# FOXHALL@News

Newsletter of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association

June 2014

# FCCA Agenda: June Meeting

The next FCCA membership meeting will be on Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Hardy Rec Center 45th & Q. In addition to our regular police report and an update on the German embassy construction, the meeting will focus on two relatively new issues to our area. First, area planners are proposing a major change to the water management system of Glover Archbold Park (the park between Foxhall Village and Georgetown University) which potentially might result in a new road in the park. Kent Slowinski of ANC-3D will provide us a background briefing on the proposal and describe how it might impact our area. Second, we are all used to dealing with the noise of jets flying in and out of National Airport. A new group has formed in our area with the intent of both informing us of new developments in noise management of the airport and in potentially being a voice for us in weighing on proposed changes. We will hear from several representatives of the group at the June meeting. All are welcome at FCCA meetings. We hope to see you there.

# **Spring Fling Recap**

This year's FCCA Spring Fling was another wonderful community event held at the Hardy Park and Recreation Center. Neighbors gathered to enjoy live music by the Palisades Community Band, and crab hushpuppies and delectable ice cream sandwiches by Foxhall Catering. The ever popular moonbounce was in high demand by our younger neighbors, as was the bug jar, pinwheel, and photo frame decorating activities. Special thanks goes out to the Palisades Community Band, Friends of Hardy, Palisades Village for providing drinks, Jessie Kane (FCCA Board Member), and neighbor Charles Picar who helped with set-up and clean-up, and our Hardy Recreation Center Staff, Connie and Rodney, for helping make the event another wonderful success. And thank you to all of our neighbors who were able to attend; it was a great afternoon to meet each other and enjoy another beautiful spring afternoon together.

# Walking With Others Makes the Time Go By...

MALLORY LAWSON

Village Walkers? Would anyone (retired or otherwise) like to walk in the mornings (say 8:30 or 9:00AM) in the Foxhall Village area for 30 minutes on nice days? If so, call Mallory Lawson (202-669-0622) or email me (MalloryLawsonASID@msn.com) and let's get together. Walking with others make the time go by SO much faster!

# **FCCA CALENDAR**

# April General Membership Meeting Wednesday, June 18th at 7PM

Topic: Changes to the Water Management System of Glover Archbold; Noise from Reagan Airport

Location: 4500 Q Street NW in the Hardy Rec Center. Need a ride? Contact Bob Avery

Foxhall Yard Sale: June 21, 8AM-12PM

# Foxhall Yard Sale

CHARLES PICAR

It's that time of the year again, Foxhallers. Shop and meet your neighbors! Come and set up a table or a quilt and sell the stuff others want to buy! OR come and buy what others are want to sell! The Foxhall Community Yard Sale will be held Saturday, June 21, 2014 between 8AM and 12PM with a rain date the following Sunday, June 22, 2014 at the Lab Elementary School front lawn, 4470 O St NW (corner of Foxhall Road and Q Street). It is a casual, free form event. There will be \$10 donation for sellers, to cover event expenses. Haggle with buyers for the items that you are trying to sell. For more information please contact cpicar@ucsd.edu. Come one; come all!

# **FCCA Board**

**Bob Avery, President and Police Liaison** 338-3834, ravery@starpower.net

Conrad DeWitte, Secretary and GU Liaison 321-1700, dewittecj@yahoo.com

Peter Kimball, Vice-President 321-1234,

peter.kimball@isscorporateservices.com Hulit Presslev Taylor, Treasurer

625-0203, hulitpaul@comcast.net

When possible, please contact the appropriate FCCA Board Member directly to discuss issues and concerns—Focus Areas are listed after the board member's name. General issues can go to Bob Avery.

Haleigh Hanlon Bartos, Newsletter Editor halchanlon@gmail.com

John Bray, At Large

337-4115, jlbray@verizon.net

**David Buchanan, Friends of Hardy Liaison** 342-5616, dmbuchanan@gmail.com

Paul DonVito, Historic Preservation & Listserve Liaison

625-0329, pauldonvito@rcn.com Ann Haas, At Large

333-2635, ann\_haas@fws.gov

Jessie Kane, Membership 365-0132, jmkane87@aol.com

Caitlin Mackenzie, Young Families Liaison 333-3126, mackenziecl@verizon.net

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

333-0797, sara.paulson@gmail.com

**Scott Polk, At Large** 256-5460, 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

**Peter Van Allen, Colony Hill Liaison** 333-0586, peter@vanallen.org

**Karen Volker, German Embassy Liaison** 957-9554, karenvolker55@gmail.com

#### FCCA Administrator

Brittany Aguilar, Administrator britt.aggie@gmail.com

#### **FCCA Newsletter Submissions**

Send to halchanlon@gmail.com and britt.aggie@gmail.com by 30 August. Submissions are typically around 300 words; longer pieces can be arranged.

## Who Do You Call?

# **City-Wide Call Center**

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

DC Animal Shelter 576-6664

# **Police and Fire Departments**

Call 911 for both emergency and non-emergency Police matters, including noise after 10 PM.

#### **PEPCO**

Power Outages 877-737-2662 Street Lights Out 269-0855 Washington Gas 624-6049

Ward 3 City Council Member Mary Cheh, mcheh@dccouncil.us

# **Our ANC Commissioners**,

Gayle Trotter, GT4ANC@gmail.com Penny Pagano, penny.pegano@verizon.net

# **Illegally Parked Cars**

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

#### **Questionable Construction Projects**

To report construction proceeding without required permits or that appears to violate code, call DCRA at 202-442-4400 and they will send an inspector very quickly. For work that appears to be contrary to the guidelines in the Historic District call Frances McMillen, 202-442-8839 or frances.mcmillen@dc.gov.

# **Problem Party Noise after 10 PM**

Please call the Police at 911. There are significant fines and the possibility of a criminal record for violators.

# Or you can try the Georgetown 24/7 Community Hotline

Report student activities that negatively impact our community at GU's 24/7 Hotline, 687-8413

# Going out of town?

Email Officer McElwee to check on your home periodically at anthony.mcelwee@dc.gov

# The Passing of a Beloved Neighbor, Ileana Garcia Grinan

MARYANN GRIFFIN

On April 30, 2014 at the age of 80, a well-known and much loved Q Street neighbor, Ileana Garcia, died after a brief illness. Ileana was born in Cuba, moved to the US in 1960 and spent much of her adult life here in Foxhall Village.

Prior to her retirement from the Inter-American Bank in the mid 90's, Ileana was an executive, specializing in international client services. Ileana loved international travel and had deep and lasting bonds with her sister and two nieces. She was a Meals on Wheels volunteer, an opera aficionado, and was a fluent Italian speaker, taking weekly language classes.

Ileana was known by many neighbors as Oreo's "mom" and prior to him, as Otto's "mom", as so many of the dog owners are known. But most of all Ileana was known for her elegance, warmth, graciousness and caring. She is deeply missed by all who knew her.

# Scheduled BZA Meetings

Share comments and concerns so they can be aired at the Board of Zoning meetings—public meetings that institutions are required to schedule with local communities according to their agreements with the BZA. Email or call Ann Haas to get email reminders of meetings or to ask that your issue be discussed.

#### St. Patrick's, 7:30 PM

July 15<sup>th</sup> at the MacArthur Campus

# FCCA Membership Meeting: April 23, 2014

Police Report Officer Anthony McElwee reported an increase in crimes; thefts from autos represent the greatest number. In addition to auto break-ins, there was one burglary and one alleged sexual assault. The exact location of the alleged attack was unclear, but it appeared to have taken place near the park on Canal Road. Officer McElwee has written 27 tickets for violations at Foxhall Rd. and Reservoir Rd. In addition, tickets are being written daily for parking violations near the German Embassy.

German Embassy A representative was invited to speak at the meeting, but did not attend. Karen Volker, FCCA liaison to the German Embassy reconstruction project, reported on progress of the project. Complaints from neighbors are on the increase. The project was to be completed by February. Please refer to this newsletter for specific details/complaints relative to this issue.

Georgetown University Mr. Cory Peterson from Georgetown University's Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP/202-687-8413) reported. SNAP is a service coordinated by the Office of Neighborhood Life (ONL) to enhance safety, assist students, and respond to our neighbors' concerns about student conduct off campus. There have been very few repeat incidents involving noise and disruption by students reported by neighbors. One of the sanctions imposed could be the loss of the privilege of living off campus.

**Development Issues** Scott Polk and Alma Gates, former ANC members, spoke to the group. The present zoning code is likely to be changed. Heavy development along Mac Arthur Blvd. is a strong possibility. It is apparent that there could be apartment

buildings that are higher and denser than the present configuration. This would bring massive structures and parking problems. FCCA wants to be proactive on this issue. A Special Exception is needed to change the zoning from single family to multifamily. Members voted to support a postponement of the impending zoning hearing and to request a traffic study before moving forward.

# German Embassy Construction update

Construction continues at the German Embassy but there is an end in sight. However, as we have reported previously, there have been multiple complaints concerning issues stemming from the ongoing construction, including parking violations, litter, over-spraying of epoxy paint, and flat tires caused by screws or nails. In addition to raising these issues with the Embassy, the FCCA Board has written to the Department of State, Office of Foreign Missions. A copy of this letter is enclosed with this newsletter. We have received word from the State Department that they have received our letter and are discussing its contents with the German Deputy Chief of Mission. We have already heard from several people in the immediate vicinity of the Embassy about whether they have been impacted by the overspraying of the epoxy paint (check your cars - if they feel gritty, then you probably have also been impacted; it might just be one side of your car) and/or if they have experienced a flat tire. If, however, you have not already notified us, please do immediately so by sending an email to Karen Volker (karenvolker55@gmail.com) with the subject "epoxy paint" or "flat tire" so that we can have a complete list of the

neighbors who have been impacted by

these issues. We do not know what we will be able to do to seek compensation but we would like to at least present a complete list of those impacted to the State Department and the German Embassy. Please provide specific details regarding the cost of repairing the tires and/or the estimate for removing the epoxy paint, and any reported loss in value of the car.

### Crime Prevention

It is summertime and people are out enjoying the nicer weather, including those who are looking for an easy target, like your open front door, the things you left in your unlocked car, or the bicycle you left unlocked on the front sidewalk for just two minutes. Please keep your guard up and take preventative measures to avoid becoming a victim.

It is pleasant to have your doors and windows open, but don't leave unlocked entrances unattended for extended time. It only takes a minute for someone to step in your front door and take your purse, cell phone, iPad, etc., which are usually left by the front door. Don't leave valuables in your car. Even if it is locked, someone will break the window to get what they can see. Just came back from a bike ride and left your bike unlocked while you came into the house to get a drink and relax for a minute? Bike theft is an easy crime. Walk in, ride out. Only takes a few seconds. Lock your bike.

Did you leave your garage door open? Makes it easy for a thief to take things out of the garage, your unlocked car in the garage, and even enter into your home that way.

In addition to making you feel violated when someone enters your house and steals, you could be putting yourself and your family at risk. Please take the necessary measures to reduce your risk. Keep an eye out for your neighbors; look out for each other and have a safe, happy summer.

# FCCA Membership as of June 1, 2014

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# Thank you for your support!

If you would like to talk about how your interests might mesh with the FCCA's current needs for volunteers—from newsletter delivery to attending ANC meetings—let us know and a Board member will call you. No obligation. ☐ Sure, call me!

V	lem	bers	hip	Form	for	the	Ca	lend	lar	Year

Members must reside within FCCA area, be present, and be over 18 years of age to vote at meetings. Memberships are for the calendar year. Please make checks out to the Foxhall Community Citizens Association. Send to FCCA c/o Hulit Taylor, Treasurer, 1713 Surrey Lane, NW, Washington, DC 20007 or bring to a meeting!

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May 13, 2014

Mr. Cliff Seagroves
Office of Foreign Missions
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Room 2236
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Seagroves,

As President of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association (FCCA), I am writing to apprise you of several long-standing neighborhood concerns relative to the ongoing reconstruction project at the German Embassy. I am hopeful that by acting as an intermediary between our Foxhall neighbors and representatives from the German Embassy, you might assist us in solving some of the many problems that exist.

During the span of this project, which began in November 2010, we have had a member of the FCCA Board serve as a liaison with the German Embassy. The purpose for this was to allow for a free flow of communication and to develop a collaborative approach for solving problems as they arose. Before the construction began, a representative from the German Embassy informed members of the FCCA that there would be little or no impact upon the surrounding neighborhood as the project unfolded. In particular, residents were assured that construction workers would not be parking their cars on our residential streets.

The FCCA liaison has communicated regularly with officials from the Embassy raising various concerns ranging from increased litter on our streets, most likely from the construction workers who park there, to blocked driveways and overall illegal parking. On some occasions the Embassy officials have agreed to take up the issue with the construction company; other times they simply said that there was nothing they could do and encouraged us to take the matter up with the construction company directly, call the police, or contact the city, depending on the issue.

We have routinely invited the representatives from the German Embassy to provide updates for our FCCA newsletter and have asked them to be present at our monthly membership meetings to give status updates. This request has not been honored in an ongoing manner. The general consensus has been that the German Embassy does not feel that communicating with their neighbors is important.

We would like to also make you aware of two other problems that have raised serious concern for the neighbors immediately across from the Embassy. The first item may well be coincidental but worth mentioning: we have had an extraordinary number of residents reporting flat tires caused by nails or screws in the tire. These tires have, in most cases, had to be replaced rather than repaired. We suspect that this is most likely accidental and may be a result of workmen getting tools out of their cars/trucks, but it is a problem and has caused anywhere from \$200 - \$1000 for our residents, depending on how many tires and what type of car. We know that it would be very difficult to establish a direct relationship between this increased incidence of flat tires and the ongoing construction, but in our minds, there is a clear causal relationship.

The second issue is far more serious. We are still investigating, but we have learned that the sub-contractor responsible for spray-painting the outside structure of the embassy with epoxy paint over-sprayed by a considerable amount. Several residents have reported finding epoxy paint on their cars and some are concerned that it may also be on their homes (windows, solar panels). This epoxy paint is not only costly and difficult to remove. It also reduces the resale value of the vehicles affected. Our residents are taking this up directly with the insurance company of the sub-contractor, but it would certainly be good if the Embassy were to weigh in with their expectation that the issue is dealt with expeditiously. We may revisit this issue with you depending on how the situation evolves.

We feel that, even in the planning stages, the German Embassy staff did not take into account the disruption that would be caused by such a major reconstruction project in the middle of a residential neighborhood. There should have been much more time and planning dedicated to preparation and oversight. In the future, it is recommended that the State Department require that any embassy doing construction establish a committee comprised of representatives from the community, construction companies, and the Embassy that can meet regularly and address issues as they arise.

I have attached summary of the major complaints related to the ongoing construction. We would appreciate it if you could raise our concerns with the German Ambassador or Chargé and remind them that their embassy is located in a residential neighborhood and that it is incumbent upon them to ensure that the construction has a minimal impact on the surrounding area. We know that the construction is scheduled to be completed soon, but we felt that to not raise this matter with you would leave the German Embassy with the impression that how they have handled this situation is acceptable, and it is not.

We would be happy to attend a meeting with the Ambassador or Chargé if that would be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Avery
President of the Board
Foxhall Community Citizens Association
ravery@starpower.net

PS: Our Liaison with the German Embassy is Ms. Karen Volker. She can be reached at karenvolker55@gmail.com or 202-957-9554.

Please See Final Page for Summary of Complaints

# **Summary of Complaints**

- **Epoxy Paint**. Sub-contractor was negligent and over-sprayed epoxy paint by a considerable amount, impacting cars and homes on Reservoir Road across from the Embassy. The removal of epoxy paint from the cars is costly and difficult and affects the resale value of the vehicle. We don't yet know the impact on homes.
- **Parking on both sides** of Reservoir Rd. that begins around 6 am each day has prevented residents from gaining easy access to their homes and denies them the ability to park in front of their homes
- **Parking on both sides** of the road in ways that make exiting from driveways on Reservoir Road and turning from Kenmore Dr. onto Reservoir Road dangerous.
- **Spill over parking** on Kenmore Dr. and Charleston Terrace. This has prevented residents from gaining easy access to their homes and denies them the ability to park in front of their homes.
- Illegal parking with impunity in no parking zones, in front of fire hydrants, blocking driveways, too close to driveways and intersections.
- **Traffic.** There is a constant flow of construction traffic traversing on Reservoir Road and Kenmore Dr. beginning in the early morning. Trucks use the Kenmore Dr. circle as a turnaround.
- Ticket avoidance. Some construction drivers have admitted that they wait on Kenmore Dr. in their
  vehicles until the DC ticket officer has left Reservoir Rd. This adds to the vehicles present on the
  street.
- Potholes. Many heavy trucks, by driving through, have exacerbated a section of the Kenmore Dr. with deep, deep potholes. Neighbors have suggested that the construction company repave this section of Kenmore Dr. at their expense.
- **Noise levels** have risen dramatically. In particular, a constant beeping can be heard throughout the day. It sounds like a truck going into reverse.
- **Litter**. This was never a problem before the construction started. Construction workers often eat in their cars and, it seems, are somewhat careless with their trash. This is particularly bad on the part of 47th Street that does not have a curb. We are worried about the litter and food waste there attracting rodents.
- **Rodent infestation**. One house immediately adjacent to the Embassy property experienced a rodent infestation. After some back and forth the German Embassy did reimburse the homeowner approximately 3/4 of the cost of dealing with the problem.
- **Flat tires**. Several residents have reported flat tires caused by nails or screws. Costs of repair range from \$200-\$1000 per household affected.