

Blossoms bloom  
Medlink looms  
Ah, spring



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## stanton park neighborhood association news

### CALENDAR

**APR 28** **Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Meeting**

Monday, 7:30 PM (*new night!*)  
Northeast Branch Library, at 7th Street and Maryland Avenue NE.

**MAY 1** **Joint ANC 6A and 6C Zoning Committee Meeting**

Thursday, 6:30 PM  
Capital Children's Museum, at 3rd and H Streets NE. H Street overlay zone will be discussed.

**MAY 6** **ANC 6C Meeting**

Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Capital Children's Museum, at 3rd and H Streets NE.

**MAY 8** **ANC 6A Meeting**

Thursday, 7:00 PM  
Miner Elementary School, at 16th and F Streets NE

**MAY 17** **North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association Yard Sale (it's huge!)**

Saturday, 10:00 AM  
1300 blocks of North Carolina Avenue and A Street NE. Proceeds benefit the children's activities and community building programs of the NLPNA. Donated items to sell can be dropped off from 8-10 AM on the day of the sale; call 543-3512 for more information.

### Want to know more about SPNA?

Want to know what happened at the last meeting? Want to sign up to receive the newsletter via e-mail? All this and more available on the new SPNA Web site—**coming in April 2003!**

### Parking Problem Looms at MedLink

At the end of March, Capitol Hill Hospital (aka MedLink) withdrew a case it had brought against the District. MedLink had sought reclassification to a community based residential treatment facility (CBRF) for the apparent intent of reducing the amount of parking required by the current nursing home operation.

SPNA has been informed that the day before the hearing the District withdrew its objection, granted the reclassification, and substantially reduced the amount of required parking. This would seem to open the possibility for redevelopment of the unused portions of the hospital facility in the building facing Massachusetts Ave. with some parking provided by the undedicated spaces in the underground garage at the northeast corner of the square. Other lawsuits and bankruptcy proceedings are ongoing with re-organization hearings scheduled for May.

SPNA is concerned that reclassification to a CBRF and the attendant impact on parking poses a serious potential problem for the surrounding community. In particular, SPNA is concerned that a substantial development could be realized as a matter of right. For example, if there are 100 undedicated parking spaces in the underground garage, up to 300 dwelling units could be developed as a matter of right in the R-5 zone. The resulting unmet parking demand would be substantially above the previous proposal for this site which provided one parking space for each dwelling unit. In addition, because the nursing home/CBRF is staffed 24 hours a day, employees can use residential streets for parking in the hours not covered by the residential parking program.

SPNA intends to research the implications of the District's determination and likely will file an appeal of DCRA's ruling. SPNA is also investigating other avenues of appeal.

### Sharon Ambrose to Speak at April SPNA Meeting

Bring your questions for Ward 6 Councilmember Sharon Ambrose, to the April 28 SPNA meeting—this is a great opportunity to speak directly about your concerns.

Warren Friedman opened SPNA's March 31 General Membership meeting by thanking everyone for their efforts in making the Annual Dinner a great success. SPNA will have \$7800 available for 5 to 6 scholarships to assist DC high school graduates pursue college educations. He also reported that the SPNA Environment Committee is preparing an application for improvements to Ladybird Park (8th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NE) and a CHAMPs grant for this park or possibly another pocket park in the SPNA neighborhood.

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### SPNA Officer Nominations Due

Nominations for SPNA officers are due at the April general membership meeting. The positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and SPNA's appointee to the Eastern Market Citizen's Advisory Committee are all open for nominations. Please contact Drury Tallant at 543-8773 or via e-mail at: DTallant@aol.com, to recommend individuals (including yourself!). Elections will be held at the May general membership meeting.

In addition, volunteering with SPNA is a great way to get involved in your community. 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 Friedman at 543-1822 or Dee Atwell at 546-8777—you CAN make a difference!

## Meeting Minutes (continued)

Dee Atwell announced that SPNA will have both gator bags and snorkels—devices for providing steady amounts of water to street trees—available for sale this year, with earnings to go to the Scholarship Fund (see item, below).

The Land Use Committee indicated that there have been reports that a reduction in parking spaces at Medlink has been approved and that there are plans to sell off the south side of the property to a developer. Concern was expressed about parking and other issues associated with this development, and the Land Use Committee will try to find out more about this situation (see Medlink article, front page).

This month's presentation featured Tom Fontana, Capitol Visitor Center Project Communications Officer for the Architect of the Capitol, who spoke on the status of the Capitol Visitor Center. Construction is now underway and completion is expected in 2005. This is a major development that was required to accommodate the large increase in visitors to the Capitol from 600,000 per year in 1970 to 3.5–4 million in 2000. More information is available on this project at [www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov). [SPNA is trying to put together a lunch time tour of the visitor's center construction site for SPNA members. If you're interested, contact Diane Stolz at 543-1822.]

### Could We Lose Our Library?

The DC branch libraries have recently had their hours reduced due to budget cuts. The mayor has proposed additional cuts in next year's budget that would result in the closure of two branch libraries. If you would like to see the library funding restored, please sign the petition available at the circulation desk of the Northeast Library. More information about the budget and the state of the DC public libraries is available through Ralph Nader's DC Library Renaissance Project at [www.savedclibraries.org](http://www.savedclibraries.org).

### Snorkels and Tree Gators, Oh My!

Even though we've had a wet year, the area's hot summers can still take their toll on our trees. To keep ahead of the weather, Dee Atwell (546-8777) is currently taking orders for snorkels (\$10) and tree gators (\$20). Proceeds benefit the SPNA scholarship fund.

### H Street: What's an Overlay Zone and Why Should I Care?

Choices made when developing areas large and small can have a huge impact on the neighborhood. An important step in realizing the strategic plan for H Street is the creation of an "overlay zone" to guide development and provide incentives for projects supported by the community. ANCs 6A and 6C will be working with the Office of Planning on public meetings to explain the overlay zone concept. [SPNA's area is now split between two ANCs—if you live east of 8th Street you are in ANC 6A, if you live west of 8th Street you are in ANC 6C. SPNA encourages you to attend ANC meetings (see Calendar, front page) to learn more about the ANC and issues that affect your neighborhood.]

ANCs 6A and 6C, together with H Street Main Street and the affected neighborhood associations, will be discussing the overlay zone concept, and soliciting input from residents and businesses on the content of the overlay zone. The first joint meeting will be held Thursday, **May 1, 2003**, 6:30 PM at the Capital Children's Museum (3rd and H Streets NE). Learn more about overlay zones and other potential zoning changes, and add your two cents!

### Spring Clean-up at Ladybird Park!

A spring clean-up at Ladybird Park (8th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NE) is being planned for the first Saturday in May (5/3) from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. If you're interested in tidying up this great little park, please contact Laura Canfield at 547-2209.

### City, National Park Service to Fund New Stanton Park Playground

Last month, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service agreed to provide \$150,000 for a new playground at Stanton Park. The city has drawn up a design that was presented to interested parents and residents last month. The design is aimed to accommodate the age group that use the current playground—five years and under. The new equipment and layout meets all safety standards and is accessible for people with disabilities (no more wood splinters or concrete curbs). The design affects only the playground section of the park, but also includes new benches and picnic tables to create a much more friendly and attractive area for children and parents to use. A starting date for construction has not been set, though it is likely to begin sometime this Fall. The city and Park Service have agreed that demolition of the current equipment will not happen until immediately before construction begins. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting project!

