



January 2015

Dear CPCA Members,

I hope you had a good and relaxing holiday season. As the New Year begins, the CPCA is gearing up for a productive 2015.

We will begin the New Year with our January Membership and Community Meeting on Thursday, January 15, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, in the Cleveland Park Library's 1st floor meeting room. A business meeting will start at 5:30 and the program at 7:00. Our guest speaker will be **Councilmember Mary Cheh**, who will speak about the state of the city and Council after the recent elections. The face of the Council has changed significantly. What is the future of our city? What big issues do we face in the coming year? Councilmember Cheh will take questions from the audience after her opening remarks.

Over the past two months, the CPCA's Connecticut Avenue Coalition (CCC) has continued to work with Mary Cheh's office and the Department of Transportation (DDoT) to resolve two issues that pertain to Connecticut Avenue -- first, completion of the four-year Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project ([click here to visit our website for a background and history of the project](#)), and second, resolution of the flooding problem at the Cleveland Park Metro Station including elimination of puddles and sandbags.

Approximately half of the original \$1.5M appropriated for the Streetscape project remains unspent. Of the original project components specified in 2010, the following components remain to be completed: Street furniture purchase and installation; Newark Street bump-out; and tree boxes. The CCC is prioritizing and focusing on street furniture and tree boxes because the library renovation/re-build may affect the Newark Street and Connecticut Avenue intersection.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has installed sandbags around the Cleveland Park Metro station. Although they help to prevent the station from flooding, the sandbags themselves are unsightly and pose a hazard to pedestrians. DDoT has prepared plans and costs estimates to permanently solve the Metro station's flooding problem, and these plans have been reviewed at meetings of all involved -- public utility companies, private property owners, Mary Cheh's office, CPCA, and District agencies. WMATA has received Hurricane Sandy relief funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation, some of which has been earmarked for flooding mitigation, but funding for actual construction is not available until 2016.

The CCC believes there might be an opportunity to connect these two issues. The CCC has consistently asked for sustainable solutions for tree box irrigation with a view to adding green

space along the commercial corridor. Since there is a run-off problem, and since the tree boxes have not yet been completed or planted, the CCC is exploring sustainability options to water green areas with run-off.

Finally, if you have not had a chance to check out our latest Living with Giant/Cathedral Commons update, published early last month, you can do so here:

<http://www.cpcadc.org/updates/living-with-giantcathedral-commons-construction-update-11/>

I wish you a happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you on January 15.

Best,

Gina

Gina Polidoro and the CPCA Board