



NEWS

www.chrs.org

June 2006

June CHRS Membership Forum to Address Capitol Hill Public Schools

By Amanda Molson

The condition of the public schools in our neighborhood affects not only the future of our children, but also the triumph of Capitol Hill. This community is awash in young families today, and in order to keep them, Capitol Hill must offer a standard of living that meets their needs. For our neighborhood to thrive and continue to grow, our public schools must be more than adequate. This requires assistance and involvement from all of us, whether we are the parents of public school children or not.

At a June 22 membership forum, CHRS will host a panel presentation focusing on three significant efforts by community groups to reinvest in Capitol Hill's public schools. Representatives from the Capitol Hill Public Schools PTA, the School Libraries Project, and the Brent Neighbors will discuss their initiatives and will highlight additional ways for members of the community to get involved.

Any successful project with our schools requires financial support, manpower, organization, and creativity. We can be partners with DCPS in these efforts and a source of enthusiasm to jumpstart new endeavors. Our panelists will tell

us how to make the relationship work and how to put our community's ideas in motion.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, in the basement of St. Peter's Church, 2nd and C Streets, SE. Refreshments will be offered at 7:00 pm, CHRS business will follow at 7:30, and the

program will start at 7:45 pm. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

For more information, contact Amanda Molson at 548-0665 or e-mail her at amandamolson@yahoo.com. Please encourage your neighbors to join you in attending.

See you there! ✧

Looking Back On Capitol Hill

By Nancy Metzger

For almost 50 years, there has been a CHRS-sponsored House and Garden Tour that showcases the restoration efforts of neighborhood residents and businesses.

Rick Busch, a historic preservation activist living in northwest DC, found a clipping of a May 1974 Washington Post story in his late mother's papers as he was helping to clear her house in upstate New York. He thought CHRS members might be interested in how things looked 32 years ago at house tour time—about four years before the historic district was established.

Following are some excerpts from the story written by Sarah Booth Conroy:

"This year, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's 17th annual house and garden tour will show seven houses owned, and in many cases remodeled, by young, single people with careers. The three other houses on the tour are owned by couples in which both partners work. There are, of course, a number of families with children who live and flourish on Capitol Hill. But there are days when you could be excused for thinking that the trend is toward a giant singles condominium encompassing vast sections of the Hill.

"The Hill has been so popular that its limits are spreading every year, farther and farther

Looking Back continued on page 5

President's Column: There Is Room For Hope In Our Schools

By Dick Wolf

This month's CHRS forum is about one of the missing elements in building a model urban community: a reformed public school system. Although the program features a presentation concerning a proposal for new libraries in a number of Capitol Hill elementary schools—an initiative of the Capitol Hill Community Foundation—it represents but one aspect of what is happening in DC schools that could lead to a massive change.

The most visible aspect of this change is the potentially billions of dollars voted by the Council to physically rebuild the great number of schools that are in extreme disrepair, dangerous, and dirty. An example of what can be done is the rebuilding of McKinley Tech

High School. Located at 2nd and T Streets, NW, it is situated on a promontory that overlooks the city. This once magnificent school has been restored and remodeled into a physical plant befitting the finest private school campus. It has a new, energetic principal, and is building a student body capable of exploiting this exceptional resource. Cost: \$70 million. Extending that kind of care to the rest of the system will take years of effort and support for funding.

However, no matter how wonderful the physical plant, it's staffing and parents who will be the decisive forces in building an excellent public school system. In this regard, there are new principals in schools around the Hill that have excellent credentials, energy and hope. They are infusing both old and new staff with their views and

striving for excellence. That will take time. Undergirding it all is a growing group of parents who are demanding change and excellence. It is those demands, expressed through involvement in PTAs and at the political level, which will ultimately make the difference.

Over many years of effort to protect the physical framework of Capitol Hill, improve parks, and support local businesses, the goal of CHRS has been to attract and retain residents. Although much has been achieved in reaching that goal, the missing element has been families. They are now here in growing numbers, demanding better services for themselves and their children. Schools are the last frontier. We are here to help them in any way we can, and our forum on school libraries is a start. ✱

Jostling for Space in DC Neighborhoods

By Dick Wolf

The day of reckoning for DC neighborhoods is at hand. The task force on comprehensive plan revision is very close to finishing its work to guide planning and zoning for the next 20 years! This is potentially one of the most controversial issues in this year's elections because it is about disposition and uses of land in the District of Columbia. The schedule calls for presentations by the Office of Planning throughout the Wards, plus a Mayor's hearing on June 13th. Following these presentations and comments, the draft plan will be further refined, and the Mayor will submit his version of the Plan to the Council in late July. It is probable that hearings before the Council will be held in September, after the primary.

The city is in the midst of a

development boom that puts pressure on every neighborhood in the city. Unless it is controlled, Wisconsin Avenue will be a wall of 110' buildings from Friendship Heights to Sidwell Friends School; Foggy Bottom will be swallowed up completely by George Washington University; and Capitol Hill will be surrounded by downtown-size office buildings and condominiums along the Anacostia waterfront and the NOMA development sweeping down Florida Avenue to the edges of the historic district. The facts developed by the task force tell the story:

1. For local planning purposes, DC is tiny: only 39 square miles.
2. DC is the fifth densest city in the country.
3. DC's population is falling steadily—the Census says

550,000 persons, of which about 70,000 are students.

4. Loss of families represents the greatest drop in population, particularly middle class families.
5. DC schools are a national disgrace.
6. One third of the adult population is functionally illiterate.
7. DC's downtown will soon be the second largest in the country after the Chicago Loop.
8. DC has the highest budget per population of any city in the US: \$5 billion from local taxes and \$4 billion from various federal payments. Tax revenue from residents makes up the bulk of locally raised revenue.

Jostling *continued on page 3*

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:

David Holmes, Larry Janezich, Jane Ruyle, 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.



Richard Wolf, President of CHRS, Kevin Shewbridge (partially obscured) and ANC6C chairman Mark Dixon speak at a press conference to protest the barriers across A Street, NE, proposed by the Supreme Court. Photo: David Holmes

9. DC has seven universities, all seeking to expand. It contains a growing number of DC campuses for universities and colleges from throughout the country. It is home to several hundred embassies and chancelleries.
10. Virtually all housing built in the last five years consists of condominiums; there is very little family housing, either row house or detached.
11. Crime in the District is still extremely high: 199 murders last year. Comparable size cities have far fewer: Boston 75 (up from 35 a few years ago); Seattle 35.

Even with such facts facing the Office of Planning, its policy in rewriting the Plan is to soften prescriptive language, eliminate ward plans, override specific local controls with vague policies—such as “transit oriented development” and “inclusionary zoning”—anything the Office of Planning believes is appropriate public policy. There is

no effective implementation system, and OP remains under the heel of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development.

CHRS has had a clear policy on these issues for some time. Language in the Plan should be prescriptive; there should be local area plans with detail and maps; implementation should be through a new local planning commission; zoning should be restored as the primary means of prescribing land use, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan; the Office of Planning should be removed from the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development; and there should be an emphasis on public investment in the residential neighborhoods and in support of small business.

Ask the candidates seeking office for their views on these matters. Planning, land use, and zoning are issues decided at the ballot box in every locality in the country. *

(Editor's note: Dick Wolf is a member of the task force on plan revision—the Ambrose delegate.)

2006 CHRS Annual House and Garden Tour Roundup

Despite ominous weather forecasts circulating since early in the week, the 49th Annual Mother's Day House and Garden Tour went off without a hitch. Attendance was down from last year's weekend of picture-perfect weather, but overall the tour was a financial success.

Saturday night's Candlelight Tour was blessed with a warm, dry evening, and many Tour-goers took full advantage of the opportunity to get out ahead of the anticipated Sunday crowds. Many thanks to the Barracks Row businesses who supported the Tour by providing complimentary refreshments to tired and thirsty ticket-holders that night. We also extend our appreciation to Friendship House, both for allowing us to use their historic facilities for our Sunday Tea and for their 100 years of service to our community. Sunday afternoon the weather held almost until closing time, when a shower broke through. All nine houses looked superb!

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society would like to send heartfelt thank yous to the homeowners, the countless volunteers who will be feted at the President's party



(date to be announced soon), Tour brochure advertisers, and committee team members Paul Cromwell, Aileen Moffatt, Joan Joshi, Roy Mustelier, Richard Russell, Phyllis Jane Young, Michael Tubbs, Linda Pettie, and Nancy Metzger. Also, to the talented Adrienne Williams who did the charming rendering of Barracks Row Main Street that was the image for this year's Tour, extra kudos and thanks.

Next year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Mother's Day House and Garden Tour. On May 12 and 13, 2007, Capitol Hill will

Friendship House as it looked in October, 1935. Library of Congress, Historic American Buildings Survey, Albert S. Burns, Photographer. South Elevation.

celebrate this auspicious occasion with a grand tour featuring homes you simply will not believe. Watch for information in the coming months as plans for this milestone Tour are announced. If you would like to volunteer to help with the 2007 Anniversary Tour, please call Ann Richards at 202-543-0425. She will be very pleased to hear from you. ✧

Tour Success Pays Dividends!

Apply Now for Community Service Grants

By David Holmes

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, this year's House and Garden Tour was a success. Twenty percent of the Tour's net returns are typically made available to community groups in the form of grants. While we don't yet have the final total for the 2006 House Tour, we expect to make funds available for community groups again this year. Most grants will be in the \$500-\$2,500 range.

Applications for grants (include an original and six copies) should reach the CHRS office by Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2006. They can be mailed to P.O. Box 15264, Washington, DC 20003-0264, or dropped off at 420 10th Street, SE. The application should explain the proposed project in detail and clearly describe how the project will benefit the Capitol Hill community. Review of the applications is guided by criteria that can be found on the CHRS website at www.chrs.org/docs/grants.htm.

The CHRS Grants Committee, chaired by Larry Pearl, will review

all applications and make recommendations to the Board at its meeting on Tuesday, September 19. Results will be announced soon thereafter and published in the *October News*.

Grants from CHRS in 2005 have helped fund tree planting projects by the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery and at the Northeast Library by Trees for Capitol Hill; beautification projects by Barracks Row Main Street and Brent Neighbors; and a trash screening fence at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. ✧

Looking Back On Capitol Hill *continued from page 1*



from the Capitol, the base from which Hill distances and prices are measured.

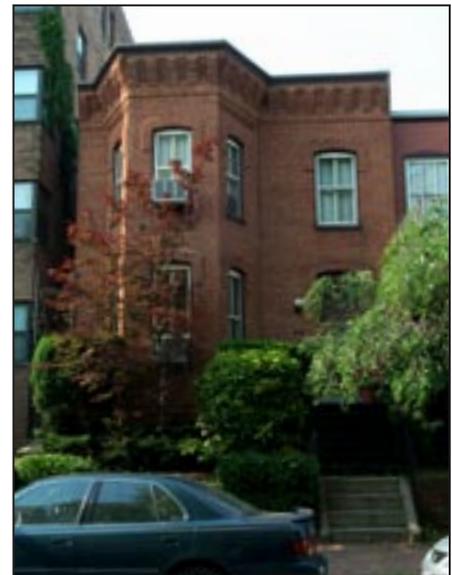
"One of the newer restorations in the far-out area is the row of five late-19th century, turreted, brick row houses in the 200 block of 12th Street, SE. The houses were all bought, largely gutted, and redesigned as multilevel houses with basement apartments by architect Robert Hess.

"From the outside, they have certain family resemblances: the neat iron fences and square front entry gardens, the fixed glass windows with a single pane going from sill to sill, the entrance doors all at a step down from the front walk, and the turrets preserved from the last century. ... Apartments on the block, one bedroom with complete kitchens, rent for \$180 to \$220. The base price of the houses, when they were sold a year ago, was \$60,000 but extras ran some models up to \$64,000 ...

"Another bachelor on the tour, Don King, bought his house at 209 C Street, SE, in July 1972 when it was two apartments. He hired

James Morrison, a builder with magpie-collector habits, to turn it back into a single house, restoring the interior staircase and laying on all sorts of refinements the house never had. ... The dining room's paneling comes from the old Dodge Hotel, which once stood at Union Plaza on Capitol Hill."

Architect Charles Dupwe apparently spent five years remodeling his house at 813 North Carolina Avenue, SE, including a basement apartment, "... rented to an unmarried couple. The apartment is on two floors, a kitchen and living room at street level and two more rooms at basement level. He removed the old floor—'underneath was a rat's nest'—and poured concrete to make a new, lower floor. Then he added a conical fireplace and a double bed in a sleeping loft. A double swing hangs from the ceiling. Dupwe paid \$17,000 for his house, put about \$20,000 into building materials, and five years at hard labor. He thinks it might be worth \$80,000 to \$90,000 now." *



Highlights of the 1974 House Tour

Above: The house at 209 C Street, SE, contains paneling from the old Dodge Hotel.

Top left: Wish you could have purchased 813 North Carolina Avenue, SE, for \$17,000?

Top right: Looking at the 200 block of 12th Street, SE, in 2006, it's hard to believe that this was considered to be in a "far-out area" of the Hill not so long ago.

Preservation Café Round-up

By Nancy Metzger

What Style Is It?

The chances are good, according to Judith Capen, AIA, May's Preservation Café speaker, that a building on Capitol Hill will have Italianate, Queen Anne, or Richardsonian Romanesque elements. While most of our buildings fall into one of those three categories, there are also some good examples of Federal and Georgian buildings—and the revivals of those styles that came about 100 years later. Attendees learned how to pick out houses showing the influence of Gothic Revival, Egyptian Revival, and Greek Revival, as well as other styles. About 75 people turned out for this repeat engagement of February's standing room only PowerPoint presentation—some for a review and others for the first time.

Thanks for a Great Season

The 2005-2006 Preservation Café season wrapped up with the May presentation. We'll take a summer break and then be back in September. Special thanks to all of our speakers this year: Jill Laurence, "Smart Storage Ideas for Small Historic Houses;" Emily Paulus and Denise Witkor on Capitol Hill's Unique Public Spaces; David Mahoney, "Fine Art of Painting;" Judith Capen, "What Style Is It?;" Margaret Messiaen, "Tips for Top-Notch Tree Boxes;" and Quinn Evans Architects and DDOT presenting Eastern Market rehabilitation plans and Seventh Street streetscape improvements.

A heartfelt thank-you to Trattoria Alberto and Marty's for hosting many of these events—be sure to stop in for a meal this summer at these wonderful establishments. It's a fine way to show appreciation for their contributions to the program.

Let us Know What You Think About Preservation Cafés

Seven years ago, the Historic Preservation Committee started the Preservation Café series, which was modeled after a program offered by a historic preservation group in Greenwich Village, New York City. The idea was to present short programs (45 minutes maximum) on preservation topics of interest to Hill residents in an informal setting that would encourage questions and discussions.

Our first Cafés featured the restoration of the Shakespeare Theatre headquarters on Eighth Street, landscape architect James van Sweden on townhouse gardens, and architect Amy Weinstein on her personal view on patterns of Capitol Hill architecture. Other Cafés addressed basic maintenance information (roofs, repointing and paint removal, windows, doors, etc.) and more general topics like local history, house research, and archaeology.

The Historic Preservation Committee will soon be lining up topics and speakers for next year's Preservation Café series and would like your thoughts to guide its planning.

- **Location:** Preservation Cafés have typically been scheduled in rooms generously made available by Capitol Hill restaurants, so the events can be fairly informal. Folks can buy a glass of wine to sip during the meeting, then head downstairs for a meal afterwards if they wish. These arrangements have often provided wonderful, congenial settings, although sometimes the spaces have been too small for the audience and/or noisy.

If you've attended a Café or two, what do you think about

the settings and locations? Does the location influence whether you attend or not? Should we continue with the restaurants (if we can still line one up—our restaurants are getting busier), or would a small meeting room, say in a church, be better where the audience could hear well?

- **Date and Time:** We chose the third Wednesday evening of the month as one of the better times for restaurants and far enough from the first of the month that the announcements can be carried in local papers. The Cafés start at 6:30 pm, which we hope is close to the time most people are coming home from work, so folks can stop by and be on their way home 45 minutes later.

Please let us know what you think of the present schedule—third Wednesday, 6:30-7:15 pm—and any modifications you would prefer.

- **Topics and speakers:** When Preservation Cafés began, we thought if half-a-dozen people came, we'd be happy. To our delight, the Cafés now typically draw anywhere from 20 to 75 attendees.

Surprisingly, the Cafés on home hazards—molds, lead, electrical wiring, and chimney fires—have drawn the fewest attendees (approximately five each).

The Preservation Cafés are for you. Please let us know what topics you would be interested in, and any good speakers you may know of.

Please let us know your answers to these questions, either by e-mail at CapHRS@aol.com or a phone call to the office (202-543-0425). ✧

Friends of the Old Naval Hospital to Hold Open House

Showcasing Recent Restoration, June 17, 2006

By Donna Hanousek

The Friends of the Old Naval Hospital are inviting the community to visit the Old Naval Hospital and see the recently completed Phase I restoration on the south facade of this historic icon at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.

On Saturday, June 17, between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, the community will have the opportunity to ask questions, inspect the work, and be given tours of the restoration by representatives from BELLArchitects, the supervising architects.

Craftsmen from the three subcontractors who did the actual restoration—Worcester Eisenbrant for windows, doors, and stonework; Restoration Concepts for the south portico; and Craftsman Iron for the cast iron stairway—will walk visitors through their segment of the work. Representatives of the DC Office of Property Management, which managed and funded this first phase, will also be on hand to discuss future plans.

Although this initial phase concentrated only on the South Facade, it is the harbinger of what needs to be done to the rest of the building. There will also be considerable research and work needed to restore the brick to its original state and color, none of which was done on the South Facade, where the only brick repair was repointing the basement, which was badly deteriorated. In addition, the cast iron (and original) fence, which was originally manufactured on the Anacostia River, remains a major undertaking.

For a detailed look at the work undertaken for the first phase, go to www.oldnavalhospital.org. ✧



Top: Work on the South Elevation.

Right: The double-hung windows are being restored.

Above: Repointing the retaining wall for the magnificent iron stairs.

All photos: Friends of the Old Naval Hospital

Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Campbell & Phil Perry
John Crane
Jane Daye
John & Linda Deatrick
Raiford Gaffney
Gloria Junge
Steve & Jocelyn Kho

Verne Martell & Senator

Lisa Murkowski
Delia & Michael Neuman
Barry & Amy Pershkov
Stefan & Jennifer Wolfe

PATRONS

Muriel Martin-Wein & James Wein

David Massey &

Katharine Matthews
Randell & Linda Norton

SPONSORS

Jerry and Arlene Lewis
Bill Manville

LIFE MEMBER

Bernie Robinson

CHRS Zoning Committee Update

By Gary Peterson

MedLINK

The Zoning Commission voted 3 to 2 to set down for hearing the ANC6C application to downzone the MedLINK property. As of the last *News*, the Commission was split 2 to 2 because Commissioner Parsons had not been present at the hearing on the issue. Parsons agreed to read the record and then vote; he supported the application. The Zoning Commission proposes to downzone the property from R-5D to R-5B, not R-4 as requested by the ANC. There will be a hearing in the fall on the proposal.

On another outstanding MedLINK issue, parking, DCRA on May 10 directed MedLINK to apply for a building permit to re-stripe the parking spaces in the parking lot and parking garage. MedLINK does not provide for the 177 parking spaces that are required by the zoning and has ignored for 14 years community demands that they come into compliance. Stanton Park Neighborhood Association estimates that the noncompliance had benefited MedLINK in the amount of \$1.8 million.

AppleTree Charter School

AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation applied for a building permit for 138 12th Street, NE, on February 9, 2006. On April 28, 2006, the Zoning Administrator, Bill Crews, denied the request, stating that the property does not meet the R-4 zoning requirements for minimum lot area, lot width, and number of parking spaces.

In his letter, Crews notes that the Zoning Commission adopted an emergency text amendment on February 13, 2006, changing the requirements for charter schools and that the amendment is effective immediately and applies to all



pending applications. After the purchase of the property, AppleTree took the position that the zoning regulations did not apply to it.

The Zoning Commission held its first hearing on the text amendments on May 11, 2006. Dave Powell, a CHRS Zoning Committee member, testified on behalf of CHRS in support of the amendments and received praise from supporters of the amendments for his noteworthy comments. One of the witnesses at the hearing was Thomas A. Nida, Chairman of the DC Public Charter School Board. Nida testified that there were procedures in place that would allow neighbors to have a hearing on the location of a charter school. To our knowledge, no such hearings have been held. The Zoning Commission suggested that the neighbors and the Office of Planning meet with Nida.

On May 24, Dick Wolf, Gary Peterson, and Herb Faling, Chair of Northeast Neighbors for Responsible Growth, had a meeting with Nida. Nida agreed to provide a copy of the procedures that are to be followed by a charter school. In

Dave Powell speaks on behalf of CHRS at the Zoning Commission hearing on May 11 about proposed changes in zoning affecting charter schools.

Photo: David Holmes

discussing them, it became apparent that AppleTree might not have followed some of the procedures in this case. He gave as an example that the Public Charter School Board must approve all purchases in excess of \$25,000.

Nida also stated that this case was the first time that a neighborhood had objected to a charter school, and that the Board needs procedures in place to address objections. In the past, the Board has relied on the charter school to get a certificate of occupancy and has taken this as proof that all land use issues have been resolved.

The meeting was productive in understanding each other's concerns. CHRS looks forward to working with the Board to set up a process for addressing land use issues that arise from the placement of charter schools.

CHRS Zoning continued on page 9

DCRA's Homeowners Center To Ease Permitting Process

By David Holmes

Permits are required for almost all home repair projects. Whether it be plumbing or electrical repair; painting or the replacement of window, doors and gutters; or structural repairs or additions, DC requires permits. Electrical, plumbing, and AC/heating work require your contractor to obtain a permit himself. But structural and some non-structural repairs require permits that can be obtained at the new Homeowners Center at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

The Center was established to expedite the permitting process for the homeowner; it does not serve contractors. Bill Canavan, the Director of DCRA, states that the

goal is for owners to have to visit DCRA only twice, once to present and review the building plans with a plans reviewer and field inspector, and the second time to pick up the permits. The staff is trained to avoid speaking 'constructionese,' providing immediate expert assistance to the homeowner.

In addition to meeting their legal need for a permit, homeowners will receive assistance in safety, compliance with DC code, and warnings of potential problems. For their own safety, neither the homeowner nor the neighbors want structures, wiring, and gas piping or clean and waste water plumbing that do not meet code.

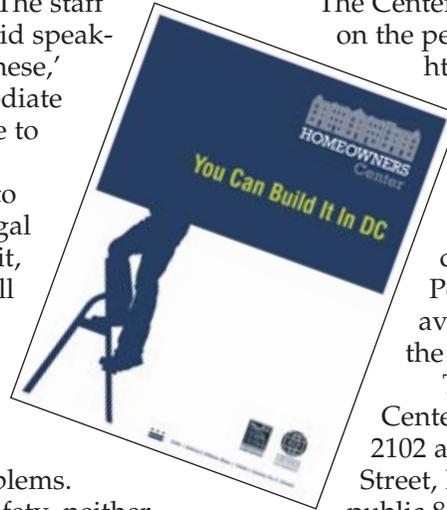
You can find more information

at <http://dcra.dc.gov/dcra/cwp/view,a,1342,q,635750.asp>. Capitol Hill homeowners have reported very positive experiences with the new system.

The Center offers a brochure on the permit process at http://dcra.dc.gov/dcra/frames.asp?doc=/dcra/lib/dcra/information/homeowners_center/can_build_it.pdf. A Permit Wizard is also available to expedite the paperwork.

The Homeowners Center is located in Suite 2102 at 941 North Capitol Street, NE. It is open to the public 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The

Center serves District homeowners both by appointment and on a walk-in basis. To contact them, call 202-442-4400. ✧



CHRS Zoning *continued from page 8*

Boys Town Subpoenas CHRS Board Members

In the continuing dispute with the DC government, Boys Town and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued subpoenas to past presidents Brian Furness and Rob Nevitt. Boys Town and DOJ contend that the District government violated the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding Boys Town's request to build a community-based facility on the property at the corner of Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues. The property is currently being developed by JPI as a grocery store and condominiums. Nevitt gave his deposition on May 17 at the office of Boys Town's lawyers. Furness is scheduled for late June, when he will be in DC for personal reasons. Community activists Will Hill and Ellen Oppenweiner and Councilmember Sharon Ambrose have already given their depositions. Boys Town continues to pester the community for stopping their shenanigans. ✧

CHRS Lauded in *Financial Times* Article

By Barbara Eck

Marilia Duffles, writing in the *Financial Times*, recounts how "dedicated residents ensured that Capitol Hill would remain" the "jewel box" it is today.

She waxes poetic about her days living and working on the Hill and states that no matter where she walks, the beautiful public buildings are flanked by the historic neighborhood homes that had "been more than 300 years in the making." Ms. Duffles describes this place we call home as "a

sweet confection of restored residential architecture, from Romanesque to Victorian to Classical Revival."

The article mentions Tom Groom's book, *The Majesty of Capitol Hill*, and quotes Hill historian, Ruth Ann Overbeck, in a discussion of house history and ongoing rehabilitation and restoration efforts. Ms. Duffles gives credit to CHRS when she states that "the dedicated efforts of area residents led by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society have kept this jewel box from turning into a metropolis." ✧

Mark Your Calendar!

JUNE

5 Monday, 6:30 pm

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

7 Wednesday, 6:00 pm

Forum: Overview of Ward 6

Comprehensive Plan Revisions. Staff from the D.C. Planning Office will present and solicit comments on proposed Comp Plan revisions, which include significant land use changes, to ANC Commissioners and residents. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street, SW. Details: Jill Diskan, 202-442-7628 or Jill.Diskan@dc.gov

8 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Cases: 300 block of H Street, NE, PUD application (ZC #06-01); 221-225 11th Street, NE (BZA #17427); 628 East Capitol Street, NE (BZA #17438); 1124 E Street, NE (BZA #17468-A); 516 5th Street, SE (BZA #17497); 521-

523 11th Street, SE (BZA #17509). Details: Gary Peterson, 202-547-7969

17 Saturday, 1:00–3:00 pm

Old Naval Hospital Open House.

Inspect the restoration and speak with the craftspeople who are doing the work. See article on page 7.

20 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

22 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Forum: Reinvesting in Capitol Hill Public Schools. The availability of quality public schools on Capitol Hill is a community-wide issue affecting parents, children, and residents. CHRS is hosting this forum, which focuses on three efforts by community groups to reinvest in our neighborhood public schools. Speakers include representatives from Capitol Hill Public Schools PTA, the School Libraries Project, and Brent Neighbors. Forum is free and open to the public. St. Peter's Church basement, 2nd & C Streets, SE. Refreshments at 7 pm, organizational

business at 7:30, program at 7:45 pm. Details: Amanda Molson, 202-548-0665 or amandamolson@yahoo.com

22 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, 441 4th Street, NW (#1 Judiciary Square), Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034

JULY

10 Monday, 6:30 pm

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

13 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, 202-547-7969

18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003