

'Tis the season  
to plant yourself  
in SPNA



Volume 25, Number 7  
April 2002

## stanton park neighborhood association news

### CALENDAR

**APR 15** **Public Briefing on H Street Mediation Process**  
Capital Children's Museum  
800 3rd Street NE  
Monday, 6:30 PM

Councilmember Sharon Ambrose will host a public briefing to explain the mediation process for the 300-block of H Street NE, and to take questions or comments from the community.

**APR 24** **Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Meeting**  
Wednesday, 7:30 PM

The meeting will be held at the Northeast Branch Library at 7th Street and Maryland Avenue NE.

Faith Williams has returned as the Children's Librarian at the Northeast Library! Faith welcomes both suggestions for children's programs and volunteers. She would like to see a Children's room Web page, with book suggestions, pictures and reviews. You can get in touch with Faith, and with Michelle Jackson, the Children's Library Associate, at 698-3299.

### Want to know more about SPNA?

Want to know what happened at the last meeting? Got an item for the newsletter? More information about SPNA activities, and how you can get involved is available on the SPNA Web site at:

[www.jubiar.com/spna](http://www.jubiar.com/spna)

### It's Spring—Let's Talk About Trees!

As April showers usher in all the greenery and blossoms in our neighborhood, we've invited Mark Buscaino, State Forester for the District in the Urban Forestry Administration (District Division of Transportation) to talk about the District's tree and urban landscaping activities. Join us on Wednesday, April 24 for a very green General Membership meeting!

The last meeting was convened March 27, 2002. Dee Atwell opened the meeting and presided over a general discussion of recent developments regarding Medlink, Station Place, Eastern Market, and development activities on H Street NE. After discussing the RestoreDC Main Street proposal for the H Street commercial corridor, Drury Tallant, co-chair of the Land Use Committee, explained that a motion was made at the February General Meeting for SPNA to pledge \$1000 in financial support to the Main Street proposal for the first year (with options for the following four years). Dru stated that committing the funds demonstrated SPNA's commitment to improving the H Street area, and gives SPNA an opportunity to be involved in accountability for the project. A vote was called among the membership in support of the motion. The motion passed.

Dee then introduced the meeting's featured speaker, DC Councilmember Sharon Ambrose (Ward 6). Councilmember Ambrose answered questions from the membership on a variety of topics, including Medlink, the Children's Museum, and the most popular topic, the recent property tax increase. She noted that many people on Capitol Hill had received much larger tax bills this year, as the Hill was the last part of the city to experience the move from a three-year cycle to a one-year cycle. Many people were reporting increases of 50% or more over last year's tax bill. Councilmember Ambrose stated that in response to the increase, the Council had passed a measure capping property tax increases at 25% per year. She also spoke of several

resources and means available to citizens if they disagree with their property tax assessment, or if the tax burden is too great. You may contact her office for more information: (202) 724-8072.

After Councilwoman Ambrose finished, two representatives from the DC Department of Mental Health made a short presentation on a Project DC, a new program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in order to provide support and resources to District residents in the aftermath of September 11th and recent anthrax scares. The program has several goals: learning how to prepare for a future disaster, talking about living under the threat of terrorism, practicing healthy ways of coping with stress, and getting social and behavioral support services if needed. If you are feeling anxious, depressed, or unable to cope (or know someone who is), you are encouraged to call Project DC for help, (202) 671-2977. The project is staffed by 18 outreach workers, 3 team leaders, and several clinical counselors available 24 hours a day.

The meeting then adjourned.

### Want to Make a Difference?

Consider serving as an SPNA Officer or volunteer! Elections for next year's officers and Steering Committee members will be held at the May SPNA meeting. This year's officers (Chairperson Warren Friedman, Vice-Chairperson Dee Atwell, Treasurer Cory Fleming, and Secretary Joe Montgomery) have agreed to run for office again. Additional nominations for officers may be made from the floor of at the April SPNA meeting. Candidates for office must have been members of SPNA for at least one year. In addition, we need volunteers for SPNA's committees. Volunteers are especially needed for the Membership and Annual Dinner committees, as well as the Land Use and Environment committees, and to act as newsletter deliverers. The qualifications include energy, enthusiasm, and a commitment to the neighborhood. For more information, contact Warren at 543-1822 or Dee at 546-8777—you CAN make a difference!

## Station Place Project Moves Forward

In February, the old surface parking lot was closed, and since then the pavement has been torn up, temporary electric, water and sanitary have been installed, and a fence, newly painted, disguises the site on the F Street and Second Street sides for the new SEC Project at Station Place. SPNA, along with ten other community groups and representatives, is part of a community advisory group that meets monthly with the representatives of the developer, Louis Dreyfus Property Group, and the construction manager for the project, J.A. Jones/Tompkins. The first meeting took place on April 19th at Banducci's, and included members from SPNA, the H Street Merchants' Association, and Union Station Redevelopment Corp. At the meeting, the Station Place representatives reported on their pre-construction survey of nearby buildings, gave an overview of the planned construction tasks over the next month, and responded to questions.

*Pre-Construction Survey.* The owners of more than 30 properties on the 200 blocks of F and G Streets, the 500 block of Second Street, and the 600 block (west side, even numbers only) of Third Street, have not responded to the offer of a pre-construction survey of their buildings. The developer agreed to contact the remaining owners again (for the fourth time) by regular mail, and extended the deadline for requesting a survey by several weeks. If you own a property on one of these blocks, have not scheduled a survey and wish to, be sure to respond very soon.

*Excavation and Pile-Driving.* Pile driving for the "earth retention system" for the underground parking garage appears ready to begin the week of April 8th. The construction manager anticipates 16 days of this extremely noisy activity, 7AM to 7PM, Monday through Saturday, scheduled to be over as quickly as possible. More than one pile driver will operate at a time, again to speed the process. A few days after the pile driving begins, excavation will start, currently scheduled to last 110 days.

The excavation trucks, which will be numerous, are required to use the Second Street entrance on the north side of the site, near the H Street overpass, and to arrive at the site by coming down Second Street.

*Dewatering.* In early May, dewatering wells will begin to remove the water from the site, a process that lets the contractors dig down 40 feet, well below the water table, for the parking garage and building foundation. The dewatering wells will be installed in mid-April, and will operate for 5-10 months once started. There is a Hotline for neighbors to use to contact the developers and construction managers. You can use this number to report construction trucks driving illicitly through the neighborhood, to report damage to your property caused by construction activities, or to raise directly other issues you have about the construction process. You can also bring your questions and concerns to Dreyfus' attention by contacting SPNA member Colleen Sealander at 543-8361, or via e-mail at: Sealander@erols.com. Community representatives meet with Dreyfus and their contractors on the third Tuesday of each month.

### Union Square

Holladay Corporation reports all but four of the townhouses have been sold. Delivery of the first homes in the 600 Block of C Street NE are expected in late summer. The future of the larger portion of the project on the hospital site has been delayed pending the resolution of Capitol Hill Hospital's bankruptcy.

### BP Project/H Street

Sharon Ambrose Will host a meeting on April 15 at the Capital Children's Museum to review the proposed mediated design process for the 300 block of H Street with the community. In other H Street news, an application was submitted on behalf of H Street for the ReStore DC Main Street Program. Up to five neighborhood commercial districts will be designated the first year.

## Citizen Foresters Needed

The Casey Trees Endowment Fund is looking for volunteers to join field teams for the DC Trees Inventory this summer. Training will be provided at no cost, and each participant will be asked for 5 days of help with the inventory.

The training will include 5 hours of classroom instruction and one field trip. The course will cover tree identification, site analysis, and tree health and care. This training is part of a Certified Citizen Forester Program. The Old Naval Hospital at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE is one of the training sites. There are 2 options for the classroom instruction:

- A. April 23 and 25, 6:30 to 9 pm.
- B. April 27, 9 am to 3 pm.

Field trips are scheduled on Saturdays from April 27, May 4, May 11, and May 18. The locations will be announced during the training.

You can register for the classes via e-mail at: friends@caseytrees.org. For more information, visit the Casey Trees Web site at: www.caseytrees.org, or call Barbara Deutsch at 546-8681.

## Scholarship committee gears up

In May, the SPNA scholarship committee faces the difficult job of deciding who among District students will receive one of our college scholarships for 2002-2003. This marks the 12th year our neighborhood association has given scholarships, and so far, 35 high school seniors have received awards, averaging about \$1500 a piece. This year we raised \$8000, one of the best years yet. The funds come from our annual dinner, raffle and auction, as well as donations by many, many neighbors. Our winners are mostly from Stanton Park and the Capitol Hill area, and have been accepted and graduated from a variety of colleges--University of Virginia, Carnegie Mellon, the New England Conservatory, Howard, and UDC, among them. They all must be DC residents and June graduates with a college acceptance letter in hand and a high probability of success.

The number of applicants have ranged from 30 to 60, making the selection process hard—we wish we had more to give. If you'd like to help with a tax deductible donation, make your check out to SPNA (mark it 'scholarship fund') and send it to: SPNA, P.O. Box 75085, Washington, DC 20013-5085.