



# NEWS

July 2001

## CHRS Task Force Formed to Battle 132-Foot Glass Tower—Please Help!

The proposed Securities and Exchange Commission headquarters building on the east side of Union Station could have an important effect on its immediate neighborhood and throughout Capitol Hill. Current plans call for a 132-foot tall, mostly glass building with over 1.4 million square feet of office space. An underground garage for 1,183 cars is included. The location, along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE, from F Street to H Street, has been dubbed Station Place. It borders the Northwest corner of the Capitol Hill Historic District and the Northeast corner of the Capitol Grounds. The building was designed by Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates.

CHRS President Brian Furness has asked Charles McMillion to chair a special Task Force on the SEC project. The Task Force will draw on the expertise of several CHRS Committees and many of its members, but more help is urgently needed. Charles has asked that all members with an interest in this major project contact him at 544-4614 or by email at [cwmcmillion@attglobal.net](mailto:cwmcmillion@attglobal.net). ✧

## Rob Nevitt Chosen CHRS President



Ninety-nine ballots were cast in the recent CHRS election, and all 99 votes affirmed the Election Committee's choice of Rob Nevitt for President. The remaining slate of

Officers and Board Members, profiled in the June issue of the *News*, was also elected. Election results were announced to the membership at the June 21 annual meeting, and the new slate took office effective July 1. Rob replaces Brian Furness, who stepped down after three years as President. (A tribute to Brian appears on page 9.)

In the same mail ballot, proposed changes to the by-laws (published in the *May News*) were approved by a margin of 93-4, with three voters abstaining.

Robert "Rob" Nevitt has most recently chaired the Society's Public Safety Committee, in the past year serving as point person in the battle to prevent the City from establishing a pre-trial detention center "half way house" on the DC General campus. He also directed the Society's campaign to support neighborhood-friendly Alcohol Beverage Control legislation.

Rob and his wife Audrey moved to Capitol Hill in 1983, between overseas assignments as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Information Agency. He served mostly in Asia, directing East Asia Affairs for USIA in the 1980s, when he was also public affairs coordinator for President Reagan's Asian trips. He later served in Japan and at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. He retired in 1996, at the end of a tour as a

member of the Faculty at the National War College at Ft. McNair. Since then, he and Audrey have organized an Orange Hat group, worked with the Metropolitan Police Department on community policing, with Trees for Capitol Hill, and with the Capitol Hill Garden Club. He volunteered for Sharon Ambrose's campaign for the City Council. Rob tutors and helps train tutors for elementary school children under a Friendship House program in Anacostia. In 2000, Rob and Audrey received a special award from the MPD for their work. ✧

## Contributions Highlighted

We're taking the opportunity, in this last *News* issue published under the current President and Board, to highlight some recent contributions made by your Society to the Capitol Hill community at large. Although the Society's primary focus is preservation of our neighborhood's historic architecture, every aspect of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century here on the Hill is of legitimate concern. Happily, there are many ways in which the Society can use its financial resources and expertise to promote the quality of everyday life in the neighborhood.

Articles on pages 4 and 5 tell of the Society's contributions to recent improvements at Garfield Park and Tyler School field. The article on page 6 announces recent recipients of grants, made with 20% of net proceeds of the May 2001 House and Garden Tour. We hope members will feel proud of their Society's role in these efforts. ✧

## Presidents' Column

### Hail!

By Rob Nevitt

I spent most of a recent hot afternoon walking between 15th and 16th Streets SE with a group of residents and city service representatives headed by Leo Pinson, the Ward 6 Neighborhood Services Coordinator. That evening, in an equally warm room of the old Naval Hospital, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator Karina Ricks went over the Capitol Hill, Lincoln Park, and Capitol East (Cluster 26) planning priorities. The day spoke volumes about life on the Hill.

First, the City government is reaching out. It is easy to be cynical about rat control or parks and recreation, not to mention the police. There is always more to do. But there is more positive interface with the community than ever before.

Secondly, the priorities and problems that arise are common to most groups. The restoration of the Naval Hospital itself is much on people's minds. Developments like Bryan School and Medlink represent challenges to everyone who welcomes development, if not at too high a cost. Urban living has new appeal and Washington is unique in being in no state with a political and economic stake in our success. We have to find solutions to everything—from car impound lots to parks—within the narrow limits of the District.

Thirdly, many of the same people show up at meetings.

The challenges are: to stay ahead of city initiatives, guiding them in directions important to those who live here; to engage developers and make what they do conform to the vision we cherish; and to work cooperatively and respectfully with all of the individuals and groups on the Hill who have committed energy and thought to particular problems.



Brian Furness (right) passes on the mantle to Rob Nevitt.

One more challenge: to encourage maximum participation in the thinking and recommending, through new and younger membership. If this sounds like an agenda, it is mine.

### ...and Farewell

By Brian Furness

For the last three years, I've appeared in this space. As President of your Society, I've blathered on about planning, Pennsylvania Avenue, and parking—my column on parking was even reprinted in the *Washington Post*—and even the need for us to be neighborly to one another. You know that I'm mad at Boys Town and impatient with the progress we've made on Eastern Market, demolition by neglect, and reform of City agencies. You also know that I'm enthusiastic about Capitol Hill—even after 30 plus years here, I'm charmed and delighted by its beauty.

I have shared my thoughts, my concerns, and my hopes for Washington, for Capitol Hill, and for the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. It's been a fascinating if too often frantic three years. Dealing with the challenges of growth and development

is exhilarating. Think of changes launched in the last few years: major residential development at the Ellen Wilson site; Bryan, Giddings and Lovejoy Schools; MedLink; Eastern Market reform; Barracks Row/Mainstreet; Kentucky Courts... and the hundreds of smaller projects implemented by the hundreds of new homeowners who have flocked to the Hill for a taste of urban village living. If we haven't always given each new development the attention it deserves, such failures stem more from a lack of time and resources than from indifference and despair.

Your Society has been a very large part my life and thoughts for the last three years. I am both honored and very humble that I've had the opportunity to guide your Society and thus to have some small influence on Capitol Hill. I always enjoyed the issues, but I've come to have a much greater appreciation for the people. Rob Nevitt, who takes over on July 1, is fortunate indeed to inherit a great Board, membership, and community. Hopefully, they will make his tenure as rewarding and stimulating as they have mine. From the bottom of my heart, thank you... thank you all. ✧

# House Tour Enchants, Educates

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President* ..... Rob Nevitt  
*First Vice President* ..... Katie Miller  
*Second Vice President* ..... Mark Anderson  
*Treasurer* ..... Lyle Schauer  
*Secretary* ..... Tom Grahame  
*At Large* ..... T.C. Benson  
*At Large* ..... Barbara Eck  
*At Large* ..... Mark Flemming  
*At Large* ..... Donna Foster  
*Immediate Past President* ..... Brian R. Furness

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

John Shages, *Budget, Elections*  
 Dick Wolf, *City Planning*  
 Brian R. Furness, *Community Development*  
 Linda Killian, *Community Relations*  
 Hans Moennig, *Environment*  
 Nancy Metzger, *Historic District*  
 Don & Sheri Price, *Membership, Endowment*  
 Robert Nevitt, *Public Safety*  
 Lyle Schauer, *Zoning*  
 Larry Pearl, *Beall Bequest Committee*

### NEWSLETTER:

Bernadette McMahon & Hilary Russell, *Editors*  
 Roxanne Walker, *Layout*

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

Founded over 40 years ago 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.

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual CHRS House and Garden Tour played to near sell-out crowds in perfect weather. The 13 houses and the special events enchanted tour goers, even as they were informed on historic preservation, the history and future of the Old Naval Hospital, progress in revitalizing the Barracks Row business district, programs of the Shakespeare Theatre, and the award-winning mixed-income housing development that replaced the Ellen Wilson dwellings.

The Tour's financial success

ensures that the Society's donation of 20 percent of net Tour proceeds will provide a substantial boost to worthy Capitol Hill projects. (See grant awards article on page 6.)

"Capitol Hill and the Society owe a vote of thanks to Tour Co-Chairs Ann Richards and Kathleen Donner," said Society President Brian Furness. "They brought us a Tour that showcased the creativity and initiative of a truly outstanding group of homeowners, and a Tour with an extra dimension of events and activities."

Ann Richards expressed her own experience in a letter to the Society:

Dear CHRS:

I had never been involved with the organization of the Society's House and Garden Tour, but on April 21<sup>st</sup> I became a co-chair of the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Mother's Day event. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the experience and once again am reminded of how grateful I am that I live in such a wonderful neighborhood.

Everyone was delightful to work with: from the home owners (only one of whom I'd met before), to the wonderful group of house managers and volunteers who so graciously manned the houses, to those involved with the special events (Dan Daly from the Old Naval Hospital and Jill Dowling from Barracks Row), to the shop owners participating in Second Saturday who were more than willing to help out in any way they could. These included Cissy Webb and her staff from Frame of Mine, who laminated posters (including last-minute replacements following Saturday evening's brief storm), and Michele Taylor of Taylor and Sons Fine Arts, who once again opened her gallery for a Saturday evening reception. Nancy Metzger, a member of both CHRS board and Christ Church, miraculously appeared a week before the event to pull together the tea that was held at Christ Church on Sunday afternoon.

Over 2000 tickets were sold for this year's Tour — the third largest number in its history. Though turnout was slightly lower than in past years, the gross was larger due to an increase in ticket prices. Advertising in the tour booklet was sold to 29 business establishments on the Hill and grossed nearly \$10,000.

The homes were all very interesting: a surprise awaited us beyond each façade. The Edsall home's all-white kitchen looked out over a glorious garden. We were awed by the pools in the back yards of the Carney and Gallagher homes, and by the wonderful colors of the Robey and Hiltcher homes.

A highlight of this year's tour was the addition of two historic buildings and a recent construction: The Old Naval Hospital, the Shakespeare Theater administrative offices, and the Townhomes of Capitol Hill added another dimension. Another plus was that Second Saturday coincided with the Saturday evening tour hours: anyone out on the streets from 5 to 8 pm could see and feel the activity.

All in all, it was a delightful weekend. The Restoration Society should be proud of another winner!

*Ann Richards, Tour Co-Chair, 2001*

# Restoration Society Helps to Improve Garfield Park

By Robert Krughoff,  
*Friends of Garfield Park*

Garfield Park had a grand reopening on June 9, with speeches by the Mayor and Councilmember Ambrose, children's games, two bands, a clown, and other entertainment.

The park (between 1st and 3rd Streets SE, just north of the freeway) has been greatly enhanced with many new trees and shrubs, hundreds of perennial flowers, new benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables. It also has new volleyball and horseshoe courts, resurfaced basketball and tennis courts, and an enormous installation of innovative children's play equipment.

None of this would have happened without strong support from scores of individual citizens and community leaders, and from key community organizations. The Restoration Society played an important role, providing essential support at key points in the process.

As far back as 1997, a small group of neighbors calling themselves Friends of Garfield Park began seeking funding for park improvements. Their master plan and detailed drawings were developed on a pro

bono basis by Gary Hallewell, owner of the Capitol Hill-based landscape design firm Garden Arts, Inc. As the Friends group plotted a course to get the needed funds and approvals, Dick Wolf of the Restoration Society became the main source of advice and savvy. He suggested the key people to work with and helped make the contacts.

The Friends was not yet incorporated but needed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to receive grants. The Restoration Society agreed to play this administrative role. This made the grant applications possible, and gave the Friends and the park project credibility.

For several years, the Friends organized monthly park cleanups, planted a few trees, and made other small improvements in the park. The Friends also raised a small amount of money, including two grants from the Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals (CHAMPS) Foundation.

The big breakthrough came in September 1999 with the announcement of the planned closing of the 3rd Street ramp to the Southeast-Southwest Freeway. At a meeting, the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) heard strong criticism of the lack of commu-



*The park got new landscaping and other amenities in addition to play equipment.*

nity involvement in the planning of the freeway project and its potential impact on the neighborhood. DPW suggested there might be local and federal transportation money to mitigate the effects of the freeway closing and the long-term effects of its presence. One place where such mitigation money might make sense, DPW suggested, would be Garfield Park.

Negotiations and planning continued for about a year. The Friends and other community representatives fleshed out plans for the park and sought funding commitments from DPW, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). During this process, Restoration Society's support was key. Brian Furness and Hans Moennig set up a meeting between the Friends and Herb Franklin of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol. With the Restoration Society's encouragement, Mr. Franklin wrote letters of support to DC and FHA officials. Brian Furness, as Society President, also wrote supporting letters.

This backing was very important in convincing the DC and federal agencies that the proposed project had



*Neighborhood kids celebrated the grand reopening with a parade.*

strong community support—and that the result would be both beautiful and widely used.

Eventually, the highway department committed \$255,000 to mitigation work in the park. DPW's Division of Transportation and Parks and Recreation promised major contributions. The Capitol Hill Day School committed to \$20,000, and the Friends to \$5,000. The total contribution was more than \$600,000.

Stop by the park any afternoon or weekend and you will see that it is full of people from all over Capitol Hill and beyond. There'll be picnics, tennis, dozens of kids on the play equipment, basketball, and more. The Restoration Society can take pride in having helped to make it happen. ✧

*Mayor Anthony Williams and Councilmember Sharon Ambrose spoke at the June 9 ceremony.*



## Society Gift Supports Children's Baseball

A Society grant of \$1,100 to buy bleachers for the Capitol Hill Baseball and Softball League is contributing to the remarkable growth of the sport on Capitol Hill, says league founder and tireless enthusiast John Parker. The new bleachers at Tyler School encourage parents to support their children by watching the games. The Society's contribution is recognized by a plaque attached to the bleachers. Visitors to Tyler field will also see a new batting cage, benches, and other improvements to the playing area.

Interest in children's baseball—youngsters from 4 1/2 to 15 years—has grown sharply in recent years. The Spring Babe Ruth and Girls Fast Pitch Softball leagues serve 105 local youth; they play teams from all over the city; the summer league enrolls about 230 players. Teams that play at Tyler also play at a refurbished field at Payne Elementary at 15th and C Streets SE. "Our improvements have to be supported by the community," says Parker, "they really contribute to making the Hill a place for families." ✧

## Welcome New Capitol Hill Restoration Society Members

Francoise Alexander  
Amanda Austin  
Caroline Bader  
Rita Bamberger  
Eric Bash & Brett Tarnutzer  
Margot Eyring  
Sarah & John Hocter  
Joseph & Jennifer Howard  
Martha Huienza & Matt Wade  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Krumwiede  
Kellie Larkin  
W. L. Leatherwood & M. N. Besbiel  
Jennie W. Leitch  
Fred Mashack  
Nancy Merritt  
Tracey Monnerat & David Cavicke  
Patrick & Anne O'Bourke

Lisa Olson  
Nedra Pickler  
Coco Provance & Emily Crandall  
Mary Repko  
Ellen M. Sandridge  
Mark & Maxine Seward  
Carol Spils  
Gary & Arabella Teal  
Steve & Tracie Vandorpe  
Anne Veysey  
Jeff Ward  
Naima Washington

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING  
PATRONS & SPONSORS:

**Life Member:**  
Rita Bamberger

**Patrons:**  
T. C. Benson  
Kathy & Bill Niskanen

**Sponsors:**  
Amanda Austin  
Craig M. Dean & Donna M. Murasky  
Mark Flemming, AIA  
Lawrence Helm & Julijana Budjevac  
C. David Massey & Katharine Matthews  
Mr. & Mrs. James Meek  
Randell & Linda Norton  
Ritch Tindall & Michael Piziali

# The Winners! Four Capitol Hill Organizations Benefit from House Tour Revenues

By Larry Pearl

**F**our Capitol Hill organizations were awarded CHRS grants at the Society's June 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting. The four winning proposals were chosen from among nine projects submitted by seven Capitol Hill organizations, in response to the Society's announcement that it would make 20 percent of the net proceeds of the 2001 House Tour available to the community. Grant amounts totaled \$7,685; amounts requested in the submissions had totaled \$30,285.

Contact persons for each recipient organization took the opportunity to thank the Society and to explain the use to which the award will be put. Contact names, phone numbers, and email addresses are included in the following list for the benefit of Society members who may wish to volunteer services or offer additional donations.

Grant awardees are:

## **Capitol Hill Group Ministry**

Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM) will receive \$1,650 to fund improvements to its Day Hospitality Center for Homeless Families. The Center is located at 1338 G Street SE. Open seven days a week, the center served 250 families last year, providing a safe space for families in need to meet with staff, engage in counseling, conduct business, and care for their children. CHGM expects to serve 325 families this year. The grant will provide funds for an exterior sign, interior paint, and for a new sink, cabinets and counter top. (Contact: Emily Guthrie, Deputy Director; phone 202-544-0613; email [chgm@erols.com](mailto:chgm@erols.com)).



*A CHRS grant will replace the shorter chain link Peabody School fence on 4th Street.*

## **Friends of the Northeast Library**

Friends of the Northeast Library will receive \$1,750 to purchase a Gateway computer. The library currently has seven computers, five of which have Internet access. Two of the five are in the Children's Room. The demand for these far exceeds the time available. They are used by an average of 225 children per month, since teachers are increasingly assigning homework that involves Internet searches. (Contact: Bill Silagi; 202-543-6775 ; [wsilagi@hotmail.com](mailto:wsilagi@hotmail.com)).

## **Peabody School**

Peabody School will receive \$3,000 to construct wrought iron fencing to replace the 4-foot chain link fence adjoining the play area on 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE. For several years, Peabody has worked to transform the asphalt, concrete, and chain link-fenced

playground into a "garden oasis." The School has received grants from the DC Department of Health Bureau of Environmental Quality, CHAMPS, and the National Wildlife Federation to remove the asphalt and plant a garden. (Drew Scallon, developer of the building under construction next to the playground, will replace the chain link fence that faces Stanton Park.) CHRS's grant will improve the environment of this wonderful old school building with a fence appropriate to its Capitol Hill neighborhood. (Contact: Louise Chapman; Louise Chapman; 202-546-8613).

## **Trees for Capitol Hill**

Trees for Capitol Hill (TCH) will receive \$750 to treat the red oak tree in Turtle Park that is suffering from soil impaction. The Northern Red Oak is a central feature of the

## Society Hosts Environmental Forum

By Hans Moennig and Bernadette McMahon

Were you aware that the District hosted a household hazardous waste collection day this Spring on May 12? If you had been, would you have driven to the Carter Barron Amphitheater to deliver your leftover paints, pesticides, and old medicines? Are you concerned about collection of such hazardous materials in your own neighborhood?

These questions and others like it were addressed at the Society's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Forum on June 21, immediately after the annual membership meeting. The audience learned about the nature of household hazardous waste and the challenges of disposing of these materials from William Easley, the Department of Public Works (DPW) official responsible for the District's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program, and from Adam Maier, Clerk of the DC Council's Committee on Public Works and the Environment.

The DPW establishes designated days — currently twice a year — for citizens to bring hazardous materials such as pesticides and paints to specified locations. (A parking lot at RFK Stadium has been used as such a location, but not recently.)

Environmental Committee Chair Hans Moennig opened the Forum by saying that he thinks the District's Program meets or exceeds Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. He also believes that the information available on the DPW's internet site (<http://dpw.dc.gov/info/>) is comparable to similar sites for other jurisdictions, and he made available from it printed copies of frequently asked questions about household hazardous waste.

Mr. Easley pointed out that hazardous household materials only become "hazardous waste" when someone wants to dispose of them. Until that time, they

are products routinely used around the house and garden, including such non-threatening items as nail polish remover. As such, concern by neighbors about the City's establishing a temporary collection site at a particular location twice a year might be misplaced. Mr. Easley also distributed printed information about household hazardous wastes and the City's collection events. He also made available several brochures on chemicals and other hazardous waste, including suggestions from the Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund on how citizens can reduce pollution by the choices they make at home.

Mr. Maier provided some background for the City's hazardous waste collection program. In his view, existing legislation is sufficient, but he suggests that DPW needs to do more. Particular needs include increasing public awareness of requirements for proper disposal of hazardous material and the collection opportunities that the City provides.

At the Forum, questions were raised about plans to increase the number of disposal days scheduled and/or sites, as well as the possibility of establishing a permanent and continually available disposal site. Mr. Easley responded that the City hopes to increase disposal opportunities, but that cost considerations might not make that possible. Since most household hazardous materials are generated in such small quantities that they can be safely stored between collection opportunities, the number of disposal dates may be less important than the number and convenience of disposal sites. In response to concerns voiced about the limited publicity for the program, Mr. Easley said that he was looking for ways to increase public awareness of proper household hazardous waste disposal practices within the limited funding available. ✽

park, at 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Independence, and North Carolina Avenues, and an important adjunct to Eastern Market. This expenditure for pruning deadwood and treating the soil with Perlite and humus should assure the tree's survival. TCH will also receive \$535 to conserve the post and chain fence around the triangle park at 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Independence, and North Carolina Avenues. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century many triangle parks were enclosed

*These historic cast-iron bollards (right) will be scraped, primed, and painted.*

with cast iron posts and chain fences to deter squatters and the dumping of garbage. This grant will pay for scraping, wire brushing, priming, and painting the posts and fence to conserve this historic asset. (Contact: Beth Purcell, Co-Chair; 202-544-0178; [eap1@mindspring.com](mailto:eap1@mindspring.com)). ✽





# Bryan School Project Moves Forward

## Society testifies in support of revised project, public amenity

By Brian Furness

Years of work by the Bryan School neighborhood and intensive efforts by developer Eakin/Youngentob Associates (EYA) came much closer to paying off as the Zoning Commission took up a revised proposal for the Bryan School site at 1325 Independence Avenue SE on June 21.

Neighborhood initiatives, including a June 18 meeting chaired by Society Community Development Committee Chair Brian Furness, resulted in an agreement that EYA would provide an \$82,000 "public amenity." (In essence, a public amenity is compensation for permission to develop the site more intensively than would have been permitted under the existing zoning.) With this agreement on the public amenity, EYA and neighborhood organizations — including the Society, the Bryan School Neighborhood Association, and ANC 6B — testified before the Zoning Commission in favor of the project. The widespread community support promised to help speed official approval, which may occur at the Zoning Commission's July 16 meeting.

Approval by the Zoning Commission is the last major official step before EYA closes on the property with DC Public Schools and obtains construction permits.

EYA plans to build 38 townhouses on the two-acre site, and to renovate the 1908 Bryan School building into 30 condominiums. 115 parking spaces will be provided — substantially more than required under the law, but fewer than some in the neighborhood believe is necessary. Other features include roof decks in lieu of rear yards (a departure from Capitol Hill practice), and garages that are entered from the rear of the houses. The design features and layout have been extensively debated before the Historic Preservation Review Board; EYA has made a number of changes to accommodate concerns raised by the Society and by other neighborhood organizations, including the Bryan School Neighborhood Association.

The public amenity provides \$40,000 to Payne School for air conditioners to facilitate summer instruction for children and to enhance community use of the school. An additional \$15,000 will help improve Payne's library. Friends of Lincoln Park will get a grant of \$12,000 to help finance renovation of the playground equipment and spur a major fund-raising campaign. \$15,000 will help the Computer Center at the corner of D and 15<sup>th</sup> SE to offer innovative computer training programs aimed at youth and to make the property more attractive. EYA has also promised to work informally with community

organizations to help improve the 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE commercial zone, now blighted with abandoned eyesores such as the Pierce Grill at Massachusetts Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> and the old gas station at 15<sup>th</sup> and C Streets. ✧

## No Decision in BP Case

By Drury Tallant

After a hotly debated hearing lasting well into the evening of June 19, the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) failed to render a decision on BP's proposal to expand its gas station in the 300 block of H St. NE. No individual witnesses or groups appeared in support of BP's proposal.

BP presented only minor alterations and some new information for their project, which the community has been reviewing over the past several months. The company objected to various questions and witness presentations, and renewed its opposition to the use of the Comprehensive Plan in the Office of Planning's assessment report. The BZA heard that staff report despite the objection.

Statements of opposition were made by Rob Hall, representing ANC 6A; Sarah Robinson and Mac McCrae, residents of Square 776; Meg Maguire, Capitol Hill resident and representative of Scenic America; and Drury Tallant, representing the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association.

Despite BP's objection, Phil Esocoff presented an alternative design. He had been engaged by Scenic America to demonstrate that a creative design process could open new possibilities for BP that might lead to a consensus.

The BZA was clearly not inclined to support BP's current proposal. Some board members were ready to vote, but Chair Sheila Cross Reid stated that the Board rarely votes at hearings of contested cases. She provided BP with an opportunity to return to the community and attempt to reach an agreement.

The Board will vote on this case in early September. The BZA indicated that the Special Exception will be denied unless BP musters community support. The burden is now on BP to begin addressing concerns that the community has brought to the table. ✧

## Bylaws Error Provides Opportunity for Review

An error in printing the Bylaw revisions, caught by an alert member, inadvertently deleted the Board's ability to spend unbudgeted monies. By mistake, the Bylaws revision printed in the May News showed the second sentence in paragraph 28 in "strikeout" (a provision to be deleted), whereas only the old amounts should have been struck out and higher limits inserted. The President's ability to authorize the expenditure of \$500 in unbudgeted funds remained.

The Board has accepted Treasurer Lyle Schauer's recommendation that the Society take advantage of the error to review and modernize the Bylaws to include: (1) authority for the Board to authorize emergency expenditures; (2) provision for the Endowment Fund; and (3) provision for fiscal sponsorship of other organizations. This last is particularly important in view of the many accounts the Society maintains on behalf of other community entities.

The results of the review will be printed in the September News and voted at the September membership meeting, which will also consider the Society's annual budget. ✧



# Appreciation for a Legacy



By John Shages

Everybody enjoys a celebration of someone's success. Some enjoy it for what it is, others hope they will be in the limelight

the next time around. Whatever motivates you, the reader, we hope you will find enjoyment in celebrating and thanking President Brian Furness for his leadership of the Society during the last three years.

Presidents of the Society are expected to know Capitol Hill—its history, its politics and how to use the strength of the Society improve our community. Like his predecessors, Brian had the knowledge, will, and persistence to make sure the Society was not stagnant. Prior to becoming President, Brian had already put his mark on the Hill by helping to save Providence Park from development and representing his neighborhood on Bryan School development. As the new President, he quickly invested the Board of Directors with his sense of urgency to get out ahead of issues.

Brian has amassed a list of accomplishments that will have lasting consequences. He was one of the authors of a bill that eventually became the legislation ensuring the preservation and management improvement of Eastern Market. He also continued to lead the effort for a neighborhood-friendly residential development of the Bryan School.

Brian may have picked his battles, but he leaves a legacy of Society involvement in every major issue affecting the Hill. No matter the outcome, Capitol Hill is a better place for his commitment. He has been a champion of residential use for the MedLink site, and he continues to demand that the developers communicate their plans to the neighbors. Further, he has been tireless in looking for alternatives to Boys Town that are economically viable and true to the character of the Hill. In the fun category, Brian has been President during the three most successful House Tours in the History of the Society.

Finally, Brian strengthened the Restoration Society and assured its survival for the next fifty years. One of his first acts as President was to sign the papers to divest CHRS of the Yost House. Rather than being burdened

with the maintenance of a building that required assets beyond the Society's means, Brian proposed establishing an endowment with the proceeds of the sale, along with a permanent committee to manage it. The endowment's earnings ensure that the Society has the wherewithal to challenge any assault on the integrity of the Historic District. The endowment also helps to support community organizations that make the Hill a better place in which to live and do business.

Brian presided over a reform of the CHRS Board of Directors, expanding it by four new members and delegating authority to the committee chairs. The Society's membership has grown since Brian became President three years ago, and its larger Board is doing more than ever. The strength of CHRS is Brian's quiet legacy, one from which the community will continue to benefit.

Fortunately, Presidents of the Society are not retired but remain on the Board of Directors. While we can say to Brian that we have appreciated his devotion to the Hill and his legacy to the Society, we get to keep him in harness through Rob Nevitt's upcoming Presidency. Please, when you see Brian, thank him for a job well done. ✧

## Looking Back on Capitol Hill...

### Keeping Score

*Frank Taylor grew up on Capitol Hill in the first two decades of the twentieth century. He remembers a time when baseball was America's summer sport.*

"Baseball was a very popular professional sport when I was growing up. Men knew a lot about what was happening in the major leagues and they wanted to see the scores. These scores were published in the last edition of the Washington Bulletin, which was one sheet that was brought around and hung

up in stores. During the day there would be a noon edition, afternoon edition and an evening edition. Well, that wasn't quite enough for some people. There was a boy in my neighborhood—about my age, I guess. He was known as Scoreboard Willie—his name was William Hagelman. On his front lawn he had a scoreboard. There was a fruit store over on Pennsylvania Avenue SE about 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Street that had a scoreboard in the show window. The proprietor or whoever worked for him would get the score over the telephone at the end of each inning and climb up there and put the score in for that inning. People who

were going by would get in the habit of waiting to see how the game was going. So Scoreboard Willie made a scoreboard to sit in his front yard and he would ride his bike over and get the numbers off of that and put the numbers [on his board]. You would be surprised how many men got in the habit of walking by to see what was going on."

\* \* \*

*If you know someone who grew up on Capitol Hill during the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we'd like to include him or her in the Oral History project. Please contact Nancy Metzger through the CHRS office (543-0425). ✧*

## Environmental Notes: Anacostia Watershed Workshops



By Hans Moennig

On Saturday, July 14, 2001, the public comment process of the Anacostia Watershed Initiative resumes with five target-

area workshops. These workshops will focus on the development of alternatives, the second phase of the planning process. The goal of the July workshops (like those on the first phase in April) is to obtain broad-based citizen input so that District-wide objectives 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 Near South East workshop will be held at the Van Ness Elementary School, 1150 5<sup>th</sup> St. SE, and the RFK Area workshop will be held at Miner Elementary School, 601 15<sup>th</sup> St. NE. Both workshops will run from 9:00 am until approximately 2:00 pm.

The findings of all five workshops will be pulled together by the Office of Planning and presented on September 22, 2001, at a location to be determined.

The area workshops continue in November to solicit input on the development of the draft plan. For further information, call (202) 442-8965 or check [www.anacostiawaterfront.net](http://www.anacostiawaterfront.net) or the DC Office of Planning web site. The web site includes a calendar of events.

\* \* \*

The rains have come and the newly planted trees no longer seem as threatened as they were a couple of months ago. But the situation can change very quickly. During the hottest months of the summer, it will be important to closely monitor rainfall. The new trees will require a significant rainfall (more than a quarter of an inch) or watering every week in order to assure their survival. The June issue of the newsletter provided detailed information on how to water new trees. Don't hesitate to call me if I can be of any help, (202) 761-4113 (w) or (202) 546-1429 (h). ✧

### Mark your Calendar!

#### AUGUST

**21** Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

CHRS Monthly Board Meeting. 420 10th Street, SE.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

As is customary, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society *News* will not be published in August. The *News* will resume with the September issue. The Society's Board of Directors has no regularly scheduled meeting in July, but will meet as usual on the third Tuesday in August.

### Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street  
Washington, DC 20003