



VOICES

CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

CPHS at Mid Year

By John Poole

A very nice event took place at the Cleveland Park Library last December, celebrating our call box restoration/public art program. Council Member Mary Cheh, just off knee surgery, came on crutches to help offer thanks to those who made this possible. CPHS Call Box Committee members, Lois Orr, Roz Beitler and Judy Hubbard organized and led the project.

Thanks to many of you, including businesses on Connecticut Avenue, who contributed funds to make it possible. I particularly want to thank the neighborhood artists Mary Belcher, Diana Cook, Sheila Harrington, Edith Kuhnle, Leslie Oberdorfer, Eleanor Oliver, John Simpson, Di Stovall, Lou Stovall, James Symons, Catlin Werrell and John Woo. Thanks also to restoration consultant Frank Arkwright and fabrication and installation specialist Guy Brami of Gelberg Signs.

Some time ago, the District's Historic Preservation Office (HPO) announced that it intends to develop design guidelines specific to each historic district in the city. A set has been adopted for the newly designated district of Foxhall Village; you can find it on the HPO website. The HPO will work with the other neighborhoods on the continuing project.

This is an important step for historic preservation, and CPHS and its Architectural Review Committee are working to identify those distinctive characteristics of our neighborhood—the feeling of openness and spaciousness—a park in the middle of a busy city.

We continue to look for ways to keep our Connecticut Avenue commercial area attractive and bustling. Our new Preservation Café program, at the end of March, should contribute to that goal and I hope to find you there.



On hand at the Cleveland Park Library to celebrate the launch of the neighborhood's Junk-to-Art project were artists, consultants and committee members.

Celebrating Call Box Public Art and Artists

By Lois Orr

After 15 months of hard work, CPHS celebrated the transformation of Cleveland Park's antique police and fireboxes into public art. Residents turned out in large number to offer their appreciation to the artists whose works appear in the call boxes. President John Poole announced that CPHS would sponsor a narrated tour of the call boxes in late spring,

The event marked the near completion of the restoration project sponsored by CPHS. Two call boxes await scraping and protective paint by the city before the decorative painting and installation of artwork can proceed. Cleveland Park is one of many DC neighborhoods that

participated in the citywide "Art on Call" effort led by Cultural Tourism DC, the District Department of Transportation, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities to bring Washington's abandoned police and fire call boxes back to life as neighborhood public art.

The call box committee thanked community organizations, businesses, and residents for their generous support. Organizational contributors included Cheh's Constituent Fund, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3-C and the Cleveland Park Citizens Association.

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ON THE AVENUE



Over the Counter

by Cissie Coy

Toe hurt? Child have pink eye? Can't figure out the instructions for that new medication?

Ask Nate.

Questions on health care, from minor ailments to life-threatening afflictions, are daily fare for Nate Rodgers and none is too petty or too serious for him to handle. He's the familiar gray-haired, comforting and unflappable presence in crisp white coat behind the pharmacy counter at Cleveland Park's CVS.

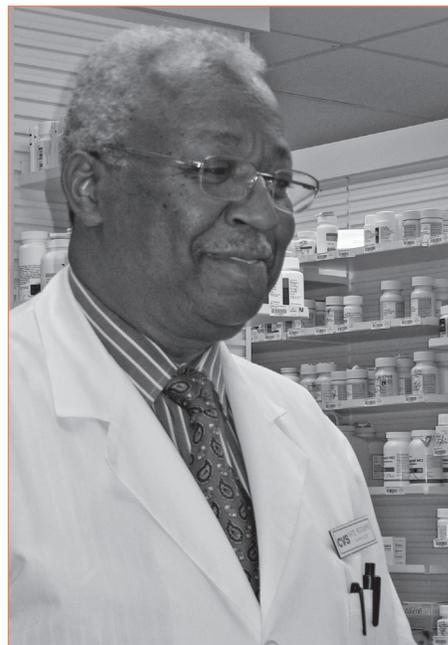
Nate—Nathaniel—Rodgers is the chief pharmacist at the neighborhood store. Customer service is his byword, and he's won the Paragon Award, CVS's highest award for pharmacists, as well as other acknowledgments.

During 20 years at the CVS at 3327 Connecticut, and earlier stints as a pharmacist as well as a licensed dentist, Nate has made the transition from typewriters to computers, and he's heard it all.

"I try to give good advice," he says. "And when I can't recommend an over-the-counter remedy, I suggest the customer see a physician."

After serving as a Pharmacy Technician at Walter Reed Army Hospital for two years, Nate studied pharmacy at Howard University under the G.I. Bill. He graduated in 1971. He later studied dentistry at the university, graduating with a DDS in 1981. Having practiced both professions, he settled into pharmacy.

The seventh of 18 children growing up in Coshocton, Ohio, near Columbus,



Nate showed early signs of a lifelong attention to detail. He was a homing pigeon fancier as a teenager, caring for 30 birds that ventured as far afield as 500 miles—and home again.

When Nate isn't dispensing pills and sound advice from behind the CVS counter—he rotates hours with fellow pharmacist Chris Sees—he's at home, in Oxon Hill, Md., with his wife, Romella. The couple has two children, and five grandchildren. A former student of music, Nate plays jazz on the drums that are set up in his basement, as well as teaching his grandson Jonathon, 13, to play. A fervent Redskins fan, he is a season ticket holder.

His number-one complaint with health care these days, not surprisingly, is the high price of prescription drugs. He has nothing to do with setting prices, Nate hastens to explain. "I give customers the 1-800 number and tell them to make a call." Unhappily, he says, some people don't return for their medicines after learning what they will cost.

A Historic Marker for Your Historic Home



CPHS is pleased to offer members the opportunity to buy Historic Home Markers. These handsome brass ovals are available only through CPHS. Only houses listed on the original National Register or verifiably older than 75 years are eligible for recognition. To

find out if your home qualifies, call or email CPHS. For more information on the Cleveland Park Historical Marker program, please visit our website at www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org and click on the Historic Markers tab under Membership.

First Preservation Café March 31 at Ardeo

By Lou Ann May



Following the lead of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, the Cleveland Park Historical Society will hold its first Preservation Café on Tuesday, March 31 at Ardeo. The Cafés are designed to provide members with an opportunity to learn from experts about a wide variety of preservation and restoration issues in an informal, local setting over dinner.

Bruce Wentworth, AIA, of Wentworth Studio, is the featured speaker at the inaugural Café. He will discuss Washington area “Residential Historic Architecture” and answer questions about historic styles and characteristics.

The founder of Wentworth, Inc., a residential design-build firm, Wentworth has worked in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area for over 20 years. Passionate about historic architecture, he has recently put his survey of residential architectural styles in the area online (www.askthearchitect.org/), allowing a wider community to research and identify their own home’s period and style.

Join Wentworth and preservation-minded neighbors at Ardeo, 3311 Connecticut Ave., on Tuesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. The program will include dinner—appetizer, entrée and dessert. The fee for members is \$35. Beverages will be extra. The non-member fee is \$45.

Reservations are required. Please email staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org or call 202/237-2538.

Upcoming Preservation Café topics will include Tips for Improving Garden Walls, Walks, and Steps, Container and Outdoor Gardening, Windows, Walls and Wood Floors and How to Research Your Home’s History. If you know of a speaker or a topic you think might be of interest to our membership, please let us know.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Signs of Spring

By Chris Rose

Will spring ever get here? Yes! The signs are all around us—songbirds tuning up, the first icy green shoots of crocus and daffodils poking through the soil. Tulips prefer cold winters and tend to disappear after only one season in our area. The cold temperatures this winter froze the soil surface and we may well be treated to better blooming tulips this year as a result. The cold also may have knocked back a number of insect pests. Observing the natural world around us is a great treat.

We in Cleveland Park have a great observation post at nearby Melvin Hazen Park, located between Rodman St and Sedgwick St. According to the National Park Service, the park has one of the oldest stands of trees in Rock

Creek Park. But if you walk through the park, you will see that the forest is changing dramatically.

Windstorms over the last seven years and the hurricanes of 2003 threw a number of big oaks to the ground and the falling giants smashed many younger trees. Treetops were broken off. To us humans, the forest looks devastated. But for woodpeckers and other birds and animals that like holes in trees and for creatures that live under and in the logs on the ground, these are dandy conditions—lots of food and lots of homes.

The question is: Will the oaks grow back or will beeches and maples take over? How long will it take to have more big old trees? Time and an observant eye will tell the story.

For more about observing and learning about forests, plants, and animals, check out the *Natural Inquirer*, www.naturalinquirer.org/. The *Natural Inquirer* is a science education journal produced for youth but adults will also enjoy the exploration and clear discussions of wide range of forest related topics. And the *Inquirer* is a fun tool to use with middle schoolers.





**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Architecture for Kids, Saturday June 6

CPHS is delighted to announce a special program for our younger residents: “Exploring Architecture with Kids: The Neighborhoods of Washington, DC—Cleveland Park.” The program is presented in conjunction with the Washington Architecture

Foundation of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

The event is open to children ages 6 to 12, who will learn about their own neighborhood through its unique architecture. Led by an experienced architect, children and their parents will walk through Cleveland Park, learning about basic architecture and their environment from a new perspective.

The tour will conclude with a snack and an opportunity for participants to build their own model home. Each participant will also receive an activities booklet on the Cleveland Park neighborhood, prepared by the Washington Architectural Foundation.

This program will be held on Saturday, June 6, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and a parent or guardian must accompany each child. The fee is \$15 for each child.

For reservations, contact staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org or call 202-237-2538.

Spring Drawing Classes

Now is your chance to learn how to sketch a Cleveland Park landmark. Enroll in the CPHS adult drawing classes this spring, led by architect and drawing instructor Rick Vitullo, (www.vitullostudio.com). The class will meet two Sundays in May.

Students will spend a leisurely afternoon drawing at an historic home in the company of Vitullo and other artistic CPHS members. After a light snack, they’ll return to the Cleveland Park Club for a critique of their work.

The class is open to adults with some drawing experience. Supply lists will be distributed in advance of the program and a fee will be charged. For additional information, please contact staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org or call 202-237-2538.



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