

WARD THREE NEWS

Council race

At this point, the strongest opposition to Polly Shackleton in the Ward Three city council race appears to be Ruth Dixon, who has been a neighborhood commissioner and a president of the local League of Women Voters. Political consultant Mark Plotkin has also announced for the seat, but he is far less known than Dixon. Meanwhile, Kay McGrath has decided to back Shackleton and is urging her allies to line up behind her, lest a divisive primary battle lead to the ultimate election of a Republican candidate, such as Carol Schwartz.

Dixon states her views elsewhere in this issue. Plotkin, in announcing his candidacy, promised to "be a constant and vocal ombudsman for the citizens of Ward Three. Too often the phone bill we want to complain about, or the electric or gas bill we can't understand is thrown aside in frustration with the rationale that 'that's the system -- no one cares.' I want to change that attitude." Plotkin has been active in the battle against the C&P phone company's proposed local measured rate service. He supports strong condo conversion and rent control laws, as well as mandatory minimum sentences for repeat criminal offenders. Dixon's campaign manager is Erika Lnzdborg (who worked on the Wanda Washburn campaign), treasurer is Henry Bashkin, and Carol Currie is precinct coordinator. Others working on the campaign are Liz Weiner, Elena Hess, Ann White, Cindy Bolbach and June Bashkin.

CANDIDATES' FORUM: Ruth Dixon

Ruth Dixon is running for the city council from Ward Three.

I am running because I want to see this city well governed, financially responsible, and concerned about the quality of life of its citizens. I've worked for these goals for years—through various public offices and through my work with the League of Women Voters. The League excels as a training ground for analyzing issues and finding solutions. I want to put my expertise to work to benefit the citizens of Ward 3, and the citizens of the city. As a member of the Council I can do that.

I believe we can and must find solutions to our problems in education, aging, land use, housing, transportation, and that we can improve the quality of life in this city. For example:

We deserve a good educational system. As a Council member, I will work with our Ward 3 School Board member and with parent activists to improve the schools in our ward and in the city. The entire city suffers when students are poorly educated. Good education pays off in a better standard of life for the students and in more efficient employees for the workplace.

A large segment of the city's population is elderly, and a quarter of this group lives in Ward 3. The Office on Aging, working through Iona House and other private agencies, is doing a splendid job. I believe it is essential that these programs be maintained to aid the elderly in avoiding unnecessary institutionalization, and to enjoy this exciting city we live in.

I am concerned about land use and housing. The last large tracts of land must be developed in a manner which does not disrupt existing neighborhoods and create even more traffic congestion. I am concerned about the shortage of rental housing city-wide, about condo conversion when it threatens vulnerable renters, as well as the economic facts of life in the housing industry.

My past experience qualifies me to serve you well on the Council. As president of the D.C. League of Women Voters, I worked extensively with the members of the Council and their staffs: I already know the players and the rules of the game. I have

ALICE DEAL NEWS

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association has awarded the Deal newspaper, The Real Deal, Medalist Rating, the highest award the organization gives. The Real Deal got 974 points out of a possible 1000. After reading several issues, we can tell you the Columbia folk were right on mark Eran Fields won a Rubik's Cube Contest by completing the puzzle in one minute and twenty-five seconds, 62 seconds off the world record. A fire in the Deal auditorium did \$67,000 worth of damage. Eighty-six percent of the students polled at Deal reported that they watched soap operas. Forty-one percent said their parents approved.

WARD THREE NOTES

Supercan entry into Ward Three was delayed by the bad weather last month. Plans are for all of Ward Three except precincts five and six (i.e. Georgetown and a bit of Glover Park) to be supercanned. If you haven't gotten a notice about the program call 727-4825. Barbara Luchs and George Haley have been named to the mayor's Advisory Committee on Recreation. Kenneth Druskin, Richard McCooey, Hanne Merriman and Ron Walker, have been named to the mayor's Overall Economic Development Advisory Committee. Polly Shackleton

testified before Council committees, and lobbied both the Congress and the Council. I convened public meetings on the legislative process, on election reform, and on redistricting. And, finally, I have worked hard on the D.C. Voting Rights Amendment which will give us the rights to which all U.S. citizens are entitled, and for an expansion of our home rule powers.

As an ANC commissioner, I communicated with my constituents through a quarterly newsletter, received and acted on constituent requests and complaints, and reviewed and responded to proposed governmental actions in my district.

I served on the Council's task force on the Board of Elections and Ethics. I understand the elections process, and know steps the Council could take to enable the Board of Elections and Ethics to improve its performance.

I consider the ability to communicate an essential skill for a legislator. I have researched and written papers on D.C. government issues and on Council legislation. I have written articles for the three neighborhood papers in Ward 3 as well as for *The Washington Post*. I have participated in radio and TV talk shows, and made countless speeches to citizen groups.

All of these activities have required leadership, integrity, ability, and determination. It is these attributes which I bring to this race. I am determined to see this race through to victory in September and November. All my life I have been willing to fight to win. This race will be no exception. It will not be an easy race, but I pledge that I will run hard, fight fair, and win!

My friends are another reason I expect to win. Over 100 have endorsed me already. They have pledged their support in time, effort, money, and votes. I have worked with many people in the ward and I believe I can honestly call everyone with whom I have ever worked a friend. They will share a large part of the acclaim for my victory at the polls.

The Gazette welcomes short articles from all candidates for the Ward III city council seat. Send to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.

is looking for volunteers to help man her ward office 5601 Conn. Ave. NW. If you can volunteer three hours a week, call Alva Canter at 686-5227. The office is open weekdays 10-4. Things are in a state of limbo in the MacArthur theatre block where the developer has yet to line up financing or architects. The local neighborhood commission has hired architect Rich Ridley to take a look at the situation and Ridley believes the theatre can be saved through a combination of development rights transfers and zoning changes. The theatre, incidentally, is a nice piece of Art Deco work, the sort of thing preservationists in the not too distant future will take a serious interest in saving. The Board of Trustees of the University of DC voted in late December to buy a \$330,000 home in Chevy Chase for its president.

Cleveland Park

CLEVELAND PARK NOTES

The Senator Paul Tsongas family will be moving to Macomb St. in the near future. Harry Montague has invented a collapsible bicycle (full size) that you can put in a bag and thus carry on Metro anytime. November-December crime statistics show neighborhood crime concentrated on the east side of 34th St., particularly near Conn. Ave., in contrast with the two previous months when crime was concentrated west of 34th St. Cleveland Parker Arthur Wheelock has just had his new book, "Vameer," published by Abrams, a handsome volume with tipped-in plates. Wheelock is curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the National Gallery of Art and also teaches at the University of Maryland. Clarence Anderson, late of the Macomb Street playground, is working on the John Ray campaign.

The Cleveland Park/Woodley Park Neighborhood Commission has voted to oppose the enclosed sidewalk cafe bill currently pending in council. While the commission did not oppose sidewalk cafes per se, it said, "fully enclosed year-round heated and air conditioned 'imitation sidewalk' cafes are defeating the purpose of true transition space and merely are 'building projections' into public space." A meeting of Citizens for City Living last month voted to join Friends of Tregaron in its opposition to the PUD proposed for the Tregaron site. The committee also heard a presentation on plans for expanding McLean Gardens. Several criticisms were heard including a demand that parking spaces be assigned to individual units. White enrollment at John Eaton school has dropped from 253 in 1977 to 118 last fall.

WARD ONE

MOUNT PLEASANT NOTES

The Mount Pleasant Elm fund has raised sufficient money to inoculate three hundred trees against Dutch elm disease. The mayor's new capital budget includes \$618,000 for the renovation of the Mt. Pleasant Library.

WARD ONE NOTES

Councilmember David Clarke complained last

Frain's Beat

GEORGE FRAIN

• American Security Bank has opened its 36th branch at 1835 Columbia Road NW. The new branch occupies the site which was the home of the colorful DC Dragons Karate Center for several years. The entire banking operation is one one floor. The entry of a new branch bank was unusually quiet for such a major move. Remember the fight waged by AMO and the ANC against Perpetual in 1976-77?

• A new latino business association is being established in Adams Morgan. Leading members of the latino business community met recently at the Ontario Theater at the invitation of Carlos Rosario who runs the theatre.

• Now that Perpetual American has agreed to merge with First Financial of Virginia Corp. (a major Virginia S&L), it may have the longest name in history. It will have more assets than Riggs if the merger goes through. Will the new name fit on our branch?

month that the Department of Transportation violated the law establishing Martin Luther King's birthday as an official holiday by issuing parking and traffic violation tickets which would not be issued on other holidays, "treating Dr. King's birthday as a second-class holiday." Added Clarke, "Certainly Dr. King did not let traffic congestion deter him from pursuing his causes, and we should not let it deter us in pursuing the cause of his birthday."

Michael Barton, and Cheryl Dobbins have been named to the mayor's Overall Economic Development Advisory Committee City council member Dave Clarke last month called on local religious leaders to open up the churches on "bitter cold nights to give shelter to those who need it."

WARD TWO

WARD TWO NOTES

Paul Greenberg, Scott Marlow, and Rose Narva have been named to the mayor's Overall Economic Development Advisory Committee. The long displaced statue of Boss Shepherd will be placed in the small triangular park at NH Ave., 18th St. and Que St. Anyone wanting to help in the upkeep of the park is asked to call Commissioner Susan Meehan, 234-5151, evenings.

Southwest

NEW BUS ROUTE

Metro has begun a new mini-route between Half & O SW and L'Enfant Plaza (via P, 4th, M, Half, I, 6th, Water, 9th, Maine, 7th & D). Service will operate every fifteen minutes between six am and ten pm Mon-Sat and from 8 am to 8 pm on Sundays. Fares will be fifty cents per trip with transfers issued on payment of the full normal DC fare. For more information about this service, call 637-2437.

Dupont Circle

DUPONT CIRCLE BOARDINGS DECLINE

Total daily boardings have declined at the Dupont Circle Metro station for the first time since 1977, due primarily to a loss in evening rush passengers. Morning peak activity has continued to rise, however, and now surpass the PM peak. Metro reports that the drop is due in part to a significant loss of Montgomery County riders because of recent fare increases coupled with changes in the Maryland flash pass.

Between May 1980 and May 1981 morning peak boardings at Dupont Circle went up from 4,045 to 4,564 while evening boardings dropped from 5,648 to 4,282. According to the Metro survey about 74% of the passengers coming to the station walked while 22% came by bus. Fifty-seven percent of the users lived in DC. All these figures were compiled before the opening of the Van Ness extension.

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DUPONT CIRCLE NOTES

The Dupont Circle Neighborhood Commission has come out against WGL's proposed \$18 million rate increase. The Chastleton Tenants Association is fighting against substantial rehabilitation of its building at 1701 16th St. NW. Under current law, if the landlord makes improvements that equal or exceed fifty percent of the assessed value of the structure, rents could be increased by 125%. The ANC has agreed to support the tenants.

DUPONT CIRCLE ANC

Office: 1722 19th NW, DC 20009

2B01 Page MacCubbin 387-3688
2B02 Bill Middleton 797-1086
2B03 George Nelson 387-5312
2B04 Katherine Ray 296-5149
2B05 Susan Meehan 234-5151
2B06 Ralph Bristol 667-9026
2B07 Ken Rothschild 659-3458
2B08
2B09 Linda Menich 483-3281

WARD FOUR NEWS

Safeway delayed

Safeway's plans for expanding its store at Piney Branch and Georgia Ave are apparently up in the air again. At Safeway's request, a hearing set for January before the Zoning Commission has been indefinitely postponed. In a letter to the commission, Safeway's lawyers said that store officials have "re-evaluated the project in light of the present economy; the substantial investment necessary to expand the store; and revitalized corporate policy regarding store

sizes. In light of these factors, Safeway is presently investigating reducing the proposed expansion from 42,000 square feet to 37,000 square feet." Last year, Neighbors Inc. and the local neighborhood commission successfully negotiated a number of changes in Safeway's plans for expanding the store, including a reduction in the new store size from 54,000 square feet as first proposed. The store is presently about 24,000 square feet. Safeway also agreed to citizen requests for increased parking spaces, interior landscaping on the parking lot, better lighting and special pedestrian access.

"We're frankly quite surprised at Safeway's decision," said NI president Loretta Neumann. "As far as I know, all the community organizations were supporting Safeway's zoning application. And Safeway told us that this was already one of their most profitable stores in the area."

A representative of Safeway told Neumann that she did not think the expansion plans would be abandoned, only deferred.

Supporting Subscriptions

In some European countries, small circulation political and alternative journals keep going with the aid of supporting subscribers who contribute a sum in addition to the normal subscription fee to aid the publication in its work. You will note on your renewal form that there is such a category. We hope you will indicate your support of our efforts by subscribing at the supporting rate of \$15 a year rather than the normal \$5. This will allow us not only to continue as an advocacy journal, but to carry on various activities which, while desirable, are not particularly cost-effective e.g. reaching public officials and groups that might not otherwise subscribe, subsidizing subscriptions for prisoners and low-income persons, and serving as a resource for groups and individuals seeking social change. We hope you will become a supporting subscriber when you renew, which, incidentally, you can do right now by sending us \$15 and a sample of your mailing label. Mail to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Thank you.

WHISTLE STOP APPEALS

The owners of the Whistle Stop bar on 4th St. NW have filed a court petition appealing the ABC Board's decision denying them a Class C liquor license. They also filed a motion with the court to restore their license, pending review by the court of appeals. According to a lawyer with the DC Corporation Counsel, which is opposing the motions, the appeal could take nine months to a year to be decided. Plan Takoma President Randall McCathren says his organization plans to try to intervene in the case.

JARVIS WANTS FIRES INVESTIGATED

Councilmember Charlene Jarvis has requested that the fire department conduct an immediate investigation of four suspicious fires in Ward Four. The fires were at the Upshur St. Clinic, the Petworth Library and two warehouses in the 4000 and 4100 blocks of Georgia Avenue NW.

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THANKS TO NEIGHBORS INC
for its help in this column