

# 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 #42  
Sunday, Aug. 10, 2003  
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax  
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

## Newcomers: Don't Force Your Lifestyle on Us

*Leo Gordon, 53, spoke to Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE, yesterday, next to Excello Liquors, 419 13th St. NE, where he had been reading a pamphlet. Mr. Gordon, who grew up on Constitution Avenue NE near 12th Street and now living on Tennessee Avenue NE, greeted by name many of the people entering the store. He attended Maury Elementary School and has been in the neighborhood since he was 3.*



**You were telling me how the neighborhood has changed.**

It's always been close — a real close neighborhood. Everybody knows each other around here. And when the years go past, and people start moving out — it's not like it used to be. I guess you can expect that to happen — people be dying. Not dying from people getting harmed — just people getting older. So that's how the neighborhood be changing. People be moving away. You can't afford the housing any more, so you can't live here like you used to.

It's always been nice around here. I remember the time when Lincoln Park had nothing but bushes, and kids used to go in there and play all day. There's never been too much violence around here. Like this liquor store — everybody always comes around here, and there's never no harm done around here.

Most of the people around here is good people. They've been in these homes for years — at least 30, 40, 50

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## I Used to Haul Stuff All Over the South

*George Cromartie Sr., 532 13th St. NE, spoke with Marc Borbely on Friday. Mr. Cromartie was leaning against the wall of his garden while he spoke. Four of his young grandchildren — three of whom are from Florida, visiting their grandparents for the summer — were playing on the sidewalk in front of the house. One of his daughters was sitting on the steps with a friend, watching and once in a while playing with the children (Simon Says, for example). The kids were a bunch of giggles. Periodically Mr. Cromartie would speak sternly to one of the children ("Dre! Don't you jump off that no more!"). Mr. Cromartie, 81, grew up in Kelly, North Carolina. We last heard from him when he spoke about his experiences in World War II, in the Nov. 11 issue of the Corner Forum.*

**You were just telling me about how you used to drive a truck.**

I started when I was 13. And I drove up until I was 20, 'cause I went in the service. Then I drove a truck when I first went in the service. That was back in '42. [They were called truck-and-trailers then.] And now, they'd be tractor-trailers. I used to take them to Atlanta, Georgia, Winston-Salem — all over the place down there.

**What would you be taking?**

Well, when I went to Atlanta, Georgia, I was taking a load of tents. In fact, we'd be hauling all kinds



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## With Court Resurfaced, Prayers Are Answered

*On Monday, the Charter Schools Development Corporation, which is renovating Kingsman School for two charter schools, had the basketball court by Kingsman School resurfaced.*

*In the Oct. 19 issue of the Corner Forum, Samuel Ronald "Pete" Tilley Jr. (518 14th St. NE) described the poor condition of the court and made a plea for help with the resurfacing. Marc Borbely asked Mr. Tilley and Andre Sullivan (who grew up on Tennessee Avenue NE) yesterday about their reactions to the resurfacing and about their plans to organize a second annual basketball tournament — one for children and one for adults — within the next few weeks.*

Mr. Tilley: Oh man, my prayer has been answered. They resurfaced the courts, and right now, everything is working out for the best. They're getting ready

*Continued on page 5, column 1*

## Inspection Scheduled For "Lake Fort Fisher"

BY MARC BORBELEY, 536 13TH ST. NE

The Department of Transportation will conduct an inspection of the alley between Kingsman Field and 13th Street by Aug. 19, Tawanna Shuford, director of constituent services for City Council Member Sharon Ambrose (D-Ward 6), reported in an e-mail to the Corner Forum on Wednesday.

The inspection is the city's first step before conducting a repair that, hopefully, will eliminate the large body of standing water in the alley.

"If there is no drainage, DDOT will place a temporary repair (asphalt covering)," Ms. Shuford wrote. "Whenever

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years. But now they're moving out — it's changing. A lot of old people don't like to see the changes made, but I guess you have to go along with the changes.

**What are some of the things that have changed?**

Like the homes — they were \$20,000. Now, they're going for like \$400,000. It's a very convenient city to live in now. It's so convenient here, you can't get stuck nowhere — you always got mass transportation here. That's why it's drawing a lot of people to the city.

Pretty soon Washington, D.C., is gonna be a city of the rich. Pretty soon, if you don't have the money to live here, you're not gonna live here. Especially a black person. And most of these homes are owned by black people. Once they sell out, they're not gonna be able to move back in. Because if you don't have \$400,000, you're not gonna move here. You're not gonna be able to rent a home. You're not gonna be able to buy a home in Washington, D.C. I think it's already like that right now. Everything went up so fast. If I had the money to buy a home, it would be good to buy some homes right now and sell them. Because you can sell them with no problem, and definitely make a profit.

**So are you thinking about selling your place?**

Well, I don't have a home. I used to, but before I had any kind of knowledge of having a home and trying to sell it, or anything like that, it was too late. I wish I had the knowledge that I have now. You can basically take a basement and renovate the basement, and you can almost rent the basement out for \$1,000 a month, with no problem. Because you've got your college students — you've got Catholic University, Gallaudet, GW, Georgetown. There's a lot of college students who live in this area.

At one time, Capitol Hill started locating down about 8th and C, somewhere around there, but it seems like Capitol Hill's coming all the way down to the Stadium. That means Capitol Hill now's gonna end up being anything that's around this Northeast area. Everything seems like it's Capitol Hill, pretty much, in Washington, unless you go across the bridge.

**What are your thoughts about the liquor store — that's one of the issues in the neighborhood that people are thinking about.**

Well, this liquor store's been here so long. I remember back when the liquor store used to have bicycles — they used to deliver liquor on bicycles. It was called Mars Liquor Store.

This liquor store's never been a problem. It still, really, is not a problem in this area. A lot of times, they think about kicking the liquor store out of here, but I don't see why they should. I mean, there are gonna be liquor stores anyway. They're gonna be all around the neighborhood. What's happening — there's a lot of white people moving in — and they're trying to move everybody out. And they figure they'll start with the liquor store, move everybody out. But I don't think that's right. Because the liquor store's gonna go someplace else

anyway. Let it stay here just like it's always been.

Let the grocery store stay here. That's the only store around here now. They used to have stores all around here. That's about the only store left around here, where people can really go and get something from the store right away. Everybody don't have a car. I don't think that people that's doing better than someone else should have things better laid out their way. That's the way it's gonna end up, though. That's why when things happen — when riots get started — that's when things be backed up in people's heads. Why are they doing this? Why are they doing that? Why are they taking away this? People around here are not doing no harm to nobody.

**One thing that some of the people say about having a liquor store is that they don't like people who are drinking or selling drugs or whatever.**

Well, I'm not crazy. I understand that, too. But still, these things have been here. You're dealing with people that's been around here for a long time. Don't try to change things overnight. That's what causes the hostility with people — when you try to change things overnight. You know it's gonna change. But don't just try to jump in and change everything, just like that. That's not the right way to do things.

You wouldn't want it done in your neighborhood, where all your people are living a good life, and then you try to come to a neighborhood where people are not doing as well, and you'll try to change up them, because they're not doing that well, so you don't really care about them. But the people that's doing well — you're gonna have consideration for them. Why not have consideration for the people not doing as well as the people that's doing well? It's not right.

Say, for instance, D.C. General Hospital. Why would you take away D.C. General Hospital and have somebody travel all the way over to Southeast to the hospital? Why would you do that? That's the worst thing in the world could happen around here. That still doesn't even make any sense.

Not taking anything from Iraq, or nothing like that, but you go over to Iraq and build a whole city, whole new hospitals and everything. Here we have a hospital right down the street that's open — all you got to do is put in the supplies, or whatever you got to put in it to have it running again, and have a hospital here. 'Cause I had a guy, I talked to him about two weeks ago. He's on 57th Street. And he had to go to the hospital. They had to bring him all the way from 57th Street all the way up to Howard University. There's no way in the world should anybody have to travel that far to go to a hospital. And without D.C. General Hospital being open, there's no hospital around here where a person can go to right away.

And the hospitals are so bad now, since they closed D.C. General. It got even worse. They don't treat you well. They don't want you there. If you don't have Blue Cross Blue Shield, or one of them other insurance companies, the hospital actually don't want you. They don't treat you right. And why would you cut off a hospital right here, in the midst of everything, and then you have to go in an emergency, and travel way up-

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town, or way over southeast, to a hospital. Maybe the reason why is 'cause most people here are black, and they're trying to move everybody out of here.

Eventually, they want all the blacks to move out of this city. You can't say nothing different about it. They don't want you here if you ain't got no money. This is gonna be a totally political city. They've been trying to get this to be statehood, but it's not gonna be statehood until most of the black people move out, and most of the white people move in. Then they'll make it statehood. But right now, they're not gonna do it. They're not gonna give us what we want. They never have; they never will.

This community is a very developing-type community. It's developing so much that everybody wants to live here now, and that's not a hard thing to see. You got political people — they can walk to work down to Capitol Hill, now. They can just get up and walk down the street. A lot times, they be so busy harassing people that's on corners and stuff like liquor stores or whatever — this ain't the only liquor store, and there's no harm around here with this liquor store. Don't harass people because they stand on the corner.

A lot times when you see black guys standing on the corner, talking, they're not doing any harm. That's just their way of being brought up. It's something that's always been done — stand on the corner and talk, have fun, talk about football and boxing and all that. They're not into no cahoots about trying to do anything. That's just the way they was brought up. That's just the way it was.

At one time, it used to be a lot of playgrounds around here, where you could play ball. You'd leave out the house in the morning, and you go down to the basketball court — you'd stay on the basketball court all day. But they don't have a lot of that recreation around here no more. So when you start telling people about what black guys are doing and anything else, you got to always back up and say, Well why *are* they doing it? What can you do for them that they don't *have* to do it? They done took away all the recreation centers. There's no more recreation centers like it used to be, where guys could go to recreation centers and play ball.

#### **Where did they used to have them?**

They used have them all around, all around — playgrounds and everything. They tore a lot of schools down — you can't go and play ball no more. Like they're tearing this school [Kingsman] down right here. Before you can say, they're doing this or they're doing that, you've got to think about what are you doing to keep them from doing this or that. They're tearing everything down! They're disregarding everything!

Most black people — they love to play ball, and just talk — that's all. Excuse the language, but they love to play ball and just talk \*\*\*. When they stand on the corners, and things

like that, it's just something that's always been done. Half the time, they stand on the corners singing, or rapping. That's all it is. And up comes the police. Instead of him standing on the corner talking to them, first thing comes to his mind is push 'em off.

I remember a long time ago, when they used to have Number 9 precinct — it used to be right down the street — where a police used to walk up, and they'd get in the midst of everything, instead of running them away. They used to know all the people, but they don't do that anymore. Their first thought is chase 'em off, run 'em off, harass 'em — whatever. The attitude is already bad from the beginning. Even if you're a police, you can say hi to somebody. But police don't say hi no more to nobody, especially young black kids. Their first thought is just chase 'em off, and just to push 'em, just harass 'em. They don't even say nothing about nothing. They don't try to be the type of person that's gonna talk to them — they don't care.

**Let me ask you something. Sometimes, some of the new people — let's say white people, moving in, they feel intimidated when they see kids — sometimes you can see 'em selling stuff.**

Well, you've got a lot of white people now — they don't even speak to you. They just move into the neighborhood. They won't even say hi. They won't say nothing. They move in the neighborhood, and now they're mad at the neighborhood that they're moving into. Why move here and

feel bad about something, and you just moving in? Why should you move here? This is where people have been all their life. But as soon as you come in, you're mad at them. Why should you be mad at them? They didn't bother you. Most white people who move in this neighborhood are actually mad at you — they want everything to change right away.

They get these papers and stuff, and run people out of here — these people saying all this — you've got generations and generations of people living here, but when they come here, they want everything changed. They want everything to be right for them. A lot of people don't want to think of it like that, but it's the truth. You move in, you don't like the way we're living here, and all of a sudden, you want everything to change. That's wrong.

#### **What would your advice be for the neighborhood? What could people do to help things come together a little more?**

Well, first off, they've got to understand how black people been brought up. Most black people are brought up in their own culture. The average person you see around here is 50 years old or so — they've been in the same neighborhood all their life. They know everybody. They know every thing that happens. But you're not gonna change people overnight.

Because of the economy, you want to move somewhere, because you know things are gonna get better in that area. Then, all of a sudden, you want to change everything that's going

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around.

Black people don't go out of their community and try to change things. They don't do that. They've got to stay wherever they're at [and police their own communities]. Because you're not gonna have police patrolling anything in the neighborhood — they don't care. The only time a police come in the neighborhood is when the culture starts changing — you start getting white people in the neighborhood. That's when the police gonna come in. Other than that, the police ain't gonna come nowhere near a black neighborhood, because they don't give a damn.

You think things are getting better — they've really only gotten worse. In these neighborhoods, you used to leave your doors open all night. All night. No problem. You can't do things like that anymore.

#### **Do you have any last things you want to say?**

Yes. This city of Washington, D.C. — the only thing they do is treat people bad, especially black people. And I'm not prejudiced — a long ways from being prejudiced. But black people are treated bad, here. They do it in a different way than they used to do it, but black people are being double-crossed over and over again. I mean, just think about taking a hospital away from the neighborhood. Most people are just making money — city councilmen and all. They don't really care about a human being.

So use a little common sense, and treat people the way that you want to be treated.

**Well, Mr. Gordon, I thank you very much for your time.**

Okay. §

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## Neighbor News



Chester W. Hunter, 1310 Emerald St. NE, was sweeping the alley between Emerald Street and F Street yesterday. He is back home after a stay at the hospital (after suffering from a stroke) and feeling a bit weak but otherwise fine. We are very, very glad he is okay.

## Updates

**TRASH BIN ON 1200 BLOCK OF E STREET:** On Monday, I took photos and reported the overflowing dumpster and at 501 12th St. NE to the mayor's call center (727-1000) again. The trash was not picked up the previous Friday, as it was supposed to have been. I was given confirmation number 527717. I was also told that as a result of my call of July 29 (confirmation number 524442, not 519052 as stated in last week's issue), Inspector Johnson of the Department of Public Works visited the site and gave the property owners a notice of violation for improper storage of trash. (—Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE)

**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 Aug. 1 as follows: 1217 Duncan Pl. NE is newly listed (\$339,900). The listing for 408 13th St. NE (\$349,990) is unchanged.

**CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The following people helped produce or distribute the Aug. 2 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE (proof-reading). §

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## Tidbits

### No New Transfers From Area Schools

BY MARC BORBELE, 536 13TH ST. NE

None of our neighborhood schools were identified by the city as being in need of improvement for purposes of the Leave No Child Behind Act of 2001, but children who attends any of 15 other schools that were identified have the option of transferring out.

Parents must apply for the option by Friday. Students who are low performing and low-income will have first priority in changing schools.

The schools identified for the coming school year as being in need of improvement, based on Stanford-9 Achievement Test scores, are Bruce-Monroe, Stanton and Wilkinson Elementary Schools; Fletcher-Johnson Educational Center; Sousa and Evans Middle Schools; R. H. Terrell and Johnson Junior High Schools; and Anacostia, M.M. Washington, Ballou, Woodson, Eastern, Roosevelt and Coolidge High Schools.

Forms must be completed and returned in person to the Thomson-Logan Building, Room 107, at 215 G St. NE. More information is available online, at <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/home.html> or call the DCPS Office of Student and School Support Services, at 442-5200. §

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to start a little charter school up there, and at the same time they're doing that, they're fixing up the basketball courts, too. So it's just like everybody's working together.

Mr. Tilley: The surface is wonderful. It's nothing like it was at first. If you go up there, like I showed you the first time, you'll even think so yourself. So it turned out real, real good.

Mr. Sullivan: I was up there at 7 o'clock Monday, when they put it down. It's nice. I think they've done a good job up there. I think they should be doing the lines today. [The Charter Schools Development Corporation] volunteered to do the courts, because actually, it wasn't gonna get done. That was a big help. In the next two weeks, we're gonna get the tournament started. I talked to the lady [Elizabeth Nelson] last night. She said they're gonna remove the fence today or Monday. The only thing I was concerned about was if we had more rims. Because we had those rims since, what, '79?

Mr. Tilley: '79, yeah. And if this is not asking too much, if they could help us out with the rims. Breakaway rims would be just as good, because you're gonna have a lot of guys — when we have the adult tournament — they're gonna want to dunk the courts. Why just start with something small? Why not just go with the whole thing?

**But if that doesn't happen, will you still have the tournament?**

Mr. Sullivan: Yeah! The same way we put a little money into trying to get everything done, it won't be a problem. If they don't want to give us the help, we're still gonna continue. The only thing we're trying to do is to bring something back into this community. You can see the kids, some days, just breaking bottles, glasses.

Mr. Tilley: You hear all the violence that's going on here now, you hear on the news everyday, that's all because they don't have nowhere to do, they don't have nothing to do. That's a prime example right there: give them something to do.

**You're still looking to get money for the rims and stuff.**

Mr. Sullivan: The only thing that can really boost this thing up, is if we can get baskets. Because them things have been up for years. If you can get baskets, I think you can bring a lot of competition to this area, and I'm sure that will cut out a lot of what's going on. Because I think we've done a good job last year. We kept everything down up there, wasn't no fighting. Pete was always in control, and every time I seen something go, I said, look, Pete, go and check that out. And that was it. I think we've done a good job up there. And even if we have to go in our pockets just to win a popcorn machine — that's for the kids.

**How much does that cost — rims and baskets?**

Mr. Sullivan: Might be like \$70 a piece. And even if they don't [donate them] we're still gonna do something. This guy that we know, named Tyce, who grew up in the area and went to Kingsman — he's the one who welded the courts up — I give him a lot of credit for welding the courts up (they was coming down). That way they wouldn't break. Didn't charge us anything.

**And then if there are adults or children in the neighborhood who want to be part of the tournament —**

Mr. Tilley: Definitely! That's what we're there for!

Mr. Sullivan: Because when I see the soccer tournament, I just think that by we having the kids tournament, people from the soccer probably can participate, so you can help each other.

Mr. Tilley: It's just like when they want to cut the grass for the soccer thing, we can pitch in and cut the grass for them, just like when it's needed for the basketball tournament, they can help us. It's a good thing. It's all together now. And it makes a lot of sense.

**Thank you very much!**

Mr. Tilley: All right.

Mr. Sullivan: Thank you. §

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they get a contract, permanent repairs will be applied. Unfortunately I have been hearing the same song for years about DDOT not having a contract for permanent repairs.”

Amy Fisher, 427 13th St. NE, sent a letter about the site, which she calls Lake Fort Fisher, to Ms. Ambrose in June. Her letter, along with a photograph, appeared in the June 21 issue of the Corner Forum.

After being asked by a D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) representative on Monday whether there is a drain at the site, I checked. I couldn't tell, though, because the water was too murky and deep, and I don't have boots to wade in. Ms. Fisher was able to report, however, that there has never been a drain there. The WASA representative said this means WASA cannot do anything to help, and she told me to request an alley repair with the mayor's call center (727-1000). I placed the service request on Tuesday and was given confirmation number 528885.

This is not a good time for our neighborhood to have any unnecessary mosquito breeding sites.

The D.C. Department of Health reported Wednesday that two mosquito pools in the District — one in Georgetown and the other on the 3000 block of North Capital Street NW, have tested positive for the West Nile Virus.

“We are asking residents and businesses to help reduce the risk of the West Nile Virus by eliminating mosquito breeding sites around their homes and businesses,” Health Department Director James A. Buford said in a press release.

The city encourages senior citizens and those with suppressed immune symptoms to stay indoors when mosquitoes are active. It has set up a West Nile Virus Call Center, at 535-2323. ([http://dchealth.dc.gov/news\\_room/release.asp?id=162&mon=200308](http://dchealth.dc.gov/news_room/release.asp?id=162&mon=200308)). §

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of products: oil, transmission fluid, you know, all kinds of stuff like that to drop off. I had a gas station on North Capitol Street, and I left there on a Friday, and I got back Tuesday morning. I left Atlanta, Georgia, about 6 o'clock, and 7 o'clock the next morning, I was parked at 205 20th Street. I had a cousin, he told me, "Man! You run the wheels off or something!" I used to roll them things.

#### **What's it like driving?**

It's not bad. You just got to pay attention to what you're doing, and you got to know how to drive. You could mess up with one of those things. You've got to be on your p's and q's at all times.

#### **How do you keep from falling asleep?**

Oh, I don't know. I never get sleepy. When my daddy died, I used to leave here Friday evening, and I'd go home and see my mother every other week. And it's about 390 miles from here. I'd go down by myself. I'd get back Monday morning, wouldn't have time to go home, I'd just get back in time to go straight to work. Drive all night. My cousin, he used to drive out in Utah — I went out there with him. But he used to have to take some kind of pills to stay awake. I ain't never take nothing to stay awake. Just like from here to my home, now — near Wilmington. It's about 390 miles. I can take that van right there and run it in about five hours. When I take off from here, I get out there and go — I don't stop. And when the speed limit in Virginia is 65, I run about 75. And when it was 70, in North Carolina, I'd run about 80.

#### **They don't stop you — the police?**

No, they never stop me — as long as you're driving all right.

#### **When was the last trip you took?**

In April. Went to North Carolina when my sister passed. I went down there and came back, and she passed the next day. Then I had to go straight back. I had to go back and take care of the arrangements.

#### **You went by yourself?**

No, me and my niece went down. She drove most of the time going down there, but I drove most of the time coming up. She had a 2000 Subaru Chevy Tahoe — one of those trucks. Nice.

#### **And then you've got a whole bunch of kids. I guess you've always had a lot of kids.**

Yeah, yeah. My grandkids. [*Mr. Cromartie nods at the children playing.*] Three of them are gonna be ready to go back to Miami next week. [*Mr. Cromartie's daughter Barbara, the mother of the three children, is cleaning and painting the outside of the house.*] I told her to stop, but she said she had to finish.

#### **It's beautiful! She does a good job. Is she your oldest daughter?**

No, I got three older ones, but by my wife, she's the oldest. I got a set of twins. They're about 54 years old. And I got

## Goods and Services

### Services Offered

If you need your grass cut or yard cleaned, or anything else, just stop by or give me a call. I'm available Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, and my rates are reasonable! (In the photo at right, Mr. Jackson is shown cleaning his neighbor's lawn and cleaning up the tree boxes on Emerald on Friday. He did this as a community service.)



— Theiel Jackson,  
1309 Emerald St. NE,  
412-4489 (cell)

### In Need of Good Contractors

I'm looking for someone who can construct a walk-out/English basement out of my current regular basement, for someone who knows how to install a wood floor, and for an electrician. Does anyone have any recommendations?

— Betty Taylor, 1303 E St. NE  
547-2655 or bettytaylor@hotmail.com

### Washer, Sign for Sale

A portable washer, good for a small apartment or a dorm, for \$20.

A wooden plywood sign with frame, to be hung, 8 feet wide, 4 feet tall, for \$60.

— Annette Jackson, 1239 E St. NE, 547-6571

*Editor's Note: Please share your recommendations with Corner Forum readers, too! §*

another — she's about 55. The twins was born in '47, and the other was born in '48. The two twins — they in South Carolina. But my other one, she's on Bladensburg Road. She's got a house.

#### **So you have four daughters?**

Six daughters and two boys.

#### **And lots of grandkids.**

Yeah, yeah. A lot of grandchildren. [*He tells the kids to calm down: "All right!"*] That one there, and that little one up

# 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, August 11

Sunset. “2001: A Space Odyssey.” (1968) Film: 139 minutes. “Prehistoric monkeys, giant monoliths, journeys to Jupiter and meddling machinery figure prominently, if mysteriously, in Arthur C. Clarke’s metaphysical maze.” Screen on the Green. By HBO and America Online. Between 4th and 7th Streets, at Constitution Avenue NW, on the National Mall. <http://www.digitalcity.com/washington/entertainment/event.adp?eid=1018439>

## Tuesday, August 12

6-9 p.m. Job Opportunity Workshop. “The purpose of the workshops is to acquaint job seekers with the employers and job openings to be displayed at the first Job Opportunity Fair, scheduled for Wednesday, August 20. ... [and] to help jobseekers prepare resumes and employment applications, learn “dress for success” tips for job interviews and on-the-job use, and gain skills and confidence in making presentations.” At H

Street Community Development Corporation headquarters, 501 H St. NE. For 25 people only, first-come first-served. To register, call HSCDC, 544-9875.

## Wednesday, August 13

7:30 p.m. Men’s Soccer. D.C. United vs. Colorado Rapids. At RFK Stadium, 22nd & East Capitol Streets NE. Tickets, \$16-\$36, Ticketmaster, 432-7328. <http://www.dcunited.com>.

## Thursday, August 14

(no ANC 6A meeting this month).

6-8 p.m. Investigating Where We Live. “Join District of Columbia metro-area middle and high school students at a reception celebrating the opening of Investigating Where We Live, an exhibition that examines the city’s architectural, ethnic, and cultural diversity. Through photographs, drawings, and captions, students express their ideas and attitudes about the District’s neighborhoods.” At National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW. Refreshments provided. Registration required, 272-2448, ext. 3556 or [slemmon@nbm.org](mailto:slemmon@nbm.org). [http://www.nbm.org/Events/Calendar/Special\\_Programs.html](http://www.nbm.org/Events/Calendar/Special_Programs.html).

## Saturday, August 16

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. §

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there and the baby, they’ll be going back to Florida next week. Miami.

**After you served in the Army, that’s when you became a mechanic.**

No, I started when I was 8 years old. I was working with my daddy, doing some mechanic work. And I’d come up as a boy doing mechanic work. Then I went in the service — I was in the motor pool. When I came back, I came to Washington. I came out of the service November the 29th, ’45, and I came to Washington January the 5th, ’46. Then I went to school at Phelps Vocational — mechanics school. And they told me I was too far advanced to go to the school. And I wasn’t actually going to school — I was teaching how to work on cars, motors. But they got me this job at the Chrysler Place, June the 1st, 1946, and I’ve been doing it ever since. I left the Chrysler people in ’61, and went in business for myself. I stayed in business for myself until about two years ago. I still do a little something, but not too much.

**Did you enjoy running your own business?**

Oh yes. Well, you work hard! Yes, lord, you work hard. And then it’s still harder to get help. And see, you’d take in the work, and didn’t have the help, then that made you work harder.

**Your son George, he also knows about cars.**

Oh yeah, he’s real good. I had him working on that car — that little blue one — the other day. Yeah, he’s real good on

that and that motorcycle.

**And you’ve been in this house since ‘70-something?**

’79.

**That’s 24 years. How have things changed, in those 24 years?**

Oh, it’s changed a whole lot. It used to be a whole lot of more gangs around here, selling that dope, all down on Emerald Street, and all up on that corner [13th and E]. But they got rid of most of it. Some ‘em still do it up there [on the 400 block of 13th], you know. It used to be all over the place.

**Did it use to be so that you didn’t feel comfortable coming out?**

Oh no, it never bothered me. Because I worked all the time. I’d be at work at 7 o’clock, and I’d probably get home around about 2. Be back to work at 7 o’clock.

**What’s it like getting older?**

I dunno. [chuckles.] Everything stays the same. Now I do a lot of sitting down, watching the TV.

**What do you watch on TV?**

Anything! I like to look at movies, too. I look at Judge Judy, Joe Brown and People’s Court.

**Well, thank you for talking to me.**

Mmm hmm. §