

The Buzz

North
Lincoln Park's
Neighborhood Newsletter

July 1999

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Tents, Tents Everywhere

Months ago the neighborhood children began asking "When's the Urban Camp Out going to be?" When June 12 rolled around, over 125 children who registered for NLPNA's Third Annual Urban Camp Out weren't disappointed.

NLPNA sponsors the Urban Camp Out to bring a wilderness camping experience to children in the city. The Urban Camp Out made learning a lot of fun. During the scavenger hunt, many children learned you really can find a seed on the Kingsman Field. Bureau of Land Management employees taught the children how to put up a tent, and how trash that gets put in the sewers ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. Ranger Kate Bucco of the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens demonstrated the many ways our rivers can get polluted, and let children look at organisms under a microscope. Before falling asleep,

many children got their first look at the Big Dipper and saw the planet Venus through a powerful telescope. The highly successful bike repair clinic was back for a second year, and volunteers helped repair flat tires and raise seats for those children who grew a foot over the winter. There were basketball and kickball games, tug-of-war, crafts, sidewalk chalk games, and three-leg races. Hands All Around, a musical group led by Bob Fagan, returned for a second year, and got the campers barking to "Let's All Talk Dog Blues." All eyes turned to the D.C. Metropolitan Police's K-9 unit when they did a spell-binding demonstration with three dogs. When the officers took the dogs off their leashes, the crowd was relieved to find the dogs really did obey the officers.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- NLPNA meeting, July 6, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th and C Streets, N.E.
- Mary McLeod Bethune wreath-laying ceremony, July 12, 6:00 p.m., Lincoln Park
- NLPNA meeting, August 3, 7:30 p.m., National Night Out potluck supper at Kingsman field
- Call Susan at 547-7422 to volunteer to deliver *The Buzz* on your block next month
- Call Jennie (543-5635) or Suzanne (547-2477) if you have a story, idea, or announcement for a future issue of *The Buzz*

Two Maury Students Win Essay Contest

The winner of the NLPNA essay contest "The Best Day of My Life (so far)" is DaQuisha Harris, a second grade student at Maury Elementary. Her essay really captures the joy of a loving family and a very special day. Selecting just one winner from all the excellent entries was a very tough job. So tough, in fact, that the judges decided to award a second prize for outstanding literary merit to Miguel Marshall, also a second grader at Maury. His essay may not describe the best day of his life, but it is a vivid account of a memorable day. DaQuisha and Miguel will be invited to read their work at the next NLPNA meeting. Here, for your enjoyment, are their winning entries.

The best day of my life is on my birthday. I will never forget that day. So it had happen on Friday but it was on

Tuesday. It was September 15th. So on Friday my mother looked in the newspaper and saw a moon bounce and said to my sister look at this moon bounce. She looked at the price it was \$100. My mother said she will get it for me. Soon as I came home on Friday I saw a moon bounce and I said WOW. Everyone said Surprise. My mother gave me a hug and everyone came running to me getting my birthday licks. I was 8 years old. As soon as I came home from school all my friends was there said Happy Birthday but someone was missing it was my best friend from my Old School. I gave her a letter but she did not show up. So I waited and waited but she did not come to my birthday party but I was happy I had a moon bounce. I had fun in the moon bounce. I jump all day long to the party was over and we gave toys out.

Every one got toy and we giving candy out and we got ice cream and cake at the end of the party and we went home and that was the best day of my life.

— DaQuisha Harris

When I was five years old I had a teddy bear his name was Mr. Pickle. He was my best toy in the world. He had to leave. I was sad he was the best teddy bear in the world. What toy will I pick a train track but I want a teddy bear. My dad said you have one at home. No it's not at home. Where is it said my daddy i will buy you a teddy bear today. My daddy and I went to the toy store. The toy worker said the teddy bears are all out. I said What is no more! My dad said won't you get a toy and lets go. I was sad so I went to buy a yoyo it was hard to do it. The End

— Miguel Marshall

"Tents," from previous page

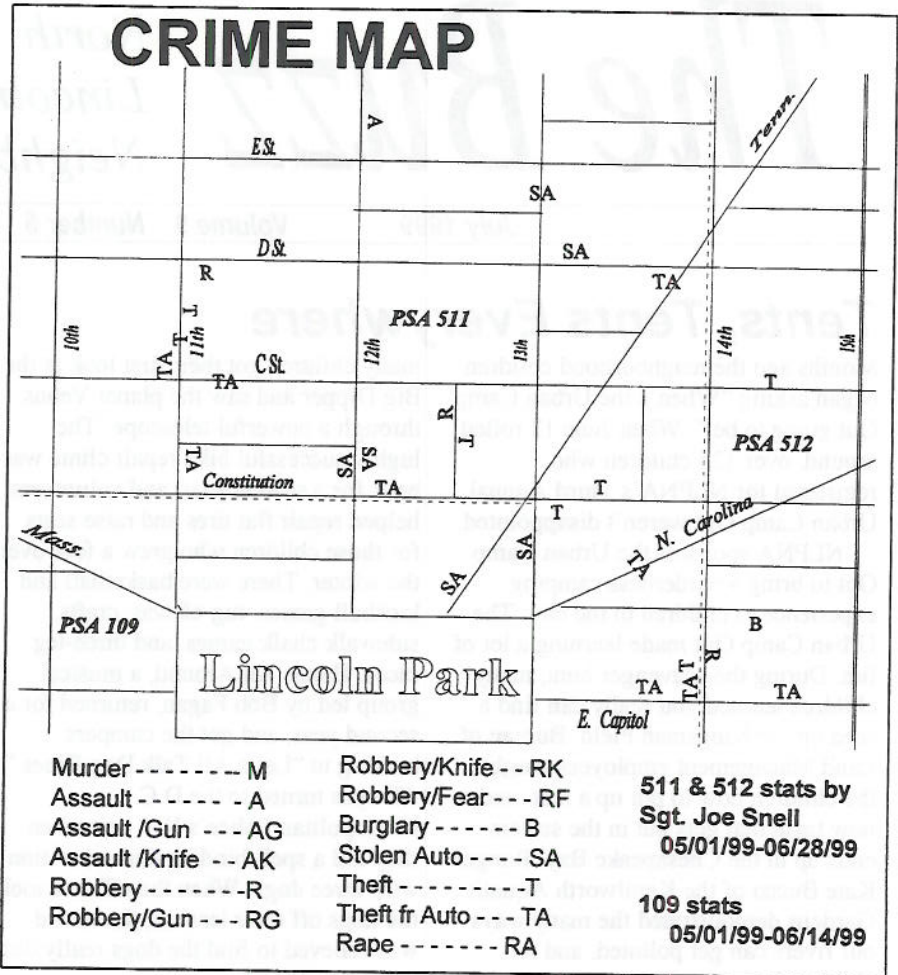
Many, many donations and lots and lots of volunteer time go into making the Urban Camp Out a success. Tyrone Payne of Fats Food Service deserves a huge thank you and hug for getting contributions of food and then cooking the evening meal. Robert and Karen Reed, owners of The Old Post Office Pavilion Ben & Jerry's, donated Peacopps for the third year. Doris Peacock from Brown AME baked every single cupcake herself. The Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, provided five tents and insurance for the camp out. The Marine Reserves kept a watchful eye throughout the entire camp out, helped put up tents, brought their vehicles for the children to explore, and participated with the children in many activities. Excello provided coolers to store food, and N-a-Minit provided electricity. Our financial contributors this year were NLPNA, Pardoe ERA real estate, the Capitol Hill Area Merchants and Professionals Foundation, monies raised from Anita and James Dyson's Fish Fry, The Village, Banducci's Italian Restaurant, and donations from the 1300 block of North Carolina, the Children of A Street, NE, Barbara Anderson, Eric Bernard and Demetra Voyadgis. Finally, many, many thanks to the volunteers who shopped for the food, cooked and served food, staffed the registration table, organized arts and crafts, fixed bikes, played games with the children, and chaperoned children. The camp out couldn't have happened without all of you!

Correction

In the May issue of *The Buzz*, the name of the Bluestone Café was given incorrectly. *The Buzz* apologizes for the error.

**THE BUZZ
EDITORIAL TEAM**

- Jennie Allen
- Elizabeth Nelson
- Suzanne Wells
- Susan Oursler
- Nick Alberti
- Anne Goode



**MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

July 10th is the official birthday of Mary McLeod Bethune. A formal wreath-laying ceremony will be held on July 12 at 6 p.m. to celebrate the 124th birthday of the African-American educator, human rights activist and founder of the National Council of Negro Women. Those wishing to attend will gather in Lincoln Park at the 12-foot tall Bethune Statue, which was dedicated in 1974.

Maury Thanks NLPNA

At an awards ceremony held June 11, Maury Elementary presented a plaque to the NLPNA in recognition of the volunteer work done by NLPNA members. The Halloween Party, Urban Camp Out, donations of grocery receipts, maintenance of the school's flower beds and Junior Achievement were cited as examples of our organization's commitment to the school and the community. The award was accepted on behalf of NLPNA by Elizabeth Nelson.

Below: some urban campers.

