

THE COMMUNICATOR!

Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. Newsletter
News, and Updates of What's Going On, In, And Around Ward 7!

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EMANCIPATION DAY APRIL 16, 2018

Slavery was legal until 1865 in most of the area that is now the United States. Many slaves were of African origin and many slave owners were of European descent, although some other groups also had slaves. By 1860, there were about four million slaves in the United States. **On April 16, 1862**, Abraham Lincoln, who was the US president at the time, signed the Compensated Emancipation Act, which freed more than 3000 slaves in the District of Columbia.

Compensated Emancipation put money into the hands of the slaveholders. Slavery was abolished in the District and the government paid nine hundred slaveholders approximately \$300 for each slave they had previously owned. The act only covered the District of Columbia because Lincoln was unable to convince many of the states of its virtues. The federal government only had control of the District and that was where slavery began its end.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that freed over three million slaves across a large number of states. However, slavery did not officially end in the rest of the United States until after the American Civil War, which lasted from 1861 until 1865. The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution formally ended slavery in the US. It was proposed on January 31, 1865, and ratified by 30 of the then 36 states in the same year. However, it was only ratified in Mississippi in 1995.

On Emancipation Day in DC, Pennsylvania Avenue comes alive with a parade, which will be held this year on **Saturday, April 14, 2018**, of military, students and bands, followed by a fun-filled festival. At the end of the day and after the festival, the sky comes alight with a fireworks show. On **April 16, 2018** public school children have the day off and many district government offices are closed. [Read More.](#)

BOWSER AND GRAY SQUARE OFF OVER NEW HOSPITAL PROJECT

By Andrew Giambone, Washington City Paper, 3/25/18

The mayor says D.C. will open a hospital in Southeast in 2023. The ex-mayor says that isn't soon enough. [Read More.](#)

IRS WITHHOLDING CALCULATOR

The IRS encourages everyone to use the Withholding Calculator to perform a quick "paycheck check-up." This is even more important this year because of recent changes to the tax law for 2018.

The Calculator helps you identify your tax withholding to make sure you have the right amount of tax withheld from your paycheck at work.

There are several reasons to check your withholding: Checking your withholding can help protect against having too little tax withheld and facing an unexpected tax bill or penalty at tax time next year. At the same time, with the average refund topping \$2,800, you may prefer to have less tax withheld up front and receive more in your paychecks.

If you are an employee, the Withholding Calculator helps you determine whether you need to give your employer a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate. You can use your results from the Calculator to help fill out the form and adjust your income tax withholding. [Click here](#) to access the Calculator. [Read More.](#)



FREE DOCUMENTARY SCREENING OF ENSLAVEMENT TO EMANCIPATION

This screening is presented in commemoration of the Emancipation Compensation Act of 1862.

This collaboration is in partnership with the DC Office of Public Record Produced by Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia & DC Office of Cable Television. **Thursday, April 12, 2018, 6:00 pm** Main Meeting Room 2nd Floor. Francis Gregory Library | 3660 Alabama Ave SE | Washington, DC 20020 | (202) 698-6373. This program is open for all ages



APRIL 2018 DC FIRST FRIDAYS

The next "DC First Fridays" event will take place on **April 6, 2018, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at MHCDO, located at 3939 Benning Road NE, Washington, DC 20019. The Guest Speaker will be [At-Large DC Councilmember Anita Bonds](#). The Topic of Discussion will be

"Creating Smart Development, Housing and Facilitating Small Business Opportunities" Contact Vivian Mercer at 202-650-5621 for additional information. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

BOWSER ADMINISTRATION SHARES UPDATE ON OPPORTUNITY ZONES "MAKE SURE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS INCLUDED"

3/22/18, the Bowser Administration shared feedback received from a web-based survey regarding where to locate **Opportunity Zones, a new designation that provides tax incentives to encourage investment in low-income areas.** The District may designate up to 25 Census Tracts as federal Opportunity Zones, which were created in the recent tax reform legislation and qualifies the area for tax-advantaged investments. Because of the short federal timelines for designation, the District via a web-based survey sought the public's input on three potential Opportunity Zone maps with the following themes: **East of the River** (Kenilworth, Bellevue, Congress Heights, Washington Highlands, Anacostia, Woodlawn, and Eastlawn Gardens neighborhoods)

Retail Corridors (Brightwood, LeDroit Park, Brentwood, Twining, Fairfax Village, and Naylor Gardens neighborhoods), and **Creative Industries and Manufacturing** (Brentwood, Eckington, Ivy City, and Trinidad neighborhoods). The survey, designed by The Lab @ DC, resulted in 385 respondents ranking the options, and 264 providing written feedback and comments. East of the River received the highest ranking with 202, followed by Retail Corridors at 103 and Creative Industries and Manufacturing at 87. "The response we received to our survey demonstrates that residents recognize the benefit of this tool in order to help our most distressed neighborhoods," said Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Brian Kenner. ****IMPORTANT—**If you did not complete the survey or you have additional input to share on possible Opportunity Zones you are encouraged to contact your Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC). The District welcomes additional written feedback from the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions by **April 10, 2018.** [Click here](#) to see an interactive map of census tracts being considered. Contact Chanda Washington (chanda.washington@dc.gov or 202-727-6698) with any questions.

[Read More.](#)

JOIN OUR MAIL LIST!
Don't miss important events and information.
[Click here](#) to join.



Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc.
The Lloyd D. Smith Center
3939 Benning Road NE
Washington, DC 20020
202-396-1200
www.mhcdo.org

WHY YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT REVISIONS TO THE DC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN —THE CENTRAL DC PLANNING DOCUMENT

The first 60 pages of amendments to DC's Comp Plan were released. [Click here to view](#). Over 270 people testified on 3/20 at a DC Council hearing on the proposed amendments. Primary concerns with the amendments include not adequately addressing: (1) how to preserve existing affordable housing (2) equitable distribution of affordable housing in all 7 wards (3) displacement that result from new development (4) using the current criteria to determine eligibility for affordable housing, which is based on the area median income (AMI) – \$110,000 a practice that hurts our communities because it creates a barrier to housing options (5) lack of equitable economic development in Wards 7 & 8 as compared to other wards (6) concerns about words like “stable neighborhoods” “protecting neighborhood character,” which might suggest or be misused in a way that perpetuates segregation and exclusion (7) language that weakens ability of citizens to appeal zoning decisions and the weakens requirement for new development to fit the character of its surrounding neighborhood.

Source Documents:

- ◆ [The first 60 pages of amendments to DC's Comp Plan are out. Here's a first look. By David Whitehead, Greater Greater Washington, January 29, 2018](#)
- ◆ [A Comprehensive Debate About the Future of DC's Comprehensive Plan, By Nena Perry-Brown, Urban Turf, March 21, 2018](#)
- ◆ [Letter dated 4/3/18 submitted by Ward 7 Democrats to Phil Mendelson, DC Council Chairman](#)

What can you do? Voice your concerns at your Civic Association Meeting. Reach out to your ANC Representative and Ward Councilmember, ask them to monitor the process and get involved.

THE NUMBER OF SOUTHEAST RESIDENTS WITHOUT HEAT IS GROWING

By Linnea Champ, Greater Greater Washington
3/20/18

The number of DC residents living without adequate heat has jumped in the past five years. Residents in Ward 7 and 8 are up to eight times more likely to be living with inadequate heat compared to other wards. (By Andrea Swalec, NBC Washington, 3/19/18). [Read More](#).



GROUNDBREAKING FOR PARKLAND OVERLOOK— MARCH 26, 2018

The District is revitalizing a long-abandoned housing complex near the **Congress Heights Metro Station and the St. Elizabeth East Campus located at 2841 Robinson Place SE** into more than 200 affordable apartments—many sized for families—preserving below-market rents in an area of the city poised for significant changes with new development. More information is provided in the article, “D.C. Invests Big in Redevelopment of Neglected Southeast Complex Into Affordable Housing Parkway Overlook is getting a new lease on life.” By Andrew Giambrone, *Washington City Paper*, 2/15/18. [Read More](#).

PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY GROCERY CO-OP SURVEY

WARD 8 EFFORT SEEKS INPUT FROM NEIGHBORS, DISTRICT RESIDENTS

By Elizabeth O’Gorek, *East of the River*, 3/12/18

The group working to establish a Community Grocery Cooperative (CGC) in Ward 8 is asking District residents to participate in a survey about the grocery needs of potential customers. Any District resident who might be interested in shopping at a consumer-owned grocery store located in Ward 8 is encouraged to respond.

The goals of the survey are to collect interest and retrieve enough information for the cooperative’s business plan and market study. The survey will help gauge interest for a full-service consumer-owned food cooperative grocery store in the District of Columbia Ward 7 or Ward 8. Both District of Columbia Wards are known food deserts. Typically, this effort is a multi-year process to establish the food cooperative. There is no set deadline for responding to the survey. [The survey is available online now. Read More](#).

THE LONG ROAD TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EAST OF THE ANACOSTIA

By Justin Lini, *Greater Greater Washington*, 3/6/18

Local ANCs worked with the community to produce [a letter detailing 23 infrastructure trouble spots in northern Ward 7](#). Rather than focusing on one intersection, community leaders opted to identify similar issues across the region. ...ANC 7D consulted with MPD’s 6th District and the Washington Area Bicycle Association, drawing on previous service requests and community engagement around transportation issues in the area. [Read More](#).

HOMEOWNERSHIP TOWN HALL

By Kathleen Donner, *East of the River*, 4/1/18

On **April 21**, 1 to 4 p.m., current and future homeowners, can join MANNA’s Housing Advocacy Team at their annual Homeownership Town Hall. The first and last hour of the program will consist of resource tables and workshops on a variety of subjects including: credit building, down payment assistance, DC property tax programs and advocacy. The MANNA Homeownership Town Hall is at Thurgood Marshall Academy Gym, 2427 MLK Ave. SE. Childcare, Spanish translation services and refreshments provided. For more information, contact Jonathan Nisly at jnisly@mannadc.org. mannadc.org.

AUDITOR PUBLISHES DAMNING REPORT ALLEGING CHRONIC MISMANAGEMENT OF D.C.’S \$1 BILLION AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND

Alleged problems include potential fraud, under-spending on extremely low income housing, and an inability to preserve loan contracts.

By Morgan Baskin, *Washington City Paper*, 3/20/18. The first-ever comprehensive audit of D.C.’s Housing Preservation Trust Fund—a nine-figure coffer that provides loans and grants to developers across D.C., and is in many ways the backbone of D.C.’s affordable housing effort—is a damning one, indicating that chronic mismanagement of the fund by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has likely wasted tens of millions of dollars, a report published this morning by the office of the D.C. auditor says. [Read More](#).

NEW INTERACTIVE MAP DETAILS WHERE AFFORDABLE HOUSING HAS BEEN CREATED, PRESERVED IN D.C.

By Michelle Goldchain, *DC Curbed*, 3/20/18

The map shows projects benefited by the Housing Production Trust Fund from fiscal years 2001 through 2016. ...Already, the new tool by the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor has garnered some responses. The main takeaway cited is the issue that the creation and preservation of affordable housing has not been evenly distributed throughout the city. Instead, there have been far fewer affordable units created west of Rock Creek Park, an area of the District that is well known for being one of the most expensive places for buying a home. [Read More](#).

TEEN VIBE SESSION

By Kathleen Donner, *East of the River*, 4/1/18

On **April 13**, 7 to 9 p.m., the Anacostia Community Museum hosts this youth program with an evening of open mic, freestyle and creative expression. Participating teens are encouraged to express themselves creatively in spoken word, poetry, rap, fashion, dance and drawing. It is recommended for ages 13 to 19.

FOR TEENS: OPEN MIC NIGHT

Every Wednesday at 5 p.m., [Capitol View Library](#) invites you to share your favorite song, poem, rhyme, rap or performance. Not performing? Bring a friend, watch and enjoy. Fun for ages 13-19.

EMPLOYER ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAM (EAHP)

The Employer-Assisted Housing Program (EAHP) offers eligible District government employees and first responders a deferred, 0% interest loan and a matching funds grant for down payment and closing costs to purchase their first single family home, condominium, or cooperative unit in the District. The down payment assistance is a loan for the purchase of a principal residence in the District. The loan has zero interest, and no payments are required until the property is: (1) is sold or transferred; (2) no longer occupied as principal residence; or (3) refinanced with cash out. There is no income cap for EAHP applicants, nor is there a cash contribution requirement. [Read More.](#)

INCLUSIONARY ZONING

DC's Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) Program helps city residents rent and buy places to live when they can't afford market-rate prices.

DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) disposes of IZ units through a lottery process. Households interested in purchasing or leasing an IZ home must take a Inclusionary Zoning Orientation class which is provided by MHCDO on the **4th Thursday of every month from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm.** Call 202-396-1200 for more information.

THE GUITARS NOT GUNS PROGRAM

The Guitars not Guns program in partnership with NCCF AND JC NALLE Community School is looking for adult volunteers to work with students on Wednesday's from 3:30pm-5pm. **Do you play the guitar? Do you have 2 hours a week to volunteer to make a huge difference of a child living in Ward 7 and 8 in DC?** How the Program Works— Targeted to foster kids and at-risk youth ages 8-18 using high teacher-to-student ratios. Each class consists of a maximum of 10 students with three adult instructors. Each program is 8 weeks long with a one hour session each week. In addition to learning how to master changing from one chord to another, children learn perseverance & discipline and build self-esteem. More importantly, the kids learn to enjoy the interaction and have fun in a group setting. Those kids who complete the full 8 week program have earned the right to keep the guitar and are invited to return for a second 8-week session of more advanced instruction. They've earned it! [To volunteer click here.](#)

WHY THE OFFICE OF PLANNING LIKES PUDS (AND WHY YOU SHOULD TOO)

By David Whitehead, Greater Greater Washington, 3/6/18

...the Office of Planning, Director Eric Shaw says Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) have done a lot for the city, especially when it comes to affordable housing. **PUDs are a particular development process in DC where an applicant can receive zoning flexibility and relief in exchange for a set of community benefits negotiated with the city and the neighborhood.** PUDs create an extra layer of community input not present in matter-of-right development. The developer and the neighborhood must come to an agreement on what extra benefits will be included in the project, which can include things like infrastructure improvements for the neighborhood or additional affordable housing. [Read More.](#)

NEWS FROM WARD 7 COUNCILMEMBER VINCENT GRAY

- ◆ Happy Women's History Month & State of the Ward Address 3/13/18 [Read More.](#)
- ◆ Ward 7 Update: Ward 7 Will Rise Again 4/2/18 [Read More.](#)

VINCE GRAY: DC'S EDUCATION SCANDALS ARE SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS

Former mayor digs at current mayor on schools and crime during Ward 7 speech (By Andrew Giambrone, Washington City Paper, 3/15/18)

...For more than an hour on Wednesday night, Ward 7 Councilmember and ex-Mayor Vince Gray spoke about the challenges facing his ward and what he's done to combat them since rejoining the D.C. Council in 2017. **The article also provides a copy of Vince Gray's speech.** [Read More.](#)

WARDS 7 AND 8 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Interested in what is happening in Wards 7 and 8 on a daily or monthly basis? Listed on the calendar are farmers markets, health, educational, recreational, cultural, volunteer, and many other kinds of events, activities, and opportunities to engage. [Read More.](#)

HOME PURCHASE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HPAP)

The Home Purchase Assistance (HPAP) program provides interest-free loans and closing cost assistance to qualified applicants to purchase single family houses, condominiums, or cooperative units. The loan amount is based on a combination of factors, including income, household size, and the amount of assets that each applicant must commit toward a property's purchase. As of 2017, eligible applicants can receive a maximum of \$80,000 in gap financing assistance and an additional \$4,000 in closing cost assistance. [Read More.](#)

NEWSLETTERS FROM MAYOR BOWSER

- ◆ 3/29 [Volume 4, Issue 13: Roots to Roofs DC](#)
- ◆ 3/22, [Volume 4, Issue 12: March For Our Lives](#)
- ◆ 3/15 [Volume 4, Issue 11: 2018 State of the District](#)
- ◆ 3/8 [Volume 4, Issue 10: DC Infrastructure Academy](#)
- ◆ 3/1 [Volume 4, Issue 9: Common-Sense Change](#)

MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER'S 2018 STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS—3/15

[Click here](#) for Mayor Muriel Bowser's State of the District Address as delivered. View the address on YouTube: [Click here.](#)

MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER'S 2019 BUDGET

- ◆ [FY 2019 Proposed Budget Documents](#)
- ◆ [Executive Summary](#)

DC VOTERS TO DECIDE IN JUNE IF TIPPED WORKERS SHOULD GET SAME MINIMUM WAGE—INITIATIVE 77

By Fenit Nirappil, The Washington Post, 3/7/18

DC voters will decide whether to require restaurants to pay the minimum wage to waiters, bartenders and others who earn a "tipped wage" — a low base rate plus tips. The DC Board of Elections authorized a ballot measure (Initiative 77) for the June 19 election that would gradually increase the hourly wage — currently \$3.33 — made by restaurant workers until it matches the city's minimum wage for other workers by 2026. Tipped employees were exempt from the 2016 minimum wage hike that steadily raises the floor to \$15 an hour by 2020, then ties future increases to inflation. Instead, the law set a base hourly pay of \$5 for tipped workers by 2020, which would also rise with inflation. Employers must make up the difference if workers don't receive enough tips to make minimum wage. [Read More.](#)

ANACOSTIA RIVER FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018; 1 PM - 5 PM

The 11th Street Bridge Park and the National Park Service present the fourth annual Anacostia River Festival, a premier event and the official closing of the 2018 National Cherry Blossom Festival. The festival will feature art exhibitions, live music performances, hands-on activities, special biking activities, canoeing to explore the river, recycled art projects, fishing workshops, the annual bicycle parade, trail rides, bike tune-up stations, safety stations, lawn games, boating and other family-friendly activities. Experience Southeast DC's local arts scene at this special FREE event. This year's festival will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Anacostia Park and the Year of the Anacostia—a year-long invitation to honor history. Location: Anacostia Park (Anacostia Drive & Good Hope Road SE). [Read More.](#)

WARD 7 TOWN HALL MEETING

April 26, 2018 — 6:30pm - 8:30pm

WARD 7
Town Hall Meeting

DC Water Interim CEO and General Manager Henderson J. Brown, in partnership with Councilmember Vincent C. Gray, is hosting a town hall meeting to discuss water projects and issues impacting your community.

- Water Rates
- Clean Rivers
- Drinking Water
- Billing Issues
- Infrastructure
- Job Opportunities

For more information, visit dewater.com/rates or call the DC Water Office of External Affairs at (202) 787-2200.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
IDEA Public Charter School, Cafeteria
1027 45th Street NE, Washington, DC 20019

dc | MURIEL BOWSER
WARD 7

FREE RESOURCES AND/OR REDUCED FEE PROGRAMS FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS

Are you aware of programs that benefit District Residents such as free smoke detectors, radon and lead test kits, home fire safety and lead based paint inspections, and more?

[Click here for more information.](#)