River Watch Representatives Will Also Appear

Jack Evans Will Address Membership at March General Meeting

As Washington Post reporter Paul Schwartzman stated in the Post on February 17, "as a mayoral candidate, [Jack] Evans (D-Ward 2), whose district includes downtown and Georgetown, likes to anticipate a question he believes voters are too uncomfortable to broach in a city long known for black political dominance: “Can a white guy be elected mayor?” he asks, before delving into a sunny analysis of his own prospects.”

Well, clearly, Evans (pictured here with the Palisades’ own Frank Kameny) believes he knows the answer to that question, and that may explain why he is coming out to the Rec Center on Tuesday, March 4.

Aside from annual appearances in the July 4th Parade, Evans does not have a big footprint here in the Palisades, and does not have a clearly discernable track record on issues of local neighborhood importance. But, as Chair of the Council’s Committee on Finance and Revenue, which oversees the District’s finances and tax policy, he has seen the city balance its budget for 15 consecutive years and improve from a B- to a AAA bond rating, and he authored the Tax Parity Act of 1999, which included substantial reductions in income and property taxes for residents and businesses.

As the mayoral campaign heats up, now is perhaps the best time to draw the candidates out on issues of importance to the Palisades. PCA President Steve Waller has a list of questions ready to ask Jack Evans. What about you? What are your issues?

Come out on March 4, and bring your questions and concerns!
Your PCA Calendar
for March, 2014

The Palisades News welcomes announcements of all local events that may be enjoyed by Palisades residents!

Every Sunday, 9am - 1pm  Palisades Farmers Market  Next to the Safeway

Tuesday, March 4, 7:30pm  PCA Monthly Meeting  At the Rec Center (see pages 1, 3)

Wednesday, March 5, 7-9pm  ANC3D Monthly Meeting  American University, School of International Service, Founders Room, corner of Nebraska and New Mexico Avenues, NW. Details: www.anc3d.org.

Tuesday, March 14, 2-3:30pm  Ward 3 Citizen Advisory Group Meeting  Iona House, 4125 Albemarle Street. The goal of the CAG is to advocate and to undertake research that will empower and inform 60+ year old residents. The Chair of the CAG is Kent resident John Giacomini

Thursday, March 20, 6:45pm  Palisades Village Board Meeting  Palisades Library Conference Room  Open to the Public

Advertisement

REWARD YOURSELF

for that burst of de-cluttering you did recently, or intend to do very soon, by turning your attention to your important documents and related jottings (now that you’ve unearthed some of them).

Let Nancy Feldman, a long-time Palisades resident and community participant, help you to update or create a good, coordinated ESTATE PLAN.

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As I write this in early February, no news is good news. The folks at Safeway are working on their updated proposal, and PCA Task Force chair Spence Spencer and I have both spoken to them recently. We will give them top billing at a PCA meeting when they are ready to tell us about their new plans. Meanwhile, enjoy your PCA Farmers’ Market on 48th Place by the Safeway parking lot every Sunday morning. It is marvelous!

Our February PCA meeting again highlighted our city councilmember, Mary Cheh, who generously volunteered to substitute for the Mayor. After repeatedly promising to come to our meeting, Mr. Gray withdrew the day before the meeting. We can only speculate about the reason, as none was given. Ms. Cheh was our featured speaker in November also, so I offered her a spot on the agenda for all future PCA meetings. (Just joking.)

Councilmember Cheh updated us on her role as new chair of the Transportation Committee, giving her oversight of DDOT, DC Water, DDOE, and DCPR. A very wide portfolio! She described the Palisades Recreation Center renovation as “conventional 3 year funding”, with $1.5 million for this fiscal year and $4 million for each of the next two years. The community input period and planning will begin later this spring. The $21 million Palisades Library renovation will be done in 2015 and 2016. The Council is looking into a city-wide composting collection program, in addition to the present trash and recycling collections, and voted to oppose a ‘fracking’ project in the Potomac River watershed area of George Washington National Forest, on concerns about poisoning DC’s sole source of drinking water. Finally, Ms. Cheh spoke about the dangerous intersection of Canal and Reservoir Roads. After years of delay, all the invested government organizations may be finally working together, with a site visit last week and a promise by the National Park Service lead to turn around a repeat request for stoplight pole placement “within two weeks”. That would be lightening speed compared to the glacial response we’ve seen in the past. I favor a spiral walkway and overpass for pedestrians and bikes, but Ms. Cheh said that was beyond the imagination of the government representatives at the site visit. We can hope no one will lose their life because of such small thinking. (There are two spiral walkways over Canal Road in Maryland, both serving nobly since the 1970’s.)

A small group of Palisades citizens are still interested in the use of the Glen Echo trolley right-of-way, and they will sponsor a walk and discussion along the trail later in the spring. See page 9 for details.

Lastly, I ask you to consider taking a more active role in your PCA. We need leadership for several of our committees, and we could be a more effective community group with your input. The committees of Business, Bylaws, Education, Publicity, Taxation, and Zoning/Planning all need chairs. There will be opportunities to help plan the PCA 4th of July Parade later this spring. Past PCA president and Palisades News editor Art Watson is justifiably taking a break from his long PCA service after this year, and PCA will need someone to edit our wonderful newsletter, beginning in the fall. I would prefer to step down as president after this year, and hope to hand the gavel to an enthusiastic Palisades neighbor this summer. While we’ve mobilized a robust and pro-active Safeway response with our Task Force, these other areas would benefit from your participation. Please let me know if you have an interest in any of these opportunities.

I hope to see you on March 4th!

-- Steve Waller
PCA President
Rebecca Volkmann, an abstract painter whose work is on display at the post office through the end of March, began her undergraduate training at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and received her BFA from the Corcoran College of Art and Design.

“I have been painting and drawing as long as I can remember,” says Volkmann, who lives and works in the Palisades. “My work is based in experimentation and is by nature intuitive. Art and life for me in recent years have been about the art of quiet contemplation and inspiration. This recent inspiration is the birth of my son in 2010. My sense of pattern and texture comes from earthly things like a wasp’s outer shell, or the ordered chaos of a planted field, but also from the ethereal and atmospheric elements of life.”

Growing up, Volkmann’s family encouraged her personal growth through art. “By being taught to be observant, I began to realize the joy in sitting on the ground and picking flowers, and to notice nature around me,” she says. “My parents would give me projects that allowed me to use my imagination, such as making mud pies from a recipe, or painting the house with a bucket of water so that it looked like I was putting on a fresh coat of paint.”

Memories like these continue to inspire Volkmann’s work, “with roots in the organic and sensory engagement.” She describes her process as cyclical, rather than linear. “My focus is on careful observation and what comes out in the painting itself through color, layering, and texture. Sometimes, I have to let go of the idea of finishing a painting and instead to let it rest in between layers. The most difficult risk is to not be afraid to lose most of or all of the original image in order to show remnants of what once lay beneath.”

In addition to seeing Volkmann’s work at the Palisades post office, you can visit her Etsy storefront at www.etsy.com/shop/RebeccaEVolkmann or contact her at beckdozer@gmail.com with inquiries.

-- Shoshana Rosenbaum

The first warm day, the Octopus flashing like storms
and by mid-afternoon in the picture windows,
the snow is no more the yards gone gray,
than a washing the wet dogs barking
strewn over the yards, at nothing. Far off
the bedding rolled in knots across the cornfields
knots staked for streets and sewers,
and leaking water, the body of a farmer
the white shirts lying missing since fall
under the evergreens. will show up
Through the heaviest drifts in his garden tomorrow,
rise autumn’s fallen as unexpected
bicycles, small carnivals as a tulip,
of paint and chrome,
Safeway Update. No news is good news? As of press time, there had been no word from Safeway regarding any revisions to its proposed redevelopment of its MacArthur Boulevard property. In the meantime, on February 19 Bizjournal.com reported that "Pleasanton, Calif.-based Safeway Inc., the second-largest grocery store operator in the Washington area, may be sold. Safeway says it is in discussions about a possible sale of the company, though it didn’t identify any potential buyer or buyers and said it would have no further comment until an agreement is reached." http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2014/02/19/safeway-may-put-itself-up-for-sale.html?iana=ind_retail.

For more on the Safeway development, see page 8.

Corps Has Esprit de Tree! Our faithful correspondent Jack Koczela writes: "The Army Corps of Engineers quickly replaced the trees that their crew had erroneously cut near the Dalecarlia Waterworks, and then DOUBLED down. They had cut two, but replaced them with four new trees -- to our specifications. I thought it would be neighborly to acknowledge their good work (even if they had to "outperform" bad work). Tom Jacobus, the Director of the Washington Aqueduct water treatment facility for the Army Corps, handled this and should/could be mentioned. He was very responsive once he learned of the "mistake."

The PCA Palisades Community Fund supplied grant funds for the original trees; the Corps of Engineers paid for the replacement trees out of their own funds.

-- Jack Koczela

Have you been to the PCA website to view this Newsletter in living color? While you're there, why not subscribe to receive your own digital copy, delivered right to your own email in-box! Go to http://www.palisadesdc.org and sign up!

Don’t Forget!
VISIT THE PALISADES FARMERS MARKET EVERY SUNDAY
9AM – 1PM  between Safeway and Bassin’s
Sponsored by Your Palisades Citizens Association
Thanks for your support. See you on Sunday!
Crime Prevention Training Session: March 11

There will be a crime prevention training session on Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Columba’s Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St., NW. The training is open to anyone who wants to learn ways to reduce incidences of crime in their neighborhood. Block captains and co-captains still in need of training should also attend.

In his report at the February 4th Palisades Citizen Association meeting, Officer Anthony McElwee from the Second District police station said crime incidences were down in the neighborhood, but added that it probably was due to the recent cold weather. There were 11 crimes during the month of January, as compared to 17 crimes in January 2013. The predominant crime in the area involved theft from autos, and Officer McElwee emphasized the importance of not leaving belongings visible in cars, noting that 88 percent of the recent incidences involved unlocked vehicles.

Those interested in attending the March 11 training session can contact Karen Schaar Whale at schaarkaren@gmail.com.

-- Karen Schaar Whale

At VCA MacArthur Animal Hospital, we are a neighborhood practice that has served our community for years.

To show our appreciation for your loyalty, we have included a Gift Certificate to say "Thank You" for you to use at your next visit. Whether it's checkups, vaccinations or specialized procedures, everyone here takes pride in taking good care of the furry family members in our community.

Please feel free to call us at 202-337-0120 with any questions you may have.

Gift Certificate

$20 off Veterinary Services at
VCA MacArthur Animal Hospital

For Veterinary services only. Not valid for grooming, prescriptions and non-prescription medication, vaccines, products and pet food. Not valid with any other offer. Offer expires 12/31/2014. VSI Code: 602.90

PCA Looking For Newsletter Editor

WANTED: A PCA member to carry the PCA Newsletter into Volume 26 and beyond, starting in Fall, 2014 (or sooner if desired). Primary qualifications needed: Typing and computer skills, and a desire to dig out and write about local issues and stories of interest to the Palisades community and advance the interests and programs of the PCA. Ability to use a camera and familiarity with computer desktop publishing techniques and software a big plus. The Newsletter is published eight times a year and appears prior to each of the PCA's eight monthly general membership meetings annually.

Interested? Call PCA Administrator Anne Ourand at 202-363-7441 or email her at: palisadesdc@hotmail.com
Do You Have a Deluxe Dog (or Cat)?

At last, the vacant store next to the Palisades Veterinary Clinic has been transformed into Chien de Luxe—a boutique for all your dog needs. Cats too, it turns out. (I guess Chien et Chat de Luxe was too long a name?) It has everything you could imagine buying for a pet, and then some. Of course, food bowls and leashes and coats for this cold weather. But also paw protectors, wine bottle stoppers shaped like a dog's head, luggage tags, shot glasses with dog likenesses, fancy handbags with a dog theme, artwork, lots of jewelry, and much, much more.

Store Manager Karen Carter is an enthusiast for all things dog. She loves to meet people's pets, and she has a special treat to entice the shy ones to say hello to her. (It's a secret, so I dare not be more specific.) Carter has worked with the store's owner, Dr. Bruce Herwald, for a number of years at his various veterinary practices. But she's long hoped for a store like this where she could stock unusual gift items along with normal doggy store goods.

There are even some first-edition books on dogs, for both adults and children, kept in locked cupboards. Book collectors who might never think to look in a dog boutique might want to stop by Chien de Luxe—if you are able to spend a good sum on a rare book, that is.

Although most of the items are dog-related, cat lovers are not neglected. The store has canned cat food and snacks as well as some charming artwork that features felines. And there's a resident cat: Taco Bell, a gray charmer who was happy to touch noses with a visiting terrier. You may be able to see Taco Bell in the window display, as she's already found a favorite place to curl up.

Customers so far have been quite interested in breed-specific items rather than something on dogs in general, Carter notes. (I can vouch for that, as I bought several things that featured yellow Labs.) And gift items rather than food or clothing have been more popular to date, although that was probably due to the holidays. She has been a bit surprised to find that people even buy gifts for their friends' pets.

Carter hopes that the store will eventually be open seven days a week, from 10:30 am to 7 pm. But that depends on how many people want to shop on Sundays, the slowest day at the moment. Note that there's a fountain below the front window at dog height, as well as a hitching post you can tie your dog to while you are in the post office.


-- Linda Starke
Dear Editor,

The MacArthur Boulevard Safeway in the Palisades has been in business since 1942, soon after its namesake boulevard changed its name from Conduit Road. The store is small and crowded by modern standards, and its irregular patchwork parking lot is not charming. So when Safeway proposed to put all parking underground beneath a new store, neighbors in the Palisades listened. The price, we were told, was a skyscraper – twice the height of the tallest nearby building - with a high density of upper-floor residential units. All delivery trucks and customer vehicles would arrive and depart by a half-block zone on ‘U’ Street, just off the busy, four-lane boulevard. Pedestrian and drop-off customers would all enter the store at the corner of 48th Place and MacArthur, creating another bottleneck and funneling traffic into a residential area with few sidewalks and lots of pedestrians. With seven schools nearby, safety must be paramount.

None of these proposals met with broad community support when Safeway presented its plan to a standing-room-only Palisades Citizens Association meeting last summer. The community energy was palpable. Overnight, a large group of PCA members formed a task force to analyze all aspects of a Planned Unit Development zoning variance application, which Safeway must have before implementing its plan.

Subsequent public events with Safeway’s representatives have been billed as responses to community input, but I have not detected any substantial change in their original proposal. There must be suitable ‘benefits and amenities’ to compensate the community for the zoning change. PCA is doing its own traffic study to stay ahead of this issue. We are told that a new plan will be ready in the near future.

When Safeway comes forward with a new version of their plan, I will be looking for a more sensible alternative to the high-density, high-rise structure and the intractable traffic bottlenecks that their original proposal would have produced. The last time Palisades got a new Safeway, MacArthur Boulevard got its new name. This time we hope to keep the existing scale and character of MacArthur Boulevard when we get a new Safeway.

Steve Waller, President
Palisades Citizens Association
4815 V Street, NW
Come “Tour” the Old Glen Echo Trolley Right-of-Way

Your PCA is organizing a “tour” of the old Glen Echo trolley right-of-way on Saturday, April 5th at 10 AM, and Sunday, May 4 at 1PM. The “tour” is in conjunction with interest that some members of our community have shown in improving the right-of-way that runs from Georgetown to Galena Place to make it more accessible to a broader cross section of the Palisades. Sign-up sheets will be available at the March and April PCA meetings. You can also email Anne Ourand at palisadesdc@hotmail.com letting her know which walk you plan to attend. Signs-ups are encouraged but not mandatory. Please spread the word – the more the merrier! This is your chance to experience the beautiful trail first hand.

The tour will start where the right-of-way crosses Foxhall Road, just below the intersection of MacArthur Blvd and Foxhall Road. We will organize carpools or provide a bus leaving from the Palisades Recreation Center parking lot on both days. Be at the parking lot at 9:30 AM on April 5 and at 12:30 PM on May 4. You can also meet us where the tour will start, at Foxhall Road. The walk along the right-of-way back to the Recreation Center is less than 2 miles, and in a few places will require a bit of scrambling (e.g. crossing Clark Place, Reservoir Road, and Battery Kemble). It may also be quite muddy in places depending on recent rain fall.

Since the December PCA meeting when a resolution to support planning for a multifunctional trail along the existing Glen Echo trolley right-of-way was tabled, a group of Palisades residents who are interested in the right-of-way have been meeting to chart a way forward. The group is coordinating with various other organizations and entities which might have an interest in the right-of-way, including Georgetown University, Foxhall Village, the National Park Service, and the District government.

The group welcomes anyone with an interest in the right-of-way who is willing to look at the full range of alternatives for the right-of-way from doing very little, such as just improving drainage and managing vegetation, to constructing a hard surface trail with new bridges which would allow bicyclists to easily get all the way from the rec center to the Georgetown business district. Contact Brett Young at jojopuppyfish@yahoo.com for information regarding the next meeting of the group.

Tour Dates

Saturday, April 5
9:30am – Meet at the Palisades Rec Center
10:00am – Hike starts at Foxhall and MacArthur

Sunday, May 4
12:30pm – Meet at the Palisades Rec Center
1:00pm – Hike starts at Foxhall and MacArthur

-- Palisades Trail Committee
Did You Know?

And Now This: Readers, your PCA Newsletter is now accepting advertising! This sea change offers the great promise of allowing nearby businesses and professional corporations to promote their services to the community in the only publication that serves that community exclusively. It also offers to our neighborhood nonprofit partners, and even individual neighbors, the opportunity to publicize their good works, for example by posting a special notice of an upcoming event, and advance their prospects by placing ads with us. Individuals may place a memorial notice, or celebrate a happy event by sharing it with their neighbors.

Our ad rates will be surprisingly reasonable. To learn more about this opportunity, call Anne Ourand at 363-7441, or go to the PCA website, at www.palisadesdc.org. Thank you!