There was quite a (virtual) turnout as CAG conducted its first online Board Election which ended June 25th. Many thanks to our Nominating Committee chaired by Richard Hinds and congratulations to the new and returning slate members. The Annual Meeting, which was postponed in May, is scheduled for September 22nd at Dumbarton House. Details will be announced as the health emergency restrictions are updated. Many thanks to the many members who participated in the election process- we look forward to announcing more exciting CAG news in the coming months.

TARA SAKRAIDA PARKER
Tara Sakraida Parker is an experienced real estate attorney, professional gift planner and successful nonprofit fundraiser living in Washington, D.C. For nearly a decade, Tara handled sophisticated real estate finance and land use regulatory issues as a transactional attorney. Before moving to DC, Tara handled sophisticated real estate finance and land use regulatory issues as a transactional attorney. Before moving to DC, Tara handled sophisticated real estate finance and land use regulatory issues as a transactional attorney. Before moving to DC, Tara handled sophisticated real estate finance and land use regulatory issues as a transactional attorney. Before moving to DC, Tara handled sophisticated real estate finance and land use regulatory issues as a transactional attorney. Before moving to DC, Tara handled sophisticated real estate finance and land use regulatory issues as a transactional attorney. 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The location, the style, the feeling you get when you walk through the door – every aspect of your home should be a reflection of who you are, where you’ve been, and the life you aspire to live.

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Brooke House 1607 28th Street NW Washington, DC
President’s LETTER

Former President and Georgetown resident John F. Kennedy once said that “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

I cannot think of a more important time for our community to look to the future. I am confident that our future will be brighter than our very recent history of pandemic and strife. It is an honor to have been elected as your board president at this time of tremendous challenge and change.

As a residential, commercial and scholastic urban neighborhood, Georgetown is a complex economic and social ecosystem. For the members of CAG, it is the most profound of all places: It is our community and our home. And for our visitors who conduct business, shop, eat, study and pray here, Georgetown is an historic and treasured place.

As I write this, Georgetown is subdued. We are several months into a quarantined life that is much less economically and socially vibrant than what we are used to. Wisconsin and M Streets are boarded up; the streetscape looks scarred in some places, but like an urban-art gallery in others. We do our best to explain to our children why, and what has happened. We point to the peaceful demonstrations as a better example.

These are difficult times, and they can be confusing to people of all ages and races. But this will not last; Georgetown will reopen, and recover, and change in ways that we cannot yet fully predict, but in ways that I believe we can look forward to.

I can tell you that wonderful opportunities are in store for CAG which will soon give us the infrastructure support we need to upgrade our essential services and processes. I look forward to adding value to your CAG membership with more technologically efficient membership communications, a more streamlined development process and building robust committees as well as recruitment of individual volunteers. We’ll still ask for your help, and we’ll remember to show our thanks.

Enriching our community through educational programs, public safety, historic preservation, beautification and active engagement with our key partners in the public, private and nonprofit sectors will continue to be cornerstones of CAG – a vital organization that has been protecting the interests of our ever-changing neighborhood, and maintaining a thoughtful balance between residential and commercial needs, for more than a century (did you know that we were the District of Columbia’s first civic group?).

I have not called Georgetown “home” as long as many of you – but the people and work of CAG are why I felt at home here, right from the start. When Betsy Cooley recruited me to serve as a committee volunteer, I knew I was becoming part of the Georgetown family; I cherish my place in it and thank you all for your support.

Our best days are ahead of us, as we appreciate and learn from our past and look with great hope toward Georgetown’s future.

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UPCOMING CAG EVENTS / MEETINGS

- **CAG Annual Meeting** – Sept. 22, 2020
- **Concerts in the Parks** – TBD
- **Fall Fundraiser** – November TBD
- **Trees for Georgetown Party** – Postponed to 2021

Watch for announcements!

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**Back at his "Post"**

Leslie Maysak, CAG Executive Director

The historic horse hitching post in front of Ted Kennedy’s former home on 28th and Q went missing recently and the absence was noticed by one of his history-loving neighbors who contacted CAG. After making some inquiries, ANC 2E Commissioner Elizabeth Miller solved the mystery - the artifact had been temporarily removed and is now back at his post, standing taller and more upright than before his disappearance. The adjacent home was originally part of the Evermay estate and was recently purchased by Evermay’s current owners, who own several other historically important Georgetown houses and are renovating the property.
GEORGETOWN HERITAGE CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

Jeffrey L. Nichols, Executive Director, Georgetown Heritage

Last shared a Georgetown Heritage update in February, and as we are all too aware, our city and nation have gone through profound and unexpected challenges since then. Historic events like pandemics often bring shifts in culture and can foster in a new era, and this moment in time is no exception. Additionally, the Black Lives Matter movement has brought our country’s legacy of slavery and systemic racism to the forefront of our national dialog. Georgetown Heritage is dedicated to telling the full story of our shared history to help further the discussion of the issues that still challenge and divide our people.

Amid all of this change - the only constant in life, as the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus once wrote - Georgetown Heritage also continues to evolve. Since March, we have been actively engaged in the design and planning for a temporary stabilization project for a section of the canal wall located near the corner of Grace Street and Wisconsin Avenue. This project is a joint effort between C&O Canal National Historical Park and Georgetown Heritage, and will allow us to safely operate the new canal boat in Georgetown. The project is in the final design stage with work scheduled to begin this fall, and completion scheduled for January 2021. This will be the first construction project that Georgetown Heritage will complete as part of the Georgetown Canal Plan for the restoration, preservation, and activation of the C&O Canal in Georgetown.

The canal boat is still being built in Maryland and is on schedule to be ready by this fall. Once finished, the boat will undergo sea trials and then stored for the winter at the boatyard. Our plan is to have the boat in Georgetown by late winter 2021, with an arrival ceremony and public event on Saturday, March 20, 2021, if all goes according to plan. (What are plans, really, during a pandemic?!) March 20, 2021 may seem like an arbitrary date, but it’s significant for several reasons. The first day of spring is also the anniversary of the start of Judge Douglas’ historic walk in 1954 that helped to save the canal as a historic site. In addition, 2021 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the C&O National Historical Park, and also marks 10 years since The Georgetown last sailed the Georgetown Canal. Our hope is that next March will be the start of the next era of the canal, and the beginning of preservation and restoration of this amazing historical artifact in Washington.

As we move forward as an organization, I’m happy to announce that Kelly Schindler is our new Director of Education and Partnerships. She came to us from the National Trust of Historic Preservation, where she served in a number of positions over her eight-year tenure. We look forward to working with her to advance the mission of Georgetown Heritage. We are on the cusp of some major accomplishments, and I want to thank everyone who has supported us to make these projects come to life. Thank you.

Highest: Canal Boat under construction at Roudebush Yacht & Engine Works in Dundalk, MD.
Middle: Worker drilling test bores in March preparation for Grace Street wall stabilization project.

We are on the cusp of some major accomplishments, and I want to thank everyone who has supported us to make these projects come to life. Thank you.

How kind it would be to water a TREE.

Trees need 25 gallons of water each week. Please help protect our tree canopy.

GEORGETOWN got some press love when this beautiful mural on P Street was featured in a Washington.org ad in a recent issue of the New York Times travel magazine.

We welcome a new business member to CAG: Wendell Allsbrook is from DC and recently opened the Georgetown Butcher located at 3210 Grace St. NW.

They offer free delivery and pick-up as well as VIP House Accounts for their specialty meats, seafood and groceries. www.georgetownbutcher.com was in the press recently. Check it out! Show your support!
“Reopening, rebuilding, recovering” was the theme of the Georgetown BID’s 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting, held June 10. With around 250 attendees tuning in from home, Georgetown BID President & CEO Joe Sternlieb and Board of Directors Chair Bruce Baschuk began the meeting by acknowledging the challenging time we find ourselves in during the confluence of a pandemic, economic crisis, and reckoning with racial justice.

While the BID’s annual meetings are typically a celebration of the previous year, 2020 presents a critical opportunity for Georgetown to look forward rather than back, and evolve on many levels. As the BID, its members, and the community work together on reopening, rebuilding, and recovering, the top priority is ensuring everyone feels safe, comfortable, and welcome.

Bruce and Joe’s remarks were followed by a presentation of the financial report, and several approved Georgetown BID Bylaws amendments that correctly corrected internal inconsistencies.

This year’s Georgetown BID Board of Directors election results were also announced, for both owner and tenant candidates who were up for a three-year term renewal. Georgetown BID owners re-elected to the Board for the Class of 2023 are: Ahmad Ashkar – Falafel Inc.; Bruce Baschuk – J Street Companies; Ginger Laytham – Carleton Holdings; Kennett Marshall – Friends of the Legal Services Corporation; Michael Eves – Jamestown; and Richard Levy – The Levy Group. Georgetown BID tenants who were re-elected are: Aba Kwawu, TAA Public Relations; Beth Aberg, Random Harvest; Billy Martin, Martin’s Tavern; and Greg Casten, Tony & Joe’s Seafood Place.

In past years, one member of the Georgetown BID Clean Team is recognized for their exemplary work. This year, the entire Clean Team received this award for their frontline dedication to Georgetown during the COVID crisis. Similarly, rather than singling out one business for the Community Leadership Award, all of Georgetown’s businesses were collectively recognized for their perseverance and ingenuity during unprecedented times.

The meeting concluded with remarks and a Q&A with Mayor Muriel Bowser, Georgetown University President Jack DeGioia, and Emerson Collective CFO Dan Tangerlini, who shared three unique perspectives on the future of Georgetown. All agreed that Georgetown has an opportunity to lead the city as a commercial district, and is poised to come back even stronger, while also challenging the status quo.

Catherine Shaw, CAG Public Safety Coordinator catherineshaw@cagtown.org

CAG Security Officers On Duty Seven Nights a Week for Summer 2020

MPD Police Chief Newsham anticipated a large protest demonstration demanding racial justice and police reform in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 6th, expecting one of the largest protest marches in recent history. The CAG Public Safety Program checked with MPD to determine how the program could best serve the community. In support of Mayor Bowser and Chief Newsham’s goal to support those who come to protest peacefully but to deter those intent on criminal behavior, CAG doubled its security officer patrol in the residential area of Georgetown on June 6th—one officer was dedicated to patrolling the east side and another officer was dedicated to patrolling the west side. The night passed peacefully in Georgetown, which residents welcomed, after experiencing the looting of 55 stores in Georgetown the prior weekend.

The volunteer leaders of CAG’s Public Safety Program, Richard Hinds and John Rentzepis, then took immediate action to expand the nightly patrols to seven nights a week, adding patrols on Monday and Tuesday nights, starting June 8th. We thank each of you who have regularly donated to the CAG Public Safety Program. Thanks to your generosity CAG was able to respond immediately to expand the patrol. We encourage those residents who are not current donors to please consider joining now. http://www.cagtown.org/PublicSafety

As always, the role of the CAG officers is to observe and to report crimes and suspicious behavior to MPD. The CAG officers also wait until MPD responds to ensure that an incident is investigated. The other important roles of the CAG officer are to assist residents by checking their property while they are away, providing an escort home for residents and their guests and providing live updates to keep CAG staff and volunteers informed with facts as events progress. When you join the program, you have the opportunity to meet CAG Security Officer Pringle in-person. She will visit your home (staying outside at a safe distance, with her face-mask in place to ensure safety) to introduce herself and to familiarize herself with your property and safety concerns. If you plan to be away, she will add your property to her list of nightly checks and will send regular reports to CAG’s Public Safety Program staff with photos for you if anything suspicious is noted. Officer Pringle will also give you her cell phone number to contact her directly as needed.

CAG would like to continue the Monday and Tuesday NEW patrols throughout the summer, so that the Georgetown residential streets will have consistent coverage seven nights a week. The CAG Public Safety Program, which is led by volunteers, has proudly served the community for decades, thanks to residents’ support, and we will be here to serve you as events unfold this summer.
As part of the Georgetown Community Partnership (GCP) composed of the University and several community groups, including CAG, the University's Office of Neighborhood Life (ONL) has instituted a variety of programs which have changed how students living off-campus relate to the community.

And those sanctions are applied! The GCP website links to reports about violations and subsequent sanctions. With regard to trash, violations are divided into various categories: bin lid not securely fastened, improper disposal of recyclables, trash outside of cans, etc. It is interesting to note that GU holds the students to more demanding standards than required by DC regulations, specifically, that trash cans cannot be in “public view”. District regulations allow them in public view as long as they are not on public space.

A comparison of the reports of trash violations and sanctions by semester is enlightening. Two years ago in the fall of 2017, 133 students living in West Georgetown and Burleith were required to perform 328 hours of community service. By the same semester in 2019, the number was down to 32 students working 120 hours on the community’s behalf. The change occurred because students have recognized that ONL inspections – at least semi-weekly, sometimes much more – will identify violations and the Office of Student Conduct will impose sentences. A big goal of the GCP was to change how students interact with the community, and it is working.

ONL is not just about sanctions. It also has established four spots for large trash bins, emptied daily, where anyone - student or not – can deposit trash. The bins are located behind Holy Trinity, behind 1789, behind Hoya Kids on P Street, and off N Street between 36 and 37 Streets. (See the map on page 19 of the Hoya Living Guide.) This has been particularly useful for those living in buildings with no easy place to store trash cans, such as along Prospect Street. The bins are convenient for students en route to the university – they can drop trash bags off as they walk to class.

GU also sends out a trash patrol several times a week looking for bulk trash the city has not picked up. The good news is that the patrol is finding less and less such trash. We want to encourage students and other residents to call 311 to request bulk pickup, and to put the trash out at the appropriate time.

If you would like to rent to Georgetown students, consider signing up with the University’s new Off-Campus Housing Service, a service increasingly used by undergraduate, graduate, medical and law students. The University Students Association and the Georgetown Student Tenants Association together run a website, hoyahousehunters.com, accessible to those with a gu.edu email address, which provides reviews and information about housing being offered.

A major focus of the GCP’s Environment and Landlords group has been working with the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to get all group homes compliant with District regulations, especially with regard to safety. This is an area where students and other residents have a strong common interest. We all want student housing to be safe and well-maintained. Frankly, working with DCRA takes a lot of persistence. Local media, such as the Washington Post, have had many articles about shortcomings in the DCRA housing inspection process, which led to tragic deaths last year – something we in Georgetown are sadly familiar with. In 2004, Georgetown University senior Daniel Rigby died in a fire in an unregulated group home on Prospect Street. ONL has kept at this for years, and DCRA has made a lot of progress forcing properties to acquire a Basis Business License (BBL), which requires an inspection. However, the license is in fact basic, and there is no requirement for a follow up inspection in subsequent years. In some cases, the BBL inspection was more than a decade ago; who knows what the property’s condition is now. We have been working with student groups and ONL to encourage students to complain when there are problems. However, this is no magic solution. For one thing, DCRA does not necessarily respond in a timely manner.

If you have suggestions or comments about working with the students living in our neighborhood and with the landlords who rent to them, please contact Patrick Clawson, clawsonp@aol.com, 202-302-1722, CAG’s representative on the Environment and Landlords group.
A Whimper Marks the Denouement of ‘Green Infrastructure’ in Georgetown

Walter Groszyk, CAG Infrastructure Chair

The winding journey to this end began over six years ago, when DC Water announced it was considering installing ‘Green Infrastructure’ (GI) in west Georgetown and Burleith. These GI installations would be the primary means of abating overflows from combined sewers into the Potomac River.

Federal consent decrees require DC Water to eliminate most overflows from combined sewers into the Anacostia and Potomac rivers, and Rock Creek. A combined sewer conveys both sanitary wastewater (from toilets, sinks, and household drains) and stormwater (runoff from rainstorms and snow melt). Overflows occur when stormwater runoff exceeds the capacity of the sewer, and part of the flow is shunted to an outfall pipe on the riverbank.

For most of the combined sewers in the District, abatement is being achieved by constructing ‘gray infrastructure’, large engineering projects of concrete and steel. For a few geographic areas, GI was to be installed in lieu of gray infrastructure.

One such geographic area encompassed Georgetown, generally west of Wisconsin Ave.; Georgetown University; and Burleith. This represents the service area for three combined sewers discharging combined sewer overflows into the Potomac in the Waterfront Park near Potomac St., near the Aqueduct Bridge; and directly south of the Canal road entrance to Georgetown University, respectively.

Green Infrastructure would be installed in three stages, with the first stage assessing the practicability of GI installations in abating overflows. If GI proved to be successful, then stages two and would proceed. However, if the first stage demonstrated that GI was impracticable, DC Water would switch to a gray infrastructure solution: extend the planned Potomac River Tunnel westward from near Rock Creek to the Canal Road entrance of Georgetown.

The first stage of GI installations was installed entirely in Burleith. (At the request of ANC2E, DC Water moved that part of the first stage planned for west Georgetown to Burleith.)

The GI installations in Burleith re-surfaced parking lanes on several streets with permeable pavement; rebuilt numerous alleys with permeable pavement; and constructed several bio-retention facilities (micro parklets at the curb and sidewalk). These were likely the types of GI that were to be installed in west Georgetown.

DC Water has now determined that installation of the third stage in Burleith is impracticable, largely because of the high, future cost of maintenance.

DC Water has also concluded that installation of any GI in west Georgetown is impracticable. The foremost reason is that there is too little areal space available in west Georgetown to site GI installations.

Unmentioned is that, in 2015, DC Water measured the actual overflow volume from the combined sewer that services most of west Georgetown. The measured volume was 19 percent of the volume predicted by DC Water’s computer model. To borrow an old expression, having Green Infrastructure in west Georgetown would be as effective as squeezing blood from a turnip.

DC Water will now turn to a gray infrastructure solution for the overflows from these three combined sewers. This solution will be tied to the planned Potomac River Tunnel, which will be built to convey overflows from several other sewers to the wastewater treatment plant at Blue Plains in Southwest Washington. These other sewers, stretching along the east bank of the Potomac River between the Lincoln Memorial and the House of Sweden, discharge nearly all of the annual overflow volume from NW DC into this river.

A PANDEMIC REFLECTION

Nancy Carpenter, CAG Program Administrator

Living on the planet Earth during a global pandemic is not something most of us thought we would ever experience. Some humans are adapting better than others as they form deeper bonds with members of their own family. I find that what people miss most is not the same for everyone. Dancing at a crowded concert full of music and energy or traveling to an exotic vacation destination – we all dream of what we will do when we can once again roam free without a mask, sanitizer and the threat of contracting coronavirus.

The flora and fauna appear to benefit most from the stillness of human activity and absence of pollution of all types. There is a resurgence of travel homes and boho vans in the U.S. as people want to safely escape the four walls of a house, find a change of scenery and immerse themselves in nature. This concept is so appealing that some people, like me, are planning to experience the nomad life for a while to satisfy a craving that has been building up during the lockdown or ‘stay-at-home order’.

My collective experiences and opportunities while working for the Citizens Association of Georgetown this past year have shown me the importance of community and the power that citizens have when they work together to address issues, solve problems and enhance the neighborhood for everyone. CAG would be nothing without the gracious members, small staff and very generous volunteers who taught me so much. Thank you!
2020 CAG BOARD MEMBER BIOS
(continued)

AMY KUHNERT

Amy has been a Georgetown resident since 2007. She has worked with numerous Georgetown organizations including Friends of Volta Park, Blue Igloo Playgroup, St John's Episcopal Church and Preschool, Hyde-Addison Elementary and Georgetown Village. She also enthusiastically served on the committee for CAG Concerts in the Park! Happily raising her two daughters in the neighborhood on Q Street with husband Josh, Amy works as an art advisor and fine art appraiser.

STEPHANIE BOTHWELL

As principal of Stephanie Bothwell Urban and Landscape Design LLC, Stephanie is a nationally recognized contributor to the walkable, mixed-use, healthy and sustainable community development movement. Stephanie is a city planner and landscape architect and was recently appointed to the first class of Fellows of the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) the national organization rediscovering traditional urbanism for the 21st century. She established the American Institute of Architects’ Center for Livable Communities. She was Senior Landscape Architect for the City of Boston and faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design. She is the board chair of CNU DC. Lecturing, teaching and designing gardens and public spaces across the country, she lives with her husband James Warren, a tax attorney, on Reservoir Road.

KAREN CRUSE

A CAG board member for over 20 years, Karen is co-chair of the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Committee, working diligently to create a balance between the residential and commercial sectors. She coordinates with businesses and residents to modify and answer concerns regarding liquor licenses -- known as settlement agreements. “Cookie” is a key liaison person with Georgetown University on town-gown matters, serving on the Safety and Student Life Committee of the Georgetown Community Partnership. She also assists with editing the CAG newsletter and is a regular volunteer for Meals on Wheels. She and her husband Jim live on 35th Street.

JOHN RENTZEPI

John has lived in Georgetown since 2000 and has been Co-Chair of the Public Safety Committee since 2014. For many years, he has been involved with Friends of Book Hill Park serving as a volunteer and board member. He works in alternative investments and resides on P Street with his wife Virginia Poole and their two daughters.

JENNIFER ROMM

Jennifer was raised in the Washington DC area and graduated from Georgetown University. Currently, she is an event planner at the Library of Congress. She is a former president of CAG and currently is a co-chair of the CAG Development Committee and the Alcohol Beverage Control Committee. She is the CAG representative on the Steering Committee of the Georgetown Community Partnership and Board Chair of Georgetown Heritage. A Georgetown resident for over 30 years, she and her husband David Romm live on 30th Street.

Plastic Free July

For one month, try saying no to all single use plastic - plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic wrap. Avoid grocery goods packed in plastic trays, bring your own bag, your own cup, your own bottle. Alternatives abound. Take the Plastic Free July challenge! Go to www.plasticfreejuly.org for more inspiration!!

— LEE CHILD
Georgetown Garden Club

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OUR SIXTEENTH YEAR AS PROUD UNDERWRITER OF CAG’S PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

July 4  American Independence Day

July 7  Dumbarton House Opens to the public.  www.dumbartonhouse.org to plan your visit.

Aug 8  Georgetown Main Street: “I Do” Go to  www.georgetownmainstreet.com for more details.

Aug 31  ANC2E: No meeting in July. Next meeting – Monday, August 31 at 6:30pm  www.anc2e.com for details.

Sept 22  Citizens Association of Georgetown Annual Meeting


Georgetown BID  www.georgetowndc.com for the latest on which businesses are open.

Georgetown Library:  www.dclibrary.org/georgetown for updates.

Georgetown Village:  www.georgetown-village.org to learn about their speaker series. July 8th at 5:30 will be “Remote Life: Looking and Feeling Your Best” with Lynne Glassman.

Tudor Place Historic House & Garden: Much is happening online!  www.tudorplace.org for more info.

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To be included, please send a request to cagmail@cagtown.org with ‘CAG EMAIL LIST’ in the subject line. Thank you.

TEXT 50411
Text 50411 to report a crime directly and anonymously to MPD. A photo or video may be included.