

May it one day
stop raining



Volume 26, Number 8
May 2003

stanton park neighborhood association news

CALENDAR

- JUN 2** **Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Meeting**
Monday, 7:30 PM (*new night!*)
Northeast Branch Library, at 7th Street and Maryland Avenue NE.
- JUN 11** **ANC 6C Meeting**
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Capital Children's Museum, at 3rd and H Streets NE.
- JUN 12** **ANC 6A Meeting**
Thursday, 7:00 PM
Miner Elementary School, at 16th and F Streets NE.
- JUN 25** **H Street REVIVAL Planning: Special Joint ANC 6A and 6C Meeting**
Wednesday, 7:00–9:00 PM
Capital Children's Museum, at 3rd and H Streets NE.

This meeting will conclude a series of joint meetings between the ANCs to discuss how the vision of "REVIVAL: H Street Revitalization Plan" can be implemented through changes to the zoning regulations. The public is encouraged to attend. Further details on the plan can be found at: <http://planning.dc.gov>.

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 new SPNA Web site: www.stantonpark.org

SPNA 2003-2004 Officer Elections, Scholarship Awards at May Meeting

The April 28 General Membership meeting opened with announcements by Dee Atwell and Warren Friedman, Co-Chairs of SPNA. Members were urged to participate in the May 18 Capitol Hill Classic held annually to raise money for the Capitol Hill Cluster Schools. Drury Tallant announced Steering Committee nominations for 2003-2004 officers: **Dee Atwell**, Chair; **Brian Murray**, Vice-Chair; **Cory Fleming**, Treasurer; and **Joe Montgomery**, Secretary. No nominations were made from the floor. Elections will be held at the June 2 meeting.

An announcement was made of an inter-generational dialogue meeting to be held at St. Mark's on June 11 to discuss homeland security. A sympathy card was circulated for Michael Kelly's family. Monte Edwards noted that SPNA had been listed as a contributor to the DC Youth Orchestra (DCYO).

Warren then introduced Sharon Ambrose, who has been the DC City Council representative for Ward 6 since 1997. He noted that Ms. Ambrose has been active on a number of issues that are important to the SPNA neighborhood. Ms. Ambrose opened her talk with an assessment of the DC government budget situation, indicating that a Council vote on the budget had been postponed, and that the Council's preference this year was to not raise taxes at all, which means that spending must be held down. She explained that the two biggest sources of income were property and income taxes. Property tax income is going up due to increases in assessments, but income tax revenue has fallen off sharply due to the overall economic situation. She opposed the Mayor's proposed 5% surtax on incomes over \$100,000, pointing out that would be cumbersome to administer such a tax and that this income group, which accounts for 8% of the population, already pays 50% of the city's budget.

She indicated that the Council will have to look hard at spending in five key areas: human services, health, child and family, police and fire departments. She opposed proposals to cut back police staffing levels from 3800 to 3600, and indicated that DC needs to have a better arrangement for compensation from the federal government for the large support needs required for federal needs, such as visiting dignitaries, protests, and homeland security. She expressed concern over rising homicide rates, noting that it seemed linked in part to a large number of releases of formerly incarcerated individuals. She described the current situation at the DC jail as a "tinderbox" and indicated that DC should consider renting space from other jurisdictions to handle the overflow.

Ms. Ambrose was pessimistic about plans by the current MedLink management for the MedLink site, and indicated that she and her staff will continue to monitor the situation

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Protest Filed on MedLink Parking

On May 23, 2003 SPNA filed an appeal with the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to protest a recent decision by the Zoning Administrator. On March 26, 2003 the Zoning Administrator issued new Certificates of Occupancy for MedLink Hospital which greatly decreased the amount of required on-site parking. SPNA maintains that the Administrator's decision should be rescinded because of prior BZA orders which established the amount of required parking. In addition, the Zoning Administrator improperly exercised his discretion to set parking requirements because that prerogative is assigned exclusively to the BZA by the zoning regulations.

Meeting Minutes (continued)

closely. MedLink recently received approval to reduce its parking and may proceed with allowing residential development at the southern end of the building. SPNA is concerned with the parking and other impacts of this situation (see article, page 1).

Ms. Ambrose noted that for the first time the Cluster Schools were operating under one administration. She said that she favored holding the line on the DC Public School budget, and that she saw a growing interest on the Hill in developing more charter schools.

Questions followed. Ms. Ambrose indicated that she thought the legislation requiring a master business registration was a great improvement over earlier licensing requirements. The previous requirement was too broad, covering incomes over \$2000/year, while the new one sets the minimum at \$20,000/year. In response to other questions, she indicated that she would look into how current parking requirements for apartments (1 space to 3 units) could be changed, although this would ultimately have to come from the mayor. She also shared concerns about long waits for DC auto inspections, and said that DC should consider allowing certified gas stations to do these inspections as is done in Virginia.

The meeting then adjourned. The last General Membership meeting for the year will be held on Monday, June 2 at 7:30 PM.

Intergenerational Dialogue for Homeland Security

In an effort to help foster increased cohesion and build resilience in our neighborhoods, the Intergenerational Dialogue for Homeland Security will aim to catalyze a grassroots dialogue within the Capitol Hill community about recovery and rebalancing under the ongoing threat of terrorism. This important event, free of charge and open to all interested DC residents, is carefully structured around participants' generational experiences of war and terrorism. It has the potential to offer a powerful means of breaking down some of the isolation and fear that have been awash in our communities since the tragedies of September 11, 2001. Please join us for this important evening, Wednesday, June 11, 6:30–8:30 PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 118 Third Street NE. This event is sponsored by Project DC, a division of the DC Department of Mental Health. For more information, call (202) 671-2977.

SPNA Announces \$8,000 in 2003 College Scholarships

Five DC students will begin college next year with the aid of \$1,600 each awarded by the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association. The \$8,000 in awards marks the latest installment in an annual scholarship program begun in 1991. Since then, some 45 first-year scholarships have been given to deserving DC high school students. The awards are only available for students living in DC, with a preference for Capitol Hill residents and those living in the Stanton Park area. Chosen from a pool of 38 applicants, the five winners for 2003 are:

- **David Brown**, a Capitol Hill resident and Banneker High School senior, who plans to major in economics and business at Duke University. He is president of Banneker's math honor society, captain of its soccer team, and an algebra tutor.
- **Rae-Ann Headley**, a Capitol Hill resident and senior at School Without Walls, who will major in child psychology and music with the goal of coupling the two in support of children's needs. She plans to attend Columbia Union College.
- **Tyce Jones**, also a Hill resident, who will major in pre-medicine in the fall, aiming to become a cardiologist. She attended Dunbar High School, is a national honor society member and plans to attend college in the fall. She and her two brothers were raised by her 84-year-old grandmother to whom Tyce attributes much of her success and describes as "the strongest person I know." Jones is winner of SPNA's Henson Scholarship, named for a D Street NE resident who opened his heart and home to neighborhood children.
- **Krystal Robinson**, a senior in the Dunbar High School pre-engineering program. One of two daughters of a teenage mother, Krystal began working at 14. She was first exposed to engineering in the fourth grade through a weekend education program and found she has, as she puts it, a "passion for electricity." She will enter Bowie State University in the fall working toward an engineering degree.
- **Garang Yak**, a graduate of Bell Multicultural High School. Garang, a native of Sudan, has overcome great obstacles to pursue his education. When Garang was 11, his father was killed in the civil war; he and his nine-year-old brother were separated from their mother and wound up in a refugee camp in Kenya. In 2001, Garang was allowed to enter the U.S. He has been accepted at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he will study science with the goal of becoming a pharmacist.

Selections were made by the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Scholarship Committee. For more information on the program, contact SPNA or call Jeff Johnson, (202) 872-6072. Congratulations to all of our winners—we wish you the best of luck in your endeavors!

Street Trees Update

Casey Trees will be holding meetings throughout the city to present the results of the comprehensive street tree survey completed last summer, and to discuss the long-term tree planting program to start this fall. They want residents to help create neighborhood "re-greening" plans. The meeting for our neighborhood is scheduled for June 18 at the Capital Children's Museum from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Last summer, many Capitol Hill residents assisted with the tree survey as citizen volunteers (joining full-time interns and DC high school students) to gather data on each street tree block by block. This fall, Casey Trees will be sponsoring fall tree planting events throughout the city. For more information on Casey Trees and their mission, visit www.caseytrees.org.

Watering . . .

It's hard to imagine now, but hot summers can still take their toll on street trees! Dee Atwell (546-8777) is taking orders for snorkels (\$10) and tree gators (\$20). Proceeds benefit the SPNA scholarship fund.

. . . And Mulch, Mulch More!

In addition to watering your street trees during the hot summer months, the latest advice from Casey Trees is to apply a layer of shredded hardwood mulch to the tree pit. A protective layer (about 2-3 inches uniformly spread) can reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation and runoff. Be careful not to apply too thick a layer, as that could prevent oxygen from reaching the roots and may become a breeding ground for insects. Also, the tree's root flare (the wider part at the bottom of the trunk) should always be visible.