



stanton park neighborhood association news

CALENDAR

JAN 31 **Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Meeting**
Monday, 7:30 PM

Northeast Branch Library, at 7th Street and Maryland Avenue NE.

FEB 2 **ANC 6C Zoning Committee Meeting**
Wednesday, 7:00 PM

National Public Radio boardroom, 635 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Discussion of the Victims of Communism memorial (see article, page 2).

FEB 9 **ANC 6C Meeting**
Wednesday, 7:00 PM

National Public Radio boardroom, 635 Massachusetts Avenue NW

FEB 10 **ANC 6A Meeting**
Thursday, 7:00 PM

Miner Elementary School, at 16th and F Streets NE

FEB 15 **Two Rivers Public Charter School Open House**
Tuesday, 8:30–9:30 AM

1830 Constitution Avenue NE

FEB 17 **Two Rivers Public Charter School Open House**
Thursday, 8:30–9:30 AM

1830 Constitution Avenue NE

Want to know more about SPNA?

Want to know what happened at the last meeting? Find out more about how you can get involved?

All this and more available on the SPNA Web site:

www.stantonpark.org

SPNA Meeting Will Provide Tips on Appealing Your Property Taxes

Home prices in the DC area increased an average of 24% last year. That increase in value means that property tax assessments are increasing as well. New property tax assessments will be mailed out in March, and you'll have 30 days to appeal. Do you know how and when to appeal your assessment? For instance, do you know that if your property is assessed at less than you paid for it you may still be eligible for a reduction in your assessment if your property is assessed higher than compa-

rable properties? SPNA's January meeting will feature a representative from the Real Property Assessment Division of the Office of Tax and Revenue who will explain how the assessment and appeals process works. Then, SPNA members Mark Eckenwiler and Monte Edwards will discuss their experiences making successful appeals, and provide tips and insights on how to research and prepare a winning appeal. The meeting will be Monday, January 31 at the Northeast Library, starting at 7:30 PM.

Condos Planned for Children's Museum Site

SPNA's December meeting featured a presentation by Jim Abdo discussing his plans to build approximately 470 residential condominium units on the site of the former Capitol Children's Museum at 3rd and H Streets NE. Abdo plans to convert the older buildings to living spaces, but will remove the additions that date to the 1950s and 60s. He will erect two new buildings 110 feet high that will house many of the units. He will also be building an underground parking garage with over 500 parking spaces. This will provide more than one parking space for every residential unit, compared to the city's requirement to provide only a third of that number. There will also be parking spaces set aside for Flexcar or Zipcar.

Because the plot's current zoning limits building heights to 90 feet, the project

requests partial rezoning plus a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow an extra 20 feet of building height. In return for being allowed the higher building height, 15% of the additional square footage generated will be set aside for affordable housing, under a program run by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The PUD is scheduled for a public hearing before the Zoning Commission on Thursday, January 27 at 6:30 PM at the Office of Zoning Hearing Room (441 Fourth Street NW, Suite 220-S). While SPNA plans on testifying in support of the project, it plans on raising some concerns and hopes to see further improvements in the project. Abdo expects to begin construction 60 to 90 days after final approval of the PUD, and hopes to complete it within 18 to 24 months.

Tell Us About a Great Neighbor!

SPNA is accepting nominations for the annual Neighbor of the Year award. This is your chance to make sure a neighbor who has made a notable contribution to the community gets the recognition he or she deserves. Send a nomination explaining why this person should be selected to the SPNA P.O. Box (see below), or to wsilag@hotmial.com. **Nominations are due March 1.**

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts

The Northeast Library invites you to contribute to this year's Warm Hands, Warm Hearts program, an ongoing collection of new and nearly new children's hats, gloves, and scarves for the needy. Items (which must be clean and in excellent condition) will be donated to the Community for Creative Nonviolence Shelter for Women.

Donations will be accepted during library hours through March 1, 2005 at the Northeast Library at 330 7th Street NE. For more information, call (202) 698-3299.



Library Hours Extended!

The City Council has restored some of the funds that were cut from the DC Library system's budget in previous years. Thus, as of January 1, the branch libraries will be open six days a week (Monday to Saturday), including two evenings. The Northeast Library will be open from 1-9 PM on Monday and Wednesday, and from 9:30 AM-5:30 PM on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The Southeast Library will be open from 1-9 PM on Tuesday and Thursday, and from 9:30 AM-5:30 PM on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.



Dispute Over a Potential New Memorial on Capitol Hill

A private foundation raising money for a memorial to the victims of communism around the world has sparked a controversy with its plan to place the memorial on Capitol Hill. The nonprofit Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation wants to install a 10-foot bronze replica of the statue the "Goddess of Democracy" erected by the pro-democracy Chinese students in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in the summer of 1989. The design concept also includes a roll call of nations that suffered under communism, and quotations by such Cold War leaders as Ronald Reagan, Harry Truman, Lech Walesa, and Andrei Sakharov. More information on the Foundation is available at: www.victimsofcommunism.org.

In 1993, Congress authorized the foundation to erect the memorial on federal land. The foundation was originally interested in putting it in the triangular block at 1st Street and Louisiana Avenue NW (opposite the Robert Taft Carillon), but has since switched to a site bounded by Maryland Avenue, Constitution Avenue, and 3rd Street NE, opposite the Veterans of Foreign Wars headquarters. In July, the National Capital Memorial Commission unanimously approved placing it at the 3rd and Maryland site.

Some neighbors are upset because the memorial will replace the green space in the current park, and may kill two large, 50-year-old oak trees on the site. They are also concerned about traffic congestion if tourist buses regularly visit the memorial.

ANC 6C unanimously voted against the location of the monument last September, but is taking up the matter again at two meetings in February. The dates for the ANC hearings are February 2 for the ANC 6C Zoning Committee meeting, and February 9 for the full ANC 6C Commission meeting. Both meetings are at 7 PM, in the NPR building at 635 Massachusetts Avenue NW (near Gallery Place on Red Line, Mt. Vernon Square on Yellow Line).

If you would like to voice an opinion about the memorial, you can contact Karen Wirt, Commissioner for ANC 6C08, at 547-7168 or kwirt@toward.com.

Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Registration Form 2004-2005

[SPNA Membership Year: September 1, 2004 - August 31, 2005]

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ (day) _____ (eve)

E-mail: _____ Would you like to receive the SPNA newsletter via e-mail?

Single Annual membership (\$10) \$ _____

Household Annual membership (\$18) \$ _____

Household Lifetime membership (\$250) \$ _____

Tax-deductible SPNA scholarship donation \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Signature: _____

Want to get more involved?

Let us know if you'd be interested in working on any of these SPNA committees:

- Land use
- Environment
- Scholarship review
- Membership
- Newsletter/Web
- Annual dinner/special activities
- Traffic and Security Committee



Please make checks payable to SPNA. Send checks and form to:

SPNA
P.O. Box 75085
Washington, DC 20013-5085