

The Buzz

North
Lincoln Park's
Neighborhood Newsletter

March 2000

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Two Bidders for Pierce School

Council member Sharon Ambrose sponsored a community meeting on the future of the closed Pierce School on January 27. Despite the snow, 25 neighbors came out to hear the two bidders on the school describe their visions for the future of the school. Pierce, at 14th and Maryland Avenues, hasn't been used as a school for years, and was last used as a homeless shelter in the early 1990's. Many were surprised to hear that the Pierce School, a charming building with new windows, is assessed at only \$270,000. Two Capitol Hill residents, Jeff Printz and Chris Swanson, propose to turn the school into loft-style apartments. Their company, Evolve, recently renovated The Barbara of Capitol Hill at 822 Maryland Ave., and is in the process of renovating another apartment building on West Virginia Ave., NE. If their bid is successful, they plan to make every effort to restore the building to its original look.

Daanen Strachan, the executive director of Techworld Public Charter School, presented his plans to turn the building into an adult education charter school. The school would be focused on helping young adults get their GED, and would emphasize computer training. Techworld currently has a facility at Waterside Mall in SW, and they would use the Pierce School to expand their enrollment.

Both bidders estimate it will cost anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million to renovate the building. There is a serious lead paint

problem in the building, and it is suspected asbestos will have to be removed. The roof is also in extreme need of repair. Concerns were raised about how Techworld would handle parking. Mr. Strachan said he expected the students would stagger their use of the building, and this would lessen parking problems. Both Evolve and Techworld said they would make community meeting space available in the building, if they were the successful bidder.

At the end of the meeting, the attendees had an opportunity to complete a survey. 71% of those responding preferred the proposal presented by Evolve, and 18% preferred the Techworld Public Charter School proposal. Those favoring Evolve felt their plans were "more sustainable and doable," and "appear better developed." However, others were "very concerned about neighbors who would begin to be displaced as the community went 'upscale' and that seems to be the direction of the Evolve proposal." Those favoring adult education still expressed concern that the "charter school proposal wasn't very well done." Thanks again to Council member Ambrose and her staff for paying close attention to the issue of closed schools in our neighborhood.

New Day for PSA 511 Meeting

The PSA 511 meeting has been moved to the third Wednesday of each month. The meetings start at 7 p.m. at the Teacher's Credit Union at 9th and D Streets, NE.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- NLPNA meeting, March 7, 7:30 p.m., Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C Street, N.E. Election of officers.
- NLPNA yard sale, May 20.
- Capitol Hill Classic, May 21.
- *The Buzz* needs contributions to pay for future issues. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to NLPNA Treasurer, 160 Tennessee Avenue, N.E.
- Census 2000 forms will arrive by mail the last week in March. Please plan to complete them; it matters to all of us.

Sasha Bruce House Opening Delayed

On February 10, representatives from Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc. met with about 12 neighbors to discuss the reopening of their independent living program at 1312 East Capitol. The certificate of occupancy for the facility has not been approved because of electrical problems and a structural problem with one of the front building columns. It is unknown when these problems will be corrected. When the facility does open, it will house eight 16-17 year olds. Lang Brown will be the director of the facility, and one Sasha Bruce staff person will always be at the facility. The phone number will be 675-9375.

Neighbors questioned the Sasha Bruce representatives about their

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plans for landscaping the facility. The front yard contains a large, dead tree, and there were problems in the past with upkeep of the yard. Vera Johnson from Sasha Bruce acknowledged a landscaping plan is needed. Concerns were also voiced that the exterior renovation, while generally very good, is not historically accurate.

Some neighbors recall a covenant Sasha Bruce signed with the neighbors when they first opened the facility committing to an occupancy of eight or less. Sasha Bruce representatives were unaware of the covenant, and said they could not commit to the occupancy staying at eight or below. If anyone in the neighborhood has a copy of the covenant, please send one to *The Buzz* at 160 Tennessee Ave., NE.

At the close of the meeting, Michael Cushman and Juliana Hilt volunteered to be neighborhood representatives who will work with Sasha Bruce Youthworks to ensure community concerns are addressed. Special thanks to Jessica Cogan, ANC 6B-07 commissioner, for organizing this meeting.

Our Pets: Our Responsibility

The North Lincoln Park neighborhood is home to many treasures.

Among these are the pets who provide comfort and warmth to their human companions. The following guidelines for pet care were provided by Dr. Flo Mitchell, DVM, a veterinarian who provides home visits to the Capitol Hill area:

- Ensure that animals receive yearly vaccinations to prevent rabies, feline leukemia and the like.
- Bring all pets inside when the temperature reaches 45 degrees or below (homeless animals might be permitted to stay in your heated basement for the night).
- Spay and neuter to reduce the numbers of homeless and feral animals, to keep them from wandering/fighting and to reduce the risk of uterine infections and breast tumors.
- If you use a doghouse, be sure the floor is off the ground to protect the animal from cold and moisture. The doghouse should be insulated and snug enough to retain heat but roomy enough for the dog to turn around.

- Always provide fresh water for your animals. A thirsty animal left outside may drink antifreeze dripping from cars and sustain permanent kidney damage.

Editor's note: Please, be considerate of your neighbors and clean up after your pets. Dog feces ("poop") and the fur left over from brushing your pet are both attractive to rats. Also, dogs can become infected with diseases and parasites from contact with their own feces as well as from other animals. And nobody likes to step in it.

KIDS FOR JOBS

Buzz readers have asked that we publish a list of young people who would like to do "odd jobs" in the neighborhood. If you are 10-17 years old and would like to be included in the list, apply *in writing* to *The Buzz*, c/o Elizabeth Nelson, 1330 N. Carolina Ave. NE, 20002. Include your name, age, phone number, type of work you will do, and the names and phone numbers of two references. The list will be published next month. For more information call 543-3512.

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