

GEORGETOWN

Gazette



November 2020



GEORGETOWN
• COMMUNITY COUNCIL •

In this Issue:

GT Crime Stats	2
Pet of the Month	3
GT Youth Council	3



The GCC is an independent, non-profit organization comprised of residents, property owners, and businesses of Georgetown.

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georgetownneighborhood.com

What is SO great about Georgetown?

By: Angielena on Carleton

Whether you moved here last month, you've been here for years, or your family has been here for decades, you know that Georgetown is a pretty amazing place.

As someone who has lived here for a combined 17 years (I've lived here twice), in the spirit of the season of giving thanks, I want to share a few of the reasons I LOVE Georgetown.

The best thing about Georgetown is our neighbors, no seriously the best lot of people. Truly the best community I have ever lived in (and for someone who has moved 23 times in her life that is saying a lot). Many of our elder and long-lived community members have fought, scraped and worked hard to make Georgetown what it is today. Some of them were displaced as the neighborhood has changed. We miss them. One thing that remains is the kind acts we do for each other in Georgetown. One does not need to be as amazing as Mr. Rogers. It's just the little things that make a huge difference. Here are some of the magical moments I have witnessed and really appreciated.

I have always loved how willing my neighbors are to extend a helping hand and check in on each other like the time someone came to check on me when I had lost a loved one. I love how we watch out for each other and help find each other's missing pets. I love that we have neighborhood clean ups each Spring (thanks, Patty Foley!). I've seen a neighbor clean up another neighbors garbage can. Another put someone else's recycling out to be picked up because they knew their neighbor was ill.

I love that my neighbors have my phone number. I also love that they will call me out when needed, mostly eloquently :) I appreciate when I threw my back out that one neighbor mowed my grass and another brought me soup. I appreciate that when we lose a member of our community we come together in our grief, set aside our differences, and celebrate a life well-lived.

I could go on and on about all the things I love about Georgetown (maybe I will continue next month with more gushing) but I will say that being in this community has also given me the chance to serve, to offer a helping hand and even a smile or a hug to someone who appreciated it as much as I did when they helped me. The moral of the story, my friends, is take a moment to of gratitude for what makes our community so great. Remember that kindness is the true grit of Georgetown – spread it freely.

Georgetown Yahoo listerv Group Moves to Freelists

On December 15, 2020, the Georgetown Yahoo email group listserv will go away (Yahoo's doing). Thanks to some great work by fellow neighbors, we have a new group, email list on Freelists. Unlike Facebook and Nextdoor, Freelists allows non-subscribers to send emails to the group. If you want to receive emails, you'll need to subscribe. Subscribing is easy!

You can join by either sending an email to georgetown-sea-request@freelists.org and typing 'subscribe' in the Subject field OR by visiting the list page at <http://www.freelists.org/list/georgetown-sea>.

To post on the mailing list, simply send an email to georgetown-sea@freelists.org

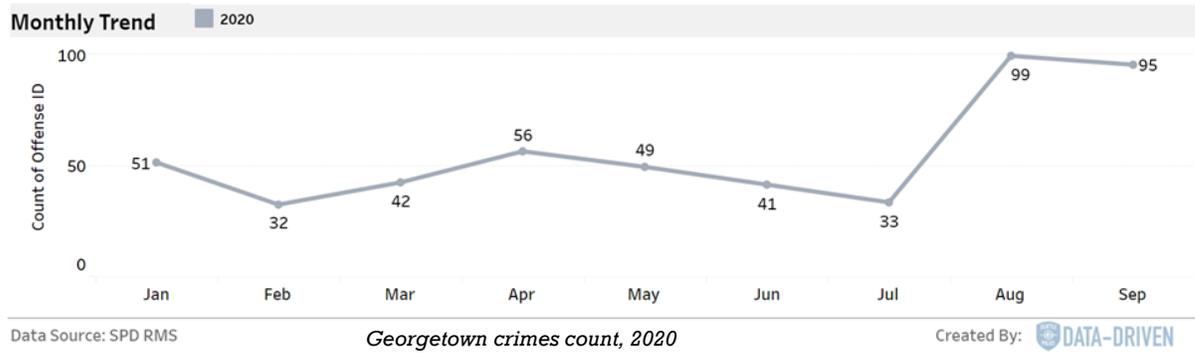
We may try to transfer the current Yahoo email list to Freelist. However, to guarantee smooth transition to the new service, we strongly recommend taking a moment to subscribe to the GT Freelist.

*Thankful
&
Grateful*

GCC Meeting: Monday, November 16, 7 p.m. georgetowncommunitycouncil.com for details

Georgetown Crime Wave

According to SPD stats, reported crime is way up in Georgetown—up 132 percent from June to September—in a year where 911 reporting is down due to civilian concerns about police nonresponsiveness and fear of bringing SPD into a situation they may make worse. And yes, the trend for increased crime during the current pandemic and associated economic downturn is citywide, but it's not so severe as in Georgetown. Since June, all-Seattle crime is up only 40 percent.



In Georgetown, a rise in property crime accounts for the increase (35 property crime incidents in June and 30 in July, then 93 in August and 88 in September). Reported violent crime rates are almost flat since summer; we're averaging 5.5 incidents/month. Of our neighboring districts, only SoDo comes close to the same spike as Georgetown with a 100 percent increase in crime June to September. Mid Beacon Hill crime increased 45.5 percent, South Park's increased 37 percent, and Chinatown/International District saw a lift of 38 percent in that same period. So why is Georgetown such an outlier right now with twice as much crime as normal? And what should we do about it?

A lack of city services (a reduced police force, no parking enforcement, minimal park maintenance) may be making Georgetown extra appealing to criminals. Some neighbors suspect a transient criminal population has set up shop in temporary encampments, breaking into businesses, construction projects, storage units, and garages, and then processing stolen goods from here. Others theorize that need is way up due to a scarcity of both services and jobs; for example, a restaurant on Fourth Avenue S was burgled for raw food. Auto theft is also on the rise in Georgetown—this summer we were averaging five stolen vehicles per month but in September 24 vehicles were reported stolen from our streets. As we work on the root issues that are attracting crime to our neighborhood, there are some simple tactics that residents and businesses should consider to deter property crime and theft.

Walk the neighborhood: Take a flashlight, grab a friend, and walk around Georgetown after sunset. The more neighbors on our streets, the less welcome criminals feel.

Speak up: If you see someone suspicious, ask if you can help them. "Hi! Can I help you find something?" is a neutral approach that can deter a would-be thief who is scoping the neighborhood.

Protect your vehicles: Use an anti-theft device while you're parked and don't leave anything visible inside.

Tidy up: Remove debris and junk from your yard and alley to help sightlines and give thieves less to browse through.

Light your perimeter: Motion-activated, very bright spotlights let a trespasser know they've been seen.

Protect your residence: Fit all exterior doors with a solid deadbolt lock. Secure sliding glass doors and ground-floor windows with blocks that prevent forcing. Consider getting a dog or installing an audible alarm.

Protect your packages: Buy a locking bin with a code for your porch, asking a neighbor to pick them up for you or getting a post office box at Georgetown Station to send your packages to.

Report all crime: If you are the victim of any type of crime, property or personal, please report it; city resources are allocated based on crime data.

The current crime conditions in Georgetown are hard to live with and frustrating, but with a whole-community effort, perhaps we can make it less desirable for thieves to do their work here.

Calls and emails to City Council Member Tammy Morales's office for comment on the current crime rate in Georgetown were not returned as of press time.

Calling All Georgetown Teens

Did you know our neighborhood has a brand-new Georgetown Youth Council? We are a group of 12-21 year-olds who live in Georgetown. We are dedicated to bettering the neighborhood through service projects and giving input on issues that affect us. It is also a great chance to meet people your age in the neighborhood. If you are interested in joining or know someone who is, please reach out to georgetownyouthcouncil@gmail.com.

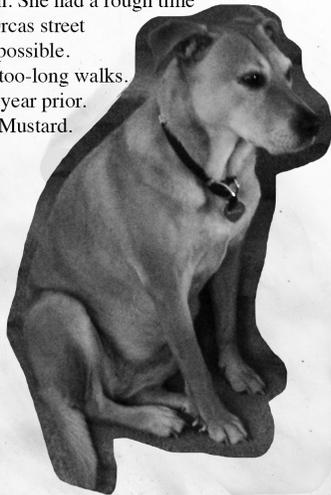


Georgetown Projects Get Funding!

Two Georgetown projects received grant funding from the Department of Neighborhoods matching fund—Georgetown Open Space Committee for continued work on the street end at 8th Avenue S (on the River) and the Mini Mart City Park for continued work on the future community space on Ellis Ave S.

Thanks to the work of the community through the Open Space Visioning Project, efforts led by Jesse Moore and the GT Open Space Committee, and continued advocacy by Duwamish Valley Safe Streets, Seattle City Council has fully funded the completion of the multi-use trail to connect Georgetown and South Park!

This month's pet is Moolah, who spent 8 of her 15 years here in Georgetown. She crossed the rainbow bridge the night before Halloween. She had a rough time earlier in her life and was adopted by a loving family on Orcas street which enabled her to live a longer life than many thought possible. She enjoyed trips to the beach, backyard hunting, and not-too-long walks. She joins her old friend Lamont who passed away about a year prior. Moolah, also known as Piglet, is survived by her roommate Mustard. She will be missed.



Pet of the Month

If you have an elder animal and need assistance with their end of life transition I highly recommend Peaceful Pet Transitions. They were greatly helpful to us during a difficult and emotional time. Resting Waters is another helpful service offered to pet owners.
www.peacefulpettransitions.com
www.restingwaters.com

Weigh-in on Airport Artwork

4Culture and the King County International Airport (KCIA) have been working together on a new public art project, funded in part by King County's % for Art Program. Through a regional open call, the artist team of Tommy Segundo and Toka Valu applied and were selected by community members and artists to create an original 2-D design to be translated onto aluminum panels.

This artwork will be influenced by the rich history and contextual narrative of the Georgetown and/or South Park neighborhood and the communities and industry of the Duwamish River basin. The artwork be sited along S Hardy Street and will take the place of fence fabric approximately 160ft long x 8ft tall.

If you would like to participate in an interview and share with the artists what Georgetown/ the Duwamish River basin means to you, reach out to Selina Hunstiger at selina.hunstiger@4Culture.org OR 206.263.2518



Photo and artwork by: Peter Reiquam

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 Y E K R U T S L A S H M R O T S

November Rain

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Axl Rose | Gloom | Puddle |
| Beaver Moon | Gourd | Raindrop |
| Beer | Grey | Rockin' |
| Black Friday | Guitar | Scarecrow |
| Cocoa | Guns 'n' Roses | Slash |
| Coffee | Hair | Storm |
| Creep | Leaves | Thanksgiving |
| Downpour | Marshmallow | Torrential |
| Drench | Mildew | Turkey |
| Drizzle | Mud | Vegetable soup |
| Election | Pie | Veterans Day |
| Football | Potatoes | Wind |

*Last month's word search had some tricks & treats!
 Thanks to observant Georgetowners who pointed out errors.*

WILD GEORGETOWN AMPHIBIANS

By Jeff Tobin

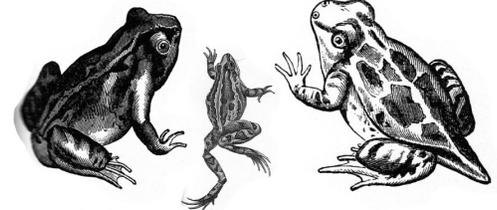
I recall, as a child, playing down by what the neighborhood kids knew as the swamp and being astonished to find salamanders under the decaying branch of a fallen tree. I began to research salamanders and frogs and to my surprise there were multitudes of amphibians that reside in the Pacific Northwest.

Writing this month's WILD GEORGETOWN has brought back some great memories of exploring the wilder regions of the Western Washington neighborhood I grew up in. Before rampant development took over the southern, suburban regions of Washington, there were actually pockets of older-growth forest and marshy wetlands to wander, discover and imagine. Though there are certainly less of these wild areas today than there were 40 years ago, with a little effort there are still places to enjoy area wildlife within a short distance from Georgetown if not in your own backyard. Here's a small collection of amphibious creatures you may encounter on your fall-season meanderings.



Northwestern Salamander - *Ambystoma gracile*

A Western Washington amphibious favorite of mine, this salamander prefers to dwell underground or under rotting logs. Dark brown, grey or even black it measures up to 13 centimeters in length. It's eggs are attached to underwater plants and are hard to the touch. They are mildly poisonous and for that reason they avoid being preyed upon by fish and frogs. Habitat destruction and deforestation are the largest threat to the Northwestern Salamander.



Long-Toed Salamander - *Ambystoma macrodactylum*

A dark colored salamander with a colorful, often yellow in color, stripe along their back. They get their name from the singular elongated toe on each back foot. These salamanders will hibernate in groups of up to 14. Another mildly poisonous northwest salamander, the Long-Toed will emit an adhesive-like white poisonous liquid when threatened and then make its escape. Should the tail of this salamander be trapped, it can drop its tail and eventually regrow a new one.

WORD of the month!
AUTOTOMY!
Greek for self-severing or self-amputation. This phenomenon occurs in certain species of lizards, salamanders, mollusks, crustaceans and even a few mammals. Mostly used as a defense mechanism, they are able to discard parts of their body and regenerate new ones. A bit extreme if you ask me but when it's a matter of survival... ditch a limb and scam!

Cope's Giant Salamander - *Dicamptodon cope*

One of the larger species of salamander, this prehistoric flashback can grow to 8 inches in length! Not the most colorful of the salamander family but it stands out in size and with its bushy gills. These are only found in the Pacific Northwest and like clear, cold streams in wet forests. These salamanders spend most of their lives underwater and rarely transition to being a land-based or terrestrial salamander. Logging and habitat destruction aren't doing this salamander any favors.

Pacific Tree Frog - *Pseudacris regalia*

You can hear them sometimes on (rare) quiet nights here in Georgetown. Their random, small-sounding croaks seldom reveal their true location thanks to their plant-like emerald color. They also have the ability to change this color to lighter or darker shades to better adapt to surroundings thereby avoiding detection from predators. In contradiction to their name, these frogs dwell in underground burrows. The main threat to the Pacific Tree Frog is the introduction of fish to breeding ponds.

Western Toad - *Anaxyrus boreas*

A resident of meadows, woodlands and wetlands. Male Western Toads are unable to make the croaking sound one would normally expect to hear from a frog or toad. They emit a chirping sound should they be captured. They don't mind taking over another animal's underground dwelling and making it their own. Their eggs hatch within 10 days and the tadpoles have metamorphosed after 2 months. They will fight for the right to mate with female toads.

