

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

VOLUME XXI / ISSUE 2 / FEBRUARY 2007

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

CAG February Meeting at Halcyon House Owner and Sculptor John Dreyfuss to Speak

The Monday, February 12th CAG meeting will be hosted by sculptor John Dreyfuss at his studio in the historic and beautifully renovated Halcyon House at 3400 Prospect Street. Following a short business meeting, Mr. Dreyfuss will lead tours of his house and the studio where he creates dramatic and often monumental sculptures using state-of the art advanced technology.



South side of Halcyon House overlooks Potomac

Halcyon House was built overlooking the Potomac in 1783 by Benjamin Stoddert, the first Secretary of the Navy, and additions were added over the years. But it deteriorated in the 20th century when the structure served as rental apartments. Mr. Dreyfuss acquired the property in the 1970s and totally and expertly restored the entire house and built a large studio underneath.

Park Service representatives will also be at the February meeting to give an update on the Georgetown Waterfront Park and show the newest scale model of the park design.

Co-Chair of CAG's very active Public Safety Committee, Luca Pivato, will also be on hand to demonstrate CAG's new, interactive local crime map. He will show how to

Next CAG Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2007

Halcyon House and Studio tour with owner/sculptor John Dreyfuss

Plus

- **Waterfront Park Update**
- **CAG Crime Map Demonstration**

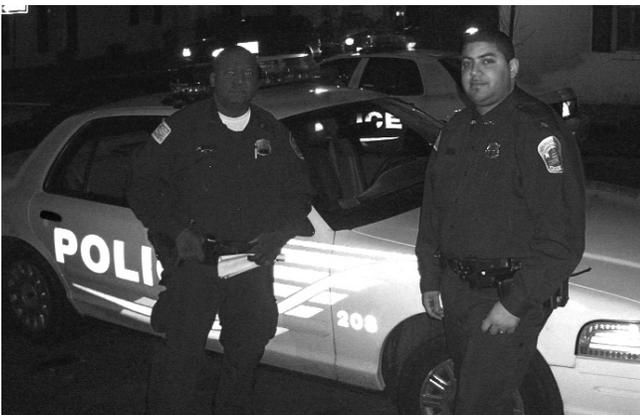
Halcyon House
3400 Prospect Street NW
(corner of 34th Street)

Pay parking available at Altman's Garage on east side of Bank Street (between M and Prospect Street), 1½ block from Halcyon House

access this user-friendly and instantly informative map.

Reception begins at 7, with studio/house tours by John Dreyfuss and presentations on the Waterfront Park beginning at 7:30 pm.

CAG and GU Pay for Extra Police on Weekends



MPD officers Lee and Bundy patrol residential streets on Friday and Saturday nights as part of the CAG pilot Public Safety Program. See article page 5.

INSIDE GC THIS MONTH

President's Letter	2
Aspects of Georgetown.	3
Trees for Georgetown.	4
CAG's Public Safety Program	5
CAG and GU MPD Patrol Map. . . .	6
Public Safety Program Form.	7
Waterfront Park Update.	9
Community Calendar.	12

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A recent editorial in the Georgetown Current commented favorably on the "reservoir of good will" built between residents and Georgetown University. This referred to the partnership between the school and CAG working to fund the pilot program that puts two additional police officers on patrol on residential streets during the weekends. We thank the newspaper for their tip of the hat and couldn't agree more with the importance of all of us working together. This spirit of cooperation is crucial, not only with the university, but with all Georgetown and District constituencies and institutions. And as we can see with the MPD program, it works.

This multi-partisan collaboration is happening on all fronts and we couldn't be more enthusiastic. Representatives from CAG, the ANC, BID, GBA, MPD and GU are meeting regularly on a wide array of issues and concerns. We are all working together to achieve an enhanced quality of life for all Georgetowners.

Public Safety Initiatives

Mayor Adrian Fenty and Acting Police Chief Cathy Lanier have made it quite clear that they believe the secret to success for enhanced public safety is also through partnerships. They call for communities to be engaged and pro-active in establishing preventive measures and to form a collaborative relationship with local police officials. CAG is at the forefront of active involvement.

The dynamic CAG Public Safety Committee, chaired by Luca Pivato and Rob Housman, has worked diligently to create, launch and monitor a greatly expanded program. The additional police officers, coupled with an enhanced Guard component, the reinvigorated Block Captain system and the user-friendly website crime map all dovetail into the overall District plans. The Mayor and Chief have said they will release customized community policing programs within the first 60 days in office. CAG, along with other community organizations, are working with Commander Solberg and Lt. Lucas to ensure the plan for Georgetown incorporates accelerated efforts to increase police presence on our streets.

If you haven't yet responded to the donation appeal

to help fund these pilot public safety initiatives, please do so now. Every resident has received a letter fully outlining the entire program and its financial needs. The donation form is also available on our website. It is extremely important that we donate what we can to this vital effort. And please do it quickly. The roving MPD patrol and Guard supervisor are only funded for a short time. They can only continue with your help.



Updates

Queries have come in about the status and resolution of the so-called "Apostles" house on 35th Street. The order to reduce the occupancy from nine to six residents was issued and complied with at the end of last year and a steep fine was paid. Noise and other violations will be addressed if and when they occur. We need to be mindful, though, that while this incident was more widely reported than others, there are other group homes that diminish the quality of life for neighboring residents. We will continue to urge cooperation from the university to keep unacceptable behavior at bay.

The Call Box restoration program is forging ahead. Five more boxes have been refurbished and are awaiting their descriptive plaques. If you've never taken the time to stop, look and read these, put it on your list. Not only are these handsome boxes a monumental improvement over the formerly dilapidated fixtures, they give us fascinating snippets of history and lore about our town. Hats off to Diane Salisbury, Ann Lewis and their Call Box Restoration committee.

Put February 12 on your calendar. The CAG membership meeting will be held in the art studio at historic Halcyon House. Owner and noted sculptor, John Dreyfuss, will showcase some of his monument-sized works and discuss the creative process. Waterfront Park representatives will unveil the latest model and we'll have a demonstration of CAG's interactive crime map. Quite a night!

— Denise R. Cunningham

NEWSBYTES...K Baby Store is closing on January 31...Kenneth Cole is gone; Steve Madden is closed temporarily for renovations... Just in time for Valentines Day, two (!) new chocolate stores have opened on M Street: Godiva and Belusha... to register your opinion regarding the multi-space meters on M Street and Wisconsin Avenue (a DDOT pilot program) take the DDOT online survey by going to www.ddot.dc.gov , click on "Parking," then click on "Parking Meter Online Survey Feedback," then click on "Multispace Parking Meter Online Survey" Dixey Liquor store at 35th and M, a virtual landmark in Georgetown reputed to be the biggest seller of beer kegs in DC, has closed suddenly after 52 years.

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

by Edith Schafer

THE HYDE SCHOOL

We hear a lot these days about the DC Public School system, and some of what we hear is the wringing of hands. But wait a minute. Here in Georgetown, we have an exemplary elementary school to which we can point with real pride. It is impressive and so is its principal. Going about our daily lives here we don't know as much about it as we should. We are simply unaware of what we have. It's time to pay attention.

The Hyde School, on O Street across from St. John's Church, was founded in 1907. It has been serving Georgetown's kids for 100 years. A comprehensive school for students in Pre-K through Fifth Grade, Hyde's average enrollment is 175 students.

Until segregation was abolished in 1954, Hyde served only white children in the neighborhood. There was a large African-American population here; those children went to the two schools built for them: Wormley on the West side and Phillips on the East side. After segregation was lifted, students from any part of the city could enroll in any school of their choice. Many chose Hyde because of its academic excellence and small size.

This has never been more true than today. Two open houses during this school year have drawn about

25 interested families. While most do come from the neighborhood, there is an out of boundary process for those outside the area, as well as a site-based lottery. There is a long waiting list for the "out of boundary" children. Hyde is not part of the city-wide lottery because it is in a special category as a demonstration school.

What makes Hyde so impressive? It uses the Reading and Writing methodology developed at Columbia University as the core of literary instruction. Hyde has become a model school for this teaching method and the use of the Responsive Classroom. Educators from across the District come to observe and learn these practices. In the Reading Workshop, students learn to talk, think, and write about their reading and to live richly literate lives. In the Writing Workshop they learn to observe their lives and the world around them; to collect, draft and revise narrative and expository texts. Every child has a story to tell, and in this writing-centered curriculum they learn how to tell it.

Behind Hyde is the old Addison School, currently undergoing the process of abatement — removal of toxins and renovation. It will provide additional space so the school can address the needs of gifted and

talented children and those with learning disabilities. These children may be integrated into the regular school program, with some additional assistance. Schools have come a long way in dealing with these bright children who are full of promise, but need to learn in different ways.

The new principal is impressive indeed. Dana Nerenberg graduated from Duke University with a Bachelors degree in History and Public Policy. She then joined Teach for America, a national teacher corps of recent college graduates who commit to serve two years in under-served schools — urban or rural. She was sent to the front lines in Indianola, Mississippi. It was that experience that hooked her on teaching and education. She subsequently received a Masters in Education at Johns Hopkins.

Before coming to Hyde, Dana was Assistant Principal at Amidon in Southwest, DC where she served as part of New Leaders for New Schools. Dana Nerenberg wants to reach out to the community, and we should want to reach out to her and to Hyde. Despite everything you may have heard about the DC Public Schools, we have something special here.

—Edith Schafer

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Trees for Georgetown at January Meeting

CAG's new president, Denise Cunningham, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and commended Victoria Rixey for her stalwart and steady leadership. Denise noted that Victoria will continue on the CAG board as past president and has agreed to be program chair.

Denise and her husband Rick moved to Georgetown six years ago. Her philosophy is that by fixing the little things, big things will happen. She advocates practicing common courtesies to improve the quality of life in the village; CAG will focus on items such as cleaner streets, pedestrian safety, noise issues, and street vendor enforcement.

Denise summarized CAG's Public Safety Program (see article on page 5). She urged residents to "give what you can, as your participation is vital to the trial programs continuing at CAG."

Explaining that the CAG board would like more member input on issues of concern, Denise asked those in attendance to "tell us what's on your mind." Comments ranged from the conditions of residential street lights, to who is responsible for cleaning the curbs and gutters on residential streets, to new construction at Old Glory Restaurant.

Sean Howard, Mayor Fenty's community outreach coordinator for Ward 2, addressed the meeting. He

explained that, in reference to the streetlight issue, residents' calls to 727-1000 are logged into the system and assigned a case number. In the event no action is forthcoming, Georgetowners should email Sean at sean.howard@dc.gov with the tracking number, and he will provide followup assistance. Mr. Howard will also be attending future CAG meetings.

Denise recapped the history of Trees for Georgetown, which has operated under the auspices of CAG for almost 20 years. "Trees" has planted over 1000 street trees, provided watering trucks, and inoculated trees against Dutch Elm disease. Denise introduced Betsy Emes, chair of Trees for Georgetown, who announced that 120 trees will be planted this year. Betsy introduced panelists: Mark Buscaino, Executive Director, and Holli Howard, Data Gathering & Analysis Director, both from Casey Trees; John Thomas, Associate Director, DC Urban Forestry Administration (UFA); and Glen O'Glivie, President and CEO of the Earth Conservation Corps.

Mr. Buscaino said Casey Trees was created in 2001 in response to the declining tree canopy in DC. Referring to Georgetown, Mark suggested planting a variety of types of trees in the future (the streets now have over 60% maple trees), and avoiding female ginkgo trees. He said Georgetown has a very good

tree population, and 90% of the street trees are doing well in boxes.

Holli Howard explained that the detailed Casey Trees survey, done in the Spring by diligent Trees for Georgetown volunteers, provides an inventory and baseline for Trees for Georgetown. The inventory indicated 120 empty tree boxes, which have been tagged and will be filled in January and February. She cautioned against putting other plantings in the tree boxes, which can be detrimental to the trees.

Glen O'Glivie said the Earth Conservation Corps is a nonprofit youth development and environmental organization started in 1989 to get "hard-to-reach" young people involved in restoring the environment. The Corps has worked at cleaning up the Anacostia River and its adjoining communities.

John Thomas of the DC Urban Forestry Administration said the three arborists assigned to Wards 1 and 2 are training the Earth Conservation Corps in the care of trees. He reiterated the importance of the collective work by Trees for Georgetown, Casey Trees, and the Earth Conservation Corps.

Mr. Thomas answered many questions from the floor. He said the height limitation of borders around tree boxes is 18" and should only be three-sided, with no border on the street side. He believes that other plantings in tree boxes take nutrients and water from the trees, which are already struggling to survive in a limited space. He emphasized the importance of having the earth level in tree boxes, as trees have trouble re-establishing themselves if the soil level is raised. He will follow-up on questions asking who is responsible for taking care of the trees near the Papermill and the Addison School, as well as the tree at 29th and P Streets. Residents from those areas have not received responses to their inquiries. In response to an inquiry on the removal of the female ginkgo



(left to right) John Thomas, Glen O'Glivie, Betsy Emes, Mark Buscaino, Holli Howard, address the January CAG meeting.

Continued on page 8

CAG's Expanded Public Safety Program Needs Your Help Now!

An engaged, vigilant community is vital to preventing crime

In response to wide-spread community concerns about public safety, CAG has broadened its Public Security Program. The expanded program is based on the premise that working together we can have:

- more police presence
- increased Guard surveillance
- immediate information about crimes
- better communication among neighbors
- stronger advocacy with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and elected officials for police resources in Georgetown.

INCREASED SECURITY ACTIONS

CAG has started two pilot programs to expand the police and security presence on our streets and organized additional projects to enhance residents' safety.

Metropolitan Police Department Special Police Patrols: Working with Georgetown University, CAG is funding two additional police officers who patrol our streets on week-end nights. These additional officers patrol by car (or when possible, scooter) to increase their visible presence and enable them to interact with residents. They are also in touch with CAG Guards via dedicated GPS "Walkie-Talkie" phones. This effort significantly increases the MPD police presence in Georgetown during high-crime periods. If CAG receives sufficient financial support from the community, the extra MPD patrol will continue.

CAG Guard Supervisor and Patrol Car: On a trial basis, CAG has enhanced the longstanding Guard Program. A supervisor and a patrol car have been added to our Guard contingent, which increases the Guard presence, ensures that the

other guards are being deployed effectively and are working at maximum effectiveness. This increases the Guards' ability to communicate with the police and adds a highly mobile rapid response capacity to the program. If CAG receives financial support from the community, the Guard supervisor and patrol car will continue beyond February.

CAG Guards on foot patrol: The CAG Guards are trained uniformed officers provided under contract by the respected international Securitas Security Services Inc. (formerly Wells Fargo/Pinkerton). The Guards patrol on foot during evening and nighttime hours, five days a week, looking for problems and reporting suspicious activity to the police via cell phone. CAG Guards wear reflective vests over their official Securitas uniforms and provide a visual deterrent to crime as well as providing alert "eyes and ears" for our community. They carry flashlights and cell phones, but are not armed. The Guards are familiar with the comings and goings around Georgetown and have been successful in reducing robberies, burglaries and muggings. The CAG Neighborhood Guards check in repeatedly with magnetic wands at numerous points on their rounds so Securitas and CAG can monitor their "beats" electronically.

CAG Guards Provide Personalized Service: Residents who donate to the Public Safety Program can request personalized services from the Guards: they will escort residents (and/or their guests) between home and car or to neighborhood engagements and they will also check house doors and parked cars and remove newspapers from your doorstep when you are away. Every donor receives detailed program information including a CAG Public

Safety Program window sticker, and the Guards' cell phone numbers and duty hours, so you can contact them directly at any time. Our CAG Guards will visit in person at your home, if requested.

Working with the Metropolitan Police Department leadership: CAG's Public Safety Committee has been working with the leadership of our MPD Second District to achieve more community oriented and strategic policing in Georgetown. Our proactive discussions with Commander Andrew Solberg and Lt. Lucas have been very productive. Several members of CAG's Public Safety committee have expert knowledge regarding best policing practices and will work with MPD officers to move ideas to actual implementation on our streets. Incoming Chief Lanier has already expressed her support for greater community-oriented policing tactics throughout the MPD. Our goal is to work with the new Chief to have Georgetown serve as a model for enhanced policing strategies.

Public Safety Block Captains: CAG has re-activated the Block Captain program to provide central contact points for information on public safety, block by block. Block Captains are being recruited throughout the entire Georgetown area and the first two groups have met for orientation with the Public Safety Committee, MPD officers and CAG Supervising Guard Officer. They in turn contact their immediate neighbors to improve the security on their blocks — via meetings and/or email. Block Captain coordinator, Helen Darling, aims to have a block captain on every block soon.

More Immediate Information and Alerts: Public Safety Co-Chair Luca Pivato 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). This 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 PDA devices.

Paying for it — the price of Increased Security

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 cover the first three months of the pilot programs. Over 25 CAG volunteers have spent many hours maintaining, planning and improving programs. But to continue the expanded police and guard coverage, we need to raise very substantial revenues soon.

DONATIONS ARE NOW TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

The good news is that, for the first time, donations to the Public Safety and Guard programs are completely tax deductible. We are 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. We urge you to join other Georgetown residents in meeting this important challenge. Please see the Contribution Form on the next page.

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CAG Expanded Public Safety Patrol Area



 **Patrol Area**

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Reminder: All donations are now tax deductible. For example a \$500 donation is now equivalent to \$300 in after tax dollars, assuming a combined federal and DC tax rate of 40%.

- Yes, I/we will be a **GUARDIAN** of safety in Georgetown by making a tax-deductible donation of \$5000 for the expanded program in 2007
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I/we would like to have my name listed as a supporter of the CAG Public Safety Program

I/we would like the CAG Guard to call to arrange a brief visit at my/our home

I would like to learn more about becoming a Public Safety Block Captain

CAG welcomes your comments and suggestions: _____

Please send this form with payment to Citizens Association of Georgetown,
Suite 200, 1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007 or fax to 202-333-1088.

DDOT Traffic Advisory—
Canal Road Widening Project
 Construction work near the Georgetown University entrance on Canal Road from January through August 2007 is scheduled Monday-Friday from 7 am to 5 pm. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions during morning and evening rush hours (from 6 am to 10:15 am and 3 pm to 7 pm). Occasional weekend work is also possible.

DC AARP Tax-Aide
 Free tax assistance and preparation for taxpayers with low- and middle-income, with special attention to those age 60 and older, is available from February 1 through April 17, 2007 at:

Guy Mason Recreation Center
 3600 Calvert Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20007-1830

Hours:
 Wednesdays and Fridays — 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
 Saturdays — 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

You do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service. To ensure an accurate return, taxpayers should bring: last year's tax return; copies of all W-2s, 1099b forms and proof of other income; social security cards; valid picture ID. Call 1-888-AARPNOW for more information.

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January Meeting
Continued from page 4

trees, John outlined the permit process: over 90% of the block's residents must sign a petition for the tree to be removed. He also noted that the UFA is awaiting results of the first year of injecting ginkgo trees to curb the problem. Asked about the buttressing roots around a tree box, the panelists said the roots

should be left exposed and not covered with soil and mulch.

Denise and Betsy thanked the very informative panelists for their comments and numerous informational brochures. A large map of Georgetown's current — and future — trees was also displayed.

—Tara Scopelliti
 Secretary

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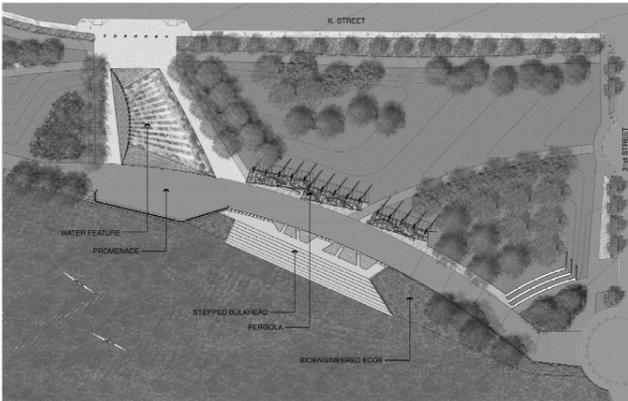



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Georgetown Waterfront Park Update



An overview of plan for Phase 2, encompassing the area from Wisconsin Avenue to 31st Street.



The fountain at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue is a cool and inviting place to enjoy views of the Potomac River.

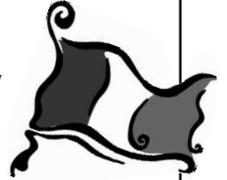


Vine-covered pergola provides shade for spectators enjoying crew races at the river.

Learn French This Summer

Fabienne Spier, Professor of French at Georgetown University Continuing Education, will be leading a small group on a Central France Hiking-Gastronomy-Historical Heritage Immersion Tour in July 2007.

Call 363-1414 or email spierf@georgetown.edu by February 28 for more information.



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

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- Thurs. Feb. 1 **Nathans' Miracle on M Street Celebration;** Multi-course Dinner featuring owner Carol Joynt Q&A by Channel 9's Dave Statter; 7 pm; Wisconsin & M Streets; \$75 per person; call 338-2000 for reservations.
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- Wed. Feb. 7 **"Patience Wept," a multi-disciplinary performance addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis, presented by Arts**
Tues. Feb. 8 **Creates Life and Duke Ellington School of the Arts;** 7:30 pm; Ellington School, 3500 R Street; \$15 admis-
Wed. Feb. 9 sion; call 333-2555 for more information.
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- Mon. Feb. 12 **Citizens Association of Georgetown Meeting featuring sculptor John Dreyfuss ;** reception at 7 and
program at 7:30 pm; Halcyon House, 3400 Prospect Street.
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- Wed. Feb. 14 **Valentine Romance at Tudor Place;** Wine, chocolate & musical entertainment; 6 – 7:30 pm; 1644 31st
Street; Members \$15/couple & Nonmembers \$20/couple; call 965-0400 ext. 109 or visit [www.tudor-
place.org](http://www.tudor-
place.org) to register.
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- Tues. Feb. 13 **(ALL) Alliance for Local Living Meeting;** to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and
students together at GU; 6:30 pm; call GU for details at 687-4056.
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- Sat. Feb. 17 **Dumbarton House Tea;** 11 am – 1 pm; 2715 Q Street; call 338-2288 for information.
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- Tues. Feb. 27 **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).
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- Tues. Feb. 27 **Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2E Public Meeting;** 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, George-
town Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; (agenda available at www.anc2E.com); call 338-7427 for more
information.
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