

INSIDE: SPRING REAL ESTATE

THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

District eyes road tweaks to Wisconsin

By IAN THOMS
Current Staff Writer

District Department of Transportation officials are standing firm on their plan to create a median on Wisconsin Avenue in Glover Park, but there's still some concern that the painted median will create traffic congestion where little currently exists.


One of many recommendations within the 2009 Glover Park transportation study, the median will run intermittently along Wisconsin Avenue from Garfield Street south to 34th Street. Transportation planners said it should slow speeders and in turn make the area safer for pedestrians.

"We're very worried about our citizens getting run over by cars," Transportation Department official Chris Delfs said at a community meeting last week.

This summer, Transportation Department workers will start implementing some of the study's proposals, such as widening certain sidewalks and installing new street lamps. Reconstruction of Wisconsin Avenue is set for the fall, and the agency probably won't put in the painted median until early

See **Wisconsin**/Page 7

PITCHING IN



Bill Petros/The Current

Alex Hill and Lucas Ferrier joined other volunteers Saturday at Glover Archbold Park to remove trash and debris. The event was part of the 22nd annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, which was sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Legislators wrestle with Fenty's budget

■ **Finances:** Critics attack cuts in social service programs

By ELIZABETH WIENER
Current Staff Writer

With the District facing its roughest budget review season in memory, the upcoming election is already causing fireworks over Mayor Adrian Fenty's proposed \$5.3 billion spending plan for fiscal year 2011.

Fenty briefed the D.C. Council Monday on his budget proposal, designed to address a projected

\$523 million budget gap in the fiscal year that begins in October, as he sat directly opposite his major announced rival for the Democratic nomination, Council Chairman Vincent Gray. Fenty called the plan a "budget which cuts the fat, and manages what we have in a better way."

Gray opened the session with an attack. "It's not a fiscal plan that rises to the reality we face. The majority of tough decisions are left to the council," the chairman said. He argued that Fenty's proposal is balanced with "one-time funding, See **Budget**/Page 9

City looks to expand meter options, fees

■ **Parking:** DDOT introduces pay-by-phone pilot initiative

By CAROL BUCKLEY
Current Staff Writer

The city launched a pay-by-phone parking pilot Monday that will allow motorists who park in one of the program's 700 spaces to leave the quarters at home.

But parts of the pilot zone — which includes areas in Dupont Circle; sections of downtown along K Street, I Street and New York Avenue; and blocks around Union Station — may also leave motorists with lighter wallets in another sense: Mayor Adrian Fenty has proposed raising the hourly parking rate to \$3 in busy areas of Ward 2.

For drivers who complained that last year's increase to \$2 an hour demanded 16 quarters to cover a two-hour stay, the news that a pocket-busting 24 quarters would be needed for the same period in high-demand areas will hardly be welcome.

But the rate hike will not be imposed at change-only meters, said



Bill Petros/The Current

Busy sections of Ward 2 would see fee hikes to \$3 an hour at meters under the mayor's budget.

District Transportation Department spokesperson John Lisle. "We only will do that where people have options" such as multispace meters, he said.

"It's unfortunate we had to raise rates before replacing meters," said Transportation Department director Gabe Klein of last year's increase, which also marked the start of enforcement on evenings and Saturdays. Speaking at a recent community meeting, Klein touted See **Meters**/Page 12

Students pitch social-outreach projects

By JESSICA GOULD
Current Staff Writer

Several years ago, Sidwell Friends student Lara Mitra spent spring break with her mother, volunteering at an orphanage in Burkina Faso.

Mitra said the trip to the small West African country was life-changing. "The children gave new meaning to the seemingly ordinary concepts of simplicity, sharing and perseverance that I had learned as a child," she said.

As she left, one of the orphans grabbed her hand. "Don't forget me," Mitra remembers her saying.



Photo Courtesy of LearnServe
Lara Mitra's proposal would link students with orphans in Africa.

"Write."

And, ever since, she has. Now, Mitra wants to give other Sidwell students the opportunity to forge similar friendships.

On Thursday, she pitched "E-Family Worldwide" to a panel of business leaders as part of LearnServe International's Social Venture Fair.

Mitra was one of 45 students from 30 D.C. area schools who debuted their projects at the event, which took place in Foggy Bottom's

School Without Walls.

"A lot of teenagers do service work at orphanages See **Projects**/Page 56

NEWS

- **Neighbors want more action for Dupont Circle park.** Page 5.
- **Chevy Chase sees major rise in burglaries.** Page 3.



SPORTS

- **Gonzaga lacrosse looks tough in early season play.** Page 13.
- **Wilson boys lacrosse wins its first game.** Page 13.



PASSAGES

- **Local brothers team up for 'Sophisticated Ladies' show.** Page 15.
- **Dumbarton House lures treasure hunters.** Page 15.



INDEX

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Calendar/48 | Police Report/6 |
| Classifieds/62 | Real Estate/Pullout |
| District Digest/4 | School Dispatches/16 |
| Exhibits/53 | Service Directory/57 |
| In Your Neighborhood/8 | Sports/13 |
| Opinion/10 | Theater/53 |
| Passages/15 | Week Ahead/3 |