the ACORN
A publication of the Woodley Park Community Association
WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG
WPCADC@AOL.COM
SPRING 2008

Mark Your Calendars

Celebrate the changing of the seasons with your neighbors at the WPCA Summer Solstice Picnic. Food and drink. Games for the youngsters (please bring any games you think the kids would like), and social time for everyone of all ages. It's on June 21st (of course) in the park by the Woodley Playground, on the 3000 block of Cortland Place. Everyone is welcome, but we're asking for RSVPs so we know how much picnic cuisine to get. So please RSVP by sending an email to Picnic_Man@WPCAOnline.org. But if you find at the last minute that you can come, please do, even if you haven't told us in advance.

Watch for Details . . .

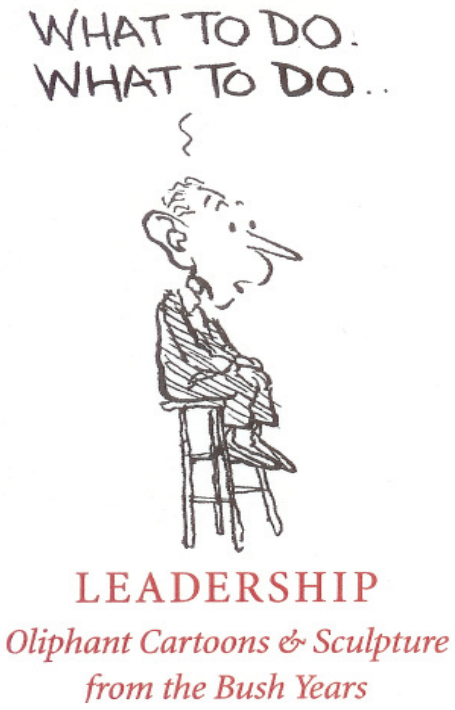
WPCA is planning to hold an architectural-historical tour of the Woodley Park neighborhood in the Fall, most likely in October when the weather makes strolls around the neighborhood more pleasant. The plan is to start with a short overview talk and then to proceed outdoors for the walk.

If you're interested in helping out in any way, we'd love to hear from you. You don't have to be an architect or an historian — just someone who is interested in Woodley Park and the people who live, and have lived, in it. Email ideas, suggestions or your volunteer information to Arch_Tour@WPCAOnline.org.

Maret Expansion Proposed

The Maret School wants to increase the number of students it may have on campus. Details in the story on page 4.

A Treat for Woodley Park



For those of us who missed the neighborhood reception at the Stanford in Washington Art Gallery early in May, we still have a chance to view an exciting exhibit by the Pulitzer prize winning political cartoonist, Pat Oliphant. The exhibit, "Oliphant: The Bush Years", will be open to the public at least through the middle of July.

The exhibit consists of Oliphant's cartoons, watercolors and sculptures in which he skewers the major figures in the Bush Administration in pen and ink, color and wax. In a recent interview printed in the Washington *Post*, he commented that his "business is villains" and in the Bush Administration, he seems to have found many. The exhibition is non-partisan, however, as it includes caricatures of Democrats and political figures from past decades.

Oliphant started his career as a

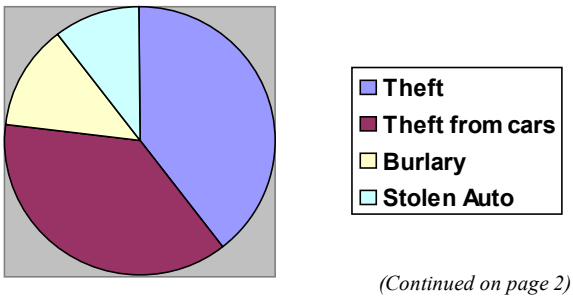
(Continued on page 7)

Crime Prevention in Woodley Park

According to MPD's website, during the period of April 2007 to April 2008, a total of 590 crimes were reported in Police Service Area (PSA) 204 which contains Woodley Park.

The most common crimes were thefts from cars (205 or 35% of the total), thefts (216 or 37%), and burglaries (71 or 12%). There were also 56 stolen cars (10%) during this period. Therefore, in this article, I will concentrate on preventing these types of crimes, which represented 94% of all crimes in our PSA during this 12

WP Crime from April 2007 to April 2008



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

(***Prevention*** *continued from page 1)*

month period.

Protecting Your Vehicle

Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight, in the trunk or in a locked glove compartment, rather than under a seat. Empty cars are not usually broken into, unless it is to steal the car itself. However, anything left in plain view, such as your toll change, GPS receiver, cell phone, iPod, sunglasses, CDs, DVDs, packages, briefcases, etc, may tempt a thief. Remove your radio faceplate and place it in the glove box. If possible, place all items in the trunk or glove box *before* you park your car, in case you are being observed by a potential thief.

Always lock your car and use anti-theft devices such as an engine-disabling alarm and a steering wheel locking bar (*e.g.*, "Club"). Never leave your vehicle engine on while you run inside your home or a store, even if for only a minute or two, which is long enough for an opportunistic thief to drive away with your car.

Protecting Your Home

If you are going to be away for even a few days, create the illusion that you are at home by using an automatic timer for your lights and radio or television. Sound and light are indicators that someone is home, and therefore, make the house a less attractive target of a burglary. Ask a neighbor to watch your home (give them a set of your house keys), have them shovel snow, and offer your driveway for them to park from time to time to give your home a "occupied look." Have your mail and newspaper delivery suspended, or have your neighbor regularly collect them for you.

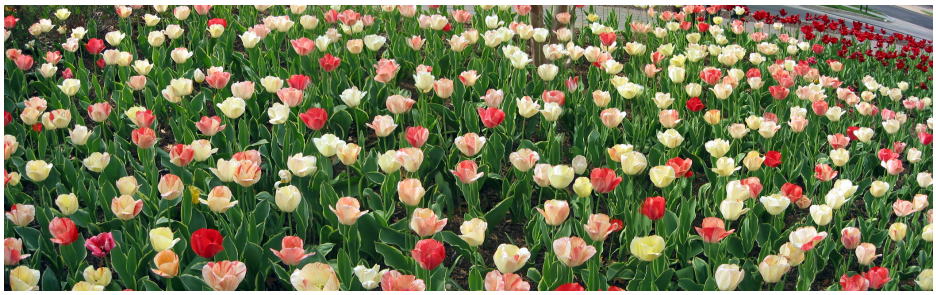
Burglars know when many households acquire expensive items in their homes, such as HDTVs, computers and peripherals, cameras, electronic equipment, and stereo components. Some burglars regularly "case" the alleys to determine which homes to target for a break in. They do so by observing boxes that identify these items that have been left in the alley or other trash pick-up locations for several days at a time. Residents should avoid this "flag" by breaking down boxes that are being thrown out, putting them in opaque garbage bags and placing them inside their Supercan. In the case of computer equipment, you might consider keeping the boxes for safe storage, warranty, shipping or moving in the future. Alternatively, you could retain the boxes in your garage or basement until the evening before your regular trash pick-up.

Periodically, take photos or make videos of your household items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory of your possessions can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file. Ensure that TVs, DVD players, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, exercise equipment, jewelry, silverware, computers, home office equipment, and power tools are on the list.

Have good quality locks on solid doors and *always* use them. Consider installing steel doors and frames to prevent the door being kicked in. Even if you leave your home for just a few minutes, close and lock the door behind you. It only takes moments for a burglar to enter your home when the opportunity presents itself. Get a house alarm that notifies a central station in the event your home is breached. Keep your windows locked and secure sliding glass doors with a dowel in the inside track. Keep shrubbery and tree branches away from your house so that they do not hide windows or doors or provide a way for a burglar to climb to an upper level window.

All of these good practices will help Woodley Park residents remain safe and secure in their homes and cars. Being active in the Woodley Park Neighborhood Watch program can also help through timely communications of incidents on your street and heightened awareness of ways to prevent crime. If you would like to become active in the Neighborhood Watch program, please contact billmenczer@yahoo.com.

William B. Menczer



Woodley Park Neighbor Tracked Nuclear Material and Shared Nobel Peace Prize

While the world watched Iran's attempt to develop enriched uranium, our 29th Street neighbor, Mike Wangler, was tracking shipments of radioactive material around the world for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from his perch in Vienna, Austria, as the Head of the IAEA's transport program.

In 2005 when Mohamed ElBaradei and the IAEA received the Nobel Peace Prize, Mike was one of the proud staff who shared that esteemed award. The prize was given "for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way."

For Mike it started in 2003, when the IAEA needed someone to lead the effort to develop and set safety standards for the transportation of radioactive materials. Mike accepted the job because, as he told his wife Joan, "We live in a dangerous world, and I know that I can make a difference."

This meant a very long distance marriage for five years since Joan has had her own leadership coaching business, EDIN Associates, to which she had to attend.

Settling in Vienna, Mike had a truly international staff of experts from such countries as: Brazil, South Africa, India, France, Austria and Canada. In this atmosphere, people had different ways of doing things and looked at problems from different viewpoints. Mike found it refreshing and rewarding to be able to meld these different outlooks into coherent and effective programs.

His work leading this effort to insure the safety of the transportation of radioactive materials built up his frequent flier mileage as he worked with officials in such places as Vietnam, Libya, Uruguay, Peru, Russia, Romania, Japan and a number of EU countries.

A Texas native, his career actually started in Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts where he completed a Master's Degree in Physics. At the University of Massachusetts, he took courses in Health Physics which involved protecting people and society from the effects of radiation. As a consequence, he became a health physicist and assistant to the Radiation Safety Officer at the University.

With that experience, he obtained a job with the New York State Bureau of Radiological Health where he inspected x-ray machines and licensed the use of radioactive materials. The job also involved emergency planning and preparedness in case there was a major accident in the State. In his spare time he volunteered for the Office of Civil Defense for Albany County.

By 1979, it was time to move on, and he moved to Washington DC to work for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing radioactive material and conducting environmental assessments of nuclear power plants. It was in this position that he also became an analyst for the National Radiological Emergency Response Plan, where he focused on the effect of radiation on the population in the event of a nuclear emergency.

By 1986, he moved to the Department of Transportation where he was the U.S. Competent Authority for insuring the safe transportation of radioactive materials. During that time Mike traveled to Vienna representing our government at the international meetings and connected with the worldwide scientific community. It was in this job that Mike got a taste for making a bigger difference in the world.

From 1992 to 2003, Mike headed the transport safety program at the Department of Energy. After the events of September 11, 2001, he responded to a higher purpose, when in 2003, the IAEA called.

The world is certainly not a safe place today, but it's better than it would have been if Mike Wangler had not been working to make it safer for the past five years. He and Joan continue to enjoy Woodley Park, where they have lived since 1986.

Morton Lebow

Please Let Us Get in Touch with You

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

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Maret Seeks Approval To Expand Its Student Enrollment

The Maret School is asking the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment for permission to increase the number of students who may attend the school and to add a few more faculty and staff. It needs Board approval because it agreed to enrollment and faculty caps when it received permissionl to enlarge its facilities in 1998.

Under the 1998 BZA order, Maret may have up to 600 students and 125 faculty and staff at its campus at 3000 Cathedral Avenue (BZA Order 16313). It wants to increase these caps to 635 and 129, respectively, increases of roughly 6 percent and 3 percent. It does not want to expand its physical facilities or to do any additional construction on its campus.

Marjo Talbott, Maret Head of School, explained the application at a WPCA meeting in early May. The addition of 35 students would allow the school to have greater flexibility in its class sizes and would probably be distributed evenly throughout the lower school. This change would also allow the school to add a sixth grade intake to adapt to changes at the DCPS elementary schools.

There are no plans to increase the number of students in the high school (and, therefore, the number of students potentially driving themselves to school). There is enough parking on campus to accommodate the proposed four additional faculty and staff members.

Maret commissioned a traffic study as part of its BZA application. That study concluded that the effect of increased number of students and faculty would be "insignificant".

At the meeting, Talbott reported that, as part of its educational initiative on sustainability, Maret is encouraging families to carpool and to use other methods — walking, biking, Metro — to get to school.

No opposition to the school's proposal was voiced at the meeting in early May, nor were any particular issues mentioned. Unless substantive issues are raised, WPCA will not oppose Maret's application.

If anyone has any concerns about Maret's proposal or wants more information about it, please let me know. A discussion topic about the proposal has been opened in the Forums section of the WPCA website, where a copy of the BZA application and Maret's traffic study are also available (www.WPCAOnline.org).

John Goodman
Goodman@verizon.net

A Trip To See the Pope

On April 17, 2008, I went to see the pope. It was really exciting to go to the national stadium. It was also very exciting to see Pope Benedict with my very own to eyes. Mostly I wanted to see him because I have been to Rome, and I didn't see the pope then.

I was happy to have this opportunity and I consider myself lucky because I got a ticket. For the people who didn't have a ticket but came down to the stadium anyway, they had a TV outside to watch him. They were able to see what was going on inside.

We had to go through a security check. Inside the gate we were given goodie bags. In the goodie bag was a booklet on how different people felt about the pope's visit, a mass booklet so the people could follow the mass, and a small Vatican city flag.

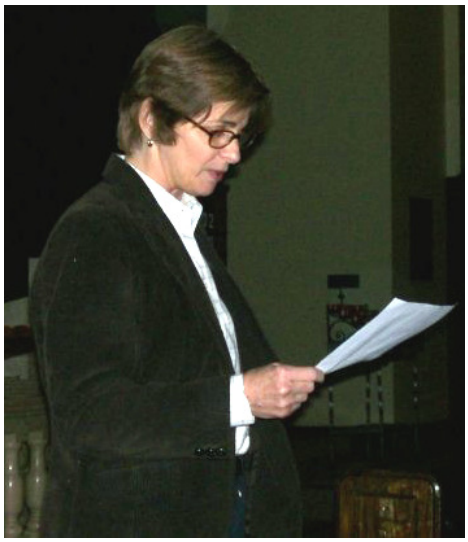
The mass was two hours long. There were many songs that the choir sang. The choir had children and adults. The children were on one side of the pope and the adults were on the other side. Some of the songs were sung in Spanish. During the mass there was one part where the response was done in five different languages.

Overall I had a good time. My teacher was very excited to hear about the pope. I am very, very glad I was able to go to see Pope Benedict. But I didn't get to see his red shoes!

Hannah Everhart

Fenty and Cheh at January WPCA Meeting

On January 29th, Mayor Adrian Fenty spoke at a WPCA meeting held at St. Thomas Apostle Church. He began by making a report on his first year in the Mayor's office, and then took questions from the audience. Questions ranged from "big" issues (like how the Mayor is going to fix the DC public schools and crime) to very specific neighborhood questions like traffic flow on Connecticut Avenue and the deployment of school crossing guards.



Councilmember Mary Cheh joined the Mayor at the January 29th meeting. She discussed some of her initiatives in the City Council. Cheh had spoken to WPCA in November, at which time members raised a variety of issues with her. In January, she reported back developments on those subjects.

In particular, Councilmember Cheh discussed legislation she has introduced to will help to drive down the use and consumption of power for the DC government.

You can read a fuller description of this meeting on our website (www.wpcaonline.org), at tinyurl.com/5fm3ro.

The Empress of Woodley Park

With the arrival of Spring, Woodley Park residents may notice delicate, lilac-colored blossoms that grow high on a type of tree common to the neighborhood. The purple, cup-shaped flowers are among the first to bloom after the cold winter and in time float down to the ground, often coming to rest alongside park trails, atop car hoods, and even on pedestrian shoulders. The flowers are just one of several hallmarks of the Paulownia Tree, also known as the Empress Tree, Princess Tree or Dragon Tree. Like Woodley Park itself, the Paulownia tree is part history and part magic.

The tree's common name — Paulownia — pays tribute to the Dutch princess Anna Paulowna, the daughter of Russia's Czar Paul I and wife of King William II. Paulowna was also the granddaughter of Catherine the Great and reportedly rebuffed an offer of marriage from Napoleon I. Although the tree dates back many centuries before, it was named for her by famed naturalist Carl Peter Thunberg, the author of *Flora japonica*, during his explorations of the 1700's.

Paulownia are native to Asia, where its wood is often harvested on plantations or in large-scale foresting. The tree can achieve a height of more than a dozen feet in the first year of growth. Mature trees can grow higher than 50 feet, and many such large trees can be found in Rock Creek Park. Paulownia trees are also recognizable for having fuzzy pods that contain thousands of tiny seeds, as well as oversized, heart-shaped leaves, which provide ample privacy, lushness, and a formidable shade canopy for those below.

Like balsa and poplar, Paulownia wood is exceptionally light and permits facile woodworking. Throughout Asia, the wood of the Paulownia is highly valued and is commonly used to make traditional musical instruments, ornamental cabinetry and fine furniture, including Japanese *tansu* cabinets. In addition, the wood's special properties have made it attractive for crafting surfboards and guitars.

In many parts of Asia, the Paulownia is symbolically connected to good fortune. The mythical Phoenix bird is associated with the Paulownia, and legend has it that the bird only appears on a branch of the Paulownia. Hence another name for the tree: the Phoenix Tree. Sometimes both Paulownia and Phoenix are depicted together in paintings, and the tree traditionally appears as an artistic motif on wedding chests and quilts.

Paulownia blooms, which appear as cascading clusters of lavender bells, bear a resemblance to foxglove or snapdragons. This is not without reason, because the Paulownia tree is a member of the figwort or snapdragon family. Figwort is a common element in herbal or traditional medicine, and the Latin name for the Figwort genus is *Scrophulariaceae*, which has its origins in the word for a type of tuberculosis.

For some, however, the Paulownia is little better than the much-maligned southern scourge, kudzu. Because of the trees' reproducibility, the Paulownia has earned the reputation as being an alien plant, invasive, exotic or threat. In some areas, controlling the plant can be difficult, especially alongside stream banks and roadsides where it commonly grows.

You may treasure them or believe they grow too fast, but both Woodley Park and its majestic Paulownia trees stand higher than anything else around them for miles. Each is steeped in history and continues to thrive, and both are colorful and beautiful in spring. The Paulownia tree easily reigns as the Empress of Woodley Park.

Stephanie E. Clipper

Getting Greener in Woodley Park

It seemed that Earth Day was a bigger deal this year. Maybe that's because just about everyone — even most of the people in charge of the federal government — have recognized the importance of the principles behind Earth Day. In fact, Earth Day seemed more like Earth Month, with activities and programs on environmental subjects stretching out over several weeks.

So we thought we'd devote some of this issue of *The Acorn* to sustainability. We know you've seen a lot in recent weeks on this subject. We're not going to try to replicate all of that. Rather, we're going to tell you a bit about what's being done, and could be done, in Woodley Park to further the cause.

Spring planting and cleanup in Triangle Park.

The Greening of Washington — Literally

Today, people use the term "green" to refer to things from special light bulbs to electric cars to windmills. But, as Kermit the Frog correctly noted, "green is the color of leaves," and leaves are attached to trees, and increasing the number of trees in Washington will make the city greener, both literally and figuratively.

While Washington is a city of monuments, it is also a "City of Trees." But much of the District's tree cover was lost in the latter part of the last century. A satellite photo published by the *Post* in 1999 showed a 64% decrease in large canopy tree coverage from 1973 to 1997. A report issued at that time found that the city had lost at least 25% of its street trees. Why was this a problem (other than aesthetically) and what's being done to correct it?

The Benefits of Trees

Why are trees "green," other than the color of their leaves? Lots of reasons.

We all remember that green plants take in carbon dioxide (bad stuff) and release oxygen (good stuff). They also capture other unhealthy pollutants.

We all know about the greenhouse effect, in which heat is prevented from radiating into space by air-polluting gasses. Carbon dioxide is responsible for much of the greenhouse effect, and the more trees there are, the more carbon dioxide they remove from the atmosphere, decreasing the greenhouse effect. Trees also provide shade, reducing the amount of heat available for radiation.

Trees can mitigate the "heat island effect." Cities are "heat islands," that are significantly hotter than surrounding suburban and rural areas. Many factors in cities contribute to this effect: the urban mechanical systems that generate heat, the materials that cities are made out of (asphalt and dark concrete), and the way cities are shaped (with multiple surfaces to absorb and reflect sunlight). But another factor contributing to the difference is what cities lack — soil and vegetation. This artificial increase in the temperature of cities like Washington causes public health problems, increases energy consumption for air conditioning and refrigeration, and can effect local weather patterns.

Trees are good for the soil. The leaves they drop add nutrients when they decay.

Tree roots make the soil more permeable. The soil is, therefore, able to capture more storm water and prevent runoff. Without trees, the city government would have to increase the capacity of its storm water management systems and treatment plants.

Trees can reduce heating and cooling costs. Their shade can save cooling expenses in the Summer, and they provide a wind break in the Winter.

Plant Smart

It matters what kind of tree you plant where. The DC Urban Forestry Administration recommends that you plant deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves) on the south and west sides of your home — the leaves block the sun in Summer, and the bare branches let it through in Winter. Use evergreens to block cold winds coming from the north. Use trees to shade hard surfaces (driveways, patios etc.) to minimize heat load.

Restoring the "City of Trees"

Two main organizations are trying to reverse the decline in the tree canopy in the non-federal parts of the city.

The first is the Urban Forestry Ad-

(Continued on page 11)

Another Swiss contribution to the neighborhood was Swiss artist Gerry Hofstetter's illumination of the National Cathedral. Photo by Devon Perkins.

The Swiss Ambassador's Residence — A Design for the Future

When the new Swiss ambassador's residence opened in 2006, almost everyone in the neighborhood had an opinion about its strikingly contemporary design. But most people didn't know about how the new building at 2900 Cathedral Avenue operated and its impressive energy efficiency and sustainability features.

Because it was built by the Swiss government, the residence had to comply with the very strict Swiss Minergie environmental standards, similar to the LEED standards in the US. Minergie reportedly results in energy consumption that is 60% lower than buildings built to traditional Swiss construction standards. The 28,000 square foot building incorporates a variety of sustainability features, both large and small.

For example, it has a 9000 square foot sedum green roof, which provides additional insulation, keeping the house warmer in Winter and cooler in the Summer months. The green roof also provides noise insulation as well. The soil reduces storm water run-off, and the plants filter carbon dioxide and other pollutants out of the air and reduce the urban heat island effect.

Special HVAC equipment with energy recovery was imported from Germany because comparably efficient products could not be found in this country. External walls and windows are high efficiency. Interior lighting is fluorescent.

The residence has automated external window shades equipped with sensors. The shades are opened when the sun is making the inside of the house to warm and are closed when it becomes too windy.

Whatever one thinks of the modern look of the residence, one has to be impressed by its very modern approach to sustainability and efficiency.

You Can Use the Sun To Power Your DC Home

Do you ever wonder these days when everything becomes a marketing trend and sales pitch, what are some meaningful, broad scale strategies we can implement in our Woodley Park homes to make a significant change towards "green" living?

One of the categories the US Green Building Council uses to define sustainable buildings is energy and atmosphere, that is, the energy efficiency in the building and in the performance of the heating and cooling system. With rising energy costs and concerns about environmental pollution, the alternative of solar power does not seem as far-fetched as it did ten years ago. The possibility of having some independence from PEPCO and of harvesting a non-depletable resource is within the reach of many Woodley Park families.

Solar Power 101

Sunlight is captured by a system that converts the solar energy into electricity. The system starts generating electricity automatically as soon as the sunlight hits the photovoltaic panels, and goes off on its own at dusk. A solar power system can be used to generate all or a portion of your household energy needs. The excess electricity generated by the home is sent back to the power grid, and PEPCO gives the family a credit for use during other times of the year when the system's performance might require supplementing because of cloudier days.

The main components are: (1) photovoltaic (PV) panels that collect the solar energy and convert it to direct current (DC) electricity; (2) an inverter that converts the DC into alternating current, the electricity your home uses; and (3) a controller that manages the solar and grid-supplied power.

For some families, it is more important to generate more electricity than to store it. They may prefer to put more money in their investment toward modules that generate the power rather than to batteries for storing it.

A really cool feature that some systems have is a monitor that, just like a thermostat, can be placed in a visible area of the house and offer the family the opportunity to see the PV system's performance. It can show kilowatt production at the moment as well as to-date production since installed, financial savings to date, and carbon offset, allowing the family to stay connected to its "green" efforts.

Solar Power in DC?

One of the most prevalent beliefs is that solar power is not viable in this area — that you have to live in the middle of the hot dessert in Arizona to be able to get any useful electricity from the sun. Guilty! I have to admit that in the commercial and multi-family residential architectural practice, solar power is still not seen as a viable option by developers. It took a very persuasive neighbor to get me to research it and to my surprise there are already many families in DC, Virginia and Maryland that have taken the leap. There are many resources available: dealers and installers in the area, Federal tax credits and DC incentives, even PEPCO is in the loop (look at our useful links on the next page).

The optimal orientation for the PV panels is south, although west orientation can be feasible yielding approximately 10% less energy. Sunlight intensity during different seasons will affect the amount of power the system will generate. During the cloudier days of the year, it will produce about a third of the electricity than during the sunnier ones. PEPCO has a section of its website devoted to green power. It explains the application process and gives links to federal and DC incentives. There is a Federal tax credit available of $2000, and in DC there is the potential for reimbursement of up to 50% of the system cost through grants from the DC Reliable Energy Trust Fund. A dealer/installer typically handles the application process with PEPCO as well as helping you through the permit process, required inspections and rebate forms.

Since many of the houses in our neighborhood are part of the Woodley Park Historic District, it is important that the PV panels not be visible from the street. The system should be concealed by the parapet around the roof.

Maintenance of the PV panels is fairly simple: when dusty, they need to be washed with a garden hose because they are most efficient when clean.

So How Much Is It?

With the help of a local dealer, Standard Solar, we ran the numbers for a Woodley Park house. Let's suppose this house is about 3000 square feet, has a flat roof with a nice parapet around it. Let's say the family has a gas furnace and uses about 15,000 kwH a year at a cost of about $1800, or about 12 cents per kWh.

Let's say that this family wants to generate a portion of its energy needs because in the future, they are planning to lower their consumption by replacing older appliances with Energy Star appliances. A 4.20 KWp system will require about 300 square feet of roof area, covering only part of a typical flat roof in our neighborhood.

In DC, the average "peak" sun hours per day is 4.70 (from the NOAA database), so the 4.20 KWp system will produce about 5,550 KW/hours/year, or just under 40% of the family's current energy need. The system cost will be around $41K but the family can get the $2000 Federal tax credit, and the DC grant may reimburse them 50% of the cost. The net cost of the system would be about $18,500. The cost of solar electricity over 30 years for this family will be about 11 cents per KWh, and the carbon offset will be the equivalent of planting trees over 2.18 acres.

Considering that this family now pays 12 cents per KWh for electricity and that utility rates will keep rising, this Woodley Park family is giving a lot of thought to alternative energy sources.

Elba Morales, LEED® AP

*(**Oliphant** continued from page 1)*

political cartoonist in his native Australia more than 50 years ago for the Adelaide *Advertiser*, but after a few years, he found that in conservative Australia his controversial cartoons weren't finding their way into print.

Moving to America, he quickly found a place for his talent with the Denver *Post* then with the Washington *Star* until it went under in 1981. Since then, his work has been distributed through syndication.

He has been quoted as saying that he votes for the political candidate he most despises because those people always give him the best material. Apparently, he found a number of subjects on which to vent his artistic talent in the present administration, and the fruits of his search for villains is on glorious display in the exhibit at the very comfortable setting in the Stanford University gallery which is free and open to the public until the middle of July.

Morton Lebow

If You're Not Ready To Invest in Solar Power

Here are some other important strategies to make your Woodley Park home "greener" (from the USGBC and elsewhere).

- **Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs:** Replacing incandescent light bulbs with high efficiency compact fluorescents (CF's) can save you a considerable amount of money in your electric bill. A 13 watt CF is equivalent to a 60 watt incandescent, uses 75% less energy and can last up to 4 times longer.
- **Program your thermostat:** Keeping your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher in the summer and 62 degrees or lower in the winter will reduce your homes heating and cooling loads, and ultimately your bill.
- **Plug air leaks:** Check your windows, doors, and any other through-wall penetrations. Weather stripping a caulking these leaks will save you money on heating and cooling bills.
- **Tune up your heating and cooling system:** Have your HVAC system checked every two years to make sure it is running efficiently and clean the filter monthly during peak times of use.
- **Choose Energy Star Appliances:** When appliances get to the end of their life expectancy, replace them with energy efficient models. This could mean savings of $50 a year per appliance.
- **Reduce water use:** By installing aerators on your sink faucets and changing shower heads to low flow.
- **Use low-VOC products:** Switch to products that don't give off volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and improve your indoor air quality. Low or no-VOC paints and cleaning products are readily available.
- **Plant trees to provide shade to your home.** See "Plant Smart" box on page 6.
- **Wrap insulation around your water heater.** This under $30 investment can save you money on the power for you water heater.
- **Choose native plants:** They require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- **Have a task oriented approach:** Use a task oriented approach when using ceiling fans, AC, lighting, TV; turn them on when you are using them, off when not.
- **Improve your home's envelope:** Improve the insulation of your home by installing better insulation. The higher the "R" value the better.
- **Use computers efficiently**: Set your computer to turn off the monitor after 20 minutes of no use and the CPU after two hours. Use "sleep mode" if your computer has it.
- **Do a home energy audit**: Systematically look at your home to see where you can make it more energy efficient. Examples are available online, such as www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/energy_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=11170.

EM

You Can Learn More About What You Can Do

Here are some useful links:

USGBC (US Green Building Council) has a new rating systems for homes, released in January of this year: www.usgbc.org (go to the "LEED for Homes" section) or look at the new Green Homes guide, www.green-homeguide.org. They have a very useful "Green Retrofit Checklist" for existing homes that are far from being "green" and some of the first steps to making your home sustainable: www.green-homeguide.org/guide_for_green_-renovation/-green_retrofit_checklist.html.

The **D.C. government's new site**, "designed to be a comprehensive resource on environmental issues in the District of Columbia," green.dc.gov.

PEPCO, green power information, www.pepco.com/home/choice/dc/greenpower.

US Department of Energy, green power information, www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/index.shtml , and solar power information, www1.eere.energy.gov/solar.

A **solar calculator**, findsolar.com/index.php?page=rightforme.

To find dealers and installers in our area, as well as customer reviews, "risk level rating", and manufacturer certifications, www.findsolar.com/index.php.

Washington DC Solar Tour, annual tour of DC homes using solar power to be held in October of this year, www.solartour.org.

Standard Solar (one of the dealer/installers in the area), www.standardsolar.com.

SunPower (manufacturer of solar energy components), www.sunpowercorp.com/For-Homes.aspx.

Solar Energy Industries Association, www.seia.org.

The Daily Green, www.thedailygreen.com.

Green Building Institute, www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Capital Greenroofs, www.capitalgreenroofs.com.

Gren Home, www.greenhome.org.

Home Power Magazine, www.-homepower.com.

Not really so useful, but a "lot of fun" links:

Bonded Logic (recycled denim insulation), www.bondedlogic.com.

Breezecatcher clothes dryers (rotating clothesline), www.breeze-catcher.com.

Solar powered gadgets from Earth Tech (iPod chargers, solar string lights, solar battery chargers), www.earthtech-products.com

Green Is Part of the Curriculum at Maret

With green as its school color, it's appropriate that Maret has made sustainability a year-long theme, with a variety of activities and projects.

For example, the school has partnered with the Anacostia Watershed Society in an ongoing effort to help clean up the river. Older students canoed at Bladensburg Waterfront Park to test the water quality of the Anacostia and helped younger students build a hatchery to raise shad that they released in the river. Others helped plant bay grasses and then transplanted them in the wetlands shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Maret students test river quality. ***Photo by Zaw Lyn.***

April's Environmental Spirit Week featured something different every day: Monday and Wednesday were about conserving electricity and water on campus. On Tuesday's Measure-Your-Waste Day, each person's trash was tallied to bring awareness of how much waste the school produces. There was Come-to-School-an-Alternative-Way Thursday. On Friday, each member of the community was asked to make a yearlong pledge toward becoming more sustainable by changing one habit for an entire year, and the week finished with the second annual Alternative Energy Car Fair.

During April, Maret engaged in a friendly Green School Challenge competition with other DC-area schools to determine which could make the largest percent reduction in its electricity use, lunch waste and recycling contamination.

In recent years, Maret has taken steps to make its campus more energy efficient. Motion sensor systems have been installed that automatically turn lights off and adjust temperatures in rooms not in use. The school has a storm water management system that limits and controls the amount of water dumped into the city system. Several classrooms have been engineered into the hill under the school's historic Woodley building using Woodley's back lawn as a vegetated roof, which provides excellent insulation while optimizing natural light. Insulation and UV filtering thermal windows have been installed in several buildings.

You can read more about Maret's sustainability activities and projects at www.maret.org/aboutus/sustainability.asp.

Sustainability Stays at the Marriott

Last month, the Marriott Corporation announced a partnership with the Brazilian state of Amazonas to protect more than one million acres of endangered rainforests. The story was widely reported, with the *Post* running a picture of J.W. Marriott Jr. with the governor of the Brazilian state. But that same press release also included the announcement of a number of initiatives by Marriott to make its hotels, including the Marriott Wardman Park, friendlier to the environment.

Ed Rudzinski, the general manager of the Wardman Park, reports that, in addition to adhering to corporate-wide standards, his hotel is also looking for its own ways to be greener. For example, Rudzinski reports that the new hotel garage was built so deep that its bottom floor sits in ground water. When the concrete was poured for that level, they began piping the water into the city's sewer system. But one of his staff had a better idea: why not use that water for the trees, shrubs and grass on the hotel's 17-acre grounds. The hotel now hooks this new water source into its irrigation system and uses it to keep its grounds green. Rudzinski says that he hopes that the hotel will not have to use any city water at all for its plants this Summer.

The hotel has taken other steps to save water. The hotel's more than 1300 guestrooms generate substantial amounts of laundry. Rudzinski says, "We have figured out a way to take the final rinse water from laundry and recycle it for the pre wash cycle." Like other hotels, the Wardman Park no longer changes guestroom sheets daily, but only on check-out and request, a move that saves energy as well.

More will be done as a result of the new corporate policy. Some of the elements of that policy are: To further reduce energy and water consumption by 25% over the next ten years. To engage the company's top 40 vendors to supply price-neutral greener products across 12 categories of its $10 billion supply chain. To construct new hotels according to green standards by updating Marriott design guidelines in line with LEED standards by the end of 2009.

You can find more about Marriott's efforts on the company's website, at www.marriott.com/news/detail.mi?marrArticle=312511.

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.

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 check. 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.

One Oak, Two Oaks ...

Just about everybody in the neighborhood knows Twin Oaks, the 19th century estate at 3225 Woodley Road on the north side of Woodley Park. It was built by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, a founder of the National Geographic society, as the family's summer house and was named after a twin oak tree that was on the property.

Many also know that for almost 100 years that twin oak tree was not actually at Twin Oaks. When the original 50-acre Twin Oaks property was divided in 1909, the twin oak tree was on the 20 acres that was transferred and that eventually became the Tregaron estate. Until the tree's recent demise, it stood several yards on the other side of the fence from Twin Oaks.

But probably relatively few know about Single Oak. Philip Barton Key purchased a 250-acre tract of land from the owners of the Rosedale property at the end of the 18th century. On it, he built Woodley, now the home of the Maret School. In the late 19th century, part of the Woodley estate was sold, and the new owner called it "Single Oak." Senator Phipps of Colorado built a mansion on property in 1926 and, in 1940, Single Oak was sold to the government of Switzerland to be used as the ambassadorial residence. The 1926 house was replaced a couple of years ago by a modern residence.

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.

What's That Tree Worth?

The article describes the kinds of benefits trees provide. Casey Trees has quantified those benefits.

Its Tree Benefits Calculator will calculate the economic benefits of individual trees (www.itreetools.org/treecalculator/). You enter in the type of tree, its diameter and whether it's in front of a residence, and the calculator will tell you the economic value of that tree.

Casey Trees also has a DC tree map which shows all the trees in Casey Tree's inventory. The map will also tell you the benefits that are provided by each one of these trees (http://www.caseytrees.org/treemap/index.html).

Check out the trees in the neighborhood. Garfield Street between Connecticut and 27th, for example, is lined with Norway maple trees. One of them on the south side of the street was 40 feet tall when the inventory was taken and 32 inches in diameter. Casey Trees calculates that this tree sequesters almost 52 pounds of carbon per year. It also will tell you how much ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter the tree removes, and it calculates the economic value of that one tree to be $8,772.

This tree benefit calculator is based on the STRATUM (Street Tree Management Tool for Urban Forest Managers) model, which was developed by researchers at the USDA Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research to quantify the structure, function and value of a city's street trees.

Maybe There's an Electric Car in Your Future

It sounds like something from an science fiction story — a car that you can plug into a wall socket and never have to take to the gas station. It's something we've been hearing about for years, but also something that most of us never expected to see.

But maybe things are changing. If you look closely, you can see a few electric cars driving around Washington. These are test vehicles or prototypes — not production models — but they are showing that it can be done.

The benefits are obvious. These first cars will be able to go at least 30 miles between charges — more than the typical American drives each day — so they should need gasoline only for long trips. Even if the electricity for the car is generated by coal-burning power plants, it is still cleaner than the conventional car's highly inefficient internal combustion engine. Eventually electric cars will be able to go hundreds of miles between power-ups; of course, if you're going to use your electric car for a family vacation, you will need to be able to find convenient electric service stations for refueling.

So what's been the hold up? One challenge has been to get the battery small enough to be practical and to bring down its cost. But many who remember the brick-size batteries of early cellphones believe that this puzzle can be solved. Another is the time it can take to recharge a car off ordinary house current. Several companies produced prototypes years ago, but they didn't take the next step into production.

Major automobile manufacturers have been announcing their plans for electric cars. GM's Volt is targeted to be on the market in the US in 2010. Nissan is planning to sell an electric car in the US and Japan by 2011.

If you're interested in learning more, there's a program entitled "Plug-In Electric Vehicles 2008: What Role for Washington?" on June 11 and 12, featuring representatives from government, industry, think tanks and elsewhere. Details are at www.brookings.edu/events/2008/0611_plugin_vehicle.aspx.

(**Trees** *continued from page 6)*

ministration in the District Department of Transportation. Formerly called the Tree and Landscape Division, UFA is responsible for trees planted in the public space strip between the curb and sidewalk (also called "street trees"). There are estimated to be more than 100,000 street trees in Washington. UFA has a number of programs to plant and care for these trees, and its website (ufa.ddot.dc.gov/ufa) provides useful and interesting information.

Second is Casey Trees, which was established with a $50 million grant from the Eugene B. Casey Foundation to restore, enhance and protect the city's tree canopy. Casey Trees has a variety of programs. It plants trees all over the city. In recent years, it has planted more than 30 street trees in Woodley Park. It has given trees to people who want to plant them on their own property and provided cash rebates to others who have bought their own trees. It also offers training and educational programs and summer internships for students.

What can you do? Plant a tree, of course. You can plant on your own property or, with the permission of UFA, in public space as well. Take care of a street tree by giving it water in the dry summer months.

You can also become an advocate for trees, because they can make Washington a green city, in more ways than one.

TWIN SPRINGS FRUIT FARM

"Fresh from the Farm"

10% Off with This Coupon

Saturdays, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm From May until Christmas
All Souls Church Parking Lot (Cathedral Ave, east of Connecticut)

We now take major credit cards

How Woodley Road Got Its Humps (Back)

From the beginning of years, there was a three-block speedway on Woodley Road. Travelers going to distant places would hurry along this street in our neighborhood to get between Connecticut Avenue and 29th Street on their way to their destinations. Cars left Connecticut to come through the neighborhood to get to points to the northwest — and then they came back in the other direction. There was nothing to slow the progress of these travelers — there were no stop signs on Woodley Road or anything else to cause travelers to slow down to enjoy the beauties of their surroundings. People who lived in Woodley Park were especially concerned because the Aidan Montessori elementary school and St. Thomas Apostle church were located alongside this speedway.

Then it came to pass that speed humps came to Woodley Road. They were not pleasing to the eye, but they slowed the traffic on this speedway so that it became more like a normal residential street. Woodley Parkers were pleased, and the children of Aidan and the parishioners of St Thomas were more secure.

But, without any warning, the Woodley Parkers awoke one morning to find that the speed humps had been removed. All that was left was the white lines in the roadway that were put there to warn travelers that they were approaching the humps. Now the white lines simply pointed to each other. In time, the lines faded, as did the memory of the humps.

Workers building new speed humps on Woodley Road.

The Woodley Parkers were not told why the humps were taken, so the urban legend grew up that the District Department of Transportation had realized that the Woodley Road speed humps were a mistake, just a bureaucratic accident — that these speed humps were never meant for Woodley Road at all, but were supposed to have been installed on Woodley Place.

Many in the neighborhood mourned the passing of the humps. Woodley Road became a speedway again. Leaders of the neighborhood made requests that things be put back as they had been. Papers were filed with DDoT. Calls were made, and emails were sent. But the city said nothing.

But then the largest land-owner in Woodley Park decided that it wanted to build greater buildings on its estate, and it petitioned the city to allow it more driveways from Woodley Road. When the city heard the landowner's request, many Woodley Parkers told the city about the speedway that Woodley Road had again become. When he heard that, one of the city's deciders said that the speed humps should be put back onto that roadway.

With that, the bureaucratic logjam was broken, and (with minimal delays for doing engineering studies and the paperwork and longer delays for bad weather) it came to pass that one a fine Spring day in May, the speed humps came back to Woodley Road.

HAVE YOU EXPIRED?

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 10. You can also renew and contribute online at www,-wpcaonline.org/join. Your new date will be either one year from the date your renewal is received or one year from your current date, whichever is later.

WOODLEY PARK
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4852
Washington, DC 20008