



NEWS

www.chrs.org

May 2004

A Sneak Peek at the 47th Annual CHRS House and Garden Tour



This year's Sunday Tea will be held at the Sewall-Belmont House.

by Patrick Lally and Aimee Occhetti

It's that time of year again! It's Mother's Day weekend — the weekend of the 47th Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour 2004. Tickets are available for \$25.00 each at the following locations: the Kiosk at Eastern Market; Pardoe/Coldwell Banker; Grubb's Pharmacy; Trover Book Store; Toast & Strawberries; and Appalachian Spring. Tickets on the tour day will be \$30.00 at the Kiosk at Eastern Market.

We have another really exciting tour this year! It begins on Saturday evening, May 8 (5:00pm to 8:00pm) and continues on Sunday, May 9 (noon to 5:00pm). In addition to nine houses, there

will be a reception Saturday evening from 5:00pm until 7:00pm at The Corner Store, 900 South Carolina Ave, SE. Many local restaurants will be providing a sample food item from their menus. We are excited about the Sunday Tea, May 9, at the Sewall-Belmont House, 144 Constitution Ave, NE, from 2:30pm until 5:30pm. This house is also available to tour on Sunday. Here's a little preview of what you will see on this year's house tour.

139 12th Street, SE

Anyone familiar with the Lincoln Park section of Capitol Hill knows the 1910 Beaux Arts dwelling that

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9/11 Memorial at Congressional Cemetery

by Gene Smith

The events of 9/11/01 are burnt into all our memories. The coordinated terrorist attacks that day changed our lives forever, especially for those of us on Capitol Hill. We live, walk and breathe the massive increase in security around our government buildings and our public spaces. These changes touch our families, impact the planning of our daily lives, and cause us to justify to guests and visitors why we have made conscious choices to remain in our vibrant, village-like community.

To mark the events of 9/11, memorial groves have been planned for each of the eight wards in Washington, DC. A central grove on Kingman Island (in the Anacostia River, near RFK Stadium) will serve as the anchor for the other memorials developed around the city. The memorial grove for Capitol Hill's Ward 6 will be planted in Congressional Cemetery. Groundbreaking for the memorial is scheduled for Friday, April 30, 2004, and completion anticipated in September 2004. The memorial will consist of a two-block long avenue (allee) of trees

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President's Column

by Rob Nevitt

With the House Tour coming up it is hard to believe there is time to do much else, although a lot is going on, as stories in the News reveals. The House Tour is an enormous undertaking (and it has been going on for 47 years without interruption). At this point I lose sleep over whether we will have all the volunteers we need to guide visitors through the houses. However, I do that every year and somehow it works! Pray for good weather and come out for the tour. Bring a friend.

One of the things going on to some satisfaction, as I have reported earlier, is the developing relationship with Dave Clark, Director

sitting empty. If they aren't to be filled, at least the owners should be paying the appropriate taxes and be required to maintain the properties. Let us know if you have a particularly egregious example on your block.

Another issue we are raising with DCRA is that of businesses being run out of residences. Most of Capitol Hill, certainly the historic District, is zoned for residential use (excluding the commercial corridors like Eighth Street.) There is a provision in Section 203 of the zoning regulations for operating a business out of one's house. This anticipates something like a lawyer or a doctor with a home office in the house he or she lives in, nothing more elaborate. It has come to



lobbying business. The first step taken by DCRA was to go to the door and ask whether there is business being conducted. The inspector was told that it was a residence and the inspector was refused entry. Apparently a warrant is needed to enter. Through the windows one can see that the space inside is configured as an office. People come and go with brief cases. In the evening, people leave and the buildings go dark. The next step is to see whether this circumstantial evidence is sufficient to bring action against the owner, or at least to get a warrant, and then to see what that action might be.

Apparently, some other examples exist of lobbying offices, foundations and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), so-called party houses and others. This involves people of influence, which may complicate our task. Still we would like to plumb the depth of this problem, if problem it turns out to be. Please, let us know of any examples you are aware of and we will follow up.

In the meantime, enjoy the weather. If you can't give us a few hours of time as a House and Garden Tour volunteer, at least plan to enjoy the tour. Residents and visitors alike find it a wonderful experience. ✧

One of the things going on to some satisfaction is the developing relationship with the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Perfection is a distant goal, but we have the mechanism working to process houses identified as abandoned. New housing, like the Bryant Square project, is more noticeable being in one big clump but there are several Bryant Squares out there in the form of good houses

our attention that there are abuses of residences for business purposes and it is not very clear to us what standards are used to measure what's inappropriate or how enforceable the regulations are.

We have a test case we are following where it appears that absolutely nothing is going on in the residences involved but a

Election Notice — Slate of CHRS Board Candidates Includes Nomination for Secretary

Last month's *News* presented the slate of candidates for officers of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. Since then, the CHRS Board has nominated Beth Purcell to be Secretary. Beth is a lawyer with the Internal Revenue Service and is well known as an activist on Capitol

Hill. She is a past President of Trees for Capitol Hill and has been active in Southeast Citizens for Smart development.

We will be mailing ballots to members during the first week of May.

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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

www.chrs.org

Founded almost 50 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.

9/11 Memorial continued from page 1

which will incorporate its own irrigation system.

The historic Congressional Cemetery is a perfect setting for this memorial, lying close to the Anacostia River and with views of nearby tree-covered hills. There is a sense of peace and rest that fills the area — a timeless setting, away from street noise and surrounded by greenery. The cemetery, established almost 200 years ago, consists of a 32-plus acre tract with its entrance at Eighteenth and E Streets, SE. Its tombstones mark the burial of the famous (John Phillip Sousa and J. Edgar Hoover), the anonymous (21 women killed in a munitions explosion at the Washington Arsenal in 1964), and the compelling (a tombstone proclaiming the deceased “Gay Vietnam Veteran”).

The Congressional Cemetery memorial will also be the temporary site through 2005 for Totem poles carved by Lummi Nation master carver James Jewell. The massive Totems, from the House of Tears carver's group, are part of a series of Totem memorials in New

York, Pennsylvania and DC, from the Lummi Nation. The final resting spot for the two 13-foot tall carvings will be on Kingman Island. The installation of the 9/11 memorial grove will be a large venture with dozens of trees intended as a living memorial.

Congressional Cemetery is and has always been a private cemetery. A small but dedicated group — the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC) — revived it from a neglected, ignored final resting place and made it a pleasant, welcoming place for contemplation. Anyone who wants to be part of the team of volunteers to ensure the memorial lives on can contact the Association (APHCC) by phone at 202-543-0539, or e-mail at congressional-cemetery@att.net. Solicitation of contributions and volunteers to help nurture the trees through their first few delicate years will be a top priority — this project needs and deserves the support of the community. ✧

Historic Preservation Briefs

by Nancy Metzger

Historic Housing Tax Credit

An April 10 article in *The Washington Post* Real Estate section headlined “Tax Credits That Let You Remake History” but pointed out that DC's legislation had never been implemented. Therefore low- and moderate-income homeowners in Capitol Hill (and nine other targeted historic districts) cannot use the program. CHRS is working with the DC Preservation League and others to convince councilmembers and the mayor that this year the program should be left in the budget.

The Park Street Project spearheaded by CHRS to assist a low-income Capitol Hill homeowner with the facade restoration of her house is being used as a case study illustrating the need for relief and assistance. For more information about the Historic Housing Tax Credit, contact DCPL at 202-783-5144 or send an e-mail to info@dcpreservation.org.

Councilmember Ambrose has been helpful with this effort but the next few weeks are important for keeping this program in the budget. Letters to the mayor and councilmembers (at large, in particular) would be helpful.

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CHRS Board Opposes WMATA Supplemental Advertising Proposals

by Rob Nevitt

On March 29, 2004, CHRS President Rob Nevitt testified in opposition to WMATA advertising supplements at a hearing at Janney Elementary School. The statement follows:

My name is Robert Nevitt and I am testifying today as the President of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, a nearly fifty-year-old civic organization of about one thousand members.

I am acutely aware of the complexities of balancing income and expenses, the issue before the WMATA management, and wouldn't pretend to have complete solutions, even if I could present them within the minutes allotted.

In the time I have, I do want to urge you to remember that value is not always represented by dollars and cents. Put another way, managers fail often because they dismiss factors that cannot be objectified that way. It surely cannot escape you that the Washington Metro System has become an example of excellence in terms of station design, subway car

interiors and general ambiance. Escalator problems, parking mismanagement and the struggle to provide information to riders have seemed an indication that managers were failing in *some* respects, but the system has remained an attraction for day-to-day riders as well as tourists.

The proposals for advertising supplements to the system suggest that management doesn't deserve the benefit of that doubt. Draping banners in the stations and wrapping subway cars and buses in gaudy super-ads is like selling advertising on the mall, which was received most negatively last summer when it was done for just one event. It could shatter the Metro image of elegance and cleanliness and make riding only a necessity instead of an attraction.

Video ads in cars and buses and strobe ads in the tunnels seem equally tacky and the negative health effect of strobe-ing is a question that needs answering. We have all been urged to be alert, look around, spot abandoned parcels or bags in order to forestall terrorist incidents such as happened on the trains in Madrid. What a glaring inconsistency it is to then propose adding the distractions

of in-car video ads or ads flashing at us in the tunnels.

Returning to dollars and cents, I should point out that the return for this assault on taste and riders sensibilities is very small, a fraction of Metro's income. This will not solve Metro shortfalls. It is a short-term and inadequate band-aid to cover a longer term management problem.

Of course, *everything* should be on the table, but this nickel and dime attack on the very character of Metro should be taken off it. Adding services to stations, such as ATM's makes sense. Riders should expect that the cost of transportation would rise with the rest of the cost of living. Equitable support of the system by all jurisdictions should be insisted on. The contract for the current ads in the stations should certainly be made more advantageous to the system. As much as anything, the cost/return equation for management cries out for examination. Is the riding public getting the performance it deserves for the expenditures on salaries and benefits paid to the layers of people who run this system? I think not. Thank you. ✧

City Council Considers Bill to Revise ABC Law

by Barbara Eck

On April 20, the City Council had a first reading on a bill presented by the Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Committee, to revise the 2001 legislation governing alcohol beverage control regulations.

Councilmember Sharon Ambrose presented a carefully crafted bill to eliminate some enforcement problems identified by the ABC Board and also preserve the role of communities in determining the kinds of ABC establishments appropriate for their neighborhoods. As reported previously, Ms. Ambrose worked

with CHRS through the Neighborhood Alliance for Balanced Growth (NABG), a coalition representing community groups, ANC's and interested citizens in Wards across the city. The NABG also worked with industry and entertainment groups to demonstrate that although we are concerned about noise, parking, public drunkenness and nuisance properties, we are also interested in supporting businesses that contribute to economic growth and the ambiance of the city.

Ms. Ambrose is to be commended for giving everyone a full opportunity to voice opinions, forge coalitions, and craft compromises.

However, during the debate various councilmembers suggested that at least three issues are ripe for further consideration and possible amendment at the second reading scheduled for May 4. If any amendments pass at that time, there will be a third reading scheduled.

CHRS will be monitoring Council activity and continuing to oppose amendments which weaken the community's voice in ABC issues or allow for a change in regulations which impact adversely on neighborhood life. ✧

CHRS Testifies on City Performance on Eastern Market and Old Naval Hospital

by Brian Furness

On March 19, Councilmember Jim Graham (Ward 1), whose subcommittee deals with city property management, chaired an oversight Roundtable on the city's performance in managing its Old Naval Hospital (ONH) and Eastern Market portfolios. Both are controlled by the Office of Property Management (OPM). Graham's focus was sharpened by recent disclosures that \$1 million had been deleted from the Eastern Market renovation account and problems completing replacement of the Eastern Market shed. CHRS testimony was presented by Community Development Committee Chair Brian Furness.

The Roundtable led off with the good news that the Mayor had promised that the Eastern Market money would be restored in the next budget. The bad news: city financial officials have put a hold — challenged by Councilmember Graham — on the approximately \$400 thousand appropriated for ONH repairs pending review of OPM's capital spending budget.

On Old Naval Hospital issues, Friends of the Old Naval Hospital representatives reviewed the building's history and problems, and praised the OPM-managed process

to choose between proposals to renovate and use the building. Noting CHRS's long interest and activity on the ONH, CHRS's testimony simply reminded that the ONH was important to Capitol Hill and had been treated badly in the past. Noting that the OPM-managed process seemed to be on track, the CHRS stressed that the decision should favor the renovation and preservation and maximizing community usage. Council and community representatives praised OPM officials, especially Capitol Hill's Aimee Occhetti, for having conducted a solid procurement process responsive to community concerns and participation.

On Eastern Market, the Roundtable began by hearing from an Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) panel that detailed the issues and delays that have hampered addressing the Market's management and physical problems. Market Five Gallery's lawsuit challenging the city's authority to unify market management figured prominently in the former, the city's inattention and inability to get useful plans from engineering and design firms had an important impact on the latter. And just as agreement on renovation priorities had been reached, it was discovered that city financial and

economic development officials (without OPM's knowledge) had deleted \$1 million from the renovation budget. EMCAC called for restoration of the money and an immediate, cooperative effort to get renovation underway.

CHRS's remarks endorsed EMCAC's perceptions of the problems (the CHRS is a member of the EMCAC) and reminded the panel of the community's stake and participation in Eastern Market, expressed discouragement that city development authorities just didn't seem to understand Eastern Market's economic or community importance, and hoped that the new OPM team — Director Carol Mitten and Deputy Director for Operations Peter May (Capitol Hill resident and CHRS member) — could set the agency right.

Peter May, in office for less than a month, and Aimee Occhetti testified that the new OPM team was working hard to get a handle on the issues, including the problems in getting the Eastern Market shed completed.

Councilmember Ambrose (Ward 6) attended the entire session and participated in the questioning. Councilmember Brazil made opening remarks. The proceeding was televised on Channel 13. ✧

Historic Preservation Briefs continued from page 3

20 Ninth Street, NE

In the continuing legal saga surrounding the 2001-2002 roof replacement and other alterations at 20 Ninth Street, NE, the owners, John Robbins and Laura Elkins, filed suit in federal court against the city, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs officials, and Historic Preservation staff members, charging deprivation of property

without due process and violation of the right to be secure in the plaintiffs' home, person, papers, and effects.

The plaintiffs are asking for \$1 million in damages. Robbins, deputy director for cultural resources and stewardship for the National Park Service, and his wife Laura Elkins, an artist, are also suing (both individually and in their official capacities) David Maloney, the city's deputy state historic preservation officer, and

Toni Cherry, historic preservation inspector, and two DCRA officials for \$10 million in punitive damages against each defendant.

This action followed a hearing on March 17 in which a Superior Court judge ruled to dismiss the Robbins-Elkins lawsuit seeking to enjoin DCRA from further enforcement action. A hearing on DCRA's Revocation Notice is pending and has not yet been scheduled. ✧

EMCAC Furious With OPM'S Failure to Replace Market Shed

by Barbara Eck

At the public meeting of the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee on April 19, the committee and the public were angry at a report by OPM that revealed that the carefully planned, farmers line, shed replacement which was provided by highly paid architects and then reviewed by the City and five community/stakeholder meetings, failed to identify a PEPCO transformer located at the site of the footings at one end of the north hall shed extension. This was the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back" as far as the EMCAC was concerned.

Over and over again, since the enactment of the Eastern Market Act of 1999, the EMCAC has labored to get the City to repair, restore and maintain this historic building whose problems have been well-documented by numer-

ous, expensive studies over the years.

Some progress has been made in cleanliness through the efforts of a market manager hired by OPM. The first, approved, major capital improvement was replacement of the shed. Excavation was begun in January and OPM told the EMCAC that it would be completed by March. EMCAC has always insisted that, whenever possible, construction work which impacts on the farmers and vendors be done during the slowest time for the Market. After the initial fencing and excavation of part of the site in January, everything stopped because the steel had not been ordered. One of those expensive reports regarding shed construction advised that all the fabricated steel should be ordered before excavation began. EMCAC reminded OPM of this over and over again. This was not done and in March

the EMCAC was told that it would be two to six months before the shed would be completed. Construction would cause maximum disruption during the busiest season for the farmers at Eastern Market!

The EMCAC is a statutory body set up by the Eastern Market Legislation in 1999.

Members are chosen by community groups such as CHAMPS, and CHRS. The ANC, the Mayor, and the Ward 6 Councilmember each appoint a member. The market vendors and farmers are represented. All of these people VOLUNTEER their time and effort and work long hours in the hope of improving operation and conditions at the Market for vendors, farmers, and the community. We won't abandon the Market, but we are outraged and weary with continued waste of resources and ineptitude from the City. ✧

Walking Tours of the Exterior of the Capitol Building (Each Monday at 10:00am)

by Barbara Eck

Disappointed that you can't escort your visiting family and friends through the Capitol? Because security concerns and construction of the Capitol Visitor Center have severely limited access to the building, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society is offering an alternative way to visit and learn about "The Most Famous Building in the World."

Experience a spectacular tour of the exterior of the building with volunteer guides trained by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. The tour begins at Union Station Metro,

Massachusetts Avenue exit, where you will learn the history of the relocation of the railroad station from the Mall to its present site and the design and scope of the park that enwraps you as you proceed toward the Capitol. As you stroll, your guide will provide historical anecdotes and perspective about the Congress, the construction of the building, and the exterior decoration and grounds.

From the choice of the site by George Washington when he described Capitol Hill as a "pedestal waiting for a monument," through all the changes and additions which continue today,

you will learn fascinating details of design, dispute, dissension, disagreement, and a little despotism. You will marvel at how such a spectacular edifice could have been erected and decorated, changed and enlarged, in spite of problems at every step in every Congress over these many years.

Tours are free for Historical Society members; \$10.00 for non-members. No reservations required, but credit cards accepted only for advance payment. For information on discounts for seniors, children, and groups: 202-543-8919, ext. 17 or tours@uschs.org ✧

Spring Preservation Cafés Looked Both Inside and Outside the House

by Nancy Metzger

The Preservation Café series takes a warm weather break and will resume in September 2004. Special thanks to Trattoria Alberto (506 Eighth Street, SE) for allowing us the use of the upstairs room for these events that are usually attended by 30 or more people.

March 24: Air Conditioning

For those people with questions about the pitfalls and benefits of installing air conditioning, Michael Hartman of Thomas E. Clark Heating and Air Conditioning provided some answers. His firm, in business since 1891, installs Spacepak air conditioning systems in historic homes. The pre-insulated tubing is threaded between wall studs and ceiling joists and uses small, round outlets (thus eliminating one of the major issues of retrofitting historic buildings with air conditions — how to deal with large ducts). To audience questions about reports of noise problems with the system, Hartman responded that air velocity noise should not be a problem with correctly installed systems. He stressed that proper design of the system was critical, both to avoid noise and for comfort levels. For instance, Hartman said the outlets should

not be over a bed or chair but should be tucked away in a corner or shielded with a diverter.

Hartman also stressed that residents should get recent references as well as check that dealers are properly trained and certified in correct installation. Hartman finished with a cautionary word of advice to all air conditioning owners: Be aware that there is a big difference between a firm that offers to inspect an air conditioning system and one that offers a check-and-clean service. The inspection service may be just that — a necessary cleaning may be a separate charge.

April 21: Stained Glass

Although stained glass became popular in the Victorian decades, on Capitol Hill relatively few houses have original stained glass. The peak of popularity came in the 1890s and was pretty much over by 1910. Daniel Wolkoff, owner of Adams Morgan Stained Glass, noted that after 100 years the leading between glass pieces may well be fatigued, allowing the glass pieces to rattle or to buckle. A glass conservator can carefully remove the glass piece from the frame (being careful not to damage either). Wolkoff started his presentation by showing a video of a

window restoration at Fifth and D Streets, NE. He showed how cracked glass could be repaired using a glass-specific epoxy from a conservation supplier. As part of the restoration, sashes may also need to be repaired. Wolkoff explained that glass in old homes quite often has a wavy appearance (and should be treasured) because of production techniques. Wolkoff also noted that for our Capitol Hill houses a transom with gold-leaf numbers is most appropriate. Interior transoms were of clear glass — often the old, wavy type — and if they have been replaced with boards, vents or other materials, they can be re-opened and replacement “old glass” installed. Original skylights were often made of a glass with an overall-pebble design that was the result of the hand-rolled process. For those who missed this opportunity to ask questions of this expert, CHRS has a guideline, *The Stained Glass Windows of Capitol Hill*, that gives background history on stained glass, particularly here on the Hill, and explains different techniques and styles. Maintenance, repair and protection of stained glass are also discussed. Contact the CHRS office, 202-543-0425, to obtain a copy of this guideline. ✧

Home & Garden Network Seeks Historic Home Remodeling Projects

The Do-It-Yourself Channel of the Home & Garden Network is looking for willing subjects who are planning to undertake home renovations or a significant home remodeling project in the coming months. They are looking for homes (not necessarily traditional) that are in historic districts. Requirements: manifest enthusiasm for your house and neighborhood (this is TV after all), and willingness to be on camera getting your hands dirty (they have professional remodelers who will help with the project). No one will be fired, expelled, or otherwise humiliated. If you're interested, call Susan Hawthorne at 1-888-470-8989, extension 4920#. ✧

47th Annual House and Garden Tour continued from page 1



139 12th Street, SE

is among the most distinctive houses in this part of the city — formerly the parsonage of St. Mark's parish. Beth Hannold, an architectural historian, and Doug Delano, a landscape contractor, had been living on the Hill since the early eighties and long admired its Palladian-windowed facade with red Roman pressed brick, brownstone lintels, iron balconettes, copper cornice, and terra cotta roof. In 1998, they made it their home.

630 E Street, NE

When Patrick Crowley first saw 630 E Street, NE, four years ago, it had been annexed to the neighbor-



630 E Street, NE

ing rowhouse and converted into a church and fellowship hall for an out-of-town congregation. He worked closely with the developer to design the renovated interior after it was gutted and re-established as two separate dwellings. Crowley previously lived in a much narrower Hill home. He sought both spaciousness and proximity to his office at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that this house affords. The entrance hall's slim bookcase designed by Brian Rayner with inlaid burl walnut and maple reflects the scale of his old place. The adjacent massive early twentieth-century walnut armoire



510 3rd Street, NE

and late nineteenth-century American Renaissance bookcases flanking the fireplace celebrate this home's roomier proportions.

510 3rd Street, NE

In 1989, native Floridians Dean and Judith Johnson knew that the Hill was where they wanted to be, but the 1890 rowhouse they bought required substantial attention before they could move in comfortably. By then, 510 3rd Street, NE, had become a boarding house with separate locks on the interior doors and phone numbers scratched into the Victorian-era moulding. Today, the refurbished house retains much of its original historic fabric and late nineteenth-century character with period gasoliers and lighting, pocket doors, and tawny heart pine floors.

We are very excited about the Tour and we encourage you to enjoy Capitol Hill, one of the Nation's largest historic districts, with your family and friends on Tour 2004, Mother's Day! ✨

House photos by Norman Metzger.

CHRS June Membership Meeting

The meeting will feature Architect of the Capitol Alan Hantman who will discuss the master plan for the U.S. Capitol campus. Please see the June CHRS News for complete details.

June 16, 2004, 7:30pm
St. Peter's Church, Basement Hall
Second and C Streets, SE

Do You Want Good Parking “Car-ma” ?

by Jill Lawrence

How do you feel when you come home at night and you can't find a parking space near your home? It's especially frustrating when there are a couple of spots that are not quite big enough for your car to fit. In an effort to restore more usable parking for all of us, here are five golden rules of “parking etiquette” that we've discovered.

1. When possible, park in an end spot, near a corner, alley or hydrant. Park right up to the line or “No Parking to Corner” sign. Many times the parking configuration on a block is thrown off because the parker at the end was sloppy and parked five or six feet inside the boundary line, reducing the number of cars that can fit in that parking “chain.”

2. When you see a large gap of several spaces, look to see which “chain” of cars is most accurately and closely parked, and align your auto with that group. If you park close to the spread-out group, you can perpetuate the problem. At least, avoid starting a problem by parking smack dab in the middle of an extra large spot, leaving large unusable gaps both in front and behind.

3. Take notice of the amount of space you leave between your car and those near you. Two-and-a-half feet is enough room to leave in front and in back. Even if you are “just running in for a minute” and leave a large gap, the neighbor who pulls up next to your “mistake” may not move his or her car for weeks, especially in the summer when people take long vacations.

4. Take a look at your car when you go out for walks. Perhaps you had no choice and had to park next to a sprawled chain of cars the day before. But now, the “spreaders” have left. As a kindness to your neighbors, hop in and move your car to mark an end or line up closer to correctly parked cars.

5. If you live in Ward 6 and have a parking sticker, you are entitled to park anywhere in the Ward, but, if you work near a commercial/metro area, consider parking a couple of blocks away from the overcrowded blocks and walking. This allows neighbors who live on these crowded blocks (older residents, moms loading kids and dogs, etc.) to pull up safely in front of their own homes.

These are strategies that can help alleviate some of the problems we face with parking shortages on the Hill. Let's make the most of what we have! ✧

Lack of Parking on the Hill – Ideas Offered, Ideas Welcomed

by Tom Grahame

It's not just your imagination. It has become considerably harder to find a parking space near many homes, especially if you come home after 8:00pm. The lack of parking for customers affects businesses, as well. No wonder people are miffed when cars without a valid Ward 6 parking sticker park overnight, or all day near a commercial district. Are there any solutions?

We'd like to propose some ideas, and we'd like to ask if you have proposals as well. Here goes: First, we've found several corners where the “No Parking to Corner” sign is further than the required 40 feet from the corner. Perhaps there are several more such corners out there. If the sign can be relocated closer to the corner, an additional space might be created on that street. So we'd like to ask readers to look around, canvas their immediate neighborhood, measure any suspect corners, and report the specific corner to the e-mail address below. CHRS will put together a full list and report them to the city.

Secondly, there have been areas where a curb cut is no longer used for a driveway, but the curb cut hasn't been filled in, and signs still disallow parking. Are

there any such areas that you know of? Please let us know of any such places, again to the e-mail address below. Finally, are there any loading zones that may no longer be needed, or whose hours can be adjusted?

You can take matters into your own hands, as well. CHRS Board members Charles McMillion and Marilyn Saks McMillion decided to give up owning a car, and avoid the costs and hassles of car ownership. They now rent at Union Station when they need a car. If Union Station isn't convenient for you, Enterprise will pick you up at your door when you need a car, and drive you back when you return it. (My own most recent hassle: a speeding driver plowed into my parked car and totaled it 18 months ago....grrr! But at least my insurance didn't go up any further!). Others choosing not to own a car can use the Zip Car service: just log on to <http://www.zipcar.com/how/> to find out more.

These ideas don't fully get at the lack of parking near Eastern Market and commercial strips. We would welcome any ideas any of you might have for finding or freeing up any additional parking, in both residential or commercial areas. E-mail Tom Grahame at tgrahame@mindspring.com. ✧

Mark Your Calendar!

MAY

8 Sat., 5:00pm – 8:00pm

9 Sun., noon – 5:00pm

2004 CHRS House and Garden Tour. Visit nine Capitol Hill homes as well as a few "special" locations.

13 Thursday, 7:30pm

CHRS Zoning Committee. Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE

18 Tuesday, 6:30pm

CHRS Board Meeting. Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE

22 Saturday, 7:00pm

Meeting on Anacostia River Crossings. Orr Elementary School, Minnesota Avenue, SE

JUNE

16 Wednesday, 7:30pm

Membership meeting on Master Plan for the U.S. Capitol featuring Alan Hantman, Architect of the Capitol. St. Peter's Church, Basement Hall, Second and C Streets, SE

At Home on the Hill

Want to meet more of your neighbors, help improve our community and feel even more at home on the Hill? Become an active CHRS member!

We are an all-volunteer community organization and we need your time, energy and talents. Annual dues start at just \$25.00 and open the door for so much more. Call 202-543-0425 or send an e-mail to CapHRS@aol.com and join us!

Deadline for CHRS Grant Proposals

Any Capitol Hill organization or entity, not just incorporated or formal nonprofit, is eligible to submit a proposal, which should support a specific project or projects benefiting the Capitol Hill community. Proposals should be submitted in writing to CHRS no later than June 15, 2004. Information provided should include a project summary and must describe the project's objective, implementation, and cost. The proposal should also describe the submitting organization's objectives and recent activities.

Proposals will be judged on the basis of clarity, feasibility, innovation, benefit to the community, measurability of results and degree of reliance on CHRS funding. Project funding will represent a portion of the net proceeds from the CHRS House and Garden Tour. In the past this has approximated \$7,000, which has been shared among several successful applicants. Guidelines for applications and criteria for judging proposals are available from the Society's office (202-543-0425). ✧

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members and patrons.

NEW MEMBERS

Bettina H. Aten & Alan Heston

Jim & Julie Edmonds

Carol & Kristen Holladay

Marcia H. Salkin

Philip H. Viles

PATRONS

Marian & Gerry Connolly

Mark Flemming, AIA

Sarajane Foster

Carol & Kristen Holladay

Mary Ann Livingston

James & Bernadette

McMahon

Barbara & Edward Wendel



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

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