

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 #34
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37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

30 Residents Protest Excello License Renewal

BY MARC BORBELY
536 13th St. NE

On June 4, at least 30 people, including me, officially registered protests to the renewal of Excello Liquors's (419 13th St. NE) liquor license. Each of the 30 people were either present at the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board hearing or had a representative there speaking for them.

Charles Burger, the chairman of the five-member board, remarked on the considerable turnout. "This is a larger crowd than we usually have," he said. He told the protestants that the large turnout made a difference in the eyes of board members.

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Volunteers Needed For AIDS Ride

BY DUSTIN PICCOLO
524 13th St. NE

The Washington D.C. AIDS Ride — the end of the 330-mile Tour de Friends — is desperately seeking volunteers for the closing ceremonies of the ride, and also for people to be at cheering stations in Vienna and Arlington. All help is greatly appreciated. The closing ceremony will be at 4 p.m. next Sunday (June 22) near 29th and K streets NW.

According to the Web site <http://www.tourdefriends.com/ceremonies/registration/info>, volunteers should bring a water bottle and wear a white, logo-free T-shirt and closed-toe, comfortable shoes. Lunch, snacks and sports drink will be provided. §

Thief River Performance Was Indeed a Steal!

BY LIBO LIU
500 block of 14 Street NE

We nearly missed the opportunity to see this high-quality performance right in our neighborhood. When we finally made our way to the new H Street Playhouse, just three blocks from our house, to see the last performance of *Thief River*, a play by Lee Blessing, we could hardly hide our excitement. If you have ever sat in a front-row seat for a great performance at the Kennedy Center or Carnegie Hall, you'll know what I mean.

The H Street Playhouse gives you a sense of intimacy with the performance unmatched by any other. With just over 100 seats neatly divided into three groups, and with different rows at rather different heights, the theater puts the triangular center stage right in front of you no matter where you sit. You can see the sparkle in the actors' eyes, as if they were talking to you and you were part of the story. Twelve characters of various ages and across the different time zones were realistically played by six skillful actors, as the love story between two young boys in a small Minnesota village developed into a lifetime struggle.

We would have happily paid \$20 for the ticket, but the free ticket offer was hard to refuse. If you didn't take advantage of it, you ought to kick yourself. But don't get hurt, because another opportunity has come. Theater Alliance has brought a musical, *The Gospel at Colonus*, to the H Street Playhouse, playing from June 12 to July 13. See the Calendar section for details. Residents within a five-block radius of the theater are eligible for the free tickets. (See the "ongoing" section of the calendar, on page 4, for details). §

Planner Addresses Traffic on 14th Street

BY ELIZABETH HAGUE
500 block of 14th Street NE

Rachel MacCleery, the District Department of Transportation's Ward 6 Traffic Planner, attended the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association meeting on June 3 to address a petition for traffic calming that had been submitted by residents of 14th Street NE.

Ms. MacCleery explained that traffic calming devices are physical devices, such as speed bumps, installed to slow traffic.

Residents of 14th Street who were at the meeting complained about the volume of traffic and the number of tour buses and commercial trucks using 14th Street.

Ms. MacCleery said the best way for residents to address truck concerns is to contact Jeffrey Bryan (617-494-2091 or bryanj@volpe.dot.gov), the consultant

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Tomorrow Is Fathers Day

Editor's Apology

Marc Borbely, the editor, apologizes that the Corner Forum has not been appearing regularly on Saturdays as promised.

All subscriptions have been extended by two weeks to make up for the two missed issues.

The editor is still looking for ways to get more people working on the Corner Forum.

He thanks those people who have already offered to help. §

30 Residents Represented at Hearing on Excello Liquor License Renewal

(continued from page 1)

Ten of the 30 protestants were in attendance at the “roll-call” hearing in front of the board: eight residents — Bill Ament, me, Scott Douglas, Gordon Keller, David Kinsey, Dustin Piccolo, Glen Reeves and Richard Sundberg — plus two Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners — Michael Musante (6A05) and Jessica Ward (6A06).

In addition, Mr. Musante had statements showing that he was officially representing 17 other residents who were not at the hearing: Stephanie Beggs, David Carmody, Michael Herman, Asilia Hill, Christin Laise, James Laise, Pam Larmee, Stan Larmee, Craig Lustig, John Peter Olinger, Shirley O’Neill, D. Shaw, John Thompson, C. Richard Trenz, Sandra Warren and Lorraine Witham. I had statements showing I was there representing two other residents: Tammi Cioffi and David Cromartie. And Mr. Ament had a statement showing he was representing Lucy Ament.

Others had signed protest letters; I’m not sure if ANC Commissioner Jessica Ward was officially representing them.

Charles Burger, the chairman of the five-member board, said Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A submitted its statement of protest to the renewal of the license too late. The ANC decided on May 28 to oppose the renewal; the deadline for protests had passed on May 20.

In response, the ANC voted this past Thursday to send a letter to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board asking that it grant the ANC the status of an official protestant, saying its lateness was due to its never having been informed by the board that Excello’s license was up for renewal.

Sung S. Bang, the owner of Excello Liquors, was present at the hearing, as was his attorney, Simon M. Osnos, of Tysons Corner, Va.

Mr. Burger listed the issues before the board: the establishment’s impact on peace and quiet, its impact on parking, vehicular safety, noncompliance with previous agreements, and possibly (depending on whether a protest letter mentioned it) adverse effect on the value of property.

Mr. Burger said there will be a “status hearing” on Excello on July 23 at 9:30 a.m., also at 941 North Capitol St. NE, on the seventh floor. He said all protestants must either appear in person or authorize, in writing, a representative to speak for them.

Between now and July 23, the protestants will be meeting with Mr. Bang and his attorney to see if an agreement can be reached between the protestants and Mr. Bang.

Mr. Osnos, Mr. Bang’s attorney, asked that he be able to contact only one or two of the protestants instead of having to contact each one of them, when he wants to communicate something. The protestants present agreed that they would be satisfied if Mr. Osnos contacted Mr. Musante, Ms. Ward and me.

Ms. Ward said she wanted to wait to have a first meeting with Mr. Osnos until after a separate “fact-finding” hearing is held on June 25.

Ms. Ward said this June 25 hearing is a result of complaints she made that Excello is in violation of its current voluntary agreement. She has a letter from a D.C. inspector that shows that the inspector visited the establishment at the end of May and found multiple violations, including that Excello was selling single-serving containers of alcohol and that Excello was not maintaining a log of police calls made.

If Excello is found to be in violation of its agreement, it could face sanctions. §

Tidbits

ADDITION SOUGHT FOR 1215 E ST. NE: According to yesterday’s D.C. Register, Neavelle A. Coles is asking the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment to permit the construction of a two-story addition to 1215 E St. NE.

The Board would have to grant the applicant variances from the lot occupancy requirements, the open court requirements and the nonconforming structure requirements.

The Board will hold a public hearing on this matter, case 17045, and two others from 9:30 to noon on July 29. The hearing will be in Suite 220-S at 441 4th St. NW. Info, Office of Zoning, 727-6311. (— Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE)

LONGER HOURS LIKELY FOR METRO/BUSES: Council Member Jim Graham (Ward 1) said yesterday in an e-mail to 11 listservs that it seems fairly sure that Metro will extend its hours — for buses and trains — to open at 7 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday and close at 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. “Now that the Budget Committee has approved that budget, we can be reasonably certain that the Board will approve the budget and the new extended hours,” Mr. Graham said.

The e-mail went to various listservs, including listservs that focus on Mount Pleasant, Le Droit Park and Columbia Heights. Info, Mr. Graham, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW #406, 724-8181 or jim@grahamwone.com. (— Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE) §

Contact Marc Borbely, the editor: ph. (544-2447); e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); mail (536 13th St. NE). Help assemble and plan the Corner Forum every Saturday at 10 a.m. (See calendar for details!)

14th Street Traffic, Other Transportation Issues Addressed

(continued from page 1)

involved with the City-Wide Motor Carrier Management Study — a study on trucks in D.C.

She said the city is also doing a Tour Bus Study and that a draft report will be available for public comment soon.

In response to one resident's concerns about the loudness of B2 buses' announcement of their destination ("Anacostia Station"), Ms. MacCleery said she would see if the buses could lower the volume of their destination announcements.

Ms. MacCleery also will be conducting a Capitol Hill Transportation Study in fiscal year 2004. This study will examine traffic routes for C Street, Independence Avenue, Constitution Avenue and maybe Pennsylvania Avenue. The study might assess whether some of these streets should be two-way

instead of one-way, to slow down traffic.

Ms. MacCleery also announced that in conjunction with the planning process for H Street revitalization, the D.C. Department of Transportation is conducting a transportation study for H Street. There will be a public kick-off meeting on Tuesday, June 17, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the J.O. Wilson Elementary School, 660 K St. NE.

Finally, a Community Walk down H Street will be held on Saturday, June 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be an opportunity to walk down H Street and point out what the community does and does not like about H Street. Participants will meet at the entrance to the Capital Children's Museum, at 3rd and H streets NE. §

Lost 14th Street Cat



FROM A FLYER

Lost Wednesday.

Answers to Grady. He is new to the neighborhood.

He wasn't wearing a collar.

If you see him, please call Shirley at 842-9332 or call 399-2685 or 723-6385.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Have you...
noticed a beautiful wildflower?
come across peaches on sale?
or seen a great movie?

LET YOUR NEIGHBORS KNOW.

Call, write or visit the Corner Forum's editor...

Phone: 544-2447

Voicemail: 517-9128

E-mail: news@thecornerforum.org

Mail or visit: 536 13th St. NE

Updates

COMINGS AND GOINGS: 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 today, the real estate listings for the Corner Forum area have changed from May 29 as follows: 1239 Duncan Pl. NE is newly listed (\$354,900); and 408 13th St. NE is listed at a lower price (it was \$412,000; it's now \$385,000). (—Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE)

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute the May 29 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi (proofreading); Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (distributing); and Richard Sundberg (distributing). There are 73 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (26 on E Street, 24 on Emerald Street, 16 on 13th Street, and 7 on Duncan Place). (—Marc Borbely) §

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, June 15

2-6 p.m. Father's Day Remembrance Ceremony. By ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together). "In remembrance of victims of homicide in the Washington, DC, area. ... In a great many instances, homicide victims have been males. We wish to honor and respect their memory, as well as send a message from the community that we are united as one in our efforts to prevent such future unnecessary deaths." At Freedom Plaza, 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Monday, June 16

9 a.m. Graduation — Eliot Junior High School. 1830 Constitution Ave. NE, 673-8666. <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/home.html>.

10 a.m. Graduation — Browne Junior High School. At Spingarn Senior High School. 2500 Benning Road NE, 724-4547. <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/home.html>.

3 p.m. Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting. Fifth floor board room, 825 North Capitol St. NE. 442-4289. <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/boe/boecalendar.html>.

7:30 p.m. D.C. Public Charter School Board Monthly Public Meeting. At School Board headquarters, 1436 U St. NW, Suite 401. (From the June 6 D.C. Register).

Tuesday, June 17

6:30-8:30 p.m. H Street NE Transportation Plan Kick-Off. At J.O. Wilson Elementary School, 7th & K Streets NE. "The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will begin to implement a multimillion dollar transportation, parking and streetscape commitment to H Street NE. This first community meeting will focus on the process and timeline for this effort and on receiving initial comments. ... from business owners, residents, institutional representatives, etc." Info, Rachel MacCleery, Ward 6 Transportation Planner, DDOT, 2000 14th Street NW, 671-2555 or rachel.maccleery@dc.gov.

6:30-8 p.m. Neighborhood History in DC. By Matthew Gilmore. "A workshop for doing neighborhood history — offering research techniques and describing the sources. ... A tour of the division will follow and a chance to work with some of the sources discussed." At Washingtoniana Division, MLK Library, 901 G St. NW, Room 307. Registration is requested, Mr. Gilmore, dc-edit@mail.h-net.msu.edu or 352-4378.

7 p.m. Lovejoy Park nonprofit. First meeting. At the Teacher's Credit Union, 9th and D streets NE.

Wednesday, June 18

6:30 p.m. Police Service Area (PSA) 511 monthly community meeting. Teacher's Credit Union, 9th and D streets NE.

6:30 p.m. Stated Board of Education meeting. Fifth floor board room, 825 North Capitol St. NE. 442-4289. <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/boe/boecalendar.html>.

7-9 p.m. Re-Green Your Neighborhood with Street Trees! For the Corner Forum area and surrounding neighborhoods. "Learn about the condition of their street trees and to develop a plan to fill the city's 23,000 empty street tree spaces. ... Maps will be available showing the location and condition of every street tree in each neighborhood." At Capital Children's Museum, 800 3rd St. NE. Info, 833.4010 ext. 100. <http://www.caseytrees.org>.

Thursday, June 19

6:30-8:30 p.m. Public Meeting on Public Reservation 13 — Hill East Waterfront Draft Master Plan. By the D.C. Office of Planning. At RFK Stadium, Rose Room (4th floor). Entrance at Gate F. (Metro: Stadium/Armory). Info, 442-7600. <http://planning.dc.gov>.

Friday, June 20

All Day. Last day of school for D.C. Public School students.

Saturday, June 21

10 a.m. Corner Forum meeting. "Help assemble the current issue and plan future ones." At the home of Marc Borbely and Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE, 544-2447.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. H Street NE Transportation Plan Community Walk-Through. See June 17 entry. Meet at entrance to Capital Children's Museum, 3rd and H Streets NE. Info, Rachel MacCleery, Ward 6 Transportation Planner, DDOT, 2000 14th Street NW, 671-2555 or rachel.maccleery@dc.gov.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet Your Neighbor Day. "You should always know your neighbor, because neighbors look out for each other. ... Get community information, meet your council members, community leaders and others who work to keep the community safe." By the Old City Capitol Hill Neighborhood Association and others. At Linden Place NE. Rain Date: June 22, 2 p.m. Info, <http://oldcitycapitolhill.org>.

Ongoing

The Gospel at Colonus. June 12 - July 13. Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m. No show on July 4. This "is the reimagining of Sophocles' tragedy Oedipus at Colonus into the language of gospel music. The story is staged as a church revival that erupts with live gospel music which drives home the powerful themes of redemption and forgiveness." By the Theater Alliance. Tickets normally \$20; free if you live between 8th Street and 19th Street NE, between C and M streets NE. (Pick up free tickets at least 30 minutes before the show). At H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE. 800-494-8497 or 396-2125 or <http://www.theateralliance.com/Season.htm>. §