BURLEITH

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007

Vol. 72
No. 8
April
1998

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 12
10:30 a.m
at the Tot Lot,
35th and S Streets
(Old Fillmore School)

President's Message

Our end-of-the-month warm spell certainly hurried Spring along. It is at this time of year that Washington puts on her best dress. Here in Burleith, the daffodils and tulips are on show; the early perennials are chiming in; the fruit trees are glorious and the green canopy is appearing on our street trees. Let's all enjoy!

In my absence, one of Burleith's largest events ever took place – the March 22nd Ellington Field rally. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to Pat Scolaro for not only conceiving the idea of the rally, but also being willing to follow through and make it happen. With lots of support from the neighborhood (a big thanks to all of you!), it really took Pat's incredible skills and determination to make the rally such a success.

Wednesday, April 15th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Hardy School auditorium at the Rosario Center, will be the next step in the Ellington Field process. On that evening, through the office of Suzanne Conrad of the D.C. Public Schools, we are inviting all of the bidders for the property to present their plans. This special BCA meeting may be attended by residents of all the surrounding communities and other organizations with an interest in the future of the field. At this meeting we hope to get a sense of what we as a community want. Next, on April 22, the BCA Board will meet to reflect the community consensus and pass it on to Ms. Conrad.

Plan to attend the April 15th meeting – and feel free to call me (338-6470) or write me (3724 T St) with your preferences either before or after the meeting, and I will happily relay this to the BCA Board. Please note that this meeting reflects a change in date of our BCA meeting from April 8 (Hardy School on vacation) to April 15, and a start time 30 minutes earlier than usual. Remember, we must be out at 9:00, so please be prompt!

Thanks to all of you who responded to last month's tree survey. About a dozen residents responded, and the survey was updated and sent to Mr. Beck of the Tree Division of the Department of Public Works.

A nominating committee for next year's BCA Board has been formed. If you are interested in being a Board member next year, call a nominating committee member (or me); or, if you are asked to serve, please say yes. As you can tell, there is never a dull moment in Burleith, we do need your help, and we can guarantee that you'll have some fun along the way. This community means a lot to many of us – let's have it mean a lot to most of us. I would especially like to emphasize more of a geographic distribution on the Board, so if you feel that your part of Burleith has been left our, this is your chance to become represented. Let the nominating committee hear from you.

Hope to see you on the 15th.

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Burleith Easter Egg Hunt!

The annual Burleith Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Tot Lot (on the grounds of the *old* Fillmore School) on Easter Sunday. Festivities will start at 10:30 a.m. This is a fun event for children of all ages, but especially for the younger ones. It's also a great chance for parents in the neighborhood (especially new parents!) to get to know each other. Everyone in Burleith is welcome!

For more information, or to volunteer to help, call Maggie Meenahan at 337-2660.

Gardeners Needed for Georgetown Garden Tour

This year the Georgetown Garden Tour is on Saturday, May 9th. The Burleith Garden Club is assigned one of the gardens, and we are always looking for volunteers to help out for roughly a two hour shift. Volunteers are entitled to a free ticket to visit the rest of the gardens. Hours are 10:00 to 5:00. Please give a call if you are interested, to Bonnie Hardy, 338-6470.

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Rally Sends Desired Message

Alarmed by reports that the D.C. Public Schools was considering bids to sell, lease and/or develop the Ellington Field, the BCA held a highly successful SAVE OUR FIELD rally at the field on Sunday, March 22. The rally was very capably organized by Pat Scolaro, with help from Ann Gallagher, Guy Gwynne, Marilyn Reis, Marjorie Wolf, Rich Fields, and many others.

Some concern was allayed by school administrators' later assurances that a sale was not contemplated, only a lease, preferably "public-private partnership." However, the original bidder, the ManorCare chain, is reportedly still considering leasing the land and constructing an assisted-living home on the southern part.

Sunday's rally was to show support for preservation of the field as children's recreation. Neighbors also celebrated the field as a precious community resource, bringing pets and children. Well over a hundred people attended, braving a raw, cold wind and gray skies that threatened a continuation of Saturday's downpours. Hot cider, cookies, and hot dogs were served.

Over 300 signatures were collected on petitions for the D.C. Schools, and many children wrote personal letters expressing the importance of the field to them. Coverage of the event included at least two TV stations.

The program was conducted by MPD Lt. Patrick Burke, commander of our PSA 205. Attending with her two large boxers was Suzanne Conrad, the school administrator in charge of the property disposal process. She spoke about her desire to be responsive to community input in the bid evaluation (to which one audience member called out, "if you want to be responsive, why continue the process at all?").

Supportive speakers included *Mayor Barry's* representative John Fanning; *City Councilman* David Catania; *ANC 2E* Commissioners Rebecca Sinderbrand and Westy Byrd; *ANC 3B* Commissioner Monica Mizerek; *ANC 3C* Commissioner Phil Mendelson; *Wilson H.S.* Athletic Director Eddie Saah; and *Parent representative* Kathy Riley.

There were also representatives from local communities: *Foxhall* (Bob Andrews and Kent Slowinski), *Cloisters* (Barbara Zartman); *Glover Park* (Sophia Henry); *Hillandale* (Tim Hanlon), and of course, *Burleith* (Guy Gwynne, Peter Pulsifer and Pat Scolaro).

One surprise was the sudden appearance of Peggy Cafritz, who charged the speaker's platform and seized the microphone, saying she represented Ellington High School, and that that school had been unfairly denied use of the field. She said that she was for preservation of the field now (cheers from the audience) and that Ellington would not begrudge use by neighbors (more cheers), but eventually, Ellington planned to build on the field (boos) - she reportedly had been speaking earlier of building underground parking there. But without the presence of the Ellington principal or of any other Ellington official, it was hard to see what their official position was.

The field has been the site of children's athletics since at least the 1890's, when Burleith was known as Cox's Woods and the field was a clearing in a thicket called the Redlands Ball Diamond. When most of Burleith was developed in the 1920's, Shannon and Luchs acquired the property; they sold it to the city in 1928 to be used as the athletic field for Western High School (a copy of the deed of sale was displayed at the rally).

When Western became the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, it was apparently decided that artists did not require physical education, and the field was rarely used by Ellington students. After attempting several less than satisfactory uses, including an adult soccer team and the U.D.C. football team, the School Board leased the field to the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club, which today coordinates the field's use by themselves and several local schools.

Despite the strong show of support from far and wide, there's still no telling what the Schools administration will do. The deadline for receipt of bids is Friday, April 3; only after this will the identities of bidders be known. On April 15, the BCA will hold a public meeting where bidders can present their plans for comment. Thereafter, it's up to the Schools.

Special Words of Thanks…

by Pat Scolaro

There was a wonderful sense of community at the SAVE OUR FIELD rally, as supporters from all the surrounding communities came together on a cold and windy day to support the effort to keep the field for the children of this city.

In addition to the many people from the Burleith community who worked before, during and after the rally, it is paricularly important to acknowledge:

- John Snedden of Rocklands, whose red truck served as the platform for the speakers, and who generously donated hot dogs, rolls and condiments;
- Staples, who gave us the two banners that announced the rally to everyone who passed by;
- Starbucks, who at the last minute loaned us the thermos jugs which allowed us to serve hot cider;
- the Pet Pantry and PETCO, who provided treats for the dogs.

We made an important statement to the Control Board and the D.C. Schools on that Sunday, and the Burleith Citizens Association is grateful to each and every person who contributed to the success of the rally.

BCA Elections

It's that time of year again: ***Election time***! Elections for the next year's Burleith Citizens Association Board will be held at the May meeting, which is traditionally the last meeting of the year (the summer picnic is our June BCA activity). A Nominations Committee has been constituted, and it is seeking nominations of public-minded individuals to help conduct the BCA business.

No experience is required to serve on the Board, nor is there necessarily a large time commitment. Some Board members focus on a few topics, and others involve themselves in many. All make a valuable contribution to our community.

The BCA strives to have geographic representation from all parts of the neighborhood , but this doesn't always happen. Members from under-represented areas (such as Whitehaven Parkway, 35th St, or 39th St) are particularly welcome.

A variety of issues and events come up every year here in Burleith. Some areas of concern are

- *DC Services*. We need to have contact with the City Council and DC agencies that provide routine services (trash, plowing, tree maintenance, parking enforcement).
- *Georgetown University*. Traffic, parking, etc. from normal operation, as well as student conduct issues. Promoting positive interaction as well!
- *Zoning*. Housing safety, as well as the character of Burleith as a residential, single-family community. (Issues include group houses and basement apartments, proper procedures in home construction and renovation, and use of home or garage or parking for business purposes).
- *Transportation*. Buses, street parking regulation and enforcement, traffic flow (37th St and Reservoir Rd, and local streets). Stop signs, signals, and enforcement thereof.
- *Public Safety*. Maintaining a close relationship with the DC police and police of other jurisdictions (e.g., US Park Police).
- *Parks and recreation*. The Green Lot(s), the Ellington Field, and Glover-Archibald Park.
- *Schools*. There should be regular contact with each local school: Fillmore, Hardy, Ellington, WIS.
- *Social/Financial*. Flea Market, Summer and Winter Picnic, House Tour, other ideas to promote interaction between neighbors and/or to raise money for the BCA.

According to the BCA Bylaws, "The business and property of the Corporation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors who shall be elected annually by the members… The Directors must be members in good standing of the Association and shall be chosen by a majority vote of the (voting) members present at the Annual Meeting.

"The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the officers [President, three Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer], five delegates to the Federation of Civic Associations, three delegates to the Federation of Citizens Associations, the Newsletter Editor, and the immediate past-president of the Association.

"The Board of Directors shall select and publish in the March Newsletter the names of not less than three nor more than five members to serve on the nominating committee. This committee shall consider and select at least sixteen willing nominees… to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Association. The nominating committee shall announce its recommendations at the April meeting. Nominations at the Annual Meeting in May shall be those of the nominating committee and such other nominations as are offered from the floor, providing that any such nominee submits his consent to serve, either in person at the meeting or in writing at the time his nomination is offered."

The Nominating Committee consists of Peter Pulsifer (337-3065), Guy Gwynne (338-5164), Charles Mallett (337-6506) and Pat Scolaro (338-5321). If you would like to serve, call one of these members today!

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Georgetown Library Seeks Burleith Material

The Peabody Room (local history) of the Georgetown Public Library is in the process of reviewing, reordering and expanding its collections, and is interested in more Burleith material. If you're a Burleithian with BCA records or other memorabilia – letters, photos, clippings – that you think might be worth saving, but not by you, contact Dr. Susan Malbin at the library (727-1353) or call Sara Revis (338-7579).

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thanks for your note on my item last month about the DPW walking off with Supercan lids. Actually, I have no intention of paying the DC government for anything, which, if the neighbors don't trash, they will. In fact, not 48 hours after I had attached a salvaged lid, it was removed, run over by a sports vehicle (I'm told), and put back, so that it now collects only rainwater. DC has already cost me upwards of $1000 for malfeisance, misfeisance, or what have you – parking tickets never received ($100), 18 years' worth of real estate taxes belonging by rights to a neighbor (who knows?), unequal real estate fines for late payments ($75), the cost of a real estate appraisal ($300), contributions over the years to the rejected overlay effort ($200), repairs for damage to the rear fence (~$50), etc. The latest is rejection of my car registration renewal, claiming they need proof of the insurance (which they've had on record since time immemorial).

Sara Revis

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License to Ticket

by Peter Pulsifer

Quick quiz: What's wrong with the license plate below? Knowing the answer might have saved me a recent $50 involuntary contribution to D.C. deficit reduction. Apparently, my license plate was "obscured" by the dealer bracket, which has been there since the dealer installed it on my new car, in 1995. The hearing officer pointed out that the words "Washington, DC" can't be read, and so other juridictions, not recognizing the D.C. emblem in the middle, might not know where I was registered. A modern D.C. tag wouldn't have this problem; the state name is on the top, just like in Maryland and Virginia. After paying the fine, I removed the bracket.

Next BCA Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 P.M.

Note change of date and time!!

At the Rosario Center/Hardy School, 35th and T Streets, in the **auditorium** (follow signs).

Featured guests will be the parties who have submitted bids to lease the Ellington Field at 38th and R Streets. With the cooperation of Suzanne Conrad of the D.C. Schools, all bidders will be invited to make a presentation and request community support. Ms. Conrad says community input will be carefully considered in the leasing decision.

The meeting will begin, as always, with a brief business session, with police report and discussion of local issues. Refreshments served!

D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations Banquet

The D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations, a citywide association that was founded in 1910, is holding its annual banquet on Thursday, April 9, at the Officers' Club at Fort McNair, a beautiful, tranquil site along the Potomac.

Featured banquet speaker will be Franklin Raines, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. In addition to his very significant regular responsibilities, Mr. Raines has been the principal player in negotiating White House policy with regard to the District. His comments should carry special weight as indicating how the White House views its relationship with D.C. in this important election year.

A very meaningful part of every banquet is the presentation of awards to organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the welfare of D.C. citizens.

The Federation represents over 25 citizens associations throughout the District, and continues to grow each year. It provides an excellent opportunity to make connections and pool resources for the benefit of the citizenry. Regular meetings are monthly.

The BCA has three representatives to the Federation, Guy Gwynne (also a Federation Board member), Janice Hopper and Maggie Meenahan. Burleith will be organizing a table at the banquet. If you're interested in attending, contact Guy Gwynne at 338-5164.

Police Report

The PSA 205 community meetings continue, with meetings held at 7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting dates are April 28, May 26, and June 30, 1998. (Yes, these dates are confirmed!) The place is St. Luke's Church, on Calvert Street at Wisconsin, near the Guy Mason Center.

Thefts from auto continue to be PSA 205 Sergeant Bickel's main priority, although officers George Rusnak, Kevin Cantwell, Paul Riley and Pete Larsen had five arrests for these offenses in February.

As the weather improves, consider improving your home's protection from burglary. Police Lt. Burke suggests five areas of improvement:

1. Inspect the locks. All exterior doors should have a deadbolt with a one-inch throw. If you've just moved in, consider changing the locks (or rekeying them), so you know you're the only one with a key. Secure sliding glass doors with special locks. And consider grills for basement or street-level windows. Don't hide a key outside in mailboxes, planters or doormats – instead, give a copy to a trusted neighbor.

2. Check the doors. Make sure outside doors are solid wood or metal, at least 1-3/4" thick. Doors should fit tightly in their frames, with hinges on the inside. Install a peephole, and teach your children not to answer the door unless it's safe.

3. Look at your home from outside. Would shrubbery hide someone trying to break in? Are porches and entryways well lit? Put ladders and tools away when not in use. Keep up the appearance of your yard and home – it really does discourage crime. When you go away, leave a light on with a timer.

4. Look into an alarm system. Buy a quality system, and test it regularly, along with your fire alarm.

5. Rehearse with your family. What would you do if you walked in on a burglar? Avoid confrontations! Consider different scenarios and ask your local PSA officers for advice.

These tips apply doubly to tenants! Make sure your landlord has adequately protected you.

The D.C. police will be glad to schedule a security check of your home. Call Sgt. Bickel at 282-0053 or 727-4932, ext 21131 (voice mail).

Finally, remember that the best locks and doors won't help you if they're left open! Student houses, especially, are often left unattended with doors and windows open. People can walk right in and out with stereos, computers, bikes, or money – and they very often do. Don't let our suburban appearance fool you – this ***is*** a city!

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Postal Advisory Council Seeks Members

The Washington, D.C. Post Office recognizes that most postal customers have no opportunity to meet with Postal Managers to get information or to make suggestion about how services can be improved. This is why Postal Advisory Councils have been formed. Council members should represent a cross-section of the community, including homemakers, professionals, students, seniors, and small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The Friendship Council represents postal customers in the 20007, 20008 and 20016 zip codes. It has had some successes: Responding to complaints that vacation mail wasn't being properly forwarded last summer, the council called in officials from the forwarding office and corrective measures were taken. At the council's suggestion, the Post Office has agreed to restore a copying machine at the Palisades station.

Citizens are invited to apply for council membership. Just call Customer Advocate Jackie Miles at 523-2187, and she will tell you the date and time of the next council meeting.

Written suggestions or complaints are also welcome, and should be sent to the Council at P.O. Box 9805, Washington, DC 20016-8805.

Extended Hours at Friendship Post Office

Effective March 7, 1998, the Friendship Station of the Post Office (near Tenleytown) has extended hours. These are:

Monday-Friday:	7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday:	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday:	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Dates to Remember

April 7 (Tues)	ANC 2E meeting (GU dorms)
April 8 (Wed)	University Easter holiday starts
April 14 (Tues)	GU classes resume
April 15 (Wed)	BCA General meeting, **7:00**
April 18 (Sat)	WIS Open House, 5:30, trailer
April 19 (Sun)	GU Symphony, Gaston 8 p.m.
April 28 (Tues)	PSA 205 Police Meeting, St. Luke's Church (282-0053)
May 1 (Fri)	GU classes end

Babysitter Reminder

Don't forget that the BCA provides a service to get together babysitters and parents. If you need a babysitter, call for a recommendation; if you can provide babysitting, call to be put on the list! Babysitters should tell their name, age and experience (including ages of children you've minded); the rates they charge; the times you're available; and give a local reference. The list manager is Gail Henry, at 965-0314.

Caution: Avoid the noise season!

Not even giving us time to catch our breath, a mild winter has charged straight into summer. After 85º days (in March!), all of Burleith will be resting in the evenings with windows wide open to catch the evening breezes. At the same time, life activities move outdoors.

Please remember, noises travel far on warm nights. Consider your tired neighbors (and their sleeping children) and keep voices down and noises like car horns and slamming doors to a minimum.

This admonition is by no means just for college students, but perhaps the biggest damage to student-neighborhood relations is done by noise from out-of-control parties and from partiers loudly staggering back to campus at night. Please close doors and windows for parties, and ask guests to leave quietly. Thank you.

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Upright piano for sale in Burleith. In need of a tuning, but in fine shape, plus it's a lovely piece of furniture. Built in 1934. Price: $1000 or best offer. Call Bonnie Hardy at 338-6470.

Know a good day-care provider (live-out, part time or shared)? We're looking! Recommendations or advice welcome. Call Peter or Margaret Pulsifer at 337-3065.

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Pottery/Enameling Exhibit at Guy Mason

Students at the Guy Mason Recreation Center, 3600 Calvert St, NW, will be exhibiting the works they have created in pottery and copper enameling on Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Here is your chance to view some wonderful pieces of art, from vases and cups to beautiful platters and fun creations.

While at the Center, you might give some consideration to putting aside some time beginning in May and enrolling in one of the classes yourself.

BURLEITH
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: Peter Pulsifer 337-3065
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All BCA members have the right to be published in the Newsletter, subject solely to space restrictions. Submissions by both members and non-members are encouraged, and all will be published if possible. Send submissions to the Editor at 3803 T St, NW.

The BCA can make no guarantee as to the accuracy of the material published herein, and unless explicitly stated, such material represents the opinion of the authors only and not that of the Burleith Citizens Association.

DPW Telephone Numbers

Driving	
Information	727-6680
Infant car seats	939-8018
Vehicle Inspection	727-6680
Vehicle Insurance	727-5986
Vehicle Registration	727-6680
Parking	
Booted vehicles	727-5000
Enforcement	541-6065
Handicap permit	727-6680
Hearings	727-3474
Meter repair	727-9213
Residential permit	727-6680
Residential permit petition	541-6030
Tickets	727-5000
Streets and alleys	
Abandoned vehicles	645-5800
Construction	645-6140
Impounded vehicles	727-5000
Impoundment lot (Brentwood)	576-6585
Pothole repair	645-7055
Roadside maintenance	727-0211
Street Cleaning	727-4600
Street Light repair	939-7100
Street Repair	645-7055
Street Signs	939-8092
Traffic problems	939-8092
Traffic signals:	
Day	939-8087
Night	727-6161
Trash Collection	
Alley cleaning	727-4600
Clean It or Lien It	645-6179
Dead animal collection	727-4600
Illegal dumping	645-6179
Leaf and yard waste collection	727-4600
Recycling	727-5887
Recycling recorded info	727-5856
Rodent control	645-6188
Sanitation Info & enforcement	645-6179
Sanitation Ticket adjudication	727-5558
Supercans	727-4600
Trash removal (residential)	727-4600
Water and Sewer (not DPW)	
Water & sewer bills	727-5240
Water and sewer emergency	673-6600
Water conservation	645-6295
Water meter repair	673-6578
Other	
Bicycle information	939-8016
Bus shelters	939-8050
Map of D.C.	727-4091
Snow emergency	832-4357
Surveyor's office	727-1121
Tree maintenance	645-7060

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WIS Update

Washington International School construction is proceding rapidly, despite persistent weather delays. At this point it's uncertain whether the school will be able to open for classes by May 1, as scheduled. Neighbors have recently been bothered by constant beeping, related to efforts to prepare parking site and level the playing field.with small earth movers. (Government safety rules require all construction vehicles make an audible signal when backing up). The worst of this will end around April 4, when exterior site development is completed. At present, curbs for parking lot have been framed, and arge concrete mixers trucks are arriving to lay concrete.

Upon completion, WIS plans to move students from the Half-Day Nursery through Grade 3 to the site (assuming this is before the end of the school year). The summer program will be held at the new facility, and in the fall WIS will be in full operation, for Pre-K through Grade 5.

There will be another WIS Open House for community members at the construction trailer on Saturday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m. All neighbors are invited to attend.

The Liaison Committee will also be meeting soon to discuss traffic issues. Traffic will certainly be difficult for the first few weeks of operation, as school officials and parents learn new procedures, although it will help that the school is beginning gradually. The Liaison Committee will supervise the traffic mitigation plan. Burleith representatives on the Liaison Committee are Charlotte Kroll (333-7676), Larry Schaffner (333-8739) or Peter Pulsifer (337-3065).

The annual WIS Spring Bazaar will be held at the Tragaran campus (3100 Macomb St) on Sat., April 18. The fun will include a Moon Bounce, Pet Show, Golf, a Flea Market, performances, and food and crafts from around the world.. For more information, call 243-1825.

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