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FRIENDS OF MITCHELL PARK

Fall/Winter 2011

Friends of Mitchell Park

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Slovenian Embassy Reception



Led by Ambassador Roman Kirn, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted Friends of Mitchell Park (FOMP) for a fall reception and fundraiser. The November 9, 2011 event at the Embassy—which serves both as the business office as well as the Ambassador's residence--was highlighted by a beautiful buffet of traditional Slovenian food and wonderful Slovenian wines; the wines were donated by the Embassy and the food underwritten by the Alex and Paul Group of TTRSIR. More than 80 friends and neighbors partook of the hospitality.

Ambassador Kirn addressed the group. He expressed how important



it is to him that the Embassy be a good neighbor. He also acknowledged the Linden tree planted in the park by FOMP and the Embassy. A plaque on the recreation building commemorates the planting and underscores the strength of the Slovenian/US/Sheridan-Kalorama friendship. The Ambassador also reminded everyone that Slovenia is in the midst of its year-long celebration of 20 years as an independent nation.



Representing FOMP, President Pierre Wagner thanked the Ambassador and his staff for their generous hospitality and congratulated Slovenia on its twenty years of independence. Mr. Wagner closed his remarks by recognizing several special guests and by sentimentally crooning a German folksong with music by Franz Schubert praising the Linden tree. The Linden is the National Tree of Slovenia

Special guests included DC Council Member Jack Evans and Department of Parks and Recreation Chief

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The 9th Annual Mitchell Park Fun Day *(con't from page 2)*

bouncy houses that provided hours of entertainment for both young and old. If you found yourself hungry or thirsty, there was free popcorn and water or you could purchase one of the many confections donated by Audrey Nevitt and her team of bakers.

The Friends of Mitchell Park wish to thank the many volunteers that made this year's Fall Fun Day a huge success. Your continued support enable the Friends of Mitchell Park to keep our little park special.

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



Notes from the President:

This Spring and Summer our neighborhood park was at its best, attracting a multitude of sun worshippers, picnickers, ball and Frisbee players, business people during their lunch hour and many children with their parents and nannies. The neighborhood feels young and active, and all park users seem to appreciate the hard work our whole neighborhood has put into it.

Our vigilance saved the two big ash trees from the plague of Emerald Ash borer. Sadly, we did lose two recently planted trees around the field. They will be replaced in the spring. The recreation building might get some refurbishing too.

We just concluded our financial year with a benefit reception at the Embassy of Slovenia where our donors were received and addressed by his Excellency Roman Kirn. The ambassador and his charming wife are active supporters of the greening of our city and of Mitchell Park.

All in all, 2011 has been a good year for Mitchell Park thanks to all of you who use it, enjoy it and support it.

The 9th Annual Mitchell Park Fun Day



The 9th annual Mitchell Park Fun Day was held on October 30th from 2-5pm. The glorious weather provided a wonderful backdrop for both kids and adults to gather and mingle as they enjoyed several attractions.

The event was organized by local residents and sponsored by the Friends of Mitchell Park and Jim Bell. Paul Williams and his band provided lively music. Audrey Nevitt and her merry bakers made an assortment of cakes, quiches, soups and mouth-watering goodies. Angela Newnam came through again with a scary haunted house, and community organizations set up service tables to provide general information.

The main attractions of course, were the Halloween-centric activities. Jim Bell greeted neighbors with trick-or-treat bags filled with candy. Angela Newnam's haunted house brought lots of squeals and giggles to the younger kids. Alison Adkin's hairspray and tattoos were a favorite. Nicole Farrison and her girl scouts managed carnival games for the older kids. There were two

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Maintenance Committee

The Park displayed dramatic fall color this year, especially the saffron hued Amelanchier (service-berry) trees along the S St. embankments as well as the orange and gold "October Glory" maples in the playground. The Park continues to thrive and grow with such a wonderful range of plant material that is enjoyable in every season. Our landscape architects Oehme van Sweden deserve credit for choosing such beautiful and colorful species. The park had its final cleanup in late November, after most of the trees had dropped their leaves, and stand ready for Winter.

This Fall our plantings were pruned twice by specialists from the firm Yankee Clippers, paid for by Friends of Mitchell Park and funded by your generous donations. During the first pruning in early September, we were fortunate to secure a dumpster at no charge from the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). However, we had to pay a \$300 disposal fee at the second pruning in October and will have to do so in the future because DPR dissolved the maintenance division that provided this service. Park maintenance services are now provided through the D.C. Department of General Services.

For the seven years since the park renovation was completed in October 2004, we have struggled to find a solution to a faulty sewer line coming from the recreation building. The line had the unpleasant habit of periodically erupting outside the entrance to the playground. Thanks to the intervention of DPR Chief of Staff John Stokes, the sewer line has finally been properly repaired.

Speaking of the playground, some dips and gouges in the rubberized surface have been repaired, and it is once again a solid soft surface. Thanks go to our DPR contact Ella Faulkner for contacting the vendor for the repairs. The new patches are a

lighter color, but we have been assured that the color will oxidize over the years and grow to better resemble the original surface color.

We are monitoring the physical condition of the playground especially carefully because it is being used more intensively this year. Starting this Fall, large numbers of children from the new Mundo Verde school a few blocks away at 2001 S Street N.W. have been using the playground continuously during the school day. The school is seeking a permanent location for next year, in which case they would not continue to use Mitchell Park. Advisory Neighborhood Council Representative Eric Lamar (2D02) and John Stokes (DPR) have been working with the school to respond to some complaints of overcrowding on the playground.

This Fall we gave special care to our crepe myrtles and ash trees. In late summer the crepe myrtle trees were diagnosed with a disease that necessitated a spray program remedy. We solicited three estimates for the work and chose Arbor Care. Then we were notified that the District had fallen under a federal quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer. We tested our ash trees and found them to be disease-free. However, as a precaution we had Arbor Care spray them at the same time they sprayed the crepe myrtles. They also pruned the older ash trees. The expenses of the testing and spraying were paid for by a generous neighbor.

We are concerned about the deterioration of the exterior of the recreation building and are getting estimates on repairs and painting to identify the scope of the work it needs. We received an encouraging signal from Councilman Jack Evans that the city would provide the funds to make the repairs.

Slovenian Embassy Reception *(con't from page 1)*

of Staff John Stokes. The Ambassador's support team was led by Masa Siftar, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington.

Not only was the event great fun for everyone who attended, it was an essential activity that moves

FOMP closer to garnering the resources needed to sustain Mitchell Park as one of the most beautiful parks in DC.