



Grant Circular

A Neighborhood Magazine in Partnership with ANC 4C

Additional Content on www.grantcircular.com

Number 7 • September/October 2007

Petworth News Serves Our Community

Jacqueline Arendse

Petworth News blog (<http://petworth-news.blogs.com/>) started in September 2004 and has been an invaluable resource for up-to-the minute information on the happenings in the neighborhood. In addition to providing a space for topical discussion, Petworth News also provides useful links to resources such as other local blogs and internet sites, listservs, arts organizations, businesses, ANC information, and maps. The *Grant Circular* and Bill Crandall, publisher of Petworth News, discussed the blog and its effect on the neighborhood.

Impetus and Initial Ideas

GC: What was your initial impetus to create your Petworth News?

BC: It was very much an impulse decision. I thought of it one day and put up the first post that same day. I got to thinking about the community and some of the issues and changes that were going on. It occurred to me that people, both new and old residents, didn't really have a place or a way to meet, exchange ideas, and stay informed about what was going on. In the absence of a physical public sphere where people could easily bump into someone (other than their direct neighbors), I thought it would be really useful to make a kind of virtual town square. Both new and old residents can become isolated in their houses without a sense of what's going on in the larger community.

Some people have said, well, the older folks don't have computers, internet, and so on, and that this is mainly for newer residents. Maybe, but I found that isn't always true and in fact a good number of longtime residents are eager to latch onto what they themselves see as positive change.

GC: How do you decide what to include on the site? What to use to start a discussion?

BC: I start with what people send me by email. I do a bit of editing in many cases, either for typos and/or content, and I attribute every post with the sender's name. Sometimes I'll see something happening around the corner and go check it out, take some pictures. I try to stay tapped into the issues, though I go to fewer meetings these days since I had a child. I hear things through the grapevine, through neighbors, friends like ANC Chair Joe Martin.

The listservs are valuable of course but it can sometimes be difficult to extract the information you really want or need. I try to see what's out there and distill it down to a kind of essential digest. Since I used to work in community journalism, mostly as a photographer but also as an editor, I

See Petworth News, page 7

Petworth Recreation Center Re-Opens

K.W. Cooper

On July 21, 2007, the Petworth Community celebrated the grand opening of the Petworth Recreation Center's new playgrounds and water spray park. It was a great moment for the Petworth neighborhood. What once was a haven for drug dealing and using has been transformed into an area that invites the community to come out and play, get wet, and have fun. The two playgrounds – a colorful tot playground and a playground for kids 5 to 12 year olds (with a swank European appa-

See Recreation Center, page 6



16th St. Heights Parks Because everyone needs a place to play outdoors

Jean Badalamenti

The Friends of the 16th Street Heights Parks is a nonprofit organization formed in 2007 to enhance and develop Upshur and Hamilton Parks through advocacy, park maintenance, and special projects.

If you haven't been to the Hamilton (on Hamilton St. between 13th and 14th) and Upshur (bordered by Upshur, Arkansas, and Allison Sts.) parks, they are multi-use parks located in the heart of 16th Street Heights, one of Washington, D.C.'s most diverse neighborhoods. The Friends of the 16th Street Heights Parks goal is to improve the parks so they reflect our diversity and serve as a meeting place for the entire community. By updating, expanding, and improving their facilities, we can make these parks a destination for everyone in our neighborhood as well as for anyone who would like to visit our neighborhood for recreation and relaxation.

See 16th Street Heights Parks, page 7



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4C

The Advisory Neighborhood Commissions is the body of government with the closest official ties to the people in a neighborhood. Commissioners serve as unpaid volunteers and welcome input from the constituents that they serve. The intent of ANC legislation is to ensure input from residents of the neighborhoods that are directly affected by government action.

Announcements

UPCOMING ANC 4C COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

Tuesday, September 11, 6:30 pm / Tuesday, October 9, 6:30 pm

The ANC for 4C meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at MPD's Northern Regional Operation Command Center (ROC), 801 Shepherd Street, NW. These meetings are open to the community. Complete minutes of these meetings are available on the ANC 4C Web site at

<http://anc4c.org/mins.html>.

ANC Commissioners conduct meetings for their own single member district (SMD) in addition to the ANC 4C-wide meeting. See the list of commissioners, below, for meeting schedules, contact information, and announcements.

ANC 4C

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 60847
Washington, DC 20039-0847
Tel: (202) 723-6670
Web: <http://www.anc4C.org>

Emergency Assistance for District Electric Customers

Emergency assistance is available to low income District residents who have received a disconnection notice for electric service, or are currently disconnected.

Once eligible residents receive a disconnection notice from the utility company, they can come to the District Department of the Environment's Energy Division (DDOE) without an appointment. All applicants must bring the disconnection notice, proof of income, most recent utility bills, and a picture ID to DDOE Mon-

day through Friday, between 8:30am and 4:30pm. DDOE is located at 2000 14th Street, NW #300E.

Residents are also encouraged to take advantage of the Utility Discount Programs (UDP) which offers discounted rates on electric, gas, telephone and water bills. Please call the Energy Hotline at (202) 673-6750 for details.

CONTACT: Sharon Cooke, PIO, District Department of the Environment (DDOE) 51 N St., NE, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 535-2511, Cell (202) 528-8549.

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines for Low Income Energy Assistance Program

10/01/06 - 09/30/07

Household Size, Max. Annual Income

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1, \$20,274 | 5, \$45,226 |
| 2, \$26,512 | 6, \$51,464 |
| 3, \$32,750 | 7, \$52,634 |
| 4, \$38,988 | 8, \$53,803 |

2007-2008 ANC 4C Commissioners

4C01 Dee Jolley

Address: 5711 13th St, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 545-0601

E-mail: dee@williejolley.com

SMD meeting: Bring the SMD monthly meeting to your block! Call Dee Jolley to find out how!

4C02 Damian Nickens

Address: 5113 13th St, NW, Washington, DC 20011

E-mail: bigdnickens@yahoo.com

4C03 Ronald P. Bland

Address: 1605 Buchanan St, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 723-4986

E-mail: rpbland4@cs.com

4C04 Maggie Biscarr

Address: 1427 Taylor St, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 829-2802

E-mail: maggie@biscarr.com

SMD meeting: 3rd Monday each month (starting Sept 17) in the back yard of 1444 Taylor Street, NW.

4C05 Louis Wassel

Address: 1403 Varnum St, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 723-3580

E-mail: 4c05@anc.dc.gov

4C06 Kelita Boyd

Address: 3654 New Hampshire Ave., NW (#38), NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 421-6951

E-mail: anc4c06@yahoo.com

4C07 Shanel Anthony

Address: 4409 Kansas Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 291-6455

E-mail: shanelanthony4c07@gmail.com

SMD meeting: 3rd Saturday each month, Petworth United Methodist Church, 32 Grant Circle, NW.

4C08 Timothy Jones

Address: 737 Rock Creek Church Rd, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 722-0701

E-mail: taj_reinv@juno.com

SMD meeting: 3rd Monday each month (except holidays) at 7 pm, 801 Shepherd Street, NW in the community room.

4C09 Joseph Martin, Jr. (Chair)

Address: 4230 4th St, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 309-1817

E-mail: anc4c09@yahoo.com

4C10 Kevin Hummons

Address: 320 Shepherd St, NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: (202) 605-4333

E-mail: ehummons320@yahoo.com

Image credits

p. 1: photo by Bill Crandall



Get to Know Your ANC Commissioner

Dee Jolley, ANC 4C01

Dee Jolley, a professional development consultant, is president of Willie Jolley Worldwide, where she oversees the business operations, which include speaking services of her husband Willie Jolley, program design and training and development. Her roots are from Hampton, Virginia, having arrived in the District to attend Howard University for undergrad and Catholic University for graduate school. She and her husband Willie have two children.

The Brightwood community needs your eyes and ears! Making our area safe, clean, and drug free requires the participation of all the people in our community! Community empowerment is the action word for SMD 4C01! Providing access to information, people and resources, is Dee Jolley's goal as the new commissioner for SMD 4C01.

Developing a communications network amongst the neighbors is key to that success. From starting a Neighborhood Watch, to visiting neighbors -block by block, to emailing will be key tools Dee wants to use to reach out to her neighbors.

On July 28th, 4C01 held its first local area clean up with the help of the Department of Public Works (DPW), Helping Hands and wonderful hardworking neighbors! We stuffed dozens of yellow bags for DPW to remove. Watch and listen for more opportunities to become involved in improving the SMD 4C01 community from planting flowers in tree boxes to removing graffiti from walls.

We are now looking to have our SMD 4C01 meetings on your individual block! Call Dee on 202-545-0601 with your ideas.

Maggie Biscarr, ANC 4C04

Maggie Biscarr was born and raised in Nashville, TN, and educated in Georgia, with an MSW from the University of Georgia and a BA in Psychology from Mercer University. She has lived in the District for nine years and currently resides with her husband and three-year old son in 16th Street Heights, where she has lived since 2001. Maggie has worked primarily at the national level since her move to DC in 1998, her primary focus being the issues facing grandparents and other relatives raising children. She has also worked at the local level in child welfare, and has experience working with children and youth with mental health and substance abuse issues. Maggie currently serves as a National Program Consultant with the AARP Foundation Grandparenting Program.

A full-time working mother, Maggie's entry into public service as an ANC Commissioner grew out of a desire to make her neighborhood a better place for families to live and raise children. As such, her top priorities are safer streets, better neighborhood playgrounds and schools, and family friendly business development along 14th Street.

Maggie is new to neighborhood and community development and welcomes suggestions and ideas for positive change from the constituents in her single member district. She does not desire a career in politics, only to create positive change in her community. Maggie will begin holding bi-monthly meetings this fall to hear concerns and gather input from her neighbors.

Message from Ward 4 Council Member

Muriel Bowser

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

We're off and running...

I am so thankful to have this opportunity to serve our great neighborhoods and look forward to working each day to implement our vision for Ward 4-focusing on our neighborhoods, fixing our schools, and fighting for economic development that will enhance our great corridors.

We're on our way...

Having completed our first 90 days in office, we've accomplished much and have begun planning even more. Here are a few examples:

- Hired experienced staff that joins me in pledging to always provide great service to you, and to always be a phone call away. See contact list below.
- Jumped into committee assignments, hearings, mark-ups, Committee of the Whole meetings, and three marathon legislative sessions. I've been assigned to the following committees: 1) Public Safety and the Judiciary, 2) Public Works and the Environment, 3) Housing and Urban Affairs, and 4) Human Services.
- Attended dozens of ANC, civic and other community group meetings. Joined residents in celebrating their block parties, birthday parties and the graduations of hundreds of our DCPS students.
- Launched "Ward 4 Cares", my constituent services fund that will allow us to make small contributions to deserving residents in need and special community projects. Thank you to our "Ward 4 Cares" Committee who will help us with a fun-filled year of special events to support the Fund.
- Briefed DC government agency directors on Ward 4 priorities, especially the schools, economic development and the agencies directly affecting our neighborhoods: Metropolitan Police, Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation.

I look forward to continuing to share our progress with you. Call on us anytime.

Muriel Bowser, Councilmember, Ward 4, Council of the District of Columbia, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 406 Washington DC 20004, (202) 724-8052-voice / (202) 741-0908, mbowser@dccouncil.us

Joy Holland, Chief of Staff, (202)741-0914, jholland@dccouncil.us

Kristen Barden, Communications Director, (202)741-0917, kbarden@dccouncil.us

Constituent Services Coordinators

Kamaria Mabry, (202)741-0915, kmabry@dccouncil.us

Dr. Gloria Dickerson, (202)741-0921, gdickerson@dc-council.us



Garden Corner

Carol Herwig (Master Gardener)

It's 99 and sweaty as I write this, but by the time you read this, I'll be making plans for my spring gardens. I'll be taking stock of what worked, what needs dividing, and what needs to be added.

For example, let's look at a garden we pass by frequently – the triangle on New Hampshire at 7th and Taylor. Last fall, you might have been among the neighbors who helped plant the 11 new trees that went into the triangle. Afterward, encouraged by DC Parks, we followed with about 200 early spring bulbs. That was a conservative

approach, and by this summer it was clear we needed to plant more. (Note: There is a planting plan, which has been approved by DCPR. Don't plant in a public space without permission.)

At the park, one neighbor has talked about adding hostas in a shady area. Hostas might seem like a cliché in this area, but they give depth and texture to a garden with their crinkly leaves and rich variety of leaf colorings from green/white to a deep teal. My favorites are the "Royals" because they have a creamy white flower, bloom later than most and have a vanilla-like scent. Conversely, a fan of a variegated green and white version cuts the flower stalks off before they bloom.

Also at the park, two other neighbors want to splurge on daylilies. Maybe

some of those yellow, long-blooming ones? Some of them smell delicious in the evening. For a color splash next to the redbud trees, some pink daylilies? It doesn't have to be orange and green.

But before I start shopping, I ask myself what needs dividing?

You will see me digging up hyacinth *Hispanoides* from my front yard in October to be planted under new trees at the park.

The yellow irises in the park need to be dug up, divided, and replanted in freshly composted beds. (Volunteers are needed for this project.)

Then I go back to catalogs.

For the shady areas under those new trees, I'm thinking about arum *Italicum*, a three-season bulb that resembles Jack-in-the-Pulpit. It has dark green leaves with deep, white veining, a white spring flower and an orange seed stalk in the fall.

The hotter, sunnier area around the crape myrtles at the south end of the park is begging for more "Sunny Twinkles" (*Allium moly*, in the onion family), which offer late spring flowers in pink and yellow. There are more than a dozen other alliums, ranging from garlic chives to the 5-foot tall purple "lollipops" that would also work well in such a spot. They are also fun to drop into a perennial bed for a jolt of color and height.

One excellent website for bulbs – pictures, growing conditions, descriptions – is brentandbeckysbulbs.com. It's a Virginia company, which means the bulbs are grown in conditions somewhat similar to Washington's climate.

The best time to plant bulbs for spring is in October or November, but I've planted as late as January with success. The best catalog/website sources generally won't send their bulbs out until late October.

Save this date: On Oct. 13, Casey Trees Foundation is coming back to Petworth with trees for the triangle parks at 4th and Randolph along Rock Creek Church Road and at the intersection of Rock Creek Church Road, Park Place and 5th Street. We'll need people to dig and mulch and water and volunteers to provide refreshments (water, coffee, juice, snacks).

Growing Up In Petworth

Lesley Aranha

One hot summer day I was reminiscing with my neighbor, Mr. Ben, who's in his nineties about the activities in our neighborhood back in the fifties. Of course, we mourned the loss of our beloved trees and he recalled relaxing on the front porch at the end of the work day. In those days everyone had a bench or chairs or perhaps a swing for two, which was hung from the ceiling of the porch. The latter was a delight for the children in the family. Most homes still had white wooden columns and gray wooden porch floors which the man of the house painted every other summer. My own father, a school teacher, hired himself out as a painter in the summertime. In those days a teacher was paid on the first of each month until the last check for the year on the last day of school in June. Then, the next salary check came on October 1st of the new school year. Daddy used house-painting income to get us through the summer. Mr. Ben says he doesn't sit out on the porch very much any more.

Mr. Ben recalled chatting with the neighbors about family accomplishments and neighborhood activities and neighborhood needs. Naturally, he mentioned families who have moved away. I, now feeling like an old timer myself, couldn't remember some of them. He also talked about NUSH,

Neighbors United to Save our Homes. According to Mr. Ben, the original Metro Subway plan would have demolished some homes in the 4200 block of New Hampshire Avenue and other homes along the path of the tunnel. He said that the huge evergreen tree in the center of Grant Circle was slated for removal, as well.

The members of NUSH met at each others' homes originally, to follow up on neighborhood concerns, such as, trash pick ups, street light repairs, traffic concerns and neighborhood school issues. At the time that the Metro extension was proposed citizens were concerned about the effect of the vibrations from the construction on their homes and the proposed destruction of some neighbors' homes. NUSH became an important organization, which disseminated information, held meetings, gathered signatures and acted as a liaison between the neighbors and Metro. Their efforts got each home inspected prior to the beginning of the construction and provided a baseline for each home owner whose home experienced damaged which they attributed to the Metro construction.

The tradition of neighbors coming together in Petworth continues today and the more senior members of the area are appreciative that this tradition lives on. Thank you to ALL the community leaders who keep us informed, make us aware of changes, and monitor our safety.

Have a gardening question?

Send Carol an e-mail at gardener@grantcircular.com.



Pairing 101

Astrid Ruggeri

Contrary to some belief, wine should not be intimidating. Drink what you like and pair what you desire, is my motto. If you fancy a specific varietal (a wine bearing the name of the principal grape from which it is made), then don't worry about what you eat with it, just enjoy your glass of wine.

But for those who are curious to see how wines can bring out the flavor in certain foods, read on for some basic pairings. And what better way to explore pairings than to use the cuisine of some of our neighborhood restaurants.

When eating Polska Kielbasa and Sauerkraut at Domku Bar and Café, a sweet or light white wine will pair well to bring out the tanginess of the sausage and sauerkraut. I recommend a Riesling or Pinot Gris. This pairing will work for the bratwursts you are grilling during the summer as well.

El Limeño and El Torogoz both serve some Latin American fare, and depending on the dish, you might order something spicy. Once again, nothing helps cut through the spiciness of a food better than a sweet wine. Rieslings, more commonly known as dessert wines, are perfect to pair with any cuisine rich in spices even Indian food. Another good pairing for heavily spiced food is a German varietal called Gewürztraminer. Also, for example when ordering some pork pupusas at El Limeño, a Pinot Grigio, an Italian varietal related to Pinot Gris, would work well, as would a Chardonnay. If you are looking for a red, a Merlot or Chianti would pair well.

Now a Riesling is a varietal I tend not to drink very often, but it just so happens that once again, a glass of Riesling would pair nicely with some fried chicken at The Hitching Post. If you were eating roasted or baked chicken, you could pair a Chardonnay and although most people believe, white wine with white meat and red wine with dark, you can certainly enjoy a Merlot or Chianti with chicken, as they tend to be lighter red wines. Red wines have more noticeable tannins, which come from the skins and seeds of the grapes and are included during the red wine fermentation process. I won't get too technical, but the bottom line is: the interaction of proteins with tannins make a good combination, so go

ahead and have some red wine with your chicken!

At Temperance Hall, the ground beef in its Sloppy Joes pair well with Zinfandel and Beaujolais. Not in the mood for Sloppy Joes but still want your recommended iron intake for the day with a Hanger Steak, then choose a heavier red like a Cabernet Sauvignon or a rich and spicy Pinot Noir.

The red sauce used on the pizzas at Red Rocks is complemented by a nice glass of Chianti and that applies to any pasta with red sauces. The fruitiness of a Sauvignon Blanc pairs well with a

vegetarian dish at Safari DC.

Remember the wonderful smell of jerk chicken in the air as you walk past Sweet Mango Café? Sorry, but the jerk spice is just too hot to pair any kind of wine with it, so for this one, your best bet might be to have a cold beer! Cheers!

Astrid is owner and president of City Affairs (www.cityaffairs.net) and can help you plan your next party or event. If you have questions or comments, e-mail Astrid at flavor@grancircular.com.

Leash Aggression

Behavior problem or bad public relations?

Rachel Jones

It is very embarrassing to be the person in the neighborhood whose dog barks and lunges at other dogs on walks. No one wants to be ostracized by the neighbors because of their dog's behavior. One of the most common complaints dog trainers hear is "My dog is perfectly fine off leash at the dog park, but when we're walking on leash he becomes aggressive and barks and lunges at other dogs." What is leash aggression and why does it happen?

Leash aggression can be defined as aggressive behavior (growling, lunging, snapping) that occurs towards people or dogs only when a dog is on leash. If your dog is aggressive towards dogs and people in other contexts, he doesn't have leash aggression. There are several possible causes of leash aggression. The most basic cause is fear. Your dog may feel afraid or nervous on walks because of her genetic makeup, breed-specific temperament, lack of socialization as a puppy or a bad experience in the past. Dogs only have two possible courses of action when they are afraid: fight or flight. A non-aggressive dog will choose flight whenever possible, but being on leash prevents this option, leaving only fight. Some dogs may also feel protective or territorial on leash; the leash creates a sort of "territory" around the owner and the dog that the dog then wants to protect. Whatever the reason for the reactivity of the dog, the presence of the leash robs him of his ability to make decisions, which then leads to an increase in anxiety or fear.

While true cases of leash aggression do exist, the majority of dogs that behave badly on leash are simply exhibiting poor social skills or lack of training. For example, a dog that is under-socialized may bark and lunge at other dogs because he is so excited to see them. Unfortunately, people often feel nervous or embarrassed about their barking dog and avoid meeting other dogs on walks, which just increases their dog's desperation and does not give him a chance to learn new social skills. Barking and/or lunging are not necessarily signs of aggression; a dog that barks may never bite. These behaviors are more often public relations problems between humans than actual behavior problems.

It is not fair to isolate your dog from public situations simply because you feel ashamed of her inappropriate behavior. It is important to closely examine the behavior and decide if it poses an actual threat (biting) or if it is just embarrassing (barking, jumping, lunging). In either case, training can improve your dog's behavior on leash immensely, and the only way to teach her new, appropriate behaviors (sitting and being quiet) is to get out there and practice around other dogs and new people.

Rachel Jones, the owner and head trainer of K-9 Divine, is a certified Canine Behavior Counselor with the Association of Companion Animal Behavior Counselors and is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. Get more information at www.k-9divine.com.



Recreation Center

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tus) – are awesome, but everyone agrees that the water spray park is the best.

The transformation of the Petworth Recreation Center was a combined effort by the community, local government agencies, and the business community. Initially, the All State Foundation and Injury Free Coalition for Kids offered the community a grant to build a tot playground and with the help of then Councilmember, now Mayor Adrian Fenty, ANC 4C, and community groups U.N.T.S. and Friends of Petworth, the project began to take shape. While the initial plans

were being drafted, the Department of Parks and Recreation then Director Neil Albert promised the community groups that it would build a 5 to 12 year old playground. After countless meetings, emails, and telephone calls, final plans were approved, contracts were posted, bids were accepted and the work was scheduled. The community could not believe that after three years, the project was finally moving forward. Then, during one of the follow up meetings, the Department of Parks and Recreation flabbergasted the community by expanding the plans to include an upgrade of the existing spray park. The plan changes were approved and the project came to fruition, resulting in a beautiful

park and recreation center for neighbors to gather and children to play.

Thanks goes out to Mayor Adrian Fenty, ANC 4C, Kevin and Dorothy Blackwell of U.N.T.S. and, Karen Archer and Ivory Gene Cooper of The Friends of Petworth for their persistence and determination in leading the effort to make the Petworth Recreation Center a place where our children and neighbors can get wet and have fun.

The new water spray park is open Monday through Friday from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Saturday from noon to 4:00 pm and on code orange or red days, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. Pets are not allowed in the water spray area or the playground areas. Have Fun!

Letters to the Editor

**From: David O. Treadwell,
Executive Director,
Central Union Mission**

In the July/August article, *Community Objections to Central Union Mission*, Mr. Valenti offered a broad outline of the objections GARDS has toward the Mission's move to Georgia Avenue. The Mission is grateful for the opportunity to respond.

One of the most difficult aspects of moving to Georgia Avenue has been responding to a great deal of misinformation and over generalizations about the Mission and its services. Here are five examples:

- 1. The Mission:** The Mission is referred to as "a large 'men only' homeless shelter." This ignores most of the services provided. While part of one floor is devoted to a residence for homeless men, a wide variety of services for families, women, men, children and the community are also included.
- 2. The Staff:** The Mission's staff has been attacked: "They do not have doctors and counselors that have certifications to administer programs." The Mission is a 123 year old faith-based ministry that does not accept tax dollars for its ministries and programs. The credentials of those holding staff positions are appropriate for a ministry with our mission and focus. Mission programs are administered by well-educated people like Dr. Robert Rich, M. Div, MRE, DMin, the author of and a teacher in our 18-month Spiritual Transformation Program; Pastor James Lewis, MDiv, the Senior Director of Ministry overseeing all programs; Shirley Johnson, MSW, head of our Social Work Department and Extended Support Program; Gregory Strong, MDiv, head of the Spiritual Transformation Program and Certified Addictions Counselor Don Ross, his deputy; and Dr. Jorge DeCasanova, ThD, head of our Hispanic Family Ministry. Community medical, dental and le-

gal services are administered by licensed professional volunteers.

- 3. The Retail Café:** The Mission's proposed retail café has been referred to as a "soup kitchen." The proposed retail café will be separate, both in location and operations from the main dining area. Café training, food preparation and service will be handled by an independent third party.
 - 4. The Crime Record:** Crimes attributed to Mission guests have been overstated. As an example, we recently learned that ex-offenders who are seeking a DC "non-driver's license" identification card (which benefits their search for employment) inappropriately use Central Union Mission's address as their permanent address. We are cooperating with officials to minimize inappropriate use of the Mission's address that may in turn reflect inaccurate crime statistics.
 - 5. The Current Location:** The Mission's current location is under contract. Professionals specializing in the areas of permits and zoning have assured the Mission its plans are in compliance with zoning requirements. Planning and pursuing the necessary permits and zoning are a normal part of the construction process.
- The Mission is interested in the concerns and interest of all its neighbors and continues to seek opportunities for open communication and dialog. To learn more about the Mission please stop by, call or visit our web site at www.missiondc.org.

From: Cliff Valenti, GARDS

Thank you for allowing me to explain GARDS position about Central Union Mission's possible move to Georgia Avenue. I would like to make the following points in response to the mission article:

- 1. The Café** proposed by the mission is a progressive, new idea for a homeless shelter that incorporates their rehabilitative efforts with the community, but it does not satisfy the commercial requirement of the overlay district. To satisfy this requirement the mission would have to seek out independent businesses, which would encourage them – as land-

lord – to keep the sidewalks in front the these businesses free from what we currently see at Central Union Missions 14th and R St. facility.

- 2. Representatives** from the mission keep using two specific individuals as examples of people who live in the affected neighborhood who support their plans to move, but these particular individuals live west of 14th Street, on Monroe. Additionally, I have been told one of these people works for the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and the other's job frequently involves working with the mission.
 - 3. The mission** tries to give the impression that they are definitely coming to Georgia Avenue, but it is important to note that they still own the building they are currently occupying (and they have the ability to reconfigure and expand it), and they do not have any of the required building permits, or zoning approval required by law. In fact, we are having an attorney look into whether the mission has the proper licensing required for such a facility under C3A zoned property. Regardless, it is unlikely that zoning will approve a 170 bed men's shelter as it is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan and Mayor Williams' Homeless No More initiative passed by council.
 - 4. The mission** is also deflecting the issue of whether they have state and federally licensed mental health/addiction/psychiatric/ and occupational professionals on staff. Spiritual certifications are important, and focusing on the spiritual needs of a troubled population is essential to recovery, but it is not to be mistaken for clinically proven or medically accepted means of treatment. Additionally, the men they serve are not required to partake in their Spiritual Transformation group.
- Central Union Mission needs to abandon their plans to move to Georgia Avenue, as it is the wrong place and the wrong time. For more information on this issue visit www.missiondcfacts.org. Contact Cliff Valenti at cliffvalenti@hotmail.com.



Petworth News

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try to use those skills and instincts as best I can.

My overriding goal is to focus on the positive. Too many neighborhood forums degenerate into useless bickering. At the same time, my natural inclination is to question, not to be a blind cheerleader. So I would say Petworth News aims to be positive, but with a clear-eyed dose of independence, neutrality, even skepticism. I don't report about crime except in very rare cases, there are other vehicles for that like the 4D-Neighbors listserv. (See GC issue ### on internet resources for a list of local listservs.)

I think keeping things positive becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. I know people who have bought houses in Petworth in part because of window-shopping the neighborhood first on the blog. Then when they arrive, their expectations are already grounded in the best aspects of Petworth's established nature: the diversity, the neighborliness, the village-in-the-city feel, the history, and so on. This helps newcomers adapt to Petworth, not just the other way around.

Impact

GC: How do you think your blog is helping to build the community?

BC: I would hope that Petworth News helps define the neighborhood's sense of common, over-arching identity, both for residents themselves, and for the 'outside world'. I hope that it makes us all more aware and more invested in the well-being of the neighborhood. By publicizing good things that are happening, it makes people believe in the future.

The local media landscape is really growing in a great and complementary way. I think Petworth News fills its role of accumulating and disseminating timely material. Grant Circular can take a step back and offer features that are less time-sensitive. And it's incredible that now GC is delivered - in hard copy - directly to every household. I admire the Prince of Petworth blog's more commentary-based approach; it's a good blend of humor and sincere affection for the neighborhood. If all three outlets were a newspaper, I suppose Petworth News would be the front page, Grant Circular would be the Metro/Life section, Prince of Petworth

the op-ed. So it's really an enviable balance of information resources that has evolved naturally. (Editor's Note: Watch for a profile of the Prince of Petworth blog in the next issue of the GC)

We still don't have enough physical places to meet and mingle, so more and varied online communities can help meet that need. If virtual meeting places such as Petworth News gets people talking to each other and helps them find what they are looking for in their own neighborhoods, then it has provided a valuable service to the community. More real-world groups in the neighborhood would be great. The Petworth Magazine Club was one such group, even though it was short-

16th Street Heights Parks

from page 1

This past spring, residents of the 16th St. Heights community came together to form an organization to help support the work of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to improve the amenities at these two neighborhood parks. At that meeting, the Friends of the 16th Street Heights Parks was formed and a Board of Directors was chosen. Thus far, the group has completed articles of incorporation and registered with the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, applied for two grants from KaBoom!, a national non-profit organization that builds playgrounds and refurbishes playing fields (we were turned down for one grant and waiting to hear about the second), and met with ANC Commissioners representing the two parks. On July 26, the Friends group hosted a Community Leaders meeting at Emery Recreation Center. Over 30 community leaders were invited to this meeting representing local schools that use the parks, Latino youth organizations, sports leagues, parents, dog owners and many more. Council Member Bowser, representatives from the Mayor's office, and representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation were in attendance and enthusiastically endorsed the efforts of the Friends of the 16th Street Heights Parks.

At the meeting, participants discussed the potential for these two parks to be catalysts for community building efforts. Planning has begun to have a community "build" at each park to erect community bulletin boards. Participants also talked about the need to

lived, but parents' groups are popping up in the area, dog lovers are meeting each other in neighborhood parks, and perhaps we can get more connection between arts folks.

GC: All this real world connection has been aided and nurtured by the virtual communities that internet sites such as Petworth News have created and their huge potential for community building must be applauded. Thanks to Bill Crandall for his time and effort in providing such a valuable resource for our community. To access Petworth News go to <http://petworthnews.blogs.com/> and check out the local news and contribute your information and comment.

be inclusive of the entire community, including young children and teens.

The next meeting and community- visioning event will be Saturday, September 29, 2007. As a neighbor we not only need to hear what you want at your parks, but we also need your special skills. We are seeking the help of a landscape architect or architect who can draw up plans of the two parks, folks to donate food, or financial contributions for food for the event, and people who can help get the word out to your friends and neighbors. Let us know if you are part of a listserv, a community group, or publish a newsletter. We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the Community Visioning Event. If you are able to help, please e-mail Jean Badalamenti at jnfz@starpower.net.

The Friends of the 16th Street Heights Parks website and listserv are up and running. Visit us at <http://friendsof16thstreetparks.googlepages.com/> to hear about upcoming events.

**Friends of the 16th Street Heights Parks
Community Visioning Event for
Upshur and Hamilton Parks**
Saturday, September 29, 2007
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Emery Recreation Center
5701 Georgia Avenue, NW

What would you like to see in your community parks? Any idea you have could be possible. Join with your neighbors, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and Council Member Muriel Bowser to create our dream parks and play spaces! Kids activities and lunch will be provided. Questions? Contact us at friendsof16thstreetparks@googlegroups.com or [www.http://friendsof16thstreetparks.googlepages.com/](http://friendsof16thstreetparks.googlepages.com/)



A Neighborhood Magazine in Partnership with ANC 4C

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