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September 2011

# Public Scoping Meeting Scheduled for the CSXT Tunnel Project

By Beth Purcell and Shauna Holmes

The DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have scheduled a Public Scoping Meeting on September 14 to give all interested parties an opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed CSX Transportation (CSXT) plans to rehabilitate and rebuild the CSX Virginia Avenue Tunnel, which is between 2nd and 11th Streets, SE, under the eastbound lanes of Virginia Avenue. The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate and rebuild the tunnel so that CSX can operate double-stack intermodal container freight trains and re-establish a second set of tracks in the tunnel.

Because CSXT needs permits for the project that will require oversight and approval from FHWA, the project has to comply with federal environmental and historic preservation laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Accordingly, DDOT and FHWA are beginning an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the project's effects on the environment.

The Scoping Meeting will be the first public meeting of the EA process and is intended to initiate public outreach about the project, inform the public about the proposal, and invite comments from the community. Maps, displays, and background information will be available for review.

The Public Scoping Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, from 6:30–8:30 pm at the Van Ness Elementary School at 1150 5th Street, SE. CHRS urges all of its members who want to learn more about the project to attend the meeting and take full advantage of this opportunity to submit comments to DDOT and FHWA expressing concerns and questions about effects of the project. Comments can be submitted at the meeting, and can also be mailed or e-mailed no later than October 14 to Steve Plano, Parsons Brinkerhoff, 1401 K Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20005 or [www.VirginiaAvenueTunnel.com](http://www.VirginiaAvenueTunnel.com). Please see the full meeting announcement on page 9 for additional details.

This project will bisect the Capitol Hill Historic District and will have substantial effects on

historic resources, nearby residents, Barracks Row businesses, the Marine Barracks, and drivers who need to cross Virginia Avenue and/or use the 8th Street I-295 ramp. Construction is expected to take three years, during which trains are likely to be operating through an open tunnel during what has been described as a cut-and-cover construction process. Capitol Hill residents and business proprietors should take

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# President's Column: Online Gambling in DC

By Beth Purcell

The District's new online gambling law will be discussed at public meetings planned for September. This is an important issue and we urge members to participate.

Amended DC Code § 3-1313 allows "games of skill and games of chance ... offered on the Internet ... within the District." The law became effective on April 8, 2011. The law will be administered by the Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Natwar Gandhi, and by Mr. Buddy Roogow, the Executive Director of the DC Lottery Board. Mr. Roogow estimates that Internet gaming will eventually raise \$9 million per year for the DC government.

Internet games may include blackjack, Texas Hold'em, Victory at Sea, bingo, electronic instant tickets, and random number generated games (i.e., slots). Players must be located within DC, but do not have to be DC residents. Players must be at least 19 years old. There will be a registration and verification process for player identity, age, and location. (See proposed rulemaking, Title 30, ch. 26, DC Register (June 17, 2011), [www.dcregs.dc.gov](http://www.dcregs.dc.gov).) The new law is unclear on where online gambling may be allowed. Wi-fi online gambling "hot spots" may include public libraries, coffee shops, restaurants, bars, hotels, and private homes, according to media reports.

On the other hand, *interstate* online gambling is a federal criminal offense. Earlier in 2011, the FBI shut down three online poker sites and charged the operators with illegal gambling, bank fraud, and money laundering. At least one defendant has pled guilty. (See [www.justice.gov/criminal/cybercrime](http://www.justice.gov/criminal/cybercrime).) According to media reports, the DC Attorney General believes that online

gambling solely among individuals located within the District of Columbia is not interstate gambling, and therefore does not violate federal law. However, face-to-face poker games in DC, where money is wagered, remain a criminal offense under DC law. (See DC Code §§ 22-1701-1708.)

We urge members to express their views on this important topic.

Some information in this column was compiled from media reports. See e.g., "FBI shuts down poker sites in major online gambling crackdown," *The Hill*, Apr. 15, 2011; "Starved Budgets Inspire New Look at Web Gambling," *New York Times*, Aug. 14, 2011, p. A-1; "Washington DC Internet Gambling Law—Q&A," [www.intowner.com](http://www.intowner.com), Aug. 10, 2011. ★

## CHRS to Host Architect of the Capitol at September 22 Forum

PHOTO COURTESY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL



Thursday, September 22, 2011

Hill Center (Old Naval Hospital)  
921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

Reception at 6:45 pm  
Remarks at 7:00 pm  
Open to all

**Stephen T. Ayers, Architect of the Capitol** (AOC), will be the guest speaker at the CHRS September membership forum. The AOC is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Capitol Building, the

care and improvement of more than 450 acres of Capitol grounds, and the operation and maintenance of 16.5 million square feet of buildings including the House and Senate Office Buildings, the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court Building, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, and the U.S. Botanic Garden. Mr. Ayers also serves on the three-member U.S. Capitol Police Board, which is responsible for the Capitol Police who patrol parts of the residential areas of Capitol Hill. Mr. Ayers will discuss the AOC's activities and projects.

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: CapHRS@aol.com.

www.CHRS.org

Celebrating more than 50 years helping to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the 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.

To start or renew a CHRS membership:

- ★ On the web at [www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org)
- ★ Call (202) 543-0425; 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.

# Hine Project To Proceed for Zoning Consideration

By Nancy Metzger

Although a number of design issues remain to be resolved, after a series of three meetings with the Historic Preservation Review Board (April 28, June 30 and August 4), StantonEastbanc gained sufficient conceptual approval of its Hine School redevelopment plans to be able to proceed with the filing of a Planned Unit Development with the Zoning Commission this fall. The August 4 meeting focused on the northern section of the site, including the reopened C Street and the proposed plaza.

After listening to over an hour of testimony from community members and organizations, the Board provided specific comments to StantonEastbanc on a number of issues raised in the staff report and by the community. (A listing of design issues that still need to be studied from all three meetings is posted on the CHRS website.)

*C Street Plaza:* The size of the plaza (and by extension, the number of tents that could be accommodated on the weekend) was a major topic of concern for community members who testified. While there was disagreement about the number of tents "required" to be accommodated, there was widespread support for the flea market and its place in the site. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) did not address this issue because it is not a historic preservation issue (although obviously the number of tents will affect the size and possibly shape of the plaza, which does impact conceptual approval). This is an issue that should be handled by other bodies and processes than HPRB. However, recognizing the concern

that many expressed that conceptual approval of the plaza by the HPRB now would limit the possibility for future changes, CHRS asked that the Board note that approval now should not be construed as limiting discussions on this issue before other bodies. The Board included in its vote that "proviso" and also requested the staff help arrange a meeting with the Office of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, developers, community members, Councilmember Wells office, and others to discuss the issue of the number of vendor tents as it is outside the Board's purview to make that decision.

One of the features proposed for the plaza was a series of three "pools and fountains." While not recommending elimination of those features, Board members did express some concerns about that part of the proposal, particularly the way it would appear in the winter when the water is turned off. In its letter to the Board (available on the CHRS website, [www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org)), CHRS requested that the developers consider including seating in the plaza other than that provided by the Cafes so that people would not feel they had to spend money to be able to linger in this public space and also if the developers could explore the possibility of using larger caliper trees along Seventh Street as well as along C Street to provide more "presence" given the tall buildings. Also on the wish list was the desire that this plaza be identified in a particular way with Capitol Hill rather than simply being an

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# Historic Preservation Briefs

By Nancy Metzger

## Revised Design Unveiled for Alterations of Union Station Main Hall

The Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) has released a revised design proposal for alterations to the iconic Main Hall of Union Station. The alterations are intended to address issues with pedestrian circulation, stated need for increased retail, better signage, etc. In this year's design proposal, an opening would be cut in the floor of the main hall for two up-down sets of escalators (i.e., four escalators). This is to provide additional access and increased visibility to the lower level where the present movie theaters will be reconstructed for retail space. The present escalators and stairs to the food court will remain.

As part of the federally-mandated Section 106 review process, USRC held a meeting on July 20 to provide the Consulting Parties, including the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, an opportunity to see and ask questions about the new proposal. (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and, if there is an adverse effect, to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the effects.) While acknowledging the improvement of this design concept over the one shown last year (a mezzanine level for a café has been dropped), a number of attendees were still concerned about the new escalator openings in the floor of the main hall—the intrusion into the traffic pattern of people trying to get to various transportation hubs, the loss of space, and the architectural treatment. Other queries concerned the appropriateness of the signage shown, the flow and numbers of pedestrians using various entrances, the number

and size of Luxury Merchandising Units (aka large kiosks) to be stationed about the Main Hall, and the public outreach to be undertaken on this phase of the process.

The Section 106 process began in June 2010 when the USRC hosted a meeting to present its preferred design and listen to comments. The 2010 proposal included making two openings in the floor where the Center Café now stands for a pair of new glass elevators and stairs that would access both the lower level and the Café tier between the Main Hall's floor and the ceiling vault. Last year organizations and individuals expressed a number of concerns, including that the proposed structures would intrude into the spaces and forms designed by architect Daniel Burnham; that the structures would have a huge impact on how people experience the Beaux Arts space; and that the new structure seems to compound rather than solve the stated goal of making more floor space available for increasing numbers of users.

Comments from the public are welcome and encouraged as part of the Section 106 process. The presentation shown to the Consulting Parties in July is now posted on the USRC website ([www.usrcdc.com](http://www.usrcdc.com)) as are the queries from the attendees. You are encouraged to visit the website and post comments and questions about this proposal. September 7 is the announced deadline for the comment period.

## HPO Seeking Comments on Draft of Window Repair, Replacement Guideline

The DC Historic Preservation Office publishes a series of preservation and design guidelines that are intended to assist property owners

in historic districts understand the preservation concerns associated with their buildings and the principles that are used in the review of proposed projects. "Window Repair and Replacement: Preservation and Design Guidelines" is the latest topic in the series. A draft of the guideline is now accessible on the HPO website at: <http://tinyurl.com/4xjztf>.

The guideline provides in-depth technical and aesthetic information for property owners and outlines the design and preservation principles applied in the review of this type of work to ensure that changes are compatible with the character of historic property. The guideline also discusses environmental and sustainability implications of window repair and provides property owners with links to related information including a directory of contractors who specialize in this type of work. The guideline is profusely illustrated with photos and diagrams to help readers understand the technical terms and principles being discussed.

The window repair and replacement guideline will be presented to the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) at its public meeting on September 22. Comments on the draft for the HPRB's consideration may be submitted to Steve Callcott at [steve.callcott@dc.gov](mailto:steve.callcott@dc.gov) or presented in person at the September HPRB meeting. The HPO is interested in the public's comments, not only on the substance but also on the clarity of information presented.

## Public Invited to Preservation Planning Session

Preparation of the DC Historic Preservation Plan 2015, a document required by the National Park Service for the city's program to be eligible

## Fall Preservation Cafés Kick Off on September 21 with Faux Finishing

The CHRS fall Preservation Café series will begin September 21 with a Café on *Faux Finishing and Decorative Painting*. The speaker, DC architect Carol Beach, did her dissertation on the topic and will provide a brief illustrated history of how faux finishing has been used in residences by classical cultures and in some of Europe's grand houses. She will also discuss how colonial Americans, facing a lack of familiar decorative materials, creatively used faux finishes on walls and furniture to embellish their surroundings and how faux finishes on walls continued to be popular with homeowners in the 19th and early 20th centuries due to the high cost of wallpaper. Ms. Beach will also address how these techniques have evolved into modern times.

*Faux Finishing and Decorative Painting* will be held Wednesday, September 21, from 6:30–7:15 pm in the downstairs community room at Ebenezers Coffeehouse at 2nd and F Streets, NE. The Preservation Café is free, accessible, and open to all; no reservations are necessary.

Carol Beach will return for the November 16 Preservation Café with a hands-on demonstration of some faux finishing techniques for walls.

for Federal preservation funds, is now underway and the Historic Preservation Office is extending an invitation to the public to help with the process. This plan sets goals and objectives for the city's historic preservation program and guides the office in meeting federal program responsibilities. The HPO staff will be working with the public and a steering committee to produce this document. As an initial step in the process, the office is seeking public comment on suggested goals for the plan, which is now posted on the website [www.preservation.dc.gov](http://www.preservation.dc.gov). This is an opportunity to tell the office what programs and issues are particularly meaningful to you, your community and to preservation on a city-wide basis.

A public meeting to discuss the draft goals is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 at Sumner School at 5 pm, 17th and M Streets, NW (Farragut North on the Red Line). Written comments can also be sent to Bruce Yarnall, HPO Operations Manager, [bruce.yarnall@dc.gov](mailto:bruce.yarnall@dc.gov).

### Unity Baptist Church on Third Street NE Razed

Perhaps some neighbors were startled when the former Unity Baptist Church at 426 Third Street, NE, was demolished on August 21, but the Historic Preservation Review Board had determined at its June 2011 meeting that the building was not a contributing structure to the Capitol Hill Historic District—and therefore not protected from demolition. Although the modest church was built in 1919, the congregation removed the front portion of the building, replacing it with a modern brick façade in 1974, thus severely compromising its historic integrity. In addition, the north wall of the sanctuary was bowing out, causing serious structural issues, despite efforts to restrain it. The present owners, Heritage Foundation, asked to demolish the building and replace it with a residential building as allowed by zoning. CHRS's Historic Preservation Committee agreed with the determination of non-

## Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

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contributing status but also urged that the site be covered with grass (compatible with the residential block) and appropriately fenced so that the site does not become an ad hoc parking lot during the time that building plans are prepared and approved. Both of those conditions were included in the staff report and the raze permit. ★

# The 2012 Proposed CHRS Budget

By Paul Cromwell

The proposed CHRS budget for 2012 is presented on the following page. The proposed budget aggregates administrative costs into one line item for approval by the Membership. An explanation of expected costs is provided in the right hand column. One aggregated sum provides more flexibility for the President in approving administrative expenditures. Proposed expenditures for the smaller committees also are aggregated into one sum (\$1000).

Major portions of the expenditures for 2010, 2011 and 2012 are driven by the Beyond the Boundaries (BTB) project which has been supported by funds drawn from the Endowment rather than annual income. Note that the Year-to-date expenditures for BTB in 2011 far exceed the 2011 budget but these are funds that were approved in the 2010 budget but not paid until 2011. Also, expenditures in prior years for legal fees under Transportation and Historic Preservation are not expected

to be repeated in 2012. Several smaller expenditures, such as a redesign of the CHRS web site, are being proposed.

Income from Membership Dues and the House Tour are projected to be stable at \$25,000 and \$50,000, respectively. The increase in income from the 2010 approved budget is reflected in a larger proposed transfer from the Endowment Fund for BTB plus increased donations and more revenue from miscellaneous sources, particularly the fall auction. ★

## Fall Community Outreach Events



CHRS contingent in the Capitol Hill 4th of July Parade.

As part of our “Beyond the Boundaries” program, Society volunteers are engaging in a variety of outreach activities, most recently fielding a contingent in the Capitol Hill 4th of July Parade. Members marched with their friends and families, tossing Mardi Gras beads into the crowd.

As in years past, we plan to staff booths at both the H Street Festival (September 17) and Barracks

Row Day (September 24). Our participation at these events is part of an ongoing effort to introduce ourselves to newcomers to the Hill and to those living outside the boundaries of the Historic District. We’ll offer children’s activities to amuse our younger neighbors while we share information about our accomplishments and future plans with their parents. Leftover House Tour catalogs are particularly well

received. Volunteers are always more than welcome—they are truly needed. Plus it’s a lot of fun to meet friends, old and new.

If you would like to assist in these efforts, please call or e-mail Elizabeth Nelson (543-3512, [elizabeth\\_knits@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com)). Not available in September? We’ll have a presence at Walk to School Day in Lincoln Park in October. Stay tuned. ★

### Volunteers Needed to Scan House Tour Brochures

Work is underway to scan all of the past House and Garden Tour brochures for inclusion on the CHRS web site. Members Aneta and Scott Large are in the process of scanning the first set of brochures. If you would like to assist with this effort, please contact CHRS at [CapHRS@aol.com](mailto:CapHRS@aol.com).

# Proposed 2012 CHRS Operating Budget

October 1–September 30

	Budget Expended 2009	Budget Amended 2010	Budget Expended 2010	Budget Approved 2011	Dollars thru 7/31/11 2011	Budget Proposed 2012	Budget Notes 2012
<b>I. Total Income</b>	<b>82399</b>	<b>193693</b>	<b>156187</b>	<b>96000</b>	<b>69037</b>	<b>112600</b>	
Membership	23040	25000	23399	24000	21125	25000	
House Tour (see below)	45695	49000	58328	50000	46627	50000	
Interest	9	50	0	0		100	
Contributions	13035	3000	4681	2000	1255	5000	
Transfer in from the Endowment Fund	0	116643	67060	20000		29000	
Miscellaneous (e.g., Grants, Auction)	620	0	2719	0	30	3500	
<b>II. Total Expenses</b>	<b>73867</b>	<b>193693</b>	<b>156187</b>	<b>96000</b>	<b>142869</b>	<b>112600</b>	
<b>A. ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>40727</b>	<b>42100</b>	<b>36788</b>	<b>40000</b>	<b>31819</b>	<b>42934</b>	
Administrative Expenses	12620	6000	1791		1840		2000
Accounting Service Expenses	3000	6500	6500		7500		7500
Computer support/purchase	0	1000	361		387		500
Insurance	1079	1100	325		972		1100
Meetings	-	-	623		410		1834
Personal Services Contract–Admin	13602	13000	12698		9269		15000
Printing/Postage	-	-	1749		629		1000
Miscellaneous	1014	3000	1812		1439		2700
Rent (office and storage)	9412	11000	10198		9103		10800
CHRS Elections	0	500	731		270		500
<b>B. PROGRAM</b>	<b>14879</b>	<b>131893</b>	<b>100471</b>	<b>24300</b>	<b>98658</b>	<b>34866</b>	
Grants paid	150	0	0	0	0	1666	
Historic Preservation Committee	2459	25300	26483	2000	16730	3200	guidelines
Beyond the Boundaries	0	99493	62610	20000	79405	29000	
Other Committees				2300		1000	
City Planning Committee	0	300	0		500		
Community Development Committee	250	300	0		47		
Community Relations	40	300	-44		589		300
Environment Committee	0	100	0				50
Zoning Committee	0	100	0				
Transportation Committee	11980	6000	11422		1387		
<b>C. COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>11697</b>	<b>13700</b>	<b>11838</b>	<b>16000</b>	<b>12392</b>	<b>19800</b>	
Newsletter Expenses	9304	11000	11576		12130	15000	
Communications Committee	1698	2200			0	1000	
President’s Party	293	300	100		100	100	
Web Site (DC Access)	402	200	162		162	3700	redesign
<b>D. MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>6564</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>7090</b>	<b>15700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15000</b>	
Membership Committee	6564	6000	7090	15700		15000	
<b>III. CHRS Operating Net Gain &lt;Loss&gt;</b>	<b>8532</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-73832</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>HOUSE TOUR</b>							
<b>A. Tour Income 2011 (total)</b>	<b>63011</b>	<b>65000</b>	<b>75578</b>	<b>65000</b>	<b>59218</b>	<b>65000</b>	
Prior Year (2009)	63011						
Prior Year (2010)		65000	75578				
Current Year (2011)					59218		
Budget Year (2012)				65000		65000	
<b>B. Tour Expenses (Current and Prior)</b>	<b>17316</b>	<b>16000</b>	<b>17250</b>	<b>15000</b>	<b>12591</b>	<b>15000</b>	
<b>C. Net Gain &lt;Loss&gt; from House Tours</b>	<b>45695</b>	<b>49000</b>	<b>58328</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>46627</b>	<b>50000</b>	

## Reserve Now for September 13 Overbeck Lecture: "How Dry We Weren't"

The Overbeck History Lecture Series kicks off its new season on September 13 with a rollicking look at Prohibition-era Washington, where thirsty locals could choose among some three thousand speakeasies and publicly teetotaling congressmen gave a supplier of spirits safe harbor within the U.S. Capitol.

Based on his new book *Prohibition in Washington, DC: How Dry We Weren't*, literary journalist **Garrett Peck** will explore an underground city of amateur bootleggers largely untouched by organized crime and the efforts of local authorities to put them out of business. The event will conclude with a book signing and a toast to the Ruth Ann Overbeck Capitol Hill History Project, which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary.

A frequent public speaker on the social history of alcohol, Peck is also the author of *The Prohibition Hangover: Alcohol in America from Demon Rum to Cult Cabernet*. His Temperance Tour of Prohibition-related sites in the nation's capital has been featured on C-SPAN's Book TV.

The lecture is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13, at 8:00 pm at the Naval Lodge Hall at 330 Pennsylvania Ave., SE**. As always, admission is free but a reservation is required due to limited seating. Please e-mail [OverbeckLecture@CapitolHillHistory.org](mailto:OverbeckLecture@CapitolHillHistory.org), giving your name and the number of seats you will need.

advantage of every opportunity to learn about the project plans, engage in dialogue with CSXT and the transportation agencies, and submit comments and concerns during the environmental and preservation review processes. FHWA, DDOT, and CSXT have established a website at [www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com](http://www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com) for interested parties to read about the project and submit comments and questions.

On July 3, CHRS sent a letter to FHWA, which is the lead agency for this project, asking to be a Consulting Party in the historic preservation review process required by Section 106 of the NHPA. We also asked that CHRS be notified in advance of all public meetings which are conducted for environmental review purposes so we can notify our members. FHWA acknowledged receipt of our requests, and we have been assured that once the Section 106 process is initiated, CHRS will hear further from FHWA. The CHRS letter to FHWA and their letter acknowledging receipt are posted on the CHRS website at [www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org). To learn more about the Section 106 federal review process and how community-based organizations and members of the public can participate in it, see "Protecting Historic Properties: A Citizen's Guide to Section 106" at [www.achp.gov/docs/CitizenGuide.pdf](http://www.achp.gov/docs/CitizenGuide.pdf). ★

## Capitol Hill House Histories

CHRS has established a project to collect histories of Capitol Hill homes and businesses. Eventually these will be placed on the CHRS website. If you have a history that you would like to contribute, please send the document to CHRS electronically or in printed form. Electronic submissions should be sent to [CapHRS@aol.com](mailto:CapHRS@aol.com) with "House History" as the subject line. If the history is available only in printed form, please mail a copy to:

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (House History)  
P.O. Box 15264  
Washington DC 20003-0264

If you are willing to share, but do not wish to send your only copy, please contact Paul Cromwell at (202) 543-7530 or [paulcromwell@verizon.net](mailto:paulcromwell@verizon.net) to make arrangements to have copies made.

**Public Scoping Meeting  
Virginia Avenue Tunnel Environmental Assessment & Section 106 Compliance**

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are starting an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the impacts of the proposed CSX Transportation (CSXT) Virginia Avenue Tunnel project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Effect to the historic resources from this project will also be assessed in compliance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We invite you to attend a public meeting for this project. This public meeting, which will be conducted in an open house format, will be held on:

**Wednesday, September 14, 2011  
From 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Van Ness Elementary School  
1150 5<sup>th</sup> St. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20003**

The project involves the rehabilitation of the CSX Virginia Avenue Tunnel between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets Southeast. The proposed improvements are to address current infrastructure needs as well as community and safety concerns.

The purpose of this public meeting is to afford all interested persons the opportunity to provide comments regarding the project. Maps, displays and background information will be available for review at the meeting.

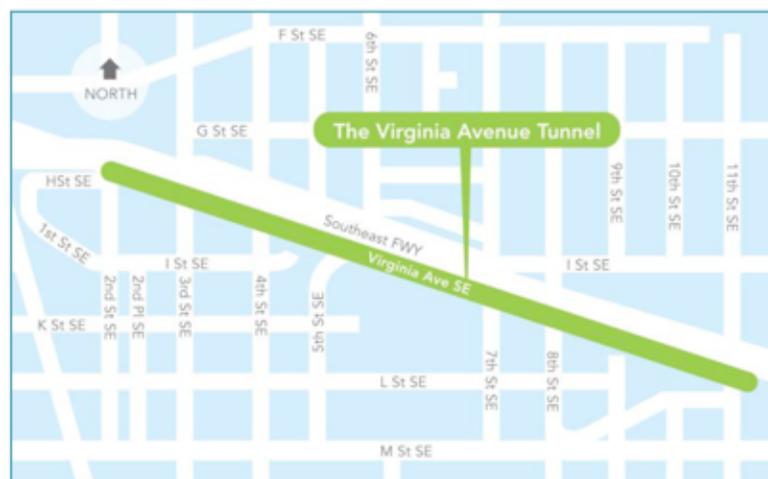
Both verbal and written comments will be taken at the public meeting. Comments may also be submitted via self-addressed/postage paid comment letters or by email to [contact@virginiaavenuetunnel.com](mailto:contact@virginiaavenuetunnel.com). Written comments should be submitted no later than October 14, 2011.

DDOT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its projects, programs and services on the basis of race, color, national origin or gender, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or on the basis of disability as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If you need special accommodations or language assistance services (translation or interpretation), please email [contact@virginiaavenuetunnel.com](mailto:contact@virginiaavenuetunnel.com) or leave a message at (202) 681-0646. These services will be provided free of charge.

For more information or to submit comments, please contact:

Steve Plano  
Parsons Brinckerhoff  
1401 K Street NW, Suite 701  
Washington, DC 20005  
[www.VirginiaAvenueTunnel.com](http://www.VirginiaAvenueTunnel.com)



# Looking Back On Capitol Hill

By Nancy Metzger

One of the sports that used to be very popular on Capitol Hill for men and boys was boxing. There were a number of clubs that offered training and tournaments, including the Police Boys' Club that had a gym in the basement of the station house at Fifth and E Streets, SE. Oley Morgan was one of the boys who participated in the program—eventually joining the Marine Corp's boxing team during World War II when he was stationed as a machinist at the Marine's Philadelphia Printing Plant. But before that—while still a young man living with his family at 519 Ninth Street, SE—he put his boxing skills to use as he recounted in a 2005 interview with Norman Metzger for the Overbeck Oral History Project ([www.capitolhillhistory.org](http://www.capitolhillhistory.org), where you can read the entire transcript).

"Marty's [527 Eighth Street, SE, now Cava] was at that time not a restaurant; [it] was a poolroom. ... [M]y mother had given me 50 cents or something to go get my cadet uniform from the cleaner's because the next day we were going to have what they call a regimental drill up at Central High School. So I went to the cleaners and I got my cadet uniform on a hanger, and I may have had 10, 15 cents change from that ... so I went in there to shoot a game of 8-ball. They only charged a nickel for a game of 8-ball then—this is a long time [ago]—and I'm in high school. I'm shooting pool with this boy. And all of a sudden I look up and here comes this guy with two of his friends. They come walking into the poolroom; they walk on back—there was five tables—and they got right back to the table where we were shooting pool, this boy and I, and as he came along he took his hand and pushed the balls

all this way! Our game!! I said to him, 'Eh, leave those balls alone.' I said, 'We're not bothering you.'

"He said, 'Don't you like it?'

"I said, 'No, I don't like it.' 'OK, I'll take you outside.' I said, 'Okay, I guess so.' I put the stick up in the rack. And I said, 'Let's go.'

"So we went. As we went outside, walking through the poolroom, out the door, he said to me, 'When you get your foot across the street'—it's that alley right there—he said, 'you better start swinging.'

"I was really kind of scared. But I knew how to fight, you know. So anyway, all these older guys, I guess 20 years old or so, they were all in front of the poolroom on the tables up there. And they heard all this bullshit, see. ... So they all came outside to see what was going to go on.

"And he walks across the street with his two friends. And I was one step behind him, and as he stepped up right there at that alley, when he stepped on that alley, I hit that man. And he hit the ground and I thought he was dead. I mean he was gone. And I was so scared. His two friends took off. I ran back to the poolroom and I got my cadet uniform. And I came running across the street and right through that alley—because that's where I lived, on Ninth Street right there. And as I went back ... he was still on that ground. I thought I had killed him. But the next day—I don't know how the word ever got out—I went to school at Eastern and I don't think I was in class an hour and it must have been four or five guys came up—'Hey, Oley, we heard all about you last night. You knocked out Charlie Donahue, didn't ya?'"

While planning for the opening of Senart's Oyster and Chop House (named for the old advertisement

sign that is on the north wall of the building that lines the alley next to 520 Eighth Street, SE), restaurant owner Xavier Cevera heard about Oley Morgan and his legendary fight in the alley back in the 1930s. Cevera asked artist Amanda Engles to paint the scene as part of the décor for the restaurant, which was to be "reopened." The building has housed other businesses over the years—Oley Morgan remembered it as Green's Oyster House where "they sold the best fried oysters and oyster stew in the city" and of course, most recently the Capitol Hill Animal Clinic, now located at 1240 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, was there. ★

## 2012 House and Garden Tour

The next Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour is scheduled for Mother's Day weekend, May 12–13, 2012. The geographic focus of the Tour will be near Northeast with a footprint roughly between Massachusetts Avenue NE and East Capitol Street. We hope to maintain a walkable route of about one mile.

If you would like to have your home or another home considered for inclusion in the Tour, please contact Steve Hagedorn at (202) 841-1380 or [shagedorn@cbmove.com](mailto:shagedorn@cbmove.com), or one of the Tour Co-chairs: Paul Cromwell, (202) 543-7530 or [paulcromwell@verizon.net](mailto:paulcromwell@verizon.net), or Ann Richards, (202) 543-2350 or [arichardsdc@yahoo.com](mailto:arichardsdc@yahoo.com).

attractive, yet perhaps generic, space. This is an opportunity to highlight some aspect of the community's history (perhaps the four schools that have stood on the site or all the schoolchildren who attended those schools) in an imaginative way.

*North Residential Building:* While the height of the building remains at four stories in the middle section and three stories at the end sections facing Seventh and Eighth Streets, the architect revised the design of the middle section from a largely horizontal appearance to five vertical sections with retail on the ground level and residential above. That change combined with a deep slate cornice makes the building fit better with the Capitol Hill vernacular. Both CHRS and the HP staff report suggested the need for a stronger entrance element to the apartments on the eastern end of the building. Given the four-story height of the building and its visibility along the alley that runs between 7th and 8th Streets, CHRS and the 8th Street neighbors asked that the rear façade be made more "friendly" and

less severe. The Board concurred with that recommendation.

*Plaza Residential Building:* The architect also made substantial revisions to the appearance of this five-story building, with inspiration coming from the decoratively restrained post-and-beam architecture of the early 20th century. Executed in Roman brick that will be lighter in color on the upper floors and highlighted by deep-set elongated windows and shallow balconies, the building will form the southern boundary of the plaza, with retail on the ground floor and residential above.

Both CHRS and HPRB recommended that the entrance area be re-studied as it seemed insignificant in its relationship to both the plaza and the large apartment building façade. However, board members were not in agreement in their comments about the present design of the façade, being evenly divided between those who felt the C Street/plaza façade was "complex without being overdone" and those

who thought it was "not there yet and less than delightful." In its comments, CHRS noted that the current configuration of windows and balconies felt strained and was perhaps too busy while the facades facing 7th Street and C Street seem not to be related except by the materials (and both will be very noticeable at the same time because of the angle of the plaza).

In the end, the height of the project did not change appreciably from the height of the buildings first discussed in March. There were some modest setbacks and other design changes that should help to reduce apparent height at some locations but overall, the project remains larger than the surrounding historic district in terms of height and mass. At some point the project will return to the HPRB for consideration of the unresolved design issues and for any requirements stipulated by the Zoning Commission. Gary Peterson, chair of CHRS's Zoning Committee, will be the contact person for CHRS on zoning review matters. ★



## 2nd Annual Fun Fall Auction Coming in November

CHRS will once again be hosting a Fun Fall Auction! Do you have items taking up space that you'd like to get rid of for a worthy cause? We are looking for weekend getaways, original art, rare books, furniture, kitchen and household items, etc.

All items that are donated are tax deductible.

The auction will take place in November (location and date to be announced); we will start collecting items in October. To make a donation, please call Michelle Carroll at (202) 544-7900.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fun Fall Auction!



**Capitol Hill Restoration Society**  
420 Tenth Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

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## Mark Your Calendar!

### SEPTEMBER

**5** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee,  
Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first  
floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

**8** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House,  
420 10th Street, SE, first floor.  
Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7979.

**13** Tuesday, 8:00 pm  
Overbeck Lecture: "How Dry We  
Weren't." Naval Lodge Hall,  
330 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.  
Free, but reservation required. Contact:  
OverbeckLecture@CapitolHillHistory.org.

**20** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill  
Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second  
floor. Details: Beth Purcell, 622-4303.

**22** Thursday, 6:45 pm  
Membership Forum:  
Stephen T. Ayers, Architect of the Capitol.  
Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.  
Details: CapHRS@aol.com.

### OCTOBER

**3** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee,  
Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first  
floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

**13** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House,  
420 10th Street, SE, first floor.  
Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7979.

**18** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill  
Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second  
floor. Details: Beth Purcell, 622-4303.

Saturdays, April 16–November 19  
9 am–noon (rain or shine)  
H Street NE Freshfarm Market,  
625 H Street, NE (across from H Street  
Self Storage). Fresh fruits and vegetables,  
pasture-raised meats, local dairy, breads  
and baked goods, cut flowers and more.  
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