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Emancipation Day April 16, 2018

Secretary Eleanor Holmes Norton shares on how Emancipation Day is now that is the United States. Many slaves were of African origin and many slave owners were of European descent, although some also had African ancestry. 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 an indemnity to slaveholders approximately $300 for each slave they had previously owned. The act only covered the District of Columbia because Lincoln was unable to convince 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 was ratified by the states within 36 states in the same year. However, it was only ratified in Mississippi in 1895.

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 band members. A fun festival will go on all day and after the festival, the sky comes alight with a fireworks show. On April 16, 2018, adults and children have the day off and many district government offices are closed. Read More.

FREE DOCUMENTARY SCREENING OF "ENSLAVEMENT TO EMANCIPATION"

This screening is presented in conjunction with March of Dimes' Civil Rights and Liberation Compensa- tion Act of 1965. 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 Meet- Room 2nd Floor 3939 Benning Road NE, Washington, District of Columbia 20019. The Guest Speaker will be Al-Lage DC Councilmember Anita B.pepper.

Creating Smart Development, Housing and Facilitating Small Business Opportunities — Join the two important conversations: "Creating Smart Development, Housing and Facilitating Small Business Opportunities."

APRIL 2018 DC FIRST FRIDAYS

The next DC First Friday Emancipation will take place on April 6, 2018, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at MHCDO, located at 3939 Benning Road NE, Washington, District of Columbia 20019. The Guest Speaker will be Al-Lage DC Councilmember Anita B. pepper.

Creating Smart Development, Housing and Facilitating Small Business Opportunities — Join the two important conversations: "Creating Smart Development, Housing and Facilitating Small Business Opportunities."

JOIN OUR MAIL LIST!
Don’t miss important events and information. Click here to join.
THE NUMBER OF SOUTHEAST RESIDENTS WITHOUT HEAT IS GROWING

By Linnea Champ, Greater Greater Washington, 3/6/18

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.

PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY GROCERY CO-OP SURVEY

WARD 8 EFFORT SEeks INPUT FROM MALL AND 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 analysis. 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 Ward 8 are known food deserts. Typically, this is a multi-year process to establish the food cooperative. The map shows projects benefited by the Housing Preservation Trust Fund from fiscal year 2013 to present. More information is provided in the article, “D.C.’s Housing Preservation Trust Fund— a nine-figure coffers that provide 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.

NEW INTERACTIVE MAP DETAILS WHERE AFFORDABLE HOUSING HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR TEENS: OPEN MIC NIGHT

By Michelle Goldchain, DC Curbed, 3/2/18

The map shows projects benefited by the Housing Production Trust Fund from fiscal years 2001-2016. Already, the new tool by the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor has garnered some responses. The proposed changes likely to the creation and preservation of affordable housing has not been evenly distributed throughout the city. Instead, there have been far fewer affordable housing options in Ward 7, an area of the District that is well known for being one of the most expensive places for buying a home.

GROUNDBREAKING FOR PARKLAND OVERLOOK— MARCH 26, 2018

The District is revivaling a long-abandoned parkland at the intersection of the Anacostia Metro Station and the St. Elizabeth East Campus located at 2841 Robinson Place SE into more than 200 affordable apartments for seniors. The 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. The report identifies similar issues across the region.

A Comprehensive Debate About the Future of DC’s Comprehensive Plan, By Nena Perry-Brown, Urban Turf, March 21, 2018

Letter dated 4/21/18 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.
INCLUSIONARY ZONING

DC’s Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) Program helps city development (DHCD) disposes of IZ units through a lottery process. Households interested in purchasing or leasing an IZ home must take a lottery registration process. Interested homes are sold or transferred; (2) no longer occupied as principal residence in the District. The loan has zero interest, and no payments are required until the property is:

1. Sold or transferred; (2) no longer occupied as principal residence in the District. The loan has zero interest, and no payments are required until the property is sold or transferred; (3) refinanced with cash out. There is a loan for the purchase of a principal residence in the District. The load has

WARD TOWN HALL MEETING

April 13, 3:30pm - 8:30pm

WASHINGTON CITY PAPER

Ward 7 Councilmember Vineyard Gray sweethearted her way into the good graces of District residents this week by hosting a Town Hall meeting in her Ward office. The meeting was well attended and Gray was able to address some of the concerns of her constituents.

NEWSLETTERS FROM MAYOR BOWSER

3/29 Volume 4, Issue 13: Roots to Roofs DC
3/32 Volume 4, Issue 12: Mayor’s Additions
3/38 Volume 4, Issue 10: DC Infrastructure Academy
3/41 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.

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

By David Whitehead, Greater Greater Washington

...the Office of Planning, Director Eric Shaw says Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) have done a lot for the city, especially with respect to addressing neighborhood quality of life and the neighborhood. PUDs create an extra layer of community input not present in matters of core importance to the community. They are designed to meet specific needs and can be tailored to the neighborhood. PUDs are currently being considered in the area of transportation and traffic management.

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, nature trails, a fishing demonstration, 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 centennial anniversary of Anacostia and the Year of the Anacostia—a year-long invitation to honor the history and beauty of Anacostia Park (Anacostia Drive & Good Hope Road SE).

FREE RESOURCES AND/OR PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO 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.

WARDS 7 AND 8 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Interested in what is happening in Wards 7 and 8? Here are a few events that are happening in the community 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.

HOME PURCHASE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HPAP)

The Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) provides interest-free loans and closing cost assistance to qualified applicants to purchase single-family homes, condominiums, and cooperative units. The loan amount is based on a combination of factors, including income, household size, and the amount of assistance that must be given toward a property’s purchase. As of 2017, eligible applicants can receive a maximum of $80,000 in gap financing and an additional $4,000 in closing cost assistance. Read More.

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 nights. Do you play the guitar? Do you have 2 hours a week to volunteer to make a huge difference in the life of a child living in Ward 7? The program is called the Guitars not Guns. Targeted to foster kids and at-risk youth ages 8-18 using high teacher-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 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.

PUDS and LEASING

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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.

3/20 Volume 4, Issue 8: Under the 100th Anniversary of Anacostia Park and the local arts scene at this special FREE event. This year’s festival will celebrate the centennial anniversary of Anacostia and the Year of the Anacostia—a year-long invitation to honor the history and beauty of Anacostia Park (Anacostia Drive & Good Hope Road SE).

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

Read More.

FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY FOR GAP FINANCING

Contact the Office of Planning, Director Eric Shaw says Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) have done a lot for the city, especially with respect to addressing neighborhood quality of life and the neighborhood. PUDs create an extra layer of community input not present in matters of core importance to the community. They are designed to meet specific needs and can be tailored to the neighborhood. PUDs are currently being considered in the area of transportation and traffic management.

THE EMPLOYER-ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAM

The Employer-Assisted Housing Program (EAHP) offers eligible District government employees and first responders the opportunity to receive a 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:

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INCOME QUALIFICATION

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Ward 7 Councilmember Vincen Gray spoke about the challenges facing his ward and the neighborhood. Gray said that she continues to push for the creation of 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 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.

LIFE SKILLS "A PATH TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY" FOR ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Employers must make up the difference if workers are paid less than $15 an hour by 2020, which would also rise with inflation. 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.

DC VOTERS TO DECIDE IN JUNE IF TIPPED WAGE SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO $15 AN HOUR MINIMUM WAGE—INITIATIVE 77

By Fenit Naripal, The Washington Post, 3/7/18
DC voters decided in November 2016 to raise the minimum wage for restaurant workers to the city’s 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 increase, as long as their wage plus tips was 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.

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