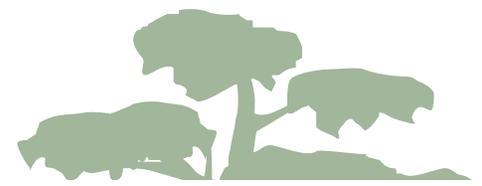


# the ACORN

A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG  
WPCADC@AOL.COM

FALL 2006

## WPCA Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Association will take place on October 26th at All Souls Memorial Church, 2300 Cathedral Avenue. It will start at 7 pm.

We expect to have a full agenda.

- ❖ Inspector Andy Solberg, Acting Commander of the Second District of the Metropolitan Police Department, will speak to us and answer your questions.
- ❖ We will elect five at-large members of the WPCA Executive Committee.
- ❖ We will discuss and vote on proposed changes to the Association's bylaws.

At the Executive Committee meeting in early September, Wayne Fisher, Nan Simpson and Stephanie Zobay were appointed to the Nominating Committee for this election. They have reported the following nominations for the at-large positions: Barbara Ioanes, Elba Morales, Ronnie Rosenwasser, Terry Shea and Jay Sushelsky. Nominations may also be made the night of the meeting. Information about them will be on the Website, <http://www.wpcaonline.org/Elections>.

The Executive Committee is working on revisions to WPCA's bylaws, which it hopes to present to the membership for a vote at the meeting. Changes being considered include having all elections at the fall meeting (instead of splitting them between spring and fall), clarifying the process for members to call special meetings, and changing the number and terms of at-large Executive Committee members. The proposal will be on the Website, <http://www.wpcaonline.org/Bylaws>.

We hope to see you there.

—John Goodman

## JBG Construction Moves Ahead



If you live in Woodley Park, it's hard to miss the construction that is going on at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. The owner of the property, The JBG Companies, plans to reconfigure the hotel and build a condominium tower on the 16-acre parcel of land. There has also been some talk — though nothing definite — about converting portions of the hotel into condominium residences.

Residents of the neighborhood have various opinions about the project. Many look forward to the conversion of hotel rooms to condos, and the chance to trade tourists with fannypacks for permanent residents. Others are concerned about adding hundreds of new people (and their cars) to the neighborhood. Many people like elements of the reconfiguration of the hotel; others mourn the loss of dozens of mature trees that were sacrificed to the project. Most are concerned about the height and mass of the proposed nine-story condo building that would tower over its neighbors.

### Construction Activity

The first step in the JBG project is to enlarge the loading dock at the southeast corner of the

property. This will allow JBG to eliminate the loading dock that is reached through the Woodley Road entrance to the property, and should keep large trucks making deliveries to the hotel off that street.

The second step — which is the one that is so visible now — is digging up the hotel's front lawn to build an underground garage. Excavation should be complete by late October, and concrete operations will begin after that.

### WPCA's Response

In July, WPCA and ANC3C appealed the DC Zoning Administrator's decision allowing JBG to build a garage. The grounds for the appeal are spelled out in a document on the JBG construction page of our Website: <http://www.wpcaonline.org/jbg/>. It is scheduled to be heard by the Board of Zoning Adjustment on December 12th.

In connection with this project, JBG asked for permission to build two new driveways across Woodley Road for the proposed condominium. In April, the WPCA membership voted overwhelmingly to oppose these applications, and WPCA submitted two letters in opposition. In

see JBG page 2



# The Mayor's Draft Comprehensive Plan

Last month, the City Council began reviewing the Mayor's Draft Comprehensive Plan, which Mayor Williams wants adopted by the end of the year. The Woodley Park Community Association is monitoring the document's development because, among other things, it's a roadmap for neighborhood development over the next 20 years.

## Plan Development

At 500-plus pages, the Draft Comprehensive Plan has been a work-in-progress since fall 2004, including citizen participation via community workshops and an advisory Plan Revision Task Force. It covers both citywide policies and area elements, which would replace the current ward plans. The citywide policy sections address issues such as land use, transportation, housing, economic development, environmental protection, infrastructure, urban design, historic preservation, and community services and facilities. Woodley Park falls in the Rock Creek West area element, bounded by Rock Creek Park on the east, Western Avenue, Canal Road up to the reservoir and then north where it includes the Foxhall Crescents and Glover Park neighborhoods.

## Unanswered Questions

Many concerns have been raised about the plan, among them:

- The plan is not a true plan. It is neither prescriptive nor proscriptive. It does not say what will be done, how decisions will be made, or indicate how specific land use issues will be resolved. Instead, it mostly provides general guidance and policies with conflicting policies and objectives.
- It reduces protections for District residents to enforce plan recommendations.
- It supports development over the interests of citizens.
- It does not address the quality of public education.
- It does not address traffic issues, but encourages efficiency improvements.
- Overlays zones, such as the one in Woodley Park, could be eliminated.
- Many of the action steps for Rock Creek West are process-oriented (consider, study, etc.) rather than calls for specific action.

Because of the serious concerns about the plan, the Federation of Citizens Associations of D.C./

Committee of 100 on the Federal City wrote to Linda Cropp, Chair of the City Council, on August 18 requesting a delay in consideration of the document. WPCA wrote to the Council last month and supported these requests for delay. Many City Council members favor the delay, but no decision has yet been made about it.

## Woodley Park Specifics

Because Woodley Park has a Metro station, the draft plan calls for more housing and local retail businesses in our area. Yet the document, as currently written, provides little perspective on what specific changes we can expect.

Representatives from WPCA have been attending meetings on the draft plan and will continue to stay involved in the process to support development of a better, more specific and more responsive plan.

To obtain a copy of the Mayor's Draft Comprehensive Plan, call Jill Diskan in the Office of Planning at 202-442-7628 or visit <http://inclusivecity.org/>.

—Chuck Lupton

# Adieu, Mont Bleu, at the Swiss Embassy

For more than 200 years, there has been a dispute over who owns the summit of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe, but for months everyone in Woodley Park knew that Mont Bleu was in Switzerland, or at least on the grounds of the Embassy of Switzerland. Though not in the same league as Mont Blanc's snow-clad peak, the blue-plastic-covered mountain of dirt quickly became a neighborhood landmark.

But the good news is that it's gone, and the construction project that began months ago is finished.

And the better news is that the Embassy of Switzerland has a new building that will serve both as the residence of the ambassador and a place for official functions of all sorts. The Embassy says that the goal of this building is to offer more space for its outreach work and that it is expected to hold approximately 400 working events and host over 3,000 guests annually.

Perhaps the best news for the neighborhood was that the Embassy invited all of us to its "open doors day" event on September 16th. The event included guided tours of the residence, Swiss music and dance performances, art exhibits, activities for kids, an historical exhibit on Swiss-American relations, and Swiss foods. The fact that the Embassy was unable to arrange perfect September weather for its inaugural events did not seem to dampen anyone's enjoyment of the day.

The new building is a departure from its predecessor, which was built in 1926, in poor condition and ill-suited to the needs of a contemporary embassy. Although some neighbors have been heard to grumble about placing a modern structure across the street from an historic district, no one has faulted the quality of the design, construction, and workmanship.

The building is a model of energy efficiency, designed to comply with the Minergie Standards (the Swiss version of LEED). The building's south façades use passive solar energy. The "green roof," covered with sedum grass, keeps the house cooler in summer and warmer in winter. Green roofs also provide noise insulation, filter pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air, and reduce the "urban heat island effect" (the phenomenon of urban and suburban temperatures' being 2 to 10 degrees hotter than nearby rural areas). If your German is good, you can learn more about Minergie at <http://www.minergie.ch/>; the site's English version, <http://www.minergie.com>, is not as complete.

Much more information about the new residence (including photographs for those who missed the tours) is available on the Embassy's Website, [http://www.eda.admin.ch/washington\\_emb/e/home/overview/resid.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/washington_emb/e/home/overview/resid.html).



Elba Morales

Striding Man and young friend.



©Andy Ryan Photography



Chevy Chase / Uptown Office  
4400 Jenifer St., NW, Wash., DC 20015  
Office: 202-364-1300 x 6315

## THE COX & COX HOMES TEAM

Serving DC, MD & VA

**Direct: 202-237-8007**

Fax: 202-318-7575

**THERESE COX - M: 202-365-8139**

Therese.Cox@LongandFoster.com

**DAVID COX - M: 202-365-8138**

David.Cox@LongandFoster.com

[www.CoxandCoxHomes.com](http://www.CoxandCoxHomes.com)



# Is That Neighborhood Construction Project Legal?

## HOW TO KNOW AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Many people assume that any construction work they see being done has been approved by the DC government. In this neighborhood, we have found that this is not always the case. Here are some ways to tell and steps you can take to stop illegal construction.

### Basics on Permits

If there is new building or renovations anywhere in the District, a construction permit usually must be obtained and prominently displayed. The restrictions are even more stringent in a historic district, which is pertinent to certain parts of Woodley Park.

In general, a permit is required for most external work, and sometimes for internal work, too. For instance, a homeowner in a historic district must have building plans reviewed by and obtain permission from the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), in addition to obtaining construction permits from the Building and Land Regulation Administration (BLRA) division of the DC Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Before an individual can go before the HPRB, however, he or she must first obtain permission through the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC). If a property owner wants to build an addition or add a deck or other structure, he or she may need to obtain a special exception from the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). For homes that border Rock Creek Park, permission from the Fine Arts Committee also must be secured. To put in a driveway, a request for a curb cut must go through the District Department of Transportation's Public Space Office. That department also reviews requests to erect fences and retaining walls.

Again, all these agencies generally look to the local ANC for a resolution in support of a project before they grant permission. Sometimes the ANC is not consulted, because the work is being done in compliance with certain zoning or other regulations. Examples could include a homeowner not in a historic district erecting a deck or addition that does not exceed lot coverage under current zoning regulations, or a homeowner in a non-historic district installing new windows.

### Looking for Postings

To determine if the construction activity you see is taking place legally, the first thing to do is look for properly displayed building permits. Permits are to be displayed prominently at a work site, which generally means they should be clearly visible at the site where the work is being done—in the front window of a residence/business, or perhaps on the front door. If you don't see permits, that action alone actually constitutes a violation of the building code and is punishable by fine. You have the right to ask to see a copy

of all building permits that have been issued. Permits are issued for construction activities such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing, roofing, etc. Fees must be paid to the DC Government based on the cost of the actual construction work (usually 1% of the total amount of the cost of the work). All this information should be visible on a construction permit, including the name(s) of the licensed contractor(s) performing the work. Please note that any work not being done by a licensed contractor is illegal, too.

To review what types of permits are required and for which types of construction activity, please visit: <http://www.dcrd.dc.gov/>.

At that site, you also can follow the links to view information about recent permits that have been issued. To view the status of any pending or issued construction permit, visit: <http://app.dcrd.dc.gov/>.

More information on illegal construction can be obtained online at: <http://www.dcrd.dc.gov/>.

### What to Do — Whom to Contact

If no permit is visible onsite, you've checked the DCRA Website listed above, there's no permit information on file for that address, and/or if the owner or contractor cannot or will not produce a permit, you immediately should report the illegal construction activity to the DCRA Illegal Construction Unit. Their telephone number is (202) 442-STOP (202-442-7807). You also may want to e-mail Mr. Juan Scott, the individual in charge of DCRA's Illegal Construction Unit, at [juan.scott@dc.gov](mailto:juan.scott@dc.gov). Your ANC Commissioner also is available by phone or e-mail to find out whether ANC3C has reviewed the project and passed a resolution in favor of or opposition to the plans. Contact information for ANC3C Commissioners, as well as resolutions granted or denied for projects requiring ANC approval requests, can be viewed on the ANC3C Website, <http://www.anc3c.org>.

Finally, though it is understandable that some construction projects will generate noise, please note that there are noise limits on most types of construction in Washington, DC. You can obtain more information about this by reviewing the noise regulations at: <http://www.dcrd.dc.gov/>.

I hope this brief overview will be a good starting point to help you determine whether or not someone else's construction project is legal, or whether you personally will need to apply for a permit for work to be performed at your residence.

For more information, please contact me at: [Commissioner3C02@aol.com](mailto:Commissioner3C02@aol.com), or call (202) 232-0247.

—Deborah Jane Lindeman,  
Commissioner, ANC3C02

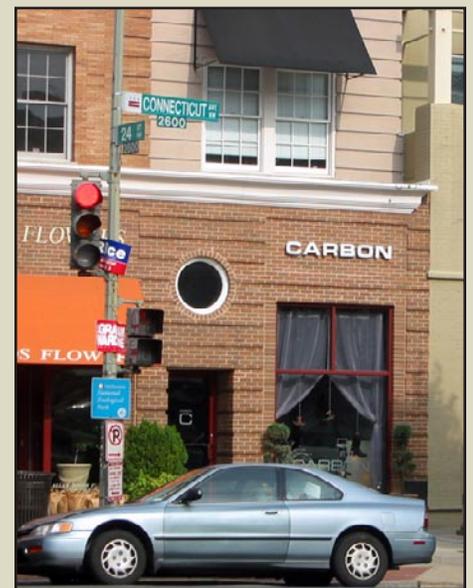
## The City Listened

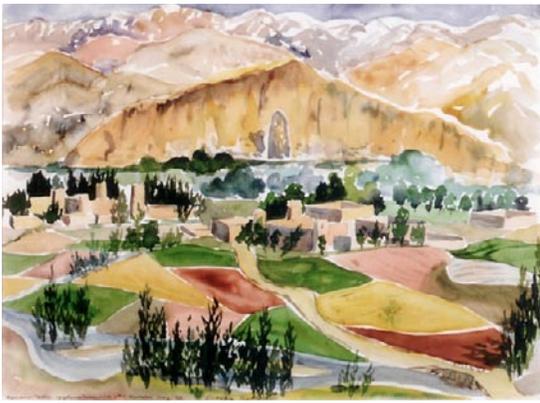
As we reported to you in the last issue of *The Acorn*, the retail store All Wrapped Up, at 2643 Connecticut Avenue, closed in August 2005. In January 2006, a Subway restaurant was issued building permits for the site. This address is subject to the Woodley Park Commercial Overlay District regulations, which limit restaurants from occupying more than 25% of the linear footage of street-level space. Fast food restaurants also are prohibited.

After being notified of the impending construction by concerned neighbors, our ANC, WPCA, and Councilmember Jim Graham, the DC Zoning Office issued a Stop Work Order. The Zoning Administrator surveyed the Woodley Park Overlay District and found that restaurants accounted for 31.6% of the frontage in the Overlay District. Therefore, the Zoning Office notified the Subway eatery that its permits had been issued in error and would be revoked. The Zoning Office also stated that until enough existing establishments closed to drop the percentage below 25%, no additional restaurants would be allowed, unless granted a special exception. While Subway could have appealed the decision, it did not, for which we are grateful.

The City listened to residents, took the appropriate action, and a new retail shop opened at 2643 Connecticut Avenue in September 2006. We thank Zoning Administrator Bill Crews and our ANC for keeping our overlay district intact.

—Barbara Ioanes





The painting that Lindsay created of the cliffs into which the Buddha was carved.



Lindsay Makepeace sitting alone in Afghanistan sketching in a more peaceful time.

## Lindsay Makepeace: A Woodley Park Artist in Residence

In early March of 2002, the Taliban blasted to rubble the gigantic Buddhas carved in the cliffs in the Bamian Valley in Afghanistan. As the world reacted in horror to the destruction of these 1,500-year-old wonders, Lindsay Makepeace, a longtime Woodley Park resident, pulled out a watercolor of the statues that she had painted some 40 years before.

Lindsay's artistic studies began at the noted Berlin Academy of Art, shortly after her marriage in that city. Later she pursued art courses at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and then perfected her etching and printmaking technique with Eugene Frederick at the Corcoran here in Washington.

It was during a stay in India in the late 1950s that Lindsay plunged into serious work, and she spent a month in Kashmir painting a large number of watercolors. Her first exhibition, done at the urging of Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, came in 1961, in New Delhi.

After returning to the United States in 1962, Lindsay spent the next years establishing her household in Woodley Park and raising her family. Then, from 1973 to 1980, she studied etching and printmaking at the Corcoran. Early 1976 saw Lindsay helping to found a nascent printmaking group, the Washington Women's Art Center (WWAC). The group held its first show that year, and by 1978, had produced its first limited-edition calendar of original prints. Sold for \$25, that

calendar is now a collector's item, and it's a project revisited annually by the WWAC. For several years, Lindsay printed much of the art for the calendar on a used press she'd bought in 1980.

Since her first show in New Delhi, Lindsay has exhibited widely. At her last exhibit, at The Mansion at Strathmore, her watercolors from India, Pakistan, and Kashmir drew a large audience. You can see four of her prints there through October, as part of the Printmakers' Workshop Retrospective. And a large collection of letters and memorabilia from Joan Miró soon will be available to art historians at the Morgan Library in New York, thanks to the generosity of Lindsay and her husband, who were longtime friends of the Spanish artist.

—Morton Lebow

*We have many interesting neighbors who have led interesting lives. Artists, diplomats, authors, tap dancers, saxophone players, hot-air balloonists. If you know someone you think others would like to read about, send an e-mail to Acorn Editor Judy Orvos at [orvosj@netscape.net](mailto:orvosj@netscape.net).*

## Let's Talk Real Estate

If you've been reading about the market in the mass media, then you probably think everything is gloom and doom for the value of your property.

Well cheer up, because the Washington area still has rising values, and a good employment forecast. Home prices aren't rising at the 24% per year rate we've seen in the last few years, but the market has normalized, and so houses aren't selling instantaneously. Home inspections and appraisal and loan contingencies are back. Testing and remediation for radon, termites, and mold are cropping up more often.

Woodley Park has had 32 settlements in 2006 of Single Family Homes compared to 28 in 2005. The average price has risen 12.45%, from \$1,143,286 in 2005, to \$1,285,254 in 2006. The mean range has stayed the same, \$1,000,000 to \$1,249,999. Days on the market have gone up 70%, from 30 days in 2005 to 51 days in 2006. In 2006, the sales price was under list price (at contract date) by \$30,934 on average per sale, but in 2005, the sales price was over list price (at contract date) by \$13,715 on average per sale.

The Condo and Co-op market has dropped in performance, more in line with conditions in other jurisdictions in our area. Our neighborhood has had 40 settlements in 2006 of Condos and Co-ops, compared to 38 in 2005. The average price has dropped 13.49%, from \$519,937 in 2005 to \$449,815 in 2006. The mean range was \$450,000 to \$549,999 in 2005, compared with \$350,000 to \$449,999 in 2006. Days on the market have gone up 100%, from 26 days in 2005 to 52 days in 2006. In 2006, the sales price was under list price (at contract date) by \$4,398 on average per sale, but in 2005, the sales price was over list price (at contract date) by \$2,642 on average per sale.

According to the DC Housing report, compiled by the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors, settlements have gone down 18.2% in Single Family Homes; Condo and Co-op settlements have gone up 21.3%. This is due to new condo construction in other areas of town. The median price for Single Family Homes in 2005 was \$489,000 and rose to \$500,000 in 2006. The average price of a home went up 4.3%. The median price for a Condo or Co-op was \$364,465 in 2005 and \$420,842 in 2006. The average price went up 15.38%.

—Ellen Passman, WC & AN Miller Realtor  
[epassman@wcanmiller.com](mailto:epassman@wcanmiller.com)

Woodley Park • Tenleytown • Bethesda • Ballston

Over 25 years of Yoga instruction  
in the metro area.

**UNITY WOODS YOGA CENTER**

2639 Connecticut Ave., #C102  
(across from the Woodley Park metro)

202-232-YOGA • [www.unitywoods.com](http://www.unitywoods.com)

# Not a member? Membership expiring?

Then sign up now. It's FREE!

## Annual Membership Registration Form

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

E-MAIL

HOME TELEPHONE

AREAS OF INTEREST / CONCERN

WPCA needs your contributions to cover expenses. WPCA is a section 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Including your e-mail address will allow us to send you meeting notices and other items of interest.

CONTRIBUTION  \$25  \$35  \$50  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Woodley Park Community Association** and send it with this form to WPCA, Membership Desk, P.O. Box 4852, Washington, DC 20008.

## Triangle Park Takes Shape

Before the spring of 2006, no one would have recognized the small triangle at the juncture of 29th St. and Woodley Road as a park. It was an eyesore. In November 2004, a group of community members gathered together to plan the transformation of the neglected space from eyesore to eye candy.

After hours of planning and securing donations of money, greenery and help, they were ready to begin the transformation. In late April, a team of volunteers went to work and planted new trees and shrubs according to the design created by Clarendon Land Design. Over the summer months, neighbors supplemented the rainfall by watering the new plantings. Then, in late August, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation installed two new benches, allowing us to sit and enjoy the new park space. The next step will come next spring, when we expect to try to grow grass in the park.

The gateway to Woodley Park is based on the environmentally sound principles of using native trees, xeriscape (low water needs) plant materials, and respecting view sheds while creating a meeting space for neighbors and friends.

—Buffie Brownstein

Thanks for making us part of the neighborhood.

We couldn't have made it this far without you.

**Open City**  
coffeehouse • diner • bar

Celebrating our first year in **OUR** neighborhood.

2331 Calvert Street NW • 202.332.2331



## Stanford Extension Opening in February

Stanford University is two thirds through its construction project, which began in December 2005. Located at the southeast corner of Connecticut Avenue and Woodley Road, it adds an adjoining building to the university's Woodley Park campus. Stanford has a long-term lease with an option to buy the property at 2655 Connecticut Avenue, which was most recently home to the Thai Town Restaurant.

As a courtesy to neighbors, Stanford kept the Woodley Road sidewalk and parking available to us as long as possible, but finally had to close both off for safety reasons and to use the areas for construction staging. Many parts of the interior of the main building are finished, and students already eat some meals in their handsomely decorated new dining room. Later this month, the university will plant Sargent cherry trees to replace the Bradford pear trees that were removed in the spring. The construction, including the interior, gardens, and new front handicap entrance, will be completed in February 2007.

Stanford has worked closely with WPCA and agreed to neighborhood-initiated requests. Among the concessions are no weekend construction, more outdoor lighting, no increase in the number of students, maintenance of Stanford's policy to not allow students to have cars, no further expansion in Woodley Park, and use of the facility in the same manner as during the 2004-2005 school year, when the project was first developed. In addition, Stanford agreed to install an art gallery, which will be open to the public, on the first floor of the new annex. The university has met with the WPCA and neighborhood many times and kept us informed of the developments along the way.

The building design for the annex was modified again and again by the DC Historic Preservation Review Board, and the first floor front will appear much the same as when the building was the Sanitary Grocery in the 1930s, with the upper floors glass to show the commercial transition on this block from row houses to modern times.

Watch *The Acorn* and the WPCA Website (<http://www.wpcaonline.org/>) for more information on a spring open house for neighbors to be hosted by Stanford in the art gallery on the first floor of the annex.

—Barbara Ioanes

# Zoo Construction: Phase I Almost Done

Phase I of The National Zoo's new Asia Trail exhibition is set to open on October 17, and it cannot come too soon for residents in the immediate vicinity, who have endured more than 29 months of construction.

Begun in Spring 2004 near the zoo entrance on Connecticut Avenue, the project originally was scheduled to take 2 years. Since then, neighbors along Hawthorne Street—some of whom live 23 feet from the construction site—have endured repeated late-night truck noise, fuel emissions, and dirt. In short, the zoo construction has eroded the quiet, orderly way of life that apartment dwellers in the immediate vicinity have known for years.

Neighbors who banded together during the early weeks of the disturbances are still without answers to many of their questions about the project, and no solution to the construction noise has been forthcoming.

Neighbors do not know if the zoo has awarded a contract for the next phase of construction. However, original plans

to build a new Elephant House next to the Kennedy-Warren have been drastically altered and the existing structure will be renovated instead. Rather than merely expanding Asia Trail, the zoo hopes to launch a major campaign of restoration and renovation that should last 10 years, at the very least.

ANC Commissioner Dia Black and Councilmember Jim Graham have been very engaged with neighbors in efforts to negotiate with zoo management about lack of compliance with parking restrictions, noise levels, and other issues. Both Black and Graham have worked with neighbors to arrange meetings with zoo administrators, and they continue to be advocates for the neighborhood.

For more information about the Asia Trail project from The National Zoo, visit <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/AsiaTrail/>. To express your concerns about the construction, write to me at [mrblanc@aol.com](mailto:mrblanc@aol.com) or to Dia Black at [dia\\_black@hotmail.com](mailto:dia_black@hotmail.com).

—David White

## A Zoo Neighbor's Perspective

When I first moved next door to the National Zoo, I was startled awake at 4:30 a.m. by the snorting of hungry tapirs. It made a good story: I leave the natural splendor of a small town in Colorado and here, on one of the major arteries of our nation's capital, exotic animals puncture my dreams. In time, I got used to it and eventually became oblivious to the feedings.

During the past 2 years, I have never gotten used to the early-morning disturbances at the site of Asia Trail. The arrival of crews around 5:30 has been difficult to endure, especially when on-site activities begin before 7:00 a.m.

What I never appreciated until this year were the disturbing consequences of the completion of Asia Trail. The new exhibition is scheduled to open to the public October 17 and the flurry of construction has increased during the past 2 months. Stroll through the zoo's entrance and you should be impressed with how much has been accomplished. It is as if Frank Gehry went to Disney World on his way back from China: rusted, exposed beams rise midst the willow trees; water falls from pipes over artificial rock; and rods forged to resemble bamboo grace chain-link fences strung with decorative loops of metal rope. The design dazzles and will surely galvanize support for equivalent transformations throughout grounds that appear ragged in comparison.

The first thing you notice on the right is an area devoted to sloth bears, where the birth of Balawat has inspired a campaign to place the cub beside Tai Shan in the hearts of the general public. Rising above the glassed-in area is the Sloth Bear House. Behind that—separated from Asia Trail by a narrow, one-way street—is my home.

In the fall of 2004, when plans for Asia Trail were introduced at a meeting of the WPCA, construction was well under way and many of us were furious about its effect on the quality of our lives. We were never told that three massive power transmitters

would be erected behind the Sloth Bear House or that a service road would run parallel to Hawthorne Street and to all of the apartment buildings that border the zoo. The road ends at the on-site headquarters of the construction company, potentially a neighbor for a decade to come.

At night, the noise generated by the transmitters becomes particularly apparent. It increases during inclement weather and in high temperatures, sometimes to the point of preventing sleep. It would be impossible to erect sound barriers around the transmitters or enclose them because they simply are too powerful. The road promises to be an additional source of disturbance at all hours, all year round.

Given the vastness of Asia Trail, it is incredible that the transmitters and the road were located so close to residences, or for that matter, that designers felt visitors needed to be drawn into a place that already attracts the public to our neighborhood. Yet officials of the National Zoo explain that they selected the site because it represents an under-developed section of their property and that neighbors were taken into consideration when they planned the exhibition.

—Elizabeth Dunn

## The Zoo Bar Café



**3000  
Connecticut Ave,  
NW, WDC  
(Across from the  
Zoo Entrance)**

This comfortable neighborhood gathering place offers great reasonably priced home cooked food, a friendly atmosphere with live blues thurs-sat nights. It's the place where you'll find eclectic conversation and an upbeat ambiance where Woodley Parkers gather to meet and greet.

**202-236-2217**  
[www.zoobarde.com](http://www.zoobarde.com)



### Ellen Passman

Licensed in MD, DC & VA  
Sales Associate

Cell: 202. 841. 5225

Office: 202. 282. 2124

Fax: 202. 362. 3164

[epassman@wcanmiller.com](mailto:epassman@wcanmiller.com)

[www.ellenpasman.com](http://www.ellenpasman.com)



4910 Massachusetts Ave. N.W Washington DC 20016

**AIDAN**  
MONTESSORI  
SCHOOL



**Toddler**—unique toddler program for 18 - 36 month-olds.  
**Primary**—outstanding preschool and kindergarten program.  
**Elementary**—rigorous and comprehensive program for grades 1 - 6.  
**YOUR WOODLEY PARK NEIGHBOR SINCE 1996.**  
2700 27th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008 • 202-387-2700  
[www.aidanschool.org](http://www.aidanschool.org)



**Kathy Purchase**  
REALTOR® Licensed in DC, MD, VA  
kpurchase@earthlink.net



**Prudential**

**Carruthers REALTORS®**

5025 Wisconsin Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
Cell 202 441-8850 Fax 202 462-7015  
Office 202 362-3400 x120

An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



## Visit WPCA's New Website

WPCA has a vibrant, new Website, located at <http://www.wpaonline.org>. The site was developed to share all the latest, official community information, keep members abreast of activities, link visitors to other informative sites, and provide an effective means of communication for WPCA members and Woodley Park residents.

Visit <http://www.wpaonline.org> now to check out the site. You'll find the latest police reports; copies of *The Acorn*, including back issues; minutes of WPCA board meetings; a calendar of events; and more. Through the "Salon," you can participate in open discussions with other WPCA members and Website visitors and keep in touch with WPCA's officers. For example, we have discussions about neighborhood activities for kids and possible future events for WPCA.

After you've had a chance to roam around and explore our "virtual" neighborhood, send us your comments and suggestions for improvements. We welcome your input so that we can continue to expand the Website. You can help us make <http://www.wpaonline.org> even better. Send your kudos, complaints, and "bug" reports to [Nour\\_Jurgenson@wpaonline.org](mailto:Nour_Jurgenson@wpaonline.org) or [szobay@yahoo.com](mailto:szobay@yahoo.com).

—R.N. Jurgenson



## WPCA Kidz at Play

This past spring WPCA formed a new committee, WPCA Kidz, dedicated to hosting and offering information on activities for our children. Our first activity, a T-shirt tie-dye, was a great success. Now WPCA Kidz needs you to help us get into full swing. If you are interested in hosting an activity or have a great idea for one, drop an e-mail to me at [szobay@yahoo.com](mailto:szobay@yahoo.com). Events currently in the works include a trip to the construction site at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, a Kidz Game Day and a Woodley Park History Trivia Contest. Information on activities and ideas for our Kidz can also be posted on the WPCA Kidz Forum at [www.wpaonline.org/Forums/](http://www.wpaonline.org/Forums/).

—Stephanie Zabay

 [WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG)  
E-MAIL [WPCADC@AOL.COM](mailto:WPCADC@AOL.COM)

### AUTUMN ON THE CLOSE

Visit the National Cathedral •  
Enjoy a walk through  
Olmsted Woods • Relax in  
the Bishop's Garden • Find  
a treasure for your home or  
garden in the Museum Store,  
Greenhouse or Herb Cottage



*The Protestant Episcopal  
Cathedral Foundation  
welcomes you!*

Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues, NW • [www.pecf.org](http://www.pecf.org)

## STANFORD IN WASHINGTON

Our extension — the Sant Building and Garden — will house an art gallery with exhibits from Stanford and its Cantor Art Museum. The gallery and garden will be open to the community. Thank you for your patience and support.

# WPCA

### Has your membership expired?

WPCA members can see their membership expiration date on the address label to the right. If your date has passed or soon will, please renew using the membership form on page 6 of this issue or on the Website. Your new date will be either 1 year from the date your renewal is received or 1 year from your current date, whichever is later.



**WOODLEY PARK**  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



PO Box 4852  
Washington, DC 20008

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Suburban MD  
PERMIT #5814