

# Walter Brooks Honored

By Thelma A. Jones

Walter Brooks became an Honorary Vestry Member at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. during St. A's recent annual meeting, Brooks was recognized with a lovely plaque and a letter of gratitude.

At St. A's, Brooks has served on the vestry, performed overall maintenance service, provided transportation and assembling of food for the homeless feeding program, helped to prepare breakfast for the Sunday feeding ministry, and served as a photographer. He was delegate to both the Diocese Convention and the Regional Committee and is currently serving on the Altar Guild.

In the community, he served as chairperson of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA-YATF) which began at St. A's in 1982. Brooks is a Howard University graduate with a BA in Health and Physical Education and a Masters from New York University in Human Relations Education. He was married to the late Charlotte K. Brooks, and lived in Southwest's Tiber Island for more than 50 years. Brooks now lives in Silver Spring, MD with spouse Dr. Verna Cook, President, Black Women in Sisterhood (BISA).

# Mary Early, SW Artist

By Thelma Jones

Artist's Profile: Mary Early

by Thelma D. Jones

Even as the last buildings of old Southwest come tumbling down, we can still boast about some of Washington's best-kept secrets. Mary Early, 32, a sculptor on the rise, is one of our community secrets. A 1997 graduate of Bennington College with a BA in Visual Arts, Early creates large-scale complex sculptures and installations. She works in various media, such as wood, wax and beeswax and also creates drawings, including pencil and ink on paper. She began exhibiting and selling her works around 1998 and admits: "I don't make much money on selling sculpture!" Instead her income comes from grants and honorarium.

Early's recent work has concentrated on a select few forms in which she repeats carefully chosen shapes to create larger objects. She states: "This has taken on variations, from a hoop shape that almost resembles a skirt to a dense circular ring that rests on the floor to an arch that begins at floor level and rises up to barely meet the wall." Her sculptures can incorporate a few dozen to over a thousand components, each component made up of its own multiple parts. Simply magnificent!

Early's influences include sculptors such as Martin Puryear, Rachel Whiteread, and Wolfgang Laib, whose sculptures can be seen at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and the National Gallery of Art.

In 2007, Early was a finalist for the Bethesda Trawick Prize and received an Artist Fellowship from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. She is a member of the board of Washington Sculptors Group, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting programs for artists.

Early's success has earned her recognition in more than 15 publications. Her works have been cited in *The Washington Post*, *The Washington City Paper*, *The Examiner*, *Sculpture Magazine*, and *ArtPapers*, as well as WETA's *Around Town*. She has participated in over 25 exhibitions, from Vermont to the Washington area, including the Carroll Square Gallery, Warehouse Gallery, Ann Loeb Bronfman Gallery, ArtDC, and in art galleries at the University of Maryland and Georgetown University. Today, Early's sculptures can be seen in the art collections of the US Department of State (Embassy of Panama), Dickstein, Shapiro LLP (Washington, DC), and Hotel Palomar (Arlington, VA).

Early is represented by Hemphill Fine Arts and works out of a studio located in a turn-of-the-century carriage house on Capitol Hill. To learn more about her work, visit [www.maryearly.com](http://www.maryearly.com)

or [www.hemphillfinearts.com](http://www.hemphillfinearts.com). Being a Southwest best-kept secret is just one of Early's many distinctions—she is also the daughter of Jim and Carole Early, long-time Southwest residents (Carole is the co-editor of *The Southwester*).

## Twelve College Grants For SW Students

Twelve college students living in Near SW applied to SWNA's S.W. Scholarship fund last spring and have received grants for the 2007-08 school year, between \$500 and \$1500. The students and their colleges are as follows, in no particular order:

Makai Kellogg at Trinity College; Tiffany Robinson at Georgetown U; Sydney Henriques-Payne at U of Pittsburgh; Natania Moscoe at Virginia State U; Allen Dobbins at Virginia Union U.; Natasha Rodrigues at U of MD at College Park (grant from River Park Friends); Diamond Kirkland at Temple U; Ebone Smalls at Virginia State U; Shakira Thomas at Howard U; Jamal Hansberry at Morehouse U; Hloniphile Mkoko-Lee at UDC; and McKindra Leftsinger at Virginia State U (grant from Westminster Presbyterian Church).

# East Coast Trail to Anacostia River-walk

Progress is being made to connect the 20 mile long Anacostia Riverwalk to the 3,000 mile “traffic-free path linking East Coast cities from Maine to Florida,” known as the East Coast Greenway.

The Garfield Park – Canal Park Connector Project of the DC Dept. of Transportation in Near SE DC will receive public comments in March and April 2008. That project focuses on the streets and sidewalks leading from Garfield Park on under the SE/SW Freeway to the proposed Canal Park on Second St. SE. In the meantime the project advisory committee of more than a dozen organizations and agencies will meet to decide on plans for next steps.

Progress so far is detailed on a project website [www.tooledesign.com](http://www.tooledesign.com) – click on “Garfield Park Canal Park Connector Project.” That website also includes the names of the members of the advisory committee to whom you can address comments..

A public meeting in October discussed ideas for the layout and activities under the freeway, ways to avoid conflict between bicyclists, hikers, recreational uses, and automobiles. Extensive reports are included on the website.

Layout of trails can be found on the DC Dept. of Transportation entry on the web by Googling Anacostia

Riverwalk Trail and on [www.greenway.org](http://www.greenway.org), the East Coast Greenway website.

## Safeway Continues Charity Giving

Craig Muckle, public affairs manager for area Safeway stores, has reported the company continues to give generously to local, area and national causes. A few examples:

“Safeway continued its annual in-store fundraising campaigns to fight prostate and breast cancer with record-breaking results, raising more than \$2.2 million (combined) through its 178 mid-Atlantic stores.”

“Its Club Card for Education Program powered by eScrip provided more than \$2.3 million to public and private schools and educational facilities through the mid-Atlantic region.”

“In addition to the high-profile events, Safeway responds favorably to the hundreds of requests it receives from churches, PTAs and other community- and neighborhood-oriented groups.”

“The success of our business is a result of the many customers who patronize our stores on a regular basis throughout the year,” said Steve Neibergall, Safeway’s Eastern Division President. “As a result, we wholeheartedly believe we can demonstrate our appreciation by being as generous as possible in our contributions to the wide assortment

of community activities that are held in the neighborhoods we serve.”

## Forensic Lab Contract Let

DC has awarded the construction management (CM) services contract for the new Consolidated Forensic Laboratory

(to be built at 4<sup>th</sup> & School St. SW where District 1 Police Headquarters is at present) to Jacobs Engineering Group.

The new consolidated facility will co-locate portions of three departments: the [Metropolitan Police Department \(MPD\)](#) forensic lab, the [Office of the Chief Medical Examiner \(OCME\)](#), and the [Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) public health lab. The facility will be at 4th and School Streets, SW, in Ward 6, on the existing site of MPD’s First District Station. The budgeted cost of the project is estimated at \$218 million, which will include design, construction, construction management, scientific equipment, commissioning and relocation by 2011.

## Free Tax Help at SW Library

At the SW Library at 3<sup>rd</sup> and K St. SW volunteers from AARP will give free tax help to those of low and middle income, especially if age 60 and older.

The schedule is: Tuesdays 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm; Thursdays, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm; Sat. 10:30 am to 4 pm, and beginning Mar. 3.

For help bring

- 1) what you filled in a year ago for your 2006 taxes due in Apr. 2007,
- 2) the new forms and booklets you received from the IRS and DC to report your 2007 income
- 3) W2s from each employer for 2007
- 4) report of any unemployment compensation received in 2007
- 5) all 1099 forms – for pensions, social security, misc., etc for 2007
- 6) any other forms indicating federal or DC taxes paid on 2007 income
- 7) dependent care provider information (name, employer, ID, social security number
- 8) all receipts or canceled checks if itemizing deductions
- 9) social security card or other official documentation
- 10) a photo ID if this is your first time doing taxes at the SW Library

## Buses for Bowen Students

By Carole Early

Charles Allen of the Council Member Tommy Wells staff, spoke of the mayor’s commitment for a school bus to run on the south side of M Street. It would pick up students who formerly went to Bowen School who will now be attending Amidon Elementary School.

# Police Move To Bowen

By Carole Early

I asked Commander David Kamperin of the 1<sup>st</sup> District.MPD about the police move to Bowen School and here are his answers:

Q. 1) Will the Police Boy's & Girl's Club No. 4 remain on the premises? If not, why not?

A. by CDR Kamperin: "This is a decision that is still being discussed. Although we assist the Boy's and Girl's Club, the clubs are an independent entity (the Boy's and Girl's Clubs of Greater Washington).There are advantages and disadvantages to the club remaining on the premises. Considering the school is scheduled to house not only a 24hr / 7 day police patrol facility but our Violent Crime Branch and Patrol Support Division, there are security, access, parking and other issues that must be considered. We are looking at several options at this time".

Q. 2) What kind of time schedule is expected before MPD moves in? Will renovations be extensive? What state of the art technologies will be implemented at the new location?

A. by Cdr Kamperin. "According to a recent meeting I had with personnel from our facilities, property

management and the architect, the move-in-time is anticipated to be between November 2008 – Spring 2009. The renovations are extensive as the site must be suitable for a major patrol district and its functions (to include station area, cell block holding facility, locker rooms, squad / roll call room, etc). Regarding technologies, there are discussions with our IT department to enhance the interview and processing rooms, install "temperature boards" that would broadcast international, national and local information on a continuous basis to secure locations in the facility, and other upgrades that are being proposed"

Q. 3) Who first proposed the idea of MPD moving into Bowen?

A. by Cdr Kamperin "I don't know when the discussion to move 1D to Bowen began. When the decision was made to construct the new crime lab at the 1D location it is likely that the search for a new location began".