



BURLEITH

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 32262, Calvert Station
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007-9996

<http://www.burleith.org>

Vol. 76
No. 3
November
2001

VETERANS' DAY

in times of conflict



BCA Meeting November 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Traffic and parking, especially at WIS and the Corcoran School

President's Message

The Halloween Party at the Tot Lot was a resounding success. Some estimated over 100 adults and children attended. Many thanks to the Halloween Committee for their hard work.

At our next Burleith Citizen's Association meeting on November 14, parking and traffic will be the major issues on the agenda. A representative from the Corcoran School and from the Washington International School will be present.

Parking has become extremely difficult near the Corcoran School, especially in the evenings. If you live on 35th, R, S, and T Streets and have experienced parking problems; this will be your opportunity to address this issue.

The Washington International School Liaison Committee will give a status report on their meetings with the school. There is still concern about AM and afternoon parking and traffic issues. If you have concerns on the school's impact on the community and especially on your street, address them at the BCA meeting.

Due to a schedule conflict, Mitzie Yates, the principal at Duke Ellington School, will not be at the meeting. Instead, she will be our featured guest at the December 12 meeting.

Hardy School will not be on this month's agenda. We will reserve a future BCA meeting to deal with all the changes coming to Hardy and their impact on the community. DC Public Schools has developed a Master Feasibility Plan for upgrading facilities, and one of the first projects under that plan is Hardy. The existing Hardy Middle School building will be demolished and a new middle school built on the property. Enrollment will increase to 600 students (at present, 310 students attend the school). Construction will begin in 2003.

This plan will be presented to the community for consideration, and we as a community will have an opportunity to present arguments either for or against it. William Lockridge, Chair of the Finance and Facility Committee of the DC School Board, will notify us of the

first community meeting, and you will be notified through the Newsletter and BCA meetings.

Following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11 and then the anthrax proliferation in our city, the BCA Board wanted to have a guest speaker to address our community on how well prepared our city is to handle such attacks. Today we received confirmation that Peter LaPorte, the Director of Emergency Management for the District of Columbia, will be the guest speaker at our January 9, 2002 BCA meeting. This is one meeting you do not want to miss.

On November 20, MedStar Health will give a second presentation of their Reservoir Road Traffic Study to representatives from the surrounding communities. The recommendations from this study will be presented to the community for comment in a future BCA meeting.

The representatives of Hillandale and Burleith have agreed to meet after the MedStar Health traffic study is presented to the community. Recommendations from this study should be helpful in trying to reach a workable solution in limiting commuter traffic from using 39th Street as a short cut through Burleith. We are forming a task force to deal with this issue. If you would like to be a part of this group, please call me at 333-5762 or email DCTUXEDO@aol.com.

Police Banquet November 15

The Metropolitan Police will be holding their annual awards banquet on November 15 at Fort McNair in Southwest DC. The event is an excellent opportunity to meet the police officers serving our community and to learn more about police activities. It is also a fine evening in a beautiful location with many people from communities near and far.

Burleith has purchased a table for this event, and some spaces are still available. Cost is \$28 per person (in addition, one or two complementary spaces could be available). Everyone is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Ed Solomon at 333-5762.



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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 or pulsifer@telocity.com.
The BCA can make no guarantee as to the accuracy of the material published herein. Unless explicitly stated, such material represents the opinion of the authors only and not that of the BCA.

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Board Bulletins

The BCA Board met on October 24, 2001 at the Washington International School. Present were Sorrell Caplan, Guy Gwynne, Janice Hopper, Charles Mallert, Margaret Meenahan, Peter Pulsifer, Laurel Radley, Liz Raymond, Marilyn Reis, Pat Scolaro. and Ed Solomon.

University campus plan. Pat Scolaro reported that the Board of Zoning Adjustment ruled in favor of the communities on the University's appeal. The University has filed a lawsuit, now getting underway in the DC Court of Appeals.

West Nile Virus is present in Burleith. A memo was distributed by Ed Solomon and sent to the *Current*.

Parking enforcer commendation. A letter was drafted in praise of Ms. Currie, a diligent parking enforcement aide serving Burleith. Charles Mallett moved that a second letter be added commending the other parking enforcer. Both letters were approved by a vote of 9-2.

Board committees. The BCA Committees were reconstituted as follows, with first name listed being the committee chair (note that **this listing replaces the one in the September BCA Directory insert**):

- Parking and Traffic—Charles, Guy, Sorrell, Peter;
- Taxation—Peter, Pat
- Public Health and Safety—Sorrell, Liz, Marilyn
- Membership—Charles
- Education—Maggie, Ed
- Zoning and Planning—Sorrell, Laurel, Pat, Peter

Terrorism preparedness. In the wake of September 11 and the anthrax scares, many feel the need to prepare for disaster. The Mayor has a task force, Glover Park has organized, and the Crestwood Citizens Association has named and trained block wardens. In Burleith, people should know who to contact and how to prepare. This will be the topic of a future BCA meeting.

Hardy School reconstruction. Ed reported on DCPS plans to tear down the existing building and replace with a new one (there is a \$17.9 million budget); enrollment would increase to some 600 students. Fillmore is not in the plans—School Board members have said it's cheaper to bus the teachers to the schools than to bus the children to the center. There is still room for community comment. A BCA task force was formed including Ed, Maggie, Peter, and Janice.

Hardy School Parking Facility. As part of the Hardy renovation, DCPS is looking into building a ramp or underground garage at Hardy. No results available yet.

Traffic. Residents have complained about traffic and parking problems from WIS, Ellington and Corcoran. One option under consideration is to expand residential parking permit hours later than 8:30.

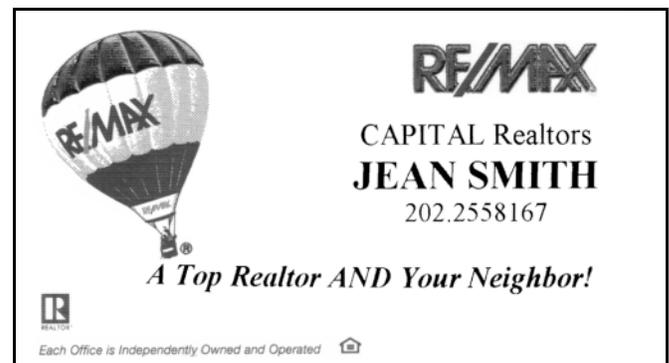
Board of Zoning Adjustment vacancy. The Board voted unanimously to endorse a letter to the Mayor supporting

the appointment of Jim Jones to the BZA. Mr. Jones is an ANC Commissioner from Crestwood endorsed by the Federation of Citizens Associations.

"Special signs" The Board voted unanimously to support an Federation of Citizens Association position against recent legislation that had allowed billboards within DC.

Parking bills. The Board voted unanimously to oppose three parking bills pending in the Council: (1) to eliminate residential parking zones; (2) to allow residents in redistricted zones to receive parking stickers for both the old and new zones; (3) to institute an absolute 24-hour parking limit for cars with out-of-state registrations.

Block Captains. Sorrell volunteered to recruit Block Captains, who can identify new neighbors, report particular problems, and otherwise connect the BCA and the citizens. She will report at the next meeting.



A howling success!

by Meg Clerc

The Burleith Halloween Party 2001 was a howling success and many thanks are in order. Thanks to:

- The Corcoran School of Art for providing our wonderfully renovated community area;
- The Salmons and Girauds for organizing the fun pumpkin painting;
- Peter Pulsifer for doing the shopping;
- Melanie Gisler for creating and distributing the flyers;
- Melissa Brennan for organizing the great Mummy Wrap Race;
- Alyssia Burke and Brandel Bravo for helping set up;
- Bonnie Hardy for emceeing the Costume Parade;
- All of the generous, kind souls who provided the magnificent, healthful buffet that filled many little (and big) stomachs before the candy did. (Special thanks to Fred and Maggie Fleming for the ever-popular hot dogs!).



And last but not least:

- Liz Raymond, who did 50% of just about everything (and a really nice doughnuts sign, too!!!)

Heartfelt thanks to all for a Halloween to remember!

All about ALL

by Pat Scolaro

ALL—the "Alliance for Local Living"—is an advisory council and community action group established by and conducted by Georgetown University to deal with University-related issues arising within the surrounding neighborhoods. ALL provides a regular forum in which to discuss problems, propose responses, and assess university programs and policies. ALL is one way to monitor the effectiveness of the University's efforts to promote clean neighborhoods, reduce noise complaints, and solve problems between students and homeowners, landlords and businesses. The program, was implemented in September, 2000, partly in response to the Board of Zoning Adjustment's mandate for the University to be more responsive to the needs of the neighborhoods.

Meetings of ALL are attended by representatives from the university administration, neighbors and students from West Georgetown, Burleith, and Foxhall, church leaders, the police and campus security, landlords, and other business owners. It is not a static group, and—other than a small nucleus of regulars—the participants may change from month to month. Burleith has been represented by Bonnie Hardy, Charles Mallett, Perrin Radley and Pat Scolaro.

Often the discussions are quite lively and there can be serious disagreements among the participants. The issues discussed include University housing policy; whether campus security should play a more active role in monitoring city streets late at night; use of police reservists; having a van to bring students home from M street late at night; providing more information to the community on actions taken as a result of calls to the hot line; and a more timely orientation for students who are to live off campus

Representatives from the dean's office, campus housing and legal council have met with this group. At the November meeting, the guests will be representatives from the student press, who are responding to complaints that they have been too biased in their coverage of town-gown issues.

An immediate reaction to ALL is that "we have been through this before". There have indeed been meetings and dialog in the past and yet it is hard to see where there has been any resolution to the chronic issues.

However, ALL does have high-level University support, with the coordinator, Father James Shea, reporting directly to President DeGioia. The issues are carefully documented and there is regular follow-up on all actions. We are unhappy with the lack of action on some of the issues, but overall, ALL has been a positive experience and Burleith remains an active participant.

The next meeting of ALL is Tuesday, November 13 at St. John's Church, 3240 O Street. Any interested Burleith

resident is encouraged to participate. If you'd like to attend or if you are experiencing an ongoing problem with a student group house, we urge you to call Bonnie Hardy (338-6470) or Pat Scolaro (338-5321).

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|--|-------------------------|
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Burleith Trees, Now Beautiful, Always Vital

During the last two weeks of November, look for men in high places pruning our street trees. Bill Beck of the city's tree department has informed us that our neighborhood is on schedule to have the attention of professional arborists tending to the health and maintenance of our trees.

Trimming dead branches is probably the most important activity for maintaining the health of our trees. Dead and dying branches invite insects and pests which then infect the whole tree. Ridding the trees of weak, vulnerable limbs helps prolong their life.

During this past spring and summer, two of our neighbors, Marilyn Reis and Barbara Golian, inventoried all 456 trees in Burleith. They identified the species of each tree, measured its circumference, assessed its health, recommended pruning or removal, and noted where new trees should be planted. That information is now being compiled into a database so that in subsequent years we can discern the growth and progress of our trees. Look for future reports on progress in sustaining the canopy of beautiful trees in our village in the city.

Postscript: You may have noticed the small green dots on the curb near many vacant tree boxes. These dots mark where trees are to be planted by city contractors in the next few months. The good news for Burleith is that there seem to be a lot of green dots! Thanks to Marilyn and Barbara for their hard work, and also to Clark Ray, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator for Mayor Williams.

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Georgetown Flea Market approved

The Sunday flea market at the Hardy school parking lot has received its certificate of occupancy from the city, permitting it to operate as long as the DC Public Schools renews its lease.

The flea market had been under fire for some time from some who felt that a school parking lot was not an appropriate location for a commercial venture. The DC government apparently agreed, ruling in October 1999 that the flea market needed a use variance from zoning regulations to continue operating. The final hearing before the Board of Zoning Adjustment was set for last month, but before it was held the flea market signed an agreement with the government and received its permit.

The operating agreement includes the following:

- Operation will be on Sundays only
- Hours are 9 am to 5 pm, with vendors arriving no earlier than 6 am and departing no later than 7 pm
- Parking will not use the Safeway lot; this will be stated in all advertising, a notice to that effect will be posted in the lot, and the flea market will send its own security officers to Safeway to address any problems there.

In addition, the DCPS lease agreement provides that:

- User is responsible for all trash, clean-up, and condition of buildings.
- All delivery trucks use the east gate at Wisconsin Ave.
- No one is allowed to set up in front of the building's entrance or outside the fence around the parking lot.

It seems that the agreement and permit will finally put the flea market controversy to rest. However, these do not guarantee that the DCPS will continue to grant a lease. The present lease runs until November, 2002, but it can be terminated at any time with 30 days notice.

In particular, the lease specifies that "this usage does not interfere in any way with the modernization project taking place at the Hardy School site." The modernization project will include either a major renovation of the Hardy building or its demolition and replacement, and may also include a parking garage; any of these could result in the departure of the flea market.

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Next BCA Meeting
Wednesday, November 14, 7 p.m.
Washington International School
Traffic and Parking issues with the
Washington International School and
Corcoran School of Art
Meet your neighbors, share your opinions!
All are Welcome !

Stoddert School open house

Stoddert School, located at 4001 Calvert St in Glover Park, is the neighborhood school for children in Burleith. Stoddert will be hosting an open house for prospective new students on Thursday, November 15th at 8:30 a.m. Prospective parents can visit the classrooms and get a good look at the school in action.

Stoddert this year has a new principal, Sheena Tuckson, and she has reportedly been making a good impression as someone who is thoughtful, organized, and pleasant. All interested families are urged to stop by, check out the Stoddert web page at <http://www.stoddert.org/>, or give the school a call at 282-0143.

Please remember to scoop that poop

Bitter complaints are once again being heard about violations of the pooper-scooper law. Remember, dog owners are legally required to clean up after their pets!

In addition, pets in our urban environment should be controlled to guard against hazards like rats, poison, and criminals. Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Dogs both large and small can be startling and intimidating to pedestrians, especially the very old and very young.

A violation of the pooper-scooper or leash laws can result in a fine of up to \$50. A noise violation could cost up to \$300. More importantly, following the above steps will keep your dog safer and much more popular with the neighbors.

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Fillmore Arts Center

The plans being developed for expanding and modernizing Hardy Middle School make no provision for the Fillmore Arts Center now located there. For this and other reasons, the program's future is in jeopardy, and so it seems appropriate now to give some history of this unique educational institution.

The original Fillmore School was the elementary school at 35th and S Streets, built in 1892 and finally sold in 1998 to the Corcoran School of Art. Fillmore thrived for many years but enrollment declined in the 1950s, and there was talk of closing it as early as 1957. The solution at that time was simply to combine three elementary schools—Fillmore, Hyde, and Jackson—under one principal, and to bus students in from other parts of the city. However, by 1974, Fillmore was left with only 39 students. Five other nearby elementary schools—Hardy, Hyde, Key, Mann, and Stoddert—were also small, old, and underutilized.

Hardy and Fillmore were scheduled to close in order to become office buildings for the school system administration. However, parents, teachers, and administrators banded together to save the schools in 1974 by forming the Six School Complex. Under this plan, Hardy became a middle school for grades five through eight; Hyde, Key, Mann, and Stoddert remained elementary schools, each with its own specialty; and Fillmore became an arts center, lacking a student body of its own and dedicated to serving the other five schools. Students are transported to Fillmore from the participating schools for arts classes and activities.

Following the formation of the complex, enrollment jumped from about 500 for six schools in 1974 to more than 900 in five schools by 1979.

The complex is still alive today, although many things have changed with the times. The schools now participating are Hyde, Key, Stoddert, Ross, and Hardy as well as Fillmore. Fillmore serves some 1200 students in these schools and elsewhere throughout the city from its new home in the upper floors of the Hardy building, where it moved in 1998.

The community-oriented Fillmore curriculum is a rich mix of dance, drama, music, visual and computer arts, and creative writing. That curriculum is supplemented by lessons in foundation skills (self-discipline, respect, responsibility, and conflict resolution) and coaching in academic skills. In addition to classes, the program includes regular trips to DC's many museums, galleries, and art events. The teachers are also artists who work with students and parents, promote attendance and vigorous participation, and often serve as role models and mentors for students.

Supporting the Fillmore program is Friends of Fillmore, a 501(c)3 group established in 1991, which raises funds for

both the regular and special programs. After-school and summer camp programs include:

- Fillmore Arts Workshop—a variety of classes such as playwriting, drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, collage-making, and ceramics;
- Academic Skills Coaching—small-class coaching in test-taking, listening, organizational skills, oral presentation, and writing;
- After School Music Ensembles—Six School Sinfonia, Six School Wind Ensemble, Six School Singers, and Fillmore Jazz Band, as well as private study of an instrument or voice;
- Fillmore Summer Arts and Jazz Camps—open to all community children.

The Six-School complex has been put under particular strain by recent DCPS funding policies that make it difficult for schools to pool resources. Principals under new constraints find it hard to support a joint venture like Fillmore. Despite strong parental involvement and support, Fillmore is now facing a real challenge.

For more information (or to volunteer!), contact Friends of Fillmore President Deborah George at 337-1067.

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Dead Crows had West Nile virus

It's not anthrax, but a public health hazard has been confirmed in our neighborhood. Crows found behind the 3700 block of S Street did test positive for West Nile Virus. According to the DC Health Department, over 300 crows have tested positive this year in the metropolitan region. However, there have as yet been no reported cases of the West Nile disease. Because the virus is primarily spread by mosquitoes, the onset of cold weather is likely to reduce the threat until spring.

The West Nile disease is encephalitis, or an inflammation of the brain. Symptoms include high fever, confusion, muscle weakness, and severe headaches. There is no specific treatment for the disease, which is usually not serious, but severe cases are hospitalized. Senior citizens, the very young and those with suppressed immune systems are more vulnerable. The best prevention is to avoid mosquitoes—to stay indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening, and when outdoors wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and apply insect repellent with DEET to exposed skin. If you suspect you have this virus, seek medical attention immediately. More information will be available at the November 14 BCA meeting.

Dates to Remember

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Nov. 11 (Sun) | Veterans Day |
| Nov 14 (Wed) | BCA meeting, 7 pm |
| Nov 22 (Thurs) | Happy Thanksgiving! |
| Nov 28 (Wed) | Board meeting, 7 pm |
| Dec 3 (Mon) | Newsletter deadline |

Power outage hits new electric lines

Burleith had hardly started using its brand new high-power electrical system then all the lights suddenly went out at 11:40 pm on Friday, October 26, and stayed out for several hours. Burleith was an island of darkness as lights stayed on across Reservoir Rd, on 35th St, and in Glover Park. Neighborhood suspicion immediately settled on the Georgetown Project, the massive rebuilding effort now underway on M St from 10:30 pm to 7:00 am. But the actual cause was elsewhere.

According to PEPCO, the feeder which serves this area tripped due to a cable failure on Reservoir Road near 44th Street. Power was restored at around 1:30 am, but there were several brief outages between 2 and 3 am while the fault was being located. Hopefully, this is a one-time incident.

Street crime concerns continue

Crime is not up overall in our area—in fact, the Second District is reporting a slight decline this year—but recent events make it clear that we citizens need to be vigilant on the streets. At the October 30 ANC 2E meeting, PSA 205 leader Lt. Brian Bray had a lot to report in Burleith:

- At 37th and T Sts—a robbery very similar to earlier robberies at 38th and T and at 38th and S Streets. A black male, 5 ft 5 inches, 160 pounds, assaulted a female student, grabbed her purse and ran off. As with the other assaults, it was dark.
- 3600 block of T St—an assault with a broken bottle, apparently consequent to a party.
- 1700 block of 37th St—bike taken from screened porch.
- 1900 block of 38th St—laptop computer stolen from car. Do we need better lighting on this block?
- 3500 block Whitehaven Parkway—stolen auto.

At the ANC meeting, 2D Commander Newsham took pains to assure us that police staffing was *not* low as a result of heightened terrorism concerns. Police have increased overtime and spread the load between all the districts. However, there is no question that the police are busy with some new tasks, including checking numerous suspicious packages and doing truck checks. There is a special need at this time for citizens to help, by being alert and thinking how to *prevent* crime situations.

The SNAP planning process

At the October 30 ANC 2E meeting, Chris Shaheen, the Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, described the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) that he developed with input from neighbors. The plan is being used to help plan improvements in city services for next year—including next year's budgeting process.

For planning purposes, the city has been divided into "clusters"; ours is Cluster 4, which includes Georgetown, Burleith and Hillandale (whereas Foxhall is in Cluster 13). The priorities for Cluster 4—already decided in the Mayor's citizens' summit—were control of incompatible growth (meaning mostly institutions), better government services and accountability (such as in DCRA and DPW), and traffic and parking.

More information as well as copies of the report may be obtained from the ANC (338-7427) or from Chris Shaheen (442-7631).

DC Call Center: Call 727-1000 and be counted

Chris explained at the ANC presentation that all calls for service should be directed to 727-1000, the DC call center. These include burned-out street lights, abandoned cars, potholes, dead trees, illegal construction, building code enforcement, and trash problems—everything except police and emergency calls. All reports to the call center are given a tracking number, and you can call back later and see what has been done about your request.

Perhaps more importantly, the DC government is counting all the calls and using the count for next year's budget. The more the calls from a given area, the greater the resources that are likely to be given to that area. Call early, call often! Then, Burleith will get its fair share of street work, tree work, and building inspectors next year.

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Washington, DC on sale

The DC Council has unanimously approved a sales tax holiday in DC from November 23 (the day after Thanksgiving) until December 2 for clothing, accessories and footwear costing under \$100. This is a great time to shop for clothes at a discount.

And if you shop in Georgetown, you can take the blue Georgetown Connection bus for free on weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas (at other times the cost is 50 cents). It's also a great way to get to the Metro.

What's more, next week (November 12-18) is Washington Restaurant Week. More than 100 restaurants will participate, including many in Georgetown, offering special lunch and dinner deals. For details, go to <http://www.washington.org>.



Crafts table at the Halloween Party

Donate your spare luggage

The DC Department of Mental Health is looking for donations of luggage to help patients who are leaving St. Elizabeth's Hospital and other inpatient facilities. Often these individuals have spent many years in the institution and have no means to carry their belongings.

A donation drive last Christmas brought in 40 pieces of luggage, but that supply is exhausted. If you have suitcases or bags you can spare, bring them to the Northwest Family Center, 1536 U St, NW or CT5 building, Room 27 (basement) on the St. Elizabeth's campus. For more information, call 645-9660.



Halloween face painting—more pictures on the web!

Membership Drive still underway

The 2001/2002 Burleith Citizens Association annual membership drive continues. Below is a coupon that should be completed and sent with your check. Your membership helps publish this Newsletter and ensures that the BCA can respond with sufficient funds to sponsor such community events as the Halloween Party. Send it in TODAY, please!

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BURLEITH CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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Note: All membership levels have the same rights and privileges*