

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 #54
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37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Halloween Hopes and Thoughts

BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

The Irish might have brought the tradition into this country, but it was Americans who invented trick-or-treat, the pumpkin carving and the commercialization of it. In the last 160 years, Halloween has evolved into a great American holiday, enjoyed by descendants from all over the world.

What are the kids in our neighborhood really thinking about on this Halloween? What do they want?

In the beautiful afternoon sunlight on Halloween, I spotted 9-year-old Sierra Minick, riding on her brother's scooter under the watchful eye of her mother, Felicia, on the sidewalk

outside of her home on the 1300 block of Emerald Street. It was her beautiful Halloween dress that first caught my attention.

What costume are you wearing?

It is the dress of Cinderella.

Wow, it is very, very pretty. Have you read the book, or seen the movie?



Sierra Minick

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The Lees Have Been a Kind and Caring Family

(The Rev. Bego submitted the following article by voicemail on Tuesday.)

BY CATHERINE BODDIE BEGO, 1308 EMERALD ST. NE (SINCE 1945)

I am calling in response to an article that I read about the N-A Minit grocery store, at 421 13th St. NE.

I want to call in support of the Lee family and the N-A Minit store.

I have known Mr. and Mrs. Lee for many, many years, and they have always been very resourceful to the community.

They have treated us as family, and on our annual day, which was the spiritual explosion, over a number of years, they have donated whatever we wanted them to donate, and we have always given them a certificate of appreciation that hangs in the store — you can ask them to show it to you — and so I just

want to say that they're always interested in your children, in your family. Every time I go there, she wants to know how my son is doing, how my daughter is doing, has my daughter started a family yet — I mean, they have been family-type people, interested in the well-being of the family.

And I just want to go on record saying that I don't want to be a part of a condescending effort against these people. I don't want to judge them unfairly.

I just want them to know, also, that my family — the Bego family, the Boddie family — we love them, and if there's anything that we can do in support of them, just to let us know. Again, I have known the Lee family to be a very kind family and a very caring family. They have supported anything they could support in the community.

Thank you, and God bless. §

Tentative Plans Set for Neighborhood Football Game, Pending City Approval

BY ELLERY VADEN, 1348 EMERALD ST. NE

In this interview with Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE, Mr. Vaden describes plans for a neighborhood football game on Thanksgiving on Kingsman Field. Currently, the field remains closed to the public, but over the next few days Mr. Vaden will be speaking with the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation about opening the field. He will update readers on his progress in next week's issue.

He asks that everyone who is interested in helping to organize the game come out to a meeting on the Kingsman basketball court (between 12th and 13th, and between D and E) at 11 a.m. next Saturday (Nov. 8).

Basically, it would be a Turkey Bowl that we used to have

when we went to school. We would try to start at 11:30 on Thanksgiving morning, up here at Kingsman, on the football field. We want to have the little kids, ages 8 to 15, play. We'd probably let them play up to 35 — whoever scores up to 35 between them, that's their game.

If the little kids are playing, they have to come with a parent. Right after the little kids, the older people will play. Basically, it's a play-at-your-own risk. We're not gonna have no fights, no nothing up there. If you can't have good sportsmanship, ain't no need to play. Just be careful — and we're not responsible.

And it would be touch? Or tackle?

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Yes, I saw the first one, and the second one. And I read the book, too.

Who made the dress for you?

My mom got it from Party City. But I took this laced ribbon off my stomach and put it on my hair.

It looks very nice that way. So what do you know about Halloween?

I know that on Halloween you get to dress up, you don't have to be yourself for one day and you get to dress up like somebody else — like a character.

Have you done your pumpkin carving yet?

No, but we will do it tonight.

Tonight? Would that be a bit too late for Halloween?

No, me and my father, we always do it on this night, and with my brother too.

What about your mother?

She doesn't want to do it. She just likes to watch.

What character are you going to carve your pumpkin as?

A scary one. Triangle eyes, triangle mouth and curved mouth. It might be a character from Haunted Mansion, on Disney Channel. I like to watch Disney Channel.

Do you like Halloween?

A little bit.

Only a little bit? What is your favorite holiday then?

I have two. Christmas and Valentines. Because on Christmas, I get the gifts, the presents. And on Valentines, well, that is my birthday. But Halloween is the Devil's birthday.

What grade are you?

I am in the fourth grade. I go to Friendship Edison Charter School.

Did you do anything related to Halloween in the school?

Yes, we had fun. We had a parade. We got candy.

Are you going to trick-or-treat tonight?

Yes.

What kind of treats do you like? What kind of candy?

Reese's Cups, Kit-Kats, and chocolate. And bubble gum.

Has anybody talked to you about safety?

Yes. If the wrapper is open, or something like that, you should not eat it, because there might be something bad inside it. Make sure somebody older is with you while trick-or-treating.

When you go out trick-or-treating tonight, what do you want most in your bag?

A lot of candy. §

Street Scenes



The Grim Reaper, above, and a witch (a.k.a. Bill and Lucy Ament, 515 13th St. NE) sat half-hidden in their candle-lit front yard, startling approaching visitors with their quiet presence. "We've gotten more adults than we have kids," Mr. Ament laughed.



Guinness (black and tan), at 1313 Emerald St. NE.



Klaus and Maureen Nielsen (1312 Emerald St. NE) wanted a bird in their bird-bath. A drill made Mr. Nielsen's sculpting easy.

(continued from page 1)

Tackle.

For both games?

Mmm hmm.

All right. And when was the last time you guys had a Turkey Bowl?

Man, that's when Kingsman was still a school!

So we're talking more than 10 years.

Longer than that.

Basically, anybody who wants to could take part in it?

Anybody who wants to play, yeah. But like I said, you got to have good sportsmanship — we're not having no fighting up there. If you can't take a hit, don't play.

Anyone else organizing it?

Well, it was just something — we thought about it, and since we didn't have a block party — we said, let's have a Turkey Bowl. And so all the guys thought it'd be a good idea to have a Turkey Bowl. The guys that used to live around here are gonna be around here.

Now here's a question coming from a wimp: when the high schools play, they got all the padding and stuff. They got the helmets and all that. You guys — how are you gonna do it with tackle?

Just regular clothes. No pads, no helmets, no nothing — the way football first started out. Just physical condition.

And you want people to know so they can come out and play, or watch?

Yeah. Watch, play, it's all about fun. Try and get the old people — get like a community thing going again. Come watch, cheer, get your laugh on — talk about old times, while we're out there playing football. Before we start, we're gonna try to do a few minutes of silence for Lawrence [Smith — 406 13th St. NE] and a couple of other people that's not here no more — a few respects to them, too.

Also, if the girls are tough, they could play too. As long as they could take a hit and they can give one.

Thank you.

All right, Marc. §

Tips

Leaves Should Be Raked Today

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

In a brochure sent to residents in the mail, the D.C. Department of Public Works asks that leaves in the Corner Forum area be raked today. The city is scheduled to collect the leaves in the northern half of Ward 6 (north of East Capitol Street NE) between tomorrow and Nov. 14.

Leaves should be raked into piles in curbside tree boxes, where they will be collected with a vacuum trailer. Leaves can also be bagged and left in the treebox spaces. If you have alley trash collection, they can also be bagged and placed where you put your trash. §

D.C. Seeks Election Workers

BY BILL O'FIELD (spokesman for the D.C. Boards of Elections and Ethics, from e-mails published in the Oct. 9 and Oct. 22 issues of the electronic discussion group themail.)

District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics Director Alice P. Miller announced that Election Day Workers are needed to work at the polls for the upcoming January 13, 2004, Presidential Primary. "Any District of Columbia resident who is a registered voter can apply to qualify as a poll worker on Election Day," Miller noted.

Also, District youth who are sixteen years old and older are needed to assist the Election Day Workers for the primary. "Any District of Columbia youth in public or private school who is a resident of the city and 16 years old or older can apply to qualify to work on Election Day," Miller said.

Training is required of all poll workers with classes provided by the Board's staff prior to each election. The poll workers' hours are from 6:15 a.m. to about 9 p.m. on Election Day and approximately two to three hours on Monday before the election for polling place setup. Poll workers are paid a stipend of \$100. Interested in applying for a poll worker position should contact the Board by calling 727-2525. §

Corner Forum Acknowledgments

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of Emerald Street NE (proofreading, distributing). There are 83 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (29 on E Street, 28 on Emerald Street, 19 on 13th Street, and 7 on Duncan Place). Thank you, to all. §

SEND IN YOUR THOUGHTS, NEWS AND PHOTOS! — by phone (544-2447); by voicemail (517-9128); by e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); or by mail (536 13th St. NE).
TO SUBSCRIBE (\$10.17 including tax for 26 issues), call 544-2447 or drop off cash or a check to the address above.

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

Tuesday, November 4

4:30 p.m. D.C.P.S. Girls High School Volleyball. Spingarn vs. Eastern. At Eastern, 1700 East Capitol St. NE, 698-4500.

7 p.m. Sherwood Recreation Center. Discussion with the D.C. Parks and Recreation Department. Topics include: discussion of the Recreation Advisory Council and a discussion of the Volunteer's in Action program, which will help organize volunteer support for key programs and activities. At Sherwood Recreation Center, 10th & G Streets NE.

7:30 p.m. North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association monthly meeting. Meet Cindy Petkac, the new Ward 6 city planner. At Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C Streets NE.

Wednesday, November 5

9:30 a.m. Excello (419 13th St. NE) Liquor License Renewal — Status Hearing. To update the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board on negotiations between Excello and protestants. At 941 North Capitol St. NE, 7th floor. Info, Laura Byrd, 442-4359 or Zandra Goode, 442-4418.

10:30 a.m. Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance. "This film tells how African American artists overcame tremendous barriers to produce artistic work during the time of the Harlem Renaissance." At Anacostia Museum & Center for African American History & Culture, 1901 Fort Pl. SE. Reservations suggested, 287-3369. <http://anacostia.si.edu>.

Thursday, November 6

12:15 p.m. Early Dismissal: End of first grading period for D.C. Public Schools students.

7 p.m. Madam C.J. Walker. Biographer A'Lelia Bundles discusses the success of her great-grandmother, the manufacturer of -care products for African American women. \$8. At the National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave. NW. Info, 783-7370. <http://www.nmwa.org>.

7 p.m. Black Indians: An American Story. A film narrated by James Earl Jones. "Following the film, Thomas Doughton will discuss the relationship between African Americans and American Indians." At Smithsonian, S.D. Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson St. SW. Info, 357-4600. <http://www.si.edu/events>.

Friday, November 7

9 a.m. D.C. History. 30th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies. Program includes sessions on topics such as ethnicity, cemeteries, architecture, sexuality, and civil rights. At the City Museum of Washington, 801 K St. NW.

Reservations required, 383-1809. http://www.citymuseumdc.org/Learn_About_DC/Calendar/HSC_Full.pdf.

7 p.m. Short Stories. Come listen as local poets and short story writers present the work they developed during Writer's Way creative writing workshops. Corner Store Artist Studio, 900 South Carolina Ave. SE, diagonally across Pennsylvania Avenue from the Eastern Market Metro.

7 p.m. D.C.P.S. Boys High School Football. Spingarn vs. Eastern. At Eastern, 1700 East Capitol St. NE, 698-4500.

Saturday, November 8

9:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. D.C. History. The 30th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies. "Participants will spend the day east of the river, exploring Anacostia. A special guided bus tour of Southeast Washington, with stops at historic Woodlawn Cemetery, Civil War earthworks in Fort Dupont Park, Uniontown, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, St. Elizabeth's Hospital campus, and the Anacostia Museum." \$15, to be paid in advance. Bus leaves from City Museum. For more details, see listing for Friday.

10:30 a.m. The Hunter and the Ebony Tree. (For children ages 4-8.) "Nelda LaTeef reads her story about a hunter who must overcome an impossible challenge before he can marry the girl he loves. ... Bring pieces of cloth and magazine pictures to create a collage in the art activity." At the National Museum of African Art, Lecture Hall, Sublevel 2, 950 Independence Ave. SW, 357-4600. <http://www.nmfa.si.edu>.

11 a.m. Planning for Turkey Bowl. Meet with Ellery Vaden (1348 Emerald St. NE) to discuss organizing a community football game for kids and adults on Thanksgiving. Meet on the Kingsman basketball court, between 13th and 14th Streets, between D and E.

Future

Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oral History Workshop. By the Washingtonian Division of the D.C. Public Library. At the Washingtonian Division at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW, Room 307. "The workshop is intended to encourage and train people interested in conducting family or community oral history projects and/or individual oral histories which concern the history of Washington, D.C." Reservations, Faye Haskins, 727-1213.

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 8 p.m. Overbeck Lecture. "In the spring of 1863, an African American church on Capitol Hill became the main recruiting station for the First Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops, a brave collection of fugitive slaves and freedmen from throughout the region who volunteered to fight for the Union cause in the Civil War. The remarkable story of these men and the minister who helped organize and inspire them will be the subject of our next Overbeck History Lecture, delivered by Capitol Hill historian C.R. Gibbs." At the Naval Lodge Hall, 330 Pennsylvania Ave. SE. Reservations required, OverbeckLecture@aol.com or 544-1845. §