



# NEWS

May 2001



The Old Naval Hospital on Pennsylvania Avenue (left) and the Shakespeare Theatre on 8th Street are just two of the treats on this year's House Tour.



## Mark your Calendars for May 12-13 The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Capitol Hill House Tour

### Deadline for House Tour Grant Proposals Approaching

The **May 15** deadline for submitting House Tour grant applications is rapidly approaching. The Society will once again donate 20 % of net tour proceeds to benefit Capitol Hill organizations or projects. A number of proposals have already been submitted, but the Society is still eager to receive additional applications.

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*Last year's tour was a sell-out. You should probably buy tickets in advance for the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour on Mother's Day weekend, May 12-13, 2001.*

**C**haracteristically, this fundraising CHRS tour offers a peek inside a host of historic and distinctive homes on Capitol Hill. Featured this year are houses with stunning gardens, art, antiques, swimming pools, carriage houses and multi-levels of living space. Highlights include: a house in the shadow of the Supreme Court; an energy-efficient home with a Swedish wood-burning stove; a house with a 650-bottle wine cellar; another with

furniture built by the owner; a house belonging to a former member of Congress, and one that was formerly owned by Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington historian, Constance McLaughlin Green.

The concentration of tour sites in the vicinity of Archibald Walk focuses attention on one of Capitol Hill's signature alleys, and the small and charming homes that once upon a time characterized so much of the interior of many blocks in Washington.

A candlelight tour of homes will be offered on Saturday evening, May 12, from 5 to 8 pm. On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>, tour hours are noon to 5 pm, with tea available from 3-6 pm.

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## President's Column

I love Washington's spring. Capitol Hill is so beautiful at this time of year. As I write this column, the leaves on our trees are just coming out, their new growth showing the green promise that will shade our streets and houses during the hot summer to come. The flowering trees enliven Pennsylvania Avenue—wasn't that a happy thought to replace the magnolias with flowering crab apples? The daffodils and jonquils are fading and soon the azaleas will be clamoring for our attention.

Once again, Capitol Hill's expansive streetscapes, abundant trees and attractive gardens will be on display during your Society's House and Garden Tour, along with houses complementing the beauty of Capitol Hill's spring by showcasing the creativity, enterprise and hard work of its residents ... our neighbors. Exciting too will be the extras Tour Co-Chairs Kathleen Donner and Ann Richards have planned. I'm especially thrilled that the Tour will feature the Old Naval Hospital. Too long a poster child for neglect and abandonment, we're going to use the Tour to call attention to the need for prompt action for its preservation and renovation. We're going to be talking about the history of this great building, made additionally vivid by using Civil War reenactors. We're also going to be highlighting the work that's going to be done on 8<sup>th</sup> Street to revitalize this historic and important Capitol Hill commercial artery, centering on the stunning renovation by the Shakespeare Theatre. Tour goers will also have an opportunity to take an in-depth look at our own Victorian recreation—the successful and award-winning Ellen Wilson townhouse development.

Springtime is also a good time to recall that much is going on in our community. Development and change are everywhere in the air. Washington has one of the hottest housing markets in the country. I believe this reflects an interest in living in a vibrant, interesting environment—not just a flight from the suburbs. Development and jobs are flourishing at the Navy Yard and in the

Union Station area on the periphery of Capitol Hill, and will flourish still further with the construction on M Street SE.

This development brings challenges. How do we combine the enthusiasm of the newcomers and the developers with respect for the Capitol Hill Historic District? This is the day-to-day task before your Society, and before this community. Your support for the Tour and the Society helps make it all possible. I'm looking forward to meeting you on the Tour.

Brian Furness

### *P.S. Rants of the month:*

I'm furious, and I hope you are too, that Eastern Market's long-time managers are frustrating the Capitol Hill community's interest in sound management, historically-sensitive renovation and stronger community-responsive programs. The legislation reforming Eastern Market grew out of the Capitol Hill community's hard work and dedication to improving the Market; the legal challenges by Eastern Market Corp. (Richard and Chad Glasgow) and Market Five Gallery (John Harrod) are not just a slap in the face to the city but to the entire Capitol Hill community. Both organizations need to understand this, and that their irresponsible actions jeopardize both the Market and community support.

I'm also furious about Boys Town. The Hill Rag's (kudos to Melissa and Jean Keith) editorial on the "Billion Dollar Bully" was right on. What kind of an organization is it that would jeopardize troubled children by placing them in a dangerous and risky environment? Or threaten to sue the Mayor, and neighbors such as Will Hill and Ellen Opper-Weiner, for raising questions about the wisdom of its actions? Call opponents, such as Sharon Ambrose, a racist? Or spend millions of our dollars and the contributions of thousands on an overpriced property? Boys Town's arrogance and its vicious and insensitive handling of the Capitol Hill neighbor-

hood has richly earned the condemnation heaped upon it. Father Flanagan would be appalled!

And what in the world was the Mayor thinking about when he allowed his staff to go ahead with the pre-trial detention facility "half way house" at DC General Hospital and the impound lot at RFK? Neither of these pass any political smell test; even worse, the planning and staff work was so poor that it makes you wonder about everything else that gets proposed. Determined community opposition—and some adroit work by Councilmember Ambrose—seem to have defeated these proposals for the moment ... but clearly we will have to remain vigilant. ✧

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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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.

## Neighborhood Planning: A Quick Update

The District's Office of Planning (OP) has initiated Strategic Neighborhood Action Planning (SNAP), an outgrowth of several neighborhood summit meetings called by the Mayor last year. For the purpose of SNAP, the city has been divided—in a rather arbitrary manner—into 39 “clusters”. Capitol Hill clusters are 25 and 26, essentially NE and SE. SNAP's purpose, according to OP statements, is to take existing neighborhood plans “to the next level”, with views of session participants incorporated into a city-wide “strategic plan” for establishing budget priorities. The first initiative is the appointment of a Ward 6 service coordinator, Leo Pinson, responsible for pursuing the solution of problems within the designated area, and the appointment of a ward planner. Karina Ricks is the planner assigned to the Capitol Hill clusters.

Each cluster has had two public meetings thus far, with more to follow.

Much of the greatly enlarged OP budget is being spent on the SNAP effort. It remains to be seen whether this effort will support or diminish the Comprehensive Plan and the Ward Plans, the only legally extant plans for the District, both in reality and as spelled out in the Home Rule Act. Clusters 25 and 26 have adopted the Ward 6 portion of the Comprehensive Plan as the basis for discussion, after citizens on the Hill and in other parts of the city expressed concern that the SNAP program reinforce the Comprehensive and Ward Plans, not undermine them.

Many citizens have questioned the rationale for the major planning effort when developments on the ground are dictating decisions that should be subject to the planning

effort. Developments raised at recent meetings include the H Street NE BP-Amoco Station, the Boys Town proposed facility on Pennsylvania Ave. SE and 14<sup>th</sup> St. SE, the pre-trial detention/half-way house on the DC General grounds, the impoundment lot on the RFK parking lots, and the proposed apartment/condo/townhouse project on the Medlink site on Constitution Ave. NE. All of these projects might have been significantly changed, or precluded, had the Ward 6 Plan been implemented through zoning changes.

All CHRS members should be vitally interested in the SNAP effort, if only to assure that it doesn't damage years of careful planning. Look for a more extensive discussion of these issues in future issues of this newsletter. ✧

## April Preservation Café Focus On Historic Alleys Program

By Nancy Metzger

If anyone was concerned that alleys are a forgotten aspect of Capitol Hill, the April Preservation Café would have been reassuring. About 40 people crowded into the back room of Ellington's on Eighth on May 4 to discuss the Historic Alleys Program of the Division of Transportation. DOT's Emeka Moneme, who has been working on this program since last summer, was there to answer questions, and residents were there to voice their concerns—speed control, ease of trash pick-up, potholes and assorted paving problems, water drainage, and the special problems of residential alleys.

The vision of the Historic Alleys Program is to “maintain and recon-

struct the historic alleys for the safe, efficient movement of traffic and people, while protecting their historical significance.” The Division has some money set aside in its capital budget for the next two years but hopes to develop an on-going program that will meld the functional concerns of traffic safety, trash removal, and water drainage with the historic character of the alleys.

CHRS has contributed to this effort by compiling a database and pictorial record of all the alleys in the Capitol Hill Historic District. This data can be used by both the Division of Transportation and the Historic Preservation Division of the City. A special word of appreciation goes to Ellington's on Eighth, which welcomed the growing crowd of Café attendees on very short no-

tice—and then served some wonderful food to those who stayed to have dinner after the presentation. ✧

### Help Wanted—CHRS Membership Committee

CHRS Membership committee needs volunteers to help with membership activities such as preparing new member information packets and attending CHRS events where potential new members may be lurking. Will require about 1 hour per month.

If interested, please call Don Price at 202.546.5870 or email [Don\\_Sheri\\_Price@hotmail.com](mailto:Don_Sheri_Price@hotmail.com).

# The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Capitol Hill House Tour May 12-13

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## **2001 Tour Bonuses!**

Fun and educational stops along the way are featured in this year's tour. The DC Preservation League is showcasing exhibits and information about historic preservation at the Old Naval Hospital (921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE), which opened in 1867. On Sunday, Civil War re-enactors (people dressed in both Union and Confederate uniforms) will be on its grounds, and tours of the building will be given by docents from Friends of the Old Naval Hospital. A group proposing to convert the historic structure into a museum of Naval medicine is also offering exhibits that include a 24 foot model of a Navy sailing ship (that's Sunday only).

From the house at 721 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE, the Ellen Wilson organization will conduct tours of this award-winning, innovative, mixed-income townhome project.

Other tours will be offered beyond the entrance gates of the

Marine Corps Washington Barracks (8<sup>th</sup> St. between G and I SE), the oldest Marine Corps establishment still in operation, now celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding.

Docents will also be available along "Barracks Row" on 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE to talk about the 8<sup>th</sup> St.-Mainstreet Project, which intends to restore the luster that this historic shopping area once enjoyed as a link between the Capitol Hill neighborhood and the Navy Yard. More docents will be at The Shakespeare Theatre's headquarters, in the renovated Victorian princess of Barracks Row (516 8<sup>th</sup> St. SE).

## **8<sup>th</sup> Street Treats and Second Saturday**

Merchants along 8<sup>th</sup> Street will have special displays, discount opportunities, and perhaps even restaurant tastings for tour goers. On Sunday only, Capitol Hill Bikes (formerly Metropolis, 709 8<sup>th</sup> St. SE) will make it easy to visit the houses on the tour by bicycle, organizing group rides and providing security for bikes while the

riders are visiting houses and exhibits.

In conjunction with the tour, Capitol Hill galleries and shops will be celebrating Second Saturday on May 12<sup>th</sup> with lectures, music, and refreshments.

## **Pauses that Refresh**

Tour ticket holders are invited to a Saturday evening reception by Michelle Taylor, artist and owner of Taylor and Sons Fine Arts Gallery, 666 Pennsylvania Ave. SE. (Michelle's work is featured on the Tour poster and on the ticket and tour book.)

Tea is being offered to tour-goers on Sunday afternoon at Christ Church (620 G Street, SE), the oldest church on Capitol Hill: a wonderful Gothic Revival built in 1806.

## **Tickets**

Tickets, good for both Saturday and Sunday and including both receptions, are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the days of the tour. They will be available at a ticket kiosk at Eastern Market and from a number of businesses on Capitol Hill including: The Trover Shop, 221 Pennsylvania Ave. SE; Grubbs Pharmacy, 326 East Capitol St.; and Antiques on the Hill, 701 North Carolina Ave. SE.

Members have been sent a special offer to buy up to 2 tickets at \$10 each; anybody purchasing a membership is eligible for a \$5 discount on the purchase price.

With all the special offerings this year, the tour would be a bargain at twice the price. Don't forget, a portion of the proceeds is donated to Capitol Hill civic organizations, and the remainder supports the efforts of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society to maintain, preserve, and beautify our community of Capitol Hill. ✧

## **Deadline for Grant Proposals**

*Continued from page 1*

Any Capitol Hill organization or entity, not just incorporated or formal nonprofit, is eligible to submit a proposal, which should support a specific project or projects benefiting the Capitol Hill community. Proposals should be submitted in writing to the Society no later than May 15, 2001. Information provided should include a project summary and must describe the project's objective, implementation and cost. The proposal should also describe the submit-

ting organization's objectives and recent activities.

Proposals will be judged on the basis of clarity, feasibility, innovation, benefit to the community, measurability of results and degree of reliance on CHRS funding. The Society may divide the award between several organizations or projects. A decision will be announced at the Society's annual meeting in June.

Guidelines for applications and criteria for judging proposals are available from the Society's office: call (202) 543-0425.

## Society Sponsors Forum on Capitol Visitors Center

The U.S. Capitol—our own neighborhood icon—is one of the top ten tourist attractions in the country. Over the past decade, visitors to the Capitol have increased 23 percent. With this has come an urgent need to improve the visitor experience and the way large crowds are handled. To meet these needs, a 580,000-square foot U.S. Capitol Visitors Center (CVC) will be built beneath the Capitol's East front plaza by 2005.

At the Society's April 19 Forum at the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, Architect of the Capitol Alan Hantman began by explaining why the CVC is needed and showed plans for the \$265 million project to an audience of neighbors and journalists eager to hear and see how this ambitious project will be implemented. Using architectural drawings and renderings of the proposed building and grounds, Architect Hantman explained that the CVC will be entirely below ground and accessed primarily from First Street (at East Capitol St.). The facility will provide much improved security (the murder of two Capitol policemen in 1998 prompted revitalization of old but never implemented plans for such a center). It will also offer a more

gracious space for visitors waiting to tour the Capitol. Educational opportunities will be enhanced by exhibition spaces, theaters, an auditorium, and other meeting areas within the structure. Food service facilities, restrooms and gift shops will also be incorporated. Necessary but unattractive services (deliveries, garbage removal) will be moved from the East Plaza to new underground loading dock, entered by means of a tunnel under Constitution Avenue from an entrance on New Jersey Ave. NW.

Of interest to many was the impact of the project on the East front landscaping, in particular the trees that now line the entrance that extends from East Capitol Street. Landscape Architect Matthew Evans described plans for moving trees deemed able to survive transplantation, replacing those too old or too encumbered to be moved, and replanting the grounds according to the original Olmsted plans. The 100 year old tulip poplars that line the entrance road are nearing the end of their lives (many have already been lost) and will be removed. Replacement trees of the same species, approximately 15 feet tall, will be arranged in the pattern designed by Olmsted.

Many questions from the audience focused on the impact of construction on the Capitol Hill neighborhood, including parking, and on the truck routes to be used for removing dirt from the excavation. Architect Hantman noted that construction traffic issues would be addressed through construction management planning; while specific routes are not yet established, he indicated attention has focused on routing trucks to New York Avenue (for loads going north and east) or to the SE/SW Freeway (for loads going south). Both would avoid the need for going through residential neighborhoods. Architect Hantman was unable to comment on handling construction workers—as many as 500 may be on the job, with an estimated 400 arriving by car—but acknowledged that the issue would have to be studied. He was also unable to say whether the Capitol Police would help enforce traffic rules and discipline contractors and tour buses; in the past, the Capitol Police have resisted helping the MPD in this area. Many issues and decisions are still under consideration, according to Architect Hantman, but he stressed that neighborhood concerns will be considered. ✧

## Development Around The Hill

**Holladay-Medlink/Capitol Hill Hospital (Seventh, Eighth, and Constitution Avenues NE):** At a community meeting on this apartment-condo-townhouse project in early April, Holladay presented a site plan and a 7<sup>th</sup> Street elevation drawing of the new facade for the Hospital's existing North Tower. The site plan indicates four buildings on the site—Building A, the 1928 hospital building; Building B, a six story apartment building in place of the 1956 addition to the hospital building; Building C, the present North Tower with a new facade; and Building D, a four story apartment building on the present parking lot.

The one story building to the north of the North Tower would be demolished and replaced by a park. The Society's Historic District Committee felt that the proposed facade of the North Tower was a step forward but that there was insufficient information to make an

informed decision. According to Dave Maloney, DC Historic Preservation Division staff officer for the project, Holladay is making changes to the site plan and is developing new facade drawings. The Historic Preservation Review Board hearing is now scheduled for May.

**Bryan School (1325 Independence Ave. SE):** There are plans to renovate this 1908 school building for condos and to build 38 townhouses on the playground. The Historic Preservation Review Board will be looking at the inner court buildings and the landscape plan for this project at its April 26 meeting. However, the major emphasis now is zoning issues: the project will be considered under the "planned unit development" (PUD) provision of the law.

The zoning process will consider many community-sensitive issues,

including parking, traffic patterns, noise and impact on the neighbors. The zoning process will also consider the "public amenity;" that is, the public benefit to be provided to the community to compensate for being able to use the PUD process. The Bryan School Neighborhood Association, supported by the Society, plans a public meeting on Thursday, May 10, to hear from developer Eakin/Youngentob and to hear community suggestions for the "public amenity."

**BP Amoco (300 Block of H St. NE):** BP Amoco has proposed a meeting to discuss possible conditions on its gas station and convenience store proposal, but has not seriously addressed the issues raised by nine community organizations and the DC Office of Planning in a communication to BP Amoco on January 10 (see the February News). ✧

## Looking Back on Capitol Hill

Memoirs are the written form of oral history so it was an unexpected treat to find *Simpler Times: Stories of Early Twentieth Century City Life* by J. George Butler in the shop at the Historical Society of Washington.

The late Mr. Butler grew up on Second Street SE, just below Carroll Street, a square now occupied by the Madison Building of the Library of Congress.

He tells many stories about life in those “simpler times”: one is of the 1923 Shriner’s Convention that several other people have mentioned in their oral histories of life on Capitol Hill.

“During World War I, Dad saw to it that we never missed a parade. The school authorities believed in the educational value of these parades and gave us time off. The thrill of seeing the Marine Band in its scarlet uniforms, 12 trombones abreast across the front rank, marching down the street playing a Sousa march, made my heart pound and my blood tingle. . . .

The most colorful parades, different from the ‘government’ parades, were the week-long series of parades of the Shriner’s Convention of 1923. . . . Dad took a total of 24 friends downtown to see the lights and enjoy the fireworks from the steps of the Capitol. The age of electricity had just come into full bloom, and seeing such a maze of light strung along the “Avenue” was indeed an extraordinary spectacle. Compared to the usual gaslights, the brilliant electric display was well worth seeing. . . . The marching bands and glee clubs in their colorful costumes were wonderful to see and hear. Grown men in their white shirts and outlandish yellow vests and green baggy pants, wearing red fezzes with black tassels, tooled around the marching bands and glee clubs in their miniature autos and motor scooters.” [Excerpted with permission from the publisher. Copies of the book can be obtained from the Historical Society or from Vandamere Press—with credit card, 1-800-551-7776). ✧

### Welcome New Members

Diane Brockett & Warren Howard  
Angel Brunner  
Dr. Nir Buras  
Shawn & Kyra Dolley  
Elizabeth & Jim Engel  
Cory Fleming  
Beth Fluto  
D. M. Harmon & K. Krattenmaker  
Brad Hiltcher  
Max Larsen  
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WE THANK THE FOLLOWING PATRONS AND SPONSORS:

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## The Facade Conservation Easement

### *A Way to Preserve Architectural History and Get a Tax Break as Well*

By Tom Grahame

Homeowners in the Capitol Hill Historic District (CHHD) may be eligible for a significant tax break based on the historic value of their homes. A Society flier will soon make available information about the Facade Conservation Easement, a little known instrument available only to owners of properties in certain registered historic districts such as CHHD. When available, the flier will be provided to new members in their welcome packet. It may also be requested from the Society office by current members.

The tax break associated with the façade easement is offered as an incentive for owners to agree not to make changes

to the front—facade—of their homes without prior approval from a nonprofit trust designated by the National Park Service. The trust receives the donated easement and ensures that changes to the facade are historically consistent with the home’s architecture. In practice, these protections for the architecture and streetscape of Capitol Hill already exist; the easement simply records existing historical preservation protections into the deed.

### **What Makes This Such a Good Deal for Capitol Hill Building Owners?**

- the tax break can be substantial; qualifying owners are able to deduct about 11% of the appraised value of the entire property.
- participation in facade easement ensures that the property’s historic values, and those of the neighborhood, are preserved in perpetuity.

- the approval process for proposed changes to a building’s facade is unchanged. Building owners within the CHHD are already required to obtain building permits for most construction, and proposed exterior work must be reviewed by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board.

### **Does My Home Qualify? How Can I Get More Information?**

Contact Carol Goldman, President of the L’Enfant Trust, for details on the process of obtaining a Facade Conservation Easement; (202) 483-4880; email: info@lenfant.org. The Trust’s website is www.lenfant.org.

CHRS also recommends consultation with a tax attorney before pursuing a Facade Conservation Easement. ✧

# Short Term Success Doesn't Guarantee Victory

by Rob Nevitt

For a while, it appeared that the battle was won, though we knew well that the war would continue. At press time, it appears that even the battle isn't over yet. The proposal by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to renovate Building 25 on the "campus" of the City Jail into a "halfway house" for 200 pre-trial detainees was stymied by Council Member Sharon Ambrose's amendment to delete the \$10-million+ funding for the renovation. The CHRS, the ANC, and neighbors who had protested the proposed budget item to Council Members and the Mayor's office, sat through the April 9 hearings and the resulting 4-1 vote in favor of the Ambrose amendment. As of late April, however, the Mayor had requested that the funds be returned to the budget to be considered by the full Council on May 1. Neighborhood organizations were mobilizing to encourage citizens to let their feelings be known to all members of the Council.

The community's opposition was previously conveyed to the Mayor's representatives—including Odie Washington, the Director of the DOC—at an overflow meeting at Watkins School in April. Neighbors were eloquent in describing the negative impact of the prison complex on their daily lives and their rejection of the proposed renovation for building 25. Nonetheless, city officials in attendance showed an undisguised lack of real interest that bordered on disdain for citizen opinions.

Similar disregard was reflected in another recent City plan: to move the vehicle impound lot to the parking areas of RFK Stadium. The project died at the hands of the National Park Service, which leases the land to the city for parking purposes only. It wouldn't permit the impound lot to be put there.

Both of these proposals—and others—may come up again to chip away at the quality of life on Capitol Hill in piece-meal fashion. They lack any sensitivity to the broad, long-

range plans for neighborhood stabilization and area development.

We hear lip service paid to development as tourist destinations of the Anacostia waterfront, Barney Circle, Pennsylvania Ave. and 8th Street, and the Congressional Cemetery, but ideas like the impound lot and the halfway house get the Mayor's stamp of approval.

We need to ask—and ask again—whether it is only short-range thinking that is going to prevail over long-range, comprehensive planning as a framework within which daily decisions are going to be made.

CHRS has asked the Mayor this question: he has responded that he would like to meet with us to talk about a development plan.

We'll see.

In the meantime, we need to keep the pressure on. We need to prevent the creation of an area in Ward 6 where unwanted and undesirable projects are thought to be unopposed. ✧

## Public Art for Capitol Hill Site

*Public Meeting Scheduled for May 31*

By Elizabeth Nelson

North Lincoln Park area residents have a unique opportunity to participate in the selection of public art to be installed in their community. The project is sponsored by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities through the Community Initiatives Public Art Program. In January, the Commission solicited site nominations from District residents for outdoor sites available for long-term placement of public art projects. The North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association (NLPNA) entered two proposals, one of which was selected.

The selected site is the triangle bounded by 13<sup>th</sup> St., Constitution Ave.,

and Tennessee Ave., across from Maury Elementary School. A "call for artists" was issued; portfolios of submitting artists will be reviewed by a committee chosen by the Commission. Two or three artists chosen for each site will each be charged with developing a proposal for a piece of art to be placed at that site. These artists will be expected to attend a public meeting where all interested parties from the neighborhood will work together to develop a "vision" for the art work. Each artist will use that information to design a submission. The committee will then make a recommendation to the Commission as to which proposal best suits the site. At press time, the list of committee members had not been finalized,

but it will include representatives of various city government agencies, local artists and community members.

The public meeting to develop the vision for the site is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 6-9 pm, at Maury Elementary School. Community input is crucial. All are welcome, but people living within a few blocks of the site are urged to attend. As this is the first year of the program, there have been last-minute scheduling changes that are difficult to advertise. For information (including confirmation of the meeting date and time) contact Elizabeth Nelson (NLPNA chairman) at 543-3512 or Mary Farmer (NLPNA Art Initiative Committee) at 547-7092. ✧

# Bylaw Changes Submitted to Membership

By Brian Furness

At its April meeting, the Board approved submitting changes in the Society's Bylaws to the membership. The changes complement those approved by the membership last year that strengthened the membership's voice on the Board by adding four at-large members, and making elections more representative of the membership.

The changes proposed at this time (see below) strengthen and clarify the Board's ability to manage the Society, especially in the financial area; strengthen the conflict of interest provisions; establish a member initiative procedure; and expand the Society's interest area to include more of the adjacent north-east area. Principal changes include:

- The Board will have more flexibility to set dues and membership conditions that are now fixed in the Bylaws. Dues, which have been unchanged for many years, are not changed.
- The President is empowered to appoint officers to fill a vacancy on the Board.
- Board members are specifically prohibiting from voting on any issue in which they have a conflict of interest. The present provisions provide only that an interest has to be declared.

- Board meetings will be generally open to the public. Board meetings are now open, but the change makes it explicit.
- Limitations on the Board's ability to approve unbudgeted expenditures are removed. The membership must still approve the annual budget.
- The Board will have to consider and report to the membership on any issue brought to it at a meeting or by petition.
- The boundaries of the "Capitol Hill Restoration Area" – the Society's main area of interest – are expanded to include the area up to Florida Ave., NE and the area between 2nd St., NE and the railroad tracks. The Bylaws already provide that the Society may intervene on any issue affecting Capitol Hill; the change acknowledges our interest in the H Street, NE corridor and the development area to the north.

The membership will be asked to approve the Bylaw changes by mail ballot.

Proposed changes to the Society's Bylaws are shown below. Only those provisions with changes are shown; complete copies of the Bylaws (and changes) are available from the Society's office. Deletions are struck out, additions are underlined. ✧

## Call Box Meeting Set For June 2

This summer may see the first call boxes stripped, primed, and ready to receive neighborhood "visions". Paul Williams, city-wide coordinator of the call box project, reports that there was a very good response from contractors: he expects that the stripping/priming work on the first group of empty call boxes will begin sometime this summer.

The Capitol Hill Call Box Task Force will be meeting Saturday, June 2, at 1:30 pm in the Southeast Public Library meeting room (7<sup>th</sup> and D Streets SE) to review progress and plan for the first group of call boxes to be completed on Capitol Hill. If you're interested in this project but haven't yet made your interest known, be sure to come and find out how you can contribute to this effort.

CHRS is serving as the coordinator for the extended Capitol Hill area—from the Navy Yard past H Street NE, and from Kingman Park, North Lincoln Park and Capitol Hill East to the Capitol grounds. Well over 100 boxes are scattered throughout this area, so there is opportunity for many to join in this project. In addition to artists, historians, and writers, people with practical skills will also be needed—painters, map coordinators and other abilities we haven't even thought of yet. ✧

1. Any individual who has a legitimate interest in the Capitol Hill Restoration Area, as defined in paragraph 32, shall be eligible for membership in the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, Inc. ("Society"). ~~No other legal person shall be entitled to membership of any kind.~~

2. Membership dues shall be ~~(a) \$20 for each individual per year, plus \$5 per year for each related additional member living in the same household, (b) \$40 and \$10, respectively, for a Sponsoring Membership, (c) \$90 and \$10, respectively, for a Patron Membership, and (d) \$525 and \$250, respectively, for a Life Membership, which may be paid over a period of one year from the date the first payment toward the Life Membership is paid; determined by the Board of Directors. No change may be made except after prior notice to the Membership. No member shall have more than one vote.~~

3. ~~Membership shall commence on the first day of the month following receipt of a member's dues and shall continue for twelve months from that date. However, if a renewal is received not later than thirty days after the previous year's membership has expired, the renewal shall be effective for twelve months from the date of expiration of the previous year's membership.~~

54. Any member of the Society may be expelled for cause upon the approval of such expulsion by three-fourths of the members Board present at any regular meeting of the Board, if a motion for such expulsion has been made and seconded at the regular meeting next preceding. The member so recommended for expulsion shall be invited to attend these proceedings, and to speak and present witnesses in his/her behalf.



98. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the financial records and accounts of the Society and shall report on the financial status of the Society at the regular meetings. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Budget and Endowment Committees.

109. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of the Society and Board of Director meetings and shall perform such secretarial duties as may be directed by the President. The Secretary shall maintain the official records, files and archives of the Society, except the books and records of the Treasurer.

10. In the case of a vacancy in the office of first and second vice president, secretary or treasurer, the president may appoint a member to act in the capacity until the position is filled, subject to the approval of a majority of the Board present at a regular meeting of the Board.

11. The Society may, by three-fourths vote of the members present at a meeting of the Society, relieve any officer of his or her duties, if a motion for such relief of duties was made and seconded at the regular membership meeting next preceding. The Board, by three-quarters vote, may suspend any officer from his or her duties, if such suspension was made and seconded at the Board meeting next preceding.

12. Any member who speaks at a meeting on a subject in which the member has an interest shall so inform the Society of the interest. No Board Member shall vote on any issue that would materially affect directly or indirectly his or her financial interests or those of a member of his or her household, or a business or organization with which he or she is associated, or on matters as to which he or she has a conflict situation created by a personal, family, organization or client interest.

13. The standing committees of the Society shall be Budget, City Planning, Community Development, Community Relations, Environment, Historic District, Membership, Newsletter, Public Safety and Zoning.

1314. The Committee chairs of the standing committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the other elected officers. Committee membership will be governed by criteria established by the Board. Members of standing committees (except the chairs) shall be appointed and removed by the President. A committee may, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, define its own quorum Bylaws.

19. Board meetings will be open to Society members in good standing. By majority vote, the Board may go into Executive Session closed to those not members of the Board.

1820. The President, with the concurrence of a majority of Board, may appoint special committees may create other committees and task forces.

2628. The annual budget shall be reported to the Society for adoption at the regular fall meeting. The President may approve the expenditure of unbudgeted funds not to exceed \$500. The Board of Directors may approve by majority vote the expenditure of unbudgeted funds not to exceed \$1000-5000. The Board of Directors may approve by a vote of two-thirds of the directors holding office the expenditure of unbudgeted funds not to exceed \$5000-20,000. Any unbudgeted expenditure in excess of \$5000-20,000 shall be approved by a majority of the members present at a meeting of the Society or by mail ballot.

33. The Board shall consider any issue requested to be brought to it by motion at any scheduled membership meeting, or by petition of no fewer than twenty five (25) members in good standing of the Society. The Board shall report to the membership on actions taken at the next scheduled membership meeting.

3134. All resolutions, motions, or other business referred to the Board or any committee for action shall be reported on at the next regular membership meeting, unless a longer period is granted. Upon the failure of a committee or the Board to timely report any matter, a majority of the members present at a regular meeting may take such actions as may be appropriate.

3437. All proceedings of the Society, unless otherwise provided by the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act or by rule or order of business adopted by the Society, or by these Bylaws, shall be controlled by the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order."

3740. The Capitol Hill Restoration Area is defined by the following boundaries: east on G Street, NE from Second Street through 15th Street, NE Beginning at the intersection of 3rd Street, NE and Florida Avenue, NE, southeasterly on Florida Avenue, NE to 15th St., NE; south on 15th Street, NE, to C Street, NE; east on C Street, NE, to Oklahoma Avenue, NE; east on the road around the north side of Kennedy Stadium to the Anacostia River at the East Capitol Street bridge; south and southwesterly along the east bank of the Anacostia River to the South Capitol Street bridge; north on South Capitol Street to Washington Avenue, SW; northwest on Washington Avenue, SW, to First Street, SW; north on First Street, SW and NW, to Louisiana Avenue; northeast on Louisiana Avenue, NW and NE, to Union Station and south around Union Station to Second Street the railroad tracks north of Union Station, then northeast along the east boundary of the tracks to the point of beginning. In the case of the northern boundary, and the eastern boundary from G Street, NE, to C Street, NE, the Area shall extend to the middle of the block outside the defined street line.

3841. The boundaries described in paragraph 3240 shall not be construed to inhibit interest and activity on the part of the Society in the case of areas which would have an adverse effect on the character of the Capitol Hill Restoration Area, nor shall the boundaries be interpreted to inhibit the interest and activity of the Society in behalf of the preservation of sites and buildings in any part of the District of Columbia or elsewhere.

3942. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting or responding to a mail ballot, if notice of such amendment, signed by at least 10 members in good standing, shall be given in the Society Newsletter published at least two weeks in advance of such meeting or mail ballot.

## Mark your Calendar!

### MAY

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#### 10 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Bryan School Neighborhood Association/CHRS: "Bryan School Development Presentation and Community Forum." St. Monica's Church, 1340 Massachusetts Ave. SE at 7:00 pm.

#### 12-13 Mothers' Day Weekend

44<sup>th</sup> Annual House and Garden Tour. Saturday, May 12, 5-8 pm; Sunday, May 13, noon-5 pm. For tickets and information, call the Society at (202) 543-0425.

#### 15 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

CHRS Board Meeting, 420 10<sup>th</sup> St. SE at 6:30 pm.

#### 31 Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Public meeting on public art, North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association at Maury Elementary School, Constitution Ave., NE at 13<sup>th</sup> St. NE, 6-9 pm.

### JUNE

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#### 2 Saturday, 1:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Call Box Task Force, in the Southeast Public Library meeting room, 7th and D Streets SE at 1:30 pm.

## Next Anacostia Watershed Meeting in May

By Hans Moennig

If you wander down to the Anacostia, starting at Buzzard Point and heading up stream, you will see how badly neighborhood and waterfront revitalization is needed and how much effort will be required to achieve it. However, if your imagination is good enough you will also be able to see the potential for making the waterfront an asset to community on a par with the National Mall itself.

On April 7, 2001, five target area workshops were held as part of the Anacostia Watershed Initiative to solicit public comment on the findings of the first investigation phase of the planning process. The goal of the workshops is to obtain broad-based citizen input so that District-wide objections are balanced with neighborhood visions and needs.

For Capitol Hill the target areas of greatest interest are Near South East—including the Navy Yard, South East Federal Center and Buzzard Point—and the RFK Stadium area, including Kingman and Heritage Islands.

The planning process on Kingman and Heritage Islands has slipped by a month or more; the single plan for the

use of the islands is now scheduled for release at the end of April. Developed by Office of Planning and the Department of Parks and Recreation, this plan incorporates elements from three options presented earlier, along with community input which was to be available at the end of March. The Office of Planning intends to present the plan to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and other community groups, and will provide copies to libraries in the interest area.

If you missed the April 7 workshops, it is not too late to participate. The findings of all five workshops will be pulled together by the Office of Planning and presented on May 19, 9 am to 2 pm, at the National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW.

The area workshops continue. In July they will focus on soliciting input into development of alternative plans, and in November on the draft plan. For further information, check out [www.anacostiawaterfront.net](http://www.anacostiawaterfront.net) or the DC Office of Planning web site, or call 202.442.8965. The web site is not yet complete, but does include a calendar of events. ✧

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### Capitol Hill Restoration Society

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