

CLEVELAND PARK



Voices

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NEWSLETTER OF THE CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 1994

Connecticut Avenue Shopping Area Spruced Up

By **Sam Friedman**, *Community Projects Coordinator*
and **Eleni Constantine**, *President*
Cleveland Park Historical Society

If you haven't been shopping in Cleveland Park's Connecticut Avenue commercial area recently, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Over the summer, the efforts of merchants—and the city—resulted in significant improvements on both sides of the Avenue. Much of this activity stems from revitalization efforts initiated two and three years ago by the Cleveland Park Historical Society; now individual merchants have taken up the ball. They deserve our thanks, support, and encouragement.

Repaving and Repair

While many of us were away in August, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly walked through the Connecticut Avenue commercial area on a Saturday morning, asking merchants and neighbors what the area needed and what she could do. Jim Shipman, manager of Brookville Supermarket, walked the mayor along the east side of the Avenue from Ordway to Macomb Street, pointing

out the many potholes in the service road and the broken sidewalks and disintegrating curbs that pose a hazard to pedestrians—many of them senior citizens—who shop in the area. Mayor Kelly also saw the median strip between the service road and the main Avenue with its weed-filled tree boxes, damaged street light bases, and disheveled brick paving.

Early in September, the service road, sidewalk, and curbing on the east side of Connecticut between Ordway and Macomb were repaired, the tree boxes weeded, and mulch and the brick paving reset. Mr. Shipman reports, "We even had a street sweeper come through." We thank the city and the mayor's Ward 3 Constituent Services Coordinator Harriet Quinn for quickly responding to the neighborhood's public service needs.

Changes in Parking Regulations

Since March 1992, Cleveland Park merchants on Connecticut, led by Lou Statzer of Uptown Bakers, have tried to get the city to change the metering on the Avenue in order to provide more parking. The effort has taken much longer than expected. The merchants' goal was to simplify the metering in the commercial area and have half-hour-only metered parking on a short portion of the service road, between Macomb and CVS Pharmacy, to allow for brief stops.

The half-hour parking still has not been implemented. According to Charles Whalen of the city's Bureau of Parking Services, there is a backlog for new parking signs such as these. How-

ever, the merchants did succeed in getting a loading zone in front of Brookville Supermarket and additional parking spaces in the commercial area. Also, it is now legal to park in front of the Uptown Theatre on weekdays during non-rush-hour times.

But the city has also changed the parking regulations so that all metered spaces along Connecticut between Porter and Macomb require quarters on Saturdays. Formerly, we only had to feed the meters on the west side of Connecticut on Saturdays; now it is both sides. A benefit of this is that, except for Sundays, tour buses can no

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The Macomb Street Playground is an active haven for Cleveland Park children and others from all over the city. See story, page 7.

Connecticut Avenue Spruced Up

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longer park along the Avenue in Cleveland Park, as they previously could do on the east side on Saturdays.

Streetscape Improvements

Several merchants on the west side of Connecticut in Cleveland Park have improved the streetscape with new plantings and maintenance of existing ones.

Between the sidewalk and the Avenue in front of 3520 Connecticut, the long tree box stretching from the apron of the firehouse to the Metro entrance is now a lush garden of pachysandra ground cover, plus five pots of annuals, including pink impatiens. The building front itself has been terraced and lined with planters of red impatiens. A plaque in the curbside garden reads: "These landscape improvements have been graciously created by Mr. & Mrs. D.E. Tsintolas." Credit for these enhancements goes to Steve Tsintolas, whose family owns the building. Steve participated in the Cleveland Park Main Street Committee which, spurred by CPHS, explored the possibility of merchants, commercial property owners and neighbors working together to revitalize Cleveland Park's commercial areas.

Further south, Yanni's Greek Taverna at the corner of Connecticut and Ordway has created a street garden around its outdoor seating area, with a lattice fence and pink and red geraniums and miniature evergreens planted in white flower boxes, pots and urns.

In front of Uptown Vision next to the Uptown Theatre, the prototype tree box planted in 1992 by a partnership of merchants and CPHS's Streetscape Committee is now being maintained by Steven L. Schneid of Uptown Vision and Rodney Allen of the Uptown Theatre. Dr. Schneid planted marigolds there in the spring and, at the end of September, planted chrysanthemums in all the tree boxes on the west side of the Avenue from the theater down to Supercuts. Rodney Allen of the Uptown has been cutting the grass in the tree boxes since the late spring.

As this issue of *Voices* went to press, more colorful new plantings were spotted in front of 3432 Connecticut, to the north of the post office.

Historic Preservation Resources in Washington

By Sam Friedman

In pursuit of information about building permits, comprehensive planning and zoning changes, technical expertise, funding, and landmark designations, there are several citywide and national organizations that serve as resources, educators, advocates, and activists for history, preservation, and planning in Washington, D.C. They may not be household names, but their work provides many benefits to Cleveland Park and other neighborhoods, and they deserve our support. Here are some you might want to know about.

D.C. Historic Preservation Division. The historians, architectural historians, and archaeologists of the Historic Preservation Division serve as staff to three D.C. government entities: the D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer, the Mayor's Agent, and the Historic Preservation Review Board. For information about additions or alterations to buildings in the Cleveland Park Historic District, contact Stephen Callcott, 614 H Street NW, Room 305, Washington DC; 202-727-7360.

D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board. Under D.C. law, every building permit issued for a landmarked property or in an historic district must pass through preservation review. The D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) is a city agency and the review body that has regulatory control in the District for building permit applica-

tions for exterior work on individually landmarked properties and properties in historic districts, such as Cleveland Park. HPRB also designates properties to be listed on the D.C. Inventory of Historic Places and recommends to the D.C. State Preservation Office which of those properties should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

D.C. State Historic Preservation Office. In the states, including our neighbors Maryland and Virginia, the State Historic Preservation Office is responsible for all National Register programs "Section 106" review of historic properties owned by the Federal government (to ensure that exterior work complies with the National Historic Preservation Act), and the administering of Federal funds available for grant and historic survey activities. In the District, Robert Mallett, City Administrator, is the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (HSW) promotes the study of local history through programs, publications, a research library, and exhibitions. Housed in the Christian Heurich Mansion near Dupont Circle, HSW has collected items illuminating local D.C. history and encourages use by researchers. For information on membership, programs, or donating or working with research collections, contact HSW, 1307

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Maintenance

At Starbucks Coffee next to Uptown Vision, manager Amy Tuttle participates in a "Green Sweep" program instituted by the company's environmental group, the "Green Team." Every weekend a Starbucks location is cleaned by five or six people, referred to as partners, from different Starbucks coffeehouses. The partners clean trash in a two-block radius around the store. Recently, partners from the Dupont Circle Starbucks came up to Cleveland Park for a "Green Sweep." Amy estimates that this site will have a "Green Sweep" every six weeks.

Chris Hughes of Ireland's Four Provinces, a few doors further south, took on the tree box in front of Four Provinces in late spring, planting marigolds and other

flowers, low-growing evergreens and a small tree, placing pavers for people to walk across the tree box, and then mulching to cover the soil. In early September after several months of wear and tear, Chris had a larger oak tree planted, along with new evergreens and marigold plants, and fresh mulch added. Chris has also planted marigolds around the miniature evergreens in the concrete planters in front of the small parking lot at Connecticut and Newark, donated several years ago by Thos. D. Walsh Inc., which opens onto the parking lot.

In addition, several merchants on both sides of Connecticut, such as Jim Shipman of Brookville, have faithfully watered the trees planted in front of their stores by the city and CPHS.

Cleveland Park Personalities

Gilpin C. Walker

By Jean van der Tak

You're sure to have noticed Gilpin Walker if you've seen her in our Connecticut Avenue shopping area. She's the handsome African American woman with the big smile and hearty handshake, ready to greet all newcomers to Cleveland Park, and oldtimers too.

"I guess I'm self-appointed," she says. Even since her three years as president of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association ended in June, "I still go up and down and welcome the new shopkeepers." During her presidency, the Association won the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations' 1991 award for Outstanding Civic Association. She herself won the Federation's 1991 Outstanding Afro-American Delegate Award and its 1992 award for Outstanding Female Delegate. She was the Association's delegate to the citizens advisory group of the Second Police District's Sector 3, and first black secretary and vice president of that group. She attracted a stellar list of speakers—local university presidents, educators, politicians, historians, police and government officials—to the Association's meetings, held the first Saturday morning of the month, October to June, in the library.

Gilpin Walker gets involved wherever she is. In her church, Simpson-Hamline United Methodist on 16th Street, she has been chairperson of Church and Society and of Race and Religion, a lay reader, and delegate to a conference on drug and alcohol abuse in Switzerland. At 3446 Connecticut, the apartment building at Connecticut and Ordway where she's lived since 1979, she organized the now-annual Christmas party and the tenants' association. In her previous 17 years on Fairmont Street NW, she started the block club and was president of the Pleasant Plains Civic Association. It's been like that ever since she was president of Midway Hall, the 500-girl dormitory at 25th and Oklahoma NE where

she lived on arrival in Washington during wartime, in 1942.

Gilpin was born in Brownsburg, Virginia, on April 21, 1916—under the sign of Taurus. "I'm as strong believer in the horoscope," she says. "Taurus has been very helpful to me." An only child—"so far as I know"—she was raised by her grandmother and an aunt. After high school in Wheeling, West Virginia, where she moved at age 15, she went to West Virginia State College, graduating in 1940 with a degree in sociology. (She's proud of the award she won at her 50th anniversary class reunion, in 1990.) Her grandmother encouraged her pursuit of a degree. "She was illiterate and always said she didn't want anyone around her without an education." Sociology was an apt choice for someone who has "always been interested in people and social problems and how to cope with them." Gilpin did two years of graduate work in social work at Howard University when she got to Washington. "I didn't finish, but I did well while I was there."

"Blacks were at the bottom of the totem pole" in the Washington job market of the 1940s, she recalls. She first worked part-time in a Department of the Interior cafeteria. "That's all I could get. They'd say, 'You're too highly educated' or 'We don't have a place for you.' But at the same time, whites were being employed." Many black women worked as charwomen, but still "dressed fashionably," she notes. At the Weather Bureau where she worked next, there was no cafeteria—to avoid racial mingling—and a black woman "with a very prominent job" had to place her desk in the hall.

Gilpin met her husband while working in his photostatic lab at the Weather Bureau. They had two daughters. Glenda, the elder, lives with her mother at 3446 Connecticut, where her former husband, George Pickett, was once building manager and directed Gilpin to a vacant apartment there when her rented Fairmont Street home was sold. She keeps in close touch with her grandchildren by Glenda—Sakena, who attended John Eaton and is now a UDC freshman, and twin brothers, Marcus and Marcellus. Younger daughter Gilda, who has never married, graduated from Connecticut College and is a realtor, with "a beautiful home" in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

While the girls were small, Gilpin



Gilpin Walker

did door-to-door selling—greeting cards, Child Craft, World Book, Fuller Products ("an all-black company, not Fuller Brush, which was all-white"). When widowed after only 11 years of marriage, she realized she had to earn more. A neighbor, a counselor at Dunbar High School, suggested substitute teaching. That began a long career as a substitute and long-term "temporary" teacher, teaching English, history, even social psychology at Dunbar and many other schools. She especially recalls her time at Boys Junior High School in Southwest D.C. The 50 boys there—all "court cases"; many on probation—confronted her with the unruly conditions D.C. teachers face now. Gilpin was later gratified when she described this experience on a radio call-in show and another caller phoned to say he'd been at the school and credited the teachers for helping to change his life; he was now a policeman.

She reports that she is still on the list of D.C. substitute teachers. And in August, she renewed the notary public license she has held since the 1940s, when a realtor she worked for briefly needed a notary, offered to tutor her, and she passed the test.

Gilpin discovered many of her speakers for the Cleveland Park Citizens Association meetings among WRC 980 talk-show guests. "I made sure I got the

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Our Neighborhood Shopkeepers

Janie Hulme and the Cleveland Park Bookshop

By Amanda MacKenzie

While her friends were playing with dolls or soldiers, young Janie Hollinshead was working with a retailer's zeal on "book sales," her "readers'" interests, and the creation of new opportunities for them through literature. After a discussion of their needs and the news of the day, pretend customers were sent off happily with their carefully wrapped chosen books.

Today, Janie Hulme, a Cleveland Park resident, sits comfortably in a wicker chair in the Cleveland Park Bookshop, where real customers—neighbors, authors, students, teachers, whole families and tourists—come to browse, discuss their needs and the news, and select material for new opportunities through literature. Blessed with humor, sharp intelligence and sensitivity, Janie responds adamantly when asked

her favorite books: "*Middlemarch* and *Portrait of a Lady*, hands down—the most essential, beautifully crafted literature in the English language." The same firmness is apparent in her determination to provide quality resources in her business. Janie is the fourth owner of Cleveland Park's neighborhood bookshop and she treasures its past, the chance to develop it for today's requirements, and to fulfill her dreams through her clientele's desires. She tenderly recalls how even children, among enthusiastic fans, helped move all the store's contents in 1993 from Macomb Street to the present site at 3416 Wisconsin Avenue. And she expresses deep concern for the challenge in protecting the privacy of our many prominent neighbors who seek both anonymity and the pleasure of browsing or chatting in a village center.

The shop's general standards and philosophy have changed little since it opened after World War II on Wisconsin as SIMEON'S, named for its founder. The second owner, Ruth Chatfield, moved it around the corner onto Macomb. Later, under the proprietorship of Frances Swift, it became the CLEVELAND PARK BOOKSHOP.

In search of a new calendar over New Year's of 1990, Janie noticed a curious "For Sale" sign on the shop's door. After a phone call—"just to see what it was all about"—she felt her entrepreneurial spirit rising. Frances Swift, the beloved owner, had recently died in an auto accident in Europe and her sister was looking for someone to continue her work and warm, welcoming style. Janie and her husband Jay, a lawyer and amateur computer whiz, decided she couldn't walk away from the answer to her dream. Their children, Eliza and Max, were now of school age, and Jay would help all he could.

Janie found it a challenge to meet the expectations of Frances Swift's loyal customers, who were not ready to see change of any kind. "They owned a lot

of emotional stock" in the shop, she recalls understandingly. But she persevered with the goal she found intellectually demanding—to manage a successful independent bookshop in Cleveland Park.

A first step was to change the impression of a religious reading room (the biblical name Simeon's had had an effect) to one more contemporary. With the help of neighbors Donna and Burkey Belser, who run a commercial art and advertising firm, Janie settled on her playful, yet serious logo featuring President Grover Cleveland; in the 1880s he brought his bride, Francis Folsome, to summer at Redtop, the "cottage" then at the corner of 36th and Macomb. Classic maroon and dark green were chosen for smart new window designs and signage.

The business of books at the Cleveland Park Bookshop only begins with stocking 10,000 books—classics, the current, the rare, and a wide range of the expected and unexpected in literature. Janie says she is "just the proprietor; it is the neighborhood's shop. I listen constantly to what customers want and how they define their tastes." That clientele, she says, "is fairly intellectual, with a literary bent," and diverse—academics and fans of literature, young professionals, Foreign Service officers, retirees, and "more authors per square foot than lawyers. Our business requires care, tact, and a protective understanding of different needs. I suppose it's like running a bar. It is a wonderful business!"

Competition? It is not felt keenly here. "The presence of Crown did two things. It opened up bookstores to be user-friendly, and it frees us up to cover what's needed rather than everything available." Of other nearby independent bookshops, Janie says, "I cheerfully send people to The Cheshire Cat and Politics & Prose" for topics "they're good at and that we don't have a call for."

Not that Janie is limiting her scope; the Cleveland Park Bookshop has a substantial children's book section among others. *Poetry Readings* take place on Wednesday evenings, attended by regulars and drop-ins among the participants with knowledgeable commentary. There is a *Book Discussion Group* one Sunday evening a month; buy the discussion book at a 10 percent discount and join the group if you wish. The talk is held over Starbucks coffee and led by

CLEVELAND
PARK
BOOK
SHOP



The bookshop's playful logo features President Grover Cleveland, who summured nearby in the 1880s.

Mona Kanin, the store manager, a writer and former librarian.

Janie says she wants her staff to be both touching books and in touch with customers. "I want to be sure that we're reading books, not *about* books; that I'm getting to know my customers; that searches for a wanted book here or in the United Kingdom are successful. The bookshop reaches out to local book clubs and schools. It is prepared to match discounts because it wants to perform that service for neighbors. Quite possibly, students will learn the value of a neighborhood bookstore."

This would be a good place for them to learn because it is a browsing store, with chairs in comfy corners, enticing stacks, and modest music. Among the traditional offerings are special extras: decorative posters of Picasso, Louise Brooks, James Dean and others; "cards of the week"; and at the very back of the store, a discreet selection of unusual stationery, notecards, and elegant wrapping papers. The latter are highly favored by a suburban clientele that shops for armloads of these specialties.

Janie's background explains much of her focused dynamism. After a childhood in Philadelphia, with two brothers and a fantasy bookstore, she studied literature and music. As a classically trained jazz pianist and composer "of sorts," she went to Middlebury College, where she met her husband-to-be. While he studied law, she worked at G. Shirmer, music publishers, which

was good training for the bookshop. Instead of a full salary, she received tickets to operas and concerts and invitations to receptions. Similarly, she now takes her "salary" from the shop in books. Coming to Washington in 1980, she worked first at the Kennedy Center in children's productions; one of her colleagues was Maurice Sendak of children's books and "Magic Flute" scenery fame. Then came stints in the education and current affairs departments of PBS, staying home on 34th Street with her infant children, and working as assistant director of the National Cathedral Association, overseeing public relations, writing, producing a newsletter, and "learning what it meant to be a woman in business."

Four-and-a-half years after embarking on her latest enterprise, Janie and Cleveland Park reap rich rewards from her specialized care and creative retailing. The shop's clientele swells as well-known authors and readers are offered a warm, low-key welcome to preserve their privacy and visitors of all ages stay to read, meet, and look about in easy comfort. She's come a long, successful way, but Janie Hulme continues to hone the product and hopes you'll stop by—bringing your cup of coffee if you like—to share your ideas.

Amanda MacKenzie, a 26-year resident of Cleveland Park and CPHS Board member, is a consultant in development, public relations, and information.



Janie Hulme

Gilpin Walker

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phone numbers," and so lined up the likes of Howard University's archivist, the head of D.C. Traffic Adjudication, and radio commentator and D.C. historian John Daly.

She regrets that such speakers draw less of an audience than they merit. "People are missing a treat," she says of the often sparse attendance at the Citizens Association's perhaps not-well-publicized meetings. "They say they're looking for information about the city, but then they don't come."

Gilpin's civic-mindedness, she says, was instilled by her aunt. "She always emphasized voting," even when blacks had to pay poll taxes. Gilpin herself, in a job at the D.C. Superior Court, saw to it that people registered to vote. "I

signed up the probation officers; some of them had never voted." She has campaigned for many local candidates, including doing commercials on WOL.

An absorbing current project is the book she's writing on courtesy. "I was reared in a family that believed in being courteous to people; we called it manners." Her sources are interviews she's had with school officials, engineers, church members, the postman, pedestrians, street people—"I've been well received."

About Cleveland Park, Gilpin says she likes the convenience—close to stores, transportation, the library, restaurants. She wishes there were more police on foot patrol. She was instrumental in getting three patrol officers along Connecticut, but now there is only one. She would also like to see an "international type of affair," outdoors

in warm weather, where "the many nationalities we have would come in their native attire and have international dishes along with American."

Gilpin says she still senses "quite a bit of bigotry" in Cleveland Park. But she works hard to mitigate that, for example, making extra sure that new shop people with a poor grasp of English understand they're welcome. We're lucky to have you, Gilpin, and look forward to many more years of your presence on the Avenue as "Mrs. Welcome Walker."

Jean van der Tak is Editor of Voices.



Built in Cleveland Park from 1907 through the 1920s in a variety of styles, semi-detached houses require extra care in planning renovations in order to preserve the special harmony between the two adjoining houses. Drawing by John Wiebenson.

Architectural Corner

By Cherrie Anderson

Semi-detached

This is the tenth example to appear in Voices of the house styles to be featured in a planned CPHS Guide to Cleveland Park House Styles. Author Cherrie Anderson is an interior designer. Illustrator John Wiebenson is an architect.

Although they do not constitute a single, coherent style, semi-detached houses require a special note in this series. They were built in Cleveland Park from 1907 through the 1920s with a wealth of diverse materials and details applied to their basic form. Usually the form is a compact, rectangular massing, with one common wall and a mansard roof with dormers surmounted by a flat metal roof. Often the two joined houses are bilaterally symmetrical. However, some striking examples don't even share this basic form,

except for the definitive common wall.

What they all do share is a special harmony between both houses. Semi-detached houses can be found throughout the Cleveland Park Historic District, influenced by the Queen Anne, Craftsman, Georgian Colonial Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and English Cottage styles. In designing appropriate renovations or additions, owners should study the style descriptions which most closely fit their houses. But just as importantly, they should study their adjoining houses.

As originally designed, each semi-detached pair was a balanced whole, with form, materials, details, and colors carefully matched or coordinated. Ideally, whatever is changed in one should be considered in the context of both. This presents an additional challenge for owners of semi-detached houses to work closely with their neighbors, but it creates twice the reward when the special harmony between the two houses is preserved.

Examples of semi-detached houses can be seen at 3193 and 3195 Porter (English Cottage Style), 3038 and 3040 Rodman (Tudor), and 3506 and 3508 36th Street (Spanish Colonial).

Help Beautify the Ordway-Porter-34th-Street Triangle

This prominent triangle along the 34th Street corridor, just south of Porter, could be beautified with relatively little input. Three dogwoods and half a dozen azaleas, added to the existing cherry trees, would make a colorful hillside splash in the heart of Cleveland Park—with the cherry blossoms followed by the Japanese dogwood (which blooms later), and then the azaleas. For summer color, we plan to plant black-eyed Susans.

If you are interested in helping with this neighborhood beautification project, please call Jane Biltchik (a CPHS Board member) at 363-2581. If you'd like to make a donation, send your check to the Cleveland Park Historical Society, P.O. Box 4862, Washington DC 20008.

Macomb Street Playground

By Maria Constantine

Since the time, more than a century ago, when Cleveland Park was called "Pretty Prospects," this neighborhood has been a green oasis in Washington—and a haven for children.

People have traditionally moved to the area in order to bring up children. The idea of a playground was part of this view. The Macomb Street Playground—on the north side of Macomb just west of 34th Street—was built to allow resident children not only to play among themselves but also to meet other children who came from elsewhere in the city to play. It works, says D.C. Council member Jim Nathanson, as a big "meeting and greeting" ground, among children. This situation represents only a small change from that of Pretty Prospects and what it was meant to be. Children still congregate here from all over the city to play; the difference lies with the increased and more structured resources available.

Macomb Playground was a play area long before it was an official city facility. Early in the century, a certain Mr. Olmsted bought most of what is now upper Macomb Street. He had a philanthropic heart, apparently, and allowed children free access to his property, including the forest that stood on the site of the present playground. The forest was cleared during the 1930s, and in the 1940s, Mr. Olmsted laid down a rubber mat for children to play baseball on. (Fifty years later, children still have baseball lessons on the same field.) The rubber had decayed by 1948 and was removed. About two years later, wives of homeowners around the neighborhood petitioned the D.C. government, which had bought the land, to put in an official playground.

Already there was some equipment and a supervisor. The women organized moneymaking events and solicited the city government to allocate funds for the basketball courts and the small building that stand today. The yearly Halloween Party was inaugurated at the same time. It is not surprising, given the rate of development in Cleveland Park in the 1950s, that these were the years families began to insist on a formal playing area for children.



Macomb Street Playground has been a community "meeting and greeting" ground for over 50 years.

The Macomb Playground is the focal point for many get-togethers, including the Halloween Party and the John Eaton Block Party, held this October for the 25th year. In an interview with John Eaton students a few years ago, neighbor Sally Craig said of the Block Party: "It's really the one big event that pulls together the whole neighborhood." The Block Party originated with and benefits nearby John Eaton Elementary School, but Sally insisted, "It's not just an Eaton event. It's the time of year when you're back from vacation and things are just starting and you know the Block Party is the place you're going to see everybody you haven't seen all summer. We live right across the street and it's thrilling to see the playground fill up every year."

The Macomb Playground and John Eaton have worked hand in hand on many of these volunteer events. Juanita Peterson, the present playground director, finds it very easy to cooperate with the volunteers. It seems there are decidedly both formal and casual functions in the Macomb Playground.

The playground is formally run in a systematic fashion, with activities organized for different seasons, depending on what parents see the need for. In the summer, summer camp activities for children ages six to 12 start at nine in the morning and go till four. There are movies and arts and crafts in the little house and trips to the theater and the Wilson High School pool. During the school year, the after-school program, from 3:30 till 6:30, includes indoor and outdoor games—soccer, baseball, volleyball.

The grounds are divided into the small children's area and the big children's grounds. While structured activities occupy most of the playground, there are always facilities for casual use, including a field, basketball courts, and the small children's swings, slide, and sandbox. These casual uses of the playground serve neighborhood residents, while the playground also gives children from all over the city a chance to participate in supervised and structured events.

Periodically, the Macomb Playground is re-evaluated by the District government to see whether or not it is worth keeping open. Recently, that scrutiny of the D.C.-operated facility has become particularly intense and, in line with its efforts to cut costs, the city government is considering eliminating Juanita Peterson's position and leaving the playground unstaffed. It is a little playground—in official lingo, a "smaller facility"—and needs more of a defense as a valid operation for D.C. than the bigger playgrounds. But it is exactly its littleness that is our playground's greatest asset. It presents a relatively quiet play area, surrounded by the remnants of the forest, near the top of a hill cooled by breezes in summer. It is a "Pretty Prospects" in the middle of the city, with a safe ballpark, sandbox, slide and swings, guarded by oaks and ivy.

Maria Constantine's family moved to Cleveland Park when she was four and her sister was nine. Now her sister's children, Zoe and Cleo, continue the tradition of playing in the Macomb Playground.

Historic Preservation Resources

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New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036; 202-785-2068.

D.C. Preservation League. Saving landmarks is what made the D.C. Preservation League famous: the Old Post Office, the Willard Hotel, Warner Theatre, Greyhound Bus Terminal. Founded in 1971 as **Don't Tear It Down**, the League and its membership have kept these structures standing as living testimonials to Washington's rich architectural and cultural history. As public educator, surveyor, and designer and shaper of local policy, the D.C. Preservation League is Washington's premier advocate for historic preservation. It is a private not-for-profit corporation whose activities are made possible by the financial support of concerned individuals, corporations, and foundations. To learn more, contact D.C. Preservation League, 1511 K Street NW, Suite 739, Washington DC 20005; 202-737-1591.

Committee of 100 was founded in 1923 and has served ever since as the principal forum on planning for the National Capital region and, in par-

ticular, the historic Federal city. It helped establish the National Capital Planning Commission in 1924. Today, as an advocate and activist, the Committee works through seven subcommittees: planning and urban design; zoning; transportation; parks and natural resources; housing; membership; and historic preservation. In the District, the Committee advocates historic preservation and compliance with preservation laws. For more information, write to Committee of 100, Yost House, 1002 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington DC 20003.

National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, is a nonprofit organization with more than 250,000 members. As leader of the national preservation movement, it is committed to saving America's diverse historic environments and preserving and revitalizing the livability of communities nationwide. It has seven regional offices, owns 18 historic house museums, and works with thousands of local community groups in all 50 states. It publishes the bimonthly magazine, *Historic Preservation*, and a monthly newspaper. Most of the National Trust's budget comes from private sources, including membership

dues, corporation and foundation grants, endowment income, and merchandise sales. About 22 percent is a matching grant from Congress, through the Department of the Interior. For information, contact National Trust Headquarters, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036; 202-673-4141.

Join the Cleveland Park Historical Society

The Cleveland Park Historical Society, founded in 1985, achieved its initial aims to have our neighborhood declared a historic district and protect the low-rise commercial sections along Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues.

Now we are focusing on increasing neighborhood interest in historic preservation and community projects like helping to revitalize our shopping areas and replanting trees.

If you are not a current member, please join us now. Membership includes our newsletter, *Cleveland Park Voices*, and invitations to special programs. Send your check for \$25, payable to Cleveland Park Historical Society, to:

Barbara and Dick Jorgensen
CPHS Membership Co-chairs
2957 Newark Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
Tel: 202-362-0726

CPHS Office and Phone Number

Sam Friedman, CPHS Community Projects Coordinator has an office above the NationsBank at 3401 Connecticut Avenue. He is usually there mornings, Monday-Thursday, and Friday afternoon.

For a recording on CPHS activities, call 202-363-6358. Eleni Constantine, CPHS President, and Sam Friedman welcome hearing from neighbors about their interests and concerns. Please leave your name and phone number to discuss your concerns and possible steps to action.

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