

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

VOLUME XXI / ISSUE 9 / DECEMBER 2007

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

CAG Hosts December Open House

You are cordially invited to a special holiday open house on Monday, December 10, from 6 to 8 pm at the CAG office. Come visit our cheerful, centrally-located “headquarters” (above BB+T bank) overlooking the corner of Wisconsin and O Street, to see how CAG has grown to accommodate numerous volunteer activities, bustling staff, frequent meetings and more. CAG Board members and volunteers will be on hand to show you around our expanded space, and share festive fare and beverages to kick-off the season.

We’ll toast the holidays, chat, and learn more about what’s on your mind. Details about CAG’s many

programs and projects will be available. As always, questions on what’s happening in Georgetown and the issues CAG is working on are encouraged. Come see where so many of our activities take place and talk with our staff, volunteers and board members—former and current.

Mark your calendars to spend a jolly and jovial evening at “CAG central” 1635 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite #200. The entrance is via the exterior staircase on O Street and will be well marked with a merry wreath.

Come see where it all happens. We look forward to welcoming you to our “home” at the holidays!

Next CAG Meeting

Monday, December 10

Holiday Open House at CAG

1365 Wisconsin Avenue, NW,
#200

Reception 6 – 8 pm



CAG Begins Public Safety Fundraising for 2008

An engaged, vigilant community is vital to preventing crime

CAG took a big leap forward in 2007 by expanding the public safety program. Early in the year, the CAG Board committed funds for pilot projects with the hope that financial support from the community would be sufficient to continue throughout the year. Happily, the response to the larger program was terrific. Residents (and some businesses) donated at higher levels than ever before.

Now CAG is launching fundraising for 2008 to continue the improved and enhanced Public Safety Program. Residents will receive letters in early December asking for

contributions to again underwrite the program.

Why the program needs your support in 2008:

The 12 member Public Safety Committee meets each month to improve the effectiveness of each part of the program. As a result we have:

- increased CAG Guard surveillance in clearly marked patrol cars with flashing lights.
- more police on our streets.
- over 50 block captains forming safety communications network for their block.
- stronger advocacy with the Metro-

politan Police Department and elected officials for police resources in Georgetown.

What started early in 2007 as pilot programs have been made permanent, and are now enhanced, using state-of-the-art technology.

Now we have a CAG Guard Supervisor and Patrol Cars:

Have you seen the white Securitas cars with the yellow flashing lights patrolling our streets? We added a supervisor and put all our guards in patrol cars. That has increased the

Continued on page 9

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we near the end of the year, CAG committees are taking stock of their accomplishments and setting new goals for 2008. I think it's been a terrific year, with each and every committee raising the bar and expectations.

UPDATES

The **public safety committee**, led by Luca Pivato and Richard Hinds, has made enormous strides. The institution of the MPD Reimbursable Detail and the reinvigoration of the Guard and Block Captain programs have made a difference in the safety and quality of life in Georgetown. We should all take off our hats to the hard-working committee members: Roberto Coquis; Diane Colasanto; Helen Darling; Hazel Denton; Barbara Downs; Seth Kirshenberg; Bob Hanrott; Steve Kurzman; Ron Lewis; Kathy O'Hearn; and Ed Solomon.

The **historic preservation committee**, led by Barbara Zartman, has taken on a very complex and exceedingly important task. That committee is working closely with the District Office of Planning to protect the integrity of the Georgetown Historic District with land use protections to mitigate the creeping loss of open space and the steady density growth. We've been assured by planning officials that they recognize the unique character of Georgetown and that our group will be working closely with them during a total rewrite of the District's zoning regulations. We are very grateful for the diligent work of Louise Brodnitz, Victoria Rixey, Seth Kirshenberg, Richard Hinds and Leslie Kamrad.

When the **beautification committee** started a couple of years ago, we were just trying to tidy up the town. Well, chair Brenda Moorman has launched activities far beyond our expectations. Due in great part to this committee's efforts, the District government has begun a Community Hygiene Pilot program to eradicate the terrible rodent problem in the blocks bordered by Potomac Street, Wisconsin Avenue, N Street and Prospect Street

(see page 8). The Mayor's office has also notified the Clean City Coordinator of the efforts and that office is now on board. Meetings with restaurant owners and the Departments of Health and Public Works have been very encouraging and positive results are beginning to happen. Thank you to the beautification committee: Georgine Anton, Lee Child, Patrick Clawson, Tony DeWitt, Danielle Dooley, Tim Downs, Betsy Emes, Sandy Haffler, Bob Hanrott, Mary Frances Monroe, Betsy Rackley, Ann & Milton Thompson for helping to make all this happen.

Cookie Cruse continues to spearhead the **Alcohol Beverage Control committee**...doing the work of an entire group. She meticulously works with establishments with liquor licenses to ensure they are within the confines of the law and that surrounding residences are not intruded upon. She has just led a major effort in a joint full-scale protest hearing by CAG and the ANC opposing Morton's application for additional seating. The ABC Board is expected to issue a decision within 90 days.

Our membership is thriving, and we're lucky to have a dynamic new chair of the **membership committee**; Diane Colasanto, experienced in public opinion research, has held focus groups with non-members to see what they would like from CAG. She is also analyzing our demographic information to determine how we can better reach and serve our community.

The **Trees for Georgetown committee**, chaired by Betsy Emes, has planned the spring planting and has stepped up efforts in tree maintenance with a watering program and an injection program for endangered Q Street Dutch elms. The group is also shifting their annual fundraising event to the spring to coincide with the planting season and the need for timely funding. Thanks to Bob Laycock, Frank Randolph, Steve Cooley, Patrick Clawson, Sara Hope Franks, Bill and Jackie Weldon, Jackie Martin, Kinsey Marable, Felicia Stidham and Mary Carter for doing a lot of heavy lifting.

And a huge recognition goes to the **newsletter committee** led by editor Tara Scopelliti who's backed up by Betsy Cooley and Cookie Cruse. That team plus regular contributors Edie Schaffer, VV Harrison, Anne Emmet and Walter Groszyk keeps this award-winning communications vehicle fresh and informative.

And believe it or not, there's a lot more work going on. But space dictates that's going to have to wait until another time. I want to express my gratitude to each board, committee member and volunteer for their dedication and for donating their greatest gift, their time. May this be a joyous holiday season for all.

—Denise R. Cunningham



I had the pleasure of commending ANC Executive Director Bonnie Hardy (left) upon her retirement from eight years of superb service to the Commission and the community. Bonnie was the friendly, knowledgeable, ever-gracious, go-to person

for help and advice on any range of problems—from potholes and missing street lights to building permits and recycling schedules. We're going to miss you, Bonnie!

WHAT HE SAW

The amazing gift of Fred Maroon

It's not what he saw but how he saw it, and what he did with what he saw. He was a world class photographer of astonishing versatility and range. Those of us who knew him as a fellow Georgetownner hardly knew the scope of his art. His interests and vision carried him from a snowy Wisconsin Avenue (the classic photograph we all know) to fashion in Afghanistan to the downfall of Richard Nixon to English Country Houses, and back to the commanding photographs of Washington.

The Nixon Years, White House to Watergate was photojournalism of a high order, direct and immediate, those once so familiar faces, looking so young and even vulnerable as scandal broke around them. The fashion photographs are stunning: in Afghanistan, shooting from below, he positioned a model in a highly patterned robe against an even more patterned mosque in an intricate arrangement of blues and grays. (Move over, Richard Avedon). From Mongolia, Leningrad, Japan, Egypt and the Colorado River he showed us splendor. And food. Ah, yes food. In *Cooking with the Seasons*, the presentations of master chef Jean-Louis Palladin, in gorgeous unconventional settings, fairly jump off the page. Photographs to swoon over. And after the photographs were taken, they got to eat the food!

And the books! There were twelve in all: *The U.S. Capitol, The Supreme Court, The Egypt Story, Keepers of the Sea, These United States, Maroon on Georgetown*, to name a few. Maroon photographs are in the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the

International Center of Photography and the Library of Congress. And the magazine work, and all the accolades. Did he get up at dawn to take these amazing photographs? Rather it seems like he just knew instinctively where to be, and when, and how to compose and shoot photographs without a lot of fuss. He knew about light, and as an architect he knew about the composition of objects and of spaces.

Fred Maroon's son, Marc, also a professional photographer, is seeing that his father's work continues to get the attention it deserves. Marc has created eighteen matted photographs, some 9 x 12 and some 12 x 18, as well as small stylish note cards that are available at Barnes & Noble and Morgan's Pharmacy.

(Maroon Photograph has recently sold the one millionth notecard!) One photograph shows the Harrier jet, a British plane that looks like a manta ray piloted by Darth Vader, taking off vertically in front of the Capitol. The futuristic plane is stark and menacing in front of a soft focus Capitol dome. Another astonishing photograph shows our monuments against a red sky caused by dust in the atmosphere from a volcanic eruption in the Philippines. Another catches a monumental fireworks display behind monuments. The web site: fredmaroon.com, is worth a visit.

What a life Fred Maroon had. What a legacy!

— Edith Schafer

Shop for a Present and Remember Katryna

The Georgetown Garden Club is selling tote bags and aprons, which feature a beautiful watercolor rendering of tulips by the late Katryna Carothers. To purchase, call Lee Child (625-1175) or email at leechild@aol.com. The aprons are \$20 and the bags are \$12. It is a nice way to remember our beloved friend Katryna at this time of year. Proceeds from the sale of the aprons and bags will go to the Georgetown Garden Club for their neighborhood projects.

—Anne Emmet

Sally Blumenthal and John Parsons Retiring

Two people who have been deeply involved with the new Georgetown Waterfront Park, John Parsons and Deputy Associate Regional Director Sally Blumenthal, are retiring from the National Park Service at the end of the year. Since 1991, Sally has played a major role in developing the new Waterfront Park; her commitment to the new park spans a 16-year period. Sally will continue to reside in Georgetown, and says she is "planning on attending the official opening of the new park next Spring!"

John Parsons, who has overall responsibility for the Federal parks and memorials in the National Capital Region, has labored even longer to create this new park.

Peter May will assume John's duties as the Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources and Planning for the National Park Service, and replace Sally as liaison with the community partners for the park. Peter will also be responsible for moving the Wisconsin Avenue to 31st Street section of the park into construction.

— Walter Groszyk

“Notes for Books”

An October benefit for the Georgetown Library drew almost 200 Georgetowners, as well as senior representatives from the embassies of France, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Thailand, Sweden, Malaysia, and the European Union. In the aftermath of the April fire, our Library requires major financial resources to restore the beloved Childrens’ Room and



Charming children—in their best clothes and on best behaviour — collected donations from the audience: (left to right) Zach Martin, Maggie Hill, Bea Markham.

the unique Peabody Room with its wealth of documents on Georgetown’s early buildings and residents.

The gifted and skilled musicians of HanZone Productions gave a concert, at no cost, for this good cause, and Father Albert Scariato provided the hospitality of St. John’s Church. Organizers Steve Meeter, Frida Burling, and Colleen Markham quickly went to work with Anna Velazco of the DC Public Library Foundation and DC Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper. Local friends like Leah Spencer of Fete Accompli Catering generously donated wine and sumptuous food, and many other freebies. The splendid evening reception with fabulous music was held in the elegant Blake Hall.

The fundraiser was a success and the checks are still rolling in...to the tune of almost \$40,000 — with no expenses! We are so grateful to all who participated, and pleased to hear that we have set a prime example for community support.

— Frida Burling with photos by Leslie Kamrad

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Sat. Dec. 1 Holiday Market on Bookhill with festive foods, beverages, shopping, and unveiling of shops’ holiday windows; 11 am – 6 pm; Wisconsin between Q & R Streets.

Sun. Dec. 2 Annual Boat Parade of Lights and Georgetown Tree Lighting with Santa and hot cocoa; 4 – 6 pm; Washington Harbour, 30th & K Streets; free admission.

Fri. Dec. 7 Wreath Making; 10 am – 11:30 am & 2 pm – 3:30 pm; (also on Sat. Dec. 8 from 10 am – 11:30 am); Tudor Place, 1644 31st Street; members \$28 per wreath; nonmembers \$35 per wreath; all materials provided; advance registration required; call 965-0400.

Fri. Dec. 7 Georgetown University: Friday Music Series **Annual Holiday Concert;** 1:15 pm; McNeir Auditorium at GU, 37th & O Streets; free admission; call 687-6933.

Fri. Dec. 7 Dumbarton House: Your Home for the Holidays featuring festively decorated period rooms, “Twas the night before Christmas” tour & holiday craft-making for children; 7- 9 pm; 2715 Q Street; \$10 per adult, 1 child free per adult, \$5 per additional child; reservations required, call 337-2288 ext. 450.

Sat. Dec. 8 Dumbarton United Methodist Church Celtic Christmas Concert: Barnes & Hampton Consort; 4 and 8 pm (also on 12/9 at 4pm; 12/13 at 7pm; 12/14 at 8pm; 12/15 at 4 and 8 pm); 3133 Dumbarton Street; call 965-2000 or visit www.dumbartonconcerts.org for tickets.

Sat. Dec. 8 Tudor Place Holiday Open House; 4 – 7 pm; 1644 31st Street; \$10/adult, \$5/child; free to members; advance registration call 965-0400.

Sat. Dec. 15 Gingerbread House Children’s Workshop; 10:30 – Noon (also on Wed. Dec. 19 from 4 – 5:30 pm and Fri. Dec. 28 from 10:30 – Noon); Tudor Place, 1644 31st Street; \$12 members (per child); \$15 non-members (per child); adult chaperones free; advance registration required; call 965-0400.

NEWSBYTES

The new **Setchi Ecoboutique** at 1614 Wisconsin offers organic clothing and gifts that are made from “vintage or remnant materials” or produced locally or which “support crafts people at a living wage”...The DC Public Library’s **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library** is seeking artifacts from the 1950s through the 60s for new permanent exhibit entitled “King in Washington,” which will open in January 2009 in observance of the 80th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; call 727-1213...Check out the expanded **Baked & Wired Bakery** (1052 Thomas Jefferson Street): savor tasty baked goods with coffee or tea in the lounge, which has wireless, now open seven days a week...Computer problems? Visit **Computer Plus, Inc.** at 1621 Wisconsin Avenue (tel. 625-2500) on Bookhill for repairs (offering pick up and delivery or even in-house service), accessories and new computers...The DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (**DCRA**) has issued a reminder about permitted construction work hours: Monday through Saturday, 7 am to 7 pm; work outside these hours requires an after-hours permit...Watch for a new movie, **“State of Play”** starring Brad Pitt, to be filmed locally in early February/March...Holiday shopping? Remember to use your **CAG Merchant Discount card** at participating businesses around Georgetown (see www.cagtown.org for list.)

Painted Bricks

I'm not sure when it happened. After five years of walking the streets of Georgetown, I woke up to a sad fact: most of the crisp face brick, delicate mortar joints, and bold stone watercourses, have been covered in paint.

My kids are fine with it – they've tired of me pointing out the subtleties of brick: smooth face brick versus rougher side and rear brick, common bond versus flemish bond, sometimes with lovely clinker brick headers, raked versus beaded joints, skillful versus ham-fisted repointing. Once it's all covered in paint, all that subtlety is hidden.

But as they run ahead I try to memorize the beauty of the old craftsmanship, the subtle shadings of the Flemish bond, the color harmony of old brick and dark mortar, the elegant pairing of dark green leaves and warm russet brick. I know it will be gone soon.

The look of our village is changing. Folks want to choose a color for their house, to make it more charming or more modern...to put their imprint on it. Bright, sunny colors and moss-greens and greys are popular. Besides, they think that paint will protect the brick and save them repair costs. More and more, realtors are suggesting that homeowners paint the raw brick to give the house more 'curb-appeal'.

What's so bad about that? How can just a coat of paint on brick harm the character of our historic district? It makes it look so new and fresh! But as I look at one unpainted gaslit brick row along P Street at twilight, I imagine if one of those owners decided to paint. Even just one painted facade would sacrifice the breathtaking streetscape that people come to experience. Collectors struggle to conserve the patina of venerable antique furniture for the same reason.

Maybe there are good reasons to paint old brick? If the mortar joints

are powdering and water seeping through the wall, might painting solve the problem? Good painters will tell you, paint doesn't stick to problems for very long. And once painted, the clues to the problem's source are concealed. When the source of the damage (rising damp, clogged drains, mismatched mortar, whatever) is finally fixed in a painted wall, now the whole wall needs repainting! Again!

Okay, but doesn't it look pretty good with a fresh coat of paint? Won't the house keep its spiffy painted good looks into the future? Sadly, this is the worst consequence of painting face brick. For successive re-paints, it will take some time to pop off the loose bits with a hammer to get to a sound surface. Sanding, which works so well for wood, doesn't work on the bumpy surface of brick, and paint-removing chemicals or power-washing fare do not work any better. In fact, efforts to remove the paint (chemical sprays, or sand-blasting) can remove the hard, fired face of the brick leaving the softer interior exposed to destructive weathering. The smooth face bricks that graced the façade soon begin to have a blurred, uneven look from chipped-off paint, or worse, are pockmarked from paint removal chemicals. That first coat of paint can never be successfully removed from the porous brick and mortar; the warm red brick and

brown stone accents will never grace the house again. The brick, long treasured for its dignified, nearly maintenance-free good looks must now be painted on a regular basis. The paint got to this point in only a decade or two, while the brick lasted for a century without paint.

I'm surprised that there is no rule against painting face brick. DCMR Title 10A requires a permit for "any alteration or repair that does not involve replacement in kind of an architectural feature." Hand-crafted, face brick was the most elegant building material of its day. Its warm colors and buttery-smoothness were intended to be shown off. It's probably the most character-defining architectural feature of Georgetown. A request to permit painting raw brick would almost certainly be denied. But I guess, like so many things in DC, one can't watch everything! And paint can't be "torn down" – once there, it's there for good, and all the penalties in the world won't change that.

Maybe my kids are right – it's just a bunch of bricks! Still, I'm taking pictures to show them when they're older. And I can't wait 'til the paint someone put on our house before we got here begins to peel off and go away!

—Louise Brodnitz

Ms. Brodnitz, a preservation architect and urban planner, is a member of CAG's Historic Preservation Committee.



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Wendy Rieger Urges Georgetowners to "Go Green"

Denise Cunningham opened the November CAG meeting by commending Georgetowners on an amazing "clean-up the neighborhood effort" on November 10th. She also acknowledged Harry Belin, our gracious host at Evermay, who helped make the Gala such a great success.

Reporting on Trees for Georgetown, Chair Betsy Emes announced the 2007-2008 planting schedule: The Conservation Corps will begin preparation of tree boxes now, with tree planting to follow in late February/early March. **She urged residents to remove their own plantings from these boxes, as all plantings will be discarded by the workers as they prep the boxes. She also noted the importance of obeying the "no parking" signs in the work areas.**

Ron Austin, Clean City Coordinator from the Executive Office of the Mayor, addressed the audience. He works with civic groups to clean up DC, monitors related calls to 727-1000, and administers the "adopt a block" initiative, as well as the "volunteers rate the city" (in terms of cleanliness) program.

Denise alerted the audience that the DC Transportation Study public meeting has been changed from November 28 to December 13, at 6 pm at St. John's Church Parish Hall.

Guest speaker for the evening was news anchor Wendy Rieger, a three-time Emmy Award winner since joining NBC in 1988. Her popular "Going Green" series is transmitted to NBC stations across the country. Wendy's inspiration started with a friend who, suffering from "multiple chemical sensitivity," was actually allergic to her own house. In the course of research for a story on the affliction, she was swept up in the "green movement" in 2005.

"Green is universal," Wendy told CAG and she spoke about the threat of global warming, the importance of renewable energy sources, and



Featured speaker Wendy Rieger on left with Victoria Rixey.

adjustments we can make in our own consumption. She touched on the pollution and safety hazards of coal mining, the problem of radioactive waste disposal, and our unhealthy dependency on oil and petroleum.

"The greenest energy is the energy you do not consume," according to Ms. Rieger. She advocates the use of energy-saving CFL lightbulbs and higher level insulation, even solar paneling. Home improvement projects provide the perfect opportunity to go green; specialized stores offer such items as organic cabinetry and recycled flooring, which have no chemicals, and hence no smell. Rain barrels can collect rainwater for other uses, and lawns need not be fertilized. Car emissions are a major concern; Wendy spoke about hybrid technology, clean diesel (coming soon from VW) and lighter weight vehicles, such as the Honda Civic. Landfills are full of plastic water/soda bottles. She suggests refilling water bottles with tap water.

With the holiday gift-giving season approaching, Ms. Rieger recommends purchasing fair-trade items, which are produced in an environmentally strong manner, imported from developing countries, and sold for a fair price. The process is described as "people, planet, then profits." Several area stores, such as Hoopla (Adams Morgan), Ten

Thousand Villages (Alexandria, Virginia and Bethesda, Maryland), and Pangea (Pennsylvania Avenue in Foggy Bottom) carry fair-trade products. The town of Clarksville, Maryland offers an array of green shopping opportunities: an organic supermarket; glassworks and clothing stores; a Great Sage vegetarian restaurant; and even wine-tasting!

Great farmers markets, in addition to Whole Foods grocery stores, enable citizens to "eat local." The Cowgirl Creamery shop at 919 F Street, NW offers artisanal cheeses. Ms. Rieger supports "community supported agriculture" whereby one consumes locally-grown produce. Websites she recommends include: www.coopamerica.org (the "mission is to harness economic power...to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society"). Ritchie Mundell from Community Forklift had samples of recycled building materials on display and explained that the products are sold in their warehouse stores. Their website is www.communityforklift.com, according to which building material "donors can avoid dumping fees, and earn tax deductions. Part of the inventory comes from deconstruction, in which a building is carefully taken apart by skilled laborers instead of demolished. This creates jobs, and can cost less than traditional dumping."

"Cradle to cradle" refers to use it

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and recycle it. Wendy has noticed that everyone wants a piece of the action, and “there’s green to be made from green.” But, where can one start? It can be with something as simple as changing a light bulb or using organic chemical-free lotions.

A man in the audience pointed out the spiritual aspect of inspiring others, becoming healthier, and contributing to the next generation by being green. Brenda Moorman added that the green revolution starts with individuals, to whom the government responds; it is very important what each person does. Wendy asked the audience to visit www.nbc4.com for green-related website addresses. Questions from the audience covered the perceived disparate interests between NBC4 and its owner, General Electric, and how to send Wendy story ideas (email: goinggreen@nbc4.com). As a staff of one, she tells CAG she is “drowning” in ideas, as green is now so mainstream. Her stories range from covering the plight of the polar bears, puffins, and parrots, to investigating cancer clusters.

Lee Child presented Ms. Rieger with the Georgetown Garden Club tulip bag, and Denise presented her with a CAG cap.

—Tara Scopelliti
Secretary

Georgetown Fall Community Clean-up

The morning of the November 10th Georgetown Fall Community Clean-up was chilly and overcast, but by 9:00 residents and Georgetown students were warming up with bagels from the Georgetown Bagelry and coffee from Starbucks, preparing to clean up the streets of West Georgetown. Beth and John Winn delivered the breakfast eats. Freddie Skelsey, a clean-up regular with his own tools, accompanied his father Bill.

At meet and greet time, volunteers heard brief presentations from Ron Austin, the new Clean City Coordinator, and Gerard Brown of the DC Health Department. Both city officials thanked volunteers for their work and elaborated on the District government’s contributions to community clean up.

After breakfast, about forty peo-

ple fanned out to tackle O and Prospect Streets, and the heavily traveled 33rd, 34th and 35th Streets. As the enormous garbage bags filled, resident Tony DeWitt and Ray Danieli (GU Assistant Director of Off Campus Housing) picked up and transported the bags to Volta Park to be collected by a DC Department of Public Works crew.

Volunteers were treated to fabulous hamburgers and hotdogs grilled to perfection by the Georgetown Grilling Society. Georgetown University supplied great grilling food, as well as drinks, apples and cookies.

It was a fun day of seeing friends and helping make our community a beautiful, clean place to live and work.

—Brenda Moorman
CAG Beautification Committee



Clean-up crew by the mountain of trash collected.



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Georgetown Library Bookmobile

Ever since fire devastated the Georgetown library last Spring, there has been no literary activity on R Street...but wait. What's that large van doing in the Jelleff Boys and Girls Club parking lot? It's a bookmobile! As it turns out, a bookmobile with no books. The reason for this curious situation, I was told, was that the van with all the books broke down and is now being fixed. Why the books could not be transferred from one vehicle to another remains a mystery. In any event you can put in an order and expect to receive your book within a couple of days. There are also four computers available in the bookmobile along with a smattering of tapes and DVD's. When I asked who used them, the answer was students from the charter school. What charter school? Well, unbeknownst to me, and probably to many of you, City Collegiate School has been housed in the Jelleff clubhouse for over two years.

I spoke with Fred Evans, the interim principal, who told me that the school is comprised of 86 seventh and eighth grade students who come from each of the eight wards, and is one of approximately 50 charter schools in the District. Mr. Evans said City Collegiate was born out of parental dissatisfaction with

the education their children were receiving. Like many other start-up charters, funding from grants, individuals, foundations and community leaders allow the school to provide a rigorous curriculum that meets the needs and the potential of every student it serves. He said that although the Jelleff facilities are cramped and inadequate, the students have greatly enjoyed using the playing field, and recently won a soccer championship.

As the bookmobile was a disappointment, City Collegiate School is a pleasant surprise, and one that proves once again that good things are still happening in Georgetown.

— VV Harrison



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RATS AND GARBAGE IN GEORGETOWN

Rats and garbage are not words that the public normally associate with Georgetown, but more and more Georgetown residents are making the connection. Complaints have increased about rat infestations and unacceptable trash and garbage accumulations.

A Georgetown Community Hygiene Pilot Program has been established to help solve the problem. The program is concentrated in the area from Prospect to N Street and Wisconsin Avenue to Potomac Street. Participants include DC Department of Health and Department of Public Works and representatives of CAG, the ANC, the BID, Georgetown University, Council Evans' office, business and restaurant owners and residents. The program's plan is based on aggressive surveillance, rodent control, outreach and enforcement of regulations.

The initial inspection of the area in September revealed live and dead rats, with many infractions of existing trash regulations. It is clear that proper disposal of trash by businesses and residents is a fundamental key to solving the problem. For residents, trash should be put out in closed cans (not plastic bags) no earlier than 6:30 pm the night before trash pickup on Tuesdays and Fridays. Empty cans must be removed from the street by 8 pm on trash days.

If you know of areas where rats exist, report them to Gerald Brown, Dept. of Health Program Manager at 535-2636 or email gerald.brown@dc.gov or call 727-1000.

— Brenda Moorman
 Chair, CAG Beautification Committee

Public Safety

Continued from page 1

Guard presence, ensuring that the guards are being well deployed and are working at maximum effectiveness. It adds a highly mobile rapid response capacity to the program. And, for a segment of each hour, guards park their cars and patrol on foot. In addition, the Guards are now in touch with DC police officers via our dedicated GPS “Walkie-Talkie” phones. It all adds up to a more effective guard program.

CAG Guards continue to Provide Personalized Service: Residents who donate to the Public Safety Program can request personalized services from the Guards: they will escort residents (and/or their guests) between home and car or to neighborhood engagements. They will also check house doors or parked cars and remove newspapers from your doorstep when you are away. Every donor receives detailed program information including a CAG Public Safety window sticker, and the Guards’ cell phone numbers and duty hours, so you can contact them directly at any time.

MPD Special Police Patrols: Working with Georgetown University, we fund two additional DC police officers who patrol our streets on weekend nights. These additional officers patrol by car, increasing their visible presence and interaction with residents. The police officers are now in touch with our CAG Guards via dedicated GPS “Walkie-Talkie” phones. This effort significantly increases the MPD police presence in Georgetown during high-crime periods.

Working with the Metropolitan Police Department leadership: Additional police officers on foot patrol were added to Georgetown streets this summer. The work of CAG’s Public Safety Committee, supported by the new Mayor and Chief of Police, resulted in this increase in the number of police officers assigned to Georgetown. Along with members of the ANC, representa-

tives from the Public Safety Committee met for months with 2D Commander Andy Solberg giving the compelling reasons for more foot patrols in Georgetown. The specific statistical analysis of crime in Georgetown, provided by CAG’s Luca Pivato, was pivotal in eliciting a positive response from Commander Solberg & Chief Lanier.

CAG has re-activated the **Block Captain program** in order to provide central contact points for information on public safety, block by block. Over 50 block captains have been recruited throughout the entire Georgetown area. They have met for orientation with the Public Safety Committee, MPD officers and the CAG Supervising Guard Officer. Now they are contacting their immediate neighbors to improve the security on their blocks – via meetings and/or email. Our goal in 2008 is to ensure that every block in the area has an assigned Block Captain. For a complete list of Block Captains see www.cagtown.org.

YOUR OWN CRIME MAP!

CAG has developed an information-rich, user-friendly map that shows you the location, date and time of every crime & safety incident in Georgetown. Take a look on our website at www.cagtown.org. (Click on Public Safety, then PSA 206 Crime Mapping Tool.)

YOUR OWN CRIME STATS!

The CAG website also links you to a site to register for detailed daily, weekly or monthly email crime

reports sent directly to you. Additionally you can sign-up via the CAG website for the Alert DC system which delivers emergency alerts to your email, cell phone, and/or other PDA devices.

The price of Increased Security

This exciting expansion of our Public Safety Program has cost more than ever before. Dozens of volunteers have spent hours organizing and improving our programs. But to continue the expanded police and guard coverage, we need to raise very substantial revenues for 2008. We are asking each resident of Georgetown to give as generously as possible. And we can continue to keep the streets of our beloved neighborhood safer. Added incentive! As of 2007 donations to the Public Safety and Guard program are completely tax deductible. So, in giving you receive — not just a helpful financial deduction, but a safer environment for your loved ones, and with that, more peace of mind.

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DECEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

Sun. Dec. 2	Jackson Art Center Winter Open Studios; Noon – 5 pm; 3048½ Street; visit www.jacksonartcenter.com.
Tues. Dec. 4	Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2E Public Meeting; 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; (agenda available at www.anc2E.com); call 338-7427 for more information.
Thurs. Dec. 6	Nathans Community Lunch featuring author & former CIA officer, Valerie Plame Wilson; noon; call 338-2000 for reservations.
Sat. Dec. 8	Partnership for Problem Solving (PPS) Meeting Sponsored by the Metropolitan Police Department to discuss community issues at 10:30 am; MPD 2nd District, 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW.
Mon. Dec. 10	Citizens Association of Georgetown Meeting Open House; CAG Office, 1635 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, 2nd Floor; Reception from 6 to 8 pm.
Tues. Dec. 11	(ALL) Alliance for Local Living Meeting to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and students at GU; 6:30pm; GU Leavey Center; call GU for details at 687-4056.
Wed. Dec. 12	“Byzantine Science” Lecture at Dumbarton Oaks’ Music Room; 5:30 pm; 31st & R Streets; free of charge; call 339-6410.
Thurs. Dec. 13	DDOT Transportation Study Public Meeting; 6 pm; St. John’s Church Parish Hall, Potomac & O Streets.
Tues. Dec. 18	Chamber Music Concert starring Friday Morning Music Club; Noon – 1:00 pm; Dumbarton House, 2715 Q Street; free of charge; reservations recommended, call 337-2288, ext. 450.

