



# NEWS

www.chrs.org

June 2002

## Election of Officers for 2002-2003

by John Shages  
Chair, Elections Committee

Ballots for election of Officers and Members of the Board of Directors for next year will be mailed to members within the month. Please participate by mailing your marked ballot back by the deadline established.

The Society wishes to thank retiring Board members Katie Miller, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Mark Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Mark Flemming and Donna Foster, At Large members; and Don Price, who has served as Chair of both the Membership and Endowment Committees. Current At Large Board member T.C. Benson has been appointed Chair of the Membership Committee.

The following members of the Society are standing for election and are recommended by the current Board of Directors. Additional nominations for the Board may be written on the ballot.

President	Robert Nevitt
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Barbara Eck
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Charles McMillion
Treasurer	Lyle Schauer
Secretary	Tom Grahame
At Large	Mike Canning
At Large	Gary Peterson
At Large	Shelly Reidel

The candidates for election who are new to the Board of Directors are Charles McMillion, Mike Canning, Gary Peterson, and Shelly Reidel.

Charles McMillion is currently on the CHRS Endowment Committee and is the leading organizer of the community effort to improve the design of the Station

Place Project at Union Station. Mike Canning is a long-time Hill resident who recently returned from overseas and retired from the Foreign Service. Gary Peterson is a past President of the Society who has just returned from living in Europe. Shelly Reidel is an architect from North Carolina State University who works on environmental graphics for Genzler. She has chaired an historic house tour in Charlottesville, and worked on our very successful tour this year. \*

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## Community Wins Big but Boys Town Wants Congressional Intervention

by Brian Furness  
Chair, Community Development Committee

Southeast Citizens for Smart Development (SCSD) won an important victory on May 7 when the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) voted unanimously that the Zoning Administrator acted erroneously in approving Boys Town's building permits for the group home facility for troubled children under construction on the tract at Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues SE. Boys Town has said it will appeal the decision. In the meantime, Representative Lee Terry (R-NE, from Omaha) is petitioning to have Congress overturn the decision. Terry's move has ignited a firestorm of opposition from local politicians. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mayor Williams, and City Councilmembers have all condemned Terry's intervention as an assault on home rule.

*continued on page 4*

## President's Column

by Robert Nevitt

I am still working to maintain balance in the wide and foamy wake of the Society's 45th Annual House and Garden Tour! This is the first year I have been so completely aware of all the details of organizing this annual landmark event for our neighborhood, and I am in awe of how well the process worked. Though we contract for such things as jitney buses and the brochure, volunteers from the membership and some of their friends carry out most of the work of this huge enterprise.

Every year I have enjoyed the product; I hope all of you who toured the houses did too. But never before have I so admired the dynamic of volunteering and the range of talent and energy that is needed to produce so professionally an event of this complexity.

Michelle Carroll volunteered to be Tour Chairperson. T.C. Benson of the Board of Directors joined her, making a truly dynamic duo. A list of volunteers that is even longer than the one published in the tour brochure undertook all of the separate functions—from house selection (begun last summer) to clean up (still going on). None of the wonderful people involved should interpret not having each of their names listed here as less than vast appreciation for their great work: I would rather offer congratulations wholesale than leave anyone out.

If you talked to residents and visitors, you will understand what the tour meant to them. While the houses were all elegant, even more they reflected the individualism and creativity that is so representative of who we are. The houses on the tour stand for our commitment to

preserving the historic fabric of the Hill, as well as making it a warm and comfortable place to live.

Which brings me to a reflection on 921 Pennsylvania Ave., the old Naval Hospital. In order to use it for the Saturday reception, we had to jump through some last-minute hoops. To get a one-day liquor license to serve wine, we needed modifications to the building that would satisfy the DCRA inspectors who were to issue a Certificate of Occupancy through the Office of Property.

The C of O is good only through July because there are other things that have to be remediated. These are required so that the ANC, the Friends of the Old Naval Hospital, the CHRS, and ad hoc users like the Office of Planning can continue to use this historic building as a community center.

The CHRS has committed itself to the renovation of the building; we are helping to pay for the Urban Land Institute study. We have not committed ourselves to any party or any particular use of the facility.

Our hope is, first, that the building will be restored faithfully and well. Second, we would like to see the facility provide either widest availability or widest satisfaction — in other words, to be a building that makes the community proud. If, as suggested, it had become the Mayor's residence, most of us would have been proud to have that function in our midst, though the building's availability to the community would have been severely curtailed.

Well, the Mayor has gone elsewhere. The City, it would appear, would welcome an angel who could bring an estimated six to eight million dollars to the project, manage the restoration, and administer the continued use of the building. It seems



to me that this formula reduces the assurance that space in the facility would be available to diverse uses. Who pays the piper calls the tune.

All of the community groups together probably could not come up with the amount of money needed, and no one of them would welcome the administrative burdens entailed. Even if this panoply of organizations could together finance the project, someone would have to decide how much space or access each of them bought with their input.

Ideally, the City—which I have already described as disinterested—would pay the cost of the restoration, and the groups who want to use the building could pay an executive to direct the project and the allocation of spaces and times for civic uses.

In the coming year, this will be on our agenda, dovetailing with much else—from M Street, to H Street, to Reservation 13.

I talked to many members during the House Tour who expressed pride in what the Society was doing. I hope that this interest can be translated into commitment to study, plan, and work on our projects.

Oh, yes, there is the 46th House Tour coming up. Do you or anyone you know have a house that you think should be on it? ✱

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ..... Robert 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*  
 Nancy Metzger, *Historic District*  
 Don & Sheri Price, *Membership, Endowment*  
 Robert Stevens, *Public Safety*  
 Lyle Schauer, *Zoning*  
 Larry Pearl, *Beall Bequest Committee*  
 Bernadette McMahon, *Communications*  
 Michelle Carroll, *House Tour*  
 Gene Smith, *Environment*

### NEWSLETTER:

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

### WEBSITE:

Scott Morton, *Webmaster*

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](http://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.

## Looking Back On Capitol Hill



Aerial view of the main part of the Navy Yard, looking north (and a little west) from over the Anacostia River, 18 December 1918. Photographed from a Naval Air Station Anacostia airplane. Note construction work in the Yard's eastern extension, to the right. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

by Nancy Metzger  
 Chair, Historic District Committee

May's Preservation Café highlighted some archaeological investigations at the Navy Yard, including the West Ship House and the Brass Gun Foundry. The visual impact of a ship house 300 feet long, 100 feet wide, and seven stories high must have amazed Capitol Hill residents of 1825, since they lived in a neighborhood of one-, two-, and three-story houses with many, many empty lots in between them.

Given the topography of Capitol Hill, residents who lived along the G Street SE ridge probably had a wonderful view of the workings of the Navy Yard. President Abraham Lincoln would frequently appear unannounced there, arriving at

Commander Dahlgren's office for "coffee, cigars, and a chat" and a chance to look at the gadgets, weapons, and munitions.

Even into the twentieth century the Navy Yard was a force in the greater Capitol Hill neighborhood. Dorothy Hawkins, who as a little girl lived across from Marion Park, is one who remembers when the Navy Yard was really busy, back in the 1920s.

*"Of course the Navy Yard was working at that time—every morning at seven o'clock they would blow the whistle. Boy, you could hear that whistle all the way to the Capitol. It was something. At four o'clock they would blow it again."*

*If you know someone who lived on Capitol Hill 50 or more years ago, please contact the Ruth Ann Overbeck Oral History Project at [info@CapitolHillHistory.org](mailto:info@CapitolHillHistory.org).*

## Communications Committee in Need of Help

Please join us in preparing the monthly *News*. Besides making a valuable contribution, working on the *News* will permit you to learn about all the efforts the Society makes in such areas as zoning, historic preservation, and city planning. We're in immediate need of help in preparing the final layout and in writing special articles. Get involved today by contacting Communications Committee Chair Bernadette McMahon, [bmcMahon@his.com](mailto:bmcMahon@his.com).

# Boy's Town Victory?

*Continued from page 1*

## The BZA Decision

With Chair Goeff Griffis abstaining, the BZA unanimously reversed the City Zoning Administrator, holding that he failed to consider both the Comprehensive Plan and the "facility" as a whole (rather than as individual lots). Boys Town contended that its plan to put six troubled youths in each of four contiguous townhouses with some common management and facilities was really four separate facilities. As such, they argued that they did not need the "special exception" to the zoning rules that is required for community-based residential facilities (CBRFs) with more than six residents. Boys Town (and the Zoning Administrator) had also argued that the Comprehensive Plan should not apply, despite clear language in the law that the Zoning Administrator must take its provisions into account.

Boys Town's permits will likely be revoked when the BZA decision is formally issued. Boys Town can probably continue the construction of four townhouses at Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues, though it cannot now use them as group homes without the special exception. Its application for building permits to construct an administrative center at 1399 Pennsylvania Avenue is not affected.

Boys Town has said it will appeal the BZA decision, and has not dropped its suit against Capitol Hill neighbors and activists. The SCSD has raised over \$20,000 but needs your help to support its legal efforts. To contribute to SCSD's legal fund, send a check to: Kathleen Donner, Director, 18 3rd St., NE Washington, DC 20002. Call (202) 543-3063 for more information.

Boys Town could challenge the BZA's decision in court on procedural or other grounds, or it could pursue other alternatives, such as a remedy under the Fair Housing Act. Of course, there is a chance that the Nebraska-based organization will accept the decision and apply for a special exception. However, this would subject Boys Town's application to public scrutiny, something which Boys Town as consistently sought to avoid.

## What the Decision Means

SCSD's victory is important to Capitol Hill and, indeed, to citizens' groups throughout the city. By ruling that the Zoning Administrator must consider a development as a whole instead of the sum of its individual lots, the BZA has strengthened community scrutiny of the establishment of CBRFs and other types of development, and has diminished a developer's ability to evade the provisions of the law. Similarly, the BZA's ruling that the Zoning Administrator must consider the Comprehensive Plan strengthens the ability of communities to influence many zoning decisions. In the Boys Town case, the Comprehensive Plan discourages additional CBRFs.

If Boys Town seeks to undermine the BZA's "facility" and Comprehensive Plan decisions, the Society (and citizens' organizations throughout Washington) would be under enormous pressure to join the fight—and urge others to join—to preserve the victory.

SCSD's victory is also an important validation of the principal legal arguments of Boys Town's opponents, and supports those who maintain that Boys Town's separate lawsuit against Capitol Hill community activists Will Hill and Ellen Opper-Weiner, SCSD, the Mayor, Councilmember Ambrose, and others is frivolous and unjustified.

The BZA decision also undercuts arguments that the fight against Boys Town is simply another case of misplaced NIMBYism.

## An Assault on Home Rule

In the meantime, Boys Town has endorsed—although formally disclaiming any responsibility for—an initiative by Nebraska Congressman Lee Terry, who asked his colleagues on May 22 to get the DC Appropriations Subcommittee to overturn the BZA decision. Terry's move has provoked condemnation as an assault on home rule from DC politicians, even from those who had declined to take a strong position on the merits of the Boys Town case—such as Mayor Williams and DC non-voting delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. At a recent CHAMPS breakfast, Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), the chair of the Senate's District Committee, vowed to stop any Congressional effort to interfere with District laws.

## Now It's About Boys Town

The furor raises profound questions about Boys Town. Urging Congressional intervention to subvert local law and regulation is only the most recent demonstration of Boys Town's arrogance and neighborhood insensitivity. Using its enormous financial resources, Boys Town—the "billion dollar bully" as the *Hill Rag* editorialized—got Congress to give it \$7.1 million from the DC budget, snuck onto Capitol Hill, stiffed any neighborhood questions about its operations or motivation, sued those who sought to raise their concerns with their elected officials, and now wants Congress to overturn a local decision that would force them to submit to community questioning. Once upon a time, this fight was mostly about whether this project was suitable for the neighborhood. Now it's about Boys Town. ✧

# Brick Re-pointing Demystified

by Nancy Metzger  
Chair, Historic District Committee

Think your house needs to be re-pointed? Worried about what those water spots mean?

*Re-pointing and Paint Removal*, a case study written by Marie Fennell, AICP, covers everything from the decision to re-point (or not), planning the project, selecting a contractor, to the many steps of a good re-pointing job. The 8-page study uses the experience of Rob and Audrey Nevitt with their house at 1000 South Carolina Ave SE to lead the reader through the entire process.

The Historic District Committee, aware that a bad re-pointing job can cause great damage to Capitol Hill's brick houses, felt that a publication outlining the process, pointing out the pitfalls, and providing background

information would be very useful to Capitol Hill's homeowners. Published in May, the case study is available for \$1.50 from the CHRS office, 543-0425.

The Historic District Committee and the Communications Committee plan to have this case study, shortened versions of other Guidelines, and other similar information posted on the CHRS web site [www.chrs.org]. Many of the articles have been scanned in but they need the attention of someone skilled in Word to make formatting changes and polish them up for inclusion on the Web site. If you could help with the effort this summer, please contact Bernadette McMahon, bmcMahon@his.com, 543-4544.

Remember that a monthly posting of cases received by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) is available in the calendar section of CHRS's web page after the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. ✧

## Zoning Commission Approves Hill Commercial Overlay

by Dick Wolf  
Chair, City Planning Committee

On Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Zoning Commission approved an increased Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for the major commercial districts of the Hill. This has been discussed in the *News* over the last several months and has been the subject of discussion and decision by the Hill ANCs and community associations. It is hoped that this change in the zoning code will encourage development of upper floors by owners and, particularly, the development of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Main Street corridor.

Of note is the research of Lyle Schauer, Chair of the CHRS Zoning Committee, who demonstrated that some 20 of 21 applications to the Board of Zoning Adjustment have been granted for variances to extend commercial use to the upper floors of commercially zoned buildings! Thus, this change reflects the failure of the 1979 policy that attempted to restore "living over the store" on the Hill.

Since this is a regulatory action by the Commission, the overlay will be published as a proposed regulation, subject to comment for 30 days before it is effective. ✧

## Back to Bricks—June Alert

You may remember Environment Committee Chair Gene Smith's December 2001 article bemoaning the poor condition of so many brick sidewalks on Capitol Hill. Since then, she's been in contact with a person from the Department of Public Works (DPW) who says there may be some effort made this month to address the city sidewalks issue.

Gene has already collected a long list of locations of brick sidewalks in need of repair, and she invites interested members to send her additional ones. She prefers to receive such information by email (write to gmsmith@smithbrandon.com), but she will collect lists sent to the CHRS office (202 543-0425 or CapHRS@AOL.com). She will provide the final list to her DPW contact. As she says, "No guarantees, obviously, but at least something." ✧

### Have You Seen Illegal Construction?

To report illegal construction work in the Capitol Hill Historic District, please contact the Historic Preservation Inspector either by phone, 442-8844, or by e-mail, hp\_inspector@hotmail.com. You may also contact the CHRS office, 543-0425, although doing so may take longer for the case to be reported.

# Heartfelt Thanks...

by Michelle Pilliod Carroll  
2002 House Tour Chair

Another successful House Tour is behind us, and I can't thank enough all the wonderful volunteers who contributed so much to it. With their help, the 45<sup>th</sup> annual tour was a truly joyous occasion.

Many thanks go out, but especially to this year's homeowners, who graciously allowed tour goers to peek into their lives and experience their marvelous Capitol Hill houses.

The reception on Saturday night at the Old Naval Hospital was a huge success, thanks to local artists and generous donations from local restaurants. How much fun it was to see the quantity of incredible artwork in such a historic and worthwhile setting, one considerably improved by the landscaping donations of Gingko Gardens.

Many thanks to Results, the Gym for sponsoring the tea on Sunday, and for their tours of the amazing renovation that has transformed the old Giddings School. And thanks to the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop for opening their doors to let us see their outstanding projects and learn about the opportunities they offer.

Very special personal thanks go to T.C. Benson for her work as co-chair. With her help, dedication, and expertise, I was able to be the chair of the House Tour and the mother of the bride on the same weekend—though this isn't a schedule that I would recommend to anyone!

Now it's time to start thinking of next year—the 46<sup>th</sup> CHRS House & Garden Tour. It's never too early to plan. I urge anyone who is interested in taking part of this rewarding and fun experience to call the CHRS office, (202) 543-0425. You should also call the office if you'd like to buy a t-shirt or a poster from the 2002 tour: some are still available. ✧

*While the houses were all elegant, even more they reflected the individualism and creativity that is so representative of who we are. The houses on the tour stand for our commitment to preserving the historic fabric of the Hill, as well as making it a warm and comfortable place to live.*

—Robert Nevitt



T.C. Benson and Michelle Pilliod Carroll, Tour 2002 Co-Chairs.



CHRS jitney buses gave tour participants more time to enjoy the houses.



*Enjoying a break and wonderful artwork at the Old Naval Hospital.*

## Additional Contributors to Tour 2002

The Society thanks all of our contributors; your patronage helped to make Tour 2002 a success. The names of 52 contributors appeared in the Tour booklet, but nine contributions arrived too late for inclusion. The names of those contributors are:

### PATRONS

Mrs. Donna Metcalf  
Laurence Pearl & Anne Womeldorf

### SPONSORS

Harold & Louise Engle  
C. David Massey & Katharine I. Matthews  
Len Pilarski  
Mark Flemming, AIA

### CONTRIBUTORS

Shirley Loo  
Wick Leatherwood & Michael Besbiel  
Bill & Susan van den Toorn

Indications are that Tour 2002 will rank among the most financially successful tours. Our member-contributors were an important part of that success.

*Thanks to all who helped make Tour 2002 a success!*



*The Old Naval Hospital.*



*Tour 2002 participants had the opportunity to tour the renovations to the old Giddings School, which now houses Results, The Gym.*

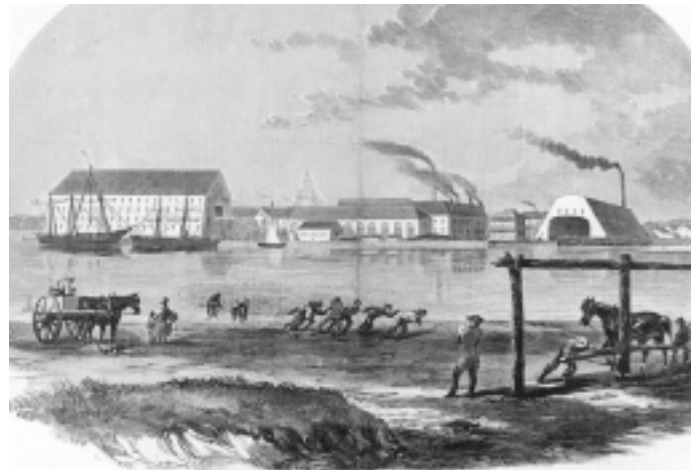
## Navy Yard Dig Puts Spotlight on West Ship House and Gun Furnace

The recent redevelopment of the Navy Yard for the returning NAVSEA staff provided an opportunity to conduct several archaeological explorations, according to Charles LeeDecker, archaeologist with the Louis Berger Group. At the May Preservation Café, he discussed and showed slides of one of the archaeological finds—the remains of the granite wall that formed the foundation of the frame West Ship House, a conspicuous landmark of early Capitol Hill. The original structure was 300' long, 100' wide and seven stories high, and was featured prominently in several lithographs of the period. (The ship house was developed in the early 1820s as an aid in construction and repair of ships: work could continue in spite of wind, rain, or snow.)

Another major find was the four brick piers—each about 10' across and connected with ramps—of the casting/shrinkage furnace of the Brass Gun Foundry. These supported the furnaces capable of melting 52,000 pounds of iron.

Moving to a much smaller scale, LeeDecker also noted that the archaeology team also found graphite crucibles, tools such as files and punches, and a goodly number of Washington Brewery bottles.

Capitol Hill resident Bob Sonderman, archaeologist for the National Park Service and the Historic Preservation Review Board, arranged for LeeDecker's presentation. Sonderman also spent some time after the presentation identifying the back-yard treasures that attendees brought to the Preservation Café: these ranged from



*"The Washington Navy Yard, with Shad Fishers in the Foreground" Hand color-tinted copy of a line engraving published in "Harper's Weekly", 20 April 1861, depicting the Washington Navy Yard, District of Columbia, as seen from the southern side of the Anacostia River. Courtesy of the U.S. Navy Art Collection, Washington, D.C. U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph.*

a piece of Famile Rose plate (c.1790) and a shard of English transfer plate (c. 1850-60) to spongeware from the 1880s and a clay pipe and bottle (c. 1900).

A word of appreciation is due to Trattoria Alberto, 506-8<sup>th</sup> Street SE, for their donation of the upstairs room for many of this year's Preservation Cafés.

The topics, dates and locations of this fall's Preservation Cafés will be announced in the September *News*. ✧

## Acronyms Used in this Issue

AICP	American Institute of Certified Planners
ANC	Advisory Neighborhood Commission
BZA	Board of Zoning Adjustment
CBRF	Community-based Residential Facilities
CHAMPS	Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals
C of O	Certificate of Occupancy
DCRA	(D.C.) Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
DPW	(D.C.) Department of Public Works
FAR	Floor Area Ratio
HPRB	Historic Preservation Review Board
NIMBY	"Not in my back yard"
SCSD	Southeast Citizens for Smart Development

## WELCOME CHRS SUPPORTERS

### WE THANK THE FOLLOWING PATRONS & SPONSORS

#### PATRONS:

Mark Dayton  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Dye  
Sarajane Foster

#### SPONSORS:

Dr. Nir Buras & Ronit Sassoon-Buras  
Craig M. Dean & Donna M. Murasky  
Anthony E. Gallo

C. David Massey & Katharine Matthews  
Alice L. Norris

#### NEW MEMBERS:

Mark Dayton  
Sarajane Foster  
Jeffrey & Diane Goldberg  
Pamela Lee Jones  
Brian McGregor  
Mary T. Mitchell  
Ms. Lynne A. Russillo  
Greg & Lynne Schlimm  
Mary-Beth Souza  
Kerry Suttan



# A One, and a Two ... An Idiot's Guide to Recycling

by Gene M. Smith, Chair  
Environment Committee

In the days of Lawrence Welk, recycling wasn't a priority. Back then, we weren't in the kind of consumer-driven economy that causes us to flock to outlet malls to buy things we don't really need, or to print out reams of information from the Internet because we might not ever find that particular site again. In the pre-PC ("personal computer," not "politically correct") era, we didn't unravel packaging ten times the size of the product (i.e., computer software) and we didn't discard huge chunks of styrofoam meant to safeguard computer equipment during its shipment from foreign vendors.

Lawrence Welk may always be with us, as his friends in Congress continue to insist, but that blasé, toss-it-in-the-trash attitude deserves to be revised.

Let's start with some basics. Recycling is simple. We are talking about four primary commodities:

- **Plastic:** Turn it over and look for a number in the little triangle. If it's a "1" or a "2," you just won the opportunity to save some space on the planet for something better than landfill. Pitch the 1s and 2s into the recycling bin. (All the rest are undesirables, the 3s, and 4s, on up to the 6s or any other number in the triangle.)
- **Paper and cardboard:** When the grocery clerk asks "Paper or plastic?" every once in awhile grab one or two paper bags to use when you finish with your favorite newspapers. Pitch in with the papers the catalogs that pour through your mail slot in a steady stream. (That doesn't mean all your junk mail: its envelopes should be destined for your trash bin.) Now as to the boxes that trail behind the catalogs: slash the bottom seams, crush them sideways to get them into a manageable rectangle, snap a rubber band around them, and stick them outside with the newspapers.
- **Cans:** By this I mean cans of any metal—tin, aluminum, whatever. Rinse them and toss them into the recycling bin. Labels are OK. (An even more compulsive friend realized that he had stepped over the bounds of common sense when he caught himself putting his cans into the dishwasher before recycling them.)
- **Glass:** By this I mean food and beverage containers, in general. This does not mean broken or chipped drinking glasses, plates, light bulbs or window glass. Sorry. That stuff is destined for the landfill.

**A little side note:** The packing used in shipping that's referred to as "popcorn" doesn't need to over-

whelm you or your trash bin. Pour it into a clean trash bag and take it to a local dedicated shipping outlet, like Mailboxes, Etc. (Call ahead to confirm.) Personally, I use the popcorn in my gardening activities. I separate, divide and transplant bunches of perennials by re-potting them into new pots that are stuffed with popcorn to assure that they are lighter to move around and that the transplants have sufficient drainage while they're getting established.

## Picking it up

Personally, I am amazed at how many empty six-packs and other signs of excessive drinking I come across on the streets in or near my neighborhood. I'm also upset by the number of soft drinks cans that are dumped into streets or alleys and squashed by passing vehicles. But I recognize that these bottles and cans will not biodegrade, nor are they likely to be retrieved by the thoughtless culprits who dropped them off in the first place. These bottles and cans also go into my recycling bin.

## Putting it out

If an aggressive recycler has walked off with your city-issued recycling bin, substitute a generic plastic bin and it will be recognized for what it is by the recycling crews. Don't throw trash in with the recyclables, or it may all be sitting there waiting for you to do it right the next time around.

Put your recyclables out on the last day of your weekly garbage collection. If you get once-a-week trash collection service, put your recyclables out that day. If you get twice-a-week service, put it out on the second day of trash collection.

## Some Words of Appreciation

Finally, I want to acknowledge the recycling crew that services my neighborhood. They have gone out of their way to do their job, to overcome the classic problem of improperly parked vehicles blocking access to the alley, and, on one occasion, they rang my front door bell to let me know my garage door was "unsecured" – or wide open.

It crosses my mind with some frequency that one of the things that separates our living conditions from those of the developing world is trash collection. We have this fabulous, organized system for removing from our living space the detritus of daily life. The least we can do is to take just a few extra moments a day to toss our recyclable trash into one bin instead of another, and walk it out the door. ✧

## Mark Your Calendar!

### JUNE

#### 18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

#### 27 Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

The Story of the Bonus March in Washington: Program and Discussion. In 1931, at the height of the Great Depression, 20,000 jobless World War I veterans from across the country traveled to the capital to ask for early release of the bonus that had been promised them. Reservations required. Call 202-785-2068 x 100, or email [reservations@hswdc.org](mailto:reservations@hswdc.org)

### JULY

#### 18 Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

To the Rescue of Capitol Hill's Old Naval Hospital. Join the Friends of the Old Naval Hospital for a lively discussion of a cherished community landmark, the Old Naval Hospital – past, present, and future. Reservations recommended. Call 202-785-2068 x 100, or email [reservations@hswdc.org](mailto:reservations@hswdc.org).

#### 23 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Library Workshop: Researching House History. Learn research strategies and techniques for researching your Washington home. \$10 for HSWDC members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations and advance payment required. Call 202-785-2068 x 111, or email [hswlibrary@hswdc.org](mailto:hswlibrary@hswdc.org). Co-sponsored by Washington's history listserv, H-DC ([www2.history.msu.edu/~dclist](http://www2.history.msu.edu/~dclist)).

## Nicholson Bequest

At its May meeting, the CHRS Board of Directors accepted a bequest of \$1,000 from the estate of Rosemary Nicholson. About five years ago, the Society received a similar bequest from the estate of Rosemary's husband, Ralph Nicholson. Both were long-time members of the Society. Their house at 15 Fourth Street SE was on the House and Garden Tour twice—in 1971 and 1987.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson came to Capitol Hill in 1960, when he was appointed Assistant Postmaster General by President Kennedy. The couple retired to their Marshall, Virginia, farm about 10 years ago.

The Board directed the Treasurer to add both bequests—a total of \$2,156 with accumulated interest—to the Society's Endowment Fund. ✧

### Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003