

Neighborhood News & Notes

Oh Deer!

by Jennifer Hamilton

Time was when a deer in Cleveland Park was a rare event. But no longer. A request for sightings posted on the Cleveland Park listserv brought a slew of responses. Here are some of them:

“This morning I watched a small herd of deer on the Twin Oaks property. And deer come regularly to the Newark Street Community Gardens. One doe left her fawn and walked right up to within three feet of me.”

From Porter Street: “The day before my wife’s surgery she saw an eight point buck standing on our neighbor’s yard. She took this as a good omen, and it was.”

“My neighbor saw a deer on my porch at 11 pm,” writes a Rowland Place resident. “A dog scared the deer and it ran toward Quebec Street.”

“I was standing in my kitchen,” related a basement dweller, “and a stag came right up to the window and stayed looking while I took his photograph.”

One observer witnessed a stag and doe, oblivious to passersby, mating on the lawn of the Fanny-Mae building. Another, a resident of the Kennedy-Warren, reports he was pulling out of the building driveway when he encountered a five point buck. “I couldn’t believe how big his antlers were. We stared at each other for a second and then he just bolted forward towards Connecticut Avenue, did a fast U-turn and went back into the Zoo.”

While many sightings have been calm and lovely, there were several reports of accidents.

“It was as if the deer had suddenly appeared in front of the car,” wrote one driver. “He went flying upward in the direction he had been running, and tumbled down an ivy-covered hillside.”

“The deer made a mad dash across the avenue...he hit the hood of a sports car and miraculously landed on his feet,” wrote another.

“I have seen deer on 34th Place on a number of occasions,” reported another observer. “Including one that died slowly between two parked cars.”

While some gardeners complained about deer eating hostas and day lilies, one vegetable gardener declared she gladly forgives their depredations. The current Park Service program to cull the deer by shooting has stirred up considerable public controversy, so it remains to be seen how long our new neighbors stay with us.

Cleveland Park Village Names Director; Ready to Launch May 1st

by Rhona Hartman

Cleveland Park Village, a nonprofit organization to enable area residents to “age in place,” has named Susan Hester its founding executive director and is set to begin operations May 1.

One of more than 200 similar “Villages” nationwide, the Cleveland Park version will provide services like transportation, shopping and small household repairs to its members in their own homes and help keep them involved in area events, using a network of trained volunteers from the community.

Hester, 63, is a veteran health and education activist and longtime Cleveland Park resident. She says her top priorities will be to reach as many Cleveland Park residents as possible with the news of the Village’s arrival and to recruit them as members and volunteers.



**Susan Hester, Cleveland Park Village’s
Founding Executive Director.
Photo by Sandy Douglass**

“So many of us love our homes in Cleveland Park and hope we never have to leave,” she said. “Cleveland Park Village will help keep its members secure in our homes and engaged in city life. It will be neighbors helping neighbors to make aging in place feasible and meaningful.”

Cleveland Park is already very much a community, she said, and the Village concept is designed to build on that sense of belonging so as to help keep the neighborhood vibrant and welcoming to all its residents.

Cleveland Park Village, one of more than twenty Villages in the D.C. metropolitan area, will serve people in Cleveland Park and parts of Woodley Park, the area bounded roughly by Upton Street on the north, Massachusetts Ave. on the west, Rock Creek Park on the east and Cathedral Avenue on the south.

For more information, or to ask about joining as members or volunteers, email info@ClevelandParkVillage.org or visit ClevelandParkVillage.org.

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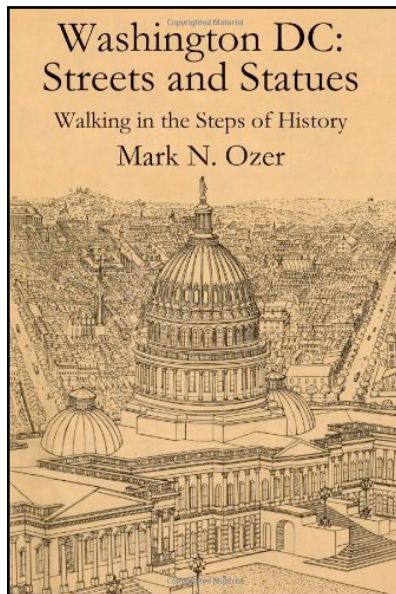
The earliest issues of VOICES are now available on our website at clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/about-cphs/voices. The first issues, from 1987 and 1988, document the steps CPHS took shortly after its founding to secure protection for the historic district and the Connecticut Avenue commercial strip. They include a notice of the founding of our Architectural Review Committee, emphasizing CPHS’s commitment to continuing the neighborhood’s history of innovative architecture. There are also articles by Kathy Wood, author of our National Register nomination, on aspects of Cleveland Park’s historic architecture, including Palladian windows, rope designs, and bungalows. They make very interesting reading!

Book Review: Mark N. Ozer, *Washington, D.C.: Streets and Statues: Walking in the Steps of History*

by Rhona C. Hartman

Mark N. Ozer has done it again! He has brought to light another aspect of our city in his newest book, ***Washington, DC: Streets and Statues***. His subtitle says it best, ***Walking in the Steps of History***. This is Ozer's fourth book on the subject. This time he focuses on the political and geographic bases upon which the development of D.C. was built. Unlike most other cities, which grew from original clusters of inhabitants, this capital city was created, according to Ozer, to reflect the political independence and individual liberty symbolic of the founding principles of the newly-created Constitution.

Ozer covers the early years of the city's growth – late 1700s through L'Enfant's grand plan in the 1790s – and focuses on how the streets and other places were named, primarily after the Civil War nearly a century later. Particularly intriguing is how avenues nearest the Capital and the legislative branch of government and radiating from it were named. Ozer notes that it was not until the early 1900s that the “rules” of streets took place (letters and then two-syllable and three-syllable names in alphabetic order), which required the renaming of some streets to incorporate these rules.



Ozer devotes about 40% of the book to providing thumbnail (or longer) sketches of the political leaders, military figures, and other famous people for whom such places are named. Readers of *Voices* are already familiar with how Macomb, Porter, Newark, and other streets in Cleveland Park got their names, and these are incorporated in this book. Outdoor public spaces – parks, statues, circles, and squares – are named overwhelmingly for military leaders. Ozer groups these by war, rather than by geography. Most such statues were created after the Civil War and after the technology of casting equestrian statues came to our shores.

This is a book which long-time residents, newcomers, and visitors can enjoy as they encounter particular neighborhoods. Those traveling to visit family and friends can give *Washington, DC: Streets and Statues* as a house gift with pride, as a gift from home. The book, published by Garden Publishing, is available from Politics and Prose at 5015 Connecticut Avenue, where Ozer has given talks about his books to full houses.



Want to keep track of historic preservation news in Cleveland Park and all around D.C.? We post news of preservation and D.C. history events on [Facebook.com/ClevelandParkHistory](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandParkHistory).

Members Visit Historical Society of Washington's Kiplinger Library

by Carin Ruff

The Historical Society of Washington's Kiplinger Library is a treasure trove for anyone interested in the history of the District and its neighborhoods. The library is particularly important for Cleveland Park, since HSW holds the Cleveland Park Historical Society's own records for the first twenty years, from our founding in 1985. This includes the extensive photographic collection of CPHS founding member Kathleen Sinclair Wood.

In March, a group of CPHS members visited HSW to learn about its collections. Anne McDonough, the Library's new Collections Manager, introduced the photographic, real estate atlas, and city directory collections, and showed parts of CPHS's own papers. McDonough says the Kiplinger Library is eager to have volunteer help processing its collections, and CPHS would love to have more Cleveland Parkers get involved in helping make our papers and the Wood photographs more available. If you would like to volunteer, email Anne McDonough at amcdonough@historydc.org.



John Steadman and other CPHS members discuss their neighborhood history interests at the Historical Society of Washington, March 19th

The library, which is on the second floor of the old Carnegie Library in the middle of Mount Vernon Square, is open by appointment on Mondays and with no appointment from 10 to 4 on Wednesdays. Appointments can be made by emailing library@historydc.org, and the library staff appreciate advance notice for Wednesday visits, too. HSW expects to add an extra open day starting in June; check their website for details. The library catalog is available online at historydc.org, so you can check the catalog and let the library know in advance what you would like to see. Many photographs are digitized and available online; try searching for your street in Cleveland Park and see what treasures turn up!

We will be planning a repeat of the special library visit for CPHS members in the coming months, since many more people were interested than the library could accommodate. Watch your email for the invitation.

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 structures within the Historic District; to instill a sense of pride 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 Landmark Company of Columbia, PA. They cost \$175 for members and \$200 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. If you are interested in ordering a marker, email Carin Ruff at staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org.