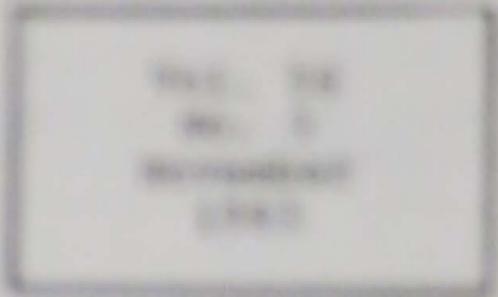




BURLEITH

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004



N O V E M B E R D A Y S



President's Message

Many thanks to Susan and Millington Lockwood for hosting the halloween party at the totlot and to the Burleith Garden Club for cohosting our October general meeting. Dr. Joe Higgins, Brookside Gardens, enriched our vision with his keen eye for detail, design and color. He opened a wide range of emotional, seasonal and exotic vistas to us.

Burleith ghosts and goblins. It seems as though this fall the ghosts of traffic congestion, speeding down 37th Street, noise and litter have returned to haunt us.

While Burleithians value their peace and quiet, we also value the contributions of our various institutional neighbors -- Georgetown University, Ellington School for the Arts, the French Chancery, Gordon Center, Fillmore School, and Hillandale. But orchestrating all these communities of differing interests takes work and gives us opportunities, again and again, to focus on the changes in Burleith while safeguarding our values.

At the next several meetings, we will hear from some of these neighbors and discuss our common and uncommon goals. Join us! We need your voices and opinions.

Volunteers needed. Neighbors adjacent to Firebird Stadium -- this is your chance to discuss concerns over usage of the field, whether it's UDC, Soccer Teams or anyone else. Issues raised so far include parking, traffic congestion, noise,

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Frances Gorman (Editor)	965-9766
Virginia Warren (Asst. Ed.)	333-3849
Marguerite Cunningham	337-5753
Barbara Golian (Delivery)	333-1289
Kay Curry	965-1633
Kay Abell	332-3155

litter and security. If you are interested in serving on this committee and working with UDC, Wanda Washburn and the Board of Education, please call me (days 653-5675; nights 965-5623).

November meeting. Hope to see you at the November general meeting. We will be featuring Maurice Eldridge, Principal of Duke Ellington School for the Arts.

Mary Ann MacKenzie

WEEDS IN YOUR GARDEN

Most gardens in front or rear of Burleith lots are well kept and attractive. A very few are a "jungle" of tall grasses, weeds and "tree weeds." Do you as an owner or renter have a jungle on your premises? If so, your cooperation is requested in clearing it.

In some cases a weed is simply a plant or tree growing in the wrong place. A "tree weed" is insidious because it may look like an ordinary weed when it starts and continues to grow in the wrong place to a full size tree. About the only way to correct this is to root it out when it is a seedling.

A partial list of common tree weeds follows. These can grow up to be unattractive or nuisances to you or your neighbors: Ailanthus, mulberry, sassafras, locust, catalpa, empress tree, oak.

The wind blows seeds and birds and squirrels transport seeds or nuts to come up in the wrong places. If you have weed tree seedlings, pull or dig them up. (You might want to save and transplant oaks or other Burleith street trees to an appropriate place of your choosing.) Don't wait until your tree weeds grow into a problem! Do your part to help keep Burleith attractive.

By Robert B. Curtis



COVER BY MARGUERITE CUNNINGHAM



ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Robert B. Curtiss

Are you ready for freezing weather -- when the snow flies?

1. Have you turned off the inside valve to your outside hose connections and drained them? (Renters are responsible for repair costs if they fail to do this and pipes freeze.)

2. Do you have a serviceable snow shovel and plans for someone to use it when snow comes? Do these plans include digging out fire hydrants and bus stops in front of your house?

3. Do you have sand, unused kitty litter, or other suitable substances to put on your icy sidewalks?

4. Have you cut back ivy or other ground cover that extends over the public sidewalks to impede snow removal or be a hazard to pedestrians?

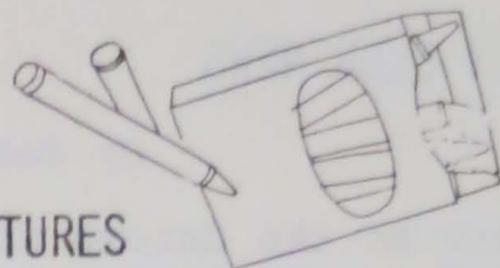
5. Don't fail, if you engage someone to remove snow, to have an oral contract with the snow shoveler covering exactly what he proposes to do including:

Clear public sidewalks, steps, and house walks or just dig out paths on them.

Where he plans to dispose of the shoveled snow (hopefully not on your neighbor's walks).

The amount he will charge.

6. Lastly, is your car ready, with antifreeze, snow tires, container of sand, or whatever else is needed for winter driving?



CALL FOR PICTURES

The Burleith Newsletter likes to feature children's art work for the December newsletter cover. What we need is your child's seasonal drawing -- done in black ink on a white 3 by 5 card -- delivered to Frances Gorman, 3610 T Street, on or before November 18. The child's name should be on the drawing. Please be sure to use black ink, as blue will not be picked up by the reproducing process. Also, do not send poster-sized drawings. We cannot reduce them. For further information call 965-9766.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK - NOV. 13-19

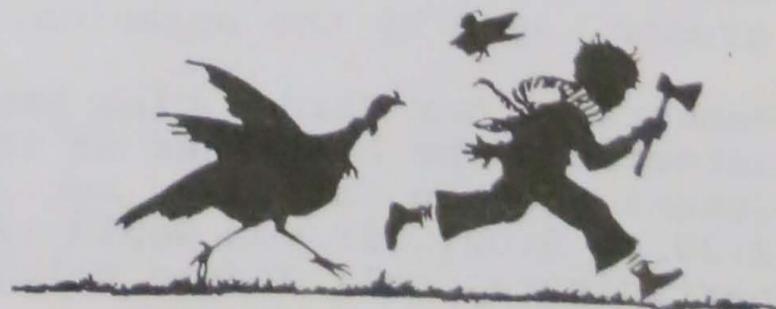
In observance of American Education Week all the D.C. public schools in Ward III will hold open houses. Benjamin Stoddert Elementary School, located at 39th and Calvert Streets, will open its doors and classrooms to visitors on Thursday, November 17, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Stoddert is the model primary school in the six-school complex which consists of Hyde, Key, Mann, Hardy Middle School and the Fillmore Arts Center. Stoddert offers pre-kindergarten through fourth grade level instruction.

Whether you are a parent of a Stoddert student, a prospective parent, or a resident who would like to see a viable, nurturing public school, stop in on Stoddert's open house day. For additional information about Stoddert and schedules for the six-school complex open houses, contact the Stoddert School office at 282-0143.

By Marguerite Cunningham

Key Association contact persons

Mary Ann MacKenzie	President	965-5623
Susan Lockwood	Vice Pres.	338-6680
Mary Papageorgiou	Membership	333-0947
Gary Slack	Program	065-9378



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

By Jeanne Holzgrefe

As part of the Garden Club's Tree Project, several club members recently met with Mr. Bradley Sweet of the D.C. Department of Transportation, Tree Division. Mr. Sweet was most interested in cooperating with us in this neighborhood effort and gave us a computer print-out of trees in our neighborhood. We have just completed a survey of tree vacancies and stumps, dead trees, and trees in need of care and have sent this to Mr. Sweet. We expect action on this matter shortly. One of the best ways that neighbors can help in this tree program is occasionally to water street trees, especially newly planted trees. The latter are growing under a lot of stress, and making sure that they have enough water will help to lessen that stress. If you have questions about the tree program, call Louise Remmey at 338-6812.

The Garden Club will be planting bulbs around the Divine Science Church in appreciation for their letting us use the Church for our meetings. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, or Saturday, Nov. 12, depending on the weather. Call Peggy Breckinridge for more information. Bring a trowel.

The Federation of Garden Clubs is sponsoring a Christmas Greens show at the Botanical Gardens, located just off the Mall below the Capitol. The show includes magnificently decorated Christmas trees, lampposts, wreaths, table arrangements, and other decorations. It's a wonderful show; admission is free and open to the public. No affiliation with a garden club is necessary. It will take place from November 28 through December 4, from 9:00 until 5:00 each day. If you are looking for Christmas decorating ideas or would just like to see a beautiful display of Christmas greens, stop by the Botanical Gardens.

Members of our Garden Club have volunteered to be hostesses at the Greens Show on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 2:30 to 5:00. If you would like to participate, call Jeanne Holzgrefe.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Marguerite Autry
Chairman

In our crime listings for both this month and last month, we have crimes committed involving the use of guns. The larger picture of close-by Georgetown (especially the Prospect Street area) shows this same pattern. There the police are seeing both knives and guns being used. If you find yourself in this situation, DO NOT MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO RESIST in any way. Obey the criminal's commands and make him think that you are so terrified that you intend to comply fully. As soon as you are safe, report the incident to the police. A description will be helpful, especially if it contains not easily changed characteristics such as scars or facial hair.

The police did apprehend several suspects (October 20) who were using a knife and a gun, but it would be foolish to assume that these were the only perpetrators.

Unfortunately, this past month a rape occurred within a block of Burleith. Entry was gained through open French doors on a balcony.

Crimes Reported Sept. 23 - Oct. 20

<u>Date</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Crime</u>
9/23	1600 35th	Robbery H/U Gun
9/30	1700 35th	Burglary I
10/1-2	3700 R	Burglary II
10/6-7	1800 38th	Burglary I
10/6	3800 Res.	Theft II
10/14-17	3500 R	Theft II f/auto
10/15-16	3500 Whtn.	Theft II

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .



A reminder -- please don't forget that rabid raccoons are still being found in the District. There is no evidence of other animals being involved at this date.

Articles of interest to the community would be appreciated. Please send them to Frances Gorman.

NOISE REDUCTION COMMITTEE

FALL BULLETIN TO ALL BURLEITH HOUSEHOLDS

Autumn, cool weather, football and the fall semester have returned to Burleith. In all of our busy lives -- elderly retirees, mothers, children, babies, writers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, students, tenants, landlords, to name a few -- we bid you remember to respect your neighbors by keeping sound levels reasonable. Outdoor music, loud speakers near open windows, and loud talking and parties can be heard in 15-30 other houses in our beautiful but small community. In a neighborhood as compact as Burleith, a high degree of mutual sensitivity to and respect for each other's life style is hoped for. If your neighbor does ask you to lower the volume or take a late party indoors, please try to respond.

There are two laws in D.C. which apply to certain noisy situations in our neighborhood. One is the Disorderly Conduct statute which states that "a breach of the peace" includes "whoever.....shouts or makes a noise either outside or inside a building during the night time to the annoyance or disturbance of any considerable number of persons." The second is the Noise Control Act of 1977. This sets legal limits to sound, including radios and stereos, in residential neighborhoods at 60 decibels during the day (7 a.m.-9 p.m.) and 55 decibels at night (9 p.m.-7 a.m.) measured at the property line of the source. These translate into low to moderate conversation levels. The neighborhood is legally entitled to enforcement of these statutes from the city when necessary. Violators are subject to a \$50 fine.

For residents who are unable to solve a noise problem by direct personal request, the following information should prove useful:

1. Most neighbors will respond to a reasonable, courteous request to turn down the volume knob or the voice levels, or move inside. A direct personal approach to a neighbor is often effective. Always try this first if you feel able to. Ask for a phone number so that if the noise recurs late at night you can call the house directly instead of having to call the police immediately.
2. LOUD PARTIES. This is primarily the responsibility of the police. Beyond 11 p.m., weekdays and weekends, the police will react if available. According to the Second District their policy is to issue a warning at the first visit and to break up the party at the second visit; they are legally authorized to do this. Loud parties are also subject to the Noise Control Act and, if police warnings fail, you should request the police to request a noise meter reading (see item 3 below). This would result, if done, in a \$50 fine.
3. LOUD STEREOS/RADIOS and other noise sources. This is a joint responsibility of the police and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Your course of action depends on the time of day and the circumstances. For loud music, call the police ordinarily. However, for repeated, chronic offenders, request a sound level reading. During the day, you can do this directly by calling DCRA (576-7187) and requesting a noise meter reading by

Mr. Jim Murphy or a colleague. After 5 p.m., you can call the police and ask them to request a noise meter reading. They can get this done by calling the Mayor's Command Center who in turn will call Mr. Murphy at home. The advantage of a noise meter reading is twofold. The music source can be regulated, with the cooperation of the resident, to a legal level (55 decibels at the property line at night, 9 p.m. - 7 a.m., and 60 decibels during the day), or a citation can be issued for a \$50 ticket. Repeated documented offenses can be referred to the Corporation Counsel for prosecution, which could result in a \$300 fine and/or ten days in jail. Let's hope it never comes to that!

4. Suggestions when calling the police. The best number to call is 282-0070 or, if you don't get a response there, call the dispatcher directly at 727-4326. When you call get the name of the person you are talking with. Tell the officer that you wish to be interviewed. This will allow you to document the incident by getting the names of the officers, and to point out the problem to them. For example, sometimes the noise is mostly in the backyard and really can't be appreciated from the street. If the police see and hear the problem from the back of your house, they will be able to make a better judgment on how to handle it. If you are not getting the noise stopped, ask to speak with the Watch Commander or the Sector Commander of Sector 2 of the Second District, and explain the problem and ask him to monitor it for you. In general, if you are not getting a response from the first officer, ask to speak to the supervisor.

5. Realtors and landlords are sometimes responsive and helpful in solving these problems. The noise committee can help you obtain the appropriate names if you are unable to do so. In the case of a severe problem on R Street, the neighbors petitioned the realtor, who responded by notifying the tenants that their lease would not be renewed, and threatened eviction for further complaints. In this case, the problem went beyond noise alone. A landlord responded equally well regarding a house on 37th Street, threatening eviction if further noise complaints were made. In general, realtors and landlords are more responsive to a letter or petition signed by multiple residents. Landlords are also responsive to a personal approach from someone they know. In either case, it is very helpful to be able to present details: dates, actions tried, etc. Therefore, document major problems from the same house.

6. The Dean's office at Georgetown will help with specific problems. Our Burleith liaison person for this is Don Duggan, days 389-3867. He will contact the University for you.

7. Barking dogs are also covered, under the 1979 Noise Control Act Amendments. The relevant portion of the Amendment states that "no person shall own or keep a dog that by barking or any other manner disturbs the comfort or quiet of any neighborhood or any person."

8. The Noise Committee will try to help you solve specific problems and wants to know if you are not getting help from the above resources. For additional help, call Alan Stone, 7 - 10 p.m., 338-0685.