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FRIENDS OF MITCHELL PARK

Spring/Summer 2010

Friends of
Mitchell Park

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Contact:
Holly Sukenik
332-2952
hsukenik@hotmail.com

Park News

Kalorama Flea Market

FOMP sponsored an afternoon flea market May 1 that raised \$ 5,800 for the park's maintenance fund. Neighbors generously donated fine goods from their homes, including furniture, jewelry, decorative arts, books, and home goods. Volunteers sorted, priced, and sold the items. No FOMP event in the park would be complete without a bake sale to showcase our neighbors' culinary talents, and the flea market was no exception, with shoppers snapping up the mouthwatering goodies. The FOMP Board of Directors hosted a reception May 23 to thank co-chairs Alison Adkins and Jeanett Yonemoto and all volunteers for their hard work and contribution to the community.

Ongoing fundraising for the park maintenance fund through events such as the flea market is essential. FOMP privately maintains the park, providing all services except trash removal and grass cutting done by the District government. This year

our \$ 37,362 maintenance budget, includes \$ 27,362 for the gardener, \$ 5,000 for the clipping and maintenance of the bushes, \$ 1,750 for insect control, etc...

Electronic Information System

The Friends of Mitchell Park has organized an electronic information system that will allow us to send out electronic invitations and flash communications pertaining to our program of various activities. We thank all our neighbors who have already registered. If you are interested to be on our e-mail list, please go to: friendsofmitchellpark@gmail.com.

A new net for the b-ball hoop

Sheridan-Kalorama neighbor Jarrett Meyers was frustrated with the torn basketball net on the multipurpose court. He used his weekly allowance to purchase a new net and installed it with his fellow basketball players a few weeks ago. Thanks, Jarrett, for showing initiative and responsibility.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to Friends of Mitchell Park of:

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$_____ Other

Name _____

Address & Phone Number _____

Kindly make out your check to "Friends of Mitchell Park" and mail to:

Holly Sukenik, Vice President
2401 Tracy Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-332-2952



**Signs of Spring
in the Park**





Notes from the President:

After a difficult winter, and a beautifully-flowered spring, we are heading into summer with a well-appointed park. The fences around the field will have been removed when you receive this letter. We have 2 new trees to care for, one donated by the wife of the prime-minister of Albania, and one in memory of our former president's wife, Jean Isenberg.

The friends of Mitchell Park have also started an insect eradication program to make your stay at the park more comfortable.

The trail towards the rose-garden and picnic tables has been improved with flagstones and fall will see us planting more trees with Casey Trees. We intend to add 16 trees around the field, some shade, some flowering trees.

Again we will have fall activities for children and grown-ups to help them keep their inner child. We hope that the intensive effort to improve the field will not go to waste when the field reopens. We ask all park users to be respectful of the field condition and do their best to keep it lush and green. Have a pleasant summer.

FOMP President Pierre Wagner

Insect Control in the park:

This Spring Friends of Mitchell Park introduced a mosquito prevention program for the 2010 season. We had received many complaints over the past year concerning the pervasiveness of mosquitoes in the park, especially within the playground. Several neighborhood residents complained of being "eaten alive" and said they avoided the park when mosquitoes are at their peak. Not only are mosquitoes annoying, they can be harmful to children. They are known carriers of several diseases, including West Nile Virus.

The American College of Emergency Physicians reports that cases of West Nile Virus have more than doubled over the same time last year and that young children and the elderly are most susceptible to the more severe reactions if infected. Infants are especially vulnerable because they are too young to wear bug repellent.

In the interests of protecting our most vulnerable residents, FOMP searched

for pesticides that would be both safe and effective. We discovered Insectmist, a water-base and biodegradable insecticide. According to the company, Insectmist is non-toxic to animals, including household pets. Once applied to plants, its active ingredient slowly releases over a two-week period. It does not wash off in rain nor is it affected by irrigation systems. It needs to be applied consistently in order to eliminate mosquitoes and other harmful insects.

Twice monthly, Insectmist will be sprayed in Mitchell Park. Spraying begins at 8:00 a.m. and the entire treatment takes about 30 minutes. FOMP hopes that this insect program will significantly reduce our mosquito problem and allow our residents to continue to enjoy the park throughout the summer.

Neighbors who continue to find the mosquitoes a problem despite the spraying can contact Emily Madan 232-4033.

Watch for your invitation to a special event in the Fall.



Mitchell Park at 7:30am, Wednesday, February 3, 2010. Spectacular.

Maintenance Committee

We are very pleased with the overall conditions at the park. The flowers and shrubs have all begun to mature and are blooming right on schedule. The bi-weekly park maintenance and cleaning is underway. Pruning is also scheduled to occur within the next few weeks.

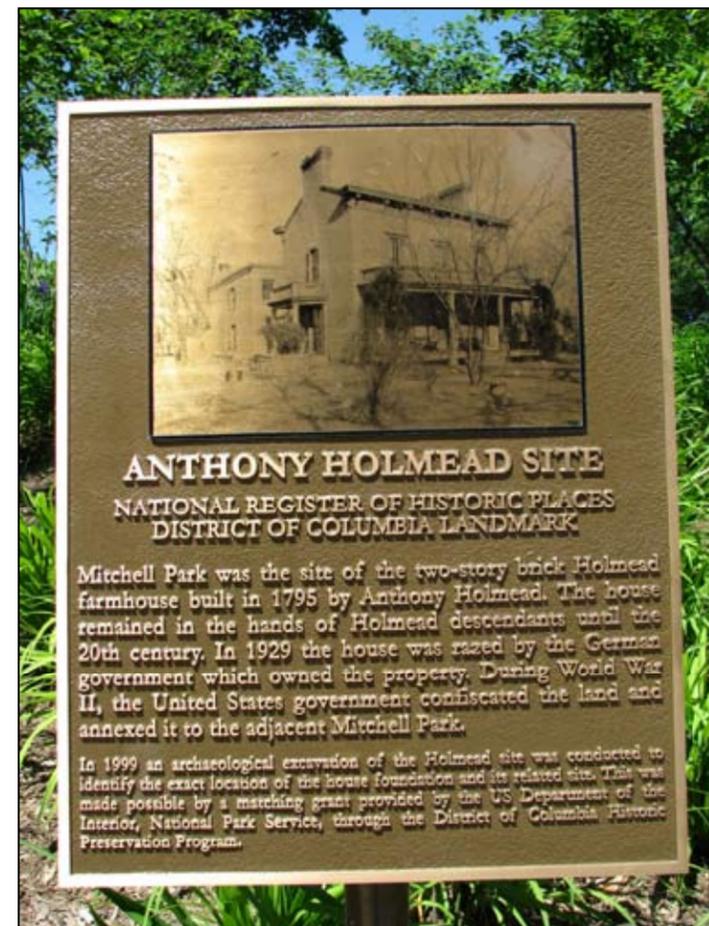
Other maintenance items include overseeing the 19-zone irrigation system. The park is irrigated 3 to 5 times a week between midnight and 6:00am, depending upon soil moisture needs.

Lastly, we are expecting fewer insects (mosquitos) in the playground area this year thanks to a contract with Insectmist, a private contractor. The contractor sprays a non-toxic (to humans and animals) insecticide early every other Saturday morning. Let us know if you sense the bugs coming back so we can adjust the schedule if necessary.

Also, let us know if you observe the need for any additional issues requiring maintenance.

For the committee
Marty Scherr
Marty638@gmail.com

Bushes and shrubs and plants need to be separated and thinned out. Watch for a Plant Sale in the Fall.



Historic Marker in the Park

MOSQUITO FACTS

1. There are over 170 known mosquito species
2. Only adult females bite. They use protein from the blood to ensure viable eggs, not as a source of nutrition.
3. A mosquito can smell the carbon dioxide released by humans and animals from upto 75 feet away.
4. Mosquitoes fly at a speed of 1-1 ½ miles per hour
5. Female mosquitoes can live up to five times longer than their male counterparts, with a top life span of 100 days.

THE FIELD IS OPEN!!

Our patience has been rewarded! We hope everyone will enjoy our beautiful new field which we waited so long for! Please be mindful of doing your best to preserve it by staying off when it has rained and is very wet. In the interest of preserving the field we are told that sections may need to be fenced periodically to allow it to rest as they do in Central Park and other places.

Thank you for your help and support!

Films in the Field
Friday, September 10

We welcome title suggestions. Please call us at 234-6662.