

Introducing Woodley Park's Neighborhood Watch

Under the auspices of the Woodley Park Community Association, the Woodley Park neighborhood has launched a Neighborhood Watch Program. To date, 25 residents have volunteered to act as block captains or assistant block cap-

tains, or to participate in other support roles. Two training sessions have been held. More residents are being encouraged to participate.

Also known as "block watch" and "town watch," the Neighborhood Watch concept is based upon the simple premise that when it comes to crime, an ounce of prevention far exceeds in value a pound of cure. In short, the goal of the program is to eliminate preventable crimes through citizen activism and awareness.

Why

A Neighborhood Watch program has been demonstrated to be one of the most effective ways to prevent crime, attend to home and personal safety and security, address the safety of neighborhood children and the elderly, and reduce fear and isolation. Both in our own community and around the nation, civic

involvement, collaborative problem solving, and mutual commitment have helped cities and neighborhoods reduce crime by significant numbers. Residents of one neighborhood in Northwest Washington credit their Neighborhood Watch Program for the double-digit reductions in crime they've experienced every year for the past 5 years.

What

Far from archaic notions of a vigilante force or safe escort program, the Neighborhood Watch Program that recently debuted in Woodley Park, as in other nearby DC communities, is based upon the fundamental elements of awareness and communication. In early 1972, the National Sheriffs' Association created a model for today's Neighborhood Watch Program, which at the time was designed to attack the then-

(See *Watch* on page 6)

WPCA Kids

End-of-School Picnic

School's almost over and summer's soon to come. Bring your WPCA kid to celebrate at our end-of-school picnic. Food and games at Woodley playground (2900 block of Cortland Pl.) on Saturday June 23, noon to 3 p.m. If you want to help or have any questions, call Stephanie Zobay, 387-6759.

WPCA Kids Have Fun

Thanks to WPCA Kids, the junior members of our community have been entertained with several recent activities.

Last October, The JBG Companies gave a Hard-Hat Tour of the new underground garage construction on the front lawn of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. Participants were issued souvenir hard hats and then given an overview of the "big hole" and allowed to ask questions about the construction. A Bobcat construction vehicle was provided for the children to sit in and/or climb on to experience the construction event.

The next WPCA Kids event was a Valentine's craft event, hosted by St. Thomas Apostle Church. The children were able to create an everlasting red valentine heart, complete with white doily

decorations, to give to their favorite valentine. A special thanks to Anne-Marie Bairstow for leading our children in this activity.

Our third event was an ice cream party at Baskin-Robbins on May 2. WPCA Kids sponsored the 1-hour event, during which neighborhood kids got to enjoy a cool treat. Many thanks to all the kids — big and small — who turned out!

As always, if you have ideas or want to sponsor an event for our children, WPCA wants to hear from you. You can contact me either by e-mail at szobay@yahoo.com or phone at 387-6759.

Stephanie Zobay



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The Acorn is published periodically by the Woodley Park Community Association and delivered free of charge to WPCA members and others in the Woodley Park community. If there's something you want to read about or something you think your neighbors should know about, let us know. We invite your comments, suggestions, and submissions. Contact *The Acorn* Editor, Judy Orvos, at orvosj@aim.com.



When *The Acorn* appeared last fall, all there was of the planned development of the Marriott Wardman Park property was a very large hole in front of the hotel and a dispute about whether the owner was allowed to build what it wanted in it. Now a garage for 289 vehicles has been put into the hole and covered up with truck-loads of dirt. The 2½-acre area will soon be landscaped and the fences will be removed, opening the way for neighbors to enjoy the park.

In February, the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment resolved in the owner's favor the challenge to the construction of the garage that had been brought by ANC 3C and WPCA. The owner, The JBG Companies, hopes to open the garage in June. When the new garage and a new ballroom are operational, JBG can demolish the part of the existing above-ground garage that is located where it wants to put its new condo building on the western part of the hotel property. Demolition is scheduled to start in early 2008.

At the time of the last *Acorn*, the Public Space Committee of the DC government had just denied JBG permission to have two driveway entrances from

Woodley Road to the proposed condo tower. JBG was forced to go back to the drawing board, and it came up with a plan for a single driveway from Woodley Road, directly across from 27th Street. The Public Space Committee's approval of JBG's revised plan last month will allow JBG to finalize the plans for the condo building and move ahead with the rest of its project.

JBG intends to use the new curb cut as the construction entrance for the rest of the project, which in turn allows closure of the existing construction entrance (the old Hotel entry driveway) and landscaping of the park area in front of the Hotel. JBG says that planting in that area should begin in 30 days, and the park should be in place by the end of the summer. JBG will plant more than 50 trees and install newly landscaped flower beds and grass, walking paths and benches, at a cost of more than \$1 million. JBG has committed to ensuring that this park area will be kept open for neighborhood use. The park is being designed by Sasaki Associates, whose other current projects include the US Capitol Visitor Center and the 2008 Bei-

(See *Wardman* continued on page 5)



ANC Means 'Answers for the Neighborhood Community'

What's an ANC?

Nancy MacWood
Chair ANC 3C

Want to build an addition to your home in the Woodley Park historic district, but don't know how to start? Upset about late-night noise from a Connecticut Avenue restaurant, but don't know whom to call? Need information about restricted residential parking because you can't park within blocks of your home? Need help with a storm sewer that backs up and floods your intersection every time it rains? The person to call or e-mail for any or all of the above is your Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner.

Your ANC commissioner is the last person on the election ballot every 2 years, but the first person you should call if you are uncertain about anything regarding District government. Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) were created in the Home Rule Charter to give residents greater influence on government actions, both local and federal.

In practice, the role of ANCs has evolved to focus almost exclusively on District regulatory, legislative and administrative matters. The proposal to add on to a home in the historic district, for example, would be reviewed by the ANC and your commissioner would make sure that you knew about deadlines and process. On the question about late-night restaurant noise, the ANC commissioner would talk to the owner or manager and try to work out an accommodation, and if that didn't work, the commissioner would try to negotiate a voluntary addendum to the business's liquor license that would address neighborhood issues. If your storm sewers aren't working properly, your ANC commissioner can call WASA and ask them to inspect and clean the storm inlets.

ANCs generally have monthly public meetings to consider any resident or business applications that will be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board, the Zoning Commission, the Board of Zoning Adjustment, the Public Space Committee or the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. An ANC also might review legislation of interest to the local neighborhoods and make recommendations. The ANC could also invite

Putting ANCs on the Map

Need to know which ANC commissioner represents your block? Woodley Park includes three full ANC districts. ANC 3C01 covers Woodley Park east of Connecticut Avenue and is represented by Dia Black. ANC 3C02 is "Woodley Park South," and its commissioner is Gloria Day. Stephanie Zobay's ANC 3C03 is "Woodley Park North" and covers almost all the rest of the neighborhood. ANC 3C08, represented by Catherine May, includes the northwestern corner of Woodley Park, west of 32nd Street. For more details on ANC 3C, including maps and contact information, visit <http://www.anc3c.org/>.

government officials to a public meeting to talk about initiatives or to discuss specific problems in the neighborhoods.

ANCs are focused on empowering residents and communities so they can successfully interact with the District government. Sometimes that happens by sharing a phone number or e-mail address; other times it requires a commissioner to testify before a board or the Council or to attend briefings and meetings on issues important to the community.

It's all about sharing information, listening, and offering assistance to maintain our vibrant communities and improve the quality of life for all DC residents. See the box above to find out which ANC commissioner serves your section of Woodley Park.

Beam Me Down?

Send us your e-mail addresses, please. This will allow us to send you e-mail updates about WPCA activities and other news of interest to Woodley Park residents. We promise that we won't clog your mailbox with e-mail — maybe one or two per week. And we promise that we won't sell your e-mail address (or any other information about you) to people who will, or to anybody else. Just send an e-mail to us at wpcadc@aol.com, and we will add you to our distribution list.

What Does an ANC Commissioner Do?

Many people think it's glamorous to be an ANC Commissioner. Commissioners get mail addressed to "The Honorable" and "Madame Commissioner." That honor and respect make up for the fact that Commissioners are unpaid and attend meetings that can go past midnight. To set the record straight, The Acorn asked Stephanie Zobay to give us some idea of what she does as "Commissioner Zobay."

ANC District 3C03 has about 2000 residents, and it is my job to represent them and to address their concerns. Many issues are related to traffic. Other issues revolve around whether construction projects -- private and public -- comply with the rules of the Zoning Commission, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Historic Preservation Review Board, Commission of Fine Arts, District Department of Transportation and Public Space Committee. Here is an overview of some of the tasks I've handled recently (in addition to preparing for and attending regular ANC meetings):

Zoning

- Met with Zoning Administrator Bill Crews and neighbors of a Cathedral Avenue property to address the residents' concerns about construction.
- Collaborated with colleagues about a construction project on 27th Street and whether the proper documentation was in order for it.
- Researched zoning issues in connection with a 28th Street proposal and discussed it with residents.

Traffic

- Asked DDOT to investigate increasing the countdown time for the traffic signal on Connecticut Avenue at the Zoo entrance to allow pedestrians more time to cross the street.
- Followed up with DDOT Traffic Services Administration about the one-way signs that suddenly appeared in the alleyway on the east side of the 2900 block of 28th Street.

(See Commissioners continued on page 4)

Annual Membership Registration Form

NAME(S)

STREET ADDRESS

E-MAIL

HOME PHONE

AREAS OF INTEREST / CONCERN

SIGNATURE

DATE

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 \$50 \$100 Other

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

Construction Concerns?

There are now three large construction projects in the neighborhood. WPCA has a point-person for dealing with each of them. If you have any problems, concerns or questions, you should let that person know:

Marriott garage & condo	Wes Bizzell, wesley.bizzell@altria.com
WIS building and field	Stephanie Zobay, szobay@yahoo.com
St. Albans Centennial Hall	Stephanie Zobay, szobay@yahoo.com

(Commissioners continued from page 3)

- Pursued with DDOT why it suddenly changed the turning rules at the corner of Cathedral and Connecticut.

Public Space

- Met with DDOT officials to review the need for a curb cut for the proposed Wardman West condominium building and testified against the curb-cut application at the Public Space Committee hearing.
- Discussed issues concerning the Cathedral Ave. property with Public Space Manager Denise Wiktor.
- Researched public space issues in connection with a 28th Street proposal.

General

- Met/consulted with residents who have made zoning, historic preservation or public space applications to fully understand the project undertaking.
- Tried to get WASA to repair damage it did while checking for lead pipes.

Stephanie Zobay

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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.

National Zoo Update: Elephants To Get a New Home

Now that it's completed, everybody loves the National Zoo's new Asia Trail. The new habitats and exhibits have almost made the Zoo's nearest neighbors forget the years of construction that preceded the opening.

So, it was with some trepidation that the community recently learned of the Zoo's plans for its next project, the re-building of the Elephant House and the construction of up to 4 acres of new elephant habitats and trails. At a meeting with the community on April 21st, officials of the zoo, including Director John Berry, assured the neighbors that this time would be different.

The Project

The new project is ambitious and will be done in phases over 4 years. The first phase involves building new barns for the elephants just north of the existing Elephant House (roughly where the giraffe habitat was). Soon, prep work will begin and construction will start in August. Construction vehicles will get to the site through the zoo's main entrance on Connecticut Avenue and park in Lot B. Arriving workers and deliveries will be staged on the zoo property, not on the streets.

When the new barns are completed and the elephants have grown accustomed to their new homes, the existing Elephant House will be remodeled. The

largest building in the zoo, it is also one of the oldest, built during the 1930s. Instead of having a large area for people and small pens for the elephants, the new design will allow the elephants to wander around a large "community room," the largest such indoor area in the country, with their human visitors in a smaller area on the perimeter.

One of the features of the new house is that it will not be artificially heated. The zoo plans to warm the house geothermally, using heat brought up from beneath the earth's surface.

The community room will open out onto 3½ acres of trails for the elephants — 4 acres if the zoo can raise another \$5 million. Visitors will be able to view these areas from various spots around the park. One area is to the south of the building, where the hippos have been, and the others will meander to the west. Finally, the zoo also hopes to build a 1/3-mile uphill trek to give the animals an exercise run. This last part of the project, which won't begin for more than 2 years, will require access from Hawthorne Street.

The Goal

The zoo now has three resident Asian elephants and one—they hope—on the way. Given the 2-year elephant gestation period, the new arrival would join the group roughly when the first phase is

completed. The zoo's hope is ultimately to increase the herd to as many as 10 to 12.

The zoo is focusing on Asian elephants because there are only about 30,000 of them left in the wild. This project is part of an extensive conservation program to ensure the survival of these elephants in zoos and in Asia.

A great deal of information about this project and about Asian elephants is available on the zoo's Web site, at <http://tinyurl.com/2p3bwj>. You can also join the listserv to receive notices about the project by e-mailing John Gibbons at gibbonsjp@si.edu. Any construction issues should be raised by e-mailing project engineer Marc Muller at mullerm@si.edu.

(Wardman continued from page 2)

ing Olympics Forest Park. A full-size version of the landscape plan and other drawings is on WPCA's Web site, <http://tinyurl.com/2lm9rb>.

An application for construction of the condo building, which it submitted last November, is currently under review. A revised application, including all the information required by the DC Zoning Administrator, will be submitted later this year.

John Goodman

What Exactly Is 'Fast Food'?

Your answer to this question might well be, "Who cares." But the answer could affect Woodley Park. That's because how "fast food" is defined determines whether a particular restaurant may — or may not -- open in the business area on Connecticut Avenue and Calvert Street.

The definition of the phrase "fast food restaurant" is included in the regulations of the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia, which bar such businesses from Woodley Park. And the Zoning Commission is considering whether to alter that definition. Any substantive change, of course, would change the types of restaurants that could open in the neighborhood.

The effect of that is not an abstract, theoretical possibility. It would appear, for example, that the popular Chipotle Mexican Grill on the corner of Connecticut and Calvert is not a "fast food" business under the current definition, but it would be under the new one. (For information on the mind-numbing provisions of the existing and proposed zoning regulations, which is beyond the scope of this article, look at WPCA's filing with the Zoning Commission at <http://www.wpcaonline.org/zoning/>.)

The Zoning Commission is proposing other changes as well. Another provision in the existing rules limits the number of restaurants in Woodley Park. The Commission now wants to create a new business category — a "prepared food shop"

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— which, it says, includes such things as coffee shops, sandwich shops and ice cream parlors. However, its proposal does not indicate whether these establishments would be subject to the "restaurant" limitation. WPCA told the Commission that prepared food shops are a convenience for people in a residential neighborhood and that a small prepared food shop does not create the same issues for the community as the typical restaurant. We urged that any rule changes not subject them to the same limitations as restaurants.

Keep an eye on the WPCA Web site for further developments.



Stanford in Washington To Host Opening Celebration

Construction of the Stanford in Washington addition at 2655 Connecticut Avenue, including the art gallery and garden, is now complete. Art will be installed and the gallery will open to the public as soon as final testing of the window walls and security systems is concluded. We look forward to welcoming residents of Woodley Park soon at an opening celebration. Watch for an announcement through WPCA and the neighborhood listserv.

Made possible by a generous gift from Victoria and Roger Sant, the building houses a new kitchen for the student food service, a library, student lounge, distance learning facility, and student dormitory rooms in addition to the gallery. The bay window in the gallery is a restoration of the original Sanitary Grocery commercial storefront. The seating walls in the garden are designed to welcome passers-by who may wish to stop and rest for a bit while strolling through Woodley Park.

We appreciate the patience of our neighbors throughout construction and apologize for any disruption. We are working with the city and WPCA to schedule the repaving of Woodley Road.

All of us in the Stanford family are grateful to the entire Woodley Park community for your perseverance, especially the members of the WPCA who have worked with us on the design and implementation of the project over the past several years. We look forward to showing you the gallery and to seeing you at future Woodley Park gatherings in the Sant Building.

*Adrienne Jamieson
Director, Stanford in Washington*



From Sanitary to Stanford

The façade of the Stanford addition now looks much as it did decades ago when the retail space was part of the Sanitary Grocery chain. Although the chain was ultimately swallowed-up by Safeway, it had a rich history.

In the early part of the last century, Edward G. Yonker operated the Sanitary Grocery Company with branches throughout the area, including locations in Mt. Pleasant, Capitol Hill, Glover Park and other DC neighborhoods. In the 1930's, the chain had grown to 255 stores.

At that time, the Sanitary Grocery chain became the subject of a dispute with a local civil-rights group, the New Negro Alliance. The New Negro Alliance was founded in 1933 by Howard-University-trained lawyers, including Walter Washington who would become Washington's first mayor. The NNA accused the grocery chain and other businesses (such as People's Drugs, bought decades later by CVS) of discriminatory hiring practices. It focused on white-run businesses that set up shop in black neighborhoods while refusing to hire black workers. NNA picketed the stores, carrying signs that read, "Do Your Part! Buy Where You Can Work! No Negroes Employed Here!"

During the Great Depression, businesses could not afford to lose sales, so many gave in quickly. Some businesses fought back, however, arguing that the NNA had no right to picket in protest of their hiring practices if the pickets didn't work there. Sanitary Grocery sought an injunction to stop the picketing. NNA lawyers, including Thurgood Marshall, William Hastie and James M. Nabrit, Jr. defended the picketers, and the case went all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1938, the Supreme Court held that the NAA had the right to picket a business regardless of whether the pickets worked there. With the Court's ruling, "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" campaigns spread. The NNA estimated that by 1940 it had secured more than 5100 jobs in more than 50 businesses around the city.

Stephanie Clipper

(Watch continued from page 1)

increasing burglary rate across the country. The sheriffs recognized that communities which got a commitment from residents to observe, recognize and report suspicious or criminal activities were more successful at keeping the burglary rate down and also reducing other crimes. Today, Neighborhood Watch is believed to be the largest single organized crime prevention project in the nation.

How

The first training session for Woodley Park's Neighborhood Watch Program was held on April 12. It was conducted by Samantha Nolan, a resident of DC's Chevy Chase neighborhood, where a very successful Neighborhood watch Program has existed for more than 5 years. Samantha regularly speaks to other neighborhood gatherings around the District, and she has assisted in implementing a number of Neighborhood Watch Programs. The second training session for the Woodley Park program was held on May 10, with others to come. Training involves introducing the program framework and providing block captains with practical tips on organizing neighborhood data and resident contacts. The police officer who has responsibility for Woodley Park, Lieutenant

Roch, is committed to our program, and he will be meeting regularly with program participants.

Who

Woodley Park's residents are key to the successful operation of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Their help is needed to compile neighborhood data, including telephone and e-mail contact information. It's also important that neighborhood residents alert other residents if they see or suspect unusual activity occurring in the area. The point isn't to become unduly curious about a neighbor's activities. Rather, it's to contact a member of the Neighborhood Watch Program if you see something that your gut tells you is suspicious. A simple attitude of awareness and vigilance will go a long way toward making the program successful. Besides keeping an eye out for suspicious persons and activities, Neighborhood Watch participants also are encouraged to be active in avoiding preventable crimes by reporting burned-out street lights and graffiti on neighborhood signs, and open and obvious crime magnets, such as valuable articles left on porches and landings and conspicuous contents in parked motor vehicles.

Woodley Park Neighborhood Watch block captains and other participants

have been and will be contacting their neighbors to discuss the program and the details of resident participation. They hope that our neighborhood residents will want to participate and increase the likelihood of the program's success and the quality of life for residents of Woodley Park.

Jay Sushelsky



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WPCA Welcomes Business Members

Who should be able to join a “community association”? In March, WPCA members voted to change the association’s bylaws to say that anybody in the community can join.

WPCA’s old bylaws offered membership to two types of persons: owners of real property in Woodley Park and residents of the area. Therefore, The JBG Companies (which owns the Marriott Hotel property) and Stanford University (which owns 2661 Connecticut Avenue) could join, but businesses that served the community and rented space — such

as, dry cleaners, grocery stores and beauty parlors — could not become members.

The distinction made no sense to some members of the WPCA Executive Committee, and when they were revising the bylaws, they proposed a change to the rules. WPCA would continue to offer membership to property owners and residents, but add a third membership category. Any business or organization in Woodley Park that provided goods or services to neighborhood residents could also join.

The proposed changes were not universally embraced. Some in WPCA felt that there were inherent conflicts between businesses and residents and that WPCA should represent the interests of the residents of the area. In the end, however, the view that prevailed was that WPCA is not a “residents’ association,” but a “community association,” and that businesses, too, are members of the community, and the proposed change was adopted by the membership.

Neighborhood Real Estate Trends

Real estate is a favorite topic of conversation for Washingtonians, and recent media reports about negative market trends have created particular concern. But it’s important to recognize that most of those reports and numbers are based on national figures, which are not an accurate representation of what’s happening in the DC area, and specifically in Woodley Park. Let’s take a look at some of the most recent numbers to get an accurate picture.

In the first quarter of 2007, Woodley Park had 22 residential sales, up 32.8% from the fourth quarter of 2006, which logged 17 such sales. The average days on market (DOM), too, showed a positive trend, at 52 for the first quarter of 2007,

versus 53 for the fourth quarter of 2006. By comparison, the average DOM for the District as a whole was 84 for the first quarter and the National Association of Realtors reported an 8.4% drop in sales nationwide of previously occupied homes from February to March.

The even better news for Woodley Park is in pricing. The average sales price currently is up 20.7%, from \$631,511 last year to \$761,045 this year, and the average list price is up 21.3%, from \$605,510 last year to \$733,468 this year.

Inventory levels in Woodley Park, too, paint a positive picture. There are currently only nine active listings in our neighborhood, which is a very low inven-

tory. That contrasts with an increase in listings in cities such as Chicago (44%) and Los Angeles (54%), a carryover from last year’s swollen levels. For the District as a whole, inventory declined by nearly 11% in the first quarter of 2007.

Perhaps the most positive signs for our neighborhood market are multiple offers for some properties and contract prices creeping above list. Combined with current low mortgage interest rates, these factors suggest the news is good for both buyers and sellers in Woodley Park.

Tamora Ilasat, Long & Foster
tamora@longandfoster.com

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Zoning Rules Rewrite

In the last issue of The Acorn, we reported on the Mayor’s proposed Comprehensive Plan and said that adoption of a new Plan would cause a review and revision of the City’s zoning regulations. The City Council approved the Plan in December, and the Zoning Commission has begun looking at the regulations. The zoning rules control what may be built and where, and where different types of businesses may operate. They have a huge effect on how the City, and its neighborhoods, will grow and develop. WPCA should be active in the Zoning Commission process. If you want to learn more or be involved, you can contact John Goodman, at goodman@verizon.net.



Oyster Bilingual Program Ready To Expand

Big things are happening at our neighborhood elementary school, Oyster Bilingual School. The Oyster program is expanding, and that's because the program has been a success.

Oyster's program is bilingual — its students are 50% native English-speakers and 50% native Spanish-speakers, and the program is full dual-immersion. By the hard measure of test scores, Oyster ranks among the best in DC. With success has come overcrowding, and the need to hold classes in unsuitable rooms originally intended for other purposes.

Last year, a solution to Oyster's space problem began to emerge. The Oyster parent organization looked at potential options and decided to seek additional space for the program and to expand it through 8th grade. At the same time, DC Public Schools (DCPS) was considering whether to close some schools — including Adams School behind the Washington Hilton — because of the declining student population in the city. The Oyster administration and the Local School Restructuring

Team expressed the community's interest in using the Adams building to expand the Oyster program and to ease overcrowding. In December, the Board of Education approved the Oyster-Adams consolidation plan, but left many details to be worked out.

Under the plan, the Oyster program will be extended through the 8th grade, with grades 4 through 7 located in the Adams building. Sixth and 7th grade will be in a middle school model, where students move from classroom to classroom. In the fall, approximately 40 students from Adams are expected to attend Oyster. The school intends to increase enrollment of native Spanish-speakers because most of the current students are native English-speakers. The Adams students have been offered a summer Spanish immersion program to ready them for Oyster in the fall.

Plans for education in the arts, too, are coming together. The Fillmore Arts Center, which already provides arts education to five other DC schools, will have staff at Adams to provide Arts and Drama classes.

Questions remain. The boundaries for the new Oyster-Adams schools have not been set. Many believe that adding the Adams area to Oyster's will lead to overcrowding of the Oyster-Adams schools, but ongoing discussions have not yet resolved the issue. DCPS officials do not necessarily help the situation with the occasional impolitic mention of possibly turning Oyster into a magnet school. Other open questions include what additional budget would be approved for creating a bilingual program and what repairs would be done to the school in the short and long term.

The good news is that a popular neighborhood program is expanding. The challenge is in the details and getting it all to work out right.

Terry Shea

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Has your membership expired or will it expire soon? WPCA members can see the expiration date of their memberships on their address label. If your date has passed or soon will, please renew using the membership form on page 4. You can also renew and contribute online at www.wpcaonline.org/Join/. Your new date will be either one year from the date your renewal is received or one year from your current date, whichever is later.



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