June 2016

# FOXHALL News

foxhall.org

# **FCCA Calendar**

Next General Meeting! Wednesday, June 15 at 7PM Topic: GU 20 year plan

Location: 4500 Q Street NW in the Hardy

Rec Center

Need a ride? Contact Bob Avery

# June Membership Meeting

In addition to the police report and an update on airplane noise, the June membership meeting will feature a presentation by Georgetown University and Medstar hospital on the University's just-released 20-year campus plan and Medstar's finalized plan for a new hospital next to the current one. This presentation will focus on issues most relevant to the FCCA and Palisades area--transportation, pedestrian access, the hospital's construction plan, and new restrictions on student housing in neighboring areas.

The University, working through the Georgetown Community Partnership (GCP) — a forum for consensus-based ecision-making among University, student and community leaders that FCCA has been an active part of — is presenting a draft 20-year consensus Campus Plan, which it anticipates finalizing over the summer and submitting to the District government as early as September of 2016.

On June 6th, the University opened a 30-day public comment period about the draft. The June 15th membershipmeeting thus offers a time-critical opportunity to raise issues and questions regarding the proposals. Both GU and Medstar recognize that our community may have different concerns than

Burleith and West Georgetown and are making a special effort to reach out to us. Please join us on the 15th.

# Hardy Park Gets Spring Spruce Up

John A. Bray, TheHoe.org

The chill and misty gray sky made it a perfect Saturday morning to stay in neutral, let the bed keep its hold for a little longer.

Hardy Park still needed tidying up, and enthusiasts from the surrounding Foxhall Community slipped themselves into drive on April 30, 2016 to get the work done as planned.

They pruned the mulberry tree at the northeastern corner of the big field by Foxhall Road, trimmed shrubs, collected trash, swept away debris, and received a heavy load of sand to replenish the tot playground. About 20 people turned out to help.

The work is part of the efforts of Friends of Hardy of 4503 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.











Hardy Park drew area residents for a cleanup on April 30, 2016. (Top Left) Crew members included, from left, Bob Avery, President of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association; Caitlin Mackenzie, the Association's Young Families Liaison; and Richard Jewett. (Bottom Left) Frank Staroba, the Association's Friends of Hardy Liaison, and Joan Smith pitch in. (Middle) Leo Blyth, left, and Buzz Seltzer bag trimmings for removal. Photo Credit: John A. Bray. (Top Right) Jared Cornfeld and his son, Elliott, participated in advance of an eagle scouting project. (Bottom Right) The Battaglia's envision tomatoes! Photo Credit: Ann Haas.

#### **FCCA Board**

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338-3834, ravery@starpower.net

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321-1234, peter.kimball@isscorporateservices. com

#### John Bray, Secretary

337-4115, 1ja.bray@gmail.com

#### Andy Reuter, Treasurer

847-3861., Cell 664-6107, areuter@qedgroupllc. com or cyberrottie@yahoo.com

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

#### Paul DonVito, Historic Preservation & **Listserve Liaison**

625-0329, pauldonvito@rcn.com

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917-710-4928, tracysayegh@gmail.com

#### Ann Haas, At Large

333-2635, ahaas212@comcast.net

#### Jessie Kane, Membership

365-0132, jmkane87@aol.com

#### Jeff Koch, At Large

841-3202, JeffKoch@JeffKoch.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

#### Andrea Ramirez, At Large

919-667-4491, andrea.havens@gmail.com

#### Frank Staroba, Friends of Hardy Liaison

342-1130, fstaroba@verizon.net

#### Peter Van Allen, Colony Hill Liaison

333-0586, peter@vanallen.org

## Karen Volker, German Embassy Liaison

957-9554, karenvolker55@gmail.com

#### Conrad DeWitte, ANC 3D09 Commissioner

202-780-6591, 3D09@anc.dc.gov

### FCCA Administrator

#### **Brittany Aguilar, Administrator**

Britt.aggie@gmail.com

#### **FCCA Newsletter Submissions**

Send to britt.aggie@gmail.com by March 31 for the next newsletter. Generally submissions should be under 300 words, but longer pieces may run by advance arrangement.

## 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, Stephen Gardsgardner.gardnerlaw@gmail.com

#### **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.

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@

#### Join the FCCA Listsery!!

Keep up-to-date with all happenings in your community by joining the FCCA Listserv. Register today at **foxhall.org**!

#### Hardy Park Clean-Up (Continued)

The volunteer group, over the past five years, has planted more than 30 trees, with support from the Casey Tree Foundation; built flowerbeds, with support from the Palisades Community Fund; and created community garden plots.D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation improvement of the facilities has been progressing. Renovation of the field house was recently completed.

The pothole pocked and cracked tennis courts are expected to be resurfaced soon, according to Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh's deputy chief of staff, Dee Smith. Citing inforand Condrad DeWitte, 3D09@anc.dc.gov mation from the parks and recreation department, Smith said the resurfacing will be completed before summer camp begins on June 21.

# 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.

**GDS** 6:30 pm, Library September 13, 2016 *December 6, 2016* March 7, 2017 May 2, 2017

**Lab** 6:00 pm **TBD** 

St. Patrick's 7:30 pm

July 19, 2016, MacArthur campus (corner MacArthur & Ashby)

# **April Meeting Notes**

Bob Avery, FCCA president, convened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Crime Report The police report, presented by Officer McElwee and Lt. Hayes, indicated a 56% increase in crime over this period last year. There

#### **Meeting Notes (Continued)**

have been fourteen crimes in the last thirty days. Thefts from cars are the number one crime. Many in the audience recounted stories of auto break-ins. It was recommended that car and home doors be kept locked at all times. Copper thefts from roofs are on the rise.

**Elections** Representatives from the DC Board of Elections demonstrated new voting machines in advance of the June 14th Primary.

**School Issues** Georgetown Day School (GDS) appears to be experiencing delays in developing their new site at the Safeway in upper NW. Concerns were expressed about the future status of the GDS lower school in our neighborhood.

# Presentation by Ward 3 DC Councilmember Mary Cheh

- The DC Council has put off the final decision on building homeless shelters in all 8 Wards. Mary Cheh has met with a citizens' group that had concerns about the proposed Ward 3 homeless site on Wisconsin Ave at Edmonds St. NW. Attempts are being made to be more process oriented and engage the community to a greater extent in decision-making process. Ms. Cheh envisions the Ward 3 shelter as one for families who need temporary shelter, typically a 60-90 day stay. Ms. Cheh has presented to the mayor three alternate sites for a Ward 3 homeless shelter. Zoning hearings will be forthcoming.
- The amount of \$100,000 has been earmarked by the DC Council to conduct a study on the airplane noise issue. Ms. Cheh is searching for funds to raise the amount to \$200,000 to \$\$300,000 for auseful study. Ms. Cheh has asked the DC Attorney General to take over the airplane noise lawsuit, however, to date he has not been interested. There was much discussion from the audience on this issue.
- DC government does not seem interested in designating the former Hardy Middle School (now used by Lab School) as "surplus property".
- The Fillmore Arts Center has been given a one-year extension by the DC Council.
- Ms. Cheh will continue to request a Bike Share site in our neighborhood.
- Ms. Cheh is searching for money for upgrades/repairs for the Hardy Field. Approval has been given to resurface the Hardy tennis courts.

#### **Invitation to Foxhall Residents**

Arne Paulson

Still wondering whether you should join Palisades Village? Still wondering what Palisades Village is? Foxhall residents Arne and Sara Paulson invite neighbors to a wine and cheese reception at their house on the evening of June 21 to answer these and other questions you may have about your neighborhood "aging-in- community" service organization. If you are interested in attending, please call the Palisades Village Office at (202) 244-3310 for full details.

# GU's Better Neighbor Push

John A. Bray, TheHoe.org

At the center of Georgetown University's work to keep good relations with Foxhall and other nearby communities is Cory S. Peterson.

For the past three years, since taking on the post of director of the Office of Neighborhood Life, Peterson has been pushing for closer connections with the communities, rapid and thorough response to student disorderly conduct, and a mutual approach to accountability.

Peterson acknowledges that many longtime University neighbors have an "extensive history of frustration with us." In an interview with me at his townhouse quarters at 36th and N streets, he said that his appointment and the accompanying reorganization of the approach to community relations amounts to "turning over a new leaf." It came in the wake of what was a long and fractious effort to gain city approval of the campus plan for 2012-2017 amid the outcry of neighbors about rowdy student conduct and university development ambitions. Much has changed.

The Office has responded to and tracked outcomes of hundreds of complaints from neighbors, developed the Georgetown Community Partnership (GCP) that includes a half-dozen working groups, published a 30-page glossy Hoya Living Guide that maps resources and explains conduct expectations, and led screening of rental properties for compliance with city business and safety regulations.

The expansive mission of the Office is to "support all students, non-students, and permanent residents" in the surrounding communities.

"I was the new guy on the block who was just here to help," said Peterson, 37, who started at the University in 2006 as a residence hall director and was named to his current post in August 2013 after a brief interim stint. He has a master's degree in higher education from Texas A&M and hails from

#### **GU Better Neighbor Push (Continued)**

Utah, where he spent nearly a decade in administrative jobs a member of his team visited the house, provided a copy at Utah's Hogle Zoo, including events management.

Staff in the Office was boosted from three to five, including two community directors, one who lives in Burleith and one in West Georgetown. Peterson himself has a 45-minute commute into work.

The commitment of additional resources came with elevation of Peterson's role and his office's profile. It is senior enough to merit a standing Monday meeting with the university's vice presidents, with direct supervision of his work by the vice president for government relations and community engagement. "It allows us to be more nimble and have a quicker response," Peterson said. "I set the agenda ... Here's some stuff I had over the weekend, here's where I'm seeing some push ... I can get buy-in right there and we can work it as a group."

"My thought is we've gotten better because we've organized ourselves better. All complaints come to us."

"Fast-forward three years and we are seeing better student behavior," Peterson said.

How much better might not be reflected in the detailed statistics Peterson keeps. The numbers of for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 look similar, with just over 480 contacts with off-campus residents, many of them not University students. Regarding outcomes, for example, 81 properties were noted as being placed on party restriction in 2013-14 and 83 in 2014-15. For Foxhall, the data report shows three noise incidents adjudicated by the Office of Student Conduct in 2013-14 and one in 2014-15, when one property was reported placed on party restriction. More current data has not been finalized.

Law and medical students have a separate conduct process that isn't reported in the statistical profile.

Peterson said he did not anticipate seeing shifts in the incident trend lines for a couple of years because it takes time for students to cycle through and recognize the new standards. He said that more recent data is showing fewer incidents with students. "When you're receiving sanctions on the first offense that often include disciplinary probation, which triggers a letter home to your parents, I think that's a big change," he said. He said he did not have data about incidents occurring prior to his tenure.

Changes are noticeable. It was about three years ago that I fielded a complaint from a neighbor about rowdy alcohol consumption at a Foxhall rental house. I contacted Peterson. Peterson followed up with me at the time and explained that

of the Hoya Living Guide and informed the students of their responsibilities, and explained that disruptions could result in follow-up by the Dean of the Medical School. The conduct ended and no other complaints have emerged, at least within my earshot of my Foxhall residence.

Students must sign an agreement that covers responsible and respectful conduct. If behavior draws a complaint, the agreement serves as a reminder of expectations, and students are asked, "What happened?" Peterson said sanctions have been strengthened.

Disorderly conduct includes making noise that can be heard beyond the property line an incident reports include layman's descriptions of the noise, such as audible from the street over the sound of a running car. Penalties range and escalate from a first violation that includes a \$50 fine, five work sanction hours, likely disciplinary probation, and party restrictions up to "likely suspension" for a fourth violation.

Peterson said the University also keeps space open for special circumstances that arise with housing conflicts. "If the violations are egregious, we will move them back on campus," Peterson said, adding that it's happened a couple of times in the past three years.

"Then you're responsible for paying rent in a place you can't live in and paying the university to live on campus. Students say, OK, that's not a very fun thing to do. When I talk to colleagues at other universities they say, You do what! How do you do that?"



Cory S. Peterson, director of Georgetown University's Office of Neighborhood Life, enters his office at 36th and N streets on May 20, 2016 after a day on the Move Out Drive beat. The program provides free bulk trash collection for students and nearby neighborhood residents. Peterson said the program this past year netted \$45,000 in in-kind contributions to KEYS for the Homeless, which distributes surplus furniture, books and other goods to those in need. Photo Credit: John A. Bray

# A.L. Levine Prefigured Bernie Sanders

John A. Bray, TheHoe.org

As Bernie Sanders, a Jew raised in New York City, runs for the presidency, I am reminded of another member of the Tribe from the Big Apple with the very same ambition. His name was A.L. Levine.

#### AL Levine (Continued)

He was the invention of Michael Halberstam, who sent his Jewish hero out on the campaign trail in The Wanting of Levine, published in 1978. The author, along with his family, was for many years a resident of Foxhall Village. Halberstam was a cardiologist who also had a feel for the game at Hardy Playground, clothing basketball rims with nets if they fell naked so that players were not denied the swish they deserved. From the novel: "What the country needs is a middleman ... Without a middleman, without

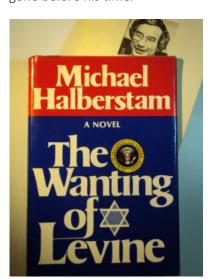
Levine went on to great adventures in the fictional race of 1988. Halberstam was fatally shot by a burglar at his home in the Palisades in 1980. The assailant might have gotten away had Halberstam not struck and injured him as he was driving himself to the hospital with his wife at his side.

someone who genuinely felt for

both sides, the country was go-

ing to tear itself apart."

Levine was ahead of his time. Halberstam, not quite 50, was gone before his time.



# **Lab School Construction Update**

Wendy Jenni

"Welcome Home" read the large banner greeting Lab's High School students on April 13 as they entered the school for the first day of classes in their new building. And while there may have been some nervous anticipation in advance of the move, within just a few days, students and faculty were happily settled in.

For the past thirty-plus years, the high school had been housed on Lab's Reservoir campus on one floor of a former dormitory of the Florence Crittenden Home for Unwed Mothers. Lab's innovative faculty and staff had figured out how to make that space work well for many years. But now, Lab's new high school building offers large classrooms, wide hallways, flexible furniture, small study areas, a green roof, walls that can be written on, a two-story high forum area for assemblies and social gathering, state of the art science labs, bright colors, maker spaces, an abundance of natural light, and elbow room to spare. It's been transformative for both teachers and students. Faculty have found opportunities to be even more creative in how they teach their students, all of whom learn differently. Students are calmer, say their teachers, and are focusing more on learning. They are standing up straighter -- clearly proud to be in such wonderful surroundings, designed just for them and the way they learn.

Many thanks are due to our architects at Stantec (formerly SHW) and our construction managers, supervisors, and crews from Clark Construction for the wonderful job they did in building this amazing space and in getting it done in time for its use by the Class of 2016.

Although the high school will finish out the school year in the new space, the building's dedication will take place in September as Lab kicks off its 50th year celebration. The Foxhall and Palisades communities will be invited.

For questions about The Lab School or the construction project, please contact Wendy Jennis, Director of Community Relations, at wendy.jennis@labschool.org.

Link to HS Opening Video: https://youtu.be/3LJyn8rdCJs



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# June 5, 2016

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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 - including newsletter delivery and attending ANC meetings let us know!

Sure, call me!
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	<b>Iembershi</b>	Form	for the	Calendar	Year
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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 our to the Foxhall Community Citizens Association. Send to FCCA c/o Andrew Reuter, Treasurer, 4400 Volta Place, NW, Washington, DC 20007 or bring to a meeting!

Standard Memberships	<b>Booster Memberships</b>				
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