

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

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DC LIBRARY CHIEF SPEAKS TO CAG

Director of the DC Public Libraries, Ginny Cooper, will speak at the CAG meeting March 10 to update Georgetowners on the status of the Georgetown library renovation — and the location of the new interim library. The library has been closed since it was damaged by a devastating fire on April 30, 2007. Ms. Cooper and other key staff people working on the renovation will present detailed

information and report on how the restoration of Peabody Room materials is proceeding.

At a press conference on February 7 — which actually took place inside the old library — Ms. Cooper announced that the local architectural team of Martinex & Johnson, in partnership with Hoshide Williams, a Seattle-based firm, will design the renovation. The \$20 million project includes full renovation

Next CAG Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2008



Director of DC Public Libraries Ginny Cooper, pictured here with Peabody Room librarian Jerry McCoy (on left) and photo archivist Mark Greek (on right) in Georgetown's Peabody Room, will be our featured March speaker.

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



Twenty-seven **CAG Public Safety Block Captains** met in February with MPD Sgt. Lennox Antoine, CAG Guard Supervisor Tim Harris, and CAG Public Safety committee members, to discuss safety, neighborhood communications, fundraising, and the new Block Captain Guide. Left to right, front row: Carla Bicks, Luca Pivato, Judy Bunnell, Helen Darling, Catherine Miller, Javid Hamid, Ginny Poole; second row, Sgt. Lennox Antoine, Henry Townsend, CAG Guard Tim Harris, Constance Chatfield-Taylor, Rose Marie Caponia, Georgine Anton, Gloria Koenig, Enjum Hamid, Anne Abramson; back row: Diane Colasanto, Kevin Delaney, Rich Hinds, Denise Cunningham, Ron Lewis, Cathryn Keller, Cooby Greenway, Renee Esfandiary Crupi, and Ed Emes. Not in photo, Charles Silverman, Brad Gray, John Salisbury, Josh and Amy Kuhnert, Betsy Cooley, Patrick Clawson, Marcia Carter. Please see last month's newsletter or call CAG for a complete list of block captains — and to volunteer! We still have some "uncovered" blocks.

of the badly damaged library, landscaping, sidewalk and bench improvement and "possibly a new addition." Representatives of the firm will be on hand at the CAG March meeting to show examples of their work.

According to Jeff Bonvechio, project manager for the restoration, the library building has now been stabilized and the site is prepared for renovation. People at the press conference were surprised and pleased to be invited to tour the

Continued on page 9

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I go to a lot of meetings. And what's interesting to me is that I'm hearing one word over and over again at most of them. That word is "pro-active". It's a good word. People are no longer sitting back, letting things happen and then figuring out what to do. They're initiating, not reacting.

Our CAG guards and MPD reimbursable details are very good examples. They are out there patrolling the streets in hopes of preventing any incidents. The Metropolitan Police Department, with its deployment of foot patrols, is doing the same. Georgetown University has retained private security patrols to cruise the neighborhoods, quelling potential episodes of disruptive behavior.

Recently, a truly pro-active effort has been undertaken by a majority of residents on a block of N Street just East of Wisconsin. They have installed privately funded security cameras that survey the entire length of the block. Two cameras are mounted on Martin's Tavern maintaining 24-hour surveillance and video recording. The sophisticated equipment is capable of face and license plate recognition day and night. The digital images are then viewed by an administrator if and when an incident occurs.

This is undoubtedly a controversial program. Privacy issues certainly arise. My initial reaction was strongly negative. But it may deserve more discussion. Perhaps it deserves a closer look from those of us who are wary of the ramifications. The organizers of this project have

Trees for Georgetown has begun its 2008 Spring planting; 40 of the 60 trees are already in the ground and we expect the last of the trees to be planted by mid-March. We are again partnering with the DC Urban Forestry Administration, the Earth Conservation Corps and the Casey Trees Endowment Fund. All 60 tree boxes have been taken down to sidewalk level and soil ameliorated with Leafgro, an organic composted leaf mold. Species being planted include London plane, sweet gum rotundiloba (non-fruiting), overcup oak, honey locust and linden.

This year a new facet is being added to our planting. Each new tree will have a custom-made iron tree box fence installed, made according to UFA specifications. This initiative is being undertaken at the request of UFA; the high mortality rate for newly transplanted street trees is in good part due to lack of proper protection which these fences will provide.

Be on the outlook in next month's newsletter for the do's and don't's of street tree care.

— Betsy Emes,
Chair, Trees for Georgetown

made a presentation to our board, and we are considering a Fall membership meeting devoted to this topic....to learn more about it and find out what everyone thinks.



New MPD Surveillance Camera

We are getting a new MPD surveillance camera in the near future. A couple of years ago, one was installed at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and P Street. Councilmember Jack Evans' office has alerted us that new funding has become available and asked representatives of CAG, the ANC, BID and GBA for placement recommendations. A list of six potential sites has been submitted and we'll keep you apprised of the MPD's decision.

Georgetown University Updates

We previously mentioned a series of meetings devoted to community relations issues which had been scheduled between Georgetown University and community leaders. I'm thrilled to report that four of these have already taken place this year.

We've had extensive discussions with administrators who have the authority and responsibility to enact and enforce policy. These meetings have led to the formation of a small working task force that will meet regularly to address and hopefully correct ongoing issues. We've also had a very productive breakfast meeting with University President Jack DeGoia. This was not just a meet and greet encounter. Substantive issues were discussed and seemingly taken to heart.

Another gathering was held by University representatives, CAG and ANC delegates, and a contingent from MPD led by Commander Andy Solberg with residents of blocks very close to the university boundaries. Unruly late night activities have escalated this year to an entirely unacceptable level. I think this discussion, which frankly was heated at times, will lead to some significant changes by the University.

All this interaction with the University will become increasingly important as we begin to work with GU on its 2010 campus plan.

These are just a few examples of pro-active initiatives being taken on a number of fronts. Our members can help us to stay ahead of the game by returning membership renewal forms promptly. They're in the mail and a good response to the first mailing will help us cut back on the need for a second mailing. Just trying to stay ahead of the game.

—Denise R. Cunningham

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

by Edith Schafer

TEMPS PERDU

More musings on the passage of time

Last month's piece on the old days met with such a nice response that one is tempted to go on. And on. But what does it mean? When we are reminded of all that time takes away, what are we really thinking? Are we nostalgic, relieved, saddened, or more likely just giving a nod to the human condition, about which we already know? Perhaps it just lets us keep things in perspective.

There is a scheme afoot to do some oral histories of long time residents of Georgetown. This delving into the memories of neighbors may be a dress rehearsal for that project.

Virginia Luce Allen, who runs the Senior Center at St. John's Church on O Street, traces her Georgetown lineage back 4 generations. Her grandparents owned the flour mill on K Street. She grew up on N Street and now lives on P Street. Miss Allen recalls the freedom children had in those days, growing up in a close-knit neighborhood where everyone knew each other. She went to Hyde School where the boys and girls sat separately and had separate recess times. There was an outdoor water closet with separate sides for boys and girls. In the winter they

had to put on hats and coats to go to the bathroom. The trolley ran on P Street and took passengers to the amusement park in Glen Echo. Some trolley tracks remain today—and are controversial—on P Street on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue.

Judy Davis, who grew up on P Street, also remarked on how much freedom children had back then, and how much colder the winters were. Winter meant skating on Rock Creek as well as sledding all the way down 30th Street unimpeded by traffic or the cares of the world. Kids walked to school at Jackson on R Street. After school they played, well, everywhere, in places that don't exist any more. Between 30th and 31st and P and Q there was an orchard and a field full of wildflowers. All those houses in the center of the block didn't exist; we are left only with the name: Orchard Lane.

A bit later on there was a Catholic Old People's Home as well as a chapel there. Al Wheeler, who still lives on West Lane Keys, bought the land and put up 18 houses. That happened around 1958. The name came from the old name for K Street and the piers on the river that were called keys. It had a ring to it.

Further interesting tidbits: John and Catherine Prince reminisced about the high quality of the ice cream at Morgan's soda fountain in the old days; Barry Deutschman, who now owns Morgan's, has—not surprisingly—resisted suggestions to bring the soda fountain back. Speaking of ice cream, on Sundays after attending Christ Church, cars stopped at Stohlman's on Wisconsin Avenue to purchase their fabulous ice cream. So delicious was it that the whole store was eventually moved down to the Smithsonian, which thoughtfully provided a fake chocolate smell to complete the ambience.

Everybody in Georgetown knew everybody. In the evening in nice weather people would walk to Wisconsin Avenue where they would look at the attractive shops and greet their neighbors. Strolling and chatting on a pleasant evening, in Italy it's called *la passeggiata*. It was kind of like a promenade, a place to be.

This delving into the past isn't exhausted yet. Not by any means. Bear with us a while. Let the winds of the old days blow through your hair.

— Edith Schafer

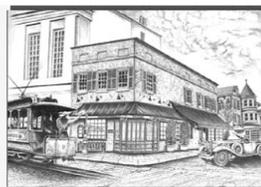
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Spirit of Duke Ellington School Soars with *The Wiz*

The Georgetown community joined together with friends and supporters of the Ellington Fund for an “Emerald City Reception” before the February 13th performance of *The Wiz*. Ellington Fund President Robert Horvath acknowledged Fund partners, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and George Washington University, and thanked reception food and beverage donor Mie N Yu. He expressed deep gratitude to the Feld Family Foundation for endowing the school’s state-of-the-art technical theatre department. Rory Pullens, the dynamic Head of School, welcomed CAG, ANC commissioners and DC Councilman Jack Evans. He said he was “appreciative and grateful for the support of the young people, who are passionate, committed and represent the best of DC.” Pullens spoke of the “spirit of collaboration” with the audience, saying “without your support, the Duke Ellington School would not be what it is.” All ten performances of *The Wiz* were sold out. He noted that 99% of the Ellington student body graduates on time and students have received \$1.8 million in college scholarships. Board president, Dr. Christian, encouraged attendees to visit the museum exhibits in the lobby, which chronicled the making of *The Wiz*. DC Councilman Jack Evans spoke about



(left to right:) DC Councilman Jack Evans with Kenneth Feld, Mayor Fenty, and Bonnie Feld at *The Wiz*.

the former Western High School morphing into this great performing arts school, after the success of the movie *Fame*. Thanking Kenneth and Bonnie Feld for their generous contributions to the school, he also commended Mayor Fenty for his strong efforts to reform the DC school system. Rory Pullens presented the doorprize, a large framed print from the school’s visual arts department, to winner Tara Scopelliti. Mayor Fenty, noting that his nephew attends the school and that his brother is a 1983 graduate, said he wants to make the DC school system the best in the country: “We should have the best schools and we will.”

On-stage just before the performance, Rory Pullens, Mayor Fenty, and Jack Evans saluted Kenneth and Bonnie Feld for their large contributions to the performing arts depart-

ment. Kenneth Feld, owner of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, said he had been dismayed to read a *Washington Post* article a year ago reporting that the Ellington School might lose its funding. He followed up with Ellington Fund director Ellen Copley and consequently made a large donation to benefit the “most unbelievable performers, the technical crew, and the unsung heroes behind the curtains.” Feld said he is proud to have opened a whole new door to the entertainment field for the students, and then he announced an additional \$100,000 contribution to the school.

Based on the original *Wizard of Oz*, the Duke Ellington School’s rendition of *The Wiz* featured talented and enthusiastic performers, magnificent costumes, clever music and lyrics, and complex choreography. Over 200 students were involved in the production. A rousing performance was enjoyed by all—with the audience tapping their feet to the tunes and much applause. As the story goes, Dorothy clicked her silver heels and returned to DC — many in the audience left convinced that these talented teenagers will take the world by storm on graduation from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

—Tara Scopelliti,
Secretary



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CAG Priority Merchants Offer Benefits to CAG Members

Over 35 civic-minded local businesses offer members of CAG special discounts and other benefits. CAG dues renewal notices were mailed in February and your membership card will be sent to you when you pay your 2008 dues. Use it two or three times, and your membership has paid for itself! Visit the following participating priority merchants:

Antique Print Gallery (1639 Wisc. Ave.): 15% discount, 10% on framing;

Bridge Street Books (2814 Pa. Ave.): 10% discount;

Briggs Passport & Visa Expeditors, Inc.(1054 31st St.): 15% discount;

Briar Rose (1025 31st St.): 10% discount;

Café Divan (1834 Wisc. Ave.): free dessert;

CABANAS (3050 K St.): free appetizer with purchase of two entrees;

Café Bonaparte (1522 Wisc. Ave.): free coffee when ordering dessert;

Café Divan (1834 Wisc. Ave.): free dessert;

Chadwicks (3205 K St.): half price entrée with purchase of entrée of equal or greater value;

Cherry Antiques & Design, (1526 Wisc. Ave.): 10% discount on decorative accessories;

Clyde's of Georgetown (3236 M St.): complimentary crab & artichoke dip;

English Rose Garden (3209 O St.): 10 % off regularly priced items;

Garrett's Restaurant & Tavern (3003 M St.): second entrée half off with purchase of first;

GChris Sculpture Studio/Gallery www.GChris.com.: 15% discount;

Georgetown Café (1623 Wisc. Ave.): 10% discount;

Georgetown Wine & Spirits (2701 P Street): 10% discount; free delivery w/ \$50 purchase;

Georgetown Yoga (1053 31st St.): \$5 off first class;

Haagen-Dazs (3120 M St.): 20% on ice cream;

Hugo Boss (1517 Wisc. Ave.): 20% discount on regular price suits;

Jaryam (1631 Wisc. Ave.): 10% discount;

Just Paper (3232 P St.): 10% on personalized stationary;

Mie N Yu (3125 M St.): complimentary dessert with brunch or lunch;

Mendocino Grille (2917 M St): 15% discount;

Red Ginger Bistro (1564 Wisc.Ave): free dessert with lunch or appetizer with dinner;

Sands of Time Antiquities (3003 P St.): 10% discount;

Sassanova (1641 Wisc. Ave.): 10% discount;

Sherman Pickey (1647 Wisc. Ave.): 10% discount;

Spiral Flight Yoga (1826 Wisc. Ave.): \$5 first class, 10% workshops;

Sugar (1633 Wisc. Ave.): 15% discount;

Susquehanna Antique Co. (3216 O St.): 10% discount;

Tabar Boutique (1624 Wisc. Ave. 298-6363): 15% discount;

The Old Print Gallery (1220 31st St.): 10% discount;

The Georgetown Pet Gallery (3204 O St): 15 % discount;

The Phoenix (1514 Wisc. Ave.): 10% discount on jewelry;

Tudor Place Gift Shop (1644 31st St.): 10% discount;

Washington Walks (www.washingtonwalks.com): half price on any walking tour;

W. T. Weaver & Sons Hardware (1208 Wisc. Ave. 2nd Floor): 15% discount;

XY Décor (1061 31st St.): 10% on regularly priced items;

Yiro "All Organic Children's Clothing" (3236 P St.): 10% discount.

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Our Corner Grocery Stores

Depending on where you live, you need only walk around the corner for a quart of milk, a paper, a sandwich, a cup of coffee or a bottle of wine. This convenience is well matched by proprietors who are friends with their customers. Consider the following scenarios that are part of neighborly relationships forged: a late afternoon delivery of groceries to a house results in the delivery man staying for a cup of tea and meeting the out-of-town children of a regular customer. Someone gets locked out of their house and only needs to go to the grocer who keeps an extra key for them. How about leaving a note on your door to redirect the delivery of an important package to be dropped off at the corner store? And then, there is the case of the single lady who needed to be zipped into an evening gown, so she went to the wife of the corner grocer for assistance.

Scheele's Market

1331 29th Street, NW
(corner of O and Dumbarton)
Tel. 333-4143 / 333-4144
Open 8:30 am – 8 pm.

I live around the corner from Scheele's Market. It's a cozy meeting place for sandwiches, or last minute

cocktail party or dinner items. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have run the grocery/convenience store since 1989. It has changed since the Scheele brothers ran the store. Back then, there was a full-time butcher and they had a full-scale food shop. They delivered groceries regularly and hired the teenaged children of their customers to help out in the summer. And, there was Buster from 14th Street who was not yet 15; he played baseball every afternoon in Rose Park, and came to Scheele's afterwards for something to eat, although he could not pay. So, they hired him to help and he became a fixture in the store for many years.

Griffin Market

1425 28th Street, NW
(corner of 28th and P)
Tel. 965-2080
Open 9 am – 9 pm.

The Griffin Market, in its present location since the early 1900s, has had numerous owners and undergone changes. Current proprietor Paul Patel is almost done remodeling the sandwich station — patrons need to wait only another month or two to once again enjoy the delicious sandwiches. The coffee bar is as popular as ever.

Sara's Food Market

3008 Q Street, NW
(near corner of 30th and Q)
Tel. 337-0260
Open 9 am – 7:30 pm.

A very nice and cheery small store which carries all the basic necessities, this neighborhood fixture has been owned and run by Sukyang Johnson and her husband since 1991. A devastating fire on Christmas Eve 1998 destroyed the store....and galvanized the neighborhood: A Bonds Raising party was held, funds were raised, and Sara's was rebuilt, reopening after little more than a year. Neighbors who had lent money were repaid with interest three years later. The community welcomed back the market it adopted long before the fire, when it first banded together to help paint the store's interior.

Le Petit Corner Store

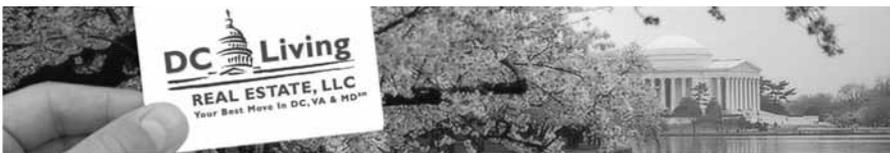
1643 34th Street, NW
(corner of 34th and Dent Place)
Tel. 338-7555
Open 10 am – 6 pm.

A convenience store owned and operated by a Turkish gentleman, Hodai Yavallar, for the past several years, this little market offers essential groceries, delicious sandwiches and dessert. There is also a limited selection of items from the owner's native Turkey. The clientele is drawn from the immediate neighborhood, as well as the Georgetown University student body. The store has been in its present locale for at least 55 years. There have been several owners — the original owner, Mrs. Rosen, who lived above the store, raising her three children, was legendary.

Marvelous Market

3217 P Street, NW (corner of P and Wisconsin Avenue)
Tel. 965-5292
Open 8 am – 8 pm.

This is a relatively new emporium on the site of a famous old George-



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town grocery store called Neam's Market, which went out of business around 2000. Marvelous Market is strictly a convenience store, but has tables and chairs where you can eat and relax with a newspaper. There are ovens on-site for tasty pizzas. Take-out food is featured and a variety of wines are sold.

7-Eleven

2617 P Street, NW
(corner of 27th and P Streets)
Tel. 342-1156
Open 24 hours a day.

The 7-Eleven convenience store has been in Georgetown since the late 1980s. What sets it apart from the other corner stores is that a member of the DC police force can almost always be found stopping by the premises: it has served as a strategic location from which to patrol the neighborhood during daytime and evening hours.

Wisemiller's

1236 36th Street, NW
Tel. 333-8354
Open 7 am - 11:30 pm Monday - Friday; 8 am - 11:30 pm Saturday - Sunday

Tucked away on 36th Street, Wisemiller's has been the haunt of generations of Georgetown University students. Named after the original owner, and tended for years by two sisters who drove in daily from West Virginia, the store was purchased in 1982 by Nabeel Audeh, who modernized but left the concept, look and name unchanged. This little store offers less in the way of groceries than in the past, however students and neighbors continue to enjoy its many creative sandwiches and grill items – just check out the long lines before and after class.

— Anne Emmet

From Rabat to Tabar

A new addition to Upper Georgetown is a distinctive and stylish Moroccan Boutique, called Tabar (Rabat spelled backwards). Stephanie Jensen, who served in Central Asia and Russia with the State Department, opened her shop in September. The store specializes in colorful, soft-as-butter leather bags in all shapes and sizes, as well as belts, hats, slippers, fabulously beautiful silk throws, great jewelry and other items, all hand-crafted in Rabat, Morocco and

priced to sell. The atmosphere in the tiny shop is as warm and inviting as the cup of hot cider Stephanie offered as I perused her interesting merchandise. She said she is pleasantly surprised by the welcome she received from her fellow Upper-Wisconsin Avenue merchants. Tabar is building business one customer at a time with its private-label handcrafted bags. A customized service policy assures satisfaction by repairing, replacing bags, or issuing refunds. I bought a wonderful silk bag and received my CAG Priority Merchant discount. So do stop by! Stephanie is a most interesting and gracious proprietor, with many tales to tell, and plenty of attractive things to sell.

—V V Harrison

P.S. I also visited the Big Planet comic book shop, at 3145 Dumbarton, just because I had passed it so many times and wondered how the comic book trade was faring. As it turned out, the only thing I learned was that new comics sell for three dollars a piece and vintage ones for a lot more. Oh, to have kept my old supply of Archie and Veronicas who, in case you're interested, are still in high school!



Tabar Boutique owner Stephanie Jensen.

NEWSBYTES

Piccolo Piggies is opening a maternity shop next to Tabar Boutique on Wisconsin Avenue...The **Georgetown Bagelry** is moving from M Street to 1438 Wisconsin Avenue...On M Street: **Juicy Couture** is coming in next to Barnes and Noble, and **The Cupcake Store** has opened at 1209 Potomac Street...Mark your calendar: April 24th Patrons Party of the **Georgetown House Tour**, followed by ten different open houses on April 26th, and then "An Evening with Mario Buatta" slide show and reception to meet the renowned interior designer Buatta on April 28th — call 342-6100 for more info...Filming is scheduled on Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown in early April for the movie "State of Play" starring Ben Affleck and Russell Crowe...

KEEP A LID ON IT!

TRASH and RECYCLING RULES FOR GEORGETOWN

(Copies of this flyer are available from the CAG office and on our website at www.cagtown.org)

Trash: Pick up on Tuesday and Friday

Trash is collected in Georgetown on Tuesdays and Fridays. Tuesday is for trash only; Friday is for trash, recycling and yard waste.

Holiday Schedule:

In weeks with holidays on Monday or Tuesday, both collection days SLIDE ahead (i.e., are postponed) to Wednesday and Saturday. Weeks with holidays on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, only the second collection day will SLIDE ahead (i.e., be postponed) to Saturday. To see an exact calendar for the year, go to www.cagtown.org, click on trash/recycling calendar.

Trash Cans:

All trash MUST be put in plastic or metal trash cans with tight fitting lids. This is necessary to prevent rat and mosquito problems. Containers must be put at the curb in front of your residence (unless you have alley pick-up) no earlier than 6:30 PM the night before the collection day or by 6 AM on the collection day. **All containers must be removed from the street by 8 PM on the collection day.** To receive a free plastic 32 gallon round trash container and/or a plastic recycling bin call 311 (formerly 202-727-1000) and they will be delivered to your door. Rolling cans of various sizes may be used and can be purchased at home improvement & local hardware stores.

Recycling: Pick up on Friday only

 Complete list: www.dpw.dc.gov

All items to be recycled should be placed in plastic recycling bins or, in the case of paper, placed in paper bags beside or in bins. **DO NOT PUT ANY ITEMS IN PLASTIC BAGS!**

Paper: Newspapers and inserts (remove plastic sleeves), magazines, catalogues, paperback and telephone books, mail (including envelopes with windows), office paper, cardboard including cereal and shoe boxes (no coated cardboard such as pizza boxes or milk cartons)

Metal: Aluminum, (including washed pie pans and foil) tin, or steel cans

Plastic: Containers with small necks such as shampoo bottles, detergent, and milk jugs (no margarine or yogurt tubs, plastic take-out food containers, or medicine containers)

Glass: containers of any color or shape. (no window glass, light bulbs, dishes or mirrors)

Yard Waste: pick up on Friday only

Tree limbs (up to 4" in diameter) and brush should be bundled in 4 ft. lengths and tied with natural fiber rope or twine. Unbundled items such as leaves, grass clippings, vines and plants should be placed in heavy duty plastic bags.

Bulk Trash: call 311 (formerly 202-727-1000) to arrange for a special pick-up

Trash violations incur tickets which increase with each violation. To get answers to trash/recycling questions or report violations, call 311 (formerly 202-727-1000).

Citizens Association of Georgetown

1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007 • 337-7313

cagmail@cagtown.org • www.cagtown.org

Residents Working Together for a Cleaner Safer Neighborhood

Copies of this flyer are available from the CAG office and on our website

Please share this information with your neighbors !

Panhandling in Georgetown

We often hear citizens ask “why can’t the police do something” about panhandlers or people sitting on the street. To help answer these questions, Gunther Stern of the Georgetown Ministry Center invited Ann Marie Staudenmaier of the Washington Legal Clinic to address a recent meeting of the Business Improvement District’s (BID) Homeless Subcommittee. Ann Marie’s presentation covered the legal boundaries of panhandling, a topic of significant interest to Georgetown business owners and residents alike.

Panhandling, if it is not aggressive, is not illegal. It is considered protected speech under the U.S. Constitution. This has been tested in court several times and upheld. Aggressive panhandling, however, is against the law. Anyone intimidating or repeatedly asking after being told no is in violation of the law. When panhandling takes the form of blocking or impeding passage, or grabbing a passer-by, or being persistent in a solicitation, it is illegal. Other violations of this statute include panhandling within 10 feet of an ATM machine or on the Metro or on Metro buses.

There is no law against sitting on crates or sitting on the sidewalk and panhandling. However, if the crates were taken from local businesses, that is considered theft. Sleeping in

public places is not illegal but setting up a “temporary abode” in a public place is.

The law against loitering in DC was declared unconstitutional in the 1960s. While it is still on the books there is an annotation declaring it no longer enforced.

Gunther Stern suggested that because “panhandlers and homeless people are not going to just go away regardless of laws and enforcement” the best answer is to find ways to get people off the street. One thing the BID has discussed is “Housing First” — part of a framework of services that could ultimately lead to an end to homelessness — and hopefully the need for individuals to panhandle. Housing First addresses the need for housing without regard to an individual’s involvement in treatment and recognizes that engaging a homeless individual in treatment is a difficult process, but if that person is housed first it makes successful treatment more likely.

If you experience aggressive panhandling, call the police at 911. If you see homeless people who need attention, please call the Georgetown Ministry Center at 338-8301 or email info@gmctg.org. For information about the ministry center at 1041 Wisconsin Avenue go to www.georgetownministrycenter.org.

— Walter Groszyk

Library

Continued from page 1

building — including the Peabody Room. Jerry McCoy and photo archivist Mark Greek are working on an inventory of the 9,000 pounds of Peabody Room materials in boxes and they are aiming to consolidate the popular house history files, transfer them to acid-free paper and have them available by this summer.

Interim library services are currently being provided in a bookmobile parked at the Jellef Boys & Girls Club at 3265 S Street. Addressing a subject of intense interest from many Georgetowners, Ms. Cooper will announce the plans for the new larger interim library at the CAG meeting.

The DC Library Board hired Ms. Cooper in 2006 to lead the much-needed improvement and transformation of the DC Libraries. Ms. Cooper has worked in libraries in five states and was most recently head of the Brooklyn Public Library. A past president of the Public Library Association, she was named 2001 Layperson of the Year by the Portland, Oregon, Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and is a recipient of the Public Library Association’s Charlie Robinson Award which recognizes risk-takers and innovators among library professionals. Please join CAG on March 10 to hear the exciting plans for our library from the people who are making and implementing key decisions.

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MARCH COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

-
- Tues. March 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.
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- Tues. March 4 **“Evening with Bunny Williams” to benefit the Georgetown Library Restoration Fund sponsored by Doyle New York and John Roselli & Associates;** 6:30 pm; Tickets \$50 in advance; \$60 at the door; Blake Hall at St. John’s Church, 3240 O Street; call 342-6100 for tickets.
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- Wed. March 5 **Nathans Community Lunch featuring Philippe Cousteau;** Noon; call 338-2000 for reservations.
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- Sat. March 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.
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- Mon. March 10 **Citizens Association of Georgetown meeting featuring Ginny Cooper, director of DC Public Libraries, speaking on status of Georgetown Library renovation and location for interim library;** reception at 7 and program at 7:30 pm; St. John’s Church Parish Hall, Potomac and O Streets.
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- Tues. March 11 **(ALL) Alliance for Local Living Meeting to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and students at GU;** 6:30 pm; GU Leavey Center; call GU for details at 687-4056.
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- Sat. March 15 **Dumbarton Church Concert “East Meets West” by Amelia Piano Trio; 8 pm;** \$30 per ticket; 3133 Dumbarton Street, NW; Call 965-2000 or visit www.dumbartonconcerts.org for tickets.
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- Sat. March 22 **Eggstravaganza at Tudor Place! Celebrate Spring & Easter at DC’s largest Egg Hunt and thrilling Egg Roll Contest;** 10 am - Noon; nonmember children \$12, member children \$7, adult chaperone free; 1644 31st Street; call 965-0400 for reservations.
-
- Tues. April 1 **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.
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