

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



Citizens Association
of Georgetown

VOLUME XL | ISSUE 6 | SEPTEMBER 2015

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

A PEEK IN THE GEORGETOWN LIBRARY PEABODY ROOM

CAG Meets September 29

DIANA RICH, *Chair CAG meetings*

“I cannot live without books,” wrote Thomas Jefferson to John Adams. Over two hundred years later we still thirst for books, especially during summer vacations complete with summer reading lists which are “not just a necessary diversion but a moral duty,” (Lee Siegel, WSJ, Aug 15-16, 2015). This year’s inaugural meeting of the Citizens Association of Georgetown appropriately hails books -- and the Georgetown Library with its very special

Peabody Room. CAG welcomes Jerry McCoy, Senior Archivist, as the speaker, at the September 29 meeting at the library (Wisconsin and R Street). And Manager Lucy Thrasher will welcome everyone with some brief updates on library developments and programs.

The Peabody Room is a part of the Washingtoniana Collection, a vast array of Washington-focused historical resources from



Peabody Room

Continued on pg. 5

GEORGETOWN GALA AT FOUR SEASONS

OCTOBER 23

The 2015 Georgetown Gala, the annual Citizens Association of Georgetown event that brings together over 400 residents, organizations, businesses, and politicians to celebrate Georgetown and CAG’s mission of historic preservation and improving the life of the community, will be held on Friday, October 23, at the swank Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown. This year’s event, “Bar 1878: Georgetown After Dark” will highlight Georgetown’s unique combination of history, style and allure. Gala Co-Chairs Tricia Huntley, Leslie Maysak, and Jennifer Altemus, are planning a special evening with cocktails, a high end silent auction, an exceptional menu and live music from DC’s favorite BroadSound Band. We at CAG look forward to dancing the night away with friends and neighbors.

The silent auction includes homes in Paris, Aspen, and Nantucket, unique photos from award winning artist, Ramin Abraham, a rare Redskins package with former GM Charlie



Casserly, fine wine, a full access Colonial Parking Pass and a waterfront rooftop 4th of July celebration.

Sponsors to date include: Chesapeake Management Group, Clyde’s Restaurant Group, Coldwell Banker, EastBanc, Georgetown Exxon + Georgetown Shell, Georgetown University, Georgetown MedStar Hospital, The JBG Companies, The Levy Group, Long & Foster Georgetown; Nancy Taylor-Bubes, PNC



Financial Services, Securitas Security International, Trammell Crow Company, Georgetown BID, Georgetown Park, Bank of Georgetown, Capital Asset Management Group and Clyde’s Restaurant Group. Additional corporate and individual sponsorships are welcome -- see the CAG website www.cagtown.org or contact the CAG office.

Get your cool club duds ready. Invitations go out in early September and tickets can be purchased online at www.cagtown.org.

“GOODNESS IS THE ONLY INVESTMENT THAT NEVER FAILS.”

- Henry David Thoreau

As a leader in Georgetown's real estate community, our firm proudly supports the Georgetown community. We are proud to sponsor the following events and organizations:

Citizens Association of Georgetown
Concerts in the Park
Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy
Friends of Book Hill Park Reception
Friends of Montrose Park
Friends of Rose Park

Friends of Volta Park
Georgetown House Tour (St. John's)
Georgetown Jingle
(Georgetown University Hospital)
Hyde-Addison Elementary School Gala
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GEARING UP FOR CAG'S BUSY FALL SEASON

Yes, my preferred mode of transportation through Georgetown is my Piaggio scooter. Parking is easy to find, and I can avoid congestion by moving through narrow spaces. It also is exhilarating most seasons, but as winter arrives, the heated handlebars don't always do a great job in avoiding frostbite!

One of our first accomplishments since I became president of CAG was to secure a favorable five-year renewal of the lease for our office at 1365 Wisconsin Avenue. This central location is convenient for all residents of Georgetown who drop by our office or attend our committee meetings.

Our monthly meetings, open to the public, resume on September 29 at 7:00 at the Georgetown Library. Librarian Lucy Thrasher and Peabody Room Archivist Jerry McCoy will

speak about the research opportunities available for residents. Bistrot Lepic and Hop, Cask and Barrel will provide refreshments.

CAG's annual Gala will be held at the Four Seasons hotel on October 23, and invitations will be appearing in your mailboxes in September. The evening will begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by an elegant dinner and dancing to BroadSound Band. There will be a silent auction of enticing items, including exciting vacation getaways.

There will be a public discussion on potential designs for the redevelopment of the West Heating Plant the last week of October (we will keep you posted on date and place). Richard Levy of the Levy Group and architect David Adjaye will explain the options and discuss the regulatory process, including the requirements for a permit to demolish a portion, or all, of the building

The Georgetown Community Partnership, comprised of community leaders and University and student body representatives,

continues work on the Campus Plan. It is evaluating the policies and programs recently put in place, and is working in collaboration with GU Medstar Hospital to create the next plan, due in 2017. (Medstar is contemplating major modifications to its current facilities.) Jennifer Altemus is a member of the steering committee, and numerous CAG members participate on the many subcommittees. See page 9.

As the dog days of summer come to a close, CAG is gearing up for another year of accomplishments, work and fun. Join us at the September 29 meeting at the Georgetown Library as we kick off the season.

Bob vom Eigen, PRESIDENT



Georgetown University Courses for Neighbors

Georgetown University offers short, non-credit courses for members of the community over 55 years of age. Courses generally meet three times and are taught by retired university faculty members. Fall registration begins after Labor Day. Go to emeritcourses.georgetown.edu/ to learn about the Georgetown University Learning Community or call (202) 687-7000.

Our neighbors over 65 years of age can also audit most undergraduate courses if there is space available in the class. Go to <http://scs.georgetown.edu/departments/33/senior-citizen-non-degree-auditor-program/home> to learn about the Senior Citizen Non-Degree Auditing Program or call (202) 687-5706.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

WALTER GROSZYK, *Historic Preservation + Zoning Committee*

John Lever, a former ANC commissioner and resident of 31st Street, is the new chairperson of CAG's Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee. John succeeds architect Victoria Rixey, who remains on the committee.

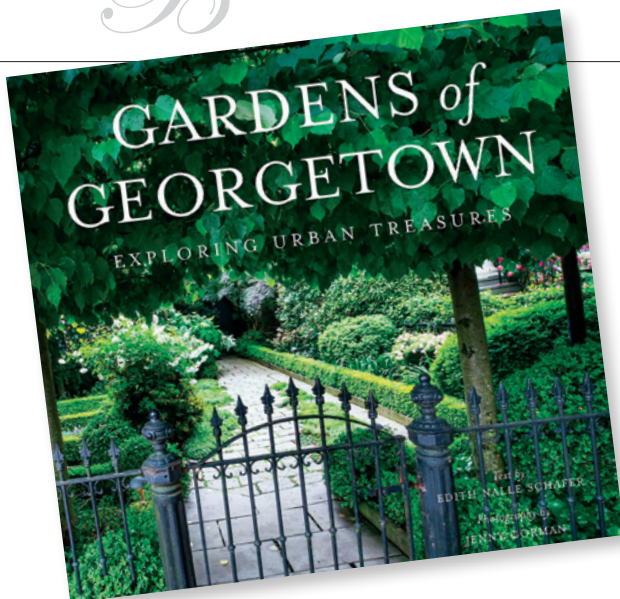
The owners of the former Latham hotel at 3000 M Street have decided to sell the property rather than develop it. Their proposed development converted the mid-rise portion of the hotel into a rental property, featuring micro-units. The two story structure that fronts M Street, and the former location of La Madeleine café, was to be razed, and replaced by a similarly-sized retail property. The hotel, La Madeleine, and the Citronelle restaurant closed abruptly because water had undermined the buildings.

The new owners of the Foundry complex, along the south bank of the canal between

30th and Thomas Jefferson streets, are proposing to alter the northwest corner of the building, -- across from Baked and Wired. A glass curtain wall would replace the existing brick, and, on the interior, a high-end restaurant on two levels would be created.

Eastbanc's proposed residential building at 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue had its initial presentation before the Old Georgetown Board in July. The Board was satisfied with the general massing and height, but voiced concerns that the design lacked a Georgetown context. The building would be constructed on the gas station site across from the Four Seasons, a site that is considered a gateway to Georgetown.

New Book: GARDENS OF GEORGETOWN



Gardens of Georgetown provides an inside look at 38 of the most beautiful gardens in Georgetown. Photographed with remarkable sensitivity by Georgetown native Jenny Gorman with an inspiring text by Edith Schafer, the book is the creation of the Georgetown Garden Club which for over 90 years has sought

creative ways to beautify and enhance the village for which it is named. All proceeds from the book are returned to the greening of Georgetown, its parks and public places. Books may be purchased on line: georgetowngardenclubdc.org or by calling 202-625-1175.

EcoTIP

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Oceans absorb over 26% of our carbon dioxide emissions and more than 90% of heat from global warming; they are acidifying and becoming unsafe for sea life. Drive less, unplug more, and put a stop to your junk mail. Yearly bulk mail produces more green house gas than 9 million cars, destroys 100 million trees, and takes 28 billion gallons of water to make and recycle. For \$35, 41pounds.org will stop it for you!

— LEE CHILD
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the late 18th century to the present. While the bulk of the collection is housed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, the Peabody Room is the repository of the special collection of materials dealing with Georgetown history. It includes subject vertical files (news clippings, brochures, pamphlets and other documents placed in folders based on subject headings), photographs, maps, neighborhood microfilmed newspapers, paintings, engravings and artifacts that document various aspects of Georgetown life. It also features a house history file for nearly every home in Georgetown.

After the devastating 2007 fire that heavily damaged the Georgetown Library, a newly renovated library opened in 2010 including a larger, climate-controlled third floor which now houses the Peabody Room. Although a number of materials were water-damaged during the fire and may not be publicly accessible, the room holds a veritable cornucopia of Georgetown history and memorabilia.

Our speaker, Jerry A. McCoy, has loved American history ever since his father introduced him to U.S. postage stamp collecting at the age of eight. Growing up in Lorain, Ohio, Jerry could think of no city more historic than Washington, DC. Determined to live in the Nation's Capital, he moved here in 1978, earning a BA in Visual Communications from The American University (1980) and a MSLS from The Catholic University of America (2002).

Surrounded by all of the national history that DC embodies, Jerry found himself increasingly drawn to the history of "hometown" Washington. His interest was ensured when he walked into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library's Washingtoniana Division and immediately embraced the vast collection of microfilmed DC newspapers and original city directories.

Two decades after that first visit, Mr. McCoy is now a special collections librarian and archivist in the Washingtoniana Division as well as at the Peabody Room. He was critical



Jerry McCoy telling children about salvaging the "Lamp of Learning" weathervane from the 2007 library fire.

to the recovery after the 2007 fire with its extensive water damage. Over the course of three years, Jerry processed over 400 boxes of disorganized materials that had been freeze dried and was able to return the collection to the newly designed and constructed Peabody Room. For these extraordinary efforts, he received awards from several historic preservation organizations.

After his presentation, Jerry will take groups of CAG members for a tour of the very special Peabody Room.

Bistrot Lepic, celebrating its 20th anniversary year, is providing appetizers for our meeting. The Bistrot welcomes any late dining parties after our program – the kitchen is open until 10 pm. (Please call for reservations: 202-333-0111.)

We also thank the newly-opened Hop, Cask and Barrel store at 1717 Wisconsin Avenue, just a hop from the Georgetown library, for their generous donation of libations.

Please join CAG at the Georgetown Library on Monday, September 29. Catch up with your neighbors after the summer break - and learn more about Georgetown's history and historians. The reception will begin at 7 pm, followed by the presentation at 7:30.

MUSIC ON THE LAWN at Grace Church Thursdays in September, beginning September 3

Gates open 5:30 p.m.
Music 6 to 7:15

Bring a picnic supper, with libations if you like, or purchase food and drink from DogTag Bakery, who will have a "pop-up" on the lawn.

Two hour free parking available at the Cinema Garage on K Street, just east of the intersection with Wisconsin Ave, with Grace validation.

September 3: Yamomanem

New Orleans style, a big hit at their first performance on our grounds last year

September 10:
Sandra Y. Johnson & friends
hard-swinging, bluesy vocals and instrumentals

September 17:
Marshall Keys, sax and Herman Burney bass
great musicians, longtime faithful friends of Grace

September 24:
Cloudburst
vocalese a la Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, Manhattan Transfer

Suggested donation: \$10.

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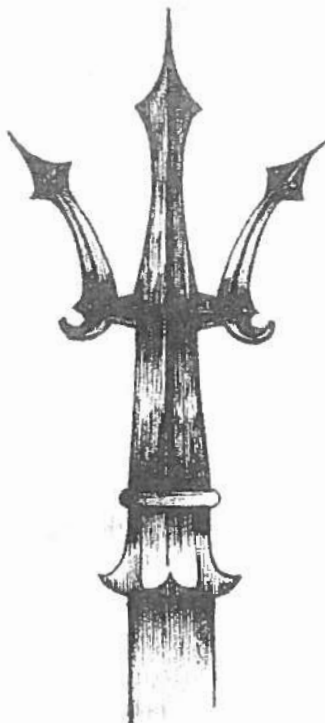
TREES FOR GEORGETOWN FALL FLING SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Please join Trees for Georgetown in celebration of its 26th year hosted by Tom Anderson and Marc Schappell. Their house was built between 1790 and 1800 and was known as the Bodisco House in 1927. According to documents in the Peabody Room of the Georgetown Public Library, Russian ambassador Alexander de Bodisco married Harriet Williams, who was given away by Henry Clay. "The marriage lifted the girl from obscurity to the highest round of the social ladder and the vast wealth of her husband adorned her with flashing jewels that became known the world over". The article continues, "The most superb fete ever given in the District, according to some historians, was given in this house in honor of the birthday of the Emperor Nicholas, when 800 guests were invited."

For more information, please email Treesforgeorgetown@gmail.com or call (202) 337-6767.



Fall Fling 2015
Thursday, September 24



Friends of Book Hill Park

Save the Date

BOOK HILL PARK FALL EVENT

Wednesday October 7th, 2015
6-8

The Friends of Book Hill Park invite you to celebrate our vibrant park and support the replacement of the benches and the landscaping of the upper tier circle. The celebration will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Naeve, 1692 31st NW. Invitations will be delivered by September 4th and we welcome any questions: Julia Diaz-Asper 202 333 0077.

jasper@ttrsir.com. Tickets are \$150 per person.

NEWS FROM ROSE PARK

DAVID ABRAMS, *Friends of Rose Park*

The Rose Park tennis courts are now officially named the “Margaret Peters and Roumania Peters Walkers Tennis Courts”. The bill introduced by Jack Evans was passed unanimously by City Council in July, just before they went out for summer recess. If you see Jack or Ruth Werner around, please thank them! And thanks to Topher Matthews and Pam Moore -- the idea was originally Topher’s -- he approached Pamla Moore and Pam contacted us. Pam was also the first person to write a letter of support for the project from CAG. As they say, it takes a village! Once we know more about a date for the event we plan to hold at the courts we’ll let everyone know. I do know that the daughter and son of Roumania Peters Walker are thrilled and so proud of their Mom! We also thank Tom Birch and Monica Roache’ for everything the two of them have done.

In other news, as many of you probably know, WETA-Channel 26 has a series on different neighborhoods in DC. I’ve seen the ones on Adams Morgan and Glover Park. A producer from WETA has approached us telling us that they want to do one on Rose Park! They’ll film the Farmer’s Market, the tennis courts, etc. We’ll share more once we know more.



Photos given to Friends of Rose Park, Inc. and used by permission of Fannie Walker Weekes and James Walker

CAG CHALLENGES INCREASED AIRPLANE NOISE

BOB VOM EIGEN, *President, CAG*

CAG and other community associations west of Georgetown have been experiencing increased aircraft noise, and have been meeting periodically with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), representatives of airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to find solutions. A July meeting at MWAA’s headquarters, was led by the FAA describing the various routing schemes for take-offs and landings northwest of Reagan National Airport. One of those schemes for take-offs, called Lazir, has just this year become adopted by most pilots with a resulting increased

noise level for residents in west Georgetown, Burleith, Hillandale and those located along Foxhall Road near the reservoir on MacArthur Boulevard.

The spokesperson for the FAA discussed potential short-term and long-term fixes for changing the routing of these planes to travel over the Potomac River until they achieve altitudes which create less noise for residents. Of course, the Arlington and Alexandria on the other side of the Potomac have a stake in this issue as well. Future meetings will be held with representatives from both sides of the Potomac River.

In the interim CAG, the other affected community associations, Georgetown University, and the student association filed a petition for review on August 24 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C., to challenge the adequacy of an environmental assessment prepared in 2013, long before the new routing scheme was implemented. The affected community associations and GU will seek to enlist support from the DC government to exert pressure on the FAA to immediately address the noise problems created by the recent changes in routing.

LIGHT UP GEORGETOWN TO DETER CRIME!

JOHN RENTZEPIS, CO-CHAIR, CAG Public Safety Committee

CAG urges all residents to “*leave the porch light on*” to deter nighttime crime. A significant increase in illumination of our neighborhood could have an immediate and noticeable impact on crime. Unfortunately, portions of many blocks are dark at night, due to poor street lighting and negligible front door lighting. This can make residents and pedestrians feel vulnerable. For example, a resident wrote: “I was held up at gunpoint a number of years ago on Dumbarton Street at 10 pm. There were two of us (both males in our 40s) walking together after having dinner on Wisconsin Avenue. I noticed later that Dumbarton Street was particularly dark at night, with very few porch lights turned on. A month or two after the hold-up, while working with ex-offenders, I was told by a client ‘when we are short on money, we look for the darkest streets in Georgetown and find a hit or two.’”

Keep the front and rear lights on at night

Manually turning lights on/off each night/morning is a chore, and easily forgotten. Two better options exist.

The first is to replace the conventional on/off switch with an automatic timer switch:

www.amazon.com/Intermatic-ST01-Adjusting-Switch-Timer/dp/B005H3AXKM (heavy duty, \$33);

www.amazon.com/Intermatic-EJ500-Indoor-Digital-Switch/dp/B0088LMEVQ (light duty & does not adjust for sunrise/sunset, \$20).

The second is to add a photo-sensor attachment between the fixture socket

and bulb which turns the light on/off automatically with sunset/sunrise:

www.amazon.com/Philips-429746-Compact-Fluorescent-14-Watt/dp/B00B4CPKWQ (\$8)

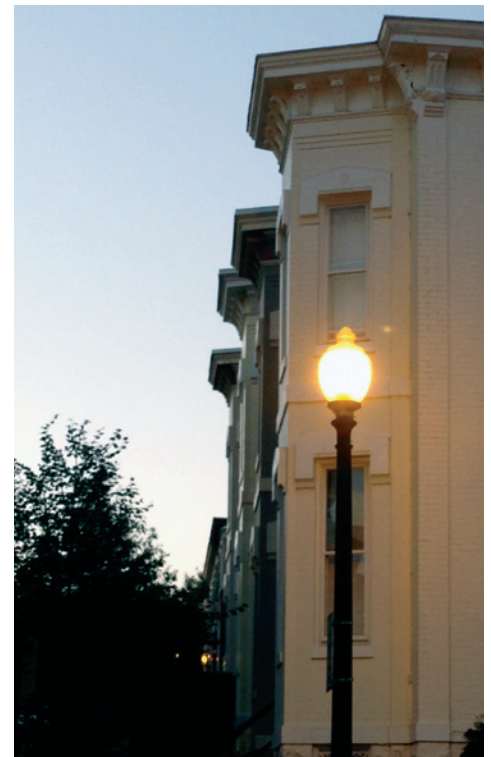
www.homedepot.com/p/GE-Automatic-Light-Control-18265/203716763 (\$12).

The Philips compact fluorescent light (CFL) listed above has the photo-sensor built into the bulb. The GE automatic light control listed above, on the other hand, is a photo-sensor product that requires a separate bulb and screws into your light fixture. For both products, you need to measure the space in the fixture to ensure that the photo-sensor and bulb will fit. Also ensure that any photo-sensor or photo-sensor light you purchase will fit the existing socket of your light fixture. Timers will always work and installation is relatively straightforward, but you may want to have an electrician do the job.

For residents with alleys, consider adding a motion-activated light mounted up high. Such a light is particularly effective if combined with a camera. We will provide more information on interior and exterior cameras in a separate report.

Cost

It is cost-effective to replace incandescent lights with LED bulbs. For residents who do not wish to install a timer or photo-sensor, but wish to keep their light(s) on 24/7, this would provide a considerable reduction in operating expense. Rick Cunningham has calculated the following:



Replace a conventional 60-watt bulb with an 8-watt LED bulb of equivalent light output. Bulb is \$3 to \$10 at Lowes/Home Depot. Annual electricity cost if “on” 24 hours/day: ~\$7; Annual electricity cost if “on” 10 hours/day: ~\$3.

Replace a conventional 100-watt bulb with a 17-watt LED bulb of equivalent light output. Bulb is \$15 to \$20 at Lowes/Home Depot. Annual electricity cost if “on” 24 hours/day: ~\$15; Annual electricity cost if “on” 10 hours/day: ~\$6.

Installation

Replacing an incandescent bulb with an LED bulb is something most home owners can do if the exterior fixture is easily accessible. Installation of a photo-sensor is also a good option if it will fit in the exterior fixture. Installation of a timer switch can be done by anyone comfortable replacing a light switch, or quickly by a licensed electrician. Installation of a light fixture at the back of a property with a motion detector is a job best left to an electrician. You can find or ask for recommendations for an electrician on the CAG-sponsored Georgetown listserv. (One resident reports being always satisfied with electrical work by Becker Electric in Alexandria.) Or visit Consumer Checkbook (checkbook.org). To find out more about the Georgetown listserv, visit cagtown.org.

AND ABOUT THE STREET LIGHTS

Making sure street lights are working is also important to the safety of residents and pedestrians on that block. There is an established process in DC to obtain city services. Call 311 (the Mayor’s City-wide Call Center) or go online to and report the need for service. Precise information has to be supplied on the location of the problem, including the nearest street address of the light, tree, etc. You will be assigned a reference number to track or check online for the status of the service. We will all work together on these issues -- but reporting a problem on your block first to 311 is the best approach to getting the problem solved.

GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AT WORK

JENNIFER ALTEMUS, *Georgetown Community Partnership Steering Committee*

As a new school year begins, the Georgetown Community Partnership is eager to see how some of the new policies and procedures established by the group work out. This group is charged with implementing the Zoning Commission's order for the Georgetown University Campus Plan and consists of community leaders, University decision makers, and student body representation. In addition to the steering committee, there are five working groups that cover the environment and landlord issues, student conduct and safety issues, transportation and parking, communications and engagement, and data metrics.

While we still have a ways to go, a lot has already been accomplished and the quality of life for both permanent residents and students is looking up. Some of the accomplishments include:

- A working group comprised of GU Medstar Hospital executives, GU executives and community leaders is actively working together to create the next Campus Plan, due in 2017.
- Construction is well underway on a new 225 bed dorm – the NE Triangle – slated

for 2016, and renovations to the Ryan & Mulledy building will add 160 beds to the heart of campus this month. In addition, some of the University's Hotel and Conference Center rooms will be used for temporary student housing.

- The Office of Neighborhood Life has developed a dynamic orientation for all students living off-campus that includes student rights and responsibilities for living in the neighborhood.
- A campaign targeted at transient noise has been launched.
- The University's proactive nighttime patrol (SNAP) has three SNAP cars that work with MPD.
- The University Helpline (687-8413) is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all neighborhood concerns, with a 100% response policy to follow up on calls.
- Work in collaboration with city agencies continues to identify rental properties lacking basic business licenses, aiming to bring them up to code.
- The Georgetown Student Tenant Association, a student-run tenant

advocacy organization, is helping students deal with landlord issues.

- Construction is almost finished on a bus turnaround which will enable most buses coming to campus to use Canal Road rather than the small residential streets.
- A wealth of opportunities offer residents the many advantages of a world class University in the neighborhood, including the Performing Arts neighborhood nights, free classes for those 55+, community fairs, tailgates, children's programs and more
- Check out the website devoted to the GCP: www.communityengagement.georgetown.edu/gcp - it's good.

Although change takes time, the collegial attitude towards this approach to change seems to really be working. The individuals who are serving on the subcommittees have worked tirelessly for our community. Thanks to Cookie Cruse & Neil Mulholland on the subcommittee on Student Life and Safety, Hazel Denton on Transportation, Erin Mullan and Patrick Clawson on Environment and Landlord Issues, Richard Hinds on Data and Metrics, and Bob Laycock & Frank Marshall on Communications.

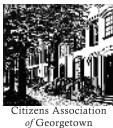
ROCK CREEK PARK 125th Anniversary Celebration SEPTEMBER 26-27

Rock Creek Park is celebrating its 125th Anniversary on the weekend of September 26 - 27 with events planned at locations throughout the more than 2,000 acres of the park, including the Georgetown Waterfront Park. The Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park is working with Rock Creek Park's Superintendent, Tara Morrison and her staff, to organize events in conjunction with regattas and demonstrations beginning with paddle sports on Saturday and the crew rowers

competing on Sunday in the Head of the Potomac regatta. College and high school rowers from near and far will participate in the races. The public is invited to bring their picnic lunches and join the anniversary celebration over these two days of exciting activities.

Rock Creek Park is the oldest urban natural National Park in the United States created by legislation enacted by Congress in 1890, and signed into law by President Benjamin

Harrison. (Yellowstone National Park was the first National Park created in 1872.) Rock Creek Park predates the creation of the National Park Service by 25 years. The National Park Service will be celebrating its Centennial Anniversary in 2016 through nationwide events to ignite interest in discovering the beauty of the landscapes and the activities that will enrich the experience of visiting our National Parks.



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

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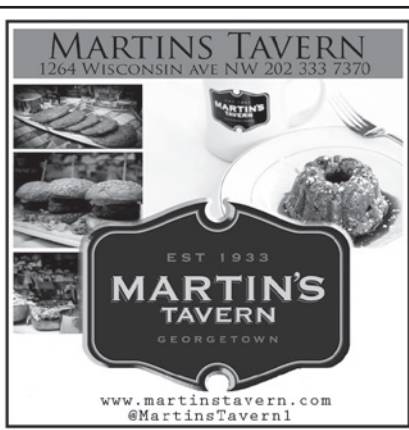
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