

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

Tree Experts at January CAG Meeting; 120 Trees to Be Planted in Georgetown

Trees for Georgetown is partnering with the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, the DC Urban Forestry Administration and the Earth Conservation Corps in an innovative program to plant 120 residential street trees here in 2007.

Following the annual Fall survey (which this year was a pilot program with Casey Trees to help create a model for other neighborhoods), CAG's Trees for Georgetown Committee Chair, Betsy Emes, met with Urban Forestry officials to map out the planting which will be done in early 2007 by young volunteers in the Earth Conservation Corps.

This past Fall, Trees for Georgetown, also in partnership with Casey Trees and the Urban Forestry Administration, completed inoculating 52 elms on Q Street between

28th and 32nd Streets against Dutch Elm disease — the second effort in as many years to stave off potential disease in these mature trees. Trees for Georgetown was launched 20 years ago to supplement the dwindling resources of the District. Since its inauguration, Trees for Georgetown, which works under the auspices of CAG, has planted nearly 1000 trees, contracted watering services during drought periods and continues preventative maintenance of at-risk trees.

To brief residents on important details and procedures for the upcoming planting, Mark Buscaino, Executive Director of the Casey Trees Endowment Fund; John Thomas, Associate Director of the DC Urban Forestry Administration; and Glen O'Gilvie, President and CEO of Earth Conservation Corps

Next CAG Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2007

**Featuring:
Trees for Georgetown**

St. John's Church Parish Hall
Potomac and O Streets, NW

Reception 7 pm Program 7:30 pm

Parking during meeting across the street at Hyde School

will speak at the January 8 meeting. These experts will present an overview of Georgetown trees, give details on "best practices" for maintaining street trees (see article page 9), and answer questions from residents.

Please join CAG to hear these inspiring and dedicated professionals who can tell us everything we need to know about our precious, but precarious, trees in Georgetown.

CAG Seeks Increased Financial Support for Expanded Security Program

In response to wide-spread community concerns about public safety, CAG has created a stronger Public Security Program for 2007. In addition to the longstanding Guard program, now supported by over 500 households, CAG has started two new pilot programs to expand the police and security presence on our streets.

In conjunction with Georgetown University, CAG is funding two additional police officers who will patrol on weekend nights beginning January 5th. These additional officers — otherwise off-duty police officers, known as *reimbursable details* — will patrol by scooter to increase police visibility and enable them to interact with residents.

Note that this detail will be *in addition* to the police officers that currently serve our area, PSA 206. They will also be in touch with CAG Guards via dedicated GPS phones.

On a trial basis, CAG has enhanced the existing Guard Program by adding a supervisor and a patrol car to ensure that the other guards are being deployed effectively and are working at maximum effectiveness. This increases the Guards'

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'm Denise Cunningham. For the past five years, I've been a vice president of CAG. Effective January 1, 2007, I will assume the role of president because of current president, Victoria Rixey's move out of Georgetown. It's a tremendously exciting proposition for me...and also a bit daunting. Victoria has served this organization and this town ably. Fortunately, the by-laws allow her to continue to serve on the board of directors as past president. We are all grateful for her past and future effectiveness.

By way of more introduction, my husband, Rick, and I moved into Georgetown six years ago. My association with CAG started by volunteering to stuff invitations for Georgetown's 250th anniversary celebration. I then joined Trees for Georgetown as co-chair. Last year, I chaired the Georgetown House Tour and have continued to help with Trees and CAG fundraising efforts. Rick assists CAG with its data base development, and is now a block captain in our newly energized Public Safety Committee. We are committed to maintaining the historic character of our community, while launching new initiatives to help make our village a better, safer, even more pleasant place to call home.

Some Thoughts on the Future

I believe that if you work hard to fix the little things, big things happen. If we band together to address the many things that each take a little chunk of joy out of our quality of life here, every one of us who call Georgetown home can greatly benefit.

I want to work to make Georgetown cleaner. I want to see a regular street cleaning program initiated. We've been told there are some technical issues due to the narrowness of our roads, but we are addressing that with Councilman Evans' office and are confident we will find a solution. Our Beautification Committee has made great strides in helping clean up the sidewalks. While trash on our streets is certainly a visual affront, the health issues are much more serious.

I also hope to address the increasing emergence of panhandlers in town, graffiti, senseless vandalism, noise



Victoria Rixey (far left) and Denise Cunningham (far right) welcome DC Mayor-elect Adrian Fenty (left) and Councilman Jack Evans (right) to the December CAG meeting.

issues and motorists who have total disregard for pedestrians and stop signs. To accomplish these things, CAG needs your help. We have many committees that need more volunteers to make this work. Give the office a call to indicate your interests.

We can also tackle these issues through cooperation with the many other organizations and institutions in Georgetown and DC. Over the last few years, great strides have been made building stronger alliances with the ANC, GBA, the BID, the MPD and GU. We all need to work together to make Georgetown a better, more cooperative, more friendly place to live. I am encouraged that the University is setting up a meeting for us with President DeGioia to discuss many issues on our resident's minds.

I look forward to the future challenges and experiences. I look forward to hearing your opinions and concerns, and to meeting new people as they step forward to serve on committees. I look forward to trying to help fix the little things in order to make the big things happen.

—Denise Cunningham

CAG Board Supports Whitehurst Freeway Deconstruction Based on Survey of Members

CAG has received the results of a professional independent survey of our membership regarding the Whitehurst Freeway Study options. The survey, which took several months, and included email surveys with several follow-ups, was conducted by ReData. Surveys were numbered and each current dues paying member of CAG was surveyed.

There was a great response rate (441 members), with a majority of 53% in favor of deconstruction. Consequently, the CAG board is making the survey results public, and has passed a resolution in favor of deconstruction based on our membership's views. Naturally, CAG is in favor of the study continuing. Contact the CAG office to see a detailed copy of survey results.

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

by Edith Schafer

Genius Loci...Spirit of Place

The late great art historian Kenneth Clark called the magnificent places of the world temples of the human spirit. Such a useful expression, we know just what he means — Chartres Cathedral, the Lascaux Caves, Persepolis, Abu Simbel. Kenneth Clark was so good at what he did that toward the end of the screenings of *Civilisation* he was mobbed by his viewers. He had to hide in the men's room to get away from the sobbing people who told him that he had changed their lives. He took them out of themselves into a wider world and the sweep of history and art, and yes, of civilization.

Places matter. True, we can't always find that exultant feeling in our daily lives, and there is the negative use of the same phrase. Route 66 in rush hour, superfund sites, anywhere you have to stand in line interminably, these places are not temples of the human spirit.

But again, places matter. Even the humdrum places we go to every day affect our quality of life enormously. Think for a minute about the places we shop for food. It is possible to spend quite a lot of time in these places, especially for those of us who are not highly organized.

Consider the Safeway. Think of it as the equivalent of the Roman forum. We put on our togas and go forth to exchange wisdom and gossip with other informed citizens in the public arena. In lieu of a club, it's pretty good. The employees are pleasant; the produce looks fresh and inviting. Your friends are probably there. But we need something to complain about and so I will. They insist on playing really awful music. I consider it simply an annoying racket, like a badly tuned radio, and I told them so. They were unmoved. Then they went through a phase when no one cleaned the trash out of the shopping carts, most of which barely rolled anyway. It was as if the carts had been fitted with Denver boots for failure to pay parking tickets. The conditions have improved lately.

By and large I am a fan of the Safeway. As my club it will do.

Then there are the two exotic peripheral stores, both of which add to our total shopping experience. On a holiday Saturday, Whole Foods gives away enough food to sustain a small country. It's definitely fun, but people take advantage of the situation. You are invited to take a small cube of cheese on a tooth-

pick and savor it. I saw a woman put her hand in the bowl, withdraw a fistful of cubes and stuff them in her mouth in a Rabelaisian manner. I gave her a withering look, but I really wanted to make a citizen's arrest.

That same day, there was a lot of shouting from the new fish counter. I said to the man in line behind me "What's going on?" "Oh," he said, "it's like the Pike Street Market in Seattle, it generates excitement." "You mean they're yelling about various kinds of fish?" He said, "Yeah, it's called an upgrade to the product."

He seemed amused. I was definitely amused. Anyway, this store is a happening.

This brings us to Trader Joe's, yet another way to buy food. In the beginning, I tried to get into the spirit of it, but couldn't get the message. Then, a kind friend told me what to look for and what to buy. I followed her advice, and result was much better...that's how I became a sophisticated shopper.

Okay, these places are not Angkor Wat, but you can't have everything.

— Edith Schafer

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CAG Public Safety Block Captains (left to right) seated: Edie Schafer, Coordinator Helen Darling, Craig Wilson, Sara Carroll, Rich Hinds, Rick Cunningham; standing: Catherine Shaw, MPD Officer Kenneth Downing, CAG Security Guard Supervisor Jonathan Simatos, Brad Gray, Diane Colasanto, MPD Officer Heath Tucker, Caroline Scullin, Barbara Downs, Rod Johnson, Ron Lewis and Julie Diaz-Asper.

Security Program

Continued from page 1

ability to communicate with the police and adds a highly mobile rapid response capacity to the program. If these pilot programs get sufficient financial support from the community, they will continue beyond February.

The four uniformed CAG Guards, provided under contract by the respected international firm Securitas Inc. (formerly Wells Fargo/Pinkerton) continue to walk their beats during evening and nighttime hours, five days a week looking for problems and reporting suspicious activity to the police via cell phone. CAG Guards, wearing Securitas uniforms and reflective vests, provide a visual deterrent to crime and alert “eyes and ears” for our community. They carry flashlights and cell phones, but are not armed. All four men are familiar with the comings and goings around Georgetown and they check in repeatedly with magnetic wands at numerous points so Securitas and CAG can monitor their “beats” electronically.

Residents who donate to the Pub-

lic Safety Program in 2007 can request personalized services from the Guards: they will escort residents between home and car, or to neighborhood engagements and they will also check house doors, parked cars and remove newspapers from your doorstep when you are away. Every donor receives detailed program information including a CAG Guard window sticker, and the Guards’ cell phone numbers and duty hours, so you can contact them directly at any time. CAG Guards will visit in person at your home, if requested.

CAG’s active Public Safety Committee, chaired by Rob Housman and Luca Pivato, is working with the leadership of our MPD Second District to achieve more community oriented and strategic policing in Georgetown. Several members of the Public Safety committee have expert knowledge and experience regarding best policing practices. Proactive discussions with Commander Andrew Solberg and Lt. Lucas have been productive. They will continue to work with the outstanding MPD 2D officials, incoming Chief Lanier, and elected officials to move ideas to actual implementation

and to seek additional police resources for Georgetown.

CAG has re-activated the Public Safety Block Captains program to provide central contact points for information on public safety, block by block. Coordinator Helen Darling has been recruiting Block Captains and the first group has met for orientation with the Public Safety Committee, MPD officers and CAG Supervising Guard Officer Simatos. Block Captains in turn are contacting their neighbors to improve the security on their blocks – via meetings and/or email.

CAG has developed a user-friendly map showing public safety incidents by date and location in Georgetown on our website at www.cagtown.org. (Click on Public Safety, then PSA 206 Crime Mapping Tool.) The CAG website also links you to a site to register to have 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 PDF devices.

The expanded Public Safety Program will cost more than ever before. The CAG Board has taken a proactive leadership role by committing organization funds to covering several months of the pilot programs. But to continue the expanded police and guard coverage, we need to raise very substantial revenues early in 2007. The good news is that, for the first time, donations to the Public Safety and Guard programs are completely tax deductible. We will be asking each resident of Georgetown to give as generously as possible. If we all share the financial responsibility at the highest level each household can afford, we will be able to sustain a comprehensive program. An appeal letter (including program details and a response form) will be sent out in January and CAG urges you to join other Georgetown residents in meeting this important challenge.

Go To www.cagtown.org

The Georgetown Citizens Association (CAG) has a terrific website (www.cagtown.org). You will find it well organized, easy to navigate...full of helpful information. I should know, because I am a computer klutz! Log on and you will be greeted by a cheerful full-color page, with pictures of the neighborhood. An index bar on the left hand side of the page lists all the information and services available. For those of you who have not yet visited the site, it will answer any question you could possibly have about the area.

In abbreviated form, here is some of what is offered:

- **HOW TO JOIN CAG** (membership, CAG events and issues)
- **MEMBER DISCOUNTS** (perks offered by Georgetown merchants and restaurants for members)
- **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** (list of dates and locations)
- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- **CONTACT CAG** (list of names and numbers of staff to help with questions)
- **GUARD PROGRAM** (subscription service for extra protection)
- **TREES FOR GEORGETOWN** (preservation and replanting of trees as needed in Georgetown)
- **CONCERTS IN THE PARK** (free musical family gatherings in the spring and summer)
- **CALL BOX PRESERVATION** (restoration of original police and fire call boxes on the streets)
- **HISTORIC PRESERVATION** (list of names, addresses and phone numbers of local and city agencies involved in this program)
- **PUBLIC SAFETY** (a comprehensive map of crimes committed in Georgetown)
- **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**
- **TRASH/RECYCLE PROGRAM** (dates of pick up and guidelines)
- **COMMUNITY LINKS** (direct internet link to city agencies: police, city council, library, our ANC2E, etc.)

Congratulations to the Georgetown Citizens Association for providing a wonderful service to its neighborhood through the establishment of this website. Thank you from a Georgetown resident.

—Anne Emmet

—THE—
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So the Folks Next Door Want to Make Some Changes...

What do you do when you receive a call or a note from a neighbor indicating that they are going to make some architectural changes? For many Georgetowners, there is an initial reaction to be amenable, to be a good neighbor. This is a laudable response, but it should be coupled with some inquiries that can help avoid substantial difficulty in the months ahead.

Ask to see the plans. Sometimes the neighbors' architect will ask you to write a letter of support based on an oral description. This is generally unwise. You are entitled to see drawings of what is proposed. If there is substantial delay or unwillingness to share the plans, the ANC can share the set that has been filed with them.

The plans should show existing conditions and what is proposed for construction. There should be drawings that show how the house and the changes are placed on the site, and drawings that show all the facades that would be changed in any way. The drawings should be dated, so you can keep track of which plans you saw when because frequently there are several stages of design development.

Ask about the impact on your home. An increasing number of requests involve converting detached or semidetached houses into row-houses, which permits buildings to

cover 60% of the lot instead of the 40% permitted for detached or semi-detached structures. This could affect the light and air you enjoy, as well as your privacy. A rowhouse wall on your shared property line can bring profound changes. A project that requires underpinning of your home is not uncommon. In fact, you would be required to allow the neighbor's engineer or agent to see the condition of the affected wall(s) of your home. Some homeowners feel the need to protect their interests by having their own engineer evaluate the condition of their foundation and walls before construction begins.

Ask about any zoning changes required for the project. The conversion to rowhouses will likely require a special exception from the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Other changes, like permission to exceed lot coverage without converting to a rowhouse, also require review by the Board of Zoning Adjustment. You will be notified by the Office of Zoning if an immediate neighbor seeks a permit for a project that will require a variance or a special exception.

Ask about the timeline. A project that ties up a street for more than a year is rather common. Agreements about working hours (the law allows 7 am to 7 pm, six days a week), dumpster location and removal, dust control, and the like.

Attend the hearings. If the project

will be visible from any public space (including alleys), it will require design review by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), which meets on the first Thursday of each month. Before that, it will probably be reviewed by our Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC2E), which meets two days before the OGB meeting. The ANC is interested in hearing from neighbors affected by proposed projects. You can write a letter to the ANC expressing your support or your concerns in addition to or instead of appearing. The ANC will make its recommendations to the OGB for its consideration during design review. OGB design approval is necessary before a building permit can be issued in Georgetown.

CAG also attends all OGB meetings, supporting principles that have long guided our sense of stewardship for the Old Georgetown Historic District. We try to be even-handed and to represent all homeowners equally. We share our thinking with the ANC for its consideration as well.

Call the inspector. When you see work underway, you should also see a building permit posted visibly. You can ask to see the permit if one is not posted. If no permit is available, you can check with the inspector at the Historic Preservation Office and ask her to verify that a permit has been issued. If not, she can issue a Stop-Work order and require that the review process be completed before further work is done. Either the CAG office or the ANC office can help you.

Contact information for all organizations and persons identified can be found on the CAG website: www.cagtown.org. You will also see other links for more detailed information.

—Barbara Zartman
CAG Historic Preservation
& Zoning Committee



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NEWSBYTES

N Street resident **Margaret Bryne Heimbold** has just published a book of poetry, "Across the Milestones", available at **Just Paper**... Look for the bright paper lanterns at the entrance of **Nido**, the new accessories, décor, and clothing store at 1425 Wisconsin Avenue... **"Boy of Pigs"**, an independent film about a 13-year-old growing up in Georgetown in the '60s has been filming near "The Exorcist steps"—Noah Wiley of ER stars...on January 10, the **Whole Foods** at 2323 Wisconsin Avenue will donate 5% of all sales to the Georgetown Ministry Center (GMC), the local organization that does so much for the homeless via street outreach, resource counseling, placement and coordination of services.

Packed House Hears Mayor-elect Adrian Fenty's Plans for DC

Following a festive holiday reception, Victoria Rixey announced her impending move from Georgetown, resulting in her resignation as president effective January 1. Victoria introduced Denise Cunningham who has served on the board for six years, the past three as First Vice President. She cited Denise's wonderful zest for life and her focus on making Georgetown cleaner, safer, and more liveable, in addition to serving as the mastermind behind the annual Gala fundraiser. Victoria will remain active with CAG as a past president. She recognized the important contributions to Georgetown's quality of life from Councilman Jack Evans, ANC commissioners Bill Starrels, Charlie Eason, and Ed Solomon, as well as BID Executive Vice President Juanita Crabb and GU's Linda Greenan. Officer Simatos, the new Guard supervisor from Securitas, and veteran of two tours in Iraq, was also introduced to the audience.

Victoria thanked the "talented and active" CAG board and committee chairs, with a special thanks to the staff and Executive Director Betsy Cooley, "an inspiration to us all through her hard work and organizational skills." Victoria said she had been inspired by the qualities of several past presidents: the late Bill Cochran's wisdom; Barbara Downs' charm, wit and intelligence, plus her

ongoing board and Gala committee participation; Ray Kukulski's extensive background and focus on issues; current Legal Advisor Rich Hinds' work on projects such as the IRS approval of CAG/Fund merger and the Guard program. Current board directors received special acknowledgement: Karen Cruse, who is CAG's reliable ABC authority, Alliance for Local Living mainstay and membership recruitment specialist; Barbara Zartman, who spends long hours sharing her expertise in historic preservation with neighbors and city boards and officials; Luca Pivato, Rob Housman, and Seth Kirshenberg, who are leaders on the Public Safety Committee; Bob Laycock, CAG Treasurer and Trees for Georgetown volunteer; Tara Scopelliti, Secretary and Newsletter editor; Brenda Moorman, Vice President and Beautification Committee chair and environmental activist; Ron Lewis, Vice President and BID liaison and public safety chair.

Denise complimented Victoria on her dedicated work as president over the past 2½ years and her innovative approach to issues. She presented Victoria with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the CAG board and membership.

Jack Evans addressed the audience, noting Victoria's tremendous

Continued next page

DDOT Traffic Advisory

The final phase for reconstruction of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge over the C & O Canal will begin January 2, 2007, with scheduled completion in May 2007. The bridge, which is the oldest in the District and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, runs just south of M Street and north of K Street, on Wisconsin Avenue. During construction, two-way vehicular traffic will be maintained across the bridge at all times, with one sidewalk open at all times. Parking restrictions on Wisconsin Avenue near the bridge will be in effect during construction. Normal construction work hours will be Monday through Friday from 7 am to 10 pm.

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skills in leading CAG and forging partnerships throughout the community. The DC Council unanimously passed a Resolution honoring Victoria's service to Georgetown and declared December 11th as "Victoria Rixey Day."

Mayor-elect Adrian Fenty, who carried all 142 city precincts to win the election, was introduced by Councilman Evans. Mr. Fenty said the City Council recently accompanied him to New York, meeting with Mayor Bloomberg and the chancellor of the NYC school system. He is attending community meetings all around the city and intends to build on the momentum generated by Mayor Anthony Williams, to create a "world class city." The Mayor-elect believes a strong school system will help alleviate unemployment and homelessness

in the city. According to Mr. Fenty, another great challenge will be to keep the present fiscal prowess of the city, which has rebounded faster than any other city in the past eight years. "I need all of your help", he told the audience, urging them to email him with suggestions and questions, as well as names of candidates to serve the city.

Questions from the floor covered historic preservation (Fenty promised better customer service and enforcement of regulations by city agencies); business property tax relief (Fenty said his administration will look at various ways to give support back to small businesses); lack of parking (he promised more municipal parking lots and creative approaches); and accessing Federal funds (he intends to rewrite the regulations for Medicaid in DC as one

example of taking full advantage of Federal grant money). "It's about management," said the Mayor-elect, "the cities need to be run like businesses, with benchmark timetables, not just once-a-year reviews." He made a commitment to the audience to address the deteriorating state of the Georgetown library, as well as the condition of the streets. His new Chief of Police will emphasize community policing, including a "precision patrol system" to increase the number of police on the streets, and a better use of existing technology to fight crime. Fenty closed the meeting by suggesting Jack Evans organize a Ward 2 town hall meeting, to provide an additional opportunity for the Mayor to hear directly from the citizens.

—Tara Scopelliti
Secretary

Which Recycling Container Do You Prefer?

Last year, the DC Department of Public Works changed the DC recycling collection system to allow all recyclable items to be placed in single containers for pickup. Most DC neighborhoods

received blue, rolling, covered recycling cans. When polled, many people in Georgetown said that they did not have room to store the cans and requested that the neighborhood keep the existing smaller green/pur-



(Left) Blue rolling recycling container (24" front to back with handle, 37" high, 18½" across the front) and (right) existing green/purple open recycling container (17" front to back, 15" high, 22" across the front).

ple recycling bins. As a result, Georgetown and a few other neighborhoods in DC are allowed to continue using the green/purple bins.

There are some neighborhoods in the city, such as Capitol Hill, which use both types of containers. We would like to find out from our members their preferences for the two types of recycling containers. **It would not be mandatory that the entire neighborhood change to the blue bins, only residents who wanted to use them.**



If DPW allowed Georgetown residents to use both types of containers, which one would you use?

1. I prefer to use the new blue, rolling recycling container
YES NO
2. I prefer to use the existing green/purple open recycling container
YES NO
3. I would like to have more information about the blue cans.
YES NO

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Please circle your answers and return them to Brenda Moorman, Citizens Association of Georgetown, 1365 Wisconsin Avenue, NW # 200, Washington, DC 20007 or e-mail your answer to Brendamoorman@aol.com.

The Crucial Care of Georgetown's Street Trees

Georgetown's cherished street trees bring inestimable beauty and grace to our historic village and are important because they clean the air (by removing carbon dioxide and particulates) and cool our neighborhood (thereby saving cooling costs). The trees also absorb rain and dissipate storm-water runoff, provide welcome shade, and are havens for birds and wildlife.

But city life is extremely hard on trees: they endure limited rooting areas, pollution and physical damage. A tree growing in parkland can live for hundreds of years and the average life span of a tree in the suburbs is 30-40 years. But that same tree, planted in the city between sidewalk and street, may only live for 15 years. This is why it is so important to give tender loving care to our new trees to enable them to live longer.

How you can help: The most important way to help street trees is to water them, protect them from dogs, pedestrians, cars and salt, and give them plenty of room to breathe and grow.

Water is the single most important component of a young tree's survival. Water twice a week, slowly and thoroughly, soaking the ground with 15-20 gallons of water a week. Continue watering, as needed, until the leaves drop off in the fall. Resume watering when new leaves appear in the spring. But do not over water: pull the mulch away and test the soil with your finger — if it is wet, do not water.

The best water for trees comes from rainfall that is light, but lasts several hours. The heavy rain experienced in summer thunderstorms is not beneficial because it mostly runs off into storm drains

Dog urine is very caustic to both the bark and roots and, as it accumulates in a tree box, it will often kill a tree. (See last month's newsletter for sources of "Doggie Don't" signs.)

Pedestrian traffic over the soil will compact soil, making it impenetrable to water and air. When roots are starved of these crucial elements, the trees become highly stressed and are often colonized by insect or disease pathogens.

Fencing helps trees by discouraging dogs and pedestrians. Fencing should be at least 18 inches high and installed on only three sides (no fencing is allowed on the curb side). Fencing should be minimal and not have an impermeable border at sidewalk level that would keep storm-water from entering the tree box. Railroad ties and brick borders are undesirable because they encourage the addition of excessive dirt which can kill newly transplanted trees.

Cars and trucks often damage trees by breaking limbs or wounding the tree's bark.

Salts act to draw water out of the soils which keeps trees from absorbing water. Be careful when applying ice melting salts near our street trees.

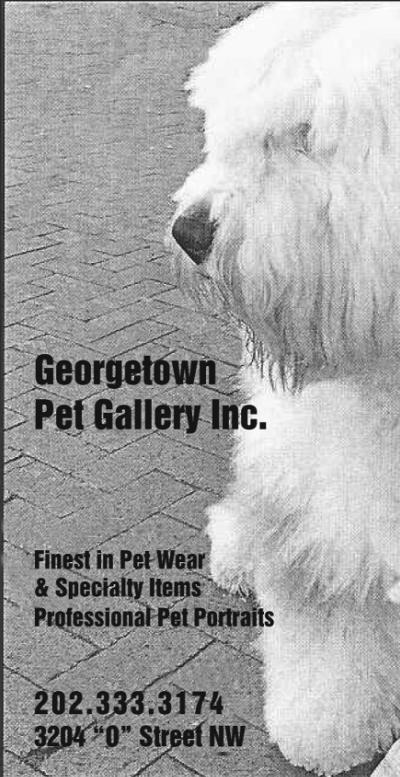
Room to breathe and grow. Most of our beautifully planted tree boxes are actually harmful to their host trees. Digging in the tree box severs tree roots. Adding excessive dirt interferes with the absorption of air and water into the tree well and creates an environment for future rooting problems called "girdling roots." All this creates stress and jeopardizes the development of the tree.

Recent surveys within Georgetown also found that trees in boxes planted with annuals were over watered. This can lead to many problems including root rot that will eventually kill the tree.

Mulching to a depth of two to four inches will retain moisture for roots in the summer and keep them insulated during the winter. But don't over-mulch. Adding more than four inches of mulch inhibits the flow of air and water to the roots. Two to four inches of mulch is good, but more than this leads to long-term problems.

Also make sure your mulch is pulled away from the trunk by an inch or two — otherwise it traps moisture which leads to cracking and sloughing of the bark allowing fungus, insects and rodents to invade.

— Betsy Emes, Chair,
Trees for Georgetown &
Keith Pitchford,
Consulting Arborist



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DECEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

- Tues. Jan. 2 **Partnership for Problem Solving (PPS) Meeting Sponsored by the Metropolitan Police Department to discuss community issues;** 6:00 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets (before ANC meeting).
-
- Tues. Jan. 2 **Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2E Public Meeting;** 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; (agenda available at www.anc2E.com); call 337-7427 for more information.
-
- Mon. Jan. 8 **Citizens Association of Georgetown Meeting featuring Trees for Georgetown;** reception at 7 and program at 7:30 pm; St. John's Church Parish Hall, Potomac and O Streets.
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- Tues. Jan. 9 **(ALL) Alliance for Local Living Meeting; to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and students together at GU;** 6:30 pm; Career Center Conference Center at GU Leavey Center; call 687-4056.
-
- Tues. Jan. 30 **Partnership for Problem Solving (PPS) Meeting Sponsored by the Metropolitan Police Department to discuss community issues;** 6:00 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets (before ANC meeting).
-
- Tues. Jan. 30 **Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2E Public Meeting;** 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; (agenda available at www.anc2E.com); call 337-7427 for more information.

Georgetown Waterfront Park Construction Beginning in January 2007

The Waterfront Park site preparation began this summer, with the National Park Service selecting Fort Myer Construction Corporation as the contractor. The complete Phase I construction begins in January and is expected to take 18 months. On November 1, the National Park Service hosted an open house for community members to provide input on refinements to the final design of Phase II, the Wisconsin Avenue Terminus. For construction to continue uninterrupted, which keeps the cost from escalating, an estimated \$6 million is needed to complete the park, while Phase I is being built. To learn more, visit www.georgetownwaterfrontpark.org.