Art on Call: The Story Behind the Broadmoor Call Box

by Rhona C. Hartman

In 2009 the Cleveland Park Historical Society completed the conversion of antique fire and police call boxes into public art. Each of the 15 call boxes in our neighborhood now has distinctive artwork. The call box on Connecticut Avenue near Porter Street – at the top of the Broadmoor Cooperative Apartment garage driveway – has a back story:

When Roz Beitler, resident of the Broadmoor and then on the CPHS Board, was asked to coordinate the Call Box Project, she put up a notice in the laundry room of the Broadmoor asking for ideas. Anne Ford Doyle, then a Broadmoor resident and a professional photographer, came forward to suggest that Art Enables, on whose Board she sat, be contacted to create a piece of art for this call box. Art Enables is a non-profit agency that focuses on people with disabilities who are better able to express themselves in images than in words. (See their website, art-enables.org, for more information.)

Anne took pictures of the Broadmoor’s architectural elements, and sent them to Art Enables. John Simpson, an artist there who specializes in drawing buildings, worked with Anne’s photographs to produce the art that is now installed on the Broadmoor Call Box.

CPHS is producing a new set of notecards featuring John Simpson’s Broadmoor Call Box art. Look for them to be for sale at our events later this fall.

Board Members for 2012-2013

At the Annual Meeting in May, CPHS members elected four new members to the Board of Directors: Winthrop Brown (Springland Lane); Judy Levin (The Broadmoor, Connecticut Avenue); PJ McCann (Macomb Street); and Abigail (Abby) Porter (35th Street). Biographies of the new members are on our website at clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/about-cphs/board

The CPHS Board of Directors and Officers for 2012-2013 are:

Dandridge Ince, Highland Place, President
Tina Mead, 34th Place, Treasurer
Robert Jenks, Newark Street, Secretary
Gwen Wright, 34th Street, VP for Preservation, Co-Chair of ARC
Winthrop Brown, Springland Lane
John Buchanan, Newark Street
Anne Clark, Macomb Street
Ana Evans, Ashley Terrace
Sherry Floyd, Porter Street
Christine Colby Giraudo, 34th Street
Mike Goldstein, Lowell Street
Wendy Gray, Newark Street
Rhona Hartman, The Broadmoor, VOICES Editor
Judy Levin, The Broadmoor
Drew Maloney, Macomb Street
PJ McCann, Macomb Street
Lois Orr, 34th Street
Marylyn Paige, Lowell Street
Susan and Jamie Parkinson, Newark Street
Abby Porter, 35th Street
Anne Hatfield Weir, Garfield Street
Margot Wilson, Macomb Street

Historic House Markers

The Cleveland Park Historical Society offers historic markers to homeowners whose houses are at least 75 years old or are listed in the original National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Cleveland Park Historic District. The purposes of the historic markers program are to educate the community about the age of various structures within the Historic District; to instill a sense of pride and respect in the neighborhood; and to educate the public at large to the extent of the Historic District and its boundaries.

Markers are forged to order for CPHS by the Erie Forge Company of Columbia, PA. They cost $150 for members and $175 for non-members. We normally wait till we have several orders to submit at once, but we try to submit an order at least twice a year.

Before issuing an historic marker for your home, we will need to verify the age of your house – not least because that date is going to be cast in bronze! If you would like to check on the eligibility of your property, please email Carin Ruff at staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org.