



NEWS

www.chrs.org

April 2002

Neighborhood On Display: the House Tour's 45th Year

Join us May 11 & 12!

Spring's arrival has us all busy—sprucing up our homes, our gardens, and our window boxes. It's the time of the year when our neighborhood, as our realtor friends say, "shows best." The great tradition of the Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour, now in its 45th year, will again provide residents and guests an opportunity to see some of our best and brightest historic homes. This year's tour, scheduled as always on Mothers' Day weekend, will feature homes that reflect the wide variety available on Capitol Hill—everything from a charming alley house to a grand and elegant ultimate home. Also included are several significant neighborhood buildings that exemplify adaptive re-use. Two former DC public schools, one now the home of the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW), and the other Results The Gym, are shining examples of this phenomenon. The Old Naval Hospital—one of our most historic and, unfortunately, most at-risk buildings—will also be included to highlight the possibilities that still exist in that grand building for future re-use.

At CHAW, student art will be on display and their students will



Above: 800 A Street, SE. Right: Live performances and an art show will be offered at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop.

provide live performances. In addition, two special events are included in the Tour ticket price. On Saturday evening, the Friends of the Old Naval Hospital will host a party at the Hospital featuring art from the Capitol Hill Second Saturday galleries, historic re-enactments, music, and food from local restaurants. The traditional Sunday Mothers' Day Tea, with more music and food, will be held at Results The Gym. Thanks to the staff of Results,



tour goers may tour the facility and its wonderful new café.

Ticket order forms have recently been sent to members, who may purchase up to three tickets at the

continued on page 5

President's Column

by Robert Nevitt

A development plan for Reservation 13 is struggling toward reality.

A weekend charette and two other meetings have produced a vision statement and a plan for the area — which is now tentatively renamed Hill East Waterfront. I am delighted with the Vision Statement, (see page 3), and I hope you are too. It reflects concerns that we all have, I think, about development that is congenial to the character of Capitol Hill. As for the plan (drawing also on page 3), there's a lot of distance between generalities and specifics.

It is clear that a large part of the reservation will be committed to facilities that serve city-wide needs, including the Anacostia waterfront development. I and others on the Steering Committee have consistently emphasized that we also want to see an extension of the adjoining neighborhood, both in style and substance.

A jail, a school, municipal offices, and institutions are useful, but not necessarily good neighbors. We have been promised that truly noxious activities like car impoundment lots and halfway houses are off the table. But we wanted to see facilities developed that are attractive to local residents, such as a natatorium, public library, boys and girls club, courts, playing fields, and parks — what I call intermediate attractions between 19th Street and the Anacostia Waterfront Park. This area shouldn't simply be a place you have to go through to get somewhere else.

C Street extended is to be the core of residential development. There is a need to bring people into the reservation to live, and to draw in nearby residents to its attractions, and to river front park and trails.

Medical facilities have been a

very hot issue, since those who want DC General back have been the most vocal during the process. There is specific mention made of space for health services, although the planners have consistently made it clear that they are not in a position to accept or reject specific projects.

A couple of specifics that have endured throughout the discussion are reflected on the plan: the jail buildings and St. Coletta's School.

The prior commitment to St. Coletta's has caused legitimate consternation among activists. Through Congressional intervention, St. Coletta's obtained this prior claim to federal land, although the District has seconded that commitment, and credits St. Coletta's interest for raising the larger issue of development of the land as D.C. property.

What doesn't seem at issue (from my own personal visit to the school in Alexandria and an examination of the figures) is that St. Coletta's is non-profit, and sets a high bar — both in terms of cost and quality — for the treatment of mentally impaired children and adults. The majority of the school's clients are from the District, and there is a waiting list. The proposed school building promises to be an adornment to the site, to judge by early plans by William Graves, an architect of national renown.

What level of commitment is represented by these plans? The answer is: a pretty general one. Another process entirely is going to determine what is actually built in this space. Once the land reverts to the District, zoning should follow the guidelines represented on the plan.

Will a hospital be built? Will a library be built? Will the housing be mixed? Will the river overlooks draw upscale development? What will be the extent and character of the retail that is envisaged?



The answer to these and similar questions will be shaped by the usual factors: zoning, sponsorship, money, and political imperatives. When developers can see an economic payoff, projects that are popularly supported are much more likely to happen.

The "popular support" factor is where we come in.

If a library is embraced by the neighborhood, where will the money and initiative to build it come from? It is unlikely that a budget for a free-standing "South East type" of library will be available. But if there is support for, say, a community college or branch campus, it is quite possible that a public library could become part of that campus. An exercise facility could be embedded in an office building. Including space for retail should attract merchants to serve those who live and work in the reservation area, including the staff and clients of St. Coletta's.

In other words, the detailed development of the site will result from consistent and close vigilance to what is proposed, as well as pressure to make amenities a part of it. The plan is congenial to the right sort of development. The everyday processes of the public and government will control whether it actually happens. ✧

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

www.chrs.org

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.

Reservation 13: the Vision

The DC Government's Office of Planning statement of Vision and Guiding Principles regarding Public Reservation 13 makes this statement of its vision for the site:

An urban waterfront district that serves the city and connects the surrounding neighborhoods to the Anacostia River via public streets and parks; with a mixture of health care, civic, residential, community and other public uses. It is pedestrian oriented, has a human scale and is a convenient, safe and a pleasurable place to live, work and play.



Diagram of the Reservation 13 site. For additional information about Reservation 13, see <http://www.publicspace.justicesustainability.com>.

Guiding Principles

1. Connect and integrate Reservation 13 with adjacent neighborhoods, and the new waterfront park;
2. Utilize the site to meet a diversity of public needs including health care, research, education, employment, government services and administration, recreation and housing.
3. Extend the existing pattern of local streets to and through the site to create simple, well-organized city blocks and appropriately-scaled development;

continued on page 9

How to Get a CHRS Grant

by Larry Pearl, Chair, Beall Bequest Committee

For the third consecutive year, CHRS will share a portion of the proceeds of its annual House Tour with the community. Last year, four Capitol Hill organizations received grants totaling \$7500.

An original proposal and six copies must arrive at the Society's office at 420 10th Street SE by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 13. This is a firm deadline.

Criteria for judging grant applications are as follows.

Threshold requirements

The proposal must be for a specific project or projects relating to Capitol Hill. A proposal to simply add the CHRS grant to an organization's operating funds would not be eligible for consideration.

Incorporation or nonprofit status is not required. However, CHRS needs to be reasonably assured that there is a capacity to carry out the project as well as accountability for the funds.

Rating Factors

1. *Clarity of proposal* — 10 points

Is the proposal readily understandable? Will the Board, the CHRS membership, and the community easily comprehend what's being funded?

2. *Feasibility of proposal* — 10 points

Does the proposal appear to be feasible, considering the resources involved, timeframe for completion, and organizational capacity?

3. *Innovative nature of proposal* — 20 points

Is this something new and different?

4. *Benefits to Capitol Hill community* — 40 points

This is a combination of numbers of people served by the project (20 points) and the broader and perhaps intangible benefits to the community in those areas important to CHRS. Among these are historic preservation and the strengthening of the residential character of Capitol Hill (20 points).

5. *Measurability of results* — 10 points

Proposals that are capable of quantifying their results are looked upon favorably. This does not mean that a proposal to fix up a park (benefiting those who use the park) would score lower than a proposal that provides individual benefits. It means that either would score better than a proposal that provides only a more amorphous benefit to the whole community.

6. *Reliance on CHRS funding* — 10 points

Many projects will require more funds than a modest CHRS grant can provide. Preference will be given to projects that rely wholly or in large part on CHRS funds. ✱

“Art On Call” Moves Into Restoration Phase

by Nancy Metzger

Under a Department of Public Works contract, Unity Construction will soon begin to strip, repair, and prime call boxes throughout the city so that they can be refurbished as art/history icons that are reflective of each neighborhood.

Over 100 boxes in the extended Capitol Hill neighborhood have been surveyed and registered to be included in the “Art on Call” project, as the restoration/reuse effort is now known.

Capitol Hill residents interested in participating in this project – as artists, writers, researchers, painters, coordinators, and monitors — are invited to meet with other residents on Saturday, April 20, from 1-3 pm at the Southeast Branch Library meeting room (7th and D SE). This will be a chance to sign up to help plan or restore a

specific box, to hear how work is progressing on some boxes that have already been assigned, and to review the city-wide program and the Capitol Hill-wide process.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society is serving as the umbrella organization. North Lincoln Park, Capitol Hill East, and Stanton Park all have coordinators to track efforts in those areas. Randy Kling has volunteered to set up a data base for the project.

The city-wide program has been developed by the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Downtown DC Business Improvement District.

For more information on the City program contact callboxes@aol.com or on the Capitol Hill effort, contact Nancy Metzger (n.metzger2@verizon.net) or through the CHRS office, 543-0425. ✱

CHRS House Tour's 45th Year

Continued from page 1

discounted price of \$15 each. Ticket sales to the public, at the advance price of \$25, will begin on April 13 at the Capitol Hill Restoration Society kiosk at Eastern Market. Area businesses will also have tickets for sale beginning that week. Ticket price on the weekend of the tour will be \$30.

All tour proceeds benefit CHRS programs, including its support of the Historic District and its informative educational programs. In addition, through a process managed by the Society, a percentage of Tour proceeds are granted to selected Capitol Hill not-for-profit organizations. (See the article on page 4 for details about the grant application process.)

We hope you can join us! Buy your tickets early as we always sellout! ✧



Stops on the 2002 House Tour include (from top right, clockwise): 1367 North Carolina Avenue, NE; Results The Gym; and 636 A Street, SE.

House and Garden Tour Houses 2002

511 7th Street, SE

517 East Capitol Street, SE

636 A Street, SE

19-21 Gessford Court, SE

1367 North Carolina Avenue, NE

617 C Street, NE

800 A Street, SE

1016 South Carolina Avenue, SE

SCHEDULE

Saturday:

Candlelight House Tour: 5–8 pm

Welcome Reception: 6–8 pm at
the Old Naval Hospital

Sunday

Mother's Day Tour: noon–5 pm

Tea: 4–6 pm at Results The Gym

Practical Urban Gardening at Preservation Café

Spring may have sprung by the time this issue of the News is printed. If so, the topic of the April Preservation Café will be wonderfully appropriate. Even if it's still chilly outside, Doug Delano's presentation on "Practical Gardening in an Urban Landscape" should appeal to Capitol Hill's many gardeners.

Delano is a horticulturalist certified by both the American Landscape Contractors Association and the State of Maryland. His talk will focus on plantings appropriate for small Capitol Hill gardens, as well as on care and maintenance. He will also direct the audience to his

preferred sources of gardening advice and will provide suggestions on the types of plants that thrive best in this area.

The Café returns to Trattoria Alberto for this session, to be held Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. Trattoria Alberto is located at 506 8th St. SE; the Cafe will be held on the second floor.

On May 8, Robert Sonderman, archaeologist with the National Park Service, will complete the spring Café series when he returns for another installment of "Archaeology on the Hill," also to be held at Trattoria Alberto. ✧

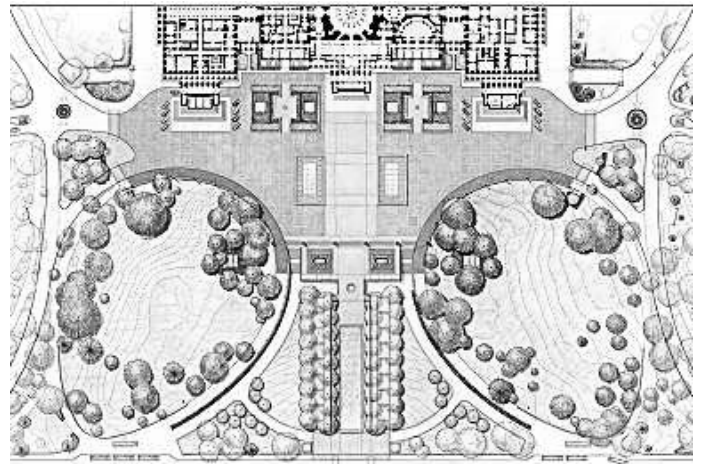
The Big Dig at the Capitol

by Katie Miller

“A credit to the community” was Architect of the Capitol Alan N. Hantman’s description of the underground Capitol Visitor Center, scheduled to open in 2005. Hantman described the Center and its surrounding landscape, the project schedule and plans, as well as the anticipated impact on the Capitol Hill neighborhood at the winter general meeting of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society on March 19.

Hantman emphasized the need to balance access to the Capitol with security and public safety. He also talked about the need to provide comfort and convenience for visitors and the use of the Capitol as a vehicle to educate people about the workings of government. The design of the new underground center, he promised, will be respectful of the historic building and the 1874-75 landscaping plans of Frederick Law Olmsted. When the Visitor Center opens, the East front lawn will have a new allee of tulip poplars down East Capitol Street, finally fulfilling Olmsted’s vision.

The East front entrance of the Capitol will be closed in June. By that time, the security screening of visitors will be relocated from the trailer in the east front parking lot to a new structure on the south side of the Capitol. Visitors will then enter through the south door. Tour buses will pick up and drop off at the foot of the hill, on First Street (in the vicinity of the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Grant statue). Hantman promised that those



unable to walk up or down the incline will be conveyed in golf carts.

Many audience questions focused on construction traffic. Hantman explained that much of it will approach the Capitol from South Capitol Street, New York Avenue, and H Street. Exiting trucks are to be routed west on Constitution Avenue, down 3rd Street (NW/SW), and onto the Southwest Freeway.

Pedestrian walkways around the Capitol will remain open (except for those in the construction site), but the architect made no promises about re-opening the west front terrace and stairs.

He and his staff promised to maintain open lines of communication with CHRS about noise, traffic, access to the Capitol grounds, and other local concerns. Problems should be reported to the Project Communication Officer, Tom Fontana at 202-228-1310; e-mail tfontana@aoc.gov or web site www.aoc.gov. ✧

Short Takes: Quick Updates to Continuing Sagas

Station Place Construction. The Dreyfus Property Group has promised to keep all construction vehicles out of the Historic District as they begin their massive Station Place project alongside Union Station. Any construction vehicles related to the project that are seen violating this pledge should be reported to 1D1 police (727-4660) and to the Dreyfus representative, Bob Brauhnler (785-4655.)

Old Naval Hospital Study. The Friends of the Old Naval Hospital (FOONH) have secured the funds to launch an Urban Land Institute (ULI) study of the building and site, the feasibility of various uses, community ideas and desires, and restoration and funding issues. The ULI Panel will soon meet with CHRS and

others who have assisted FOONH in securing the study, and will hear from other community groups and citizens soon after.

Decisions Pending on Two Boys Town Legal Issues. At a public meeting on May 7th, at 441 4th St. NW, Room 220 South, the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) is scheduled to decide the appeal of Southeast Citizens for Smart Development (SCSD) on Boys Town’s permits for a 24-person facility on Pennsylvania Ave. SE. Please call 727-6311 for time of meeting, which has not yet been set. In federal court, a decision is pending on SCSD’s motion to dismiss the Boys Town SLAPP suit (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against SCSD, Will Hill, and Ellen Oppen-Weiner. ✧

Congressional Cemetery Planners Look to the Future

by Nancy Metzger

Although the past 100 years have proved to be difficult for the caretakers of Capitol Hill's oldest burying ground, its prospects look much brighter. Linda Harper, Executive Director of the Board for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, outlined current efforts to improve conditions and plan for the future at the March Preservation Café at Caffè Italiano.

While Ms. Harper stressed such maintenance difficulties as an \$88,000 annual grass mowing bill, she noted some positive developments:

- ✧ In 1997, The National Trust for Historic Preservation drew national attention to the cemetery's plight by naming it one of the 11 "Most Endangered Sites."
- ✧ Congress set up a \$1-million endowment to be matched by other contributions. The interest of the matched portion can be used for cemetery expenses.
- ✧ Area colleges are working with the cemetery board on special projects. Students in Virginia Tech's urban and landscape architecture program have adopted the cemetery, and a George Washington University graduate student is doing a tourism study.

Over the past nearly 200 years some 60,000 people have been buried in the cemetery's 32.5 acres, including 10 former DC mayors, Civil War photographer Matthew Brady, Marine Band leader John Philip Sousa, and 35 native Americans who died while on visits to Washington.



Local historian Ruth Ann Overbeck is buried at Congressional Cemetery, along with other luminaries such as John Philip Sousa and Matthew Brady.

Upcoming Cemetery Events

For those who missed the March Preservation Café, Ms. Harper suggests a real-life visit to the cemetery on April 6 and 20.

The annual spring clean-up will be held on April 6, from 9 am to 2 pm. Volunteers are welcome.

On April 20, from 10 am to 3 pm, the board will be sponsoring a special open house with entertaining educational programs, patriot tours, reenactments and demonstrations.

In the meantime, you can avail yourself of a virtual tour at www.congressionalcemetery.org. ✧

Those Acronyms...

We've learned that a vigilant reader tallied an alarming number of acronyms in the last issue of the *News*. Yes, many of our authors embrace them, and their stories seem to require their use. Perhaps this is because we live in Washington, DC. We're also reporting the Society's transactions with acronym-rich Federal and local bodies.

The editors can't promise to purge all such references. In any event, replacing each mention of CHAMPS with "Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals" isn't much of an improvement. We do promise to try to spell out each acronym the first time it's used.

We offer you a key to all acronyms that appear in this issue. If you'd like us to, we'll continue the practice.

Let us know by leaving a message at 543-0425 or send an e-mail to CapHRS@aol.com.

ANC	Advisory Neighborhood Commission
BZA	Board of Zoning Adjustment
CHRS	Capitol Hill Restoration Society
DCRA	The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
DPW	Department of Public Works
FOONH	The Friends of the Old Naval Hospital
NPS	National Park Service
SCSD	Southeast Citizens For Smart Development
SLAPP	Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation
TLC	Tender, loving care
ULI	Urban Land Institute

Drink ... or Die! Capitol Hill Trees Need Your Help to Thrive

by Gene M. Smith, Chair, Environment Committee

What trees do best is sip. They tend not to drink in gulps during a downpour. They have no magic reservoir for emergency reserves, and, in fact, they don't like to stand around with wet feet.

Especially in the winter, they don't indicate how parched they are in any demonstrable manner. Unfortunately, this may mean that your favorite tree, right outside your door, is dying right before your eyes – and you don't even know it.

If so, a nasty shock awaits you when you try to identify city services that will deal with an imperiled tree or, worse, take down a dead tree – better check the length of that waiting list! Worse still is the experience of trying to reach the agency that will provide a replacement before the next century rolls around.

Thanks to a long, wet, St. Patrick's Day weekend in mid-March and some scattered showers since then, many trees on Capitol Hill have had the chance to drink up and to catch up on water denied to them by a lingering, months-long drought. Thanks to a some local resources, additional relief is in sight:

Trees for Capitol Hill, Inc., is a local non-profit with a hardy, activist corps who can be seen plunking street trees down left and right, east and west, north and south. These are good, substantial trees, donated to the community and given every advantage in their earliest days, from proper placement to staking to mulching. They're standing there waiting for some TLC. That means you.

The Casey Trees Endowment Fund was established in 2001 with a \$50-million fund from Betty Brown Casey to assist and support local groups who want to see our capitol once again become the "City of Trees," as Washington was famously known decades ago. That's a lot of money for trees, but it is predicated on the cooperation

of local residents – that means **you!** — who invest a little of their time in ensuring that a tree, once planted, is maintained. That means, more than anything else, watered. Again, that means you.

DC Department of Public Works, Trees & Landscaping, is a city component that has more to do with less staff than perhaps any other agency in the city. It is racing to replace and restore local trees in about 30,000 acres in the District (including our own 2,600+ acres in Ward 6). These lands are dotted with small parks and a smattering of trees that used to resemble a forest. The agency's head is Mark Buscaino, a real, live forester. He has his job cut out for him, and he can use all the help he can get. That means you.

The past winter has been the second driest on record, according to the National Weather Bureau. It has also been one of the warmest on record, and any tree in the neighborhood can be considered under the gun. Warm and dry is a challenge. Don't presume that our trees are comfortably hibernating while waiting for spring. Instead, you should think of them as crawling to the end of the desert – holding on till they reach the other side.

The hard, heavy, dirty part of landscaping our beautiful streets on Capitol Hill with a strong variety of healthy, young trees has already been done. These are not your tiny, take-home-a-bunch-of-them saplings. You're not expected to fertilize these tall, handsome additions to the local environs. You're not expected to recognize exotic new – or old – diseases or bugs. You don't have to weed the treebox, although that would be a nice touch. You're not expected to be an expert at pruning or sculpting the tree's canopy.

All you're being asked to do is take a hose, and let it run near the base of the tree on a regular basis. Alternatively, use the plastic milk jugs you've been saving and get some exercise walking back and forth in a fair

Recipe for Success

Trees establish themselves in the first 9 – 12 months, like the expression says, "putting down roots." Particularly critical is the first spring and summer. While a tree may appear healthy for several months after planting, it may be suffering at the root level. If neglected, there is a point of no return that means no remedy, no super-watering — no measure of care or attention known to man — will bring the tree back.

The easy approach: Pick a day of the week (weekends are nice to bond with your tree) – and let

the hose run on low at the base of the tree for 15-20 minutes. Or dump several gallons on the tree, to the point of saturation. If it rained that week, you may have earned a break.

Trees don't die from too much sun. They don't generally need fertilizer or other chemical supplements. A well-planted tree won't drown from excess rain. But unless they drink, they die. Make an investment in your neighborhood, on your block, in your tree. You can make a difference. ✱



Washington DC has lost a significant portion of tree cover in recent years. Although the beautiful white elms, shown in the photo of East Capitol Street will never grace our streets again, DC trees can recover with your help. Photo: Courtesy of the Frances Loeb Library, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University

number of trips. (If you need to ask how many, how much, or how long, see below.)

Some of the Players

Margaret Missiaen, of Trees for Capitol Hill, walks, talks and breathes trees on the Hill. I've heard it said that she was somehow deprived as a child of the proper time for playing in the dirt, and has been making up for it ever since. She and her cohorts can be seen at tree-plantings across the Hill, or walking the Hill taking inventory of how selected trees are doing, or involved in other gardening ventures. Give her a hand, and help the streetscape on your block.

Betty Brown Casey, the generous benefactor behind the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, has given us the chance to change the face of Capitol Hill, and to return it to its glory days of tree-lined boulevards and a canopy of breathing, oxygen-exuding trees.

Mark Buscaino is described as a forester extraordinaire and a new face on the block (though not new to the metropolitan area). He is talking about putting in place systems that will track our tree population. They will involve staff and procedures that ensure that we don't wind up in coming years where we are now.

Each of us should look outside our front door for a new tree on the block. See it, befriend it, water it. Especially the first year. Let it drink up, and you'll have a friend for life. If you share a newly planted tree with a neighbor, you both get to claim credit for the little beauty.

I'm a fan of the expression: "Do it once. Do it right. And forget it." Trees don't work that way. But they do give more, over time, than they take. So take a picture of your tree with the family. Watch it grow, as you grow. You'll be glad you did. ✧

Reservation 13 Guiding Principles

continued from page 3

4. Maintain a human-scale of building heights that increase following the slope of the site toward the water;
5. Connect the Hill East neighborhood and the city at large to the waterfront via tree-lined public streets, recreational trails and increased access to the waterfront parklands;
6. Demonstrate environmental stewardship through environmentally sensitive design;
7. Promote the use of mass transit by creating new uses near the metro station and create an environment where the pedestrian, bicycle, and auto are all welcome and complimentary, reducing the impact of traffic on adjacent neighborhood streets;
8. Create attractive "places" of unique and complementary character including:
 - a. A grand public waterfront park incorporating monumental places and quiet natural retreats accessed by a meandering park drive set back from the river;
 - b. The Massachusetts Avenue District as a grand Washington 'avenue' in the tradition of L'Enfant and devoted to a new center for Public Health and Science;
 - c. A new, vital neighborhood center around the Metro station at C and 19th Streets that serves the unmet needs of the community and extends to the waterfront with a new residential district;
 - d. A district for city-wide uses and services, such as healthcare, education and recreation, along Independence Avenue. ✧

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MEMBERS:
Alan Buzacott & Barbara
Bradley

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Douglas Delano
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Robinson

Mark your Calendar!

APRIL

10 Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Preservation Café, Doug Delano's tips on Practical Gardening in the Urban Landscape, Trattoria Alberto, 506-8th Street SE, 2nd floor.

16 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board meeting, Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE.

20 Saturday, 1-3 pm

"Art on Call" (Callbox) meeting, Southeast Branch Library, 7th and D Streets SE, meeting room.

20 Saturday, 10 am-3 pm

Congressional Cemetery Spring Festival, Congressional Cemetery grounds.

25 Thursday, 10 am

Historic Preservation Review Board regular meeting, 441-4th Street NW (#1 Judiciary Square), Suite 220, South. See www.chrs.org for tentative agenda.

MAY

7 Tuesday, time not set

Board of Zoning Adjustment meeting on Boys Town permits (see page 6).

8 Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Preservation Café, Robert Sonderman, archaeologist with the National Park Service, on Archaeology on the Hill, with a special look at what's been going on behind the Navy Yard gate, Caffe Italiano. (upstairs room, 1150 Pennsylvania Avenue SE).

11-12 Saturday-Sunday

45th Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour! See article on page 1.

Art Auction/Fundraiser Rescheduled for May 5

The art auction/fund raiser for the SCSD Legal Fund, originally scheduled for April 13, will now be held on Sunday, May 5, from 5 to 7 pm, at Ellen Opper-Weiner's home. Please call Tom Grahame at 546-5772 to receive further information and to request an invitation.

Capitol Hill artists Karen Currie and Jan Kern will donate five pieces between them. Potter Barbara Chowney, who sells at Eastern Market, has donated a large stoneware tray. Two quilts are offered that were made specially for this event by Mary Withum, a Massachusetts quilter who learned her craft 60 years ago from her Scottish grandmother, who, in turn, learned it from her mother, head dressmaker at Balmoral Castle for Queen Victoria. Other art works will also be offered.

SCSD (Southeast Citizens For Smart Development) has led the effort to persuade Boys Town that placing a facility for troubled

teenagers at the corner of 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE is a bad idea. For merely expressing their concerns about Boys Town's plans, the SCSD, its Chair, Will Hill, and Vice Chair Ellen Opper-Weiner were sued in federal court by Boys Town on August 14, 2001.

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) has issued building permits to Boys Town. Because SCSD and ANC 6B believe these permits were issued in error, they have appealed DCRA's decision and hired an attorney to pursue this appeal before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA).

Since December 2001, this appeal has required five separate hearings before the BZA. A decision is expected on May 7th.

The SCSD Legal Fund supports both the federal court direct expenses of Will and Ellen and SCSD, and the considerable legal costs for the zoning appeal. We anticipate that the zoning appeal alone will cost over \$20,000. *

Capitol Hill Restoration Society

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