

# 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 #38  
Saturday, July 12, 2003  
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax  
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

## United, on a Glorious Day in Vermont

BY DAVID J. KINSEY, 524 13TH ST. NE

On July 2, Dustin F. Piccolo and I were joined in a civil union in the state of Vermont. Witness to the union was my childhood friend Sudha Narasimhan. Since the one-year anniversary of our domestic partnership in the District of Columbia is coming up on Wednesday, we thought it appropriate to go to Vermont to make our commitment as legal as possible.

In the small town of Brattleboro, Vermont, only three hours from New York City, we pledged our lives to one another on a glorious day, with the words "till death do us part." The ceremony was small and was performed by Justice of the Peace CeCe Brozetarnik, in a quaint park just across the street from the town hall. CeCe commented that the steeple of the church where she was married many years ago could be seen just over her shoulder.

I am currently a student at American University, where my major is pre-law. Besides being a full-time student, I am also an active member of the Students for Dean Campaign and a manager at a local Cuban restaurant on the Hill. After I graduate from American, I hope to go on to law school in Boston, Massachusetts, where I will actively pursue my studies in constitu-

tional law and civil rights. Maybe someday I will sit on the Supreme Court. Keep your eyes open for me.



Dustin Piccolo, left, and David Kinsey, in Brattleboro, Vermont, on July 2, after their civil union.

accomplished artist. He has had work auctioned at Food & Friends and has won awards for his work in the New Jersey State Fair. He was the first student to have art displayed at Blair Academy, Dustin's alma mater. Dustin will be attending graduate school in Boston after the Corcoran and would love to teach others about art.

As you may know, marriage is a hotly contested issue now, since the Supreme Court has said gays and lesbians are worthy of equality under the law.

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## An Easy Way to Escape To the Mountains

BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH NE

So you live in the city, enjoying all the amenities and convenience this great city has to offer.

Great!

But were there times when you wanted to get away on the weekends, off to Shenandoah National Park, or Sugarloaf Mountain, yet didn't do it because you either didn't have a car or didn't want to drive all the way there? Or perhaps you couldn't find anyone to go with?

I bet there were. The good news is that you no longer have to wish you could escape to the mountains. With Metro running early on the weekend, starting July 1, now for the first time you can get your

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## Maps Reveal History

BY ERIC BERNARD, 1223 E ST. NE

The City Museum is now open. It is a great place to discover or rediscover our city. It is in the former Carnegie Library, at 801 K St. NW, near the new Convention Center. At the moment, there are three exhibits to enjoy: an overview of Washington called Washington Perspectives; Washington and Sports; and the one I was particularly interested in, an exhibit of old maps of Washington.

A few facts about our neighborhood and its outer limits...

- An old map from 1790 shows an important feature of the time: a "cool spring" and the resulting "cool spring run," flowing to the Anacostia River. This feature appears to have been located around the intersection of 15th and E Streets NE, although more research will

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## A Civil Union

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I'm sure it's not a surprise, but marriage between same-sex couples is not legal in the United States, which leaves many couples feeling like second-class citizens.

In a society where couples like us fulfill all of their obligations to the government, shouldn't we be able to have legal recognition of our partnership and reap the benefits of marriage? As of now, gay couples are not entitled to receive any of the more than 1,000 rights that come along with civil marriage.

Dustin and I have faced direct discrimination by our respective schools. Unfortunately, his school has been unwilling to recognize our domestic partnership, which would reduce his financial contribution to his education dramatically. This is one of the reasons we went to Vermont.

Some of the rights that come with legal marriage are the ability to file joint federal and state tax returns, adoption rights, hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights, survivorship benefits, housing rights, the ability to sue for your spouse, Family and Medical Leave Act rights (leave of absence to care for a sick partner), insurance benefits, social security benefits, pension benefits — and the list goes on.

These rights are just a few in a list of countless rights that the gay and lesbian community are currently being deprived of on a daily basis, and ironically many people who have access to these rights take them for granted.

With the recognition of same-sex partnerships will come an equal playing field, where the ideas our country was founded on will pertain to gay couples as well as straight ones.

Equality under the law is of supreme importance to both Dustin and me, and we hope each of you will exercise your right to fight this injustice towards gay and lesbian couples, because each of us only wants to be allowed the same rights as everyone else, but it's not possible without your help.

I encourage you to write your representative and express your viewpoints regarding this issue. Please encourage them to give more rights to gay and lesbian couples.

Also, if anyone is interested in going to Brattleboro Vermont to enter into a civil union, go to <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/otherprg/civilunions/civilunions.html>. You'll find some great information there. Or you can call Jane Fletcher, the assistant town clerk, at 802-254-4541, ext 126. §

## Updates

**EXCELLO:** Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Michael Musante (6A05) and Marc Borbely will be meeting with Excelllo Liquors (419 13th St. NE) owner Sung Bang and Mr. Bang's attorney next week to discuss possible negotiations for a new voluntary agreement prior to a formal Alcoholic Beverage Control Board protest hearing. The ABC Board's status hearing on the matter, when the Board will request an update from the parties, is scheduled for July 23 at 9:30 a.m. If you are a protestant, please contact Mr. Musante (548-2542) or Mr. Borbely (544-2447) to convey your thoughts on possible negotiations. At the ANC meeting, Mr. Musante said, "There will be no new voluntary agreement."

**1215 E ST. NE:** The ANC on Thursday unanimously voted to send a letter of support for the variances requested by Neavelle Coles, the owner of 1215 E St. NE, to the Board of Zoning Adjustment. One resident at the meeting questioned why the owner should be rewarded for building an addition to the house (which the city said could only be built if the carriage house in the rear was torn down) and then seeking to change the conditions. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Rice (6A03), the chairman of the committee, said at this stage the variances are the only way to keep the carriage house, which has a historic character, from being torn down. He said he had heard a request from a neighboring resident (Teresia Bush, of the 1200 block of E Street NE, according to his article in the June 28 Corner Forum) that the carriage house be protected. Mr. Coles was not present at the meeting Thursday.

**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 July 5 as follows: 540 13th St. NE (\$228,000) and 1242 Duncan Pl. NE (\$324,990) are newly listed. 1320 Emerald St. NE and 1239 Duncan Pl. NE are no longer listed. The listings for 1232 Duncan Pl. NE (\$349,000) and 408 13th St. NE (\$349,990) are unchanged.

**534 13TH ST. NE:** I called the city's Department of Consumer and Regulatory affairs to ask what was going on regarding my June 19 complaint about the neglected vacant property at 534 13th. St. NE. The woman who answered at 645-8285, the inspection unit, said the scheduled date of inspection is now July 16. She said she didn't know why I had been told that there would be a response in five to seven days. Following Sharon Cochran's (1300 block of Emerald Street NE) advice, I also reported that there are now open windows and that the gate on the back is open. Richard Sundberg (1200 block of Duncan Place NE) suggested calling Leo Pinson, the city's Ward 6 neighborhood service coordinator, at 698-7544, to ask for his involvement.

**CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The following people helped produce or distribute the July 6 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); 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).

— Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE §

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

## A Way to Go Hiking

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wish in quite a style, with amiable fellow hikers, and at a surprisingly affordable price.

You don't need a car for the trip. In fact, it is better if you leave your car at home.

Wanderbirds Hiking Club, one of the oldest clubs in Washington, can pick you up at the Farragut North Metro Station at 8 every Sunday morning, take you in an air-conditioned tour bus to a great hiking location, and back to D.C. —all for \$15.

Capital Hiking Club, another club, with a 66-year history, essentially does the same thing with slightly different hiking programs.

Last Sunday, I hooked up with the Wanderbirds Club, joining some 30 other area residents for a very pleasant hike in the Shenandoah National Park. The one-and-a-half-hour bus ride was so comfortable that many fellow hikers took the advantage of it by finishing their Sunday morning sleep on the way over.

Once there, hikers had the option of walking the longer and more strenuous 12-mile route or the shorter eight-mile hike I chose. Although the group was still relatively large after the split, as it usu-

ally is, I could still walk on my own pace. And with the red arrows placed by the leader at every turn-off and the sweep at the end of group, it would be impossible to get lost.

After five hours of walking through the woods, crossing the streams, and nibbling wild berries, we were greeted with the awaiting bus, ice-cold beer and soda.

As we munched on the free snacks provided by the trip leaders while riding back home, they walked up and down the bus and asked people to join the club. For a mere \$8 annual fee, one can become a new Wanderbird and enjoy extra benefits. But membership is not required for going on the hikes.

At around 6 o'clock in the evening, I was back home in D.C., feeling physically worked out, spiritually recharged and ready for a brand new week.

For more information about the Wanderbirds Hiking Club, call 301-460-3064 or go to <http://www.wanderbirds.org>.

For more information about the Capital Hiking Club, call 703-812-4855, or go to <http://www.capitalhikingclub.org>.

Both clubs are entirely run by volunteers, and you will reach private residences when calling the numbers listed above, so please exercise prudence accordingly. §

## Tidbits

**TAX SALE:** The city will hold its annual property tax sale every day, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., this coming week. Houses whose owners are delinquent on their property taxes will be auctioned, with bids starting at the amount of taxes owed. After the auction, the current owner of the house has six months to pay the taxes and keep the house. If they do so, the winning bidder gets a refund, plus 18 percent annual interest on the part of the bid that represents the taxes paid. A list of all the houses that will be auctioned, along with the starting bids, is available online at <http://cfo.washingtondc.gov/services/tax/property/sale.shtm>. (Please don't bid on the vacant house at 1388 E St. NE, as Tammi and I are hoping to purchase that one! We're looking for a bigger house and would like to stay in

the neighborhood but can't afford the area's housing prices.) For more information, call the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue, 727-4829.

**TREE-BOX FINES:** Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Michael Musante (6A05) said at Thursday's ANC meeting that he and his neighbors successfully fought \$35 fines they had received from the city for allegedly failing to maintain the tree boxes in front of their houses properly. Mr. Musante said the fines were dismissed because the city had never informed citizens what acceptable tree boxes should look like. He advised residents who receive tickets, "If you get them, fight them — but keep your tree boxes clean."

— Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE

## Maps Show Cemetery

(continued from page 1)

be needed to pinpoint its exact location.

- The "cool spring" is named Gibson Spring on maps from 1857 and 1862. Starting in 1887, the spring itself is difficult to locate on maps.

- In 1918, there used to be a Cool Spring Road near Benning Road.

- 15th Streets and C Streets (Constitution) NE were for a long time a boundary for the City of Washington. The neighborhood east of 15th Street was known as Isherwood and Rosedale. It was quite separate from Washington proper. By the way, Florida Avenue used to be named Boundary Street for a long time.

- Hechinger Mall and the CVS sit nowadays on the site of a large former cemetery, Graceland Cemetery. I wonder what ever happened to the dead buried there. Are they still under all that asphalt?

- The Mount Zion Colored Baptist Church used to be where the Lovejoy School's playground is (from a 1887 map). §

## 49 Subscriptions Expire Next Week

If yours is one of the 49 households that paid for a six-month subscription (\$10.22, with tax) that started Jan. 4, you will need to renew your subscription after next weekend. A renewal slip will be attached to your last paid issue.

The price remains 37¢ plus tax per issue. You can pay for as many issues ahead of time as you like, up to 26 issues (\$10.17 total). All subscribers are welcome to access the Corner Forum online, too, at <http://www.thecornerforum.org>. If you *just* want Internet access and no paper copy delivered to you, the cost is 22¢ per issue, plus tax.

You can submit payment early, if you like, by mailing or dropping off cash or a check to The Corner Forum, 536 13th St. NE, Washington, DC 20002. §

# 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 14**

6:30 p.m. Public Roundtable on Fiscal Year 2004 Operating Budget for Public Schools. By the D.C. Board of Education Committee on Finance and Facilities. “The Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia approved a local funds operating budget of \$738 million for the D.C. Public Schools — \$110 million less than the \$848 million requested by the D.C. Board of Education and Superintendent Paul Vance, and \$2 million less than the FY 2003 budget of \$740 million. ... The Committee is soliciting public comment to discuss the impact of the FY 2004 Budget ... and how it should be reallocated.” For information or to sign up to testify, call Elena Temple at 442-5190 or [Elena.Temple@k12.dc.us](mailto:Elena.Temple@k12.dc.us). At 825 North Capitol St. NE, 5th floor. <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/boe/boeannounce.html>.

7 p.m. Town Hall on Arson. “D.C. Fire & EMS and other city officials will discuss issues pertaining to arson and fire safety.” At Greater Mt. Calvary Family Life Center, 610 Rhode Island Ave. NE.

Sunset. Screen on the Green. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. By HBO and America Online. To be kicked off by Mayor Anthony Williams. “This five-week series is celebrating its fifth year and it has fast become a favorite summertime tradition in D.C., attracting thousands of movie fans each Monday night at sunset to watch their favorite ‘stars under the stars’ on a giant 20 X 40 screen.” Between 4th and 7th Streets, at Constitution Avenue NW, on the National Mall. <http://www.digitalcity.com/washington/screenonthegreen>.

## **Tuesday, July 15**

6-9 p.m. Charter Schools Public Hearing on 11 Proposed Charter Schools. Today and tomorrow. By the D.C. Public Charter School Board. Info, 328-2660. At the Friendship Public Charter School - Chamberlain Campus, 1345 Potomac Ave. SE (Metro: Potomac Avenue). <http://www.dcpubliccharter.com/topstories/publichearing.htm>.

6:30-8 p.m. Neighborhood History in D.C. 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](mailto:dc-edit@mail.h-net.msu.edu) or 352-4378.

7 p.m. Town Hall on Arson. “D.C. Fire & EMS and other city officials will discuss ... arson and fire safety.” At Marshall Heights Community Center, 3939 Benning Rd. NE.

7 p.m. In Washington’s Backyard: Roots of a Rebellion. (34 minutes.) “From the vantage point of an urban uprising in Washington, D.C.’s most integrated neighborhood (aka the Mount Pleasant Rebellion), the film explores how a decade of U.S. foreign intervention, economic mismanagement, and domestic neglect culminated in crisis.” Snacks and refreshments provided. \$3 donation requested. At La Casa, 3166 Mount Pleasant St. NW.

7:30 p.m. Dorothy Height. Interviewed by news anchor Maureen Bunyan. “Dorothy Height, now ninety-one, reflects on her life in the civil rights movement. Dr. Height was a New York college student during the Harlem Renaissance, and went on to lead the National Council of Negro Women for forty-one years. She writes of her friendships with Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, and of her work on issues such as rural poverty and teen pregnancy.” At Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, 364-1919. <http://www.politics-prose.com/calendar.htm>

## **Wednesday, July 16**

6-9 p.m. Charter Schools Public Hearing. See listing for Tuesday.

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

## **Thursday, July 17**

5:30-7 p.m. Jazz-o-scope: Keter Betts’s All Stars and Birthday Bash. “Five of the area’s preeminent performers — Nasar Abadey, Tim Eyerman, Dick Morgan, Chuck Redd, and Paul Wingo — combine talents for their second command Art Night performance (cake for Keter Betts’s 75th birthday included!).” At Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Plaza, 7th Street and Independence Avenue SW. 633-4674. <http://hirshhorn.si.edu/programs/events.asp>.

## **Saturday, July 19**

All Day. SUV Code Red Campaign. “Educate SUV drivers by placing over 10,000 educational tickets on SUVs throughout the Maryland and greater D.C. region. ... ‘Tickets’ will contain information about how SUV drivers can mitigate the harmful effects of their SUVs and make more environmentally friendly choices in the future. ... Volunteers who wish to ticket SUVs in their

communities should call Dawn Ratcliffe ASAP.” By Chesapeake Climate Action Network. Info, Dawn Ratcliffe, 301-920-1644 or [CCAN@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:CCAN@chesapeakeclimate.org). <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org>. §

## Goods and Services

Free...

- A Smith & Corona electric typewriter
- A wrought-iron wine rack, for 12 bottles.

Call Brenda Nixon, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE, at 396-0395. §