

Local

# Two trees felled on blustery Saturday in Washington area

By **Martin Weil** April 4

One of the windiest days in Washington in some time whipped waters into whitecaps Friday, caused pedestrians to clutch their caps, and sent huge trees crashing to the ground.

In the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Northwest Washington, a tree fell across the 1800 block of Monroe Street NW. One resident said he was told 50 years ago that the tree was old.

Another resident, Stephen Lipps, remembered the sound.

“I heard it, all right,” Lipps said. “It was so loud, much greater than a simple vehicle accident.”

The trunk, reportedly 10 feet in circumference, came to rest on the hood of Lipps’s truck. The hood, he said was “pretty much done.”

Another tree fell across the George Washington Parkway near Route 123, blocking traffic for a time.

And no wonder.

At Reagan National Airport, the day’s highest wind speed was 33 mph, the peak gust was 45 mph and the average speed throughout the day was at 16.9 mph.

To provide context, the 16.9 mph average is high, outstripping any day in March, a month that is traditionally believed windy.