

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 #24
Sunday, March 23, 2003
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Neighborhood Cleanup on April 19

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET

Tom Day, of the D.C. Department of Public Works, has confirmed the Saturday, April 19, cleanup date for the Corner Forum area.

We'll have three trash collection points: 13th and Duncan Place, 13th and E Street, and 13th and Emerald Street.

We need at least one person on each block to volunteer as block captain for the cleanup. Please call me (399-0715) if you would be willing to serve as a block captain.

The department's Helping Hands Program will loan us some rakes, brooms and shovels. They will also give us trash bags.

Mr. Day is trying to locate some mulch and flower seeds for us, so that folks who are interested in cleaning up and planting flowers in the tree boxes can do so. §

Zoned Parking on Emerald a Bad Idea

BY LACEY BIGELOW, 1317 EMERALD ST. NE
INTERVIEWED BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Mr. Bigelow said Thursday that he was going to inform Wickey Cartwright, the Department of Public Works parking specialist and manager for Ward 6, of his intention to circulate a petition opposing zoned parking on Emerald Street. Maureen and Klaus Nielsen (1312 Emerald St. NE) submitted a petition in favor of zoned parking on the street on Nov. 25.

Mr. Bigelow also spoke about the war in Iraq.



Lacey Bigelow

You think that zoned parking is not a good idea for Emerald Street. Why?

What is the purpose of it, if you can come down and park two hours anyway? Say, for instance, you have a patient in the hospital and she has nurses that come in there — it takes her three hours to take care of her, and she comes out and she has

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City Council Okays Sale of Kingsman

BY MICHAEL MUSANTE, 411 11TH ST. NE

Michael Musante is commissioner for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A05. He represents the southern half of the Corner Forum area — all residents living on Duncan Place, on the 400 block of 13th Street, and on the odd-numbered side of E Street. Kingsman Elementary School is within his area.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, the D.C. City Council [unanimously] approved the disposition and sale of the Kingsman Elementary School to the Charter Schools Development Corporation. The property will be redeveloped for the benefit of two charter schools — Options and Sasha Bruce. A closing date and time are being scheduled within the next 7-10 days, and the goal is to have renovations on the annex portion of the building started by April 1.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Commissioners and all those in the neighborhood who supported this effort. It will be good to see the school used for the education of the District's children instead of being a crumbling and vacant eyesore.

If anyone has any questions concerning the renovations on the school or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 548-2542 or by e-mail, at mfm81472@yahoo.com. §

Today's Marathon Is Canceled

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

The Metropolitan Police Department announced Thursday that the D.C. Marathon, originally scheduled to take place today, has been canceled. As a result, no marathon-related traffic restrictions will be in effect.

The police department said organizers had canceled the race citing security issues. The race would have involved runners passing through 13th Street NE, on the way from Florida Avenue to D Street.

According to an article in yesterday's Washington Post, several runners will still follow the same course in an unofficial replacement race.

According to the Post article, the mayor's office is furious at H2O Entertainment over its decision to cancel the event. "The mayor is appalled at the decision, outraged," mayoral spokesman Tony Bullock was quoted as saying. "If they had security concerns, the appropriate thing to do was to meet with

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Zoned Parking Makes No Sense

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a \$30 ticket. Doesn't make sense to me! Plus, you've got just one little block that sits between a zone. This is what bothers me about this.

We've got sick people there, people that need other than medical care — and they have nurses that come in and work with their patients. I don't know how long they stay, but if they have to stay in there two, three hours, and ticket-writers come through and give them a ticket, they've got to go downtown and pay a ticket. That doesn't make sense to me. Plus, it's only one block. One little short block — 13th to 14th Street. It doesn't make any sense. If they can take it off E Street, from 13th to 14th, why not from 13th to 14th on Emerald?

I've been here 32 years. And I'm not gonna give these people \$15 for a permit — it's ridiculous. And that's every year. It's something wrong with the system. From 9 o'clock in the morning, basically, until 4 o'clock in the evening, you can go out there and park anywhere you want. Park anywhere you want to! After that, if you come back at 11 o'clock, you've got no right to have a little place to park, in front of your house. If you get in here at a certain time — after that, you park where you can. My protest is with Emerald Street. I'm very upset about it.

These are people who come around here with new ideas — I will negotiate with them on any ideas that are feasible. Why should I go down there and pay \$15 a year more — the fees already went up on the damn driver's license, went up on the tags — why should I go give them extra dollars for where I live at, on my little old short street? §

School Days Lengthened

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE
From a D.C. Public Schools press release

Children attending D.C. public schools will be required to be at school 45 minutes longer per day, Superintendent Paul Vance announced yesterday. The extension, which will start on Thursday and continue until May 30, will make up for the eight school days lost as a result of this winter's snowstorms.

School days will start 15 minutes earlier and end 30 minutes later. In addition, May 14, which had been scheduled as a day off for students, will be a regular school day.

April 4 will still be an early-dismissal day — with kids getting out of school at 1 p.m.

Info: <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/frontpagepdfs/Snowdaysdecision-FINAL.pdf>. §

The U.S. Should Not Be in Iraq

BY LACEY BIGELOW, 1317 EMERALD ST. NE
INTERVIEWED BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

I'm so pissed off with this war thing, this little war game — it just screws my head up. In 1991, when they had Desert Storm, every day, all day, the T.V. was going — you couldn't even get a real news report about your city.

What do you think about the war?

Well, I basically think that it's about something that Dad didn't do, and I'm gonna show him that I can do it. We're talking about power, oil — but what they fail to realize: the same guy they're trying to get rid of, that they brought to the United States years ago — they trained him. And after they trained him, he got over there and he saw all these oil wells and all these troops and soldiers, and they listened to him. There it is. Now, you've got this guy Rumsfeld, talking about "don't blow up no damns." They have been trained, "We're gonna blow up whatever the man says to."

Do you think we should be there?

No. I think we should be here, minding our own business. My obsession with this whole thing: if they can't get a man out of the reflecting pool in the District of Columbia for three days, how the hell are you gonna fight a war? I'm serious!

But I'll tell you what. I'm gonna fight for Emerald Street as long as I live there. §

Please Include Your Name On Your Letters and Articles

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Editor's note: From the beginning, the Corner Forum has required that all articles and letters disclose their authors. (In the first few issues of the newsletter, there were articles that I wrote and left unsigned to avoid having to print my name too often.) This week, I received an interesting, anonymous letter from a Corner Forum reader for publication in the newsletter. I hope that whoever sent it will send me his or her name, to be included with the article, so that I can publish the letter in next week's issue. §

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.

D.C. Marathon Is Canceled

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us and discuss it. I think the truth will come out in the very near future that the reason they canceled was that they were concerned they would lose money staging the race.”

According to the article, H2O Entertainment acknowledged that it canceled the race without any urging from city or federal officials. H2O Entertainment’s president, John Stanley, said his primary concern was protecting the race’s 6,801 runners, given the war in Iraq and the man in the reflecting pool.

H2O Entertainment is refusing to return runners’ \$65-to-\$95 fees, choosing instead to defer the fees to next year’s race, the Post reported. The company said that much of the money has already been spent on supplies and equipment. A New York lawyer who had planned to run the marathon is planning to file a class-action suit to force H2O to return the fees. §

Scholarship Program Gives Priority To Capitol Hill High School Seniors

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

From a Stanton Park Neighborhood Association press release

The Stanton Park Neighborhood Association is seeking applicants for its 13th annual scholarship competition. In recent years, the association has offered about a half a dozen scholarships of about \$1,500 each.

Applicants must be high school seniors, graduating from a D.C. school, who plan to start college next fall. They must demonstrate academic ability and financial need. Students must live in the District of Columbia, and first consideration will be given to students residing in the Stanton Park neighborhood and the greater Capitol Hill area.

Students wishing to apply must complete an application form that requests their name, high school, and a list of colleges where they have applied. A recent transcript, proof of financial need, and a one- to two-page essay on the student’s goals for the future and how the SPNA scholarship will help to realize those goals must accompany the application. Two letters of recommendation, including one from a teacher or school official, must also be provided with the application.

Applications are due by April 15. For details, students should contact their high school’s guidance counselor or scholarship coordinator, write to SPNA-Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 75085, National Capitol Station, Washington, D.C. 20013-5085 — or call Jeff Johnson at 872-6072 (days) or 546-0908 (evenings).

SPNA is a nonprofit organization, and it funds the scholarships through local neighborhood activities and accepts donations to the scholarship fund. §

Updates

HOUSES FOR SALE: If you have met one of the area’s new residents or know someone about to move out, please ask them if they’d like to introduce themselves or say goodbye. According to the Long & Foster Web site, <http://www.longandfoster.com>, viewed Friday, the real estate listings for the Corner Forum area are all the same as from last week. They are as follows: 1342 E St. NE (\$310,000); 1364 Emerald St. NE (\$365,000); 1302 E St. NE (\$485,000). (—Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE) §

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute last week’s (March 15) Corner Forum: Susan Borbay, New York City (folding, distributing); Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE (folding, proofreading); Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald St. NE (distributing); and Stephen Smith, 1300 block of E Street (distributing). There are 59 households in the area that have subscribed to the Corner Forum (21 on Emerald Street, 19 on E Street, 13 on 13th Street, and six on Duncan Place). §

City Gets Complaints About Dog Poop

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

While talking to me about the upcoming neighborhood cleanup, Tom Day, of the Department of Public Works, said that he had received complaints from our area about folks not cleaning up after their dogs. He said that his department would provide education and enforcement information about the problem. §

Cherry Blossoms to Bloom April 8-14

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Sharon Cochran (1300 block of Emerald Street NE) says that in full bloom, the cherry blossom trees around the Jefferson Memorial are gorgeous, and not to be missed. The National Park Service forecast yesterday that the peak bloom (when 70% of the trees will be blooming) this year will be April 8-14. (Info: <http://www.nps.gov/nacc/cherry/index.htm>). §

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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 AND TAMMI CIOFFI
536 13TH ST. NE

Sunday, March 23

Noon. Operation Dire Distress: Veterans demonstration against the war. Sponsored by Veterans Against Iraq War, Veterans for Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Common Sense, and Military Families Speak Out. At Constitution Gardens, near Vietnam Memorial, with solemn procession to the Veterans Administration, White House and Ellipse. Info, Erik Gustafson, 543-6176 or 546-0044.

6 p.m. Ending War, Bringing Peace. Prayer Service and Vigil sponsored by Potomac Association, Plymouth Congregational, Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation, Black Voices for Peace, Washington Peace Center. At Plymouth Congregational Church, 5301 N. Capitol St. NE. Info, Rev. Hagler, 723-5330.

6-8 p.m. Candlelight vigil. In front of the White House, 16th and H streets NW. “Honor those who are under attack in Iraq.” Sponsored by CODEPINK. Info, Ann, 387-2884. <http://www.codepinkalert.org>.

Tuesday, March 25

10:30 a.m. The FY 2004 School Budget. City Council hearing. DC Voice says, “We urge you to attend the hearing even if you don’t testify — let’s come out and show the Council how important education funding is for our children.” At Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. To testify, call Kristy Tate, 724-8068, or e-mail kate@dccouncil.washington.dc.us.

7-9 p.m. ANC 6A Economic Development & Zoning Committee monthly meeting. Included on the agenda: 1) Office of Planning Presentation: Options for zoning changes to address H Street NE Strategic Development Plan; 2) Office of Planning Presentation on possible Farmers’ Market on 600 block of H Street NE; 3) presentation and Q&A with Emily Paulus and Lisa Burcham from the DC Historic Preservation Office; 4) Update on Kingsman School Building. At Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G St. NE. Info, ANC 6A03 Commissioner Rice, 544-3734.

7 p.m. Pax Christi Prayer Service for Peace. “Please join us for this interfaith prayer service. Members of many faith traditions have been invited to join with us, to send out a unified plea for mercy, forgiveness and peace.” Afterward: strategy session to plan Wednesday’s events. At St. Aloysius Church, North Capitol and I streets NW. Info, Johnny Zokovitch, 352-219-8419, or Michael Jones, 814-964-0078. http://www.paxchristiusa.org/news_events_more.asp?id=490.

8-9 p.m. Dirty Bomb. WETA TV-26. NOVA. “Examine two attack scenarios — based on sophisticated models developed by radiation experts — a “dirty bomb” attack in Washington and London.” <http://www.pbs.org/nova/dirtybomb>.

Wednesday, March 26

9:30 a.m. and noon. At 9:30 a.m., nonviolence training by Pax Christi, followed by prayerful public witness against the war at noon. “Eric LeCompte, chair of the national council of Pax Christi USA and staff person with SOA Watch, will lead a training session in nonviolent civil disobedience.” Training is at St. Aloysius Church, North Capitol and I streets NW. Action is tentatively scheduled for Lafayette Park, 16th and H streets NW — final location to be announced Tuesday evening. Info, Johnny Zokovitch, 352-219-8419, or Michael Jones, 814-964-0078. http://www.paxchristiusa.org/news_events_more.asp?id=490.

3:30 p.m. Boys Softball. Deal vs. Eliot, at Eliot, 1830 Constitution Ave. NE, 673-8666, <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/eliot/homepage.htm> — and Browne Junior High vs. H. Johnson Junior High, at H. Johnson, 1400 Bruce Pl. SE, 698-1017.

6:45-9 p.m. Rent Stabilization Forum. A panel of experts and city officials will discuss all sides of rent stabilization. “Can changes in the city’s rent stabilization program help preserve affordable housing?” By the D.C. League Committee on Affordable Housing, 347-3020. <http://www.wishdc.org/events.htm>. At Sumner School, 1201 17th St. NW.

Thursday, March 27

7 p.m. Students Not Soldiers. Citywide organizing meeting. “This campaign is challenging the militarization of schools and students by the No Child Left Behind Act, JROTC and recruitment practices.” Info: Trent Moyer, 299-1050, or John Judge, 234-2000. At AFSC-DC, 2211 14th St. NW.

Friday, March 28

3:30 p.m. Boys Softball. Terrell vs. Eliot, at Eliot, 1830 Constitution Ave. NE, 673-8666, <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/eliot/homepage.htm>.

Saturday, March 29

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Great American Clean Up on H Street Main Street. “Come and clean up H Street with H Street Main Street and the residents and merchants of H Street for the Great American CleanUp.” With Mayor Anthony Williams. Meet at the H Street Connection, 900 H St. NE, to get your gloves and trash bags. Coffee provided. Info, Tomika Hughey, 486-0346.

10 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.

1 p.m. Wall to Wall: D.C. Public Murals. Panel discussion. “Examine the history, function and philosophy of public murals, as well as the negotiation process with communities, local government, and the private sector about spaces and content.” At True Reformer Building, 1200 U St. NW. (Metro: U Street/ Cardozo). Info, Michon Boston, Humanities Council of Washington, DC, 387-8391, ext. 13. http://www.dcheritage.org/calendar2532/calendar_show.htm?doc_id=124352. §