

COLLEGE HILL



ASSOCIATION

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Improving, Preserving, Celebrating College Hill



Afternoon sunlight on Northern Pacific Depot's newly visible west side, with view up to College Hill through the brick roads.

College Hill – This Place Matters

Once again, with your continued support, The College Hill Association has been able to strengthen one of the primary pillars of its mission, historic preservation of the neighborhood's built environment.

Preservation highlights from the 2019-2020 year include sponsoring three nominations to the Pullman Register of Historic Places, providing a letter of support to strengthen the city's application for historic preservation grant funds, and making a substantial financial contribution to the Pullman Depot Heritage Center's "Fix the Bricks" campaign.

The recently designated Weller House on Illinois Street joins a dozen other College Hill properties on the Pullman Register of Historic Places, the city's official list of protected historic resources. Designed by the architectural firm of Smith & Weller and built in 1933, the Composite Tudor-style home was originally the personal residence of noted architect and professor Harry C. Weller, who joined the faculty of then Washington State College in 1928.

Since 1949, it has been continuously owned by a single family, that of the late Dr. William S. Butts, and is now occupied by his son Charles. Future generations will no doubt appreciate the thoughtful preservation of this handsome residence. If you are interested in listing your College Hill property on the Pullman Register, contact CHA for additional information and guidance.

This past summer, Pullman was one of nine communities selected by Washington State's Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation to receive a historic preservation grant. CHA contributed to the city's grant application by providing a letter of support. Previously, the DAHP questioned whether a study of a predominantly renter-occupied area would produce nominations to the local register of historic places. **Continued...**

What's Happening...

Continued from "This Place Matters"...

In its letter of support, the CHA board of directors argued, "We believe all neighborhood residents, whether they own property or not, should be encouraged to participate in neighborhood planning, and allowed opportunities to do so." The grant funds—derived not from taxpayer dollars but from the proceeds of offshore oil drilling leases—will be used to perform a study of approximately 50 properties in the area just east of B Street.

Also over the summer, the CHA Board of Directors approved an expenditure of \$1,000 to support the Pullman Depot Heritage Center's "Fix the Bricks" campaign. Restoration of the depot at the southern base of College Hill aligns with CHA's mission and its vision of pedestrian-friendly access to the neighborhood from Pullman's downtown core. Over the years, thousands of passengers arriving at the depot followed the same character-rich route: traveling up the 1913 Star Route and Palouse Street brick roads and alongside the 1914 United Presbyterian Church (now known as the Greystone).

From both Maiden Lane and the Star Route (present-day's tree-lined Maple Street), passengers turned east on either Oak or Campus street and passed by the college president's house before entering campus. This route, now over a century old but retaining much of its original character and associations, can still be experienced today. A restored depot will strengthen and solidify these associations, reinforcing and contributing to our neighborhood's unique identity. We would like to thank CHA's supporting members whose donations over the years made it possible to fund this gift to the PDHC and our other neighborhood preservation projects. As always, we welcome your ideas and feedback as we look toward the future together.



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CHA Builds Community During Covid-19

Though we couldn't have predicted it, Covid-19 has actually brought together various community partners to fight against the pandemic's painful losses. Early in the pandemic, food insecurity became a growing concern. In response the College Hill Association realized that two community members—the Community Action Center (CAC) and Dissmore's IGA—could be partners to help mitigate the problem. By CHA's providing \$20 IGA gift cards, which Dissmore's owner Archie McGregor discounted by 10%, and distributing them through CAC's Food Bank program, more than 100 households received assistance in this time of strained resources.

Everyone benefits from these collaborative efforts, and CHA has continued its commitment to one of its basic pillars: building local community. But the CHA didn't stop there. Unable to hold its annual summer barbecue this year due to the pandemic, CHA hosted a scaled-down and socially-distanced frozen treat party at College Hill's McGee Park in early August. CHA supporters, neighborhood friends, and city officials gathered—in masks—to talk in small groups, play with kids and pets, and eat really good frozen ice cream, yogurt, and other tasty non-dairy confections. For those who wanted even further distancing, drive-up treat delivery made their attendance comfortable and accommodating. Given the alternative of simply cancelling the summer BBQ altogether, the safe gathering was another way for the College Hill community to come together and maintain its good feelings for one another.

After its early-August party, CHA looked ahead to its fall annual meeting, but didn't know exactly how it could pull that off and still meet Covid-19 gathering-size restrictions. By that time, however, the Zoom revolution had taken hold all over, and it seemed natural that CHA should join the crowd and hold its annual meeting virtually. So, on Wednesday, September 16, the 28th anniversary of its official founding as a nonprofit neighborhood improvement association, CHA held its first virtual annual meeting over Zoom, with great success. Twenty-five screens lit up with the faces of multiple supporters from College Hill and other parts of Pullman and far beyond, including one loyal participant from as far away as Baja California. As in the past, the group shared helpful information and asked pointed questions; the interactions were civil and useful; the mood positive and upbeat. All in all, the meeting reassured CHA and its friends and allies that community building can still happen, even in these strange and sometimes stressful times.

This Year...

Donors

Individual Donors • Anonymous • Mary Lou Bennington • Tom Brigham • Charlie Butts • Sue Durrant • Alex & Barbara Hammond • Elwood & Polly Hartman • Glenn & Kathy Johnson • Barry & Michelle Johnston • George E. Kennedy • KNona Liddell • Marty & Sue Mendiola • Mike Miller • Walt Miller • Tom & Allison Munch-Rotolo • Martha Mullen • Anna Mutin • Des & Sheila O'Rourke • Barbara Palmer • Bobbie & Karl Ryder-Johanson • Carlos & Jessica Suarez • Marilyn Von Seggern • Christy Zlatos • **Corporate Donors** • Delta Phi Gamma Corporation • Pullman Disposal Service • **Memorial Gifts in Honor** • Joan Brigham • Virginia Hyde • Frank Mullen • Bruce Palmer • **Gifts In Kind** • College Hill Historic House Airbnb • Columbia Historical Consulting • The Coug • Dissmore's IGA • J&H Printing

2020-2021 CHA

Board of Directors

Officers: Allison Munch-Rotolo, Bob Cady, Marilyn Von Seggern, Alex Hammond
 Members: Alli Fisher & Enrique Alvarado, Dave Jones, George Kennedy, Jamie & Jim Peters, Kylie Waddill, Jim Williamson
 Intern: Alyssa Brown

3 Nominations Submitted to Pullman Register of Historic Places



**NEW
 INSTAGRAM
 FOLLOWERS**



115 \$20 Dissmore's IGA Gift Cards
 Donated to Community Action
 Center

Purchased 1 of 4 New Public Litter Receptacles on College Hill



12 position letters on College Hill developments

Marty Mullen 1941 - 2020



Marty Mullen—a long-time supporter of the College Hill Association; a brilliant organizer for the performing arts at WSU; an art collector and patron of the university's political science department and Foley Institute; an indefatigable world traveler who somehow avoided most creature comforts and paved roads; and a warm, generous, loving friend to the many whose lives she touched—died on July 9, 2020. Born in Quanah, Texas, Marty grew up in Corpus Christi, graduated from Texas Tech University in 1963, married William Franklin (Frank) Mullen, an instructor in its Department of Government, in 1964, and, after he completed his Ph.D., moved to Pullman when Frank joined WSU's Political Science Department in 1968.

Marty herself would join the WSU staff in 1972, serving initially as an ASWSU program adviser, then, after completing her Ph.D. in higher education administration in 1980, as the first and only director of the student-supported Visual, Performing, and Literary Arts Committee (VPLAC), a post she held with other appointments such as interim director of WSU's Museum of Art until her retirement in 2003. The CHA remembers Marty as a founding member, an organizer of early mystery tours of the neighborhood, and a long-time resident of the restored 1920s Daggy house on Howard Street to which she and Frank moved in 1973. Because summer seemed her travel season, we often missed her in later years at CHA's BBQs.

Her friends on long-distance hikes in England, Croatia, and Cyprus recalled that Marty's Sierra Club trips and volunteer EarthWatch projects took her to such distant parts of the world as Peru, India, Mount Kilimanjaro, and Nepal, to name just a few. We know that closer to home Marty rafted the Grand Canyon with a broken wrist and explored every one of the 658 roads in Whitman County--the latter yielding her delightful 2010 *Reflections on the Road: A Journey Through Whitman County Past and Present*. To say Marty's death creates an unfillable void is the kind of cliché she would reject out of hand, but one suspects the generations of dogs who shared her life would understand.

What's Happening...

College Hill Association
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Green Space Improvements for Bees and People on College Hill

Incremental enhancements to neighborhood infrastructure, often easy to overlook, contribute to neighborhood health and livability. ASWSU's park at the southeast corner of Colorado and Ruby streets has benefited from a series of such enhancements. In the spring of 2019, the park's central tree was encircled with a new bee-friendly garden designed as a stop along Pullman's pollinator pathway. CHA board member KJ Fitzgerald (WSU Class of 2020) obtained a grant from the WSU Green Fund to plant this garden, which connects College Hill, a neighborhood with limited green space, to the region's larger ecosystem.

After the new pollinator garden was established, the need for inviting (and protective) definition of its borders became obvious to KJ. In the spring of 2020, she successfully applied for additional grant funds from ASWSU's senate to install a segmented circle of seats around the tree and garden at the park's focal point—enabling users of this green space to become front-row witnesses to the journey of bees through the neighborhood. KJ hopes that future Cougs will undertake similar efforts to grow and improve this park. "The College Hill community is unlike any other," she said. "The benches and garden became a reality through collaborative community action. I hope that they are put to good use by both the people and pollinators of College Hill."

