

PALISADES NEWS

Representing The Greater Palisades Area

www.palisadesdc.org

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PCA General Meeting

- Tuesday, October 4
- 7:30 PM
- Palisades Recreation Center
- General Membership vote on 2005-2006 budget (see page 7)
- DC Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti will speak about the work of the AG's Office and how it affects Palisades citizens
- Update on the Aqueduct's proposals for residuals disposal from ANC3D Commission Rachel Thompson and members of Concerned Neighbors (see below)

PCA Testifies, Raises Funds Against Trucking Option for Aqueduct

Officers of PCA, ANC3D and other neighborhood activists testified before the City Council on September 21 about the current plan from the US Army Corps' Washington Aqueduct to dispose of drinking-water residuals by trucking them from a dewatering facility to be built behind Sibley Hospital and out through our neighborhoods. The opposing argument is that this option simply substitutes one bad environmental practice — dumping residuals into the Potomac River, which the EPA has mandated must cease by the end of 2009 — for another bad environmental practice with significantly greater negative impacts on the surrounding communities. We strongly believe there are lower-impact approaches to this problem, such as piping, which have not been investigated sufficiently.

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Zoning Victory for Neighborhood, Park

On July 5, the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment declared, by a 4-1 vote, that a massive walled-platform structure that developer Frank Economides built last year in the rear yard of his property at 4825 Dexter Terrace violates the D.C. Zoning Code. The decision represents a big win for a coalition of neighbors and organizations — including ANC3D, the National Park Service, and the PCA — who have been working together to overturn the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs' April 2004 decision to grant Economides a permit to erect the structure.

The structure — which DCRA and Economides had claimed was merely a run-of-the-mill “retaining wall” but which an engineer testified is a “mechanically stabilized earth structure” akin to a dam — has been the target of concern because of its size, appearance and direct adjacency to Wesley Heights Park, a strip of national parkland that contains a ravine, stream and running trails. The structure's exterior “mesa block” walls loom more than 30 feet above the park and stretch for nearly 400 feet around the rear perimeter of Economides' lot. The walls were filled with hundreds of dump-truck loads of dirt transported from a site in Spring Valley. The structure converts what used to be a heavily wooded slope into a flat, third-of-an-acre elevated terrace that now overlooks the park. One BZA member described it as “titanic” before the July 5 vote.

Patrick Carome, the Wesley Heights resident who took the lead in challenging the DCRA permitting decision, told the BZA in written submissions and at five lengthy public hearings held last Spring that the structure violates many zoning rules, including those establishing minimum setbacks from rear and side lot lines, maximum heights for non-dwelling structures, and limits on how much of a rear yard may be occupied by a structure.

The BZA's public deliberation before its vote focused particularly on the Wesley Heights Overlay, a set of special zoning rules adopted in 1992 to preserve the harmony and design of the Wesley Heights neighborhood. BZA members said the structure violates the Overlay's prohibition

Con't. on page 3



PCA Past President Dick England looks on as Ward 3 Councilmember Kathy Patterson celebrates the unveiling of one of the “Welcome to the Palisades” gateway signs with PCA Officers Stu Ross, Spence Spencer and Bill Barnard.

on the **BULLETIN BOARD**

Saturday, September 24: **Friends of the Palisades "Sorting Saturdays"**, 10 AM-Noon, spare an hour once a month to help sort books, no experience required, stay as long as you like, Palisades Library, 282-3139.

Saturday, September 24-Sunday, September 25: **The Puppet Company Playhouse presents "Beauty & The Beast"**, 11:30 AM & 1 PM, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, \$7, 301-320-6668, www.thepuppetco.org.

Saturday, September 24-Sunday, October 30: **Adventure Theatre presents "The Little Witch of Wichita"**, Sat & Sun, 1:30 AM & 3:30 PM, Glen Echo Park, see above, \$7, 301-320-5331, www.adventuretheatre.org.

Friday, September 30: **"Project Backpack" dropoff**, 8 AM-6 PM, fill a backpack (new or used) with paper, pencils, glue, markers, scissors, folders, and / or drop off new and gently used books for students K-5, financial donations also welcome, FS Key School blacktop, 5001 Dana Place, Julie Koczela, 244-5681, julie.koczela@verizon.net.

Friday, September 30-Sunday, October 9: **The Puppet Company Playhouse presents "Jack and the Beanstalk"**, Fri, 10 & 11:30 AM, Sat & Sun, 11:30 AM & 1 PM, Glen Echo Park, see above.

Saturday, October 1: **"Pumpkin Tales"**, 10 AM, funny stories for the whole family by Gary Lloyd, Palisades Community Church, 5200 Cathedral Avenue, \$5, refreshments for sale.

Saturday, October 1: **Friends of Palisades Library Annual Used Book Sale**, 10 AM-4 PM, 2nd floor, proceeds directly benefit the programs and collections of the Palisades branch library, Elinor Tucker, 416-7651, or Sarah Ely, 244-4724, no additional donations at this time.

Mondays, beginning October 3: **PreSchool Stories**, 10:30 AM, ages 2-3, Palisades Library Children's Room, 282-3139.

Tuesday, October 4: **PCA general membership meeting**, 7:30 PM, Palisades Rec Center.

Wednesdays, beginning October 5: **LapTime**, 10:30 AM, ages 6-24 months, Palisades Library Children's Room, 282-3139.

Wednesday, October 5: **ANC3D meeting**, 7:30 PM, Sibley Hospital's Ernst Auditorium, www.anc3d.org (see page 10).

Saturday, October 8: **"Real Estate Today" radio talk show**, 11 AM, featuring PCA President Spence Spencer and Evers & Co.'s Donna Evers, WMET 1160 AM.

Tuesday, October 11: **"Before Potter" book club**, 4 PM & 7 PM, for readers age 9+, Palisades Library Children's Room, Wayne Stone, 282-3113.

Wednesday, October 12: **PCA board meeting**, 7:30 PM, Palisades Community Church, see above, open to all.

Friday, October 14: **Crab Feast & Bake Sale**, sponsored by Palisades-Georgetown Lions Club, 6-9 PM, OLV Church, Hess Hall, 4835 MacArthur Boulevard, \$20 for all you can eat, \$8 for non-crab dinner, kids under 6 are free, 244-6262.

Friday, October 14-Friday, November 18: **The Puppet Company Playhouse presents "The 3 Billy Goats Gruff"**, Wed, Thurs & Fri, 10 & 11:30 AM, Sat & Sun, 11:30 AM & 1 PM, Glen Echo Park, see above.

Saturday, October 15: **Discovery Creek's "Honeybee Hoedown"**, 10 AM-4 PM, wear your cowboy hats and western attire for square-dancing, horse-drawn hayrides, arts & crafts, and more, Glen Echo Park, see above, \$50 for adults, \$35 for children, 337-5111, www.discoverycreek.org.

Sunday, October 16: **FS Key School's Harvest Festival**, Noon-4 PM, bring the whole family for cake walk, moon bounce and other fun for all ages to this annual fund-raiser for our local elementary school, Lauri Menditto, 237-0579.

Tuesday, October 18: **The Palisades Stamp Club**, 7:30 PM, Palisades Library.

Tuesday, October 18: **The Palisades Book Club**, 7 PM, Palisades Library.

Thursday, October 20: **The Palisades Garden Association**, 7:30 PM, "Vertical Gardening-grow your garden up using the other dimension", 966-5430 for location and directions (see page 6).

Sunday, October 23: **The PCA's Annual Family Night at the Fire Station**, 5 PM, potluck dinner, live music, fire trucks, face painting, haunted forest and more, RSVP and questions, 363-7441 (see page 12).

Tuesday, October 25: **"Before Potter" book club**, 4 PM & 7 PM, for readers age 9+, see above.

Friday, October 28: **Dinner & A Movie featuring "American President"**, 6 PM, Palisades Community Church, see above, \$10, RSVP, 966-7929 or 364-4356.

Saturday, October 29: **Friends of the Palisades "Sorting Saturdays"**, 10 AM-Noon, Palisades Library, see above.

Saturday, October 29: **Neighbors Through ART American Indian Musuem Visit**, 10 AM, open to all, RSVP to Alice Stewart, 364-1505 (see page 6).

Saturday, October 29: **"Music from Around the World with Brooksie Wells"**, 10 AM, interactive songs in many languages, Palisades Community Church, see above, \$5, refreshments for sale.

Monday, October 31: **Palisades Library Halloween Party**, 4 PM, dress up in costume, stories, arts & crafts, and refreshments, ages 2+, 282-3139.

Wednesday-Friday, November 2-4: **Palisades Preschool Book Fair**, 9 AM-Noon, Palisades Community Church, see above, open to the public, 364-8424.

from the.....

PRESIDENT'S DESK



As everyone goes back to work and the school year starts, it is important to recognize the great things that are happening to our neighborhood and city — the Nationals are playing better than .500 baseball in September. The neighborhood and Pat and Elsie Carome won a significant victory in July when the Board of Zoning Adjustment ruled that the titanic

wall at 4820 Dexter Terrace was improperly permitted. This year's Fourth of July parade and picnic set new records in terms of t-shirt sales, business support, attendance, and even prizes. MacArthur Boulevard has never looked better thanks to the volunteers taking care of the street's medians.

But as we recognize all the good things that make up our neighborhood, we also have to be vigilant to protect and nurture what we have. Perhaps the biggest example of this is the potential impact of a recent EPA directive to remove residuals from the water at Dalecarlia. These residuals are currently being pumped back into the Potomac River.

The US Army Corps of Engineers/Washington Aqueduct plans to build an 80-foot tall dewatering facility in the forest behind Sibley Hospital to remove the residuals. As proposed, the sludge would be transported down MacArthur Boulevard and other Palisades streets with anywhere from 16 to 66 twenty-ton trucks daily.

This is what is proposed as a permanent solution. Needless to say, we are all familiar with the rumble of dumptrucks going down streets like Dalecarlia Parkway and MacArthur. Two

significant subdivisions will likely be built along Foxhall, creating even more heavy traffic in the neighborhood. Sibley Hospital is likely to unveil an expansion plan this fall.

But what makes this issue such a potential threat to the neighborhood is that, while construction has a beginning and an end, transporting residuals by truck is proposed as a permanent solution. In other words, our roads will be ground down and damaged. Air pollution and dust will increase. Pedestrians, drivers and residents will be impacted by dozens of trucks lumbering down MacArthur and elsewhere, and not in a good way.

This is a very important issue that your citizens association and advisory neighborhood commission will be grappling with in the months to come. The PCA is a member of the Concerned Neighbors coalition of neighborhood groups that is seeking a viable, sustainable solution to the legitimate need to observe EPA requirements. However, putting a band-aid on the problem marries a short-term solution to a very long-term issue — and the Palisades will pay for this lack of vision. A compromise can be struck that addresses EPA, Aqueduct, and neighborhood concerns both here and in Maryland that is viable and looks to the long term.

At the October general membership meeting, our special guest will be DC Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti, who as the District's chief law enforcement officer will talk about the work of his office, and his efforts to combat crime and address issues such as illegal construction. Meanwhile, Environment Committee Chair Nick Kaufmann and other neighbors will provide an update on their work to build a practical approach to the residuals issue that can allow us to keep the Palisades the great place to live that it is.

The Palisades is a great place to live, and we should salute the work of those who are willing to take the time to protect it. I look forward to seeing you on October 4.

—Spence Spencer

Trucking Option, continued from page 1

This is coupled with the fact that Sibley Hospital, the Aqueduct's immediate neighbor (see page 10), is about to embark on a massive expansion plan. The combined traffic and traffic safety, environmental and noise issues cannot even be known at this time let alone mitigated.

To ensure that the Palisades has a firm stake against the trucking removal option, you will be receiving a letter in the mail asking for your support. Please be generous with your time and money on this most serious, long-term issue for our neighborhood.

Zoning Victory, continued from page 1

on structures that occupy more than 30 percent of a lot, as well as the Overlay's overall purposes of preserving existing trees and the neighborhood's open, park-like qualities.

The BZA vote will become final after it issues a formal written decision, which is expected shortly. Economides has indicated through a publicist that he will appeal the decision to the D.C. Court of Appeals. Carome has said will carry forward with this matter through appropriate legal channels until either the D.C. government or a court requires dismantling of the structure.

A Declaration of Success for July 4 Celebration

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for the Palisades Citizens Association to organize, plan, recruit and conduct its Annual July 4 Parade & Picnic (the 39th!), a decent respect for the contributions of its members requires that we should declare the results of their endeavors.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that no such declaration should be attempted without first declaring that the 2005 Parade was a huge success, which thousands of happy, hungry, thirsty spectators — to say nothing of the marchers themselves — will quickly acknowledge.

But such a parade cannot be organized, cannot be planned, cannot be conducted, without the enthusiastic and tireless contributions of dozens of our fellow citizens — and organizations.

To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world:

- more than 750 T-shirts were sold by our volunteers, working rain or shine, a record to date, helping cover many costs for staging the celebration;

- DC Different Drummers, the Washington Scottish Pipe Band, the United Horsemen's Association, the Metropolitan Police, Fire Engine #29, and dozens of automobiles, floats, flatbeds, and bicyclists helped insure a colorful, non-stop procession;

- Parade Marshals helped organize and move — and kept moving — all of the participants;

- Safeway donated watermelons and cups, Whole Foods donated 3,000 hot dogs, and our local businesses contributed cash (see page 11);

- the Palisades Recreation Staff, aided by members of the DC

Department of Public Works, aided in setting up and CLEANING UP the picnic afterwards at the Rec Center;

- the Grand Lodge Masons cooked and served all of





those 3,000 hot dogs, while the Palisades-Georgetown Lions Club set up and served hundreds of drinks;

- Matt Thorp and Mary Stapp organized judging the marchers, and the following awards were presented:

- > Most Enthusiastic-Palisades Library, Battery Kemble Barkers, Mount Vernon Pool;
- > Best Formation-DC Different Drummers;
- > Best Give aways-Association of Oldest Inhabitants;
- > Most Humorous-Pirates for Peace;
- > Best Music-Bolivian Soul and Washington Scottish Bagpipers;
- > Best Neighborhood Float-Key School;
- > Most Patriotic-Grand Lodge Masons;
- > Honorable Mention-Boy Scouts, the Baton Twirlers and DC's Outstanding Teen (and Palisadian) Virginia Ryan (pictured top, page 4);

- and last, but certainly not least, our very own Virginia Ryan led us in singing the National Anthem.

And, for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the continuation of splendid, sunny weather, and the continued support of dozens of our members, we mutually pledge to stage an even grander parade on July 4, 2006, a parade of the people, by the people and for the people!

—Fred Pelzman, July 4 Celebration Committee

neighborhood NOTICES

“Neighbors Through ART” will sponsor a visit to the Smithsonian’s new Museum of the American Indian on Saturday, October 29. We will get a group pass in the morning, see the museum, and then have lunch at the Mitsidam Cafe. The museum is free and the lunch is Dutch treat. “Neighbors Through ART” organizes a variety of events for the Palisades-Hillcrest Partnership. Come and meet past participants from our neighborhood and from Hillcrest in Ward 7, and others interested in strengthening the partnership. RSVP by October 10 to NTA co-founders Alice Stewart, 364-1505, or Miles Steele, 582-7832, and be sure to say how many people you are bringing along.

Jim Whittaker, jim_whittaker@sra.com

PCA Membership Update: We welcomed 10 new memberships and registered 9 renewals over the summer. If your membership has expired, you will have a remittance envelope in your newsletter. Please send in your dues promptly. If you don’t receive an envelope and you notice from your label that your membership has expired, please send your dues (\$15 individual, \$25 household, \$50 sponsor, \$100 patron, \$300 life), made out to PCA, to PCA, PO Box 40603, WDC 20016. Thank you for your continued support.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. If you don’t have a library card that opens the door to all the resources of the DC Public Library System, please take a few minutes to get one. All you need is a document that shows you live in the metropolitan area, such as a driver’s license, utility bill, or lease. School-age children do not need to present identification. If you already have one of the older red cards, trade it in for one of the colorful key chain combination cards. With the addition of a pin number, you can access your record and renew and reserve books from home.

The History of the Palisades DC, published by Arcadia, will be featured at the December general membership meeting. Start thinking NOW about how many copies you would like to have as gifts for the holidays. PCA Historian Alice Stewart will be on hand to sign copies.

Looking for a worthwhile neighborhood project for your group, class, church, or troop? The Palisades Community Fund (PCF) supports projects which promote charitable activities, cultural enrichment, community education and service, economic improvement and environmental enhancement for the residents of the Palisades. **Fall grant proposals to the PCF** must be postmarked by October 14, 2004 and sent to PCF, PO Box 40603, Washington, DC 20016. All proposals should clearly describe their contribution to the community, explaining the specific need the project will address and exactly how Palisades residents will benefit. PCF can only fund proposals for prospective work, not for projects that have been completed. Applications must include name, phone and email (if available) of a contact person who can answer questions about the proposal, a budget, and named individuals who will be responsible for various aspects of the proposal, such as installation and maintenance. Grant proposals are only accepted twice a year.

Nancy Hammond, PCF Chair, 686-6627

The Palisades Garden Association will feature Diane Nichols, of Nichols Gardens in Manassas, Virginia at its October 20 meeting. She will speak about “Vertical Gardening: Grow your garden up using the other dimension”. Please call Margaret Merriman, 966-5430, for location and directions. The group meets at members’ homes and other places in The Palisades, on the third Thursday of the month, and guests are welcome.

When Shana Hansell moved back to Washington for a new State Department assignment, she decided she wanted to buy a house. On a visit to DC, one of the first neighborhoods she visited with her realtor was the Palisades. She liked it; liked what she knew of our neighborhood; bought it; and sold her Dupont Circle condominium. Back in San Francisco before the move, she googled her way **to the PCA website**. The first thing that impressed her was the community spirit evident in the upcoming July 4 Celebration. Most helpful has been fast access to city government services. She also signed up for membership in the PCA. Viva la website!

Community Called to Provide Comfort, Normalcy to Katrina Victims

The PCA has received countless inquiries about how we, as a community, can aid families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. In addition to giving at the office, church and to national non-profit organizations, such as the Red Cross, people here have wanted to do more, and do something close to home. After exploring several options, we've found an opportunity where the needs are great, immediate, and nearby.

Two families, relocated from New Orleans, have already applied for services from Crossway-Community, whose Executive Director is Palisades resident Kathleen Guinan. Crossway-Community (www.crossway-community.org) is an entrepreneurial, non-profit organization with a mission to promote learning, creativity, and community for all families. Its campus in Kensington, MD, which includes residential housing and an on-site preschool, offers a continuum of integrated educational and supportive services for families of all ethnic and economic backgrounds with a focus on outreach to low-income, at-risk families.

Crossway-Community has offered apartments to the two families: one consists of a mother and her fourteen year-old son; the other is a mother, fourteen-year old son and eighteen-month old infant. Here is where the Palisades comes in. The apartments need furnishings: furniture, dishes, linens etc. The families may also need clothing, school supplies, toys and food. By coming together as a community, we can outfit these apartments with all the comforts of home and help a few Katrina victims regain a sense of normalcy and community that we, in the Palisades, take for granted.

To view the wish-list for these families and to learn about donating and delivery specifics, please visit www.palisadesdc.org.

—Lauri Menditto

palisades residents IN THE NEWS . . .

The Washington Post's Real Estate section, Saturday, July 30, 2005: In an article entitled "The Quest for Quiet", PCA Aircraft Noise Committee Chair Mat Thorp was prominently featured as an expert on aircraft, flight paths and airport operations. The writer was referred to Thorp by the staff director of one of the many advisory committees on which Thorp serves. One such committee is the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, on which Thorp is the DC citizen representative. More often than not, Thorp is the lone citizen representative among business concerns, government authorities and academics. According to Thorp, the article accurately reflects the PCA's thinking and doing. An excerpt of the article will be available at the October 4 meeting and on the PCA website.

PROPOSED PCA BUDGET 2005-2006

	2004–2005 <u>Actual</u>	2005–2006 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
Revenue:		
Resident Dues	23,215	30,000
Business Dues	12,750	13,000
Contributions	14,319	9,400
T-shirts Sales	10,119	10,000
Investment Int. & Div.	432	400
TOTAL REVENUE	60,835	62,800
Expenses:		
July 4 Parade/Picnic	8,330	9,000
Family Night at the Fire Station	1,647	2,000
Meetings	277	300
Insurance	1,653	2,500
General Admin.	1,675	1,700
Publications:		
Newsletter	9,726	11,000
Membership	770	1,000
Miscellaneous	540	500
T-Shirts-cost of goods	3,729	3,800
Professional Fees	18,289	19,000
Civic Activity	15,790	10,000
Aircraft Noise Committee	0	2,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	62,426	62,800

ART IN THE PALISADES

A series of original sketches from White Fang, a newly-issued graphic novel by Palisades resident Gian Carlo Guarda was displayed at the Palisades Post Office from early July through the end of September. Guarda's 450 pen and ink drawings vividly illustrate Jack London's famous wolf story. They include White Fang's birth in the Canadian wilderness, his dangerous encounters with other animals, domestication by Indians, savage treatment by a cruel white gambler and loving salvation through a caring master. A native of Venice, Guarda was born in 1930 and came of age in Post War Italy. He completed Pages 1-12 of White Fang when he was only twenty and hoped one day to be



a professional cartoonist. Instead, Guarda became an architect and urban planner and worked in developing countries all over the world as a World Bank, United Nations and OECD expert. For more than fifty years, he kept his White Fang drawings, a talisman of interrupted, but not forgotten, creative aspirations. Finally, in 2002 (when he was well into his seventies), Guarda took his boyhood drawings in hand and

sketched Pages 13-78, finishing what is the first completely illustrated adaptation of Jack London's masterpiece. White Fang has 80 pages, 450 illustrations and one foldout map. The paperback book is handsomely printed on heavy stock and costs \$16.95. Copies may be obtained at 686-1996 or lsrenew@aol.com.

From the beginning of October through November, the Post Office will feature works by Rachel Samuel. Samuel, born and raised in the Palisades, graduated in May 2005 from the Corcoran College of Art and Design. She was well represented in the end of the year Graduates Show in the Hemicycle Gallery at the Corcoran. She now works at the Sheridan School's after school program. The past two summers she has worked at the Corcoran's camp Creativity, a day camp for children ages 5-15. Before attending the Corcoran, Samuel was in the Rhode Island School of Design's textile program, and she continues to do weaving and incorporate other techniques of sewing and knitting to make fabrics and mixed media works.

—Sheila Rotner

committee report: AIRCRAFT NOISE

Our neighborhood's fifty-plus years in the forefront of aircraft noise abatement issues is being recognized by the Partnership for Air Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction (PARTNER) by inviting Mat Thorp, current chair of the PCA's Aircraft Noise Committee, to be a member of its Advisory Board. The PCA was added as an advisory group at the same time as Airbus and Bombardier.

PARTNER was established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Transport Canada in order to "enhance the understanding of aerospace environmental issues." As one of five long-term FAA Centers of Excellence, PARTNER is a world-class consortium of academic, industry, and government organizations. With their invitation to PCA, FAA and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the lead university in PARTNER, have deliberately added a community-based organization to the mix. In fact, PCA is the only community-based organization in the mix.

Other members of the partnership include:

- Nine top universities, such as Purdue and Stanford;
- Large airframe and jet engine manufacturers, such as Airbus, The Boeing Company, General Electric Aircraft Engines, and Rolls Royce;
- Washington-based member associations, such as the Air Transport Association of America, Inc. and Airports Council International-North America;
- Owners and operators of airports, such as Massachusetts Port Authority (Logan) and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Reagan National and Dulles);
- Advocacy groups formed by municipalities and counties affected by aircraft noise and emissions, such as O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission and San Francisco International Airport / Community Roundtable.

We will discuss this significant recognition of the Palisades at the PCA general membership meeting on October 4. Further information on PARTNER will be available at the meeting and on the PCA website. You can also visit the PARTNER website at <http://web.mit.edu/aeroastro/www.partner/>.

—Spence Spencer, PCA President

Lions Help Others, Near and Far

The International Association of Lions Clubs began as the dream of Chicago businessman Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large.

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions International convention in Cedar Point, Ohio. She challenged Lions to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." Since then, Lions Clubs have been actively involved in service to the blind and visually impaired.

Nearly 1.4 million Lions members are located in 194 countries and geographic areas answering the needs that challenge the communities of the world. In addition to sight programs,

Lions tackle tough problems like drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness.

Lions members — men and women — provide immediate and sustained relief in times of disaster, such as hurricane Katrina, and offer long-term assistance to those in need. Lions collect and recycle eyeglasses for distribution in developing countries and treat millions of people to prevent river blindness.

Lions Clubs is committed to providing services for youth. The Palisades-Georgetown Lions Club has provided scholarships to college, helped Duke Ellington students, contributed to HOBY weekend workshops for tenth graders

interested in pursuing business careers, and supported the District Lions band program. We also help individuals in our community who are in need, and support Lions Camp Merrick for children with sight and diabetic challenges.

Some years ago, the Palisades-Georgetown Lions Club, the PCA and the Palisades Recreation Center worked very closely on many community projects, for example: Little League ball clubs, Halloween parties for youngsters, pony

rides during the July 4 Celebration, fireworks for the community after the picnic on July 4, reconditioning the tennis courts and supplying picnic tables for the Recreation Center. We would like to rekindle that relationship which was so

beneficial in the past. We wish to work hand in hand in establishing better communication among the three organizations for the betterment of our community.

Palisades-Georgetown Lions Club members are your neighbors and business and professional associates. We are involved in serving the community and those in need. We are a non-sectarian, non-political organization challenged to be "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." For eighty-eight years, whenever there is a need at home or around the world, Lions members are there to help.



Listserv Adds Breadth, Timeliness to Communication

Please join the Palisades listserv, which now has close to 350 people posting and reading daily about Palisades issues. Joining the list is easy to do, and brings you these benefits:

- √ Notices about neighborhood events
- √ Keeps you on top of quickly developing and changing issues
- √ Agendas and issues updates from PCA and ANC 3D
- √ Exchange views with your neighbors on issues of shared concern
- √ Use it to locate resources and get references
- √ More and more elected officials are reading the postings
- √ Advertising is prohibited in member postings
- √ Your email address remains private unless you post a message
- √ You choose how you receive messages — individually, in a daily digest, or retrieved by you from a website

Please consider joining the list both to learn more about what's going on and to share your own knowledge of the neighborhood with others.

Joining is easy. First, register for a free Yahoo! Groups account, which does not require a Yahoo! email address. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>. Second, send an email message to palisades-subscribe@yahogroups.com. Listserv manager and former PCA President Erik Gaull will reply to this message.

It's that simple. If you have questions or need help joining, please contact me at RachelWToo@aol.com.

—Rachel Thompson, ANC3D and listserv co-moderator

—Lynn Scholz

Sibley Expansion Includes Office Tower, More Parking,

As anticipated, Sibley Memorial Hospital has notified the ANC and the PCA of its plans to come forth this fall with a massive, integrated long-term plan for the expansion of its facilities and operations.

Hospital neighbors and the ANC have for some time been asking the hospital to share with the community the full scope of its future plans. Absent any context for various construction projects, they have had to evaluate on a one-by-one basis the impacts of these additions on views, traffic, lighting and noise.

In recent years we have seen addition of the Grand Oaks assisted living facility (a private facility operated by Sunrise Assisted Living, Inc.) including 104 apartments. Also the Renaissance skilled nursing unit, a state-of-the-art breast cancer treatment facility and a multi-story parking garage on Little Falls Road. Sibley has approval for, but has not yet constructed, additional Grand Oaks apartments.

Clearly Sibley is growing and will continue to grow, as it must respond to competitive changes in the hospital landscape and continue to serve surrounding communities. The only real question is how they go about it and what approach will give us maximum notice and opportunity to be heard in the process.

While the hospital shared with the ANC, PCA and a handful of neighbors in January its “concepts” for the expansion, we have not as yet received revised and detailed plans. But based on their concepts we expect their proposed first phase will include relocating a portion of Little Falls Road, a new office tower for doctors and another multi-story parking garage (there are now about 1400 parking spaces in place).

Phase Two may entail removal of the existing auditorium and administrative offices — once used as housing for nurses — and construction of new patient housing. Patient beds may be increased 40 percent from the current 230 count to the hospital’s fully-licensed capacity for 328 beds, all of them in single rooms.

In response to years of neighborhood complaints about noise, lighting and visual impacts, the hospital has said it will seek to relocate its new patient facility away from Loughboro Road and closer to Little Falls Road. The current patient facility would eventually be used for administration, and a new auditorium will be built.

In terms of transportation changes, the hospital may propose construction of a Metro bus stop in a central location on the hospital grounds to gather all Metro buses into a single pick-up, drop-off and turnaround pad including layover. They will likely ask for a new traffic light at a newly-established main entrance at

Little Falls Road and Dalecarlia Parkway.

Collectively the proposed changes will have a tremendous impact on the surrounding neighborhoods of Palisades and Spring Valley, with a significant ripple effect on traffic back up through Westmoreland and Ward Circles and down along MacArthur Boulevard.

Neighborhoods surrounding the hospital will have multiple opportunities to review and comment on the plan as Sibley begins a series of presentations to the community, including the PCA’s general membership meeting on November 1. Sibley will explain how its plan responds to changing area demographics and the need for new and expanded services.

Again, what’s here is based on concept presentations in January. Revised plans are forthcoming this month. Sibley will preview these plans at the ANC’s October 5 meeting and we urge you to attend and listen.

This proceeding will gain momentum throughout the fall and include extensive hearings before the city’s Zoning Commission. It will be complex, require a great deal of input from the community, and take upwards of one year to complete.

To move ahead, Sibley will need to first obtain re-zoning from its current R-5-A zoning to what’s called a “planned unit development,” or PUD. Under PUD rules Sibley will seek approval for a Master Plan which will establish parameters for the site including building placement, density, height, parking needs and all future uses — not unlike a campus plan. The hospital will then bring forward detailed plans, likely in multiple phases over a several-year period, for review, approval and construction.

The benefit of PUD status for the hospital is that it enables them to negotiate for greater density, height and parking than they could seek “by right” with their current R-5-A zoning. PUD zoning is generally associated with construction of housing developments (Foxhall Crescents is a PUD). From our perspective the guidelines for evaluation of a PUD proposal include mitigation of adverse effects, neighborhood amenities and overall community benefits.

The hospital will need to obtain, through a separate public proceeding, a Certificate of Need from the Department of Health for each element of its proposed plan. The purpose of the Certificate of Need process is to ensure that taken as a whole, hospitals are meeting — but not exceeding — the overall need for patient beds and various services across the city and metropolitan area. Should hospitals not be competitive this would adversely affect their viability; should they overbuild the result could be

More Patient Beds

increased service costs and reduced access for some to the health care they need.

We look forward to participating fully and effectively in Sibley's PUD proceeding and have assembled an expert volunteer team from within the community to assist us. We will need to raise funds from within Palisades and surrounding areas in order to engage an expert zoning attorney. We look forward to forming a core group of residents interested and willing to participate in ongoing

meetings to assist review.

Finally we are very concerned, as you know, about the prospect of construction of the U.S. Army Corps' Washington Aqueduct dewatering facility behind the hospital on Little Falls Road, and their plan to run twenty-ton trucks alongside hospital traffic in and out of Little Falls Road (see page 1).

In our meetings with Sibley COO Jerry Price we have repeatedly stated that

we want to enter into the zoning proceeding with them "unencumbered" by issues related to the Corps. However it's increasingly looking like this may be impossible. If the Corps is permitted to move ahead with its plan we will need to do our best to work with the community to mitigate the combined traffic and traffic safety, environmental and noise impacts.

—Rachel Thompson, ANC3D

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The PCA's Annual Family Night at
the Fire Station

Sunday, October 23th, 5 PM

It's Potluck -- last names A-P bring a side dish;
Q-Z bring a dessert; the firemen provide the BBQ
Live Music, Fire Trucks, Face Painting, Cookie
Decorating, Haunted Forest & More!

RSVP and questions:

363-7441



The Palisades Citizens Association Membership: Individual: \$15; Household: \$25; Sponsor: \$50; Patron: \$100.
To join, or for additional information, contact Administrator as listed below.

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