

# Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



Citizens Association  
of Georgetown

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

## CAG PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM LAUNCHED *All Board Members Pledge Bequests*

VICTORIA RIXEY, CAG BOARD

CAG has launched a Planned Giving initiative, inviting our members to remember CAG through a bequest to the association. We are happy to report that all 13 members of our Board of Directors have committed to exactly that: leaving a portion of their estate to CAG to ensure a thriving future for the oldest, and most active, citizens association in the District. We are fortunate to have the expert assistance of Tara Sakraida Parker, formerly Director of Planned Giving at UCLA, and Foley & Lardner's John Lynham, in setting up this program.

### John and Nina Richardson

Builder John Richardson and his wife Nina, residents of 34th Street, were the first family to make this commitment, saying,

*"We want to do something for the Georgetown community for all it has given us over the years."*

John added: "It has given our son Scott and his cousins Nonie and Rory Cameron such a friendly place to grow up. It could not have been better. My brother-in-law, Juan Cameron, was a longtime member of CAG and a past president. His wife Tooley



*John and Nina Richardson: "We want to make sure CAG continues to watch out for us all."*

continues to live on N Street and daughter Nonie lives with her family on 29th Street."

He continued, "Georgetown offers much — the life that is put into the three parks by the groups that support them, the historic houses becoming the familiar, the relaxed pace, the many CAG public events and meetings (concerts, public safety, trees, preserving the historic character, and in general supporting our interests.) Making sure all this is protected and continued is a job CAG gladly takes on."

John concluded: "The main idea, though, is that the Citizens Association gives everyone — the settled and the newly arrived — a way to connect with and become part of a community."

Many people know that John was the major force who pioneered the amazing transformation of Volta Park from what was a "very run down mess — like an old freight yard — filled with inner tubes and dirt and rocks" to the beautiful park it is today. (For details, please go to his Oral History interview on our website for the story of how the neighbors, against all odds, made it happen).

### CAG Legacy Society & Friends of CAG

In addition, we will be turning to past and future supporters of *Friends of CAG* this fall to give generously to keep our organization strong. Ultimately, we hope for both types of gifts — contributions that support CAG with much-needed donations today, as well as bequests to ensure CAG's future. We are creating a Legacy Society that will formally recognize the very special donors who make a bequest to CAG. Members and founding members of this Legacy Society will be recognized and honored each year.

Please let CAG know if you would like details on Planned Giving. There is information on our website and we would be happy to send you more.

## CONCERTS IN THE PARKS REALLY GET STARTED JUNE 19!

HANNAH ISLES, CONCERTS CHAIR

Spring did spring in Georgetown but with so much rain we were forced to cancel the first concert. BUT the next concert is just ahead! On Sunday June 19th, grab your dad and don your dancing shoes for the fabulous Father's Day concert, featuring the Weathervanes, presented by Nancy Taylor Bubes and Washington Fine Properties, in Volta Park from 5:30 to 7pm. There will be special treats to celebrate the dads — and

food trucks, so no one has to cook!

Then beat the summer heat at the grand finale Concert of the season, Sunday, July 10th in Rose Park from 5:30 to 7pm presented by TTR Sotheby's International Realty. Concertgoers will tap toes and sway to the Roots Rock/Americana band The Walkaways. And as always, our sponsors will have special treats and activities for cooling off.

The Concerts in the Parks series is fun for families and friends of all ages from the Georgetown community and beyond because of the great bands, fun family activities, free treats, and food trucks. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful sponsors and the dedication of the hard working committee.

For more information, to join the concerts committee, or become a sponsor, contact [cagmail@cagtown.org](mailto:cagmail@cagtown.org).

# “GOODNESS IS THE ONLY INVESTMENT THAT NEVER FAILS.”

- Henry David Thoreau

As a leader in Georgetown’s real estate community, our firm proudly supports the Georgetown community. We are proud to sponsor the following events and organizations:

Citizens Association of Georgetown  
Concerts in the Park  
Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy  
Friends of Book Hill Park Reception  
Friends of Montrose Park  
Friends of Rose Park

Friends of Volta Park  
Georgetown House Tour (St. John’s)  
Georgetown Jingle  
(Georgetown University Hospital)  
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# President's LETTER



Our May Concert in the Parks was rained out, but the next concert will be on Father's Day, June 19 from 5:30 to 7pm in Volta Park. The Weathervanes band will perform so the weather should certainly cooperate! The final concert will be at Rose Park on July 10 from 5:30 to 7pm, with the Roots Rock/Americana band The Walkaways. They are repeat performers for our concerts, and we welcome them back.

At our May 24 annual meeting at Visitation School, we honored outstanding community

leaders. (see page 5)

Finally, CAG's board members will attend a weekend afternoon retreat in mid-June to address strategic, programmatic, and financial issues confronting CAG. We will need to prepare for that meeting, and will be aided by a mediator to keep us focused on reaching our goals. Prior to that retreat, we distributed to all CAG members a survey via email and/or hard copy to determine what members like or don't like about CAG's programs, services, meetings, and newsletter. What are our

priorities—and what activities and services are most important to Georgetowners? We hope that each of you will complete the survey so that we can consider the preferences of our more than 1,300 members of CAG.

Have a wonderful summer.

*Bob vom Eigen*, PRESIDENT



*Bob vom Eigen, Peter Jost, and Jack Evans*



*Hazel Denton updates CAG on the Georgetown Community Partnership*

## HOMEOWNERS MUST NOW NOTIFY NEIGHBORS OF PROPOSED EXTERIOR CHANGES

RICHARD HINDS, CAG GENERAL COUNSEL

CAG has pushed for several years better notification to neighbors of proposed exterior alterations of our historic structures. While CAG's Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee seeks to review and provide comments on all permit applications that propose significant alterations, we know it is important for neighbors who want their views considered by CAG, the ANC, and the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) to have the opportunity to participate in the design review process. All exterior alterations visible from a public road require design review by the OGB.

But there was no requirement that neighbors receive any notification of proposed

alterations, and residents frequently complained to CAG about alterations they learned about only after they were approved and built. At CAG's request, Councilmember Jack Evans introduced neighbor notification bill for Georgetown. (Chairman Phil Mendelson extended its applicability to all historic districts.) The DC Council recently approved funding for the "Notice Requirements for Historic Properties Amendment Act" (DC Act 20-600), which becomes effective October 1. The Act requires applications for a permit or conceptual review that are subject to hearing before either the OGB or the Historic Preservation Review Board to notify immediate neighbors of the actual alterations being proposed by posting

an official notice of the application on the front of the building.

The applicant must also provide notice of the application and a copy of the plans to the ANC and to property owners who face or are adjacent to the property in question, together with information on how to find the schedule for review by the OGB or HPRB. The notice and plans can be hand-delivered, mailed, or posted online. Finally, the applicant must submit a certification that these notice requirements have been met with the Historic Preservation Office. CAG will provide more information on these new notification requirements as we get closer to their effective date.



# Aspects of Georgetown: TRENDING WHOLESOME

EDITH SCHAFER

So much going on and, unlike politics, not all of it is depressing! So there must be good news. There is! An attractive farmers market has opened in the old Neams/Marvelous Market parking lot at Wisconsin Avenue and P Street.

This corner has had many incarnations. They mirror the phases of my Georgetown life. When I first moved here as a bride, it was an upscale grocery store frequented by formidable Georgetown hostesses, of which there were quite a few. As I remember, it was best if you knew the butcher personally so you could discuss the viands with him in a knowing sort of way. The grande dames of Georgetown knew him, or them. I didn't. I was just getting up my nerve to sidle up to the butchers and say meaningful things about cuts of beef when Neams started its downward slide and subsequently went out of business. Actually, it was a fine store and this was a big loss.

The next incarnation was Marvelous Market, which I also loved, but in a different way. My life had changed, the grande dames has lost their powers of intimidation, and I was no longer cooking for a family. Marvelous Market was perfect for my needs and I was a fan. It was a place where you could get instant gratification; I mean good food that you didn't have to cook or wait for anyone to

prepare or assemble for you. That's my idea of the good life. You could sit peacefully at one of the picnic tables in the sun and dine quite well.

Make way for the next phase: Licking Creek Bend Farm will host a farmers market every Sunday from 10am to 2pm in the parking lot, bringing fresh, locally grown produce to Georgetown. This group already operates two farmers markets in DC, one in Adams Morgan and one in Brookland.

Owner and social activist Michael Tabor started the farm in 1972 as a diaspora kibbutz. The farm covers 60 acres, of which 5 to 10 are farmed each year, in keeping with rotation farming. There are six full-time employees on this Certified Naturally Grown farm; their philosophy is that a sustainable food system starts with local farmers. There is a lot more, but it seems to me that the next step is to go to the Neams parking lot to check out the new market.

## BLOCK CAPTAINS MEET



*Top row l-r: Committee member Chip Dent; Block Captains Marc Gaynor, Matt Swayze, Dan Swayze, Debra Abell, Clarisa Ringlien, Sue Rutledge, Laura Rodriguez, Ellie Budic; CAG staff member Amy Looney. Seated l-r: Block Captains Nancy Ely-Raphel, John Rentzepis (Committee Co-Chair), Hans Kaper, Helen Kaper, Jay Sumner; CAG staff member Louise Jacob.*

SAVE THE DATE

## Georgetown Gala

Saturday, October 22  
The Four Seasons  
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue

Veteran block captains, including former coordinator Diane Colasanto, shared information and advice with newcomers at the Block Captains' meeting on June 8 at the Georgetown Library. The program is currently recruiting new captains for uncovered blocks.

MPD's new Second District lieutenant, Gary Durand, and officer Antonial Atkins gave updates about public safety in Georgetown and advised captains to encourage their neighbors to always call 911 if they are even just suspicious about unusual activities. "If we

don't know, we can't even check the situation out — or prevent a crime. So please call — and leave a callback number!" And they said not to leave laptops and other valuables in parked cars, in view of a recent spate of car break-ins.

Over 70 block captains currently cover over 60% of Georgetown blocks, with some captains covering two or three adjacent streets. To see who covers your block, go to [www.cagtown.org/publicsafety](http://www.cagtown.org/publicsafety). To volunteer, email [public.safety@cagtown.org](mailto:public.safety@cagtown.org) or phone the CAG office at 202-337-7313.

# CAG ANNUAL MEETING: HONORS AND ELECTIONS

The CAG annual meeting drew over 140 people to Visitation School's Heritage Room on May 22. Many new and prospective members were welcomed at a reception preceding the meeting, which featured refreshments from Via Umbria and Hop, Cask and Barrel.

CAG President Bob vom Eigen introduced the CAG Board and thanked all the Committee chairs. Five committee chairs — John Lever, Hazel Denton, John Rentzepis, Richard Hinds, and Betsy Emes — reported highlights from the past year.

Councilmember Jack Evans made remarks including a candid update on what is happening at Metro. Then Bob and Jack presented the Belin Award to Jeff Jones for his expert and dedicated work in preserving the historic character of Georgetown. Peter Jost was honored with the William A. Cochran Award for "exceptional efforts to protect and enhance the community's parkland and architectural resources." The Martin-Davidson Award to businesses that have contributed significantly to the community was presented to *The Georgetownner*, represented by Sonya Bernhardt, Robert Devaney, and Gary Tischler.

MPD Officer Antonial Atkins received a special appreciation award for dedicated



*MJ Berman (second from right) accepted a special CAG award in honor of his late wife, Annie Lou Bayly Berman. Annie Lou's parents Kathy and John Bayly (l and r), MJ's parents Michele and Allan Berman, and Annie Lou's sister Johanna Bayly Howe and her husband Barclay also attended.*

and distinguished service to the Georgetown community and Annie Lou Bayly Berman was honored posthumously with a special appreciation award for her many contributions to neighborhood programs.

CAG officers and four directors for 2016-2017 were elected: Bob vom Eigen, President; Jennifer Altemus, Vice President; Barbara Downs, Secretary; Bob Laycock, Treasurer; and Directors Karen Cruse, Hazel Denton, Hannah Isles, and John Rentzepis. Treasurer Robert Laycock reported on the financial condition of the organization.



*Jack Evans with Belin Award winner Jeff Jones and wife Robin*

## GEORGETOWN FLEA MARKET

VV HARRISON

"Sunday, sweet Sunday, with nothing to do." But of course, there is always plenty to do in Georgetown on a Sunday, not the least of many options being the Georgetown Flea Market in the Hardy School parking lot across the Safeway.

Open every Sunday from 8am to 4pm, more than twenty-five vendors from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia set up shop. Some come in vans, others in trucks and cars filled with all manner of trinkets — from deer antlers and turtle shells to musical instruments, bicycles, china, silver, pottery, jewelry, and rugs. Many of the sellers I spoke to either have their own shops or are collectors themselves who were running out of space to house their goods.

Roaming around the parking lot, perusing the eclectic displays, one is delighted by

the congenial atmosphere that prevails. Buyers, sellers, and the "just looking crowd" all interact with smiles, nods, or waves. No pressure, just pleasure in being out and about with the prospect of seeing that irresistible treasure you can't leave without.

Every time I visit the Flea Market, I run into someone I know. The late Olga Hirshhorn, whose husband gave his amazing art collection to the Hirshhorn Museum, loved to shop at the Flea Market. Among other things, she collected toasters, and always left with something under her arm. I usually do, too. This time I found a terrific Russian lacquer box, priced at \$35, which I bought for \$25. Half the fun is in the bargaining, and at the Flea Market you never pay the sticker price. As summer days warm up, spend some Sunday time at the Georgetown Flea Market. Maybe I'll see you there!



*The Georgetownner's Gary Tischler, Sonya Bernhardt, and Robert Devaney, with Jack Evans*



*Officer Antonial Atkins with his award, son, family, and friends*



# TO PLANT OR NOT TO PLANT: *Consider the Roots*

BETSY EMES, TREES FOR GEORGETOWN

Almost every day, I am asked the same question: “What is OK to plant in the tree box in front of my house?” My answer is simple and always the same: “Nothing.” The response is usually exactly the same: “You’ve got to be kidding — there’s got to be something we can plant that wouldn’t harm the tree...” And I repeat the same simple answer: “No, nothing.” And here are the reasons why:

- Most tree roots are located in the top 6 to 24 inches of soil.
- Roots get water, oxygen, and minerals from soil.
- Change in soil depth, improper watering, and digging in the root zone can injure roots, increasing stress and susceptibility to disease and insects.
- It takes many years for a tree to die.

By planting anything in a tree box, you are disturbing/damaging tree roots. Annuals are particularly harmful — every season they must be replaced, resulting in nearly constant digging, which cuts tree roots to make room for the offending plants. In the

summer, annuals often need daily watering to survive. Trees need a slow watering once a week, with time in-between to dry out. The soil level is also increased, resulting in a tree that is planted too deeply, causing suffocation of tree roots.

Perennials, especially woody ones, have big root systems that compete with tree roots. Liriope, the most egregious offender, creates

an impenetrable mass of roots. Trees need all the water, nourishment, and air that they can get from a tiny tree box, and they need room for their own roots to spread to anchor the tree. By planting trees in street tree boxes, we are already asking them to survive in an unnatural situation — they would much prefer a large garden or, even better, a field or forest, with plenty of room to spread their roots beyond their dripline.

Groundcovers, such as ivy, are equally undesirable: ivy is a favorite habitat for rats, which more often than not chew through tree roots. Vines climbing on trees will strangle them, ending in the tree’s demise.

To avoid root injury and disease, maintaining a healthy, vigorous environment around trees is vital to their survival. The best solution is to keep the tree box free of weeds (they are very thirsty) and to cover with only 2–3 inches (no more!) of mulch, making sure that the mulch doesn’t touch the trunk.

Because trees are generally slow to die, most of us don’t realize damage done until it is too late.

PLEASE BE KIND TO OUR TREES!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*Wednesday, September 21, 2016*  
**Trees for Georgetown’s Annual Celebration**

To become a sponsor of this event please email [treesforgeorgetown@gmail.com](mailto:treesforgeorgetown@gmail.com)

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## YOUR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

LISA KOCHES, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

As chair of the Membership committee, I am continually pondering ways to reach out to the community on behalf of CAG. I feel like a chef who wants to share a fabulous dish. I know once you try it, you will love it! All of us who belong to CAG realize its benefits. We value the informative programs and enjoy the camaraderie at social events. To us, it is baffling why every resident does not join CAG. Is it because residents aren’t aware of CAG and its work? Or do they feel it is not ‘for them’?

In May, before the annual meeting, we hosted a New Member and Friends reception. We spent some time with this group to personally welcome them and to learn more about their perception of CAG. To gain additional insight, we also distributed a Member Survey. The survey includes questions about CAG’s activities and initiatives, feedback about our work, and issues that members would like CAG to address. This survey is the best way for you, the members, to voice your opinion.

At the end of each school year, students are given a summer assignment. It can be to read certain books or to keep a literary journal.

Here is your CAG summer assignment:

**Complete the Member Survey.** Don’t procrastinate like the young students . . . please return it as soon as possible. If you did not receive a survey at the meeting, you may access it through our website or call the office to have a paper copy mailed to you.

**Recruit a friend or neighbor to join CAG.** Bring them to a Concert in the Park, email the link to our website to show them our fabulous work, invite them to join you at the Gala in the fall.

CAG is a vital link for residents to the community. The more members we have, the more CAG can help make this a wonderful place to live. Use your voice and let us know how you would like to shape the future of CAG and Georgetown. It’s your village!

# UPDATES ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN GEORGETOWN

JOE GIBBONS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ZONING

Thanks to a successful cooperative effort by neighbors, CAG, and the developer, **Alexander Baptist Church**, now known as **Hall House**, located at 2715 N Street, now has a permanent preservation easement on the entire property. The easement is held by the Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Georgetown. One semi-detached house and three condominiums within the church are for sale. New owners of the former **Latham Hotel** at 3000 M Street are trying to lease the new retail stores to two fashion retailers. The



*Proposed façade of former Latham Hotel at 3000 M Street*

current design of the retail space utilizes large windows and will be located on the northeast side of the hotel.

**EastBanc's** design plans for a new apartment building and restaurant to replace the **gas station at 2715 Pennsylvania**, across from the Four Seasons, have been approved.

The Georgetown Theatre opened June 2 and will soon start renting out space. The first floor and lower floor may become a "pop up" restaurant or retail space. The second floor will be office space and four apartments. The back utility building will be rented as an office.

The bay windows at **1353 and 1355 Wisconsin Avenue** (next to the Georgetown Theatre) will be removed. The OGB has granted permission and the architect is fine-tuning this façade renovation.

Condominium plans for the **Exxon** station near Key Bridge are on hold. The property will be developed in the middle of 2017 at the earliest.



*EastBanc's Kristin Connall and Anthony Lanier presented plans for 2715 Pennsylvania to CAG Board including Bob Laycock (left) and Karen Cruse (right).*

**The Avery**, a new boutique hotel at 2616 P Street, is open for business. It has 15 "sophisticated, playful suites." The bathrooms have Italian glass doors and the rooms will be unlocked/locked with your smartphone. The Avery will have two dedicated valet spots for its guests.

The owner of the old **Marvelous Market**, Daniel Mermal, is "negotiating with various parties and considering mixed use projects".

## NEW HERITAGE GROUP TACKLES CANAL IMPROVEMENTS

AMY LOONEY, COMMUNICATION AND PROGRAMS MANAGER

ANCHORS AWAY! Georgetown Heritage plans to launch the restoration and revitalization of Georgetown's beloved canal in just a few months.

Locks 3 and 4 of the 185-mile-long waterway will be drained of water this autumn, clearing the decks for an ambitious 18-month project to rebuild and restore the canal's rotting walls, crumbling foundations, and deteriorating locks. The canal footpath along this stretch will also be closed.

*"This will transform an industrial piece of historical infrastructure into something better, a place for the community to come together."*

—Joe Sternlieb, BID CEO

Spearheading the restoration is the new local nonprofit Georgetown Heritage, described by President Pamela Moore as a "young 501c3 with bold ideas." The group shared its plans with canal-lovers at CAG's monthly community meeting on April 19, generously hosted by Pinstripes.

Councilmember Jack Evans called the

restoration an important part of the decades-long improvement of Georgetown, and encouraged neighbors and participants to support it.

*"I'm giving a \$1,000 donation right now!"*

—Arlette Coppock, whose hair salon, *The Fourth Lock*, is located on the canal

Many local groups including the National Park Service, DC government, Georgetown BID, and CAG will work with Georgetown Heritage during the planning and execution, and Georgetown Heritage also plans to reach out to Tudor Place, the Peabody Room, and other local organizations. Terrie Rouse, executive director of Georgetown Heritage said, "We're all here to tell the story of Georgetown."

The project will also look at possible changes to lighting, accessibility, educational programming such as signage and a children's museum, and improvement of the parks space around the canal. An engineering firm

is conducting a flood analysis to determine to what extent the lock gates serve as flood gates. BID Destinations Manager Maggie Downing emphasized that the project "goes beyond fixing what is broken and replacing what was there.... This should be a showplace to talk about Georgetown history."

**Phase 1 of the Canal revitalization project is well funded:** The National Park Service has given a grant for the repairs to Locks 3 and 4, the District is funding the replacement of the boat, and BID has committed to covering overhead costs.

But to fulfill the vision to restore, enliven, and interpret the Georgetown section of the C&O Canal, Georgetown Heritage needs to raise an additional \$3.5–4 million over the next 10 years, so they are now going out to the community for more support.

**Donations can be made on the Georgetown Heritage website at**

[www.GeorgetownHeritage.org](http://www.GeorgetownHeritage.org)



# DUMBARTON OAKS PARK CONSERVANCY WINS CHALLENGE GRANT FOR STORMWATER

HELEN DUBOIS, DOPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*MCCC crews planting trees in Upper Stream Valley behind Safeway in April*

Five years ago, when the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy (DOPC) was created to restore Dumbarton Oaks Park (formerly part of the Dumbarton Oaks estate but now part of Rock Creek Park), few would have anticipated the transformation that has been achieved. Nearly seven acres of the 27-acre park have been restored, starting at the entrance gates at the bottom of Lovers Lane and going through the meadows all the way to the back of Safeway at the upper end of the park. This year, the National Park Service's (NPS) National Capital Region is recognizing DOPC with its Hartzog Volunteer Group Award for what they have accomplished in the park.

This restoration has been realized in partnership with Rock Creek Park (NPS) and with the support of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Foundation, Casey Trees, the Montgomery County Conservation Corps (MCCC), an

at-risk youth program, the Georgetown Garden Club, individual volunteers, the Cafritz Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, the Catalogue for Philanthropy, and many, many more individuals and groups.

The most troublesome issue plaguing the Park's signature stream system of dams and pools has been stormwater runoff and related erosion. This complex issue, involving the park's geographic location and its neighbors, has remained unaddressed until now.

The Park Service, as part of its Centennial, has made DOPC one of 70 recipients of its special Centennial Challenge grant program. Rock Creek Park will receive \$385,000, to be matched one-to-one by DOPC, to design and implement a regenerative stormwater conveyance (RSC). Divided into design and implementation phases, DOPC's first raise of \$65,000, to be matched by NPS, is due June 2016. This \$130,000 will be used to conduct preparatory work, design studies,

and environmental reviews necessary for the project.

After this initial work has been completed and the Conservancy has raised its \$320,000, the Park Service will release the second tranche of the grant. The combined \$640,000 will be used to construct the RSC at the northern end of the park. Once installed, this RSC will allow Rock Creek Park and DOPC to move forward with repairing the eroded upper stream and associated dams. Building on the Conservancy's education programs with area schools, DOPC envisions an outdoor classroom adjacent to the RSC that can tell the story of stormwater management and habitat enhancement.

Visit [DOpark.org](http://DOpark.org) for further information.

## EcoTIP

Oceans absorb over 26% of our carbon dioxide emissions and more than 90% of heat from global warming; they are acidifying and becoming unsafe for sea life. Drive less, unplug more, and put a stop to your junk mail. Yearly bulk mail produces more greenhouse gas than 9 million cars, destroys 100 million trees, and takes 28 million gallons of water to make and recycle. For \$35, 41pounds.org will stop it for you!

— LEE CHILD  
Georgetown Garden Club

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