

The Buzz

North
Lincoln Park's
Neighborhood Newsletter

October 2000

Volume 10 Number 10

How Safe Is Your Mail?

By a former Lincoln Park neighbor

I lived on Lincoln Park for five years. Fun years, with lots of friends, great neighbors, and I loved the park. I felt very safe. Yes, I always locked my car and turned on the car alarm. I locked my doors when I wasn't in the house or nearby. But I felt safe, secure, surrounded by friends and in a great neighborhood. However, when I wasn't at home, someone went through my mailbox. Not a friend. Not anyone I knew. A thief! And this individual did it regularly for months. In fact, I know they did the same to many of your mailboxes as well. How do I know this, you ask? I know this because, for some of you, the thief stole your mail and coupled it with mine to scam several banks of thousands of dollars.

In particular, over several months the thief stole my pay stub, my government savings statement, a utility bill or two, and who knows what else I have yet to discover. With this information, together with a fake i.d. with my name on it, he could open bank and credit accounts and even apply for loans. He bilked several banks under my name, with my credit information. The thief came upon thousands of dollars, acquired cell phones, applied for and received loans and credit cards under my name, even bought a new car ... and it is better than mine!

My case is still pending so I can't give out my name, address, nor any details of the investigation. I want you to know that I am not alone. My neighbors paid their bills and left them at their box for the mailman to pick up ... but they never reached their destination. A person down the street had a paycheck stolen from a mailbox. And little did my landlord know that a home loan had been applied for under my name for the building I in fact only rented.

On August 21, 2000 an arrest was made and a search warrant was executed at the address of one of the targets of an investigation by the Social Security Administration's

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ANC Candidates Forum

NLPNA is hosting an Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Candidates Forum on October 17 at 7 p.m. The forum will be at Lane Memorial Church (14th & C Streets, NE). Light refreshments will be served at the forum.

There are seven ANC districts within NLPNA's boundaries: 6A-06, 6A-07, 6A-10, 6A-11, 6A-13, 6B-07, and 6B-10. ANC representatives work with their community to help solve neighborhood problems, and advise the DC government about community issues. Even though ANC's are advisory, the government is to give "great weight" to their recommendations. ANC's play important roles in zoning variance and liquor license requests.

At press time, twelve of our neighbors are running for the ANC slots. During the forum, each candidate will be asked the following:

- What is your position on the Atlas Theatre?
- What steps would you take to notify your constituents of liquor license renewals?
- What will you do to ensure the closed schools are turned into community assets?

After an open session, there will be time to meet individually with your ANC candidates to learn about them before the November elections. You're encouraged to come to the candidates forum so we can have the best people representing our community.

If you will be a write-in candidate, and would like to be on the forum, contact Sharon Cochran at 399-0715.

Toxic Sites?

What's the nastiest, most toxic site in the neighborhood? Sharon Ambrose has offered to bring a top official from the Department of Public Works on a tour of the sites we think are most in need of attention. Call Elizabeth at 543-3512 to cast your "vote."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- NLPNA meeting, October 3, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C Street, N.E. All are welcome.
- October is *Family and Friends Month* at Lane Memorial Church. See article for events.
- Island Open House, October 13, 3 – 6:30 p.m. Tour Kingman Island! For more information, call Karina Ricks, 202/442-7606.
- Community Workshop for Kingman and Heritage Islands, October 14, 9 a.m. – noon, River Terrace Elementary School, 420 34th Street, N.E. Hands-on planning activities.
- Community Design Workshop for the Anacostia Riverwalk and Trail, October 21, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Savoy Elementary School, 2400 Shannon Place, S.E. For more information, call Robert Patten, 202/442-8708.
- ANC Candidates Forum, October 17, 7 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C Street, N.E. See article.
- The Women of Lane Memorial Church's Annual Auction, November 4, 12:00 viewing, 1:00 auction, Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C Street, N.E.
- Next month: the November NLPNA meeting *may* be held on Monday November 6 because Tuesday the 7th is Election Day. Check the November *Buzz* to confirm.
- Visit NLPNA's web site at www.nlpna.juniperdc.com.

THANK YOU, InterSolutions!

This issue of *The Buzz* is brought to you by our Capitol Hill neighbor, InterSolutions, Inc., "Tailored to your staffing and recruiting needs." For more information, call 202/546-9282.

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Office of the Inspector General (OIG), working with the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office and the Secret Service. Numerous pieces of evidence were recovered linking the target and several others to identity theft and mail theft. During the search numerous documents containing victims' financial information, personal identifiers, credit card numbers, and social security numbers were recovered.

We can thank all three agencies for their ongoing work regarding this ongoing investigation, and most especially the Social Security Administration's OIG for their diligence in beginning and coordinating this important investigation, which will help make our neighborhood safer. If you think you may be a victim of this ring, please notify Christopher Cherry, U.S. Postal Inspector, 900 Brentwood Road, Washington, DC 20066-6096, <http://www.usps.gov/websites/depart/inspect>. Also, call your bank right away, as well as anyone else you think can help. Here are a few suggestions:

Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline, <http://www.ssa.gov/oig/ifyou.htm> or 1-800-269-0271

Federal Bureau of Investigation online at <http://www.fbi.gov>

Identity Theft Clearinghouse, <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft> or 1-877-438-4338

Remember, always take these precautions: * Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery or get a secured mail box for your home. * Never give out personal information over the telephone unless you initiated the

call. * Shred pre-approved credit applications, credit card receipts, bills, and other financial information before discarding them.

* Never leave receipts at bank machines, bank counters, trash receptacles, or unattended gas pumps unless you destroy them first. * Be conscious of normal receipt of routine financial statements and contact the sender if you don't receive yours on time. * Notify your credit card companies and financial institutions in advance of any change in address or phone number. * If you haven't received a credit card you were expecting, contact your credit card company immediately. * Use caution when disclosing financial information at any web site or on-line service unless it is a secured site.

Family and Friends Month at Lane

October is Family and Friends Month at Lane Memorial Church, 1423 C Street, N.E. Events include:

- Oct. 1, 11 a.m., Communion Service
- Oct. 8, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Annual Lay Day
- Oct. 15, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Homecoming and Anniversary
- Oct. 22, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Worship Service, 3:30 p.m., Usher Anniversary
- Oct. 29, 11 a.m., Missionary Sunday.

Buy Your Entertainment Book Now

The Entertainment 2001 books are here! Entertainment books have valuable coupons that allow you to get half off at many area restaurants, and hundreds of other savings. Last year, NLPNA raised over \$200 by selling Entertainment books. The book costs \$35, and NLPNA gets to keep \$7 from every book sold. The book pays for itself in no time.

Consider these savings. Two-for-one dinners at Thunder Grill (Union Station), America (Union Station), Hunan on Capitol Hill, Café Berlin and White Tiger. Save \$9 or more at Capitol Lounge, Hawk 'n' Dove, La Lomita Dos and Politiki. Get tickets to the movies at Union Station for \$4.50, 50 percent off tickets to the Washington Capitols, Wizards and Mystics, and two-for-one tickets to Six Flags. Save \$1/month on your gas at Texaco or 50 percent off your cleaning at Bergman's.

There are two easy ways to buy an Entertainment 2001 book this year. Call Suzanne Wells at 547-2477 or stop by Prudential Carruthers Realtors at 216 7th Street, SE (or call 393-1111) and ask for Nicholas Babiak.

Enjoy yourself, and help support NLPNA at the same time!

THE BUZZ
EDITORIAL TEAM

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Signature of parent or guardian: _____ Date: _____

