

# The Buzz

North  
Lincoln Park's  
Neighborhood Newsletter

November 2002

Volume 13 Number 11

November Meeting on WEDNESDAY the 6<sup>th</sup> (instead of Tuesday)

Notes from October Meeting:

## Adopt-A-Park

Gail Benjamin and Sean Gough from the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DCPR) attended the October NLPNA meeting. They explained that the city does not have the resources to provide the level of maintenance that neighbors and DCPR would like to have for our small parks. So they have a renewed interest in adopt-a-park agreements like the one in place for the triangle bounded by the 1300 blocks of North Carolina Avenue and A Street.

This parcel was adopted by a group of neighbors under the auspices of the NLPNA. The neighbors agreed to do all pruning, planting, weeding, watering, and litter removal. The government agreed to haul off the debris and do periodic mowing. This arrangement has worked well for nearly a decade; the park looks great and is enjoyed by the residents of many nearby blocks. (Many thanks to Ron, Tim, Pat, and the others who do so much of the work!)

The program fell somewhat into disuse a few years ago following a change in personnel at DCPR. Now, Mr. Gough and Ms. Benjamin are contacting neighborhood groups in an effort to expand the program. If you are interested in adopting a park in the neighborhood, you can contact them directly at 673-3565 or bring your suggestion to a future NLPNA meeting.



## Kingsman Field Update

The D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DCPR) is planning to make improvements to the Kingsman Field. A "scope of work" has been prepared to install an automatic irrigation system and seed the entire field. In addition, damaged gates will be replaced and all backstops and dugouts will be restored. New benches, similar to those found at the Ludlow Taylor ballfield at 6th and G Streets, NE, will be installed.

In addition, the D.C. Surveyor is in the process of transferring a section of the alley (near the PEPCO property) to the DCPR, and this alley section will become a part of the field. DCPR is waiting for the alley to be officially transferred before they begin the renovation. Unfortunately, the transfer of the alley is moving slowly, and it is not known when work can begin on the field. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society recently awarded NLPNA \$2,000 to help defray costs associated with making the alley a portion of the field.

The efforts to improve the Kingsman Field will benefit all the children in the neighborhood, and will provide a first-rate field for them. If you would like to see the scope of work, contact Ted Pochter at DCPR at 673-7693. If you would like to be involved in the Kingsman Field improvements, contact Suzanne Wells at 547-2477.

## Directory

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5.
- NLPNA meeting, (note change of day) **Wednesday**, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14<sup>th</sup> & C St. NE. Kingsman Basketball League (see article). All are welcome.
- ANC6A, first Thursday (Nov. 7), 7 p.m., Miner E.S., 601 15<sup>th</sup> St. NE.
- ANC6B, second Tuesday (Nov. 12), 7 p.m., Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE.
- NLPNA meeting, first Tuesday (Dec. 3), 7:30 p.m. Holiday celebration. All are welcome.
- Sculpture dedication, Sunday, Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m., 13<sup>th</sup> St. & Constitution Ave. NE. (see article).

## Kingsman Basketball League

Mr. Jerome ('J.T.') Hicks was unable to attend the October NLPNA meeting, but he and Mr. Andre Sullivan will attend the November meeting to discuss the Kingsman Basketball League. The games are played on the court behind Kingsman School.

These games are a much-needed recreational opportunity for neighborhood youth. Attend the meeting to find out how you can help. We're hoping that we can find a way to get the court re-surfaced.

## *Public Art Sculpture Across from Maury to be Unveiled December 15*

On Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m., the D.C. Arts Commission will unveil a whimsical bronze sculpture, created by celebrated local artist Marcia Billig, in a public ceremony at the triangle park at 13th Street, Constitution, and Tennessee Avenues, NE, across from Maury Elementary School. The sculpture is one of the first art projects completed under the city's new Community Public Art Initiatives Program. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

Marcia Billig's dynamic cast bronze sculpture, titled "Balance," depicts a boy and a girl balancing with a cat and a top hat. Ms. Billig describes the children as "supporting and challenging each other," a

symbol of the "community's striving to grow and work together." The top hat is a "reminder of North Lincoln Park's namesake" and the cat "provides a touch of humor which always helps in reaching a goal." The sculpture is 12 feet tall by 2 feet wide by 2 feet deep, with a polished granite base.

Installation of the artwork will begin in late October or early November. The first step will be to excavate and pour the foundation. After the concrete has cured for a few weeks, a stone base will be installed. The sculpture will then be secured on the base, and two plaques will be installed alongside it. One plaque will identify the artist and the artwork; the other will give

the artist's statement about the symbolism in the artwork.

Residents of the North Lincoln Park neighborhood have worked closely with the artist and Arts Commission staff to select the design and location of this artwork. Ms. Billig will continue to this effort by making a presentation to the students of Maury to discuss the meaning of the artwork and how it was designed and fabricated.

For more information about the public ceremony, please contact Sherry Schwechten at 724-5617 or Elizabeth Nelson 543-3512. For additional information about the Commission or the public arts program, call 724-5613 or visit [www.dcarts.dc.gov](http://www.dcarts.dc.gov).

### **Pierce School Lofts**

*by Diana Winthrop Gray*

It has been almost three years since Jeff Printz and Chris Swanson of Evolve successfully bid to purchase the Pierce School from the D.C. Public School System. Evolve has been working steadily since early 2000 to convert the decaying three-story school building into a luxury loft-style apartment building. Initially Evolve had hoped to complete the restoration of the 19th century school and its conversion into eight units by the end of March 2002. The restoration has taken longer than expected, but Evolve hopes to accept applications for the first group of tenants by the end of February. There has been an enormous amount of activity at the school, including replacement of the original tin on the roof and installation of iron fence posts.

This housing project is quite different from other school conversion projects in the Capitol Hill and North Lincoln Park neighborhoods. Evolve is focusing on restoring and renting seven of the apartments rather than gutting and building condominiums as with the Lovejoy school project. The

lofts will be 1500 square feet with 14-foot ceilings, 8-foot windows, and original floors.

Jeff has been immersed in the history of the school. He has been looking for some of the students who attended Pierce who still live in the neighborhood. Ms. Angela Tilghman, the principal of Miner Elementary School, was a student at Pierce. Jeff also recently found one of Pierce's original principals.

The rental lofts will be located on the first two floors. Evolve's owners will occupy the third floor. If you own dogs or cats and are interested in the building, don't despair; Jeff and Chris own two dogs and plan to allow animals as well as people as residents!

If you are interested in renting one of the lofts visit [Evolvellc.com](http://Evolvellc.com) or e-mail [chris@evolveLLC.com](mailto:chris@evolveLLC.com) or [printz@evolveLLC.com](mailto:printz@evolveLLC.com).

### **Safeway Receipts**

Both Miner and Maury ES are participating in the Safeway receipts program. Please consider registering with Safeway so the schools can receive a donation whenever you shop there using your customer card.

### **Buy Your Entertainment Book**

Entertainment 2003 books have valuable coupons that allow you to get half off at many area restaurants, and hundreds of other savings. The book costs \$35, and NLPNA gets to keep \$7 from every book sold. The book pays for itself in no time.

To buy a book (or help sell the books), call Suzanne at 547-2477.

### **Buzz Distribution**

Distributors are needed for Elliot St., 1400 block of C St., 1400 block of A St., 500 block of 13th St., 1100 block of E St. and the unit and 100 blocks of 14<sup>th</sup> St. Call Elizabeth at 543-3512.

### **Holiday Celebration**

Again this year, the December NLPNA meeting will feature "pot luck" snacks and sweets. Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate the holiday season with your neighbors.

#### **THE BUZZ EDITORIAL TEAM**

Jennie Allen  
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