

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S

VOLUME XXI / ISSUE 10 / JANUARY 2008



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

CAG Meeting January 14: OH RATS!

Oh, *rattus norvegicus*! The Chinese Year of the Rat is fast approaching and, although the Chinese zodiac respects the rat for being “courageous, enterprising, clever, bright, and sociable,” these very attributes — especially their “strong ability in adapting to the environment” — make rats a pervasive pest and health hazard in Georgetown. CAG is taking on the subject of rats at our January 14th meeting with a panel of experts who will tell us the facts, (rats are extremely intelligent — thus their use in labs) the figures (for starters the Norway rats we have in Georgetown breed 3 to 4 litters a year with an average of 8 to 10 pups) and the remedies (information on the Pilot Program currently underway in one large square block and details of what all residents can do) in the battle against these unwelcome rodent residents.

Rats are not our favorite topic, but if you have seen (and you don’t have to look hard) the destruction that packs of rats have done to yards and patios, the large holes in

the pavement, the uprooted and devoured bushes, and paths burrowing right under (and sometimes into) houses — not to mention the bodies of dead ratti — we think you will agree they definitely deserve our attention. Because a rat only needs an ounce of food and 1/2 fluid ounce of water daily to survive, burrows or nests, either in the ground (about 18 inches deep) or in wall cavities or cluttered storage areas, accommodate whole colonies. Unfortunately, there is a ready supply of food in our village—mainly from the trash containers overflowing with garbage that are often found in our back streets and alleys. (And yes, if we are not careful, we residents are supplying ready morsels from bird food.)

Action is needed. An expert panel at the CAG meeting will update us on activities and solutions. We will hear from Gerald Brown of the DC Department of Health, Oren Molovinsky of the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington, Juanita Crabb from the BID, and Brenda Moorman, CAG’s Beautifi-

Next CAG Meeting

Monday, January 14, 2008

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



cation chair. Please join us as they enlighten us and enlist our help in waging the local rat offensive.

For people who can come early (6:30) or stay later, we will be showing a fascinating 45 minute video, “Rat Genius,” by National Geographic that gives even more graphic and comprehensive information.

On a lighter note, we will start the meeting with a quick look at the delightful and entertaining Hyde Elementary Schools 100th Anniversary Video.

Block Captains Form Crime Information Relay Systems

Over fifty Georgetown residents have volunteered to be “crime communication central” for their close-by-neighbors by becoming CAG Public Safety Block Captains. These committed individuals have contacted their neighbors by flyer and email to organize email networks, or in some cases, meet-

ings to discuss specifics about crime and security on their particular block. Consequently, interested neighbors now receive very up-to-date notices about crime on or near their blocks. “Our block really appreciates being kept informed” says Ginny Poole, block captain of 3000 P Street.

The Block Captain program was originally started in the mid 1990’s but had become inactive in recent years. At the beginning of 2007, CAG’s Public Safety Committee decided to reinvigorate the program and recruited Helen Darling to be coordinator. Helen held orientation

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

2008. Holy cow! I remember as a young child wondering if I would still be alive to see the millennium and all the changes it would bring. I made it...and in fact it was just about the time I moved to Georgetown. Oh, the changes I've seen since then!

To be very honest, at first I didn't like it much here. It was, in my opinion, a very small town, with not very much going on, and where I didn't know one single soul. It was quiet...I was bored...it was the antithesis of my life in New York. Then I made a phone call and my new life in DC took a big turn. I called CAG and asked if I could volunteer.

What I found were extraordinary people, who were bright, vibrant and cared passionately for the village they called home. As the years passed and I've become more and more involved, some of those same people, and hundreds of others I've had the good fortune to meet, never cease to amaze me. Their dedication, commitment, generosity and unrelenting perseverance to better the quality of life in Georgetown is truly remarkable.

If I wanted to make a really big pitch for CAG right now, I could say the organization changed my life. And it did in a way. But, what really makes the difference, is the difference these people make. They have changed each and every one of our lives....for the better.

The moral of the story is: get involved. Maybe CAG is the organization you could sink your teeth into. If not, there are dozens of other Georgetown groups that work to make things better. Pick up the phone. Lend a hand. You'll be very glad you did.

More Updates

Last month, we were reviewing the progress the major CAG committees have made over the past year...and we ran out of space. There are many other initiatives that don't get as much press as others, so to let you know what else is going on at CAG....

Concerts in the Park is highly visible during the summer. But during the winter is when most of the heavy lifting gets done. Elizabeth Miller and her committee members are now plotting their course for the upcoming year. While we can't spill the beans yet, they're planning a most exciting fundraising kick-off party and screening bands to enliven your summer Sunday afternoons.

The Communication Committee's new baby, the GeorgetownForum Listserv, is approaching its first birthday. What started as just a handful of people exchanging information in an online community bulletin board has grown to over 350 active participants. If you haven't checked it out yet, go to georgetownforum.com or access through the CAG website, cagtown.org.

CAG also has outreach representatives to all the major associations and projects in town. Hazel Denton is a member of DDOT's Georgetown Transportation Study task force. This group is addressing issues throughout town to ease movement and is focusing on short-, mid- and long-term fixes. Another community meeting will be held January 16 to present early findings and to continue to gather community input.

We have representatives to both the Business Improvement District's (BID) and the Georgetown Business Association's (GBA) boards of directors. Rob Housman works with the BID and Jennifer Altemus, the GBA. Their mission is to interact with these more commercially-oriented organizations to ensure the residents' voices are heard.

Cookie Cruse reports to us on the Alliance for Local Living (ALL) meetings. Initiated by Georgetown University, these meetings gather residents to iron out problems and issues with our student neighbors. Another group that meets to discuss mostly university matters is the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA); Barbara

Zartman keeps us up to date on those issues. By the way, both the ALL and BZA meetings are open to all residents. The dates are always listed on the community calendar in the CAG Newsletter and on the CAG website.

The CAG board is also represented on an advisory group working with Western Development on the renovation of Georgetown Park. Seth Kirschenberg attends meetings with the developers, airing community opinions on the upcoming major project.

And of course, all the statistics, reports, documents and discussions that follow these meetings, are sliced, diced, juggled and coordinated by our efficient and ever-capable Executive Director, Betsy Cooley.

The Citizens Association of Georgetown is indeed involved.

Denise R. Cunningham



(left to right) Denise Cunningham with Councilman Jack Evans, ANC2E Chair Ed Solomon, Ruth Werner and Betsy Cooley at the CAG Open House.

The Washington Canoe Club

The Washington Canoe Club (WCC), a private club run by its own members, is located at 3700 Water Street, underneath and slightly to the West of Key Bridge. Founded in 1904 by members of the Potomac Boat Club, which was adjacent to the WCC, the striking clubhouse was designed by architect Georges P. Hales. It is said that the building was erected by the members themselves, using lumber from burned down barns. The membership at that time was capped at 100 people and funds for the building were raised through benefits and dances. In addition to canoeing, early sports at the Club offered wrestling, boxing, swimming, bowling, and water polo.

Viewed from the river, the clubhouse is a handsome five-part shingle-style building, anchored at either end by towers and covered by a hipped roof. The overall look of the building is distinctive, with its dark green frame building and white windows and woodwork. The interior is

handsome, yet simple with a ballroom, a grill room and a board room.

The Club was one of the pioneers of Sprint/Kayak racing in Olympic competition. It has been involved in qualifying athletes for Olympic Games, and counts distinguished Gold and Silver medalists in its membership. Designated as a Center For Excellence by the United States Canoe and Kayak Team, Olympians and Olympic hopefuls train on-site at the Club.

The Washington Canoe Club has a current membership of 200. It has been designated as a District of Columbia landmark, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Club offers Aquatic Memberships, Full Memberships and Member-in-Waiting Memberships. Call 333-9749 or visit www.washingtoncanoeclub.org for more information.

— Anne Emmet

Dumbarton Pharmacy

I dropped by the Dumbarton Pharmacy at 3146 Dumbarton Street recently, and was greeted by some very sad and unexpected news. After 39 years of service to the Georgetown community, the business will close. I spoke with Harold Sugar, who founded the pharmacy with his partner Bob Royce in 1968, and learned that a combination of things contributed to his decision to retire. First and foremost, he said, was his age. Although he doesn't look a day over sixty, he insisted that he had reached his eightieth birthday. He also said that, along with a desire to be free to do other things, he found dealing with insurance companies to be increasingly difficult and time consuming in preparing prescriptions, especially given his limitations on the computer. Harold assumes that Morgans Pharmacy's much younger proprietor is far more computer literate, and hence could be doing a more robust business. Confiding that he had never taken more than a week each year away from his business, Harold is now looking forward to seeing more art, listening to more music and enjoying time with his wife and children. A small consolation to me was that everything in the Dumbarton Pharmacy was half price, so I hurried to the nearest ATM...drew out some cash, and did some quick shopping.

It's sad to lose another Georgetown friend who not only provided a vital service for many residents, but did it with concern and interest and a personal touch. Dumbarton's prescriptions are being transferred to Tschiffley Pharmacy, but there is nowhere to transfer our loss.

— VV Harrison

BE SURE YOU'RE ON THE GEORGETOWN "GRAPEVINE"

Sign up for the Citizens Association of Georgetown's

Listserv: GeorgetownForum

The GeorgetownForum listserv is an online community bulletin board open to CAG members and non-members alike. Using e-mail, people who have signed onto the GeorgetownForum listserv seek and exchange information on safety, local events, local businesses and services, and items of importance to the neighborhood. The exchanges are moderated, so only relevant messages are sent to the entire listserv community. Up and running since April, over 360 Georgetowners are now actively involved.

Get lots of news and interesting tidbits early and often by joining at www.georgetownforum.com and just follow the easy sign-up instructions. You can also access instructions through the CAG website www.cagtown.org.

Block Captains

Continued from page 1

meetings for the first block captains at the CAG office and at her house.

Helen says “we’ve been thrilled to have many concerned residents volunteer because they see the need for closer communications next-door-neighbor to next-door-neighbor.” Block captain Diane Colasanto notes that “the grapevine is much more electronic than ‘in person’ these days. If someone’s car is

stolen, a quick email can get the news to neighbors almost instantly – at their home and at work.”

Block captains send notices from MPD, GU and individuals if and when messages are relevant to their block. The Cloisters block captain Bev Casserly says “We really want to know immediately if there is a mugging or burglary near our home.” These email chains also help neighbors put bits and pieces of information together as a crime or

suspicious activities occur.

The block captains also give CAG and the MPD invaluable feedback about what is of concern to their neighbors. This has really opened up the channels of communication. “It helps when you can get an email response directly from Commander Solberg!” said one block captain.

If you don’t see a block captain listed below for your block — we need you!

Below is the list of current block captains. We are actively seeking captains for the blocks not listed. Please call the CAG office (337-7313) or Block Captain Coordinator, Helen Darling (338-1353; helendarling@comcast.net) to volunteer.

Blocks	Block Captain	Phone	Email
1200 & 1300 27th St.	Rod Johnston	333-6749	RKJay@aol.com
1300 28th St.	Teel Oliver	483-7891	olivet1@verizon.net
1400 28th St.	Kathy O’Hearn	333-3401	Kohearn6294@verizon.net
1400 28th St.	Jennifer Rogers	625-7225	jenrog2002@yahoo.com
1200 29th St.	Craig Wilson	333-7534	cwilson@usatoday.com
	& Caroline Sculin	337-5236	Carolinesculin@aol.com
1300 29th St.	Javed Hamid	625-4767	javedhamid@comcast.net
1000 30th St.	Ray Kukulski	965-5710	raykukulski@cagtown.org
1200 30th St.	Anne Abramson	337-5246	Anneabramson100@yahoo.com
1400 30th St.	Virginia Poole	944-2753	vpoole@earthlink
1500 30th St.	Gloria Koenig	333-1974	gloriak@erols.com
	& Edith Schafer	337-4856	enshafer@aol.com
1000 31st St.	John Hopkins	333-8331	johnlhopkins@mindspring.com
1400 31st St.	Marcia Carter	337-2749	robinhillartist@aol.com
1500 31st St.	Marsha Ralls	342-1754	maralls@aol.com
1600 31st St.	Eileen Read	641-0779	eileen.read@verizon.net
1600 32nd St.	Brad Gray	338-1353	bgray1@comcast.net
1500 33rd St.	Patrick Clawson	302-1722	clawsonp@aol.com
1300 34th St.	John Salisbury	558-9181	weedram2002@yahoo.com
1600 34th (Bet. Q & Dent)	Mark Grayson	333-6298	mgrayson@pharma.org
1200 35th St.	Roberto Coquis	965-0275	RJCoquis@aol.com
1500 35th St.	William and Maral Skelsey	965-1338	billskelseyanc@aol.com
1600 35th St.	Barbara Zartman	337-6505	zartmanbj@aol.com
2900 N St.	Karen Morrison	363-5025	karen.b.morrison@comcast.com
3100 N St.	Rose-Marie Harris	965-8888	rmharris01@comcast.net
3200 N St. (to 33rd)	Edward Emes	333-7879	edwardemes@aol.com

2700 O St.	Diane Colasanto & Jerry Brown	333-0395 338-6363	dcolasanto@aol.com
2800 O St.	Cooby Greenway	333-2804	
3000 O St.	Sharon Lockwood	965-0455	sharonlockwood100@hotmail.com
3100 O St.	Kevin Delany	342-2118	delany.kevin@gmail.com
3200 O St.	Florence Auld	298-7176	fawomensclub@aol.com
3300 O St.	Jackie Pletcher	337-6767	jackieplechter@aol.com
2400 & 2500 P St.	Charles Silverman	333-3839	charles_aia@verizon.net
2700 & 2800 P St.	Bill McNamara	333-8325	wjmack13@comcast.net
2900 P St.	Henry Townsend	333-9343	bus.henry@gmail.com
3000 P St.	Virginia Poole	944-2753	vpoole@earthlink
3100 P St.	Georgine Anton	342-3888	Georgine.Anton @meredith.com
3200 P St.	Constance Chatfield-Taylor	338-3181	constance@fc-tv.com
3300 P St.	Barbara Downs	337-3373	otoobad@comcast.net
2500 Q St.	Christopher Beaumont	236-3930	2500QStreet@gmail.com
3100 Q St.	George Ombima		gombimas@gmail.com
3000 R St.	Cathryn Keller	333-3117	
3300 Dent Pl.	Myrlene Staten	965-0330	mastaten@earthlink.net
2700 Dumbarton St.	Perry Trimble	626-7010	perrytrimble@db.com
2800 & 2900 Olive St..	Craig Wilson & Caroline Scullin	(see 1200 29th Street above)	
1200 & 1300 Potomac St.	Sara Carroll	333-9037	saracarroll09@yahoo.com
3300 & 3400 Prospect St.	Catherine Miller	338-7509	CGoodrichMiller@gvaadvant.com
3500 & 3600 Prospect St.	Shannon Pryor	333-1208	shannolater@alumni.williams.edu
3400 Reservoir Rd.	Ron Lewis	333-4388	rblewis@bellatlantic.net
3300 Volta Pl.	Kim Betz	342-3193	Kim.Betz@mail.house.gov
3400 Volta Pl.	Warren Ryan	760-831-6998	Warrenryan3@gmail.com
The Cloisters	Beverley Casserly	333-8383	gypsy64526@aol.com

NEWSBYTES

The British School of Washington will be relocating to 2001 Wisconsin Avenue and opening soon...RH Studio store on M Street has closed...Restaurant Chez Mama San has also closed...Effective Wednesday, January 2, the Georgetown DMV Service Center (3222 M Street, NW) will begin a Tuesday through Saturday schedule, 8:15 am to 4 pm; The center will no longer be open on Mondays.



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Rules for Painting Brick in Historic Georgetown

As a follow up to December's article on painting brick, we are providing the rules for painting brick houses in the Georgetown historic district:

If you own or rent a building that is raw brick, do not apply any paint or coating until you receive approvals from review bodies. No architect or consultant can provide you with this approval. Both the Federal Old Georgetown Board and the District Historic Preservation Review Board have a role in approving any changes.

If your house is unpainted brick and an individual landmark, you certainly may not paint it or re-point it without applying for and gaining formal approval from the Historic Preservation Review Board in the Office of Planning. DCMR Title 10A can require a building permit for painting unpainted brick on all properties within the historic district.

More fundamentally, the Old Georgetown Act vests in the Old Georgetown Board the ability to offer guidance to the Commission of Fine Arts on the color of the exterior of buildings in the Georgetown Historic District.

If your house is already painted, and if there is a conservation easement on your house, it is possible that it can be repainted in another

color if certain approvals are given. The easement holder must give permission for painting unpainted brick. Typically, a conservation easement is part of your deed and is marked by a facade plaque on your home. Easement holders in Georgetown include The L'Enfant Trust (www.lenfant.org) and the Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Georgetown (www.preservegeorgetown.org). In such cases, the easement holder must give the homeowner permission for changing paint colors or painting unpainted brick. Re-pointing and/or stripping paint must also be approved by the easement holder.

Both the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Commission of Fine Arts strongly discourage painting of unpainted brick structures in the historic district. The reasons given include making all buildings look homogeneous, losing the color and texture of beautiful old masonry, introducing jarringly incompatible colors, and the ongoing maintenance problem of keeping up painted masonry.

Keep in mind that, if a homeowner begins painting without proper permissions in place and concerns are raised, the work might have to be stopped and the paint removed.

Please contact the CAG office with further questions.

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Georgetown offers a senior citizen audit program for anyone 65 or over who wishes to attend practically any undergraduate course in the curriculum, except languages or science lab courses. Enrollment is at the discretion of the professor and subject to space availability. Call Professor Ann Ridder of the School of Continuing Studies at 687-5706 or visit her in Room 225 ICC to get the course list (literally hundreds of courses are available) and the sign-up information. It is ridiculously easy, particularly in these days of fussy forms and procedures.

My personal experience started last semester. I took a seminar, "Lincoln and the Rhetoric of Freedom," with about eighteen students, two graduate student assistants and a distinguished visiting professor. The material was excellent: key writings and speeches of Lincoln and Douglas, as they relate to biography, history and political science. Most enjoyable was my exposure to new frameworks through which Lincoln and the surrounding events were viewed and interpreted. Not that I necessarily agreed as to the validity of a particular analysis, but the adventure of the new was hugely exciting.

Questions? Please contact me at 337-3373 or otoobad@comcast.net.

—Tim Downs



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For program information email Newbie: pastcrafts@verizon.net

**A Labyrinth for the
Georgetown Waterfront
Park**

Through the generosity of the TKF Foundation in Annapolis Maryland, a labyrinth is being built in the Georgetown Waterfront Park.

Traditionally, labyrinths have been places of reflection, peace and tranquility. We are seeking people to serve on an informal committee to facilitate the use of this new community asset. Please call Barbara Downs at 337-3373 for more information.

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CAG Hosts First Annual Holiday Open House

Over 70 Georgtowners enjoyed festive food and spirits at the CAG Office Open House in December. Guests received complimentary Fred Maroon "Winter in Georgetown" prints and mingled with CAG board members.

Many thanks to Le Pain Quotidien for their donation of delicious desserts and to Whole Foods for providing two of the fruit and cheese platters.

—Tara Scopelliti
Secretary



Jim Wilcox toasts the season with Jennifer Altemus (left) and Victoria Rixey (right).



Seated left to right: Julia Diaz-Asper and Barbara Gordon visit with Santa and Bob Laycock.



Diane Colasanto and Ben Mast review their wish list with Santa (aka Rick Cunningham).



Santa and Davis Kennedy chat with Que Nguyen and her husband, Allan Wendt (on right)



(left to right) Bob Laycock discusses CAG with Idi Ohikhuare, Dr. Gail McCartney, Barbara Gordon.



(left to right) Ann Thompson, Theresa Burt and Milton Thompson enjoy the festivities.



Office Assistant Beth Nielsen answers membership questions.



Dorothea Capello (left) and Lucy Moorhead (right) at the CAG office.



Calling all antlers! Brenda Moorman (left) and Tara Scopelliti (right) enjoy a glass of champagne with Betsy Cooley (center).

CANAL ROAD PROJECT IS COMPLETE!

Major Improvements Made to Vital Corridor in Northwest



Councilman Jack Evans, Georgetown University President Jack DiGioia, Mayor Adrian Fenty and DDOT Director Emeke Moneme (pictured left to right) cut the ribbon to celebrate the completion of the new Canal Road entrance to GU on December 14th.

The \$4 million project widened Canal Road and created a functional intersection at the university entrance - with a

dedicated left turn lane for inbound Canal Road traffic heading into the university. Drivers can also now leave Georgetown University to make a left turn (except during morning rush hour) heading East onto Canal Road. New decorative "teardrop" lights line the median.

Developments in "Manhattan"

.....otherwise known as Rosslyn. Those living in Hoboken, otherwise known as Georgetown, and peering across the river will notice two new construction cranes peeking high above the Rosslyn skyline. These cranes mark the site of Turnberry Tower, a 313-foot high-rise, which is the latest 300+ foot building to be constructed in Rosslyn. Turnberry Tower is currently marketing itself as "THE Tallest, Most Luxurious Condominium On The Washington Skyline."

Elsewhere in Rosslyn, the last artifact of old Rosslyn is about to disappear. Tom Saris' Orleans House will serve its last customers next month. The restaurant, a Rosslyn institution for over 40 years, will be demolished, and be replaced by the tallest structure yet in Rosslyn: Central Place. Central Place consists of two buildings: a 385-foot office tower with an observation deck; and a 350-foot residential tower. The FAA recently gave the okay for the construction of the Central Place towers.

— Walter Groszyk



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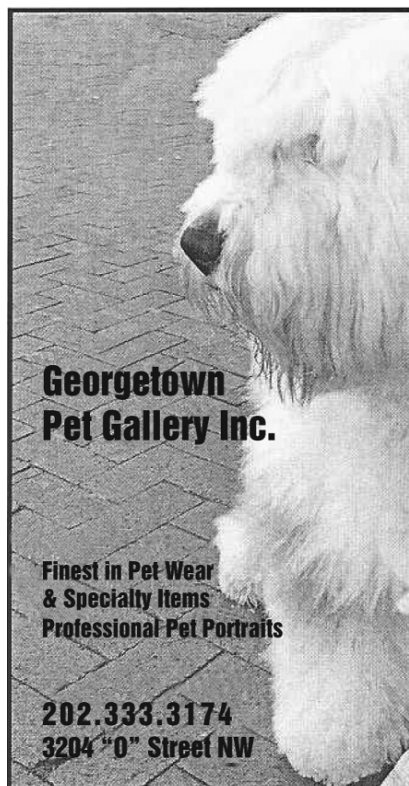
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202 337-7313

Fax: 202 333-1088

E-mail: cagmail@cagtown.orgWebsite: www.cagtown.org**JANUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR**

Wed. 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 338-7427 for more information.
Tues. Jan. 8	(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. Jan. 9	Nathans Community Lunch featuring syndicated columnist Robert Novak; Noon; call 338-2000 for reservations.
Sat. Jan. 12	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.
Sun. Jan 13	Embassy of Sweden Concert featuring classical guitar player Krister Dahlström; 4 pm; House of Sweden, 2900 K Street, NW; RSVP by Jan. 11 to rsvp-hos@foreign.ministry.se .
Mon. Jan. 14	Citizens Association of Georgetown Meeting featuring a program on Trash and Rodent Control; reception at 7 and program at 7:30 pm; St. John's Church Parish Hall, Potomac and O Streets.
Wed. Jan. 16	DDOT Transportation Study Public Meeting; 6 – 8 pm; St. John's Church Parish Hall, Potomac and O Streets.

Also throughout January:

Georgetown Public Library Children's Programs featuring :

- Story Time at Georgetown Lutheran Church on Tuesdays at 10:45 am, 1556 Wisconsin Avenue.
- Story Time at Firehouse #20 on Thursdays at 10:45 am, 4300 Wisconsin Avenue.