

The Corner Forum

for the 1200 and 1300 blocks of E, the 400 and 500 blocks of 13th,
Duncan Place and Emerald Street NE

Issue #21
Saturday, March 1, 2003
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

They Treated Us “Like a Million Bucks” On the 1200 Block of E Street NE

BRUCE GREFRATH AND SUSAN PARKER, 1217 E ST. NE
INTERVIEWED BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

I spoke to Bruce Grefrath and Susan Parker in their living room on Wednesday. Mr. Grefrath has been living at 1217 since 1981. Mrs. Parker married Mr. Grefrath and moved into the house in 1982. I started by asking Mr. Grefrath where he was raised and what brought him to D.C.

Bruce: Well, I grew up near Niagara Falls, New York. Went to school at the University of Florida, and came here for health reasons. I lived out in the suburbs and then I got very tired of the commute — it got longer, and longer, and longer, and longer. So when I was divorced, I decided I'd move down here. I moved down here in 1979, on Capitol Hill, and began looking immediately for a house to buy, and I looked very, very carefully, and talked with a lot of people, and got a lot of really good, helpful advice. I was looking for something very specific, and I finally was able to find this house, and I basically made a deal on it very shortly before it was gonna be auctioned off to be repossessed. It had been vacant for at least a year and a half or two, and we heard all kinds of wild stories about it. Druggies were living here. And some of the neighbors told us they were growing pot in the back yard.

Susan: Oh yeah! Somebody came up the alley when we were working out in the backyard. He said, “Oh yeah! They grew the best pot right up against that garage wall. That's what I remember.” That was from the 1960s or something like that.

Bruce: Apparently it was renovated in 1977. And for a while some people lived here and apparently they couldn't keep up the double mortgage that they had, so they were kicked out. Then people apparently just came in. When I first came here, the back door was nailed shut, and in addition to the lock, there were all kinds of nails keeping it shut. (laughs.) In fact, the third night after I moved in here, my parents were here and I was here. And somebody began messing with the lock while we were inside — this was about 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning. And the dog began to bark, and Dad grabbed a two-by-four and stood behind the door. I was upstairs — he told me this the next morning, that he had gotten up and stood behind the door with a two-by-four, waiting for the guy to come in. But the dog had apparently scared him off, so he left. So the following morning, the first thing we did was we went over to 8th Street and got all new tumblers for the locks and everything, and took care of that. For a long time, we found stuff in the basement from people living in the basement. The rest of the house they hadn't bothered with — they wanted to stay out of sight.



Susan Parker

Drug stuff?

Continued on page 2

Graham Opposes Using Fast Track For Kingsman Sale

BY MARC BORBELY
536 13TH ST. NE

Mayor Anthony Williams may try on Monday to introduce legislation that would allow the City Council to approve the city's sale of Kingsman Elementary School to the Charter Schools Development Corporation on an emergency basis, according to staff members at two City Council offices — those of Council member Harold Brazil (D-At Large) and Jim Graham (D-Ward 1).

At least one lawmaker would oppose an emergency resolution on Kingsman. If four oppose it, the measure would fail.

“I won't be supporting that,” Mr. Graham said in an interview yesterday, referring to a possible emergency resolution on the sale of Kingsman. He said the fiasco of the city's decision to rent property for an impoundment lot in Prince George's County shows “what happens when we don't have proper oversight of dispositions.”

According to a Washington Post article yesterday that reported on a hearing held by Mr. Graham's committee Thursday, District officials had the option to lease the impoundment lot at 4800 Addison Rd. for \$225,000 a year but instead decided to rent property in Prince George's County for nearly \$1 million a year.

Mr. Graham said he wants to make sure the public has a chance

Continued on page 2

Graham Opposes Emergency Measure

(continued from page 1)

to air any concerns before the council votes on the measure, and that he could not support pushing the measure through without the measure's first having received a proper hearing. "I'm not willing to take that responsibility on my back. ... The Department of Housing and Community Development has been sitting on this for two years. ... The appraisal [of the school building] is two years old. ... I just don't have any facts. ... Until I get some facts, I don't know what's going on here."

An emergency resolution would allow the legislation to bypass committee approval, thereby significantly speeding up the approval process. If introduced on Monday, it could be voted on by the council as soon as Tuesday. It would require the support of nine council members instead of seven. However, it would first have to be approved by each committee separately and then by the Committee of the Whole, according to Barry Kreiswirth, a member of the staff in Mr. Brazil's office.

At the request of the mayor, Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp had introduced legislation (PR 15-59) on Jan. 17 to approve the sale of Kingsman. The legislation was referred sequentially first to a committee chaired by Mr. Graham, and then to one chaired by Mr. Brazil.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Graham scheduled a hearing on the proposed resolution. He said in an interview yesterday that he still intends to hold that hearing as planned, on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. (see Calendar). According to Mr. Kreiswirth, the Brazil staff member, Mr. Brazil has not yet scheduled a hearing because Mr. Brazil expected the mayor to introduce the legislation on an emergency basis.

Michelle Gelsino, vice president of the Charter Schools Development Corporation, warned yesterday that plans to renovate Kingsman School for use by the Sasha Bruce Charter School in September could be jeopardized if the City Council does not soon approve the sale of the land and building to the corporation.

"If the resolution is not approved by March 15, probably we're going to run into a lot of trouble, because if we don't start the renovations — we need to be able to close on the property so that we can start renovations to the annex portion so that it'll be ready by August 15, for Sasha Bruce to be able to move in," Ms. Gelsino said in a voicemail message yesterday. "If the construction gets delayed beyond April 1, it's gonna be almost impossible to do all the necessary environmental abatement, permitting, zoning, architecture — all of those things that go into developing and rehabbing a building. So it's a very, very tight timeline, which is why we really need the council to approve it by mid-March, so we can close and begin work on April 1."

Ms. Gelsino said she didn't know anything about plans for an emergency resolution. Council member Sharon Ambrose (D-Ward 6) did not respond to a phone message about Kingsman left for her yesterday in the early afternoon. Mayoral spokeswoman Germonique Jones said she was unable to find out any information on the mayor's plans for the Kingsman legislation yesterday. §

Susan Parker and Bruce Grefrath

(continued from page 1)

Bruce: Paraphernalia, yeah. And a lot of incense stuck in the bricks. Stubs. About a year later, the dog barked one time and just charged the door. I looked out the window upstairs and couldn't see anything. It didn't make any sense. And the next morning, I came down and I noticed that somebody had stuck a crowbar where the lock is on the door and had bent the crease on the door.

Susan: The locks had been changed. They probably had keys to open it.

Bruce: And so they had tried to crowbar it. And again, the dog sounded off, and charged the door, and so they left. So the next day we made arrangements to have an iron gate put up! (laughs.) And we've had iron bars since.

Susan: And we have never been robbed. Almost every household on the street has been robbed.

With the bars and with the dog, you kept them away.

Bruce: And I was on — I'm on — disability, so the fact that I'm around the house probably also kept them away. Somebody around the corner, just a few years ago, was badly beaten up during the day. But I think generally speaking [this has] been probably the best block in the area as far as robberies. Lincoln Park has had a lot of problems. 12th Street between Maryland and E has had a lot of problems. And then there's this area on 13th Street, between D and F, they were always being robbed.

Susan: But we were also here when the older generations of people were here. And now they're starting to die off. And they were wonderful people. They took really good care of us. We would go to Niagara Falls to Bruce's parents' house. We didn't have air-conditioning in this house for a few years, because we were saving our money for it. So we just went up there and lived there. And Mr. Bush would come over and water the front yard, stuff like that, and then Reverend Rollins next door [at 1215] — shoveled our walk for snow. And they were just so kind and so helpful. And then Mr. Eleam down the street [at 1205], we just loved him. [He'd say,] "I'm gonna come down there, and go fishing in your pond." (laughs.) We have a 2,000-gallon pond in the back. Our backyard has gone through quite a few changes since we moved here. This is our second pond. We built our first pond by hand. We dug it out and put all the dirt and stuff in tin garbage cans and put them in our truck and took it out all over the city. (laughs.)

Do you remember, when you came to look, your impressions of the neighborhood?

Bruce: I checked to make sure — one of the criteria that I was given by people who lived here [on the Hill] for years is "find a block where the majority of the people who are living there own their own homes." So that was a major criterion that I was looking for. I also wanted a decent yard so that I could put in — ultimately — an Oriental-style garden. And at the

Continued on page 3

time I was doing a lot of white-water canoeing, so I wanted a place where I could hang my canoe.

Susan: And drive underneath it and drop the canoe.

Bruce: Because of my leg problems. I need to be able to drop it down. And so, as backyards go on the Hill, this is a big backyard. And I was told by people to get a house in the middle of a block, because it's less apt to be vandalized than one at the end. Because they've only got one escape route, and the cops can close off both ends and trap them in the alley. So that was the other criterion. Then it had to be cheap. And I wanted something that was turn-of-the-century or earlier. And when I moved in, everything on the other side of 13th was considered the DMZ [demilitarized zone]. And so I didn't want to live east.

Susan: Basically, we felt like we lived on the Slope, not really on the Hill. (laughs.)

Bruce: One of the first things I was told by the guy across the street — he took me around and introduced me to everybody. He pointed out immediately where Marion Barry had lived, across the street. They were all pretty proud of that. He said [they had] liked it because there were always a couple of cop cars in front of the house. And the street was always plowed and taken care of very well. But since I moved in here, I think the street's only been plowed about three or four times.

One of the stories you had told me about the neighborhood changing — when you first moved in, you put something out on the street.

Bruce: Oh, yeah. When we were first working on the kitchen, the stove was still in pretty good condition — an electric stove, and I wasn't interested in it, so we put it out on the street, and within 15, 20 minutes it was gone. This past year, we put in a new stove, and I put the other one out back, and nobody would take it. I mean, it was a little rusty, and everything, but it was in good working condition, and a much better stove, too, but nobody would take that. Things have changed quite a bit. But Mr. Bush and Mr. Rollins were all really helpful. A lot of times we had troubles with teenagers doing something. One time, the side of the house on the alley got all graffitied up, and I happened to see who had done it, so I told Fred Tolson [at 1221]. It was straightened out real quick.

Straightened out how?

Bruce: Well, these guys knew who the kids were, and knew their parents.

And they got in trouble?

Bruce: Yeah. I can remember Mr. Rollins saying, "This is E Street. And we don't behave like that on E Street." He was Reverend Rollins. He was a preacher. And they just cracked the whip. First year I was here, Mr. Bush comes up to me with a chain, and he says, "Just slip this through your gate, and when the kids see it in the summertime when they're off from school, they'll think the gate is locked, and they won't come in or cause any trouble." He says, "You don't have to put a lock in it — just put the chain in!" (laughs.)

Susan: And the house behind us was called the love house. Our neighbor Johnny Holstein [at 1224 Duncan Place] saw

InForum

Kingsman Has Own Parking Lot

Mr. Evans responded to concerns that construction at Kingsman and the reopening of the school will contribute to a parking crunch on the 1300 block of E Street (see Feb. 23 Corner Forum).

"I noticed that some people had concerns about Kingsman School, if it in fact became a charter school. One thing that people fail to remember, for those who lived around here as kids, as I did: Kingsman has a parking lot in the back. And teachers used that parking lot when we were kids. And I don't see any reason why they would not continue to use that as a parking lot if it becomes a charter school."

—Julius Evans, 1314 E St. NE §

the front of the house and bought it before he saw what the back of the house looked like.

Bruce: It had a great big graffiti sign [on the back] that just had "LOVE" written right against it. And the porch was all fallen through.

Susan: He redid that house and it's just gorgeous. It's so beautiful. In fact, it was on the walking tour. He has a pond in the back yard, like we do. We shared a frog.

You mentioned 13th Street, and you said that it wasn't so good from D all the way to F?

Bruce: Well, from 13th, 14th, 15th and up, was not terribly good.

Susan: But the real DMZ was down around Hechinger Mall.

Bruce: F Street, between 13th and 14th was pretty good. It had developed early. Apparently, this area was really hit hard during the '68 riots. Because the two houses that were built there [at the northeast corner of 13th and E] — apparently, there was a store there, and that store was burned. Then at that corner, there has always been heavy drug problems. When Valerie [Facchine] lived on 13th Street, three houses towards us on E Street [at 1241], she was robbed several times, and people used to come from the stores and use it as a latrine, in the back. And when she'd catch them, she'd turn the hose on them. And that didn't go over too well. Then that garden area [at 13th and E], that was always a problem with drugs, and I think there was some stabbings that took place.

In the garden?

Bruce: Or near it. One hundred yards in this city is an entirely new area. And you can know a great deal about one part of it, but then 100 yards away, you don't know nothin'. And for one reason or another, the people that I got to know were between 12th and my house. There were a few down at the other end. But for the most part, I knew this half of the block. Mrs. Brooks — Doris Brooks [at 1223] — she was an ANC

Continued on page 4

(continued from page 3)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner]. Parking has always been a marginal problem here, and she used to come out and if she would see somebody parking and they were more than about three or four feet from the car, I think she said, “Come on! Squoosh up! Squoosh up! Squoosh up! Squoosh up!” And she’d make them park really close.

Susan: She raised about seven kids. And dug out the basement.

Bruce: The back half — the last room in the house was just crawl space. That’s the way it is all up and down here. Most people have dug it out. And they dug that entire back section out by hand and made it a basement.

Susan: And then her husband divorced her. And she had all those seven kids.

Bruce: She comes back around here every now and then.

Susan: She was a character.

Bruce: I used to tease Mr. Eleam about the fact that I was gonna fix him up with all the single women on the street. He had a buddy that would come over and sit on the stairs with him. He had diabetes. And once a day, he’d walk up and down the street. And I used to tease him about the fact that if he ever got up off those steps, the steps would leave too.

Girl Last Seen at Stuart-Hobson

SUBMITTED BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD
(FROM A POLICE STATEMENT RELEASED TUESDAY)



An officer at the police department’s Missing Persons Unit said yesterday morning that Shawneka is still missing.

The Metropolitan Police Department is seeking the public’s assistance in locating a missing person last seen on Monday. She was last seen walking away from Stuart-Hobson Middle

School, at 410 E St. NE.

The missing person is identified as 13-year-old Shawneka Mosee. She is described as a medium-complexioned black female with brown eyes. Shawneka is approximately 5’4” in height and weighs approximately 120 pounds. She was wearing a black jacket, black tennis shoes and dark blue pants.

Anyone who has information about her whereabouts is asked to contact the Missing Persons Unit at 576-6768, or the Synchronized Operations Command Complex at 727-9099. §

When you moved in, were you one of the first white people here?

Bruce: Next door, they were white, and then there was one across the street — it was a rental, and that was by and large white. Then when Mrs. Brooks moved out, she sold to a white guy who lived there for a while, and then Eric and Deta moved in.

So you weren’t the only ones.

Bruce: And it really didn’t make a whole lot of difference, because, like I said, the people that were here treated me like a million bucks — told me who to stay away from, and who in the block was not to be associated with, and who was, and who were good people and who weren’t, and that sort of thing. And I guess because of my legs and everything, they really looked out for me.

So your legs have been a problem since you moved here.

Bruce: Oh yeah. They’re a lot worse now than they were then, but they still looked out for me. I walked with a cane, and they always teased me about canoeing in white water. They just could not comprehend that. They believed that if you fish, you should fish from the shore, and if you went in a boat —

Susan: Especially Mr. Eleam! (laughs.)

Bruce: Yeah. He didn’t want to have anything to do with a boat. He says, “You fish from the shore.” He was in Patton’s army. He didn’t talk a whole lot about it.

Bruce: We had that drive-by shooting one night. It was back in the early ‘90s. The guy probably had a 9 millimeter, and he emptied the clip before he finally killed the guy. And he shot up a whole bunch of cars on the street.

Susan: Somehow, ours got missed. I don’t know how that happened.

Bruce: One of the first things that I did when I moved in here was I killed all the grass in the front yard. And the guys down the street — they couldn’t understand that — because they worked real hard to have grass, and here comes this upstart and he kills all the grass —

Susan: We don’t believe in cutting grass. (laughs.)

Bruce: I cut too much of that stuff when I was a kid. And so then I started planting shrubbery.

Weed killer?

Bruce: Yeah. I used Roundup. It’s been hard to keep stuff out there, because the kids would tear stuff up. So it’s always been a problem — the shrubbery.

Bruce: [We heard for years there was about to] be the next big growth area on the hill. And we’ve been waiting for 20 years, and finally in the last say four, five years it’s really taken off. And I rather enjoyed the neighborhood. And it’s changing.

Susan: I like it both ways.

Bruce: The people who are moving in are mostly professionals and the like. I miss Mr. Eleam, and Bush and Rollins. I remember one of the last big freezes we had — Mr. Rollins was talking to us — the pipes all froze in his church. 84 years

old. He re-plumbs the whole church. I looked at him, and I said, “Well, Reverend Rollins, wasn’t the church insured?” And he says, “Well, yeah.” And I said, “The insurance probably would have covered that!” And he said, “Oh yeah! I never thought of that!” He was just a go-getter, you know? And the thought of having somebody else do it never entered his mind. Just get the job done and get on with it. He had a cherry tree out here. And it hung over our fence, where they were tart cherries. And so every year we’d get enough for a couple of cherry pies. And he also had a fig tree, and he’d give me some of the figs now and then.

He passed away?

Susan: Yeah. He was like 93.

Susan: And then of course there was the music teacher, Professor Barbour, where the Olsons lived, at 1214.

I’ve heard about him from Mrs. Evans and her daughter. Did you know him?

Susan: Yeah. In fact, we got invited to his 93rd birthday. He had two children.

Was Lovejoy still a school?

Bruce: Kingsman was active when we moved here. Lovejoy has always been vacant. A few offices, but [vacant] as far as the school was concerned.

Kingsman was a school. So there must have been kids out there?

Bruce: In fact, some of the kids that live on the block actually went there. Mrs. Brooks’s kids went there.

Susan: I got to know the crossing guard. I think Ebony, across the street, went there for a while. Ebony lives next to George and Lisa, on the right hand side, [at 1216]. I was good friends with her grandmother, Mrs. Ferrar. I think her grandmother’s still there. Ebony has two girls. I gave her piano lessons — to Ebony.

Oh wow! So you’re a pianist.

Susan: Well, yes. I’m a music teacher. I teach at Capitol Heights Elementary School in Prince George’s County.

So Bruce moved in, and then you moved in a year later. Had you already known each other?

Susan: We met in 1981 and got married in 1982.

Where did you grow up?

Susan: I’m from Parkersburg, West Virginia. And I moved here in 1969, and I worked at an answering service for a while. I had taught music in Jefferson County West Virginia, about three years, and then I decided to try something different, and that lasted for about half a year. And then I started teaching at Charles Houston Elementary School, and then at Holly Park Elementary School in College Park. I taught orthopedic children as well as regular students. Then I went on to another elementary school, Oak Crest, and now I’ve been at Capitol Heights for 20 years.

Bruce: I worked for the lumber industry lobby. In 1972, I moved to Gaithersburg. It took me half an hour to get down-

town. By ’79, it took an hour. So I was sitting in a car for two hours. [I moved to] 302 D St., just across from Schneider’s. And I got robbed on Halloween, over there. Two guys followed me into the garage, shoved me against the car, and they got 20 bucks in my wallet. But it just infuriated me. And for months after that, I was just paranoid about anybody I saw on the street. I couldn’t get out of the car. It was horrible. They hadn’t hurt me or anything — I was just so angry.

Is that why you moved from there?

Bruce: No. No. I was renting there, and looking around for someplace to buy.

When you worked on the Hill, were you a lobbyist?

Bruce: Yeah. Mostly I worked with natural resource issues.

By training, what was your area?

Bruce: Forestry.

How did you guys meet?

Susan: A place called Discovery. (laughs.)

Bruce: Every Friday night, there’s a singles group that meets out at the Unitarian Church in Rockville, and it’s noted all over the area.

Susan: People come up from Richmond.

Bruce: And as far away as Hagerstown and Rockville and Baltimore. I don’t know whether it’s still going or not. I suspect it is. I can’t think of anything else. If you look at the police record, this street has probably got one of the best police records. We didn’t talk too much about the drug house.

How did you know it was a drug house?

Bruce: Well, they were selling drugs.

You could just see people going in?

Bruce: Oh yeah, yeah.

Susan: We knew these kids. We saw them grow up. One time I saw them spray something on C.C.’s [Charles Murray’s] house [at 1232]. And whenever they would do something, we’d talk to Reverend Rollins. Because he used to tell them what they should do, what they shouldn’t do. They got into the drug scene pretty bigtime. They were very rough. We formed a neighborhood group.

Bruce: All we were able to do is get the police to harass them. And the fire marshal.

Susan: Their grandmother lived there. She was like an invalid.

Bruce: Finally, what happened is that the speculative owners finally decided to sell the house a couple of years ago. People on the block were beginning to give them a hard time. The price got to the point where now it’s been sold, and somebody is working on it.

Is that the one with the broken window?

Susan: Yeah, and the sign that says call so and so.

Thank you both so much. §

Officials Ask Residents to Consider A Brighter Future for H Street Library

BY RITA THOMPSON-JOYNER, D.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rita Thompson-Joyner, the D.C. Public Library's associate director of lifelong learning, spoke to neighborhood residents at a meeting at Miner Elementary School on Tuesday evening. The meeting was organized by the D.C. Office of Planning and the D.C. Public Library to inform residents about the city's plans for the library and to hear what types of services residents would like to see at an upgraded library.

The city is trying to figure out how best to include the R.L. Christian Library, at 1300 H St. NE, in its strategic plans for the revitalization of H Street: How big should an upgraded library be? Should it be a stand-alone building, or should it take up one floor in a multi-use building? Should a library be combined with a private cafe of some kind, or should it contain a conference room or party room that it would rent out to help raise revenue?

Also present at the meeting were Karina Ricks and Derrick Woody, staff members in the D.C. Office of Planning. They said the big problem will be finding the money needed to upgrade the library significantly.

Two of Robert Lee Christian's daughters were present — as was his grandson. All three spoke about their desire to see a library built that really honored Mr. Christian's memory.

Officials urged residents to let them know their wishes for the library by filling out surveys available at the library. They also said there would be more such meetings. Excerpts from Ms. Thompson-Joyner's comments follow...

To our chagrin, the city has not been able to fund the library at the level that would enable us to continue to maintain it in the way that it deserves to be maintained. Anybody going into the R.L. Christian Library today can see evidence of that. It's really a sad situation, and it's not gonna change until we get enough community uproar that convinces those who make decisions that the library really needs to be funded at the level that will enable us to do some of the things that we know need to be done. We have the talent to do it, we have the skills — it

just can't be done without any funding. R.L. Christian isn't the only library that suffers such a crisis.

We did a strategic plan in 1999. In that effort, we had a 29-member community group that helped us come up with the library program at that time. We also had surveys that we asked community members to complete. We got back 3,479 surveys telling us what they'd like to see with our libraries.

The number one thing that people told us — the top priority was clean, safe, comfortable, attractive library buildings. That was above any books, or CDs, or any type of materials — that was above children's programming. It was even above computer use. We have tons of computer users in each day. But the building was the top priority. Therefore the library has embarked on a building program — we're calling it "Building Renewal." We've got a plan in place that, if funded, would be able to address each of our libraries over the next 10 to 12 years.

Already, we've done it in a small way, where we have closed down three libraries temporarily, this past fall. They just opened up a few weeks ago. We made their restrooms ADA compliant. We also did some painting and some other kinds of changes that would make it a more livable space, but these are minor renovations.

Later this year, we expect to do major changes to four buildings: the Benning Library is gonna be torn down, and a brand new one built. Same thing for the Tenley Library. We're gonna make major changes to the Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Library, and also to the Anacostia Library. Those are the first group. But what we're aiming to do is to seek funding so that each year we can address three to four libraries, and by the time a decade goes down, all of them will have been addressed.

A library needs to reflect its community. If there is a particular interest that you'd like to see made a priority, particularly when we get to looking at the list and may not have funding to do everything, it's important to us to know what the most important to you? What should we make sure that we include, if we can't get everything in there? §

Updates

SPINGARN BASKETBALL: Spingarn High School's basketball team lost 68-61 to Dunbar's in the DCIAA semifinals on Thursday evening, according to the Washington Post. Spingarn was scheduled to play H.D. Woodson for third place today, and Dunbar was scheduled to play against Cardozo for the finals. (—Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE) §

HOUSE MOVES: If you have met one of the area's new residents or know someone about to move out, ask them if they'd like to introduce themselves or say goodbye. According to the Long & Foster Web site, <http://www.longandfoster.com>, viewed yesterday, the real estate listings for the Corner Forum area have not changed from last week: 1364 Emerald St. NE (\$365,000); 1302 E St. NE (\$485,000); and 1342 E St. NE (\$320,000). (—Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE) §

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Thank you to ANC 6A06 Commissioner Jessica Ward, 1310 G St. NE, for picking up a case of paper, which will last us the next few months, from a store in Northern Virginia. The following people helped produce or distribute last week's (Feb. 23) Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE (proofreading); Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald St. NE (distributing); and Richard Sundberg, 1200 block of Duncan Place NE (distributing). The following people attended last week's (Feb. 22) Corner Forum planning meeting (held every Saturday at the Northeast Branch Library at 10 a.m.): Ms. Cochran and Mr. Borbely. There are 56 households in the area that have subscribed to the Corner Forum (20 on Emerald Street, 19 on E Street, 12 on 13th Street, and five on Duncan Place).§

Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you attend any of these events, please send in anything from a few lines to a long article about what happened. And if you know of any upcoming events that other readers might be interested in, send them in! Events are free, unless otherwise noted, and open to all.

—Compiled by Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE

Sunday, March 2

4:30 p.m. Mothertongue*east. “Women’s Writing Group & Open-Mic: Writing exercises and support for your creativity.” At Stompin Grounds/Murky Coffee, 7th & Pennsylvania Ave. SE. Info, Eryca Kasse, info@mothertongue.org. <http://www.mothertongue.org>.

Monday, March 3

7 p.m. Natatorium Renovations. “Representatives from Jair Lynch Co. would like to meet with all interested parties for input on the conceptual design of the exterior of the Natatorium at 7th and North Carolina Ave. SE.” At Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE.

7-9 p.m. Public Civic Association Meeting. Monthly Meeting. At Calvary Episcopal Church, 800 6th St. NE.

Tuesday, March 4

10 a.m. Miner Elementary School Ribbon-Cutting Event. At Miner, 601 15th St. NE, 724-4565. <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/miner/about3.html>.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Town Meeting to Decide Next Steps on Voting Rights. With Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mayor Anthony Williams and Wade Henderson. At Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW. Info, 225-8050. <http://www.norton.house.gov/issues2.cfm?id=4479>.

7 p.m. Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Meditation. “Anyone interested in learning this ancient method of meditation is welcome to attend the evening, which will include a talk, discussion and practice session.” At the Kagyu DC Dharma Center, 1519 D St. SE., 546-0226, <http://www.kagyudc.org>.

7:30 p.m. North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association monthly meeting. At Lane Memorial CME Church, 14th and C streets NE.

Wednesday, March 5

10 a.m. Kingsman School Disposition. Public hearing by the City Council Subcommittee on Human Rights, Latino Affairs and Property Management. Agenda: PR 15-59, “Disposition of Square 1030, Lot 813, also known as the Kingsman Elementary School Approval Resolution of 2003,” PR 15-0059. To review and approve the disposition of the Kingsman Elementary School, located at 1375 E Street, N.E., legally described as Square 1030, Lot 813, as surplus property. Room 412, Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Subcommittee, 724-8181.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Public Presentation of the Final H Street, NE Strategic Development Plan. City officials will present the final H Street NE Strategic Development Plan, discuss the housing, retail, restaurant and entertainment options recommended by the community and market analysts, outline the District’s initial commitments towards implementing the plan, and discuss project-specific planning, including streetscape improvements and the R.L. Christian Library.” With Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Council member Sharon Ambrose, Eric Price, Andy Altman, Dan Tangherlini, Stanley Jackson and Ted Carter. At Capitol Children’s Museum. 800 Third St. NE, 675-4120. http://planning.dc.gov/news_room/2003/january/01_24_03.shtm

Thursday, March 6

6 p.m. Near Northeast Citizens Against Crime and Drugs monthly meeting. J.O. Wilson Elementary School, Seventh & K Streets NE, cafeteria.

Friday, March 7

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. From Service to Justice: Realizing a Vision for a Just, Inclusive and Caring Washington, DC. Conference: “Share the tools, build the networks and find the inspiration needed to ensure that, in our day to day work, we as advocates, community members, artists, activists and concerned people are making headway towards our goal of a just and equitable Washington.” \$10 for nonmembers. No one turned away due to inability to pay. By the Fair Budget Coalition and All Souls Social Justice Ministry. At All Souls Church, 16th & Harvard Streets NW. Pre-registration encouraged. Info, Julie Gordon, jgordon@clasp.org, 906-8025 or Mark Andersen, 745-1200, emmausdc.org.

7 p.m. Smashing Jim Crow in the Nation’s Capital. Historian C.R. Gibbs discusses his book. At Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW. 727-1211.

8 p.m. Divided City. Film premiere. “Tells of the love, hope, despair and possibility of change that lay behind the apparent hopelessness of Washington’s urban jungles. The people of Divided City live everyday as if it could be the last, struggling to maintain shreds of humanity and respect.” At Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW, 328-6000 or 328-9177. <http://www.thelincolntheatre.org/events.html>.

Saturday, March 8

All day. International Women’s Day.

10-11 a.m. Corner Forum weekly meeting. Participate in the planning of next week’s issue. Northeast Branch of the Public Library, meeting room, 330 7th St. NE. Info, 544-2447. §

11 a.m. No War in Iraq. Rally at Malcolm X Park, also known as Meridian Hill Park, 16th between W and Euclid streets NW. 1 p.m.: Permitted march down 16th Street “to encircle the White House in pink.” By CodePink: Women’s Pre-Emptive Strike for Peace, 393-5616. http://www.codepink4peace.org/march_events.html.

Contact the Corner Forum: ph. (544-2447); voicemail (517-9128); e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); mail (536 13th St. NE). Help assemble and plan the Corner Forum every Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Northeast Branch Library, at 330 7th St. NE.