



April 2010

THE BURLEITH BELLS

Georgetown University's Ten-Year Plan is wrong for Burleith

Georgetown University will soon file its 2010 Campus Plan with the DC Zoning Commission. The plan covers the next ten years' growth for both the University and Hospital in areas such as construction, parking, traffic patterns, and staff and student numbers. In passing on that plan, the Zoning Commission must consider how Burleithians will be impacted by the proposals the University is now seeking to impose. **Only once every ten years do Burleithians have an opportunity to voice our position to the University's plan, and now is that time.**

The DC zoning regulations state that in allowing colleges to operate in residential neighborhoods as special exceptions **"the university shall be located so that it is not likely to become objectionable to neighboring property because of noise, traffic, number of students, or other objectionable conditions."** Implicit within this law is the notion that no university has the unilateral authority to increase its enrollment to such a degree that neighboring communities are adversely impacted by disproportionately high student increases, noise, traffic or other objectionable conditions. This regulation is not intended to disparage students, but rather to acknowledge that a community is necessarily

comprised of many diverse groups, all of which are deserving of protection. Be it young or old, families or single persons, students or non-students, or owners or renters, no single group, organization or university should be permitted to adversely impact the other groups' quiet enjoyment of their property.

Burleith recognizes the constructive role responsible students have played in our community. We are grateful for these students and the contributions they have made to all of us. But we must also recognize the University's ongoing failure to provide adequate on-campus housing options or incentives for its many students, as well as adequate instruction and support to its students living off campus about property maintenance and noise control. As a community, we cannot ignore the well-documented incidents of irresponsible behavior by some University students who have lived or currently live in Burleith. The University's 2010 plan displays no understanding or acceptance of these realities. Indeed, the University's plan promises to exponentially increase these same problems. As a community, we need to stand and protect our *"Village in the City"*.

continued on pages 2 and 3

Special Community Meeting

for Burleith residents on the Georgetown Campus plan
April 21, 2010 at Washington International School at 7pm.

WIS is located at 1690 36th Street NW (between Reservoir Road and R Street)

Burleith Spring CLEANUP

Saturday, April 17, 2010 starting at noon.

See page 5 for more information

Burleith Community Picnic

Save the date - Saturday, June 12th

See page 8 for more information

President's Message



The BCA board requested a group of residents to form a committee and work together on Burleith's response to GU's campus plan. They have worked incredibly hard and are devoted to our community's well-being. The article on pages 1 through 3 is written by this group. It was presented to the BCA board for review and acceptance. We take these words and our community

very seriously, and with your support we hope to keep Burleith a wonderful place to live for years to come.

See you around the neighborhood.
 Lenore Rubino
 202.262.1261
 lenorerubino@gmail.com

The University's Plan has several proposals we find alarming:

- **The University wants to add more than 3,000 graduate and professional students.** *If approved, this proposal would certainly impact Burleith. In 2000, 1,072 graduate and professional students out of a total University enrollment of 3,560 (almost 1 in 3) lived in the zip code 20007. This high concentration of graduate and professional students was understandable given that the University provided no graduate campus housing. The University students were effectively channeled to find alternative housing in nearby neighborhoods. Burleith has approximately 550 houses, over 200 of which are already rental properties and most of the rental properties are occupied by students. There is no good reason why the University should not look to its own extensive campus to provide safe, affordable housing for its graduate and undergraduate students. Its current plan seeks to shift housing responsibilities to our neighborhood which is already straining to manage its current 'town-gown' disagreements. The University wants to double its graduate and professional student enrollment without making any accommodation to Burleith and Georgetown, the communities that will be most affected by same.*
- **The University has no plans to make more on-campus undergraduate housing even though the University's own planners located sites on campus where 800 new beds could be constructed.** *In the year 2000, over 500 undergraduates lived in Burleith. At that time, the community suffered from noise pollution (e.g., loud*

parties) at all hours of the day and night, problems associated with substance abuse (e.g., public urination, random discarding of alcohol beverage containers), fights, vandalism, overcrowding, and unkempt properties. These problems still exist because (A) the number of undergraduates has remained largely constant, and (B) the University's programs for controlling off-campus student behavior has proven ineffective. This failure has occurred despite the Burleith Citizens Association's active efforts to work with Georgetown University and its students to improve the problem.

- **Construction of a new and expanded hospital on the current site.** *The University wants MedStar to rebuild and enlarge the current hospital at its current site. This is a mistake. If approved, the expanded facility at the current site would only exacerbate serious traffic congestion near Reservoir Road and 38th Street with increased threats to the safety of pedestrians and drivers. Fortunately, MedStar wants to build a new hospital on a site CLOSER to the interior of the campus WITH ACCESS FROM CANAL ROAD. The BCA supports MedStar's plan to build the facility on a site that will have far less of an adverse impact on Burleith.*
- **An additional point in the plan that concerns us is the University's proposal to add to the height of its power plant smokestack to 83 feet.** *The health, safety, environmental, and other effects of this proposed increase should be carefully studied prior to its approval.*

BURLEITH CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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| Membership Database | Linda Brooks | 333-2826 |
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|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
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| | | |
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| Co-Web master | Jen Perry | 338-1201 |
| Co-Web master | Ross Schipper | 333-2826 |

Write to board members and the BCA at: PO Box 32262, Calvert Street Station, 2336 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington DC 20007 | E-mail BCA@Burleith.org

To our Burleith Neighbors: **THE BCA NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION AND FINANCIAL HELP**

The University's plan will be shaped and supported by expert architects, consultants, and lawyers—all paid by the University. Burleith has no budget to pay for our own experts to articulate our position. **So, we are asking for your help in four (4) ways:**

1. If you have, or know of others who have, expertise that can help our community (e.g., urban planning, zoning or real estate), please contact us at bca@burleith.org or call **202.262.1261** for more information.
2. If you have information that you believe could be helpful to us in making our case, please share same at the email address provided below. If we think it could help, we will contact you.
3. **Contribute to the Burleith Community fund to pay for experts to the extent we cannot find them among ourselves to help us counter the experts the University will certainly have on their side.** Checks may be sent via the form below .
4. Attend the BCA community meeting on **April 21, 2010 at Washington International School at 7:00 pm for more information.**



*Make check payable to **"The Burleith Community Fund"**

Name: _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Select a donation amount:

\$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$200 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____

Mail to: The Burleith Citizens Association
PO Box 32262, Calvert Station
2336 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20007-9996

*The BCF is in the process of becoming a 501c3 organization which may enable the donations to be tax –deductible. All donors will be notified before the end of the year of the BCF's tax status. Please consult with your tax advisor for proper treatment of the donation.