



NEWS

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June 2004

A New Master Plan for the Capitol and Its Significance for the Capitol Hill Community



The United States Capitol Visitor Center is just one part of the Master Plan.

U.S. Capitol Architect to Address Issue at June 16th Membership Meeting

by Richard Wolf

On June 16th at St. Peter's Church, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society will be pleased to have Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Alan Hantman present his plan for developing a new master plan for the grounds of the US Capitol. This will replace the now

25-year-old master plan which has served the needs of both the Congress and the Capitol Hill Community for its duration. He will be assisted by his recently-hired Director for the project, Beverly Wood. Ms. Wood comes to this task with a professional background as a landscape architect and as a campus planner for several colleges and universities. Reports are that their presentation is well delivered, well thought out,

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JPI Presents Plans for Potomac Avenue Site

by Brian Furness

On May 5th, JPI Apartment Development of Dallas made public its plans for the Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues, SE, site at a meeting attended by over 50 people. Co-sponsored by ANC 6B and Southeast Citizens for Smart Development (SCSD), the meeting led off with a presentation by SCSD. Councilmember Ambrose, who helped organize the meeting, was unable to attend because of the death of her mother.

JPI plans a substantial structure, built to the property line but within the existing zoning envelope. Envisioned are 282 apartments in 305 thousand square feet: about two-thirds will be efficiency or one-bedroom units and most of the rest will be one-bedroom plus den or two-bedroom units. There will be a few three-bedroom units. Underground parking with one space for each apartment helped address neighborhood concerns.

The complex will have two-story retail — perhaps a restaurant — on the corner of Potomac and Pennsylvania Avenues. Some residents were unhappy that the design doesn't feature more

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President's Column

by Rob Nevitt

This is the issue of the *News* when my column is dedicated to celebrating the success of The House and Garden Tour, our 47th. I have no problem doing that. Aimee Occhetti ably chaired the tour this year, with essential help from Michelle Carroll, who has worked on three tours now. Diane Shages has soldiered on the yearlong task of finding houses for the tour for as many tours as I remember. This year had, I thought, an outstanding and diverse set of architectural and life styles. The Saturday night reception at "The Corner Store," Chris Swanson's studio, was, perhaps, the best in recent memory. Adding to the hospitality was the music of the band, "21 Gessford Court," also the address of the

husband and daughter) had made the trip on the chance they could participate. (She got her tickets.) We have ticket outlets in Georgetown, Dupont Circle and Union Station that service other distant customers. The tour coincides with Mother's Day, which brings visiting Moms who want to see what life is like in their children's new homes. All of these "outsiders" react with great interest to what they see. Some take notes, all ask questions, all exclaim, mostly with delight.

Then, too, there are the neighbors. The neighborhood is new to some, but most come to share in the talk and the sights, to see how someone else managed to fit a powder room under the stairs or to see the restoration behind a particularly elegant facade.



to include are listed elsewhere in this issue. Thank you all.

Getting new members is also something the board is committed to doing more aggressively in order to broaden the base. In fact, our membership is down from historic averages. The cost of a household membership is equal to the discount members receive on House Tour tickets each year, so cost should not be a deterrent. A board member said that we need someone to propose putting a freeway through the neighborhood again to galvanize membership.

It may be that Hill residents don't feel the threat to their lifestyle that the founders of CHRS rose to, although challenges there still are. My columns and the articles in the *News* and on the Website testify to them. Perhaps the diversity of those challenges splinters interest in taking part in CHRS activities. We can only point out the relevance of what we do with respect to abandoned houses, large-scale developments and much in between to keep this the same neighborhood we are so proud to showcase every year on the House and Garden Tour. ✧

Every member of the Board of Directors played roles from organizing the jitney service to writing publicity releases to being a house captain.

house that was on the 2002 House and Garden Tour. Chris' husband, Roy Moustelier was again the well-organized head of ticket sales from our kiosk at Eastern Market. Every member of the Board of Directors played roles from organizing the jitney service to writing publicity releases to being a house captain.

The greatest reward for all the hard work was talking to those who went on the tour. Saturday night, an indignant woman with no ticket who complained that she hadn't seen a single notice of the tour confronted me. I told her we advertised in "The Hill Rag" and "The Voice of the Hill" and that a mailing had gone out to members. It turned out that she wasn't a member and hadn't seen the ads because she lived in Gaithersburg. It was astonishing that she (and her

There were some glitches, such as not having the word "ticket" on the tickets. What really tempers my joy are the perennial problems of getting houses and volunteers set earlier in the process. This is not the first time you have heard this theme from me, but the difficulty of getting people to volunteer continues to challenge us. The House Tour is the one activity in the year that is central to the interests of every member and ought to make organizing easier than it is. We are pledged to try to do better on our end of this equation. Just to make it clear that I do know how full the glass is, look in the back of the tour book at the long list of Benefactors, Patrons, Sponsors and Contributors who contributed to covering the costs of the tour. A list of those whose contributions came too late

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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.

Potomac Avenue Site continued from page 1

neighborhood-oriented retail — a Trader Joe's figures prominently in neighborhood longings — but JPI explained that the economics, parking, and security make retail difficult. Attendees pointed out that the JPI project will likely stimulate interest — perhaps commercial — in properties adjacent to JPI's building and down Pennsylvania Avenue toward Barney Circle.

The preliminary designs seem respectful of prevailing Capitol Hill architectural models. The architect and JPI representatives expressed willingness to meet with community groups on design and construction issues. Comments and side conversations underlined the need for the signature facade — that facing the intersection of Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues — to be sufficiently bold and able to convey a sense of place and the importance of Pennsylvania Avenue as a significant gateway.

JPI has its financing in place. Closing is scheduled for early fall. Plans and city permits should be ready by September, and demolition of the existing Boys Town-constructed townhouses is scheduled for October. By acclamation, SCSD leaders Will Hill and Ellen Opper-Weiner are to get ceremonial bricks. Completion will take two years.

The community responded positively as JPI representatives, led by Aaron Liebert (aliebert@jpi.com), stressed JPI's desire to be a good neighbor, and its awareness of the project's importance to the community and to the development of Pennsylvania Avenue, especially to Barney Circle.

The JPI project — if built as presented — will be a significant and positive validation of neighborhood spirit, which steadfastly resisted inappropriate usages for almost 30 years. In the mid-1970s, the community, led by CHRS and the National Capitol Planning Commission, thwarted plans to erect an enormous, zoning-busting office building. And in the last few years, the neighborhood, led by SCSD and backed by CHRS, helped focus attention on the need for sensible economic development in a fragile and underserved neighborhood — rejecting Boys Town's plans.

The JPI project can spark interest in a heretofore weak city planning effort in the use of the Potomac Avenue Metro stop — the May American Planning Association charette was a useful initiative — in making lower Pennsylvania Avenue a real benefit to the surrounding community and in realizing its potential as an important gateway to the nation's chief monuments. ✧

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, sponsors and patrons.

NEW MEMBERS

Virginia Huth
Frank R. Rizzo &
Jennifer Ewen

SPONSORS

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Abandoned Cars: How to Get Them Towed

by Tom Grahame

You may have an abandoned car on your block, taking up a valuable parking space. Why won't the city tow it? And what can you do about it?

First, why won't the city tow obviously abandoned cars? The laws were changed in the summer of 2003, because up to that time, a car that hadn't been moved in over 72 hours could be towed for that reason alone — which meant that people could come home from vacation and sometimes find their cars gone. That generated a backlash, which some think may have gone too far.

What can you do about an abandoned car? In order for a car to be towed, it must have two of the following four problems: flat tire, broken window, missing tags, or other

damage. If the car has been abandoned without these problems, then unless it has been stolen, you may be out of luck. However, people usually don't abandon operable cars in good condition. Many abandoned cars have been stolen, and if this is the case, you may be able to do something about it. Often those who steal a car in Maryland or Virginia will abandon it in the district.

Just inside the windshield on the driver's side is the VIN (vehicle identification number). Write it down, and call 202-727-1000 to report a possible stolen car. The police will check it, and if it is in fact stolen, they can tow it (although it might take up to a week or so). They might also remove the license plates (one of the four criteria for towing), and if they do, and the car has one of the other criteria (flat tire, broken window, other dam-

age), then it can be towed on those grounds as well. Also, if a car has more than three tickets, it can be booted. Often an abandoned car will be parked illegally, or have out-of-state plates without a valid Ward 6 parking sticker. Both are grounds for ticketing. I haven't yet found the precise criteria for when a booted car can be towed, but based upon what I've been told, a booted car should be towed within a week or two. So call 202-727-1000 if you suspect a car might be abandoned, or to have an illegally parked car or one without a valid residency sticker ticketed.

Finally, rented cars are often among those stolen. Look closely at a car that looks abandoned to see if there are any signs that it might belong to a rental company. If so, give the rental company a call: they will pick the car up very quickly. ✧

CHRS Supports Changes in Eastern Market Law

by Brian Furness

At Councilmember Jim Graham's May 12th roundtable on Eastern Market, CHRS joined the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) and other community organizations endorsing changes in the Eastern Market legislation. The changes, introduced

by Councilmember Ambrose, primarily affected EMCAC's internal functioning. CHRS advocated abolishing term limits on EMCAC membership, removing ANC 6A from membership, and extending voting membership to the representatives of the farmers' line, South Hall, Mayor, and the Ward 6 Councilmember. CHRS also supported removing a Tenants'

Council representative from the EMCAC. The Tenants' Council was created in the original legislation to represent economic stakeholders; however, that function was taken on by the representatives from the South Hall food merchants, the farmers' line, and the non-food vendors. Like EMCAC, the CHRS opposed substituting the Mayor's representative for the Deputy Mayor for Operations. EMCAC representatives and those of the food and non-food vendors also testified.

The CHRS position was conveyed by letter from Barbara Eck, the CHRS representative on the EMCAC. CHRS Community Development Committee Chair Brian Furness delivered the CHRS's oral testimony, which was carried on the City Council cable television channel. Mr. Graham indicated that his Subcommittee would recommend that the Council pass the legislation amended as EMCAC recommended. ✧

Parking Space Candidates

Tom Grahame's May 2004 CHRS *News* article asked members to submit addresses where additional curbside parking spaces might be created. CHRS will compile a list of these and submit it to the city. If you spot opportunities for parking, please send the following information to tgrahame@mindspring.com, or mail to Tom, c/o CHRS, P.O. Box 15264, Washington, DC 20003-0264. Please specify:

- ✧ Address or intersection
- ✧ Issue at this address/intersection:
 - Unjustified curb cut
 - Loading zone, excessively restrictive hours
 - "No Parking to Corner" more than 40 feet from corner (specify exact location; e.g., "NE corner of 8th & G Streets SE, north side of G")

✧ Further explanation

Submitting your name and contact info is not required but will help Tom follow-up if needed.

Call Box Project Update

by Nancy Metzger

It's here! The first completed call box on Capitol Hill (and perhaps the city) featuring line drawings by artist Betsy Damos of the two stages of the Carolina Theater can now be viewed at the Lincoln Park sidewalk at 11th Street and North Carolina Avenue, SE. Betsy had the exciting and nerve-wracking position of being the first to confront — and solve — many of the technical problems involved in the project. Her explorations and decisions will make it easier for the artists who follow. More call boxes should be finished this summer.

One of the projects currently waiting funding is the Firefighter's Call Box. If you've had occasion to call Capitol Hill's Firefighters in the past or are just grateful for the job they do, now is the time to show your appreciation by contributing to a special call box. The call box at 8th & I Streets, SE, will feature a bronze bas relief casting of an historic Capitol Hill fireman's parade dress hat. This isn't just a typical red hat with gold shield; this is a top hat from the 1840s with a large decorative medallion depicting an Indian with a feather headpiece and a long fur cape standing along a river bank, all decorated with flourishes of ribbons. The original is in the Friendship Fire Museum.

Two hundred years ago in April, 1804, a group of Capitol Hill citizens organized themselves into a volunteer fire fighters association and called it the Anacostia Fire Company. For nearly 70 years (until the paid department was inaugurated in 1871), they fought fires in the Navy Yard neighborhood and, when needed, joined with other fire companies fighting fires throughout the city.

Artist Will Fleishell, an engraver with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, is making that hat the centerpiece of a bas relief sculpture that will be cast in bronze this summer.



Betsy Damos did a wonderful job on her Call Box at Lincoln Park.

The base and standard will be painted in a traditional red and black color scheme and a plaque listing the names of donors will be affixed to the base. This design has already been approved by the city-wide Art on Call project, administered by DC Cultural Tourism, and has received \$250 in funding from the DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities. However, \$1,200 is still needed to pay for the casting and installation. If 48 people or organizations would contribute just \$25 each to the 8th & I Streets, SE call box restoration, that goal would be met.



Your donation can help create a tribute to Hill firefighters, featuring the image on this 1840s fireman's hat. Photo: Norm Metzger

This is a fine way to honor the men and women of the past and present who have protected the community from fires.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society is handling the financial transactions for the call box project so send your contribution (with "Firefighter's Call Box" on the memo line) to CHRS, PO Box 15264, Washington, DC 20003-0264. All donations are tax deductible and will go for the call box restoration project.

Find out more about Capitol Hill's Call Box Project and ways you can participate on the Society's Website, www.chrs.org or by calling Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034. ✧

Take Care of Those Trees

by Richard Wolf

Capitol Hill trees need your help. Many new trees have been planted — see Massachusetts Avenue, NE, and the north side of Eastern Market Metro Park, and 11th Street, SE, just to name a few locations. Those trees need water. They also need level, protected tree boxes. Please note the care taken with the new elms along Barracks Row/Main Street, including the use of gator bags for continuous water supply. Our older trees are suffering because some owners have built up tree boxes to the point that roots are covered by too much soil. In other spots, particularly where there are tree lawns, grass has been allowed to grow right up to the trunk and these trees are dead or dying. Get rid of the grass and let the trees grow with fewer restrictions. Capitol Hill without trees is a desert. Now that the city and the Casey Foundation are giving us a new start on our urban forest, give them a hand. ✧

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 the 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). Check the Website, www.chrs.org, for details. ✧

Something for Everyone

Whether your interest is in helping out on the annual House Tour, working on parking and traffic concerns, zoning, clean streets, historic preservation, or the wide range of community development and planning, you can make a positive contribution by joining with your neighbors in the CHRS. 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!

Historic Preservation Briefs

by Nancy Metzger

The Historic Housing Tax Credit is not just 'on the books.' Following the City Council's budget vote in May, it now appears there will be funding to actually implement the program in FY 2005. The DC Preservation League with CHRS and other neighborhood organizations visited council members and staff, wrote letters, and generally made it known that this program could provide an important assist for low-and moderate-income home owners in ten designated historic districts (including Capitol Hill). Details of how the program will be implemented are being developed now; for general information on the program see the CHRS Website, www.chrs.org.

In place of two frame houses dating back to the 1870s at 719 and 721 7th Streets, NE, just north of H Street, residents now can view a gravel parking lot, surrounded by a tall

chain link fence topped with rolls of barbed wire. Despite on-going efforts to find a development/preservation solution for the buildings, the Pilgrim Baptist Church had the buildings demolished in May. In December, 2003 the Historic Preservation Review Board urged the church to work with the neighbors to find a way to save the historic structures, even though the buildings did not reach the level of landmark buildings. CHRS had supported the efforts to preserve them.

At the other end of 7th Street (1012 & 1014 7th Streets, SE), the owner of two brick houses withdrew his appeal to the Mayor's Agent (an administrative law judge) seeking to overturn the Historic Preservation Review Board's denial of a raze permit because he was selling the property. The houses are within the Navy Yard extension area of the Capitol Hill historic district. No word yet on the new owner's plans. ✧

Thanks to the Additional Contributors to Tour 2004

In addition to the 49 contributors whose names were listed in the Tour booklet, the names of 12 others were not included when the list was prepared for the printer. Five contributions were received too late for inclusion in the booklet. The names of all contributors not included in the booklet are listed below. The Society thanks all contributors for helping to make Tour 2004 a success.

PATRONS

Bob & Pat Moesker
Jim Skiles & Lynne Church

CONTRIBUTORS

Helen W. Carey
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Maurice Walters & Mary J. Pajak
Dave & Sara Wilson

ABC Legislation's Success Marred by Vote to Extend Hours

by Barbara Eck

On May 18, the City Council passed the Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004, which has been under review by the council's Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs for five years. Throughout last year, CHRS worked with the Neighborhood Alliance for Balanced Growth (NABG) to prevent the weakening of the 1999 Alcohol Beverage Act. In our work to prevent the Act from being stripped of its provisions respecting neighborhood

working with an individual establishment.

Unfortunately, we were not successful in beating back amendments to extend liquor store hours to midnight. Prior to the 1999 legislation this was allowed.

Communities worked very hard to scale back the closing hour to 10:00pm. Initially, the extension of hours was proposed by Councilmember Brazil, who, along with all the other council members, received an outpouring of constituent complaints against this

ment resources, and lead to the problems associated with late night closing. Our warnings were not heeded. Nor were the warnings of Councilmembers Ambrose, Catania, Fenty, Graham, and Schwartz, who had worked diligently with the stakeholders to craft this legislation. The amendment passed by a vote of 7 to 6. Many council members who had shown little interest in the ABC legislation over these many months, voted for the bill. Those voting in favor were Cropp, Evans, Mendelson, Orange, Patterson, Allen, and Brazil. Our supporters were Ambrose, Fenty, Graham, Schwartz, Catania, and Chavous.

In addition to the increased burden on the ABC Board, Councilmember Catania pointed out that Mrs. Cropp's amendment gave the ABC Board absolutely no standards to apply in determining, as Councilmember Graham put it, "Who's a sheep and who's a goat." Mrs. Cropp accepted a friendly amendment that directs the ABC Board to promulgate regulations establishing standards for determining which licensees will be awarded later closing hours.

What can you do? Remember, council action can be rescinded. In this case we only need to change one vote. Three council members who voted in favor are elected citywide: Brazil, Mendelson and Cropp. Some of the others may be facing challengers in the next election or may be interested in citywide office in the near future. Let them know how you feel. Call or e-mail their offices. Contact your friends in Ward 2 (Evans) and Ward 3 (Patterson) and discuss the issue with them. Garner their support to contact their respective council members, Chairman Cropp, Mendelson and Brazil. NABG has not given up on this issue. For further information: barb539@juno.com. ✧

We were not successful in beating amendments to extend liquor store hours to midnight.

rights and providing for maximum neighborhood participation in the granting and regulation of alcohol beverage licenses, we have been vilified as enemies of culture, economic development, and even fun itself.

However, this has not deterred our committed group. Through multitudinous meetings, NABG members representing civic groups and ANC's across the city have fought for upholding the quality of life in your neighborhood. CHRS, represented by Mary Weirich and Barbara Eck, have met with council members and their staffs, Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board members, and lawyers representing the liquor and entertainment industry. Early in the process, the NABG was able to accomplish a great deal. In particular, the community's voice in ABC licensing decisions remains strong. We successfully resisted a relentless push to deprive us of party status in a dispute, to distort the appropriateness standards in determining whether a license should be granted, and to gut voluntary agreements achieved by neighborhoods

action. At the initial council reading of the bill, the amendment to restore the midnight closing time was defeated. However, Councilmember Mendelson and Councilmember Cropp indicated a desire to allow establishments to apply to the ABC Board on a case-by-case basis to extend their hours. Council members who had been most involved with the ABC Board and the legislation cautioned against burdening the ABC Board with additional applications and protests, and creating an enforcement nightmare in determining who had the right to stay open and who had not. Cropp and Mendelson said they would work out the language and have an amendment prepared for the second reading.

This newly crafted language did not solve the problems aforementioned. Chairman Cropp introduced an amendment that gives all Alcohol and Beverage (A&B) licensees the opportunity to apply for extended hours. We had warned that this would swamp the ABC Board with new cases (there are currently 600 A&B licensees), siphon off enforce-

New Master Plan for the Capitol continued from page 1



AOC Alan Hantman will speak along with project manager Beverly Wood

and promises to give all of us a road map to this most important undertaking.

The Capitol Hill community has had a long and sometimes acrimonious and even terrifying relationship with its great neighbor to the west — the Congress of the United States. We are happy to say that for the last 25 years it has been much more felicitous. There is an important history to remember as we prepare to participate, as we can, in this up-coming exercise.

To jog our collective memories, for many years the Capitol Hill community played an important role as a neighborhood for the Capitol. East Capitol Street was home to many elected officials and employees of the Congress. Abraham Lincoln stayed in an East Capitol Street rooming house for his one term as a congressman. During Prohibition the Hill housed a number of private drinking establishments and suppliers of booze — including the infamous Man in the Green Hat, who briefly enjoyed re-instatement as a restaurant in the 1980s. But as the Hill changed after World War II with lower-income residents moving in both from the

South and from the hills of Virginia and West Virginia, the sense of community began to wane. Many families moved to the rapidly developing suburbs. A significant indicator of these changes was church membership which diminished substantially. At the same time, the Congress, which had grown during the New Deal and the war, had expansionist notions.

In the 1950s, George Stewart, the Architect of the Capitol in those years, had a plan to turn East Capitol Street into the street of the states. Each state would have a significant building of suitable Grecian or Roman architecture — state embassies, if you will. Fortunately, nothing came of that idea. But real things were happening that portended the end of the Hill as a viable community. In the 1950s, the square where the Madison Building now sits was taken and cleared. It housed some of the oldest houses and most popular restaurants — including some of Washington's famous oyster houses. That land lay fallow for many years. In the meantime, the Hill was scheduled both for urban renewal along the lines of Southwest and interstate highway development, including the East Leg of the Inner Loop which was mapped as running down 10th and 11th Streets to connect with the North Central Freeway. Neither of these highways was built because of citizen opposition. But the Congress continued to think of the Hill as a place for its expansion.

In the late 1960s, as plans for the Madison Library firmed up, the House decided that that location was ideal for a fourth House office building. The Madison Library would be built on the square containing St. Mark's Church and many Capitol Hill homes. The plans ignited the Hill community. CHRS was a leader in the efforts to stave off this taking. Numerous

articles were written in national papers such as The New York Times, questioning these actions. The effort culminated in a tumultuous community meeting at St. Mark's one Memorial Day weekend more than 30 years ago. An organized effort to lobby the Congress not to take this action stimulated an outpouring of letters and phone calls to congressmen from districts where residents used to live. Carl Albert, then Speaker of the House, received phone calls and telegrams from old friends and even his own family. Finally, the taking was put on hold until — you guessed it — a study was made of the future needs of the Congress for space and staff.

A special committee of the House was established to conduct this study with our friend, Frank Keenan — longtime Hill resident — as one of the principal staffers. That report led to the development of the first master plan for the US Capitol. In addition, the Madison Library was built on its originally intended site, and the space needs of the Congress were partially accommodated by the development of the Ford House Office Building in the old FDA building in Southwest. Even more importantly the Hill community began to have productive dialogue with the then-Architect of the Capitol, George White.

Mr. White invited the Capitol Hill community to have a consultative role in his planning efforts. That turned out to be a productive role. A Hill group composed of the ANC Chair, CHRS, the business community, and others participated in meetings with the planner/consultants. The resultant plan dealt with many of our problems. The Hill community was recognized in the Plan as an important adjunct to the Capitol: a vibrant, stable residential community on the Hill is treated as an asset and not a

Pat and Lyle Schauer Recognized for 30 Years of Preservation Community Volunteer Work

by Nancy Metzger

Capitol Hill's own Lyle and Pat Schauer were among the preservation volunteers who were celebrated at the fourth Annual Volunteer Awards ceremony sponsored by the Association for Preservation Technology at the Arts Club of Washington during Preservation Week last month. For more than 30 years the Schauers have been dedicated advocates for urban residential neighborhoods — and Capitol Hill in particular. Others honored at the ceremony included a group of volunteers responsible for restoring the Glen Echo Bumper Car Pavilion and volunteers from Historic Mount Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant Main Street, Shaw Main Street, the Association of Preservation Technology, DC chapter, and the DC Preservation League.

Pat started her career at CHRS by stuffing envelopes for a House Tour, which eventually led to becoming CHRS treasurer. Historic District and historic preservation issues have been a major focus of Pat's efforts over the years. She headed numerous special projects,

testifying and advocating on issues affecting the Capitol Hill Historic District. She was instrumental in initiating the Capitol Hill Historic District Guidelines and served as grants administrator and 'general manager' for the project — keeping the multi-year, multi-publication project on track. For one incredible period Pat served as both CHRS president and as chair of the Historic District Committee. She continues as a special member of the present Historic Preservation Committee and has helped with surveying the call boxes, organizing the Society's administrative handbook and various behind-the-scenes House Tour projects.

Lyle and Pat managed the conversion of the membership rolls from the index-card-in-the-shoebox system to the computer system. During the years that CHRS owned the Yost House at 1004 Pennsylvania Avenue, Lyle was often the one taking care of the problems that beset an old house owned by a volunteer civic association — fixing stopped drains, shoveling sidewalks, etc. By that time he was also treasurer of CHRS — making budgets, working with the

accountant, writing checks, and depositing money (not only for CHRS but for small neighborhood groups who needed a financial 'umbrella' until their missions were accomplished or they became self-sufficient). And for eight years he also served as chair of the Zoning Committee while still taking care of the Society's financial affairs. Being chair of the Zoning Committee means not only presenting the committee's decisions in written and/or oral form, it means going down to the Zoning Office to gather the relevant materials for each case, talking with the applicants and sometimes the neighbors about a case, and testifying on Zoning Commission and Planned Unit Development cases. It's a full-time volunteer position on its own.

As was noted at the presentation ceremony, "Between them, they have helped preserve the character of one of the nation's largest historic districts, meeting by meeting, day by day, year by year. As such, they are exemplars of neighborhood preservationists in for the long haul." ✧

New Master Plan for the Capitol (continued)

repository of available land for expansion. Any expansion of the Capitol grounds would be on a North/South axis and not to the East, and a soft interface with appropriate public space design would recognize the meeting of the Capitol grounds with the local Hill areas. Later, a zoning overlay for inner Capitol Hill was created called the CAP Interest Overlay which restricted a number of uses and lowered height limits for the area delineated by the Capitol

grounds, the Freeway on the south, F Street on the north and 6th Street to the east.

The new master plan gives us an opportunity to build on our relationship with the Congress and hold on to our gains of the past. We will be able to address new and unresolved issues such as the security which threatens to close streets and cut off the Capitol from the community, the handling of tour buses, and how the Visitors Center can operate to the advantage of

both Congress and the Hill Community. Finally, we should seek further recognition of the importance of a vibrant, healthy and attractive community immediately adjacent to the Capitol of the United States.

The June 16th meeting should be a start for the Hill Community to continue its productive relationship with its neighbor — the Congress. See you there! ✧

Mark Your Calendar!

JUNE

15 Tuesday

Deadline for CHRS Grant
Proposals
Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE
202-543-0425

15 Tuesday, 6:30pm

CHRS Board Meeting
Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE

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

Funding the 9/11 Memorial Grove

by Rob Nevitt

Gene Smith's article last month provided the broad outlines of this project and I don't want to repeat them here. Many have asked about supporting this effort. Green Spaces for DC is organizing the funding for the projects in each ward and on Kingman Island. The CHRS board is considering what support CHRS can offer on behalf of the CHRS membership.

Green Spaces for DC has asked us to send their brochure to the membership, but it does include an appeal for funds. We have pledged to members that we will not make you the object of fund raising, however worthy the cause. A single or even occasional mailing might not

be burdensome, but it would be hard to turn down requests and they might well proliferate. In the meantime, here is the address:

Green Spaces for DC
3149 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20010-3302

They will be happy to provide you with information and a schedule of contributions and what different amounts represent, such as a tree or signage. Clearly, this is an initiative that we support. Whether you agree is up to you.

Green Spaces for DC telephone is 202-673-7663 and the Website is www.greenspacesfordc.org. *



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
