

# the ACORN

A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG  
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FALL 2008

## Come To the Woodley Park Historical Talk & Walk on October 26th

You probably know that Woodley Park is an historic district. But how much of your neighborhood's history do you know? Join us on the afternoon of October 26<sup>th</sup> and learn more about the place you live. You'll hear a 30-minute talk and then take a 90 minute tour.

Here's a very quick overview of how Woodley Park came to be:

At the end of the 18th century, a wealthy British Loyalist, named Philip Barton Key, purchased 250 acres in what was called Washington County. He built a manor house modeled after a home he had admired in England and named the estate Woodley, the same name as the English estate. The only road in the area, called Woodley Lane, wound its way from Rock Creek up toward the Georgetown-Tenleytown road. For many years, the Key family had

only a few neighbors, on other large estates, for miles around.

Fast-forward 100 years. The federal city is bursting at its seams and people are moving out past Boundary Road (now Florida Ave.). The largest concrete bridge in the world is built across Rock Creek at the turn of the 20th century allowing easy access to the county. Developers arrive and Woodley Park is born. One builder, Harry Wardman, built a grand hotel and resort just past the bridge, called the Wardman Park Hotel. It was (and still is) the largest hotel in Washington and was quickly dubbed "Wardman's Folly" by its detractors, who thought Wardman's hotel was so large and so far out of town that it would fail. By the 1930's, most of Woodley Park was built as we see it today. Fast forward another 100

## District Police Commander To Speak at WPCA's Fall Meeting

Mark V. Carter, Acting Commander of the Metropolitan Police Second District, will be the featured speaker at WPCA's Fall meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, October 29th, at St Thomas Apostle Church (27th Street and Woodley Road).

The other main business item will be the election of officers and at-large members of the WPCA Executive Committee. The terms of all four officers (president, VP, secretary and treasurer) and three of the at-large Board members expire with the upcoming elections.

All are welcome.

years. Woodley Park is a now vibrant "close-in" community within the District.

Join us on October 26th as we stroll the community's tree-lined streets. Learn about who has lived here, who built and designed the architecture, and how the business district developed — despite opposition from the residents of the time.

We'll meet at Stanford in Washington, 2661 Connecticut Ave. at 1 pm for some light refreshment before the talk starts at 1:30. After the talk will be a neighborhood walking tour, beginning at 2:15 and lasting about 90 minutes. No problem if you can come for only part of the program.

Space is limited, so please RSVP to [Tour\\_Man@wpcaonline.org](mailto:Tour_Man@wpcaonline.org). See you on the 26<sup>th</sup>!

*Judy Waxman*



**This Army Air Corps photo shows Woodley Park in 1922. The intersection at the upper right is Calvert and Connecticut; north is to the left. The large multi-wing building is the original Wardman Park Hotel. For a better view, go to <http://tinyurl.com/5ku8u4>.**



## Before and After...

### WPCA BOARD

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The windows above are the original ones at 2800 Woodley Road. The ones below are the new ones that are being installed throughout the 70+-year-old building.

Some residents and observers from the outside don't like the look of the new windows. The mullions (the vertical dividers between the glass panes) are too wide, and there are no muntins (the horizontal separator). They say the new windows look out of place on a building built in the 1930's. The building is across the street from the Woodley Park historic

district, and, although visible from the district, the building is not subject to historic district rules which would have regulated window replacement.

The new windows offer several advantages, however. They are more energy efficient. They can be closed tightly, and when they are, they are much better at keeping out the noise (and dirt) than the original windows. This will be particularly appreciated when JBG begins construction of its new building right next door.

### *The Acorn*

**Editorial Board**

Morton Lebow

John Goodman

*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 is 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 us at [wpcadc@aol.com](mailto:wpcadc@aol.com).

## WPCA thanks

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church, Stanford University and St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church for allowing WPCA to use their facilities for meetings and other activities in recent months.

## JBG Delays Start of Condo Project Construction

Although it has the city government's permission to build a condominium tower on the grounds of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, JBG has indicated that construction will not start until early 2010 because of "the changes to the economy." JBG intends to begin sales in 2009.

JBG acquired the Hotel in 2005 and promptly announced plans to redevelop the property. Those plans have changed in the intervening three years — instead of converting part of the Hotel to residences as originally planned, JBG instead renovated and modernized the Hotel. One element that has remained constant, however, is the addition of a 90-foot tall condominium

building to the property.

The condo tower, to be known as Wardman West, was designed by Phil Esocoff of Esocoff and Associates Architects in the District. A number of preliminary



images of the building are available on our website (<http://www.wpcaonline.org/JBG/>) along with a short history of the project. This is a view of the front (east façade of the building).

## Save Money by Saving Energy – Some Do-it-Yourself Tips on Energy Conservation and Efficiency Measures in Your Home

*In addition to be co-head of the WPCA Neighborhood Watch and an at-large member of the WPCA Executive Committee, Bill Menczer is also a professional energy efficiency consultant. Bill has utilized, in his 73-year-old Woodley Park house, most of the ideas mentioned in this article.*

The cost of energy continues to rise, whether it is natural gas, electricity or oil. The high cost is a great reason to look into measures to conserve energy in your home. You can do this through the use of various efficiency measures that you can take yourself, or hire a contractor to do for you.

### Home Energy Audit

The first step is to determine how efficiently you are using energy, which can be done through a home energy audit. The audit can pinpoint where you are losing energy and determine the efficiency of your home's heating and cooling systems, hot water use and electricity. Professional auditors use special equipment to measure the extent of leaks in the building envelope, and to find hard-to-detect areas of air infiltration and missing insulation.

### The DC Government Can Help

The District government is offering free energy audits to single-family homeowners. The DC Department of the Environment's Home Energy Rating System program identifies a home's energy deficiencies and provides homeowners with energy improvement recommendations. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/6banzt>.

If you decide to conduct the audit yourself, you can spot many problems with a simple but careful walk-through. When conducting the audit, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you found to help you prioritize your energy efficiency upgrades.

### Locating Air Leaks

Make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts). The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home can range from 5% to 30% per year, and the home is generally much more comfortable as a result. Check for indoor air leaks, such as gaps along the baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of the walls and ceiling.

Check to see if air can flow through places such as electrical outlets, light switch plates, window frames, baseboards, weather stripping around doors, fireplace dampers, attic hatches, and wall- or window-mounted air conditioners. Look for gaps around pipes and wires, electrical outlets, foundation seals, and door mail slots. Check to see if the caulking and weather stripping are applied properly, leaving no gaps or cracks, and in good condition.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. If they rattle, then the movement most likely means that air leaks are present. If daylight shows around a door or window frame, then the door or window leaks. Seal these leaks with caulking or weather stripping. Check the storm windows to see if they fit properly and the glass is neither broken nor cracked. Replace old windows and doors with newer, high-performance ones. If this is too costly, then install plastic sheets on the inside of the windows instead.

If you are having difficulty locating leaks, then conduct a basic house pressurization test. First, close all exterior doors, windows and fireplace flues. Then turn off all combustion appliances, such as gas burning furnaces and water heaters. Next, turn on all exhaust fans (normally those located in the kitchen and in the bathrooms) or use a large window fan to suck the air out of the rooms.

This test increases infiltration through cracks and leaks, making them easier to detect. You can use incense sticks (if you want to bring back old memories) or your damp hand to locate these leaks. With incense sticks, moving air will cause the smoke to waver; with your damp hand, any drafts will feel cool to your hand.

On the outside of your house, inspect all areas where two different building materials meet, such as the exterior corners, where siding and chimneys meet, and areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding meet. Plug and caulk holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring. Look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation, and siding, and seal them with the appropriate material. Check the exterior caulking around doors and windows, and determine whether exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

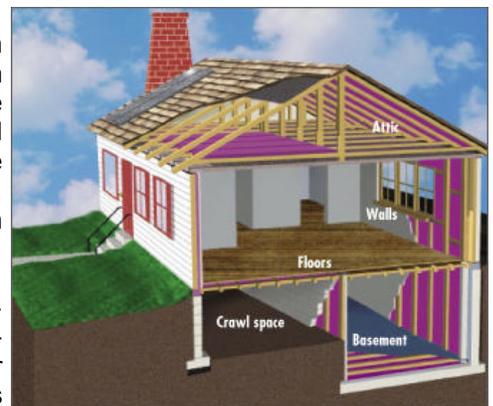
When sealing any home, you must

always be aware of the danger of indoor air pollution and combustion appliance "backdrafts." Backdrafting occurs when the various combustion appliances and exhaust fans in the home compete for air. An exhaust fan may pull the combustion gases back into the living space if not properly vented. This can create a dangerous and unhealthy situation in your home. In homes where a fuel (natural gas, fuel oil, propane or wood) is burned for heating, be certain the appliance has an adequate air supply. Generally, one square inch of vent opening is required for each 1,000 Btu of appliance input heat (check the appliance label for the Btu rating). When in doubt, contact your local utility company, energy professional or ventilation contractor.

### Insulation

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be significant if the insulation levels are less than code requirements. Many older homes in Woodley Park are not well-insulated, or have no insulation at all. Properly installed insulation in walls, floors and attics provides for more even temperatures throughout the house and results in a quieter, more comfortable living environment that is easier (and cheaper!) to heat and cool.

According to the Energy Department, up to 45% of a home's energy loss



is through the attic. If the attic hatch is located above a conditioned space, check to see if the inside surface is at least as heavily insulated as the attic, is weather stripped, and closes tightly. In the attic, seal any gaps you find in openings for pipes, ductwork, and chimneys. Use an expanding foam caulk or other permanent sealant.

(Continued on page 6)

# A Great Neighborhood and the Great War: Woodley Park from 1914 to 1918

From 1914 to 1918, World War I raged across much of Europe and embroiled the world's nations in seemingly endless battle, leading to perhaps 19 million civilian and military deaths, including the deaths of ten million combatants. During the years of the Great War, however, a great neighborhood began to take shape in Washington, D.C.

## The Buildings

At the time, the area that became Woodley Park was largely rural, with the summer homes of prominent families. For example, "Woodley" — now home to the Maret School — served as the summer White House for a number of presidents. The area soon began to grow. Bridges, especially the Taft Bridge, made for easier access across Rock Creek Park to downtown. Roads like Woodland Drive and Calvert Street were either paved or extended. This allowed for expansion of Massachusetts Avenue Heights and neighboring areas.

Clients desiring to build comfortable homes in the neighborhood retained early Woodley Park architects such as Clarke Waggaman and Harry Wardman. Hotels and apartments also started to rise up. Wardman's entry in the 1917 city directory lists him as in "building, real estate, and insurance" at 1430 K Street, N.W., "the Wardman Building," home address 2640 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. (at the corner of what is now Woodley Road). In 1915, Wardman built the Wardman Courts at Clifton and 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. and soon began the Wardman Park Hotel, completed in 1918. Clarke Waggaman, also a neighborhood resident, appears in directories under "Waggaman & Ray" at 2600 Connecticut Avenue.

Woodley Park's churches were built or expanded during the war years. St. Albans church had been around since 1851, and both the National Cathedral and St. Albans schools had been operating since the beginning of the century. The foundation stone of the Cathedral was laid in September 1907, but it would take more than 80 years to finish construction. In June 1916, the first Cathedral dean was installed. In the war years, services were held in Bethlehem Chapel. All Soul's church (on Cathedral Avenue,

east of Connecticut) got its start in 1914 as "All Souls Mission." It appears in the 1915 city directory as All Souls' Memorial under the leadership of Rev. J. Macbride Sterrett. (Services were at 11 am and 8 pm.) The 1915 city directory lists "St. Thos Cath Chapel" at 2659 Woodley Road. By 1917, the church appears as "St. Thomas-Apostle" at 27<sup>th</sup> and Woodley. ("Services at 7:30 & 10 a.m., week days at 7:30 a.m.")

By looking at city directories from 1914 to 1918 for property listings on a sampling of four streets, one can gauge the size of Woodley Park. Woodley Place listings (from Calvert to Cathedral) for the years 1914-1918 span numbers 2609-2640. Garfield Street listings include numbers 2606-2641. The presentation of Woodley Road listings varies year-to-year, but for 1914-1916 (from "Connecticut to Idaho") the directory lists numbers 2647-3848. In 1917, listings span numbers 2647-3848, with a new listing for The Alban at 3715. The 1918 entry goes from 2647-3611 plus numbers 3715 and 3717.

For Connecticut Avenue, the 1915 directory lists the Woodward at 2301,



**The original St. Thomas Apostle Church at 27th Street and Woodley Road.**

three units at "Rock Creek Bridge" (3517, 2519, and 2521), numbers 2600-2655, and numbers 2812-2851, where Connecticut intersects Garfield. This remains largely unchanged except for the addition of an apartment in one directory located at 2722 Connecticut Avenue, probably where Hampton House North now stands.

## The Way It Was

What was life like for Woodley Park residents? Since 1912, the cherry blossom trees were on display at the Tidal

Basin, a gift from Japan reciprocated in 1915 with dogwoods for Tokyo's Hibiya Park. In the news, Walter Johnson was pitching miracles for the Senators. The nation had its first female member of Congress. In 1916, John D. Rockefeller was named the world's first billionaire; at the time, the United States controlled much of the world's petroleum.

For home heating, residents could purchase coal from any number of Washington DC businesses. Katherine Coal (1245 1st St. NE) advertised Katherine Anthracite Coal "for best results." It was supplied in "Egg Stove Nut and Pea Sizes." If moving, Washingtonians could have engaged the "Big 4 Transfer Company" at 31<sup>st</sup> and K, telephone West-1841. The company's advertisement showed an elephant on a flat-bed truck with the phrase, "Undertaking for the Zoo." Other current Washington businesses, such as Weschler's, were operating then.

There would have been gossip, too. President Wilson was at home in the White House. In August 1914, Ellen Wilson had died. By October 1915, President Wilson was engaged to Edith Galt, the formidable widow of a Washington jeweler. The two were married in December 1915.

Effective November 1917, Washingtonians' reach for an alcoholic drink was impeded — if not wholly prevented — by the Sheppard Act, DC's very own, home-grown brand of Prohibition. But residents could enjoy film and phonograph records, both popular, especially as recordings were used to stir up pro-war sentiments among people under George Creel's Committee on Public Information. Songs included Al Jolson's "Sister Susie's Sewing Shirts for Soldiers" and Enrico Caruso's legendary 1918 recording of George M. Cohan's "Over There." During the war, Victor and Columbia released millions of recordings, many of which were in the mother languages of America's 12 million new immigrants.

In fact, one-third of Americans were foreign-born, and many of those headed to fight overseas received English language instruction as part of their training. Many immigrants had ties to the Central Power nations. In April 1918, representatives of 33 ethnic groups made a pilgrimage of sorts to Mount Vernon to display

*(Continued on page 5)*

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loyalty, an idea birthed by Creel's CPI. During the war, words like sauerkraut became "Liberty Cabbage," and some German names were changed. Washington city directories during the war list a German-American Fire Insurance Co., German-American Realty Co., and the German-American Building Association, organized in 1874, Louis Hartig, President, August Getz, Vice President, and the names Hettinger and Kattlemann for two directors.



**New houses on the west side of 27th St. Original price: \$7350. From *The Washington Herald*.**

### The U.S. Enters the War

On May 7, 1915, the Germans sunk the Lusitania, killing 124 Americans. In 1916, Wilson had barely won election under the banner, "He Kept Us Out of War"; now Americans were being killed. On April 2, 1917, with Wilson's now-famous speech before Congress, the United States entered the war. The next month, General Pershing departed by a special train, bound for New York and points overseas. In June 1917, 500,000 US troops arrived in Europe for active duty for the first time ever and were met by cheering crowds. Soon, the number would double and by war's end, two million American men had been sent overseas.

In Washington, the Imperial German Embassy was located at 1435 Massachusetts Avenue. Count Johann Heinrich von Bernstorff was the ambassador. His Austrian counterpart was Baron Zweidnek. In 1913, Princeton had conferred upon von Bernstorff an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, citing him as a "messenger of peace." But with the outbreak of war, the embassies of Austria and Germany came to be closely associated with wartime espionage and sabotage. Two key laws, the Espionage Act

and Sedition Act, were enacted in 1917 and 1918, respectively. In February 1917, Wilson severed ties with Germany and von Bernstorff was recalled to Berlin. By 1918, the Embassy no longer appeared in the Washington city directory in listings of foreign delegations.

Patriotism became the word of the day. Woodley Park residents would likely have seen posters hanging in public places for the Red Cross, War Savings Stamps, and loan programs. "Save Your Quarters, Buy War Savings Stamps," children were told. Liberty Bonds raised billions of dollars during the war. Households dedicated themselves to self-sacrifice by conserving foodstuffs or starting war gardens. Store windows featured patriotic displays, some with Blue Star Flags flying for each local boy gone to war. Residents might have participated in fundraising for the YMCA (at 1732-1744 G Street), which ran military canteens during World War I.

Washingtonians also would have contributed to the war relief efforts by supporting the Red Cross, for example, by rolling bandages for soldiers or salvaging papers and metals. In 1914, the Red Cross was listed as #711 in Waddy Butler Wood's Union Trust Building. At the time, the Red Cross had 107 chapters. By 1918, the number of Red Cross chapters had grown to 3,864 and programmatic reach had expanded just as dramatically. There were several DC branches, including one at 18<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts. The Red Cross also shipped recordings overseas for the wounded, and Mrs. Wilson donated wool from a flock of sheep that grazed the White House lawn to the Red Cross.

Even before the outbreak of war, the fighting in Europe influenced the daily life of Washingtonians. One advertisement for the Crane Printing Company (813 Thirteenth Street NW, telephone MAIN-498) speaks of "business snipers." "The Big Guns in your line and all other lines of Business are Artillerymen . . . mak-

ing advances," the ad tells readers. "It pays in Business to be an Artilleryman. Anyone can be a Sniper. Which are you?"

### The War Is Over

In October 1918, Germany requested an Armistice by telegram. War ceased on the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month," unknown to some of those still fighting. A few weeks later, Londoners celebrated Thanksgiving, and the next month the Wilson's were greeted by cheering crowds during their visit to Paris. In February 1919, President Wilson marched on Pennsylvania Avenue from Capitol Hill at the head of a parade of several thousand returning soldiers. Many of the soldiers were missing limbs and had seats of honor at the reviewing stand.

In November 1918, the month of the Armistice, the first Wardman Hotel guests began to move in. Afterwards, the plate tectonics of American life continued to shift under new forces and stresses. The Spanish Flu would come to preoccupy a terrified public. The great northern migration of African-Americans from the south would continue. Looming ahead was the 1929 stock market crash that would separate many Americans from their savings.

Not everything changed, however. During the years of the Great War, Americans found themselves preoccupied with taxation, the nation's fiscal health, the effect of immigrants on the country, the power of oil concerns, civil rights and liberties, the division of the country into those in support for and opposed to war, and other concerns still familiar 90 years after war's end.

In Woodley Park, there is still a "zoological park" and it is still located "West of Adams Mill rd. bet Calvert and Klinge rd NW" [sic]. You can still visit it. Telephone Columbia 744.

*Stephanie Clipper*



**The original Calvert Street bridge.**

(Energy continued from page 3)

Check to see if there is a vapor barrier under the attic insulation. The vapor barrier might be tar paper, Kraft paper attached to fiberglass batts or a plastic sheet. If there does not appear to be a vapor barrier, then paint the interior ceilings with vapor barrier paint. This reduces the amount of water vapor that can pass through the ceiling. Large amounts of moisture can reduce the effectiveness of insulation and promote structural damage.

Make sure that the attic vents are not blocked by insulation. Seal any electrical boxes in the ceiling with flexible caulk (from the livingroom side or attic side) and cover the entire attic floor with insulation with an R value of at least 49. An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness and resistance to heat flow.

Checking a wall's insulation level is more difficult. Select an exterior wall and turn off the circuit breaker or remove the fuse for any outlets in the wall. Test the outlets to ensure that they are not "hot" by either using a circuit tester (\$5 at your local home center) or by plugging in a radio. Now it is safe to remove the cover plate from one of the outlets and gently probe into the wall with a long, thin stick or screwdriver. If you encounter a slight resistance, then you have some insulation there. You could also make a small hole in a closet, behind a couch, or in some other unobtrusive place to see what, if anything, fills the wall cavity. Ideally, the wall cavity should be totally filled with some form of insulation material. Unfortunately, this method cannot tell you if the entire wall is insulated, or if the insulation has settled, unless you make several entry points from the top to the bottom of each stud cavity in each exterior wall. To be sure, hire a professional to conduct a

thermographic inspection that would measure the surface temperatures with infrared video. The resulting images determine whether insulation is needed and where. In zone 2, the recommended insulation level for walls is R-18.



If your basement is unheated, determine whether there is insulation under the living area flooring. An R-value of 25 is the recommended level of insulation for zone 2. The insulation at the top of the foundation wall and first floor perimeter should have an R-value of 19 or greater. If the basement is heated, the foundation walls should be insulated to at least R-19. Your water heater, hot water pipes, and furnace ducts should all be insulated.

### Heating/Cooling/Hot Water Equipment

Have a professional inspect and clean heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check your filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them once every month or two, especially during periods of high usage. Running this equipment with dirty or clogged filters substantially decreases the efficiency of the unit and thereby increases the costs of operation.

Heating and cooling account for about 56% of the energy use in a typical U.S. home. If the unit is more than 15 years old, consider replacing your system with one of the newer, energy-efficient units. In addition, many heating and cooling systems have certain supporting equipment in common, such as thermostats and ducts, which provide opportunities for saving energy. Install a programmable thermostat to help conserve energy during the workday when the house may be unoccupied and during sleeping hours.

Check your ductwork for dirt streaks, especially near seams. These indicate air leaks, and they should be sealed with duct mastic. Insulate, at a minimum R-value of 6, any ducts or pipes that travel through unheated spaces.

Don't overlook your hot water heater. Washington Gas recommends a setting of warm or low, but never

higher than 120 degrees. According to Consumer Reports, replacing a 10-year old electric water heater with a new electric heat-pump system can save an average of \$510 per year in energy operating costs. The savings can pay for the higher

initial costs in two to five years.

### Lighting

Energy for lighting accounts for about 10% of your electric bill. Examine the wattage size of the light bulbs in your house. You may have 100-watt bulbs where 60 or 75 watts would suffice. Use compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) for areas where lights are on for hours at a time. CFLs combine the energy efficiency of fluorescent lighting with the convenience and popularity of incandescent fixtures.



CFLs can replace incandescents that are roughly 3–4 times their wattage, saving up to 75% of the initial lighting energy. Although CFLs cost 3 to 10 times more than comparable incandescent bulbs, they last 6 to 8 times as long (6,000–15,000 hours). Consumer Reports estimates that changing 10 often-used bulbs to CFLs can save about \$50 per year.

### It All Adds Up

Plugging air leaks, insulating to the recommended levels, installing high efficiency heating and air conditioning equipment, replacing drafty single-pane windows and using CFLs, can produce energy savings of greater than 50%. But even modest improvements can easily result in 10 to 20% savings.

Decide what you want to achieve, what is an acceptable payback period, who will make the improvements and then proceed. Savings will appear on your next Pepco and Washington Gas bills!

*William B. Menczer*

## Making a Difference Through Community Involvement

Woodley Park is a terrific community. Keeping it that way requires dedicated elected council members, a caring police force and the participation of as many citizens as possible. That's what the Woodley Park Community Association is all about.

A community organization is like a family — it can provide support, guidance, assistance, networking, social comfort as well as discord and dissension. Moreover, community activities engender friendships and understanding of the social system, and lay the foundation of "belonging" including a need for sharing — sharing responsibilities, duties, and commitments — constructively empowering the community. As a member of WPCA, you can have a voice, to improve our quality of life and to take pride in our social accomplishments.

What prompts us to get involved? Whether it is a neighborhood issue, a desire to participate in community activities, involvement in community leadership or pure curiosity —

we can make a difference by participating and contributing to our community.

Although a community may be comprised of members with divergent views and interests, the ultimate goal is to function in the interest and benefit of the community as a whole. Conflicting issues are usually discussed, considered and resolved.

Sure, it is a challenge to incorporate community participation in addition to our careers and family activities especially in this day and age. But my family and I have thoroughly enjoyed our involvement with the community and have also realized what an important pivotal aspect in our lives a community plays.

*Nour Jurgenson*  
WPCA Past President

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## Are You a Member WPCA?

We mail *The Acorn* to all members of WPCA and to many others in the neighborhood as well. So just because you've gotten this in your mailbox doesn't mean that you have joined WPCA. You can tell if you are a member by looking at your address label; if there is no expiration date, then you are not a member.

We distribute the newsletter widely to let our neighbors know what's going on in Woodley Park and to get them interested in their community. We also do it to interest more neighbors in WPCA and its activities. Anyone who lives in Woodley Park may join, as may anyone who has a business in Woodley Park that provides good or services to neighborhood residents.

Membership in WPCA is free: there are no dues. We do, however, accept contributions. You can join by sending in the Membership Form below. Or you can do it all online at [www.wpcaonline.org/join](http://www.wpcaonline.org/join).

Members need to re-register with us every year. This is because we don't have mandatory dues. If we did charge dues, then we would know when someone had moved out of the neighborhood — we simply wouldn't get the annual dues payment. So in order to keep our records up to date, we need you to tell us every year that you are still with us. Again that can be done with this form or on the website.

## 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.

File 2008

## The Woodley Park Summer Solstice Picnic

The first annual WPCA Summer Solstice Picnic was held on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. The Woodley Playground on Cortland Place was transformed by the addition of skirted tables and folding chairs. Balloons and centerpieces of potted plants added to the festive atmosphere. An unexpected addition was a group of musicians who gathered at the playground to practice, so we had music as well! More than 140 people came, many of them new to the neighborhood, giving them the opportunity to meet their neighbors.



The festivities began around 4 pm, and the cooks were kept busy grilling hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs and corn. They worked hard and enjoyed themselves, and we couldn't have done it without their hard work and good cheer. There were lots of other good things on the picnic tables – tabouleh, guacamole and chips, tomatoes and a choice of condiments and beverages. We had cookies and watermelon for dessert that both children and adults enjoyed. The food

was plentiful and delicious. And we managed to keep the mosquitoes at bay for most of the evening.

People responded to the party atmosphere, the food and the opportunity to get to know their neighbors and community representatives; some stayed until after 7 pm. Councilmember Mary Cheh and one of her assistants came, and many of our Woodley Park residents took advantage of her presence and were able to discuss neighborhood issues with her. A couple of the police officers who patrol our neighborhood also stopped by to say hello and have something to eat with us.

Many people contributed to the success of this event from the terrific and supremely organized Picnic Committee to our many friends and neighbors who distributed flyers, helped with the

setup and breakdown, manned the registration table, and did the cooking. Beautiful photographs (like this one) were taken by Yasmin David, and you can see them at <http://tinyurl.com/4fho9c>.

The feedback we got was all positive, and everyone is in agreement that we should do this again next year. So mark your calendars for the Second Annual Summer Solstice Picnic which will be on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

*Tamora Ilasat*

## Election Day, November 4th

We all know there's an election coming up in the next few weeks. But this isn't about any of the races you've been hearing about. None of the candidates for these offices will host Saturday Night Live. And yet the winners of these elections can have a direct effect of the quality of your life in your neighborhood. These are the elections for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions were created to give residents greater influence on government actions. As Nancy MacWood, the Chair of our ANC, wrote in *The Acorn*, "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." In addition to helping constituents negotiate the governmental maze, ANC commissioners consider and make recommendations on applications that will be reviewed by government agencies (such as, Historic Preservation, Zoning, Public Space and Alcoholic Beverage Control). ANC elections are non-partisan, and ANC commissioners are not paid.

Woodley Park is in ANC 3C. The districts of three of the nine ANC 3C commissioners are within Woodley Park, and a fourth commissioner represents the western edge of the neighborhood. District boundaries and other information is available on the ANC's website, [www.anc3c.org/](http://www.anc3c.org/).

We have invited the ANC candidates to write something for our website -- to tell us why they are running, what they hope to accomplish etc. Before you go to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>, see what they have to say at [www.wpcaonline.org/ANC Elections/](http://www.wpcaonline.org/ANC_Elections/).

### Are You Still a Member?

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 7. You can also renew and contribute online at [www.wpcaonline.org/Join/](http://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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