



Alphabet Soup To Spice Up Your Home

If the Old Woman lived in a Cleveland Park shoe, she might have been able to settle her lace issue painlessly, thanks to advice from the Cleveland Park Historical Society's Architectural Review Committee. The ARC, made up of architects, architectural historians, real estate professionals and other neighbors, works closely with the city to reach fair and practical decisions about preserving historic buildings. The goal: to ensure that changes do not dramatically alter the neighborhood's original architecture, yet are flexible enough to allow updates that reflect today's needs.

Back in 1978, when the District of Columbia passed its Historic Preservation Law, it was one of the toughest in the nation. Preserving historical landmarks and neighborhoods

while accommodating change was then and still remains a struggle.

In Cleveland Park, neighbors have had a hand in maintaining these standards since the creation of the historic district more than 20 years ago.

Here's how the system works

(but, first, prepare yourself for a serving of alphabet soup):

Virtually all work in DC requires a building permit approved by the DC Historic Preservation Office. The HPO also helps with questions on zoning, design and process. The staff can sign off "over the counter" for minor work, such as interior alterations, windows and doors, and landscape work.

Larger projects, such as additions, must go before the Historic Preservation Review

Board (HPRB), which meets every fourth Thursday of the month. Applicants are required to meet first with the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) to notify neighbors and the community of the project, and with the Cleveland Park ARC. (The ANC meets every third Monday and the ARC the second Monday of each month.) While the HPRB gives "great weight" to the ANC's position on a project, the recommendations of the ARC are advisory only; they

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Road Show Hits Cleveland Park

By Joan Habib, CPHS president

Dust off the vase and polish up the candlesticks: we're planning our second annual Cleveland Park version of the Antiques Road Show on Saturday, February 24. Professional appraisers from the Potomack Company will be on hand to evaluate your treasures at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church. Tickets are \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers, and two items can be submitted for appraisal. Watch for more information in the mail or check our new web site. (See page 4.)

Here is a brief rundown of other CPHS activities:

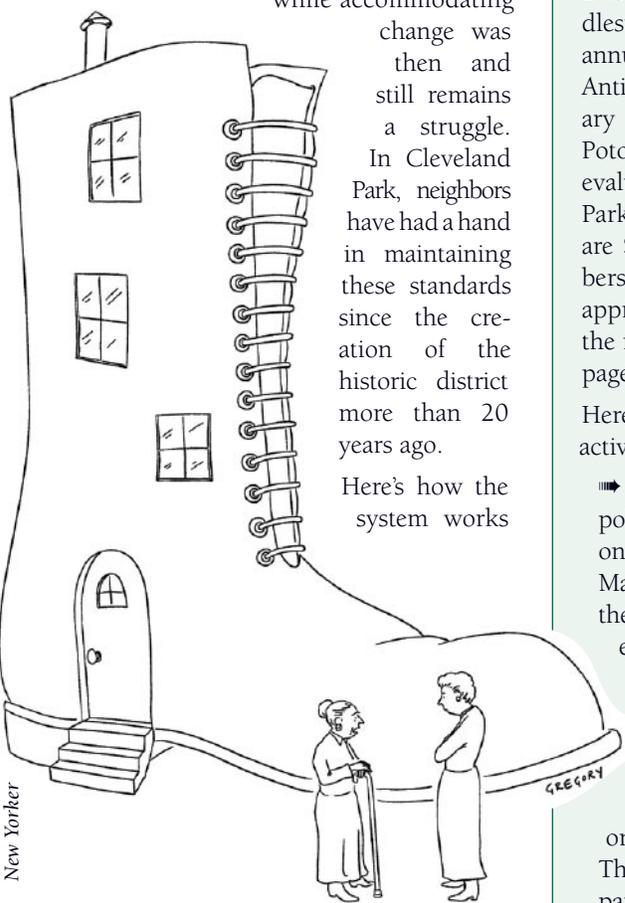
More than 150 friends and neighbors poked around Other People's Houses on Oct. 29, when eight homes on Macomb and Newark were opened for the annual House Tour. The three-hour event drew 160 visitors and netted about \$3,000—tickets were \$20 and \$25. "This tour was great because it concentrated on a small area and included many architectural styles," said Lois Orr, a principal organizer along with Gwen Wright. Thanks to them and all other participants—and to the weatherman for a beautiful Sunday.

► We're already planning the 2007 Fall House Tour, to be chaired by CPHS board member Carol Bamford. Interested in helping or volunteering your home? Please contact her at cwar@loc.gov.

► Thanks also to Lois Orr, whose efforts with the National Trust for Historic Preservation won CPHS a grant to produce a brochure on the DC permit process plus basic practical architectural guidelines for homeowners. The publication project will begin soon.

► On January 13, Ginny Cooper, DC Chief Librarian, spoke on citywide development at the Cleveland Park Library sponsored by the Cleveland Park Citizens Association, The Friends of the Cleveland Park Library, and CPHS.

► Help Wanted. The CPHS Nominating Committee will be looking for candidates to replace retiring Board Members. If you're interested or have a recommendation, please let me know. We are seeking dedicated neighbors who have experience with fundraising and programs as well as architects and historians who might serve on the ARC. Email me at cphspresident@aol.com



"Once, I tried to change the laces, and the Landmarks Commission came down on me like a ton of bricks."

New Yorker

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The Great Outdoors

By Chris Rose

Q. Sometimes I see large broken branches dangling over the sidewalk and I worry that one may fall and hurt someone.

A. Large broken branches are a safety hazard and should be reported immediately. Fortunately, the city's website has a fast way to report: by Internet, go to www.dc.gov and click on Service Request Center. Click on Tree Maintenance. Four choices will come up: Tree Emergency, Tree Planting, Tree Removal, and Tree Trimming. Choose "Tree Emergency." The city tries to clear these hazards in 24 hours.

Have a garden question?
Email CPHSPresident@aol.com



ON SITE Trish Savage, Janet Cyphers and Warren Clark

The Constant Gardener

How a Transplant Found Happiness Digging CP Dirt

By Cissie Coy

A minor green revolution is going on outside the Cleveland Park Library—grass, shrubs, flowers and less litter. A group of volunteer gardeners, led by new neighbor Trish Savage, started rehabilitating the grounds at the corner of Macomb and Connecticut last summer, putting in more than 100 plants donated by neighbors.

"Gardening has always been part of my life," says Savage, who studied landscape design at Radcliffe and at the Cornell County Extension master gardener program. After moving last year from a Schenectady, NY, home with large gardens to a Woodley Park condo, she began suffering "gardening withdrawal" and was drawn to the dilapidated library grounds. With the permission of head librarian Brian Brown, Savage started weeding and picking up litter.

A listserv SOS brought two dozen volunteers, including Janet Cyphers, who became her No. 2. CPHS and Friends of the Cleveland Park Library offered to cover out-of-pocket costs. Passersby continue to offer plants, bulbs, advice and their two cents.

The donations determine the ultimate design, says Savage. So, early this spring look for 2,100 yellow tulip, daffodil, and crocus blooms as well as cascading limbs and blossoms of a specimen shrub (Spirea) directly in front of the main library entrance. Hostas will line the sidewalk under the iron fence. In the summer, Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia) will spill over the curb onto Connecticut Avenue. And roses will climb on the Newark side

along with a pair of Chaemaecyparis bushes and seven Fountain Grasses (Pennisetum).

To volunteer your thumbs or donate plants, please contact Trish Savage at 387-0403 or tsavage2737@comcast.net

Volunteer Gardeners: Bill Adler, Sharon Berry, Jill Bogard, Linda Chipperfield, Debbie Churchman, Warren Clark, Betsy Crone, Laura Graham, Tricia Messerschmitt, Peggy Robin, Maria Sgambati and Jim Shipman

Donors: Valerie Caproni, Denise Couture, Jill Driskan, Naomi Heller, Maren Harrison, Judy Kopff, Lynn Parseghian, Farida Wozniak, Marina Primorac and Frank Hughes of Four Green Fields.

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do not have the force of law. However, the DC Historic Preservation Office is sensitive to the ARC's advice. As one staffer noted, "We rely on it."

These sessions, which may seem time consuming and even annoying, can save owners time and energy and can provide excellent guidance in the renovation. And you should have more luck than the Old Lady in the Shoe.

—Editors

For more information, contact the HPO at 442-8800 or www.planning.dc.gov/hpo.



PICTURE WINDOWS The CVS historical photo display includes Twin Oaks, ca. 1890.

On The Avenue

Cleveland Park merchants and offices along Connecticut Avenue are always changing, yet often reflect the past. As part of a continuing series, VOICES talks with CVS.

CVS 3327 Connecticut Avenue

Spread across the display windows of the local pharmacy is a glimpse into the world of Cleveland Park past: 10 black and white images that include Twin Oaks as it looked in 1890, an organ grinder of 1900 and the original subdivision advertisement for Cleveland Park from 1910.

Now, according to CVS manager Amadou Ba, CVS is taking a small step forward, expanding into the former Radio Shack space next door. Construction is set to begin in Febru-

ary and the expanded store will add hardware supplies to its inventory.

Ba said that the response to the photo display, which went up last fall, has been “very, very positive.” Ba, who has been manager of the CVS for three years, said that while featuring historic pictures is not a company-wide policy, “I felt this is a neighborhood store, and it makes sense to use neighborhood pictures.”

The display is the result of a longtime effort by residents Judy Hubbard, Linda Greensfelder and George Idelson, who is president of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association. “We tried for years to get historic photos in the CVS windows,” Hubbard said. “The local CVS managers and higher-ups kept

changing. Then the CPHS listserve users pitched in. In addition, Mr. Ba has been very helpful.”

Intriguingly, one CVS window shows a picture of itself—as Peoples Drugstore, circa 1956. It shows an ad for a “Shopper’s Snack,” a sandwich and potato salad, coffee or tea, served at the lunch counter for 39 cents.

—Cissie Coy

Eaton Turning 100

By Gwen Wright

As John Eaton Elementary School approaches its 100th anniversary, plans are underway to celebrate in grand style. For the occasion in 2011, the board of the Home and School Association hopes to draw alumni, parents, and friends into a new group—the Association of John Eaton Alumni and Friends.

The group will discuss renovating the school playground to mark the historic milestone, adding greenery to the current blacktop area. The new design will enhance the quality and beauty of the historic school building and better coordinate with the lush landscape of the neighborhood.

Those interested in joining the Association of John Eaton Alumni and Friends to help with the centennial celebration should contact Gwen Wright by the end of January at 362-7041 or booladc79@yahoo.com. An organizational meeting of the alumni group is planned for late winter.

Gwen Wright is HSA co-president and a member of the CPHS board.

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 now and receive free book.

In Case of Fire...

Expect the bells and sirens of the Cleveland Park firehouse to fall silent later this year. Bids were to open this month for a gutting and overdue renovation of the landmark 1916 brick and granite structure with its iconic twin red doors. According to D.C. Battalion Fire Chief John M. Lee, work will begin in late spring or early summer and will take about one year. During that time, firefighters and equipment will be shifted to nearby stations.

—Michael Goldstein



Saturday, February 24 Antiques Appraisal Day Cleveland Park Church

\$15 /\$20 members/non-members

Check the website or
cphspresident@aol.com

CPHS Launches New Website

Have you visited our new and redesigned website yet? Do not pass go, do not collect \$200, just go to www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org. The site is designed to keep residents and others aware of our history and of current community activities. It was designed by Melissa Allen and produced by Danna McCormick, who will also maintain it.



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