

The Friends of the Cleveland Park Library

by Mary Anderson Cooper

For over three decades the Friends of the Cleveland Park Library have performed a wide range of vital services for both their local community and the entire city. Founded in 1980 by Anne Swearingen, the Friends have received donations of books from the neighbors and conducted book sales ever since.

With the proceeds from membership fees and two large sales a year, plus periodic smaller sales and a sale room that is open daily at the Library, the Friends have conducted book discussion groups; supported the summer reading program for children; supported the library's children's programs, including the popular crafts programs; purchased computers for several branch libraries; bought reference materials for the Martin Luther King Library and books for several other branches; and purchased chairs, bookshelves and other furnishings for the Cleveland Park Library. In addition, the Friends provide free books to teachers and tutors in the DC Public Schools and to inmates at the DC Jail. They also have contributed to other book drives in the city

People who wish to donate books in good condition for the next sale can take them to the Library and deposit them in the designated bins. For more information, or to volunteer to help with sorting, shelving and selling, contact Jill Bogard, President of the Friends, at jillbogard2755@gmail.com or Nathalie Black at nvblack@earthlink.net.

Cleveland Park Village to Launch This Fall

by Elizabeth Fox

Over the past ten years, communities all over America have been opening a new type of neighborhood organization, called a "village." Its purpose is to help residents "age in place" through services delivered by screened and trained volunteers. It is credited with strengthening neighborhood ties and helping older adults maintain healthy functioning longer.

The Cleveland Park Village was the subject of living room conversations for several years before a committee was formed to determine whether to go ahead with this new grass roots organization. They knew that Cleveland Park has many older residents who could use and give help. But to plan carefully, they conducted a survey that reached over 2500 households. Over 350 were returned, with specific answers indicating the services needed and the services volunteer wanted to provide. This positive response led to the enthusiastic decision to proceed.

The Cleveland Park Village will initially be open to residents in the area bounded roughly by Upton Street on the north, Massachusetts Ave on the west, Cathedral Ave. on the south and Rock Creek Park on the east. Those interested in joining as members or signing up as volunteers may get more information by emailing cpvillagedc@gmail.com. The Village expects to provide transportation, minor home maintenance and repair, help with computer and phone use, social and cultural events and opportunities to volunteer.

The Cleveland Park Village Board of Directors is seeking help from residents of all ages to launch the program. They welcome people who will: sign up as members and volunteers; publicize the Village to neighborhood groups, including apartment buildings; provide donations and do fundraising; and generally spread the word. The Village expects to accept applications for membership and volunteers in October and provide services early in 2013. All Cleveland Park residents are invited to sign up for updates on the Village progress at cpvillagedc@gmail.com. The CP Village offers a terrific way to build our community ties and loyalties.

Fire Station Renovation Update

by Rhona C. Hartman

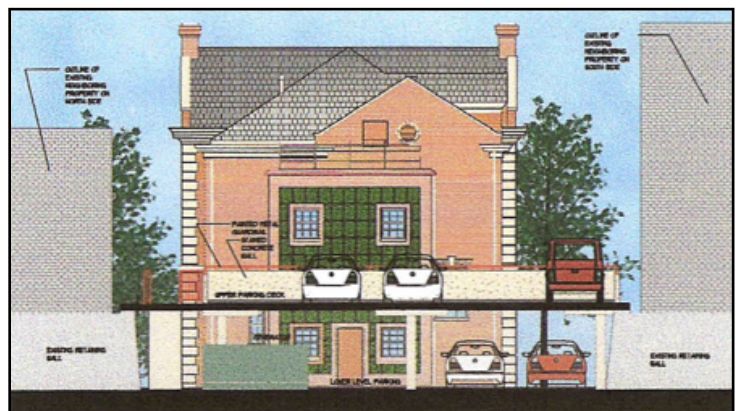
Fire Station #28, at 3522 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., has been closed since November 2010. The D.C. Fire and EMS (FEMS) Department now houses Engine #28's vehicles at a nearby station farther north on Connecticut Avenue, and in Adams Morgan, and will do so until renovations to the station are complete.

"Great news for Cleveland Park residents," said David Foust, Deputy Fire Chief, Facilities Management Office, DC Fire & EMS Department. "Demolition phase has begun [as of June 1, 2012]. The scheduled completion date is July 5, 2013. I am looking forward to future updates to the residents of Cleveland Park. I plan to set up a time for members of the community to inspect...the renovation project....We have moved mountains for this renovation project to begin. Allowing the necessary time to complete may be the most difficult phase of this project," said Chief Foust.

Renovation has been halted by various controversies, including one that pitted those wishing to maintain the historic architecture of the Fire Station (built in 1916 and part of our Cleveland Park Historic District) against the need to meet current standards for new fire-fighting equipment that is too large to pass through the existing doors. In early April 2012, the Mayor's Agent granted permission to widen the doorways so that modern equipment can pass through.

Another issue that delayed the renovation was the proposed metal parking structure to accommodate cars for 14 of the firefighters. Neighbors feared that the mechanical lift which would move cars up and down a two story structure would be unsightly as well as produce unnecessary noise as shifts change at the station. In late May 2012, according to Chief Foust, "The ANC 3C did review and approve [a] new design...The parking structure was replaced with a parking deck. The proposed parking deck will support parking for approximately 5 cars on the top surface...and 5 spaces are available on the south side of the Fire House, entering on Connecticut Avenue. ... This new design will provide the necessary spaces for the members assigned and working each day."

Behind the new chain link fence, progress is being made to complete the long-awaited renovation of Fire Station #28.



Elevation of rear of Engine 28 showing revised plan for parking deck.

Want to keep track of historic preservation news in Cleveland Park & all around D.C.? ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org has a page on Preservation News & Issues, and we post news of preservation and D.C. history events all the time on [Facebook.com/ClevelandParkHistory](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandParkHistory).