

The Corner Forum

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

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<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Survey Maps Health Of Our Street Trees

BY SHARON COCHRAN (1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE) AND MARC BOBBELY (536 13TH ST. NE)

You may have heard on the news that Betty Baker Casey has donated \$50 million to save D.C. trees. Last year, a survey of all D.C. trees, and the condition of each tree, was conducted by volunteers for the Casey Trees Endowment Fund. A map has been created from the collected data.

According to the tree map found on the Casey Trees Web site, (<http://www.caseytrees.org>) the trees in the Corner Forum are about equally healthy to unhealthy in number. Hopefully the recent rain has improved the health of most of the unhealthy trees.

The map also indicated that we don't have any really large mature trees. An

example of a mature tree can be seen at the southwest corner of 13th Street and Maryland Avenue.

We looked at the trees in the Corner Forum area...

- Most of our trees are maple.
- We have lost trees on Emerald Street since the survey was done. We have five empty tree boxes now, while there apparently were only two when the survey was done.
- The 400 block of 13th Street appears to have the largest number of older trees, but they are not fully grown.
- The 1300 block of E Street has a dozen recently planted trees.
- The 500 of 13th Street seems to have an equal number of older and new trees.
- Duncan Place seems to have five empty spots, but it is difficult to tell for sure, because this street does not have

formal tree boxes like the rest of the streets in the Corner Forum area.

At a community meeting at the Capital Children's Museum on June 18, Jim Lyons, the executive director of the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, said there are two main ways to plant new trees.

First, residents can request that the city's Urban Forestry Administration do the planting. To do this, call the mayor's call center at 727-1000. The city will fill orders on a first-come, first-served basis.

Second, residents can plant trees themselves. A permit from the city is required, though. Permits are available online, at <http://www.ddot.dc.gov/ufa/index.shtm> or by calling 465-6140. Within six weeks (or faster if there is a dead or unsound tree that needs to be removed), a city inspector will visit the site and assess the proposal.

Casey Trees will also be planting about 200 disease-resistant American elms throughout the city, but the organization is trying to plant them on streets that already contain those species, so our streets are unlikely to be chosen.

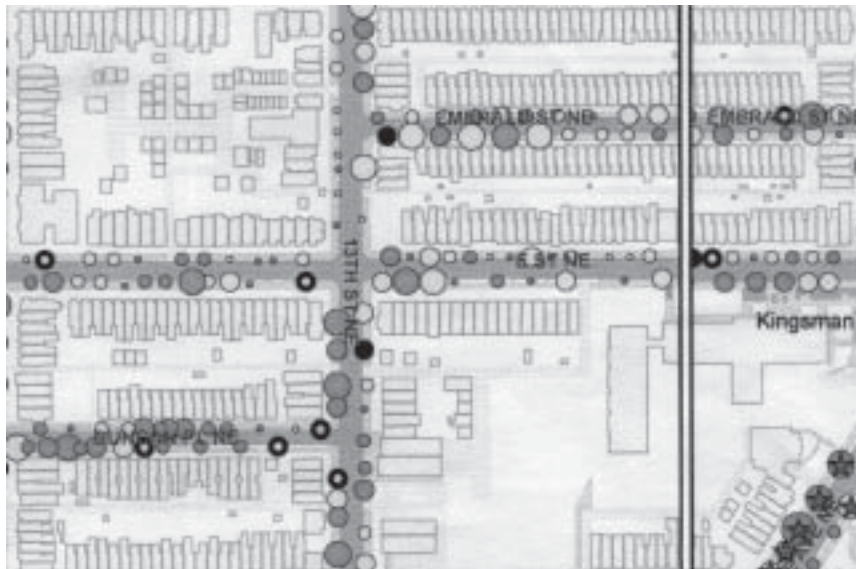
Another way to help work on the trees, together with the city's Urban Forestry Administration and Casey Trees, is to become a "Citizen Forester."

The D.C. Citizen Forester Program is the first urban forestry certificate training program in Washington and is sponsored by Casey Trees, the city, the National Arboretum and the University of District of Columbia.

There are two remaining training options this summer: 1) classroom work this Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and field work either the same Friday afternoon or the morning of Saturday, July 19; or 2) classroom work the evenings of July 14 and 16 and field work the morning of July 19.

The classroom training is at Casey Trees 1425 K St. NW, 833-4010. §

How Are the Trees by Your House Doing?



This is part of the map made by Casey Trees Endowment Fund, which conducted a citywide tree survey last year. Filled-in black circles are dead trees. Dark circles are trees in good-excellent condition. Light circles are trees in poor-fair condition. Stars are American elms. A black circle with a hole inside is an empty tree box. The bigger the circle, the bigger the tree. If you notice any changes, let the Corner Forum know!

Neighbor News

Lea Mesner Receives Personal Coach Certification

PHOTO AND ARTICLE

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

After studying for 18 months, writing 16 papers and reading 15 books on human behavior, Lea Mesner (1300 block of Emerald Street NE) received her Professional Personal Coach certification last Friday.

Ms. Mesner discussed personal coaching with me, saying, "Many people have unfulfilled dreams or a vague sense of wanting their lives to be more fulfilling. A personal coach can work with you to identify what direction you want to go in and create practices and exercises to help you gain the skills and competencies you need to reach your own excellence."

I asked Ms. Mesner if a coach is useful if you have an immediate concern or issue in your life.

"While coaching is not counseling or therapy, often issues, such as a job or personal relationship, tend to come up again and again your life and provide an opportunity for coaching," she said.

"However, my goal as a personal coach is to facilitate your development in ways that allow you to address and solve your life issues, without continual assistance from a personal coach. When you are moving in the directions you want and don't need me anymore, then I've been successful as your coach." §



A picture is worth 1,000 words...

We invite you to send (or e-mail) us photographs for a regular "Photo Album" section. We think photos of our neighbors and our neighborhood would be a fun way for us to get to know each other better.

Please include your name and address (or block), when the photo was taken (if possible), anything else you'd like to say about the photo, and your phone number in case we have any questions.

If possible, please tell us who took the photo, too, so we can give proper credit.

We will return all photos within three days.

Thanks to writer Nick Kotz, of Broad Run, Va., for this idea!§

Updates

H STREET PLAYHOUSE: "The Gospel at Colonus," playing at the H Street Playhouse (1365 H St. NE) through Sunday, July 13, received an excellent review in Thursday's Washington Post. "The spirited cast assembled by director Paul-Douglas Michnewicz for Theater Alliance infuses each of the 19 numbers with a relentless energy," the newspaper's review said. "The performers are a glee club in the truest sense; their ecstatic pleasure in making beautiful music is positively catching." The review is online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1872-2003Jul2.html>. Tickets are free to everyone living in the Corner Forum area.

POLICE BOUNDARIES: In a June 12 letter to Chief Ramsey, ANC 6A expressed concerns about the police department's proposal to increase the sizes of the Police Service Areas (PSAs) in the city. "We are concerned about the implications of the new PSA boundaries for meaningful participation in community policing," the ANC said. "We fear that the new, larger PSAs will result in fewer opportunities for residents to interact with individual officers." The ANC requested that the eastern boundary of the proposed PSA 102 be moved from 15th to 16th Street, which the ANC called "a natural break in the community." It asked that the southern boundary of the PSA be East Capitol Street instead of Constitution Avenue. For a map of the boundaries proposed by the police department, see page 5 of the May 11 issue of the Corner Forum.

CORRECTION: In last week's issue, on page 3, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Jessica Ward's district was incorrectly listed. She is the commissioner for district 6A06.

ANC CONTACTS: The new mailing address for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A (our ANC) is P.O. Box 75115, Washington, DC 20013.

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 yesterday, the real estate listings for the Corner Forum area have changed from June 26 as follows: 408 13th St. NE has been re-listed at a lower price (\$349,990; was \$385,000 two weeks ago; was \$412,000 May 29); and 1239 Duncan Pl. NE (\$354,900) has been re-listed at the same price. Listings for 1232 Duncan Pl. NE (\$349,000) and 1320 Emerald St. NE (\$345,000) are unchanged.

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute the June 28 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi (folding); and Sharon Cochran (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). §

Problems / Solutions

Please Call About 534 13th St. NE

BY TAMMI CIOFFI, 536 13TH ST.

The house next door to me, 534 13th St. NE, has been vacant for over five years. The yard always looks horrible, there is broken glass around the property, and behind the house there are numerous bottles of liquor and trash. A few people from the neighborhood have been calling 727-1000 to complain. If you would like to help us get this property fixed up again, please call the above number. Thanks!



534 13th St. NE this morning

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

I called 727-1000 on June 19 and was told that this type of call is handled by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs housing inspectors, at 442-4610. I was transferred to that phone number, and I reported the weeds in front, the trash in back and a gutter falling from the roof. I was told that I should see a response within five to seven days. If I don't see anything by then, the lady said, I should call the inspection unit directly, at 645-8285. §

City Seeks Input on Truck Traffic

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

The District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) Transportation Policy and Planning Administration is launching a major study of truck traffic in the District. One of the purposes of the study is to develop recommendations for truck routes that address delivery needs but protect neighborhoods from unnecessary truck traffic. DDOT is asking Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners to complete a survey.

One of the questions is: What are the issues of concern to your neighborhood regarding truck operations (i.e., traffic congestion, noise pollution, air pollution, road vibration, safety concerns, security concerns, other)?

If you have thoughts on this, contact your commissioner directly. (Also, publish your thoughts in the Corner Forum!) If you live in the Corner Forum area and live south of the middle of E Street NE, your ANC Commissioner is Michael Musante (6A05). He can be reached at 548-2542. If you live north of the middle of E Street NE, your ANC Commissioner is Jessica Ward (6A06). She can be reached at 396-3193. §

ANC Letter Argues Against Lincoln Park's Closure at Dusk

The following letter was sent by Joseph Fengler, the chairman of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A, on June 12 to John Hale, the superintendent of National Capitol Parks, East. The letter was approved by the ANC at its June meeting.

Dear Mr. Hale:

We are writing in regard to the recently posted signs at Lincoln Park, which indicate that the park is now closed at dusk. The current chair of the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, recently spoke with Mr. Stephen Syphax of your office.

She was told that 1) the restriction was not new, only recently posted; 2) although there are rumors to the contrary, it was not being done in response to reports of criminal activity; and 3) that it was the intention of the NPS that the regulation be selectively enforced. However, other residents have been told by the Capitol Park Police that they do intend to consistently enforce the regulation.

We believe that closing the park at dusk is a very poor idea.

First, the park is used heavily before and after the posted times. In the evening, families with young children and/or dogs use the park often after dark. In the morning, before sunrise, many members of our neighborhood use the park for exercise.

The reality is that most members of the community are at work or school during the day and can only make use of the park in the early morning and evening hours. And in the summer, many neighbors prefer to wait until dusk, when the park cools down. If the park is closed from dusk to dawn, it will be effectively off limits to working people, weekdays, for much of the year.

Second, given the size of the park, commuters can't avoid walking past it on their way to and from work. Currently, there is a "critical mass" of families, joggers, dog-walkers and other responsible citizens lending safety in numbers to pedestrians passing by.

If these people are banished, the park will become a safety hazard, a "no man's land," from which the criminal element can prey on passers-by. A police presence cannot be maintained continuously.

We request that if the park must be closed, it should only be during those hours when there is little likelihood of legitimate activity, perhaps from 11:00 or 12:00 at night until 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning with lighting provided during all non-daylight hours.

If you could e-mail me an update by June 30, 2003, it would be appreciated. §

Contact the Corner Forum: by phone (544-2447); voicemail (517-9128);
e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); or mail (536 13th St. NE).

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

Monday, July 7

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

Tuesday, July 8

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Community Blood Drive. The drive is “in direct response to the American Red Cross’s public plea for more donors.” The goal is to raise 100 pints of blood (from 150 donors). With possible prizes for donors. At Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H St. NW. Info, Marnie Litz, 637-4738.

Wednesday, July 9

6-8:30 p.m. Special Education Due Process Procedures. By the D.C. Board of Education’s Committee on Special Education and Student Services. At 825 North Capitol St. NE, 5th floor boardroom. Info, Elena Temple, 442-5190 or 442-4289.

Thursday, July 10

10 a.m. Property Tax Increase Limits. Hearing on proposed legislation that would “provide a tax credit to owner-occupants of residential real property to limit the amount of the real property tax to 110% of the real property tax for the prior tax year.” By City Council Committee on Finance and Revenue. At 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, room 412. <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us>. Info, Committee, 727-8270.

7-9 p.m. ANC 6A Monthly Meeting. Agenda includes a community presentation and discussion of police issues on 14th Street, and consideration of an application by the owner of 1215 E St. NE for various zoning variances needed for construction of a two-story addition and to maintain a carriage house (see stories in the last two issues of the Corner Forum). Info, ANC 6A Chairman Joseph Fengler (6A02), 423-8868. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/anc6a>.

Saturday, July 12

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. D.C.’s Black Civil War Regiment. “Historian C. R. Gibbs discusses his new publication, *Black, Copper, & Bright: The District of Columbia’s Black Civil War Regiment*. ... The First Regiment fought its way across bloody battlefields in Virginia and North Carolina with soldiers recruited from the middle Atlantic states, Canada, and the Caribbean. At the end of the Civil War, the regiment made history by being the first African American fighting unit to be received at the White House.” At Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, 1901 Fort Pl. SE. Reservations, 287-3369.

Upcoming

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.” 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. §

Tips

Tired of Telemarketers?

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

If you would like to stop sales calls to your home, you can add your phone number to the Federal Trade Commission’s new “Do Not Call” registry.

The “Do Not Call” registry is a government-maintained list of phone numbers that telemarketers will have to check before making their phone calls. They face penalties of \$11,000 for each call they make to numbers that are listed on the registry.

If you sign up anytime between today and Aug. 31, most telemarketers must stop calling you on Oct. 1. If you register after Sept. 1, most telemarketers must stop calling you after three months. Registrations are effective for five years. You can always take your name off the registry.

According to the FTC, placing your number on the registry will stop most, but not all, telemarketing calls. “Some businesses are exempt from the national registry and still can call

you even if you place your number on it. Exempt businesses include long-distance phone companies, airlines, and banks and credit unions,” the FTC said on its Web site. “However, many telemarketing calls are placed by professional telemarketing companies, and even if the company whose goods or services are being sold is exempt, the telemarketing company may be covered.”

The easiest way to register is by calling 1-888-382-1222 from the phone number you are registering.

You can also register numbers online, at <http://www.donotcall.gov>. If you register by phone, you have to call from the phone number you are registering. If you register online, you need an e-mail address.

By Thursday, the sixth day the registry was in operation, 16.9 million telephone numbers had been registered, according to the FTC’s Web site (<http://www.ftc.gov>).

To file a complaint after Oct. 1, get the company’s name and phone number, and call 1-888-382-1222 or visit <http://www.donotcall.gov>. §