



# CAG

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

## Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2019

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## WELCOME BACK FALL WITH A CONCERT IN THE PARK!

Music, Food & Yoga September 22

**W**ake the kids and call the neighbors! CAG in partnership with **Friends of Rose Park** presents a concert in beautiful Rose Park on Sunday, **September 22 at 5pm**. This family-friendly event features entertaining live music, fun activities and lots of treats. There is no better way to catch up with your neighbors and share summer vacation stories than grabbing a picnic blanket and joining us in the park. Music from **The Other Side** will sound familiar as they cover classic songs from the Beatles, Rolling Stones, REM, etc. New to Georgetown, **Uprising Yoga Center** will be guiding us in a **free yoga session starting at 4pm** on the field. Try it!

Packing a picnic is an art that requires minimal cuisine skill, but if you don't have time, no worries. Food trucks from **Rocklands BBQ** and **Captain Cookie and the Milk Man** will be on site, so bring your picnic blanket and your wallet! Kids can make a paper lantern or paint with watercolors at our Craft Tent. So, whether you enjoy tapping your foot to the tunes or dancing under the trees, please join us as we gather to embrace our community and simply relax on a Sunday. Thank you to the generous agents at Compass Real Estate.



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## September and October Public Meetings



**Mon. Sept 23: Community Meeting at Hyde Addison:**  
3219 O Street. 6:30pm Reception. 7-8pm Program. Our guest speaker will be school principal Calvin R. Hooks. Join us for a tour!



**Tues. Oct 22: Georgetown Heritage – C&O Canal Update:**  
Join us at **Pinstripes** for this public meeting to learn more about what's happening at the C&O Canal in Georgetown.



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# President's LETTER

Dear CAG Community,

I am always excited by the arrival of fall. Though it can feel a bit sad seeing the lazy days of summer come to an end, the flurry of activities that begins in September is energizing. Cooler temperatures, changing colors, the return of students to our schools and campuses, football weekends, reunions with friends and colleagues — all of it contributes to the fun and beauty of life in Georgetown.

We look forward to a lively fall at CAG. The first major event is the annual party and fundraiser for Trees for Georgetown, which takes place on September 15th. For tickets (while they last) and/or contributions, go to [cagtown.org/trees](http://cagtown.org/trees). We hope you will support this amazing initiative, which is responsible for planting 3000 trees in our neighborhood over the past 30 years!

On September 22nd CAG will co-host a family concert with Friends of Rose Park.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy live music, food, and relaxing in lovely Rose Park.

CAG's monthly community meetings will kick off on September 23rd at Hyde-Addison, where we will have the opportunity to tour the new facility and hear from the principal. At the second community meeting on October 22, Georgetown Heritage will update the community about plans for the first mile of the C&O Canal. These gatherings are great places to meet neighbors and get up-to-date on local happenings. Stay tuned for details — we hope you will join us.

CAG committees continue to run core programs, including public safety, historic preservation, transportation and parking, and oral history. We are closely following 5G and other infrastructure initiatives in our community, and we monitor restaurant licensing. Going forward, we are looking



into ways to make CAG as relevant as possible for young families, a demographic that continues to grow in Georgetown. We welcome volunteers in all of the above — please go to [cagtown.org](http://cagtown.org) or contact the CAG office if you are interested in finding out more.

**Cheryl Gray, PRESIDENT**

## Welcome to CAG, Nancy!



We would like to welcome Nancy Carpenter to the small but dedicated staff at the Citizens Association of Georgetown. Having lived in The Cloisters with her family for over 15 years, Nancy has enthusiastically enjoyed being a part of our community. She comes to us from working in education at Washington International School and, a few years back, Hyde-Addison School. In fact, Nancy is recognized by more children in the neighborhood than the average citizen! "I look forward to working with enthusiastic volunteers and supporting the community." When she's not working as our Program Administrator, Nancy can usually be found on the move exploring different parts of the city or traveling abroad.

## UPCOMING CAG EVENTS / MEETINGS

### Sun. Sept 15: Trees for Georgetown Garden Party –

Join us from 6 to 8pm at the home of Jennifer & David Romm as we celebrate 30 years of Trees for Georgetown. For tickets/info: [www.cagtown.org/trees](http://www.cagtown.org/trees)

### Sun. Sept 22: Concert in the Park – 5:00pm. Pack

a picnic and meet us at Rose Park for entertaining live music by the band The Other Side. The popular food truck from Rockland's BBQ will be on site as well as Captain Cookie & the Milk Man. Arrive early at 4pm for a free yoga session from Uprising Yoga Center.

### Mon. Sept 23: Community Meeting at Hyde Addison –

3219 O Street at 6:30pm. Our guest speaker will be school principal Calvin R. Hooks. Join us for a tour.

### Tues. Oct 22: Georgetown Heritage – C&O Canal

Update. Join us at **Pinstripes** for this public meeting to learn more about what's happening at the C&O Canal in Georgetown.

### Tues. Nov 5: CAG Cocktail Party – The Duber Residence.

More details to come.

Watch for announcements and updates on [cagtown.org](http://cagtown.org)/meetings and [facebook.com/georgetowncitizens](https://facebook.com/georgetowncitizens).

# BE SECURE.... NOT SORRY

Catherine Shaw, CAG Public Safety

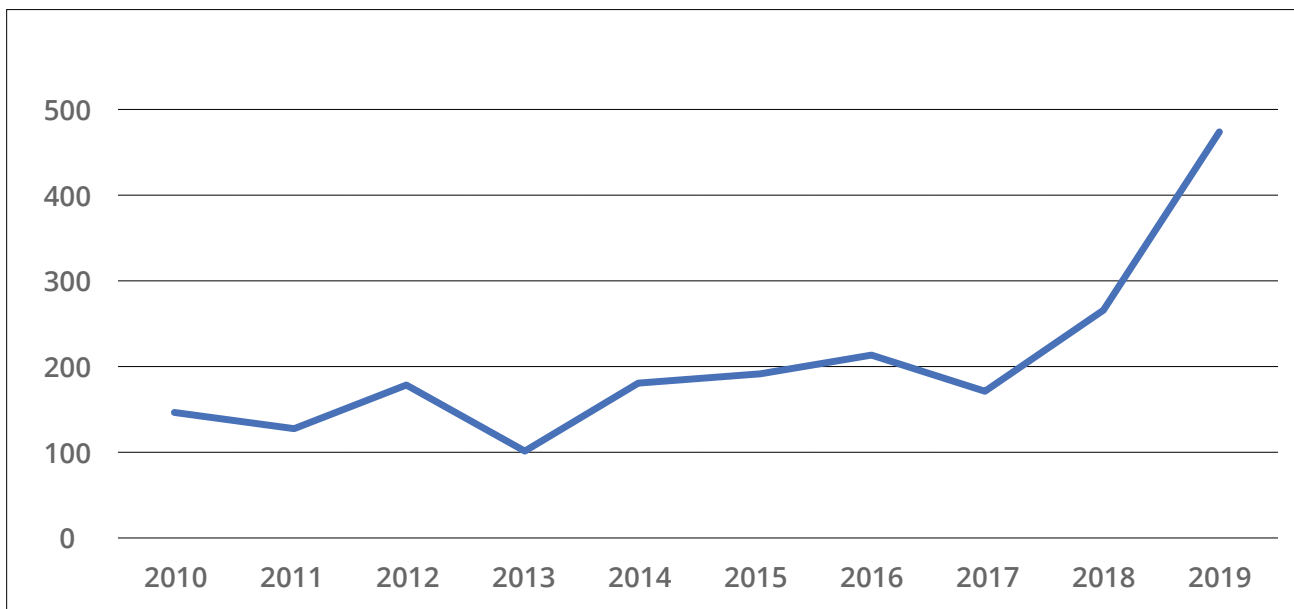
CAG recently launched a pilot program gently reminding visitors and residents not to leave their valuables visible in their vehicles parked on Georgetown streets. The MOTORISTS sign program was well-received, with the positive result of one block (N Street east-side nearest Wisconsin Avenue) experiencing a 40% drop in thefts from auto during the test period. CAG's Public Safety Program Co-Chairs, Richard Hinds and John Rentzepis, feel strongly that these crimes of opportunity can be prevented.

Please spread the word to leave NOTHING visible in a vehicle, for even a phone charger can be considered "valuable" to a thief who has just stolen someone's cell phone.

Contact CAG if you would like to have signs installed on your block. Please write to [catherineshaw@cagtown.org](mailto:catherineshaw@cagtown.org) with your street address and contact information. CAG will provide the signs to CAG members free of charge. You can easily install them with a 24-inch cable tie available at any hardware store. No other tools are required.



## GEORGETOWN MPD PSA 206 THEFT FROM AUTO UP SIGNIFICANTLY IN 2019





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## Let's Connect!

We are stepping up our social media at the Citizens Association of Georgetown and we hope that you will participate and follow us on Instagram & Facebook. Here are a few of our recent posts...



Built in 1769! That's 250 years.



Kayak view of Georgetown.



An idyllic day in Georgetown!

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM:



<https://www.facebook.com/georgetowncitizens>



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# Parties, Politics and Press on P Street

Josh Dill

The grand house at 3327 P Street, built around 1820-1830, was the home of Frank Gardiner Wisner, OSS and CIA official and consummate member of the “Georgetown Set,” and his wife, Polly. After Wisner’s death, Polly continued to live there with her second husband, journalist and public servant Clayton Fritchey.

Frank Wisner spent World War II with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Egypt, Turkey, and Romania, where he directed OSS operations in Southeastern Europe. Seeing Soviet troops deport ethnic Germans from Romania instilled in him a deep distrust of communism, and several years after the war, he moved to Washington to direct covert operations for the OSS successor organizations, the Office of Policy Coordination and the CIA.

Remembered by Harrison Salisbury as “a brilliant, compulsive man, a talker... a man of enormous charm, imagination, conviction that anything, anything could be achieved and that he could achieve it,” Wisner was intense, driven, and erratic. He was involved in the overthrow of foreign governments such as those of Mossadegh in Iran and Arbenz in Guatemala, and he participated in aggressive and somewhat harebrained schemes to send guerrillas into Eastern Bloc countries.



“The Wiz” and his wife were close associates of other liberal anticommunist journalists, policy-makers, and intelligence officials who came to be known as the Georgetown Set, including Phil and Kay Graham, Chip and Avis Bohlen, the Alsop brothers (columnists Joe and Stew), Averell and Pamela Harriman, and Allen and John Foster Dulles. As reported by C. David Heymann in *The Georgetown Ladies Social Club*, “It was in the shadow of the Cold War that the Georgetown

Set came into being. Its first clubhouse was at 3327 P Street, the home of the Wisners, hosts of a weekly dinner party unofficially called

the Sunday Night Supper Club.” These Sunday Night Suppers - raucous, booze-fueled, off-the-record discussions of America’s role in the world that lasted into the wee hours - played an important part in steering both government policy and its press coverage, inspiring Henry Kissinger’s splotchy aperçu, “The hand that mixes the Georgetown martini is time and again the hand that guides the destiny of the Western world.”



The failure of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 and increasing criticism of his methods drove Wisner to a mental breakdown, and he was eased out of the CIA. “A younger, livelier crowd had moved into the area... But because of Frank’s condition, it was impossible for us to enjoy the whirl,” remembered Polly Wisner. He died by suicide in 1965 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The sprinkler system at the Bishop’s Gardens at Washington’s National Cathedral was installed in his honor.

In 1975, Polly Wisner married columnist Clayton Fritchey, who moved into the P Street residence. The parties continued - in February 1976, Jimmy Carter was introduced to Washington society there - but the Georgetown Set’s political influence was waning. While Sally Quinn noted in 1987 that “Polly Fritchey still has parties that guarantee the presence of members of the administration, an ambassador or two, several senators, lots of journalists, people from New York or abroad, and always some surprises,” most members of the Reagan and Bush administrations lived across the river, and when George and Barbara Bush attended a Sunday Night Supper at the Fritchey’s, they didn’t enjoy themselves. Joe Alsop’s death in 1989 is a good bookend for the era. Clayton and Polly Fritchey died in 2001 and 2002.

On a more bathetic note, the house was also owned by former senator and vice-presidential candidate John Edwards, whose family bought it from the Fritchey estate in 2002, and sold it in 2006.



## Julia Diaz-Asper

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# Noxious Georgetown

Walter Groszyk, *Chair, Infrastructure*

The sign identifying Milton Hopfenmaier's plant in the 3300 block of Water Street, NW was peculiar. Letters twice the size of the business name proclaimed "ESTABLISHED 1873." The sign was a literal thumbing-of-the-nose salute to the citizenry of Georgetown, newly incorporated into the District two years before.

Hopfenmaier's was a rendering plant, where offal and other awful matter (a homophonic pun not to be resisted), the residue of abattoirs, and kitchen grease and fat became the base for soap, lubricants, and perfume oils. The rendering process so offended the olfactory senses that rendering plants were banned by the District in 1875; Hopfenmaier's was grandfathered in.

Hopfenmaier's endured, and the complaints persisted, decade after decade. Depending on the wind direction, the odor wafted far, sometimes beyond Georgetown. Finally, nearly a century after its founding, the plant was bought by the District government and demolished. It might be there still, but for the District clearing away the old factories and warehouses along Water Street; the buildings were in the path of the proposed Potomac River Freeway and the associated Three Sisters Bridge. (Hopfenmaier's moved to Prince George's County.)

As objectionable as Hopfenmaier's was, the smell was not a health hazard. That distinction belonged to the District of Columbia Paper Manufacturing Company, located at the corner of Grace and Potomac streets. This pulp mill converted rag and wood into pulp, which was then dried to produce paper. In 1916, 25 tons of paper were turned out daily. What was hazardous about the mill was its use of the Kraft process, a technique that utilized heat and "white liquor" (sodium hydroxide and sodium sulfide) to reduce wood chips to pulp. During this process, lignin, the glue that holds wood cellulose together, breaks

down, releasing hydrogen sulfide gas. Hydrogen sulfide smells like rotten eggs, and if inhaled in sufficient concentrations, can cause olfactory fatigue, in which one no longer smells the rotten eggs. Olfactory fatigue is perilous, for further inhalation of the no-longer detected gas can quickly produce convulsions and death. There is no record of Georgetowners being seriously sickened by the mill's hydrogen sulfide emissions, though they surely must have dampened one's appetite. Although razed long ago, the factory's chimney remains.

Hopfenmaier's and the pulp mill were only two of Georgetown's polluters. Other malodorous enterprises also fouled the air. Milton Hopfenmaier mused why complainers only seemed to smell his rendering plant, and not the emanations of other nearby businesses. An asphalt plant, seriously damaged by a Potomac flood about 80 years ago, was located on the Georgetown embankment where Thompson's boathouse now stands. Large quantities of fertilizer and ammonia-smelling seabird guano were piled in warehouse yards lining the C&O Canal between Wisconsin Avenue and 31st Street, and a soap factory was close by. All contributed to the miasma.

Rounding out the list of olfactory offenders were the municipal incinerator, built in 1932, and burning rubbish for forty years; the coal-fired Capital Traction Power House at Wisconsin and K streets, which operated between 1911 and 1933; and the West Heating Plant on 29th Street. Martha Mitchell, living in the Watergate, complained to her husband John, the Attorney General, about the latter, telling him to do something about the clouds of dirty smoke streaming from the plant. She was unaware that the plant was federally owned and operated.

One can only wonder what Georgetown (and property tax bills) might be like today if these establishments had continued to operate into the 21st century.

## GO NATIVE

Lee Child, *Georgetown Garden Club*

If we begin to think of our gardens not only as beautifully designed green spaces but also as vital habitats for birds and butterflies, it opens up another dimension of gardening, allowing us to make an important contribution to sustaining the natural world. Native plants - trees, flowers, grasses - are those that grow naturally in the place where they evolved. Not only do they sustain birds and pollinators but are adapted to their environments and don't require chemicals or irrigation once established. Go to the [DOEE.dc.gov](http://DOEE.dc.gov) website for a list of native pollinators for our area. Check out the natives at American Plant or Nature by Design, a native plant nursery in Alexandria. Fall is for planting, let's begin to garden as if life depends on it.

## Featured Fur Neighbor



Meet our fur neighbor, Bodie. He enjoys walks along the Georgetown waterfront and admiring all the ducks and rowers. He loves his stuffed animal Ducky and making new fur friends in Rose Park.

# Trees for Georgetown

Betsy Emes, Chair, *Trees for Georgetown*

This summer, as I walked around the neighborhood, dodging the sun on excessively hot and humid days, I found relief in our street trees. Seemingly passive, they are instrumental in getting us through summer heat. With their ability to mitigate greenhouse gases, our shade trees provide a real measure of relief from excessive heat. It can feel 10–15 degrees cooler beneath a large elm or oak tree.

This year, Trees for Georgetown is celebrating its 30th year of planting street trees in Georgetown, almost 3,000 since 1989! Please join us on September 15 to celebrate in appreciation of this special commodity, our beautiful trees.

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TREES  
for Georgetown  
2019  
Garden Party

Sunday, September 15  
6 to 8 pm

at the home of  
Jennifer and David Romm  
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## EcoTip

**MEATLESS MONDAYS:**  
AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME AGAIN!

Initiated during World War 1 in an effort to support the troops, Meatless Mondays are back again, this time as a force to improve our health and that of our planet. Worldwide (over 30 countries) the effort to reduce meat consumption is taking hold. Check out [meatlessmonday.com](http://meatlessmonday.com) for fabulous recipes and more info. Let's make Monday the day that all health breaks out!

— LEE CHILD  
Georgetown Garden Club



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☐ Check here if you have also included your 2019 CAG membership dues. (Dues are \$55 individuals; \$75 couples or families; \$75 businesses or associate members.)

*All contributors receive full program benefits.*

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

**Sept 14** **Georgetown Community Day** – 11am to 1pm at Georgetown University (Healy Lawn) Each fall, join neighbors, students, faculty, and staff for a day of fun and family-friendly activities and food. Come learn more about your community and how to get involved! Stop by the CAG table to say hello.

**Sept 17** **Moderate Yoga** – 11:30 am - Instructors provide a free one-hour yoga class every Tuesday morning at the Georgetown Neighborhood Library. The 11:30 a.m. moderate yoga class is designed to challenge those with some experience, adding difficulty to challenge the mind and body.

**Sept 19** **"Ornament" Exhibition Opening Event** – 6:00pm to 8:00pm Dumbarton Oaks Museum. Celebrate the opening of our fall exhibition, Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion, with a curatorial presentation, a reception, and after-hours access to the galleries. Meet the curator in the galleries and then join us for a reception on the Music Room Terrace featuring beer, wine, and light fare.  
[www.doaks.org](http://www.doaks.org)

**Sept 19** **Dumbarton at Dusk** – Dumbarton House 5:30 pm-8:00 pm. Come see Dumbarton house in a whole new light. Enjoy free admission, live music, cash bar, light refreshments, pop up exhibits and the ambiance of Dumbarton at Dusk. In partnership with Geppetto Catering.

**Sept 22** **Taste of Georgetown** – 11:00am to 4:00pm. Eat, Drink & Play! Enjoy some of the neighborhood's best restaurants while benefitting Georgetown Ministries Homeless Assistance Programs.

**Sept 27** **Scotch Tasting** – 6:00 pm-10:00 pm. Pull out your tartan and dust off your sporan! It's time for our 2nd annual Scotch tasting and Scottish Heritage night. Mark your "diaries," as they say in Scotland. Go to [www.dumbartonhouse.org](http://www.dumbartonhouse.org) for more details.

**Sept 28** **Georgetown Walking Tour** – Georgetown in the Books Noon to 2pm. Dumbarton House. Meet at Q & 27th. Historic Georgetown has long been home to various published writers. (\$20 cash or check.)

**Sept 29 – Oct 1** **Rosh Hashanah** – Jewish New Year

**Sept 29** **Tudor Place Fall Plant Sale & Picnic** – Noon to 4pm. Tudor Place. The Plant Sale features heirloom plants traditionally grown by the Peter family, including perennials for locations in sun, part-shade, or shade. Spend an afternoon experiencing our historic gardens. Bring your own picnic and blanket to relax in this spectacular setting. See you rain or shine!

## PLANNING AHEAD

**Oct 2** **ANC2E October Meeting** – 6:30pm at Georgetown Visitation School – Heritage Room, 2nd floor – 35th Street at Volta Place NW.

**Oct 5** **Glover Park-Burleith Farmers Market** – 9am to 1pm at Hardy Middle School. Come visit the market to buy farm fresh produce and baked goods while enjoying live music. Stop by the CAG table to say Hello as we share our community programs and strive to grow our membership.

**Oct 5** **Volta Park Day** – 11am to 2pm. Celebrate Volta Park and all that it has to offer. Join Friends of Volta Park at this green oasis to enjoy music, food, and more! Thank you to all our community members for supporting the park.

**Oct 17** **Dumbarton at Dusk Fall Festival** – Throw on your Halloween costume and join us as we partner with Geppetto Catering for our Annual Fall Festival to Benefit the Red Cross! Enjoy live music, while enjoying free food, candy, photo booth, pumpkin carving, cash bar more! Join our pumpkin carving contest! Pumpkins and carving tools will be provided. (Admission is a suggested donation of \$10.00 to benefit the Red Cross.)

**Oct 20** **Dorothy Papadakos with Silent Film** – Nosferatu at St. John's Episcopal Church – 5pm. Haunted-house lighting and décor set the stage for an early Halloween with the organist and composer Dorothy Papadakos. Come in costume as your favorite vampire, grab some popcorn, and watch the silver screen's frightening 1922 German Expressionist masterpiece come alive! Co-sponsored by the American Film Institute. (Tickets \$20.)





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Erin Sobanski  
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