

PALISADES NEWS

Representing The Greater Palisades Area

www.palisadesdc.org

Volume 13 No. 1, October 2001

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PCA General Meeting
Tuesday, October 2, 2001
7:30 PM

Palisades Recreation Center
.....

- Update on the Manning Street access path to the Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) by the CCT Task Force and NPS Officials

- Introduction and background sketch of new PCA President Erik Gaull

- Welcome to new members
- Refreshments

Pagano joins Patterson

During the summer, Ward 3 City Council member Kathy Patterson asked me to become her new Chief of Staff. I accepted and start work on October 1, replacing JoAnne Ginsberg who is leaving after 6 1/2 years. This is a great opportunity to put my community experience to work in a new way. My heartfelt thanks to everyone for their support while I've been PCA president – an outstanding PCA Board and a very special community where so many people help in so many ways to make the Palisades one of most active civic groups and best neighborhoods in Washington. We should all be very proud. Erik Gaull, who was elected as PCA's first vice president last spring, moves up to be PCA's new president. Please welcome him and give him your support. And please visit me at the Council offices in the newly renovated Wilson Building at 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue, or call me at 724-8062.

—Penny Pagano

No Vacation on Manning Access Path

In mid-June, a Capital Crescent Trail Task Force meeting was held with National Park Service (NPS) officials to review NPS proposals for a stabilization plan for the Manning Place and Norton Street access paths to the CCT. NPS officials presented textual, visual and oral descriptions of plans for both paths, mainly focusing on the Manning path. The Task Force agreed to recommend to the PCA that the NPS plan for the Manning access path, as modified during the meeting, be accepted and implemented during the month of July, and that the NPS plan for the Norton path be postponed until a future date. It was also agreed that a special, informal meeting of the PCA would be held on Tuesday, June 26, 7:30-9 PM, at the Palisades Library, to allow neighbors to review the Manning path plan and comment of the project.

The specifics of the plan are as follows:

1. The path would be stabilized by constructing a simple terraced walkway using timbers backfilled between steps with gravel (similar to material used on towpath) to provide a firm and stable surface.

2. A narrow wooden bicycle ramp (12" wide) and a handrail would be placed along the uphill side of the walkway to enable cyclists to walk their bicycles safely to the bottom of the steps and to provide hand support for pedestrians.

3. A wood fence/barrier (3-5' high and similar in design to the one at the base of the Manning path) would be placed near the top of the slope (not at the entrance to the path) to discourage trail blazing by bikers, skateboarders and others, and to direct pedestrians to use the steps to control erosion.

4. Gravel would be added to areas that require fill for erosion control.

5. An unobtrusive sign would be placed at the top of slope (not at the entrance to the path) instructing cyclists to dismount.

6. No trees would be removed.

The informal meeting had about 30 people in attendance. The Task Force stressed the following to the community: the simple and informal walkway would be built with natural materials, provide safe passage up and down the path, preserve the natural beauty of the slope and control erosion; that the plan responds to input from professional naturalists, landscapers, trail managers, cyclists, pedestrians, neighbors and the PCA/CCT Task Force; that the work would be done quickly and at no cost to the community.

The PCA Board voted 15-1 to approve the Task Force recommendation. Nonetheless, there was strong concern from Potomac Avenue residents about the short-notice of the meeting, the stabilization plan itself, and the possibility of additional traffic and parking problems at the Manning access sight. They requested that the Park Service delay starting the project. Instead, Park Service officials John Noel and Kevin Brandt agreed to meet on Monday, July 2 at the Manning path entrance. About 40 people were

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on the BULLETIN BOARD

Saturday, September 15 – October 21: The Puppet Company presents “Hansel and Gretel”, Wed, Thu & Fri, 10 & 11:30 AM, Sat & Sun, 11:30 AM & 1 PM, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., \$5, reservations 301-320-6668.

Tuesday, September 18: The Partnership for Problem Solving discusses Rock Creek International School's desired expansion plans, 7 PM, 2nd District headquarters on Idaho Avenue, open to all.

Saturday, September 22 – October 28: Adventure Theatre presents “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, Sat & Sun, 1:30 and 3:30 PM, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., \$5, reservations 301-320-5331.

Wednesday, September 26: “Ovarian Cancer: Risk Factors, Early Detection, and Treatment Strategies”, 7-8:30 PM, the auditorium at George Washington Hospital, free, www.gwhospital.com.

Saturday, September 29: join The Potomac Conservancy on the National Public Lands Day to clean up and restore the C&O Canal National Historical Park, contact Matt Berres at 703.276.2777 ext. 203 or riverrat@potomac.org for various times and locations.

Tuesday, October 2: PCA General Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, Palisades Rec Center.

Wednesday, October 3: ANC3D Meeting, 7:30 PM, Ernst Auditorium, Sibley Memorial Hospital.

Wednesday, October 3: “New Technologies for Early Breast Cancer Detection”, 7-8:30 PM, the auditorium at George Washington Hospital, free, www.gwhospital.com.

Friday, October 5: The Lion's Club Annual Crab Feast, Our Lady of Victory, \$18 for an all-you-can-eat feast to benefit the Lions vision charities, tickets sold at the October 2 PCA General Meeting or call Lynn Scholz to order, 966-7555.

Tuesday, October 9: Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing regarding 2989 Arizona Avenue, 1 PM, One Judiciary Square, 441 Fourth St., NW, Suite 210 South (Red Line Metro—Judiciary Sq stop), open to all.

Wednesday, October 10: PCA Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Lab School, open to all.

Thursday, October 11: “New Treatment for Osteoporosis”, 2-4 PM, the auditorium at George Washington Hospital, free, www.gwhospital.com.

Saturday, October 13: Cat Adoption Day sponsored by the Humane Society, 2-5 PM, Palisades Library.

Sunday, October 14-20: Teen Read Week at the Palisades Library, including the “Who Wants to be a Know-It-All” contest on Tuesday, October 16, ages 12 – 18.

Monday, October 15: application deadline for the Palisades Community Fund fall-cycle grant proposals, send to Palisades Community Fund, PO Box 40603, Washington DC 20016, Judith Dollenmayer, PCF chair, 338-5914.

Tuesday, October 16: The Palisades Stamp Club, 7:30 PM, Palisades Library.

Thursday, October 18: The Palisades Garden Club, 7:30 PM, 202-966-5430.

Tuesday, October 23: The Palisades Book Club, 7:30 PM, Palisades Library.

Sunday, October 28: PCA Family Night at the Fire Station, bring a salad, side dish or dessert for 6 people, contact Anne Ourand, 363-7441.

Tuesday, October 30: Halloween Party, 4 PM, Palisades Library Children's Room, children aged 2+ are invited to come for a costume parade, spooky stories and treats.



After weeks of hot and dry summer weather, the rains came August 10 and 11 and did much damage to many homes and businesses throughout the District, but seemed to hit the Palisades particularly hard. A sinkhole in the MacArthur Safeway parking lot caused by the rains literally swallowed up a car, being removed here. Photo by Jim Wheeler.

from the.....

President's Desk

By now, you have probably heard that Penny Pagano has resigned as President of the PCA to become the Chief of Staff to Councilmember Kathy Patterson. At a PCA Board meeting on September 12, I took over as President. I would like to introduce myself and offer my perspectives on management and leadership of the PCA.

First, let me thank Penny Pagano for her years of hard work on the Board and as President of PCA. You know as well as I, the dedication and enthusiasm with which Penny has served the Palisades. Although she will no longer be President, I fully expect that Penny will continue to serve the community both through the PCA and as a loyal friend in our Councilmember's office. I will be counting on her for advice and information well into the future, and I wish Penny luck in her new job.

I hope to meet many of you at PCA meetings and at the annual PCA Family Night at the Fire Station on Sunday, October 28. In the interim, here's a little about me.

In February 2000, my wife, Karen, and I moved to the Palisades from our house in Georgetown. At the time, I was working as a public safety consultant for local governments across North America. Earlier jobs include work in state government in New Mexico for two years, on Capitol Hill for a number of years, and in various municipal positions in New York City (including a stint at City Hall). I have a Master of Public Policy and a Master of Business Administration from Georgetown University; my undergraduate work at Columbia University was in Urban Studies. I have been a paramedic/EMT since high

school (let's just say it's been more than 20 years), and I continue to volunteer as a paramedic/firefighter with the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department.

In July 2000, I joined Mayor Anthony Williams' staff as the Director of the Operational Improvements Division of the Office of the Deputy Mayor/City Administrator. In that capacity I am responsible for helping D.C. Government agencies to work better and cost less. (Go ahead, chuckle, everyone does.) It really is a fun job. I get to work with some of the most talented people I have ever met on some of the most Herculean (or is it Sisyphean) tasks imaginable. In a bit more than a year in that capacity, I have learned an enormous amount about how the city works, and I am pleased to say that my office has been able to effect some changes for the better.

There will be a lot of work for PCA in the next year – zoning issues, membership development, participation in the Mayor's Neighborhood Action Program, etc. I'll work hard to achieve the results the PCA desires, but to be successful, I'll need your energy and input. The PCA is fortunate to have an extremely competent Administrator, Anne Ourand, and a terrific Board of Directors. Moreover, as a community we are fortunate to have in our midst some of the best and brightest that D.C. has to offer. I believe in collective results through collective action.

The best way to reach me is through Anne Ourand at the PCA office. The phone number there is (202) 363-7441; the e-mail address is palisadesdc@hotmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the coming months.

– Erik Gaull

Call for Proposals: Grants for Projects & Services from PCF

Looking for a worthwhile neighborhood project for your group, class, church or troop? The Palisades Community Fund (PCF) wants proposals to fund community projects and services for Palisades residents. (A second grant-making cycle will occur in Spring 2002.) Proposals must be postmarked by October 15, 2001. Send applications to Palisades Community Fund, P.O. Box 40603, Washington DC 20016. If you have questions, please call Judith Dollenmayer (PCF chair) at 338-5914.

Applications need not be complex, but they must include a budget – including named individuals who will be responsible for installation and maintenance, and a budget for installation and maintenance (if applicable). For example, one grantee received funds for a bench, chair and trash receptacle as well as plantings; a maintenance schedule and budget for plants was included. PCF can only fund proposals for prospective work, not for projects that have been completed.

It is best if applications come from a group that accepts ongoing responsibility for projects and maintenance. Applications must spell out in detail how the project or program will specifically aid Palisades residents. For example, a food-service proposal for housebound elderly should stipulate the number of Palisades residents who are served; a survey proposal might indicate how the data will contribute to Palisades goals. All proposals should clearly describe their contribution to the community, explaining the specific need the project will address. All applications must include name & phone & e-mail (if available) of a contact person who can answer questions about the proposal.

The 35th: Another Grand Event

Evidenced by the ever-growing number of spectators along MacArthur and the quantities of hot dogs consumed, the 35th Annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic was another huge success!

We were glad to see our annual performers: the DC Different Drummers, The Washington Scottish Bagpipers, and the United Horsemen's Association. For the twelfth year, the Grand Lodge of FAAM of DC has provided parade contingents as well as cooking the 3000+ hot dogs at the picnic! The weather held up for us and we had a few new units marching, chief among these the Chinese dragon. Returning for the second year – and we hope they will be annual performers – were the Metropolitan All-Star High Steppers with their great drum rhythms and athletic marchers. The Metropolitan Police were out in force, providing seven vehicles from the Traffic Division. And our special long-time friend, Charles Cole, who has seen to the hanging of our Palisades banners for the last twelve years, drove a Department of Public Works cherry-picker festooned with new Child Crossing/School Safety signs.

Three parade volunteers with the most longevity are retiring this year: Tommye, Trisha and Tracy Grant have gathered together the Parade judges and prizes for over ten years! The girls are off to college now and Tommye is up to her eyeballs in charitable works. The best way to thank them for adding this element of fun to the Parade would be with 2-3 new volunteers to take over the job of soliciting prizes and judges for our zany marchers. Any takers?

Prizes donated by Marvelous Market went to the motorcycle couple, the American flag kimono woman, the pony cart, Kyle Ledley and his red Corvette, the tie-dyed poodles, the Palisades Community Church, the Lonergan girls, the "Sticks and Blades" roller hockey team, the Hawaiian Dalmatian, and to the Washington International School; the MotoPhoto Prize went to The Statue of Liberty (Pat Reed) and Uncle Sam (Bob Reed) (prize winners for the third consecutive year, we might add!); Listrani's gift certificates went to the Bahamian dog singers, the girl with doll in wagon; Chen's Gourmet donated a prize that went to the punk rock freedom band; Parker's Exxon to the Cadillac Coupe de Ville (perhaps it will need servicing someday!); Potomac Video to St. Patrick's School; Anchor (MacArthur) Drug, to Chris on his bike; First Union Bank, to Jack on his trike; Starbuck's prize to "Trees for the Palisades;" Bistro Bernoise to the Palisades Branch Library which is "Buggy about Reading;" and, the Grand Prize, donated by the VCA MacArthur Animal Hospital to Key School!

Not only with prizes but also with financial support our local businesses make the parade possible. Our other major 4th of July sponsors were Howard Eales, Inc., Grand Lodge of FAAM of DC, Holland Lessard Group, HD Johnson & Son's, Mindy's Catering,

Dennis O'Leary, DDS, Palisades Image Center, Rock Creek International School, Sibley Memorial Hospital, Delbe Real Estate, Inc., The Ann Hand Collection, Listrani's, MacArthur Liquors, Makoto Restaurant, Parker's Exxon, Safeway and the Palisades-Georgetown Lions Club.

Not the least important of the many who make the event happen are the enthusiastic DC Government employees who are always there to help out: Thanks to the Recreation Department for giving us the Rec Center and many hard-working staffers for the day; to the Police who close our streets and lead-off the parade; to the Fire Department for letting their hook-and-ladder become a jungle gym for a few hours; and to the Department of Public Works for hanging the banners.

Many neighbors bring it all together: in addition to the Grants, we must thank Parade Marshals, David Mitchell and Cary Ridder; MC Billy Sahn, the Palisades Boy Scout Troop Color Guard and their leader, Paul Byers for the color guard; Alex Momchilovich of Ilijah's for ordering the franks; Janice Kaplan for publicity; Mary French for posters; Joan Danoff for providing the viewing stand at the Starland Café; Sheila and Oscar Gray for long-time banner toting; Polly Johnson for designing this year's t-shirt; many others for selling t-shirts; and on and on...

—**Parade Committee: Lynn Scholz, Fred Pelzman, Rose Melnicki, Penny Pagano and Anne Ourand**



Above: The addition of the Chinese dragons to the parade was a big hit. Right: Sheila and Oscar Gray, in their Palisades t-shirts, prepare to march. Facing page, from the top: Key School, Marion Mack, as Martha Washington, in her 35th parade; a message from *The Oldest Inhabitants of DC*; a Palisades piper led off the parade, followed by several banner-toting PCA officers. Far right: the Metropolitan All-Star High Steppers are a very popular -- and hopefully annual -- participant.





Godspeed, but not Goodbye

Does anyone in the Palisades in the past decade recall a time when Penny Pagano was *not* a community activist? When she couldn't take your phone call of complaint? When she said "No" to another request to help drain a swampful of alligators?

Some volunteer positions, such as PCA president, are definitely "full time equivalents," and our neighborhood has been fortunate to have many active leaders. But Penny has set the bar very high by her diligence, focus, good humor, knowledge of the players in DC government, and persistent inventiveness in crafting political compromises. In 1996, former PCA presidents John Finney and Bill Smith approached Penny about standing for president. After three terms, she bowed out, but returned after '99-'00 president Cary Ridder, who successfully expanded PCA membership and raised tons of money for Palisades Rec Center and tennis courts, stepped down for health reasons. On October 1, Penny becomes chief of staff to DC Councilmember Kathy Patterson, turning over the PCA gavel to Erik Gaull.

Penny has led the PCA to significant accomplishments. Membership is up, and the Palisades Community Fund just this spring surpassed its initial goal of raising \$100,000 for community projects. An active PCA committee structure helps keep local officials attentive to the Palisades' "terrible twos" – traffic and trees. Penny led the successful effort to arrive at a mediated compromise with GWU on plans for its Mt. Vernon campus, the first such mediation undertaken by the city. She has presided over PCA at a time when infill development as well as school and hospital expansions put relentless pressure on the assets we treasure—green space, the tree canopy and safety on neighborhood streets.

Pagano, a former freelance writer and reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* bureau, was Councilmember Patterson's press secretary during her first campaign and chairwoman of her second. She's been active on community boards, including the Renwick Gallery board and Sibley Hospital's ethics panel. Living on Berkeley Terrace with her husband Phil Potter, a lobbyist and international trade consultant, Penny also loves gardening, fine cooking, collecting American arts and crafts, and two white cats called Peso and Lily. A super-supportive spouse, Phil smiles whenever he's referred to as "Mr. Pagano."

As many tennis players can testify, much is learned about a person who stands across the net from you. I've been there. Penny's tennis game shows her characteristic qualities – honest in every line call, grimly focused in difficulty, merry in defeat, not crowing but well pleased with victory. She is persistent and fun to play with. These qualities, of so much benefit to the Palisades, we now must reluctantly share with the DC government.

—Judith Dollenmayer



Letters to the *EDITOR*

Dear Palisades News Editors:

I read with interest in your June '01 issue about what you claim is the oldest white oak in D.C. With a friend, Mr. Mather Eliot, we found the tree near Loughboro Rd. and Dalecarlia and confirmed your measurements of 15 feet, five inches in circumference. However, we have seen two other white oaks in D.C. that are even larger. One is hard to find. It is in Rock Creek Park, about a quarter of a mile down a trail near picnic table #17 in Glover Drive. (More specific locations available to anyone interested.) The other is right by the curb in front of #2829 Northampton St., N.W., a few blocks west of Oregon Avenue. Both of these white oaks have a circumference of approximately 18 feet, measured five feet above the ground.

What magnificent old giants all three are!

Sincerely,

Hilda Warner

4101 Cathedral Ave. N.W.

Partnership Solves Neighborhood Problems

The Metropolitan Police Department launched the Partnership for Problem Solving to train police officers, community volunteers and agency representative throughout the District in the methods and tools for neighborhood problem solving. Sergeant Ray Danieli has facilitated the meetings, which have been well attended by both the community members and police. Kathy Patterson welcomed participants to the first meeting on May 31 and spoke of her support for the Partnership program and its potential for positive results. The community identified traffic and its enforcement as the primary concern with complaints about the arrival and dismissal patterns used by Key School as a secondary area for consideration and improvement.

On June 28, a second Partnership meeting took place to address "Creating a Plan for Traffic Issues." Representatives from most of the private schools, including Field, Horace Mann, St. Patrick's, GW at Mt. Vernon and American University, attended. Student parking at GW Mt. Vernon was discussed and the director of security assured the community that students would not be parking on residential streets. In addition, newly hired Ward 3 Traffic Engineer Clarissa Byrd attended and informed the community that the long-awaited STOP signs would be installed on 49th Street, which did, in fact, appear in mid-July.

On August 15 the Key traffic plan was discussed and finalized with new Key School Principal David Landeryou, the co-president of the PTA and neighbors. It was agreed that a police officer would be at the school for the first two weeks to ensure proper implementation of the plan.

A third Partnership meeting took place on August 15 to celebrate its successes and to identify a new problem / issue to pursue. The issue chosen was Rock Creek International School's desire to expand onto the property currently occupied by the community center at Hardy Recreation Center. A meeting of the Partnership to discuss these plans is scheduled for September 18 at 7 PM at 2nd District headquarters. Representatives from the Rock Creek International School, Parks and Recreation Department, Foxhall Citizens Association and Friends of Hardy will attend and discuss expansion plans with residents. All are welcome. Sgt. Ray Danieli will facilitate the meeting.

—Alma Gates, PCA Traffic Chair

THE PALISADES CITIZENS ASSOCIATION Proposed Budget FY 2001-2002

REVENUE

Dues:	Resident Dues	\$34,000
	Business Dues	4,800
Contributions		300
Fundraising:	T-shirts	6,500
Investment Income:	Interest & Dividends	500
TOTAL REVENUE		\$46,100

EXPENSES

General Expenses:		
	Parade/Picnic	\$7,000
	Meetings	100
	Insurance	2,000
	General Administration	2,000
Publications, Printing, Postage:		
	Newsletter	14,000
	Membership	2,500
	Miscellaneous	500
Fundraising:	T-shirts (cost of goods)	4,000
Professional fees		11,500
Civic Activity		2,500
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$46,100

Palisades *HISTORY*

Mrs. Roosevelt visits the Palisades

Early in 1936 First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt set out for a surprise visit to the Palisades neighborhood. Her objective: To see for herself conditions described as “barbaric” at the National Training School for Girls, a girls “reform school” near the present site of Sibley Hospital.

If she was driven north from Georgetown, once past the Palisades Dairy Farm at the present-day Arizona Avenue the land on her right was largely undeveloped until she came to several buildings along Little Falls Road. The largest was a huge brick building that some said looked like a haunted house.

Inside, Mrs. Roosevelt saw dark and forbidding hallways, “Never have I seen an institution called a school which had so little claim to that name.” She went on, “Buildings are unfit for habitation, badly heated, rat-infested with inadequate sanitary facilities. Children are walled in like prisoners, in spite of ample grounds and beautiful views.”

Other First Ladies had visited before, but she would become the first to try publicly to win greater public support for the school. On May 16th nearly 60 of the girls arrived at the White House, where the First Lady shook hands with each, led them on a tour and treated them to lemonade, ice cream and cake.

Unlike most District public institutions of its era, the School was racially integrated from 1888 to its closing in 1953. Nevertheless, its residents were predominantly African-American, so the idea of inviting several dozen “juvenile delinquents” was especially controversial. At the same time, the event was hailed in the black community’s newspapers as a powerful symbol of the progressive sentiments of Roosevelt administration.

Next, she was determined to reform the reformatory. With her intervention, cottages were built, gas replaced coal stoves, the girl’s private rooms were heated and given electric lights, bars were removed from windows. Classrooms were set up for housekeeping, business and “beauty culture” training.

Mrs. Roosevelt proclaimed when she visited again on February 3, 1937, “The change is so remarkable I would not have known it to be the same place.” Sadly, the coming years would show there was actually little change. Conditions would deteriorate and the school would ultimately succumb to a combination of Congressional interference, mismanagement and complaints from neighbors.

The improvements instigated by Mrs. Roosevelt had cost \$100,000, and became a pretext to slash spending. One Mississippi Congressman complained “You could send a girl to Vassar for less.” A reporter testified two years later as to the impact of the budget cuts. She wrote that rooms set up for housekeeping and business training and a workshop were empty, and “Jammed with tools, broken furniture and cobwebs”.

In late 1937, the school’s superintendent, Dr. Carrie Weaver Smith, was fired. At a hearing recent “riots” were blamed on her. She defended herself, saying that there had been many riots over the years; and implied that there were other reasons, among them that she

opposed a plan to complete Loughboro Road, which then ended near Palisade Lane.

To this day, long-time residents in the neighborhood remark about frequent disturbances, police calls and escapes. News accounts reported a fight in 1936, the two “riots” in 1937, a fire set by students in 1940; and other disturbances requiring as many as 20 police officers in 1940, 1944, 1947, 1951 and 1953.

In March 30, 1944 the MacArthur Boulevard Citizens Association, which would later become the Palisades Citizens Association, called for the school to be moved and its buildings torn down. In 1950 Loughboro Road residents got the District government to stop using the campus as a dump for fill dirt after testifying before a U.S. Senate Committee. One complained “The dump is unsightly, and has been rat infested ... Farm machinery and other equipment, including an overstuffed chair are permitted to stay out in the weather without being stored.”

By that time, the number of students had dwindled to 18, from a high of almost 200. But the dilapidated

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ART IN THE PALISADES

On view at the Post Office for August and September are portraits and studies for portraits by Virginia Clark Levy. Virginia Clark Levy has painted and taught in the Washington area for more than forty years. She received her education at Michigan State University, The Corcoran School of Art, and has a masters Degree in Fine Art from American University. Her portraits hang in Cleveland Hall at Washington State University, in the Mendenhall Student Center at East Carolina University, and in American University’s Watkins Gallery. Her work is also to be found in private collections here and abroad. She has a studio at her home on Cathedral Avenue NW, and may be contacted for portrait commissions.

—Sheila Rotner

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in attendance, including many neighbors in support of the project, most members of the Task Force and several PCA Board members. Neighbors inquired about parking, speeding, signage, mapping, safety and project design/materials. The NPS officials visually staked out the path. The meeting lasted about an hour and a half. At the end, it was agreed that work would begin as scheduled on Tuesday, July 3.

A Student Conservation Association high school crew completed the majority of the work during July. Heavy rains in early August delayed completion of the access path by the NPS maintenance staff, but they expect it to be completed shortly after Labor Day, with the exception of revegetation where the path meets Potomac Avenue. It was agreed that the revegetation project would be developed and executed by community volunteers.

Pictured below: Eric Sloane of the Maintenance Department of the C&O Canal National Historic Park – Palisades Division does some work on the stabilization of the path at Manning Place from Potomac Avenue to the Capital Crescent Trail; the Student Conservation Association, headed by CSA crew leader Melissa Levine and staffed by volunteers Montez Steele, Ray Long, Shanee Crosby, James Johnson, Sirak Kiflu and (not pictured) Tony Butler.



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buildings remained. A visiting Congressman said they should be “burned down”, commenting, “As for rehabilitating the delinquent girls here, it would be a rare case who would become rehabilitated in this setup.”

On April 1, 1953 a chapter in Palisades history came to an end as the school closed and many of the young women were moved ultimately to the Oak Hill site at Laurel, Maryland. Later in the 1950’s, the federal government swapped the adjoining land along Loughboro Road, allowing the Hospital to give up its location near N. Capitol Street and also make use of the land along Little Falls Road.

For the District’s juvenile offenders, their location would change – and not much else. Recently, a mayoral commission recommended the closure of Oak Hill. Mrs. Roosevelt would not have been happy to read the Washington Post editorial, where “National Training School” could easily have been substituted for the name of its successor: *“Oak Hill is to rehabilitation what a wolf is to sheep: It’s a place where children can upgrade their juvenile offender skills... There is little question that Oak Hill must go... scores of now-adult juvenile offenders are proof that past efforts to reform the juvenile detention system have been a costly and monumental failure...”*

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neighborhood NOTICES

Come join the **Palisades Walking Group**, setting out every Saturday morning at 9 AM from the Palisades Post Office. The group will walk in light rain and will typically go about 3 miles – the die-hards can go further on their own. The group is intended for adults (30+ years old) and would prefer not to have children or pets in tow. Contact Adrienne at 202-661-9500 or acelone@fbw.com.

Come to **Family Night at the Fire Station** on Sunday, October 28. Bring your family for dinner and enjoy a fun night. Kids can come in their Halloween costumes. PCA will supply the main course and the fire station chefs will cook. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert for at least 6 people. We ran out of food last year, so please don't forget to bring something. Call Anne Ourand for information at 363-7441.

Friends of the Palisades Library are looking for volunteers to help sort books for their next book sale on November 3. To volunteer, call 282-3139 and ask for the Reference Librarian.

The Metropolitan Police Department held a press conference on July 2 to unveil the **DC Photo Radar Speeding Reduction Program**. It was at the corner of MacArthur and Arizona, just two blocks from where 81-year-old Silvia Zimmermann was struck and killed by a hit and run driver last December. It included a demonstration of the photo radar technology. The news conference was well attended, as speeding remains a top public safety concern in the District. District Chief of Police Charles Ramsey and Lt. Patrick Burke, MPD Traffic Coordinator – who were joined by deputy mayor for public safety and justice Margret Kellems, Ward 3 Councilmember Kathy Patterson, and PCA president Penny Pagano, among others – stressed that the Police Department is undertaking an aggressive and comprehensive strategy to get motorists to slow down and obey the law. A major element of this strategy is mobile photo radar. Similar in design and operation to the highly successful red-light camera program (which has produced a 60% reduction in these types of violations), mobile photo radar is expected to produce similarly impressive safety results for DC residents.

Bring old eyeglasses to the October PCA meeting for donation to the Lions Club which in turn donates them to people in developing countries. A donations box will be at the door. If you can't make the meeting, call Lynn Scholz, 966-7555, for a home pickup.

Extended M4 bus service began Labor Day weekend -- now making southbound stops along MacArthur between Loughboro and Arizona, before proceeding up Arizona and back to Tenleytown Metro station. This route change is a 6-month experiment. The frequency of the bus is 20 minutes in peak periods and every 30 minutes otherwise between 6 AM and 9 PM. For more information visit www.metroopensdoors.com.

KUDOS....

- to Captain Poteat and his wife Marilyn on the adoption this summer of their son Little Tony.
- to Sibley Hospital for responding to neighbors' complaints by planting \$11,000 worth of trees and shrubs to help shield the new Renaissance Center on Loughboro and another \$9,000 to put shields on the lights on the west parking lot to reduce the glare.
- to Alice and Rachael and the rest of the folks in the street light office for responding in just two days to a report of several burnt-out lights in the Palisades.
- and to ANC3D Commissioner John Finney for reporting the burnt-out lights.
- to Dorothy Stokley for working to get street signs at MacArthur and Loughboro, Loughboro and Dalecarlia, and Loughboro and Palisade Lane and to PCA Treasurer Elizabeth Ratigan who helped her track down the necessary phone number and contact names.
- to the volunteers who donated money (and muscle) on September 8 to equipping and landscaping the new Tot Lot at Hardy Rec Center – especially Frank Staroba, chair of Friends of Hardy, who used his tactful persistence to steer these projects to completion and saw that DCDPR did its part; to Ed Dixon and Alex Ashbrook of Que Street, who spearheaded the Hardy Playground Pals committee that worked on their group's vision for the lot over the past three years; and to Mrs. Ireatha Robinson, Hardy Rec Center director, who kept in touch with the community and responded with friendliness and competence.

Community Fund Surpasses First Endowment Goal

The Palisades Community Fund's March fundraising letter garnered 283 donations that totaled \$20,790.00. PCF, a committee of PCA established to receive tax-deductible donations for projects of community-wide benefit, now has a balance just over \$100,000 in operating funds and an endowment investment portfolio. (Both are administered in conjunction with the PCF board by the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region, which performs similar services as an umbrella group for several dozen community and family foundations in our area.) Again this fall, PCF will

appeal to our generous community to replenish its coffers. We are lucky indeed to live in a neighborhood of generous, long-sighted donors to community preservation and improvement.

In June, PCA president Penny Pagano reappointed three members to the PCF board: David Gries, Anthony McKinney and Elizabeth Ratigan. Judith Lanius, chair of the Chain Bridge Road overlay coalition and an architectural historian, comes on the board this fall to replace Nancy Zabaloieff, who stepped down for family reasons.

In the past two years, PCF has funded the following: new courtyard benches at Palisades Library, as well as plantings and landscaping; cub Pack 61 received a grant to repair and reposition vandalized picnic tables at Palisades Rec Center, whose

"Friends of" group received funds to augment trash facilities; the unsightly median triangle at Loughboro near Sibley Hospital has been handsomely reforested; the firehouse cupola on MacArthur was restored; Friends of Hardy's "Playground Pals" group received funds to purchase equipment for its new tot lot, and to equip a big kids' lot this year.

Other ideas are in the works. Some focus on countering threats to green space, trees and quality of life that press our neighborhood, and PCF will continue to add and/or replace amenities wherever it can. If your group has a good idea for a project, please respond by October 15 to PCF's "Call for Proposals" that appears elsewhere in this issue. Grants will be funded by late November.

—Judith Dollenmayer, PCF Chair

The Palisades Citizens Association Membership: Individual: \$15; Household: \$25; Sponsor: \$50; Patron: \$100.

To join, or for additional information, contact Elizabeth Ratigan at 333-6352 or EWRA4590@aol.com

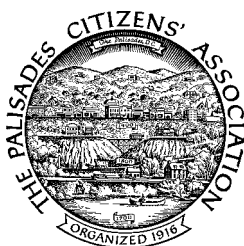
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