



Season's Greetings

The holidays present a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with neighbors and friends. If you are not already a member of the Crestwood Citizens Association, we invite you to join us. Visit our website at <http://www.crestwood-dc.org/> or call 202-997-3300.

One Crestwood family has made a long tradition of hosting holiday caroling. Please join your neighbors outside the Sheridans' home on 18th Street on December 24th from 6 to 6:30 pm.

Happy New Year

The January meeting of the Crestwood Citizens Association will focus on schools. Get tips from parents who have raised their families here in Crestwood, sending their children to public and private schools. There's more information to come—but mark it on your calendar:



Crestwood Citizens Association meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2008 7:00-8:30 pm
at the home of Alan & Susan Houseman
1715 Crestwood Drive, NW

Editorial

Fix the Water!

Why is our section of Rock Creek being left out of the fix for the combined storm sewers?

DC has an antiquated sewer system that often leaks raw sewage into our streams and rivers—ultimately reaching the source of our drinking water. There is a plan to fix the system, but it looks like the Crestwood community is being told to wait until 2015 for Rock Creek to be addressed, while the Anacostia River is going to be fixed sooner. We believe the city needs a comprehensive plan to urgently address water quality in all affected areas.



DC and Rock Creek Park officials recognized long ago that there is a serious threat of pollution in the southern section of Rock Creek Park, near Crestwood. Warning signs were posted near the creek. Studies have counted a larger number of combined sewer overflows near Rock Creek and Piney Branch than elsewhere. Yet our area (adjoining Rock Creek and Piney Branch) is not listed for action until 2015.

As background, one-third of the city is served by a system of combined sanitary and storm sewers. During heavy rains, these sewers frequently overflow and discharge millions of gallons of raw, untreated sewage directly into Piney Branch and Rock Creek, according to documents released at the public meetings about the city's Combined Sewer System Long Term Control Plan. Each year, there are about 30 storm sewer overflows near Rock Creek, which can contribute to high bacteria levels and concentrations of other water contaminants, like lead and zinc. WASA (the Water and Sewer Authority) has said that this is harmful to certain aquatic life and a potential danger to humans. So why aren't we DC residents being protected?

WASA is the organization that receives project grants from the US Environmental Protection Agency to assist public water systems in financing improvements to protect public health. We are federal taxpayers who need just such assistance. Congress is considering the 2007 Water Resources Development Act that would prevent raw sewage from flowing into Rock Creek and the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers.

Meanwhile, the WASA project is being done in conjunction with the DC Department of the Environment and its agent, the US Army Corps of Engineers office at Blue Plains. Why aren't they considering the impact to Ward 4?

The City's Combined Sewer System Long Term Control Plan specifically provided for the separation of the combined sewers and the consolidation and elimination of 13 outfalls. Yet, information provided to the Crestwood Citizens Association concerning the EPA's recent release of funding projects only referenced four outfalls and did not include any that abut the neighborhoods along Rock Creek, where we live. This is a matter of national, regional and community public health. It also is an issue of environmental justice and due process. Who is protecting us?

It's time to fix the water for all of us. Yes, this will be an expensive proposition. But that's all the more reason to invest wisely and spend the money in all the places where it will do the most good.

Gale Barron Black, President, Crestwood Citizens Association

2007 In Review

From the president:

It's been a memorable year. And as 2007 draws to a close, it is time to take stock of the accomplishments of the Crestwood Citizens Association. Because of our hardworking and dedicated Board and members, we continue to serve Crestwood. I am proud to say that the Crestwood Citizens Association continues to have a growing membership—now totaling 172 families.

Here's a look back at a very good year:

- PEPCO representatives came to our **January** 16 Association meeting to highlight efforts to reduce the number of power outages in Crestwood. Our neighborhood is at the end of a very long feeder line (right). For two years the Association held PEPCO's feet to the fire to improve the reliability of our service. The frequency of outages has now been greatly reduced.



- The city's Real Property Tax Assessor joined us at the Association's **March** 20 meeting to discuss how our taxes are calculated and the assessment can be appealed.



- The Crestwood Directory (left) was updated and distributed to members (special kudos to Tom Chused, Bill Bentley and our network of block contacts).

- The Association co-sponsored a candidates forum on **April** 24th (along with the North Portal community) before the special Ward Four city council election. We also published a survey of views expressed by the candidates—and posted responses to an Association questionnaire about issues of special interest to Crestwood.

- Mayor Adrian Fenty (right) spoke at the Association's **May** 15th meeting, where we also elected a new slate of officers.



- Association Members participated in the first Rock Creek Park Bioblitz **May** 18-19. Volunteers identified more than 660 unique species of plants



and animals in the park.

- The Kids Team organized the Association's annual Fourth of **July** Kids Parade (left).

- Our new Ward Four Council member, Muriel Bowser (right) spoke with members at the Association's July 17th meeting.



- The grills were smokin' at the annual Sunday after Labor Day picnic on **September** 9 (thanks to the Sessions and Sussman/Braden families).

- At the Association's meeting on **September** 18th, the Director of the DC Department of Transportation, Emeka

Moneme, fielded questions on a wide variety of transportation issues—including road projects such as Broad Branch and Klinge Roads, Metro improvements, and the proposed pedestrian pathway down Blagden Avenue (site pictured below),



- CCA members attended an ANC-sponsored meeting **October** 4 to support plans to build a path down Blagden into the park—pressing city officials to construct the path along the safest route.

- The Kids Team held a Halloween Party for children **October** 28th at "the point" at 18th & Shepherd (below at right).

- On an **ongoing** basis, the Association keeps a close watch on crime in the neighborhood. We post monthly crime statistics on the web, and representatives from the Metropolitan Police



speak with residents at nearly every Association meeting.

- The Board updated Crestwood's Neighborhood Plan to ensure the preservation of our residential zoning.

- We worked to keep Powell Elementary School from closing. It now looks as if both Powell and West will remain open, and Powell may become a magnet school from pre-K to grade 3.

- After planting 22 trees in November of 2006 as part of our partnership with Rock Creek Park Superintendent Adrienne Coleman, Dan Smith of Casey Trees, and Friends of Rock Creek, we continue to water and maintain the new trees at "the point." We hope to add a demonstration project to highlight native plants as part of our effort to eradicate vines and other invasive plants. We have encouraged members to plant native trees in their yards.

- Our Communications Team maintains the Crestwood website, where this year we posted the Crestwood Handbook and our contractors guide.

- We participated at meetings of the Federation of Citizens Associations.

- We organized the Association's historical archives for our 32-block area—including correspondence, directories and minutes of meetings dating back to 1941.

- We have been communicating with WASA, encouraging them to make water quality issues in our part of Rock Creek a top priority. [See editorial on page one]

Stat Sheet

Crime

Combined October/November Crime Log

OFFENSE	TOTAL For PSA 404	Near Crestwood Subtotal	In Crestwood Subtotal	Area Mon-Thu	Area Fri-Sun
Assault	17	1	2	1	1
Burglary	31	2	3	1	2
Robbery	35	2	0	0	0
Stolen Auto	27	5	5	2	3
Theft	20	2	1	0	1
Theft from Auto	22	5	10	4	6
Total	152	17	21	8	13

[Police Service Area 404 ranges from Crestwood east to North Capitol Street. "Near Crestwood" includes PSA 404 east to 14th Street. "Crestwood Area" includes PSA 404 east to 16th Street.]

Crestwood Area Crimes October/November by Block

Assault		Theft	
3900 16 th St	Tue 10/16 1:35am	1600 Allison St	Fri 10/19 9:00pm
1600 Buchanan	Sat 10/20 9:44pm	Theft from Auto	
Burglary		4500 Blagden Ave	Fri 10/5 5:00pm
1700 Crestwood Dr	Sat 10/20 11:30pm	4500 Blagden Ave	Fri 10/5 5:00pm
1600 Webster St	Sat 11/24 4:00pm	4800 Blagden Ave	Sun 10/7 1:15pm
1700 Varnum St	Mon 11/26 4:00pm	4600 Colorado Ave	Sun 10/7 10:30pm
Stolen Auto		4600 Blagden Ter	Thu 10/11 9:55am
1600 Webster St	Sun 9/30 10:30pm	1700 Taylor St	Wed 10/17 5:00pm
1800 Randolph St	Tue 10/16 9:00pm	1800 Varnum St	Sat 10/20 2:00am
4300 17 th St	Sun 11/4 1:30am	1600 Shepherd St	Wed 10/31 8:00pm
4000 18 th St	Fri 11/9 5:00pm	1700 Uphsur St	Wed 11/14 6:00pm
1600 Uphsur St	Mon 11/19 6:30pm	1800 Shepherd St	Sun 11/18 2:10pm

2007 Home Sales

Crestwood and Crestwood North – source: DC government website

Address	Price	Date
1815 Randolph Street	\$1,150,000	1/17
4506 17 th Street	900,000	1/25
4305 Blagden Avenue	800,000	1/26
4629 Blagden Terrace	650,000	2/6
1829 Upshur Street	810,000	2/26
4326 Blagden Avenue	699,353	2/27
1616 Decatur Street	610,000	4/12
4316 18 th Street	850,000	4/12
4704 Blagden Terrace	835,000	4/13
4834 16 th Street	997,500	5/2
4505 Argyle Terrace	1,185,000	5/7
1807 Varnum Street	880,000	5/14
4329 Blagden Avenue	1,070,000	5/19
1621 Varnum Street	775,000	6/8
4322 Blagden Avenue	712,500	6/19
1826 Varnum Street	1,050,000	7/6
4540 Blagden Avenue	969,000	7/11
1705 Upshur Street	689,000	7/24
3930 Argyle Terrace	1,706,900	7/24
1604 Upshur Street	1,250,000	8/2
1614 Crittenden Street	796,000	8/15
1727 Shepherd Street	895,000	8/16
1901 Upshur Street	1,121,000	8/21



Neighborhood Notes

- We are considering a neighborhood yard sale the third Saturday in April. If you are interested, let us know.
 - Please look out for your neighbors, especially seniors.
 - Did you know that some of our dogs—as well as humans—have been diagnosed with Lyme disease? The problem will only grow, as more and more deer take up residence in the neighborhood.
 - The city is about to embark on a major revision of the zoning laws. We need to stay on top of this issue. It's up to all of us to protect the residential nature of our neighborhood.
 - At our January meeting, we may have a resolution to change the bylaws to permit full membership rights to those who join the Association, but live on streets adjacent to our boundaries. That has been our practice, but we may need to modify the bylaws to formalize it. We are also considering moving to a Board with defined roles rather than titles. Let's hear your opinion.
- We encourage our block contacts to coordinate at least one social event at the block level each year. It's useful especially to welcome new families to the block. Progressive dinners work well. Entrée at one spot...dessert at another.
 - Would you like to serve as a block contact? Do you know who your block contact is?
 - The Association recently helped get a thicket of vines removed from parkland behind a lot on Shepherd Street after the homeowner reported a number of fires set behind her property.
 - Help keep the streetlights shining throughout the long winter. 727-1000 is the number to call to report a dark streetlight—or use the DC government website.

Crestwood Citizens Association Board of Directors

President – Gale Black

Vice President & Green Team Leader – Doug Barker

Vice Presidents & Social Team Leaders – George & Deborah Chaconas

Vice President & Newsletter Editor – David Swerdloff

Treasurer – Ellen Wormser

Secretary – Patricia Hildebrand

Director of Communications & Website Coordinator – Tom Chused

Kids Team Captains – Nicole Ruman, Sara Moghadam Pietras, Kara Morgan

Public Safety & Issues & Police Team Captains – Melvin Baker, Gale Black

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Tom Calhoun