

The Buzz

North
Lincoln Park's
Neighborhood Newsletter

February 2002

Volume 12 Number 2

Kingsman Inching Forward

According to Paul Cohn of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), DHCD has signed an option agreement with the Options Charter School to purchase the closed Kingsman Elementary School. This means DHCD is now working exclusively with the Options Charter School for the purchase of Kingsman. According to Paul, Kingsman will not be sold until the community has an opportunity to comment on the intended sale, and the Options Charter School arranges financing. DHCD currently has set a June 30th deadline for presenting a recommendation to the City Council on the sale of Kingsman.

New Landscaping Project

The District's Department of Transportation (DOT) will be working with neighbors living on the 200 blocks of Tennessee Ave. and 13th St. to re-landscape the parcel of land at the intersection of these two streets. The land is located across the street from the Maury Elementary School and immediately north of the triangular park where the D.C. Public Art Initiative sculpture is to be installed this summer. Phil Paparodis is leading the effort on this project. For more information, contact Phil at 547-4313.

NLPNA Directory

To be included in the NLPNA directory, call Elizabeth at 543-3512.

Profile: Professional Pet Designs

by Richard Sundberg

Professional Pet Designs opened last year at 423 13th Street NE. I heard good things about it from neighbors and recently had an opportunity to sit down with the owner and chat with him.

Mr. Howard Gordon is the owner of the business, and it turns out he has had a life-long passion for pets of all kinds. His career with animal care and grooming began at an early age, when as a teenager he talked his way into doing chores for Dr. Weber, the first practicing Afro-American veterinarian in D.C. The doctor eventually allowed Mr. Gordon to assist him, and along the way taught him how to deal with aggressive pets. At the same time Mr. Gordon began working for Chi-Chi's, a legendary Georgetown pet grooming firm. Mr. Gordon's made a niche for himself there in specializing in the grooming of large dogs that most others found intimidating. Mr. Gordon worked for Dr. Weber and Chi-Chi's until he had the means to open his own business. At that point things took off and his business enjoyed great success. He eventually relocated to larger facilities on Pennsylvania Ave. SE, and it looked like the sky was the limit.

But then, as often happens, there were some reversals in the form of a heart attack and two strokes. Mr. Gordon was forced to close his business. But fortunately, it was not the end of a life-long passion. In Mr. Gordon's words, "the Lord was good to me." Dr. Page of the

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- NLPNA meeting, Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C St., N.E. Speaker from the Call Box Project will attend (see article). All are welcome.
- ANC 6B meeting, Tuesday, February 12, 7 p.m., Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E.
- NLPNA meeting, Tuesday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C St., N.E. All are welcome.
- Urban Campout, Saturday, June 8 – Sunday, June 9. Call 543-3512 to volunteer for the planning committee.
- Visit NLPNA's web site at www.nlpna.juniperdc.com.
- *The Buzz* editorial staff can be reached at 543-3512.

Animal Clinic of Capitol Hill allowed Mr. Gordon to keep his skills honed there. Now, years later, Mr. Gordon has re-established himself at his current business address. Drop in if you have the opportunity to chat, or give him a call at 397-5060.

NLPNA Bylaws

The bylaws of the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association will not be printed in *The Buzz* but are available on our website and at NLPNA meetings.

The Snags Are Gone!

Thanks to Trees for Capitol Hill (with a grant from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation), the broken remains of the Bradford pear trees at the corner of Constitution and 14th St have been removed.

This will make more room for the new black gum tree to flourish and we will not have to worry about falling limbs in the next ice storm. The new tree was provided by Trees For Capitol Hill with a grant from the CHAMPS Community Foundation.

Greening Grants

Garden Resources of Washington recently announced the availability of grants up to \$1,000 for community and youth greening projects. The funds may be used for expenses such as seeds, plants, tools and other gardening supplies, educational materials, outreach, and project documentation. Applications are due February 20, 2002. For information on the grants, e-mail grow19@aol.com or call 234-0591.

Calling All Call Boxes

Paul Williams, from the D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition, will be the guest speaker at the February 5th, NLPNA meeting. Paul will share with us the citywide efforts groups are taking to transform the decaying call boxes in their neighborhoods into pieces of art that tell a story about their local culture and history.

The January 17th issue of *The Washington Post* District Extra ran a cover story about the call box project. The city recently awarded a contract to remove lead paint from the salvageable boxes and apply a primer. Once the boxes are primed, they will be ready for neighborhood groups to fix up. Some groups may use the boxes to highlight forgotten facts of local history, and other groups may transform them into works of art. Neighborhood groups will be able to apply for \$250 to \$500 grants to help fix the call boxes.

NLPNA has at least 16 call boxes within its boundaries. This is

a great opportunity for us to showcase our neighborhood's history and creative talents. If you're interested in being involved in bringing the call boxes back to life, come to the February 5th NLPNA meeting, or call Jean Waskow, the NLPNA call box coordinator, at 547-8095.

Supplies for Local Schools

Our neighborhood schools need recycled materials for art supplies. If you have items to contribute, deliver them to the school or put them on the porch at 1330 North Carolina Ave.

THE BUZZ EDITORIAL TEAM

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