



THE PALISADES News

A Newsletter of the Palisades Citizens Association Representing the Greater Palisades Area

Volume 17 • Number 5 • April 2006

PCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**TUESDAY,
MAY 2 • 7:30 PM**

Palisades Recreation Center

Developer Morton Bender will discuss his housing project on Chain Bridge Road, directly across from Battery Kemble Park. Please see the President's Letter for more details.

The membership will vote on the proposed slate of officers for 2006-2007 (see below).

PCA OFFICER ELECTIONS

The proposed PCA slate of officers for 2006-2007 is:

President: Spence Spencer

1st VP: Carolyn Ortwein

2nd VP: Laura McGiffert Slover

Treasurer: Bill Barnard

Secretary: VACANT

This proposed slate will be voted on at the May 2nd general membership meeting. Any member may nominate a member from the floor at the meeting provided such nomination is properly seconded.

Direct all questions and indications of interest to the PCA office at 363-7441 or palisades@hotmail.com.

Palisades Easter Hunt is Eggs-cellent!

A long-time Palisades tradition was given a new life on Easter weekend when our community sponsored an Easter egg hunt at the Palisades Rec Center.

Though the Palisades hasn't sponsored an Easter egg hunt since the mid-to-late 1950s, crowds for the 2006 version exceeded expectations. More than 200 residents enjoyed sunny skies and mild temperatures April 15 to hunt for the eggs.

Though some of the oldest Palisades residents can't recall the Easter tradition from the 1950s, David Braun alerted the PCA to the event via email last August.

"I can remember hiding Easter eggs with my father, Godfrey Braun. This must have been in the late 50's. We would get up very early (it would be dark) and walk from our home on Dana Place to the field house. We would meet

with several other hidiers and go hide the eggs. They were to be no deeper than 10 feet from the edge of the woods, starting at the wading pool and around to the baseball diamond, and not to hide them too well. After hiding the eggs, we would wait until the staff arrived to ensure no one came early for the hunt. Later, families from all over the area would come with their little ones to hunt for the eggs. There were five goose eggs colored with gold and the lucky child who discovered one received an additional chocolate rabbit."

We have many folks to thank for giving this tradition new life. Parents mingled over coffee (donated by Starbucks...thanks!), pastries (donated by Marvelous Market...thanks!) and many delicious items contributed by neighbors. The Rec Center Staff helped set up the hunt, which included more than 430 plastic eggs.



to come



OUT & ABOUT

TUESDAY, MAY 2

PCA General Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, Palisades Rec Center.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

ANC3D meeting, 7:30 PM, Sibley Hospital's Ernst Auditorium, www.anc3d.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

2006 July 4th Parade Planning Meeting, 7:30 PM, Starland Café, everyone welcome, 363-7441.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

C.P.R. Class Offered, Sponsored by The Palisades Community Church, 5200 Cathedral Ave., NW. 8 am - noon. Adult, child, infant and AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To register please call the church office at 202-966-7929. The class is free but space is limited.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

PCA Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Palisades Comm. Church, 5200 Cathedral Ave., open to all.

SUNDAY MAY 14

Mother's Day Concert with reception to follow, 5:00 PM, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. This year the theme is "Bernstein on Broadway" performed by the Cantoris Choir of St. Patricks Episcopal Church directed by Adele Lynch. Tickets will be available at the door the day of the concert, 202-342-2823.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Lions Club Community Flea Market 10:00-4:00, Wachovia Bank Parking Lot, \$28 for table space, 966-4418 or 625-6424.

Emergency Preparedness Tip of the Month: Protecting and Accessing Vital Records

During a disaster, you may not be able to get home to retrieve vital information such as bank, credit card, and other financial account numbers, insurance (property/life/health) information, estate information, and medical information. Therefore, it's a good idea to keep a copy of this information at a secure site outside your geographic area, or retain it on a password protected storage device such as a laptop or USB drive ('thumb drive') that is always in your possession. Original documents, such as wills and titles, should be stored in safe deposit vaults-not at home.

— Carolyn Ortwein, 1st Vice President

PALISADES LIBRARY

Our schedule will be as follows:

M, W, F, Sat 9:30 – 5:30
Tu, Th 9:30 – 9:00

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- **Palisades Book Club** Tues,
May 16 • 7:30 pm • *Copenhagen* by Michael Frayn
- **Palisades Stamp Club** Tues, May 16 • 7:30 pm

CHILDREN'S ROOM PROGRAMS

- **Pre School Stories** (ages 2-4): Mon • 10:30 May 1, 8, 15, & 22
- **Lap Time** (ages 4-24 months): Wed • 10:30 May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
- **Story Time** (ages 4-8): Mon • 4:00 pm May 1, 8, 15, & 22
- **Science Tuesdays** (ages 9-12): Tues • 4:00 pm May 2 & 16 .
Call 282-3113 to register for Science Tuesdays.

SUMMER QUEST 2006: CLUE INTO READING

This summer boys and girls from ages 1 to 14 can become super sleuths by completing their assigned mission to read at least ten books between June 1 and August 18. There will be fun prizes as well as musical and story-telling performances to enjoy while they are collecting clues. The finale is scheduled for August 21. Interested children are encouraged to register between June 1 and June 24. Please note: DC Public Libraries will be closed on Monday, April 17th.

DC Public Libraries will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

— Lucy Thrasher, Head Librarian

OTHER LIBRARY HAPPENINGS...

The kickoff for DC Public Libraries' Teen Reading program will be May 10 at the MLK Library. The kickoff will usher in many exciting activities for teens to participate in this summer at various library branches throughout the district. The summer program includes the following activities that will introduce teens to the many resources available to them at public libraries: motivational speakers, job tips for teens, science exploration, storytellers, and movies. Palisades Neighborhood Library will be hosting two events - an Einstein impersonator and eBIC (Business opportunities for teens). In addition to the many exciting programs, teens will have the opportunity to recommend books they read to other teens and win prizes for reading. If you know any teens, please let them know about HollaBack and the many opportunities that exist within the DC Public Library System.

— Wayne Stone, Children's Librarian



FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTICES

- **A Family Favorite...**One of Washington area's local treasures—the historic **Glen Echo Park Dentzel Carousel**—will open for its 86th season on April 29th through October 1st. Hours for April 29 through June 30 are Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$1. Call (301) 634-2222.
- **Time to quit...**DC's smoking ban took officially took effect last week for restaurants and public buildings. Restaurant bars, clubs, nightclubs and taverns will have until January 1, 2007 to comply.
- **Art in the Palisades...**From now until the end of June, **Charlotte Greenwalt** will be showing some of her ceramic sculptures. She is inspired by forms that we come into contact with daily. By taking the objects away from their function and focusing on them as abstract forms she encourages us to look at things differently, somewhat in the style of Dada. Charlotte grew up in the Palisades area. This is the second time she has shown in our Post Office.
- **Camp for the younger set...** St. David's Church at 5150 Macomb Street is offering camp for children ages 6 months to 3 years during the month of June. St. David's will offer a 4 week fun-filled summer camp (children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times while at camp). The schedule will include four weeks of splashing, singing, bouncing, dancing, reading, arts and crafts, field trips and summer treats. Camp will take place from June 1 to June 30th, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to noon. For more information and an application please email littlegraces@rcn.com.
- **Expired membership?** Check your mailing label and if your PCA membership has expired, please send your dues (individual: \$25; senior: \$20; household: \$40; sponsor: \$100; patron: \$250; life: \$500) to PCA, PO Box 40603, Washington, DC 20016. Please make check payable to PCA. Thank you to everyone who remembered to send in their dues. We appreciate your support of the association!

On March 30 I wrote a letter to PCA members updating everyone on the plans that developer Morton Bender has to build 13 "McMansions" on a three and a half acre lot on Chain Bridge Road, directly across from Battery Kemble Park. His application was discussed on April 11 at a marathon meeting of DC's Board of Zoning Adjustment.



hold my breath."

I closed by quoting from Susan Carhart's excellent letter: "Chairman Griffis, you and the board have the power to render a landmark decision on how citizens can protect the best qualities of our city through the democratic

procedures inherent in our Tree and Slope Overlay process. I trust you not to fail to uphold the power of your office. We are not against development. We are for development that protects and preserves the best this city has to offer. This is not just for the people in this neighborhood, but for all who come to enjoy Battery Kemble Park."

The case will be continued on July 18th at 1:00 pm. In his concluding remarks, Chairman Griffis urged Mr. Bender's representatives to do their best to establish a dialogue with the community in the interim.

Your citizens association will continue to support the Chain Bridge and University Terrace neighbors on this critical matter however it can. We have invited Mr. Bender to speak at the May 2nd general membership meeting. A solution is possible that can accomplish Mr. Bender's legitimate goals as the owner, while preserving trees and the character of the neighborhood. The PCA will be there this July, and I urge everyone to attend the hearings and continue to show support. Many thanks to everyone who wrote letters and attended the April hearing!

Let me highlight a few of the responses that I cited:

Andrea Mitchell noted that what the Board decides will be a "critical test of whether an historic green space, the Civil War battlement know to generations of dog lovers, sledders, and nature buffs as Battery Kemble Park, will suffer the latest example of the "McMansion" syndrome." She also noted that Mr. Bender has rejected several alternatives that have been proposed by neighbors, and urged better dialogue with the community.

Katherine Pughe underscored that storm water runoff problems could be exacerbated by such a dense development: "until the massive construction projects of the past several years, my basement was dry. It was dry in the most dramatic of rainstorms and through flooding waters throughout the area. Once the water table was changed by the destruction of 65 nearby trees, each large rain makes me

Letters to the BZA should be addressed to Geoffrey Griffis, BZA Chairman, (441 N. 4th Street NW; Washington, DC 20001), and should reference the application of Dorchester Associates (BZA Application No. 17309). The BZA's fax number is 202-727-6072.

— Spence Spencer, PCA President



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sibley Hospital

The ANC Update for April 2006 newsletter poses the question, "How badly did Sibley want the 8.5 acres it acquired from the U.S. Army Corps back in 2002?" It was strongly implied that Sibley entered into a deed agreement barring us from bringing legal challenges against the Washington Aqueduct. Simply stated, there is no such agreement. The land was purchased at fair market value with no special agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers or any other interest.

Sibley strives to be a good neighbor to the entire community, including the Army Corps of Engineers. With each issue that arises, including the Dewatering Plant, Sibley carefully considers the potential impact on the hospital. In evaluating the Dewatering Plant, we did not feel there would be a negative impact and thus did not oppose the project. Little Falls Road currently serves delivery, employee, ambulance and cut-through traffic as well as large trucks from the Spring Valley FUDS project. The traffic from the Dewatering Plant is estimated to consist of eight to 10 trucks per day and in our opinion, not enough to have a negative impact.

Each interested group has the responsibility to independently weigh in on each issue—a process Sibley encourages and has actively participated in since moving to this location 45 years ago. We have long-standing relationships in the community and while we sometimes disagree, even with the Army Corps of Engineers, we have always maintained a healthy respect for the various groups.

The potential need to upgrade Little Falls Road and reroute the Metro buses to Little Falls Road are two separate issues. As we move forward, it is our strong belief that the Army Corps of Engineers will do the right thing at the appropriate time in regard to upgrading Little Falls Road. Secondly, the Little Falls Road Transportation Study concluded that the presence of the heliport on Little Falls has the potential to seriously disrupt the bus

schedule. Further, there has been little support from the community for rerouting the buses.

I have been at Sibley Memorial Hospital for 21 years and our track record for being a good neighbor, as well as a service provider to the community speaks for itself. We are committed to working cooperatively with the community as we plan for future growth of the hospital, to fulfill our mission which is to "provide quality health services and facilities for the community, to promote wellness, relieve suffering, and restore health as swiftly, safely and humanely as it can be done consistent with the best service we can give at the highest value for all concerned."

Jerry Price
Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer

MacArthur Beautification

On behalf of the new directors of the MacArthur Beautification Group, I wanted to thank all of you who have already sent in your response to our recent appeal. You will receive individual notes, but I was so impressed by the number and generosity of the checks, I had to speak up. As you will see soon, we are getting organized, dividing up the responsibilities and building small working groups to take on the work of MacArthur Beautification that has been shouldered by Sally Fallon for several years.

We have begun to tackle issues of annual maintenance and periodic plant replacement as well as budgeting, fundraising and long term planning. If funds permit, we would like to take on additional tasks such as street tree trimming, turf improvement and other "wishes". But for now, we thank all of you who are helping to keep us going.

Marcia Allen, President,
MacArthur Beautification

PS. If you would like to get involved or if you know of an organization that could help fund a part of our undertakings, please call the PCA office at 363-7441.

Aircraft Noise Committee The Future is Now

Tap into www.flyquietsfo.com; under "Commonly asked Questions" click on "View Radar Tracks." If your short term memory is as bad as mine, you might want to print these two explanatory pages before clicking on one of the green buttons.

Richard Flaa of the San Francisco International Airport's Aircraft Noise Abatement Office was kind enough to send a packet of their responses to citizen inquiries. I will have copies at the PCA meeting on May 2nd. If you cannot make the meeting, please email me so that I can get a packet to you.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is requesting 2 million dollars in FY07 funds to provide us with a similar capability after this request survives any number of hurdles, roadblocks, glitches, we will have our system for Reagan National in late 2007 or early 2008.

I would like to get your comments and recommendations for improvements.

— Mat Thorp,
Chair, Aircraft Noise Committee
(202) 363-4048
mat.thorp@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor Needed!

The PCA is actively looking for a permanent newsletter editor for this fine publication. The Palisades News is published eight times a year from October through June and is the primary benefit of, and communication tool for, The Palisades Citizens Association. It reaches over 1200 households a month.

The time commitment is approximately 10-12 hours per month. Direct all questions or indications of interest to PCA Administrator Anne Ourand at 363-7441 or palisadesdc@hotmail.com.



Neighborhood Remembers Long Time Resident Ida Marien



PHOTO: MICHAEL STOCKTON

Ida Marien, who passed away in 2002, was an over 40 year resident at 5420 Sherier Place. To commemorate her warm relationship with her neighbors and friends, as well as her love of trees and gardening, eleven families honored her memory by planting three cherry trees on April 2. The trees were planted in the green space on Sherier Place near her former home. The planting was sponsored by the National Cherry Blossom Festival in conjunction with D.C. Greenworks.

The weather for the planting was ideal, the ground into which the three large (some would say VERY large) wholes had to be dug was not. However, many hands made the work light and after two hours, the trees were in the ground and standing straight. They add instant beauty to the street. Many people who remembered Mrs. Marien stopped by and related stories of their experience with her. Long time resident Sally Strain, having e-mailed news of the celebration to Ida's children, brought greetings from them. Cake and drinks were

served.

Liz Tylander, Community Outreach Coordinator from D.C Greenworks, was on hand to offer guidance on the proper planting of a city tree. For those of you who don't know, D.C. Greenworks has a program called TreeKeepers. TreeKeepers are members of an ever growing, select group of D.C. residents who care deeply about their trees and their communities. DCG works right alongside local TreeKeepers, giving them the counsel, tools, and support they need for a successful tree adoption. TreeKeeper Community membership benefits include: TreeGator irrigation devices, tree planting and tree care guides, membership cards offering discounts at local nurseries and hardware stores, newsletters, access to community workshops in tree planting and tending, and more. They are happy to work with YOUR BLOCK in coordinating a treebox sponsorship or green space planting. Check them out at www.dcgreenworks.org.

— *Friends of Ida Marien*

Keep MacArthur Blvd. Beautiful

MacArthur Beautification Group Seeks Volunteers!

Spectacular is just one word to describe the cherry blossoms that adorned the MacArthur Boulevard median strip for several weeks in April, officially ushering spring into the Palisades. Taking an extra long stroll down MacArthur to get a cup of coffee (or a second cup) was definitely in order last month.

Years ago, volunteers planned, organized and implemented the beautiful design for the boulevard that we all now enjoy. Because the leader of MacArthur Beautification Group ("MBG") recently departed the neighborhood, the MBG board has begun working to reorganize and recruit new volunteers to ensure that the lovely landscaping along the boulevard – and other areas of the Palisades – continue to thrive. Several "focus" areas have been defined. Some address immediate and ongoing needs. Others focus on long-term planning. The major areas are: (1) Fundraising (such as direct mail appeals, grant writing); (2) Ongoing Maintenance; (3) Landscape Design (still to be determined, but will include replacement of diseased and dead cherry laurel shrubs); (4) New Projects (in the long-term, possibly expanding to other public areas in the Palisades); (5) City Liaison (working with our city's agencies to implement projects); and (6) Volunteer Coordination (help recruit "moundkeepers" or other volunteers to help with future projects).

If you have any interests in gardening, fundraising or working with the city, this is the committee for you. If you don't have those interests, but love the Palisades and want to help keep it beautiful, this is the committee for you too.

Please contact Marcia Allen (MarciaA437@aol.com) or Caroline Ervin (ccervin@rcn.com) if you would like to help keep MacArthur Boulevard beautiful!

— *Caroline Ervin*



Perchlorate Found in Palisades Groundwater

A new chemical element, perchlorate, has been discovered during Spring Valley clean up efforts undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers. Until recently, the primary chemical of concern in the area was arsenic. But in April, the Army announced it will devote almost \$500,000 in FY 07 to study groundwater flowing east to west from above the Dalecarlia Reservoir to the Potomac River.

The groundwater investigation started in FY06 following the discovery of perchlorate in a sump at Sibley Hospital and in an outflow to the Potomac River just south of the Dalecarlia Reservoir. Perchlorate is a toxic substance used in solid rocket fuels and propellants since the early 1900s and was tested by the Army during WWI at the American University site. High levels of perchlorate has been found in groundwater at both Sibley Hospital and a monitoring well at the intersection of MacArthur Blvd and Loughboro Road.

During hearings convened by Councilwoman Carol Schwartz in April, the Washington Aqueduct GM Tom Jacobus said perchlorate levels in drinking water is nowhere near levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. "While EPA has not set a Maximum Contaminant Level for perchlorate in drinking water, they do report that based on work done by the National Academy of Sciences, a Drinking Water Equivalent Level would be about 24 parts per billion," he said. Levels set by the state of Maryland are 1 ppb. The District follows EPA levels. "Of the 289 tests of the finished water over the last 30 months there have been six results ... that detected perchlorate in the 0.9 to 1.5 ppb range," he said.

Jim Collier, former Chief of the Bureau of Environmental Quality at the DC Department of Health, recommended that the fish in the Potomac River be tested for perchlorate and that the Department of Health determine if the fish are safe to eat. He said it was likely that a groundwater plume containing perchlorate is flowing from the Loughboro Road/Dalecarlia Parkway intersection, across the Sibley Hospital property, under the reservoir sedimentation basins and down to the Potomac River.

"It is apparent that the entire Sibley complex is sitting on a plume of ground water contaminated with perchlorate," he said. "Having a health care facility sitting on top of a toxic substance should be of considerable concern to the facility and to the Department of Health that regulates the facility."

It is widely held that perchlorate impairs thyroid function by prohibiting iodine uptake and may cause neurological impairment of fetuses and babies, metabolic disorders and other problems.

— Alma Gates, ANC 3D05
Immediate past chair of ANC 3D and
a former PCA Board member

Attention Seniors!

As of last month there is a copy of the Beacon Hill Village handbook at the reference desk of the Palisades library. It's in a yellow folder with two pieces: the handbook; and a guest book so people can write down their thoughts and leave name, phone or e-mail to be included in future discussions.

Beacon Hill Village was formed in response to a desire by a group of Boston residents to be able to get the services and support they need to retire in-home. The organization's website (www.beaconhillvillage.org) describes it thus:

"Beacon Hill Village helps persons age 50 and older who live on Beacon Hill and in its adjacent neighborhoods enjoy safer, healthier and more independent lives in their own homes—well connected to a familiar and attentive community. Faced with the prospect of leaving the neighborhood they love in order to obtain the services of a retirement community, a group of long-time Beacon Hill residents decided to create a better alternative—Beacon Hill Village, a "virtual retirement community" designed to make remaining at home a safe, comfortable and cost-effective solution."

"By partnering with proven providers of services, Beacon Hill Village is able to offer its members preferred access to social and cultural activities, exercise opportunities and household and home maintenance services, as well as medical care and assisted living at home. As a nonprofit, membership organization, it can provide these programs and services more cost-effectively than most conventional retirement communities."

A handful of Palisades residents met at the end of March for a preliminary conversation about the idea of starting something like this in our area. We were Judy Rosenfeld, George and Ann Allen, Lynn Brownell, Sharon Hays, Caroline Quandt, Lynn Scholz and me. These were names gathered through e-mails and of course not inclusive of everyone who would be interested.

While we had no conclusions, goals, or specific next steps, there seemed to be a consensus that:

This is a natural for Palisades, as people are already so inclined to help one another.

It will take some time to evolve, and needs to come from the grass roots up through listening and assessing, and identifying our particular neighborhood's needs and resources.

Beacon Hill is one model for an "at-home retirement community", and there are many discussions of "naturally occurring retirement communities" and other models to be adapted.

Basically, this isn't something there's any need to rush into. It can and should evolve.

It should be strongly based in the community.

Rather than start a list, or start gathering names, we would place the handbook at the library with a guest book or sign-in for now, and let the ideas percolate informally.

— Rachel Thompson



BZA Declares Dexter Wall Illegal

On March 24, the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment issued a formal written order declaring that a massive walled structure erected in 2004 by developer Frank Economides at 4825 Dexter Terrace violates at least four provisions of the D.C. Zoning Code. The written order formalizes and explains a decision that the BZA reached during a public hearing last July, and it marks another important milestone in a long-running effort by a coalition of neighbors and organizations – including ANC-3D, the National Park Service, and the PCA — to overturn a decision by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs’ to grant Economides a permit to erect the structure atop a large backyard that abuts Wesley Heights Park.

The structure in question transformed a steeply sloped, heavily wooded rear yard into a huge artificially elevated terrace located behind a new mansion that Economides also recently built on the same site. The terrace was created by putting up high concrete walls along nearly 400 feet of the exterior boundary of the rear yard, and then filling in behind the walls with 6000 cubic yards of fill dirt reinforced with many layers of synthetic reinforcement. At their highest, the exterior walls tower 30-feet high, just inches away from the public park land.

A central issue in the BZA proceeding was whether this structure is merely a “retaining wall,” as Economides alleged, or whether it is much more than that, as Patrick Carome, the Wesley Heights resident who took the lead in challenging the DCRA permitting decision, and representatives of the National Park Service and the ANC told the board during a series of public hearings last year. The BZA’s written order agreed with Carome’s characterization, concluding that the structure “is patently more than a retaining wall,” and instead constitutes an “artificially elevated platform” that creates “a new level surface on which to engage in leisure activities.”

As a result of this determination, the BZA order further rules that the structure violates the Zoning Code in four critical respects:

It violates the general 4-foot height limitation that applies to most structures located in required rear and side yards.

Because it occupies nearly the entire area between the mansion and the rear lot line, it violates the prohibition on structures that occupy more than 50% of a rear yard.

Because it occupies nearly 15,000 square feet of a lot that has a total area of 25,800 square feet, it violates the provision of the Wesley Heights Overlay (a special section of the Zoning Code that creates heightened restrictions for areas in Wesley Heights) that prohibits any structure from occupying more than 30% of a lot.

Because it “looms over adjacent properties, negatively affecting the air and light available to them,” it is “antithetical to the

purposes and goals of the Wesley Heights Overlay,” which expressly include preservation of the open and attractive qualities of the neighborhood.

This order from the BZA does not end the legal wrangling. Shortly after the order came out, Economides exercised his right to ask the Board for reconsideration; both Carome and the National Park Service then filed responses urging the BZA to adhere to its decision. Once the BZA process is complete, Economides will have a right to appeal to the D.C. Court of Appeals, and he has said through a spokesperson that he will appeal. Carome, on the other hand, has said that he will continue to take all necessary steps to pursue this issue through the available legal channels until Economides is required to demolish the structure and restore the land to its pre-existing condition.

— *Spence Spencer, PCA President*

PCA to Identify At-Risk Seniors

This month, the PCA, in partnership with IONA Senior Services, will launch an initiative to identify and provide services to vulnerable at-risk seniors who may require assistance during an emergency or disaster. Through a ‘buddy’ system, the PCA’s goal is to ensure our senior citizens have access to necessities such as food, water, transportation, and medical care.

To initially identify seniors who may need assistance and who would like to participate in the program we will send a letter and survey to each household to be completed and returned to the PCA. As part of the survey, we hope to identify volunteers who are interested in serving as ‘buddies’. We will then work with IONA Senior Services to craft a safe and effective volunteer program. Also, as part of the annual PCA membership drive, volunteers will conduct a door-to-door campaign to sign up new members and to gather information about persons who may wish to participate in the senior initiative. In the interim, if you or someone you know could benefit from this service, please email Carolyn Ortwein at CEOASB@comcast.net.

We cannot expect government resources to respond to our needs during a large scale emergency or disaster, so we must prepare to care for ourselves and the most vulnerable among us. We hope you will embrace this program; let us know if you or someone you know could benefit from it; and if you are interested in volunteering to help a senior during a crisis.

— *Carolyn Ortwein, 1st Vice President*



The Palisades News is published nine times each year
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The Palisades Citizens Association

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Material must be
submitted to the editor
by the 15th of the month
for inclusion in the next
month's edition.

Membership

Individual \$25; Senior (over 65) \$20; Household \$40;
Sponsor \$100; Patron \$250; Life \$500

To join or for additional information,
contact PCA Administrator at 363-7441

July 4th Celebration Takes Shape

Now that spring is here—and some days it even feels like summer already—the July 4th Parade Committee is hard at work planning what is sure to be a banner year for this long-standing Palisades celebration. Some of the banners are bound to be political this year, since this fall's citywide elections are already getting considerable attention.

The 2006 official Palisades July 4th T-shirt will once again be designed by a local student. See the June newsletter for the winning design, which will earn a prize for \$100. T-shirts go on sale for the first time at the June 4th flea market in the bank parking lot at the corner of Arizona and MacArthur. After that, T-shirts will be sold on weekends in front of the Safeway. To make sure you get all the sizes you need, remember to get your T-shirts early.

Volunteering to sell T-shirts is a great way to get involved in the Palisades parade. If you can give the PCA two hours of your time on a Saturday or a Sunday, please contact Maria Garcia at maria2270@comcast.net. We also need volunteers as marshals along the parade route and as helpers at the park afterwards. Contact the PCA office at 363-744 if you can help. The next meeting of the Parade Committee is on Thursday, May 4th, at 7:30 pm at Starland Cafe. Come along and join in if you'd like to get more involved in this wonderful annual event.

We are always looking for new local talent, so let the PCA office know if you have any recommendations for musical groups. And join with your neighbors, your children's school, your church, your dog-walking friends, or anyone else you can find to put together a float for the parade. No pre-registration is required—you simply need to show up on Whitehaven Parkway on the morning of the 4th at 10:15am (the parade starts at 11:00am). You just might win one of the wonderful prizes that are given out at the park!

— Linda Starke, July 4th Committee



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