

The Dupont Circle Citizen

The Weekly Newsletter of Dupont Circle Citizens Association

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August 19, 2015

Graffiti vandal "BORF", featured in the Washington Post - The rest of the story... by Phil Carney aka Scoop

"borf" lived with his parents in a million dollar house in northern Virginia. He only "expressed" himself in Washington, DC and NYC. His main claims to fame were his persistence and an eye for very high visibility vandalism. He was arrested by MPD once for graffiti vandalism and charged with the typical misdemeanor to be prosecuted by Corporation Council. The late Gil Hill figured that the cost of the "borf" cleanup already ran into the thousands and that should be a felony. Gil and I successfully argued for the case to be transferred to the US Attorney Office of Felony Prosecution. It says something about our determined graffiti vandal that I provided US Attorney Felony Prosecutor Cynthia Wright with two photo CDs of "borf's" handiwork-one of vandalism before his arrest and one of vandalism after this arrest. I suppose that is also a comment on me that I knew the difference.

Our biggest worry was that "borf" would go to trial and claim that he was flattered by other folks using his "art," but that he didn't do it. He pled guilty thanks to a coordinated effort by the US Attorney Office, US Secret Service and me.

One time "borf" made a trip to NYC and tagged a NYPD car. On another trip he spray painted a wall. A NYPD Detective walked up and arrested him. "borf" innocently said "I didn't do it." The Detective responded with, "I was sitting in that car and saw you do it." NYPD typical graffiti charge was a misdemeanor and "borf" was sent on his way. Had NYPD known they had in custody a vandal who had tagged one of their cars...

For the sentencing trial, Cynthia Wright invited the NYPD Detective to DC. Throughout the sentencing, "borf" paid no attention to the judge, he was too busy glaring at the NYPD Detective. The judge added a month jail sentence to the plea bargain because she had seen no remorse by the defendant. I also vividly remember the judge saying, "With apologies to Dupont Circle where they can afford five dollar lattes, it is a disgrace that you vandalized poor neighborhoods where they don't have the resources to clean up your mess."

Weeks after the original arrest, a friend Steve and I discovered a Pro Graffiti Rally in Dupont Circle Park with cans of spray paint around the fountain. Once I calmed down from blowing a gasket, Steve and I saw that the paint cans had a sign that read, "FREE." So we picked up as many cans as we could hold (It's hard to hold lots of round cans.) and took them to a US Park Police vehicle and put the cans in the car. We then walked back to the Fountain and I photographed the rally goers while they photographed me. Then Steve, who is a teacher, decided we should try to dialogue.



Free Summer Meals for Kids at Stead Park

The Free Summer Meals Program has served over 1 million meals to children and youth in the District of Columbia in the past three summers.

The Department of Parks and Recreation will serve weekday breakfast and lunch until August 21. Breakfast is served between 9 and 10am. Lunch between 12 and 2pm. Site phone number is 202-673-4465.

Get a Free Tree During Casey Trees Right Tree Right Space Program

Casey Trees is offering 250 trees on a first come first serve basis to District of Columbia homeowners through its "Right Tree Right Place" tree planting program.

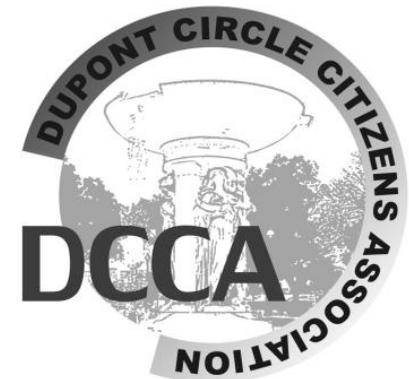
You can request up to two trees and schedule a consultation visit with Casey Trees to ensure that the optimal trees and planting sites are chosen for your property. Casey Trees then will plant your selected trees during the spring or fall planting seasons. There is a \$50 co-pay per tree payable to Casey Trees (\$250 value per tree for consultation and planting), which is required prior to planting.

For more info and to reserve your tree <https://www.pepco.com/forms/pepco/residential/treerequest.aspx>. **THIS PILOT PROGRAM IS OPEN TO DC RESIDENTS ONLY.**

Borf continued

That turned out to be fascinating. All the attendees lived in either Virginia or Maryland, none lived in DC. All were teenagers. None of them "expressed" themselves in Virginia or Maryland, only in DC. None could explain why DC was OK and their home locations were not. None could explain why their pro graffiti rally was being held in our neighborhood. While the conversations were civil, I was pleased to see that the US Park Police officer had left her car and was standing quietly behind us.

The Post Magazine agreed to "borf's" request not to show his face which leads me to wonder if he isn't still "expressing" himself with graffiti vandalism.



As a DCCA member, you are an integral part of neighborhood history
JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT DUPONT-CIRCLE.ORG

Show your Membership Card and Receive Discounts of 10%+ at DCCA Preferred Merchants

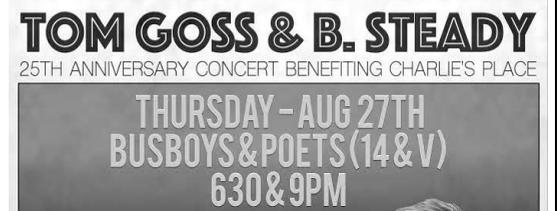
Teaism, The Mediterranean Way, G-Star Raw, Beadazzled, Caramel, Cocova Fine Chocolate, Trappo, FIT Personal Training, Quantum Pilates, Just That Simple, Keegan Theatre, Total Party! Washington Studio School, Carlyle Suites, Comfort Shoes

Want to Make Dupont's Gardens Beautiful? There are many seasonal opportunities to garden in our Dupont community. Now DCCA is teaming up with Heurich House to care for the neighborhood parks.

DCCA's Environment Committee cleans up, plants and waters many Dupont venues including tree boxes throughout Dupont. If gardening and other hard labor interests you're your help would be welcome. Robin Diener robinsdiener@gmail.com

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

CHARLIE'S PLACE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



MORNING OUTDOOR YOGA CLASS TO SUPPORT GARRISON ELEMENTARY August 29th, 9-10am The class is \$20, and you will automatically be entered into a drawing to win some fabulous yoga prize packages. Gift boxes of Kis Oils' best-selling essential oils beautifully packaged in a black matte gift box are available for only \$25. All proceeds go toward Saturday art workshops, field trips, and other exciting programming events for kids! GarrisonElementary.org