

The Buzz

North
Lincoln Park's
Neighborhood Newsletter

August 2013

Volume 24 Number 8

August NLPNA Meeting

The first Tuesday in August (the 6th) is National Neighborhood Night Out. Families and community groups across the country are encouraged to plan outdoor activities. NLPNA will again mark the occasion with a potluck supper in Lincoln Park. Bring a covered dish or beverage to share. Plates and plasticware will be provided.

The Finance Committee will present a proposed budget for discussion and approval, and elections of NLPNA officers will be held.

If you would like to help plan the budget, contact Gloria Junge, Chair of the Finance Committee. She will have a planning meeting in July and can be reached at 546-4143.

Landscaping Eastern Market Metro Plaza

Councilmember Tommy Wells is launching a community input effort to draw out ideas, suggestions, and support for the landscaping and beautification of the public spaces between 7th and 9th Sts. SE including the Metro plaza, the Pennsylvania Ave. medians, and the park north of Pennsylvania Ave., between 8th and 9th Streets.

The goal is to hear from as much of the community as possible before beginning the planning process. Two public input sessions were held in July.

Comments and suggestions will be posted on the project's website – www.easternmarketmetropark.com. The website will also accept direct input from community members. Visit the site and let your views be known.

DCPS Beautification Day

Beautification Day for all DC public schools will be held Saturday, August 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a citywide “spruce up” in preparation for school opening. Volunteers will help with landscaping, light painting, planting flowers, picking up trash, and other beautification efforts. Registration is available online through Monday, August 15.

For more information or to volunteer, click on the “Beautification Day 2013” link on the DC Public Schools website, www.dcps.dc.gov. You may email dcps.beautificationday@dc.gov or call 719-6601 with any questions or concerns.

Buzz Distributors Needed

Volunteer distributors are needed for the 1300 block of North Carolina Ave., 1300 and 1500 blocks of A St., 1100 block of E St., and 1200 block of Constitution Ave. This is a good opportunity for a young person in need of community service hours. Call 543-3512 or email elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com.

We are also seeking free or low-cost printing. If you can print even a couple of hundred copies, that would be helpful. Donations are also appreciated; checks should be made payable to North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association and sent to (or dropped off at) 160 Tennessee Ave. NE.

DC Crime Map

Crime information is available at crimemap.dc.gov/CrimeMapSearch.aspx.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **Application deadline, ANC 6A summer grants**, Mon. Aug. 5. *See article.*
- **NLPNA meeting**, first Tues. (Aug. 6), 7 p.m., east side of Lincoln Park. Annual Neighborhood Night Out potluck supper. All are welcome! *See article.*
- **Crab Feast**, Sat. Aug. 17, 2-6 p.m., Lane Memorial CME Church, corner of 14th and C Sts. NE. *See article.*
- **School Beautification Day**, Sat. Aug. 24, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. All DCPS schools.
- **ANC 6A does not meet in August.** Next meeting, second Thurs. (Sept. 13), 7 p.m., Miner ES, 601 15th St. NE. For more info, visit www.anc6a.org.
- **NLPNA meeting**, first Tues. (Sept. 3), 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial CME Church, 14th & C St. NE. All are welcome!
- *The Buzz* is available at www.anc6a.org/publications.html. Contact us at 543-3512 or elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com.

Crab Feast

Lane Memorial CME Church is hosting a crab feast on Saturday, August 17 from 2-6 p.m. Cost is \$50. Call the church, 547-0407, for details and tickets.

THE BUZZ EDITORIAL TEAM

Elizabeth Nelson
Jennie Allen
Suzanne Wells

Hill Center Presents...

- Washington School of Photography: Foundations of Digital SLR Photography, series of four Saturday sessions, Aug. 3-24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cost \$245. Register at hillcenterdc.org. The Washington School of Photography will teach students how to operate their Digital SLR camera in manual exposure mode. Students will learn to choose their own aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, in addition to many other options like white balance, JPG vs. raw, and various compositional techniques..
- DC Public Library Story Time, Saturday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m. - noon. Free. Register at hillcenterdc.org or call 549-4172. Story Time programs introduce young children to books, rhymes, music, and other fun activities.
- Italy Al Fresco: Italian Cooking with Chef Wendi of Le Cordon Bleu Paris, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2-4 p.m. \$65. Register at hillcenterdc.org or call 549-4172. Prepare and enjoy Herb Marinated Skirt Steak, Crostini with Olive Tapenade, Lemon Herb Risotto, Tuscan Panzanella and Berry "Misu" Parfait

Hill Center at Old Naval Hospital is located at 921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE. www.hillcenterdc.org.

Rosedale Library Presents...

- Story Tapestries with Storyteller Adrianna Ross (ages 6-12), Wednesday, August 14, 4 p.m.
- Summer Reading Finale Party (ages 0-19), Wednesday, August 14, 4 - 6 p.m.

The library is located at 1701 Gales Street NE. For more information visit www.dclibrary.org/rosedale. To join the Friends of Rosedale Library (FORL), email friendsoftherosedalelibrary@gmail.com.

Pocket Park Adoptions Update

An NLPNA working group has been formed to pursue pocket park "adoption" agreements with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), which administers most of these public spaces.

Several members attended the July 15 meeting of the Transportation and Public Space Committee of ANC 6A with representatives of DDOT. Unlike the Department of Parks and Recreation, which encourages community groups to enter into adoption agreements, DDOT does not offer such a program. However, strong sentiment was expressed that one should be developed. Neighbors maintain several small parks in the NLPNA area, such as the triangle between the 1300 blocks of North Carolina Ave. and A St. NE, but they currently have no legal standing to do so.

Capitol Hill Arts Workshop Presents...

- Gilbert & Sullivan, "The Pirates of Penzance," eight performances over two weekends, Aug. 1-3 and 8-10, at 545 7th St. SE. Evening performances begin at 7 p.m. and Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling 547-6839 or at victor@chaw.org. Tickets for the matinee on Saturday, August 3, are \$10.
- Art Classes: CHAW is now registering for its fall classes in the visual and performing arts for all ages. The innovative after-school Youth Arts Program begins August 26. Adult and early childhood classes begin September 9.

CHAW is located at 547 7th St. SE. For more information on all CHAW events, call 547-6839 or visit www.chaw.org. CHAW offers a tuition assistance program and flexible payment plans.

DDOT Grants Public Space Permits without ANC Input

On a related matter, DDOT granted public space planting permits for a portion of Reservation 266 (triangle formed by 13th St. and Tennessee Ave., south of Constitution Ave.) to adjacent property owners without an opportunity for public input. Two large trees were removed and the southern half of the parcel is now bisected and hedged in a manner that discourages public uses. Some neighbors are pleased with the results, finding the appearance of the plantings attractive and an improvement over what was there previously. Others are deeply concerned by what they see as an impediment to free access of this public space and the lack of community input into a decision that has a lasting impact.

Regardless of one's views on this particular project, it is troubling that DDOT did not first seek approval from the ANC. This puts all of our pocket parks at risk. DDOT could approve similar requests for any of our pocket parks, without community input, allowing them to be re-landscaped in a manner that compromises their usefulness as public spaces. Given our increasing population, especially children, we can't afford to lose these amenities.

In this case, contention between neighbors could have been reduced, or avoided altogether, if DDOT had provided an opportunity to work out a landscaping plan that was satisfactory to most community members prior to granting permits.

At the T&PS Committee meeting, the DDOT representative was unprepared to respond to most questions regarding the permitting process, but did commit to providing answers, shortly. The questions and responses will be posted on Commissioner Alberti's page of the ANC 6A website, www.anc6a.org/Com6A04.html.