

Wednesday, Jan. 20 FCCA General Meeting to Focus on Georgetown University Plans that May Negatively Impact our Community

The meeting will feature a presentation by Georgetown University Officials outlining their proposed 10-Year Campus Plan.

Georgetown files a Campus Plan once every 10 years, per city law requirements, that outlines future infrastructure projects and development on the Main Campus and Medical Center. The D.C. Zoning Commission must approve the plan. The current campus plan expires on Dec. 31, 2010, and the University hopes to file the next proposed campus plan this month.

Georgetown is proposing an increase of 3,000 graduate students. This could substantially increase demand for student housing in our neighborhood and represents an increase from 3,500 graduate students in 2000 to 5,545 this year to a planned 8,750 by 2020. Other changes include their transportation system, with all entrance/exits off moving to Canal Road and entailing the construction of a new internal road on the edge of Glover Park, and talk of a major renovation for the hospital and a doubling of the height of the smokestack used for their power station.

These proposals could have a significant impact on our area. It is very important that we be engaged as a community and offer informed input into the process or our voice will not be heard. Please join us on the 20th for this important meeting.

FCCA Help Wanted Section

Website: We remain thwarted on updating our website and need someone to add new content.

Secretary: We need someone to make notes at six general meetings a year and write them up for the newsletter.

Delivery People: We need newspaper deliverers for Volta and P streets; Charleston and Kenmore; and maybe Greene Street below MacArthur to deliver newsletters every other month. We provide the newsletters at your door and a delivery route map so the learning curve is about nothing.

Contact Bob Avery or any Board Member, or come to the meeting on the 20th and talk to Bob.

It's Time to Renew Your FCCA Membership for 2010

We hope you'll take a moment and read the membership brochure which is enclosed with this Newsletter. This informative pamphlet explains who we are and what we do.

For your convenience in joining, you'll also find a Membership Form and an envelope addressed to the FCCA Treasurer in this newsletter.

Do join the FCCA now and become an active participant! Questions? Contact Hulit Taylor at 625-0203 or hulitpaul@comcast.net.

Thanks again to our 2009 members—all 209 of you! FCCA Membership is for a calendar year, January to December. Future issues of the Newsletter will include a listing of the current members.

Newsletter
of the Foxhall
Community
Citizens
Association



CALENDAR

January 20, 7 PM
FCCA General Meeting
to Look at Georgetown
University's Expansion Plans

Hardy Rec Center
If you need a ride, call
Bob Avery at 338-3834.

Thursday, January 21
Georgetown University's
Quarterly BZA Meeting
6:30 PM; See page 6

Tuesday, February 19, 7 PM
FCCA General Meeting

Please see page 6 for
GU, Lab School, GDS and
other BZA meetings.

General FCCA Contact

If you can figure out which board person is appropriate for your issue or concern, please call or email them directly. If you can't, call or email Bob Avery.

FCCA Administrative Board

Bob Avery, President

338-3834
ravery@starpower.net

Caitlin Mackenzie, Secretary

333-3126
mackenziecl@verizon.net

Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer

625-0203
hulitpaul@comcast.net

FCCA Focus Area

Board members

Please contact Board Members directly to discuss issues in the following topic areas:

Bob Avery, Policing Liaison & Crime

338-3834, ravery@starpower.net

John Bray, At Large

337-4115, jlbray@verizon.net

David Buchanan, Friends of Hardy Liaison

342-5616, dmbuch@hotmail.com

Camille Comeau-Herbert, Traffic and Colony Hill

625-1205, camillecomeau@gmail.com

Emmet Conroy, At Large

337-6224, emmetwilsonconroy@gmail.com

Tom DeMuth, At Large

248-0251, tomдем1@msn.com

Paul DonVito, Historic Preservation

625-0329, pauldonvito@starpower.net

Caitlin Mackenzie, Young Families Liaison

333-3126, mackenziecl@verizon.net

Sara Paulson, Aging-in-Place & Palisades Village Liaison

333-0797, sara.paulson@gmail.com

Peter Van Allen, Schools Liaison

333-0586, peter@vanallen.org

Ann Haas, At Large

333-2635, ann_haas@fws.gov

Scott Polk, At Large

256-5640, scottpolk@longandfoster.com

Andy Reuter, At Large

H536-4895, Cell 664-6107
areuter@qedgrouplic.com or
cyberrottie@yahoo.com

Pete Ross, At Large

246-0000 (cell), pete@ross-usa.com

Cheryl Tlam, Newsletter

tlam.foster@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions

Please send items for the next newsletter—preferably written, digital, and short and sweet so they don't have to be cut to size, revised much, or transcribed—to the editor at tlam.foster@gmail.com by February 1 for the next newsletter.

Notices of community interest are posted free for FCCA members!

New Board Members for 2010!

The Board is very pleased to welcome three members who expressed an interest in helping the FCCA and have joined our Board! They are John Bray (our former Board member, Howard Bray's son), Emmet Conroy, and Tom DeMuth. Welcome!

More Car-Related Crime Hits Our Neighborhoods

Although some details still need to be confirmed by the police, on Sunday morning, December 27, at around 6:20 am, two men, one in a red minivan (?) and the other driving a stolen taxi (marked Elite), crashed into three parked cars on Q Lane NW after the driver of the speeding taxi lost control. When the car alarm went off, the thieves fled together in the red car. The driver who abandoned the stolen cab was young, with dark hair and wearing jeans and Adidas sneakers with black stripes. If anyone noticed the cars Sunday morning, particularly the license plate of the red car, they should contact Officer Steve Evans.

Probably unrelated, but there was also a car break-in on Galena Place in the Palisades on the same day. There have been reports of another car theft on Greenwich Parkway and a home robbery on Indian Rock as well. We'll get updates on the issue at our January general meeting.

2009 FCCA Treasurer's Report

HULIT PRESSLEY TAYLOR

Below is an unaudited report of the FCCA's Income and Expenses for 2009. 97% of our income is from Membership Dues, which were \$1,900 less than in 2008. Our major expense (47%) is for printing the newsletter six times a year. Events (13%) includes expenses for the Spring Social, Yard Sale, Halloween Party, and the Halloween and Holiday Decorating Contests. Donations includes grants to Palisades Village, Palisades Community Band, and the Citizens Advisory Council for the 2nd Police District. Membership expenses include \$673 for printing the 2010 Membership brochure, form and envelope which are included in this Newsletter.

Income and Expenses, 2009

Income	
Donations	\$ 55.00
Dues	\$ 7,610.00
Yard Sale Income	\$ 143.85
Total Income	\$ 7,808.85
Expenses	
Administration	\$ 284.35
Association Dues	\$ 60.00
Donations	\$ 1,233.30
Events	\$ 1,040.41
Membership	\$ 1,08.84
Newsletter	\$ 3,655.40
Website	\$ 324.00
Total Expenses	\$ 7,682.20
Net Income	\$ 126.65

Our total assets as of Dec. 31, 2009 including \$233 in interest on our Savings Account and CDs:

Assets as of December 31, 2009

Checking Account	\$ 2,835.73
Savings Account	\$ 6,031.42
CD (Matures 4/3/10)	\$ 9,439.12
CD (Matures 4/1/10)	\$ 10,992.55
Total Assets	\$ 29,298.82

If you have questions about this report or would like a more detailed explanation, please contact Hulit Taylor. Contact info at left.

Metrobus Service Changes on D routes

A number of changes are coming to the D bus routes beginning Sunday, December 27.

Three bus lines are restructured and operate with new line names, the Glover Park – Federal Triangle Line (D1), Ivy City – Dupont Circle Line (D3) and Ivy City – Franklin Square Line (D4). D5, D6, and D8 schedules will change to provide greater frequency of bus service in combination with the new routes.

Earlier this year, Metro hosted four public meetings on the D bus lines as part of a Service Evaluation Study to review the productivity, travel time and reliability and to make recommendations for more efficient bus operations. Customer feedback, along with information from bus operators and planners was used to examine ridership, frequency, travel time, reliability and other quality-of-service indicators for the D bus lines.

D5 MacArthur Boulevard – Georgetown Line: Two additional westbound buses will be scheduled to depart at 3:20 and 6:55 p.m. from Farragut Square.

D6 Sibley Hospital – Stadium Armory Line: The weekday schedule will change. Buses servicing the route between Sibley Hospital and Stadium-Armory Metrorail station will be scheduled every 22 to 25 minutes with shorter route buses servicing during the afternoon peak period. Eastbound short trip buses to Stadium Armory will leave Farragut Square (on 17th Street) at 3:14, 3:39, 4:02, 4:25, 4:45, 5:09, 5:32, 5:54, and 6:13 p.m. Westbound short trips to Sibley Hospital will leave Farragut Square at 4:47, 5:11, 5:37, 5:59, 6:23, and 6:47 p.m.

For information about other Metrobus service changes visit www.wmata.com/bus/timetables/upcoming_timetable_changes.cfm or call 202-637-7000.

The Fire Hydrant: Canine News

Maryann Griffin's (organizer of the Firehouse Dinners!) dog Gracie has been featured as one of 30+ dogs that are included in a wonderful new book, entitled *To The Rescue* by Elise Lufkin. The book chronicles this group of dogs who have been rescued and who go on to become therapy dogs or service animals who make the world a little better place because of their loving presence. the photographer for this book, and the two previous ones written by Ms. Lufkin, is Diana Walker who is a photographer for Time Magazine. As a result, there is now a photo gallery on the link below of some of the dogs in the book, with short excerpts of their lives and their stories in the book. Please check it out; Gracie is number nine of this group. And you can also see Gracie at www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1930475,00.html. The stories will make your heart happy.

The book is available at Amazon and Borders, and at the Washington Animal Rescue League's store; half of the purchase price benefits the League. !

And on a less charming note: Responsible dog owners need to keep up the social pressure on our irresponsible cohorts. We work hard to keep the peace in the parks by picking up. The tennis courts are being used as a dog run in off hours, which doesn't seem to create problems. But dog poop being left on the courts, and using the trash cans on the courts to dispose of dog poop is surely going to cause ALL of us problems with the Parks folks and tennis players soon. Hand anyone not picking up after their pet a barbed comment and a bag.

Congratulations to Darrel Rippeteau

The Wiebenson Award honors an architect who makes a difference through work done pro bono for the public interest. In 2009 this award was given to Darrel Rippeteau, a Foxhall Village resident, by the DC chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Washington Architectural Foundation.

A Fond Farewell from—and to—the Branches

Nina Bratches and her children, Nick and Kristen Turco want to thank the Foxhall community for ten great years!

On Sept.14th Nina was married to Ian Abernethy, a retired management consultant. Nina, an interior designer, and Ian are now focusing on raising natural angus beef *Pride of the Plains* and restoring their 19th century farm house in The Plains, Va.

Nina writes: "We have 65 acres of rolling hills, cows, horses, chickens and our dogs. While this will be a big adjustment for all of us, we wanted to thank all of you for the great memories. The kids will always remember this beautiful neighborhood where they were raised! You are all always welcome —only an hour away so call us at 540-687-6207! All the best and thank you, Nina, Nick and Kristen."

Big Thanks to our Many, Many 9th Annual Firehouse Dinner Volunteer Cooks and Servers

MARYANN GRIFFIN

Many thanks to all of our wonderful neighbors who once again pitched in to make these holiday dinners a big success!

December 5th Coordinator Mari Bailey with her team: Nahid Aziz, Ingrid Bush, Cecile Fruman, Julie Haidemenos, Alexandra Harbold, Megan Holdren, Maybelle Kou, Wendy Mauro, Julie Moellering, Beth Percesepe-Wallace and Anna and Ronnie van der Wouden.

December 6th Coordinators Margo Eule and Chris Anninos with their team: Annemarie Pender, Morten Bech, Lisa Wood, Karen Polk, Hulit Taylor, Monique and Albert Rodriguez, and Susan Cimburek.

December 12th Coordinators Raymond Quianzon and Alex Ashbrook with their team: The Pearsons, Arundels, McCallys, Lempres, Tamas, Thalhimers, Simmons, Seltzers, Michaels, Grinas, Wooters, Shers, Baldwins, Carters, Danishes, Savastanos, Kortelings, Tschudys, and Gentiles.

December 19th Coordinator MaryAnn Griffin with her team: Margy Pastor, Marilyn Mix, Archiana Vemalpalli, Ashley Hoppin, Jesse Brinkley, Patricia Overend, Susan May, Sara Paulson, Jackie Conn, Dianne Seltzer, Alice Lucan, MaryAnn Svec. Unfortunately the dinner on the 19th was snowed out but we will do it in January.

Palisades Village Launches Associate Memberships!

SONIA CROW

Want to support Palisades Village but don't need many of its services? Good news! Palisades Village is introducing a new Associate Membership category that allows folks to make a tax-deductible financial contribution to the organization while receiving some PV services.

Associate Members will be entitled to (1) an online subscription to Washington Consumers Checkbook; (2) help in selecting and arranging for services by providers from PV's list of recognized providers; (3) the e-mail edition of the PV newsletter; and (4) participation in PV's social, educational and cultural activities. One year of Associate Membership for a household is \$250, of which \$200 is fully tax-deductible.

For more information, go to www.palisadesvillage.org, or phone Sonia Crow, the Executive Director, at 202 244-3310.

Sick of Picking Up Washington Examiner Newspapers from your Sidewalk? There's a Quick Fix!

Save a tree! Go to this link and "unsubscribe" yourself. Urge that neighbor of yours whose sidewalk resembles a plastic bag and pulp mill toxic site to do the same — and save us all a nasty fall on our morning jog. Just go to www.washingtonexaminer.com and hit the link for "Home Delivery" at the top. The window for unsubscribing pops right up. It takes like 15 seconds max. Amazing. Now we'll see if it works but it is a first step..

Holiday Decor Winners

MALLORY LAWSON

Even though Mother Nature obliterated some Holiday decorations, we still had many wonderful homes to consider for our annual Holiday Decoration Competition. The FCCA area looked particularly beautiful in the snow and it seemed more people were in the decorating spirit this year. The 2009 winners are:

Most Kid Friendly: Nancy Collins and Richard Wathen for their ginormous Snowman and the cute set-up at 4566 Indian Rock Terrace. The two feet of snow did nothing to cover this giant, fun guy.

Most Authentic: Gayle and Joel Trotter for their many handsome large wreaths and lush garlands on the front of their house at 1604 44th Street. Simple, but very elegant.

Most Creative: Pat and Bill Brown at 4425 Greenwich Parkway for their stunning illuminated tree shape that began at the rooftop and cascaded down two stories to the ground. Very original and well done.

Most Festive: Lise Adkins and Tom Murphy at 4400 Q for their beautiful red and white color scheme with illuminated trees, fence, great oversized bows and well thought out design. This house really put one in the Holiday Spirit.

Best Overall: Alex Pires and Diane Cooley for their enormous effort to light up their corner at 4401 Q with three huge illuminated trees, the corner fence, which looks great in the daytime as well, the entire house, and the doorway. If only everyone were to expend half as much effort!

Thank you to Marji Bayers, Laurie Dromerick, Mary Ann Griffin, Karen Polk, and Sara Paulson for helping with this not so easy effort in the snow and ice. Now on to GROUND HOG DAY decorations! Just kidding...

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is ubiquitous in the gardens of Foxhall



Village and surrounding neighborhoods. As gardeners know, English ivy is a hardy evergreen and

a reliable ground cover. Native to England, it also has that Ivy League appeal. However, gardeners know too that English ivy will quickly grow into and atop bushes, up tree trunks, and crowd out other plants.

But, that is not all. English ivy will invariably “escape” from gardens and invade parklands, forests and other natural areas dominating the native plant habitat. Birds assist in this relocation by ingesting the ivy’s berries and distributing its seeds. Some gardeners help its spread by disposing of ivy cuttings in natural areas.

Once in a parkland, such as Glover Park, English ivy climbs native trees weakening the host plants’ ability to thrive. In the winter snow and ice collect on the dense ivy foliage and this added weight can topple a tree. Our native habitat has few defenses against English ivy.

Is it any surprise that English ivy is considered an invasive plant in the DC area? Gardeners are urged not to plant it. But if already planted, gardeners are urged to contain it and discard any cuttings in a responsible manner. Or ideally gardeners can remove it by pulling up its roots and by cutting the vines growing on trees at the base and pulling the vine away from the trunk.

Unfortunately, English ivy is not an anomaly. Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) is another invasive plant. So, what do gardeners plant? The US Botanic Garden offers several suggestions for

attractive ground covers native to this area, one of which is the Heath aster (*Aster ericoides*).

For a list of invasive plants go to www.nps.gov/plants/alien. For a USBG pamphlet which lists invasive and non-invasive plants contact me at sklusman@rcn.com; I am at 4466 Reservoir Road. Drawing by Iris Fabrikant at 4471 Salem Lane.

New Year’s Resolutions for Home Owners — and Renters

1. Buy a snow shovel.
2. Shovel the sidewalk, steps, and walkway promptly after each snow fall and avoid those costly and time-consuming lawsuits and liability insurance claims.
3. Arrange to have someone shovel for me if I’m out of town when it snows.
4. Help my neighbors shovel
5. Enjoy the snow and bask in the nice feeling of being a considerate community member!



Who You Gonna Call?

City-Wide Call Center

To request free bulk trash pickups, report dumping in alleys, rat problems, the DMV, and a host of other issues, call 311.

DC Animal Shelter 576-6664

Police and Fire Departments

Emergencies Only 911
Non-emergencies 311
Suspicious activities 311

PEPCO

Power Outages 877-737-2662
Street Lights Out 269-0855.

Washington Gas 624-6049

Abuse of Hardy Field

Use of the field by any group requires a permit. “Rogue teams” playing without DC Parks and Rec permits, and use of the field following heavy rainfall by any group is not allowed. Any misuse of the field should be reported immediately to the Urban Rangers at 311.

Illegally Parked Cars

Report cars obstructing sidewalks or displaying suspicious guest parking permits by calling 311.

Note: D.C. law requires people who live in the city for more than 30 days to register their cars with the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles or face a \$100 ticket every day. This applies to cars parked on private property as well as on streets.

To Report Unpermitted Construction

If you’re concerned about unpermitted construction that you see, or work that appears to violate code, call DCRA at 202-442-4400 and they will send an inspector very quickly. Calls can be anonymous. If you’re in the historic district and concerned about work that appears to be contrary to the guidelines, call our neighborhood liaison, Anne Brockett at 202-442-8842 or email her at anne.brockett@dc.gov.

Upcoming BZA Meetings — Anyone Interested is Encouraged to Show Up!

BZA (Board of Zoning) meetings are public meetings that institutions are required to schedule with local communities according to the terms of their agreements with the BZA. The meetings happen so that you can go and bring up issues of concern. It is generally best to get your issue on the agenda by contacting the convenor in advance.

GU: Thurs., Jan. 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., Georgetown University's quarterly BZA meeting at the GU Hospital's Administration Conference Room; agenda items to greenanl@georgetown.edu by January 14.

Utilities: Sat., Jan. 23 at 10:00 a.m., Council Member Muriel Bowser will hold a public oversight roundtable on utility reliability, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 500; contact Spencer Maguire in Council Member Bowser's office at 724-8052.

GDS: Tues., Feb. 2 and Tues., April 4 at 6:30 p.m., Georgetown Day School's quarterly BZA meeting in the conference room at the school; contact Rahel Rosner at rahelrosner@yahoo.com (295-1064) or Robin Speller at rtaylor@gds.org (295-6127).

Lab School: Tues., Feb. 23 and Tues., April 27 at 6:00 p.m., the Lab School's quarterly BZA meeting in the multi-purpose room at the school; contact Katherine Schantz at katherine.schantz@labschool.org (944-2221) or Peter Braun at peter.braun@labschool.org (641-5844).

Real Estate Corner

SCOTT POLK

2009 was an interesting year in real estate just as it was in the financial markets. The big difference between the two is that our single family homes here in Foxhall/Berkeley/Palisades only dropped 3 to 5 percent. We can only wish our IRAs had done as well.

What I had noticed at the beginning of the Spring real estate market was that owners were making the decision not to sell their homes in fear of losing equity, or ending upside down in a buyer's market. This led to a tightening inventory which dropped noticeably more through the summer months and did not take the traditional rebound for the Fall market. The inventory trend continued downward from October through December with the number of houses available well below 2008 inventory. Overall inventory for single family homes in the District for 2009 was down 27.6 percent

Throughout this period buyers continued to actively seek and purchase homes. This created a pent up demand for homes which also helped keep prices up. As I had mentioned in previous articles, there were even cases of multiple offers, although not all led to sales prices in excess of asking price. Comparing sales data from 2009 to 2008 it is interesting to see that the usual slow months of summer provided strong sales. The months of October, November, and December provided very strong sales. This was completely contrary to past years when the market was essentially over when people sat down for Thanksgiving dinner. Overall sales for single family homes in the District for 2009 were up 28.3 percent.

A last interesting fact was that the hottest sector of the market in our corner of DC was for homes priced

between \$600,000 and \$799,000. Sales in this price bracket were up 20.8 percent. I experienced this first hand with seven sales in the neighborhood.

Within our neighborhood there were 33 sales in 2009, ranging from \$475,000 to \$1,900,000. There are currently two houses under contract, and nine active listings ranging from \$769,000 to \$3,849,000. The home for \$3,849,000 is a new construction home at 1821 Hoban Road and is part of the new development on Foxhall Road. Contact me if you have any questions at scott.polk@LongandFoster.com

A Reminder to Homeowners about Getting Building Permits

With the spring construction season just around the corner, remember that many renovation projects require building permits. Almost all exterior work — decks, roofs, retaining walls, fences, dormers and HVAC equipment, additions or demolition — needs to be signed off by the city and permits must be displayed in a front window. Even some interior work, like certain electrical or plumbing projects, requires permits. And if you live in the historic district you also need a permit to replace your windows, front door or front paving (any change to street-facing elevations are subject to review.)

If you're not sure if you need a permit, or if you're concerned about unpermitted construction, call DCRA at 202-442-4400. If you're in the historic district call our neighborhood liaison, Anne Brockett at 202-442-8842 or email her at anne.brockett@dc.gov.