

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

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Remodeling, Renovating, Revamping in Georgetown: Historic Preservation Experts Tell All

The Tuesday, October 18 CAG meeting will feature a panel of experts on historic preservation outlining the dos, don'ts, and whys regarding remodeling homes in Georgetown. The experienced specialists on the panel include Anne Lewis of the Old Georgetown Board (OGB); Tim Dennee of the Historic Preservation Review Board; Jeff Jones, ANC2E Commissioner; Pamla Moore, chair of CAG's Historic Preservation Committee; and architect Outerbridge Horsey. Following remarks by each panelist regarding their role and area of expertise, the panel will field questions — which should lead to an interesting exchange on many of the technicalities, philosophies, logistics and issues concerning home renovation in “Old Georgetown.” Georgetown is the oldest historic district in DC and is also an officially designated Historic Landmark.

Congress passed the Old Georgetown Act in 1950 which set forth and designated the Georgetown Historic District. The Act defined the boundaries of historic Georgetown and gave the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts the authority to appoint the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) made up of three architects, to conduct design reviews of semi-public and private structures within Georgetown's boundaries. Georgetowners have been protected by legislation, regulation, and private action to



Thos. Moser Showroom at M and 33rd Streets

maintain the celebrated character of our historic neighborhood for decades — and need to know about required procedures and historic preservation guidelines.

The reception and meeting will take place at the stunning Thos. Moser Showroom at M and 33rd Streets. Founded nearly forty years ago, Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers was started by Bates college professor, Tom Moser, making one-of-a-kind furniture

in an old Grange Hall in Maine. “Our furniture is inspired by traditional design, constructed with pride and executed by hand, restoring a relationship between man and his practical art. If it's made of wood, we can do it.” Tom's early designs bore a strong resemblance to Shaker, Queen Anne, and Pennsylvania Dutch forms. The company has grown from a one-man operation to nearly 100 cabinetmakers.

Refreshments will be provided by Morton's The Steakhouse. The reception begins at 7 o'clock, and the panel is from 7:30 to 8:30. CAG members — and all interested Georgetowners — are invited to bring questions and issues of concern to this informative forum on Tuesday, October 18th at Thos. Moser, 3300 M Street.

Winter Wonderland ❄️ *December 2* ❄️ ❄️

The Georgetown Gala on Friday, December 2nd will be at the magnificent Russian Embassy from 7 to 11 o'clock. Co-chairs Nancy Taylor Bubes, Michele Evans, and Patrice Miller announced the black-tie *Winter Wonderland* event will honor Georgetowners John Richardson and Franco Nuschese — and feature vodka and caviar, an elegant buffet, a live auction and dancing to the Right On Band. Invitations will be mailed in October.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I have lived in Georgetown for almost 25 years and it amazes me that almost every day I come across a neighborhood treasure that I haven't seen before. The Potomac Boat Club is a perfect example. I'd seen the outside from all angles but the inside is a hidden gem. What a glorious place. I am so grateful to Michele Evans and the Boat Club for sponsoring our September membership meeting and affording us the opportunity to spend an evening in such a unique venue. And I am also grateful to Bob vom Eigen and the rest of the volunteers who gave us the inside scoop on the Waterfront Park. Talk about a unique treasure! So happy it has finally come to fruition in all its glory.

As summer turns to fall I look forward to Redskins football (so far, so good), super divine apples, and the leaves turning. And thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers who work on CAG's Trees for Georgetown committee we have more leaves than ever. Trees works with the city and private organizations to plant and maintain the trees that line the residential streets of our community. They have planted over 2,000 trees, contracted watering services during drought periods and provided preventative maintenance of at-risk trees. Their fall planting season is upon us. We should soon see about 50 new trees in our neighborhood.

Trees for Georgetown Chair, Betsy Emes, is vigilant about keeping us educated about tree maintenance. Last year she launched a neighborhood watering campaign emphasizing 25 to Stay Alive — 25 gallons of water (1.5" of rainfall) per tree per week in times of little or no rainfall. "One of the most effective ways a resident can improve the social, ecological, and economic value of a neighborhood is to help ensure that new trees thrive," said Emes. "In the first two years especially, these new trees need attention to get established. We ask that residents share that responsibility, and in the end we will all benefit from a beautiful tree canopy across Georgetown." So if you have a new tree in front of your house — water!! Each tree costs about \$1000 to purchase and plant. Let us know if you would like to purchase a tree for in front of your house or someplace else in the community.

And talk about hard-working, engaged committees, please see Pamla Moore's round up of what our Historic Preservation and Zoning committee is doing on page 8.

Thanks to ANC commissioner extraordinaire, Jeff Jones, I was able to meet with Department of Public Works director, William Howland, to get a firsthand report on what his agency is doing to keep our community clean. Together with representatives from the ANC,



Bob vom Eigen, Jennifer Altemus, Michele Evans, Gretchen Ellsworth (Photo by Robert Devany)

BID, BCA and Washington Harbour, we discussed the budget and the SWEEP program. The Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP) is responsible for sanitation education and enforcement. When education does not result in following proper sanitation practices, SWEEP inspectors will enforce the sanitation regulations. I am a huge believer in the program.

Director Howland's 2012 budget was cut by \$4.7 million. As a result he was forced to lay off 32 of the 53 SWEEP inspectors throughout the city. Luckily for Georgetown, Sonya Chance, our reliable Ward 2 inspector was not one of them. Director Howland acknowledged that Inspector Chance is "one of the best agents out there." And soon the ticketing process will be automated (like the parking enforcement) which will improve accuracy, productivity, and record keeping. Tickets will be issued on site when a violation occurs and then a notice of infraction will be mailed to the property owner. The department is also considering varying the hours of inspections which will help the agents have more face time with residents. Unfortunately, Inspector Chance will have a broader area to cover.

There is a complete report from CAG's Beautification (as we call it) Committee co-chair Patrick Clawson on page 9.

I look forward to seeing you at the October 18 meeting on the ins and outs of remodeling houses in our historic district. And fittingly, I will be presenting the Belin Award for "preserving the historic character of Georgetown" to Richard Hinds who has been a champion of many important historic preservation cases. We will meet in the stunning Thos. Moser Showroom at M and 33rd Streets.

—Jennifer Altemus

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

INCREDIBLE SHRINKING GEORGETOWN

Places are disappearing. What is going on? Is it a science fiction kind of thing? Is there someone around here with a ray gun who zaps places and makes them vanish? Can this really be happening we ask?

One thing is sure: the earthquake is not responsible. It may have rearranged the pictures on our walls in a somewhat sinister way, making them look drunk, but it did not actually remove tenants from buildings. It did not do it in the Griffin Market, Rooms With a View, the P Street Thrift Shop,

Furins, Bartleby's, Easy Spirit, P Street Pictures, Pottery Barn, the Paper Store, Commander Salamander, or the glorious Turkish rug store on Dumbarton. We will certainly miss Barnes and Noble; it was a good place to hang out. Have you been to Georgetown Park lately? Grim. We can't blame the emptiness there on the earthquake or the hurricane.

The good news is that the period of Magical Thinking can be followed by a Return to Order. Let's root for that! We can take hope from rumors

of the return of some businesses. There are some very pleasant new cafes. And now we have Brooks Brothers to help us look more preppy.

But something is definitely going on. New winds are blowing. How will we know what will vanish next? One can find out by going to the dog park where they know everything that's going on. And you can read the CAG Newsletter.

—Edith Schafer

Kudos for Urban Forestry Response to Irene

Several of Georgetown's mature street trees were uprooted during hurricane Irene. The city did a phenomenal job of responding and I want to share one of the stories that a neighbor included in her note to the Urban Forestry Administration regarding the responsiveness of Simoun Banua, UFA arborist assigned to Georgetown.

I wanted to write a note of praise and appreciation for the responsiveness of Simoun Banua over the last few days. He has been extremely attentive and helpful regarding my situation with a tree in my tree box being damaged by the storm. On Sunday evening, I returned home from a weekend away, only to find my front tree

leaning toward the street, with the roots coming up, causing the bricks in the sidewalk also to come up. I contacted 311 and reported it, and also contacted my ANC representative, Ron Lewis, who in turn contacted Betsy Emes with Trees for Georgetown. Betsy got in contact with Simoun, who responded both to Betsy AND me immediately, late in the evening on a Sunday. Simoun came out on Monday morning to assess the situation and also consulted with some of his colleagues on Tuesday about the possibility of saving the tree. Unfortunately, the tree was unsalvageable, but I really appreciate the great communication that Simoun displayed by keeping me apprised of what he was doing and when. I admit I sent him a few frantic, after-hours emails, concerned that the tree would fall,

but he quickly responded back to me with professionalism and courtesy. He's been a pleasure to work with and I really am impressed with the UFA's attention and swift action. This morning at 7, there was a wonderful crew outside my house with chainsaws and a chipper and the tree was gone in under an hour! So in two and a half days, your team was able to assess the situation, decide on a course of action, and follow through. Really amazing!

Job well done, Urban Forestry! Remember, call 311 or sign on to 311.dc.gov if you are in need of city services. It really does work!

—Betsy Emes
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Major Renovations Coming at Washington Harbour

Both the ANC and the Old Georgetown Board have had their initial review of the proposed major renovation of Washington Harbour. While the Harbour is within the Georgetown Historic District, the complex is too young to be historic — it was built after 1950. Indeed, the property replaced a towering set of cement silos for concrete mixing plants, which were still in use in the early 1970s. (During Hurricane Agnes in 1972, a barge full of gravel was torn from the dock near 30th Street and there was great fear the barge would destroy spans of the downstream bridges. It didn't.) The complex is considered to be a significant structure within the context of the Historic District, thus the review of the proposed exterior changes.

Among the renovation highlights:

- Redesign of the pool and fountain to accommodate a winter skating rink. The monolith tower will house a Zamboni machine

for the ice rink and will have speakers emitting 'neutral white noise' to offset the noise from the outside bars and the plaza.

- Reconfiguration of the pedestrian promenade around the pool.
- New facades for the restaurants on the plaza level — opening up the restaurants, making the interiors more visible.
- New outside illumination of the Harbour façade. The Old Georgetown Board indicated that the lighting should be top-down, rather than bottom-up in order to avoid excessive light pollution. Top-down lighting may also preserve the capitals atop the columns along the façade, which are badly deteriorated. The original architect for Washington Harbour, Arthur Cotton Moore, is outspoken in objecting to any removal of the capitals — and the other changes.

- A new design for the three outside bars in the complex that would complement the contour and shape of the pergola at the newly-opened Waterfront Park. The bars nearest the rink will be heated during the winter months.
- A more attractive design for the circular posts that support the flood gates.

The owners of Washington Harbour plan to do much of this exterior renovation during the winter, and to be largely finished by April. This schedule coincides with the closing of the plaza-level restaurants for remodeling due to the extensive damage caused by the spring flood. Work has already begun on a major revamping of the two lobby entrances to the commercial office sections of the Harbour.

—Walter Groszyk

P Street Pictures Forced to Move

I was stunned to receive an email in July, informing me that one of my favorite places, P Street Pictures, was closing. Located next to the 7-Eleven, P Street Pictures has provided many of us with an opportunity to get professional framing, view some terrific art, and exchange news with our friends — Judy Schlosser, Susan Barreca, and Drena Anderson. One of my first stops was to visit my friends to find out where, what, why and when.

The story that Judy, Susan, and Drena, who have been with P Street Pictures for twenty-four years, laid out for me was astounding. Judy, who started the business twenty-eight years ago, has been at 2621 P Street for the last twenty-five years — mostly on a month to month lease. "We paid our

rent on time, paid for renovations and improvements and have been happily ensconced in our little corner of Georgetown. I thought we had everything to look forward to and nothing to fear, but I was wrong. The owner came to me in June and said he wanted me to sign a long-term lease which would include a rent increase. I said I would have to think about it, because in the last few years we have had to cut our salaries in order to save the business. He went on vacation and when he came back, he told me he had a better offer for our space, but wouldn't tell me what it was, who had made it, or give me a chance to match it. After all these years I got no apology, no offer of help, financial or otherwise, just a ninety day eviction notice."

Judy says she was not only devastated but at a complete loss as to why she was being treated so inconsiderately. "He didn't even have the common courtesy to come by and say: I am sorry, but you can stay until the first of the year giving us an opportunity to get through our busy Christmas season."

As it turns out, all fingers point to the better offer coming from 7-Eleven who reportedly have plans to enlarge the store. The good news is that in a few months, P Street Pictures will reappear on 3204 O Street. The bad news is that our neighborhood haunts are rapidly disappearing, a trend that I deplore and regret.

—V V Harrison

CAG Enjoys Waterfront Park and Potomac Boat Club



Bill Starrels, Michele Jacobson, Betsy Cooley, Guy DeLusignan, Gretchen Ellsworth and Anne Satterthwaite



Bob vom Eigen explaining the interactive fountain

Rain showers and thunderstorms cleared away for CAG to enjoy an evening touring the newly completed Georgetown Waterfront Park and a unique reception hosted by the Potomac Boat Club on Tuesday, September 20.

Wearing blue and green sashes, guides from the Friends of the Waterfront Park, CAG, and the Park Service were stationed throughout the park. Bob vom Eigen explained the interactive fountain located at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue and the electrical and ADA issues associated with it. The National Park Service's Mike McMahon talked about the rain gardens, the bio-edges and the surprises found under the fountain site. At the pergola, Ann Satterthwaite and Gretchen Ellsworth provided information on the stepped bulkhead and the history of the park. Jonda McFarlane talked about the overlooks and granite photos and

Roger Stone spoke about the temporary fence at the bio-edge. Bob Hirsch explained the stream gauge at the western end of the park and Barbara Downs gave details about the Labyrinth.

With a spectacular porch view of the sunset and later, the moon sparkling on the river, the Potomac Boat Club was a splendid location for the reception. Founded in 1869, the club is currently home to 300 senior members ranging from recreational rowers to Olympic athletes. Jennifer Altemus welcomed guests, thanked PBC member Michele Evans, and introduced PBC Vice President Gretchen Ellsworth who spoke of the history of the club. In addition to Michele and Gretchen, thanks also go to Elizabeth Becton, Virginia Bryant, and Bob Hirsch of the Boat Club for their hard work graciously hosting this one of a kind meeting. And three cheers to owner Tom

Russo and chef Charles Smith of Chadwick's Restaurant for providing delicious hors d'oeuvres and homemade chocolate chip cookies.



Reception at Potomac Boat Club (Photo by Robert Devany)

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A Short Walk Through CAG History

As a member of CAG's Historic Preservation Committee, I reviewed CAG's files to summarize the association's past positions on issues. Researching materials dating from the founding of the current CAG in 1963, I took a wonderful trip through history that gave me new appreciation of how Georgetown has developed over the past half-century and the important role that CAG has played in that development. It became increasingly clear to me that Georgetown would be a very different — and less desirable — place today without CAG's efforts.

Two aspects impressed me the most: the diversity of issues that the community has faced over the years and the hands-on role that CAG has played in almost every one. Some issues have been there from the beginning. Take the question, for example, of whether or not to have a waterfront park on the Potomac. The first documents suggesting a waterfront park for Georgetown date from the feasibility study prepared in 1971. CAG has been there throughout, following developments closely, ever pushing for the park. It is hard to believe that it has taken 40 years, but the park is finally nearing full completion in 2011.

Two other perennial issues that never go away are liquor licensing and parking. The diverse mix of shops, restaurants, and bars that we see along M Street and Wisconsin Avenue is not a result of economic forces alone, but reflects the strong engagement of CAG in debates over liquor licensing and clean-up of the business district over the years. Whether working with the ANC to achieve the Georgetown moratorium on new ABC licenses in 1989 or monitoring the existing licensed establishments, CAG has always been there to argue for the interests of the community. A quote from a 1993 newspaper article gives a sense of CAG's contribution:

“CAG won a stunning victory in a liquor hearing this summer against the notorious Georgetown nightclub, Annastasia [i.e. the first denial by the DC Alcoholic Beverage Control Board of a license renewal decision since the ABC act passed in 1988]. For several years Austin Graff (former CAG VP) led a team of professional investigators and lawyers armed with video cameras, voice recorders, crowd counters and binoculars in an effort to show the DC liquor agency that the bar at Wisconsin and M was a threat to safety and public order... One night they counted 439 persons inside — 240 over the maximum allowable occupancy of 199 ... with surging, unruly crowds.”

Street parking may still seem like a nightmare sometimes, but it would be a whole different ballgame without CAG's involvement over the years. In 1993 CAG participated in an in-depth study of the issue, further refining the current system of residential permits and 2-hour parking regulations.

Crime control has waxed and waned as an issue over the years. Crime in DC hit a high point in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and Georgetown was no exception. The crime rate soared and the business district deteriorated. Even a former CAG President, Juan Cameron, was shot in the leg on Dumbarton Street on his way to a CAG meeting! CAG attacked the problem head-on, setting up a neighborhood watch program, hiring a neighborhood security guard service to patrol the residential streets, reviewing home-front and street lighting, and pressing for the reinstatement of police foot patrols. Crime dropped precipitously from 1990 to 1995, and current Georgetown residents are very lucky to live in a time where crime is not our central day-to-day concern. CAG is still there behind the scenes — with its Block Captain program and special security measures.

The day-in and day-out challenges of *historic preservation* have long been

central to CAG's mandate. Today's Historic Preservation Committee, ably guided by Pamla Moore, stands on the shoulders of giants — people like Eva Hinton (1970s), Kathleen Graff (1980s), Ruth France (1990s), and Barbara Zartman (2000s) — who spent countless hours reviewing construction proposals, attending government board and commission meetings and advising Georgetown residents on how to comply with legal regulations on historic preservation. CAG is an important player in the ongoing effort to preserve the historic integrity of Georgetown, and without its constant attention to historic preservation, the community would not look and feel as it does today.

CAG has waged some particularly fierce battles around a few big development projects. CAG was centrally involved in debates about the development of the area south of M street, which fifty years ago was a decaying industrial area — and even launched a lawsuit in 1970 to prevent high-density development of the area. This area's development could have gone in many different directions, and the vibrant neighborhood we see today — from Cady's Alley to the Ritz Carlton complex to the Four Seasons Hotel — is a result of careful planning with extensive input from CAG.

Georgetown University has also had a central role in Georgetown's development. The University prepares a Campus Plan every 10 years, and CAG has always been there to study the Plan and advocate for the community. Georgetown's next 10-year plan is now under review, and CAG has played a very active role in pushing for more on-campus housing and limits on enrollment expansion.

CAG has been active in many issues in addition to those noted above — from building height and signage rules to noise pollution to property taxes to sidewalk improvement to tree planning to rat control to the current zoning

and streetcar initiatives in DC to preserving memories through CAG's *oral history project*. What to do with the *Whitehurst Freeway* has also been a constant question over the past 50 years. The record shows that CAG has lost a few battles as well — such as its efforts in the early 1970s to curb noise by limiting flights at National Airport, its 1976 proposal to restore vintage

trolleys to M Street, its stance in 1977 against the extension of I-66 inside the Beltway, its 1979 opposition to high-rise buildings in Rosslyn, and its failure to persuade the District Government to hold Georgetown University to a lower enrollment cap in its previous 10-year Campus Plan. But the overall record is one of successful activism, integrity, and service on

behalf of Georgetown residents.

We live in a very special community, in no small part due to the energetic and committed Georgetown residents who have donated their time, resources, and wisdom to CAG over the years. The current Citizens Association of Georgetown was formed in 1963 by the merger of two existing community groups, the previous Georgetown Citizens Association (dating from 1878) and the Progressive Citizens Association (a more activist group dating from 1926 — and admitting women!). Since 1963 CAG has had 20 presidents, almost all for 3-year terms — from Captain Peter Belin (1963-66 and 1971-73), the then-owner of Evermay, to Jennifer Altemus (2009-now). My hats are off to all of them and to the countless other Georgetown residents who have contributed to CAG's efforts.

—Cheryl Gray

Historic Preservation Committee

Historic House Toolbox October 8

The DC Historic Preservation League is providing an opportunity to receive individualized attention from contractors and seasoned professionals who will answer your questions on a range of topics including: working with architects and contractors, roofing, wood windows, masonry, ironwork, painting, energy efficiency and much more. Two on-site learning sessions will focus on researching the history of your property; energy audits and greening your house without compromising its historic integrity.

Saturday, October 8, 2011 • 10:00AM-1:00PM

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NEWSBYTES

CAG Security Guard Tesfaye Terefe spotted, then followed men who had rifled a parked car and left with items; he relayed a description of the men and their license plate number to MPD who apprehended them . Rogers & Company Garden Specialists - mother and daughter team Gail Rogers and Leslie Minchew -- have spruced up the CAG garden at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the CAG office on O Street; planted by them several years ago, they also added beautiful hakonechloa grasses . Actress Geena Davis spotted in Georgetown -- she spoke at Georgetown University about women in the media . Serendipity 3 is now serving Sunday brunch, with Frozen Hot Chocolate French Toast on the menu . O'B.Sweet pie shop is to open on M Street at the Key Bridge in early November, just in time for Thanksgiving . free public WiFi now available at the Waterfront Park sponsored by the BID -- to log in select "Georgetown WiFi" . Urban Sherpa, a local personal service provider owned and managed by Christi Cline, is now open for business . the crosses on top of Healy Tower at Georgetown University need to be replaced after stability issues arose post-earthquake . Uncommon Furnishings has opened at 35th and N Streets . the Georgetown Senior Center returned to its usual meeting place St. John's Church on O Street on September 12 after a 9 month absence.

Film Club for Georgetown?

Miss the Foundry theaters? The Biograph? Anyone keen to start a film club for Georgetown residents should contact Bob Elliott (338-5835; Elliott@georgetownmadelon.com) who is interested and can provide his Letelier Theater at Georgetown Court (3251 Prospect St.) at a low cost.



Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee: At Work on Many Fronts

When the current CAG Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee was assembled a year ago, the members agreed to undertake tasks aimed at protecting our community's historic fabric. The committee also pledged to encourage property owners to deal with the challenges, responsibilities and opportunities that present themselves as we seek to create a modern living environment in a historic district.

When highlighting the activities on the committee's agenda today, it is apparent that dozens of volunteer hours are put in by committee members every month. Their dedication to Georgetown has extended the group's voice into many city-wide decisions and widened CAG's involvement in issues that are important to Georgetown's future.

Some of the Current projects

1. Georgetown Park has new owners who are planning an extensive renovation. Currently rumors and hearsay abound about who the new tenants might be. The developer did present a plan for M Street façade changes to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission2e (ANC2e) and the Old Georgetown Board (OGB). Both the commission and the board expressed levels of disapproval with this first set of plans.
2. The Exxon property is located at the entrance to Georgetown at Key Bridge and borders the historic "Exorcist stairs." Eastbanc has proposed a multi-level condominium and has submitted several concept designs to the ANC2E and the OGB. CAG reviewed and submitted comments on them. Property owners on Prospect Street have concerns about the building height impeding their views. Eastbanc and the neighbors have been in discussion on how to move this project forward.
3. The property at the corner of Cecil Place and Grace Street has a devel-

oper who presented proposed condominium plans to neighbors, ANC2E, OGB and several members of the CAG Historic Preservation and Zoning committee. Numerous concerns were voiced by CAG and neighbors. As of this writing, the developer is considering revisions.

4. The proposed residence for Dumbarton Oaks scholars at Wisconsin and R Streets has neighbors, Dumbarton Oaks and the architects in discussions trying to incorporate numerous community suggestions, as well as comments from ANC2E and OGB.

Advocacy and Review

Every month we assess the OGB and ANC2E agenda to determine the impact of proposed projects and alteration on the community and neighbors. It is important to note that the OGB board is charged with review of all Georgetown property modifications which can be seen from public thoroughfares.

The committee works with property owners and neighbors during concept plans and permit applications for additions and improvements to properties. We work closely with ANC2E and the OGB to share information informally and formally at monthly meetings. Please note, we encourage residents to call CAG to bring attention to work underway that is not permitted or "improvements" that do not appear to follow the guidelines for our historic district.

To improve neighbor notification of proposed property changes committee members are drafting, in conjunction with ANC2E, the Old Georgetown Board, and the Historic Preservation Office an updated review application.

New Proposed Legislation to Inform Residents about Historic Preservation

Recently, Bill 19-429, the "Historic

District Property Improvement Notification Act of 2011" was introduced by Councilmember Evans and has been referred to the Committee of the Whole (Chairman Brown), with Comments from the Committee on Finance and Revenue (Evans). This legislation would require that all real property within a historic district in the District of Columbia receive a letter of important information about property improvement law and regulations with each yearly assessment notice. The next step in the legislative process will be a hearing.

New Zoning and Historic Preservation Guidelines

A sub-committee within the Historic Preservation and Zoning committee is preparing a draft customized zoning regulation to protect the character of Georgetown as the District proceeds with applying "smart growth" amendments to a new zoning code. This new zoning law could have considerable impact on our historic district and will be monitored closely as the deadline approaches in 2012.

Several committee members are reviewing the draft from the Historic Preservation Office on window repair and replacement guidelines. Committee members are also providing input to the Historic Preservation Office on its draft goals for the 2015 Historic Preservation Plan.

The committee includes Jennifer Altemus, Ken Archer, Louise Brodnitz, Eleanor Budic, Betsy Cooley, Shannon Christmas, Barbara Downs, Cheryl Gray, Richard Hinds, Outerbridge Horsey, Michele Jacobson, Leslie Kamrad, Topher Mathews, Shelley Ross-Larson, Merle Thorpe, Jim Wilcox, and Jerry Zurn. If you are interested in historic preservation, please call me at 625.0915.

—Pamla Moore, *Chair
Historic Preservation and
Zoning Committee*

The Latest on Trash

At the September 21 Georgetown-Burleith public works group meeting, DC Department of Public Works (DPW) Director William Howland explained how DPW is adjusting to the new DC budget. DPW's Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP) will only have 12 inspectors instead of 36. While the inspector assigned to Georgetown and Burleith — Sonya Chance (sonya.chance@dc.gov) — remains, she may be given a larger area to cover. She is the person to contact if you see a trash problem, such as an overflowing trash can. She has been doing a great job: since she started in March, she has issued 523 tickets, as well as talking to numerous residents and businesses about trash management issues.

Director Howland will be adjusting the shift times so that inspectors occasionally come in the evening, something we applauded. Be warned: you may get a ticket for leaving plastic trash bags on the sidewalk — those bags are required to be in cans with tight lids, which is the only way to stop rats from getting at the trash. Tickets start at \$75 for the first offense and escalate quickly! Recycling material can be placed loosely in bins — but remember: no pizza boxes and no clam shell plastics (salad type bowls), in the recycling. Here is a great reference regarding recycling — <http://dpw.dc.gov/DC/DPW/Services+on+Your+Block/Recycling>

Inspector Chance will ticket for trash cans stored on public space. “Public space” is what DC owns. That usually is anything within 10 feet of the curb; the sidewalk in front of our homes belongs to DC! A trash can on public space anytime except the night before and the day after scheduled pickup is subject to a ticket.

Please write your address on your trash can and recycling bin. DPW has a data base linking cans/bins to a street address, but individual identification on cans helps too. Inspector

Chance noted that numerous trash cans in front of a single-family home could trigger investigation of whether more than six unrelated people live there (in which case the landlord must arrange for private trash pickup).

SWEEP is shifting very soon to issuing tickets by tablets similar to those the parking inspectors use. That means the printed ticket will be posted on the building as well as mailed to the owner, unlike the current practice of only mailing the ticket to the owner. Hopefully that will make tenants more aware of the violations and how the fines can escalate. The small number of problem businesses and multi-person residences need to be reminded forcefully of the problems they are causing.

Director Howland acknowledged that collection of SWEEP tickets is not good. Part of the problem is that DC law does not permit collection with the property tax or business license tax; only when a building is sold does the ticket have to be paid. Perhaps we could add to future voluntary liquor license agreements a requirement to pay all SWEEP fines before the license is renewed? Another problem is that the Office of Administrative Hearings, the “court” which hears SWEEP cases, dismisses or reduces many fines. It appears that OAH does not fully appreciate our serious rat problem.

DPW can still provide the free green open recycling bins if you call 311 or e-mail dpw@dc.gov. DPW can also sell you a tall rectangular blue wheeled recycling can — same size (32 gallon) and price (\$45) as the green trash cans it offers. Their cans are slightly cheaper than similar ones at hardware stores.

DPW is prepared to put one of its \$800 litter cans on any major street but not on residential streets, because of the complaints about the noise from emptying the cans, which has to be done in the middle of the night. The BID is exploring putting recycling bins on

streets, similar to the program downtown. Pepsi paid for those cans in return for advertising on them, which is not what the Georgetown BID wants.

The BID has reached an agreement with the National Park Service to do rat abatement along the C&O Canal. It would be great if the other NPS properties, which are run by a different part of NPS than the Canal, would agree to the same.

Our thanks to Director Howland and Inspector Chance for meeting with representatives from the ANC, BID, Burleith Citizens Association, Washington Harbour, and CAG. Commissioner Jeff Jones of ANC2E, is the moving force behind these quarterly meetings.

—Patrick Clawson,
*CAG Beautification Committee
Co-chair*

What the District recycles:

- Aerosol cans • Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans • Aluminum containers • Books (including paperbacks, textbooks and hardbacks) • Brown paper bags • Cardboard and paperboard boxes • Computer printouts • Ferrous and bimetal food and beverage containers • Glass containers • Junk mail • Magazines and catalogs • Milk and juice cartons • Narrow-neck plastic containers (other than for motor oil) that carry plastic resin identification codes 1 through 7 • Newspapers (including all inserts) • Non-metallic wrapping paper • Office paper (including typing, fax, copy, letterhead,) and envelopes • Plastic bags, e.g., grocery bags, newspaper bags, and shopping bags. Please put your plastic bags into one plastic bag then place it in your recycling container. • Rigid plastics including plastic milk/soda crates, plastic buckets with metal handles, plastic laundry baskets, plastic lawn furniture, plastic totes, drums, coolers, flower pots, drinking cups/glasses, plastic 5-gallon water bottles, plastic pallets, plastic toys, and empty garbage/recycling bins • Telephone books • Wide-mouth containers such as margarine/butter tubs, yogurt, cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, whipped topping, and prescription (remove the identification label) and over-the-counter medicine bottles. (note that the lids and caps do not need to be removed.) Do not include Styrofoam meat trays, lunch “clamshells” or foam packaging (“peanuts”).

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OCTOBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR



Tues. Oct. 4	Friday Morning Music Club Concert: Special 2011-2012 Season Opening; 7:30pm; concert is free and open to the public but reservations are required, rsvp@dumbartonhouse.org or 337-2288.
Thurs. Oct 6	Rose Park Fall Party; 6:30-8:30pm; at the home of Dr. James D'Orta, 3032 N Street NW; for RSVP information visit www.roseparkdc.org or call Pamla Moore 625-0915.
Thurs. Oct 13	Spirit of Georgetown Party to benefit the Georgetown Ministry Center, 6:30- 8:30; 3121 O Street.
Thurs. Oct 13	Georgetown Library Chess Club , ages 4-adult, 5 pm, 3260 R St. And ongoing: Baby Time for Infants and Toddlers – Wednesday at 10:30 am; Story Time for 3 to 5 Year olds – Wednesdays at 11:30 am; Music Time – Thursdays at 2 pm.
Sat. Oct. 15	St. John's Episcopal Preschool Book Fair and day of family fun; 10am-3pm; face painting, balloons, and children's books; St. John's Episcopal Church, 3240 O Street; admission is free.
Sat. Oct. 15	18th Annual Taste of Georgetown; 11am-4pm; sample dishes and wine pairings from DC's finest restaurants and enjoy entertainment from Blue's Alley; benefits Georgetown Ministry Center; Wisconsin and M Streets NW; visit www.tasteofgeorgetown.com .
Weds.Oct 26	Pumpkin Fest hosted by the Friends of Rose Park with pumpkin painting (and carving for those who bring their own tools), munchies, apple cider and a costume parade for children of all ages. Costumes optional; 4:00 - 6:00 near the Farmers' Market in Rose Park (at the corner of 26th and O Streets).
Tues. Oct. 18	CAG Meeting: Remodeling, Renovating, Revamping In Georgetown: Historic Preservation Experts Tell All; 7-8:30, panel of experts answer all your questions; Thos. Moser Showroom, 3300 M Street NW; see p. 1.
Mon. Oct. 31	Historic Halloween Spooktacular: Trick or Treat at Tudor Place; 3-6pm; trick or treat through Tudor Place's enchanting gardens; free for members, \$7 non member children, \$3 adults; 1644 31st Street NW; www.tudorplace.org .
Tues. Nov. 1	Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30pm; Georgetown Visitation, Main Building, 35th & Volta Streets; agenda available at www.anc2e.com .