# FOXHALL News

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#### **March General Zoom Meeting**

The FCCA will hold a general meeting via zoom on Weds, Mar 31st from 7:00-8:30pm. Please check the FCCA Listserv for link and login details for Zoom and call-in number.

The meeting will include updates, a traffic and crime report, and a discussion regarding the the use of the GDS property as a new public school.

#### Winter's Silver Linings

Nicole Farison

Though our world is going through rough times with the spread of the Coronavirus and times seem dark, it's always good to focus on those things that bring us joy no matter the season. Looking back, this winter has been very beautiful here in Foxhall Village. In December I saw more homes decorated for the Holidays than any other year I've lived here. I so enjoyed taking a nightly walk, although at times freezing, just so I could admire the lights and decorations.

'Silver Linings' con't on page 7...



A snowy day in Foxhall, photo credit Nicole Farison

### DCPS Proposes Elementary School to Replace Hardy Park; New Middle or High School for GDS Site

Bob Avery, FCCA President

Hardy Park is an important centrally located part of our neighborhood. Over the past year there have been somewhat contradictory and confusing city proposals for the use of the park and its surrounding area. Recently, new information has come to light which suggests that the FCCA community must act, and act quickly, or otherwise the park as we know it could disappear or be fundamentally altered.

Several weeks ago, the city began work on a multi-million-dollar park renovation following a multi-year planning process in which the neighborhood and FCCA were heavily involved and consulted. Completion of the project is targeted for May or June.

It was also recently revealed that the city signed a 15-year lease extension with the Lab School in late December for the former Hardy Elementary School building which Lab has occupied for 10 years and sits adjacent to the park at the corner of Foxhall & Q. The lease limits Lab to 90 students, similar to its current usage.

Collectively these two actions suggest that the city intends to con-'DCPS Proposal' con't on page 4...

### Join the FCCA Today!

The Foxhall Community Citizens Association (FCCA) monitors and acts on a range of neighborhood issues by working independently and with our Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC3D) and sister community associations. Given our location just a mile from Georgetown and two miles from downtown Washington, amid no less than seven private schools and universities, development is always an issue and mitigating its sometimes negative impacts, including traffic and parking, is a constant focus.

The FCCA tracks a wide range of issues that affect the neighborhood — from historic preservation and pets and potholes to private schools and pollution. We are active in reducing the impact of traffic through the area. We organize neighborhood activities and volunteer activities. We bring items of concern to the attention of residents, assess community opinion, and then act on behalf of the community.

'Join FCCA' con't on page 6...

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.

#### **FCCA Board**

**Bob Avery, President and Police Liaison** 

338-3834, raverydc@gmail.com

Carter Beach, Clark Place Liaison

301-523-7207, cartermbeach@gmail.com

Vipul Bhagat, Treasurer

725-0144, vipbhagdc@gmail.com

Leo Blyth, Hardy Park Liaison

763-6020, leoblyth@gmail.com

Cari Borras, Vice President & Bylaws Committee

borrasca2008@gmail.com

Liz Davis, Membership & Young Families Liaison

liz.mustin@gmail.com

Michael Delaney, Special Projects

michael.w.delaney1@gmail.com

Conrad J. DeWitte, Jr., Secretary and GCP Steering Committee Representative

321-1700, cjdewitte@hotmail.com

Brian Donahue, FCCA Listserv Administrator Paul DonVito, Historic Preservation & Listserve Liaison

375-4662, pauldonvitodc@gmail.com

Nikki Farison, Community Events & Welcome Committee

nikkifarison@gmail.com

Ann Haas, Hardy School Renovation Committee Chair

333-2635, ahaas212@comcast.net

Michael O'Connell, GU/Medstar Construction Liaison

342-8165, JMOConnell3@gmail.com

Sara Paulson, Aging-in-Place, Palisades Village Liaison, & Chair of the Foxhall Call Box Restoration Committee

333-0797, sara.paulson@gmail.com

Edward Ponzi, Lab School Representative & Neighborhood Beautification

378-3284, e\_ponzi@hotmail.com

**John Szymkowicz, Bylaws Committee** john@szymkowicz.com

Peter Van Allen, DC Fair Skies & Colony Hill Liaison

333-0586, peter@vanallen.org

FCCA Administrator

**Brittany Aguilar, Administrator** 

britt.aggie@gmail.com

**FCCA Listsery** 

FCCAlistserv+subscribe@groups.io

#### Who Do You Call?

#### **City-Wide Call Center**

Go to 311.dc.gov or call 311 to request free bulk trash and yard waste pickups, and to report burned out street lights, illegal dumping, graffiti, cars obstructing sidewalks or displaying suspicious guest parking permits, and other issues.

DC Animal Shelter 576-6664

#### **Police and Fire Departments**

Call 911 for both emergency and non-emergency Police matters.

Georgetown 24/7 Community Hotline

Report student activities that negatively impact our community including noise after 10 pm at GU's 24/7 Hotline, 687-8413

#### **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

#### Ward 3 Mayor's Liaison

Emir Gur-Ravantab, <a href="mailto:emir.gur-ravantab@dc.gov">emir.gur-ravantab@dc.gov</a>

**Our ANC Commissioners**, Jason Rao (ANC 3D06) <u>3D06@anc.dc.gov</u>, J.P. Szymkowicz (ANC 3D09) <u>jp.szymkowicz@anc.dc.gov</u>. For more information, go to anc3d.org.

#### **Foxhall Village Historic District**

Planning to work on the exterior of your Foxhall Village home? See work going on that seems contrary to our Historic District guidelines? Please call or email our DCHPO rep, Anne Brockett, (202) 442-7600 or anne.brockett@dc.gov. Historic District Guidelines can be found at <a href="http://foxhall.org/wp-content/up-loads/2010/06/FVHD\_DesignGuidlines.pdf">http://foxhall.org/wp-content/up-loads/2010/06/FVHD\_DesignGuidlines.pdf</a>

#### Going out of town?

Email MPD Officer Tony McElwee to check on your home periodically, anthony.mcelwee@dc.gov.

#### Join the FCCA Listserv!!

Keep up-to-date with all happenings in your community by joining the FCCA List-serv. For more information and to join, check out: groups.io/g/FCCAlistserve

# Scheduled Meetings with Local Private Schools

Share comments and concerns so they can be aired at these public meetings that institutions are required to schedule with local communities according to their agreements with the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Meetings listed below are to provide info to the community regarding the use of the campus, particularly use of Q Street to drop off when Foxhall Road is repayed. Links to follow.

#### **Georgetown Day School**

Zoom June 16, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

#### **Lab School**

Zoom May 10, 2021 @6:00 PM

St. Patrick's

None Scheduled

#### **FCCA Newsletter Submissions**

Send to cjdewitte@hotmail.com for the next newsletter. Generally submissions should be under 300 words, but longer pieces may run by advance arrangement.

# Progress on Georgetown University's Surgical Pavilion

Hulit Taylor, with Michael O'Connell

Of most importance to the FCCA, the excavation of the Surgical Pavilion's footprint is now complete! This is a major milestone for the construction project and has greatly reduced the number of dump trucks traveling to and from the site. There will be excavation of the area in front of St. Mary's Hall, to create more underground parking, but that will not happen until the second quarter of 2022, and it is a much smaller area.

The third and final tower crane was 'Pavilion Progress' con't on page 4...

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### **2020 FCCA Treasurer's Report**

Andy Reuter, 2020 Treasurer

#### **Income and Expenses**

This report presents the FCCA's unaudited statement of operating income and expenses for 2020. It excludes the Call Box Fund. In 2020, the FCCA disbursed the remaining Call Box Fund funds of \$9,780 to the vendor that completed the refurbishment project.

This year's dues of \$9,734 increased 17 percent from 2019, reversing a multi-year decline in contributions. Interest income on the FCCA's savings account and two certificates of deposit only generated \$35 due to low interest rates. The major ongoing operating expenses were the stipend for the FCCA administrator; the newsletter and printing costs; community events; the FCCA website and software licenses for a graphic design of the newsletter, and PayPal fees. The FCCA also contributed a one-time contribution of \$1,000 to the Call Box Fund to help cover the difference between contributions and costs.

Due to the increase in 2020 dues and a decrease in expenses on physical newsletters and community events because of COVID-19, the FCCA's operating fund added \$2,892 to its Capital Reserve.

#### **INCOME STATEMENT**

**Operating Expenses** 

	2019	2020	% Change
Operating Income			
Dues	8,300	9,735	17
Interest	35	35	-
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	8,335	9,770	17
Operating Expenses			
Administrator	3,000	3,000	-
Newsletter & Printing	6,198	2,390	(61)
Community Events	330	-	
Paypal Fees (Online Dues)	138	177	28
Website & Software	160	311	94
Dues Reimbursement	225	-	(100)
One-Time CBF Contribution		-	1,000
DC Taxes (DC Corporation)	-	*	
Office Supplies & Postage	-	-	
Contribution to (Withdrawl from)	(1,716)	2,892	
Capital Reserve			

<sup>\*</sup>The FCCA's biannual \$80 DC corporation fee was paid in 2020 but reimbursement declined by the payor.

8,335

9,770

17

#### **TOTAL ASSETS**

Despite adding to Capital Reserve on an operating basis, the FC-CA's total assets decreased 15 percent due to the disbursal of the remainder of the Call Box Fund, as noted above, held on behalf of the capital refurbishment project in 2019 and 2020. Now that the liabilities of the Call Box Fund have been paid in full, the FCCA's assets of \$38,123 as of December 31, 2020 are free and clear of any further accrued liabilities.

Total Assets	44,828	38,123	(15)
PayPal Account	1,805	665	(63)
CD	11,179	11,187	0.1
CD	9,674	9,694	0.2
Savings Account	13,981	13,988	0.1
Checking Account	8,189	2,589	(68)
<u>Total Assets</u>	2019	2020	% Change

# Airplane Noise Still Is An Issue Deadline extended to April 14

Peter Van Allen

Please send your comments about airplane noise to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) by April 15 using the following link:

https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/FAA-2021-0037-0001

FAA recently released the results of its 2015 survey on the impact of airplane noise at the insistence of DC Delegate Norton (https://www.faa.gov/regulations policies/policy guidance/noise/survey/). Increased airplane noise has had negative effects on health and the environment. FAA recently released the results of its 2015 survey on the impact of airplane noise at the insistence of DC Delegate Norton (https:// www.faa.gov/regulations\_policies/policy\_guidance/noise/ survey/). The survey found increased annoyance due to aircraft operation, even though the survey was taken before the introduction of the "Nextgen" routes in late 2015, which authorized airlines to fly their planes at low altitudes over populated areas to save time and fuel, and did not include any DC area airport (or other key airports such as Boston, Phoenix, San Francisco and Seattle that have had the greatest noise problems).

The FAA has indicated that they are looking for input on the effects of the increased noise and recommendations to lessen the impact. If so, some recommended comments may include:

<sup>&#</sup>x27;FAA' con't on page 7...

#### ...'Pavilion Progress' con't from page 2

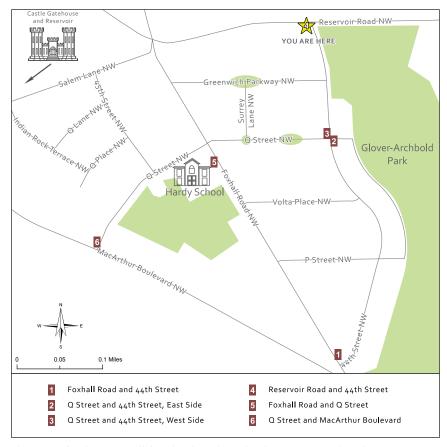
installed last December. The three cranes serve an important function in the ongoing construction as they move heavy construction materials around the site and create efficiencies in the overall construction activity.

Below ground, work continues to build out the concrete structure which includes some of the underground parking area, and delivery truck access. Work is also being done to install the infrastructure for mechanical, electrical and plumbing service to the Pavilion. Finally, if you look at the back right corner of site, you can start to see the first above ground steel structure for the Pavilion!

As always, if you have any comments, questions, complaints – or compliments – please contact Matt Maio, Construction Executive for Trammel Crow, at medstarhospitaltrammell-crow@gmail.com.

#### **Our Neighborhood Call Boxes**

Sara Paulson, Chair of the Foxhall Call Box Restoration Committee This map will be on the call box located at 44th Street and Reservoir Road.



Have you seen the six police and fire call boxes in the FCCA? They are all finished and are looking great. They have interesting history facts which many of you may not know about our neighborhood, and are fun for kids of all ages to read and enjoy. Below is the map of all the boxes. Take special note of the call box at the corner of Q Street and MacArthur Boulevard, which contains an original painting by Peter Waddell, a local artist. The weather is getting warmer -- the perfect time for a walk!

See the Call Box Restoration Project on the FCCA website at www.foxhall.org

#### ...'DCPS Proposal' con't from page 1

tinue using the park and school in the same was as they have for the past 25 years.

However, last spring, literally out of the blue, the city announced it intended to construct a 75,000 square foot elementary school for between 450 and 550 students next to the Lab School. City officials testified that the building would not use Hardy Park but would be built on the same 1+ acre DC Public Schools (DCPS) lot housing the Lab School on the parking lot next to the portion leased by Lab. Because no current year funds for the project were allocated and no additional planning details were given, it was unclear how seriously to take the proposal.

In the last month, DCPS formed a 35-member working group made up of school officials, PTA parents and a small number of community representatives designed to come up with proposals on how to use the two properties. Initially the FCCA was not invited to join the working group and ultimately included only through the help of our local elected Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) representative, JP Szymkowicz.

In its initial working group meeting DCPS revealed that it now proposed to build the new elementary school on either the tennis courts or the soccer field of Hardy Park, not the Lab School parking lot, as originally stated. [See picture below]. This new proposal would effectively turn Hardy Park into a DC public school, remove neighborhood amenities such as the field or 'DCPS Proposal' con't on page 5...

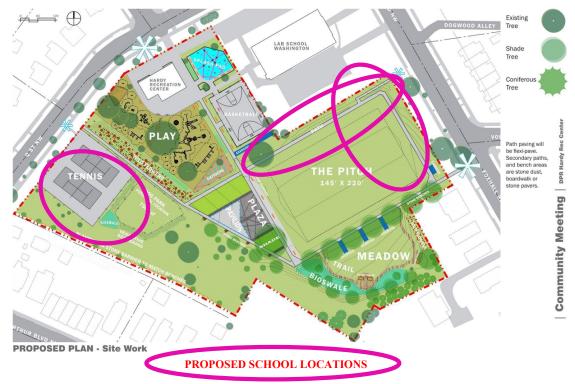
# ...'DCPS Proposal' con't from page 4

tennis courts, and curtail public park uses. Construction for the school is to begin in 2022 and open in 2024.

In another development, last summer the city announced plans to attempt to purchase the former Georgetown Day School (GDS) property (below MacArthur and Q), which unexpectedly became available for purchase by the District. The DCPS working group was told that negotiations have been successful, and the city expects to complete the purchase in the next month and start operating it in the fall of 2022. GDS, which did not vacate the property until June 2020, has used it as a combination lower and middle school for 575 students.

DCPS is proposing to expand capacity at the GDS property to 700 students. Initially the working group was told that it would be used as a middle school, but in the last meeting the option of using it as a high school was put on the table.

All told, these developments could result in three schools in the heart of our community, a significant increase in traffic, congestion and



loss of parking, and the loss of much---if not all---of Hardy Park.

It has been difficult for the FCCA community to act during this process because the city has sent conflicting signals, deliberately avoided public comment, and provided few details of its planning. But things are coming into focus now, and we must act. We cannot continue to let the views of the FCCA community be misrepresented, dismissed and belittled by out of area activists. We must provide our own voice and do it loudly.

We must act to have our voice on Hardy Park heard. Accordingly. the FCCA has formed a group of neighbors to focus particularly on the proposed elementary school at Hardy Park. This group is open to any FCCA resident. Please email me at raverydc@gmail.com to join this group of neighbors.

We must act to have our voice on the most immediate issue heard—the use of the GDS property. Accordingly, we will

have a Zoom general membership meeting on Wednesday March 31, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. This meeting will be an opportunity for the people most impacted by the school—neighbors who live below MacArthur Boulevard on Q, Clark, Elliot, Green, Lavarock and MacArthur-to voice their views and concerns. The rest of us will listen. We have invited our ANC reps, Council member Mary Cheh, School Board member Ruth Wattenberg, and representatives from DCPS to join the meeting and listen for themselves. Details on Zoom access will be provided on the FCCA listserve and FCCA website.

Please tell your neighbors about this important meeting. We encourage you and they to join the FCCA listserv to be kept up to date on news about the DCPS proposals. Information about how to join the FCCA listserv is available at https://groups.io/g/FCCAlistserve

#### Colony Hill Becomes Historic District

Peter Van Allen

Colony Hill becomes a Historic District this month after gaining approval from the DC Historic Preservation Board (HPRB). HPRB had originally rejected Colony Hill's application in total on January 28, however, after strong endorsements and excellent work of the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff, DC Preservation League, our ANC leadership, FCCA, and Colony Hill neighbors, the application passed in a re-vote on February 4 on the basis of Criterion F (Masters - Horace Peaslee, architect & Rose Greely, landscape architect) 6-1 and Criterion D (Architecture & Urbanism – contribution to Colonial Revival movement) 5-2. David Maloney, the grandfather of DC historic preservation, gave an impactful testimony on Colony Hill's contribution to the Colonial Revival movement in DC and the US.

The DC Office of Planning (OP) has created a draft set of design guidelines. Colony Hill neighbors are reviewing these and making recommendations to preserve the character of the neighborhood. Anne Brockett (OP), who has been advising Foxhall Village's Historic District, will be helping Colony Hill in this effort.

Many thanks again to all for their help on this application. Colony Hill looks forward to working with Foxhall Village and Anne Brockett on this exciting initiative!









Signs of Spring (clockwise from top: decorative cabbage, pansies, snowdrops, daffodils), photo credit: Cari Borras

#### ...'Join FCCA' con't from page 1

Notable achievements include:

- Negotiated with Georgetown University to withdraw the proposed Loop Road adjacent to Glover-Archbold Park.
- Worked with Foxhall Village residents and the District of Columbia to create the Foxhall Village Historic District.
- Advocated for appropriate modifications to numerous development schemes.
- Monitored the growth of nearby schools and universities that directly impact neighbors.
- Worked with D.C. Department of Parks & Recreation to renovate the Hardy Park, which is currently under construction.
- Negotiated with a developer to build townhomes instead of a 21 unit apartment building at the corner of Foxhall between Greenwich Parkway and Reservoir Road (the former site of St. Patrick's Church).
- Saved the Hardy School building (now on long-term lease to the Lab School) from being converted to a Georgetown University dormitory, and prepared the application to have the structure protected as historic.
- Prevented construction of a bridge across the Potomac at Three Sisters and an associated freeway through Glover Archbold Park.

Please help continue this legacy of community advocacy. It is easy to join or renew your membership today. Either fill out the form in this newsletter, or join via paypal at www.foxhall.org.

#### ...'FAA' con't from page 3

Negative impacts:

 Increased noise hurting your health, particularly when airplanes fly early and late directly over your house at low altitude.

Pollution from increased jet fumes on your health.

#### Policy recommendations:

- Flights to/from Reagan DCA should arrive/depart via the south over the Potomac River whenever possible and not fly over neighborhoods until they are above 5,000 feet altitude.
- If flights must arrive/depart via the north due to extreme weather conditions, they should follow the Potomac River as closely as possible and not veer off the river until they get to 5,000 feet altitude.

It could also be helpful if you copied key officials on your response, including,

President Biden - https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/ Delegate Norton - https://norton.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me Mayor Bowser - Muriel.bowser@dc.gov Councilmember Cheh - mcheh@dccouncil.us

If you have been surprised recently by the amount of airplane noise even with the drastic reductions in flights, just think about how it will be when the airplanes are back flying full schedules with increased pressure to be on time and save fuel. Thank you for anything you can do to help reduce airplane noise.

#### ... 'Silver Linings' con't from page 1

We have new neighbors that moved in just before Christmas, and we decided to stop by and bring them some cookies as a welcome. They were so friendly and had us in right away to show us their home and all the things they were doing. We reciprocated and had them over soon after to show them our own home. Since both homes are the same floor plan we were able to give them some ideas. It was so fun!

I enjoyed watching the neighborhood children out playing from my study window. The sounds of children playing in the alley give a nostalgic feel. With them doing virtual school they have been outside playing more and also playing more as a neighborhood gang, something that brings me fond memories of my own childhood. Children are always a blessing.

The sound of the band Crush Funk playing on our streets from time to time was also a treat. I loved going out to listen with the other neighbors as this volunteer band made their rounds through the city to lighten everyone's mood.

I lost my beloved cat, Black Velvet, this December. Anyone who has walked down Q Street I'm sure has seen him. He prowls the Q oval and back alley daily. He disappeared for two and a half days and I was so depressed. Reluctantly I posted on NextDoor, (I wasn't sure what response I would get). To my surprise, one of my neighbors on Surrey posted just after my post saying she just found a black cat in her bedroom! A lot of nice neighbors then tried to connect us. This neighbor called me while I was at the self check out at Whole Foods. I was so surprised I took off my mask to talk to her (I was soon reprimanded)! I was so excited that I could hardly finish checking out! This neighbor said she noticed her mattress moving. My cat had gone under the bed and went up inside the mattress!!! She was having construction done to at her home and my cat must have walked in the backdoor. I was so thankful to get him back. It was my own Christmas miracle. I'm not sure my other pets would agree!

The snow falls in February were beautiful. I loved walking around the neighborhood and into the back woods and trails with my Caviler Pups. The trails with the stream running near is so picturesque with the winter snow. I feel as though I'm out in the country just a block away. We would often run into other neighbors, who seemed to have more time to talk. It feels like a small town in a bigger city. The children crowded the sledding hill going down into the gulley behind 44th Street. Sleds of every color and size. The sounds of laughter and excitement filled the air. I loved that beautiful winter scene. So many of the neighbors out with their families or pets. So much community. I will add here that I will miss Ike the Sheepdog that lived on the corner of 44th and Reservoir. He was our Foxhall mascot.

I've spent a lot more time home this winter than I can remember and loved it. I love looking at the houses in this neighborhood, I never tire of their architecture. I've enjoyed cooking lots of new recipes. Netflix has become a part of my life, that I can say was not a part of my life before Covid. My favorite series was 'Emily in Paris'. I worked many puzzles, read some good books and got organized! I'm looking forward to spring. Just tonight I noticed the small purple wild flowers in our neighbor's yard and the start of the daffodils.

### 1. Join the FCCA Listsery

**FCCA Listserv** is a community bulletin board for residents of the Foxhall area. Join our community listserv to connect with neighbors, share interests and get updates on community news.

Join: https://groups.io/g/

**FCCAlistserve** 

Email: FCCAlistserve@groups.io

# 2. Join the FOXHALL Facebook Group

#### **Foxhall Village Community Page**

is a Facebook page for all Foxhall Village residents. It is a community page to network and share local interest information.

Join: www.facebook.com/groups/foxhallvillage/

# 3. Join the FOXHALL Directory

Sign up for our Foxhall Village Directory to conveniently connect with fellow neighbors. The directory will be shared twice a year with FCCA members.

Join: foxhalldirectory.com

### **FCCA COMMUNITY NETWORK**



Dear Neighbors, when my family moved to our community a year ago we were excited to meet our new neighbors. However, with the pandemic this became a challenge. Since then, we have become active with The Foxhall Community Citizens Association (FCCA). Now, I am assisting the FCCA with creating a community network online. A strong community network will connect neighbors to each other, read important community news and learn about local resources. Here are the ways you can join our network:

- **1. FCCA Listserv:** The listerv provides a centralized place for Foxhall neighbors to communicate with each other, and receive important community announcements.
- **2. FCCA Facebook group:** We now have a Foxhall Community Facebook Page. Having a Facebook page enables us to post pictures, and have an easy way to share information, and support neighborhood discussions.
- **3. FCCA Member Directory:** An established directory can allow all FCCA members to be represented and assist neighbors in contacting other fellow neighbors.

Brian Donahue (1536 44th Street)

## Pay by check or go to www.foxhall.org and join or renew using PayPal!

11141111 , 0 4 101	Membership Form for the Calendar Year
your support!	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 Vipul Bhagat, Treasurer, 4435 Volta Place NW, DC 20007 or bring to a meeting!
If you would like to talk	Standard Memberships Booster Memberships
about how your inter-	\$25 Household \$250 Patron
ests might mesh with the	\$15 Senior Household \$100 Advocate
FCCA's current needs for	\$25 Non-Resident \$50 Sponsor
volunteers - including	Donation \$
newsletter delivery and	Names (LAST, First, as you wish listing to appear, Ex: DOW, Jane & John Smith)
attending ANC meetings -	Complete Mailing Address
let us know!	Home Phone
Sure, call me!	Email Address for FCCA Updates Date