



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

# NEWS

www.chrs.org

September 2018

## New Historic District Signs Installed for "Swampoodle Addition"

By Patrick Lally

Last week the city installed new signs for the "Swampoodle Addition" to the Capitol Hill Historic District. Three years ago, the DC Historic Preservation Review Board unanimously voted to include these four squares bounded by Second, H, Fourth, and F Streets NE, into the existing historic district. The signs

are identical to those currently in place throughout Capitol Hill that were mounted several years ago as part of a one-time grant through the District's Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

The Restoration Society made a new request to the HPO for these signs so that the Swampoodle

Addition could be clearly marked as is the rest of the historic district. CHRS paid for this out of the Swampoodle Grant Program, an existing fund established as part of the mitigation package for "Station House" and the demolition of historic buildings precipitated as part of that multi-family planned unit development.

The grants are available to homeowners in this section for exterior repairs and restoration. The mitigation package also funded the survey and nomination that ultimately led to the Swampoodle Addition's designation.

**Signs have been installed throughout the "Swampoodle Addition" to the Capitol Hill Historic District.**

"I am delighted that CHRS could facilitate the installation of appropriate signage for this historic district extension that we so vigorously supported," said Elizabeth Nelson, CHRS President. "These signs are particularly important in areas like this, the boundaries of the historic district, where incremental threats to the neighborhood historic fabric are greatest. Anything we can do to reinforce and strengthen the edges is critical. This starts with good and visible signage." ★



IMAGE COURTESY PATRICK LALLY

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# President's Column: Welcome to Our New CHRS Office Manager

**W**e are pleased to announce that Jill Uvena Cullinane is the new CHRS Office Manager. She is a “Hill baby,” born and bred in the neighborhood and still living here, now with her husband. Jill has ably served as our bookkeeper for the last year, so she is no stranger to us.

She plans to streamline some of our processes and take advantage of newer technology. Most important,

she brings a commitment to customer service and the values of our organization that matches the high standards maintained by Carl Spier, our outgoing manager.

For over four years, Carl has had his steady hand on the tiller, keeping the CHRS office on an even keel. Many have remarked that he is “unperturbable”—an important quality indeed. No matter the

challenge, Carl has approached it with resourcefulness and a can-do spirit and gotten the job done.

We are grateful to him and will miss him very much at the office—but are glad he’s still living on the Hill where we can continue to enjoy his company. We most certainly wish him well. ★

— Elizabeth

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## Barracks Row Fall Festival 2018: Call for Volunteers

**T**his annual street fair is not to be missed! As always, CHRS will host a booth with activities for children to enjoy while we share our mission with the adults. CHRS members are invited to help staff the activity, September 29 from 11 am–5 pm on 8th Street SE between D and I (Eye) Streets SE.

This is an important community outreach activity and volunteers are more than welcomed—they are truly needed. Not only will your help be greatly appreciated, it’s also a lot of fun. Contact Elizabeth Nelson at [elizabeth\\_knits@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com) or (202) 543-3512. ★



IMAGE COURTESY ELIZABETH NELSON

**Volunteers help festival-goers string beads at the CHRS booth at the 2017 Barracks Row Festival.**

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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\* Chair is an appointed Board Member

### NEWSLETTER

Angie Schmidt and Kelly Vielmo, Editors

### WEBMASTERS

Donna Breslin, Elizabeth Nelson

### OFFICE MANAGER

Carl Spier

To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: CapHRS@aol.com.

### ABOUT CHRS

Capitol Hill is a special place. We promote, preserve, and enhance the character of our historic neighborhoods.

Since its founding in 1955, CHRS has worked continuously to make Capitol Hill the desirable location it has now become. Due to CHRS's efforts, Capitol Hill won designation as a historic district in 1976. Today, that legacy of standing up for the community continues with our work in planning, zoning, historic preservation, and public safety.

CHRS is a volunteer organization, made up of Hill residents who love their historic neighborhoods and want to ensure that the unique character of the Hill is around for future generations. Come join us!

To learn more or join, please visit:  
[www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org)

# Monthly "Ask Nina" Column to Run in *Hill Rag*

CHRS will be promoted in a monthly feature in the *Hill Rag* via a new column entitled, "Ask Nina." Premiering in the September issue of the newspaper, the column will provide details on historic buildings on Capitol Hill. Look for it near the "Changing Hands" Real Estate section.

The first article is on the Blue Castle at the Navy Yard. Each article will be featured on the CHRS website after it is published in the paper. Readers are directed to the CHRS website to submit questions they would like to see addressed in the column. The author, Nina Tristani, is CHRS Communications Chair and co-owner of N&M House Detectives. ★



COURTESY IMAGE

CHRS Communications Chair  
Nina Tristani.

## Village Voices: "Separating and Remaining: Families in Nazi Germany"

Norman Metzger will speak about his experience as a child in Germany in World War II, as told in his recent memoir. He will discuss the realities for mischling families (Aryan and Jewish) in Nazi Germany, as witnesses to the Holocaust and facing extermination, the bombings, the occupation.

Presented by Capitol Hill Village, Monday, October 15, 7-8 p.m., at the Northeast Library, 330 7th St. NE. [www.capitolhillvillage.org](http://www.capitolhillvillage.org). Free.

# Proposed 2018–2019 CHRS Operating Budget

By Susan Oursler

The CHRS Board of Directors passed an operating budget for the 2018–2019 fiscal year at the July Board meeting. The board is recommending that the CHRS membership approve the budget which is outlined below at the September membership meeting,

to be held Wednesday, September 26 at 6:30 pm at the Hill Center.

A more detailed proposed budget is available from the CHRS office by emailing [caphrs@aol.com](mailto:caphrs@aol.com) or calling (202) 543-0425. ★

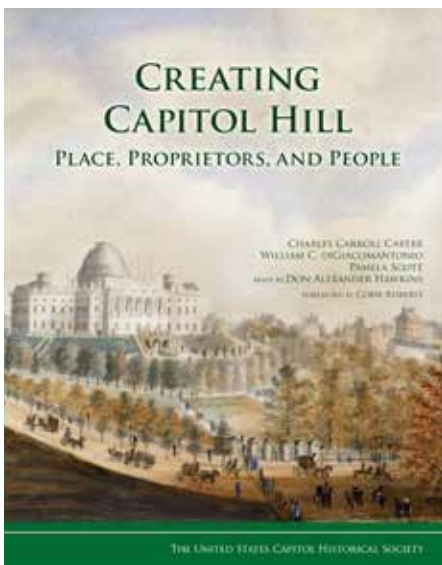
	October 2016– September 2017	October 2017– September 2018 (as of July)	Proposed October 2018– September 2019
<b>Income</b>			
40000 · Revenue			
41000 · Operating Revenue			
Total 41100 · Membership	21,290.00	15,780.00	19,900.00
Total 41200 · General Contributions	118,833.00	154,260.00	9,000.00
Total 41300 · House Tour Revenue	74,972.00	49,262.00	56,000.00
Total 41600 · Checking total	33.79	310.12	350.00
Total 49040 · Special Events (House Expo)	3,100.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Total 41700 · Transfer Operating Account	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Total 41000 · Operating Revenue			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>218,228.79</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>91,750.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
50000 · Expenses			
Total 51000 · Administration	59,294.27	39,223.56	46,400.00
Total 52000 · Outreach	26,023.98	16,293.53	20,550.00
Total 53000 · House Tour	21,800.30	10,397.00	15,000.00
Total House Expo	1,434.79	1,827.54	2,000.00
54000 · Committees			
54110 · Historic Preservation	500.00	328.70	300.00
54120 · Zoning	0.00	0.00	50.00
54130 · City Planning	0.00	47.52	50.00
54140 · Environment	0.00	0.00	50.00
54150 · Public Safety	0.00	0.00	0.00
54160 · Beyond the Boundaries	0.00	0.00	0.00
54210 · Community Development	0.00	0.00	0.00
54220 · Community Relations	606.22	237.94	900.00
54230 · Membership	1,405.06	1,500.65	6,200.00
Total 54000 · Committees and Special Projects	2,511.28	2,114.81	7,550.00
Total 55000 · Fundraising	0.00	0.00	250.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>111,064.62</b>	<b>71,971.25</b>	<b>91,750.00</b>

# Creating Capitol Hill Book Now Available

By Patrick Lally

**D**id you know that the location of the U.S. Capitol and the land comprising much of the Capitol Hill neighborhood is directly linked to the earliest foundations of the Maryland colony and one of its first and foremost inhabitants? This summer, the United States Capitol Historical Society published “Creating Capitol Hill: Place, Proprietors, and People.” This book was written by three authors including Charles Carroll Carter, a descendant of Daniel Carroll of Duddington—the great-grandson of Charles Carroll, “The Settler,” who came to the fledgling Catholic Maryland Colony to escape religious persecution in his native Ireland.

Carroll was the progenitor of what ultimately would become one of the great dynastic families of the state that includes Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, and John Carroll, first Catholic bishop of the United States and founder of Georgetown University. Daniel Carroll’s land was acquired for building the national legislature and its adjacent neighborhood when the District of Columbia was carved out of parts of Prince George’s and Fairfax Counties.



## September Community Forum: Author Pamela Scott

Pamela Scott, one of the authors of *Creating Capitol Hill: Place, Proprietors, and People*, will give a talk and present her research at the next CHRS Community Forum. Dr. Scott is a noted architectural historian and expert in the history and development of Washington’s built environment.

The event will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, in the Hill Center’s John Philip Sousa Hall, 921 Pennsylvania Ave SE. Street parking is available. The presentation will begin at 7 pm and will be preceded by a business meeting at 6:45 pm, at which members will approve the CHRS FY2019 budget.

This event is open to the public, so please bring your friends and neighbors!

Two other acclaimed historians, William C. diGiacomantonio and Pamela Scott co-wrote the book, and Don Alexander Hawkins provided many of his incomparable maps. The book chronicles how landowners such as Daniel Carroll were part of the plan to locate the permanent seat of government on the Potomac River according to George Washington’s and Pierre L’Enfant’s vision for the new city’s site.

The book also provides extraordinary perspective into the complex negotiations the First President and his agents conducted with the proprietors of the land that is now Capitol Hill and how the neighborhood we know began out of those seminal agreements. It is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the early history of the national capital, the Founding Fathers’ actions on the establishment of the District of Columbia, and one of the country’s preeminent families.

The book is now available through the Capitol Historical Society’s bookstore:  
[www.uschscatalog.org/cat-23-1-51/capitol.htm](http://www.uschscatalog.org/cat-23-1-51/capitol.htm) ★

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# Gearin' Up Bicycles Offers Cycling Services and Career Development

ADOBE STOCK © EDUARD WIRCH

**D**o you have an old bike that's gathering rust? Or found some bits and pieces abandoned on the street? A newish 501(c)3 nonprofit – Gearin' Up Bicycles at 314 Randolph Place NE – will gladly accept them and can put them to good use.

Per their website, Gearin' Up Bicycles' purpose is "to create career development opportunities and teach essential workplace skills to teenagers from underserved communities, while encouraging cycling as a practical, healthy means of transportation. Gearin' Up provides access to quality, affordable, used bicycles for those in need and hosts various community outreach programs throughout the year." Your cast offs can have new life, training young people in the art of bicycle maintenance—and providing affordable transportation.

Gearin' Up's programs include Earn-A-Bike, Popup Shops and Gearheads. Through Earn-A-Bike, children and teens get the opportunity to build their very own bicycles after committing to 16 hours of work in the organization's bicycle shop. The one-day Popup Shops are held in underserved neighborhoods and offer the opportunity for youth mechanics to practice their skills and help residents keep their bicycles safe and ready to ride. Gearheads is a trail maintenance program focused on maintaining the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

Gearin' Up also offers reasonably-priced bicycle repair services to the public. Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 12–8 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am–6 pm. Please visit [gearinupbicycles.org](http://gearinupbicycles.org) or call (202) 780-5174 for more information. ★



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## And A River Runs By It

*By Nancy Metzger*

**A**nacostia Park, a 1,200-acre park, is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. With the steady improvement of the Anacostia River and recently opened Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, the park is undergoing a renaissance. The park's value as a recreational area is obvious. However, underneath these ballfields and trails is a history stretching back thousands of years.

Join Vince Vaise, Chief of Visitor Services at Anacostia Park, in an

exciting talk that details the stories of Native Americans, civil rights battles, and historic landmarks. This is an Overbeck History Lecture you won't want to miss on September 24 at 7:30 pm at Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Admission will be free but reservations will be required. Details will appear on the calendar at [CHRS.org](http://CHRS.org) in early September. ★

# Q & A on Home Maintenance and Repair

By Beth Purcell

**C**HRS encourages members and nonmembers to email questions about historic district guidelines. We try to answer questions as best we can. If you have a question, please e-mail CHRS at [info@chrs.org](mailto:info@chrs.org).

## Interior chairlifts and exterior ramps for mobility-challenged people

**Q. If someone wants to install an interior chairlift and an exterior access ramp for a rowhouse in the Capitol Hill Historic District, what permits are needed?**

**A.** For the interior chairlift, a permit from DCRA is needed. See [dcra.dc.gov/service/get-building-permit](http://dcra.dc.gov/service/get-building-permit). No permit required from the DC Historic Preservation Office (HPO) is needed for this interior work.

For the exterior ramp, a permit from DCRA is needed and HPO must first approve the ramp before DCRA will issue a building permit. For more information, contact the HPO staff person, Gabriela Gutowski, [gabriela.gutowski@dc.gov](mailto:gabriela.gutowski@dc.gov), (202) 442-8839. HPO is happy to work with homeowners and their architects. DCRA does issue permits for ramps and other access for mobility-challenged people in the Capitol Hill Historic District.

If the exterior ramp will be located within public space, a DDOT public space permit is needed. <https://tops.ddot.dc.gov/DDOTPERMITSYSTEM/DDOTPERMITONLINE/Landing.aspx> ★

## Upcoming Preservation Cafés

The September Preservation Café, “Historic Doors—Preserve or Replace” with Joel Truitt of Joel Truitt Builders, will be held September 19. He will discuss when and how to preserve a door and what doors are most suited for your home’s architecture and age.

The October Preservation Café, “Curb Appeal: How to Preserve a Rowhouse Facade” with architectural conservator Justine P. Bello, will be held October 17. She will address best practices for how to keep a rowhouse looking its best while also employing sound preservation techniques that ensure its longevity.

Both Preservation Cafés will be held at 6:30 pm at the Northeast Library, located at 330 7th Street NE in the handicapped-accessible downstairs meeting room. No reservations are required.

The Preservation Café series is a free forum with topics of interest to the greater Capitol Hill community.

## Thank You, CHRS Supporters!

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**CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION**

Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
420 10th Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003

## Mark Your Calendar!

### SEPTEMBER

**13** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House,  
420 10th Street SE, first floor.

**18** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill  
Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, 2nd floor  
board room Details: Elizabeth Nelson,  
(202) 543-0425, info@chrs.org.

**19** Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
Historic Preservation Café: Historic  
Doors—Preserve or Replace? Northeast  
Neighborhood Library, 330 7th Street NE.  
Details: (202) 543-0435, info@chrs.org.

**24** Monday, 7:30 pm  
Overbeck History Lecture Series:  
“And a River Runs By It” presented  
by Vince Vaise, Chief of Visitor  
Services at Anacostia Park. Hill Center,  
921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE.  
See chrs.org for more details.

**26** Wednesday, 6:30–9:30 pm  
September 2018 Membership Meeting  
and Community Forum Author Talk by  
Pamela Scott. Hill Center, John Philip  
Sousa Hall, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE.  
Details: (202) 543-0435, info@chrs.org.

**29** Saturday  
Barracks Row Fall Festival. Volunteer for  
a shift in the CHRS booth! Details:  
Elizabeth Nelson (202) 543-0425,  
elizabeth\_knits@yahoo.com

### OCTOBER

**1** Monday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee,  
Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first  
floor. Details: Beth Purcell, (202) 544-0178.

**15** Monday, 7 pm  
Village Voices “Separating and  
Remaining: Families in Nazi Germany”  
presented by Norman Metzger at the  
Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.  
Details: capitolhillvillage.org.

**16** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
CHRS Board of Directors. Capitol Hill  
Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, 2nd floor  
board room. Details: Elizabeth Nelson,  
(202) 543-0435, info@chrs.org.

**17** Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
Preservation Café. Justine P. Bello will  
present “Curb Appeal: How to Preserve a  
Rowhouse Facade.” Northeast  
Neighborhood Library, 330 7th Street NE,  
lower level. Details: CHRS Office, (202)  
543-0425, info@chrs.org.

**21** Sunday, 10 am–4 pm  
CHRS House Expo. Eastern Market North  
Hall, corner of 7th Street & North  
Carolina Ave SE. Details: Michelle Carroll,  
pilliodmp@aol.com.

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copy of this newsletter, please  
consider joining CHRS!  
[www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org)