

SAVE OUR  
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

# SOS ONLINE

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Spring weather has brought more visitors to National Park Seminary, many with questions about its past and its future. We hope you find in *SOS Online* the information you need about the changes at the Seminary. If you have questions or know someone who should be receiving *SOS Online*, send us an e-mail at [info@saveourseminary.org](mailto:info@saveourseminary.org).

### Construction Watch: What's New

The focus of activity remains on Linden Lane, the "main street" that connects the National Park Seminary to the local neighborhoods and to the Montgomery Hills shopping area. EYA's contractors continue to reshape the land south of Linden and they have begun the work of installing underground electric and cable lines, gas and water supply, and sanitary and storm sewers.

For those of us who appreciate traditional architecture, the more noticeable change is on the north side of Linden, between the Gymnasium and the Stable/Carroll House. On March 6, the demolition of Walter Reed's four, single-story cinder block buildings was completed, opening up a surprising new vista into the campus with an unobstructed view of the Maids' Quarters, the Power Plant, the Carriage House/Fire Station, the Carpenter's Shop, and the Men's Quarters. These buildings housed the support services that were needed to keep the Seminary running smoothly and, we assume, graciously. Each of them will be rehabilitated and converted to condominiums. New townhouses that reflect many of the design elements of the historic buildings will be built among them.

Go to [http://www.saveourseminary.org/construction\\_photos1\\_.htm](http://www.saveourseminary.org/construction_photos1_.htm) and scroll to the bottom of the page for one last look at the photos and video clip of the razing of the block buildings.

The development team was not the only "builder" working in the neighborhood last month. On March 4, Forest Glen Park residents and friends cleared a new entrance path to the popular hiker/biker trail that connects the neighborhood to Rock Creek Park. The new path begins at the left side of the guard rail at the Woodstock Avenue *cul de sac* and follows a gentle slope down to join the trail. It will be easier and safer to walk and much less prone to erosion than was the steep path that hikers had been using –

and it will become firmer the more it is used. Thanks to neighbor and SOS member, Barbara Schubert, for organizing the effort, to Bob Turnbull of the County Parks Department for providing tools and expert advice, and to the enthusiastic Forest Glen Park volunteers.

### What's Next?

We expect the reconstruction of Linden Lane to begin in April. The section of Linden between Walter Reed's Stephen Sitter gate and the Woodstock Avenue will be widened to three lanes, one of them reserved for parking, with curbs, sidewalks, and trees on both sides. Unfortunately, much of Linden Lane between the railroad and Beltway bridges will be closed to traffic for about six months, beginning later this month. A community meeting to discuss the closing and the detour plan has been scheduled for Thursday, April 6 at 7:30 at the Coffield Community Center, 2450 Lyttonville Road, Silver Spring.

Here is the current development schedule as we know it:

- Through August 2006 – Continuing earth work south of Linden Lane
- Through December 2006 – Laying underground utilities
- April 2006 – Beginning of the historic building reconstruction, starting at Main, the building complex at the center of the campus, and continuing for 18 to 20 months
- April 2006 through September 2006 – Closing and reconstruction of Linden Lane
- Summer 2006 – Beginning of townhouse construction

### How Can I Help? Become A Seminary Tour Guide!

SOS conducts tours of the Seminary on the fourth Saturday of the month, from March through November. Interest in the tours has always been strong and we expect it to increase as the redevelopment proceeds. You can help SOS and the Seminary by volunteering to be a tour guide. We'll train you and have an experienced guide accompany you until you are ready to lead a group on your own. It's a great way to learn more about the Seminary and its neighborhood – and to meet enthusiastic people sharing the story of this unique place. E-mail us at [info@saveourseminary.org](mailto:info@saveourseminary.org) if you are interested.

### Questions?

If you have questions about the National Park Seminary, check the FAQs at <http://www.saveourseminary.org/FAQ2.htm> or e-mail us at [info@saveourseminary.org](mailto:info@saveourseminary.org). Some questions we've been asked recently are:

#### Exactly what is happening at the Seminary?

The Seminary is being rehabilitated and adapted for reuse as a residential community. The historic buildings will be preserved and converted to 100 condominiums, 66 rental apartments, and 13 single-family houses. Ninety-eight new townhouses, compatible in style with the Seminary and the neighborhood, will also be built. The historic ballroom will be restored and available for community use. The wooded glen is now protected by a conservation easement and it will be accessible to the public. A new trail with

interpretive markers that describe the historic features of the Seminary will cross the campus, connecting the glen to the public hiking trail south of Linden Lane.

How can we be sure that the historic character of the Seminary will be protected?

The Seminar buildings are protected permanently by a preservation easement held by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), the state historic preservation agency. The easement requires present and future owners to get the approval of MHT before any of the historic buildings may be altered. Also, the County's Historic Preservation Commission must approve any exterior work in the historic district.

Feature of the Month

This month we feature, not an historic building or statue, but an interesting (though temporary) addition to the Seminary. EYA, the developer of the new townhouses, commissioned an architectural model that shows their townhouses along both sides of Linden Lane. The model is itself a work of fine craftsmanship but its greater value is that it shows the new buildings within the context of historic structures, woods, and local streets. Even the best two-dimensional drawings can only hint at the variety and visual richness of the new community being created at National Park Seminary. Likewise, our photograph can only whet your appetite for the model itself. Next time you're in Forest Glen, stop by the EYA sales office at 2750 Linden Lane to see it.

