

# 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 #63  
Sunday, March 7, 2004  
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax  
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

## Taking Poetry to the Street

BY THOMAS J. WOODY, REFERENCE LIBRARIAN, MLK JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
1300 block of Emerald St. NE

*Thomas J. Woody, sociology reference librarian at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, has been serving the community with the latest and most informative information for more than 15 years. He will be seen dashing through the crowd as stage manager for "Taking Poetry to the Streets." He has been working diligently for the past several months to deliver a superb festival. He says: Don't hesitate to say "hello!"*



National Poetry Month, inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets, brings together poets and other literati around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. A number of organizations participate through poetry readings, festivals, book displays, workshops and other events.

To help celebrate National Poetry Month, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library is holding a poetry celebration titled "Taking Poetry to the Street," on Saturday, April 3. Our library's celebration will include a free, block-long street festival of family fun and activities for all ages.

A carnival-like atmosphere is our aim, with various tables and stages set

*Continued on page 4*

## Officials Tour Pepco Site At Corner of 13th & D

PHOTO AND STORY BY SHARON COCHRAN  
1300 block of Emerald Street NE

Friday morning, five Pepco employees visited the Pepco facility at 401-403 13th St. NE with Michael Musante (411 11th St. NE, 548-2542), the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the Corner Forum area south of the middle of E Street NE.

Shown in the photo, from left to right: Charles W. Myers, Pepco's supervisor for field operations and maintenance, Shirley H. Harmon, Pepco's senior environmental coordinator, and Mr. Musante. Three other Pepco employees were also present.

Pepco officials said the company would increase how often the facility's property would be cleaned up to once every week, from the current rate of once every two weeks.

Mr. Musante had requested the meeting in an effort to address the poor upkeep of the facility.

In addition to the frequency of clean-ups, the officials also discussed painting the fence black and removing the graffiti from the building. §



## Initial Staffing Level for Our PSA Set at 40 Officers

BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

*On February 23, the D.C. Police Department released its preliminary data on officer staffing levels for all of the 43 newly proposed Police Service Areas (PSAs). On Feb. 27, I spoke with Anne Grant, the police analyst at the police department who has been one of the chief architects for the new PSA proposal. I asked her about how the staffing decision would affect our own PSA — which will be PSA 103. The staffing table is posted on police department's Web site, <http://mpdc.dc.gov>. Ms. Grant can be reached at 727-0915 or [acgrant@mpdc.org](mailto:acgrant@mpdc.org).*

**First of all, Ms. Grant, the staffing table on your Web site shows two sets of numbers for each PSA. Can you explain the difference?**

Yes. The first set of numbers, under "At the time of the roll-out," shows the staffing level as of May 1, this year, which is when the new PSA boundaries are to take effect. The second set, under "Authorized at 3,800," shows the staffing level when the whole D.C. police force reaches 3,800, as approved by DC Council. The Council wanted to see the staffing level for each PSA as of Sept. 30, 2004, the end of the fiscal year, when the City expects to get 3,800 police officers.

*Continued on page 6*

## D.C. Has a Serious Alcohol Problem

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

Since the banning of chilled single beers is currently a hot topic in our neighborhood, I want to pass on to you some of the facts and ideas put forth in "Drug Strategies: Facing Facts, Drugs and the Future of Washington, DC." This in-depth 1999 study by the nonprofit research institute Drug Strategies reports on all drugs, but I will focus on those findings related to alcohol.

Researchers found that heavy drinking among adults in D.C. is 50 percent more prevalent than it is nationwide. They defined heavy drinking as five or more drinks in a day, four or more times per month.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism estimates that on average, in 1995, 3.89 gallons of pure alcohol were consumed per person in D.C. That represents nearly three six-packs of beer per week for every man, woman and child in D.C. It should come as no surprise to anyone that our alcohol-related mortality is double the national rate.

The study's findings on the rate of alcohol use was verified by the D.C. 2000 Household Survey on Substance Abuse, conducted by the D.C. Department of Health. That survey found that in Ward 6, 83.4 percent of us reported having a drink in our lifetime, and nearly half (46.4%) of us had a drink in the previous month. I think that the most scary finding of the Department of Health's survey is that one in every three kids between the ages of 12-17 have used alcohol in their lifetime. Seventeen percent had reported drinking the previous month. It's illegal to drink alcohol in D.C. before the age of 21.

In 1998, D.C. had a licensed liquor store for every 1,950 residents. In Ward 6, we had 206 licensed outlets: 111 of them were liquor or convenience stores and the other 95 were taverns or restaurants, according to the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. More recent numbers are difficult to come by, but it is worth noting that the D.C. Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration issued 542 new licenses between October 2002 and May 2003. During that period, the agency revoked only one license.

The report also points out that D.C.'s alcohol excise tax rate is among the lowest in the country. For mixed drinks, it has been 1.8 cents since 1978. If the excise tax was indexed to inflation alone, it would be 4 cents.

In 1999, we spent \$42.45 per capita on all kinds of drug treatment and prevention, while we spent \$1,257 per capita for police, courts and jails. There is a close connection between crime and alcohol, and we need to rethink our approach to this problem. In September 2003, the city issued the First Citywide Comprehensive Substance Abuse Strategy for the District of Columbia. Hopefully this will lead to a more effective strategy in dealing with alcohol and other drug abuse.

For more information, check out 1) Drug Strategies: Facing The Facts, Drugs and the Future of Washington, DC at <http://www.drugstrategies.org/acrobat/WashingtonDC99.pdf>; 2) the First Citywide Comprehensive Substance Abuse Strategy for the District of Columbia at [\[vices/administration/offices/apr/pdf/dcstrategy2003\\\_10\\\_15\\\_03.shtm\]\(http://www.drugstrategies.org/acrobat/WashingtonDC99.pdf\); and 3\) Updating the Economic Costs of Alcohol Abuse at \[www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/economic-2000/alcoholcost.PDF\]\(http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/economic-2000/alcoholcost.PDF\).](http://dchealth.dc.gov/ser-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Many thanks to Dawn Kopecki (100 block of 15th St. NE) for finding these resources. §

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## Liquor Standards Would Be Useful Only If They're Specific, Enforceable

BY MARY BROOKS BEATTY, 1200 BLOCK OF DUNCAN PLACE NE

*The following is a letter Ms. Beatty submitted to Michael Kuiken, the chairperson of the ANC Alcoholic Beverage Committee. Mr. Kuiken and his committee are seeking public comments on whether or not to establish community standards for stores selling liquor. Letters can be sent to Mr. Kuiken at [kuikenanc6a@hotmail.com](mailto:kuikenanc6a@hotmail.com) or to ANC 6A, PO Box 75115, Washington, DC 20013. (Please share your letters with the Corner Forum, too!)*

I am writing to submit my comments regarding community standards for stores selling liquor in ANC 6A. I did not receive or read notice of the meeting held on February 17, but am very interested in this matter. I am, in fact, one of the organizers of the protest of license renewal for N-A Minit and the transfer of Excello license to N-A Minit.

I decided to help organize these protests after seeing the failure of voluntary agreements with these stores. Though Excello has had a voluntary agreement in place for many years, there is no enforcement, and therefore the problems continue. Therefore, I believe that the community should take a more forceful approach to the problems (which include drug dealing all around the stores). I feel that a community-wide moratorium on the sale of singles might be useful, but a standard set of guidelines for voluntary agreements would not be an effective deterrent to the problems that exist at Excello and N-A Minit. Further, the specific problems at these two establishments have more to do with criminal activity *around* the store than *by* the store, so any agreement needs to be tailored for the specific problems that exist at that location.

However, if we could establish community guidelines, *and then enforce them*, I believe that there may be value in establishing a "baseline" of business conduct for liquor stores. My fear however is that standards would have to be so generic that they too would be ineffective for specific problems. While I think everyone can agree on the goal, that is, well maintained businesses that don't disturb the neighborhood, the "devil is in the detail." It may be difficult to determine how the goal can be achieved.

So in summary, I think that community standards are only useful if 1) they can be enforced, and 2) if they are specific enough to address the unique circumstances behind the common concerns. I would be very much in favor of a ban on the sale of singles in this area, and would like to help in any efforts along those lines. In the meantime, I feel that the protest process is the best avenue to effect change. §

## Brita Filters Have Limited Lifespan

BY LYNNE LEWIS, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

The city of D.C. is passing out free water filters, and they are passing out the water pitcher from Brita. I looked on the box, and it says it removes 98 percent of lead, so it is an effective lead filter.

However, people should make sure and notice that the filter has a limited life span. There's a filter cartridge that fits into the pitcher, and it is only good for 40 gallons, and then it has to be replaced. So I don't want people to think that they can just use that pitcher for the next six months and be safe: the filter eventually fills up and is not effective anymore.

Also, people need to be sure to read the instructions that come with the pitcher — because for some of them, you have to soak the cartridge completely immersed in water before you begin using it the first time, and you also may have to pour out the first few pitchers full of water. §

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## Ambrose Supportive of a Moratorium On Chilled Singles in 6A04 District

BY WARD 6 COUNCIL MEMBER SHARON AMBROSE  
(Excerpted from an article in the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association newsletter The Buzz)

*In an article in the March Buzz, Council Member Sharon Ambrose writes that she is eager to help ANC Commissioner Nick Alberti (6A04, 543-3512 or alberti6a04@yahoo.com) seek a moratorium on chilled singles in his district, which is roughly from 12th to 16th Streets and from East Capitol to C Street NE.*

As the Chair of the Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, I have worked hard to amend the alcohol laws to allow more community input and to make it easier for neighborhoods to protect their right to maintain a peaceful and quiet community.

I am very excited to learn that ANC Commissioner Nick Alberti is willing to experiment with a provision of the ABC law that I hope will be a great tool for communities. Commissioner Alberti has agreed that he will work closely with my office to try to attain a moratorium on the sale of chilled singles within his single member district (SMD).

A moratorium is an important tool, available to all neighborhoods, and is a particularly good tactic for Commissioner Alberti's SMD. I look forward to participating with Commissioner Alberti in this effort. In conclusion, I want to emphasize my commitment to assisting Commissioner Alberti in his quest to attain a moratorium in his SMD. I believe that with his efforts combined with other neighbors' efforts and the work that can be done at my office we may be able to create the first ever ABC Board imposed moratorium on sales of chilled singles. §

## WASA Tests Water in Schools; DCPS Removes Sink at Eliot JHS

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

D.C. Public Schools removed the sink from Room 109 at Eliot Junior High School (1830 Constitution Ave. NE), after WASA found elevated levels of lead in the water coming out of that sink. WASA found 50 parts per billion (ppb) of lead in water coming out of that sink; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standard for lead is 15 ppb.

On Feb. 14, WASA tested three water fountains and two sinks at every public school in the city. Of those sources tested in our local elementary, junior high or senior high schools, the sink at Eliot was source where elevated levels of lead were found. The test used was sensitive enough to detect lead at levels greater than 2 ppb.

Citywide, 744 of the total 752 samples contained either no detectable quantities of lead or levels below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "action level" for residences of 15 parts per billion (ppb). In addition to the sink at Eliot, WASA found excessive levels of lead at a sink at Balou Senior High (16 ppb), a sink at Bell Multicultural Senior High (160 ppb), a fountain at Douglass Alternative Education School (43 ppb), a fountain at Dunbar Senior High (22 ppb), a sink at Kenilworth Elementary (109 ppb), a sink in the kitchen at Woodson Senior High (110 ppb) and a fountain at the Penn Center administrative offices (18 ppb).

At Eliot, WASA found no detectable amounts of lead in the sink in the kitchen, in the drinking fountain next to the office, in the drinking fountain next to Room 102 or in the fountain next to Room 104.

At Miner Elementary (601 15th St. NE), no detectable levels of lead were found at the sink in the Nurse Aid Room, at the sink in the kitchen (2nd sink from freezer), in the fountain beside room 148, in the drinking fountain next to room 136, or in the fountain to the right of room 112.

At Browne Junior High (850 26th St. NE), WASA found 3.5 ppb of lead in the sink in a boy's bathroom, 2.1 ppb in the sink in a girl's bathroom, no detectable levels in the fountain to the right of room 131 in the west wing, in the fountain to the right of Room 204, or in the fountain to the left of Room 103.

At Spingarn Senior High (2500 Benning Rd. NE), no detectable levels were found at the sink to the right of the window in room 115, in a sink in a boy's restroom, in a fountain beside room 126, in the drinking fountain across from the guidance suite, or in the fountain across from room 108.

I asked Gregory Williams, the D.C.P.S. facilities manager, what the school system's plans are for testing the remaining fountains and sinks. He responded in an e-mail Friday that all drinking fountains and sinks in schools were tested during the 1993-1994 school year and replaced or took out of service all fixtures that showed elevated lead levels. Mr. Williams said the Department of Health has requested that WASA test sinks and drinking fountains in Pre-K and Kindergarten classroom, to target the high-risk population of children 6 and under. §

## Taking Poetry to the Street

(continued from page 1)

up for performing and listening to poetry — some for children, some for teens and some for adults, along with some readings in Chinese and Spanish. Books will be given away and sold, and there will be food on sale.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Kojo Nnamdi, host of “The Kojo Nnamdi Show” on WAMU, 88.5 FM. Josephine Reed, who hosts “On the Margin” on WPFW 89.3, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies. For toddlers and other small children, special areas will be set up called “Little Rhymes,” with children’s librarians providing poetry activities. Mother Goose will be on hand reciting poetry, as she delivers her basket of free poetry books. And circles of poetry will be available for readers of all ages.

For youth ages 12 and older, WritersCorps Executive Director Kenny Carroll will be conducting poetry workshops and poetry slams. Roving reciters and Elizabethan-dressed nobles will be quoting Shakespeare, while other poets perform at booths and tables. You’ll get all this and more while enjoying soothing tunes!

Other well-known personalities will include DJ Renegade, Rapper Supreme; members of the City Council; Dolores Kendrick, D.C.’s poet laureate; and E. Ethelbert Miller, noted author and Howard University professor.

So come one and come all as we bring poetry to the citizens in an unusual manner. Help us to reveal the pleasure of poetry for the many, rather than for a few, by enjoying a festive celebration while having a great time. Bring your favorite poem to recite for competition or fun! Or just take away a few that you have learned. If nothing else, stop by to say “hello” to me, your new favorite librarian.

“Taking Poetry to the Street,” a D.C. Public Library Celebration of Poetry, will be held on Saturday, April 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library. All street activities will take place in front of the library at 901 G St. NW. For further information, call 727-1281. §

### New Playground: 11th & Md. Ave.

BY CHESTER W. HUNTER, 1310 EMERALD ST. NE

They put a little park for kids up there between Maryland Avenue and F Street, at 11th — that’s the old park that they let the grass deteriorate! All the stuff they got is safety kind of stuff. They’ve got little slides, and they have benches around there. They’ve got a fence around it, where their mothers and fathers can come and watch the kids. §

## NLPNA Honors City Official

BY ELIZABETH HAGUE, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

The North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association presented a “good neighbor” award Tuesday to Francine Edmonds, the assistant to Peter Jones, the city’s Ward 6 Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Mr. Jones works out of the Office of the City Administrator and handles issues requiring the coordination of several city agencies.

If you have a problem, call the mayor’s call center, 727-1000, and obtain a ticket number. If the problem is not addressed adequately or quickly enough, contact Mr. Jones or Ms. Edmonds and give them the ticket number. Their office can follow up. Ms. Edmonds’s number is 698-5620; her e-mail is francine.edmonds@dc.gov. Mr. Jones’s number is 698-4537, and his e-mail is peter.jones@dc.gov.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Nick Alberti commented that over the years he had frequently called Ms. Edmonds to help him when the city had not resolved problems they had promised to take care of. He said she was always pleasant and responsive. He also called her if the problem of concern required the coordination of several agencies to resolve. Mr. Alberti said that although the Ward 6 Neighborhood Services Coordinator position was left vacant for a long time, Ms. Edmonds handled everything so well as assistant services coordinator that the neighborhood did not suffer. Mr. Jones recently took over the job as Neighborhood Services Coordinator; Leo Pinson served in the position previously.

The meeting covered a few additional topics.

Elizabeth Nelson, the head of the NLPNA, noted that the annual NPLNA yard sale would be held on a Saturday in May. This annual sale raises most of the NPLNA’s annual funds, usually \$600-\$1200, from goods donated by residents. Left-over items are donated to the Lane Memorial Church or to the Salvation Army. The yard sale will be held in the triangle formed by the 1300 block of A Street, North Carolina Avenue and 14th Street NE. The date has yet to be determined.

Ms. Nelson said that a lot of residents have purchased lead testing kits from Frager’s Hardware Store to test their water. While residents should do what they need to do to feel comfortable with the test results, including purchasing lead testing kits from Frager’s, she recommended that they also have WASA test their water so that WASA can get proper statistics and identify where regional problems are. Ms. Nelson pointed out that a Frager’s test alone will not do anything to get the city to replace pipes. WASA will drop a water testing kit off at the resident’s house and arrange a day to pick it up from outside the resident’s house (to request a kit, call 787-2732).

One resident inquired about the status of the new PSA boundaries. Mr. Alberti said he believes the new boundaries will go into effect in late spring. For more information, visit the following Web site: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtml>.

Several residents at the meeting complained that people were buying food at the Checker’s at 1401 Maryland Ave. NE and were then littering in the surrounding neighborhood. §

## Goods and Services

**DRIVER NEEDED:** The Corner Forum needs someone to pick up a box of paper sometime this week or next week from the Frank Parsons store just off the Edsall Road exit of I-395, about 10 miles from us, in Springfield, Va. (The paper is needed for next week's issue.) If you can help with this, please call the Corner Forum at 544-2447. Thank you!

**DVD RENTALS?** Is anyone with Internet access interested in splitting a subscription to Netflix.com? If three households subscribe together and work out a distribution system, each could rent 10-15 DVDs per month (one at a time) for a total of \$6.67 a month. If you're interested, contact me at 544-2806 or borbely@howitis.org. —Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE §

## Updates

**EXCELLO/N-A MINIT:** According to negotiator S. Micah Salb (1318 G St. NE), the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board decided Wednesday to continue its status hearings for the protests to the renewal of Excello's (419 13th St. NE) liquor license, the renewal of N-A Minit's (421 13th St. NE) liquor license and the application by N-A Minit to purchase Excello's liquor license. The status hearings have been continued to March 24 at 9:30 a.m., to give protestants and applicants more time to negotiate.

**WHERE YOUR 37 CENTS GO:** Here's a breakdown of the 37-cent price for the Corner Forum: 16 cents to pay for issues #1 - #12, which were delivered free to everyone in the neighborhood; 7 cents for toner; 5 cents for paper; 3 cents for the laser printer; 3 cents for marketing (free sample issues); 2 cents for the photos; 1 cent to post the Corner Forum on the Internet.

**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 80 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (28 on E Street, 28 on Emerald Street, 18 on 13th Street, and 6 on Duncan Place). Thank you, to all. §

## Renovations Begin at Kingsman

STORY BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD ST. NE  
PHOTO BY STEPHEN SMITH, 1311 E ST. NE

Renovations have begun at Kingsman Elementary School, at 1375 E St. NE. According to an item in the Feb. 26 Washington Post, an application was filed for a building permit to renovate the building, to house Options Public Charter School and Sasha Bruce Public Charter School, starting in September. The estimated cost of the renovations: \$2.6 million. §



## Tips

### D.C. Tax Returns Need More Postage

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

The Feb. 19 issue of the City Paper had a small article about completed and mailed DC tax forms that are getting returned to the taxpayer, due to the lack of enough postage.

It costs at least 49 cents for postage to mail the tax return in the oversized envelope that D.C. government provides in their tax packet.

There is a sentence about this on page 6 of the instructions but it is very easily overlooked.

I happened to be working on my taxes that week, and I did not notice the instructions, since they provide the envelope and nothing but "place stamp here" is on it.

The other option is to use your own envelope. §

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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.**

## 40 Officers, XX Sergeants, 1 Lieutenant Slated for PSA 103

(continued from page 1)

### **So, what is the staffing level proposed for our PSA 103?**

PSA 103 will get 40 officers, 5 sergeants and 1 lieutenant at the time of the roll-out, and hopefully will get 45 officers, 6 sergeants and 1 lieutenant by the end of the fiscal year 2004.

### **How did you come up with the numbers of police officers who would be assigned to each PSA?**

They are based on the new PSA boundary map released on Dec. 9, 2003, and based on the police workload experienced in 2003 in each PSA area. We have also made some changes based on what happened at various hearings. They have not been approved yet, but that is the latest staffing level.

### **These numbers are based on only one year?**

This is only an estimate. We had to do estimate, because everyone in the police department and general public wanted to see some numbers, but we can't do official staffing analysts until after May, when final new PSA boundaries take effect. Most people want to know how many officers will be assigned right now, but we can't do our formal analysis until after the maps are finalized, and things are set in place.

### **So these numbers can change after the maps are finalized?**

Yes, but hopefully not by much.

### **What can citizens do at this point if they have concerns**

### **about the staffing level?**

People are still e-mailing me, but most of them are about the new boundaries, which is what we are trying to finalize. But if they have an opinion about the staffing level, they can certainly do the same thing.

### **Would that make a difference?**

Well, I am not sure if the chief's office is open to more opinion about the staffing level. Because it is not something we have made official yet. We have not done a formal analysis yet. So until we come out with that, it is hard to say whether people should be commenting or worrying about it. But if citizens have comments, I will be happy to forward them to the chief. But again, it is not our priority right now. Our priority right now is to make sure the boundaries are right by the end of the 60-day period, which is the middle of March. Then we are going to worry about all the rest of it.

### **You have visited our neighborhood, attended our meetings. You know our neighborhood. Are you comfortable with the staffing level for our PSA?**

Yeah, I think 101,102 are more hot-spot areas — especially 101 because it is so huge, and has so much going on. Those are the areas we were most concerned about. But PSA 103 has a good number.

**Thanks, Ms. Grant. §**

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## Residents Reminded to Be Vigilant

BY MICHAEL HERMAN, 1300 BLOCK OF D STREET NE

Four citizens, four officers and Peter Jones, the new Ward 6 Neighborhood Services Coordinator, attended the last Police Service Area (PSA) meeting, on Feb. 18, at the Teachers Credit Union at 9th and D Streets NE.

Topics of discussion included:

1) The 18:30 attack of a young woman in front of her home on the 200 block of Tennessee Avenue, as she returned home from work. (She and her husband were at the meeting.) Residents are reminded to be vigilant of their surroundings at all times, regardless of how safe their environs seem.

2) Discussion of the continuing scourge of out-of-state vehicles in the eastern portion of the PSA. A new enforcement initiative has already begun to identify vehicles that appear to belong to residents that fail to display D.C. tags in accordance with D.C. regulations.

[The next meeting is scheduled for March 17.]§

## Miner Students Meet Senator Talent



Miner Elementary School students (from left) Monntreal Jenkins, Moriah Ward, Adam Middleton and J'Melle Harris greet Sen. James Talent (R-MO). The Miner students were among 25 to participate in a Capitol Hill press conference on Feb. 25 to honor Black History Month and the Sickle Cell Treatment Act. Photo and story courtesy of DCPS. Submitted by Angela Tilghman, principal of Miner, 601 15th St NE. §

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## Post Prints Mr. Olinger's Letter On Police, 13th Street Drug Market

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

The Washington Post on Feb. 20 printed a "letter to the editor" written by John Olinger, 1200 block of Duncan Place NE, and referred to it in one of its editorials.

In his letter, Mr. Olinger responded to an article that had reported on inadequate policing elsewhere in the city. Mr. Olinger wrote that police "should come over to the open-air drug market in the 400 block of 13th Street NE."

"Residents of that area are all too familiar with police officers who never venture from the safety of their cars," Mr. Olinger wrote. "As we move into the second decade of this thriving drug market, it is not uncommon to see an officer in his or her car facing the intersection, while drug dealers move around to the alley behind and continue their business. In front of the police car, people double-park, block the intersection and park in front of a hydrant with impunity."

In its editorial "When Cops Won't Police," the Post cited Mr. Olinger's letter as an example of the many residents' complaints about the city's policing. Residents, the Post wrote, are "tired of putting up with violence and drug markets. ... They want the thugs — and bad cops — out of their community and crime brought under control. That is not too much to ask, expect or demand." §

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## Car Burned Down in Alley



At 8:55 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, a car was blazing on fire in the alley between 13th and 14th Street, running north alongside Emerald Street NE. The fire was put out in about 10 minutes by the fire department. According to a police officer on the scene, the car had not been reported stolen at the time of the fire. The car was removed from the alley the following day.

— MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE §

## Calendar of 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

### Sunday, March 7

International Women's Day.

### Monday, March 8

4-6 p.m. Home Purchase Assistance Program Orientation. "HPAP, sponsored by the DC Department of Housing and Community Development, enables low- and moderate-income individuals and families to purchase homes in the District of Columbia. HPAP loans [up to \$20,000] to qualified DC residents or DC government employees to help with down payment and closing costs on the purchase of a home in Washington." Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, 3939 Benning Road NE. Info, 396-1201 ext. 164.

### Tuesday, March 9

6:30 p.m. (refreshments at 6 p.m.) Good Neighbors: New Development in Older Neighborhoods. "Neighbors often cite out-of-character buildings and traffic congestion when objecting to new development. Leading developers and designers show how they have addressed residents' concerns and made new development fit in and enhance existing communities." At the National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9th St. NW, North Lobby, Suite 500. RSVP, 667-5445 or [staff@washingtonregion.net](mailto:staff@washingtonregion.net). <http://www.washingtonregion.net>.

7:30 p.m. Linden Old City Capitol Hill Neighborhood Association Community Meeting. Director Anne Witt of DMV and officials from DOT and Parking Enforcement will be on hand to address issues such as parking enforcement and signs. At Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 10th St. NE. Info, [linexchang@aol.com](mailto:linexchang@aol.com). <http://www.oldcitycapitolhill.org>.

### Wednesday, March 10

9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Building Futures: Housing Design and Development in Washington, D.C.'s Historic Districts. A citywide historic preservation conference sponsored by the D.C. Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office and others. With Mayor Williams. Includes sessions on strategies for attracting newcomers to the city, incentives for encouraging homeownership, and planning for affordable housing for residents who live and work in neighborhood business districts. \$25. At the True Reformer Building, 1200 U St. NW. <http://www.dcpreservation.org/HP%20Building%20Futures1.pdf>.

### Thursday, March 11

6-8:30 p.m. Financial Planning Workshop. Designed to help individuals and families save for the future. Israel Baptist Church, 1251 Saratoga Ave. NE. Info, 667-1700.

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# Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

(continued from page 7)

6:30 p.m. Restoring Excellence to the D.C. Schools. A discussion by the Council of Great City Schools on its recent report, which states that the D.C. schools district has “abdicated its leadership responsibility for student achievement. ... Hear how the Council’s study was conducted, what other urban systems are doing to improve student achievement, and what can be done here in Washington, D.C., to improve education outcomes for all of our students.” At the Sumner School Museum, at 17th & M Streets NW. To RSVP, contact Erika Landberg at 986-8534 or elandberg@dcvoice.org, or Alicia Bell at 986-8533 or abell@dcvoice.org.”

7-9 p.m. ANC 6A Monthly Meeting. Preliminary agenda includes a discussion with Stanley Jackson, director of the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development, on three abandoned properties: 525 9th St. NE; 1125 G St. NE; and the firehouse at 1341 Maryland Ave. NE. Agenda also includes update on process for determining whether there should be community standards for establishments with liquor licenses. At Miner Elementary School, Student Dining Room, 601 15th St. NE. Info, ANC 6A Chairman Joseph Fengler (6A02), 423-8868. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

7:30 p.m. Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeal Class. “Real Estate Tax Bills are in the mail for Tax Year 2005. If you want to learn about real estate taxes in our neighborhood, spend the evening with us as we host officials from the Office of Real Property.” By the Linden Old City Capitol Hill Neighborhood Association Community Meeting. At Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 10th St. NE. <http://oldcitycapitolhill.org>.

## **Saturday, March 13**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Youth Law Fair. The fair will “teach District youth about their rights, responsibilities, and the justice system; encourage District youth to form and voice opinions about important legal and social issues; and empower District youth to believe that they too can pursue careers in the justice community.” The focus will be on gang violence. At D.C. Courthouse, 500 Indiana Ave. NW. By the D.C. Bar Association. Info, 626-3463. [http://www.dcbar.org/for\\_lawyers/sections/litigation/youth\\_law\\_fair](http://www.dcbar.org/for_lawyers/sections/litigation/youth_law_fair).

2 p.m. Researching Building History. “Gail Redmann, Vice President, Research Library and Collections, will offer a hands-on workshop on researching the history of buildings in Washington. She will present a slide presentation of case studies with examples of resources, including maps, city directories, tax assessments, building permits, and photographs.” Reservations required, 383-1809 or [reservations@citymuseumdc.org](mailto:reservations@citymuseumdc.org). Museum admission (\$2 - \$3) required. At the City Museum, 801 K St. NW.

## **Sunday, March 14**

3 p.m. Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Scholarship Fundraiser. Closing performance of “sic” at 4 p.m. Includes tea before the performance, a reception afterwards and a silent auction. Benefits area high school seniors. \$25 for SPNA members and \$30 for non-members. At the H Street Playhouse,

1365 H St. NE. RSVP to Bill Silagi, 543-6775 or [wsilagi@hotmail.com](mailto:wsilagi@hotmail.com). <http://www.stantonpark.org>.

## **Monday, March 15**

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. Info, ANC Commissioner (6A05) Michael Musante, 548-2542 or [mfm81472@yahoo.com](mailto:mfm81472@yahoo.com). <http://www.anc6a.org>.

## **Tuesday, March 16**

7 p.m. ANC 6A Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee meeting on community standards for liquor stores. Panel (neighborhood associations, community groups, liquor store owners, District officials) will take questions from attendees regarding desirability of minimum community standard for voluntary agreements. At Sherwood Recreation Center, 10th and G Streets NE. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

## **Wednesday, March 17**

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

## **Friday, March 19**

7 p.m. An Evening of Poetry and Fiction. With writers from Capitol Hill. By Writer’s Way. At the Corner Store Artist Studio, 9th Street & South Carolina Avenue SE. Info, 547-3506. <http://www.dcwritersway.org>.

## **Saturday, March 20**

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

## **Sunday, March 21**

Happy 2nd birthday to Katina Bigelow (1317 Emerald St. NE)!

## **Ongoing**

H Street Cleanup. Every second Saturday of the month, over the next few months. (Begins March 13). 10 a.m. - noon. “The H Street Main Street Promotions Committee is starting a series of cleanups that will help to make the H Street corridor a more inviting place to visit and shop. Over the next few months, we’ll concentrate on keeping the street clean every second Saturday. So grab broom, dust pan, and gloves, and join fellow neighbors as we pick up trash, sweep the streets, and bring H Street back to glory. ... Some tools will be available, but additional rakes and brooms are always welcome. Garden gloves are also recommended.” Meet at H Street Main Street Office, 961 H St. NE. Info, Joe Tortorici, 368-5698 or [jtortorici@wesleysem.edu](mailto:jtortorici@wesleysem.edu).

March 18-28. 12th Annual Environmental Film Festival. Over 90 documentary, feature, archival, children’s and animated films. These films are presented in collaboration with nearly 60 local, national and international partners. Screenings take place at a wide range of venues throughout the city. Most screenings free. For a schedule, call 342-2564. <http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org>. §