

FOXHALL News

foxhall.org



FCCA Calendar

Next Meeting: **Weds, Jan 31 at 7PM**

Topic: Medstar, Dogs & Hardy Park

Location: 4500 Q Street NW in the Hardy Rec Center

Need a ride?

Contact FCCA President Bob Avery

January Meeting: Dogs!

The next FCCA meeting will be on a special date--Wednesday January 31st (a departure from our usual 3rd Wednesday of the month) but the usual time and place (7PM Hardy Rec Center, 45th and Q street). The meeting will feature two topics:

Representatives of Georgetown Medstar Hospital will present details of the new Hospital construction plan. The construction has just started so this is a great opportunity to learn when and how our community will be impacted by the four year project!

The second portion of the meeting will be devoted entirely to a discussion of dogs in Hardy park. Informing this discussion will be the report from Brett Orlove, volunteer coordinator of our ad hoc dog owners group (see the attached article on page 3).

These are both important issues for our community. Please come if you can.

All are welcome!

FCCA Membership for 2018

Join/Renew by Check or Online!

Jessie Kane

Did you know that last year the FCCA had one of the highest percentages of household memberships of citizens' groups in our area? This strong membership level allows us to better represent the interests of our neighborhood in many local matters. Last year's major accomplishment was the negotiated settlement of Georgetown University's 20 Year Plan. FCCA won many concessions in this plan that will benefit our neighborhood. In addition, the association has been working in tandem with other citizens' groups to address the issue of airplane noise.

All of this could not have been done without strong community support. We continue to need that involvement moving forward. A membership membership form and envelope are enclosed with this newsletter. Please mail in your form with a check or go to our website and join online. (www.foxhall.org). Membership is for a calendar year, January to December. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks and Help Wanted

Bob Avery, FCCA President

One thing that makes the FCCA different from any other civic organization in the District is that we deliver our newsletter to everyone within the FCCA service area whether they are a member or not. This a a long-time tradition of the association and dependent on the contribution of our team of volunteer newsletter deliverers: Sara Paulson, Jenny Morgan, John Bray, Greg Squires, Hulit Taylor, Charlotte DonVito, Scott Polk, Jack Youtcheff, Peter Van Allen, Dolly Tucker, Claudia Vacirca, Jessie Kane, Ann Haas, Elliot Crooke, Bob Avery, Raymond Quianzon, Gerald Bemis, and Gerry Ives. Each year we thank our loyal and dedicated newsletter deliverers who make sure the Foxhall News is delivered. This is not an easy task; but it is imperative so that neighbors have access to pertinent information necessary to remaining engaged in community activities. Our volunteers make this possible.

This year we have need of additional volunteers for three routes: (1) Eastern MacArthur Blvd, Lingen Rd and Ridgeview Way; (2) Both sides of Q street between 44th and Foxhall (3) Reservoir between 47th and Foxhall and the west side of Foxhall between Reservoir and Q. If you can help us with any of these routes please contact Bob Avery at ravery@starpower.net. Each route takes about 30 minutes six times a year.

2017 Holiday Decorating Contest

Mallory Lawson

Thank you to everyone who made the neighborhoods so festive with the beautiful and varied holiday displays for all to enjoy. Congratulations to this year's winners:

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FCCA Board**Bob Avery, President, Police, and GU Liaison**

338-3834, ravery@starpower.net

Peter Kimball, Vice-President

321-1234, peter.kimball@isscorporateservices.com

John Bray, Secretary

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

Andy Reuter, Treasurer

847-3861., Cell 664-6107, 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

Leo Blyth, Community Events & Young Families Liaison

763-6020, leoblyth@gmail.com

Paul DonVito, Historic Preservation & Listserve Liaison

625-0329, pauldonvito@rcn.com

Ann Haas, At Large, Friends of Hardy

333-2635, ahaas212@comcast.net

Jeff Koch, At Large, Lower Q St Liaison

841-3202, JeffKoch@JeffKoch.com

Michael O'Connell, GU/Medstar Construction Liaison

342-8165, JMOConnell3@gmail.com

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

333-0797, sara.paulson@gmail.com

Frank Staroba, Friends of Hardy Liaison

342-1130, fstaroba@verizon.net

JP Szymkowicz, At Large

607-5500, jp@szymkowicz.com

Peter Van Allen, DC Fair Skies & Colony Hill Liaison

333-0586, peter@vanallen.org

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 Feb 28 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

Ward 3 Liaison, Phil Thomas, Phil.

Thomas@dc.gov and Ian Maggard ian.maggard@dc.gov

Our ANC Commissioners, Stephen Gardner, sgardner.gardnerlaw@gmail.com and Conrad DeWitte, 3D09@anc.dc.gov

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 Gabriela Gutowski, 202-442-8839 or gabriela.gutowski@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@dc.gov

Join the FCCA Listserv!!

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

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

March 6

May 1

Lab 6:00 pm

March 13 Foxhall
May 8 Reservoir

St. Patrick's 7:30 pm

*Jan 16 *MacArthur Campus*
April 17 Whitehaven
*July 17 *MacArthur*

*Address for new MacArthur Campus is 4590 MacArthur Blvd

Sidewalk Maintenance

The Foxhall area is very much a walking community – children going to school or to Hardy Rec Center, medical students and University employees going up to GU, mail deliverers, dog walkers, joggers, people going to bus stops....

Leaves left on sidewalks often become very slippery, twigs and sticks become trip hazards and low-hanging branches and untrimmed plants can hit pedestrians as they walk by.

This is also a good time to make sure that you have a snow shovel and an ice melt or salt.

Whether you are an owner or a renter, it is your responsibility to keep your steps, walkways and sidewalks clear of all debris.

The pedestrians thank you!

2017 Holiday Decorating Contest cont...**BEST ILLUMINATION**

Paul Ward and Rick Roldan, 4451 Q Street

Honorable mention:

Ellen McCoy, 1706 Surrey Lane

Maco Family, corner Greenwich and 44th

MOST ELEGANT

Lise Adkins and Tom Murphy, 4402 Q Street

Honorable mention:

Alex Pires and Diane Cooley, 4401 Q Street

Judith Michaels, 4509 Potomac Avenue

Elting Family, 1700 Hoban Avenue

4606 Kenmore Avenue

MOST CHILD-FRIENDLY

Burke Family, 1710 Hoban Road

Honorable mention:

Bob Siciliano, 4430 Greenwich Parkway

Vicki and Elliot Crook, 4485 Q Street

1405 Ridgeway

MOST CREATIVE

1659 45th Street

Honorable mention:

Melissa Kern and Bill Deegan, 4448 Greenwich Parkway

Patty Harburger, 1704 Surrey Lane

4464 Laverock

Judges this year were Laurie Dromerick, MaryAnn Griffin, Mallory Lawson and Andra Lion

Thanks to all who made our neighborhood beautiful.

The Judges (Mallory Lawson, Sara Paulson, Andra Lion)

Parks and Rec Launches Planning for Hardy Renovation

Frank Staroba, Friends of Hardy

Peter Nohrden, landscape architect of DC Parks and Recreation, launched the planning process for the renovation of Hardy Rec Center on December 18th at the center. He asked for initial input from the our community about making Hardy a state of the art facility for all users by 2019. The renovation is funded with one million for planning in FY18 and 4.25 million for construction in FY19. Funds were secured through a two-year effort by Friends of Hardy and FCCA, championed by CM Mary Cheh.

Nohrden outlined a process of five community meetings to develop a renovation plan designed to meet our needs. Meetings are jointly run by Parks and Recreation, DC General Services, which manages all capital projects, Friends of Hardy and FCCA.

Key ideas for renovation incorporated the results of the community survey and focus groups that Friends conducted two years ago. They included enclosing the southern porch area to include as many as two new rooms, improving the kids lots with creatively stimulating equipment, a water feature appealing to both kids and adults, a shaded walking path with exercise equipment, native species plantings, a rain garden to mitigate storm water runoff, improvement of the main entrance including terracing of the hillside, new ADA compliant entrance on Foxhall, and protecting park land from parking in the Q Street alley. DPR noted that a dedicated group could apply for a Dog Park/Dog Run to be included.

Nohrden will schedule the second community meeting after DPR has hired a landscape architect or multi-disciplinary engineering firm in February or March. At that meeting he will have some tentative design concepts to present for community review. This will lead to the third meeting when about 50 percent of the design development will prompt final design input by the community. This will lead to meeting four when the final design plan will be presented, and topics of implementation discussed, such as the phasing of construction.

Friends of Hardy is committed to monitoring the whole process so it meets our needs. In preparation, the steering committee will seek advice from the Palisades Community Association to benefit from their experience in bringing the renovation of their rec center and park to completion.

Friends of Hardy encourages everyone to watch for the February date and to attend with their ideas for improving our park.

Follow Up Meeting on Dogs at Hardy

Brett Orlove & Frank Staroba, Friends of Hardy

The next FCCA general meeting on January 31st at 7:00 in the rec center will be devoted entirely to discussion of dogs in Hardy park. Informing this discussion will be the following report from Brett Orlove, volunteer coordinator of our ad hoc dog owners group. Brett's report is dated December 11th. It reflects many of the opinions expressed at our meeting of November 15th with the addition of a proposed code of conduct for dog owners.

"I have met with several people including those that "signed up" to participate at the first community meeting, others that emailed me, others that I have met in the park and the neighborhood. As you can imagine, there are varying levels of interest for different possible solutions and a lot of this comes

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GDS Nears Deal For MacArthur Campus

John Bray

Georgetown Day School is negotiating a contract to sell its MacArthur Boulevard campus to another private school and anticipates signing a contract in the “next month or so,” according to GDS Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Houser.

Houser said tonight (December 12, 2017) that the prospective buyer has provided a letter of intent and that the contract is in the “wordsmithing” stage. Houser characterized the prospective buyer as a school group that does not currently operate in Washington, D.C., and is interested in running a campus with a grade arrangement comparable to GDS’s PK-8 program. He declined to identify the school, per an agreement between the parties.

Five entities have expressed “bonafide” interest in the property, located at the bottom of Q Street and now fully enrolled with 575 students. The entities include two other schools -- one within D.C., but not DCPS, and the other outside -- and two developers, according to Houser, who said GDS’s preference has been to sell to another school.

“They like what they see as a solution to running a school,” Houser said of the top prospect. “There aren’t that many options in D.C. for a plug-and-play.”

Projections now call for GDS to vacate the MacArthur campus by the close of the 2019-20 school year and move to the GDS upper school at Davenport Street near Wisconsin Avenue, in Tenleytown. Houser declined to put a price on the deal, but said GDS must sell or otherwise convert the MacArthur campus to cash in order to finance expansion of its Tenleytown campus.

Houser’s comments came at a meeting with residents of the neighborhood around the MacArthur campus. Such meetings are required quarterly by zoning rules, and he spoke with the eight residents who showed up for more than 90 minutes.

Foxhall Community Citizens Association President Bob Avery called Houser’s news positive for the area and that he hoped there would be a seamless transition.

Houser said that sale to a developer might bring a higher price, but that it also might mean a longer and more difficult transaction if it involved changing the use of the property.

What a school new to the nation’s capital would have to do to market itself and gain necessary enrollment was not clear. But demand for private schools remains strong, according to Houser, who said that, among GDS and its core peer schools, the current application trend is stronger this year than the prior year.

(For more of this story, go to <https://wordpress.com/post/potomactimes.wordpress.com/1533>)

Aircraft Noise Oral Argument held on January 11 in US Court of Appeals - Court’s Decision Still Months Away

Peter Van Allen

The Oral Argument on the Aircraft Noise case was held on January 11 in the US Court of Appeals to a packed courtroom. Many thanks to the other FCCA members who also attended.

The judges questioned the FAA on two key points:

- First, that DC residents were not properly notified. While FAA posted notice on its website and in the Washington Post (I never saw it), FAA sent additional notification to residents of all the surrounding area, but not to DC residents. The FAA said this was due to an error by their contractor.
- Second, whether FAA properly shared the results of the Environmental Assessment. The FAA claimed that it could not share the results of its noise analysis because the results could only be replicated by its software.

The Court seemed sympathetic to our case. However, the case does raise some issues never precisely dealt with in a prior case and the Court seemed concerned that they would need to break new ground to rule in our favor. Unfortunately, litigation is uncertain because even when you have the better argument the Court needs to agree.

The Court usually takes several months to craft an opinion that the panel finds acceptable. A quick decision would probably be unfavorable since we carry the burden of proving our appeal was timely.

If you wish to hear it, here is an audio link to the proceedings (about 30 minutes long):

[https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/recorings/recordings2018.nsf/5F07A92886232885258212005FEE9D/\\$file/15-1285.mp3](https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/recorings/recordings2018.nsf/5F07A92886232885258212005FEE9D/$file/15-1285.mp3)

We will let you know when we get further information. In the meantime, please continue to complain to FAA and MWAA:

MWAA DCA Complaint Form:

<https://viewpoint.bksv.com/dca3>

Follow Up Meeting on Dogs at Hardy...

from our diverse experience with dogs and use of the park. There are those who favor regulation and those who strongly oppose it. Below is my summary of what we think should be considered by the larger community.

- Dog-Run Area. We propose the inclusion of a designated non-official dog run area to be included in the designs for the park improvements. Details and design will need to be worked out but ideas for a landscaped and/or fenced perimeter should be considered.
- Formal Dog Park. There is also some interest in the community for creating a formal dog park so I am including this for consideration. Of all possibilities, this one elicited pretty strong positions on both sides. The few people that have expressed support for this unfortunately were not at the meeting where several of us discussed pros and cons and the cons seem to outweigh the pros. One of the biggest concerns is that the formal dog parks attract dog walkers from outside the community who will bring even more dogs to our neighborhood and the park - a few of us spoke with dog walkers who confirmed this. The general consensus was that a formal dog park would bring unintended results
- Better control and regulation of the soccer field users to encourage them to treat our park better and leave it cleaner.
- Involvement of dog-owner park-user community members with the Friends of Hardy group and the planning process.
- Code of Conduct. Peer enforced code of conduct for the dog owners with the goal of keeping the park safe and clean and dog-friendly. This goes in conjunction with allowing dogs on the grass fields at appropriate times. We propose to print the "Code" on cards and encourage dog owners to distribute these to dog owners using the park. Printed information given to noncompliant park users is less confrontational than telling people they are breaking the rules. The dog owners who participated in the conversations and who have contacted me separately generally (but not unanimously) feel that if dog owners are responsible, then most of the perceived issues go away and that over-regulating the park that serves our community will not necessarily bring the intended results. We recommend that these be published in the newsletters as well:

Dog Owners Code of Conduct

1. Leashes. Always have a leash and if your dog is unfriendly, aggressive, jumps on people or is otherwise not obedient, keep your dog leashed.
2. Dog Poop. Always have a bag. Pay attention to your dog and always pick up. Pick up other dog poop if no one is around - be a good citizen.
3. Playgrounds. No dogs in the playground, tennis courts or basketball court.
4. Games on the field. Unleashed dogs should be kept on the lower field when there are games on the field.
5. Pay attention to your dog at all times.
6. No off-leash 9-3 on school days (Lab School).
7. No off-leash for unvaccinated dogs, unneutered males, or females in heat.
8. Respect those with dog-fear. When in doubt, leash up.
9. Control excessive barking.

The purpose of the meeting will be to decide on next steps, and we encourage everyone to attend.

New FCCA Board Members!

At the November meeting two new Board members, Michael O'Connell and JP Szymkowicz, were elected and Caitlin Mackenzie and Tracy Gabriel stepped down.

We welcome Michael and JP and thank Caitlin and Tracy for their service!

FCCA Backs Trolley Trestle Renewal

John Bray

The Foxhall Community Citizens Association, during its November 15, 2017 membership meeting, voted 16-2 to support restoration of the abandoned trolley trestle that crosses the south end of Glover Archbold National Park beside Canal Road.

The resolution backs recommending to the Mayor, DC City Council, National Park Service and transportation agencies that the Foundry Branch Trestle be restored for "use as a multi-purpose pedestrian and bicycle transportation corridor from Foxhall Road to Prospect Street."

The vote followed a presentation by Brett Young, a resident of the community and advocate for restoring the bridge. What restoration would look like, cost and mean for transit across the bridge to points east and west was unclear. (Glover Archbold Bridge And Sewer Limbo)

The DC Preservation League, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, DC Recreational Trails

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FCCA Backs Trolley Trestle Renewal...

Advisory Committee, and Georgetown Business Improvement District favor restoration of the bridge, with a Palisades Citizens' Association community survey also showing support, according to the resolution published in the FCCA September 2017 newsletter.

Palisades Library Starts New Chapter

John Bray

After many months boarded up and barricaded by a chain-link fence, an old-fashioned source of learning burst into the sunshine today showing a whole new look.

The Palisades Library, after a renovation budgeted at \$8.2 million, reopened, an event welcomed with a ribbon-cutting and a throng of eager readers.

By Karen Quash's estimate, there were hundreds of people waiting. "It was heart-warming to see all the people this morning waiting to come in," said Quash, the library branch's new manager, taking time for an interview at the end of opening day. "This is a lovely community with a lot of people who love their library."

It's a glassy, bright and colorful space that provides enlarged vistas, window seats, reading nooks, conference areas and study rooms, and refreshed holdings.

Quash, a former private and charter school teacher, is a library veteran. She comes to her Palisades job from the Southwest Branch, and with more than a decade working in the city's public library system, a masters degree in education from Harvard University and a masters in library science from Catholic University.

The renovation of the library at 4901 V St., off MacArthur Boulevard, was the work of Cox, Graae & Spack Architects and MCN Build. Library officials said the project included community meetings, surveys and focus groups to "gather feedback on what residents want to see in their renovated library."

Photo Credit: John Bray

