

# Georgetown Village COURIER



For  
and  
about  
the  
residents  
of  
Georgetown  
Village  
Condominium

July - August - September 2015

Visit us at [www.georgetownvillage.org](http://www.georgetownvillage.org)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By **Edward E. Reich**



I would like to begin by

thanking everyone who made our recent Annual Meeting such a success. I would like to thank our On-Site Managers, Thom German and Andrea Martin, for their efforts in preparation for the meeting and the wonderful social hour. And I would like to thank the members of the Election Committee for running a highly effective election process.

I was privileged to be reelected to the Board, along with Susan Kessler. I am grateful for the support of our homeowners, and the opportunity to continue to serve our community.

At its June meeting, the Board adopted the GVC FY 2016 Program Plan. The Program Plan outlines what we expect to be the key areas of focus for the Board and Management in the upcoming year. Should you be interested in a copy, you can obtain one from the On-Site Management Office upon request.

We recently completed installation of an electric vehicle (EV) charging station near the bridge at Edson Lane. More information about the charging station can be obtained from the On-Site Management Office. I think installation of the station offers a unique amenity that helps position Georgetown Village Condominium for the future. While it is a modest effort, because demand is likely to be modest for some time, it offers an option to our residents that few condominium communities have -- the ability to recharge an electric car overnight without having to leave our own neighborhood.

Some might question whether this was premature but I do not believe so. Electric vehicles are definitely part of the future and I would rather see us ahead of the curve rather than behind it. And, very importantly, by installing the EV charging station now, we can receive 50 percent of the installation cost as a rebate by the state.

Another project that is nearing completion is the offering to homeowners the opportunity of having a light installed on their balcony or patio. The Board recently decided on the light fixture to be used; the same fixture will be used in all instances to maintain a consistent appearance throughout the property. I will not repeat the details of the program, which have been discussed in earlier newsletters, but we are now finalizing the program for roll out this summer.

This would be an option available to a homeowner at his or her expense. We are pleased to be able to respond to a number of homeowner requests in this regard.

I expect it to be an active year but, thankfully, we do not expect any large projects of the magnitude of those we dealt with in each of the past few years. We could use a little breather. But now, with the completion of the renovation of the swimming pools, to glowing reviews, we can sit back with a sense of pride for all that has been accomplished in the past few years.

We are blessed to live in a beautiful and wonderful community. I invite you to take a more active role in helping shape its future through service on a committee or, ultimately, the Board of Directors. Your time and talents would be most appreciated. Enjoy the summer. ☺

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### July Activities

04 Independence Day	On-Site Management Office Closed
14 Board of Directors Meeting	7:30 p.m.
15 <i>GVCourier</i> Newsletter Delivery	4:30 p.m.
21 Landscape Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.

### August Activities

11 Board of Directors Meeting	7:30 p.m.
18 Landscape Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.

### September Activities

04 <i>GVCourier</i> Newsletter Deadline	4:30 p.m.
07 Labor Day	On-Site Management Office Closed
07 Swim Club Closes	6:00 p.m.
08 Board of Directors Meeting	7:30 p.m.
15 Landscape Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OR COMMUNITY

*“Letters to the Editor or to the Community” must bear the writer's name and address. The use of initials or a pen name, or the omission of a signature, will eliminate a letter from consideration for publication. Letters are published as received and are the sole opinion/perception of the author; the Courier cannot vouch for the factual accuracy of statements made therein.*



Georgetown Village Condominium  
On-Site Management Office  
11400 Commonwealth Drive  
North Bethesda, MD 20852-2867  
<http://georgetownvillage.org>

Telephone: 301-770-5264 □ Fax: 301-881-6508  
Email: [GVC-Office@Georgetownvillage.org](mailto:GVC-Office@Georgetownvillage.org)  
Business Hours: Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER **301-279-8000**

Please report thefts, break-ins, vandalism and other crimes immediately to the Georgetown Village Condominium On-Site Management Office and the Montgomery County Police Department. The Police Department needs to hear from each resident who has experienced or witnessed any of these acts of crime.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Edward E. Reich
Vice President	Merry L. Elrod
Secretary	Merry L. Elrod
Treasurer	Roberta Besen
Director	Susan M. Kessler
Director	Mark E. McArdle

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Budget and Finance	Roberta Besen
Landscape	Carol M. Beasley
Marketing and Communications	Carol M. Beasley
Security, Safety & Transportation	Merry L. Elrod
Election Committee	Edythe Bishop

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### *Highlights from the April 14, 2015 Board of Directors' Meeting*

- The Board ratified its prior approval of the proposal from Magnolia Plumbing, Inc., for the replacement of three fire hydrants.
- The Board approved the proposal from Community Pool Service for the purchase and installation of mesh safety covers for the main pool and the wading pool.
- The Board approved the GVC Program Plan for FY 2016 as proposed by GVC Management.

### *Highlights from the May 25, 2015 Special Session*

- The Board elected officers of the Association for the next year



### *Highlights from the June 9, 2015 Board of Directors' Meeting*

- The Board ratified its prior approval of the proposal from Magnolia Plumbing, Inc., for the replacement of three fire hydrants.
- The Board approved the proposal from Community Pool Service for the purchase and installation of mesh safety covers for the main pool and the wading pool.
- The Board approved the GVC Program Plan for FY 2016 as proposed by GVC Management.

## HEAR A WATER ALARM?

Water leaks or water-hose breaks are among the most common and damaging events that can happen in a home. Only through diligence and action by homeowners can damage be minimized and the problem corrected promptly.

Each unit in GVC was issued one water alarm and residents were encouraged to place it in the utility room closet to detect water leakage from HVAC units. In the event your water alarm goes off, check to see if you have any water or moisture in the area near the alarm. If you find water/moisture near the alarm or any evidence of a leak or overflow in your home or in the common areas, you should immediately call 301-770-5264 to alert the GVC On-Site Management Office or the Emergency After-Hours Staff. You also should mop up all excess water that accumulated on the floor of your unit. Additionally, if you hear the sound of an



alarm coming from a neighbor's unit, call or knock on the door to see if they are at home. If you cannot reach them, immediately inform the GVC On-Site Management Office or the Emergency After-Hours Staff and they will check the unit.

Many homeowners also have chosen to purchase, at a nominal cost, additional alarms to place in the kitchen, near washing machines and in bathrooms. Purchasing additional alarms is a wise investment in your home. Should a water leak go undetected in your unit and damage a common area or your neighbor's unit, you would be responsible for the expense of repairs.

Note that should you find it necessary to make an after-hours emergency call due to a water leak, there will be no additional charge for responding and making emergency repairs. This is an exception to GVC's In-Unit Service Program.

***Your attentiveness will help prevent or limit the damage to your unit, other units in the building, and your common areas.***

## **A Note from Captain David Falcinelli Commander – 2nd District Montgomery County Police**

I am pleased to share that crime in most major categories is down as of the end of May according to year-to-date statistics. Our most recent success occurred when a suspect stole a bicycle, then attempted to sell it on Craigslist. The alert owner saw the “for sale” ad listing his bike and alerted police who set up a purchase from the suspect and made the arrest. This is the third arrest for bicycle theft made in the last several weeks. Theft from autos, which is one of biggest property crimes in the 2nd District, has been relatively low over the last several months. Residential and commercial burglaries are also down, along with stolen autos. The only major category that has seen an increase is Robbery in which there have been 18 events so far, versus 16 at the same time last year.

While it would certainly be easy to look at these decreases and relax, school is out and summer is here and we need to increase our vigilance more than ever. Summer is a time when many vacations occur leaving homes unattended. It is a time when windows and garages are left open to enjoy the nice weather. Unfortunately, it is also a time when criminals take advantage of opportunities that are presented to them.

Many people apply sunscreen before spending a day on the water or at the pool because it is a simple preventative measure that prevents a burn. It only takes a few minutes, but the benefits are great as one quickly learns when they forget to do so and end up with a burn. Preventing crime is a little like preventing sunburn. Put a little thought and effort into prevention, and your risk of becoming a crime victim will be reduced tremendously.

As your police department, we are going on the offensive in an effort to keep these downward trends heading in the right direction. I have requested and received additional resources that will be specifically targeted into neighborhoods where theft from autos traditionally increase during the summer months. We have begun overtime crime prevention details. Our District Community Action Team is patrolling neighborhoods on bicycles, including some areas that have never seen bike patrols before. We are deploying our resources in a variety of ways to keep the criminal element guessing as to where we are.

Despite all these additional measures, **the most important part of this equation is each of you.**

Before going on vacation, remember to make sure your newspapers/mail/flyers are picked up or delivery is stopped, ensure your grass is cut, use timers on lights and/or TV's (do not leave a front porch light on during the daytime!), engage your alarm system, and have a neighbor look in on your house. If you are a bike rider or store your bikes in your garage, please close and lock your garage doors if you are not actively using the garage. We are seeing an increase in theft of bikes from garages. Make your bike unique by using stickers, etc. Take a picture of it (and you on it) and jot down the serial # and have it available to share with the police in case it is stolen. Use a strong, U-shaped lock. Most importantly, help us prevent theft from autos by locking your car doors, removing anything of value and anything that appears to contain anything of value, and report any suspicious activity in your neighborhoods immediately to the police.

Our continuing partnership to reduce crime in our communities is critical, but we each need to do our part. You are our eyes and our ears. You know who your neighbors are. You are the ones that will most likely see a young person with a backpack trying door handles in the late night/early morning hours. You are the ones that will see someone in a backyard that does not belong there. You are the ones that will recognize a car parked on the street that has never been there before and may be occupied by someone you have never seen before. This is when you need to call us at our non-emergency number 301-279-8000 or 911 for a crime in progress. Help us help you keep your neighborhoods safe!

Thank you again and please keep the lines of communication open. You can always e-mail any concerns that do not require an immediate police response to:

[2DCCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:2DCCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
I will usually get back to you within 24-48 hours.

*PO 3 Oliver M Janney*  
Community Services Officer  
Department of Police, 2nd District  
7359 Wisconsin Ave  
Bethesda MD 20814

240 773 6728

## **SPECIAL SECURITY, SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION (SST) COMMITTEE GUEST SPEAKER**

*By Merry L. Elrod, Chair, SST Committee*

On June 9, 2015, prior to the Board meeting, there was a special SST Committee guest speaker. Officer Oliver M. Janney, Community Services Officer, Department of Police, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, discussed safety and security in the community and answered questions. Some of the topics he covered were: burglary prevention, reporting suspicious activity, preventing thefts from vehicles, making the right 911 call, personal home security surveys, methods of crime prevention, procedures for crime reporting, and what to do if pulled over by the police. Officer Janney was very informative, entertaining and well-received by the residents in attendance. Pamphlets on all the above subjects were available for residents and can be requested from the Management Office.

Residents, Board members and Management staff who attended the presentation learned about community safety and security, methods of crime prevention, and procedures for reporting crimes. The presentation was extremely informative and very entertaining. Officer Janney described situations such as when thieves walk down streets and through parking lots and lift the handles on every car searching for any vehicle that is unlocked. If the thief finds an unlocked car, it is rifled through and spare change, laptops, cell phones, purses, DVDs, GPS units and gym bags are stolen. Officer Janney said the key to preventing this is to **LOCK YOUR CAR** and not leave any valuables in the vehicle. Instead, lock them in the trunk where they are out of sight.

Any “suspicious” activity in the community should be reported to the police. The **emergency number is 911** and the **non-emergency number is (301) 279-8000**. Suspicious activity can be characterized as any person, act, event, or situation that appears questionable. Anytime someone or something “just doesn’t seem right to you” -- that’s when **YOU** should call the police. He said the response time for anonymous callers takes a little longer than if you identify yourself.

In your home, hide your valuables, such as jewelry, money, etc., or put them in a safe. Jewelry and

silverware are the items most frequently stolen and they are usually stolen from the bedroom.

If you are pulled over by the police, put your hands in the 10/2 o’clock position on the steering wheel, put all the windows down, turn on the interior ceiling light and tell the Officer where your registration and driver’s license are located before reaching for them.

A personal home security survey can be completed by the Community Services Officer. For more information, contact PO3 Oliver M. Janney, Community Services Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Police, 7359 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20815, by phone at (240) 773-6727, or via e-mail at [Oliver.Janney@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Oliver.Janney@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Feedback about Officer Janney was very positive and the presentation was enjoyed by all.

## **GVC RULE REMINDERS**

**Storage of Items:** Bicycles, tricycles, baby carriages, strollers, car seats, toys, coolers, sports equipment, car parts, umbrellas, laundry, rugs, doormats or similar objects must be stored within a resident’s unit or in the unit’s designated storage bin. **NONE OF THESE ITEMS MAY BE STORED ON BALCONIES OR PATIOS**, or in the public halls, under stairwells, in trash rooms, passageways (such as sidewalks), or in other public areas of the buildings.

Many trash rooms are equipped with bicycle racks, which may be rented on an annual basis beginning each June. Contact the Management Office for further information. Additional outdoor bike racks are available in the 11300 and 11400 blocks of Commonwealth Drive and in the 5800 block of Edson Lane. These are available free year round on a first come, first serve basis.

**Patios and Balconies:** Residents must take care when using patios and balconies. **ONLY** outdoor furniture and planters can remain on balconies and patios. The patio or balcony is not a storage area. Please do not beat/shake rugs, sweep litter, leaves or dirt, or drop any items (including cigarette or cigar ashes or butts) onto a neighbor’s patio or balcony. **Barbecues of any kind are strictly prohibited** at Georgetown Village.

For more complete information, visit <http://www.georgetownvillage.org>.



Mark Goldberg

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