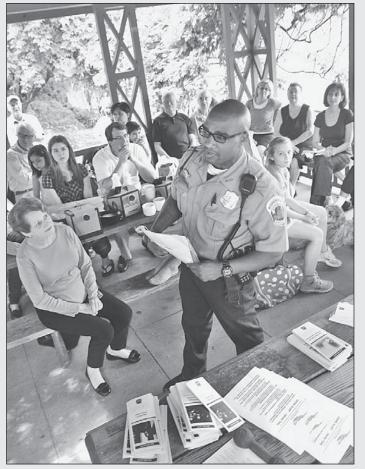
# THE GEORGETOWN CURRENT

#### COMMUNITY POLICING



Bill Petros/The Current

Metropolitan Police Department officers met with Citizens Association of Georgetown block captains and area residents Saturday morning at the gazebo in Montrose Park. The session was one in a series of events to foster community policing.

### Task force proposes ABC overhaul

■ **Liquor laws:** D.C. Council committee will draft measure

By ELIZABETH WIENER

Setting geographic limits for neighbors allowed to protest liquor licenses? Restricting the conditions that can make their way into a "voluntary agreement" with a restaurant or bar? These are just a couple of the ideas that made it into the dozen pages of recommendations by an Alcoholic Beverage Control working group. Ward 1 D.C. Council member Jim Graham assembled the panel to consider changes to some of the city's arcane and controversial liquor laws.

The 24-member group — split roughly between neighborhood leaders and representatives of the bar, restaurant and alcohol industry

— tried to thread its way through the controversy with a series of recommendations on enforcement, noise, hours, catering rules and the everfraught issue of voluntary agreements

But it's unclear which of the ideas will work their way into law. Graham, whose council committee oversees alcohol laws, held a hearing Tuesday to take testimony on the proposals.

See **Liquor**/Page 36

### City relaxes Glover Park moratorium

By BRADY HOLT

Current Staff Writer

Soon after the city relaxed the moratorium on new liquor licenses in Glover Park, a new Vietnamese restaurant is looking to open up in the former Margarita's spot at 2317 Wisconsin Ave.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board last month followed the advisory neighborhood commission's recommendation to continue to cap the number of liquor licenses in Glover Park, but to increase the limit of restaurants with full alcohol service from 12 to 14. Soon afterward, the board received a license application for a new fast-casual Vietnamese restaurant, District Noodles.

"It's exciting to see that the decision to add two new restaurant liquor licenses in Glover Park is working as intended to help draw new restaurants to the neighborhood," neighborhood commission chair Brian Cohen wrote in an email. "And we hope that a few more restau-



Bill Petros/The Current

A fast-casual Vietnamese restaurant, the first establishment to apply for one of the two newly available liquor licenses, has leased the former Margarita's space at 2317 Wisconsin Ave.

## Theater redesign needs refinement, board says

By ELIZABETH WIENER

Current Staff Write

It started with an anonymous donor. A faithful patron of the Keegan Theatre at 1742 Church St. NW loved to attend performances in the 107-year-old building, but was appalled at the condition of the bathrooms and the many stairs that made it almost impossible for the disabled to reach them.

The patron's offer to pay for restroom and accessibility improvements spawned a larger project now making its bumpy way through the city's review process.

The Keegan's proposal for a 150-square-foot glassy addition, including new stairs, a new entrance and much-needed elevator, left a clearly sympathetic Historic Preservation Review Board struggling with the details last week



Rendering courtesy of Jeff Stoiber

The proposed addition to the left of the historic theater building would provide a new entrance that would not require patrons to climb as many stairs.

"You're boxed in. I see what you're up against, and architect to architect, I feel for you," member Joseph Taylor told project architect Jeff Stoiber at a hearing last Thursday.

The board and its staff have asked to see the project See **Keegan/**Page 8

## Cooperative Play preschool to add second class at Volta

By DEIRDRE BANNON

Current Staff Writer

After a grass-roots movement gained momentum, the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation has decided to add a new age group to its Cooperative Play preschool at the Volta Park recreation center in Georgetown.

Starting this September, a new class will be offered for children ages 18 to 29 months old; previously, the Volta Park program offered sessions only for 2-and-a-half- to 5-year-old children. The expansion is due to a parent-led effort that high-

lighted demand for a class for younger toddlers.

Caroline Simonds Pessey, a parent with one child in the Volta program, inquired about adding the class as she considered options for her second daughter, who will be 20 months in September.

The closest existing program for that age group is at Hardy recreation center at 4500 Q St. Since her family doesn't have a car, Hardy was "too far," she said.

Simonds Pessey noticed there was space in the Volta Park center to accommodate another class, so she

See **Preschool**/Page 25

#### NEWS

Problems at Mood Lounge spur officials to try new tactics



#### **SPORTS**

Visitation lax wins twice to secure its first ISL banner

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#### **PASSAGES**

Word play gets competitive at school Scrabble tournament

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#### **GLOVER**

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rants take advantage of the available licenses and choose to open in Glover Park."

Just 10 alcohol-serving establishments are now open in the neighborhood — two existing licenses aren't in use, and no one has yet applied for the second newly available one. According to neighborhood commissioner Jackie Blumenthal, whose single-member district covers the neighborhood's Wisconsin

Avenue commercial strip, another new restaurant is considering leasing space in Glover Park and might therefore take one of the other licenses

The expanded moratorium is designed to allow for more restaurants while preventing an explosion of nightlife establishments that some residents fear could transform the neighborhood for the worse. But neighborhood commissioner Ben Thielen, who opposed continuing the liquor license moratorium, said the cap is stifling Glover Park's dining options.

"People along the Wisconsin Avenue cor-

ridor clearly want more dining options and, unfortunately, the limit on [restaurant-class] licenses restricts these choices," Thielen wrote in an email.

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When the neighborhood commission voted to extend the moratorium in February, several residents said they worried that existing businesses would snap up the few new licenses, closing that opportunity for new restaurants.

If the alcohol board approves the District Noodles application after a scheduled June 25 hearing, it will join Mayfair & Pine, 2218 Wisconsin Ave., as one of two new restaurants

opening in the neighborhood this year. Mayfair & Pine, with former "Top Chef" contestant Emily Sprissler at the helm, is expected to open later this spring at the former location of Town Hall, which moved up the street.

District Noodles has applied for hours of operation for 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and seating capacity of 50 patrons. Residents have until June 11 to protest the application.

Blumenthal said she's inviting a representative of the restaurant to present at the neighborhood commission's June meeting, but noted that the concept seems promising.

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