



# NEWS

www.chrs.org

February 2008

## Multi-Phase Capitol Complex Tunnel Rehabilitation Planned for Late Summer 2008

by Eric Snellings

At a January 16, 2008 meeting, more than 50 neighbors came in from the cold to a community gathering in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, where representatives of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) discussed their Five Year Tunnel Improvement Program and the Second Street Utility Tunnel Repair Project. Attending for the AOC were Paul McMahan, Project Executive; Robert Carter, US Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Manager; and Eva Malecki, AOC Communications Officer. Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells and ANC6B Commissioner Dave Garrison were also in attendance.

The AOC initiated the meeting to provide information about the project and address any rumors that have been circulating about details of the effort. The work planned is part of an overall Tunnel Improvement Project. The tunnels are between 50 and 100 years old; contain steam and chilled water and condensate lines for the Capitol Complex; and have reached the end of their expected serviceable life. They are not in immediate danger of collapse, but need to be addressed now with other concurrent compliance work.

The section under Second Street, between North Carolina Avenue

and C Street, SE, was built in the 1950s, and is not small (the tunnels are approximately 15 feet wide and 15 feet high). The AOC has investigated options to make repairs without excavation that could result in a 20-year solution, but have chosen the excavation option to provide a 50-year life cycle duration. The overall rehabilitation project will continue on Second Street in future phases into Northeast, ending at Constitution Avenue, with a projected June 2012 completion date.

Work on the Second Street segment will be completed in two phases. Construction will start between North Carolina and D Street, SE, first, and then will move on between D Street and C Street for the second phase. The section not being worked on will remain open and unencumbered by construction operations. Cross streets (at North Carolina Avenue, D Street, and C Street) will remain open to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Concern about vibrations will be addressed by not driving piles for the excavation support system. Drilled piers will be used for this work element.

Two office trailers will be placed at the edge of Providence Park, and all open recreation space will remain accessible to the community. A staging area on Virginia Avenue, expected to be adjacent to the

Capitol Power Plant, will accommodate materials and equipment.

The project is in the planning phase now, and the AOC will start construction company selection in February 2008. A contract should be awarded in May 2008, and the engineering phase will last 60 to 90 days. Construction is slated to start in late summer 2008 and is projected to last 18 to 21 months. Work hours will be 7:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday through Friday, with no weekend or holiday work (except in the case of emergencies or when needed — neighbors will be notified of the work planned).

Excavation of the street will be from curb to curb, with an eight foot security fence installed at the curb line, allowing sidewalks to remain open during the construction period. No stockpiling of removed soil or construction debris will occur on site; all material will be hauled off site, and suitable materials will be imported during the reconstruction process. All utilities will be supported and maintained during the construction process. The construction will be done substantially by equipment, with a maximum of 10-15 construction workers on site at any given time. Workers will all have to be cleared through the AOC system.

The tunnels contain asbestos; however, asbestos removal and abatement will be executed

*Continued on page 4*

# President's Column: Capitol Hill—An Island of Stability

by Dick Wolf

As financial storms swirl through the country, the Capitol Hill community will endure. This is a resilient neighborhood, which has been through many changes and shocks over the years without losing its bearings and focus. There were the dramatic population shifts of the 1950s and 1960s; the riots of 1968; the crime waves of the 1970s and 1980s; and the real estate bubbles of the 1980s and 1990s. During all those changes, people continued to invest in homes and businesses on the Hill. CHRS has been a constant presence promoting the enduring

promise of this community as a model urban neighborhood.

No matter what happens to the real estate market, CHRS will continue to support and promote the highest standards of planning, preservation, and zoning that have contributed to the building and re-building of this community. We will continue to support the highest standards of local and Federal initiatives in development, renovation of infrastructure, and conduct of the public's business. We will not "give away the store" just to attract development. We believe that the long view of community development has paid off by attracting good investment

and the revitalizing infusion of young families. Most importantly, this approach has led to helping residents develop an emotional attachment to the Hill that gives us the foundation for continuing the building of this neighborhood, gaining us local and national recognition.

Capitol Hill is a self-confident community. We will continue to be the masters of our own destiny, despite the blips of the markets and the dire predictions of the "experts". CHRS will continue doing what it has done superbly to date: championing the interests of residential Capitol Hill, far into the future. ✧

## 2008 Annual CHRS House & Garden Tour

Save the Date! Mother's Day Weekend

May 10 from 5-8 pm

May 11 from noon to 5 pm

*History*  
**Has No Boundaries**

This year's tour will offer a unique set of homes and venues in line with the *Beyond the Boundaries* theme to showcase the outer boundaries of the

Capitol Hill Historic District. Discover the new restaurants, coffee houses, and entertainment venues along H Street, NE!

### Volunteer opportunities:

- Selling tickets in two-hour shifts weekends from April 12th through tour weekend;
- Being a docent for two-hour shifts on tour days, May 10th and May 11th; and
- Accompanying the jitneys on tour days to provide information to drivers and riders.

Refer to the website for ongoing information about the House Tour. Volunteer info available at CapHRS@aol.com. ✧

## Free Capitol Hill Walking Tour

by Elizabeth Nelson

CHRS is hosting a series of free walking tours. Participants learn about the architectural styles and building materials of the houses, who built them, and when. The first was held last October and featured homes on the 1400 blocks of C Street, Ames Place, North Carolina Avenue, and Constitution Avenue, NE.

The next tour will be held on March 15 at 2:00 pm and will focus on the 200 and 300 blocks of Tennessee Avenue, Corbin Place, and Warren Street. The starting point will be on the corner of 13th Street and Constitution Avenue, NE, near the front entrance to Maury Elementary School. At the end of the route, walkers may choose to continue on and reprise the first tour in the series.

For more information, call 543-3512 or email [elizabeth\\_knits@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com) with "CHRS Tour" as the subject. ✧

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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](http://www.chrs.org)

Celebrating more than 50 years 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](http://www.CHRS.org)
  - \* Call 202-543-0425 and choose option 2
  - \* Pick up a form at one of our meetings
- Starting at just \$25 per year for a single membership, it's a great deal.

# Zoning Review Taskforce Meets

by Gary Peterson

The Zoning Review Taskforce held its kickoff meeting on November 28, 2007. The Taskforce has 24 members. Of the 24, 14 members were selected by Councilmembers (Chair Gray picked 2 members), and the Federation of Civic Associations, Federation of Citizens Associations, Committee of 100, DC Bar, DC AIA (Architects), and DCBIA (Builders) had one selection each (curiously, the DC Bar picked a non-lawyer and the Builders picked a lawyer).

The Taskforce is rounded out by the Chair of the Zoning Commission, the Chair of BZA, the Zoning Administrator, and a representative of the National Capital Planning Commission. Interestingly there are a number of former members on the task force including the former Chairs of the Zoning Commission and BZA, and former Zoning Administrator and Director of the Office of Planning, all picked by Councilmembers. CHRS has three members on the Taskforce: Gary Peterson (Ward 6), Bill Crews (at-large Councilmember Catania) and David Powell (DC AIA).

The Taskforce is scheduled to meet every other month throughout the two-year process. The Taskforce has two main functions: first, to provide guidance on the organization and execution of the review process, and second, to review the policies and draft proposals created by 20 subject area working groups.

The working groups will be directed by an Office of Planning (OP) planner, and the product of the working group will have its own public hearing before the Zoning Commission. Participation in the working groups is open to the public, and Taskforce members may participate in all the working

groups. The working groups will take between two to six months to produce a draft. The Taskforce will have two to six weeks to review and comment on the draft, after which there will be a meeting to approve the draft for public review and comment and ultimately a Zoning Commission hearing.

The proposed working group subjects fall into three subject areas: Policy, Use Districts, and Procedural. Policy includes flood plain, height, parking, loading, sustainability, retail strategy, historic structures, and arts and culture. Use Districts includes low/mod res/comm., med/high res/comm., downtown, commercial corridors, industrial, mixed/other, campus/institutional, and parks/open space. The Procedural category rounds out the working groups with PUD, design review, administration/enforcement, and Zoning Commission and BZA procedures. The first two working groups, height and floodplain, have been set for meetings on January 29 and February 6, respectively.

In addition to all of this, OP has hired HNTB Corporation, Engineers, Architects, Planners to conduct a zoning regulations best practice study. So far HNTB has reviewed zoning regulations of 60 cities and has selected eight cities: Boston, Boulder, Fort Collins, San Antonio, St. Petersburg, Portland, Chicago, and Milwaukee. These were chosen for their representation of a variety of zoning types, zoning issues, development activity, geography, and other characteristics.

Anyone interested in participating in the working groups, or with questions, should contact Gary Peterson at [pgarylaw@aol.com](mailto:pgarylaw@aol.com). \*



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# Capitol Complex Tunnel Rehabilitation *continued from page 1*

under a separate contract and will be completed prior to the start of the tunnel rehabilitation process. Test pits and other preparation work are proceeding, and survey of existing buildings on the street is being considered (interior surveys are also being considered). Monitoring may be required during the construction process.

After AOC representatives presented the basics of their plan, neighbors and other interested parties used the opportunity to express their concerns and opinions on this project, as well as to relate past experience with AOC work on other projects conducted in the neighborhood. While too numerous to detail, the questions and comments focused on the following issues: increased traffic (with other construction projects and stadium traffic considered); pedestrian safety (especially with the number of schools in the area); loss of parking (and construction worker parking); tree protection (in street-side tree boxes and park trees); Capitol Police traffic control (at intersections); damage to historic homes and buildings; security concerns (due to the high fence); Fire Department coverage (with street closure); storm water management (blocked inlets and in the excavated area); rebuilding of Second Street to accommodate heavy trucks and increased traffic; and the reopening of First Street, SE, at least during this construction program.

Councilmember Wells discussed parking initiatives, shared concerns about local school safety, and committed to keeping the community informed about the project and to helping with coordination with the AOC. Mr. Wells was encouraged by the community to coordinate any work projects by DDOT and WASA projects while streets are open. In addition, he was asked when Virginia Avenue will reopen, and how the AOC obtains District street closures, seemingly without any due process. Wells committed

to research the process that allowed the Virginia Avenue closure and to provide insight and information about the issue.

ANC Commissioner Dave Garrison provided insight on Public Space and maintenance of traffic review and comment during ANC meetings and the associated permitting issues. He indicated that the AOC project team should continue to engage the community as the process continues and offered the ANC meetings as a forum.

One piece of information that was not discussed during the meeting which will be good news for the majority of the historic district is that the Second Street tunnel is the easternmost tunnel in the system.

The AOC had a staff member in attendance recording the meeting's proceedings. The community requested that the AOC provide a written document that outlines their project's information and have it

widely distributed to Capitol Hill residents directly, as well as to all local media outlets and organization websites. In addition, there was a desire to find ways for the community to provide input and influence the process. The community expressed hope that the questions, comments, and concerns being expressed will be addressed as the process continues.

The community also requested a single point of contact for the rehabilitation project to report problems and issues. For this stage of the process, the AOC provided the following contact information:

AOC Communications Officer Eva Malecki, 202-228-1793 (the AOC Service Center is open 24/7 to answer calls); Website at [www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov) (About Us/Press Room).

CHRS will continue to monitor the construction, and work with the AOC to mitigate the project's impact on the community. ✧

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## Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

In honor of the new Capitol Hill landmark, Old Engine House #10 at 1341 Maryland Avenue, NE, this month's feature will look back at firefighting on Capitol Hill through the eyes of J. George Butler, author of *Simpler Times: Stories of Early Twentieth Century Urban Life*. Mr. Butler, who lived on the square now occupied by the Madison Building, gave this view of the work of firemen and fire horses:

*"The steam engines themselves were the mechanical marvel of the day. Many feet of small tubing in their boilers enabled the fire in the firebox to convert the water to steam very rapidly. En route to a fire, the fireman on the rear platform had to continually shovel coal into the firebox. During the summer it was easier to get steam up*

*than in the winter, when snow and ice on the ground often caused the horses to go slower. Because of the reduced speed, the draft in the chimney was not nearly as good. After their work at the fire was finished and the engines returned to the firehouse, the firemen had to clean the fireboxes of the boilers and lay a new fire to be ready for the next alarm.*

*"Many a time, as Dad and I went to the Eastern Market, we would stop at the firehouse [on North Carolina Avenue, where the Natatorium now stands] and pet those great gentle creatures. They stood ready in their stalls to spring into the engine's shafts at the sound of the fire gong. A touch of a button by the fireman let the harness fall into place over their backs. With a quick snap of the belly buckles and traces, they were ready to go." ✧*

# Historic Preservation Briefs

**New Capitol Hill historic landmark.** Old Engine House #10 at 1341 Maryland Avenue, NE, will be joining the list of Capitol Hill historic landmarks. In January, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society wrote a letter to the Historic Preservation Review Board in support of the nomination, citing the building's role in neighborhood development and protection: "Old Engine House #10 was not only a visual landmark along Maryland Avenue, it was also reflective of the civic pride that Victorian-era Washingtonians placed in their public buildings. While a firehouse is a more utilitarian and practical structure than a school or library, architect Leon Dessez still treated Old Engine House #10 and the neighborhood it served with great design respect. The dark red brick building with limestone and terra cotta trim reflects many of the elements now seen in the neighborhood's substantial two-and three-story brick buildings and the commercial buildings of nearby Eighth Street, NE. Together the private and public buildings read almost as an ensemble and no doubt the firehouse was viewed with great pride then as it is today. Old Engine House #10 served not only the "old city" neighborhoods around Stanton and Lincoln Parks but also the growing "suburban" neighborhoods of Ivy City and Trinidad, helping to ensure that property and people would be protected. This protection was critically important to the development of the city."

**Uline Arena site.** Development plans for the recently landmarked Uline Arena site (Third and M Streets, NE) were also considered at the January Historic Preservation Review Board meeting. The arena was host to many Washington sports, cultural, and political events, including, most famously, the first personal appearance of the Beatles in the U.S. in 1964. Douglas



Development proposes to convert the complex (icehouse and arena) into an office building by adding to the top and side of the icehouse. Several layers of parking would be built underneath the arena, and three new floors would be inserted into the building, with the open volume of space partially retained by creation of a large interior atrium that would open to the original arched, ribbed concrete roof, an innovative engineering technique at the time of construction. The Board generally approved the conceptual design but suggested several refining modifications.

**Book on NHPA donated.** *Saving Places That Matter: A Citizen's Guide to Using the National Historic Preservation Act*, (often known as Section 106), has been placed in the collection of reference materials at the CHRS office for use by members. Author Thomas F. King sent the book, inscribed with the message "For CHRS, With Admiration". Written to help communities navigate the various aspects of the Federal project review process established in Section 106 of the Act, the author uses case studies from his experience as a cultural resources management consultant

*Old Engine House No. 10 at 1341 Maryland Avenue, NE. Photo: Elsa Huxley*

to explain the basic process, as well as potential strategies.

**HPRB nominees.** The final six nominees to the Historic Preservation Review Board have been forwarded to the Council by Mayor Fenty. Capitol Hill residents Bob Sonderman (archaeologist) and John Vlatch (architectural historian) were re-nominated. Two architects, Maria Casarella-Cunningham and Joseph Taylor, were nominated, although much to the disappointment of the historic preservation community and fellow architects, highly regarded Anne Lewis was not reappointed (and earlier this year, equally well-regarded architect Amy Weinstein was also not re-appointed). The other two nominees are citizen members, Elinor Bacon (a developer with experience in housing issues and a former president of the National Capital Revitalization Corporation) and Catherine Buell (resident of Historic Anacostia and a real estate lawyer). Many historic preservationists are concerned by the loss of architectural experience and the possibility of conflict of interest issues. ✧

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# Researching Hill East House History Online

by Beth Purcell

If you are interested in researching the history of your house, a lot of information can be found on the Internet.

## Who built your house?

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society website, [www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org), has building permit summaries for Hill East houses east of 11th Street (Squares 1000-1125). Click on "Database of Historic Building Permits, Squares 1000-1125." Find your Square number, then click on the square and search for the building permit for your house. The summaries show when the house was built and the names of the owner, architect and builder. For example, the building permit summaries show that the rowhouses in Square 1044 were built in 1907 by Harry Wardman and designed by Albert H. Beers.

Building permits in DC were first required in 1877. The CHRS website generally covers historical building permits issued between 1877 and approximately 1945. Addresses or lot numbers on the building permits may differ from current lot numbers or addresses. Square numbers are generally the same.

There are three ways to find your Square number: 1) check your real property tax bill; 2) see the map on [www.chrs.org/](http://www.chrs.org/); or 3) find your square on [www.dc.gov/](http://www.dc.gov/):

- > Click "DC Agencies – find an agency"
- > Click "Tax and Revenue"
- > Click "Real Property Service Center"
- > Click "Real Property Assessment Database Search"
- > Click "Search Real Property Assessment Database"
- > Search by address

Don't overlook doing an online search for owners, builders, archi-

itects and residents of your house, if you already have that information. If the architect or builder is well known, Google may have information. For example, Albert H. Beers (1859-1911) appears on Google.

## Old newspapers

If you search newspaper archives for your house address, you may find information on who once lived in your house (e.g., obituaries, marriage announcements, military service, fires, or criminal charges). Fifty years ago, papers also published the name and address of people who had their driver's license suspended or witnessed a crime. Next, you can search newspaper archives for the names of these people. For example, "1630 G" +SE reveals that a woman at that address died of smallpox in 1925; her husband was a trolley-car operator; in 1982, a different resident was killed by gunfire.

Searching the name of the architect or builder will often reveal a lot about their career. For example, a search of the *Washington Post* archives for "Herman R. Howenstein," who built many rowhouses in Hill East, shows what houses he was building and when, that he went bankrupt in 1935, and died in 1955.

To search *Washington Post* (1877-present):

- > Go to [www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html](http://www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html) (or Google "newspaper archives" and click on "SLA News Division Website.")
- > Scroll down to DC and click on *Washington Post*.
- > Enter search terms for period 1877-1986 or 1986-present — e.g., a street address, "1630 G" +SE.
- > The search summary will show *Post* articles mentioning 1606 G Street.

You can print the search summary online for free and read article pre-

views for free. To print the article online, you need to buy a *Post* access package or take the summary and read the articles for free on microfilm at Washingtoniana Division, and print articles for 15 cents per page (see below).

## Capitol Hill history

**Overbeck Project.** The online archive of the Overbeck Capitol Hill History Project features searchable lectures on Capitol Hill history and oral histories of Capitol Hill residents. [www.capitolhillhistory.org/](http://www.capitolhillhistory.org/)

**Congressional Cemetery.** This has been our neighborhood cemetery for 200 years. People who built or lived in your house may be buried there. The cemetery's website shows names of persons interred, and offers obituaries and biographical information on many. [www.congressionalcemetery.org/](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org/)

**Photographs.** You may find an old photograph of your street in the "Historic American Buildings Survey" at [www.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs/](http://www.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs/) (or Google "Historic American Buildings Survey"). Next click on "DC" and search by street name. For example, there are photographs of Potomac Avenue.

**Offline research.** If you want to continue researching offline, visit the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, 901 G Street, NW (3rd floor) (202-727-1213). They have maps, indexes of marriage and probate records, census records, *Washington Star* (index and newspapers), and files by topic (neighborhood, churches). See [www.dclibrary.org/](http://www.dclibrary.org/) to research the library collections.

For more on researching house history, see "Dating Your Old Building," by Donna Hanousek, *Hill Rag*, May 2007, p. 138. [www.capitalcommunitynews.com/](http://www.capitalcommunitynews.com/) \*



# Eastern Market Management Discussed at Jan. 17th Community Meeting

by Ellen Opper-Weiner

The future management of a restored and renovated Eastern Market was discussed at a January 17th community meeting at Hine Junior High School. Sponsored by the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) and the DC Office of Property Management (OPM), about 50 participants braved the wintry weather to offer their comments on current management and their suggestions for the future.

Participants expecting a lively discussion may have been disappointed. Although the meeting had been promoted as a Community Workshop on Eastern Market Management, it was primarily a slide show and presentation by David O'Neil, Senior Associate for Public Markets at the Project for Public Spaces (PPS). PPS has a contract with OPM to develop and implement (with the advice of EMCAC) the RFP for recruiting new management for Eastern Market. PPS is an internationally recognized

leader in public space design and management. O'Neil is the former general manager of the nationally-known Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia, and he has 27 years experience in this field.

O'Neil listed many of the Market Manager's qualities and functions he believes are required for public markets like Eastern Market. He emphasized that it was essential to have deeply committed management which would do whatever it takes to make the market successful. He described the Market Manager as "a host of the market" who is responsible for positive public relations. He went on to describe some of the essential functions of public market management: 1) assist merchants and vendors in effective merchandising; 2) maintain quality facilities; 3) coordinate the diverse interests at the market, including OPM, EMCAC, food merchants, farmers, craft and flea market vendors, and the businesses adjacent to Eastern Market; 4) conduct regular and consistent enforcement of the market rules; 5) resolve disputes; 6) provide strategic

planning and implementation of these plans; 7) take responsibility for all aspects of leasing spaces to all businesses at the market, and for conducting outreach and recruitment of new merchants and vendors; and 8) provide ongoing promotion of the market, including events, advertising, and public relations.

Following this comprehensive view of the role and responsibilities of an Eastern Market manager, O'Neil listed his findings regarding the status of current management. In advance of the meeting, he had interviewed EMCAC members, merchants, vendors, and customers. He pointed out that currently there is limited promotion of Eastern Market, and that there is an urgent need for increased management oversight, including an on-site manager available to merchants and the public. He cited the need for better management communication with the merchants, vendors, and the community. He further recommended: 1) improved coordination among the various stakeholders at the market; 2) a need for long-term planning; and 3) the use of performance standards for the market management. (The Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee, including its merchant/vendor representatives, have been making these same recommendations to the Market Manager and OPM for several years.)

There was a short question-and-answer session, followed by a preference exercise regarding priorities for Eastern Market's new management. O'Neil expects that the RFP will be available within about 30 days. There will be a 45-day response time in order to recruit new management for Eastern Market by June 30, 2008, when the current Market Manager's contract expires. ✧

(Ms. Opper-Weiner is the Mayor's Representative to the EMCAC.)

## Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, patrons, and sponsors.

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# The Hill on Film

by Mike Canning

(Continuing our regular series about how Hollywood movies have treated elements of Capitol Hill. CHRS Treasurer Canning writes movie reviews for the Hill Rag.)

In a movie still running in DC area theaters—*National Treasure: Book of Secrets*—there is a crucial and lengthy sequence involving the Library of Congress (LoC). A crack treasure hunter played by Nicholas Cage rushes into the Library (by which I mean the grand Jefferson Building, the original one) to hunt for a book containing “all the nation’s secrets.” The search team eventually discovers the book after some considerable rambling about the building.

What is interesting about the sequence is how much of the Library it shows and the access allowed to the filmmakers. The magnificent front steps are shown, as well as the Main Reading Room. The actors seem to have been allowed around some stacks, too, and end up on the visitors’ balcony overlooking the Reading Room. This is all fine for people being exposed to the LoC for the first time. What does not ring true is that the treasure hunters are virtually the ONLY people in the place—they must have gotten permission to shoot only in the dead of night.

The Library of Congress has been featured occasionally in Hollywood films. In *Born Yesterday* (1950), an important sequence had Judy Holliday (as Billie Dawn) discovering the treasures of the Library and even summoning her journalism mentor—played by Bill Holden—to view displays of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights on the second floor above the Library’s Great Hall. Interestingly, this is a shot of past history, since the founding docu-



ments were moved fairly shortly thereafter to the National Archives after the latter was finished in 1951. Billie’s tour is capped by a conversation beside the Neptune Fountain in front of the Library.

The access obtained by the makers of *National Treasure* was matched, and to much better purpose, in *All the President’s Men* (1976). Just like Nicholas Cage, Woodward and Bernstein (Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman) clamber up the LoC’s steps and eventually end up in the Main Reading Room, assiduously going over check out slips from books borrowed by the White House (trying to nail Howard Hunt). The sequence ends with a great zoom shot, moving up from the journalists’ hands all the way to the top of the Library’s impressive dome.

*Main Reading Room, Library of Congress. Access to this view from the visitors’ gallery is now limited. Photo: www.LOC.gov*

At least once, the Great Hall—so nicely spruced up in the late 1990s—has stood in for another building, as it was in a scene from the smart (and too-little-seen) political drama *The Seduction of Joe Tynan* (1979). The scene shows a group of staffers in the Great Hall, which appears to stand in for the interior of a Senate Office Building (probably off limits at the time). The LoC did another good turn for *Joe Tynan*: a scene in the film has Senator Joe Tynan (Alan Alda) supposedly in his “hideaway” office somewhere in the bowels of the Capitol, when it was actually shot in the basement of the Library of Congress. ✧



# Audubon's Anacostia Sector Christmas Bird Count

by Beth Purcell

The count went well, with several CHRS members participating. The day's highlights included merlins at both Langston Golf Course and the Arboretum, bald eagles on the Arboretum side of the river, chipping sparrows and palm warblers at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, red-breasted nuthatches at both the Arboretum and Ft. Dupont, and both hooded and common mergansers on the Anacostia River.

In total, 59 different species were sighted this year, down from the 65 species sighted in 2006 and the 68 spotted in 2005, but above the 54 species counted in 2004.

## DC Government Offers Free Radon Test Kit

Radon is an odorless, colorless gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water. Radon can cause lung cancer. DC's Dept. of the Environment is offering residents free kits to test for radon. Contact Radon Hotline: 202-535-2302 or see [www.ddoe.dc.gov/](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov/) ✧

## March CHRS Meeting Planned

An opportunity for the community to meet with Neil Albert, the city's Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development will occur in March. You won't want to miss an opportunity to question him about all the development we see rising, and being planned for the future, around our community. Information on date and place will be on the CHRS website when available. ✧

SPECIES	COUNT
Canada Goose	726
Belted Kingfisher	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	33
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
Downy Woodpecker	28
Hairy Woodpecker	4
Northern Flicker	45
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Wood Duck	6
Mallard	22
Hooded Merganser	6
Common Merganser	7
Double-crested Cormorant	1
Great Blue Heron	5
Black Vulture	2
Bald Eagle	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
Cooper's Hawk	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	6
Red-tailed Hawk	11
American Kestrel	3
Merlin	2
Ring-billed Gull	580
Herring Gull	19
Gull, species	68
Rock Pigeon	233
Mourning Dove	143
Blue Jay	94
American Crow	372
Fish Crow	39
Crow, species	271

SPECIES	COUNT
Carolina Chickadee	50
Tufted Titmouse	18
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	14
Brown Creeper	2
Carolina Wren	37
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12
Eastern Bluebird	13
Hermit Thrush	9
American Robin	301
Gray Catbird	5
Northern Mockingbird	31
European Starling	676
Cedar Waxwing	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3
Eastern Towhee	16
Field Sparrow	7
Fox Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	35
Swamp Sparrow	3
White-throated Sparrow	214
Dark-eyed Junco	101
Northern Cardinal	73
Red-winged Blackbird	26
Common Grackle	430
House Finch	19
American Goldfinch	38
House Sparrow	80
Palm Warbler	2
Chipping Sparrow	2

## Historically Compatible Hardscaping Topic of February 20 Preservation Café

CHRS's next Preservation Café will feature *Hardscaping in Capitol Hill Yards: Patios, Walkways, Steps, and Retaining Walls*. Dr. Christina Wilson, an architectural historian and president of Renaissance Development, will talk about designing and constructing outdoor hard surface areas that are compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District's architecture and character.

She will also discuss various masonry options and how paving materials can best be used to enhance our yards. The Café will be February 20 in the downstairs community room in Ebenezer's Coffee House at Second and F Streets, NE, from 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm. ✧

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# Mark Your Calendar!

## FEBRUARY

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### 4 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

### 12 Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Overbeck Lecture by folk-life historian, professor, and author John Vlach: "African American Housing in the District." Special emphasis will be on the alley dwellings of Capitol Hill. Naval Lodge Hall, 330 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Admission free, but reservations required due to limited seating. To reserve a seat, e-mail OverbeckLecture@aol.com or call 544-1845.

### 12 Tuesday, 7:00 am-8:00 pm

DC Presidential Preference Primary Election, all polling places.

### 19 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Dick Wolf, 543-4353.

### 20 Wednesday, 6:30-7:15 pm

CHRS Preservation Café. Christina Wilson of Renaissance Development will speak about hardscaping (patios, walkways, steps, and retaining walls) on

Capitol Hill. Ebenezer's Coffee House, 201 F Street, NE, lower level community room (wheelchair accessible.) Admission free, no reservations required. Details: Shauna Holmes, 546-5211.

### 25 Monday, 7:30 pm

Stanton Park Neighborhood Association meeting will feature David Ball, President of the Union Station Redevelopment Corp., speaking about changes planned for Columbus Circle. Northeast Branch Library, 7th and Maryland Avenue, NE. Details: [www.stantonpark.org](http://www.stantonpark.org).

### 28 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board, 441 4th Street, NW, Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

## MARCH

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### 3 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.

### 13 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

### 15 Saturday, 2:00 pm

CHRS Neighborhood Architecture Walking Tour. Tour will feature information about NE homes (who built them, when, architectural styles) in the 200 and 300 blocks of Tennessee Avenue, Corbin Place, and Warren Street. Free. Meet at corner of 13th and Constitution Avenues NE near the front entrance to Maury School. Details: Elizabeth Nelson, 543-3512 or [elizabeth\\_knits@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com).

### 18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, second floor. Details: Dick Wolf, 543-4353.

### 19 Wednesday, 6:30-7:15 pm

CHRS Preservation Café. Hill architect and columnist Judith Capen will speak on "Making the Most of Your Basement." Ebenezer's Coffee House, 201 F Street NE, lower level community room (wheelchair accessible.) Admission free, no reservations required. Details: Shauna Holmes, 546-5211.

### 27 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board, 441 4th Street NW, Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.



## Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003