



NEWS

www.chrs.org

June 2005

CHRS Supports ANC and Neighbors on ABC Issue

by Barbara Eck

The CHRS Board has voted to support ANC 6B and the neighboring residents in their opposition to the issuance of a new liquor license for a planned 350-seat restaurant at 535 Eighth Street SE. Currently the site of The People's Church, the large building formerly housed a movie theatre. A successful, local restaurateur is considering purchasing the property if he is able to acquire a liquor license.

Residents of the surrounding residential blocks packed a recent

ANC meeting to discuss the negative impact of such a large establishment which proposes to be open seven days a week until 2:00 am weekdays and 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday with live/deejay, music and dancing. Neighbors explained that parking is already a substantial problem in the area and the planned size and scope of this restaurant will not only magnify the parking problems, but is likely to increase the threat to pedestrians from vehicular traffic.

In addition, neighbors reminded the commissioners that cur-

rently the disturbing noises of car doors slamming and friends saying goodbye to each other routinely occurs right underneath their bedroom windows at 2:00-3:00 am in the morning. Adding another 350 people to this late-night neighborhood dynamic will be overwhelming. They also cited the problems created by a former establishment at Pennsylvania Avenue and Ninth Street that began as a nice restaurant with music and dancing, but became a noisy, dangerous blot on the neighborhood. It took gunfire

Continued on page 3

CHRS June Membership Meeting Features Tom Grooms

Author of *The Majesty of Capitol Hill*

Tom Grooms, Capitol Hill resident and noted author of books and monographs on buildings and architecture, will be the featured speaker at the June Membership Meeting of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society.

Mr. Grooms will provide a "behind the scenes" account of the making of his new book *The Majesty of Capitol Hill*. Packed with stunning color photographs by Taylor Lednum, also a Hill resident, *The Majesty of Capitol Hill* is a beautiful coffee table book that offers a rare glimpse into twenty of the Hill's most interesting homes, both inside and out.

Find out which house Charles Lindbergh grew up in, where William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody liked to frequent and the real story about the "Philadelphia Row" houses on Eleventh Street, SE. Copies of Mr. Grooms' book will be available for sale for \$20.00 at the meeting. Copies may also be purchased by filling out and returning the form per the instructions on the CHRS website, www.CHRS.org.

The June Membership meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, Second and C Streets, SE, on Wednesday, June 15, 2005. A reception with light food and drink will begin at 7:00 pm. A short busi-



Tom Grooms

ness meeting will start at 7:30 pm and the program will begin promptly at 7:45 pm. The meeting is free and open to the public. All residents of Capitol

Hill are invited to join CHRS for this exciting evening and the chance to learn more about the history of our great neighborhood.

For more information, please call CHRS at 202-543-0425. ✧

President's Column

by Rob Nevitt

The House Tour was a great success! The details about that are elsewhere, but I have to note what a great celebration it was of Capitol Hill, old and new. The financial success means more money available for grants for community projects.

I'm writing from a condo in Northwest, where we live now, not feeling quite so far from the old neighborhood as we did when we moved. Oh, there are different people walking the sidewalks, either among the embassies in Kalorama or in Dupont Circle and Adams Morgan. I don't have the sense of neighborhood that you realize so quickly on the Hill. I suppose people here would coalesce around a Boys Town type issue, but I notice people aren't careful to pick up after dogs and there are a lot of recyclables in the trash. But, we aren't on Mars.

A real plus here for our dog and me is the access to Rock Creek

Park. This is not the park we drove through on the parkway, but wooded vistas that open up after plunging through a wall of trees. It is hard to believe you are still in the middle of the city, walking along paths, through meadows along streams.

So, we are gone, but not far away.

The June fifteenth members' meeting will announce the results of the election of new officers of CHRS and someone else will be writing in this place. It has been a distinct honor and often pure pleasure serving as President of CHRS. The activities have been rewarding, whether pressing DCRA to take more definitive action on abandoned property, seeing call boxes spring to newly painted life, working with the Architect of the Capitol on accommodating community concerns, serving on task forces and testifying on Reservation 13 and the whole Anacostia development planning. We have worked with developers and celebrated the



Bryan School and Jenkins Row. We have protested the glass cube called Station Place and lamented angrily the Mayor's non-decision on the Old Naval Hospital.

The pages of this issue of the *News* catalogue much of what is currently occupying the board of CHRS. All of these activities, successes and failures, have been gratifying to me for a single, common reason: the people who step up to do what needs to be done. The list is too long to deal in names here. As they say, you know who you are. Your company alone has been a pleasure and to work alongside you an honor. It will never be quite the same for me, although I know that Capitol Hill won't change, even as people come and go.

A final plea from me: get involved and if you are already involved, get others involved. The House Tour provides much of our working capital, but membership dues are important as a revenue source, as well as symbol of support. Seek out new neighbors and old friends and urge them to join CHRS, at least. This is the way continuity is assured and we'll know that Capitol Hill continues in good and caring hands.

Thank you. ✧



House Tour participants were treated to "insider" tours of the Marine Barracks in addition to viewing the Commandant's residence (background). More about the tour on pages 4-5.

Photo: Norm Metzger

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

Celebrating our fiftieth year helping 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. With your participation we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Start or Renew a CHRS Membership

- * On the Web at www.CHRS.org
- * Call 202-543-0425 and choose option 2
- * Get a form at one of our many meetings

Starting at just \$25 per year for a single membership, it's a great deal.

ABC Issue *continued from page 1*



CHRS supports ANC 6B, neighbors and the Barracks Row/Mainstreet board in opposing the issuance of a new liquor license for a planned 350-seat restaurant at 535 Eighth Street, SE. The site is currently the location of the People's Church. Photo: Larry Janezich

and one death to finally close it down.

The Barracks Row/Mainstreet Board of Directors also sent a letter of opposition to the ANC. They cited the size of the establishment and the large number of ABC licenses already issued on this short, commercial strip. This group has worked hard to turn Barracks Row into an attractive shopping and dining strip, and they continue

to seek a wide variety of businesses to better serve our community.

Julie Olson, the ANC commissioner who represents the Eighth Street area, urged her fellow commissioner to protest the license issuance and they voted in support of her motion. The CHRS Board, at a meeting a few days later, endorsed the ANC decision and sent a letter to the ABC Board to this effect. ✧

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, sponsors and patrons.

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Berman
 Jennifer Boulanger & Bruce Schillo
 Patricia M. Christenson
 Alexander Eagle
 Monte Edwards
 Joshua A. Gorham
 John Kelly & Michael Cocolla
 Keith & Belinda Perry
 Brendan & Milan Waters

SPONSORS

Jerry & Arlene Lewis
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Ginkgo Gardens

C. David Massey & Katharine Matthews
 Randell & Linda Norton
 Barbara & Edward Wendel

The 2005 Mother's Day House Tour

by Ann Richards

By any standard, the House Tour was a great success! The weather was astonishing, the crowds were out in force and everyone appeared to be having a good time.

Dick Wolf and Kitty Kaupp spearheaded the house selection committee and were successful in rounding up an eclectic assortment of diverse and interesting architecture and life styles.

Paul Cromwell worked tirelessly to craft write-ups for the tour brochure that were on the one hand historically correct, while also adding information reflecting the personalities of the homeowners.

Aileen Moffatt helped out with publicity and guided us to additional venues to get the word out. Joan Joshi ably rounded up volunteers for the dozen different locations requiring from two to eight people per shift, a thankless job.

Roy Mustelier once again organized the sale of tickets from the Eastern Market kiosk and at the outlets around town in Georgetown and Dupont Circle, and locally at Coldwell Banker/Pardoe, Prudential Carruthers, Trover Books and Appalachian Springs at Union Station.



House tour participants of all ages enjoyed the hospitality of the service people at the Navy Yard. Began in 1792, Quarters "B" or "the Farmhouse" is the oldest building at the Yard. Spared destruction during the 1814 British attack on Washington, the house is the official residence of the Naval Commandant. Photo: Roxanne Walker

What is always so nice to see is that the House Tour takes on a life of its own and everyone pitches in and we thank all who contributed through offering their time, their home, their contributions or their friendship. Please see the box below for the names of Patrons, Sponsors & Contributors whose contributions arrived too late for inclusion in the already lengthy list.

A special word of thanks has to go to the 42 businesses that placed ads in the tour brochure and helped raise an additional \$15,000, including:

Phyllis Jane Young
Coldwell Banker/Pardoe/
Don Denton
National Capital Bank
Riverby Books
Frager's Hardware
Abdo Development
Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream
CHAMPS
Judy Seiden
Jim Pastore, Bull Moose B&B
Hugh Kelly
Tapatini
Splash!
Art Garden Design
Barracks Row
Congressional Title & Escrow
First Savings Mortgage
Marty's
Linda Pettie/Michael Tubbs
Tech Painting
Jackie Von Schlegel
Moto Photo
Capitol Hill Arts Workshop

Additional Contributors to the 2005 Tour

The names of some contributors could not be included in the Tour booklet because their contributions were received after the printer's deadline. The names that were not included are listed below. The Society thanks all its contributors for helping to make the 2005 Tour a success.

PATRONS

Harold & Louise Engle
Peter & Linda Parke Gallagher
Norman & Nancy Metzger
Bill & Kathy Niskanen
Laurence Pearl & Anne Womeldorf

SPONSORS

Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Moesker
M. Gregory Vass

CONTRIBUTORS

Marian Connolly
Cecilia & Bill Monahan
Patricia A. Roberts

Zoning News

by Gary Peterson

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society Zoning Committee met on May 19 to consider two zoning cases involving properties at 321 Seventh Street, NE, and 1515 A Street, SE. The committee voted unanimously to oppose the first case and to support the second case.

The property at 321 Seventh Street, NE, involves the application of James and Leisa Standish for variances to build a garage with living quarters in it. To achieve this they need a variance from the height limitation of fifteen feet and a variance from the use provisions to allow living quarters in an accessory building. The lot is also substandard and they need special exceptions for the nonconforming lot. The property is zoned R-4. This zoning category allows two units, but they must be in one dwelling.

The applicant in requesting a variance must make three showings: 1) Uniqueness of the property,

2) That such uniqueness results in "practical difficulties" or exceptional and undue hardship to the applicants, and 3) That the granting of the variances would not impair the public good or the intent and integrity of the zone plan and regulations. The committee believed that the applicant did not make these showings and voted unanimously to oppose the application.

The property located at 1515 A Street, SE, involves the application of Jason and Sandra Nelson for a special exception to the lot occupancy and open court requirements in a R-4 zone. The applicant proposes an addition to the rear of the structure and needs a special exception because the lot occupancy will go from 58 percent to 65 percent (a special exception is needed to increase lot occupancy over 60 percent but less than 70 percent). There is an existing non-conforming court or dogleg that requires a special exception as well.

The applicant presented let-

ters of support from the neighbors on both sides of the property. The committee believes that the impact on light and air is minimal in this case and that the privacy of use and enjoyment of neighboring properties is not unduly compromised. Also, the addition, viewed from the street does not substantially visually intrude upon the character, scale and pattern of houses along the street frontage. The applicants have designed the rear addition to meet Historic District standards even though the property is located outside the Historic District. For these reasons, the committee voted unanimously to support the application.

There are no more cases to be considered until the fall. The zoning committee will not meet in June and July. If there are any cases scheduled for September, the committee will meet on August 11 to consider them. Otherwise, the first meeting of the committee will be September 8, 2005. ✧

Mother's Day House Tour

Continued from page 4

Capitol Hill Day School
Chuck Burger
Kitty & Tati Kaupp
Ginkgo Gardens
JPI Development
John Janke, Randall Hagner
Results the Gym
Wentworth Group
Eastern Market Title
Maison Orleans
Tunnickliff's Tavern
Doolittle Guest House
Antiques & Contemporary Leasing
Capitol Hill Kitchen Design
Dawn Price Baby
Frame of Mine
Newman Gallery
Ornamental Garden
Plaid

Thank you!

Tour Success Pays Dividends! Apply Now for Community Service Grants

by Larry Pearl

As you will read elsewhere, this year's House and Garden Tour was a resounding success in many ways. One of those ways was in terms of net returns, 20 percent of which the CHRS has, in recent years, made available to community groups in the form of grants. We have helped support sculptures in gardens, trees in tree boxes, pocket parks and the like.

We don't have the absolute bottom line yet, but there is money for similar projects.

Applications for grants (an original and 6 copies) should reach the CHRS Office at P.O. Box 15624,

Washington, DC 20003-0264 or at 420 Tenth Street, SE, by Labor Day, Monday, September 5. The applications should clearly explain your project in detail, with specific reference to how the project will benefit the Capitol Hill Community. Criteria for review of the applications may be found on the CHRS website at www.chrs.org/docs/grants.htm.

The Grants Committee, chaired by Larry Pearl, will review all applications and make its recommendations to the full board for review at the board meeting on Tuesday, September 20. Results will be announced soon thereafter and published in the next *News*. ✧

Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

Admiral Charles Waite spent some time in January 2003 talking with long-time Hill residents Joe and Connie Citro about growing up in Washington in the 1920's and 1930's. His father was in the U.S. Public Health Service so the family moved around quite a bit but Admiral Waite attended Bryan School for a few years and remembered the many times he spent with his maternal grandparents on Capitol Hill. Admiral Waite died two months after this interview was recorded for the Ruth Ann Overbeck Oral History Project.

"Lincoln Park was a delightful place all-year-round but mostly in the summer because there were all these little foreign vendors selling snowballs and popcorn, little kerosene wagons which they pushed in—faithfully—every evening. The neighborhood was lighted by gas lamps, and there was a little man who came around with a ladder and a hook and lighted each lamp every evening and put 'em out in the morning. There were horse troughs on almost every corner because there were still quite a few horse and wagons around.

"...Then two blocks past Lincoln Park was a car barn where the streetcars left. And that was exciting too, because they came right down East Capitol Street, approached Lincoln Park, and then took off down Massachusetts Avenue. In the summer time, they ran these summer cars, which were open on the sides, and that was always a thrill to ride.



One of the two fountains located at the north and south entrances to Lincoln Park, SE, from 1875 through the early 1970s. Photo: MLK Library, Washingtonia Division

"...I don't know whether it's still there, but the old Naval Hospital was there and when I was little there were veterans from the Civil War occupying it and an occasional veteran from the Spanish-American War. Of course, as the years went by, the mixture changed—you had less Civil War veterans, more Spanish-American War veterans, and that was right next to, very close to, our favorite theater, which was called the Avenue Grand, which was on the same side of the street and just a short distance away. The Avenue Grand. My mother had two sisters; one of them (who's now dead) played the piano there for the silent movies, a talent she picked up from her mother who, you see, played the organ.



Eastern Market, Seventh Street, SE in the 1940s. Photo: Library of Congress

"...The Eastern Market ... was a bustling place, where the farmers came in across the what's now known as the John Philip Sousa Bridge from Anacostia with their produce every weekend—all sorts of fresh vegetables, meats, and poultry and one thing or another. Sawdust on the floors. It was a giant supermarket that was run by individual people. Then, of course, the Navy Yard was open and running with the comings and goings of sailors when this was on Seventh Street, Southeast, and the Marine Barracks, where we occasionally got to hear a concert from Sousa who also played on the East Capitol steps in the summertime...." ✧

Increase Your Involvement. Strengthen Your Participation in the Community.

Volunteer to help edit the CHRS News. Editors are seeking volunteers with writing, proofreading, and organizational skills to help edit the CHRS News. Contact Larry Janezich at 202-544-7756.

May Preservation Café Features Advice for Those Considering a Kitchen Change

by Nancy Metzger

Redesigning kitchens is a hot topic on Capitol Hill, judging by the full house that showed up for the May Preservation Café featuring Michelle Wu and Tom Nadzam of Capitol Hill Kitchen Design. Those who attended learned a lot, not only about how to plan for a dream kitchen but also about contracting for other projects. And everyone got into the act, with the residents who have survived a kitchen remodeling adding their pointers to those of the experts. Here is just some of what you missed.

- **Don't rush into a project.** Take time to assemble your list of likes

and don't-likes, must-haves and that-would-be-nice. Photos and magazine clippings help others grasp what you're thinking about. How you and your family will use the space is very important to the process.

- **Check to see if your contractor is properly licensed, bonded, insured** and has an address where she/he can be reached. There is a DC government website to confirm the information you've been given.
- **Don't forget to get your permits (even if the contractor says they're not necessary).** If something goes wrong, you'll be able to face your insurance company and/or if

you're locked in a battle with the contractor on the proper way to do something the building inspector can decide the issue. (CHRS has a Guideline on Permits that gives the how's, why's, and where's of getting a permit.)

- **In the contract, be concise and definitely specify starting and ending dates.**
- **Consider what you're going to do when there are unseen problems and delays.** Be realistic about time demands.
- **Start with a huge wish list and see what that translates to in terms of dollars.** Then put the available money where it really counts. You can come back later and add or replace some things.
- **Ask others what went wrong** with their projects so you can avoid common problems.
- **Look at paint, floor, and tile samples** in the light of your own home.
- **Pay by credit card rather than check.** If a supplier goes bankrupt before delivering your supplies or appliances, you won't have lost the money.
- **Remember that a contractor is only as good as her/his subcontractors,** so check all references. Ask the reference if the project is completed yet—there may be major differences in response between the start of a project and the end.

Mayor Announces Plan to Reduce Sousa Bridge, Neighborhood Traffic

by Thomas Grahame

Mayor Anthony Williams announced on Tuesday, May 17 a plan to reduce traffic jams on the Sousa Bridge and divert commuters from residential streets on both sides of the Anacostia, in particular Pennsylvania Avenue. Traffic on Seventeenth and Nineteenth Streets, SE would also be reduced.

The plan, which has received preliminary approval from the DC Council and was reported in the Washington Post on May 17, will spend \$250 million over the next five years to enable southbound commuters on I-295 to connect seamlessly with I-395 westbound, and eastbound commuters on I-395 to connect to I-295 northbound. With these improvements, many commuters would no longer need to use Pennsylvania Avenue and the Sousa Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles daily and is the scene of long back-ups during rush hours.

This positive announcement is in part the result of both verbal and written support for this project by CHRS and several other community groups.

In a January 27, 2005, letter to Rep. Don Young, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, CHRS and four other neighborhood groups on the Hill noted the "high volume of commuter traffic on our residential streets and local bridges" and stated that the "root cause of these problems is the lack of a direct connection between two interstates—I-295 and I-395. Each day, the thousands of drivers who need to get from one interstate to the other must travel on our neighborhood streets and local bridges."

The letter urged that the connection between I-295 and I-395 be given the highest funding priority. Federal funding will be crucial to an early completion of this project. ✧

This was the last Preservation Café until September. Fall topics and dates will be announced in the CHRS *News* and Hill newspapers. During the summer, be sure to stop by Trattoria Alberto for an Italian dinner—and thank them for donating their upper floor for the Preservation Cafés. ✧

Historic Preservation Updates

by Nancy Metzger

JPI Project. The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) unanimously approved the conceptual design plans for both the apartment house at 1214–1232 Pennsylvania Avenue and the restoration and addition to the Shotgun House at 1229 E Street, SE at the April 28 hearing. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society strongly supported both proposals and has worked with the architect, developer and historic preservation staff to design a project that is compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

JPI, the contract purchaser of the two sites, still has a BZA hearing on June 14. They are asking for some special exceptions at the Shotgun House property because the property is non-conforming as to side yard, court, and similar conditions. On Pennsylvania Avenue they are requesting a variance from the residential recreation space and lot occupancy requirements.

The conceptual plan approved by the HPRB features one 48-unit apartment house on Pennsylvania Avenue. The façade has been divided into five differently styled units that wrap around the historic brick house that remains. JPI and architect Murphy Antoine of Torti Gallas and Partners lowered the height of the end units so that the building



A 5-story apartment building will replace the Shell station at 1022 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Photo: Larry Janezich

steps up from three and one-half stories at the ends to four and one-half stories. The four and one-half story “units” have different roof styles so they appear to be of different heights, as is common in the Capitol Hill Historic District. Based on HPRB and community comments, other stylistic modifications were also made from the proposal submitted in February.

At 1229 E Street SE, the Shotgun House will be restored to a one-bedroom house, complete with front porch based on a 1928 design for the porch. In the rear of the house a new (but attached) building will be constructed that is two stories plus attic.

Assuming that the zoning relief is granted and the purchase is com-

pleted, the next step for the architects would be to continue to refine the designs, select materials, etc. The historic preservation staff will have review of those refinements.

Medlink Square. The conceptual design for this large apartment project covering most of the square at Constitution and Massachusetts Avenues and Seventh, Eighth and C Streets, NE was withdrawn from the May Historic Preservation Review Board hearing agenda. A modified design is expected to be on the June HPRB agenda.

1022 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. The Historic Preservation Review Board, at its May hearing, unanimously approved the conceptual plan for a 5-story apartment building at the Shell Station site. There will be some further design modifications, particularly to the rear façade, as the project moves through the permit review process. No zoning variances are required for this project. ✧



The HPRB has approved plans for the restoration of the shotgun house at 1229 E Street, SE.

Photo: Larry Janezich

PLEASE NOTE

The correct phone number for Emily Paulus, the city’s historic preservation planner for Capitol Hill, is 202-741-5248. Any messages left at the old number cannot be retrieved.

Office of Zoning Receives Funding for Code Modernization and Its Own Counsel

by Richard Wolf

The Office of Zoning has received funding for two important actions, which will greatly improve the zoning process in the District of Columbia. The Mayor's budget submission contained requests for funds to start the overhaul of DC's 1958 zoning code and to hire legal counsel for the Office of Zoning. Both requests were accepted by the Committee of the Whole, which is chaired by Linda Cropp. In order to understand the significance of these actions, the history of the Office of Zoning is important.

Under Home Rule, the Zoning Commission was established as an independent agency, composed of both local and Federal appointees. Its administrative support system, however, came out of the Office of Mayor through the Office of Planning. Thus, the Zoning Commission (and the Board of Zoning Adjustment) were both dependent for support and advice on the Mayor. This situation meant that zoning processes and decisions of these bodies could be subjected to undue influence from the Mayor and his representatives, who took sides in the cases being heard. The situation reeked of conflict of interest. As a result of the efforts of various citizen groups, including CHRS, an independent Office of Zoning was established in 1991 to furnish the Zoning Commission and the BZA with its own staff. The Commission selected the staff director. Problems, however, persisted.

Problems regarding an antiquated code and various process questions prompted Jerrily Kress, the director of the Office of Zoning, to convene an informal group (called the Zoning Advisory Committee, or ZAC) to advise her on continuing problems in the zoning process. Anyone could be part of this group

and any public official could join in; there were no formal appointments and no limitation as to who could come to the meetings. Citizens, planners, architects, zoning attorneys, and developers joined in. This group has persisted in having monthly meetings called by Ms. Kress and her office has staffed the meetings for the last two years. Discussions have been informed, civil, and robust. Various members of CHRS have attended.

Early in the deliberations of the ZAC, it became evident that there were such a large number of code issues to be dealt with that an informal committee could not do the job. Among many other issues, the range of problems included a confusing regulatory architecture, ambiguous zoning decisions, antiquated policies, a patchwork of overlays, little recognition in the code of important court decisions, and the lack of an appropriate and accessible index—literally hundreds of issues. These problems have interfered with systematic decision-making by the Zoning Administrator, resulting in needless appeals to the Board of Zoning Adjustment, confused decision-making by both the BZA and the ZC, and a lack of accessibility by the general public. Many of these problems stem from a zoning code that has not been systematically overhauled for over 47 years!

It became evident to a number of us familiar with conflict of interest problems that the dual representation by the Attorney General represented an objectionable situation that cast doubt on the integrity of zoning decisions and was inappropriate to the statutory independence of both the Zoning Commission and the Office of Zoning.

A number of us, using our ZAC experience as background, testified over the last several years before the oversight and budget committee

of the OZ and Zoning Commission that funds should be appropriated for an overhaul of the code and for hiring independent counsel. Both of these items were included in the OZ budget request. This year both requests were honored. In the fiscal year 2006, \$50,000 will be spent for a preliminary study by a consultant to establish a baseline of work for a full-blown overhaul of the zoning code. Approximately \$100,000 will be spent for the hire of an independent counsel for the OZ. Duties for the latter are yet to be defined, since the Attorney General will continue to provide some services.

This is a victory for good government and a substantive improvement in zoning. Thanks are due to the Mayor, Jerrily Kress, and Chairman Cropp. ✧

Traffic Pattern Change on Second Street, NE/SE

From June 1 through the end of the month, Second Street NE/SE between Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue will be temporarily restricted to one lane.

The single lane will accommodate southbound traffic only, while northbound traffic will be detoured to Third Street NE/SE, which is already a northbound-only street.

The lane restriction is necessary to allow Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) construction crews to perform utility work at the intersection of East Capitol Street and Second Street. Two-way traffic along Second Street NE/SE is expected to return to normal at the end of June.

The CVC apologizes for the temporary inconvenience this work may cause. Please direct any questions to the project coordinator, Darrell Brown, at 202-224-8138, or to the CVC communications officer, Tom Fontana, at 202-228-1310. ✧

Mark Your Calendar!

JUNE

7 Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Lecture: Shaping the Mall: The Early Years, 1790-1910. Historical Society of Washington, D.C. See www.citymuseumdc.org/calendar/ for more information.

15 Wednesday, 7:00 pm

CHRS Membership Meeting
Featuring Tom Grooms, author of *The Majesty of Capitol Hill*.

Refreshments at 7:00 pm
Program at 7:45 pm
St. Peter's Church
Second and C Streets, SE

21 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

23 Thursday, 10:00 am

The DC Historic Preservation Review Board monthly meeting and public hearing. The meeting will be held at 441 4th Street, NW (#1 Judiciary Square), Suite 220 South. See planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp for the agenda.

28 Tuesday, 8:30 am

Seminar: Green Building Guidelines. In this intensive seminar co-sponsored with the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC), home builders, architects, and remodelers will learn about sustainable home building design. Topics include increased energy efficiency, and environmentally sound building materials and construction waste management practices. Prepaid registration required. Contact Jaime Van Mourik at 202-272-2448 x3555

JULY

12 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

DC Comprehensive Plan Citizens Task Force Meeting, 777 North Capitol Street NE, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm

Email Forum Focuses on History and Preservation of Washington, DC

You are invited to join a new email forum called "Historic Washington," designed for people interested in or involved with the history and preservation of Washington, DC and its extraordinary neighborhoods. The purpose of this listserv is to provide a forum for exchanging views, ideas and information with those who share a common interest in protecting and preserving the cultural resources of our great city. In its first two weeks of existence, over 100 people have joined Historic Washington.

In addition to city and neighborhood history, architecture, and historic resource surveying, discussion is encouraged in the areas of creating, maintaining and expanding historic districts; city and preservation planning; existing and proposed city and federal preservation laws and their enforcement. Other issues of concern include zoning, condemnation, demolition, tax credits, easements; building restoration, etc. Those searching for a specific preservation resource are encouraged to post, as well as those seeking advice or action from members to intervene in a preservation battle or crisis.

Announcements for local and national conferences, tours, classes and other events that support this focus are welcome. Those working in other jurisdictions are invited to join and share information and ideas. Those seeking or offering recommendations or warnings about businesses doing renovation or restoration work in the Washington area are encouraged to post. Announcements of job and grant opportunities, awards, requests for proposals or calls for papers in the fields of preservation and Washington and neighborhood history are welcome. This listserv is independent of any organization.

You can join the list by sending an email with your name, address and professional or volunteer affiliation to: *HistoricWashington-owner@yahoo.com*. An invitation will be sent to your email address. After responding to it, you will become a member and be able to post and have access to the listserv's website and archive of messages.

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