

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 #35
Saturday, June 21, 2003
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Blaming Excello Liquors Is Just the Easy Way Out

BY JAMES L. CLARK
1311 Emerald St. NE

There is no reason why Excello's liquor license should not be renewed. There is a hidden agenda to discriminate against Asians. Excello has done everything to be good business neighbors. The real problem is people standing on the streets, seven days a week. A few people like to be negative about everything. The easy way out is to take their anger out on the liquor store instead of on the people standing on the streets. §

House Burglaries Were Up in May

BY LIBO LIU
500 block of 14th Street NE

House break-ins have risen sharply in the neighborhood. That is what residents who attended Wednesday's monthly PSA 511 meeting learned. "There were eight burglaries in the last month in the PSA 511 area," said Renato Caldwell, the police lieutenant for 511.

Most of incidents happened on the 1100 block of Maryland Avenue, the 400 block of 11th Street and the 1100 block of D Street. In almost all the incidents, the burglar used a crowbar to pry open the front door and then stole jewelry and other valuables. Most of the incidents occurred in the afternoon, when victims were not at home. The burglar is still at large.

The number of burglaries in May was double the number that occurred in any previous month this year. According to Lt. Caldwell, there were two burglaries in April, four in March, two in February and two in January.

Continued on page 7, column 1

"Lake Fort Fisher" Is Bug Heaven

BY AMY FISHER, 427 13TH ST. NE

I've sent the letter below to Council member Sharon Ambrose's (D-Ward 6) office. As long as I have lived here (since 1974), our alley (behind the stores) has formed a lake in heavy rains. I refer to it fondly as Lake Fort Fisher. This year, in the heavy rains we have had, it has not dried up once since April. I imagine the mosquitoes are going to be fierce. (See related "Mosquitoes" article, page 2.)



Ms. Fisher took this photo June 12 or June 13. The lake looked the same yesterday.

My letter to Ms. Ambrose...

Neighbors in Northeast Washington are proud to announce that the National Mosquito Growers Association recently selected this lovely site in beautiful Ward 6, adjacent to the Kingsman School recreational field, as one of several finalists for its annual convention.

"What with such a healthy breeding environment and the proximity of many children playing organized softball and soccer in the adjacent Kingsman Field, the site has in the past produced some of the finest specimens in the region. We expect that this year's weather will help us achieve a bumper crop," one association official said. §

Zoned Parking Blocked On Emerald Street

BY WICKEY CARTWRIGHT
DOT parking specialist,
and manager for Ward 6

Marc Borbely asked Mr. Cartwright about the status of the zoned parking on Emerald Street. Maureen and Klaus Nielsen had filed a petition in November by seeking zoned parking, and then Lacey Bigelow filed a counterpetition recently in opposition to zoned parking on the street.

From a voicemail on Thursday...

I did get a counterpetition, and that means we can't do anything at this point.

I'm putting together a letter and a package to your ANC [Advisory Neighborhood Commission] commissioner. I'm going to send it to her — she's the ANC for that area [ANC 6A06] — let her deal with it. She may get better results and meet with the people and come up with an answer, whether the majority of the street really wants it, which, in this case, I'm sure they do, but I can't put it up at this time, because of the counterpetition.

And maybe she can better resolve it, so that if we do put the signs up, we wouldn't have to take them down again, because it's quite costly to up-and-down with the signs.

Normally, we wait about a year and then the block can repetition. But I can't really put it up until I get some type of confirmation that it's going to go through and it's going to stay up.

So I'll have to get the ANC member — ANC is Jessica Ward, for that area, and her number is 396-3193 — she'll be getting a letter soon in reference to this, and when she gets together with the neighborhood, she can find out what's happening.

Continued on page 7, column 2

ANC Zoning Committee to Consider Proposed Addition to 1215 E St. NE

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Neavelle A. Coles, a real estate agent in Lanham, Md., who bought 1215 E St. NE for \$90,000 in May 2001, according to D.C.'s online Real Property Assessment Database, is applying for construction permits to add a 10-foot-by-12-foot two-story addition to the rear of the house and demolish what the application calls "the existing wood porch."

A visit to the rear of the house shows that the porch has apparently already been demolished and the addition already been added. According to a letter from Charles Bryant, Mr. Coles's architect, to the Office of Zoning, the addition to the house adds a first-floor breakfast room and a new master bedroom and bath on the second floor. The letter says Mr. Coles also intends to restore the carriage house, which is on the alley at the rear of the property, as a garage.

Because the house would not adhere to the zoning regulations after the proposed changes (it doesn't adhere to them now, and it wouldn't adhere to them afterwards either), the city's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) must grant the applicant "variances" from those laws before the construction permits can be granted.

The regulation that seems most pertinent in this case is the one that states that for houses in areas zoned R-4, which all the residential areas in our neighborhood are, houses may occupy no more than 60 percent of their lots. With the porch, 1215 E St. NE occupied 72 percent of the lot, according to the architect's application, and with the new addition, 73.7 percent of the lot is occupied. The addition itself takes up 120 square feet, or 7.9 percent of the lot.

According to the BZA Web site, the BZA can grant such variances where, because of an exceptional situation, the strict application of the zoning regulations would result in "exceptional practical difficulties or exceptional and undue hardship" upon a property owner. "Such hardship may result from physical characteristics which make the property unique or difficult to use. To approve an application for a variance, the Board would have to find that granting the request would not cause substantial detriment to the public good and would not be inconsistent with the general intent and purpose of the zoning regulations."

Mr. Coles's architect says in his letter that unless Mr. Coles is allowed to make the house larger, he will be unable to "generate a rehabilitation of the property that will be consistent with current market expectations of residential properties in the Capitol Hill area." The architect also says that the addition would cause "no aggravation of traffic, noise or lighting."

The architect says that rehabilitating the carriage house would help "maintain a familiar neighborhood-fabric piece on the property."

Residents who have concerns or questions about this project should attend the ANC Zoning and Economic Development Committee meeting Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 9th and G (see Calendar), where the proposed changes will be discussed. Generally, the applicant or his representative are present to answer questions.

The committee can recommend that the Advisory Neighborhood Commission support or oppose Mr. Coles's application. The city's Board of Zoning Adjustment, which will hold a formal public hearing on the application on July 29, must, by law, give "great weight" to the ANC's recommendation.

ANC Commissioner Cody Rice, the committee's chairman, can be reached at 544-3734. §

Mosquitoes Not Just a Nuisance

From a D.C. Department of Health Web site on West Nile Virus (http://dchealth.dc.gov/information/fact_sheets/moscontrol.shtml)

Mosquitoes are not only a nuisance, but may also carry many diseases, including St. Louis encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, West Nile Virus and dog heartworm. Several important species breed around the home.

Most mosquitoes that breed around the home require stagnant water rich in decomposing organic material. The female mosquito deposits 100 to 200 eggs on the water's surface or in areas that will later flood. The eggs hatch into worm-like larvae, which are very active and feed on organic material in the water. Within days the larvae transform into the pupa stage, during which legs, wings and other adult features form. When this stage is completed, the adults emerge from the pupa. The entire life cycle from egg to adult can be completed in less than 10 days. Most adults live about two weeks.

One discarded tire can produce tens of thousands of mosquitoes over a season.

The mosquitoes that breed around the home tend not to fly far, and will remain a nuisance to the neighborhood. These mosquitoes feed on humans or pets for a "blood meal," and many will enter houses to feed.

The northern house mosquitoes (*Culex pipiens*) are commonly found in urban areas. They lay eggs in any receptacle containing water rich in decomposing organic material. Breeding sites include clogged rain gutters, children's wading pools, bird baths, cans and bottles, flower pots trays and discarded tires. Populations peak at mid-summer. Other mosquitoes lay eggs in rotted out tree holes, where a branch has been lost or where several branches meet. Discarded tires full of leaves and other containers are very attractive egg-laying sites. The females feed in the morning and early evening. Other kinds of mosquitoes also share these habitats and will enter your home to feed.

Breeding can be reduced by eliminating standing water. §

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. (See calendar for details!)

Residents Could Help Shape H Street's Transportation Plan

BY ELIZABETH HAGUE
500 block of 14th Street NE

The kickoff meeting for the H Street NE Corridor Transportation Study was held on Tuesday at the J.O. Wilson Elementary School. The meeting was well organized and useful for helping residents better visualize what the city is planning.

Upcoming events will continue to both educate residents and solicit their input. As a resident, I think that this is an excellent opportunity to influence a project that is still in the planning process and will affect members of the community directly.

D.C. planners followed their explanation of the H Street project with an opportunity for participants to view mark-ups of the plan for H Street, point out dangerous intersections and poorly lit streets, and discuss areas where residents would like improvements — both long-term and short-term.

Suggested improvements included changing the timing of traffic lights at key intersections, putting out more trash cans, installing a bike lane, and improving the lighting on most blocks on H Street. Residents were also encouraged to think about where on H Street they would want wider sidewalks, parks, outdoor furniture and public artwork. For the long term, planners are considering laying track for a citywide street trolley system. H Street would be one of the first areas to be served.

The meeting was chaired by Project Manager Rachel MacCleery, the Ward 6 transportation planner (671-2555 or Rachel.maccleery@dc.gov).

Also present were consultants from Michael Baker Corp., Victor Siaurusaitis (410-424-2210 or vsiaurusaitis@mbakercorp.com), an engineer focusing on transportation, parking and transit issues; and Kiran Mathema (703-960-4400 or kmathema@mbakercorp.com), an urban planner focusing on streetscape and public realm.

Rachel MacCleery opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose of the H Street Transportation Study is to examine what changes need to be made to the existing transportation system to create an environment that will support the H Street Revitalization Plan. The study has three phases: the planning/study phase; the design phase; and the implementation/construction phase. Many aspects of the project are long-term, such as widening sidewalks. In the short term, however, D.C. can address other citizen concerns, including: retiming traffic lights, painting crosswalks and installing bike racks or trash cans in strategic locations.

Eventual objectives include (1) resolving areas that are unfriendly to pedestrians, such as the intersection between 15th Street, Maryland Avenue and Bladensburg Road; (2) accommodating outdoor use; (3) considering potential bicycle paths; (4) examining the width of sidewalks; and (5) developing a light-rail or trolley plan.

Over the next year — the next six months will be particularly crucial — the study will solicit community and stake-

holder input. There were only 30 or 40 people present at the meeting, making individual opinions potentially quite influential.

The initial assessment of existing conditions was scheduled to continue today with a community walk on H Street from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents were to have an opportunity to discuss potential options for H street, including safety issues, pedestrian concerns, parking concerns, good sites for public art and public parks, and other issues, such as vehicle and bicycle traffic. In addition, two Community Charrettes will be held, one on Tuesday, September 9, and the other on Saturday, September 13. During the Charrettes, residents will be able to describe their ideas to landscape artists, who will sketch out the ideas.

A second public meeting will be held on October 2. Draft recommendations will be presented at the third public meeting, on December 9, and final recommendations will be presented during the fourth public meeting, on January 22, 2004.

Victor Siaurusaitis discussed transportation issues — the flow of traffic on H Street and whether trucks would be allowed to use H Street. His company is collecting data on traffic movements, looking at the implications of adding bus routes or transit points; parking and metering; pedestrian and bike movements; how lanes affect businesses on the corridor; how traffic works in rush hour; and whether adding or deleting traffic lanes or prohibiting left or right turns would affect the overall traffic flow.

Kiran Mathema discussed urban planning. He noted that the current plan for H Street Revitalization would increase the density of the area, with additional residential and retail. Could some of the density be offset by light rail or other options? How wide should the sidewalks be on H Street, and are there certain areas, such as planned sidewalk cafes in the planned arts and entertainment district where the sidewalks should be wider? Other issues include street safety, cleanliness, vibrancy, and creating a “sense of place” through public art and ambient street furniture. The study would also look for ways to connect H Street east of Union Station and west of Union Station.

An Arts Commission representative noted that public artwork would be commissioned for the area and that the design of street lamps, street furniture, and bus stops could add a “sense of place” and a unique feel to the area.

In response to a resident's question about the potential plan to have trolleys on H Street, a representative from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority noted that his office is planning for the next generation of transit in the Washington area and is investigating the feasibility of various options, including street trolleys, light rail, and buses (including the effects of having a reserved lane vs. mixed lanes for these modes of public transportation). The H Street planning process occurs in the context of trying to draw up another plan for an entire network in DC. H Street and Benning Road could be very important corridors. Eventually, the city might try to have lines that run between Minnesota Avenue and Stadium in the east, to Union Station and the Convention Center in the west. The network would also cross downtown to Georgetown and uptown to U Street and Adams Morgan. §

Tires in Alley Block Trash Pickup



These tires kept the garbage collectors from collecting trash in the alley parallel to Emerald Street, on the north side, on Thursday morning. The garbage collectors called Department of Public Works inspectors, who came and hauled both the tires and the trash away themselves.

If there had been a fire, a fire truck would also have been unable to get through the alley.

Know who dunnit? The city's Illegal Dumping Bounty Program provides rewards of up to \$500 for information leading to a finding of liability for illegal dumping. You can report illegal dumping at 727-1000, the mayor's call center.

The city's Web site asks that the following be reported: a tag number and a description of the people doing the dumping, or their vehicle.

Note: "Persons reporting incidents of illegal dumping are considered third party observers to the violation and may be required to appear at a hearing on the matter." §

A Free Summer Reading Program

FROM A FLYER

The Lincoln Park Book Club, supported by SummerTime And Reading Together (START) Inc., will start its summer session, which goes from July 7 to August 25.

Children ages 5 to 14 meet to read every Monday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Each child is matched with an adult reading partner who supplements the Monday night group reading sessions with individual reading sessions.

There will also be a few field trips and an awards dinner for the top readers.

If you would like to enroll your child in this free summer program, volunteer to help with the reading sessions at the park, or volunteer as an adult reading partner, contact START at 419-3508 or startdc@erold.com. <http://www.startdc.org>. §

Tips

An Outdoor Internship Is Available For Two Ward 6 High School Students

FROM A FLYER

The Casey Trees Endowment Fund will be hiring two high school students from Ward 6 as summer interns.

"Are you looking for a summer job?" the Fund's flyer asks. "Interested in learning about D.C.'s trees and communities? Ready to spend the summer working outdoors?"

Interns will learn to identify, plant and maintain D.C.'s trees, work throughout the city on a team led by a college student, and engage community residents through outreach in D.C.'s neighborhoods. Interns will be trained in community forestry methods, planting and maintenance techniques, and instructed in inventory methods.

Applicants must be 16 or older and be enrolled in high school. They should have an interest in the environment, urban ecology and D.C.'s trees. They must be willing to learn and follow direction with a positive spirit. They must be ready to endure full days of hard work outdoors — in rain or high heat.

The internships last from July 10 to Aug. 15, for an average of 30 hours a week. The pay is \$8.15 per hour.

Applicants must fax, bring or e-mail a one-page letter explaining their interest in the internship, to Buffie Brownstein, Casey Trees Endowment Fund, 1425 K St. NW, Suite 1050. Ms. Brownstein's e-mail address is bbrownstein@caseytrees.org. Her phone number is 833-4010 ext. 102. The fund's fax number is 833-4092.

The deadline was yesterday, but at a community meeting on Wednesday Ms. Brownstein said she will still consider applications she receives Monday or Tuesday. §

Disaster Volunteer Training Offered

BY JOY A. ARNOLD, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
From Yesterday's "Mayor's Weekly E-Blast"

The D.C. Commission on National and Community Service, through George Washington University, will be providing free, 20-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification courses to 620 D.C. residents.

The course's modules include Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Fire Suppression and Basic Disaster Medical Operations.

The CERT disaster volunteer training will begin in July 2003. To sign up, visit <http://www.cnscs.dc.gov> or call 727-7925. §

Updates

RENA QUALLIS: Mrs. Quallis, whose house (525 13th St. NE) burned on May 17, called to express her thanks to neighbors who helped her. She thanked, especially, the Cromarties (at 532 13th St. NE) and the members of the Cromarties' church for their generosity, and her neighbor Joyce and Joyce's sister, and other neighbors who helped. "Thank you for really being there for us, and being kind to us in our time of need. I really want to thank everybody, especially the Cromartie family, because I was really surprised." (Mr. George Cromartie Sr. said he would be glad to accept further donations for Mrs. Quallis.) Mrs. Quallis and her four grandchildren have been staying in Mrs. Quallis's daughter's one-bedroom apartment, along with Mrs. Quallis's two daughters and her son-in-law. She has been trying to get the D.C. Housing Authority, which owned 525 13th St., to place her in a new home. Her daughter's lease expires at the end of the month, and she has been worried about ending up on the streets with her children. There is no space for her family in the homeless shelters, she said. The Housing Authority's Adrienne Todman, deputy chief of staff, said Thursday that there were initially no properties available that were large enough for Mrs. Quallis and her four grandchildren. She said HUD regulations mandate the minimum size unit for a family of five, so even if there was a smaller unit available, she couldn't have it. Mrs. Quallis has been paying rent since May 17 even though she has not been given a new place to stay. Ms. Todman said this was because the lease at 525 13th St. NE had not been broken and because Mrs. Quallis presumably wanted to continue being a Housing Authority tenant. Yesterday, Mrs. Quallis called to say that she had been told a four-bedroom unit had been located, and that she could see the unit this coming Thursday. She hopes that she will be able to move in next weekend and that she will be able to find people to help her move.

MISSPELLED NAME: In last week's issue, on page 2, Kristen Laise's name was misspelled.

BIRTHDAYS: Happy birthday, tomorrow, to Tammi Cioffi, at 536 13th St. NE!

COMINGS AND GOINGS: According to the Long & Foster Web site, <http://www.longandfoster.com>, viewed today, the real estate listings for the Corner Forum area have not changed from last week. The following houses are listed: 1239 Duncan Pl. NE (\$354,900) and 408 13th St. NE (\$385,000). Do you know the people selling their houses? Please ask them if they might share their reasons with Corner Forum readers.

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute the June 14 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing). Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE, and Mr. Borbely attended last Saturday's Corner Forum meeting (see Calendar). 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). §

Fire at 400 13th St. NE Was Extinguished Quickly

BY RICHARD SUNDBERG, 1200 BLOCK OF DUNCAN PLACE NE

I was catching up on some yard work Monday afternoon. I heard fire trucks on 13th and, since that is common, I tuned out the racket for a while. I then realized the trucks were stopping someplace close by, on 13th. I put down my weeder and ambled down to 13th and found the intersection at 13th & D blocked off by fire engines and emergency vehicles. It turned out the little church on the corner, at 400 13th, was having some roof work done above the bays when a torch set the roof on fire. The fire was in a small area, so the firemen were able to extinguish the flames quickly. But to do so they needed to do their work in both the first and second floors so it is unclear if the people living in the upstairs apartment will still be able to do so.

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Daniel Floyd, the manager of 400 13th St. NE, and the son of the owners, explained the cause of the fire on Monday afternoon. "We were having a new roof put on, and the material they used was flammable." Workers were using a torch to seal it, he said, and it ignited.

Mr. Floyd said the fire was only on the outside of the building, and that the only damage on the inside was the damage caused by the firemen kicking in the doors and windows. "There's no smoke inside."

Mr. Floyd was upset that the firemen had knocked down some of the doors they knocked down. "There was no damage in that room at all," he said, pointing to the second-story apartment, "but they still kicked it in. It wasn't necessary." §

Goods and Services

Washer & Dryer for Sale

BY PATTY WHITE, 412 13TH ST. NE

Whirlpool full-size washer — \$150 or best offer.

Electric Dryer — \$50.

Call me at 703-526-6606.§

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. (See calendar for details!)

City's Plan for H Street Calls for Five Thematic Areas

FROM A D.C. OFFICE OF PLANNING STATEMENT
IN THE MAY 30 D.C. REGISTER.

The D.C. Office of Planning will conduct a public hearing (on Tuesday — see Calendar) to receive comments on “REVIVAL: The H Street NE Strategic Development Plan.” REVIVAL marks a significant accomplishment for the Cluster 25 neighborhoods (Near Northeast, Stanton Park and Kingman Park) in achieving its top-ranked priority: revitalization of H Street NE. Over the past year, more than 400 area residents and business owners have come together with the D.C. Office of Planning to environs a re-energized neighborhood corridor.

The plan calls for a creative streetscape and transit enhancements for the 1.5-mile-long corridor, which will be divided into five thematic areas.

“The Hub” (North Capitol to 2nd Street NE) centers upon the development of 2-3 million square feet of office space, 3,000 parking spaces, a proposed hotel and a multi-mode transportation hub.

In “Urban Living (Western Gateway)” (2nd to 7th Street), underutilized and vacant parcels will yield up to 600 units of housing, 100,000 square feet of class B office space, and up to 10,000 square feet of retail.

Strong retail between 7th and 12th Street will be enhanced within “The Shops” district on the corridor. “The Shops” will contain up to 200,000 square feet of productive retail goods and services, 100 units of housing, and 50,000 square feet of class B office space.

Both the Atlas Theater and the H Street Playhouse will be the centerpieces of an “Arts & Entertainment District” between 12th Street and Bladensburg Road.

Around the Hechinger Mall area east of Bladensburg Road to 17th Street, the prominent axis between the National Arboretum and the U.S. Capitol will be reinforced with high-quality mixed use (residential and retail) as “Arboretum Place” is established.

The final draft of REVIVAL is now complete and available for public review at the Office of Planning (801 North Capitol St. NE, 4th floor), MLK Library (901 G St. NW) and the R.L. Christian Library (13th and H Streets NE). The plan is also available online at http://planning.dc.gov/project/NE_Corridor/index.shtm. §

Lovejoy Park Group Ponders Fundraising Ideas

BY RICHARD SUNDBERG, 1200 DUNCAN PLACE NE

On Tuesday, Friends of Lovejoy Park held a meeting to update the public on the latest developments with the park.

Lovejoy Park will be located on the mostly asphalt area next to the old Lovejoy Elementary School, at 12th between D and E Streets. The school is being converted to loft-style condominiums. (For earlier stories on Lovejoy Park, see the Nov. 2, Jan. 19 and Jan. 25 issues of the Corner Forum.)

Tuesday's meeting began at 7 p.m. and was held at the Teachers Credit Union, at 9th and D Streets NE.

The process of establishing our nonprofit organization is almost complete. We now have a tax ID number. In addition, after much searching, a low-cost institution has been found to establish a checking account.

Winter Properties, the developer of Lovejoy Lofts, has requested architectural drawings to estimate the cost of doing the initial site work. The Department of Parks and Recreation should have the drawings ready next week.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (6A05) Michael Musante will soon establish a listserv for the effort.

There was also some brainstorming for fundraising ideas. Among the group's ideas: memorial bricks, contacting local businesses such as Home Depot, and throwing a block party or a Fourth of July party.

Various subcommittees most likely will be needed, so we were asked to think about candidates for chairs.

We also discussed how to encourage more people to attend future meetings.

We then did some brainstorming on things we would like to see in the park, and we came up with a duck pond.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20. §

Eight Burglaries in May, in PSA 511

(continued from page 1)

Lt. Caldwell and other officers suggested the following to keep your home from being burglarized: 1) get an alarm system that is connected to a central monitoring and alerting system; 2) leave some lights on inside your house while you are away; 3) install motion-activated lights on the outside of your house, especially near alleyways; 4) cut bushes low around your house to eliminate hideouts; 5) know your neighbors and report suspicious activities to police. Be specific about the appearance of the suspect.

Car theft was also on the rise, Lt. Caldwell warned.

To help neighbors get to know each other, police officers are organizing a "PSA 511 Community Day Celebration" — a block-party-style gathering, with food and entertainment. The gathering will start around 5 p.m. on Monday, July 28. It is tentatively scheduled to take place on 12th Street between C and D.

If you have any questions regarding the house burglaries or auto thefts, or if you would like to help out with the Community Day events, e-mail Lt. Caldwell at rcaldwel@mpdc.org or call him at 727-4478. §

Grady the Cat Was Found; Thank You, Neighbors

BY SHIRLEY EPPS

(whose son lives on the 300 block of 14th Street NE)

I had asked about the cat. From a voicemail message yesterday...

We did find Grady, and I would like to thank people in the neighborhood. Everyone that I came up and told about the cat, they were just extremely helpful, and we did get a phone call about Grady, and we did find Grady late Monday morning.

Ms. Epps, who lives in Northwest, said she and Grady (who also lives in Northwest) had come to visit her son on the 300 block of 14th Street NE. She said her son had accidentally let Grady out. A number of people called, she said, to say they had seen Grady. She said Grady was found near Tennessee Avenue.

I would just like to thank everyone in that neighborhood for their concern and their support and their warmth. Words really can't express how wonderful the people in the neighborhood are. We just need more people like this. May God continue to add a blessing in their life. Grady's doing okay, and I really appreciate it. §

No Zoned Parking for Emerald Street

(continued from page 1)

But right now, I did get the counterpetition, and I can't do anything at this point.

In a subsequent conversation, Mr. Wickey confirmed that the counterpetition was deemed valid and that it contained signatures from the required 51 percent of households on the block. He said he checked a signature of someone who had signed both petitions, and that person, an owner, said he or she had had a change of heart.

He said that he will refer the zoned parking controversies on both Emerald and E Streets to Ms. Ward. (He said he would let Ms. Ward handle the E Street case even though she does not represent the south side of E Street — that side, in ANC 6A05, is represented by ANC Commissioner Michael Musante.)

Mr. Cartwright said that normally the department requires a year to pass after a counterpetition before a block can re-petition for zoned parking.

He said that if residents meet with Ms. Ward and then show that they are overwhelmingly ("way more than 51 percent") in favor of zoned parking, he will not require a year to go by. E and Emerald Streets are the only streets he knows of where residents have successfully filed counterpetitions to zoned parking requests. §

Have you...

seen a family of newborn kittens?

heard about a block party?

or won an award at work?

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 §

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. (See calendar for details!)

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

Tuesday, June 24

5:30-7 p.m. Howard Dean. Meet and greet the Democratic presidential candidate and Vermont governor. At Capitol City Brewing Company, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE. This is a fundraiser. Suggested contribution is \$50 to \$500. http://www.deanforamerica.com/site/PageServer?pagename=press_releases.

6 p.m. H Street NE Strategic Development Plan. Public hearing. By the D.C. Office of Planning. At the Capitol Children's Museum, auditorium, 800 3rd St. NE. Info, Derrick L. Woody, 442-7614 or derrick.woody@dc.gov. http://www.planning.dc.gov/news_room/2003/may/05_23_03.shtm.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Black Males in the Criminal Justice System. Why are there so many? Can ex-offender programs help? Town hall meeting with Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.). "We cannot eliminate the problems of the black community without facing the problems of black males." With Norton and Eric Holder. At Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW. 727-0321.

7-9 p.m. 1215 E St. NE. ANC 6A Economic Development & Zoning Committee. Committee will consider an application by the owner of 1215 E St. NE to construct a two-story addition and renovate a carriage house. Also, there may be a presentation on inclusionary zoning/affordable housing by Will Ward of ACORN. "Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!" At Capitol Hill Towers, Community Room, 900 G St. NE. Info, ANC Commissioner (6A03) Cody Rice, 544-3734.

Wednesday, June 25

All Day. DMV to be shut. "The D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles will close all service locations Wednesday for an agency-wide development day. Services will resume Thursday at all locations." Info, 727-5000. <http://www.dmv.dc.gov>.

6:30-9 p.m. Proposed Zoning Changes for H Street. Joint Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A/6C meeting. "The purpose of this meeting will be for the ANCs to make joint recommendations on any necessary changes to the zoning on H Street NE based on community input." At Capital Children's Museum, 800 3rd St. NE. Info, ANC Commissioner (6A03) Cody Rice, 544-3734.

Thursday, June 26

6-8 p.m. Forum on Substance Abuse Strategy. For Wards 5 and 6. "Learn more about the mayor's comprehensive substance abuse strategy for the District. Audience members will have the opportunity to comment on the plan following a presentation by members of the Mayor's Task Force [on Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment & Control]." At Hine Junior High School, auditorium, 335 8th St. SE. Info, Natleen Chance, 442-5895 or natleen.chance@dc.gov. <http://dchealth.dc.gov>.

Saturday, June 28

11 a.m. Simple Gifts. "This Pittsburgh-based female trio performs ethnic folk music — such as Balkan dance music, Klezmer, Gypsy melodies, and Scandinavian twin fiddling — on multiple instruments, including fiddle, guitar, concertina, recorders, mandolin, bowed psaltery, hammer dulcimer, and percussion." At Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, 7th Street and Independence Avenue SW. 633-4674. <http://hirshhorn.si.edu/programs/events.asp>.

Ongoing

9-11 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. On WETA TV 26. This Far By Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys. Two parts per night. "This powerful six-part series examines the African-American religious experience through the last three centuries. First, the stories of Sojourner Truth and Denmark Vesey — both of whom were born into slavery — who used the Gospel to shape their identities. The second episode takes place after Emancipation, when minister-turned-journalist Henry McNeal Turner used the black church to engage black people in the political realm. The third episode begins in the Jim Crow era — when many African-Americans migrated north — and follows the development of gospel music. The fourth episode follows the Civil Rights movement, when ordinary people risked their lives to challenge racism. The fifth episode plots the growth of the Nation of Islam under the leadership of Elijah Muhammad and his son, Warith. The final episode chronicles a two-year interfaith, multiracial, multiethnic pilgrimage from Massachusetts to Africa — by way of Florida and the Caribbean — undertaken to heal the wounds of slavery." <http://www.pbs.org/previews/ThisFarByFaith>.

Through Aug. 15 except for July 4. The National Arboretum will stay open until 7:30 p.m. (instead of 5) on Friday evenings. Access to the arboretum between 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. will be through the R Street gate only. This is accessible from Bladensburg Road. "The extended hours are due to new congressionally appropriated funds to the arboretum to provide better visitor services. The arboretum's beautiful 446-acre campus in Washington, D.C., contains a wonderful array of display gardens, plant collections, and the National Capitol Columns set among native stands of eastern deciduous forests." At National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave. NE. 245-2726. <http://www.usna.usda.gov>. §

Thanks to the
people who
submitted events!