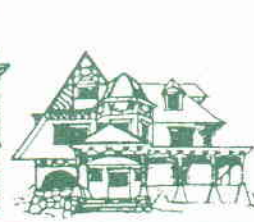




VOICES



CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.clevelandparkdc.org

VOL 20 NO 2

FALL 2006

What's Ahead For Cleveland Park: Signs, Film, See-Saw

By Joan Habib

Now a fully mature 21-year-old, the Cleveland Park Historical Society continues the mission with which it was born: to preserve the character of the neighborhood and enhance Cleveland Park as a historic, multi-faceted, urban-residential neighborhood. And we've been successful. As Tersh Boasberg, one of the Society's founders, wrote in an earlier edition of VOICES, "Because all our neighbors agreed to pull together, our beloved historic area actually looks even better than it did 20 years ago."

Here's some of what we're up to for the coming year:

➡ We have a new President (me) and several new members on the Board of Directors (p 2.) At the same time, we have lost major institutional memory with the "retirement" of longtime CPHS Outreach Coordinator Judy Hubbard.

➡ Joining us as Activities and Administrative Coordinator is Kimberly Durham Bates, who also works at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church. Kim is working out of my home for now (237-CLEV (2538) or CPHSPresident@aol.com).

➡ Artist-in-residence Lou Stovall is producing new signs that will delineate the Historic District (p 4).

➡ Our neighbor and co-CEO of the Educational Film Center, Ruth Pollak, is working on a documentary on the history of Cleveland Park, from the 1700s to the present. Ruth is donating much of her time and talent to make it affordable to us. Experts Kathleen Wood, Kathy Smith, Peggy Robin, Reeves Carroll, Judy Hubbard and Dick Jorgensen are helping with the film. If you have old photographs of the neighborhood, home movies or other historical material, please let us know.

➡ The CPHS House Tour is set for Sunday, October 29. Advance tickets are \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. Same-day purchase: \$25 for all. To help as a docent, please contact Lois Orr at orrlois.comcast.net.

➡ Those brass markers that you've noticed around the neighborhood are available from CPHS. They're engraved with the construction date of your house and cost \$135 for members, \$165 for non-members. The house must be 75 years old to qualify. If you don't know the year your house was built, we'll find out.

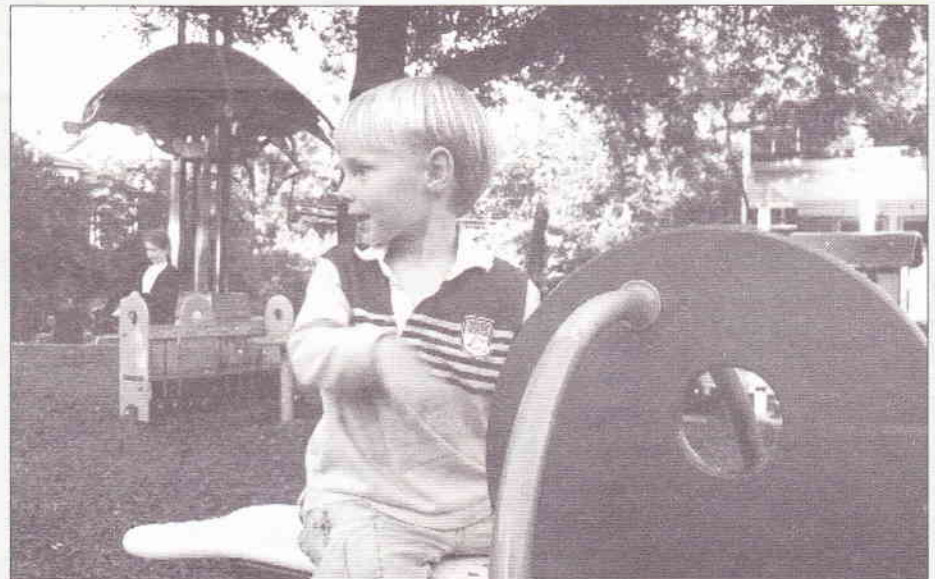
➡ By now you've noticed VOICES has a new look—shorter and, hopefully, more

frequent. After three years, the editorship has passed from the able hands of Susan Lynner to Lew and Carol Simons. They're looking for stories and writers. Contact them at clsimons@ix.netcom.com.

If you have issues you'd like brought before the Board, please leave a message at 237-CLEV or send an email to me at CPHSPresident@aol.com.

To all of our loyal members...thank you!

To non-members, please join us by filling out the application on page 3.



Surveying the scene from the see-saw

Macomb Playground Gets Second Facelift

By Sabra Klein Maloney

Macomb Park—aka The Playground—is going through its second renovation, much different this time around than in the 1990s. Back then, the community was allowed to upgrade without government approval. This time, parent-volunteers of ROMP II (Renovation of Macomb Park) have been working with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to finalize a partnership proposal and make

needed renovations. The proposal outlines the responsibilities of both DPR and the community.

After several months, progress is being made, the group reports. Over the summer, damaged fencing around the perimeter was replaced and requests have been made for DPR to repair the broken water fountain and field house roof. Other priorities are:

...continued, page 3

CPHS Board 2006 - '07

The Board of Directors was announced at the annual meeting on May 23.

Claudia Alderman, 34th Street

Alison Barr, Secretary, Lowell Street

Roz Beittler, Conn. Ave.

John Buchanan, Newark Street

Camilla Carpenter, 34th Street

Maria Casarella, Quebec Street

Eleri Constantine

VP, Historic Preservation, Newark Street

Phil Eagleburger & Jane Treacy, Macomb Street

Patrick Gonzalez & Christine Rose, Rodman Street

Michael Goldstein

Vice President, Legal & Regulatory Affairs
Lowell Street

Joan Habib, President, Woodley Road

Ann Hamilton, Newark Street

Diane Hartley, Rodman Street

Christine Hobbs

ARC Co-chair, Norton Place

Rachelle Levitt, Treasurer, Springland Lane

Susan Lynner, Newark Street

Drew Maloney, Macomb Street

Danna McCormick, Membership Chair, Porter Street

Kathe McDaniels, Newark Street

Rick Nash, Newark Street

Amanda Ohlke, Reno Road

Lois Orr, VP, Programs, 34th Street

John Poole, Trees, Newark Street

Peggy Robin, Ashley Terrace

Lewis & Carol Simons, Editors, Voices
Macomb Street

Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford, Lowell Street

Gwen Wright, 34th Street

Derek Wilkinson, Porter Street

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Maria Casarella, Quebec Street

Steve Cohen, Devonshire Place

Phil Eagleburger, Macomb Street

Anne Grimmer, Porter Street

Joan Habib, Woodley Road

Christine Hobbs, ARC Co-chair
Norton Place

Leslie London, Ordway Street

Richard Molinaroli, Ordway Street

Lois Orr, 34th Street

Nancy Skinkle, ARC Co-Chair, Conn. Ave.

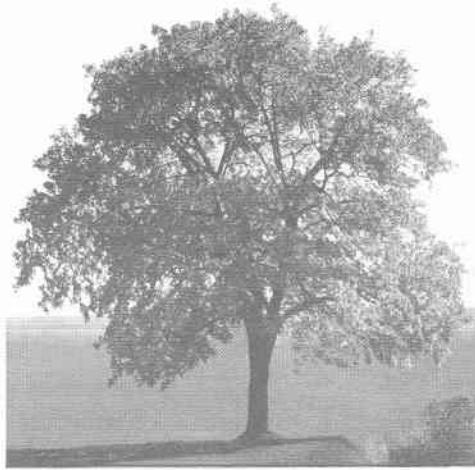
Claire Starr, 35th Street

Activities & Administrative Coordinator

Kimberly Durham Bates
Cleveland Park Historical Society
PO Box 4862

Washington, DC 20008
202-237-CLEV (2538)

email: CPHSPresident@aol.com



The Great Outdoors

By Chris Rose

Q. We just lost a tree in our curb box on Macomb Street. Will the city plant a new one, or should we do it ourselves?

A. Here's how you can get a tree planted in your tree box. Call the Mayor's Call Center at 202-727-1000 or, better, go to www.dc.gov and click on Service Request Center. Log in as a guest or register permanently. Click on Tree Maintenance. Select from four choices—Tree Emergency, Tree Planting, Tree Removal and Tree Trimming—and provide the information requested. This is a great system that is helping the City Forester plan and prioritize work. It may take several months to get your tree. Most transplanting is done in fall and late winter—the best season. Also, the Forester needs time to arrange for trees and crew. And the rest of the city is clamoring for trees!

In general, the Forester prefers residents to report empty tree boxes so the city can plant species appropriate to the street and of a certain size and quality.

Unfortunately, some trees planted last fall and winter have been stressed by the intense heat and uneven mix of rain and drought this summer. These trees need attention; please adopt any trees you can and water them 10-20 gallons a week if there's been no rain. A gator bag is fine but remove the bag when you're done so the trunk can breathe. These young trees will need watering until the rain and snow of November. If they have care now, they have a fighting chance. If it's too late, contact the Mayor's Call Center and choose "Tree Planting" to report that the tree died.

Q. Our grass has turned brown after starting off the spring lush and green. We've fertilized and we water every other day. Some "experts" say it's due to the heat and lack of rain; others say it's fungus. What do you advise?

A. With the uneven mix of heat, rain, and drought this summer, many plants, shrubs, trees and lawns are stressed. The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service reported, for August, a high incidence of Brown Patch, a common fungal disease of fescue lawns that have been over-fertilized. No chemical controls are recommended, just wait for cooler, drier fall weather.

Have a question about your garden? Email CPHSPresident@aol.com and put "Outdoors" in the subject line.

Chris Rose was one of the first women forest managers in the USDA Forest Service.

New Federal Law Tightens Conservation Easements



President George W. Bush has signed into law a set of new regulations intended to tighten conservation easements on historic houses, such as those in Cleveland Park.

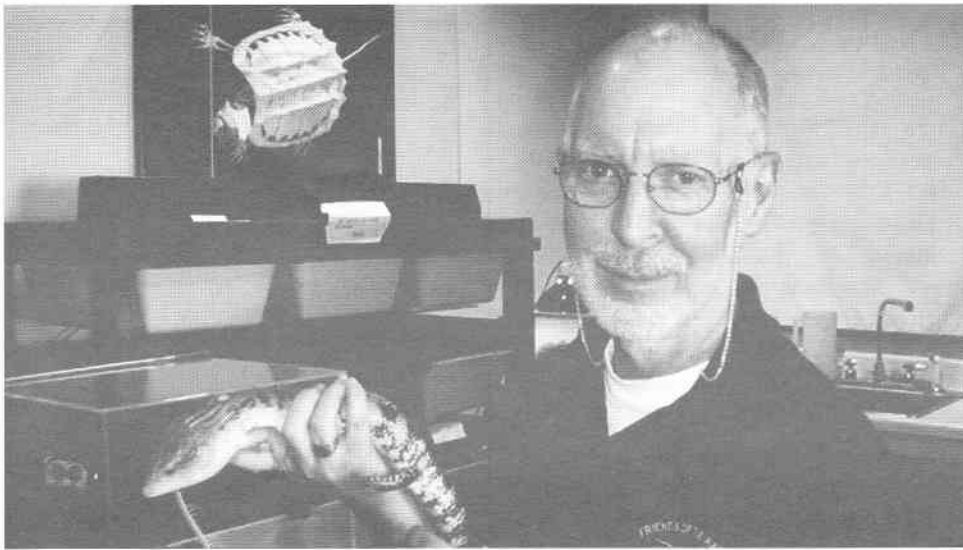
The law includes a couple of additional requirements in order to obtain an easement and somewhat reduces homeowners' ability to modify the exterior of their houses. However, the tax incentive, which has made such easements attractive to homeowners, is not affected.

According to CPHS board member Drew Maloney, Congress passed the law—which also applies to certain undeveloped rural land—because "there was some thought that the system was being abused."

After obtaining an easement, any alterations to all exterior surfaces, front, sides, rear and roof, must be consistent with the historic period of the house and must be approved in advance by the easement holding organization (you would still need local government approvals for permits, etc.) The homeowner must pay a \$500 filing fee with the IRS. And the easement trustee must be a qualified organization.

The new law doesn't affect anyone who received an easement prior to July 25, 2006.

For additional information, visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation at www.nationaltrust.org/easements.



The Snake Man of Cleveland Park

By Robin Berrington

If you are looking for a way to get involved with some of the most sought after new media stars in town, why not become a volunteer at the National Zoo? When panda cub Tai Shan was the rage of the press and people were paying scalpers for a ticket, as a VIP tour guide at the zoo I was practically his best friend.

I'm a reptile guy, but there are many options, from working in the comfort of a zoo office or staffing a busy information desk, to helping with the landscaping or serving as an "interpreter" (or docent) for, say, the elephants, big cats, great apes or—what else?—the pandas.

My half-day-a-week in the reptile house has turned out to be, should I say, gripping. After a training period over several months of evenings and Saturdays, I went to work, explaining animal behavior to visitors and helping the keepers feed and handle some of the occupants. I've hung out with a three-foot-long corn snake and blue-tongued skink draped over my arm and fed white rats and lettuce to the alligator snapping turtle. When a thunderstorm threatened, I was dispatched to bring in the tortoises. Armed with two very large carrots, I led the two galumphing 500-pound aldabra males into their enclosure just ahead of the deluge.

Now and then there's a downside. I was bitten by a dim-witted California king snake that thought my hand was his snack. An unruly visitor once took a swing at me. And cutting up worms for ravenous Australian snake-necked turtles is not for the squeamish.

But these experiences fade in comparison to the look on children's faces when you let them handle the long snake hooks or touch a 10-foot pine snake. Even adults can be awed, when the chameleon shoots out its long sticky tongue to capture the cricket you're holding or one of our newly-hatched babies—yes, even baby reptiles can be cute.

Not everybody may be so kindly disposed to my scaly, slithery, hissing friends. Other interpreters prefer the small mammal house, the Amazonia rain forest or the cheetahs. More volunteers will be needed with the opening of the Asian Trail and the arrival of more stars: a family of meerkats, two lively young sea lions, tiger cubs and a baby sloth bear that loves to ride on its mother's back.

If you are interested in volunteering at the National Zoo, the next orientation is scheduled for November. Call 633-3025 or go to <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Support/Volunteer/default.cfm>

Do you volunteer in DC? Tell us your story. E-mail CPHSPresident@aol.com and put "Volunteer" in the subject line. Don't forget: CPHS is always looking for volunteers.

Robin Berrington, a former Foreign Service officer, is a new CPHS member.

Yes! I wish to join the Cleveland Park Historical Society.

- \$50 household
 \$100 sponsor
 \$250 patron
 \$500 angel
 Other \$ _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Daytime phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email address _____

Please make checks payable to CPHS. Send to:

Cleveland Park Historical Society – PO Box 4862 – Washington DC 20008

Interests

- Beautification
 House & Garden Tours
 Mailings
 Membership
 Newsletter
 Tree Planting
 Fund Raising

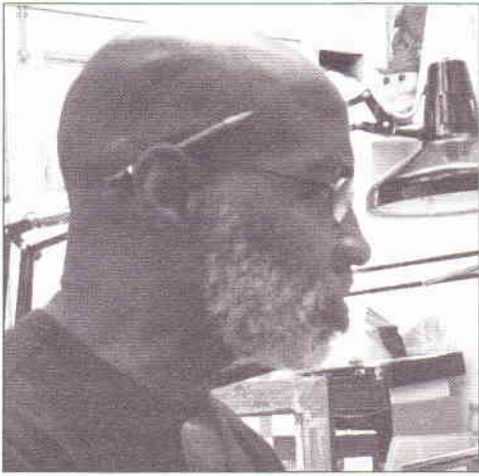
Join CPHS now for full membership through 2007. Receive a free book on our architecture.

...ROMP from page 1

- Resurfacing the basketball courts.
- Adding a water-spray park.
- Replacing damaged playground equipment, including the see-saw.
- Adding new play equipment to the lower playground geared toward 6-12 year olds, including a balance beam and a slide.
- Providing air conditioning for the field house and computers for staff and children in the John Eaton After School program.
- Addressing maintenance, including landscaping and field house repairs.

Once the proposal is approved, ROMP will begin raising funds for the new equipment, air-con and computers. DPR will supply all remaining equipment and repairs. And finally, ROMP will launch a beautification campaign (p 4). To help please email Sabra Klein Maloney at ROMP@clevelandparkdc.org.

Where's Cleveland Park? New Signs Tell All



Lou Stovall in his studio

Artist-in-residence Lou Stovall is preparing a new batch of signs to delineate the Cleveland Park Historic District. The signs will be mounted on street-lamp poles this fall.

Stovall first designed and produced six forest-green and white signs more than a decade ago, erecting them on the major streets bounding Cleveland Park. Today, all but one—on the west side Reno Road at Rodman Street—have disappeared, whether to vandals, weather or old age remains a mystery to the artist.

The new signs, more than 10 this time, are replicas of the originals, with a classic front-porch, gable-roofed house and “Cleveland Park Historic District” in white on a green background. Stovall said the design is silk-screened on a sheet of aluminum and then finished in enamel ink. Locations must be approved by the District Traffic Division, which also assures that they are safely mounted.

Stovall, who works in a spacious, airy studio he created in an expanded three-car garage behind his stone house on Newark Street, also did the District’s “Bikes Have Equal Rights” signs that have helped give area cyclists at least some sense of hope on the roads.

His chief project at the moment is designing artwork for the District’s Unified Communications Center, in Anacostia. The center, which is tied into the national Homeland Security network, will receive all emergency 911 phone calls placed in the city.

This last CPHS sign (at right,) on Reno and Rodman, will soon be joined by 10 others around the neighborhood.

Save the Dates!

Macomb Park Cleanup

Saturday, Oct. 21

10 a.m. – noon

Rain date: Nov. 4

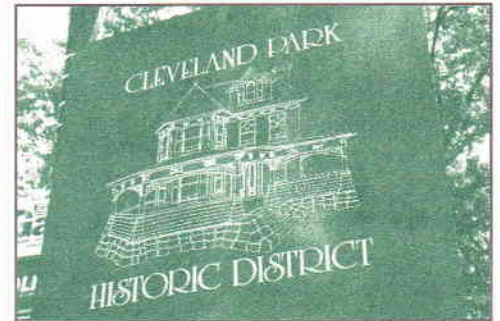
Bring rakes, brooms, shovels, trash bags.

House Tour

Sunday, Oct. 29

2 – 5 p.m.

Contact CPHS office for tickets.



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