

# Georgetown C I T I Z E N S

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
of GEORGETOWN

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## Renowned Pollster Andrew Kohut addresses CAG

Prominent pollster Andrew Kohut — founder of Princeton Survey Research Associates and former President of the Gallup Organization — and now president of the Pew Research Center, will speak at the CAG April 14 meeting. A highly-regarded independent commentator on the interpretation of opinion polls, he will share his insights with us regarding the tumultuous party primaries and presidential election.

Kohut, a resident of O Street, often comments on public opinion for news programs including the *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer. He has written widely about public opinion for leading newspapers and magazines, as well as for scholarly jour-



nals. He is a frequent op-ed essayist for *The New York Times* (e.g. why the pre-election surveys in New Hampshire were wrong) and has been a regular columnist for the *Columbia Journalism Review* and AOL News.

Kohut has co-authored four books, including mostly recently, *America Against the World* which was based on an unprecedented survey of world opinion—more than 91,000 respondents in fifty nations — to determine how and why the view of America has changed. Another book, *The Diminishing Divide: Religion's Changing Role in*

## Next CAG Meeting features Pollster, Author and Commentator Andrew Kohut

**Monday, April 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

*American Politics*, explores the increased influence of organized religion in American affairs.

We are delighted that our friend and neighbor — and Rose Park tennis regular — Andy Kohut will speak to CAG on these especially timely and relevant topics. Please join CAG as we hear from this illustrious Georgetown.

## L2L Soiree Kicks Off CAG Concerts

The kickoff party for CAG's Summer Concerts in the Parks will be at the hip new L2 Lounge next to Leopold's in Cady's Alley on Thursday evening, April 17 from 6:30-8:30. L2L, a European style club opened recently by developer Anthony Lanier, provides an intimate gathering place for private and corporate members. The kickoff party invitations went out last week; tickets are \$125 per person and attendance is limited. Concerts chairs Elizabeth Miller and Jennifer Altemus suggest you RSVP

quickly to get in on the fun at the ultra swank L2 Lounge at 3315 M Street.



Photo by William Knight

For the sixth year CAG concerts will be bringing all ages of the Georgetown community together to socialize and enjoy live music — from country and swing to rock and roll — performed in our lovely parks. This year the concerts will be held on Sunday, May 18th at 5 featuring the Junkyard Saints in Volta Park ([www.junkyardstains.com](http://www.junkyardstains.com)); Sunday, June 22 at 5 with Billy Coulter ([www.billycoulter.com](http://www.billycoulter.com)) in Rose Park; and Sunday, July 13 at 5 featuring a Reggae band in Volta Park.

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

**M**uch press is given to all the issues and initiatives our CAG committees take on. And rightfully so. But the behind the scenes advocacy work that reaps immeasurable benefits for the whole of Georgetown and indeed, the entire District, sometimes goes quietly unnoticed. It is a very important part of our association's mission, and many people pour endless time and energy into supporting causes and righting wrongs.

Anyone who attended the public meetings for the Georgetown Transportation Study will understand why we have been actively seeking some drastic changes. A letter was sent to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) expressing our concerns that the study does not seem responsive to some real congestion problems in Georgetown, like the daily back-up of rush-hour traffic on 33rd, 34th and 35th Streets. We have also expressed grave concerns over the format currently being used at these public meetings which does not allow for a public question and answer period.

We've contacted the DC City Council airing our thoughts on the constantly deteriorating trash and recycling pickup service. We've thrown our support behind the upcoming new streetscape plans for Hyde School that will greatly enhance that area. And as this is being written, we are analyzing the impact of the planned discontinuation of the Circulator buses on Wisconsin Avenue and will forward our recommendations to Emeka Moneme, Director of DDOT.

Sometimes we win...sometimes the best we can do is put a stake in the sand for the next round. You may recall, CAG along with the ANC filed a formal protest against Morton's adding outdoor seating to their restaurant on Prospect Street. We pleaded before the Alcohol Beverage Review Board that the area was over-saturated and was adversely impacting the quality of life for surrounding residents affecting peace, order, quiet and pedestrian and vehicular safety. The ABC board recently issued its ruling and granted Morton's the 34-seat outdoor summer garden. They did suggest though that our testimony was credible and said the board would be willing to consider a moratorium request to limit any future outdoor or indoor seating increases in Georgetown Court. We will be following up on that suggestion.

**Branding CAG**

While our hardworking staff, board and committee members and all our volunteers are doing a monumental amount of heavy lifting on a broad spectrum of topics, we are also working harder to enlist new members and hopefully entice increased awareness and participa-

tion through better marketing of the organization. You will be seeing a growing number of CAG "reminders" very shortly.

Past President and architect, Victoria Rixey, is working on new, more prominent signage for our office building. The current sign is tired and barely visible.

The new one will better identify our location and reflect the stature of the organization. Executive Director, Betsy Cooley has developed a vivid, lively new membership brochure that will soon be out and our Merchant Priority Cards have taken on a whole new look.



**Mark Your Calendars**

The upcoming weeks are jammed packed with opportunities to support your favorite causes and attend some fabulous parties.

The Concerts in the Park Kick-off party will be held on April 17 at L2L, the cool, sleek, new lounge in Cady's Alley. This spirited event helps produce the wonderful Sunday afternoon summer concerts that in a short five years have become a Georgetown tradition. This year's concerts are scheduled for May 18, June 22 and July 13.

Trees for Georgetown will hold their annual fundraiser on May 8 at the beautiful home of Julie and Mike Connors. The funds raised on this one night pay for all the new tree box plantings in Georgetown and for tree maintenance, like watering during drought conditions. And this year there will be a new addition to every tree planted. Each new tree will have a sturdy iron border installed on three sides.

The April membership meeting will feature prominent pollster and president of the Pew Research Center, Andy Kohut, and at our May meeting, our 2008 awards for distinguished service to Georgetown will be presented by Councilman Jack Evans.

Quite a busy spring.

Denise R. Cunningham

**Georgetown Garden Club Tree Box Competition**

Tree boxes and front gardens, including pots and window boxes, will be evaluated for plant suitability, maintenance, care of tree and overall design.

The D.C. Urban Forestry Administration advises not planting ornamentals in a tree box with a newly planted tree until the tree is well established (two to three years). In order to comply with this recommendation, tree boxes with trees planted this year will not be included in the competition.

Prizes will be awarded on both East and West sides of Georgetown. Look for the award ribbons. A list of prize winners will be available at the Georgetown Garden Tour headquarters at Christ Church, 31st and O Streets, NW on Saturday, May 10. For more information, call the Georgetown Garden Club at 965-1950.

## Sixty New Trees for Georgetown

**T**rees for Georgetown has completed its planting of sixty new residential street trees. At the request of the DC Urban Forestry Administration (UFA), we are also installing fences around tree boxes containing a new tree. The fences are handsome wrought iron, 18” tall, designed to let water in and keep dogs out. UFA believes that proper fences are second only to water in the fight for survival of our new trees. When it is time to start watering, ooze tubes, donated by UFA and the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, will be provided for each tree.

### Street Tree Care

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

### Water

Water is the single most important component of a young tree’s survival.

Do water twice a week, slowly and thoroughly, soaking the ground with 15-20 gallons of water a week. Start watering when new leaves appear in the spring. Continue watering, as needed, until the leaves drop off in the fall.

Don’t overwater. Pull mulch away and test soil with your finger — if it is wet, do not water.

### Protection

Dog urine is very caustic to both the bark and roots of a tree and as it accumulates in a tree box, it will often kill the tree. 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 insects or disease pathogens.

Do provide your tree box with fencing. Fencing should be at least 18 inches high and installed on only three sides (no fencing is allowed on the curb side), side portions set one foot back from outer edge of curb. Fencing should be minimal and not have an impermeable border at sidewalk level that would keep storm water from entering the tree box.

Don’t install railroad ties and brick borders as they encourage the addition of excessive dirt which can kill newly transplanted trees.

### Room to Breathe and Grow

Most of our beautifully planted tree boxes are actually harmful to their host trees.

Don’t install plantings in tree boxes with newly transplanted trees for at least two, preferably three, years. 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 root-

ing problems. Anything additional growing in a tree box steals water and nutrients from the tree. All this creates stress and jeopardizes the development of the tree.

Don’t over-mulch. Two to four inches of mulch is good; it will retain moisture for roots in the summer and keep them insulated during the winter. Adding more mulch inhibits the flow of air and water to the roots. More than two to four inches of mulch leads to long-term problems.

Don’t let mulch touch the tree trunk; it traps moisture which leads to cracking and sloughing of bark allowing fungus, insects and rodents to invade.

### Pruning

Trees must be properly pruned in order to survive. Many landscaping companies don’t employ certified arborists and consequently irreparable pruning may occur.

Don’t prune street trees without a permit.

Betsy Emes  
Chair, Trees for Georgetown

Mark Your Calendar: Trees for Georgetown Annual Fundraiser is on Thursday, May 8, 2008. Call 333-7879 for more information.

### CORRECTION

The following merchant should have been included on the March 2008 CAG Newsletter’s Priority Merchants List:

Bacchus Wine Cellar (1635 Wisconsin Avenue) 10% discount on all wines.



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## GEORGETOWN HOUSE TOUR

### An Interview with Frida Burling

I recently had the opportunity to discuss the House Tour with the delightful and hardworking Frida Burling, who has been the moving force behind the tour for many years.

#### **Q. How did the Georgetown House Tour begin?**

**Frida:** It was begun by ladies from St. John's Church over ninety years ago, led, I believe, by John Gill's mother...we think it may be the oldest in the nation.

This money is distributed by our church, St John's, to our various outreach efforts to worthy causes, mostly local and supervised. The House Tour therefore is really a community effort of Georgetowners helping raise funds for our needy... such as the Georgetown Ministry Center — which helps the homeless — and other organizations including So Others Might Eat, The Georgetown Senior Center, and Community Harvest and Bright Beginnings.

As I understand, at first attendees

rode around in a bus— for the cost of one dollar — while a parishioner pointed out who lived where. I have seen a brochure of perhaps thirty years ago, where Kay Graham and all the other important ladies had their houses on tour. It was THE social thing to do.

#### **Q. Can you tell us about the planning?**

**Frida:** I have only been working on it for about 20 or 25 years, but of course each year we try to have different houses, and we have a rule of not repeating the same house within five years. We made an exception for the home belonging to Hugh Newell Jacobsen, as he is such a special and acclaimed architect with a very popular house. Did you know it is featured in the current *Washingtonian*?

When I started with the Tour, it was on two days: six houses on Saturday and another six on Sunday, always followed by a delicious tea at the church on both days. The tea,

staffed and served entirely by volunteers, draws many people. Volunteers working in the houses help in many ways, like laying rugs and handling parking of cars in the Hyde School lot during the tour.

#### **Q. How has the tour evolved over the years?**

**Frida:** Each house is chaired by a hostess, assisted by a large number of "docents" in each room, who share interesting facts about the house, and also keep an eye on the treasures as well as the guests. We use a large number of volunteers, not only church people, but also friends of the owner or of the host.

Basically, we started showing the lovely old houses of fascinating people who lived here....increasingly, new, and usually younger, couples have moved to Georgetown—they often add glamorous sun rooms or state-of-art upscale kitchens, so there is a shift in emphasis.

Several years ago, we tried only one day — Saturday — for the Tour



**Pictured are two of the eight to ten homes which will be featured on this year's House Tour. Photos by Leslie Kamrad.**

and found that it drew as many customers as two days, plus it wasn't as tiring for the volunteers who, facing duty on a Sunday, were already worn out from Saturday.

**Q. Is there a Patrons Party every year?**

**Frida:** Another big difference was in adding a Patrons Party to honor those who open their houses and inviting all Georgetowners to an exciting party in a very special house that they might not otherwise see. Author Kitty Kelley was kind enough to hostess the first party, Sally Quinn and Ben Bradlee hosted the next year. Ellen Charles, C. Boyden Gray, the Rupps (in the Alexander Graham Bell house), Rick Rickertson, the Herbert Millers, and Bill Dean, among others, have all hosted successful Patrons Parties in their beautiful homes. The Patrons Party has grown to such a popular event

that it has outgrown most Georgetown private homes. This year, the party will be at 3323 P Street, the former Emmet house, now home of Bob and Mary Mottershead Moore, who have redone the house and added a beautiful glass room in the back. The Patrons Party has increased our profits immeasurably, and evolved into the first big spring gala for the village.

**Q. What's in store for this year?**

**Frida:** DOYLE NEW YORK Auctioneers and Appraisers is our corporate sponsor and for the past few years, they have added special treats to our festivities. This year, they are bringing Mario Buatta from New York to speak and sign his new book at a reception at St. John's Church's Blake Hall on Monday, April 28th.

— Tara Scopelliti

This year, the Georgetown House Tour is on Saturday, April 26 from 11 am to 5 pm. The afternoon tea at St. John's Church parish hall is from 2 - 5 pm. House Tour tickets, which include the tea, are \$40 per person when purchased by April 20 and \$45 per person when purchased the day of the tour. Visit the website [www.georgetownhousetour.com](http://www.georgetownhousetour.com) to order tickets.

The Patrons Party will be on Thursday, April 24. Call 338-1796 for details.

**Open-Air French Market on Book Hill April 25 & 26**

The boutiques of Book Hill (Wisconsin Avenue between P Street and Reservoir Road ) and the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) will conduct a French Market on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, from 11 am to 6 pm. This annual shopping extravaganza converts Book Hill of Georgetown into an open-air European market featuring items from antique home furnishings to designer clothing discounted up to seventy-percent. This festive shopping event partners with the Georgetown House Tour, DC Design House, and the Junior League of Washington's Downtown ShopAround

**Washington, DC DESIGN HOUSE  
April 19 – May 11, 2008**

The Design House, benefiting Children's National Medical Center, will be held at 3014 P Street, NW. The property is also participating in the Georgetown House Tour on April 26 and the Georgetown Garden Tour on May 10. For more information, visit [www.DCDesignHouse.com](http://www.DCDesignHouse.com).

**Open House at The Aged  
Woman's Home of Georgetown**

Tracing its beginnings to the years after the Civil War, the Aged Woman's Home of Georgetown provides a safe and free living environment to elderly women who would otherwise be homeless. The greater metropolitan area and Georgetown, through its churches, businesses, and individual neighbors, have shown tremendous generosity to the Home's guests throughout the years.

The Board of Directors invites the community to visit and learn more about the home and its history on Saturday, April 26 from 1 until 4 pm. The Aged Woman's Home welcomes neighbors who have supported the Home, and neighbors who may have walked by and wondered about the organization or the historic house at the top of the stairs at 1255 Wisconsin Avenue.

## Ginnie Cooper Updates CAG on Library Plans

**C**AG First Vice President Rob Housman opened the March 10th CAG meeting with the monthly “What’s On Your Mind” Q & A session. Members of the audience cited trash disposal and rat infestation concerns on Suters Lane, upper 31st Street, and Bookhill. In response to an inquiry about activists demonstrating in support of noise regulation legislation during the weekend, Rob said that CAG is willing to consider a resolution supporting such legislation. A question concerning the construction project at 28th and Q Streets, resulting in trucks parked on sidewalks, as well as graffiti sprayed on the sidewalks, was referred to the beautification committee.

DC Chief Librarian Ginny Cooper, Peabody Room Archivist Jerry McCoy, and representatives of the selected architectural firm, Martinez & Johnson, addressed the audience.

Featured speaker, DC Chief Librarian, Ginnie Cooper, provided background on the Georgetown library’s devastating fire last April 30th and showed dramatic posterboards, including a May 1st photo of the ruined children’s room. She noted that most of the damage was sustained on the west side of the building – where the roof of the children’s room caved in. Many items in the Peabody Room — located on the building’s east side —

were “by and large saved.” During the fire, a freezer truck was immediately ready to take materials from the site for preservation. Ms. Cooper spoke about the problems of sprinkler systems resulting in wet

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*“We now have an opportunity to do even more than before with the Library.”*

— Ginnie Cooper

books, which must be frozen in order to be preserved. Other photos on display illustrated the north façade circa 1935, the north façade during the April fire, and the West Reading Room circa 1935.

Ms. Cooper commended Frida Burling, who “helped in many many ways,” by spearheading a library renovation fundraiser featuring designer Bunny Williams, as well as giving “good advice behind the scenes” to the library staff. Anna Fuhrman, owner of the Proper Topper store, was recognized for her fundraising efforts selling t-shirts and CDs. She also thanked the

Friends of the Georgetown Library for their support and help.

The library has selected the Georgetown-based architecture firm of Martinez & Johnson in collaboration with the Seattle-based architecture firm of Hoshide Williams to design the renovation. The ten-month design phase, which includes a series of community meetings, will run until December. Cooper introduced Jim Riegel and Tom Johnson of Martinez & Johnson who told the audience about the firm’s work on historic preservation projects. Posterboards illustrated the firm’s operational plan for the Georgetown renovation. Ms. Cooper encouraged community input “before the architects actually begin work,” starting with a community meeting on March 12 at the Jellef Boys and Girls Club. There will be several additional community meetings, according to Cooper. The new Georgetown Library is expected to open in 2010.

Library representatives, Chris Wright and Archie Williams, passed out written information, including a questionnaire for people to indicate what they consider the most important and least important library services to be offered.

Ms. Cooper said that the redesign of the library will attempt to create a more unified space and that a community meeting room, confer-

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ence rooms, quiet spaces and study carrels are all being considered.

Volunteers have helped by xeroxing newspaper files, but many photographs (including Mary Mitchell's 1976 photo collection of every house in Georgetown) were damaged by water and need to be professionally treated.

He said leather books from 1797-1840 had sustained water damage, and restoration will cost \$500 to \$600 per book. The Library is considering digitizing documents for the future.

Questions from the floor addressed: The possibility of incorporating specialized subject areas such as architecture and historic preservation into the new library; the possibility of expanding the space for the Peabody Room; the footprint of the new library compared with the old; and potential sites for the interim library. Five locations for the interim library are being considered, the most likely being at or near the Jellef Boys and Girls Club.

Ms. Cooper urged residents to help plan the new Georgetown library by attending one of the upcoming community meetings. Or,



**Addressing the March meeting, Peabody Room Archivist Jerry McCoy reported that 400 boxes of Peabody Room items (weighing 9000 lbs.!) are being housed in the basement of the MLK Library.**

email comments to Georgetown-CommunityFeedback@dc.gov. For more information visit [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org). DC Library leaders want to know Georgetowners' "hopes and dreams" for this cherished community asset.

— Tara Scopelliti  
Secretary

**Hidden in Plain Site:  
Jackson Art Center**

On Sunday, May 4, the Jackson Art Center — home to many Georgetown artists — will host Spring Open Studios from Noon to 5 pm. This semi-annual Open House showcases the work of artist members, including paintings, photography, ceramics and more. Located across from Montrose Park, at 3048 R Street, there is ample street parking.

Spend Sunday afternoon visiting with local artists, who will be showing and selling their work in the airy, high-ceilinged, century-old former Victorian-era schoolhouse that is now the Jackson Art Center. Food and drink will be provided by Whole Foods. For a sneak peek preview of the approximately forty artists' works, go to [www.jacksonartcenter.com](http://www.jacksonartcenter.com) Contact Lisa Neher for additional information at 703-698-9473.

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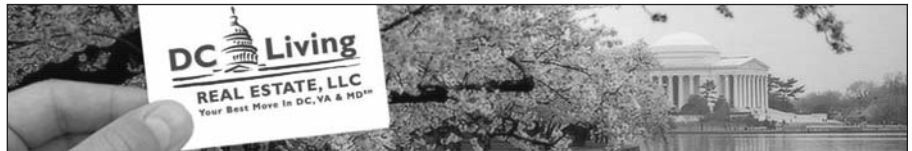
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## Call Box Restoration Project: Fits and Starts

The call box restoration project has been moving along by fits and starts during the past year. The 31 call boxes in our neighborhood were installed in the 1860s as a way of contacting the police or fire department, but for decades these historic structures were abandoned and neglected. The CAG project restores and preserves the call boxes making them unique markers that highlight neighborhood anecdotal history.

### Starts: The Writers

Diane Salisbury and her volunteers have been busy researching and writing the anecdotal histories that will appear on the bronze plaques in each call box. Edie Schafer, Karen Cruse and Betsy Cooley have worked on editing the write-ups and the city has given final approval to over half the texts. Kudos to researchers/writers Tom Birch, Leslie Kamrad, Carrie Kirby, Anne Lewis, Jerry McCoy, Starke Meyer, Patty Murphy, Chris Murray, Trudie Musson, Barbara Porterfield, Edie Schafer, and Emily Stampiglia. They have had the challenging job of presenting history about the immediate neighborhood around each call box — in fewer than 300 words!

### Starts: Sponsors

Many people have contributed generously to the restoration project, adopting entire call boxes, during the last two years — individuals, families and businesses. Thank you to the following people who are making it possible to complete this unique project:

Bank of Georgetown  
Long & Foster Realtors,  
Georgetown  
The Carlson Family  
Pura, Rick & Siena Del Sontro  
The Charles Churchill Read family  
Christ Church, Georgetown  
Eastbanc  
Catherine Blanton Freedberg  
Georgetown University

Georgetown University Hospital  
La Chaumiere Restaurant  
Anne and Ron Lewis  
Martin's Tavern

Residents of 2711 P Street NW:  
William J. McNamara, Santos  
Jesus Gonzalez, Robert F.  
McNamara  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
Jerry & Emily Stampiglia  
G. Morris Steinbraker & Son, inc.  
Alexis Rubin

Other donors include Patrick Clawson, Bernard and Carol Cutler, Dayton and Julia Mak, Joe and Pat Leonardo, Janet McClelland, Starke Meyer, Philip and Karen Morrison, Helena Moynihan, Elizabeth Porter, John Remtzeppis, Roy and Mary Ryan, Neil Schechter, and Tudor Place.

Interestingly, sponsor David Steinbraker had a grandfather who, as a fireman, called in fires from the boxes. **We are still seeking sponsors for the final eight call boxes.** Don't let these be orphans! For a complete map of call box locations and a sponsorship form visit our website at [www.cagtown.org](http://www.cagtown.org) or call the CAG office to receive the brochure in the mail.

### Starts: Painting and Uprighting

Artist and sculptor Michael Ross did a beautiful job restoring and painting ten more boxes this past year. Compared to their previous dilapidated condition, this is an improvement in itself. After several years of requesting and urging, DDOT has agreed to straighten three badly leaning boxes.

### Starts: Four Prototype Boxes Completed

The house on the southwest corner of Reservoir and 34th was originally Hilleary's Grocery Store and the completely restored call box on that corner recounts the happenings at the corner store over the years. Ron and Ann Lewis hosted a reception to welcome Georgetown residents and

descendants of "Pops" and Flora Hilleary, to the completion of the stunning and informative marker on "Hilleary's Smiling Corner." The "Georgetown Heights" Call Box on R Street in front of the library has also been completed thanks to the generosity of Long & Foster, Georgetown. It highlights the history of the library and Dumbarton Oaks. P Street Residents William J. McNamara, Santos Jesus Gonzales and Robert F. McNamara sponsored the completed box at P and 27th Streets which describes Herring Hill; and, thanks to The Bank Of Georgetown, the handsome call box in front of Dean & Deluca recounts the markets at that location.

### Fits: Getting the Plaques and Plates Cast

The company we contracted with — one of the very few that casts bronze plaques — has been inordinately slow in making our final signs. We have been waiting for months and months and only recently discovered why: they have had a major contract for signage at the new baseball stadium. They now promise to get to our plaques "very soon."

So goes the "fits and starts" of the call box restoration project. With a little luck and the continued support and efforts of many in the Georgetown community, we will soon enjoy elegant and unique markers that inform us of our neighborhood anecdotal history.

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Sometimes the call box writers have taken a particular theme, as in the piece written for the call box at N and 29th Streets written by Trudie Musson and Diane Salisbury:

### EARLY AFRICAN AMERICAN GEORGETOWN

*Georgetown's first African Americans were brought as slaves to labor*



for the tobacco industry and for domestic service in the houses of wealthy tobacco merchants. Others came as freed men and women before and after the Civil War. Over time, in the face of laws and customs restricting rights of African Americans, a self-reliant community formed that was centered on the church. Mount Zion United Methodist Church, at 1334 29th, is the oldest of the four African American churches remaining in Georgetown. Founded in 1816, it was a school, a neighborhood meeting place and a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Land for Mount Zion was purchased from Alfred Pope, a prominent member of Georgetown's new African American leadership, who represented Georgetown in Congress in 1870. Originally a slave, Pope owned a wood and coal yard on 29th Street as well as real estate. By the 1920s, other African American businesses included an ice house on P Street, cobbler and tailor shops on O Street, the District's largest feed store, and three pharmacies. The three black doctors made house calls even when signs put out warned of scarlet fever, diphtheria or smallpox. On a smaller scale, stands offered lemonade, grapes from backyard vines and local figs.

Rose Park, at 26th and O Streets, included a playground where children of all races played. In 1945 the DC Recreation Department tried to restrict the park to African Americans, but residents defeated the attempt. Nationally ranked tennis players Margaret and Roumania Peters, known as Pete and Repeat, honed their skills at Rose Park. They went on to play at Tuskegee University, and won 14 national doubles championships. Occasionally the sisters played here with their friend, movie star Gene Kelly, who, in the 1940s, rented a house nearby.

Charles and Ellen Read are sponsoring this call box.

## A Beacon from Boston

One of Boston's largest property owners submits a report to the city annually detailing how its activities and its people impact the city. The report covers not only current operations, but sketches prospective changes that could impact the city in the future. The property owner is Harvard University, and the city is Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harvard's annual Town Gown Report presents a detailed census of the number of students attending the university, the number of students residing on-campus, and off-campus in private or university-owned housing, and the number of student cars garaged in Cambridge. Harvard presently houses nearly 100 percent of its undergraduates on campus, and has a goal of housing 50 percent of its graduate students in university-owned housing by 2011.

The report also includes a census of faculty and staff working, teaching, and residing in Cambridge; an inventory and map of all property owned or leased by the university; an index of the recent purchase or sale of real estate, as well as future plans for buying or selling property; the amount of payments made to the city in lieu of taxes, usage and permit fees paid to the city, and taxes paid on university-owned

commercial property; a summary of construction projects, completed, underway, or planned; transportation and parking strategies for its commuting staff; and a map of the routes of all university-operated shuttles and transportation systems.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology prepares a similar Town Gown Report for Cambridge, as do two smaller post-secondary institutions.

Might not such an annual Town Gown report from the District's universities be a useful document for DC's citizens and officials? Many who have worked with Georgetown University on its plan for development of its campus and its enrollment would find such an annual Town Gown report tremendously informative. Communities near other District universities share that view. Unfortunately, the standard for too many District campuses - including Georgetown - is to withhold much of this information.

— Walter Groszyk

[A copy of the most recent Harvard Town Gown Report can be found on-line at: [http://www.upo.harvard.edu/reports/towngown/TownGown\\_2007.pdf](http://www.upo.harvard.edu/reports/towngown/TownGown_2007.pdf). MIT's current report is also on-line at: [http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/cdd/cp/tg/tg2007/tg\\_2007\\_mit.pdf](http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/cdd/cp/tg/tg2007/tg_2007_mit.pdf)]

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## Georgetown Gets Sinkhole Relief

**G**eorgetown neighborhoods are getting an improved sanitary sewer system and relief from potential sinkholes. Sinkholes are depressions caused by the soil entering an underground utility, such as a sewer main. The sinkholes started to appear in Georgetown in late 2005, and immediate repairs were made as needed, but a comprehensive investigation uncovered structural defects in the aging sewer system from 29th Street to 31st Street, and from M Street to Avon Lane. The area was inspected visually and with television systems, which determined that 17 of the 29 combined sewers were defective. The age of the system is a major factor — some of the pipes are 100 years old.

The Georgetown Sewer Rehabilitation project was initiated and the design completed last year. The \$1 million project includes construction and rehabilitation of approximately 2,535 feet of the existing sewer system, excavation in four locations where pipes have been crushed, and rehabilitation of 28 sewer manholes.

Construction will begin this spring and is slated for completion by spring 2009. Work will take place from 7 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday. Water service may be interrupted for up to 20 hours during the repair process to prevent any use of water (even flushing the toilet) which would cause a sewer back up in the home. Residents will be notified at least 7 days in advance of this interruption. Temporary barricades will also be placed on sidewalks and roadways to reroute pedestrians. For further information please contact Pamela Mooring at [Pamela.mooring@dc.wasa.com](mailto:Pamela.mooring@dc.wasa.com) or 787-2089.

— Fanny Brito  
CAG Intern from GU

## SPRING CLEAN-UP and HAZARDOUS WASTE PICK-UP

**I**t's time again for Spring cleaning and CAG has two special opportunities for residents. The Georgetown Community Spring Cleanup, sponsored by CAG and Georgetown University, will be on Saturday, April 5 from 9 am to noon. Volunteers will gather at Volta Park (34th St. and Volta Place) for bagels, juice and coffee before spreading out to various areas of west Georgetown. All equipment, including gloves, will be supplied. This year, there will be four "Nifty Nippers" available for picking up cans and bottles without bending over.

After cleaning, everyone will return to Volta Park for a fabulous barbeque by the Georgetown Grilling Society. There are no better hamburgers to be had in all of Washington. Hot dogs, fixings and drinks will round out the fare. This is a family event for everyone, from youngsters to grandparents, and it's a great opportunity to get to know young GU students who come to help out.



**GU Grilling Society provided great picnic fare after cleanup.**

The rain date will be the next day, Sunday, April 6, from 2-5 pm.

The second opportunity for spring cleaning is on Saturday, April 26, when DC holds its Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Electronics Recycling Day. This is a



**2007 GU senior Joh Stebbins was a member of pickup crew for hazardous waste and electronics recycling last year.**

chance to clean out your basement of old electronics, computers, batteries, pesticides and paint. CAG will again provide a curbside pickup service for Georgetown residents. Go to [www.cagtown.org](http://www.cagtown.org) or call 311 for a complete list of the items which can be taken for proper disposal or recycling.

If you have items you would like picked-up, please contact Brenda Moorman at 333-5424 or e-mail [brendamoorman@aol.com](mailto:brendamoorman@aol.com) by Noon on Friday, April 25.

Please leave your name, address, telephone and/or email and a description of the items. All items must be at the curb in front of your residence by 9 am on Saturday, April 26. The Georgetown House Tour is also on Saturday, so we want to have all items off the street before the tour visitors arrive.

We urge you to participate in these community activities — the cleanup on April 5 and the hazardous waste pickup on April 26. Help keep Georgetown beautiful.

— Brenda Moorman  
Chair,  
Beautification committee

## Restoring Quaint Streets of Cherry Hill

**M**ichele Jacobson, a resident of Cecil Place and a new member of CAG's historic preservation committee, has led a very successful drive to restore the historic streets in the Cherry Hill Section of Georgetown. Doesn't ring a bell? Well, this fascinating area just below the canal includes a number of quaint blocks generally bound by Grace Street, Cecil Place, Water Street and Wisconsin Avenue. These streets were among the very first in the District and have always been used by people traveling to and from the waterfront. The two dozen row houses built in 1890 on Cecil Place and Cherry Hill Lane and the other 18th and 19th century buildings scattered through the area inspire visitors to imagine life during the time the canal and river were filled with barges and tall ships. In 1952, residents established their own Cherry Hill Citizens Association to improve and preserve the historic qualities of their unique area — a very wise move as major residential and business developments sprang up all around them.

While the houses on these intriguing blocks have been preserved, the streets were not. Inappropriate 30-foot tall freeway-style Cobra street lights were installed at some point and cement side walks — now chipped and deteriorating — supplanted the original brick walks. To the rescue came the current residents of the Cherry Hill Citizens Association who advocated for change, contacted transportation agencies and, happily, have recently been awarded Transportation Enhancement funds to restore the area's historic streets. CAG was pleased to support the grant request with the Chief Engineer at DDOT.

Plans include replacing the battered Cobra lights on Cecil Place with shorter, historically suitable street lights; replacing the existing concrete sidewalk with brick side-

walk and granite curb consistent with the rest of Georgetown and supportive of the historic setting; relocating the parking sign posts that obstruct the narrow sidewalk; cleaning up the ten-foot wide old cobblestone alley off of Grace Street to make it a more inviting and safe pedestrian path; and increasing the lighting on Cherry Hill Lane and the cobblestone alley to improve safety.

Michele explains that Transportation Enhancement projects, funded through the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), aim to "strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the Nation's intermodal transportation system." Since receiving the award, the Cherry Hill group has been working with DDOT which will design and construct the project that is scheduled to begin later this year.

What a success story! Congratulations to Michele and other residents of "Cherry Hill." We look forward to seeing the results.

**NEWSBYTES** The owner of Piccolo Piggies, Dahlia Neiss, has opened a maternity shop at 1522 Wisconsin Avenue called **Bella Momma**... Several new shops have already closed their doors: Setchi Ecoboutique on Bookhill and DC Art at 1259 Wisconsin...But, come Spring, look for **Vineyard Vines** to open at 1225 Wisconsin and a "New England-style lobster shack" called **The Tackle Box** to appear next to Hook Restaurant (same chef/owner) on M Street...Cupcakes are so popular now — Which do you prefer: the cupcakes at **The Cupcake Store** (1209 Potomac Street) or those at **Baked & Wired** (1052 Thomas Jefferson Street) or **Dean & Deluca**?...Welcome to Laura and Riccardo Bonino, the new owners of the **Griffin Market** at 1425 28th Street; their store will feature an upgraded selection of food and wine in a full-service market, plus expanded deli area to include prepared foods, when it reopens mid-April.

### C & O Canal Pride Days

The C & O Canal Trust is recruiting help to revitalize the C & O National Historic Park. From April 19 through May 10, volunteers will repair structures and help landscape the park between Georgetown and Seneca. To get involved, fill out the online application at [www.canaltrust.org](http://www.canaltrust.org) or call 301-714-2233 for more information.

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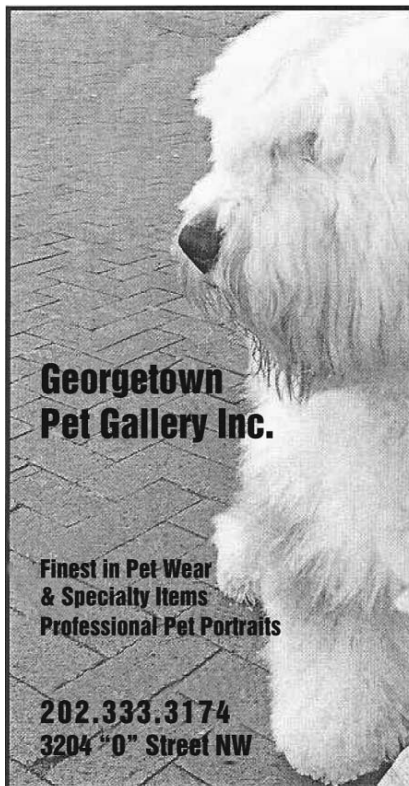
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## APRIL COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

- 
- 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](http://www.anc2E.com)); call 338-7427 for more information.
- 
- Sat. April 5      **CAG GU Cleanup Day** (see page 10).
- 
- Thurs. April 10    **Nathans Community Lunch featuring *The Washington Post* Executive Editor Leonard Downie;** Noon; call 338-2000 for reservations.
- 
- Sat. April 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.
- 
- Mon. April 14     **Citizens Association of Georgetown meeting featuring pollster, author and commentator Andrew Kohut;** reception at 7 and program at 7:30 pm; St. John's Church Parish Hall, Potomac and O Streets.
- 
- Tues. April 15     **April Shower of Flowers hands-on demonstration of flower arranging at Tudor Place;** 7 pm; nonmembers \$35, members \$28; 1644 31st Street; call 965-0400 for reservations.
- 
- Thurs. April 17    **CAG Concerts in the Park Kickoff Party** (see page 1).
- 
- Sat. April 19      **Rose Park Spring Celebration featuring pony rides, face painting, moon bounce, treats from Marvelous Market;** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm; Rose Park, P and 26th Streets; Visit [www.roseparkdc.org](http://www.roseparkdc.org) for more information.
- 
- Sat. April 26      **Georgetown House Tour** (see page 4 and 5).
- 
- Sat. April 26      **Hazardous Waste pickup** (see page 10).
- 
- Sat. April 26      **Annual Christ Church Georgetown Art Show;** Sat. 11 am – 4 pm & Sun. 10 am – 2 pm; Free admittance; & Sun. April 27    Corner of O & 31st Streets (entrance on 31st); call 625-0614.
- 
- Tues. April 29     **Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2E Public Meeting;** 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; (agenda available at [www.anc2E.com](http://www.anc2E.com)); call 338-7427 for more information.
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