

Driving on the Hill
is downright scary



Volume 28, Number 2
October 2004

stanton park neighborhood association news

CALENDAR

OCT 25 **Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Meeting**
Monday, 7:30 PM

Northeast Branch Library, at 7th Street and Maryland Avenue NE. Come meet the candidates for your ANC!

OCT 30 **Howl-o-Ween**
Saturday, 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Lincoln Park

Doolittle's Chateau-Animaux will once again be sponsoring Washington, DC's favorite canine costume contest! Prizes in five categories for Scariest, Funniest, Best Disguise, Best Dressed, and Best in Show. No prior registration needed, no entry fee. Festivities start at 2:00 PM, with the parade of costumes and judging beginning promptly at 2:30 PM.

NOV 2 **Election Day**
Tuesday

NOV 10 **ANC 6C Meeting**
Wednesday, 7:00 PM

National Public Radio boardroom, 635 Massachusetts Avenue NW

NOV 11 **ANC 6A Meeting**
Thursday, 7:00 PM

Miner Elementary School, at 16th and F Streets 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 new SPNA Web site:
www.stantonpark.org

Residents Concerned About Street Closings

There was a standing room crowd at the September SPNA meeting to question representatives from MPD, the DC Department of Transportation, and the DC Emergency Management Agency about recent checkpoints and street closings on Capitol Hill in response to heightened terror alerts. All the speakers emphasized that Capitol Police (who are an arm of Congress and not the District of Columbia) are responsible for the closings. District officials are trying to improve coordination with the federal government, but so far they have been responding to federal decisions after the fact.

The street closings are expected to remain in place at least through the presidential Inauguration. Whether the street closings become permanent (and whether additional restrictions are added) remains to be seen. The Capitol Police are not answerable to District residents, but community pressure may be able to make some difference. SPNA is investigating creating a Traffic and Security Committee to provide community input on these issues. If you are interested in participating, please

e-mail us at spna@stantonpark.org, or return the form on the back of this page indicating your interest and contact information.

As main thoroughfares such as Constitution and Independence are restricted, more traffic is moving to alternate routes through Capitol Hill. There have been problems with vehicles speeding, not stopping at intersections, and violating rules prohibiting buses and trucks on certain streets. Many residents complained that more police traffic enforcement is needed. MPD 1st District Inspector Andrew Solberg asked residents to identify particular problem areas by e-mailing him at Andrew.Solberg@dc.gov.

The District operates several emergency alert systems, including a text system that will send emergency messages to any text capable device (cell phone, computer e-mail, pagers, or fax), and a voice messaging system that will send telephone messages if there is an incident that requires citizens to evacuate or shelter-in-place. You can sign up for one of these services at the DC Emergency Information Center Web site at: <http://emergencycenter.dc.gov/eia/site>.

Police Boundaries Redrawn, Part II

As described in last month's newsletter, the Police Department has reorganized its boundaries. The city is divided into 7 Police Districts and 44 Patrol Service Areas (PSAs). The PSAs are designed to encourage a partnership between the community and police, and to prevent crime.

Most of the Stanton Park neighborhood is in Patrol Service Area (PSA) 102. The area southeast of the intersection of 9th Street and Maryland Avenue is in PSA 103. There are monthly PSA 103 meetings the second

Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Miner Elementary School (601 15th Street NE). PSA 103 also has an e-mail network and a newsletter. To get on the distribution list, contact one of the PSA 103 Citizen Coordinators, Jennifer Flathers (Jennifer.Flathers@verizon.net) or Brenda Artis (724-4566). For more information on PSA 103, contact Sgt. Dejesus at 727-4608, or Lt. Renato Caldwell at 727-1414. General information about the PSAs is at www.mpdc.dc.gov under the link to "Police Districts and PSAs."

Land Use Update

Office of Planning Proposes Zoning Changes on H Street, NE

A new zoning and overlay for H Street NE is currently being prepared by the Office of Planning for submission to the Zoning Commission for consideration at its next public meeting on October 25. The Office of Planning report and proposed text should be available at the Office of Zoning by close of business on October 15. The Office of Planning intends to post the report and text on its web site soon after that. At its meeting, the Zoning Commission will decide whether or not to schedule a public hearing for the proposed amendment. Due to notice requirements the public hearing will not take place until early 2005. If you have any questions, please call David McGettigan or Karina Ricks at the Office of Planning (202) 442-7600.

Abdo Moves Forward with Children's Museum

The project is scheduled to be reviewed by the Near NE Citizens Against Crime and Drugs at 6:00 PM on November 4 at Wilson Elementary. The project will likely go before the P&Z committee for review in November, and the full ANC6C in November or December. The developer also plans to meet with CHRS committees again in the next month. The project has not yet been assigned a hearing date for the Zoning Commission, but that will likely happen in December or January. By the end of October, design refinements by the Project Architect, Esocoff & Associates, should be complete and will be made available to the ANC and other interested parties for review.

What's Happening with MedLINK?

The Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) has finally issued a written opinion regarding SPNA's appeal of reduced parking limits for the MedLINK Hospital and Nursing Home. In 2003, the Zoning Administrator reduced the number of parking spaces required at MedLINK from 276 to 85 by applying the zoning requirements for a rooming house to the nursing home. SPNA appealed to the BZA, which announced in February that it agreed with SPNA that the nursing facility is more analogous to a hospital than a rooming house for the purpose of establishing parking requirements, and a hospital is required to have one parking space for each bed in the facility. Between the hospital and the nursing home, MedLINK is approved to operate 177 beds. Thus, under the recent BZA order, MedLINK is required to provide 177 parking spaces.

In other MedLINK news, earlier this year the Capitol Hill Restoration Society proposed rezoning the MedLINK property from R-5-D to R-5-B. One important impact of the rezoning would be that any new building on the property would be limited to a height of 50 feet. In response, MedLINK has proposed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CHRS in which MedLINK would agree to limit the height of the building in return for CHRS no longer supporting a rezoning. Because the current draft of the MOU is vaguely worded, it is not clear what height limits MedLINK would be agreeing to. CHRS is currently studying MedLINK's proposal.

SPNA Volunteer Opportunities for Students and Others

SPNA needs volunteers to deliver this monthly newsletter. Delivering the newsletter around the four sides of a block takes less than an hour a month on your own schedule. Doctors agree that walking is good for your health. Delivering the SPNA newsletter is low-impact exercise. Plus, when taken as directed, the SPNA newsletter has no carbs. **Students can earn volunteer credits for their school by delivering the newsletter.** Blocks that need deliverers are indicated on the map. You don't have to live on a block to deliver the newsletter there. SPNA also needs quadrant captains (who deliver the newsletter to a group of block deliverers). If you're interested in helping out, contact Bill Silagi at 543-6775 or via e-mail at wsilagi@hotmail.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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land use | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Web |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship review | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual dinner/special activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic and Security Committee | |



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

SPNA
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Washington, DC 20013-5085