

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 #62
Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>



This D.C. Water and Sewer Authority map shows results of tests of tap water conducted in 2003. The two circles on the 1200 block of E Street represent homes where tests showed more than 20 times the amount of lead permitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The stars represent homes where tests showed from 1 to 20 times the permissible level. Crosses indicate a permissible amount of lead (less than 15 ppb).

Call WASA for Lead-Testing Kit

By LISA OLSON, 1214 E ST. NE

Everyone in the neighborhood should have received a letter from WASA regarding the lead issue. I received mine a day ago.

It is imperative that people request to have their water tested by WASA if they suspect they have lead pipes. First you can call the WASA hotline 787-2732 to see if your service pipes are lead (although they don't always have the answer because their database is not complete and much of the information is transcribed from handwritten papers, which are not all reliable). If there is a question as to whether or not your pipes are lead, I would assume they are, to be on the safe side.

Next, call the same number to request a test. They will FedEx the test kit to you with instructions. Complete the test and call them to pick up the water samples. The test kit should arrive within a few days and results should arrive within 30 days.

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I Was Mugged Last Night By Two Boys With a Gun

By MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Last night at 10 p.m., I was walking back home, first on Maryland Avenue and then, past 12th, on F Street, from the 7-11 on 8th Street. I had just bought a pint of Ben & Jerry's Chocolate Fudge Brownie frozen yogurt — my wife's favorite. Both on my way there and on my way back, I did what I hadn't done in a long time and will never do again around here: I was reading a book while walking (Dan Brown's "Angels & Demons") and wasn't aware of a thing around me.

Two boys, maybe 15 years old, jumped out at me, from the alley that runs from F to E, and either pulled me by my jacket or just ordered me (I can't remember which) just inside the alley. For a second, the whole thing seemed unreal.

"Come here, come here," one of them said, talking fast.

There was a shorter one, wearing a ski mask covering his mouth and nose, and a taller one. One of them — the taller

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ANC Committee Seeks Comments On Standards for Stores Selling Liquor

By ELIZABETH HAGUE, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

ANC 6A Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee Seeks Resident Input on Community Standards for Liquor Stores—Written Comments Accepted until March 15

On Tuesday, the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A held a meeting to seek input from the community on the possibility of creating community standards for liquor stores. Committee members included Chairman Michael Kuiken, Richard Sundberg, Brenda Artis, Charles White and Wes Grooms.

The question posed was: "Should there be community standards? If so, then what should those standards be?"

Tuesday's meeting was the first of three meetings that the committee plans to hold on the topic. The first meeting sought input from the community. The next one, on March 16, will

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Trying to Get 534 13th St. Lived In

BY TAMMI CIOFFI, 536 13TH ST. NE

The house next door to me, 534 13th St. NE, has been vacant since we moved in 4 1/2 years ago. I'm pretty sure it was vacant for years before that.

I finally reached the city inspector for Ward 6, Mr. James Gray (645-8257). He mentioned that he was here a year ago looking at the same house. I let him know that the two back doors were not secure and that there was trash in the back. I was also worried about the gutters on the house because they are falling off.

He said the Board of Condemnation deals with that sort of thing. He said that both the Board of Condemnation and he would be here next week to inspect and clean up the property. They will try to contact the owner, and the owner will be fined for any violations.

Has anyone had any experience with abandoned properties? I can't believe the city would allow these houses (that have owners) to just sit here for years.

I would like to see this house renovated and lived in. If anyone has any tips on how to get this done, I would appreciate it. You can call me at 544-2806 or e-mail me at tcioffi4@smart.net. Thanks! §

Cleaning Up the Mess

PHOTO AND STORY BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

A city cleaning crew came to the neighborhood on Tuesday, Feb. 10, to finish the cleanup in the back of the house, 525 13 ST, NE.

The house was damaged in a fire on May 17, 2003, boarded up several days later by the D.C. Housing Authority, which owned the place, and has been vacant and become a public eyesore since then.

As Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE, reported the trash pile-up problem around the house in several issues of the Corner Forum and pushed the Housing Authority to take action, a city cleaning crew finally came on Jan. 30. The cleanup, however, was hampered by the recent snow storm.



The crew told me on Feb. 10 that they had removed three loads of trash from around the house and finished the cleanup at this site. As Ms. Cioffi reported in the last issue, the D.C. Housing Authority was planning to sell the house either through an existing housing assistance program or to a private owner. §

H Street Food Co-op Is Here

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

The H Street Food Co-op is here! Its goal is to open a store on H Street specializing in healthy, natural and organic foods, cosmetics and household items. It is starting out as a consumer-buying club, with membership. The membership fee is \$25.

The next H Street Food Co-op meeting will be on Monday, March 1 at 7 p.m., at the old Bank Of America building at 961 H St. NE.

So far, the Co-op is putting food orders together once a month. It has already made two successful buying orders that have included eggs and lots of typical vegetables such as carrots, cabbage and sweet potatoes, as well as more exotic vegetables such as White Daikon.

Since the group is just getting organized, it has two tracks that members can take: You may be a buying member and only participate as a consumer, or you can be a part of the steering committee as well as a buying member.

If you are interested in becoming more than a buying member, the group would love to have you participate in the multiple tasks required to get the Co-op up and running as a business.

Right now, the steering committee is working on its 501-c3 application for the IRS to make the group a nonprofit corporation, filing its articles of incorporation with D.C. government, drafting its bylaws, designing a Web site and marketing materials, developing a membership guide and newsletter, drafting a business plan, recruiting new members, etc.

So far, the group has come up with a draft set of H Street Co-op Principles:

- To support local, organic, family-owned and sustainable agriculture;
- To make available healthy, fresh, delicious, diverse, and often more affordable alternative foods;
- To increase consumer control of our local economies and sources of sustenance;
- To educate the community on important environmental, health, economic, and agricultural issues; and
- To be open to all, bringing neighbors together in a common and spirited effort to achieve these goals.

The H Street Food Co-op is looking for members, supporters and volunteers. Interested persons may contact Amira Moore-Page at 388-4220 or amiracle@hotmail.com, or visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hstreet_foodcoop. §

Would you like to introduce your neighbor to fellow readers? We can lend you a tape recorder, and we'd be glad to transcribe your interview.

It Was Rough Back Then

By CHESTER W. HUNTER, 1310 EMERALD ST. NE

In this conversation he had on Jan. 30 with Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE, Mr. Hunter shares some memories about growing up on Emerald Street.

10th Street's got a hill, and we used to go sledding there when we were kids. On 10th Street, that hill was smoother than Maryland Avenue, and we just walked on over to 10th and sledded down there. Times have changed, but I'm old — 71. But I get along all right now. I don't have the strength I used to have so I can walk like I used to walk — although I do take my walks. The doctor said, "Don't worry about that, son, your strength'll come back."

Are you eating okay?

Mmm hmm. I'm eatin' good. I'm gonna cook tonight. I got me some short ribs. I cheated — I wanted some string beans, I got me some canned string beans! And I got me some smoked turkey. And potatoes.

Yeah, I've been putting a lot of food in here [in the house.] [laughs] At this time of year, you don't never know what happens. You remember last year? You couldn't hardly get out for a couple of days. That's how D.C. is.

But I remember one year — I must have been about 10 years old, because we moved here when I was 12. I was living on Bladensburg Road, and the first day of spring, we had snow that deep, but we had to go to school. It's not like it is now, where kids don't go to school, because of snow days. We didn't have any. I remember I had them knickerbocker pants on — that's what all the kids used to wear, back in them days! [chuckles].

I remember walking down the street, going to school, and the first day of spring — all that snow! Things have changed now. If it snows that much now, kids don't go to school. Back in them days people were tougher. They were used to a hard life. Only thing we used to like to do was get our sled, and sleigh-ride! [laughs]

When you went sledding on 10th Street, you were already living here, I guess?

Yeah! I was living down the street, at 1324 [Emerald]. Yeah, I was 12 years old when I moved there. Three black families was living on this street then. Maybe it was four.

It was your family, Mrs. Spencer's...?

Not Spencer, her mother. Her mother was here. Her brother and I used to be buddy-buddies, we used to hang around here. Mary Francis. I remember when she was a baby. I went away when I was 17 — I went away for three years, in the Army. That's when I noticed Mary Francis — when I came back. But her mother had 10 kids. Big family. The guy that I was buddy-buddy with — him and I joined the Army together, matter of fact. But he died about five or six years ago. He had cancer.

What was his name?

Earl Roberts. And his brother died right after him. His brother was a little older than he was. He died about 9, 10 months after Earl.

Who were the four families?

People across the street named the Sturtevents. Mary Francis. I'm not sure about Mrs. Calloway, all the way down the street. Because it was just about three or four families. That was rough, back in them days.

Why? How?

We used to play with white kids — you know, kids could play with kids — and we could hear the mothers calling 'em in there: "Come here!"

And we could hear what they said. "Told you not to play with them goddamn n*****!" We could hear [stuff] like that. But the kids come out, when they come back out, we would play together.

After school, they had game stuff at Kingsman, for the kids after school. We couldn't go. We would all go together. The counselors would say, "You people have to go up to Lovejoy. Can't come in here."

We'd look at each other. But you know what? My mother always told me, "Now you know some people stupid. Don't you hate anybody because they hate you, you understand?" And I think most of the black kids' mothers would tell them that. These people, they got a problem, you know?

But the kids would always get together and play! Although their mothers and fathers — well, mostly the fathers were in the Army, during World War II — we'd get together and play.

You're talking about this street, here? So there were parents who didn't want the kids playing with you guys.

Mmm hmm. But some of them didn't care. Some of the white kids' parents didn't care. But that few — always gonna be that few, though, calling you "n*****" —

I used to work at that store [at 517 13th St. NE]. I'll never forget that old man's name. He worked for the D.C. Transit. He was a motor operator on one of the trolley cars.

Old Man Clark, he used to come in there, especially at Christmas time, and he ordered them nuts — "Give me a pound of them n***** toes!" Old Man Simon, he was Jewish — he looked at me. He said, "Mr. Clark, these are not n***** toes. These are Brazilian nuts."

He said, "Let me tell you somethin', Simon! Ma pa called 'em n***** toes! And that's what I'm-a call 'em: n***** toes!"

I just walked on out the door. I was humiliated. Walked out the door. Old Man Simon knew why I walked out that door.

After I came back in, he said, "You all right, Billy?" "Yeah, Mr. Simon, I'm all right." That was a terrible time, growing up here black. §



Officials Seem to Be Minimizing Seriousness of Lead Crisis

BY JIM MYERS, 1400 BLOCK OF C STREET SE

— Reprinted (with the author's permission) from an e-mail on the "newhilleast" Yahoo listserv.

Two startling concepts leapt out of Tuesday's packed meeting at St. Peter's Church (at 2nd & C Streets SE) about lead contamination in District drinking water. They were not messages that the officials on the panel necessarily wanted the audience to hear. You had to read between the lines.

1. D.C. is currently facing the worst outbreak of lead contamination ever recorded in a city's public water supply.

2. Because the situation is unique, there is no medical literature that describes what happens to general health when lead levels are this high — hence, no one knows for sure what the impact will be in this case.

At one point in the often heated meeting, a specialist on the environmental impact on children's health seemed to suggest that a child in the District might lose "three or four I.Q. points." But the loss would not represent a noticeable difference in the child's behavior or well-being, he said, and who could say it actually happened?

At this moment — and at various others during session — I found myself wondering, "Did they REALLY say what I just think I heard?"

It seemed that the WASA officials (including the chief engineer), District Department of Health doctors, EPA representatives, Council Member Sharon Ambrose and others on the panel were primarily trying to avoid a public panic — or such virulent criticism that they all lose their jobs. Some apparently wanted to give the impression that everything is under control, when it clearly isn't.

What do you think of this story? Please send in your thoughts! Call us at 544-2447.

So I went up to panelists privately after the session and asked, "Am I wrong to understand that this is the worse case of lead contamination ever recorded in a public water supply?" One by one, they hemmed, hawed and begged me to see the brighter side. But eventually they agreed. Yes, it could

be the worst. There are no others on record that are comparable.

Dr. Lynette Stokes, chief of the Bureau of Hazardous Material and Toxic Substances for the D.C. Department of Health, had earlier pleaded with audience members who live in homes identified as having lead service lines to bring their kids to the Health Department for blood tests.

Why?

Because right now we're in uncharted waters. Officials want to know if their theoretical "model" — which posits that lead from water will not elevate children's blood lead levels dangerously — will turn out to be true.

I asked, "Are we not, in effect, using our children as guinea pigs in an experiment on the effects of lead contamination?"

Perhaps, the question was extreme.

Dr. Stokes insisted that officials have found no dangerous effects in the few cases they've tested and are now hoping this holds true for the larger population.

OK, perhaps I'm also out of sync with the times in my fretting and fussing — looking at the negative not the positive. Perhaps, I am not thinking of the damage to property values, tourism or the renaissance of D.C., if

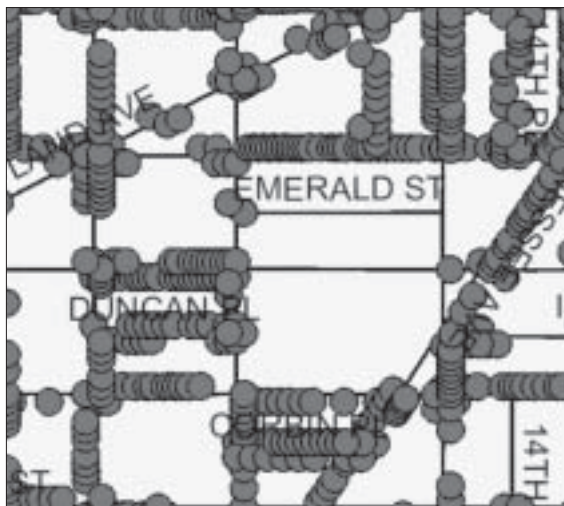
the city were declared an environmental disaster zone or if a massive public outcry demanded a REAL attempt to fix the problem, instead of plans that will take 14 to 20 years.

After all, officials also assured us Tuesday that there is no known case of a child turning into a vegetable after drinking WASA water.

But it would seem from the evidence at Tuesday's meeting that District and WASA officials are still trying to put a happy face on a situation that could have grave consequences.

One last thing: WASA puts a lot of stock in "flushing out the line" — like, run the water for [10] minutes before you take a swig. I'm not going to go into such remedies, because I don't feel qualified to give such advice. But I'd seriously recommend residents find out about "flushing," filters and other possibilities, because it looks like the problem is real. And it isn't going away.

But I also can't help thinking that it might be time to "flush" a few public officials out of the system, too. §



Circles indicate homes that the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority thinks have lead service lines. 13th & E is at the center of the map. SOURCE: WASA, at <http://www.dcwasa.com>.

Panelists danced around some of the worst news in such a way as to suggest that bad is good or up is down. Maybe some would call it spin; a lot of it sounded like double-talk.

Readers Should Request Test Kit

(continued from page 1)

The other bit of information that they discussed at a panel discussion on Tuesday relates to drinking water for those who do have high lead levels or those who suspect they might. You should not consume water from your faucet first thing in the morning. You should wait until showers have been taken, toilets flushed, until a large quantity of water has run through your pipes (a significant amount of water, not just running the faucet for two or three minutes) and then you should gather some water in containers, filter it if you choose to (I do!) and only use that water for consumption. This would include drinking, cooking, etc.

They are currently devising an additional test to look at the water from this “third flush” as they call it. The tests being distributed now include two bottles to collect samples from two flushes. The first flush collects water that has been sitting in the pipes in your house. The second flush is designed to collect water that is coming from the service main line.

This new test will also include the third flush, because they have seen from a very limited test sample (of about six homes) that the amount of lead dramatically decreases with this third flush. This test is not yet available and will only be distributed for those who have lead levels over 300 parts per billion (ppb). Remember the EPA’s maximum limit for lead in the water in residences is 15 ppb.

If you have not done so already, I cannot stress enough that you should contact WASA and request to have a test kit sent to you. This is the only way WASA will be able to gather information about pipes in our neighborhood, which would allow us to request to be on a priority list for lead pipe replacement!

I urge everyone in our Corner Forum area to contact WASA to check the status of their water main pipe, to request a test kit and to take whatever steps they deem necessary to protect themselves and their children.

I included this information in a previous article, but you can get your children’s lead level tested at the Office of Lead Poisoning (they can be reached at 535-2690, 535-2625, or 535-1911). They are even willing to come to your home or school to perform the test.

It is recommended in D.C. for children under the age of 6 to get a lead test every year until their 6th birthday. They do not test babies under 6 months old, because they must draw blood from a vein and not use a finger stick. In this case, the mother may want to get tested to see if her levels are high.

D.C. is particularly worried about the effects of lead paint in children, given the abundance of older homes in the city and the amount of lead paint and lead dust that exists besides the current water issue. Speaking out to WASA, their board of directors and the City Council is necessary to get reactions. §

Mugged by Boys With Gun

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one, I think — was holding a silver-colored gun. I thought I might be shot. I remember thinking I didn’t want to go in the alley with them.

“Empty your pockets,” one of them said. I gave them my wallet. “How much do you have?” Just 20 bucks. They rifled through my wallet (and took my 20 but left a one-dollar bill, I saw later). I think it was always the shorter guy — the one whose face was covered and who wasn’t holding the gun — who was talking. They asked what else I had. Nothing.

I was scared they would shoot me because I had seen them. (I’m pretty sure one of them didn’t have a mask on, and I remember wishing that they’d been better disguised — as it turns out, they didn’t need more masks: I couldn’t remember what they were wearing and can’t recall what their faces looked like anyway. All I was able to tell the police was I guessed they were about 150 pounds and medium complexioned.)

I said, “Please don’t hurt me.”

The shorter, younger one told his partner, “Come on, son,” and they sprinted down the alley, toward E Street. I got out of the alley before I saw which way they turned on E. Still jittery, but relieved and grateful, I picked up my wallet, keys and book. (I forgot about the frozen yogurt and left it lying there until this morning.)

I got home a minute or two later — it was 10:03 p.m. — and called 911. I wrote down and told my wife, Tammi Cioffi, what happened. She said she didn’t think she could live here anymore.

A police car arrived in maybe three minutes, and Officer C. Jackson Jr., of our PSA (511), took me around the neighborhood, past Lincoln Park, past Miner, past the Checkers, to look for the boys. He said he wanted to take me by all the spots where young kids hang out. I didn’t see them. While we were driving, I heard another officer say on the police radio that he had just seen a white van speed off, heading north, near us, on Tennessee Avenue, but that he had lost it.

Just south of the Checkers, heading south on 14th Street, we passed a pair of boys, one of whom was wearing a mask. I said I couldn’t say for sure, but that it probably wasn’t them (one of them was too tall, and they looked much too relaxed.)

Officer Jackson called for backup anyway, and three other cars arrived almost immediately. An officer frisked the two boys and had them standing against a police car for 15 minutes (I’m not sure if they were handcuffed) while they checked that there were no warrants out for them. Then they put them in a spotlight shining from the car I was still in (so they wouldn’t see me), and I said I didn’t think either of them were the boys who threatened me. I felt bad that they got hassled by police essentially because they were black boys who happened to be walking near the area where two black boys committed a crime. Happens all the time, I’m told. Officer Jackson took me home, and he and a detective — Detective Metivier — took down a statement. They left at 11:05 p.m.

Why did those boys want my money badly enough to threaten my life? §

ANC Committee Seeks Comments on Standards for Stores Selling Liquor

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solicit input from merchants and D.C. officials. A third will solicit input from community associations.

ANC Commissioner Jessica Ward opened the community comments by stating her concern that a voluntary agreement would interfere with protestants who have been petitioning the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board since last summer. She also suggested using a moratorium standard instead of a voluntary agreement and urged the committee to redirect its energy towards a moratorium, which would be valid for no more than five years and could be re-assessed at that time.

ANC Commissioner Joseph Fengler argued that it was necessary to take the pulse of the community, asking the community whether the community wanted minimum standards that would be applied to all Class A and Class Bs. (Class A licenses permit the sale of liquor, wine and beer; Class B licenses permit the sale of only wine and beer.) He said that the community may decide on a moratorium but should only do that after the community has discussed their goals.

A resident from 13th & F Streets NE commented that he had seen a lot of transition in the neighborhood. He said that a certain establishment on 13th Street NE has contributed to the community, and he does not see why this establishment is being protested. Drug deals on the street are a police matter and not the responsibility of the person running the store. He further stated that the 13th Street store should be a model for other community businesses. He said he was not familiar with other establishments.

ANC Commissioner Nick Alberti said that he too had been in the community for 20 years. He said that there has been some confusion over what a community can do to promote standards for establishments. He said that standards could stipulate what types of products are sold to promote the best interests of the community. This is particularly true for Class B establishments. What are we expecting those establishments to be like, he asked —grocery stores or really liquor stores selling a few snacks?

A second resident at 13th & F Streets NE asked what the purpose of the meeting was and then asked if the ANC could enforce minimum standards. Commissioner Kuiken said that the ANC's job was not to enforce the guidelines, but that the ANC would establish guidelines for drawing up voluntary agreements with stores. That way, one store would not have an advantage over another. When it came time to renew licenses in 2005, the ANC would approach each liquor store and would use its weight within the D.C. government to protest the license if the store had not complied with the community's minimum standards.

After voicing his support for the establishment on 13th Street, the resident said that he assumed that no one is happy with the situation now because this meeting had been convened. He emphasized that a system needed to be set up where everyone in the community knows what is happening and any new standards would serve the people in the community.

Mr. Kuiken said that if the community decided to have community standards, there would be five additional meetings to discuss those standards.

Mrs. Lee, the owner of N-A Minit on 13th Street, said that she did not think it is right for the ANC to dictate to business owners whether to sell singles. She said that she did not think that people standing in front of the store reflect a problem with selling singles — most of the trash that she picks up, she said, were potato chip wrappers and other things.

Nick Alberti said that a set of minimum standards would be beneficial to business owners because they would know what the community expects. The community also would know what is reasonable to protest and could measure their concerns against the standards.

Mr. Kuiken reiterated that merchants would have the first priority to speak at a separate meeting for merchants. The meeting, which will be open to the community, will be on March 16. Merchants can submit as much written testimony as they want to and will be allotted around five minutes to speak, depending on how many people are seeking to speak. Residents will be able to speak afterwards, for around two minutes.

The second resident from 13th & F again emphasized that the committee needed to do more reach out to the residents in the community. He argued that the committee would have to take this issue to the community rather than expecting people to come to them. He suggested that the committee target the churches in the area.

Mr. Kuiken said that the committee welcomes community input and would gladly have a second meeting for residents.

Charles White, a committee member, said that he was very concerned about some of the stores. He said the stores at a minimum should keep top papers out of the sight of children, and ideally should not to sell them at all. He noted that several of the stores in the area are selling single cigarettes for 25 cents apiece, though it is illegal to sell unpackaged cigarettes.

One of the residents at 13th & F noted that the establishment on 13th Street did not sell top papers. A resident who walked in late stated that she was at the meeting in support of N-A Minit.

Many of the people who attended were confused about what the meeting was attempting to accomplish. Much of the meeting thus was spent attempting to clarify its purpose rather than receiving community input.

The record is open until March 15 for written or oral community input. For comments, contact committee chairman Michael Kuiken, at Michael_Kuiken@hotmail.com or 369-0735). There were not many people at the meeting, so the committee did not receive a lot of input from residents and encourages residents to submit their comments and suggestions.

The ANC commissioners for our area are Jessica Ward (396-3193), for the area north of the middle of E Street, and Michael Musante (548-2542), for the area south of that line. §

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

Monday, February 23

7:30 p.m. Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting. "Join us for great presentations by landscape designer Cheryl Corson and public space advocate Barry Goodinson of Green Spaces for DC. We'll discuss landscaping in the historic district (including permitting), good plants for small gardens, public green space, and more!" At the Northeast Branch Library, 330 7th St. NE (by Maryland Avenue), 698-3320, <http://stantonpark.org>.

Tuesday, February 24

10 a.m. PSA Restructuring Hearing. By D.C. Council Judiciary Committee. "A hearing on the MPDC's Police Service Area (PSA) Restructuring plan. ... The plan, which reduces the number of PSAs from 83 to 43, is designed to improve police services in DC neighborhoods and enhance public involvement in community policing." In Room 412, Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 724-7808. http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed.shtm.

11 a.m. Open Wide the Freedom Gates: A Memoir. Civil rights activist and social reformer Dorothy Height will discuss her new book. At the Library of Congress, Mumford Room, 6th floor, James Madison Memorial Building, 101 Independence Ave. SE. Info, 707-6456. <http://www.loc.gov>.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Neighborhood History in DC. "Matthew Gilmore, co-editor of H-DC, Washington DC History e-list and Web site, will be offering a workshop for doing neighborhood history — offering research techniques and describing the sources." In the Washingtonian Division of the DC Public Library, 901 G St. NW, Room 307. Registration requested, dc-edit@mail.h-net.msu.edu or 352-4378.

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The last issue was edited by Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE, and Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE. There are 84 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (31 on E Street, 29 on Emerald Street, 18 on 13th Street, and 6 on Duncan Place). Thank you, to all. §

7 p.m. ANC 6A Economic Development & Zoning Committee. Agenda includes 1) review of application by 347 Tennessee Ave. NE for special exception to allow a two-story rear addition; 2) maintenance and disposition of D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development property at 525 9th St. NE; and 3) Large Tract Review by Office of Planning of Arboretum Place Proposal by Clark Realty (the development of 52 townhouses and 200 apartments will affect the revitalization of H Street NE). Info, ANC Commissioner 6A03 Cody Rice, 544-3734. In the Community Room, Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G St. NE. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

Wednesday, February 25

2 p.m. City Council Oversight Hearing of WASA's Lead Service Replacement Program. In Room 500, Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. 724-8105.

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

Thursday, February 26

7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) Ward Six Neighborhood Citizen Summit. With Mayor Williams. Topics of discussion: Lessons from Citizen Summit III, a long-range vision for D.C.; priorities and initiatives in the proposed fiscal year 2005 Budget request; and questions and answers with the mayor. At Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 10th St. NE. Info, 727-2822. <http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov>.

Saturday, February 28

Out of Boundary Public school transfer request deadline.

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

11 a.m. Tree Pruning Workshop. Trees for Capitol Hill has arranged for Jim Adams of the National Arboretum to give a free Tree Pruning Workshop in our neighborhood. Meet at the corner of 7th & Constitution. We'll walk up Massachusetts and end at Ladybird Park, pruning along the way. Info, Laura Canfield, 547-2209 or lmc01@verizon.net.

Monday, March 1

7 p.m. H Street Food Coop Meeting. Everyone is welcome. At the old Bank Of America building, 961 H St. NE.

7 p.m. Stanton Park Playground Design Meeting. "The National Park Service, DC park planners, and community representatives have agreed upon a new design for Stanton Park playground. ... The meeting will give residents a chance to offer their views on the new equipment and the replacement schedule." By the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association. At Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th Street & Independence Avenue SE. <http://www.stantonpark.org>.

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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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

(continued from page 7)

Tuesday, March 2

7:30 p.m. North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association (NLPNA) meeting. With Ward 6 Services Coordinator Peter Jones and his assistant Francine Edmonds. At Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C Streets NE.

Wednesday, March 3

9:30 a.m. N-A Minit/Excello. Three status hearings. At the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, 941 North Capitol St. NE, 7th floor. Info, Laura Byrd, 442-4359, or Zandra Goode, 442-4418.

Friday, March 5

6-8 p.m. Print Portfolio 2004, opening reception. Includes works by Dustin Piccolo, 524 13th St. NE. Through March 27. Exhibit is open Tuesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. At Corcoran College of Art and Design, 328-9100. <http://www.DFAonline.com>.

Saturday, March 6

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Second Annual Pancake Feast. By the Capitol Hill Scouts Troop 500. A fundraiser to help finance scouting activities and equipment. The all-you-can-eat menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, milk, juice and coffee. Requested donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12. Tickets may be purchased from the scouts in advance or at the door. At Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church (lower level Washington Seminar Center), corner of 4th Street SE & Independence Avenue. <http://www.capitolhillscouts.org>.

1-3 p.m. Talking History with JEB (Joan E. Biren). The Rainbow History Project and the Lesbian Services Program of Whitman Walker Clinic present an afternoon Talking History Chat with Joan E. Biren, internationally recognized

documentary artist. JEB will discuss her career as a documentarian, her time as a member of the Furies collective, and aspects of the history of the lesbian community, especially in Washington. At the Lesbian Services Program of Whitman Walker Clinic, 1432 U St. NW. Info, 907-9007.

Ongoing

Prostate Cancer Testing. For men ages 40 and older. On the third Wednesday of each month, all day. By the Howard University Cancer Center. At Howard University Cancer Center, 2041 Georgia Ave. NW. Info, 806-9259.

7:30 p.m. on Feb. 23, 24 and 25 and March 1, 2 and 3. Flavors. A concert, a tapestry of favorite and classic songs from the 40s to the present. Starring The Father's Children, Ty-Gray-El and the Str8-N-Up Performers. Also featured are Kris & Krew (dancers), Mercedes Arrington (gospel singer), Megan Barkley (ballerina) and Personal Touch and many others. This show is presented by Str8-N-Up productions, Inc. Tickets \$21.50. Info, 550-3863. Tickets, <http://boxofficetickets.com>. At the H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE.

Citizen Forester Trainings. By the Casey Trees Endowment Fund. "Citizen Foresters are local volunteers who serve the DC community by helping to restore, enhance, and protect our city's tree canopies. ... Participants learn to select and prepare a tree planting site, choose an appropriate tree species for the site, and properly plant the tree to ensure survival. We cover the techniques critical to maintaining urban tree health, including mulching, watering, and pruning. The service component consists of community tree planting and maintenance projects." Classes (daytime or evening) start week of March 1. Register with Heather Langford, 833-4010. <http://www.caseytrees.org/cfprogram.html>. §

Tips

Settlement Makes Small Relief Available to Microsoft Users in D.C.

BY JACK PREIS, 1310 E ST. NE

If you purchased Microsoft software or a Microsoft operating system between February 15, 1996 and December 31, 2002, you are likely eligible for a small voucher to use toward the purchase of various computer products. The software or operating system must have been purchased for use in the District, although it could have been purchased anywhere in the country.

The availability of these vouchers are the result of a settlement of a class action lawsuit against Microsoft. The plaintiffs in the suit alleged that Microsoft marketed its software and operating systems in a coercive way, with the result that consumers were given little if any choice in the software they wished to purchase. Although Microsoft has always vigorously

denied these accusations, it decided recently to settle the case without admitting any guilt or liability.

The value of the vouchers is generally \$5 for purchases of software (such as Microsoft Word, Excel, or Microsoft Office) and \$10 for purchases of operating systems (such as Windows 95), whether purchased on their own or as pre-installed on hardware. The vouchers may be used toward the purchase of Microsoft or non-Microsoft computer products, and in some cases, may be redeemed for their cash value. To receive the voucher, claims must be submitted by August 2, 2004. Claim forms and further details on the settlement are available online at <http://www.microsoftproductssettlement.com/districtofcolumbia/home.htm>. §