

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 #47
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37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Playground Renovations To Be Done This Week

BY LISA OLSON, 1214 E ST. NE

I'm calling just to let everybody know that the renovations at Lincoln Park that are being done to the playground area will be completed within a week.

They've taken out all the old wooden equipment and the tire swings. They've expanded the area and are putting in tables and chairs, a new slide, and a whole new set of play equipment.

They're also going to be putting down rubberized material over the ground, so it's safer for the children.

I just thought people might be interested in that — so just a positive message for everyone.

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Newly Renovated Pool Is Impressive, Overall

BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH NE

The newly opened William H. Rumsey Aquatic Center, still commonly known as the Capitol East Natatorium, has the look, the class and, yes, the kind of pool you would expect after a 17-month closure and \$3 million renovation.

Renamed after the well-known educator and former director of the D.C. Recreation Department, the Center, located next to Eastern Market, opened its doors for the first time in nearly a year and a half to local residents on Friday, Sept. 5.

Although the renovation has caused some controversy, including complaints from neighboring homeowners about the new rooftop stainless steel ducts and fans

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Lincoln Park to Remain Open Until Midnight

The following e-mail letter was sent by Superintendent John Hale, National Capital Parks East, to Elizabeth Nelson, president of the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association.

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Let me hasten to thank you and all members and friends of the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association for inviting me, Chief Pettiford of our United States Park Police, and our respective staff to your evening meeting of September 2, 2003.

We are pleased to have discussed and come to mutual agreement on the following opportunities:

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A Tour of Near Northeast Row House History

ARTICLE BY ELIZABETH HAGUE, PHOTO BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

Acting on a tip from the Corner Forum, last Saturday, Sept. 6, my husband, Libo, and I went to a D.C. Preservation League lecture and historic tour of row houses in Near Northeast, "Name that Row House Near Northeast Tour."

The tour covered the area just north of H Street to around Florida and 14th Street NE. The lecturer, architectural historian Kate Farnham, noted that the D.C. Preservation League is now trying to establish some landmarks in the area—the first step in marking the area as a historic district.

Following the lecture, architectural historian Nancy Schwartz gave a fascinating walking tour of the area. She led us by old coal yards, an old Chinese laundry, one of the earliest public schools, custom built by a local architect, and wood-frame, Italianate, Victorian, post-Victorian, and pre-World War I row houses.



The Row House Near Northeast Tour was led by Nancy Schwartz, center.

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Law on Taped Ad Calls?

BY JACK PREIS, 1310 E ST. NE

I read with interest your story in this week's Corner Forum regarding your suit over tape-recorded solicitations.

I get at least two to three of those each week, sometimes many more. I am thus quite interested in how things turn out.

I hope you will keep the neighborhood updated.

Would you happen to know offhand the citation for the specific federal law dealing with this matter? I'd like to look it up and see exactly what it says.

Thank you for starting the Corner Forum and keeping it going.

It is a true benefit to the neighborhood.

[Editor's note: The relevant citations are 47 USC § 227(b)(1)(B) and 47 USC § 227(b)(3).]

New Playground Equipment Coming

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I received that information from one of the foremen that was walking there today, on Sept. 9. He was the one who informed me of when it would be completed, and that they're also doing the work on the 11th and Maryland park.

And just in general, his comments were that the city and the government are just putting a lot of money into improving the parks in D.C. He spoke of several that have been done in the past few years. Thank you! §

Happy birthday (Sept. 3) to David Kinsey, 524 13th St. NE!

Goods and Services

I'm starting my first day as Eastern High School's French teacher tomorrow (I was hired on Thursday). If anyone has anything written in French (magazines, books, posters — anything!) that they might be willing to donate to the classroom, or anything decorative (the walls are still bare) we'd all be grateful.

— Marc Borbely
536 13th St. NE, 544-2806 §

Renovated Pool Impressive, Overall

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not fitting into the historic surroundings, many residents are glad to see a modern swimming pool opened up in their part of the city.

Last Thursday, my wife, Beth, and I walked 15 minutes to the Aquatic Center, to find out just how good the swimming could be.

Overall, we were impressed.

After paying a \$3 fee at the door, I stowed my clothes in one of the brand new lockers for a quarter, took a warm shower in the sparkling clean shower area with hand-free automatic faucets and entered the pool area.

I am not a good swimmer, but with one lifeguard on each end of the pool, I didn't hesitate to plunge into the seven-foot-deep pool.

We noticed the difference immediately. The water actually didn't taste like chlorine as it did in the old pool. Although I would have liked the water a little warmer, Beth had no complaints, and others also seemed to be very much enjoying the lap swimming.

One complaint swimmers did have, however, was that the pool got a little crowded. There were as many as four or five swimmers in one lane, and therefore we were told to circle along the edge of the lane. A local resident said it was his third visit to the pool since it reopened, and it wasn't too crowded his previous two times. But on this particular Thursday, only a third of the big pool was available to the general public, as much of the pool was being used by a swim team and a water aerobic class.

Sean Link, assistant manager of the Aquatic Center, explained that both water aerobic class and team swimming take

place in the pool between 6:30 and 7:30 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, leaving only part of the pool for general swimming. But he said that it shouldn't be very crowded after 8 p.m. on those days. Mr. Link also suggested other good times for swimming: between 6 and 9 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

The complete hours, as posted on the window at the William H. Rumsey Aquatic Center, are:

Monday-Friday: 6:30-9 a.m., noon-5 p.m. and 6-9:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

From Oct. 13 to sometime in December, the pool will be closed for swimming classes from 1-5 p.m. on weekends and from 7-8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The fee schedule for D.C. residents is: ages 5 and under, free; ages 6-17, \$1; regular admission, \$3; ages 55 and over, \$2.

Discounts are available for 10-time use and season passes.

Though the Aquatic Center offers water aerobic and swimming classes, residents have to go online (<http://www.dcpr.dc.gov>), call the centralized service center (671-4135) or visit one of the designated recreation centers to register. The process can be frustrating. Even if you decide to call for registration, you still need to go online first to get a customer ID to use the registration system.

But if you type "swimming class" in the Web site's search area, you should get the appropriate page for registration. If you don't have Web access, you will have to visit a designated recreation center to register for a class. The closest recreation center to the Corner Forum area is the Rosedale Recreation Center, at 17th & Gales Streets NE, 727-3493.

The William H. Rumsey Aquatic Center is located at 635 North Carolina Ave. SE. The phone number is 724-4496. §

**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).
TO SUBSCRIBE, call 544-2447 or drop off cash or check (\$10.17, including tax, for 26 issues) at the address above.**

A Tour of Row House History

(continued from page 1)

The buildings in the Near Northeast area date from no older than the 1870s. Most buildings in the Corner Forum area probably are from around the turn of the century, presumably after the streetcars began running. Early on, buildings were built one at a time, rather than developing in rows. For this reason, some of the buildings in the Northeast area were built earlier, and spaces between the buildings were filled in later. Based on what the tour guide said, and the similar style of most of the buildings, however, it seems like most of the buildings on Emerald Street NE went up in development blocks (by contrast, 14th Street NE has some mixed styles).

A few row house styles became particularly popular in Washington. For example, the square bay fronts are characteristic of Washington and did not take off elsewhere. They began around the 1870s and were characterized by simpler masonry as the 19th century progressed. The square houses on 13th Street and elsewhere with large front porches date from the pre-World War I (1910-1920) era. They were called "daylight houses" or "box plan houses" and probably originated from Philadelphia. They were very popular as semi-suburban "commuter houses" after the streetcars took off. They generally emphasized letting in lots of light and fresh air. Some had screened-in sleeping porches on the second floor in the back of the house. Most of these have since been turned into rooms.

I don't know much about the history of this area, but I am eager to find out more. If you are interested in a particular building (such as your own home), there will be a follow-up event, "Research Row House Histories," held on Thursday from 6-8:30 p.m. at The City Museum.

Gail Redmann, Vice President of the Research Library and Collections of the Historical Society of Washington/City Museum will teach participants how to use Historical Society of Washington resources and public records to uncover the history of your home. (See the Calendar on page 4 for details.) §

Updates

LAKE FORT FISHER: Lake Fort Fisher was drained this week and a crew arrived early Friday morning. They have begun jack-hammering up the alley to resurface it and they removed the Mulberry tree at the end of the alley that some neighbors had hoped to have included in the field.

— Amy Fisher, 427 13th St. NE

HOMICIDE ON 300 BLOCK OF 13TH: A police spokesman said Wednesday that Corey Ward, 23, was the victim in the homicide that occurred on Aug. 13/14, alongside 309 13th St. NE. The spokesman, Officer Kenneth Bryson, said that no arrests have been made and that the case remains under active investigation. The homicide was reported by Libo Liu (500 block of 14th St. NE) in the Aug. 17 issue of the Corner Forum.

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 Sept. 5 as follows: 1246 Duncan Pl. NE (\$365,000) is newly listed; 408 13th St. NE is listed at a lower price (it was \$412,000 on April 14, \$385,000 on June 14, \$349,990 on July 5, \$329,990 on Aug. 31; and \$309,990 yesterday); and 1306 Emerald St. NE is still listed at the same price (\$298,000).

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute the Sept. 7 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE (proof-reading); and Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (folding, distributing). There are 78 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (29 on E Street, 25 on Emerald Street, 18 on 13th Street, and 6 on Duncan Place).

— Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE §

Lincoln Park to Remain Open Late

(continued from page 1)

Park Closure Policy: Effective Oct. 1, 2003, Lincoln Park will close at midnight and reopen at 5 a.m. each day of the week. This change will become policy in all Capitol Hill Parks as of the date illustrated here.

Flood Lights: Effective Oct. 1, 2003, flood lights will be activated at dark and remain on through the night [and will be deactivated at the light of day.

Tree Replacement, Removal/Improved Maintenance: Effective Sept. 15, 2003, an assessment of tree condition will be made; dead and/or unsafe trees will be removed and replaced with new trees. We will continue to provide the same level of

maintenance as in the past. We will take steps to make certain that all trash receptacles are made empty on a regular basis.

USPP Patrols/Dog Leash Application: USPP will continue to patrol and monitor parks so as to keep them safe. Your help is always welcomed; continue to provide information concerning activity in the community. Please contact USPP at 619-7105 if all other numbers available to you prove unsuccessful in making contact for help. In addition, we encourage you to speak to members and friends regarding keeping their dog on leash when visiting the park. USPP officers will continue to apply the law as required.

Again, thank you for the invitation to meet with you and NLPNA. We appreciate very much your willingness and eagerness to work with us to maintain this wonderful park. §

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 15

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Rowhouse Redux Roundtable Exhibit. "Competing architects have designed a hypothetical 'rowhouse for the future' for a family of four with affordable, sustainable, electronically sophisticated, and handicapped-accessible solutions. See jurors' picks for the most imaginative reinvention of the Washington rowhouse. Exhibit opens at 9 a.m. Jury Forum at 4:30 p.m. Reception at 5:30 p.m." By the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. At the Building Museum, 401 F St. NW, 272-2448. <http://www.aiadc.com/events.html>.

6-7 p.m. Excello Liquor License Renewal Discussion. Meeting for protestants to discuss strategy. At the Northeast Library, upstairs community room, 330 7th St. NE, 698-3320, <http://dclibrary.org/branches/noe>.

7 p.m. Meet NPR War Correspondent Anne Garrels. (Book signing.) "With bombs falling and the constant threat of sniper fire, she worked under extreme conditions to bring the story home. Naked in Baghdad ... is her personal, vivid account of the recent war." At the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, 144 Constitution Ave. NE. RSVP requested, 546-1210, ext. 23 or rsvp@sewallbelmont.org. <http://www.natwomanparty.org>.

Wednesday, September 17

10 a.m. Nuts & Bolts of Budget Advocacy Workshop. "This is our chance to develop recommendations for the District budget. Attendees will be given samples and will learn various resources that are available to complete recommendations. Attendees will also learn what different things they can do with the recommendations, such as meeting with agency leaders." By DC Action for Children. Reservations required, 234-9404 or dcaction@dckids.org. <http://www.dckids.org>.

6:30 p.m. Police Service Area (PSA) 511 community meeting. (Third Wednesday of every month.) Teacher's Credit Union, 9th and D Streets NE. <http://www.psa511.juniperdc.com>.

Thursday, September 18

6-8:30 p.m. Research Row House Histories. "Every wonder when your row house was built or who lived there before you? In this hands-on workshop, Gail Redmann, vice president of the Research Library and Collections of the Historical Society of Washington/City Museum will teach participants how to use Historical Society of Washington resources and public records to uncover the mysteries of your home's past at the City Museum." At City Museum, 801 K St. NW (Metro: Mt. Vernon Square). \$6 for D.C. Preservation League or City Museum members; \$8 for nonmembers. Reservations

requested, 783-5144 or info@dcpreservation.org. <http://www.dcpreservation.org/calendar.html>.

6-9 p.m. Democracy Rising Rally. With Ralph Nader, Dennis Kucinich and Patti Smith. Issues: DC statehood, money for libraries, restore DC General, against vouchers, for affordable housing. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For tickets or to volunteer, call 319-2422. <http://www.democracyrising.org/washington>.

Friday, September 19

8 p.m. PEN/Faulkner Reading. "Three PEN/Faulkner authors reading from recent work." Hear Stephen Goodwin, Alice McDermott and Mary Lee Settle. At the Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol St. SE. \$15. Tickets, 544-7077. <http://www.penfaulkner.org/public/pfaulk/events.htm>.

Saturday, September 20

7:30 a.m. Giant Food Bike DC 2003. "Join thousands of cyclists on a 12 or 30 mile car-free bike tour of the monumental spaces, riverfronts, and neighborhoods of Washington, DC. Giant Food BikeDC is a fully supported, family-friendly event open to riders of all abilities. Proceeds from the tour go to support the advocacy efforts of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. ... The 30-mile River Ride begins and ends at 14th and Pennsylvania NW. The 12-mile Family Ride begins and ends at 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW." Register online, \$40. http://www.waba.org/bikedc2003/bikedc_home.html. WABA, 628-2500.

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. - 5 p.m. Arts on Foot. "Join the Smithsonian American Art Museum and dozens of other galleries, restaurants, and theaters along F Street [NW] between 7th and 9th streets for Penn Quarter's annual arts celebration." By the Pennsylvania Quarter Neighborhood Association. Info, 482-7271. <http://www.artsonfoot.org>.

Sunday, September 21

11 a.m. Fifth Chinese Culture Festival. By the Greater Washington Chinese American Community. On H Street NW, between 6th and 8th Streets. Info, 564-8572. <http://www.gmu.edu/org/China/events/events.htm>.

Noon-3 p.m. The Black Student Fund's 31st Annual School Fair. "Learn about independent schools and financial aid for your child (ages 3-17) from representatives of over 50 day and boarding schools. Students in fifth grade and above are encouraged to attend." By DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund. At the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Pl. NW. Info, 387-1414, http://www.blackstudentfund.org/programs/school_fair.htm.

12:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Women's World Cup Soccer. First USA vs. Sweden, then Brazil vs. Korea. At RFK Stadium, Independence Avenue and 22nd Street SE. \$175. Ticketmaster, 301-808-2405. <http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com/03/en.> §