

The Buzz

North
Lincoln Park's
Neighborhood Newsletter

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HAPPY CAMPERS — After a day-full of activities — and more campfire food than you can shake a walking stick at — 125 campers slept well in a dozen tents pitched at Kingsman Park for the first annual Urban Campout sponsored by the NLPNA, Cub Scouts and neighbors of Kingsman School. Story, more pictures, pages 2 & 3.

Neighbor brings car thief to justice

Used to be, authorities almost never prosecuted car thieves. But that is changing as community prosecutor Tim Heaphy recently won a case against an auto thief who faces sentencing June 4.

"It's another example of how this community prosecution concept works," Heaphy told *The Buzz*. "It's an example of how we are trying to be responsive to your needs in the community and hopefully the prosecution does have somewhat of a deterrent effect and let's people know we are serious about these kinds of cases."

Community prosecution is a pilot project begun by U.S. Attorney Eric Holder, who assigned Heaphy to work cases in the Lincoln and Stanton park neighborhoods.

Heaphy frequently comes to meetings of the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association to describe the community prosecution concept.

It was two long-time members of the NLPNA who urged Heaphy to prosecute the theft of their Honda station

wagon after the U.S. attorney's office initially declined the case.

Anthony Nixon, 24, who told prosecutors he lives at Maryland and 19th Street, was convicted of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

One of the owners of the car testified at the trial. "It was really her persistence that allowed us -- forced us -- to go forward" with the case, Heaphy said.

Sentencing will be June 4, 2 p.m. before Judge Arthur Burgess at D.C. Superior Court.

The NLPNA Tuesday night is expected to consider a motion to write a letter to Judge Burgess asking that he to throw the book at Mr. Nixon.

Don't miss this Tuesday's meeting of the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Society, an organization of your neighbors working to foster a sense of community, fight crime and improve everyone's quality of life. Tues., 7:30 p.m. Lane Church at 14th and C streets.

Community Calendar

♦ **June 3** -- North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Assoc. meets 7:30 p.m., Tues., Lane Church at 14th and C streets. Annual yard sale to be discussed.

♦ **June 7** -- Retirement dinner for Dep. Police Chief Claude Beheler, former 5th District commander, Sat. 6 p.m., Sat., Hyatt Regency. For tickets call 544-8472.

♦ **June 7-8** -- Unifest '97 celebration, Sat. and Sun., Good Hope Road and Martin Luther King Blvd. Parade begins Sat. at 32nd and Alabama Ave., ending at festival location.

♦ **June 14** -- Summertime And Reading Together road race to be held on Pennsylvania Ave. Proceeds go to the Lincoln Park Book Club for children. Info on the race and the Book Club available at (301) 460-8166.

Man shot in leg

Police are investigating the shooting of a 29-year-old local man Wednesday evening at the corner of 13th and E streets northeast.

Details were hard to come by at press time, but police said the man was shot in the leg at about 5:30 p.m. and taken to D.C. General Hospital.

There have been no arrests, police said. Yellow crime scene tape blocked off portions of the area as neighbors arrived home from work. One neighbor said he heard a single gunshot.

The area around 13th and E streets has been plagued by public drinking, muggings and drug sales. A group of youths who like to think they have the corner "staked out" have been under surveillance by police, according to neighbors familiar with problems in the area.

"Urban Campout" brings many to

More than 125 neighbors camped in tents pitched on the ball field behind abandoned Kingsman School last month in the first North Lincoln Park Urban Campout.

Young Donnel McCoy answered for many youths when he was asked what he liked best about the first-ever event: "I liked all of it," he said.

And there was lots to like on the weekend that began Saturday, May 17.

The afternoon started with kickball, basketball, throwing frisbees, double dutch rope, and a scavenger hunt, then moved to football and chess. Tyrone Payne of Fats' Food Service heated the afternoon up with his grills to roast hot dogs and hamburgers for over 200 people.

Cup cakes and Ben & Jerry's peace pops were served as the Smithsonian's Peter Pipim told African folk tales and Jane Mallard sign-interpreted Native-American stories.

The event was organized by local Cub Scouts Pack 332 and neighbors of Kingsman who have been trying to find a use for the dilapidated former elementary school and its enormous ball field north of D Street between Tennessee Avenue and 13th Street.

As dark fell Saturday night, the campfire roared while the campers sang camp songs roasted marshmallows. The campers even spotted the big dipper in the clear night sky before ending the evening with the Electric Slide and Macarena. Many neighbors slept in two large military tents supplied by the National Guard while ten smaller tents were pitched by campers.

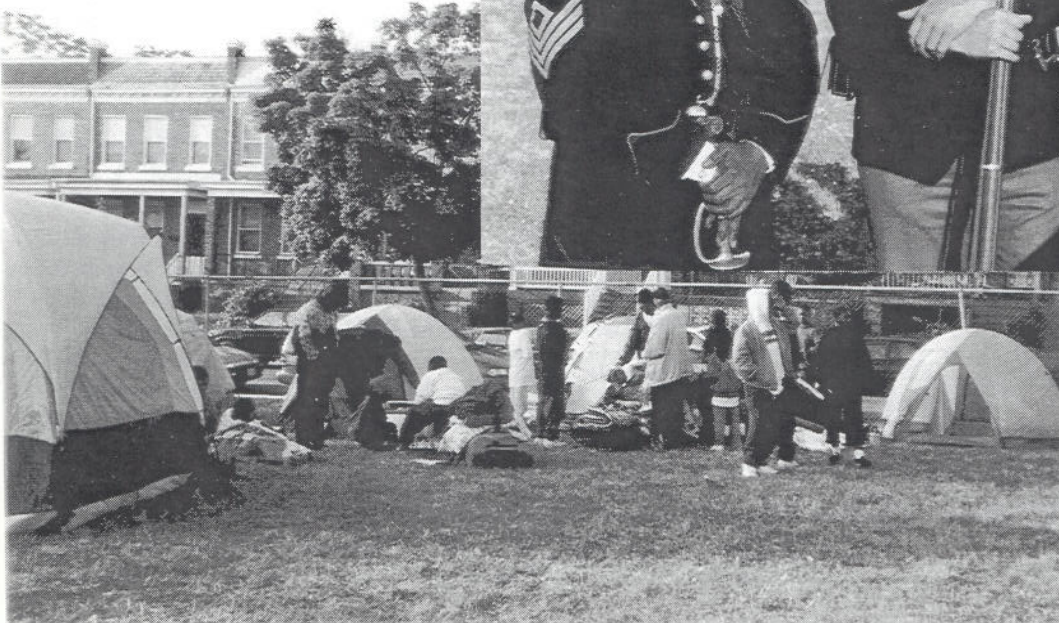
Volunteers from the Marine Reserve and officers from the Fifth Police District kept an eye on the campout all night.

Most campers were up by 7 a.m., munching on Rice Krispie treats, leftover cupcakes or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and drinking milk while adults were treated to hot coffee. By 9 a.m., sleeping bags were rolled up, the tents were down, and the Kingsman Field was once again quiet.

The campout was covered live by Fox Channel 5 on their 10 o'clock newscast, and reports aired on WRC Channel 4 and Cable News Channel 8. The Channel 5 broadcast focused on what is happening at the closed Kingsman School and how neighbors efforts there can be viewed as a model for other neighborhoods in the city faced with closed schools. Channel 5's report also addressed the Hospital for Sick Children's proposal to use the Kingsman School site to construct a school for special needs children and the work the neighborhood did to find ways to use the Kingsman Field for children.

The Urban Campout is a perfect example of what happens when a community comes together to find positive ways to solve

KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY --
Members of the Massachusetts Volunteer 54th Regiment gave campers a Civil War history lesson. First Sgt. Robert Young, Pvt. Ronald Black and Pvt. Jerry Brown. Young and Brown appeared in the movie "Glory."



RISE AND SHINE--
Campers, left, get a 7 a.m. wakeup call on Sunday morning after a night spent in luxury accommodations at the five-star Kingsman Field Urban Campout.

Kingsman Field

problems. The campout brought out the best in the North Lincoln Park neighborhood and could not have happened without the generous support of the man people organizations and businesses.

Brown AME and the Saint Paul Christian Community Churches plus others baked over 600 cupcakes and Rice Krispie treats. Excello contributed electricity and coolers. Tyrone Payne of Fats' Food Service donated grills, hamburgers and rolls and cooked them. Robert and Karen Reed, owners of The Old Post Office Pavilion Ben & Jerry's donated peace pops. Port-O-Let donated two portable potties.

SPC Donald Carey and SSG Carrie Ballard of the 547th Transportation Company of the National Guard delivered and picked up the tents on loan from the National Guard. Marine Reserves helped set up the tents and pitched in throughout the campout.

The 54th Massachusetts Volunteers gave demonstrations on the Civil War era. Metropolitan Police Department Sgt. Ken Mack, officers Jeffery McCormick, Angela Owens and Brian Herring of the Fifth District Police Department watched over the event.

Peter Pipim and Jane Mallard donated a portion of their storytelling fees. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Cassidy, Don Denton of Pardoe Real Estate, Leslie Leahy and Let's Play made donations. N-A-Minute Market contributed ice, soft drinks, and use of water.

DeLeon Ware, ANC6A representative, led camp-fire songs and played chess with some of the campers. School Board member Ben Bonham loaned several small tents. Mark Wood also led campfire songs. Maury Elementary Principal LeGrande Baldwin publicized the campout and encouraged his students to attend.

Jennifer Braxton obtained bread and made sandwiches. ANC representative Charles White printing flyers and contacted the Marine Reserves. Rod Hemphill, Jay Kiefer, Carlos Braxton, Mike Godec, Stephan and Landrum Smith mowed Kingsman Field for the event. Brett Summers for organized the neighborhood cleanup the week before the campout. Giant donated milk. Pat Hanrehan did the shopping. Diana Winthrop notified the media. Tracy Warren cooked. Helleen Tardesse brought coffee Sunday morning. Nick Alberti helped with games and general moral support.

Many more volunteers whose names cannot be mentioned for lack of space donated their time, refreshments, money and equipment.

The North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association sponsored the campout and contributed to it. The Hospital for Sick Children gave a generous donation and gave away t-shirts to every child who registered plus sip cups, pencils and first-aid kits.

Peter Harnik is credited with first thinking of the campout on Kingsman Field. Event organization was coordinated by Elizabeth Nelson, Melissa and Rod Hemphill, Doris Peacock, and Suzanne Wells.

"The huge success of the campout shows how much the Kingsman Field means to the community and how important it is to preserve it for the use of the community and the Hospital For Sick Children," said Suzanne Wells.



TALL STORIES — The National Museum of African Art's education specialist and storyteller, Peter Pipim, shared a tale about a "man among men" with several young listeners Saturday afternoon.



TEN 'HUT — A young camper gets some tips from professionals: Cpl. Daniel Abell and Pfc. Matt Bergerin of the Marine Reserve, 4th Supply Battalion, Anacostia Naval Station, which kept watch over the urban campout.