

BZA CASE No. 18881, Nando's of Woodley Park

Testimony of Barbara Ioanes

My name is Barbara Ioanes, and I have lived in a house on Cathedral Avenue in Woodley Park for 39 years. I am currently the Vice President of the Woodley Park Community Association (WPCA) and have been an active member, Past President, Officer and Executive Committee member almost continually since the 1980's.

When I moved to Woodley Park from the Wisconsin Avenue area in 1975, one of things that attracted me to the neighborhood was the business district along Connecticut Avenue and Calvert Street. It had a variety of useful shops and services and its share of restaurants. They did not crowd out the other businesses that catered to the residents of the area.

There were a number of developments in the 1980's that prompted WPCA and ANC3C to seek a change in the zoning classification of the business district. This process resulted in the creation of the Woodley Park Neighborhood Commercial Overlay District.

One of the things we were concerned about was the proliferation of restaurants. Woodley Park is and was the site of two large hotels. One, the Sheraton Park, now called the Marriott Wardman Park, had more guest rooms than any other in DC, and restaurants were opening presumably to serve hotel guests and visitors to the National Zoo. A few restaurants displayed signs welcoming hotel guests, such as "Welcome, Sheleighlies", posted in front windows. Some restaurants were displacing retail and service businesses that residents used. We had a deli, a Tarot card reader, a newsstand store, a furrier, and a photo shop on Connecticut Avenue, a grocery store, a tailor, and a women's dress store on Calvert Street, and a gift shop and an antique business on two of the corners of Connecticut Avenue and Calvert Street, which are all gone now. In addition, there are non-restaurant businesses which have

survived, including CVS (then called Peoples Drugs), Salon Roi, Debonaire Cleaners, Sherry's Liquors, and Baskin Robbins.

While we knew that not all the retail businesses would last indefinitely, we wanted to be sure that we did not become an area overrun with restaurants. At the same time, Cleveland Park was working on obtaining an Overlay Zone and decided to request the 25% cap. So we asked the Zoning Commission to limit the restaurant number the same way. Thus, the 25% street frontage cap.

The cap effectuates one of the purposes of the overlay, which is to

"Encourage retention and establishment of a variety of retail, entertainment, and personal service establishments ... so as to meet the needs of the surrounding area's residents, workers, and visitors." DCMR § 11-1301.3(b).

It's a shame that DCRA allowed the 25% cap to be violated in the 2000's and that the restaurant frontage now exceeds 30%. As the attached Zoning Administrator letter shows, once a restaurant occupies a storefront, that storefront is available to another restaurant even if the first one moves out. So it is only in extraordinary circumstances that a storefront goes from a restaurant use to a non-restaurant use.

Nando's can get a special exception only if it shows that it

"will substantially advance the stated purposes of the NC Overlay District and the particular NC Overlay District, and will not adversely affect neighboring property, nor be detrimental to the health, safety, convenience, or general welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity." DMCR § 11-1304.1(a).

It's hard for me to see how increasing restaurant penetration to a level that is 40% higher than the limit in the zoning code could possibly "substantially advance" the purpose of the overlay, which is to limit the degree of restaurant penetration.

There are already other "fast casual" eateries in the neighborhood (such as, Noodles, Chipotle, Open City, Italian Pizza Kitchen), so this is not a niche that needs to be filled.

Eliminating another non-restaurant space in the neighborhood will also be detrimental to the convenience of people living or working in the neighborhood, as it will further reduce the variety of nearby retail and service establishments.

The ANC asked the Woodley Park Community to hold a community meeting to weigh in on this Overlay request. We held the meeting, and many neighbors spoke against raising the 25% cap. One mentioned that it took us years of research to develop the 25 % cap, and that we must be careful not to undo it without time spent evaluating the potential consequences. We voted to keep the 25 % cap. ANC 3c decided not to respect their constituents vote and four Commissioners voted to allow the cap to be raised.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara J loanes, Vice-President, WPCA

2222 Cathedral Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20008

202-667-9240

Attachment: DCRA Zoning Administrator Ruling, 9/5/2008

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



[Via emailed PDF to g.idelson@verizon.net]

September 5, 2008

George Idelson – Cleveland Park Citizens Assn

Re: Classification of Restaurants in CP Overlay District

Dear Mr Idelson:

This letter is in response to the CPCA inquiry over whether or not certain vacant restaurants located in the Cleveland Park Overlay, should be counted towards the calculation of total restaurant frontage. The basis for the restaurant frontage calculation is the current certificate of occupancy on the property. Although a commercial lease space is vacant, the certificate of occupancy designating the approved use of the spaces may remain valid. I have determined that the four vacant restaurants you raised in your email to me of August 4, 2008 must be classified as restaurants and are subject to the restaurant frontage calculation rule. These are located in the 3407, 3513, 3515, and 3524 Connecticut Avenue NW addresses.

As you know, 11 DCMR § 1302.5(a) sets a limitation on restaurants and other food service establishments in the Cleveland Park Overlay by restricting them from occupying more 25% of the linear street frontage within the overlay district. Once the 25% restriction is met, any additional restaurants must obtain a special exception. See 11 DCMR § 1304.1

As an illustration, in the case of 3407 Connecticut Avenue NW (the Property used as a McDonald's restaurant), that lease space was used as a restaurant on November 3, 1989, when the 25% restriction was adopted. The Property received a certificate of occupancy for a "Restaurant – (fast food)" in 1985 and received a second certificate of occupancy for a "Restaurant – McDonalds" in 1996. Prior to the adoption of the 25% restriction, the use of a restaurant in a C-2-A zone was allowed as a matter of right. See 11 DCMR §§ 701, 721. It is my understanding that the McDonald's closed sometime in 2003. Since the restaurant closed, the Property has been vacant for approximately five years and no other use has been established at that site.

Because the 3407 and 3524 Connecticut Avenue NW addresses (McDonalds and Yenching) were lawfully in existence as restaurants in 1989, when the 25% restriction

was adopted and no other use has been established at the premises, the use of the lease spaces as restaurants is considered as conforming uses. I base this on the following provision of the zoning regulations, 11 DCMR § 199.1, under an excerpt of the definition of **Nonconforming Use**, which states:

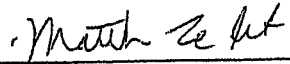
.A use lawfully in existence at the time of adoption or amendment of this title that would thereafter require special exception approval from the Board of Zoning Adjustment shall not be deemed a nonconforming use. *That nonconforming use shall be considered a conforming use*, subject to the further provisions of §§ 3104.2 and 3104.3. (emphasis added.)

Since these restaurants are conforming uses, the fact that they have been vacant three or more years is irrelevant. Although 11 DCMR § 2005 provides that the right to use a property in a nonconforming manner can be terminated by discontinuing that use for three years, the BZA has held that 11 DCMR § 2005 does not apply to conforming uses. See *District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment Appeal No. 17591 of MLW, LLC*. In this case, the BZA held that the use of a property as an apartment building that was lawfully in existence at the time of adoption of the zoning amendment “is not a nonconforming use and it thereby is not subject to the discontinuance restrictions of § 2005.1. The discontinuance restrictions under § 2005.1 are by definition only applicable to a ‘nonconforming use.’” *Id*

The other two restaurants at the 3513 and 3515 Connecticut Avenue NW addresses (Whats a Bagel and Fosters Bros Coffee) were not in existence prior to the 25% rule (I understand that they were established in 1992). These are also conforming uses because they had approved building permits and were lawfully established with valid Certificates of Occupancy.

Conforming uses under the Zoning Regulations do not require a special exception from the BZA, unless the owner is expanding or enlarging the use. See 11 DCMR §§ 199.1, 3104.2. As such, the owner of such properties could use their lease spaces as restaurants, without first obtaining a special exception, even if the 25% restriction had been exceeded. The Zoning Regulations allow this in order to allow landowners to continue to use their land, after a change in the law, in the same manner as before the change. As I explained above, the landowner has not lost his ability to use the restaurant by failing to operate it for more than three years. Therefore, in order to ensure that 25% restriction is properly enforced, I must categorize the lease spaces even though they are vacant, as restaurants. If I did not count them as restaurants, that would have the effect of allowing more restaurants to operate than would otherwise be allowed under the law.

For properties that were not used as restaurants when the 25% restriction was adopted, the rationale I have expressed here would not apply. I hope this explanation has addressed your questions. Please feel free to contact me with any additional concerns.

Sincerely, 

Matthew LeGrant
Zoning Administrator

the ACORN

A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

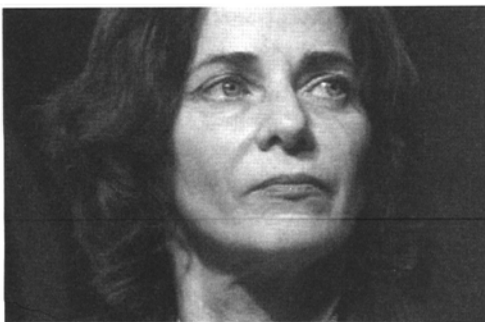


WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG
WPCADC@AOL.COM

FALL 2014

Councilmember Cheh To Headline Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Woodley Park Community Association is set for November 12 at Stanford University, 2661 Connecticut at 7:30 pm. We



are excited to host Ward 3 Councilmember Cheh as our featured speaker. First elected to the Council in 2006, Councilmember Cheh has distinguished herself over the past eight

years with her legislative record and effective constituent service. Councilmember Cheh will give you her perspective on what's going on with the DC government and to take your

questions and concerns and thoughts on the future of our ward and the District.

There will also be elections of officers and other Executive Committee members. So far, the following people have been nominated: Peter Brusoe, President; Barbara Ioanes, VP, Emily Wagner, Secretary; Warren Gorlick, Treasurer; Dan Dembkowski, Gasper Martinez, Rob Meisnere and Stephanie Zobay, at-large members. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting.

We will have some other pieces of business to attend to. One issue that we need to discuss is the role of the restaurant cap in keeping our community livable. You can read an update on this important issue below.

The Woodley Park Community Association represents you, and we are very glad to hear your feedback and suggestions. We hope to see you at our meeting.

Peter Brusoe

Commercial Landlord Seeks To Change Neighborhood Zoning Rules

In the mid-1980's, Woodley Park residents asked the DC Zoning Commission to rewrite the regulations that governed the neighborhood business district along Connecticut, Calvert and 24th. As a result, the Commission established this area as the Woodley Park Neighborhood Commercial District, with rules tailored to achieve the neighborhood's objectives. Since that time, many other Neighborhood Commercial Districts have been created throughout the city.

The first community objective was to maintain the physical scale of the area. The rules do this by imposing stricter height and density limits than would be applicable otherwise.

The second was to maintain this as a neighborhood shopping district, meeting the retail and service needs of residents. To do this, the rules require that certain types of businesses occupy at least half the ground floor area of buildings in the district and set limits on certain other types of businesses.

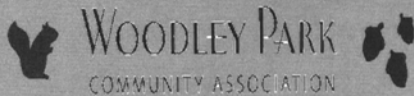
In particular, the rules provide that "eating establishments" (restaurants, bars, coffee shops, delis etc.) may occupy no more than 25% of the street frontage in the area. Through inattention of the zoning enforcers, however, eating establishments eventually occupied more than 33% of the

(Continued on page 7)

What Is Fast Food?

Like pornography (to this very limited extent), it's hard to define, but you generally know it when you see it. The definition is relevant because zoning regulations don't allow fast food establishments in the Woodley Park commercial district. Except they used to allow them on one side but not the other, but now prohibit them on both.

The fast food definition used to be based on characteristics like the amount of space used for customer queuing and whether items were prepared or packaged before. This definition was hard for the Zoning Administrator to apply when looking at a permit application. So, in 2007, the Zoning Commission changed it. Unfortunately, the new definition included many more businesses than the old one did. If the customer pays before she eats -- it's fast food. If the business uses any disposables at all, fast food again. So when Chipotle moved into the neighborhood, it wasn't fast food, but now it is. And Noodles had to get special permission from the BZA to locate here, because customers pay before they eat. Giving the Zoning Administrator a clearer test to apply had the unintended consequence of making more work for the BZA.



WPCA's MISSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President :: Peter Brusoe

Vice President :: Barbara Ioanes

Secretary :: Emily Wagner

Treasurer :: Warren Gorlick

Board Members :: Dan Dembkowski,

Bill Kummings, Gasper Martinez,

Rob Meisnere, Sarah Taber and

Stephanie Zobay

Past President :: Bill Menzer

THE ACORN

:: Editorial Board ::

Peter Brusoe & John Goodman

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

We welcome your comments, suggestions and submissions.

Contact us :: wpcadc@aol.com

Website :: www.wpcaonline.org

*A special thanks to
Stanford University,
the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
and 2700 Woodley Road
for allowing WPCA to use their
facilities for meetings and other ac-
tivities in recent months.*

President's Message

My Fellow Woodley Parkians,

I want to begin by saying thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Woodley Park President this past year. Jerome of Chartes famously said that that we stand on the shoulders of giants, that is so true with being the Woodley Park President. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many Past Presidents and Executive Board Members the Association continues to do great things.

I want to especially thank all of those who have helped out on projects, supported our association monetarily, and attended our events. I cannot thank our Executive Committee and officers enough for their hard work and dedication.

This year has not been without its challenges. Our community was shocked over the senseless shootings that hap-

pened in our neighborhood by outsiders. However, we came together and thanks to the work of ANC Commissioner Kaliel we were able to put together a wonderful panel of community leaders, the zoo, metro police and WMATA police.

Spring saw our annual clean-out day and picnic. There are write ups about both of these activities. We have been working on a number of zoning issues including assuring that we can have auxiliary dwelling units in our houses.

We currently have other zoning issues and historic preservation that we are currently addressing and you can read about them elsewhere in the Acorn. We also have some exciting events coming up including our annual holiday party, and some winter social events!

Thank you for being a WPCA Member!

Your neighbor,
Peter

A Report from Neighborhood Watch

Representatives from the National Zoo attended the September 10 meeting of the Woodley Park Community Association to meet with the executive board and members of the community. Zoo representatives reported that, since the April shooting incidents, a task force, led by the director of public safety for the Smithsonian, has been established. The task force is evaluating the Zoo's security needs, in particular during hours of high-visitation. Methods of security may include capacity controls, controlled access, and special event positioning. The task force is also outlining procedures for conducting bag checks and using magnetic wands, similar to the security employed on the National Mall during the 4th of July as well as events at the Verizon Center and Nationals Park. The task force is also consulting other organizations such as the Urban League, DC Public Schools, and other zoos across the nation to learn more about best practices. The Zoo Representative closed the conversation by reinforcing that safety is Director Kelly's number one priority, and that the Zoo will report back to the community soon on their plans for the future as well as crisis communications within the local community.

Dan Dembkowski

Public Art Committee Considering Mural and Other Options

Woodley Park is home to two great public art projects. We have the painted call-boxes spread around the neighborhood and the iconic Marilyn Monroe mural on the west side of Connecticut. Several neighbors have suggested that we look at securing another mural for Woodley Park. The Woodley Park Community Association has formed a committee consisting of Bill Kummings, Rob Meisnere and Peter Brusoe to weigh the possibilities of possibly adding another new mural. What do you think? Is there room for another mural in Woodley? What do you think the subject should be? Where would you like it to be located? Please share your thoughts with WPCA.

Successful Neighborhood Clean-out Day in June

The Woodley Park Community Association held its annual clean-out day on June 7 in partnership with the Woodland Normanstone Neighborhood Association. As in years past, we took everything from e-waste, to paint, to large household appliances, as well as provided a shredding truck for paper. The Metropolitan Police Department ran a prescription drug take-back day to allow for medicines to be safely disposed of. We want to thank all of the volunteers who made this event happen!

Review of Woodley Park Historic District Guidelines

WPCA is undertaking a review of the design guidelines applicable to the Old Woodley Park Historic District. We would like your input on whether the guidelines should be changed and, if so, how.

Some background --

Much of the Woodley Park neighborhood was designated an historic district in 1990. The area includes the commercial strip on near the Metro and the apartment buildings on the next block to the north, and the row-house blocks to the east and west (see map). Other individual Woodley Park buildings are also covered by historic preservation laws.

According to DC regulations, the purpose of the historic preservation rules is to "promote the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of properties of historical, cultural, and aesthetic merit." When a property is designated "historic," whether individually or as part of an historic district, certain proposed changes to it are subject to review to ensure that those changes won't detract from its historic nature. Some proposed changes can be approved by the staff of the Historic Preservation Office, while others are subject to a hearing before the Historic Preservation Review Board.

As part of the process of proposing the Woodley Park historic district, the neighborhood prepared a set of design

guidelines that indicated what features it thought were important to preserve. These focused on the fronts of buildings and essentially said that there was nothing special about the rears that was worth preserving. These guidelines are not binding

on the governmental deciders -- they have to follow the law, irrespective of what a bunch of residents might think.

This issue came up in July at a hearing on a proposed rear addition to a house on Woodley Place. A number of neighbors opposed the plan. In spite of the language in the guidelines, HPRB agreed with the neighbors and denied the application. At the hearing, members of the Board suggested that the neighborhood review the 25+-year-old guidelines to see if they still expressed the community's priorities.

The Woodley Park application for historic district designation was one of the early ones in DC. Since that time, HPO has published a number of design guidelines that are generally applicable to DC historic districts. If these general guidelines adequately express the community's wishes, then there would be no

need for any Woodley-Park-specific guidelines.

So, what do you think? Are you OK with the guidelines as written? Should they be changed in any way -- as to backs of houses or anything else? Are there things that aren't working about the historic district? Barbara Ioanes (bioanes@gmail.com) is leading this inquiry for WPCA, and she would like to hear what you have to say.

John Goodman



WPCA Welcomes —

Wylie Wagg For Cats, Dogs and others!

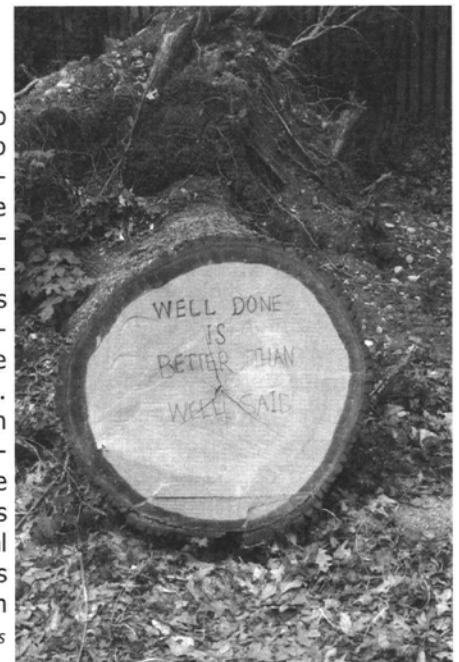
Woodley Park welcomed a new neighbor at 2625 Connecticut Avenue, Wylie Wagg! Wylie Wagg is a pet supply store offering pet food, treats, fabulous pet beds, toys, collars, leashes, scratching posts and pet carriers. They also have items for other pets such as birds, fish and reptiles. In case Fluffy or Fido want to get something for their human staff there are whimsical pillows, plush animals, picture frames and stationery.

Wylie Wagg also works with rescue animals and provides adoption events right here in Woodley Park. Wylie Wagg is a family owned business and is interested in working with other businesses in Woodley Park to form a business owners alliance. They are open 7 days a week.

Two New Neighborhood Businesses

Dr. Marlen Elliot Harrison has returned to Woodley Park after 15 years to offer two different services. First, he offers discounted, individualized pet services to the Woodley area at www.Woodley-PetServices.com. Second, a former professor at University of Tampa, he operates DC's only perfumery, www.KingsPalace-Perfumery.com, which offers affordable custom fragrances and scented products. Use coupon code WOODLEYROCKS as often as you wish to receive 15% off your purchases at Kings Palace. He says that he regularly donates between 3-5% of his earnings from both companies back to local and international charities such as DC's Lucky Dog Animal Rescue. You can reach him at (954) 913-2261.

Barbara Ioanes



TOPA Opens New Chapter in History for South Cathedral Mansions

Spanning the entire block across from the National Zoo, Cathedral Mansions was advertised as the "World's largest apartment community" when it was built by Harry Wardman in 1920. Its three buildings (North, Center and South), which are now all owned separately, were added to the National Historic Registry in 1994 and have been featured in compilations such as "Best Addresses". The South building, "South Cathedral Mansions", embarked on a new chapter in its history when residents organized in July 2013 to take advantage of their rights under DC's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA).



After receiving notices that the William Calomiris Company had a contract to sell South Cathedral Mansions to B.F. Saul, residents formed the South Cathedral Mansions Tenants Association, Inc. (SCMTA) with the help of Housing Counseling Services, Inc. In DC, sale contracts trigger TOPA, which gives existing residents the first right to buy the building (often called the "right of first refusal"). For buildings with

five or more units, residents can only take advantage of TOPA collectively as a tenant association by submitting a response that includes original signatures from a majority of the building's households.

Depending on factors such as a building's purchase price, residents' priorities and capacity, and funding availability, tenant associations may take advantage of TOPA in different ways. Some associations convert their building to a cooperative or condos. However, many associations are challenged by the limited timeline and lack of funding and are not able to buy their building. In these cases, tenant associations can still exercise TOPA but assign their rights to a buyer of the association's choosing in exchange for negotiated benefits.

The SCMTA proceeded with the latter scenario and issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to developers in October 2013. The SCMTA reviewed submissions, conducted interviews, and voted to select a developer to buy and renovate the property. The residents selected Commonwealth Residential, which purchased the building in June 2014. Commonwealth's team includes development partners Cas Riegler and Snead Construction, and Oculus Realty as the property management partner.

South Cathedral Mansions will remain a rental apartment building. Commonwealth plans to begin renovations by the end of 2014. Existing residents will be temporarily relocated within the building while each "wing" is renovated. The redevelopment plans, which are still being finalized and are subject to historic preservation review, will include unit upgrades as well as the addition of new amenity spaces. The SCTMA continues to play an active role in holding Commonwealth accountable to its Development Agreement with the SCMTA, collaborating on building plans, and building community among residents.

Sonya Hochevar

Woodley Park Dining: The District Kitchen

The District Kitchen is one of several restaurant options in Woodley Park. A few weeks ago I did brunch with a lady friend.

The ambiance of the restaurant is quite nice. It features exposed brick walls and modern furnishings. The restaurant takes full advantage of its windows and the natural sunlight which creates a lovely dining room. The noise level was comfortable if not a little loud at times I had to strain to hear my dining companions, but it was evident that everyone was having a great time.

The server was prompt and took great care to attend to our needs. Very rarely did my mimosa glass remain empty for long.

I had the eggs benedict which was exceptionally well presented and plated. The eggs were firm but broke easily when hit with a fork. The hollandaise

sauce was perfect! Its lovely accents nicely complemented the flavor of the classically cured ham and the fresh eggs. The home fries were very well presented, not too moist but firm.

My dining companion had a dry aged steak burger. The meat was well and delightfully prepared. The tomatoes, pickles and lettuce formed a delicious contrast with the meat to make a culinary delight from an American Classic. The brioche style bun was nice and firm. The potatoes were typical french fries and not much to write home about.

The mimosas were exceptional and of good value for \$17. A bigger glass

would have been the only thing that would have improved the experience. The wine menu was a bit pedestrian, but their choice of beer was well done with



several exceptional local brews.

The District Kitchen earns 4 Acorns. 2606 Connecticut Ave. Dinner only Monday through Thursday, lunch and dinner Friday through Sunday.

Peter Brusoe

Living in Woodley Park Since the 1960's – An Interview with Carol C. Chamberlain

Carol moved to DC in the early 1950s and first lived in a rooming house in Mt. Pleasant while working for the US Air Force. She married Culver B. Chamberlain in 1961, moved into his Woodley Park apartment on Connecticut Avenue, and in 1962, they bought their house on the 2900 block of Cathedral Avenue, NW across from Maret School. Their son, Donald was born in 1966 and grew up in this house. Not that many residents have lived here as long as she has – now 52 years, continuously. I interviewed Carol in July 2014 about her experiences living in Woodley Park. Here is what she said.

What are your fondest memories of the "old days?"

In 1954, I attended all of the Army-McCarthy hearings because my cousin, Colonel Lloyd Lehrbas, was an Army press aide helping with the Army testimony. Although I do not remember what was said at the hearings, I do recall that at 6:00 pm each evening, Senator Joe McCarthy would stand up, shrug his shoulders in a manner that made him look like bear, and would say, "I don't what you are going to do, but I am going home for dinner."

I was a volunteer working for A. Powell Davies, minister of the All Souls Unitarian Church on 16th St near Harvard Street, NW. I performed administrative work including typing. Supreme Court Associate Justice William O. Douglas admired Davies very much, and even though Douglas was Presbyterian, he would come to our church every Sunday. Another Associate Justice, Hugo Black also attended services there, and I often sat with him. Davies died of a heart attack in late 1950s. Douglas decided to publish Davies' sermons and needed them transcribed, since they were all hand written and illegible. I and the salaried secretary, Jane Wheeler, did those transcriptions. Since we had to get all dressed up to hand deliver them to Douglas at the Court, we would take turns going there by bus.

I would often receive notes from Douglas while he was travelling regarding the transcribed sermons and his handwriting was even worse than Davies'. About all I could read was his signing, "As ever, William O. Douglas." Every time he came to church, we would talk about which sermons to use in which chapter of the book. Douglas was the editor of resulting book, "The Mind of Faith of A. Powell Davies" which was published in 1959.

You did other volunteer work over the years. Tell me about it.

I volunteered at the John Eaton School in the 1950s. I knew some Spanish and did one year of post graduate study at the National University of Mexico, in Mexico City with the intention of perfecting my language skills and took liberal arts courses. Since all the courses were taught in Spanish, I learned much about the language. Therefore, at Eaton, I taught students who were from Central and South America to speak English. I needed the knowledge of Spanish to do so.

In the early 1960s, I volunteered to help in the production of children's theatre at the Roosevelt High School since I did similar work while a student at Northwestern University. All of Bobby Kennedy's kids loved coming to the performances and I got to know one of his daughters, Courtney, the best, since she acted in some of the plays. John Kennedy was president at the time and the Secret Service made Caroline sit all by herself in the corner by the stage for her own protec-

tion. I thought it odd that she could not sit with her cousins, who one would think were safe to be with. I sat with some of the agents at the rear of the auditorium and was impressed that they could intelligently discuss literature, art, and music. I found out that they knew more than just how to shoot.

I also served as the secretary of the Woodley Park Community Association in the 1980s and 1990s.

Tell me about your interest in hiking in the early days.

Shortly after moving here, I joined Justice Douglas' hiking club and remained in it for many years. President Kennedy thought hiking was good exercise and encouraged his appointees to participate in a particular hike during the summer of 1961 led by Douglas. The hike was about 15 miles long and ended at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. I hiked with Ermalee Udall, the wife of the Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall. She told me that when she left her house that morning, she



grabbed a pair of sneakers thinking that they were hers. When she put them on just before the hike, they did not fit since it turned out they were her daughter's. She therefore hiked barefooted and then became known as "the cabinet wife with tough feet." Ermalee told me she often hiked barefoot back home in Arizona since the ground was so sandy.

Defense Secretary Robert McNamara was also part of the hike which he found to be exhausting. He only finished the hike because his daughter was covering the event for a TV show and it was being filmed. The Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, finished with the encouragement of his young son who needed his scout's merit badge. All of Robert Kennedy's kids hiked with the group. The two youngest lagged well behind the group and were followed by the Secret Service in vehicles. The agents kept offering the kids a ride, but as a matter of pride or honor, they hiked the entire way. They finally showed up about half way through our big spaghetti dinner at Harpers Ferry.

You had many volunteer jobs and interests over the years. Did you also have a career?

In addition to my work for the Air Force early on, I worked for the George Washington University beginning in the early 1980s, first in the law school, then the medical school, and I finally wound up in the German and Classics Department as an administrative assistant. I was really their chief cook and bottle washer. I worked there for almost 20 years and retired in 1999.

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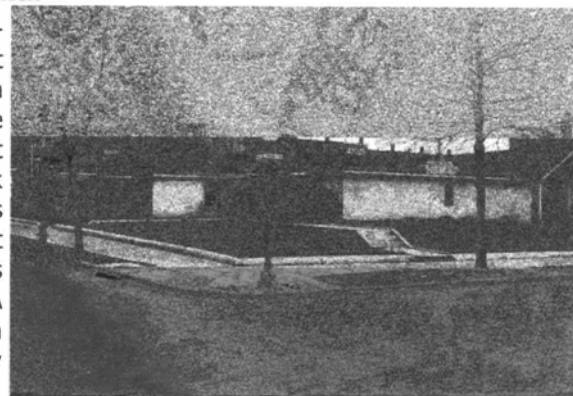
St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church Celebrates Its Centennial

The parishioners of Saint Thomas Apostle are ending a year-long celebration of its 100 years in the Cleveland and Woodley Park neighborhoods. This celebration will culminate with a Founder's Day Celebration on November 23, 2014. There will be a Mass at noon offered by his Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, the Archbishop of Washington followed by a luncheon at the Marriott Wardman Hotel.

The parish was established as a spin-off of Saint Augustine's Church at 15th and V Streets as the Federal City expanded its boundaries. Its first pastor was Father Thomas Walsh, who established a temporary "mission church" in the Stone Street Mansion on Cathedral Avenue and 28th Street, until the first wooden STA Church was built on Woodley Road and 27th Street.

In 1923, Father Walsh decided to excavate a basement church to give the congregation a bigger space and him more time to fundraise for a permanent church. Unfortunately, the stock market crash and war delayed his dream for years. The current Saint Thomas Apostle Church was finally dedicated in 1951. The STA School was opened in 1964, with the dedicated Sisters of the Holy Cross operating it until 1984.

Pastor Father Richard Mullins states, "Yes, the neighborhood, the city, the nation and the world have changed and yet Christ is still here, in his holy dwelling, on the small plot of land bounded by Woodley Road and 27th Street, loving us through the sacraments and prepar-



ing us for an eternity in the shining City of the New Jerusalem He has made for us, a place even more beautiful than Woodley Park!"

Nancy Theis

Things You Might Not Know About St. Thomas Apostle

- St. Thomas Apostle started out as a basement church with the current stage serving as the Sanctuary. The wall separating the stage from the kitchen still features stain glass windows hidden by the stage curtains. The original stairs can be seen from the storage room near the library.
- The tapestries that cover the back wall of the sanctuary and in front of the Mary and Joseph statues have a pattern that match the clerical vestments.
- St. Thomas Apostle Resident Priest, The Rev. John Kartje, was an astrophysicist before entering the priesthood. He went on to serve Northwestern University as their Chaplain and is currently a professor at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago.
- St. Thomas Apostle has been home to several priests who were also lawyers. This includes former Pastor Monsignor Charles Antonicelli, who was a practicing attorney before entering the priesthood, Fr. Bill Dailey CSC who during his time at St. Thomas Apostle was an associate with Wiley Rein LLP after

graduating from Columbia Law School.

- St. Thomas Apostle is home to the largest population of Catholic young adults in the archdiocese of Washington.
- A copy of Caravaggio's "The Incredulity of St. Thomas" is located on the western wall of the Church. It used to be hung over the altar.
- In the 1980s, St. Thomas Apostle was home to the Spanish Catholic Center offering services to the community.
- Aidan Montessori School's building once was St. Thomas Apostle school. The nuns who ran the school lived on the top floor.
- Generally overlooked, the Sanctuary includes four stained glass windows depicting the Four Evangelists, Sts. John, Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- In the 1940s the Church was used to pass out ration books.
- For several years St. Thomas Apostle was the home of Cardinal McCarrick, former Arch-Bishop of Washington, D.C.

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Checks should be made to Woodley Park Community Association.

You can also join, renew and contribute online: www.wpcaonline.org/join

(Zoning continued from page 1)

street frontage.

The cap on restaurants is not unique to Woodley Park. Many communities in the city have sought similar rules for their neighborhood business districts, and the Zoning Commission has adopted them. Although the percentages differ from area to area, the neighborhoods with limits are restaurants include 14th Street, Takoma, Eighth Street Southeast, and Cleveland Park.

Some landlords in Woodley Park have wanted to rent to restaurants, presumably because restaurants are more profitable tenants. One landlord has now asked the Board of Zoning

Adjustment for a variance — an exception to the rules — to allow it to do so.

The landlord's argument is, essentially, that it's economically better for the landlord to rent to a national chain restaurant, because of the company's credit rating and financial stability. If that argument is adequate to support a variance in this case, it will presumably be used by other neighborhood landlords who want to rent to restaurants.

This proceeding and WPCA's position in it will be discussed at the general membership meeting on November 12.

John Goodman



(Chamberlain continued from page 5)

Were there still streetcars in DC when you moved here? Did you use them and where did you go?

Yes, there were. Lines went up and down Connecticut Avenue and I wish we could bring them back. I usually went downtown on them. They were just ordinary, very busy, not air conditioned, and had many open windows. The streetcars came more often than the L2 (Metro) bus comes now.

Tell me about your experience with the construction of the Metro in Woodley Park in the 1970s.

I remember that because the house would shake when they were building the subway, during excavation and blasting. The owner of DC Transit (predecessor to Metro), O. Roy Chalk ran the company more on schedule than Metro runs it today. Now we are lucky to get a bus within an hour of when they say they are coming. The sentiment back when they built Metro was against Chalk since it was thought the system would be better municipally managed rather than individually (or privately) managed.

Who were some of your neighbors back then?

I remember June Ensign very well. She gave me good advice on bringing up my son, since she brought up two of her own.

Patricia Escobar lived in your house back then. Her boys were about same age as my son. Her house was very good for children. She had fixed it up so boys could do this and that. Donny loved to go over there and play.

Gayla Land and her husband took the neighborhood kids trick or treating during Halloween. Donny played with their three kids.

I knew Tom Browkaw, whose youngest daughter Heather went to Eaton with Donny. We would all go to the PTA meetings at Eaton. We would walk back home together and Meredith, Tom's wife, would go home to put up the coffee. Tom would walk me home, so by the time he got to his house, the coffee was perking. I knew that boy would go a long way because he knew how long it would take for coffee to perk.

My neighbor, Helene Van Meer, lived immediately opposite the Swiss embassy. We would sit on her front porch during the Swiss National Day celebration which is August 1 and listen to a band or orchestra doing the "um pah pah" routine. We also went to the embassy several times to join in the celebration. I was very impressed with the kids who paraded carrying candles inside balloons to the large bonfire at the rear of the property.

The one I knew best was Joan Mondale. Her boy was at Eaton with my son. Joan and I ran the toy and book sale at the school.

In your experience, how well does the District government take care of its senior citizens? What programs do you participate in and how do you rate them?

The DC Government does a fairly good job of taking care of its senior citizens. They significantly subsidize my property taxes which I could not afford to pay otherwise.

If you are 60 years old, you can get a meal at the Saint Albans school for \$2 or at the Adas Israel synagogue for \$3, soup to nuts. Adas Israel has better food since it is kosher, which makes it good in a way. Regular hotdogs are not comparable to kosher hotdogs. Lunch is served Monday through Friday at both locations and reservations are only needed at Saint Albans. I go almost every day. Also part of this program is Saint Mary's Church near George Washington University, around 24th and Virginia Avenue. \$2 and no reservations; just walk in for lunch. Although not sponsored by the District government, the Whole Foods at Tenley Circle offers a lunch for \$5 which is so generous that I take home the leftovers for dinner. They do this three times per week.

Tell me about the National Zoo when you moved here.

I used to volunteer as a watcher of the pregnant animals. I think that one of the most memorable animals to me was a forest elephant from Africa that died recently. She brought up many of the Asian baby elephants. She loved dolls and was quite a character. She would wait until a little girl with a doll came up to the fence, then she would put her trunk through an opening and grab the doll. Her keepers spent much of their time recovering dolls for the little girls. The Zoo acquired a male forest elephant for her whom she did not like. The story goes that she wrapped her trunk around him and threw him down into the pool. He was sent to a zoo in Florida since she could not tolerate him.

Bill Menczer

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Thank you & Farewell Chuck and Armen!

Barbara Loanes

Two long-time members of WPCA, Chuck Lupton and Armen Tashdianian died this past year and they leave a gaping hole in our community. Chuck Lupton was elected Treasurer in the early 1990's and served as an at-large member. During his time on and off the board he worked on a number of projects, secured the musical entertainment several times for our picnic and provided sound advice and great counsel. Armen Tashdianian was elected Treasurer in 2000. He went on to serve as our long-term Membership Director from that time until his death this summer. Neighbors will remember Armen most from being there to sign people in for General Membership Meetings, holiday parties and the Holiday Party. Armen diligently worked on sending out membership renewal letters and providing the membership up to date information. Armen was involved in the Federation of DC Citizens Association working on city wide issues and concerns. Both of these members are deeply missed.

Amenities from American University

One of the perks of living in Woodley Park is the number of amazing facilities near-by that we can enjoy. One of those is American University! **Katzen Museum:** The art museum open Tuesday-Sunday from 11AM-4PM. It features a number of different art exhibits over the course of the year and an outdoor sculpture garden. There is nothing better than spending an afternoon strolling along in the amazing Katzen Arts Center and enjoying a little nibble at the Katzen Café! For more information visit: [http://www.american.edu/cas/museum/American University](http://www.american.edu/cas/museum/American%20University)

Library: The American University Library, however, is open to everyone. You can go there and work on a paper,

have your high school student use the vast stacks to finish research papers and a number of other scholarly activities. <http://www.american.edu/library/index.cfm>

University Athletics: Ticket prices for professional sports have gone through the roof and it's difficult to take a family to go see a sporting event and make it affordable. American University offers a number of different sports including basketball, soccer and field hockey, and you can take the entire family for a pretty good price. Get your Red, White and Blue on and take the entire family! For more information visit: <http://www.aueagles.com/tickets/index>

American University Performing Arts: American University has a number of different performing arts programs. There are orchestras, jazz bands, symphonic band, an amazing pep band as well as choral ensembles. In addition to the music programs, there are also several different dance and theater performances occurring on campus. This provides a venue to see and hear a lot more culture than you would otherwise be able to enjoy.

