

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 #61
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37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Tests of Water Show High Levels of Lead

BY LISA OLSON, 1214 E St. NE

There has been a lot of publicity about lead in D.C. water due to the Jan. 31 Washington Post article.

Many in our area were recruited to participate in a voluntary water testing program for lead back last summer/fall.

I had my water tested in September with results of 220 ppb (parts per billion) and 180 ppb, for a first and second draw of water, respectively, from my faucet after sitting overnight (which is when lead tends to build in the pipes). These numbers are quite high: the EPA requires corrective action when the water level is 15 ppb or more.

Of course, the Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) and others suggest that

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Ambrose Details Law On Local Liquor Bans

BY ELIZABETH HAGUE
500 block of 14th Street NE

Ward 6 Council Member Sharon Ambrose attended the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association (NLPNA) meeting on Tuesday night to talk about a provision in D.C. law that allows residents to request a ban on the sale of singles (or any other specific product) in all liquor stores in a neighborhood.

Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board Chairperson Charles Burger and ABC General Counsel Fred Moosally also attended the meeting.

Elizabeth Nelson, the head of the NLPNA, opened the meeting by asking Sharon Ambrose if she would support residents petitioning the ABC Board for

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Anti-Loitering Law: No Harm, No Foul?

BY JACK PREIS, 1310 E St. NE

Mr. Preis is an attorney.

On Jan. 14, the police department designated part of the Corner Forum neighborhood (roughly from 13th to 14th, and between E and F Streets) a drug free zone for a period of five days. Under a drug free zone designation, a police officer who "reasonably believes" that two or more people are congregating for the "use, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs" may order the individuals to disperse. Individuals failing to disperse may be arrested and incarcerated for as long as six months.

In considering whether drug activity is afoot but not yet actually happening, the officer is to chiefly consider whether

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Rev. Cora Davis, Pastor Of East Canaan, Dies

BY REV. CATHERINE BODDIE BEGO,
1308 Emerald St. NE (by voicemail)

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the death of Rev. Dr. Cora A. Davis, formerly of 1301 F St. NE.

As many of you know, Rev. Davis pastored the East Canaan Baptist Church, located at 1301 F St. NE.

Rev. Davis passed on last Wednesday.

Funeral arrangements have not been finalized at this time, and I would ask that you call 301-577-8292 and speak with her daughter, Doris Williams, for final arrangements, or you may call at 397-5788, another phone in her daughter's home.

Thank you, and God bless you. §

A Fun Learning Center In the Neighborhood

BY BRANDON JACKSON
1309 Emerald St. NE

With this article, Brandon Jackson makes his debut as one of the Corner Forum's Youth Reporters.

There's a lot of children that go to the Neighborhood Learning Center. There we get snacks, we play, we learn how to use the computer. Sometimes Pete teaches us how to play chess. Ms. Julie Campbell is the director of the



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Sherwood Rec Center: All of Us Should Go!

BY CHESTER W. HUNTER
1310 Emerald St. NE

Mr. Hunter visited Sherwood Recreation Center on Friday, Jan. 23. Eight days later, sitting in his living room, he described his visit to Sherwood, which is at 640 10th St. NE, to Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE.

When you enter the gate, they've got a walking or jogging path. I went inside, and a young man escorted me. Inside, you walk in, and they got a receptionist's desk in the hall. And it's for senior citizens and all the kids. It's a recreation center for anyone.

They got a full-court, inside basketball court, real nice.

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Neighborhood Learning Center

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program. She is very nice. Ms. Julie always has fun activities for us. Ms. Sarah has been there a long time. She helps Ms. Julie.

I go there on Tuesday. I am tutored math and reading, and boy has it made a difference for me.

It's just a good place for kids. If your kids need help or just want to visit Ms. Julie or Sarah, go to Washington Community Fellowship church, located at 907 Maryland Ave. NE. §

City Cleans Up Trash Behind 525 13th St. NE

BY TAMMI CIOFFI, 536 13TH ST. NE

As I reported in the last Corner Forum, I've been trying to find out what's happening at 525 13th St. NE, which burned in May and which has been a vacant eyesore since then.

On Jan. 23, I had asked D.C. Housing Authority spokesman Zachary Smith about the trash on the property and what the city plans to do with the property.

On Jan. 30, workers from the D.C. Housing Authority finally came and put all of the trash from the front and back into a truck.

I called Mr. Smith again when I saw them, and he said that it turned out that the Housing Authority did own the house (there had been some question whether it belonged to the city or to the federal government). Mr. Smith thanked me for bringing this to his attention, but he still did not have an answer for me as to the city's plans for the house.

I called him again yesterday, and he reported that the plan for 525 13th St. was one of two things: 1) to sell it through the agency's public housing home ownership program or 2) to find a new owner for the house. The agency's property management office will decide what to do based on what is going on with its other scattered sites. I asked Mr. Smith if I could contact him about this house at a later date if I see nothing is going on. He said sure. §

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The following people helped produce or distribute the Jan. 24 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, folding, distributing); Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE (folding); and Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (editing, folding, distributing). Ms. Cochran took the pictures for and produced the insert of local holiday decorations. There are 82 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (29 on Emerald Street, 29 on E Street, 18 on 13th Street, and 6 on Duncan Place). Thank you, to all. §

KidPower at Miner Elementary School

BY SHARON COCHRAN

1300 block of Emerald Street NE

Since October, 20 students at Miner Elementary School have stayed after school for two hours to participate in Kid Power-DC.

The students enrolled in the Kid Power-DC program at Miner are exploring local history, and expressing it through the visual and performing arts to gain more advanced academic and artistic skills.

The students are making "The Neighborhood Book," a scrapbook of their research, art, photos and maps. The book will be available in print and on the Internet. Also in the works is a big theater show that the students are creating that is based on themes of "The Neighborhood Book." The community will be invited to attend the show in June. There is even more: the students are making a documentary film of the project!

Students attend workshops and work on their projects after school for four days a week and attend field trips on Saturdays. They receive training in research, writing, making maps, acting, dance and more. Last month, the group was selected for the Kids café meals program. This means that the students are given dinner before beginning their work sessions.

The training and hard work of the students is already paying off: in December, the students participated in a talent show for friends and family at Miner. At the talent show, members of the group read biographies of each other, displayed artwork and maps and performed a step dance. One young lady sang a song.

Kid Power-DC and the students do need your help. They are looking for longtime residents willing to talk about memories of the neighborhood. They also need art supplies, D.C. history books, old funny clothes to use as costumes, volunteers to work with the students and money. Gifts are tax-deductible, and receipts will be provided. For more information, please call Caroline Cleveland, at 703-244-5995 or e-mail her at caroline@kidpowerdc.org. Donations can be mailed to Kid Power-DC, P.O. Box 21677, Washington, DC 20009, or they can be made over the Internet at <http://www.kidpowerdc.org>.

Miner Elementary School is at 601 15th St. NE, 724-4565. <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/miner/webupdate/welcome.html>. §

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). Join us Saturdays at 10 a.m. (see calendar) TO SUBSCRIBE (\$10.17 including tax for 26 issues), call 544-2447 or drop off cash or a check to the address above.

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you run your water for several minutes first thing in the morning before drinking it. Whenever the water sits for six hours or more, you should run it for several minutes before drinking it.

I hope this motivates you to get a filter for your water or to use bottled water. In addition, I have sent an email to a D.C. WASA representative to ask them if WASA plans to provide filtration to houses. I'll let you know the answer.

There is much information out there on this. It is probably wise to first request a free test from WASA, or some other independent agency if you choose, for \$15 to \$30 (you must make sure they are "EPA approved"), and also check with WASA to see if your water main is lead. They have access to this information. To contact WASA, call its lead hotline at 787-2732 or e-mail its Water Quality Program 2003 at wqp2003@dcwasa.com.

This will provide you a better sense of what you have and how to handle it. The next thing to do is get a filtration system. Brita water filters are NSF certified to reduce lead (Editor's note: according to the NSF Web site <http://www.nsfconsumer.org>, to be certified to reduce lead, products must be able to take water containing 150 ppb of lead and remove enough lead to leave at most 10 ppb of lead in the water. NSF International is an organization that tests and certifies water-treatment products.) There are also under-the-counter water filtration systems.

If you have children up to age 6, you can have their lead levels tested for free at D.C.'s Office of Lead Poisoning located at 51 N St. NE, 3rd floor (535-2195). They will do tests between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., with the hour of noon to 1 p.m. off for lunch. The results should be back in a week and a half.

Water is a necessary commodity and one that must meet strict standards, which are not being met. If WASA cannot effectively remove the lead from the water supply in total, they *must* provide provisions for the consumer to do so in their home, i.e. filtration systems. I feel very strongly about this. I do hope WASA steps up to the plate to provide appropriate filtration to its customers on a house-by-house basis if necessary. §

ANC Commissioner Seeks Water Info

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

ANC Commissioner Cody Rice (6A03) wants the ANC to request the following information from WASA: 1) a map showing lead service line locations in the ANC; 2) the testing locations and results from the latest round of sampling; 3) details on WASA's plans to prioritize lead service line replacement; and 4) a schedule for the replacement of lead service lines in ANC 6A. This month's ANC meeting is Thursday. §

WASA Should Provide Water Filters

BY LISA OLSON, 1214 E ST. NE

The following are excerpts from a letter Ms. Olson sent by e-mail to WASA Planning Supervisor Jodye Russell (jodye.russell@dcwasa.com) on Wednesday. Ms. Russell had written Ms. Olson that "With regard to your suggestion regarding water filters, WASA does not provide these for customers largely due to concerns about other problems that may be caused if filters are not properly maintained."

Thank you for your prompt response and forwarding my information to the testing hotline.

I am disappointed with the answer regarding filtration systems. Again, I understand that this is not a final decision that you make. However, I do feel it necessary to state that as consumers we are dealing with more than an inconvenience; we are dealing with water that is not fit for human consumption.

You certainly wouldn't buy any food product from the market if it was not fit to eat, so why should we accept water that is not fit and yet still pay full price for it? I would have thought that WASA would be willing to, if not provide the actual filtration system (whatever that may be), then at least deduct the price of water filtration from our bill so that it would be our own responsibility to handle filtration. But to just say that there are potential problems is not an acceptable answer.

If WASA is concerned with legal issues pertaining to the maintenance of filtration systems, I am sure their legal department can come up with a reasonable disclaimer that would absolve them of responsibility for improper use of the filter (to include improper maintenance). Another option is that WASA provide bottled water, or the funding for it, to those with lead levels exceeding the EPA limit. I am sure WASA can negotiate an incredible deal with one of the major bottled water suppliers.

I don't think that waiting is a viable option for the public. Something must be done immediately, especially with the levels that have been quoted.

It would be ideal if we could get everyone's level below the EPA limit, but I am a pragmatist and realize that we all could have lead poisoning before that happened. The short-term answer is to make sure people over the EPA limit have access to filtered water. Without any dispute, that definitely is the responsibility of WASA.

This is not a personal assault, but rather the views of a concerned DC citizen and mother of two small children.

I am mostly concerned about the children, but also about the aging population that are on fixed incomes and do not have access to transportation. There are many on my block. Obviously, testing must first be done, but there are many who trust that the water from their faucet is safe. This is not the case. It does not sound like WASA has exhausted all possibilities for alleviation of this immediate problem. I know that I would like to have more comprehensive answers regarding resolution of this issue other than having to simply place my faith in WASA's good hands. §

Law Permits Liquor Sales Moratoria

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a moratorium on the sale of chilled singles. Sharon Ambrose responded by stating that she would support a neighborhood ban on singles if it were limited in scope to areas where singles caused problems. According to Council Member Ambrose, singles could be a problem in certain areas for several reasons, including encouraging drug markets and loitering. In those areas, a ban could be enacted, but there were also areas, even within Ward 6, whose residents do not want a ban because they are not experiencing the same problems. Therefore, Ambrose said she would not support a ban on singles in all of Ward 6.

If a neighborhood has a problem, though, its residents can request that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board ban the sale of singles in the neighborhood. If just one, two or three establishments are causing a problem, then residents could seek 1) a ban on the sale of singles in a very small area around those stores; or 2) a ban on the sale of singles in single establishments via a Voluntary Agreement between the community and the establishments.

A group of at least five residents can seek a neighborhood moratorium. In doing so, they must follow these procedures: they must state their names and the area that the moratorium would cover; there must be a sufficient density of licensed establishments selling alcohol in the area; and the residents must give an appropriate reason for their request, accompanied by solid evidence. According to Mr. Moosally, “appropriate” refers to peace, order and quiet, including noise, litter, rowdiness, criminal activities, pedestrians and parking. Procedures for seeking a moratorium are laid out in D.C. Code 25-352.

Another important requirement to meet the threshold requirements for a moratorium is establishing a compelling argument for a moratorium (“a detailed statement of the reasons that the moratorium is appropriate”). According to Mr. Burger, in theory such arguments could include public safety, over-concentration of liquor stores, trash, noise, disturbing the peace, criminal activity, or other reasons. The sale of singles in itself is not a protest issue without a compelling argument explaining adverse effects on the neighborhood of the sale of singles. The proof would have to be solid and might include, for example, police testimony. Mr. Burger would not discuss other examples, because he said this could be interpreted as “framing” the argument, but he did suggest that interested parties talk to Mr. Moosally, the ABC Board’s attorney. Mr. Moosally’s phone number is 442-4355. He was very helpful and willing to talk when I called him with questions on Friday.

Mr. Burger commented that a moratorium has several advantages over reaching a joint agreement with each establishment. First, it focuses on an issue or problem in the neighborhood, rather than on an individual establishment. Second, by working with the establishments, a moratorium can benefit both the community and the businesses because rather than restricting a single establishment — which a Voluntary Agreement would do — all businesses in the area would be affected equally, giving no business a competitive advantage.

In Burger’s view, the most effective way to reach an agreement on a moratorium is to work with the businesses, rather than taking an “us versus them” attitude. During discussions, all parties would benefit from agreeing on specifics of the moratorium, such as how long the parties wanted the agreement to remain in place. Would the situation change in two years, and would it be appropriate to revisit the issue at that time? A moratorium cannot exceed five years.

Ambrose commented that a ban on chilled singles would be difficult to enforce. To this, ANC Commissioner Nick Alberti responded that a ban on chilled singles would be enforceable by clearly defining “singles” and inspecting the temperature and contents of the refrigerators. ANC Commissioner Nick Alberti expressed an interest in requesting a moratorium for the sale of chilled singles on 15th Street, where there are at least three establishments. He was open to the possibility of expanding the proposed moratorium to include establishments on 13th Street. §

ANC Committee Plans Hearings On “Standards” for Liquor Stores

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

At its next meeting, on Thursday evening (see Calendar) our Advisory Neighborhood Commission will be discussing its alcoholic beverage licensing committee’s plan to hold a series of public meetings on “community standards” for stores holding liquor licenses in the neighborhood.

Under the committee’s plan, the ANC would explore whether or not to develop a set of standards that all liquor stores in the ANC would be held to. Minimum community standards “could range from limitations on single sales, to general trash collections, to enforcing no loitering on the premises,” according to a document included in the agenda package for this coming Thursday’s ANC meeting. “Simply stated, an enforceable community standard would provide a common framework for all the liquor stores in our community and, more importantly, create a level playing field.”

The committee intends to hold three public meetings (at 7 p.m. at Sherwood Recreation Center, 10th and G Streets NE, on Feb. 17, March 16 and March 30) to solicit public comments and then decide whether or not to recommend that the ANC draft a set of standards.

At the first meeting, on Feb. 17, the committee will hold a hearing to seek general input from the community. Each resident will have three to five minutes to state his or her opinion and views.

As of last month, Jessica Ward, the ANC commissioner for the area that includes the Corner Forum area north of the middle of E Street, is no longer the chairperson of the committee. Instead, the ANC chose Michael Kuiken (kuikenanc6a@hotmail.com or 369-0735), a resident of the 600 block of 10th Street NE, to chair the committee. §

Anti-Loitering Law

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the loiterer (1) is engaging in behavior typical of drug dealers (such as exchanging packages, flagging down cars and warning others of the police), (2) is known by the officer (whether personally or via a trustworthy informant) to be involved in the drug trade, and (3) “has no other apparent lawful reason for congregating, . . . such as waiting for a bus or being near one’s own residence.”

In passing this law — the District’s only anti-loitering provision — the District joined a growing number of municipalities looking for new ways to combat the elusive drug trade. From a law enforcement perspective, urban drug dealing is similar to prostitution — it is easy to identify the perpetrators as they walk the streets, but it is much harder to catch them in the act of actually committing the crime. Thus, these anti-loitering laws are an attempt to fight crime before it has matured into an actual crime.

In this way, anti-loitering laws brush dangerously close to basic civil liberties, such as the right to walk the public streets. In a much-discussed 1999 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that an “individual’s decision to remain in a public place is . . . part of his liberty . . . [and thus] ‘a part of our heritage.’ ” In that case, the Supreme Court struck down a Chicago law that made it unlawful for known gang members to remain in a public place “with no apparent purpose.” The Court objected to the law in that it granted police a tremendous amount of discretion in enforcement and also failed to inform the public of what behavior was lawful — i.e. what it meant to have “no apparent purpose.”

The District’s loitering law differs from that in the Chicago case because it is a “targeted” loitering law. It seeks to suppress not mere loitering, but loitering with the purpose of participating in the drug trade. Several federal appeals courts and state supreme courts have considered these types of statutes, and while several notable statutes have been struck down, the majority of courts have found them constitutional. Courts approving such laws generally reason that targeted loitering laws only infringe incidentally on the right to be in a public place and that the enumerated factors officers are to consider in determining whether the person is involved in the drug trade help keep police officers from wielding too much discretion.

Still, the District’s law is troubling in several respects. Consider a case quite possible in our neighborhood: On a warm summer evening during a period when the neighborhood has been designated a drug free zone, a police officer notices three men talking in front of Excello and N-A Minit. He recognizes one as a known drug dealer. The men speak for a while, and then one of the men opens his wallet and hands the known drug dealer some money. The officer then approaches the men and instructs them to disperse. They refuse, claiming that they are just hanging out on warm night, making little noise and bothering nobody at all. The officer then arrests all three.

At trial, the jury would consider not whether any drug trade was occurring, but only whether the police officer acted reasonably in inferring that a deal was going down. Thus, although

the one man may only have been paying the dealer \$20 as payment of a personal loan completely unrelated to drugs, the men would still be imprisoned for up to six months if the officer’s actions seemed reasonable to the jury.

The message of this hypothetical is not that it’s illegal to hang out in front of Excello and N-A Minit and deal drugs, but that it’s illegal to hang out and look like you might be dealing in drugs. Be careful who you talk to, who you borrow money from, and who exchange packages with, the law advises.

Despite this troubling result, Police Chief Charles Ramsey, when queried by this reporter on a WTOP radio show, stated that he believed the law was entirely constitutional, but that his officers were nonetheless mindful of respecting people’s personal liberties. His defense of the law was more pragmatic than legal; he stated simply that the police department is trying to return neighborhoods to those who live there—those who often cannot even leave their home for fear of the drug trade.

This pragmatic perspective was echoed by Kevin Morrison, spokesman for the Metropolitan Police Department. He stated that citizens are thankful for the increased police presence in drug free zones and that a decrease in drug trade has been seen in the drug free zones. He stated that he had no information on how often officers ordered citizens to disperse, but he did state that arrests under the law were few. More often, officers arrested individuals for actual drug violations, and not loitering with the appearance of drug dealing. Regarding any dispute over the statute’s constitutionality, Officer Morrison stated that he was unaware of any legal challenge to the law and that the District waited several years before enforcing it, to determine whether it was within constitutional bounds.

Indeed, after a search of the District’s criminal case law, no case was uncovered that even mentioned the Anti-Loitering statute. This objective tally suggests that the statute’s overall effect — whether helpful to the police or harmful to the public — is likely *de minimis*.

The minimal impact of the law is probably due to three factors. First, the prohibition on drug-related loitering only remains in effect for 120 hours, a very short time. Second, the statute applies only to congregations of two or more persons. In other words, one is free look like a drug dealer all day and all night as long as one does so alone. Third, District police officers are much more focused on prosecuting actual drug crimes. An officer seeing conduct suggestive of drug dealing is more likely to wait until such behavior matures into an actual drug crime. An order by an officer to disperse is tantamount to a free warning for the drug dealer and a lost arrest.

Thus, although the law has the potential to yield some quite troubling results, its overall effect appears minimal. Its recent effect, if any, in our neighborhood is unknown. While some may argue that a statute which is relatively unused ought to be repealed, others, like Officer Morrison, defend it as another tool that officers can use in their pursuit of drug crimes.

As long as the scourge of drugs continue to trouble our city, and as long as the District enforces the law with considerable reason and discretion, the law is likely to remain a minor yet necessary intrusion into our civil liberties. §

Sherwood Recreation Center

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Then he showed me upstairs — I didn't see all the rest of the building. They have a little conference room — actually, a little library (they've got books in there, where you can go in and be quiet, sit at a table and read. He was telling me that some senior citizens come in and stay all day!)

They've got a full kitchen, and it's nice, clean. He said they haven't started using it yet — some of the stuff they got, they haven't implemented yet.

They've got a room with all computers, where the kids or *anyone* will learn computers.

They even got a game room!

Then they have another room — a lopsided room. It looks like you could have a party or something. He said they don't have all the furnishings for that room.

They've got an elevator, so the senior citizens don't have to walk up the steps.

It's a beautiful place!

I remember, the old one was one little, small building, about the size of this room in here, maybe to back there. [*Mr. Hunter points to the kitchen.*] That's all they had in the *old* Sherwood.

I didn't know there was one before. In the same place?

Mmm hmm. But most of the ground that they have now, the school had. And they've got a parking area in the back, so people should have room to park. Real nice. Real clean. Immaculate. They used to be pulling trash, cleaning up — you know I was looking at everything. I'm nosy! [*laughs*].

They've got one room for games, on the floor — like shuffleboard.

They've got shrubbery all around. And they want to show it off! They want the neighbors to get involved!

He said right now a lot of kids come after school, and they have things for 'em to do. They have a log book — a book that shows you all the activities they have. They have karate — oh, what impressed me, too, I forgot! — the gym they have there, they got a gym with all new machines. If you want to lose weight, go in that gym room!

You said there's a game room. What's in the game room?

As yet, they don't have too many games. He was telling me that the kids go in there and play some type of game, but he said mostly the games are not in yet. They've got a dancing class, karate class — it's in the log book — a foreign language class! I saw some senior citizens in the gym, working out yesterday. It wasn't that many — it's so cold, I guess. But they have a senior citizens' building in back of it, so they go in there.

When you saw the basketball court, was it all taken up — was it full?

No, because I was down there about 11 o'clock, and the kids was in school. And most of the old guys around here that

Goods and Services

For Sale: Sofa, Mattress

By ERIC BERNARD, 1223 E ST. NE

We need to free up some room in our daughter's bedroom, so the following items are for sale:

1. Convertible sofa; hardly used. \$50.
2. Bed/mattress/queen size. \$40.

Please contact Eric or Deta at 543-7599. §

play basketball probably don't know about it yet. They probably don't walk down on 10th Street. It's between 10th and F and 10th and G. They've got the whole block. The entrance is on 10th Street. But also, on G Street, he told me that they got some doors around there, and across the street I told you is the senior citizens' apartment building — he said sometimes they open the doors and let the seniors in, from the apartments.

And you said there's a party room? So if people have a birthday, can they go in there?

You know, I've got to ask him about that. It's a party room — it's a huge room, and he was telling me they go in there and talk sometime, but they don't have all the equipment for that yet. But when they complete everything, it's gonna be real nice. They have a lot of classes, they're gonna have down there, too — for everyone.

I said my God, remember the *old* Sherwood? One room, and outside they had a wood picnic table, and they had like a porch. They didn't have but one room, and it was crowded all the time — they guys around here didn't go.

Did they have a gym in the old one, too?

No, it was too small — they had little tables in there. In the summertime, they had a little holiday thing down there, that's all.

So the city finally put some money in it.

Yeah, but you know, all the stuff down there — the city has to plan 10 years in advance, so they was talking about Williams doing this. Williams is not doing that! It's already been planned! This money's been allocated! A lot of people don't know that. The city has a 10-year plan. They don't just jump up and say, well we'll build something here, build something there.

I wonder when they started planning that.

I don't know! I would like to find that out. I would like to find out who was the mayor when that was approved. Was it Pratt Dixon? Marion Barry?

So would you recommend to people to go check it out?

Mm hmm. All the neighbors should go. What is it? Couple of blocks from here! §

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 BL. OF EMERALD ST.,
AND MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Saturday, Feb. 7

8-9 p.m. Globe Trekker: Washington, D.C. City Guide. WETA TV 26. "Filmed in fall 2003, this brand new city guide should perk up your interest in things you think you've seen before, and surprise you with a few new sights along the way."

Sunday, February 8

1-5 p.m. Resolving Conflicts and Nonviolent Communication - Skill Building. "People who care about social justice have an opportunity to explore the art of conflict resolution with an application to our movement. In an experiential setting, we make the local/global links that connect power and disenfranchisement. We learn skills to build a world that reflects the diversity of our communities and hear all the voices." \$25-\$50 sliding scale (no one turned away.) At American Friends Service Committee/DC, 2211 14th St. NW. Advance registration requested, Zainabu Dance or Bette Hoover, 299-1050 or bhoover@afsc.org.

Tuesday, February 10

7 p.m. Linden Old City Capitol Hill Neighborhood Association Community Meeting. With officials from the Parking Services Administration and the Department of Motor Vehicles. "We will present our proposal to amend current D.C. laws and departmental regulations to allow residents who live on non-zoned streets (in Residential Permit Parking zones) who can verify that they have legitimate business (i.e., employment, medical or other official reasons) to get what we are calling a Residential Visitors Pass or RVP. This will allow residents of, say, Ward 6 who live on a non-RPP street but work in Ward 6 to obtain a special permit (annually and at a fee of \$20.00?) that would allow parking on a RPP zone in Ward 6 or a Ward 6 resident who works in Ward 2, 3 or 7 for example to obtain the same privilege. Many people have complained about the inconveniences in the current law. We are looking at ways to uphold the law while providing some relief to our fellow neighbors. Please join us in February for a discussion that will take on citywide implications." At Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 10th St. NE. Info, linexchang@aol.com. <http://www.oldcitycapitolhill.org>.

Wednesday, February 11

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Smart Growth, Streets and Walkable Communities. Dan Burden, executive director of Walkable Communities, Inc., is a nationally recognized authority on streets that work for people - whether on foot, bike, or in a motor vehicle. Burden will explain his consensus-building

approach for improving our greatest community-owned asset, the public streets, and illustrate how successful streets support smart growth. At the Building Museum, 401 F St. NW. Info, 272-2448. <http://www.nbm.org>.

Thursday, February 12

No school for D.C. Public Schools (Parent-Teacher Conferences).

6-8 p.m. Hirshorn Heartfest. In celebration of Valentine's Day, join other adult art lovers for a 6:45 p.m. gallery talk about the romantic histories of various artists in the Hirshhorn collection. Also make valentine cards, listen to music, and enjoy wine (cash bar) and cheese. Hirshorn, 7th & Independence SW www.hirshhorn.si.edu.

7 p.m. ANC 6A meeting. Agenda includes report by School Board Representative Tommy Wells, approval of ANC testimony regarding the proposed Police Service Area boundary changes, a discussion of a planned series of public meetings on community standards for liquor licenses and a discussion on moving the monthly ANC 6A meetings from Miner to Sherwood Recreation Center. At Miner Elementary School, 601 15th St. NE. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

8 p.m. Today through March 14. "Sic", a play by Melissa James Gibson that explores the lives of three neighbors. Tickets \$20-\$25. There are 2 p.m. shows on Saturdays and Sundays. Free tickets are available for those of us living in the Corner Forum area. Please bring proof of residency. There is a special Valentine's Day performance on Feb. 14 for \$50 that includes an after the show gala that will be hosted by the Phish Tea Café. Tickets, 800-494-8497 or <http://www.theateralliance.com>. At H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE.

Friday, February 13

7 p.m. Red and White Ball. Sponsored by DC Parks and Recreation. Jacques Johnson and Friends will perform. At Fort Stevens Senior Center, 1327 Van Buren St. NW. \$3. Info, 282-0753.

Saturday, February 14

Sierra Minick's (1300 block of Emerald Street) 10th birthday.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. D.C. Democratic Presidential Preference Caucus - Ward 6. "Vote for your presidential candidate." The vote on this day determines how many of D.C.'s delegates will be allotted to each presidential candidate. Open to all registered Democrats. At St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 222 M St. SW. <http://www.dcdemocrats.org>.

12-4:30 p.m. Amaryllis Bulb Sale. The exhibit will end and approximately 800 bulbs from 50 different growers will be sold at \$5 each. The bulbs will be planted in a plastic pot and you will be given a growing guide with directions for making your Amaryllis bulb bloom for the holidays next year. Rain date is Feb. 15. At the National Arboretum, Administration Building Auditorium, 24th & R Streets NE, off of Bladensburg Road. <http://www.usna.usda.gov>.

Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

Monday, February 16

President's Day. Federal Holiday. (No school for D.C. Public Schools.)

7 p.m. ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee meeting. At the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, 1235 C St. NE. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

Tuesday, February 17

7 p.m. ANC 6A Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee meeting. "The committee will solicit general input [on its plan to create "community standards" for liquor stores] from the community at large. ... Each resident will have three to five minutes to state their opinion and views." At Sherwood Recreation Center, 10th and G Streets NE. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

Wednesday, February 18

10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Cartooning Workshop for ages 9-12. Artist Todd Sprow teaches young people to create cartoons with story lines related to black history. At Anacostia Museum & Center for African American History & Culture, 1901 Fort Place, SE. Reservations suggested, 287-3369. <http://anacostia.si.edu>.

6:30 p.m. PSA 511 meeting. At the Teacher's Credit Union, 9th & D Streets NE. <http://www.psa511.juniperdc.com>.

6:30-7:15 p.m. The Preservation Café, sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. Architect Sally Berk will discuss front porches designed by architect Harry Wardman on Capitol Hill. At Trattoria Alberto, top floor, 506 8th St. SE. Info, 543-0425. <http://www.chrs.org>.

Thursday, February 19

6-6:20 p.m. City Council Oversight Hearing on ANC 6A. To testify, contact Misty Carter, 724-8204. In 5th floor council chamber, John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/calendar.html>.

7 p.m. ANC 6A Public Safety Committee meeting. At Holy Name Church, 920 11th St. NE. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

Friday, February 20

8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2004 National Woman's Heart Day Health Fair. Learn how to reduce your risk factors for women's heart disease. Get free heart-health screenings with on-the-spot results. Register free for exciting prizes and visit dozens of exhibits. At MCI Center, 601 F St. NW. <http://www.sistertosister.org/washingtondc.shtml>.

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Today and tomorrow. Race and Rights: Brown v. Board of Education and the Problems of Segregation,

Desegregation and Resegregation in the United States. Conference and Town Hall Meeting. "Conference sessions will include panels on segregation and the shifting political and cultural landscape. The Howard University School of Law Town Hall Meeting will explore the multigenerational impact of the Brown decision post 1954." Moderated by Charles J. Ogletree, Harvard Law School. By the Smithsonian Institution and Howard University School of Law. At the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. <http://www.Brownat50.org> or 806-8056.

Saturday, February 21

10 a.m. Corner Forum meeting. What do you want to see in the next issue? At 536 13th St. NE, 544-2447.

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Medicinal Plants of China. Many plants have much more than ornamental value. Discover some of the medicinal uses of plants native to China during this informative slide lecture with curator Carole Bordelon. \$10. Registration required, 245-5898. At the National Arboretum, Administration Building Classroom. There are two entrances: one at 3501 New York Avenue, NE, and the other at 24th & R Streets, NE, off of Bladensburg Road. <http://www.usna.usda.gov>.

11 a.m. Wreath-Laying Ceremony for Benjamin Drummond. "The first patient admitted to the Old Naval Hospital in Southeast Washington, Drummond was an African-American sailor who was wounded in action during the Civil War. The Old Naval Hospital, at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, opened on October 1, 1866 and served as the Naval Hospital, Washington City until 1906. President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill authorizing construction of this hospital that was built during the Civil War to treat Sailors and Marines at the nearby Washington Navy Yard and Marine Barracks. Benjamin Drummond was admitted for treatment of a gunshot wound received when his ship, the USS Morning Light, was captured in a battle off the coast of Texas. He later escaped from a Confederate prisoner of war camp and served aboard other warships until his wound reopened and he was set ashore for admission to the Hospital." At the Naval Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

12-2 p.m. Workshop with artist Claudia Gibson-Hunter. Meet the artist behind the Capital Children Museum's "Gemstones and Lace" exhibit and then create art together during her presentation "The Language of Symbols." Features bright and colorful images that celebrate the spirit of young African American girls. The special exhibit will run until February 29th. At the Capital Children's Museum, 800 3rd St. NE (3rd & H Streets NE). Info, 675-4120. <http://www.ccm.org>.

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). Join us Saturdays at 10 a.m. (see calendar) TO SUBSCRIBE (\$10.17 including tax for 26 issues), call 544-2447 or drop off cash or a check to the address above.