



THE PALISADES News

A Newsletter of the Palisades Citizens Association, Representing the Greater Palisades Area, Volume 28, Number 5, March 2017

March PCA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday
March 7, 7:30pm

At the Palisades Recreation
Center

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Aircraft Noise

At our March meeting **Ed Solomon**, Chairman of the DC Fair Skies Coalition, and **Marcio Duffles**, Ward 3 representative on the Reagan National Airport Community Working Group of the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority, will discuss the Coalition's efforts to reduce aircraft noise in our community.

Ed Solomon is an ANC2E Commissioner (Georgetown) and acts as the "public face" of the Coalition to push the cause for mitigating the noise of planes taking off or landing at Reagan National. Marcio Duffles advocates for Ward 3 interests on the Airport Working Group regarding revisions to aircraft flight paths, having presented a number of alternative flight paths which would reduce noise levels in the Palisades.



Out and About



Your PCA Calendar for March 2017

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

Every Sunday, 9am–1pm

Tuesday, March 1, 7-11

Saturday, March 4, 9am-1pm

Saturday, March 4, 6:30-11pm

Tuesday, March 7, 7:30-9pm

Tuesday, March 14, 6:00pm

Monday, March 20

Palisades Farmers Market

ANC 3D Meeting

Red Cross Blood Drive

Key Country Auction

General Membership Meeting

Lab School Quarterly

Community Meeting

Spring arrives

Next to Safeway

Sibley Hospital

Palisades

Community Church

Key School

Rec Center

Foxhall Campus

KEY COUNTRY AUCTION

It's time to Saddle Up! Mark your calendars and grab your boots for our auction on Saturday, March 4. We need your help in making Key School's biggest annual fundraiser a success!

Online auction: Auction will open for the Key Country Spring Auction Monday February 20th. You can bid online until March 4 for a great selection of items, including the famous sign-up parties, restaurant gift certificates, spa packages, family getaways, and so much more. These items will ONLY be available for bidding online, ending at noon on March 4.

Live auction: Join us for a festive and fun evening at Key Country on March 4, 6:30-11:00 PM, at the Key School Gymnasium. The live auction will include bidding for teacher features and a few other very special items. Buy your tickets here, <http://501auctions.com/keyschool>

[Get more info on the Auction Website](http://501auctions.com/keyschool)





From the President

Dear neighbors –

Please join us on Tuesday, March 7, for our next regular monthly meeting. The topic will be aircraft noise, and our guest speakers will be Marcio Duffles and Ed Solomon, who will update us on the latest from the DC Fair Skies Coalition. The PCA is a member of Fair Skies, along with ten other civic organizations representing areas that are affected by aircraft noise from National Airport. You can learn more about the Coalition at the website DCfairskies.org or on Facebook at “DC Fair Skies Coalition.” The meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Palisades Rec Center.

While July may seem far off, planning has already begun for the PCA’s signature annual event, the Fourth of July Parade. If you missed the organizational meeting this week, do not despair – there are still ample opportunities to volunteer! If you are interested in helping out in any way, big

or small, please contact our parade chair, Spence Spencer. We received word this week that construction on the new rec center building will begin in early summer, but nothing that would interfere with the parade and picnic will start until July 5.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the annual Easter Egg Hunt in April. Watch this space or the PCA website for more details as we get closer. It’s events like this that make this a great community, and as PCA president make me so thankful for everyone who volunteers and so proud to be part of it.



Thanks,
Nick Keenan
PCA President

Renewal Time for March People

PCA memberships expire either at the end of September or the end of March. If you are unsure whether you are a “September” or “March” person, please check your mailing label. If your membership has expired, please send in your dues (\$15 senior individual, \$20 senior family, \$25 individual, \$40 household, \$100 sponsor, \$250 patron, \$500 life) to PCA, PO Box 40603 WDC 20016. Please make your check payable to PCA. You can also renew online using PayPal or a credit card at www.palisadesdc.org.

Your PCA is looking for a new editor(s) for its newsletter, to start with the October 2017 issue. The current editors will complete three years as editors with the June 2017 issue and would like to hand off responsibility for the newsletter after that. Contact Anne Ourand at palisadesdc@hotmail.com or the current editors at moennig14@yahoo.com, for more information or to volunteer.



Out and About

Trees 101

Trees are an essential element of the neighborhood we call home. Here are some ways in which you can help preserve and enhance the treescape.

Trees on Private Property

Last year, the City updated the Tree Bill (see the Tree Canopy Protection Amendment Act of 2016) which regulates the removal of trees from private property. Removing a mature tree requires a permit from the City. Roughly speaking any tree with a diameter of greater than 14" is a Special Tree, as defined by the Tree Bill as amended, and requires a permit to be removed. Most responsible tree companies are aware of the regulations and will assist with the permitting process. Be aware, however, that a fee is charged for the removal of healthy trees based on the circumference of the tree. Dead trees, trees which are hazardous as defined by the Tree Bill, and trees of a species regarded as invasive, such as Ailanthus or Box Elder, can be removed without payment of a fee. Again, responsible tree companies can advise and assist in assessing whether a tree poses a hazard or is of a species appropriate for removal. On the brighter side, there are several programs which are available to support the planting of new trees. The simplest to utilize is Casey Trees rebate program. Casey Trees will rebate either \$100 or \$50 of the cost of a tree you plant on your property. The value of the rebate depends on the size of the tree. Larger shade trees qualify for the \$100 rebate, smaller trees for the \$50 rebate. Just file a copy of your receipt with the application form available on the Casey Trees web site. The RiverSmart Homes program requires more time and effort. However, under RiverSmart Homes, Casey Trees will advise on tree selection, as well as provide and plant your tree, for a relatively modest \$50 co-pay. (Pepco offers a similar program, Right Tree, Right Place Program, which also involves Casey Trees, and has committed to planting 250 trees in the district on a first come/first served basis. Applications available at Pepco.com.) The RiverSmart Homes program involves an assessment of the suitability of your property for rain barrels, bay-scaping, rain gardens, and tree-plantings to reduce rainwater runoff. Applications for a RiverSmart Home evaluation are available at the DC Department of the Environment web site, or at Casey Trees.

Palisades Community Center Modernization

The project is moving forward, with completion of design and the start of construction expected this spring. The Department of Recreation (DPR) and Department of General Services (DGS) project team plan to meet with the community mid-late March, but no specific date has yet been scheduled. The DPR and DGS project team will work with the PCA, ANC and the community to insure that construction does not impact the community's annual 4th of July celebration. In addition, once construction begins the project team is committed to providing the community with monthly updates. All project inquiries should be forwarded to Jackie.stanley@dc.gov or (202) 431-1195.

Palisades Library

It's official. The Library will close on Saturday, March 4, at 5:30, to begin its modernization project. The library is expected to re-open in the late fall. Books and other material can be checked out through March 4, but may have to be returned at another branch, go to <http://www.dclibrary.org/hours-locations>. Any material which has been placed on hold and has not been picked up by March 4 will be relocated to the Georgetown Library, 3260 R St. NW, on March 6.

Lab School of Washington Swimming Pool

The Lab School of Washington has shared with the community a letter to Lab School Families which addresses potential changes to their facilities on the Reservoir Road campus. Of particular relevance to the Palisades community is possibility that the swimming pool, which is currently available for use by members of the community on a limited basis, will be replaced by a full-size theatre. No final decision has yet been made, and there are several steps remaining in the feasibility study before the decision is finalized. However, should the plan to repurpose the pool be approved, the school is committed to keeping the pool fully operational until the end of the 2017-18 swim season.



News and Notes

DC Fair Skies Coalition

Below is an excerpt from the January 27, 2017 Fair Skies Coalition press release that summarizes its recent filing to DC Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

Northwest DC Neighborhood Associations file Opening Brief to challenge disruptive new aircraft noise created by the FAA's new northern departure flight path

Residents of communities near the Potomac including Georgetown are increasingly subjected to excessive aircraft noise, eroding the quality of life and damaging property values. In Spring 2015, the FAA authorized a new northern flight path called LAZIR that brings planes over Georgetown and Georgetown University and nearby communities including Foggy Bottom, Foxhall, Hillandale, Burleith, Colony Hill and Palisades as early as 5 am and well after midnight. The number of flights has also increased. The resulting significant increase in aircraft noise is disruptive to the peace and quiet of all residents near the new flight path.

As a result of residents' growing frustration with this nightly elevation in noise levels, in August 2015, Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG) and the other communities near the Potomac River, joined by Georgetown University, filed a Petition for Review of the new flight path with the DC Federal Circuit Court of Appeals challenging the new northern route as unlawful. CAG vs FAA, DC Cir Case No. 15-1285. The Petitioners also formed the DC Fair Skies Coalition to pursue aircraft noise mitigation and filed a formal petition with the FAA seeking relief from the aircraft noise this new route has caused. Not only are residents seeking relief from this noise, but Mayor Bowser, City Councilman Jack Evans and all at large Council members declared their support for an immediate change to this flight path and co-signed the petition.

The Coalition had hoped to come to a settlement with the FAA via mediation but unfortunately mediation failed. As a result, the Coalition recently filed its Opening Brief with the Court of Appeals. The brief argues that the FAA improperly instituted LAZIR without the required environmental review of noise impacts and did so without any notice to the impacted communities or their elected representatives. The brief explains why an environmental review of LAZIR is required and was not performed and seeks a Court order requiring the FAA to revert to the former flight path for northern departures until the required review is performed.

We expect that the FAA will file its response to the brief and the Coalition will then file its reply. We expect oral argument to be scheduled before summer.

The Coalition needs your donations and contributions are tax deductible

If you are frustrated by aircraft noise, please support the Coalition's Aircraft Noise Fund. Appellate litigation is a marathon not a sprint and we need to raise an additional \$60,000 more to continue to fight the FAA. Please donate now to DCFairSkies.org/donate.

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News and Notes

PALISADES VILLAGE HELPS NEIGHBORS STAY AT HOME AND REMAIN ACTIVE

Do you or do know of a friend or family member that wants to maintain independence but needs a little extra help?

Do you or a loved one need a ride to a medical appointment?

Do you or a loved one need help getting groceries or picking up a prescription?

Do you seek opportunities to socialize and remain active in the community?

Palisades Village is here for you, your friends and loved ones. For nearly a decade Palisades Village has been helping seniors to “age in place” and remain engaged in community. The Village provides services that enable older neighbors to remain safe, active and socially connected in their neighborhoods, while continuing to live in their own homes as long as possible.

The volunteer-based organization provides transportation, errand services and shopping, in-home visits, medical notetaking, reading to the visually impaired, helping with household chores and simple repairs, snow shoveling, yard work and teaching technology skills. Volunteers are available both during the weekdays and weekends!

In addition to support services, Palisades Village offers a social life close to home! Want to attend a luncheon, tea or cocktail hour prepared by The Palisades Pan Handlers? These semi- professional chefs prepare delectable meals and treats for our social gatherings. In addition to social events, the Village offers speakers on aging and health related issues, political discussions, concerts, plays, webinars, tech camps, activities with children of all ages, book talks, movies and outings to the Capitol, Supreme Court, museums and other historical places. Participate in our Investment Club, Book Club, play games, attend our Storytelling group or join our Yoga class. Come join the fun!

Upcoming events in March include Book Club, tech camp, school/Village partnership event, Emergency Preparedness, Rehab 101, The Way of St. James talk, a social luncheon, Phillips tour, Carlos Rosario tour and

luncheon, Yoga, Storytelling, Investment Club and volunteer training.

You can also join as an associate member or friend of Palisades Village and are welcome to attend all of the social events. Or consider becoming a Palisades Village volunteer

For more information on membership or volunteer opportunities, please call the Palisades Village office at 202-244-3310 or e-mail

asaccoccia@palisadesvillage.org. Subsidized memberships are also available.



Check out the support groups meeting regularly for caregivers (children or spouses), and more specifically for memory loss, dementia, and Parkinsons; and the large variety of fitness classes, including yoga, Tai Chi, Qi Gong, as well as courses focused on improving strength, balance and posture.

Iona is conveniently located at 4125 Albemarle St. NW.

Helpline specialists are available weekdays from 9am-5pm at (202) 895-9448 to listen to concerns, answer questions, and connect callers to the resources, services and programs they need.



News and Notes

Fletcher's Cove Grant Application Denied

In February the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) informed the Friends of Fletcher's Cove (FFC) group that its grant application for the sampling and characterization of cove sediment was not selected. A Request for Applications for "projects to increase boating access for recreational boaters to the waterways of the District of Columbia" had been issued on October 14, 2016 with a deadline of December 5, 2016. Selected applicants would receive federal funds for up to 75% of the project cost, potentially matching in triple the \$33,000 FFC has raised to date.

FFC has appealed the DOEE decision. Our appeal letter points to the many months of consensus building undertaken last year to prepare for an essential maintenance dredging of Fletcher's Cove: "Many FFC stakeholders have worked hard to create and submit the

application for a grant from the Fisheries and Wildlife division, which identifies the critical and required first step in restoring public access to the Potomac River via Fletcher's Cove. Our Boating Access application was presented after being vetted by members of the National Park Service, United States Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Fish & Wildlife, C&O Canal Trust, and other members of the community." DOEE director Tommy Wells and Bryan King, head of Fisheries and Wildlife, have enthusiastically supported our cause in the past.


It is suggested that concerned residents of Palisades visit the FFC website, friendsoffletcherscove.org, to view all documents pertaining to the grant application. Please click on the "Recent Events" tab under "FFC Reports" on the home page. We hope to have further information available at the PCA General Membership Meeting on March 7.

Mark Binsted
Friends of Fletcher's Cove

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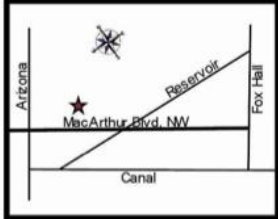



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THE PALISADES News

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Material must be submitted to the editors by the middle of the month for inclusion in next month's newsletter.

Annual dues for Membership in the PCA: Individual \$25, Senior Couple (over \$65) \$20, Senior Individual \$15, Household \$40, Sponsor \$100, Patron \$250, Life \$500
To join or for additional information, contact the PCA Administrator: 202-363-7441 or palisadesdc@hotmail.com

Membership Update

PCA memberships expire either at the end of September or the end of March. If you are unsure whether you are a "September" person or a "March" person, please check your mailing label. If your membership has expired, please send in your dues (\$15 senior individual, \$20 senior family, \$25 individual, \$40 household, \$100 sponsor, \$250 patron, \$500 life) to PCA, PO Box 40603, WDC 20016. Please make your check payable to **PCA**. You can also renew on line using PayPal or a credit card. Go to www.palisadesdc.org and follow the easy instructions. We have PAL magnets for all paid up members. Please call the office at 363-7441 if you'd like one. Thank you for your continued support.

PCA Officers for 2016/2017

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