This Father’s Day, June 21st, bring your dad, your grandfather, your family and friends of fathers to the Concert in the Park from 5:30 to 7 in Volta Park. Join other dads, friends and neighbors to listen to Paul Pfau -- a recent performer on NBC’s hit television show ‘The Voice.’ He will perform with his pop/rock band. Pfau (rhymes with “wow”) is an award-winning singer-songwriter from the rural hills of western Maryland with a sound likened to John Mayer and Michael Buble.

At this June concert there will be complimentary chair massages especially for dads, special free family photos and sweet treats for the whole family. Bring your picnic, or visit the Rocklands food truck. As always there will be free Haagen-Dazs ice cream cones, Sprinkles cupcakes, and many other treats at sponsors’ tables.

If you have to miss it, you’re still in luck. The final concert of the summer will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. July 12 in Rose Park. The roots rock/Americana band The Walkaways will perform along with various activities to help concert-goers beat the heat.

Concerned about crime in Georgetown? Then be sure to attend the Georgetown community Public Safety Meeting at 7 p.m. on June 25 which will be hosted at Dumbarton House, 2715 Q Street. CAG, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and several other community organizations central to Georgetown are combining forces to discuss crime and provide information and resources to enhance public safety.

Sponsored by the Citizens Association of Georgetown, Advisory Neighborhood Council 2E (ANC2E) and the Georgetown Business Association (GBA), residents and business owners will have an opportunity to discuss recent incidents and neighborhood

In May the Citizens Association of Georgetown mailed the newly updated Historic Preservation brochure, Respect for the Past – Living in the Present, to over 4000 people in Georgetown. First compiled 10 years ago by Barbara Zartman and edited by Nola Klamberg, copies of the original guide were totally depleted last year. Hilary and Joe Gibbons generously provided funding for the new guide. Victoria Rixey, Catherine Marquardt, Pamla Moore quickly brought the guide up to date and got it out the door.

The guide is a wonderful resource for anyone thinking of making changes to their property. It gives a brief history of the historic district, which was passed by Congress as the Old Georgetown Act in 1950. The guide provides many pointers for homeowners under the heading “Practical Guidance,” and has a section on how to apply for a building permit, as well as contact information for all resources. It features photographs from renowned architectural photographer, Maxwell MacKenzie and is an excellent ‘welcome’ gift for a new neighbor.

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“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
Tudor Place

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I look forward to working with CAG members, volunteers and residents, as well as with representatives of the business community and the ANC.

S easons change and so do the leaderships of civic organizations. My name is Bob vom Eigen, and I am the new president of the Citizens Association of Georgetown. I have lived in Georgetown since 1978, and have fallen in love with this walkable village – the people, the historic buildings, the small shops, the beautiful parks and gardens and the organizations that help make it work. I am committed to leading an impressive group of volunteers who donate time and their wisdom to address the opportunities and challenges that face CAG and the Georgetown community.

However, I first want to thank Pamla Moore for setting the bar high for accomplishments during the two years she has led CAG as president. Pam is a soft spoken, determined leader who does not hesitate to question proposals that would not serve the interests of our community. There have been dramatic improvements to our monthly newsletter and website. The Historic Preservation/Zoning Committee has reorganized to permit in-depth analyses of proposed modifications to the commercial and residential buildings of Georgetown, leading to constructive comments to the historic preservation and planning entities of the District’s Office of Planning, the Commission on Fine Arts and other related agencies. Thanks to Pam’s efforts to solicit a generous donation from M.C. Dean, the Public Safety Committee will be expanding the number of cameras capable of recording incidents that can aid police in pursuing those who violate the law.

Pam, thank you for your dedicated and outstanding service to CAG and the community. Pam will remain a director on the CAG board and will continue to be active in committee activities, including creation of a new membership committee that will seek to survey the broader Georgetown community to determine what CAG can do to make living in Georgetown even more enjoyable. We want to attract a broader spectrum of residents to join CAG and to support its important activities.

The Concerts in the Park began its season on May 17 with a large crowd of parents and young children, as well as a few older folks like me, who came to hear Rebecca McCabe and the Human Country Jukebox in Volta Park. The atmosphere was joyous with children frolicking through the crowd with balloons and kick balls. Thanks to our sponsors who contributed pizza, snow cones, ice cream, cupcakes and balloons which make it truly a festive event. Two more concerts will be held in the coming months. The first will be on Father’s Day, June 21 at Volta Park with Paul Pfau and his Pop/Rock band; and the second concert will be at Rose Park on July 12 with the Roots Rock/ Americana band The Walkaways. For those who missed the May concert, please join us to celebrate our community that is becoming younger every day.

Beginning this fall, CAG will join the Georgetown Community Partnership to work with Georgetown University and Advisory Neighborhood Commission for Georgetown, Burleith and Foxhall Village to comment on the Georgetown University Campus Plan due to go into effect in 2018. Our past history in seeking an accommodation for our residents’ interests through the Campus Plan was frustrating and combative. However, late in the 2013 phase of the plan, the University, CAG and the ANC2E reached an accommodation that resulted in a constructive process of reaching consensus on shared objectives. Since that breakthrough, the relationship among the University, its students and the residents of Georgetown has improved dramatically. We look forward to continuing in constructive dialogue later this year.

There are transportation issues upon which I hope CAG can make progress. One issue that affects west Georgetown each and every evening (and on some mornings) are the gridlocks on 34th and 35th Streets. I plan to work with CAG’s transportation committee, headed by Topher Mathews, to determine with the aid of the DC Department of Transportation what remedies can be adopted and enforced. We have other transportation issues that will confront our community, including the proposed trolley car extension between Union Station to K Street at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue as well as the long term prospects of obtaining the WMATA subway along M Street between Rosslyn and Union Station.

Finally, CAG’s program committee has begun planning for the seven community meetings that CAG conducts throughout the fall and spring, plus the glorious CAG Gala scheduled for Friday, October 23 at the Four Seasons Hotel. If you have ideas for a program related to the Georgetown community, please contact our Executive Director Betsy Cooley.

I look forward to working with CAG members, volunteers and residents, as well as with representatives of the business community and the ANC. We have plenty to do to make this community as good, as attractive and as enjoyable as it can be. We are blessed to live here, but we cannot rely on past laurels.
Hillary Clinton came to Georgetown; actually, she came to Elizabeth Bagley’s house which happens to be across the street from mine. I stood on the sidewalk, like a regular person, because the price of admission for the well-dressed, well-heeled, well-appointed attendees was $2,700. I was the only gawker, standing alone, with a camera hanging from my shoulder. The secret service was in evidence, frisking each arrival as they alighted from their taxis, cars and limousines. When the curb was cleared, Hillary arrived fashionably late, wearing a bright blue three-quarter coat and black slacks. I shouted her name and just before she entered the house she looked at me and shouted back, “Hey, how are you?” I didn’t have time to reply, but I suspect that is the closest I will ever get to her.

There was a couple from Japan across the street who stopped and asked who the lady in the black car was. When I told them it was Hillary Clinton, they giggled, nodded their heads and said, “Oh yes we know her. Will she be President of the United States of America?” I told them we would have to wait a while, a long while, before we knew the answer to that question, but they seemed excited and frankly I was too. I actually knew four people who passed into the inner sanctum, all of them above regular people status.

As the lonely bystander I was reminded of the amazing line of Hillary fans who stood for hours in the rain on Martha’s Vineyard last summer to get her autograph on their books. I guess no one else in the neighborhood knew or cared about the happening on 29th Street, or maybe they just didn’t want to be seen hugging the side walk and not the candidate!
On April 23, the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) held a hearing on the application of the DC Preservation League to designate the former West Heating Plant on 29th Street as a landmark. At the end of the hearing, the Chair of the HPRB called for two votes: one vote to designate the plant as a DC Historic Landmark, and the second to forward a nomination of the plant to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Both the proposed designation and the proposed nomination failed by votes of four opposed, three in favor.

CAG testified in opposition to both proposals, and provided written communication to the HPRB on March 11, and again on April 23, detailing the reasons for CAG’s opposition. It may seem strange that CAG would oppose efforts to provide further protection for a significant building in Georgetown. An explanation is in order.

CAG’s testimony before the HPRB was the product of countless hours of project-related effort by members of the CAG Board and CAG’s Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee over the past four years. This entailed numerous meetings with the owner, government officials, and consultants; on-site visits to the property; and study of detailed engineering reports on the plant’s structural and environmental issues.

A principal reason for CAG’s opposition is that, from a historic preservation standpoint, the West Heating Plant is already protected by being a contributing building in a National Landmark historic district. CAG is concerned that singling out contributing buildings for further protection could dilute the historic significance of all other contributing buildings in Georgetown. This is not to say that individual buildings within the historic district might not merit listing on the National Register. The City Tavern Club on M Street, built in 1794 and frequented by the early Founding Fathers, wasn’t listed on the National Register until 1992. But there is no reasonable calculus that would ever equate the historic importance of the City Tavern with the West Heating Plant.

A second reason for CAG’s opposition is crystallized in the conundrum faced by designation proponents: for what purpose is the plant being preserved? As is, there simply is no use for the plant, other than it becoming an ever-aging relic, symbolic of another era; a building so contaminated that it could not even function as an industrial museum, or a film noir movie set.

CAG has long believed the best use of the plant and site is through adaptive re-use, a re-use that benefits the community, and the District. Any adaptive re-use will first require remediation of the building. Adaptive re-uses will also require removal of the machinery, equipment, and piping, and demolition of a substantial portion of the building to address a façade with many cracked bricks and a steel frame that is rusting.

CAG also voiced concern that a landmark designation might also lead to the plant being snared in a preservation limbo, with a building sitting empty and seemingly abandoned for years and years. Such a building is not without precedent in Georgetown.

The Capital Traction Power House, looking east from near Wisconsin Ave and K Street

The Capital Traction Power House, built in 1911, to supply power to street car lines, ceased operating in 1933; it was not demolished in until 1968.

The April 23 hearing before the HPRB is not the final one in the matter of the West Heating Plant. As the plant is a contributing building in a historic district, an application to demolish even part of the plant will be subject to another HPRB hearing, and reviews by the ANC, the Old Georgetown Board, and the Commission of Fine Arts. These will precede a hearing by the Mayor’s Agent, who will determine if demolition is justified by the building’s owner having met at least one of several criteria that permit demolition of a building or structure that is otherwise protected by historic preservation law. The owner expects to file the application this fall.

Two criteria likely to be used in support of the owner’s application are exemplary architecture and community benefits. Exemplary architecture is a relatively high standard, not readily met. Thus, the owner may undertake a round of community meetings and outreach on the proposed design of a successor building to the heating plant before filing an application.
The annual meeting of the Citizens Association of Georgetown presided over for the last time by President Pamla Moore at Sea Catch Restaurant on May 27 was many things for many people—a way to catch up with old acquaintances, the passing of leadership batons, and appearances by Mayor Muriel Bowser and Ward 2 Councilman Jack Evans, both feeling chipper after the District Council approved an $13 billion spending plan without too much blood on the floor, after weeks of sometimes heated arguments and disagreements.

It was an evening to honor Georgetowners who contributed to maintaining the health, the practical get-things-done spirit and the citizen values of Georgetown.

Evans showed up for several reasons himself. He gave a reprise of the budget—which includes lots of money for affordable housing, little in the way of tax raising, help for transit and schools. “And,” he said, “I’m happy to report that there will be money—three million—to repair and renovate the C&O Canal in Georgetown, so that we’ll have the boat again in operation.” That drew cheers from a large gathering, as it should, since the canal boat and the canal itself are physical and traditional manifestations of Georgetown, not to mention a tourist attraction.

Mayor Bowser was also pleased with the passing of the budget, and lauded Evans for “as you know being my best friend on the council. We went up to New York to present our financial status, and we came back with our bond rating being upped. And I’ve put a lot of pressure on Jack by tasking him to be the council’s representative on the Metro board.”

“I think after six months in office I can say we can be proud in making progress,” Bowser said. “We have great people doing important jobs. In education, we’re trying to find the proper balance between our public schools and charter schools. We have the best police chief in the country, as far as I’m concerned. We’re getting the basics done and going beyond that toward our goal of becoming not only the best national city but a world-class city.”

Evans was awarded the Charles Atherton Award “for Exceptional Service by a Dedicated Public-Sector Professional Public-Sector Professional for Outstanding Work Preserving and Protecting Historic Georgetown.”

Continued on pg. 7
Barbara Downs, who seems to have quietly served on an impressive number of organizational boards in Georgetown for years, including several CAG boards (she is a former CAG president) and committees, the Friends of the Waterfront Park, the Jackson Art Center, and as a volunteer for numerous village projects. She has done this with grace and class, in a style and manner that befits the definition of Georgetown citizenship. Downs was awarded the Peter Belin Award for Distinguished Service to the Georgetown Community, presented to her by Harry Belin, Peter Belin’s grandson.

The William A. Cochran Community Service Award (named after the late architect, CAG president and preservation leader) was given to Dr. Sachiko Kuno, President and CEO of the S&R Foundation, which has in short order become a prominent intellectual, cultural and educational presence in Georgetown with the purchase of two iconic Georgetown properties, Halcyon House and Evermay.

The Martin-Davidson Award for an Outstanding Business Serving the Community and Enhancing the Historic Character of Georgetown was given to Foley and Lardner, LLC law office space on the Potomac waterfront. The evening was moderated by Jim Wilcox and each commissioner spoke to the audience about an issue close to them. A question and answer session followed.

Chair Ron Lewis, an attorney with an extensive background in government policy issues, talked about how well the committee works together on issues keen to Georgetown, despite their different ages and experience.

Treasurer Jeff Jones, an American Airlines pilot for more than 29 years, spoke of the importance of the Hyde-Addison Modernization project. He asked for the community’s support pushing for an earlier start of construction, beginning in 2016 rather than 2017 as slated. Jeff is active in historic preservation matters and is the goto-guy on public works.

Bill Starrels is the ANC’s expert on Alcoholic Beverage Control matters, co-chairing the committee with Commissioner Birch. He is very involved in transportation issues, and addressed the serious parking problem in Georgetown. Bill is also on the boards of the BID and the GBA.

Ed Solomon has been an ANC commissioner for five terms, two as Chair. As chair of the Safety Committee, Ed works closely with MPD on safety issues. He polled the audience to determine if they’ve changed their walking habits as a result of crime and stated that safety is “a very big concern for our city.” Solomon, also a small business owner in Georgetown, is an executive committee member of BID and a board member of GBA.

Monica Roache, whose family has lived in Georgetown for over five generations, works as the assistant principal at Gunston Middle School in Arlington. She spoke of the condition of Hyde-Addison, crime in Georgetown, and efforts to rename the Rose Park tennis courts for Margaret and Roumania Peters, sisters and nationally ranked tennis champions of the 30’s and 40’s who played at the Park.

Kendyl Clausen is an undergraduate at Georgetown University in International Politics and Pre-law with a special interest in Urban Planning. A commissioner for five months, Kendyl is interested in historic preservation and affordable housing in the...
HISTORIC PRESERVATION GUIDE  
Continued from pg. 1

We are happy to provide additional copies to architectural firms, builders, real estate offices and similar businesses – just call or email the CAG office! The new brochure will also be found on CAG’s website at http://www.cagtown.org under “Historic Preservation”.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR ANC2E  
Continued from pg. 7

District. She has taken on the task of redesigning the commission’s web site.

Reed Howard is an undergraduate at Georgetown University in International Politics and Education. He sees his role as a connector between students and neighbors. He believes their issues are the same and problems can be solved with open communication. He is also very interested in the issue of homelessness in the District. “I’m really committed to get to know each of you here as a resource to help students and the community find a viable place to live,” he said.

Commissioner Tom Birch was out of the country traveling and not present at the meeting.

Special thanks to Foley and Lardner, our gracious host, and to Anchor Orange for the delicious refreshments. Kudos to Maggie Handle and Clarisa Ringl Volk of the CAG Meeting Committee who put together a enjoyable and informative evening.

3107 DUMBARTON STREET: THE DEMISE OF A HISTORIC PROPERTY

WALTER GROSZYK, Historic Preservation Committee

3107 Dumbarton Street was built circa 1900, as a detached house in the Georgian Revival style, and was once the residence of John Foster Dulles, when he served as Secretary of State in the Eisenhower Administration. The house was shoe horned into a narrow lot; there is no side yard to speak of along its west side; the rear yard is a small, paved patio; the east side yard is very narrow; and the front yard was excavated in 1946 to build a two car garage. At some point, the level of the east side yard was apparently raised by five or more feet. In doing so, the then owner left full length double hung windows in place.

The present owner bought the property in 2013. In early 2014, a Maryland architect hired by the owner appeared three times before the Old Georgetown Board seeking concept approval for a rear addition, and removal of a rear porch. Concept approval was given, and permits applied for, covering this and some other interior renovations. There was no permit review by the Board, nor apparently were permits issued before work commenced.

Once begun, the work soon blossomed to encompass nearly every square inch of the house’s façade. The roof was dismantled, the ridge line shifted, and the roof pitch at the back of the house altered. Window openings were bricked over; new window openings cut. A side entrance door repositioned, with a new vestibule entry for this door carved into the façade. Windows that remained were replaced, but often in a much different style. A new vertical row of three oversized, single pane windows was created. The front door with its sidelights and a fan light transom was dispatched to the dumpster. Gone also is the white balustrade that visually connected the two chimneys at the front of the house, --and the chimneys as well. The final insult was to drape the brick façade with insulating panels finished with pale yellow, faux stucco, synthetic plaster. These alterations were made without any review by the Old Georgetown Board, nor were permits for the work issued by the District government.

The lack of permits led to a stop work order, which remains in effect. The District’s Office of Planning and the Office of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs initiated an enforcement proceeding against the owner. On March 27, 2015, the administrative law judge hearing the case granted a 90 day continuance, as the owner had hired a new architect, and would be preparing applications to address the issues of the unpermitted work.

The owner’s new architect appeared before the ANC on May 4 and the Old Georgetown Board on May 7, detailing the extent of the alterations to the house. Neighbors and CAG spoke at the ANC opposing the changes to the house, with the ANC unanimously passing a resolution objecting to the entirety of the alterations. CAG subsequently submitted comments to the Old Georgetown Board detailing key objections. These comments can be found on the CAG website.

The Old Georgetown Board stated that the scale and nature of the alterations were such that these could never be approved in concept. The Secretary of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (and the Board) was of the view that the magnitude of the alterations and the damage done to a historic property protected by Federal statute were a violation of the law, and that the Commission would consider a Federal civil action.

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Georgetown Village Invites you to Hear Bill Plante on Selma Fifty Years Later

On June 25th, Georgetown Village will present a talk by award winning CBS journalist Bill Plante on “Selma Fifty Years Later.” Plante covered the events in Selma 50 years ago as a young reporter and recently returned on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the marches from Selma to Montgomery. The demonstrations were a game changer but they were not the finish line. Join Bill Plante for a fascinating discussion at 6:00 pm at St. John’s Church, 3240 O Street, NW. The talk is free and open to the public. For information and to RSVP contact lynn@georgetown-village.org or 202-999-8988. Georgetown Village is a nonprofit membership organization providing services and programs in Georgetown, Burleith and nearby neighborhoods so older residents can live better and longer in their homes.
GEORGETOWN SAFETY MEETING
Continued from pg. 1

safety concerns with MPD Commander Melvin Gresham, Captain David Sledge, Lt. Roland Hoyle, Sgt. Lennox Antoine, Officer William Peterson, Officer Christian Deruvo, Officer Antonial Atkins, and Officer David Pritchett

John Rentzepis, chair of CAG’s Public Safety program, will describe the CAG camera surveillance program. Chief CAG Security Officer Tesfaye Terefe will talk about safety options that the CAG security officers can provide for you. In addition, a representative from M.C. Dean, a leading security firm that has provided cameras for CAG’s program, will be on hand to discuss cameras specifics and personal security systems for individual homes.

Please join friends and neighbors at this important safety summit to curtail crime and increase safety within the Georgetown community. For more information contact ANC Commissioner Monica Roache at 2E07@anc.dc.gov or the CAG office.

ROSE PARK FARMERS MARKET IS BUSTLING ON WEDNESDAYS

GLORIA GARRETT, Market Manager Leslie Wheelock, Founder

Roose Park Farmer’s Market is open from 3-7 p.m. every Wednesday at the flagpole at 26th and O streets.

Produce is rolling in now with salad greens, lettuce, zucchini, radishes, beets, herbs, and carrots. Quaker Valley has apples, delicious apple sauces, jams, and honey.

Griff’s has poultry, pork, some beef and lamb with fresh eggs. Fresh fish and lobsters, artisan goat cheeses, Argentine empanadas, All Things Olive with condiments for salads, and a variety of gourmet salts. Dinner is Ready has delicious prepared meals, soups, and more. Excellent Euro breads with muffins, and croissants.

Natural juice Popsicles are here… beat the heat!! Cut flowers and gorgeous plants, some bedding herbs and tomato plants from Alice & Jim at Anchor Nursery. New and improved pizza coming in June so get ready for family pizza night. Blue Cat Design Studio has hand dyed scarves and small bags for special gifts or treat yourself… and snazz up a casual look with a twist or a knot. Also fabulous natural soy candles with outstanding fragrances from Capitol Candles. Enjoy the season at Rose Park. Leashed dogs are welcome. The market is sponsored by Friends of Rose Park. See you there!

KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR TREES

BETSY EMES, Chair, Trees for Georgetown

Many residents do not know that they are responsible for the trees in front of their property. Just as we are directed to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice during the winter, we are instructed to care for the trees in front of our residences -- and the results are longer lasting!

Please keep trees free of weeds and vines and report a stump, empty tree box, or tree that needs pruning to 311.dc.gov. This website is a free resource available to all residents who need service concerning any public maintenance issues. When you select the appropriate option (“Tree Planting,” “Pruning,” “Removal,” or “Inspection”), your request is assigned a case number, which allows you to track the progress until resolution.

The District government is responsible for planting, removing, and pruning our street trees, but we are their eyes in the neighborhood. Notify the city at 311.dc.gov of any problems. We can play a very important part in maintaining the health and beauty of Georgetown’s tree canopy.

Attention GTown Dogs

The Friends of Book Hill Park Annual Dog Parade and Show is Back!

Don’t let the dog days of summer get you down. Ask your master to take you to the park at the corner of Wisconsin and Reservoir NW on Saturday morning, June 27 at 8:00. You can meet Uncle Sam, visit with your friends, strut your stuff in the parade, and compete for prizes in a variety of categories including Best Couple (with your owner), Best Trick, and Best Costume, among others. And, of course, Best in Show! Rain date: June 28. For more information call Ginny Poole at 202-944-2753.
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by Georgetown Author
Elaine Williams Crockett
Available at Amazon.com
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