

VOLUME XXVI / ISSUE 8 / SEPTEMBER 2012

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

Understanding and Helping the Homeless in Georgetown

ave you ever wanted to know the back story behind a particular homeless person? Have you wondered why there are people living on the streets in our prosperous community? Do you ask yourself if it "helps" to give money to these individuals? The CAG meeting on Thursday September 27 will feature a panel of experts who will give insight – and some answers—to these difficult questions.

Gunther Stern, Executive Director of the Georgetown Ministry Center for 22 years,

has organized our program and will open the panel discussion. Gunther has been at the forefront working with the homeless for 25 years. First in developing the assistance program at the Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring, MD and then developing the vital Georgetown Ministry Center and programs for Georgetown. Gunther divides his time between case management, program development, and staff supervision and training. He is particularly skilled at counseling and aiding people suffering from mental illness or drug/substance abuse. He will describe



Entrance to Georgetown Ministry Center

the structure of the GMC (supported by 14 churches and many individual Georgetown residents), its services (from showers and laundry facilities to activity clubs to support classes), success stories, intractable situations, and realistic insight into homelessness in our community.

The dynamic Dr. Ronald Koshes, who has been working with the homeless for nearly 20 years at GMC, as well as with SOME (So Others May Eat) and other programs in the city, will talk about mental illness in general and homelessness and how they are related. His

candid and entertaining style will convey the complexity and drama of homelessness.

Legal expert Brian Stettin, Policy Director of the Treatment Advocacy Center, will explain how changing laws regarding people with mental illness could bring about a solution to one cause of homelessness. As an Assistant New York State Attorney General, Brian conceived and drafted the original proposal of "Kendra's Law," land-

Continued on page 3

2012 Georgetown Gala: Putting on the Glitz at Russian Embassy



Russian Embassy ballroom.

he spectacular Embassy of the Russian Federation — with soaring ceilings, gilt architectural details, dramatic murals, and stunning chandeliers — will be the setting for the 2012 Georgetown Gala on Friday, October 26 from 7 until 11pm. Ambassador and Mrs. Sergey Kislyak, along with Senator and Mrs. Roy Blunt, Senator John Kerry and Teresa Heinz, Senator and Mrs. Joseph Lieberman, The Honorable Selwa Roosevelt, Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia, Mark Ein and Hugh Newell Jacobsen are honorary chairs for the evening. Hosted by the Citizens Association of Georgetown, the black-tie formal — and

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

elcome back! I hope you enjoyed your summer. I made it down to Bethany but that's about it. I love DC in the summer. I feel like I have the city to myself. Things with CAG slow down so we are able to do some advance planning and work on old projects.

Our biggest accomplishment of the summer is the implementation of our security camera pilot program. In response to serious and wide-spread community concerns about public safety, the Citizens Association of Georgetown broadened its Public Safety Program and installed security cameras throughout the residential community. Hopefully, the presence of these cameras will act as a deterrent to crime and assist the Metropolitan Police Department with criminal investigations. Right now we are focusing on the gateways into and out of the community but we hope to expand the program within the year. Georgetown resident, Bill Dean, CEO of M.C. Dean, Inc., has generously donated the cameras for our pilot program. His company will handle the camera installations and maintenance.

These cameras are just one of the elements our association has in place to keep us safe. Our private security guard program employs two guards in patrol cars who police our streets, escort residents home, check properties when residents are away, and work with the police to deter crime and track down criminal suspects.

We also organize a neighborhood block captain program which acts as "crime communication central." Our volunteers send notices to neighbors about matters relevant to their block. They quickly disseminate information if there has been a mugging or burglary in the area, and, through email chains, report to neighbors and police on crimes or suspicious activities. They give the police invaluable

feedback about what is of concern to their neighbors. This has really opened up the channels of communication which is vital in keeping the community safe.

Running the Public Safety Program is expensive but if we all share the financial responsibility at the highest level each household can afford, we will be able to sustain this comprehensive program. Donations to the Public Safety Program are completely tax deductible. People who have donated will be listed in the October newsletter. We ask each resident of Georgetown to give as generously as possible so that we will all be safer and more connected! See www.cagtown.org for more information.



New board member Michele Jacobson

Another exciting success for the summer is that Michele Jacobson agreed to serve on our board. A San Francisco native, Michele moved to Georgetown in 2003 in response to job demands and quickly became a fan. For about 30 years she has worked as an urban planner, mostly on rail transit projects and in US coastal cities. Currently she is part of a large team working for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority on the extension of Metrorail to Dulles International Airport. She is the mother of two daughters and a new grandmother. In her spare time she enjoys gardening and sculpting.

As an active member of our Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee,

Michele's insights have been invaluable. She lives south of M Street and will be able to represent the unique concerns of her nearby neighbors. In addition to her work on Historic Preservation, Michele has agreed to help Diane Colasanto and Brooke Carnot with the Membership Committee.

The Citizens Association of Georgetown Board works closely with other neighborhood volunteers on thirteen CAG sponsored committees which serve the community. These committees are open to any CAG member who would like to help make Georgetown a better place to live. We are actively seeking volunteers. There is always more to do and we love to get a fresh perspective on the issues. The current committees are Public Safety, Beautification, Alcohol Beverage Control, Historic Preservation and Zoning, Oral History, Membership, Finance, Transportation, Concerts in the Park, the Gala, Airports and Utilities, Georgetown University relations, and Trees for Georgetown. More information on each can be found on our website www.cagtown.org. If you are interested in helping with any of these please let us know.

And finally, an ongoing summer project is the 2012 Georgetown Gala which will be here before you know it. We are "Putting on the Glitz" at the Russian Embassy - Friday, October 26. We aim to make this magical venue even more glamorous. We have booked Big Ray and the Kool Kats to channel the Sinatra vibe - wear your dancing shoes. There will even be gaming tables where you can try your luck and win incredible loot (drive a Bentley for the weekend, stay at the Four Seasons with brunch the next day, dinner for 10 at Café Milano...). Be sure to save the date. Invites coming soon!

—Jennifer Altemus

Understanding and Helping the Homeless in Georgetown continued from cover

mark legislation establishing Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) in New York. Since joining the Treatment Advocacy Center in 2009, Brian has been active across the U.S. in fostering the creation of local and regional Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs and reforming states' inpatient commitment standards.

And we will hear personal accounts from several people about their experience with homelessness and mental illness in their families.

Grace Episcopal Church Georgetown, 1041Wisconsin Avenue, (just

down the hill from the intersection of Wisconsin and M Streets) is hosting the CAG meeting on September 27. The church was founded to serve the laborers, craftsmen, shopkeepers, and watermen of the Georgetown waterfront. It has a long history of supporting outreach programs to the disenfranchised of the community, and providing a spiritual refuge for everyone living and working in the Georgetown area regardless of their religious affiliation.

And music too! Come early to the CAG meeting and enjoy Music on the Lawn, a free performance taking

place every Thursday evening in September from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. On September 27th, writer and performer Holly Bass and her Jazz band will be playing. Her pieces have been presented at the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, and the Whitney Museum.

Please join CAG and Grace Church for the reception which will start at 7:00 pm and then hear from the well-versed panel at 7:30, followed by Q & A. It's bound to be an enlightening and helpful evening!

—Betsy Cooley

Schedule for Music on the Lawn

Music on the Lawn is a free event every Thursday evening in September from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the Garden of **Grace Episcopal Church Georgetown**, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue NW.

September 6: Sir Alan and the Calypso Ponzi Schemers

September 13:The Georgetown Chimes

September 20: The Larry Brown Jazz Quartet

September 27: Holly Bass and her Jazz Band

Guests are invited to bring picnic blankets, food and beverages; chairs will also be available. In case of in climate weather, the performance will be moved indoors.

Please contact the Grace Church Office at Office@GraceDC.org or 202.333.7100 with questions.

A Georgetown Story from the GeorgetownForum Listserv

Resident 1 (me) accidentally drops the memory card from his camera somewhere between his 32nd Street home and the CVS at 22nd and M. Retraced steps the next day with no luck. I despaired of losing photos that had never been downloaded or developed.

Resident 2 (unknown hero) picks it up, takes it home, tapes it to a piece of paper stating where found, and tapes the paper (with card) to a light post near where it was found.

Resident 3 (hero # 2, Ronda Bernstein) sees it, thinks (correctly) that it might be possible to use social media to find the owner. Takes it home, reviews content looking for identifying information, and posts a description of the contents on this listserv. Even though I'm a regular reader [of the GeorgetownForum], I missed it and she got no response. She looked further at the photos in the memory

card, saw something that included my wife's and my first names, included the names in a second listserv posting, and was flooded with responses, including from me.

Camera and memory card are now reunited and the photos thought lost forever have been downloaded onto my computer, which I'll endeavor not to lose on the street. Thanks to everyone who helped: Ronda, Resident #2 (please identify yourself!), and those who responded to Ronda's postings. What a nice neighborhood!

—Brad Gray



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2012 Georgetown Gala: Putting on the Glitz at Russian Embassy continued from cover

totally fun event — brings together over 350 residents, businesses, organizations and government leaders to highlight CAG's mission of historic preservation and improving the life of the community.

Gala Co-Chairs Nancy Taylor Bubes, Michele Evans and Patrice Miller and their committees have been planning all year for this *Putting* on the Glitz evening which will include Russian vodka & caviar, singers in top hats, ball room dancers, gaming tables, an elegant dinner, a live auction, and dancing to the debonair Kool Kats band.



The evening will honor Pamela and Richard deC. Hinds for their years of work promoting historic preservation and public safety in Georgetown.

A short but spectacular live auction will be a highlight of the evening conducted by popular Georgetowners — and spirited auctioneers — Joe and Pat Lonardo. Auction items include:

A week in a seven bedroom renovated 18th century house in the French town of Vence (compliments of Herb and Patrice Miller);

Scavenger Hunt Dinner for thirty guests from cocktails to a merry romp through Georgetown searching for clues in mysterious places followed by dinner in a private home;

A week in a two bedroom apartment in the historic center of Florence with a terrace with the ultimate view;

A one-week stay for two at world-renowned destination fitness resort and spa, Rancho La Puerta in Mexico.

Please contact the CAG office for sponsorship opportunities.

Invitations were mailed in early September and tickets are available online at www.cagtown.org.

Gala sponsors include Long & Foster Georgetown; Angelo Gordon & Co. and Vornado Realty Trust on behalf of the Shops at Georgetown Park; Nancy Taylor Bubes -Washington Fine Properties; Georgetown University; Jamestown Properties; The Levy Group; M.C. Dean, Inc.; MRP Realty; Western Development Corporation; Beasley Real Estate; Gregg Busch -First Savings Mortgage Corporation; EastBanc Technologies, LLC; Georgetown University Hospital; PNC Bank; Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.; Clyde's Restaurant Group; Creel Printing – Digital Lizard; Colonial Parking; EagleBank; The Georgetown Current; The Georgetown Dish; The Georgetowner; M&T Bank;

and Sprinkles Cupcakes.

NEWSBYTES

Duke Ellington School of the Arts will undergo an estimated \$82 million renovation and modernization project that will enhance facilities inside the historic building – and close the school for two years... A new lobster shack, **Luke's Lobsters**, opened at 1211 Potomac St. (the old Philly Pizza location) offering lobster and crab rolls and the signature blue monster ice cream cookie sandwich...**M&T Bank** opened at 1420 Wisconsin Avenue...Longtime M Street restaurant **The Guards** has closed....Plans for the reopening of the **Latham Hotel, Citronelle, and La Madeline** are still in flux... The **7-Eleven** at 2617 P Street has closed for expansion and will reopen in late September...

Meals on Wheels

hen food preparation becomes difficult, Meals on Wheels can help. For more than thirty years, Meals on Wheels has delivered two meals every weekday to Washington DC residents in homes west of Rock Creek Park.

Recipients pay \$41.75 for both a cold meal and a hot meal five days a week. The meals are prepared in a certified commercial kitchen. Monday through Friday volunteers deliver the meals to houses and apartments before noon. There is no delivery

charge for the meals.

Eligibility is not limited by age or health status or income or number of weeks of delivery. Some recipients order the

service for a short time during an illness or a recovery period. Many continue the service throughout the year.

Call Ward Circle-Georgetown Meals on Wheels at 202-966-8111 to order meal delivery, or to join the

> wonderful volunteers who provide the transportation. Please consider joining the volunteers if you can spare a few hours on a week day morning: from 8:30 – 10 am volunteers get the pack-

ages of meals ready for delivery to each route; and from 10-11:30am other volunteers (a driver and a visitor) deliver the meals to clients' homes.

Help Save Dumbarton Oaks Park: Become a Weed Warrior!

n 2010, the Dumbarton Oaks Conservancy was formed to restore the 27-acre Dumbarton Oaks Park, once part of the 53-acre Georgetown estate known as Dumbarton Oaks, to its original health and beauty. This park is a true Georgetown gem: meadows, woodlands, wildflowers, paths and waterfalls just off R Street.

Unfortunately, Beatrix Farrand's awe inspiring design has deteriorated significantly since the Park passed from private to public hands in 1940. The Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy, in partnership with the NPS, now seeks to bring this historic landscape back to its original splendor while also enhancing its modern-day utility.

Restoring the park is a rewarding labor of love. But it is labor. Some of that will necessarily come from contracted services and equipment. But as a "lean, mean" organization, the Conservancy hopes to achieve as much as they can through volunteer efforts. Here is how you can help.

• Become a "weed warrior!" Training sessions are scheduled every two weeks. The National Park Service provides all the necessary tools and gloves. This is NOT hard labor. They even provide cupcakes and banana bread at break time. And it is a chance to meet and talk with some very interesting people as you work side-by-side. You can get in

touch directly with Executive Director, Ann Aldrich, at www.aaldrich@dopark.org, or (202) 374-7259.

• Join one of the committees. Their individual agendas range widely to include fund-raising. engineering analysis of the park, grant-writing to seek foundation financial support, data base maintenance, and archival research on exactly what the Park looked like in 1940 to better establish a baseline for our restoration efforts.

The Conservancy has a wonderful website www.dopark.org. Check it out to see how you can help save the Park.





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CAG's Concerts in the Parks celebrated its 10th anniversary season in grand style this summer with three fabulous *festivals* featuring live music, arts and crafts, games, and more.

May 20 Concert was Pink and Green

Back by popular demand — Georgetown's own amazing singer and song writer Rebecca McCabe wowed the crowd with her acoustic, country, pop rhythms. The kids were on the stage with her again singing along and having a fabulous time. The "Pink and Green" theme of the concert, organized by Robin Baker, Danielle Dooley, Hannah Isles, Kathleen Jenkins, Amy Kuhnert, and Dima Zalatimo, raised breast cancer awareness and highlighted the importance of "living green." Concertgoers planted seedlings and decorated t-shirts. There was information about both the city's re-cycling program and local efforts in the fight against breast cancer. We even crowned the preppiest person in Georgetown selected from among the many who donned their best pink and green outfits. Sherman Pickey donated a gift certificate for the winner. Sprinkles donated loads of cupcakes, Haagen-Dazs gave away ice cream cones, and the **Ball or Nothing** food truck was on hand selling delicious gourmet meatballs.

Father's Day Fete in Volta Park

All Dads were called to Volta Park on Sunday June 17 for a special Fathers Day Concert organized by Leila Bremer, Renee Esfandiary Crupi, Alison Jia, Erin Mullan, Kara Sullivan, and Dorothy Williams. The Morrison Brothers Band's cool blend of southern rock, country, and pop filled the air as the annual Father-Child dance took place, won by the Father-Daughter team of Pat and Clare Burke. Families enjoyed sack races, t-shirt decorating contests, water balloon tosses, and the temporary-tattoo "parlor." Winners of the contests received prizes donated from Ace Hardware, Britches, and Vineyard Vines – all perfect gifts for Dad. There were picnics galore - including a very awesome one hosted by Nancy Taylor Bubes. But for those who did not pack a picnic, sponsors contributed lots of snacks: TTR Sotheby's gave out sno-cones and water bottles, Sprinkles donated cupcakes and Haagen-Dazs scooped ice cream cones for everyone!

A Red, White, and Bluegrass Bonanza on July 4th

Wednesday July 4th featured a Red, White, and Bluegrass Bonanza, organized by a team of volunteers including Sherry Cox, Erika Donohue, Jessica Heywood, Elizabeth Miller and Maryann Surrick. The Independence Day celebration began with a very patriotic parade around Rose Park led by Councilman Jack Evans. Kids and parents decorated wagons, bikes, trikes, strollers and dogs in all-American red, white, and blue. The creative talents of Georgetowners were on display as neighbors entered beautifully carved watermelons into the first-ever watermelon carving contest. The By & By band performed unique urban bluegrass music as the friendly neighborhood competition heated up for the East Village versus West Village tug-o-war (East grown-ups won, West kids won!). Sponsors again provided special snacks, treats, and toys for all.



East versus West tug of war



Annabelle Sallick with her winning tea cup watermelon



Father-Child Dance contest champs, Pat and Claire Burke



Creative kudos went to Wiley, Sarah and Burton White in the watermelon contest



Nancy Taylor Bubes hosted a fabulous tailgate at the June Concert



Top finalists Eliza and Julia Winsor with their with their little ones four watermelon entries – including Angry Birds! Fathers Day Concert



July 4th Parade around Rose Park



Topher Mathews and Ken Archer with their little ones at the Fathers Day Concert

Special thanks to the 2012 Concerts Committee:

Jennifer Altemus
Robin Baker
Annie Lou Berman
Leila Bremer
Nonie Cameron
Betsy Cooley
Sherry Cox
Renee Esfandiary Crupi
Erika Donohue
Kelly Doolan
Danielle Dooley
Jessica Heywood
Hannah Isles
Kathleen Jenkins
Alison Jia

Amy Kuhnert Leslie Maysak Elizabeth Miller Erin Mullan Ginny Poole Shannon Pryor Kara Sullivan Maryann Surrick Majorie Kask Dorothy Williams Dima Zalatimo

Thanks to all the generous Concerts supporters:

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TTR/Sotheby's International Realty
The Friends of Rose Park
The Friends of Volta Park
Georgetown University Hospital
Georgetown Floorcoverings
The Georgetown Current
The Georgetown Dish

Welcome back to GU students!

et's hope that the move in goes smoothly and that we can count on everyone to be considerate neighbors. If you live near an off campus student residence I encourage you to introduce yourself and get to know the students.

We have been working with the University on them taking an active role in the back-to-school process. They must educate their students on what constitutes a good neighbor. And they must be vigilant in enforcing their Student Code of Conduct both on and off campus. We have also been working with the various DC government agencies responsible for trash, rats, crime, and housing issues. We are encouraging them to step up enforce-

ment during this time of year before matters can get out of hand.

If problems do arise the following contact numbers may help to solve them. 311 for trash violations, rat infestation, and other city services. 911 for noise violations, underage drinking, vandalism, and other illegal activities. The University's SNAP (Student Neighborhood Assistance Program) Program is a service coordinated by the University to immediately respond to neighbors' concerns about student conduct off campus. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights during the Fall and Spring semesters from 10pm-3am, Georgetown University staff members, along with private security officers, patrol the West

Georgetown and Burleith neighborhoods in a car (each with SNAP decal and a yellow flashing light). They can be reached by calling the 24/7 Community Hotline: 202-687-8413. Anne Koester is the director of Off-Campus Student Life and her number is 202-687-3199.

The new Georgetown Community Partnership created during the campus plan process is also getting underway. We hope that with all of these coordinated efforts the community will see a significant improvement in the quality of life in our neighborhood.

— Jennifer Altemus

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The West Heating Plant: How Selling a Monumental Building is a Monumental Process

eorgetowners driving along the Whitehurst Freeway may have noticed the large "For Sale" banner penthouse of the government-owned West Heating Plant. The West Heating Plant, next to the Four Seasons hotel on 29th Street, was declared an excess property by the General Services Administration (GSA) who operated the facility.

GSA intends to sell the property at auction. Before it can do so, the agency must proceed through a multi-step process. The initial steps, now completed, were to offer the property to other Federal agencies, the District of Columbia, and entities sheltering the homeless. As these parties declined to take title to an industrial building chock-full of asbestos, the next and current stage involves GSA's compliance with various requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act.

GSA recently distributed for public comment a 475 page draft Environment Assessment (EA). The EA includes an assessment of the amount and type of hazardous material contaminating the building and the surrounding land; a lengthy exposition of the history of the site, reaching back to paleo-history; a description of the historic significance of the building; and analyses of potential effects on the community and traffic if the site and building were developed for residential or commercial use.

Comments on the draft EA were due at the end of August. With the end of the comment period, GSA, in conjunction with the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), will begin a process that identifies the various adverse impacts that could result from the government's selling a historic property located within the Georgetown



National Landmark district. The process leads to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which stipulates and specifies the conditions, limits, and other requirements that will mitigate the adverse impacts, and will be imposed as part of the conveyance of title to the property.

The GSA, ACHP, and the District will be signatory parties to the Memorandum of Agreement. It is likely that the Department of the Interior will also be a signatory, as three separate national park areas abut the property or are nearby.

Official consultative parties can be designated as participants in the development of the MOA. The consultative parties can include other Federal agencies with an interest in or purview over the property, advisory neighborhood commissions, community organizations, national or regional associations with an interest in the historic use and aspects of the property. After the MOA is signed, GSA can complete its compliance with the remaining requirements of NEPA and start the auction.



Ceremony at Lock 1, February 22, 1939. (GSA's Plant now occupies area to right of lock.)

CAG's comments on the draft EA are centered on three objectives. The first is to preserve a strip of land along the north edge of the property from 29th St. to the confluence of the C&O canal with Rock Creek as Federallyowned land. CAG believes a 1971 law made this land part of the C&O Canal National Historic Park. The second is to preserve a strip of land along the east side of the property under Federal ownership as well. This strip, which GSA classifies as a riparian buffer, serves as a barrier helping to protect the property from flooding of Rock Creek or the Potomac River. The third objective is to limit development in the open yard area of the site, south of the heating plant building itself.

> —Walter Groszyk CAG Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee

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[Please submit items and info by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication.]





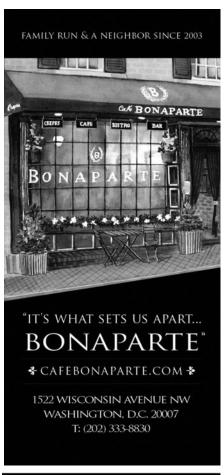


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SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR		
Thurs. Sept. 6	Old Georgetown Board Meeting; 9am; National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, #311; visit www.cfa.gov for more information.	
Thurs. Sept. 6	Georgetown Fashion's Night Out; 6-11pm; extended shopping hours and special fashion events; www.fashionsnightoutgeorgetowndc.com.	
Sat. Sept. 8	Georgetown Civil War House & Walking Tour; 10:30am house tour, 1pm walking tour; learn what life was like in Georgetown during the Civil War; members \$8, nonmembers \$10 for ONE tour; members \$12, nonmembers \$15 for BOTH tours; www.tudorplace.org.	
Tues. Sept. 11	Chamber Music by the Friday Morning Music Club; 12pm; free but pre-registering suggested; Dumbarton House, 2715 Q St. NW; www.dumbartonhouse.org for more information.	
Tues. Sept. 18	Ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of the O&P Streets Restoration project at 10:00 am.	
Thurs. Sept. 20	Georgetown Library Book Club will discuss <i>Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman</i> , a collection of 24 stories by Japanese author Haruki Murakami at 7:30. Free and open to public; Wisconsin Ave. and Reservoir Road.	
Thurs. Sept. 27	CAG Meeting: Homelessness in Georgetown; reception at 7pm, meeting at 7:30pm; Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin Ave. NW.	
Sat. Sept. 29	Fall Harvest Tea; 1-3pm; enjoy a traditional Victorian tea service followed by a guided tour of the Tudor Place mansion; recommended for adults; members \$25, nonmembers \$30; 1644 31st St.; www.tudorplace.org to register.	
Mon. Oct. 1	Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation; agenda available at www.anc2e.com; call 338-7427 for more information.	