



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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CONDOLENCES

The Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. paid tribute to the death of Mr. Ed Potillo on Saturday, August 19, 2017. He was a Ward 7 treasured member - who suddenly died at the age of 48. Mr. Potillo served as a Board of Director for MHCDO; Conference and Membership Director of National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE), Washington, DC; Vice-Chairman of the DC Democratic State Committee; and, former Chair of the Ward 7 Democrats. He advocated for issues like health and education disparities, gun violence, and public safety in DC's most under-resourced communities. One of his most passionate projects was the annual Lorraine H. Whitlock Scholarship & Recognition Dinner and winter coat drive. Mr. Potillo was known for his fun-loving kind-hearted nature and will be truly missed. *May God grant him everlasting peace!*

DC FIRST FRIDAY

MHCDO held another "DC First Friday's" event on August 4, 2017, that concentrated on the theme of Developing Business through the Power of Networking. The guest keynote speaker was President and CEO of Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, Mr. Stanley Jackson, along with a few other guest host, and colleagues.

The next "DC First Friday" event will take place on September 1, 2017, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at MHCDO, located at 3939 Benning Road NE, Washington, DC 20019.

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. It stipulates that new residential developments have a certain number of apartments or condos, deemed "affordable," where the rent or the selling price is lower than the market rate and are only available to people whose incomes fall below a certain level.

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.

CGC/Community Grocery Store

Experts in food access have coined the term food desert to describe those areas that have limited access to healthy food. The DC Policy Center determined that 46 percent of the District's food deserts are located in Ward 8, with 31 percent in Ward 7. While the District has debated the issue and formed a variety of programs to address it, the problem still persists. Tired of waiting for action, a group of Anacostia residents took food access into their own hands and formed the Community Grocery Cooperative (CGC) which was incorporated by its founders, Ginia Avery, Clarice Manning, and Damian Bascom. The CGC will be a grocery store built for the community by the community, and "The more people we get working together, the easier this will be," says Manning. The board is especially interested in people with experience with cooperatives or retail grocery as well as grant-writing, business plan design, and clerical work to come join the team. For more information email the Community Grocery Cooperative at: communitygrocerycoop@gmail.com or find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/communitygrocerycoopdc>.

Councilmember Gray Inspects Ward 7 Safeway Stores

On Thursday morning, August 17, 2017, Councilmember Vincent Gray (Ward 7-D) conducted unannounced site visits and inspections of two Safeway Grocery Stores located in Ward 7. The Councilmember, who is also Chair of the District Committee on Health, said he had received numerous complaints about the stores in March, such as; poor sanitation, expired dates on product labels, excessively long checkout lines, empty shelves and reduced store hours without notification to the community. In April, Gray met with Safeway Eastern Region Executive Management and requested an action plan and timetable to address customer complaints and to upgrade service. Four months later Gray said he is still receiving complaints, so he decided to visit the stores and see conditions for himself. Guess what? Both Safeway's failed the inspection? Councilmember Gray said, "Safeway must address and correct these substandard conditions," -- Beth Goldberg, Safeway's Senior Manager of Community and Public Affairs, said, "Our customers are of the utmost importance to us and we have actively worked to improve their experience at our Ward 7 stores. These changes are in the process of being implemented or are already part of our store operations." [Read more.](#)



Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc.
3939 Benning Road NE
Washington, DC 20020
202-396-1200
www.mhcd.org

Capitol Hill Library Receives Additional Funding

Users of the Capitol View Library felt shortchanged this spring by the District's budget process. Residents hoped that, in a year or two, a gleaming, modernized library would help mark their neighborhood, which is seeing new condos and development projects go up. But after the renovation project's \$10.5 million budget was slashed by more than half, residents asked where the money went. Now some of it is back.

A neighborhood group called the Capitol View Library Coalition (CVLC) successfully pushed for more dollars to give the two-story library building, built in 1965, an exterior facelift. The DC Council fast-tracked the addition of \$2 million for the project, still a downgrade from the original budget but enough for a fuller modernization.

DC Public Library Director Richard Reyes-Gavilan said that money will be available in October, thanking Councilmember David Grosso and the District government. He and the project team presented their next steps to the community on July 19. With the exterior renovation now part of the project, the library aims to reopen in summer 2018. Interior work has been underway since February, with demolition and roof work completed. [Read more.](#)

Events DC Advances Plans for RFK Site

Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Stadium has been the home for numerous events as well as the District's major league baseball, football and, currently, the DC United soccer team. But DC United is expected to move to their new stadium in Buzzard Point next year. The Ward 7 community has been eager to see the nearly 80 acre parking lot that surrounds the outdated building be converted into green or recreational fields. Events DC, the sports and entertainment authority of the District, currently holds a lease with National Parks Service (NPS) on the property which is set to expire in 2038. The longer-term project to redevelop the main stadium could take 30 years or more, but Events DC and the community have yet to decide on what will fill that space. At a community meeting, July 10, Events DC announced that elements of the program will be advanced even as they seek to secure long-term control of the site in order to facilitate financing of the plans. [Read more.](#)

LOCAL BUSINESS

Crystals Flower and Gift Shop

They are a family-owned and operated business committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly and prompt. Since all of their customers are important, their professional staff is dedicated to making your experience a pleasant one. This is why they'll always go the extra mile to make your floral gift perfect.

Crystals Flower and Gift Shop
4313 Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave.NE,
Washington, DC 20019
202-396-2797
crystalsflowershop@gmail.com
<http://www.crystalsflowerdc.com/>

Tasteful Flavors by Julia Manuel

For over 20 years, Tasteful Flavors by Manuel has been known for its exceptional food and outstanding presentation, along with planning and focus to detail. They provide a variety of cuisine consisting of soul food, healthy vegetarian and vegan dishes, Asian, Jamaican, raw, and more. They also provide weekly meals for seniors. Tasteful Flavors by Manuel can plan and design elegant romantic environments just for two, banquets, weddings and other special events, such as corporate events for 50 to 200 people.

Tasteful Flavors by Ms. Julia Manuel
240-328-4719
Tasteful.jm@gmail.com
<http://flavorsbymanuel.com/>