Mayor Gray, Jack Evans, CAG Awards and Elections

May 29 at Dumbarton House

Mayor Gray and Councilmember Jack Evans will speak at CAG’s annual awards and elections meeting on Thursday, May 29. They will present CAG’s prestigious awards to outstanding community leaders. The reception and meeting will be hosted by historic Dumbarton House at 2715 Q Street.

Annual Awards: The prestigious Belin Award will be presented to Bill Starrels for his expert and dedicated work in preserving the historic character of Georgetown.

Walter Groszyk will be honored with the William A. Cochran Award for “exceptional efforts to protect and enhance the community’s parkland and architectural resources.”

The Charles Atherton Award will be presented to Jennifer Stein-gasser, Deputy Director of Historic Preservation Office, for “exceptional service by a dedicated public-sector professional for outstanding work preserving and protecting historic Georgetown.”

The Martin-Davidson Award to business persons who have contributed significantly to the community will be presented to BID Director Joe Sternlieb and the entire BID staff.

And there will be a special appreciation award presented to Parking Officer Steven Starks for dedicated and distinguished Service to the Georgetown community.

Election of CAG officers and four directors will also take place at the May 29 meeting – which is the organization’s annual meeting. The slate is Pamla Moore, President; Bob vom Eigen, Vice President; Barbara Downs, Secretary; and directors Karen Cruse, Hazel Denton, Hannah Isles, and Luca Pivato. (See page 9). Treasurer Bob Laycock will report on the financial condition of the organization.

Please join CAG to hear from the Mayor and Jack Evans and to honor the members of our community who have made Georgetown a better place. The reception begins at 7pm at beautiful Dumbarton House at 2715 Q Street and the program begins promptly at 7:30.

Rebecca McCabe and Recycling at the May 18 Concert: Keepin’ it Green

Rebecca McCabe is sure to have the kids singing on stage with her again!

Shake out your blankets, prepare your picnics and dig out your unwanted files and papers! What’s up? The Keepin’ it Green concert! Gypsy Sally's presents Georgetown resident singer songwriter Rebecca McCabe as she teams up with Human Country Jukebox for a little Dixie in the District! From 5 until 6:30 in Volta Park the amazing pop and country songwriter and singer provides a fabulous show — including having kids join her on stage for songs. The May concert also has children’s activities that celebrate our green spaces.

Plus this year the concerts are sponsoring a ShredInstead truck on site to shred and recycle old files and papers. Bring up to 5 boxes per person to be recycled between 4:30 to 6:30. Requested donation is $10 per box. The ShredInstead high-tech truck destroys your personal records while you watch via CCTV monitor mounted on the truck. The commercial machine even handles hanging file folders, staples, paper clips, and binder alligator clips. (However, continued on page 6
“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 event and organizations:

Citizens Association of Georgetown
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Friends of Rose Park
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After our lingering winter, the month of May is a joy. The neighborhood is full of landscape and painter vans, people are sprucing up tree boxes and gardens and the parks have been given the much needed “after winter” clean-up by the CAG Trash & Rodent committee and Georgetown University students.

Yet with all the pleasures of longer and warmer days, serious concerns facing our community where we live side by side continue. Living in Georgetown requires an exceptional amount of appreciation and consideration of our neighbors and of our historic community.

As I write this, we have challenges that the Citizens Association of Georgetown is working to meet on behalf of us all. I don’t need to say anything more about the recent increase in crime — it is of great concern. CAG is working with ANC2E, the Georgetown Business Improvement District and the Metropolitan Police Department to make our community safe, and with your monetary support and participation, we can do a better job.

New, increased airplane noise is also an issue we are addressing in cooperation with neighboring communities. A coalition has formed to meet with both the FAA and the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority in hopes of achieving a plan that limits the late night and early morning noise that will come with the increased number of flights expected by summer.

It is always a concern when large historic properties in Georgetown change hands—particularly when a developer proposes several new homes on the site. Such a situation is now before us at 2709-2713 N Street. As the plan reads, green space (a side yard) will be lost, part of a historic home will be demolished, and several residences will be built with no parking. Neighbors are very concerned that what has been presented does not enhance the community and actually detracts from one of our loveliest streets. CAG is joining with neighbors and others to find a more appropriate plan for this large property.

Another controversial development CAG is trying to “solve” addresses the new trash and recycling cans recently delivered by the District Department of Public Works (DPW). Because of space constraints and the large size of the containers, many residents find them inconvenient, at best. Although the idea of trash and recyclables being better handled is a good one, a few meetings between DPW and the Georgetown community could have brought about a better solution to the problem.

It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since the last CAG Annual Meeting. With so many excellent volunteers serving on the board and on committees, and with strong staff support, it has been a year of many successes, informative evenings, benefits that support our community, and fun family and neighbor events. Thank you to everyone who has given time and energy in support of CAG and our historic district.

In this newsletter you will read about plans for the Annual Meeting and election to be held May 29 at Dumbarton House. We are particularly pleased to announce the amazing awardees who will be honored that evening. All have been part of making Georgetown a better place in which to live. We also look forward to welcoming Mayor Gray, Councilmember Jack Evans and ANC2E commissioners. Please join us for this very special evening hosted at Dumbarton House.

And I hope to see many of you at the first Concert in the Park on May 18 at Volta Park!
Spring, Finally!

Edith Schafer

Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it. This oft repeated witty statement is supposed to be funny. It is funny. Sort of. Or maybe not so much these days.

For a long time it seemed that we were marooned in winter, like beleaguered people on a beach scanning the horizon for a ship to come and take us away from endless winter. Vague memories of beautiful Washington in spring never seemed to turn into reality. And then it would snow again.

Now that is just a memory, and one we don't even think about very much. Because one day not that long ago spring came down our hillside like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers (that's e. e. cummings). Maybe we blundering humans haven't messed with Mother Nature too much after all. At least not this year, at least not yet.

It is hard to think about though: no more bees, no more bats picking off mosquitoes in the long June twilight, no more exuberant birds treating us to the dawn chorus, no more smell of damp earth and trees. Some of us are nature nuts and if we were stuck forever on city pavements we would take it hard.

But we live in an urban area, right? So how do we escape to nature–almost without leaving home? We have a GARDEN TOUR! On May 10, you can see gardens great and small, stately and homey, old fashioned and modern. This is Georgetown, after all, so you can see the gardens of historic houses dating from the early 1800's - and one from 1794 later owned by Lincoln's son Robert. It has a deep south garden with a sweep of lawn watched over by a big covered porch. It's a grand combination of style, comfort and history, something we do well.

Nearby is another deep south-facing garden, this one of many levels and full of history, mounting blocks, a hitching post and boxwood from the Civil War era. Time seems to stand still in these gardens, we half expect to see a founding father come out and mount up. Also nearby, a grand indeed garden with French overtones: lots of lattice including a latticed pergola that houses a small self-contained gardening library! Wonderful. And a vegetable garden par excellence (note the French touch) created by Adrian Higgins, the Post's garden writer. Recently renovated, this garden is a must see. But then they all are.

Other visual delights on this tour: a James van Sweden garden with its signature grasses and big fishpond now done in shades of lime, green and white with red accents. Another enchanting garden with a woody, fern-filled setting uses mondo grass successfully to create a fairy tale setting. Another is a mosaic on the ground: shallow watercourses bisect richly planted parterres. There are nine gardens, including one with a pool fed by five geothermal wells which also has a stainless steel fire pit powered by natural gas and filled with tempered crushed glass. Whew! There is a lot going on.

We have a splendid tour for you this year. Remember, it may either be snowing or 110 degrees on May 10th, there might be a derecho or a tsunami or the mistral, but this garden tour is not to be missed. Especially when you consider the end of nature looms ahead, so enjoy it while there is still time.

The days that make us happy make us wise. That's why we have gardens.

We will go on worrying about the environment and the destruction of things that we care about. We don't know how much of what we know and love will be lost but here is what Emerson said about the passage of time:

I wish that life should not be cheap, but sacred, I wish the days to be as centuries, loaded, fragrant.
This is why we have gardens.
The days that make us happy make us wise.
Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Recent Transformations

Craig Wilson

It’s spring, the perfect time to stroll Lover’s Lane. There’s even a little surprise for you at the end this year.

The lane, which runs down the hill between Dumbarton Oaks and Montrose Park off R Street, eventually leads – if you take a left through the gates at the bottom – to the 27 acres of Dumbarton Oaks Park.

The designed woodland setting, with 18 dams, five meadows, waterfalls and pools, was one of Beatrix Farrand’s major accomplishments and given to the National Parks Service by Mildred and Robert Bliss in 1940.

The Bliss’ elegant Dumbarton Oaks and its formal gardens went on to glory, but the lower woodland park took a more devastating turn. For more than 70 years the once-magnificent plot was neglected and ignored, except by joggers and dog walkers who pass through every day.

That’s all changing thanks to the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy which last month celebrated the 73rd anniversary of the opening of the park with a hands-on open house and tours of the restoration project.

“Everything we’re planting is native,” landscape designer Liza Gilbert told the most recent gathering of the Georgetown Garden Club. “They are all work-horse plants, beautiful but tough.”

Gilbert, who is Chair of the Signature Project Committee and on the board of the DOP Conservancy, has been instrumental in the park’s recent transformation, working with the Park Service staff, winning grants from both the National Park Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The conservancy has much to celebrate this spring. More than 70 invasive trees were removed and replaced with 70 native-species trees. Large swathes of ground cover, including sedges, ferns, fleabane daisy and bluebells, have been installed. Repairs were made on the park’s Old Stone Pump House.

Gilbert says the Conservancy is dedicated to maintaining the changes to the woodland park which she calls “the very interesting other half” to the more-formal Dumbarton Oaks gardens up the hill.

More than 2700 volunteer hours were logged to the Conservancy in 2013 and volunteers are still needed to work in the park on a weekly basis.

For more information, visit the Conservancy’s website (www.dopark.org) or call 202-374-7259.

Georgetown Garden Tour

Saturday May 10, 2014
10 AM to 5 PM

Tickets $35

Online: www.georgetowngardentour.com

Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at Christ Church
31st and O Streets, NW
Washington, DC

WWW.GEORGETOWNGARDENTOUR.COM
There are two interesting, attractive emporiums on P Street, one new and one relatively new. The Peacock Room, which opened on March 27 across from 7-11, is a delightful tea room modeled on the Peacock Room at the Freer Gallery. I spoke with the owner, Heewon Ra, who told me that this was her first foray into the restaurant business, but as a commercial decorator she had long held the hope of designing a café with abstract lines and inspirational interiors. And she has done just that. The cozy front room is furnished with long wooden tables, and single seats along the dark walls. I sampled one of the fifteen assorted teas, served in a white china cup, with all the accoutrements. It was beyond delicious. The Peacock Room offers a rare opportunity to enjoy a civilized cup of tea in an enchanting setting, in a peaceful atmosphere, surrounded by intoxicating aromas and a gracious and courteous staff. The café is open from 12-9 and, in addition to tea, offers a menu that includes soup, sandwiches, salads and quiche. So do stop in.

On the opposite side of the street stands the Georgetown Emporium, another new and delightful addition to our village. The owner, who prefers to be anonymous, said she wanted to create a place of joy and I think she has done just that. The tiny space is packed with a variety of unique, colorful items, mostly on consignment, that range from lapis bookends to wonderful orange alligator luggage, to a stunning green china tea service, to Cartier jewelry, Ferragamo shoes, oil paintings, ceramic pots, chandeliers, lamps, leather purses and wallets. The list goes on and on. Every day there is a different eye-catching display on the sidewalk, which is where I spotted a wonderful (at least I think so) painting of race horses being led around a paddock. The Georgetown Emporium is a real treasure trove which offers a potpourri of choice items to buy, and an inviting place to browse to the accompaniment of marvelous background music. to shop by.

Rebecca McCabe and Recycling at the May 18 Concert: Keepin’ it Green continued from cover

Sprinkles will provide complimentary cupcakes, Haagen Dazs will scoop free ice cream, many of our sponsors will have arts and crafts, and the Rocklands food truck will be at the curb.

The Concerts committee, chaired by Hannah Isles, has put together an incredible line up of old favorites and new talent for the other concerts as well. There will be plenty of fun family activities and sweet and savory treats for everyone.

Father’s Day, June 15, in Volta Park
Calling all dad’s for a special Father’s Day celebration. Dads and their families will enjoy chilling out with the southern funk sounds of Zach Smith and the Dixie Power Trio. This concert will feature special chair massages for dads plus a father and child dance contest. Also, the Surf Side food truck will be serving up tacos and other mexi-cal morsels, and there will be many other fun activities for all ages.

July 13 in Rose Park for a Patriotic Parade
July concert-goers will enjoy the lively pop/Americana sounds of Laura Tsaggaris and her band. Show your community pride and come out to celebrate Georgetown! Decorate your wagon, bike, trike, stroller and/or furry four-legged friend for our patriotic parade to take place during half-time. The Surf Side Food Truck will again be on hand to serve up delicious southwestern fare.

All concerts are from 5-6:30pm and have a scheduled rain date of the following Sunday. The tradition of surprise treats for all concert goers, especially the children, will continue.

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Street Tree Care – Do’s and Don’t’s

Betsy Emes - Chair, Trees for Georgetown

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 once a week, slowly and thoroughly, soaking the ground with 20-25 gallons of water. Make sure that the tree has time to dry out between waterings. 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 bark and roots and as it accumulates in a tree box, it will often kill a 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 DC-regulation height and installed on only three sides (no fencing is allowed on the curb side) with side portions set one foot back from the outer edge of the curb. Fencing should be minimal and not have an impermeable border at sidewalk level that would prevent 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 rooting problems. Anything additional growing in a tree box “steals” water and nutrients from 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.

Eco Tip: Can It!

Did you know that recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 2 hours? Not only does recycling aluminum cans save energy, it also contributes to the increasing recycling rate for these containers. New statistics indicate aluminum can recovery rate is on the rise, reaching 65% in 2011, well toward its goal of 75% by 2015. That makes aluminum cans the world’s most recycled beverage container! Keep it going - there’s much to be done if we are to reach our goal by 2015!

Lee Child - Georgetown Garden Club
Public Safety Update and New Security Officer

Jennie Buehler

CAG welcomes security guard Ralph Williams who is the new patrol officer for the west side of Georgetown, working with Tesfaye Terefe who patrols on the east side. Ralph is a long-time employee of Securitas, perhaps familiar to many here from his work at Dumbarton Oaks. If you see Ralph on patrol, please stop to introduce yourself and welcome him to the neighborhood.

Ralph joins us at a crucial moment, as we are experiencing a spike in criminal activity in the neighborhood. The first quarter crime report shows that robberies in Georgetown have tripled in 2014, compared with the first quarter of last year. Violent crime is also up significantly, with 16 total incidents this quarter compared to 5 last year. First quarter violent crime includes 4 robberies with a gun, 3 robberies excluding a gun, 4 assaults excluding a gun, and 1 assault with a gun.

In addition, total property crime is up this quarter compared to the first quarter of 2013, from 169 incidents last year during the same period to 180 this year. The increase can be attributed to theft from auto; 15 thefts last year compared to 37 incidents this year. Conversely, burglary and non-auto theft were both down from the same period last year.

In response to community concerns about the first quarter crime report, Maggie Handel of CAG’s public safety committee organized a meeting at the Safeway café with residents and MPD officers. Captain Kim Dickerson, Officer Antonial Atkins and Tactical Officer Christian DeRuvo shared some of the strategies and tactics the MPD has employed to fight back against this spike in crime.

MPD 2D has added plain-clothes police officers to patrol the neighborhoods in addition to the Tactical Officers (bike patrol) and the Segway Patrol Officer. To give criminals the sense that a police officer is near, unmanned police vehicles are being strategically parked throughout the neighborhood. Officers continually monitor the evolving location and timing of criminal activity to best deploy resources in the community.

New technology — a mobile app — has been introduced to local businesses. GroupMe, a mobile group messaging...
Slate for CAG Officers and Directors

Richard Hinds - Nominating Chair

The nominating committee has proposed the new slate of officers and four of the directors. Please come to the CAG meeting at Dumbarton House on May 29 to cast your vote.

President – Pamla Moore

Pamla Moore has lived on Dumbarton Street in the East Village for over 23 years, owned a Georgetown development and public relations firm from 1993-2003 and is a founder and former president of Friends of Rose Park, Inc. She was elected in 2004 to the ANC2e, resigning to accompany her husband to an assignment in Vienna, Austria. She has been president for the past year and before that chaired CAG’s Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee. She is married to Powell Moore.

Vice President – Bob vom Eigen

Bob and his wife, Ann, have lived and raised their children in Georgetown since 1978. Bob practiced law in Washington since 1970 until he retired in 2011 from the firm of Foley & Lardner LLP, located at Washington Harbour. He has served as President of the Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park (FOGWP) since 2006, and served on the fundraising committee of the Georgetown Waterfront Park Commission that preceded FOGWP’s creation. Bob also serves as the Vice President and Director of the Georgetown Village, which provides volunteer assistance to seniors living in Georgetown and Burleith. Bob became a CAG director in 2011, and serves on the Historic Preservation/Zoning subcommittee of CAG.

Secretary – Barbara Downs

A resident of P Street, Barbara has served on the CAG board in several capacities – as President and on numerous committees including Public Safety, Beautification, Gala, Membership and Nominating. She is also active in the Georgetown Garden Club and the Senior Center at St. John’s. She and her late husband, Tim Downs, have been pivotal leaders in Georgetown, from CAG Beautification Days to the O & P Street renovation project.

Director–Karen “Cookie” Cruse

A CAG board member for over sixteen years, Karen is the expert co-chair of the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Committee, working diligently to create a balance between the residential and commercial sectors. She works with businesses to communicate their plans to community leaders and answers concerns regarding modifications to their liquor licenses — known as settlement agreements. Cookie is a key liaison person with Georgetown University on town-gown matters. She also assists with editing the CAG newsletter and is a regular volunteer at the Senior Center Lunch Program and Meals on Wheels. She and her husband, Jim, live on 35th Street.

Director–Hazel Denton

Hazel Denton has lived on P Street for 20 years, during which time she has been active in a number of neighborhood activities and organizations including CAG where she is involved in traffic, parking and other transportation issues. She is co-chair of the Parking and Transportation Working Group of the Georgetown Community Partnership. Hazel currently teaches courses in health and population issues at SAIS (Johns Hopkins) and at Georgetown University. Previously Hazel had a 20-year career at the World Bank, preceded by government service, academia (Harvard Business School), and in advertising and marketing in London prior to coming to this country. She has a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

Director–Hannah Isles

Hannah Isles has lived on 33rd Street since 2006. She started her career as a political fundraiser and later transitioned to public relations working for private sector and non-profit companies including AOL, GE, Powell Tate and Share our Strength. In 2007 she left office life to work at home raising her two children, Nina and Peter. She has served on the committee for CAG’s Concerts in the Parks program for the past 7 years and currently co-chairs the committee. She is married to Adam Isles.

Director–Gianluca Pivato

Gianluca Pivato moved to Washington, DC from Italy over 16 years ago and settled in Georgetown in 2001. He works for companies all over the world offering IT services, consulting, and technology to modernize legacy systems. As Vice President of the CAG Board, Luca co-chairs the Public Safety Committee assisting with MPD and block captain issues and is active on the GU Relations Committee. He also provides invaluable expertise regarding information technology and our new website development.

Public Safety Update and New Security Officer continued from page 8

app, is being used by the Business Improvement District (BID) to directly communicate with on-duty police officers 24/7. This app has helped reduce crime by alerting officers to suspicious activity so that near-by officers can quickly respond. Generally, their presence alone is enough to deter the crime. This technology can potentially benefit village residents but is NOT intended to replace 911.

The CAG Public Safety team is evaluating the feasibility of rolling this mobile messaging app out to our Block Captains and residents. Stay tuned for more details.

MPD Officers also shared personal safety tips to keep in mind while out in the neighborhood: carry only the essentials in your pocket, use your phone in secure locations rather than while walking, have your keys ready before you get to your home or car, and keep house and car keys on separate key chains, and never leave personal property in your car, especially garage-door openers.

For more information on safety tips, CAG public safety activities, Block Captains – and to donate — visit http://www.cagtown.com/public-safety-services

If you haven’t already donated to support the public safety program this year, you will receive a mail reminder soon. We need all residents to support the program at whatever level you can. Your donation is tax deductible.
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INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND OFFICES
Community Calendar

■ Sunday, May 4
Chanticleer
Called “the world’s reigning male chorus” by The New Yorker magazine
5pm; Tickets $40; St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3240 O St. NW; 338-1796

■ Saturday, May 10
Georgetown Garden Tour
Features intriguing gardens
10am-5pm; Tickets $35 can be purchased the day of the tour at Christ Church 31st and O, www.georgetowngardentour.com

■ Thursday, May 15
Trees For Georgetown Annual Spring Party
Celebrating 25 years of success!
6pm; for more information call 202-345-2400 or email giftrees@gmail.com

■ Friday, May 16
Bike to Work Day
Join over 10,000 area commuters biking to work.
7:30-9:30am; pit-stops at Waterfront Park (K & Wisconsin Ave.) and Meigs Park (Penn. Ave. & 28th St.); registration is free www.georgetowndc.com

■ Sunday, May 18
CAG Concerts in the Parks
Rebecca McCabe and Human Country Jukebox
5-6:30pm; Free; Volta Park baseball field; 34th and Volta Street; see cover

■ Wednesday, May 21
Tudor Place Annual Spring Garden Party
Enjoy a lovely evening in the gardens for the annual fundraiser
6pm-10pm; Tudor Place, 1644 31st St. NW; 202.965.0400, www.tudorplace.org

■ Thursday, May 29
CAG Annual Awards Meeting
Mayor Gray and Councilman Jack Evans speak; CAG Awards and Election of Officers
7pm reception, 7:30 program; Dumbarton House, 2715 Q Street NW

■ Saturday, May 31
S & R Washington Awards Gala
7-10:30pm; $450 individual tickets, table pricing available; The Historic Halcyon House in Georgetown; see box on page 8

■ Monday, June 2
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC2E)
Public Meeting
6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation; agenda available www.anc2e.com; call 724-7098