE, to Barney Circle. These include Penn East, which is concerned with business development issues, and the Hill East and Barney Circle groups, which are concerned more with residential issues, including historic preservation designation and the question of what will happen to Barney Circle and Reservation 13. Further development of note is the initiative of DDOT to rebuild the Eleventh Street bridge so that there is a complete intersection with Highway 295 on the east side of the river. That will alleviate traffic congestion on the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge ...

... We hope to be able to work with you regarding any further plans for Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, and that you work to coordinate all the planning and work with all other efforts currently under way. ✱

A Pat on the Back for the School Libraries Project

by Amanda Molson

The School Libraries Project aims to renovate the facilities and restock the bookshelves of eight Capitol Hill public schools—Brent, Maury, Ludlow-Taylor, Payne, Tyler, Watkins, Peabody, and Stuart Hobson. Born in 2005 through the devotion of parents, teachers and principals, the project is now an initiative of the 16-year-old Capitol Hill Community Foundation.

This is a fast-moving mission, with construction set to begin on three schools this summer, followed by the remaining five in the summer of 2007. Work slated for this year is, however, dependent on timely permitting by the city.

A construction budget of \$2.4 million will address improvements such as furnishings, layout, lighting, books, staffing, and technology. This funding will be drawn, in part, from a 2005 Congressional appropriation

of \$6 million covering all public elementary schools in Washington and a matching promise from the DC Public Schools.

Thanks to an additional \$625,000 in personal donations and grants from the community, the project will pour \$300,000 into each school (one third towards books and technology, with the remainder towards construction costs). A profitable fundraising event last fall featured twelve dinner parties at homes across the neighborhood. This substantial funding and the resulting far-reaching plans recognize that new paint and carpeting are not an adequate investment in the children of Capitol Hill.

With the support of the Washington Architectural Foundation, architecture firms have been assigned to each of the schools. The needs of the schools vary substantially, with staffing shortages and outdated materials thwarting learning at several locations. All lack the technology resources that children require to succeed, and none possess a well-stocked collection.

Conceptual plans, created after

design sessions with parents, students, and school administrators, have been completed. This work has been provided pro bono, and the proposals are professional and highly creative.

Two similar (and successful) ventures—the Robin Hood Foundation’s work in New York City and the Friends of the J.O. Wilson School Library locally—have inspired this effort. Once the eight schools have been completed, the School Libraries Project hopes to create a “Friends of the Public School Libraries” group to provide ongoing support.

This is one of the most positive undertakings in the community to date, and it deserves our attention and support. CHRS plans to host representatives from the project at an upcoming membership meeting this spring, and we will provide details soon in hopes that you can attend.

To learn more about the project or to donate, please visit www.capitolhillcommunityfoundation.org or contact Todd Cymrot at 202-997-3296 or todd.cymrot@verizon.net. ✧

Questions on Traditional Mortar for Historic Preservation?

Traditional mortar is required for repointing old brick in many Capitol Hill townhouses, as well as for other aspects of historic preservation such as plastering. If you have questions about projects in your home, have them answered on Saturday, March 18 at the Saturday Seminar sponsored by Frager’s Hardware.

The Seminar will feature a representative from Virginia Lime Works, makers of traditional lime mortars. It will be held at 10:00 am at the Pacific Café and Grill next to Frager’s Hardware, which is at 1115 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Call Malissa at 202-543-6157 to pre-register.

March Preservation Café Features Tips for Top-Notch Tree Boxes

by Nancy Metzger

In the era of McMansions, a space of about 25 square feet surely is not much, but that is what the oaks, maples, elms and lindens call home. Designing a good home for the trees that shade Capitol Hill’s streets requires knowing not only what the trees will like but also what city regulations will permit.

Margaret Missiaen, tree caregiver extraordinaire of Trees for Capitol Hill, has the know-how to give “Tips for Top-Notch Tree Boxes” at the March 15 Preservation Café to be held at Trattoria Alberto, 406 Eighth Street, SE (upper floor) from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm.

To mulch or not to mulch, when and how to water, and, not least, which fences and plants might be compatible with a healthy tree are just a few of the topics to be covered.

March is a good time to plan what needs to be done to make the tree box in front of your house a hospitable, attractive space. Come to the Café, bring your questions, and find out how to treat the tree on your street.

For more information on this and other Preservation Cafés (popular free forums sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society), contact the CHRS office, 202-543-0425, CapHRS@aol.com. ✧

“What Style Is It?”

Feb. Preservation Café Addressed Question Many People Ask

by Nancy Metzger

There are a lot of inquiring minds on Capitol Hill, as proved by the large number of Capitol Hill residents who showed up at February’s Preservation Café to find out about the buildings they see every day. There were so many that the upstairs room at Marty’s on Eighth Street was literally packed—Standing Room Only. Some people even stood on the stairs for a glimpse of the numer-

ous photos depicting Capitol Hill buildings ranging from eighteenth century Federals to twentieth century Art Deco.

Judith Capen’s PowerPoint presentation “took apart” Capitol Hill’s eclectic architecture and identified the contributions of various styles. If you thought “Victorian” was a style, you learned instead about the many styles the Victorian-era builders assembled into the facades of Capitol Hill buildings. Photos of iconic buildings of different architectural styles were shown; then the various components of the architectural style were illustrated with photos of Capitol Hill row houses.

Since there were many requests to repeat this Preservation Café (both from the people who found a space and those who left without one), “What Style Is It?” will be repeated in May, National Historic Preservation Month. The date and place will be announced next month—and it will definitely be in a bigger space so that all those inquiring people can find a place to sit.

CHRS extends a special “thank you” to John Boyle and the staff at Marty’s who faced the ever-growing crowd with grace. We were delighted to see all of the attendees and hope you’ll return for the repeat performance in May. ✧

CHRS Board Adopts Resolution Honoring Dan Tangherlini, New METRO General Manager and Former DC Transportation Leader

February 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Tangherlini:

At its last board meeting, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society adopted the resolution below honoring you for your service to the citizens of the District of Columbia and wishing you well in your new position as General Manager of METRO. The resolution reads as follows:

“The Capitol Hill Restoration Society hereby congratulates our neighbor Dan Tangherlini on his appointment as General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; and

We also hereby thank him for his years of devoted service to the citizens of the District of Columbia, especially during his leadership of the DC Department of Transportation. During that time Mr. Tangherlini demonstrated his mastery of transportation policy through innovative initiatives that improved traffic flow, protected neighborhoods, and responded to citizen concerns in a sensitive and thoughtful manner.

For these reasons we extend our best wishes to Mr. Tangherlini for many more years of dedicated service to the residents of the Washington metropolitan area.”

Sincerely,

Richard N. Wolf
President

Mark Your Calendar!

MARCH

6 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee Meeting. Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE (Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034)

7 Tuesday, 5:30–8:30 pm

H Street NE Streetscape Public Meeting. Public review of draft DDOT construction drawings for H Street, NE, corridor. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H Street, NE. (Details: Karina Rick, 202-671-2542, or Chris Delfs, 202-671-1159.)

9 Thursday, 6:30 pm

City-Wide Town Meeting on Public Safety, sponsored by councilmember Phil Mendelson. Invited speakers: Police Chief Charles Ramsey, Corrections Director Devon Brown, Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti, Court Services Director Paul Quander. Savoy Elementary School, 2400 Shannon Place, SE, across from Anacostia Metro Station. (Details: 202-724-8064.)

14 Tuesday, 6:00 pm

NoMA Developments: What They Mean for Capitol Hill. Jointly sponsored by CHRS and the Stanton

Park Neighborhood Association. The speaker will be Patricia Zingsheim, principal planner for the NoMA area. Community Room, Rumsey Natatorium, 635 North Carolina Avenue, SE. (Details: Dick Wolf, 202-543-4353.) See page 1.

15 Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Preservation Café: Presentation on “Tips for Top-Notch Tree Boxes” by Margaret Missiaen of Trees for Capitol Hill. Trattoria Alberto, 506 Eighth Street, SE, top floor. (Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034.) See page 8.

18 Saturday, 10:00 am

Frager’s Saturday Seminar on Traditional Mortar for Historic Preservation, with Virginia Lime Works. Pacific Café and Grill, Eleventh and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Call Malissa at 202-543-6157 for pre-registration. See page 8.

21 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board meeting, Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street SE, first floor. (Details: Dick Wolf, 202-543-4353.)

23 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, 441 Fourth Street, NW

(1 Judiciary Square), Room 220 South. (Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034.)

30 Thursday, 7:00 pm

Candidates for Mayor Forum, Eastern High School Auditorium, Moderator: Tom Sherwood. DC

APRIL

3 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE, first floor. (Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034.)

13 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE, first floor. (Details: Gary Peterson, 202-547-7969.)

MAY

13 Saturday, 5:00-8:00 pm

14 Sunday, Noon-5:00 pm
Forty-Ninth Annual CHRS House and Garden Tour. Tickets will be available weekends beginning in mid-April at the CHRS kiosk at Eastern Market and various ticket outlets around the city. See story page 3.



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003