

the ACORN

A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG
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FALL 2013

Assistant MPD Chief to Speak at WPCA Fall Meeting

Assistant Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, Diane Groomes, will be the featured speaker at WPCA's fall meeting to be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 9 at the Stanford in Washing-



ton, 2661 Connecticut Avenue in the lower level Distance Learning Center. Groomes will make a brief presentation on crime in Woodley Park, MPD's strat-

egy to address it, the latest neighborhood and city-wide MPD initiatives, crime tips and city-wide trends. She and MPD-2 Commander Michael Reese will be available at the end of the presentation to address questions from the audience.

On September 23, 2007, Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier promoted Diane Groomes to Assistant Chief in charge of the Patrol Services and School Security Bureau. Groomes joined MPD in October 1990. She began her career in the Fourth District and later served in progressively higher level ranks in the Fifth and Third Districts, prior to joining the MPDC Command Staff in 2004 as an Inspector. She served the First District as the Commander beginning in 2005. Groomes holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The meeting will open with elections for officers and at-large members of the WPCA Executive Committee. The terms of all four officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) and of three of the six at-large members expire with the upcoming elections. Announced candidates are as follows:

President, Peter Brusoe; Vice President, Paul Poe; Treasurer, Warren Gorlick; Secretary, Emily Wagner; and three At-Large positions, Sarah Ensign, Bill Kummings and Zev Lewis.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. Newly elected officers and At-large members of the Executive Committee will take office at the end of the meeting. Everyone is invited to attend, both members and non-members alike.

Bill Menczer

Guaranteed Ride Home for Free!

Have you ever experienced one of life's many unpredictable and unexpected emergencies and needed a way to get home from work late at night? Perhaps you had a personal illness or a sick dependent and had to get home right away in the middle of the day. Sometimes you might have experienced unscheduled overtime when your boss required you to work late. Under all of these circumstances, you could get a FREE and reliable ride home.

Guaranteed ride home (GRH) programs provide commuters who regularly (at least twice a week) either carpool, vanpool, bike, walk, or take public transportation to work, with a free ride home when these emergencies arise. Commuters in the program may take advantage of this up to four times a year. You must be using one of these alternative commute modes on the day you request a GRH. GRH rescues commut-

ers who are concerned about how they will get home when an emergency arises. Knowing that there is a GRH available allows one to use commuting options such as public transportation and carpools with peace of mind and confidence. It has been shown to increase the use of alternative commuting methods and to reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles in the commute to work.

The program, sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Commuter Connections, uses several taxi companies, a rental car agency, and a paratransit service provider to supply the GRH transportation to get the commuter to his/her destination quickly and safely. Their dispatcher determines the best method under the circumstances presented. There are no vouchers to obtain or redeem since

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WPCA'S MISSION

To maintain and advance the quality of Woodley Park as an in-town, generally residential community; to preserve and enhance the social, physical and historic characteristics of the neighborhood and historic places within and adjacent to it; to provide a forum for exchange of information and discussion of issues relevant to the area; and to represent residents before governmental and other entities.

Any resident of the neighborhood may join WPCA, as may the operator of any neighborhood business that provides goods or services to Woodley Park residents.

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Vice President :: Paul Poe

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THE ACORN

:: Editorial Board ::

John Goodman, Bill Menczer

The Acorn is published by WPCA and delivered free of charge to WPCA members and others in the Woodley Park community.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and submissions.

Contact us :: wpcadc@aol.com

Website :: www.wpcaonline.org

*A special thanks to
Stanford University,
Ace Hardware,
Lebanese Taverna and
the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
for their support of WPCA
in recent months.*

Italian Pizza Kitchen

The Italian Pizza Kitchen is an Italian themed restaurant located at 2608 Connecticut Ave, NW. It does just more than provide mouthwatering pizza as they have a wide variety of offerings including pastas, Stromboli, Panini, and assorted other delicacies.

Recently I sampled the cuisine for this restaurant review. The ambiance of the restaurant is quite nice with a rustic Mediterranean look and lovely artistic accents on the wall. The dining room is dominated by a massive plasma television. This is great for watching college basketball, but can be distracting for a group dinner or dinner with friends.

The wait staff warmly greeted me and I was able to be seated quickly. The wine list is decent, featuring several good heart wines perfect for a person on a budget. The bruschetta is outstanding with just enough cheese to add that special flavor to it. The bread is lightly baked with enough flavoring to make it taste very sweet. I ordered a tasty Italian calzone which was amazing, with a succulent blend of meats and cheese. The sauce was thick with a nice consistency that brought in the flavor of the meal together quite nicely. The wait staff was amazingly attentive and made the dining a true experience!

The Italian Pizza Kitchen is open 11AM-11PM Sunday through Thursday. On Friday and Saturday it is open from 11AM to midnight. The prices range from \$4.00 for breadsticks to \$18 for a large specialty pizza. Most entrees fall within the \$11-\$13 price range. There are many happy hour specials and discounted appetizers as well as promotions for certain sporting events. The Italian Pizza Kitchen also offers delivery by calling (202) 364-1010 or by online ordering from [the restaurant's website](#).

Peter Brusoe



Money for Neighborhood Projects

Most people know that Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) have influence regarding liquor licenses, zoning applications and renovations in historic districts. Many know that your ANC commissioner can help you navigate District government bureaucracies. But did you know that the ANC can also be a source of funding for local community activities? Well, it can.

Each ANC receives money from the DC government, allocated based on the population covered by each commission. Last year, ANC3C, which includes Woodley Park and is one of the larger ones in the city, was allotted more than \$21,000.

This money is used to support regular commission activities such as renting an office or hiring an administrator. It can also be used as special needs arise, such as hiring a lawyer to represent the commission in a zoning appeal. Some years, more than half of it was used to make grants.

A commission may make a grant to an "organization" for a "public purpose" in its territory. ANC3C's grant guidelines are [on its website](#). Significantly, the Commission will not make a grant to fund an activity or project in full; funds must be acquired from other sources as well. ANC3C is considering updating the guidelines and might add an online application form.

ANC3C has helped fund projects in Woodley Park. For example, it supported the restoration and improvement of the triangle-shaped park at the intersection of

(Continued on page 6)

Reflections on Woodley Park through the Eyes of an Advocate

Jeans and pearls. Bold yet humble. Gutsy but caring. Sally MacDonald. In July, we said goodbye to a delightful Woodley Park neighbor and tenacious community activist. Sally and husband David let the third generation assume the Woodley Park family home, so fortunately they have not gone far or for long! This month, Sally took time to reflect on highlights of over fifty years of life in Woodley Park.

As a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of D.C., Sally genuinely cares about preservation and education of history and heritage, specifically in Woodley Park. As a new resident to Woodley Park in 1961---and to this day---Sally treasures the value in keeping historical records, consulting life-long inhabitants, sharing local memories and being mindful of the impact of both density and commercialism.

Sally grew up as a political kid, and moved from Capitol Hill to Woodley Park in high school. As a "famous daughter", politics and journalism were part of her DNA. Sally's mother, Sarah McClendon, was an insightful and articulate journalist highly regarded for decades of pursuing and getting responses from Presidents. The morning after his inauguration, President Clinton gave Sarah McClendon a kiss and said; "Now I know I am really here!"

Despite Sally's inherited fame, she holds her own when it comes to local politics and clever tactics to sparking attention and triggering action. Once she began a blog that led to changing the Woodley Park streetlight system. Frustrated over both a failing system of streetlights and the bureaucracy that denied its repair, she launched a blog to vent: *Diary of Darkness*. Sally blogged in the darkness for weeks, ultimately prompting the electric company to change the streetlight system, use her as a consultant and begin the work on her birthday! Her blog later became a record used to petition Congress to appropriate funds for surrounding neighborhoods that had "light envy" given the bright new Woodley Park system outshined the rest.

Sally remains centered but not self-centered, despite her known presence at "The Center of The Universe". As a past Woodley Park Community Association (WPCA) president, she staged a march of local residents with the targeted destination on Cathedral Avenue by the bus stop near 29th street. After Sally's unresolved persistent complaints asking for repairs to a hole at the location, Mayor Anthony William's staff sarcastically asked if the WPCA thought they were the center of the universe. Oh my, they shouldn't have. That remark inspired Sally to rally a group from infants to 80-year olds for the march, and to leverage her publicity skills to persuade local media to

sound the horn. When she invited the water/sewer company to join in, they repaired the hole overnight instead, leaving her marchers without a cause and the neighborhood without a hole. The location is now aptly named The Center of The Universe.

While Sally is indeed charming, it is her parking charm that insures she is kept in high demand. She divulged a life-long family secret: women in her family have an innate ability to score a parking place by the door of their destination. She took advantage of this inner charm all of her driving life and on both sides of the pond and road, from DC to London. If Sally can harness this gift, she may be in for a lucrative retirement.

As an ANC Commissioner, Sally tackled parking from another angle. One challenge was in resolving a tricky parking dilemma during construction at the Swiss Embassy. The ANC denied the proposed one-year Cathedral Avenue parking ban (thank you very much) and then formed a committee to coordinate the trucks and traffic.

When asked for words of wisdom to Woodley Park residents taking the baton and making the community an even better place to call home, she recommended paying careful attention to issues and working together to solve them. Sally shared something dear that she unknowingly learned from her mother: she simply expects and takes for granted that problems are to be solved. "The question", Sally stated, "is how and by whom!" Sarah was feisty but shy, with a powerful confidence that stemmed from her faith in "the people", coupled with a belief that equipped with the right information, people would make the right decisions. She saw it as her prerogative to press in to get the answers. Sally's success in impacting the Woodley Park community is rooted in that same belief system and approach.

As Sally reflected on what she misses the most about Woodley Park, she cited the pleasant city streets that were always a surprise when visitors first discover the neighborhood. The trees and greenery captured her attention and are etched in her memory. Both Sally and David have fond memories at The Zoo Bar and more recently at LiLLies Restaurant and Bar, another local favorite hotspot. In a word, Sally labeled Woodley Park as "green", while David described it "cozy". Green and cozy as it is, it was Woodley Park's quiet elegance that drew them here.

Thank you, Sally and David, for leaving a mark on Woodley Park!

Annie Glenn

(Ride Home continued from page 1)

the dispatcher will provide the commuter with a Trip Authorization Number that you provide to either the rental car agency or the taxi driver. Commuter Connections will pay the taxi company directly, excluding the gratuity which is the passenger's responsibility. If a rental car is authorized, then the car agency will normally pick you up from work and take you to the nearest rental office. The hours for which this program operates is

6:00 am to 10:00 pm during weekdays. Commuters must be working and residing in the metropolitan DC and Baltimore areas, as further defined on the Commuter Connections website.

In order to preserve GRH funds for real emergencies, the program may not be used for public transportation disruptions, natural disasters, personal errands, previously scheduled appointments, trips to the hospital or emergency room, weather emergencies,

building closings or evacuations, business travel or working late without your boss's approval.

To register for this great benefit (at no cost to you), go to [the COG website](#) or call 800-745-RIDE. Once enrolled, be sure to renew your membership annually.

Bill Menczner

Stop! Don't Click That Link!

You sit in front of your computer. Time to check your mail. Look, there's a message from your friend, Joe. The subject is "Hey Bill". That's personal. The message is terse:

check this out <http://msnbc.msn.com-x7.us/jobs/>

Joe knows you're looking for new opportunities. Let's see, shall we. You click on the link.

What happens? First, it disables your anti-virus. Next, it reads your e-mail and sends similar messages to everyone in your contact list, so they get e-mail from someone they know, and the malware propagates. Pop-ups start appearing, some saying your system is infected and to click a link to get help. They'll want a credit card number first, and you are charged thousands of dollars, but get no help. What else? The malware may download and break all of your password files. It may install a keylogger, recording every keystroke, including logon info for sites you access, such as bank, credit card, PayPal, and Amazon sites. Then they get into those accounts and abuse them. Maybe it downloads every document on your computer. Anything sensitive there? Maybe it turns your computer into a Web server, a repository for pirate software or even pornography. All of this has made your computer unusable and put all of your data at risk.

How did you recover? You called Norton Security, which, for \$100, spent four hours cleaning your system. They recover it, but not everyone is so lucky. When was the last time you backed up your computer?

This is what happened to one of your *Acorn* editors. He wasn't careful, and he paid a price. So how do you avoid the danger:

- Most importantly, never click a link in an e-mail unless it was something you were expecting or have confidence it is indeed legitimate. To increase your confidence, the e-mail should have more than a generic message, maybe: "Bill, following up on our talk yesterday at Clyde's, here's a possible job."
- If you have any doubt, reply back to confirm. If they confirm, your confidence went up, but there's a

chance the hacker is in the account, so you might call.

- Look at the link address, the part after <http://> and before the first single slash. It looks like MSNBC, but addresses are read right-to-left. So the primary address is "com-x7.us". That doesn't look like MSNBC, which would be msnbc.com.
- Even if the address looks correct, the actual address can be different. Usually, you can hover your mouse over a link to show the true URL, especially when a message says something like, "Click [here](#)," where "here" is a link. If the URLs don't match, be wary.
- Even legitimate-looking links can be deceiving. What's the difference between google.com and goog1e.com? The latter has the number "1" in place of the small "l". What's wrong with whitehouse.com? You were probably looking for whitehouse.gov. Would you notice the differences between www.microsoft.com, www.micrsoft.com, www.micosoft.com, or www.mircosoft.com in an e-mail?
- Never enter your user ID, password, social security number, account number, etc., at any site you accessed through e-mail. If an e-mail says to click to go to your banking site, don't use the link. Open a new browser page and enter the proper address that way, as you usually do to access the site. Note that fake sites usually look EXACTLY like the real sites to fool you into divulging your access information.

The lesson is, even messages from people you know may be malicious. Do not click e-mail links unless you KNOW they are legitimate. When in doubt, confirm. If you do get infected, change every password to every site that you have saved or accessed on your computer. It's a lot of work, but it's better than losing all of your money.

David Ensign

Summer Starts off with the WPCA Picnic

The annual WPCA Picnic was held on June 22, 2013. It was the perfect way for over 200 neighbors to celebrate the first full day of Summer. While the event is made possible by the

Woodley Park Community Association, volunteers once again were an essential part of its success. This year, there were nearly 40 volunteers, ranging in age from 8 to 80. The park was transformed into a festive scene with the help of flowers, balloons, and of course some great food. New this year was a fabulous and delicious contribution of hummus platters and house salad by the



Lebanese Taverna. It was a wonderful complement to our tasty burgers, hotdogs, tabbouleh, and guacamole. If you weren't in the mood for all of

that, you could make your way over to the popcorn machine thoughtfully provided by **Ace Hardware** and operated by its store manager! It was a real treat and thoroughly enjoyed by

neighbors of all ages. Children were delighted once again by the balloon artist, who skillfully twisted their wishes into reality. The time flew by, and there were still several tables filled with neighbors catching up, relaxing, or eating as the picnic wound down to a close for another year. A great time was had by all.

Looking forward to next year. If you would like to volunteer or have suggestions for future picnics, please let us know.

Sarah Taber

All Souls Construction Update

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church continues to move forward with plans to make the church accessible for individuals with limited mobility. Groundbreaking on a \$1.5 million modernization project is expected to take place this September with a target completion date of April 2014.

Since 2005, a primary goal for the growing parish has been to allow ease-of-access to the building's lower floor, where social and business events are held. At present, parishioners and guests with limited mobility must either forego participating in key church activities or rely upon ready hands to help transport them—by hand—up and down narrow stairs.

To realize its goal of "Living Up to Our Name," All Souls contracted with Virginia-based MTF Architecture to develop a master plan and lay out a building program. The firm's final design calls for an addition on the southwest side of the building that will house an elevator, allow access to nearby parking, and integrate a new entrance to the church with a fully accessible meditation garden. All Souls will also install two fully accessible bathrooms, upgrade landscaping, and complete additional renovations.

Early feasibility studies called attention to related problems, including sidewalk deterioration, fence damage, inadequate

drainage, and damaged or outdated equipment and mechanical systems. The church is already addressing much of this in stages. For example, to cover repairs to the church's 40 stained glass windows, All Souls applied for—and was awarded—a significant grant from the MARPAT Foundation.

All Souls presented its renovation before the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the Woodley Park Community Association, and at other forums. Modernization will better connect the now-underutilized building to its Woodley Park neighbors, some of whom are already familiar with All Souls from local meetings held there. "All Souls right now is under-utilized in terms of how the building could be used. We hope that modernization will better connect us to our Woodley Park neighbors, some of whom already attend various events here," said Dale Lewis, the Church's Senior Warden.

Information on the project, including drawings and renderings, is available on [the All Souls website](#). Please feel free to contact church leaders [Dale Lewis](#) or [Jeff Wells](#) with questions, comments, or concerns.

Stephanie Clipper

Unique Village Broadens Aging-in-Place Options for Woodley Park Residents

Most people would prefer to live in their neighborhood for a lifetime. But aging often makes performing everyday tasks difficult, even downright impossible. Physical decline can get in the way of keeping up friendships and community connections thus isolating a person in his or her home. On May 1, 2013 the Cleveland Park Village opened its doors to help residents age in place, joining 11 other local villages operating or currently under development in the District.

The Cleveland Park Village, a nonprofit membership organization, serves both Cleveland Park and Woodley Park. Its mission aims to help senior neighbors live safely and confidently in their own homes and engage in community activities through the

support of dedicated neighborhood volunteers. Susan Hester is the founding Executive Director and only paid Cleveland Park Village staff member. Her goals for the first year are to make this Village "a reliable neighborhood resource; to create a corps of dependable volunteers; to become a visible neighborhood presence; and to enhance

community spirit."

The Village provides services to members through its corps of neighborhood volunteers. Members submit requests for services by phone or email, weekdays 9 AM to 5 PM to Village staff



who coordinate member requests with the volunteers. A qualified and trained volunteer is selected who then accepts the assignment and confirms the assignment directly with the member.

A successful Village depends on a network of dedicated neighborhood volunteers. After careful screening and a two hour orientation, volunteers are

ready to accept assignments. The Village currently has 90 capable volunteers serving 70 members. From May 1 through July 15 there were 95 acts of service provided by 33 volunteers for 32 Village members. The Village needs volunteers for organizational support and community connections, especially in Woodley Park. Current opportunities are: pro bono graphics and layout assistance, hosting events, serving on committees, staffing tables at community events, and phone and computer help in the office.

Susan Hester welcomes all inquiries about the Village: "We are eager to meet Woodley Park residents who are curious about whether the Cleveland Park Village will suit them. We aim to help build neighborhood connections in Woodley Park with a good number of members and volunteers. Please contact us for more information." By phone, 202 615-5853, [email](#) or on [the organization's website](#).

Jane Howard and Village Board Member Elizabeth Fox

Fall Yard Preparations

Temperatures are getting cooler, and with this comes a new season of duties for those of us who are lucky enough to have yards. Besides the usual raking, there are some actions you can take to make sure you are ready for the winter and have a fantastic yard when spring arrives. Mulching, lawn seeding and fertilizing, and tree planting are great ways to take advantage of this time.

Fall is the perfect time to lay down new mulch. Highly effective in retaining moisture and preventing weeds from growing in spring and summer, mulch is a fantastic insulator for extreme temperatures and protects plants' roots from the constant freezing and thawing during the winter. While good for maple syrup, this cyclical process wreaks havoc on dormant plants. Perhaps the most famous of mulch-needy plants are rose bushes. To get them ready for the cold months, put down a 10 to 12 inch layer of mulch around the base of the bush after the first frost to keep the root system nice and cozy. Be careful though, putting down mulch too early will trick your plant into starting a new growth spurt, which can cause great harm to the plant during freezing temperatures!

Now that we are out of the lawn-frying temperatures of July and August, it is a great time to patch up your lawn and give it the nutrients it needs for hearty growth in the spring. DC is in the transition zone of grass planting. Because of our climate, both cool season and warm season grasses can be used in our area. The latter tend to turn brown and go dor-

mant when temperatures drop below 60 degrees. If you are using cool seeds like Kentucky bluegrass, fescue or rye grass, now is the time to plant. Using slow release fertilizer sends nutrients to the grass, and allows it store carbohydrates for the winter months so that it may have strong growth and good color by spring time. Late fall fertilization also helps the grass look good and healthy during the snow-less winter months we so often experience.

Fall does not seem like obvious choice to put in trees, but due to the cooler weather, it is the perfect time for new additions your yard to develop roots in time spring growth. Plant-

new trees in the summer can lead to damaging shock as the plant does not have enough time to develop a system to get water and nutrients up through the trunk. By planting trees in the fall, roots are able to dig into the ground while it is still soft without having to keep foliage growing in baking temperatures. When planting your tree, use a wide, shallow hole as opposed to a deep one. This allows roots to spread out more, as they tend to do naturally. Using the soil you dug up to fill in the hole you made is the perfect way to start your tree off right.

Brian Stauber is the Manager of Woodley Park Hardware. He has had previous experience working in landscaping and locally owned garden centers. If you have any questions, he can be reached [via email](#) at or by phone at 202-503-1485.

(Continued from page 2)

29th Street and Woodley Road, NW. It has also made grants for the benefit of the Oyster-Adams Bilingual school.

Are there projects you think would benefit the neighborhood? ANC3C cannot provide all the money, but it can certainly help make it a reality. If you want to talk through any ideas, the [members of the WPCA board](#) are available. And, of course, your ANC commissioner can help you through the process.



:: MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM ::

NAME:: _____

STREET ADDRESS:: _____

E-MAIL:: (Including your e-mail address will allow us to send you meeting notices and periodic updates.) _____

AREAS OF INTEREST/CONCERN:: _____

SIGNATURE:: _____ DATE:: _____

Contribution :: \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

WPCA membership is free of charge, but we seek contributions to cover expenses.

WPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please mail your completed **Membership Registration Form** to:

WPCA MEMBERSHIP DESK, P.O. Box 4852, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

Checks should be made to Woodley Park Community Association.

You can also join, renew and contribute [online](#)

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Upcoming Stanford Gallery Exhibit

The next exhibit at Stanford in Washington will open in December 2013 and will be called, "A Woman with a View: The Life and Land of Alice Ferguson". Alice and her husband Henry, who lived in Woodley Park in the 30's and 40's, purchased a farm in 1922 in the wilds of Accokeek, Maryland across the Potomac from Mount Vernon. Their story is a fascinating illustration of a wealthy American family living in the first half of the 20th century. They were the center of the community on Hard Bargain Farm; hosting friends, providing food to the neighbors during the Great Depression, and launching municipal staples like a library and a firehouse. The exhibit will use original photos, documents, and artifacts to tell the story of the Fergusons as well as contextualize their story in American history. Additionally, the exhibit will showcase the design and preservation of the 330-acre property that still stands today as a working farm.

Emma Ogiemwanye



WPCA, P.O. Box 4852, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

WPCA Member?

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