

# THE HEIGHTS

## Why should you be a member of the association?

*We share your fondness and frustrations for this community and we work together to make things better. Moreover, we create ways for the whole community to come together as one.*

We are very fortunate to live in this great neighborhood – a mix of urban and suburban – wide tree-lined streets, larger than average homes, with Upshur Park on our east and Rock Creek Park on our west. It doesn't matter if you own or rent, if you've lived here 30 years or 3 years, we all benefit from the cohesiveness, friendliness and beauty of this unique place.

One of the great assets of living here is the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Association (SSNA). We are an all-volunteer organization of neighbors working together to protect and improve the things we love about our neighborhood. This past year we have challenged DC's convoluted zoning laws to fight back against pop ups, gotten much needed street repairs and made crime and safety in our neighborhood a priority with the city government & MPD.

Our efforts on these and other issues continue. For example, in this issue of the Heights, we report on new proposed legislation dealing with developers, abandoned homes, illegal construction, etc. The Association is preparing testimony in support of this legislation and gathering neighbors to testify. See also our calendar of exciting summer events.



After years of working together as a community, the 4300 block of 15th Street has new curbs, tree boxes, sod and a safe, smooth paved surface.

To continue this work, we need you to join the Association. Membership dues are \$30 a year per household (complete and return the membership form on the back page of this newsletter). Dues fund the many activities of the Association including the Heights newsletter. Most importantly, the more members we have, the louder our voice, the greater our impact. Join for yourself, your family and this great neighborhood that is our home.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our summer events and at a future Association meeting.

*Jack Campbell*

## Mark Your Calendar

- **7/15 - SSNA Happy Hour**, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Red Derby, 3718 14th STNW.
- **7/23 - Movie nite under the stars**, featuring "Finding Nemo" - 8:30 pm, Upshur Park. Bring your picnic basket and blanket for a family friendly evening. Movie starts at sunset. ★
- **8/2 - SSNA Monthly Mtg.**, 7:15 - 8:30 pm, Simpson-Hamline Church, 16th & Allison STNW. DDOT reps will be on hand to talk traffic and parking issues.
- **8/19 - SSNA Happy Hour**, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Red Derby, 3718 14th STNW.
- **8/27 - Big Summer Block Party!**, 2:00 - 6:00 pm, featuring great food, music, activities and a few surprises. Location TBA. ★
- **9/13 - SSNA Monthly Mtg.**, 7:15 - 8:30 pm, Simpson-Hamline Church, 16th & Allison STNW.

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A great way to spend April Fool's Day! Friends and neighbors at a 16th Street Neighborhood Association happy hour. Join us for the next ones, July 15 & August 19!

## Little Free Libraries project wins Heights Community Soup

In early May, at the Heights Community Soup (the fourth in the series), thirty-seven neighbors came together to hear proposals for three very different, but equally compelling, community projects.

Organized by the Community Alliance for Upper Fourteenth Street (CAUFS), Community Soup joins ideas for creative community projects with residents in the community. Attendees contribute \$5 to share a potluck dinner, listen to the ideas presented and vote to micro-fund one of the projects with the proceeds raised from the evening's event.

Jason "JJ" Velez' Little Free Libraries – Reading is Fundamental project, was the evening's winning proposal and was awarded the evening's proceeds of \$448. The library project will place several Little Free Libraries in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Heights neighborhood. Jason observed that

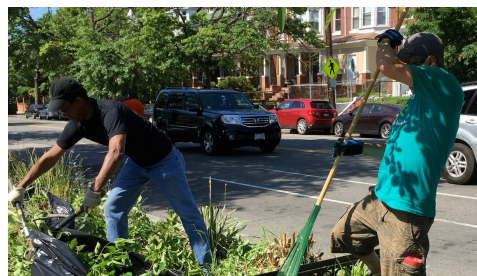
these libraries had a strong presence in other neighborhoods but lacked a significant presence in 16<sup>th</sup> Street Heights.

The libraries allow members of the community to share books (leave a book, take a book) and to create little free libraries of their own. With funding from the Community Soup, the project's goal is to create a flagship Little Free Library in the redeveloped Triangle Park on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street at Kennedy Street and Colorado Street, NW (where the 14<sup>th</sup> and Kennedy Farmers' Market is located).

Additional libraries will follow throughout the neighborhood. To date, over 280 residents have participated in the four Heights Community Soups, and donated nearly \$3000 towards community projects.

**For more info about CAUFS and/or Heights Community Soup, contact Audrey Nwanze at [audreymocha@yahoo.com](mailto:audreymocha@yahoo.com).**

## Community comes together for 14<sup>th</sup> Street clean up



George Nwanze and Ramsey Santiago clean brush and trash from an overgrown, neglected 14<sup>th</sup> street tree box.

On a recent bright and sunny Saturday morning in June, neighbors and business owners pulled weeds, trimmed trees, picked up litter and cut grass from Arkansas to Emerson along the 14<sup>th</sup> Street business corridor. Thanks to the many volunteers, DDOT, the Mayor's office, Councilmember Todd's office, the AKA Sorority, CAUFS and CBENA for their partnership and support.

### Join the SSNA Listserv

Be in the know in real time, meet your neighbors, share info. To join, go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). Under "Groups" search for "16thStNA". Then, just send an email request to join the listserv to: [16thstna-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:16thstna-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Please include your full name and street address.

## DDOT to address neighborhood traffic & parking concerns at August meeting

DDOT representative(s) will be on hand at the Association's August 2 meeting to address a number of traffic and parking issues in our neighborhood. On the agenda:

- Status of the March 30 traffic abatement neighborhood walkthrough: In particular, the dangerous crossing at 16<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan; the blind intersection at 14<sup>th</sup> and Allison; and the lack of stop signs on Crittenden between 16<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Rock Creek East II Livability Study: The goal of the study is to

develop a comprehensive approach to traffic calming and operational improvements for all users living in and visiting the area and to identify opportunities for safer travel for residents and visitors to the area, and to improve the transportation network.

- The 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW Transit Priority (Bus) Study: The results from the 12-month planning study of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, bus line between H Street and Arkansas Avenue to improve transit performance, safety and reliability.

- The Rock Creek Park Trail Reconstruction: Plans call for the closing of Beach Drive into 2017 for repair of the bike path. How will this project impact traffic in our neighborhood?

In addition, a representative from MPD's 4th District will be on hand to address traffic and safety concerns. Make plans to attend the August 2 meeting at Simpson-Hamline United Methodist Church, 4501 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (16<sup>th</sup> and Allison Streets, please use the Allison Street entrance). The meeting time is 7:15 to 8:30.



## Important legislation and hearings on DCRA operations and Zoning

On July 14, the DC Council's Committee on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (BCRA) will hold hearings on several new pieces of legislation that deal with issues of critical concern to our community:

- **B21-291**, the "DCRA Infractions Fine Increase Regulation Amendment Act of 2015"
- **B21-527**, the "Vacant and Blighted Buildings Enforcement Amendment Act of 2015"
- **B21-598**, the "Vacant Property Enforcement Amendment Act of 2016"
- **B21-689**, the "Homeowners Protection from Construction Damage Amendment Act of 2016"

This public hearing will provide an opportunity for 16<sup>th</sup> Street Heights residents to express their thoughts/concerns on important issues involving the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and zoning enforcement that have long been contentious in our neighborhood.

In addition, the day before, on July 13, BCRA will hold a public oversight roundtable on DCRA operations. The public oversight roundtable is an



Efforts by concerned neighbors have thwarted attempts to convert 1521 Varum, a single-family row home, into a seven-unit condo.

opportunity for the Committee to hear your concerns regarding the agency and for DCRA to address these issues and provide information on any updates the agency has made or will be making going forward.

Concerned residents are encouraged to testify at either or both hearings, either in person or by submitting written testimony (both forms of testimony will become part of the record). On behalf of the community, Association's Committee on Zoning and Livability will submit testimony at both hearings. However, individual homeowner/resident testimony of personal experience and/or

perspective is extremely valuable for these proceedings.

### LIVE TESTIMONY:

If you wish to testify at the live hearings, contact Faye Caldwell (for the DCRA Oversight hearing, by July 11, for the Legislative hearing by July 12) at (202) 727-6683 or by email at [fcaldwell@dccouncil.us](mailto:fcaldwell@dccouncil.us) and provide your name, address, telephone number, email address. Each witness is requested to bring 20 copies of his/her written testimony. Individual witnesses will be limited to 3 minutes of live testimony.

### WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

If you prefer to submit written testimony, you can submit your written statement to: Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs, Council of the District of Columbia, Suite 119 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. Written testimony can be submitted up to close of business Wed. July 27, 2016 for the DCRA Oversight hearing and Thur., July 28 for the Legislative hearing.

**For more information, contact Cecelia at [cwald4517@gmail.com](mailto:cwald4517@gmail.com).**

## Brought to you by the members of SSNA

Make plans to attend the 16th Street Neighborhood Association's "Movie Night at Upshur Park." This special event is brought to you by the members of the 16th Street Neighborhood Association (SSNA) and with the generous support of the DC Department of Parks and Recreation and Andrews Federal Credit Union.

SSNA is a non-profit, all volunteer, community-based organization. Together we make things happen. Are you a member? Become a SSNA member today. Complete the form on the back of this newsletter and return it with your \$30 dues to: SSNA, 1501 Varum ST NW, 20011. Make checks payable to: "16th Street Neighborhood Association."

**Outdoor Neighborhood Movie Night**

**Saturday July 23 8:30 PM**

(MOVIE WILL BEGIN AT SUNDOWN)

Popcorn, Lemonade and Surprises will be provided

**Upshur Park**  
4300 Arkansas Ave NW  
(on the grassy knoll between the pool and basketball court)

Fun for the whole family!!!  
Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chairs

Brought to you by:  
16th Street Neighborhood Association and  
DC Department of Parks and Recreation

Additional Sponsor(s):  
Andrews Federal Credit Union

**FINDING NEMO**

**DPR**

## 14<sup>th</sup> Street business district receives 'Main Street' feasibility study funding

In early June, the DC Department of Small & Local Business Development (DSLBD) approved a feasibility study that would create a new Main Street program along the 14<sup>th</sup> street corridor from Spring Street to Kennedy Street.

Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon Todd first announced his support for a \$25,000 grant to cover the cost of a 14<sup>th</sup> Street Main Street feasibility study at CAUFS' (Community Alliance for Upper Fourteenth Street) April meeting. DSLBD is expected to complete the selection of a firm to complete the study within three months. Once awarded, the feasibility study will commence in the next fiscal year.

DC Main Streets is a program that promotes the revitalization of traditional business districts in the city. Created in 2002 through the

National Trust for Historic Preservation, the program consists of several key elements that work together to build a sustainable and complete community revitalization effort, including:

- A comprehensive project implementation plan with an adequate operating budget to support it
- Organization of commercial revitalization efforts (e.g., developing financial and volunteer resources)
- Promotion of neighborhood commercial districts and business operating within the district
- Designs affecting the physical environment of the

commercial district (e.g., clean teams, streetscape improvements, and storefronts)

- Economic restructuring, including business retention, recruitment and expansion
- A dedicated leadership team led by local volunteers and community development professionals

If approved, a 14<sup>th</sup> street Main Street program will need strong, broad-based support from both the community and businesses. If you are interested in volunteering your time and expertise to a future Main Street team, contact Audrey Nwanze ([audreymocha@yahoo.com](mailto:audreymocha@yahoo.com)) or Jack Campbell ([jackhcampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:jackhcampbell@hotmail.com)).

## Important change to the security camera rebate program

Changes to the Private Security Camera Incentive Program allow homeowners in our neighborhood to immediately apply for rebates of up to \$200 rebate (per camera) for the purchase and installation of a security camera, with a maximum

rebate of \$500 per residential address. When the Mayor's office launched the security camera program in February, our area was not designated a priority area and therefore not immediately eligible to claim the rebate before Aug. 1.

Because the program has a fixed budget, take advantage of this program change before it reaches its maximum city-wide budget of \$500,000. **For more information, go to: [www.ovsig.dc.gov](http://www.ovsig.dc.gov) or call (202) 727-5124.**

### Become a Member of the 16th Street Neighborhood Association Today!

#### Annual Dues are \$30 per Household

It takes great people like you to make great neighborhoods! Join today for yourself, for your family and for your community.

Your Name	
Your Home Address	
Names of Additional Adults in household 21+	
Email Address	
Phone	
Additional Contribution you would like to make, if any?	

Please make checks payable to The 16th Street Neighborhood Association. Checks can be delivered or mailed to: 1501 Varnum Street NW, Washington, DC, 20011. Or, contact Jack Campbell ([jackhcampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:jackhcampbell@hotmail.com)) or Susie King ([teeniemommy@msn.com](mailto:teeniemommy@msn.com)) to arrange pick up. Or attend an Association meeting and drop off your dues payment.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

### The SSNA Executive Team

#### Officers:

Chair: Jack Campbell,  
[jackhcampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:jackhcampbell@hotmail.com)

Vice-Chair: Carriellen Beaudreau,  
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Secretary: Cecelia Waldeck,  
[cwald4517@gmail.com](mailto:cwald4517@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Susie King,  
[teeniemommy@msn.com](mailto:teeniemommy@msn.com)

#### Non-Officers:

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(Listserv Moderator)