



NEWS

www.chrs.org

September 2005

District Moves Against Owners of Hill's Vacant Properties

CHRS Effort to Revise Tax Status of Eleven Properties Succeeds

by Gary Peterson

After three years of effort, CHRS has gotten the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) to enforce the Class 3 tax rate for vacant properties. The change of 11 properties on Capitol Hill from Class 1 to Class 3 has resulted in an additional \$150,000 in additional real property taxes. It has taken this long to reclassify the properties to Class 3 because the process to change a property to Class 3 is extremely burdensome and requires the coordination of efforts between two agencies.

The reclassification from Class 1 (occupied) to Class 3 (vacant) requires that the Department of



Taxes have increased five-fold on these vacant properties in the 200 block of 11th Street, SE.

Photo: Gary Peterson

Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) first inspect the property and determine that the property reported vacant is indeed vacant. The owner of the property may object to the classification of vacant and the objection must be resolved.

DCRA then certifies to OTR that the property is vacant and OTR sends notice of change to Class 3 to the owner. The owner then has an opportunity to object. After the objection is resolved or if no objection is made, the property is changed to Class 3 and the taxes increase from 96 cents per hundred dollars of valuation to five dollars per hundred.

Surprisingly, several owners of vacant properties have claimed they are occupied. CHRS has addressed this issue by providing DCRA and OTR with photographic evidence and affidavits from neighbors proving the property is vacant. The process to reclassify is further prolonged because property owners are

CHRS Saves Historic Homes from Wrecking Ball

by Gary Peterson and Nancy Metzger

In a letter dated July 20, 2005, from the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to Capitol Hill Restoration Society, DHCD withdrew 15 properties slated to be acquired and demolished for the Arthur Capper/Carrollburg Hope VI Redevelopment. Four improved prop-

erties and one vacant lot remain in the proposed project and will be acquired and demolished by the city.

The proposed development is intended to replace the Arthur Capper complex, a severely deteriorated public housing project located south of the Freeway between 3rd and 7th streets. The new mixed-

Homes Saved continued on page 5

Vacant Properties continued on page 3

President's Column

by Dick Wolf

This will be a decisive year for DC's neighborhoods, particularly Capitol Hill. Political life in the city will be dominated by local planning, primarily because of the three-year effort by the Office of Planning to completely revise the local elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Local planning, which includes land use planning, was one of the most intensely debated portions of the Home Rule Act. The critical argument was over how much local control would be exercised by the new government versus what would be retained by the Federal Government. But with local control came a requirement to create a local version of what is called the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capitol to determine zoning regulations and priorities in annual capital budgeting.

Few of those fine intentions have ever been realized, despite the

best efforts of such groups as CHRS. Although we have a very detailed, often redundant plan, including ward plans and maps adopted into law, the plan itself has not been implemented. There is no mechanism to make it happen except through the political process. As Councilmember Jack Evans (Democrat, Ward 2) once stated at Council hearings, the only kind of planning he thought made sense was planning Chicago style where a developer sat down with the Mayor and cut a deal.

Andy Altman, as the director of the Office of Planning, has consistently stated that as a planner he did not want to plan without having a discrete notion of follow-on development eventuating from planning. (Of course, Mr. Altman initiated a new comprehensive plan process with the promise that we are planning for the next twenty years!)

Because of the confluence of so many planning and development

The mid-October members meeting will feature a CHRS Program on the Plans and Activities of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation.

Date and place will be announced in the October News.

activities that affect Capitol Hill, perhaps more than any other part of the city, CHRS will have our own programs—or participate in those of other organizations—that deal primarily with local planning issues.

In mid-October, CHRS will present a program devoted to the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation's plans and activities stretching from the South Capitol Street project to Reservation 13. These developments will be accelerated by the recent "transfer of lands" bill that will give DC jurisdiction, and—sometimes—outright ownership, of numerous Federal properties encompassed by the Anacostia Watershed Initiative plan area, plus some parcels on the Hill, including the Old Naval Hospital and the parcels making up the Eastern Market Metro Plaza.

Further underscoring the year of the "plan" is a program sponsored by the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, the oldest private civic planning organization in Washington, to discuss the possibility of a local planning commission for the District of Columbia. Its primary mission would be the implementation of the comprehensive plan. DC is one of the few cities in the country without a planning commission. Several years ago CHRS put on a forum concerning this same issue.

Later in the year, as the draft comprehensive plan nears completion, CHRS will have another program which will not only demonstrate how citizens can participate in planning their own communities, but also indicate how the plan will be implemented. ✧

CHRS, Capitol Hill Facing Major Issues

A Call for Volunteers

- Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and Reservation 13
- Comprehensive Plan for the District
- Expansion of the Capitol Hill Historic District
- The Anacostia River clean up and sports opportunities on the river
- Transportation planning that affects the Hill
- US Capitol Master Plan
- South Capitol Street Project
- Development of H Street, NE

Members interested in any of the issues that affect their neighborhoods can contribute to the Society and the community by volunteering to work on one of the Society's committees. Call or email the office 202-543-0425, capHRS@aol.com for further information.

CHRS Committees:

- Budget
- City Planning
- Community Development
- Communications
- Endowment
- Environment
- House and Garden Tour
- Historic Preservation
- Membership
- Transportation
- Zoning ✧

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President Dick Wolf
1st Vice President Barbara Eck
2nd Vice President Gary Peterson
Treasurer Mike Canning
Secretary Beth Purcell
Past President Rob Nevitt
At Large Tom Grahame
At Large Joan Joshi
At Large Elizabeth Nelson
At Large Diane Scott

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Vacant, Budget
Dick Wolf, *City Planning*
Barbara Eck, *Community Development*
Vacant, Communications
Gene Smith, *Environment*
John Shages, *Endowment*
Nancy Metzger, *Historic Preservation*
Ann Richards, *House and Garden Tour*
Vacant, Membership
Tom Grahame, *Transportation*
Gary Peterson, *Zoning*

NEWS:

Larry Janezich, David Holmes, Jane Ruyle, Editors
Roxanne Walker, design and layout

WEBSITE:

Martha Huizenga, DC Access, Webmaster

OFFICE MANAGER:

Jeff Fletcher

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

Vacant Properties *continued from page 1*

given two opportunities to object to the classification of vacant, once to DCRA and a second time to OTR.

You can help deal with vacant properties by following the link in the box to the right. If there is a property you believe to be vacant that is not listed as Class 3 on this web site, please send an email to pgarylaw@aol.com. Be sure to include the address and any information about the property such as how long it has been vacant.

CHRS hopes the Class 3 tax will encourage owners of vacant proper-

How to Check the Vacant Property List

To see if a property is assessed as Class 3 go to

https://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com/RP_Search.jsp?search_type=Assessment

and type in the property address.

ties to improve them. Vacant properties cause too many problems for their neighbors. *

Architect Adolf Cluss's Work Celebrated in September Lectures

Eastern Market South Hall and Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building Among Architect's Projects

On September 13, at 8:00 pm in the Naval Lodge Hall (330 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE), the Overbeck Lecture series begins again with a presentation by history scholar and author Joseph Browne on German-American architect Adolf Cluss, the visionary Navy Yard engineer who designed the Eastern Market's South Hall and many other notable DC buildings, including the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries building, Ninth Street Masonic Temple, Sumner School, and Calvary Baptist Church. Admission is free but a reservation is required. Details: 202-544-1895 or email to OverbeckLecture@aol.com.

On September 27, the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians will present an exhibition, reception, and lecture, "Adolf Cluss: From Germany to America—Shaping a Capital City Worthy of a Republic," at the Sumner School Museum (1201

17th Street, NW) by Cynthia Field, Chairperson of the Smithsonian Institution's Architectural History and Historic Preservation division. The reception, featuring German cuisine, begins at 6:00 pm; the lecture is at 7:00 pm. Registration fees are \$8 for Latrobe Chapter members and \$12 for others. Reservations are required. Details: 202-442-6060 or www.latrobechaptersah.org/upcomingevents.htm.

Cluss's buildings, often constructed in red brick, are known for their unpretentious dignity, craftsmanship and careful detailing. Despite the great success of Cluss in Washington, Baltimore and Alexandria during the late nineteenth century, much of his achievement has been overlooked and eclipsed by other styles.

This lecture closely examines and assesses the historical significance of Cluss's contribution to American architecture with particular focus on his influence upon the urban fabric of the American capital city, Washington, DC. *

Profile: Will Fleishell—Capitol Hill Call Box Artist

by Larry Janezich and Nancy Metzger

Will Fleishell was instrumental in the genesis of the District's Arts On Call call box project. The artist had been thinking about ways to preserve these historical artifacts since the mid-1990's. His neighbor, Nancy Metzger, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, recalls "he approached me one day in the alley with an idea of putting people's faces (historic) in the call boxes and the Historic Preservation Committee thought that sounded interesting—history plus saving the Victorian street furniture. I made an initial contact with the Fire Chief and DOT in 1999 to see what could be done—and then Kathy Smith (now retired from Cultural Tourism and a Hill resident once more)..."

Fleishell, 44, is a Capitol Hill resident and a professional artist working in paint, sculpture, and printmaking. He was trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and received a degree in fine arts from George

Washington University.

The artist has several bronze call box designs approved and a couple more in the works. These include a face portrait of Benjamin LaTrobe, a view of the old Wallach School (torn down and replaced by Hines School), a commemoration of the old Anacostia Fire House (torn down to make way for the freeway), and a memorial for the police department which will be in the call box on Seward Square.

His father, Bill "Big Daddy" Fleishell, also an artist (see bio elsewhere in the News), designed the Capitol Hill call box at Second and D Streets, SE. Will remains very enthusiastic about the project and helpful to other artists.

Will says, "My own bronze designs are very historical in content, but artistic in the interpretation—and I didn't parrot the old photographs or try to copy them but to make something new and fresh. I think that we should emphasize more of this kind of 'pure art' and free flow of creativ-

ity in our call boxes, and stop pushing the 'textual' and 'historic marker' approach – we already have a bunch of those, like the signage on the Historic Trail—and allow a little more freedom for the artistic interpretation of possible topics. I'm not saying 'no' to info or such, but too much writing and too little art makes for a boring show. Author Tom Wolfe even wrote a book called the *Painted Word* in which he predicted that in the Twenty-first century art would be an art critic's writing in a frame, and the 'art' would be a little caption below this monster. We don't want to fulfill this nightmare—and I know that my dad agrees with this approach. Why not have a little fun?

So much of 'official' Washington with its monuments is pedantic and dry. The art in dad's ('Party Animals') call box is almost a cross between the allegory and cartoon traditions, and it is unique in that it is NOT historic, biographical, or event-oriented."

Party Animals—Artwork by Bill "Big Daddy" Fleishell

The following biographical note is excerpted from a longer article written by Will Fleishell, which was distributed in conjunction with the unveiling of the call box at Second and D Streets, SE. The bronze artwork is entitled, "Party Animals" and was featured in a photo layout in the July/August issue of the News. Will notes that others who helped in the installation of "Party Animals" include Bradley Comar and Paul Jancuski who helped with the welding, Steven Heck and Jessica Sacco documented the installation and provided logistical support, and Steven Pincus prepared the site.

This is a project being done for the "Art on Call" project, a citywide effort to reutilize the old police and fire emergency call boxes. The emphasis is to turn these beautiful but deteriorating old examples of street furniture into showcases for artworks or

sculptures that celebrate DC's history, neighborhoods, and people, rather than just national themes that seem to dominate "official Washington's" monumental art-cape.

Bill Fleishell is a professional artist, illustrator, and master of calligraphy who lives on Capitol Hill. He was born and lived in what was once 100 C Street, SE, just one block north of this call box. His boyhood home was demolished to make room for the Madison Building of the Library of Congress. This three-story structure was a prototypical old Washington boarding house, which many members of Congress called their home away from home.

As a boy, Bill would do chores around the house, and one congressman lent him books on cowboys and Indians, sparking his imagination. The Inaugural parades and other celebra-



Detail of "Party Animals" Photo: Steven Heck

tions would often gather up in front of their long-gone house, to form their lines, and call to order; Bill was often

Party Animals continued on page 8

Historic Homes Saved by CHRS *continued from page 1*

income, mixed-use development will be composed of approximately 1,650 residential units and 732,000 square feet of commercial space.

The original project plan for Arthur Capper did not include the 20 properties in question. The DC Government conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the original plan. Thereafter, without advising the community, the plan was changed to include the 20 properties. No new EA was made.

On March 21, 2003, the DC Government filed a planned unit development application (PUD) for the Arthur Capper project. As part of the project the District proposed to acquire 20 privately owned properties (19 with improvements) in the 300 blocks of K and L Streets, SE. Soon thereafter, the District filed a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI), as part of the environmental review of the project.

Regrettably, as part of the FONSI, the State Historic Preservation Officer, Lisa Burcham, approved the demolition of the 19 historic structures—homes that were built around 1914—stating that Arthur Capper will have no adverse effect on historic resources.

Working with resident David Meadows, Gary Peterson, chair of the CHRS Zoning Committee, objected to the demolition of the homes at a July 24, 2003, hearing of the Zoning Commission on the PUD. In September 2003, Mr. Peterson, acting for CHRS, sent a letter the DHCD objecting to the FONSI. In the letter, he argued that the project evaluated by the EA had changed since the EA was completed and thus the FONSI was based upon an incorrect identification of the impact of the project. The letter also objected to the acquisition and demolition of the properties by the city.

Finally, some two years later, after having redone the EA, DHCD has agreed to exclude 15 of the buildings from acquisition and



These five houses in the 300 block of K Street, SE, were built around 1914. They are among the 15 historic structures saved by CHRS from demolition. Many of the modest homes originally housed Navy Yard employees and other workers. Photo: Gary Peterson

demolition. What remains after the project is built will be a reminder of what the Arthur Capper area once looked like before the disastrous 1940's public housing policy wiped out most of the houses that had been built for Navy Yard and other workers. These houses will be a reminder of the hundreds of residents who once lived in these modest homes and forged a neighborhood.

The 1915 City Directory lists the following occupations for residents in the square: vulcanizer, Navy Yard machinist, auto representative, musician, laborer, furniture maker, porter, plasterer, helper, police, Library of Congress assistant, Pennsylvania Rail Road engineer, Navy Yard coppersmith, Navy Yard custodian, and inventor. (See *Looking Back on Capitol Hill* on page 7 of this issue.) ✧

New Members Join CHRS Leadership Team

At their August 9 meeting, the CHRS Board took four actions to fill key board and committee vacancies for the 2005–06 membership year, which begins October 1.

Barbara Eck, Chair of the community development committee and First Vice President in mid–2003 to mid–2005 period, will serve again as CHRS First Vice President, replacing Charles McMillion, who recently resigned from the board.

Ann Richards, Chair of 2005

CHRS house and garden tour, will serve on the board for 2005–06. Ann also will chair the house tour in 2006. Diane Scott will continue to serve for another year on the board as an at-large member, filling the remainder of the term of Mike Canning, who previously was elected CHRS Treasurer.

CHRS President Dick Wolf appointed member John Shages as chair of the CHRS Endowment Committee. ✧

Inclusionary Zoning: Panacea or Quackery?

by Gary Peterson

During the last week of July and the first week of August, the Zoning Commission (ZC) held hearings on two text amendments to zoning regulations to require affordable housing in any development of ten or more units. One text amendment had been filed by the Campaign for Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning (CMIZ), a coalition of affordable housing advocates and affordable housing developers. The Office of Planning (OP) in response to the CMIZ amendment proposed the other text amendment. The two proposals are very similar, differing in ways that are not significant for this report.

The text amendments advocate Inclusionary Zoning (IZ). Basically, IZ requires new and rehabilitated

done a very good job of supporting affordable house projects. In the past six years, using more than a dozen existing affordable housing programs and without IZ, the District has provided or put into development 17,647 affordable units (approximately 2,600 units per year in 6.5 years). Montgomery County, Maryland, which is held up as the example of IZ for all other jurisdictions to follow and which has had mandatory IZ since 1979, has seen only 11,000 units developed (approximately 400 per year). Amazingly, OP estimates that if IZ had been in force in DC for the past five years it would have yielded only 758 units or 150 units per year.

The proponents of IZ do not acknowledge that the Zoning Code already has a requirement for affordable housing. Anyone proposing a planned unit development (PUD) is

Implementation of any IZ proposal will require changes in the Zoning regulations, new District legislation to manage the new units, and new regulations by other DC offices managing the new units. The changes in regulations and laws will require more costs for lawyers and planners and will need more DC employees to manage the program. The proposed program is so cumbersome that it should be called "The Lawyers Full Employment Act of 2005."

Finally, there is great concern that IZ will destroy our R-4 zoned row house neighborhoods. The OP proposal calls for a reduction of the minimum lot size in R-4 from 1,800 square feet to 1,500 square feet and lot width from 18 feet to 15 feet. A corresponding change in lot occupancy will also be needed but has not been proposed by OP. These changes will encourage developers to buy row houses and demolish them in order to take advantage of the 20 percent density bonus IZ would allow to offset the additional cost of providing affordable housing. This could radically change the row house neighborhoods around Metro stops such as Potomac Avenue.

In summary, IZ is being falsely sold as the solution to the need for affordable housing. If adopted, it will be very costly to implement and will produce very few new affordable units. IZ will destroy our R-4 row house neighborhoods and the ambience of our city.

The current affordable housing program works well and should be given much more support to meet the demand. CHRS notes that these IZ proposals were developed with the input of developers and housing advocates—groups that will benefit from IZ. Neighborhood groups and ANC's have not been included in the development of this proposal.

CHRS strongly believes that consultations with neighborhood groups are essential. ✽

The District has done a very good job of supporting affordable house projects. In the past six years, using more than a dozen existing affordable housing programs and without Inclusionary Zoning, the District has provided or put into development 17,647 affordable units.

residential developments to include housing units affordable by low and moderate-income residents.

Gary Peterson, CHRS Second Vice-president and Chair of the CHRS Zoning Committee, testified in opposition to the amendments at the hearings. He stated that CHRS supports both affordable housing and diversity in housing but said that the two proposals were ineffective in addressing the demand for affordable housing and too cumbersome and costly to implement. In addition, either one could have serious consequences for our R-4 zoned row house neighborhoods by increasing population density.

The OP's preliminary report makes clear that the District has

already required by the zoning regulations to provide affordable housing as part of the PUD development. This requirement annually provides a small number of affordable housing units.

Admittedly, even though the District provides many more affordable housing units per year than any other jurisdiction, the 2,600 new units per year still falls short of the 8,000 units per year demand. However, the meager number of new units that would be provided by IZ is a Band-Aid on an open chest wound. It will not solve the problem of demand. Only greater efforts by and more resources than provided by the existing programs will address the need of affordable housing.

Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a story about a cluster of homes, including those at Third and L Streets, SE being saved from demolition. In 2001, Beth Hannold and Nancy Metzger interviewed Forbes Brown about his childhood in this neighborhood—and he mentioned one of his playmates, the son of the furniture maker mentioned at the end of the article on Saving Historic Properties (see pages 1 and 5).

Mr. Brown, who was born in 1912 and died a few years ago, went on to become a manager of the Safeway across from Eastern Market and a beloved member of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. (He always kept candy in his pockets for the children, though, as a child, he saved his pennies from selling newspapers at the Navy Yard gates and put them in

the bank). The following is part of his recollection of the neighborhood:

"I played everything. I was not a star or anything, but I could play everything and swim too.

(Where did you swim?)

"Down in the river... We'd just walk across M Street, go on down past the last houses. That was Smoot's Sand and Gravel—that was where we would swim. We did some fishing, just catch those little old fish, throw them back.

(At that time, were there still farms?)

"Buzzard's Point down in southwest. My father had a garden there. In those days I don't know who owned the land. There were mostly black people living there. My father most likely made himself known to them and asked if he could have a little garden there. That's the way things were done... We grew up in an integrated

neighborhood. Schools were not integrated but the neighborhood was.

(So did you all play together?)

*"Sure, we all knew each other. There was a black man across the street from us who had a used furniture store; his name was Mr. Wright. He had a son—Sonny. Sonny played with all the white boys; we didn't think about him being black, us being white. Never entered our minds, because he was Sonny... There were vacant lots we played on—football, baseball, tennis. We'd go down to Fairlawn. They had tennis courts there. I skated on M Street; that was a good smooth street... Once my mother found out that we were swimming the river, she said, 'Listen, that's enough of that. No more swimming in the river. I'm going to take \$12 and pay the YMCA for a year's membership. From then on I was in the Y. I'd go up there (Seventeenth & G Streets, NW) three nights a week." **

Past CHRS President Addresses Capitol Hill Rotary

by Rob Nevitt

August 3, the Capitol Hill Rotary Club heard Rob Nevitt, immediate CHRS Past President, speak on the history of CHRS and current preservation efforts on Capitol Hill. This Rotary—chartered only two years ago—meets at La Colline restaurant and includes many Hill Staff members. There were approximately twenty-five people present, many of whom live on Capitol Hill.

The talk would have been familiar content for most members, describing the threatened state of hill residences in the fifties and sixties and the early battles that CHRS fought. Judging by the reaction of the audience, many are only vaguely aware of the scale of change currently circling the Hill.

Of course, all the change isn't only at the periphery. In-fill development and abandoned property is high on the CHRS agenda. The inflation in the housing market is another potential problem if affordability and diversity

are still valued on Capitol Hill.

The Capitol, just over our shoulders at La Colline, is the 800-pound gorilla in our neighborhood and a less friendly one with all of the security barriers now in place. The current Architect of the Capitol, Alan Hantmann, has been very good at reaching out to CHRS and its mem-

bers over the building of the Visitors Center, but that has not always been the case. CHRS welcomes initiatives to open the Capitol campus more and urges Rotary's support.

It was a lively and interesting group and people interested in Rotary should check out www.rotary7620.org or www.capitolhillrotary.com. *

Local Street and Alley Repaving Scheduled

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has published a schedule of local street and alley repaving for this year and for 2006-10, arranged by ward. You can find the schedule at <http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1257,q,629548.asp>

Based on a survey of alley and roadway conditions, DDOT developed a list of the streets and alleys that will be restored this year and in future years. The list has been

coordinated with the DC Water and Sewer Authority's schedule of lead water pipe replacement to minimize street disruptions.

These materials have been sent to every Advisory Neighborhood Commission for comment. The ANCs' input will be advisory regarding future year projects

For more information, please call 202-671-2730 and request to speak to the Transportation Planner for your ward. *

Preservation Café Resumes in September

Take Some Tips From a Master Organizer

by Nancy Metzger

Tired of opening a closet door—and catching the items cascading from the top shelf? The September Preservation Café will feature “Smart Storage Solutions for Small Historic Homes,” presented by Jill Lawrence, Certified Professional Organizer-Chronic Disorganization (CPO-CD), and president of Jill-of-all-Trades. She shares creative tricks of the trade learned as a ten-year veteran profes-

sional organizer who also lives in an 1890’s row house without an attic, basement, or garage.

The popular free forum, sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, begins its Fall Series on Wednesday, September 21 from 6:30–7:15 pm.

For this Preservation Café, we will meet at Christ Our Shepherd Church, 801 North Carolina Avenue, SE, (two blocks north of Eastern Market Metro).

If you are tired of seeing your stuff spread and piled on multiple flat surfaces; if you have had it with

bagging, boxing and tucking the clutter into corners and closets—this talk is for you. Jill Lawrence is the only organizing consultant in the District who has earned her CPO-CD status from the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization.

The next cafés in the fall series are scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, and Wednesday, November 16, with topics to be announced in the October papers and CHRS *News*.

For more information please contact the CHRS offices at 202-543-0425 or CapHRS@aol.com. ✧

Party Animals *continued from page 4*

there with his friends and family. He has particular memories of Franklin Roosevelt’s first Inaugural Parade, where he and a cousin were caught up in, and tagged along with the actual parade.

An aspiring artist, Bill was a copy boy for the *Evening Star*, and delivered artwork to the newspaper headquarters from numerous artists and cartoonists all over DC. He joined the U.S. Navy after Pearl Harbor was attacked, first training as a pilot, and

later qualifying as a Navy Salvage Diver with an underwater welder’s rating, working on the hulk of the passenger ship Normandy in New York Harbor.

He painted many murals for the Navy War Bond drive. One of these is still to be found in the Pensacola Officer’s Club at their diver’s unit in that city. After the war, he attended art school at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art in Philadelphia, on the G.I. bill.

Among his teachers was the famous art instructor, Henry Pitz, who authored art instructional manuals and left quite a mark as a book illustrator. He met his wife, Isabelle Duffy, while in art school, and they raised three children.

He worked for 30 years as the art director for the Republican National Committee, a job from which he retired in 1990.

Bill is a sixth-generation native of the Capitol Hill and Navy Yard neighborhood, and is still active as an artist at 83 years of age. The theme of the “Party Animals” plaque is meant both to celebrate and to poke fun at the symbols of the two dominant political parties of the United States.

While working at the RNC, Bill often times had the opportunity to draw and paint the elephant and donkey, developing his particular flair for showing both personality and motion in these creatures, and his creations are to be found in much of the memorabilia in various presidential libraries, the Smithsonian, and other museums and collections. Arena Stage in Washington, DC produced a play in 2002 entitled “Anthems,” which featured interviews with actual, local DC personalities. Bill was one of the characters featured in this play. ✧

Community Development Committee Organizes

The Community Development Committee met in late August to discuss the various issues facing our community and to determine how best to insure CHRS input on them. Chair Barbara Eck has organized members to cover the numerous meetings that arise regarding these projects.

The committee’s focus is to build understanding and support for the Society’s objectives among Capitol Hill’s business community and provide support for rational development on the Hill. They monitor and report on development and represent CHRS on

Hill-related development issues. Moreover, they work to bring resources, continuity and expertise to the society’s work on development-related issues.

Ongoing committee activity involves monitoring the changed use of surplus schools, former hospitals and other government properties so that their re-design and use complement our community. Transportation issues are also of concern to this committee.

New members are always welcome *and* appreciated. Email barb539@juno.com or call the CHRS office at 202-543-0425. ✧

CHRS Proposed Annual Budget, Fiscal Year 2006

by Mike Canning

The most significant item in the Society's proposed Budget request for FY 2006 is the large predicted increase in income from the next House Tour – \$17,000 dollars over the previous year's budget. This assumes another solid turnout for our 2006 tour and is prudent given the record-breaking receipts we had this spring. It is the principal reason for a nice positive cash flow of \$5,000 for the year.

Among expenditures, there is an increase in salaries (based on recent payment rates) and an increase in the Website category, although the principal increase here will be more for costs associated with setting up a new database.

In the capital budget, there is \$1,500 set aside for acquiring a new computer for the CHRS office, along with appropriate software.

Note that a line item in the Endowment Fund—Unrealized Gain/Loss—shows a significant increase for FY 2006 where little had been shown before. It means the Society's current investments are paying off.

Again this year, the Budget is presented as comprising an "Operating Budget" (basic expenses and revenues), a "Capital Budget" (incorporating some sale items and equipment purchases) and an "Endowment Fund." The sum of the first two elements constitutes the total cash flow of the Society and is distinct from the Endowment Fund, whose monies are generated from the Society's investments and are treated separately.

The Society's bylaws require that its membership must approve the budget before it takes effect. This appearance in the News constitutes the proposal of this "draft" budget to the full membership, scheduled to meet in the fall.

At that meeting, members will have the opportunity to ask questions about the budget and to offer changes to it before the final figures are presented for a vote. ✱

	FY2004 Budget	FY2005 Budget	FY2006 Budget Request
I. OPERATING BUDGET			
a. Expenses			
Administrative Expense	5000	5000	5000
Accounting Services	3500	3500	3500
Salaries	6000	6000	9000
Employment Expense	1000	1000	1200
Rent Expense	8700	8500	9000
Grants	7250	10500	10000
President's Party	2000	2000	1000
Elections	800	800	800
City Planning Committee	2000	2000	2000
Community Development Committee.	500	975	500
Environment Committee	500	100	100
Historic Preservation Committee.	3665	4000	4000
Membership Committee	3000	2000	2000
Zoning Committee	200	200	200
Newsletter	10500	10500	10500
Website	600	700	1500
Forums Expense	700	1000	1000
Miscellaneous	500	100	500
<i>Subtotal—Expenses</i>	<i>56815</i>	<i>58875</i>	<i>61800</i>
b. Revenues			
Membership Fees	22000	22000	22000
Contributions	500	200	200
House Tour (Net)	35000	8000	45000
Interest	0	200	300
Miscellaneous	200	500	200
<i>Subtotal—Revenues</i>	<i>57700</i>	<i>50900</i>	<i>67700</i>
TOTAL—Operating Budget.	885	-7975	5200
II. CAPITAL BUDGET			
Equipment Purchases	1000	1000	1500
Historic Dist. Guidelines Sales	200	250	100
Promo Items Sales (net)	100	300	500
TOTAL—Capital Budget	-300	-450	-900
TOTAL CASH FLOW.	585	8425	5000
III. ENDOWMENT FUND			
Interest Earned	3000	2500	3000
Capital Gains	0	0	1500
Unrealized Gain/Loss	0	0	5000
Expenses	200	100	100
TOTAL—Endowment Fund	2800	2600	9400

Mark Your Calendar!

SEPTEMBER

6 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee Meeting. Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE

13 Thursday, 8:00 pm

Overbeck Lecture. Author Joseph Browne on Architect Adolf Cluss. Naval Lodge Hall, 330 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

15 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee, to consider: ZC01-28TE, re PUD amendment for 200 K Street, NE; BZA #'s 17362 and 17363 re 1114 to 1122 K Streets, SE; BZA # 17365, 1535 A Street, SE; BZA # 17369, 1029 Fourth Street, NE; and BZA # 516 Goff Court, NE. Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE

20 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

21 Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Preservation Café: Tips From Master Organizer Jill Lawrence. Christ Our Shepherd Church. 801 North Carolina Avenue, SE

27 Tuesday, 6:00 & 7:00 pm

Reception/lecture about Architect Adolf Cluss. Sumner School Museum, 1201 Seventeenth Street, NW. Call 202-442-6060 for info.

OCTOBER

3 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee Meeting. Kirby House, 420 Tenth Street, SE

13 Thursday, 7:30 pm

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

18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

An Appreciation: John Janke

by Nancy Metzger

When the history of the “restoration movement” of Capitol Hill is written, one of the names that should be there is John Janke, who moved to Capitol Hill with his wife Cindy, daughter Jenny, and son Johnny not too long after the 1968 riots. Lucky for Capitol Hill that the young family’s budget couldn’t stretch to accommodate Georgetown’s prices (where the Jankes first rented an apartment). He was part of the real estate contingent that not only helps people buy and sell houses but lives in the neighborhood and contributes time, energy and talents to the community.

Although John began his life on the Hill with a government job, he soon realized that selling the old houses that first attracted him to the Hill was the right job for him. By 1972, he had joined Kraemer and Company and went on to found City Sites with colleague Linda Barnes in 1980 (and which later joined with the Barbara Held Company, which in 1996 was bought by Weichert Realtors). He finished his career with Randall Hagner Company.

If you didn’t meet John because he sold your house or helped you buy one (or gave you advice on restoring a house or even garden advice), then you probably met him as a result of one of his many community volunteer efforts. He was a

former board member of Friendship House (619 D Street, SE) and over the years he held many positions for CHRS’s House Tour. In fact, three months before he died John was once again hosting a house for the Tour—greeting people he hadn’t seen in months (or perhaps years), exchanging news and sharing a laugh. John was one of the CHRS members who really volunteered. Dick Wolf remembers that John gave generously of his time to turn the basement of the Yost House into an office (when CHRS owned the house on Pennsylvania Avenue for its offices).

It’s probably natural that John, who loved history and old houses, also loved to tell stories—and he had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of stories. (Aileen Moffatt ends her profile of John in the January 2005 *Voice of the Hill* with a wry recounting of John’s experiences in selling a Capitol Hill “tourist home” that was actually a brothel.) In fact, an evening spent with John and Cindy could easily turn into a wonderful extravaganza of stories—funny, informative and unexpected.

A memorial service was held at Capitol Hill’s Christ Church on August 27. The family suggested that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to The Capitol Hill Community Foundation, designated for “John P. Janke Projects” at 419 East Capitol Street, SE. *



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003