



# NEWS

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May 2006

## The 49th Annual CHRS Mother's Day House and Garden Tour; May 13–14, 2006

by Aileen C. Moffatt

Please join us on Saturday evening May 13 and Sunday afternoon May 14 for the 49th Annual CHRS House and Garden Tour. Nine spectacular homes are showcased this year, featuring a wide variety of architectural and decorative styles.

The CHRS House and Garden Tour is renowned for presenting unique Capitol Hill homes which still retain the character of the quintessential "Hill home." For the 2006 tour, organizers have pulled out all of the stops and included some exquisite homes that range from the most modern to more traditional restorations updated to suit the most exacting preservationist.

Located close to the bustling Eighth Street business and entertainment scene, 401 Sixth Street, SE, is one of Capitol Hill's classic homes. Yes, the house with the old-fashioned lamppost out front is on this year's tour! Owner Ron Kaufman has created an elegant and very comfortable home that is a true reflection of his passions. The house is appointed with gracious and elegant antiques in the public or formal rooms, but as guests step further into the house, they enjoy a homey country kitchen and a fireplace that is ideal for casual dinners. Kaufman's love of American his-

tory and insatiable interest in things political are apparent throughout the house. This completely detached house has a sizeable patio shaded by an enormous crape myrtle that shelters a hot-tub/sauna combo.

Homes with numerous working fireplaces and pocket doors are a sub-theme of this year's tour. Bernie Robinson, for example, has six fireplaces in his home at 408 A Street, SE. This recently redone house is one of the most spacious and welcoming homes on the Hill. Robinson has traveled extensively, as witnessed by his mementos from around the world. Along with fabulous mantels and painstakingly restored woodwork, this home also



Photo: Norm Metzger

Annual Tour *continued on page 4* 408 A Street, SE

## CHRS Board Election Scheduled

### Ballots to be Mailed to Members

The Nominating Committee has assembled the following slate of officers for the CHRS Board of Governors for the coming year, commencing in August 2006:

- *President:* Dick Wolf
- *First Vice President:* Barbara Eck
- *Second Vice President:* Gary Peterson

- *Secretary:* Mary Withum
- *Treasurer:* Mike Canning
- *Member At Large:* Tom Grahame
- *Member At Large:* Joan Joshi

Any member who wishes to nominate himself or herself or another member, should send information on the nominee, the office he/she is seeking, and permission to nominate to

Board Election *continued on page 6*

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# President's Column

by Dick Wolf

The Mother's Day House Tour is a CHRS signature event, and is now in its 49th straight year, held through good and bad weather. An intrepid community put it on immediately after the April 1968 riots that left parts of the Hill badly scarred for years. It continued when living on the Hill was considered foolhardy after the *Washington Post* published an article titled "Hill in a Hand Basket."

Now we put on the tour when the Hill is "It"—a community of choice for young families and those seeking an aesthetically pleasing, diverse urban community. The tour is a monument to the persistence and good sense of preservation that CHRS has followed in its mission to build a "model urban commu-

nity." Do you know of any government program aimed at re-building communities that has worked as well?

But the tour is a vast undertaking that requires the support and work of all members. Ann Richards, our tour chair, is a marvel

the Hill—and these days the best is very good indeed—but also we need funds to further our efforts to continue to build this community. Funds are needed for surveys to expand the historic district, for potential court cases, for our Beall grants program, and to keep our

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The tour is a monument to the persistence and good sense of preservation that CHRS has followed in its mission to build a "model urban community."

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of energy and organization. She has put together a great cadre of helpers. But more are needed. We need your efforts on tour days, and we need you to buy tickets.

Yes, we need the money. Not only do we showcase the best of

office running with the very good professionals we now have in place. The days when volunteers could run everything are past, so give us your help, buy those tickets, and hope for good weather. See you on the tour. ✧

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## Report to the Membership: Great Street Initiative to Revitalize Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

by Dick Wolf

This report is devoted to a review of an Office of Planning (OP) initiative called the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan—part of OP's Great Streets Initiative. The effort is one of several throughout the District that is directed at re-vitalization of certain very long and important avenues. The Pennsylvania Avenue project runs from Second Street, SE, to the Maryland border at Southern Avenue. Its stated purpose is to provide "a revitalization strategy for surrounding neighborhoods, as well as a framework to guide future development along the corridor." The ultimate purpose is to develop Pennsylvania Avenue into a "world class boulevard." The plan is to be completed in 12 to 15 months.

From a Capitol Hill perspective,

this study could make an important contribution to the re-building of the commercial areas immediately flanking the Avenue from Thirteenth or Fourteenth Street, SE, to Barney Circle. To further this goal, the plan anticipates both a marketing study and a "conditions of building" study. The rest of the Avenue from the Capitol to Thirteenth Street, SE, is really not a development issue since almost all sites have been developed or are occupied by public buildings. Moreover, historic preservation and the Capitol Interest Overlay Zone already control much of what can be done here.

Two major proposals could affect the areas between Fourteenth Street and Barney Circle. One is an idea for a "town square" that came out of a one-day study of the Potomac Avenue Metro stop. The other is a proposal to come up with

a plan for Barney Circle. DDOT is charged with all the public space improvements, and one possibility—suggested by CHRS to DDOT as reported in the March newsletter—is possible inclusion in the Scenic Byways Program.

Much of the work involved in this study is to be accomplished by consultants under contracts monitored by OP. The study is supposed to be informed by an expansive set of "stakeholders"—business and citizen groups, plus numerous DC and Federal agencies. There are supposed to be many meetings and other "outreach" efforts. But we have yet to know who the consultants are and what the costs of the several contracts are.

The statement of work makes a number of dubious comments and leaves out some important

Great Street *continued on page 3*

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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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](http://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](http://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.

# Great Street Initiative to Revitalize Pennsylvania Avenue *continued from page 2*

information. Among these are the following:

1. Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, on the Capitol Hill side is not recognized as already being a "great street." There is no recognition of the special construction of the street with its wide, landscaped median—a reservation under the control of the National Park Service—and its special width leading directly to the Capitol. It is, in fact, the most important approach to the Capitol Building except for Pennsylvania Avenue between the Treasury and the Capitol Building.
  2. There is no mention of the references to Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, in the Comprehensive Plan Urban Design Element or the Ward 6 Ward Plan.
  3. There is no recognition of the concept plan to create a town square at the Eastern Market Metro Plaza or that there is funding available for planning and construction of that site.
  4. There is no mention of the efforts of the Penn East group to create a Main Street program for the area from Eleventh Street, SE, to Barney Circle.
  5. There is summary mention of public housing at Potomac Gardens and Hopkins and of the Housing Authority's initiatives for mixed-income development to replace those units.
  6. There is a statement that there is a loss of low and moderate-income housing in the area with no facts to back this up.
  7. There are ambiguous statements that can be taken negatively that the historic district is inhibiting "re-development" without any consideration of whether it in fact has facilitated development and stabilization of the neighborhoods.
  8. At the same time, there is a statement supporting possible expansion of the historic district to the east.
  9. There is discussion of the impact of the Anacostia waterfront development on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, but it seems to be limited to transportation issues such as the Capitol Hill traffic study, the new Eleventh Street Bridge, and the proposed creation of new parks.
  10. There is no recognition of the streetscape efforts in the vicinity of Eastern Market and the 600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.
- There is much potential in this undertaking if it is carefully monitored and directed. It is not clear that the OP staff understands Capitol Hill and its historic development, especially over the last 40 years. Our job is to make sure that they do understand this community. \*

## Welcome CHRS Supporters

*We thank the following new members, sponsors and patrons.*

### NEW MEMBERS

Vincent Morris

### PATRONS

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### SPONSORS

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moesker

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# 49th Annual CHRS Mother's Day House and Garden Tour

Annual Tour *continued from page 1*

features an amazing bar recovered from a since-closed DC watering hole. Classic and modern, this home is a perfect marriage of traditional and contemporary style.

Many of the original design features found on this year's tour are wonderfully creative. Marc Nasberg's and Howard Nelson's home at 524 Sixth Street, SE, has a contemporary motif that gives expression to their love of open space. The airiness of the house is given counterpoint by the sumptuous stone and marble accents imported from a variety of foreign countries. The courtyard off the living room accents a lap pool and punctuates the European flavor of this contemporary home that also has so many classical features.

Stunning art works complement the beautifully restored Lincoln Park home of Andy Grundberg and Merry Foresta, located at 1102 East Capitol Street. This home, with its appealing first-floor design, lends itself to an expressive décor. On view throughout their home are museum quality photographs from the 1800's, along with contemporary paintings by well-known artists. Foresta and Grundberg will be providing a guide to their collection, so visitors will be able to fully appreciate the integration of art and architecture.

These are but a few of the homes featured on the 49th Annual CHRS House and Garden Tour. The candlelight tour begins Saturday evening at 5:00 pm and continues until 8:00 pm. Keep in mind that it is also Second Saturday on Barracks Row from 5:00 pm–7:00 pm, so plan to stop for refreshments on Eighth Street. Restaurants featured on the Tour ticket and poster—Finn macCool's, Marty's, Tapatinis, The Old Siam, and The Ugly Mug—will offer ticket holders a complimentary beverage. Sunday's tour runs from noon



Top: 401 Sixth Street, SE

Left: 524 Sixth Street, SE

Above: 1102 East Capitol Street, NE

Photos: Norm Metzger

through 5:00 pm, with a tea from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Friendship House, located at 619 D Street, SE. Also on Sunday, a free shuttle bus service will run between venues.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 on tour weekend. They may be purchased at the CHRS kiosk at Eastern Market (weekends only) and at select venues around the city, including:

- Coldwell Banker/Pardoe Real Estate, 605 Pennsylvania, SE

- Trover Books, 221 Pennsylvania Ave, SE
- Prudential Carruthers Realtors, 216 Seventh Street, SE
- Appalachian Spring, Union Station, East Hall
- Cherry Antiques, 1526 Wisconsin Ave, NW (Georgetown)
- Riverby Books, 417 East Capitol Street, SE \*

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# Fragers' Recent Seminar on Traditional Lime and Mortar

by David Holmes

On Saturday, March 18, Frager's Hardware hosted a seminar on Traditional Lime and Mortar for Historical Preservation. Over sixty people attended the educational event, which included do-it-yourselfers and contractors. Virginia Lime Works (VLW) of Monroe, Virginia, provided a detailed presentation, beginning with the history of lime and culminating with an open question and answer forum. Interested homeowners had an opportunity to ask questions particular to their own restoration projects. In addition, contractors who specialize in historic brick restoration were able to provide valuable input.

Lime mortar is found on many, if not most, Capitol Hill houses built before the 1920's. Portland cement, the common modern mortar, cannot safely be used to point over deteriorating lime mortar. Cement forms a barrier to the movement of moisture from inside the house,

resulting in the deterioration of the lime mortar bonding brick and stone together. The moisture held behind the cement expands and contracts in winter's freeze-thaw cycle, crumbling the lime mortar and even the soft historic bricks themselves. VLW suggests that repointing requires:

- the removal of defective mortar to a depth of one and a half times the width of the joint (minimum 3/4"), or to the depth necessary to remove damaged, friable mortar
- that care be taken to avoid damage to the bricks
- the use of hand or pneumatic stone carving chisels no wider than one half the width of the existing joints
- the removal of any cement mortar previously applied
- the removal of dust and debris from the joints by brushing, vacuuming or the careful use of pressurized air
- the dampening of the bricks to

be repointed from the bottom of the wall upwards, both to clean and to prepare the wall for the application of new lime mortar

- careful curing—shade, slow drying and controlled moderate temperatures

Fragers' Hardware is now a local distributor for Virginia Lime Works and stocks the Mix & Go mortar which includes standard and fine mortar, as well as straight lime, lime plaster coat, and lime putty. VLW can also color match mortars for historic detail.

Fragers' can forward customers' mortar samples to VLW for analysis, and then provide a quart of a specially blended formula to the homeowners for testing and approval.

Information on historic lime and mortar is available from Apollo Broom at Frager's Hardware, 1115 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. For additional information on historic lime and mortar, you may also visit [www.virginalimeworks.com](http://www.virginalimeworks.com). ✧

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## CHRS President Appointed to Emergency Panel to Study Medical Center Proposal for Reservation 13

On April 19, Mayor Anthony A. Williams announced the appointment of a task force to examine the National Capital Medical Care (NCMC) proposal and alternatives for DC health care on Reservation 13. CHRS President Dick Wolf was named to the panel.

The task force will focus on improving the city's health care presence in East Washington, primarily by building some type of health care facility on Reservation 13. The panel will review what type of facility would best meet the needs of the community and will consider all types of care including primary, specialty and emergency care services. The panel will look at a full service hospital in the model of the

NCMC but will also examine alternatives such as an ambulatory care center, an urgent care center and a healthplex.

In addition, the task force will identify the District's most pressing health care issues and develop recommendations to promote the financial stability of all existing District hospitals and to improve emergency room infrastructure.

Dr. Gregg Pane, director of the DC Health Department, will chair the task force that will deliver recommendations to Mayor Williams and the DC Council before July. Initially, other members include: Cornelius Baker, policy advisor, AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families; Sharon Baskerville,

executive director, DC Primary Care Association; Colene Daniel, president and CEO, Greater Washington Region Doctors Community Healthcare Corporation; Dr. M. Joy Drass, president/CEO, Georgetown University Hospital; Vincent A. Keene, CEO, Unity Healthcare, Inc.; Robert A. Malson, president, DC Hospital Association; Kwame Roberts, Regional Addiction Prevention, Inc.; Michael C. Rogers, executive vice president, MedStar Health; Edward Shanbacker, executive vice president, Medical Society of DC; Dr. Bailus Walker, chairman, Mayor's Health Policy Council; and Dick Wolf, President, CHRS. Mayor Williams may seek to add additional members to the task force. ✧

# Zoning Committee Wrap Up

by Gary Peterson

## **Bushman named Legal Counsel for Office of Zoning**

Hill resident Esther Bushman has been named to fill the new position of legal counsel for the Office of Zoning. *News* readers will recognize Bushman's name because she has been a staffer for outgoing Ward 6 Councilmember Sharon Ambrose. The new position was funded by the City Council starting this fiscal year.

CHRS has supported the creation of this position for several years believing that the Attorney General has a conflict of interest and ethically cannot provide legal advice to the Office of Zoning. The City is often an applicant before the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment and this creates the conflict of interest. Bushman's arrival is very timely since the Office is starting to draft a new zoning law to replace the antiquated 50-year-old ordinance currently in place.

## **Dreyfus files amended PUD application**

Louis Dreyfus Property Group (Dreyfus) has filed an amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the large condominium project on the south side of the 200 block fronting H Street, NE, and the westerly half of that square. The property takes up the entire easterly portion of Second Street, NE, between G and H; the westerly half of the north side of G Street, NE; all of the H Street frontage; and comes south from H Street down the westerly side of Third Street approximately 50 feet. The amended proposal reduces in height the buildings at Third and H and on G Street at the alley. The proposal also sets back the garden pavilion which is mid-block in the rear of the building.

All of these changes reduce the visual impact on the remaining row houses on Second Street and G Street. These changes have been

achieved by reducing the square footage devoted to commercial uses. The total number of residential units remains the same at 305 and the 403 parking spaces remain unchanged. At the request of CHRS the number of small one-bedroom units were reduced and 15 larger units were added. As part of the PUD approval process Dreyfus must offer public benefits and amenities. Dreyfus is offering to make 34 of the 305 residential units affordable housing; to widen the 10-foot, north/south alley in the square to 20 feet; and to replace the sidewalks and landscape on the entire square. As part of the project Dreyfus will demolish 20 buildings of which 14 would be protected contributing structures if this property were in an historic district. Dreyfus has agreed to document the buildings demolished and to pay for an historic properties survey for the area between F, H, Second and Fourteenth Streets, but not including those properties that are part of the H Street Overlay. Dreyfus has also proposed establishing a fund to be used by owner-occupants of contributing structures within the survey area. The details are still being worked out but there is consider-

able support among community residents and organizations for a historic properties survey and extension of the historic district to prevent future Dreyfus projects and preserve our row house neighborhood.

## **Zoning Commission punts MedLINK rezoning**

On April 20 the Zoning Commission split 2 to 2 on Chair Mitten's motion to downzone the MedLINK property from R-5D to R-5B. Commissioners Jeffries and Hood opposed the rezoning because they didn't like the "change in midstream" of the development and because the owner had worked with the community.

Jeffries was also concerned that the rezoning was a "taking" and was not persuaded by legal counsel's explanation that it was not a taking since the property could still be used economically. Commissioner Parsons abstained because he was not present at the set down hearing and had not heard the evidence. Parsons agreed to read the record and the rezoning was continued until a later meeting. CHRS has supported the rezoning of this property for over two years. ✧

## **CHRS Board Elections** *continued from page 1*

Barb539@juno.com. For further information call Barbara Eck at 202-544-0840. The deadline for nominations is May 22. At Large members serve for two-year terms. All other officers serve a one-year term.

Each of the officers on the committee slate, with the exception of Mary Withum, is standing for re-election.

Mary Withum and her husband, Bob, moved to Capitol Hill in 1985. They moved to Maryland for a few years and returned to the Hill in 1997. They

have an eight-year-old daughter, Amanda.

Mary is an attorney dealing with litigation for the US Department of Transportation. She served as Counsel to the Southeast Citizens for Smart Development in its successful effort to compel DCRA, the Zoning Administrator, and other controlling DC agencies to apply and enforce DC zoning regulations at the former Boys Town site. She is one of the founding directors of the Penn East Alliance. ✧

# Looking Back on Capitol Hill Alley Dwellings

by Amanda Molson

In 1980, Dr. James Borchert contributed to the series "Blacks in the New World" with his book, *Alley Life in Washington: Family, Community, Religion, and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970*. It has become the go-to resource of today's Capitol Hill alley dwellers and admirers as it debunks the myths that surround these tiny treasures. Along with a detailed look at the rise and fall of alley dwellings, Borchert's book explores the social and cultural aspects of this hidden world. Residents and their families were united in their determination to survive, often in the face of extreme poverty and under the constant threats of expulsion by the federal government and housing reformers.

Most evidence suggests that alley dwellings constructed before the Civil War were speculative ventures aimed at renting to unskilled and service workers. Property owners in a street-facing block would subdivide the unused land at the rear of their homes to support the construction of small wooden row houses. Information on alley dwelling construction from the end of the Civil War until building permits were first required in 1877 is also fairly murky, but it is known that overcrowding quickly ensued as the postwar population increase brought high rents and hastily assembled shanties.

Most of our familiar present-day brick alley dwellings were built in the late 1870's and 1880's, and by this time, the composition of their developers had changed. Builders were now typically wealthy and often lived far from the houses they erected and owned. Their names included well-known architects, proprietors, and real estate and banking entrepreneurs. The makeup of the inhabitants themselves had also shifted. A majority of the first alley dwellers were white

and mostly immigrants. However, by the end of the 1800's, African Americans accounted for 93 percent of Washington's alley residents.

Alley dwellings were a perpetual target of social reformers who fretted over health hazards and the supposed environment of moral corruption. In 1892, Congress prohibited further housing construction on alleys less than thirty feet wide and without sewers, water mains and lights. These tight restrictions brought a near-halt to the ability of developers to secure permits and thereby caused a decline in alley growth. Citizen associations cried out for the razing of all alley structures, and in 1909, Charles Weller of the Associated Charities of Washington, DC slammed the alleys and their mostly African American residents in his book, *Neglected Neighbors*. In 1912, the Monday Evening Club created a detailed directory of the alleys in an effort to expose their ill effect on society, and the Board of Health condemned or demolished nearly 1,000 structures across Washington.

First Lady Ellen Wilson led tours of the alleys to present them as a menace, defending her successful call for 1918 legislation to end their existence altogether. The housing shortage of World War I postponed this order for their demise, but the movement was resurrected again during the Depression by Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1934, Congress created the Alley Dwelling Authority to

remove residents from their homes effective in 1944. World War II and a second housing shortage resulted in another postponement, this time until 1955.

However, as the deadline neared, the preservation movement was taking shape in the city. Restoration had begun in Georgetown in the 1930's, followed by Capitol Hill and parts of Northwest in the late 1940's and early 1950's. As suburbia lured Washingtonians away from urban life, work to protect the fabric of the city was occurring in their wake. Thanks to citizen activism to save the alley dwellings, the ban on their occupation was repealed in 1954, only one year before it was to go into effect.

Capitol Hill alley dwellings are now, of course, much loved and quite popular, often owned by Members of Congress and other political figures in a twist on their former existence in the government's crosshairs. New houses have been built in historic alleys alongside originals and sale prices are high, more evidence of the growing demands for single and small family urban housing. Borchert's book imparts his appreciation for the history of alley dwellings and their many years spent teetering on the edge of demise, along with an understanding of how Washington's alley residents have always found their own sense of community and identity apart from the world outside. ✧

## New CHRS Brochures are Ready To Go

by Amanda Molson

CHRS recently produced an informational brochure about our work. Included are committee descriptions, key successes, benefits of membership and instructions on how to join. Would you like to assist with distribution at places of business on Capitol Hill? Will you be attending a community meeting where these pamphlets might be shared? Or do you have a new neighbor who might like to learn about us? Please contact the CHRS office, 202-543-0425 or CapHRS@aol.com. ✧

# May Preservation Café Brings Back “What Style Is It?”

by Nancy Metzger

If Capitol Hill’s “Victorian” house styles have you confused, you should be able to get them all straightened out at the May 19 Preservation Café. At February’s Preservation Café, Judith Capen, AIA, explained Capitol Hill’s eclectic mix of building styles to a Standing Room Only crowd at Marty’s upstairs room. So, back by popular demand, Ms. Capen will give a repeat PowerPoint presentation of “What Style Is It?” at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 19, in Christ Church’s Parish Hall, 620 G Street, SE. The parish hall is accessible for wheelchair users from the parking lot behind the church. Preservation Cafés are free, open to

all, and sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society.

“What Style Is It?” will look at buildings of different styles and at various elements of those buildings—the mansard roofs, Italianate cornices and Craftsmen porches that help define those styles. Capitol Hill’s buildings start in the late 1790’s with the Federal and Georgian styles (or at least the row-house equivalents of those styles). There are buildings influenced by the Greek Revival movement and others by the Italianate period. Towards the end of the Nineteenth Century, buildings become even more diverse, with elements from Richardsonian Romanesque, Moorish Revival, Gothic Revival,

Egyptian Revival, Renaissance Revival and Queen Anne styles. Then even more stylistic influences were added into the mix—Stick Style, Chateausque, Beaux Arts Classicism, Georgian Revival, Tudor Revival, and finally some Modern ones such as Art Deco.

Judith Capen is the perfect guide for this “armchair” tour. She is a long-time Capitol Hill resident, a restoration architect, teacher of architectural history classes, and author of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society’s Guideline, *Building Styles in the Capitol Hill Historic District*. For more information, please contact the CHRS offices at 202-543-0425 or CapHRS@aol.com. ✧

## Supreme Court Security or Neighborhood Insecurity?

by Dick Wolf

The terrorist onslaught of September 11, 2001, continues to have ramifications for Hill residents as the Supreme Court extends its security perimeter into the Capitol Hill neighborhood. With the assistance of Congresswoman Norton, Second Street (SE and NE) has been kept open with the addition of various security devices such as guardhouses, bollards, and pop-up street barriers. But over the last year the Court has been intent on further steps to stop the possibility of truck bombs by attempting to install pop-ups and bollards in the two hundred block of A Street, NE.

Questions have been raised by ANC6C as to whether fending off blasts intended for the Court building would end up causing great destruction and injury to the neighborhood. Court officials and representatives of the Architect of the Capitol have admitted that possibility.

We hope that—with the further assistance of Mrs. Norton—the

ANC, CHRS, SPNA, our neighbors, and our city officials will work with the Court to improve security, while not putting an entire neighborhood of women, men, and

children at risk of being the “buffer” zone against Oklahoma City-style truck bombers. Surely, there’s a better solution. Stay tuned. This matter is not yet resolved. ✧

### Working Homeowner Program at UDC

The UDC Cooperative Extension Service Working Homeowner Program provides information and training on “How To” maintain, repair, and replace items throughout the home. While many companies and stores offer “How To” seminars, the working homeowner program will give the participants the “How To” on the entire project.

Topics offered include:

- Replacing Sink and Faucet
- Wallpapering
- Changing Light Fixtures
- Security Lighting

- Installing a Toilet
- Replacing a Garbage Disposal
- Painting Techniques
- Hanging Doors
- Installing Door Locks
- Installing Ceramic Tile
- Installing Vinyl Flooring

For additional information, call Lonnie Finley at 202-274-7162. Seminars are held at 4340 Connecticut Ave, running from 6:00 pm–8:00 pm. Each seminar costs \$35.00. You can sign up for an entire package for \$200.00. ✧

# April Preservation Café Informs Residents of Eastern Market Rehabilitation and Streetscape Plans

by Shauna Holmes

With rehabilitation plans for Eastern Market about 35 percent complete, the April 18 Preservation Café provided a large audience of Capitol Hill residents with an opportunity to view architectural drawings and hear about proposed rehabilitation measures from a representative of Quinn Evans Architects, the firm handling the project for the DC Office of Property Management. In addition, attendees learned about proposed improvements to the Eastern Market streetscape from a DDOT spokesman. Before the presentations began, audience members also had a chance to view proposed signs and banners designed to provide information about the Market.

Both the interior and exterior of Eastern Market are historically significant and require sensitive treatment. Tina Roach, an architect with Quinn Evans Architects, described the measures proposed for improving maintenance for the entire building; upgrading its HVAC systems, lighting, emergency egress, and storage; and improving accessibility. The proposal includes adding skylights on the west side of the roof that would not be visible from Seventh Street, as well as a metal fire escape, screened storage for trash receptacles at the south end of the building, and ramps with railings at both the Market Lunch door and the door by the bakery. Existing Lexan would be removed from the windows and replaced with clear glass. The North Hall would get a new stage, a mezzanine to hold air handlers, and improved storage space behind the stage. A new door would reconnect the North and Center Halls, and two restrooms would be added in the Center Hall.

During the Q&A period, members of the audience raised questions about skylights; railings on

the access ramps; roof repair and restoration; location of dumpster storage and new air chillers; the number of bathroom stalls; location and function of proposed heating, cooling, and air intake vents; and the timing of the rehabilitation. The project is expected to begin in early 2007. Since the building will continue to be occupied and used as work proceeds, it will probably take several years before all phases are completed.

The Eastern Market rehabilitation plans will go before both the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Commission of Fine Arts. Because community input is essential as plans are being considered, the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) is interested in what members of the community have to say and invited residents to provide their thoughts concerning the project. Comments can be directed to Monte Edwards, Chair of EMCAC's Capital Improvements Committee, at [monte.edwards@verizon.net](mailto:monte.edwards@verizon.net).

While the Office of Property Management is planning and carrying out Eastern Market's rehabilitation, DC's Department of Transportation will be implementing a number of improvements to Seventh Street, SE, between Pennsylvania and North Carolina Avenues and to the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between

Seventh and Eighth Streets. Christopher Delfs, DDOT's Ward 6 Transportation Planner, provided the Preservation Café audience with an overview of the planned improvements. The streetscape project has been under design for over four years, and implementation should begin this summer.

Improvements will involve sidewalks, trees, lighting, curbs, and repaving Seventh Street. New manhole covers will have Eastern Market's new logo. Sidewalks will be replaced with molded brick that will be compatible with historic brick used in the area. Wherever possible, existing bricks will be salvaged and reused. Some healthy existing trees will be retained, and October Glory Red Maples will be planted in new tree boxes on Seventh Street, with Willow Oaks on the North Plaza. New streetlights will be Washington Globes on black posts, similar to the ones along Barracks Row, with pendent teardrop globes at street corners. To improve pedestrian safety, a new mid-block pedestrian crossing will be added beside Eastern Market. To improve traffic safety, there will be new traffic signals at Seventh and North Carolina and at Eighth and Independence.

Streetscape work is not expected to disrupt Eastern Market operations. Work will probably take up to 18 months. ✧

## Nominations Sought for Preservation Awards

The District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office is currently accepting nominations for the Fourth Annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation. The 2006 awards program will honor significant contributions by individuals, organizations, and businesses promoting his-

toric preservation in the District of Columbia. Copies of the application and submission guidelines are available at <http://planning.dc.gov/preservation>. Microsoft Word copies of the document may be obtained by sending a request to [historic.preservation@dc.gov](mailto:historic.preservation@dc.gov) or by calling 202-442-8835. ✧

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# Mark Your Calendar!

MAY

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**1 Monday, 6:30 pm**

**CHRS Historic Preservation Committee**, Kirby House, 420 10th St., SE, first floor. (Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034)

**4 Thursday, 6:00 pm**

**South Capitol Street Transportation Options.** Opportunity for public review/comment on DDOT roadway and bridge alternatives. Van Ness Elementary School, 1150 Fifth Street, SE. (Details: Faisal Hameed, 202-671-4607 or rsvp@jsallc.com.)

**6 Saturday, 9 am–12:00 noon**

**Freshfarm Market** will re-open on the parking lot between 609 and 625 H Street, NE, on Saturdays through Oct. 28.

**7 Sunday, 11 am–6 pm**

**43rd Annual Market Day**, sponsored by Friendship House. (Details, Matilda Carter, 202-675-9059 or mcarter@friendshiphouse.net.)

**10 Wednesday, 7:30 pm**

**CHRS Zoning Committee**, Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE, first floor. Cases for the meeting will involve 628 East Capitol Street, NE; 1118 H Street, NE; 516 Fifth Street, SE; 1116 East Capitol Street, NE; and 605 Second Street, NE. Note the meeting is on Wednesday night instead of the usual Thursday. (Details: Gary Peterson, 202-547-7969.)

**13 Saturday, 5:00-8:00 pm &**

**14 Sunday, Noon-5:00 pm**

**Forty-Ninth Annual CHRS House and Garden Tour.** Tickets are available weekends at the CHRS kiosk at Eastern Market and various ticket outlets around

the city. (Details: www.chrs.org or CHRS office, 202-543-0425.)

**16 Tuesday, 6:00 pm**

**Overview of Ward 6 Comprehensive Plan Revisions.** DC Planning Office Staff will present proposed Comp Plan revisions to ANC Commissioners and residents. Van Ness Elementary School, 1150 Fifth Street, SE. (Details: Jill Diskan, 202-442-7628 or Jill.Diskan@dc.gov.)

**16 Tuesday, 6:30 pm**

**CHRS Board Meeting**, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. (Details: Dick Wolf, 202-543-4353)

**17 Wednesday, 6:30 pm**

**Preservation Café Repeat: "What Style Is It?"** Christ Church Parish Hall, 620 G Street, SE. Accessible entrance at the rear of the church. (Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034.) *See article on page 8.*

**25 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.)

**31 Wednesday, 7:30 pm**

**At-Large Democratic Council Candidates Forum**, Jefferson Jr. High School, 801 Seventh Street, SW. Moderated by political commentator Mark Plotkin. (Details: Jan Eichhorn, 202-547-8855 or Ward6Dems@aol.com.)

JUNE

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**5 Monday, 6:30 pm**

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

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## Earth Day Cleanup at Kingman Island

by Beth Purcell

April 22, 2006, was the Earth Day trash cleanup on the Anacostia River. Volunteers cleaned three sites on or near Capitol Hill: 1950 M Street, SE; Canal Park (1100 New Jersey Avenue, SE); and Kingman Island. The Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) led the Kingman Island cleanup.

About 250 volunteers—including entire families—came to Kingman Island. Much of the trash consisted of plastic bottles and styro-foam—abundant proof that neither

is biodegradable. Every volunteer also found a few oddball items: tires, a TV, tennis balls, crack bags, a toy plastic soldier and a troll doll. By the end of the morning our group had filled some 50 bags of trash. If our group's haul was typical, hundreds of bags of trash were removed from Kingman Island on Earth Day.

Kingman Island is a wonderful natural resource—a quiet forest, with plentiful wildlife. To visit or picnic, go to RFK parking lot # 6, then walk toward the river and the gate in the tall chain link fence. ✧



**Capitol Hill Restoration Society**

420 Tenth Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003