

# 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 #46  
Sunday, Sept. 7, 2003  
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax  
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

## Lawrence Smith's Family Members Thank Their Neighbors for Kindness

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The family members of Lawrence Smith wish to express their thanks and heart-felt appreciation for all kindness — in the way of visits, calls, flowers, donations, food and prayers, and for all the words of love and encouragement we have received.

We have sustained a great loss, and your kindness is very comforting to us.

May the Lord bless you and be forever with you.

— Mother Florence Smith  
Grandmother Henrietta Slade  
Fiancée Stacy Wilkins and Children §

## Playground Construction to Begin At 11th & Maryland on Monday

*The following update was provided by e-mail by Frank Young (690-5183 or [Frank\\_Young@nps.gov](mailto:Frank_Young@nps.gov)), of the National Parks Service, via Shannon Micah Salb, 1300 block of G Street NE, regarding the small park at 11th Street and Maryland Avenue. Mr. Salb first reported about the playground in the May 4 issue of the Corner Forum.*

I'm sure you have noticed some recent activity at 11th & MD Avenue. The playground equipment is in with the contractor, scheduled to begin installation this coming Monday, the 8th. However, because of the wet weather, our crews have not been able to finish the grading necessary for them to begin. We expect to be finished [with] the grading next week, weather permitting of course, with the contractor coming in immediately afterwards. §

## Sherwood Recreation Center, at 9th & G, to Open on October 8

*The following update about Sherwood Recreation Center, at 9th and G Streets NE, was submitted on Wednesday by Joseph Fengler, chairman of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A (the ANC for the Corner Forum area). Mr. Fengler is the commissioner for 6A02. He can be reached at 423-8868 or [fengler6a02@yahoo.com](mailto:fengler6a02@yahoo.com).*

This morning I had the opportunity to meet with D.C. Parks and Recreation officials (Saundra Ratliff and Lou Hall) as well as the contractor completing Sherwood Recreation Center.

1. Opening date for the public is scheduled for Oct. 8.
2. The contractor has nearly completed the facility. As of today, the contractor, not Parks and Recreation, has oversight of the facility. Once the facility is turned over to Parks and Recreation, they will start installing the recreation equipment and office furniture.
3. The facility will have a weight room with adjoining showers and locker rooms, a computer room, a library / reading room, a senior's room, a game room with pool and Ping-Pong tables, as well as an indoor basketball court (with a great looking wood floor!).
4. Once open, the facility will be staffed by five employees.
5. The tentative hours will be Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Currently the facility is not scheduled to be open on Sundays.
6. The outdoor basketball courts have removable rims / hoops. I discussed the current concerns that these outdoor courts

are being used. The contractor has reset the lights so they are not on in the evening and has locked the gate. Nevertheless, the locked gate has already been vandalized, so basketball continues to be played. I recommended that they remove the hoop rims until Parks and Recreation opens the building.

7. Several folks have mentioned that illegal activity is taking place on the grounds in the evenings. I brought that to the attention of the contractor. In reality, I do not know if anything will be done about it. As the center is not open to the public, anyone on the grounds after hours is trespassing. We need to start calling the police if we see anyone on the grounds after hours.

Ms. Ratliff and Mr. Hall want to work with community to address all of our concerns. We are very fortunate to have such a great facility and professional staff in our community. While I cannot speak for everyone, I think a major concern for us is the programming and activities planned for the building.

To that end, both Ms. Ratliff and Mr. Hall have agreed to meet again this coming Monday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 a.m. to discuss specific programming recommendations. I encourage any who are interested to attend. I would also suggest that you e-mail your ideas directly to Mr. Hall ([lou.hall@dc.gov](mailto:lou.hall@dc.gov)) prior to our meeting so that we can immediately start taking about implementation and specifics.

Finally, Parks and Recreation will be sending representatives to our next ANC meeting, which will be held on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Miner Elementary School, to provide a brief update and answer questions from the community. §

# Goods and Services

We have a set of four congas for sale for \$500.

— FLORENCE SMITH, 406 13TH ST. NE, 546-6885.

Would anyone like a free pet/baby gate? It's a white gate and fits most doorways. (It's adjustable.) Call me at 544-2806.

— TAMMI CIOFFI, 536 13TH ST. NE §

# Tips

On Aug. 28, I filed my first lawsuit ever. I sued a Fairfax company in D.C.'s small claims court for two advertising calls I received on behalf of the company.

The phone messages that were left for me on my voice mail used a prerecorded voice. Solicitation calls using prerecorded voices are illegal under federal law, with the minimum damages set at \$500 per violation.

They bug me, partly because there's no one on the other end to inform that I'd like to be placed on the company's do-not-call list. Since there were two calls (one in October and one in November), I am suing for \$1,000. I have tape recordings of both voice mail messages.

My hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Sept. 26.

I'll let readers know how it goes, in case others are interested in filing lawsuits, too.

— MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE §

# Updates

**COMINGS AND GOINGS:** If you have met one of the area's new residents or know someone about to move out, please ask them if they'd like to introduce themselves or say goodbye. According to the Long & Foster Web site, <http://www.longandfoster.com>, viewed Friday, the real estate listings for the Corner Forum area have changed from Aug. 31 as follows: 1306 Emerald St. NE is newly listed (\$298,000); 408 13th St. NE is still listed at the same price (\$329,990).

**CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The following people helped produce or distribute the Aug. 31 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (distributing); and Richard Sundberg, 1200 block of Duncan Place NE (purchasing supplies). There are 73 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (28 on E Street, 22 on Emerald Street, 17 on 13th Street, and 6 on Duncan Place). §

# A Smooth Start at Sasha Bruce

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

School opened as planned on Tuesday, at the Sasha Bruce Charter School, in the annex (smaller) building of the former Kingsman Elementary School.

"Everything went smoothly," said Michelle Gelsino, vice president of the Charter Schools Development Corporation, which is leasing the property Sasha Bruce.

School opened with 97 students in seventh and eighth grades, Ms. Gelsino said.

A ribbon-cutting event is scheduled for Sept. 24, at 9 a.m.

By next school year, Ms. Gelsino said, the main Kingsman building will be reopened and occupied by Options Charter School. §

# House Sales — Last 12 Months

*The following are the house sales in the Corner Forum area that occurred over the past 12 months, according to the D.C. government Real Property Sales Database, available online at [http://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com/RP\\_Search.jsp?search\\_type=Sales](http://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com/RP_Search.jsp?search_type=Sales).*

*Sales that were listed as being transferred for \$0 are not shown.*

1213 Duncan Pl. NE	\$349,000.00	12/3/02
1221 Duncan Pl. NE	\$345,000.00	4/11/03

1205 E St. NE	\$283,500.00	8/11/03
1210 E St. NE	\$478,500.00	11/1/02
1252 E St. NE	\$188,000.00	10/8/02
1300 E St. NE	\$525,000.00	3/5/03
1302 E St. NE	\$445,000.00	5/28/03
1309 E St. NE	\$322,000.00	2/26/03
1329 E St. NE	\$280,000.00	5/12/03
1370 E St. NE	\$220,000.00	4/18/03
1375 E St. NE	\$301,315.00	4/1/03
1386 E St. NE	\$241,600.00	8/7/03

1300 Emerald St. NE	\$250,000.00	11/13/02
1342 Emerald St. NE	\$15,000.00	4/3/03
1346 Emerald St. NE	\$283,000.00	3/10/03
1347 Emerald St. NE	\$240,000.00	4/11/03
1354 Emerald St. NE	\$270,000.00	12/26/02
1364 Emerald St. NE	\$290,000.00	6/11/03
1368 Emerald St. NE	\$315,000.00	6/23/03

412 13th St. NE	\$273,000.00	3/24/03
429 13th St. NE	\$312,000.00	1/31/03

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# Story Ideas

*The following are some ideas for future stories. If you know answers or are willing to do some research, we'd be grateful! We'd also be glad to help get you started.*

- Atlas Theater — The March Voice of the Hill said a remaining \$7.5 million had to be raised to begin construction by the proposed January 2004 groundbreaking date, which would mean a possible opening by the end of the winter of 2005. What is the current outlook on fundraising and timing?
- Charter Schools — At a recent ANC meeting, someone presented plans for a new charter school on Capitol Hill (not at Kingsman). Has the chartering board acted on the application? Where are the applicants hoping the school will be? What will be unique about the school?
- Crime — What are some of the crimes in our area that have been reported to the police over the past few months? What happened? How were the reports resolved?
- Drinking Water — According to this year's annual water quality report from the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, there was more lead in the water than the federal Environmental Protection Agency permits in 26 of 53 residents' tap water. Apparently, the lead comes mostly from the local service lines or from pipes within houses. How much lead is in the tap water emerging from faucets in our area?
- Grants — What is the process of applying for grants from ANC 6A? What are the guidelines? What types of projects can be funded? How much is available? How do you go about applying for money?
- History, Commercial — Where, exactly, were the stores in our neighborhood, according to old property maps of the area?
- History, People — Which families in our neighborhood were here 30 years ago? 40 years ago? 50 years ago? 60 years ago?
- Information Sources — What is the D.C. Register, where can it be found, and what can it tell us?
- Laws — Previous articles in the Corner Forum referred to a D.C. antiloitering law. I don't think there is one. This could be investigated further. §
- Nuisance Properties — Where are all the vacant buildings in our neighborhood? Are they all being taxed at the vacant-building property tax rate? (It's about five times higher than the regular rate.)
- Police — Orange Hat Walk. What is it? Who does it? Who organized it? Why? Where does it take place?
- Postal Service — In addition to Duncan Place and the 1200 block of E Street NE, which of our streets is served by only a temporary letter carrier? How do residents on those streets feel service has been affected?
- Recreation, Rosedale — What recreation programs are currently available to residents? What does the Rosedale recreation center offer? Can you just walk in and use it? What are its hours? Does it feel safe?
- Recreation, Swimming — What does the newly reopened Capitol East Natatorium, beside Eastern Market, at 635 North Carolina Ave. SE, look like?
- School Construction, Miner Elementary School — What is the status of the construction of Miner's new building? The school's principal, Angela Tilghman (1200 block of E Street NE), said in the March 9 issue of the Corner Forum that she anticipates all the construction, including the opening of the main entrance on 15th Street, would be finished sometime in August or September.
- School Feedback — What do parents in our neighborhood think about the school their children attend? What do the students themselves think? How about the teachers who live in our area?
- School Involvement — Do our neighborhood schools (Miner Elementary, Eliot Junior High, Browne Junior High, and Spingarn High) have PTAs? Who may attend? What are the costs? When are the meetings?
- School Safety, Miner Elementary School — What do parents of children in our area who attend Miner Elementary School feel about the new YSA group home being built on the 1600 block of Kramer Street? Do parents generally feel the area around Miner is safe? Overall, would a new group home be detrimental to the neighborhood or a positive service to our society?
- School Sports — What will be some of the interesting athletic competitions coming up this school year?
- Sports — What are the plans for the basketball tournament on the Kingsman Elementary School courts?
- Student Hobbies — What are some of the after-school activities and interests of the youth in our neighborhood?
- Taxes — What types of property tax deductions or subsidies are available for 1) people living in their own houses and 2) seniors? There may be people who don't know about and aren't taking advantage of the programs that are out there. §

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**SEND IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOUR NEWS! — by phone (544-2447); by voicemail (517-9128);  
by e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); or by 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 SHARON COCHRAN  
1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

## **Monday, September 8**

4-8 p.m. H Street NE Corridor Transportation Community Meeting. “Sessions will be informal and you are encouraged to drop in, ask questions and comment on proposals for new crosswalks, lighting, benches, widen sidewalks, improved transit service and to contribute your own ideas. Material from these meetings will be incorporated into the study’s recommendations, which will be the basis for DDOT’s improvements to the H Street Corridor.” At the Childrens Museum Auditorium, 3rd and H street NE. Sponsored by the DC Department of Transportation. Info, Rachel MacCleery, 671-2555 or MacCleery@dc.gov. There are more meetings on Tuesday and Saturday

## **Tuesday, September 9**

9 a.m. International Child Art Festival. On the National Mall between 7th and 12th Streets NW. Info, 530-1000

2-8 p.m. H Street NE Corridor Transportation Community Meeting. At the Childrens Museum Auditorium, 3rd and H Street NE. See Monday listing for more details.

7 p.m. Choosing and Planting Spring-Flowering Bulbs. “The Capitol Hill Garden Club invites you to its first meeting of the new 2003-2004 season at St. Monica’s Episcopal Church.” Refreshments at 7 p.m., program at 7:30. At 1340 Massachusetts Ave. SE.

7-9 p.m. Kojo in the Neighborhood. “Come out and share your opinion on the WAMU’s Kojo in Your Community radio show. ... Host Kojo Nnamdi will lead the audience in a two-hour discussion about the city’s recent rise in crime and the costs and benefits of historic preservation in D.C. neighborhoods.” The show will air Wednesday and Sept. 17 (the second part) at noon. At St. Marks Church, 118 3rd St. SE.

## **Wednesday, September 10**

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 11 as History: Collecting Today for Tomorrow. “A discussion on how historians will write about the terrorist attacks.” At Library of Congress, Madison Building, Mumford Room, 101 Independence Ave. SE. Info, 707-9217.

7-8:30 p.m. Police Service Area 512 (just north of the Corner Forum area) meeting at Miner Elementary School. Enter on the 15th street side.

7:30 p.m. Chamber Music by the Peabody Trio, with Poetry Reading by British actress Elizabeth Mansfield. “Explore the influence of Sufi literature on Beethoven.” Free tickets required.

Up to four tickets available through Ticketmaster at 800-551-7328 and <http://www.ticketmaster.com>, or two tickets per person are distributed at the auditorium, one hour before the event. At Meyer Auditorium, Freer Gallery of Art.

## **Thursday, September 11**

12 p.m. Folk Music Concert. “A guitar and harmonica duo.” By A Little Bit of Blues. At the Library of Congress, Jefferson Building, Neptune Plaza, 10 First St. SE. Info, 707-5510.

12:15 p.m. Remembrance. “The Capitol Hill community is invited to remember the victims and tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, during a midday Roman Catholic Mass for people of all denominations.” At St. Peter’s Church, 2nd and C Streets SE.

7-9 p.m. ANC 6A Monthly Meeting. Preliminary agenda includes a discussion of the Sherwood Recreation Center (see story), at least a brief discussion of the YSA group home being constructed at 1626 Kramer St. NE, and an update on the Department of Transportation traffic study. At Miner Elementary School, Student Dining Room, 600 16th St. NE. Info, ANC 6A Chairman Joseph Fengler (6A02), 423-8868. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/anc6a>.

## **Saturday, September 13**

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.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9th Annual Anacostia Port Towns Paddlesport Regatta. “Over 30 events for rowers and paddlers. Beginners are welcome and will be given instructions.” At the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Rd., Bladensburg, Md. Info, 301-699-6204. <http://www.anacostiaws.org>.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Today and tomorrow.) Neighborhood Days at the National Zoo. “Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) will host a special weekend of animal demonstrations and interpretive talks. There will be performances by the Silly Socks Puppet Theater. Free water bottles will be given to the first 500 guests, and FONZ will provide a free shuttle from the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan Metro station.” At the National Zoo.

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. H Street NE Corridor Transportation Community Meeting. At the Childrens Museum Auditorium, 3rd and H Street NE. See Monday listing for more details.

1-5 p.m. From White to Wild: A Houseplant Spectrum. “The Society returns this fall for another colorful show and plant sale. Come and enjoy the wide range of colors and plant forms in the easy-to-grow gesneriad family. Familiar houseplants such as African violet, florist’s gloxinia, and Cape primrose join more exotic members of the family for competitive judging and display.” At the National Arboretum, Administration Building Auditorium.

## **Sunday, September 14**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. From White to Wild: A Houseplant Spectrum. At the National Arboretum, Administration Building Auditorium. See Saturday listing for more details. §