



# 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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1929-1968

LET US HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. *MLK Day is more than just one day of service. It's about making a difference every day.*



On the third Monday of every January, we observe Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is a day for the nation to reflect upon the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a minister, civil rights activist and nonviolent leader. Dr. King is considered the most influential leader in the Civil Rights movement, which aimed to end the systematic racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans that plagued the country.

In addition to his work in civil rights, Dr. King also spoke up for the disadvantaged and impoverished. His stance of non-violence has helped to shape the way movements have been structured around the world for those struggling for human rights. His day also serves as a reminder that there is still work to be done for society to achieve equality and respect for everyone.

**5 Ways to Honor Martin Luther King Jr.**  
By CALVIN LAWRENCE Jr., ABC News to Go, 1/20/13, [Read More](#)  
Give Something - Learn Something  
Teach Something - Commit to Something  
Dream and Achieve Something

## JANUARY IS CERVICAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Cervical Health Awareness Month is a chance to raise awareness about how women can protect themselves from HPV (human papillomavirus) and cervical cancer. HPV is a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity, and it causes almost all cases of cervical cancer. About 79 million Americans currently have HPV. Many people with HPV don't know they are infected. And each year, more than 11,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer. [Read More.](#)

## FEBRUARY 2018 DC FIRST FRIDAY

The next "DC First Friday" event will take place on February 2, 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 Elissa Silverman. Contact Vivian Mercer at 202-650-5621 to RSVP or for additional information. Plan to attend.

## HOME SAVERS PROGRAM

Did You Know the District of Columbia has MONEY available to help DC Homeowners facing foreclosure? Are You Having Problems Paying Your Mortgage? To find out if you can qualify for up to \$60,000 in a forgivable loan to prevent foreclosure on your home, contact MHCDO, 3939 Benning Road, NE, Washington, DC 20019. For additional information call 202-396-1200.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm. Call 202-396-1200 for more information.



Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc.  
The Lloyd D. Smith Center  
3939 Benning Road NE  
Washington, DC 20020  
202-396-1200  
[www.mhcdo.org](http://www.mhcdo.org)

## 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) 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.](#)

## 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.](#)

## HOME PURCHASE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HPAP)

The Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) gives up to \$84,000 in down payment and closing assistance to eligible first-time homebuyers. It 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. [Read More.](#)

## REHAB PROGRAM

MHCDO provides information and assistance on How to Qualify for Up to \$75,000 For: Home Rehab\* Roof Repair\* Make Your Home Handicap Accessible \* Delinquent Property Taxes and Mortgage\* Property Taxes Deferment and, much more. Are you having difficulties paying your property taxes, mortgage or maintaining your home? If yes, Government money is available to help senior homeowners. Call 202-396-1200 for additional information.

## 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.](#)

## JOIN OUR MAIL LIST!

Don't miss important events and information. Click [here](#) to join.

## WARD 7 COUNCILMEMBER VINCENT GRAY—12/20/17 NEWSLETTER “Focusing On Our Youth”

This newsletter provides updates from Councilmember Vincent Gray on what has been done to improve educational outcomes and serve the interests of youth this year. [Read More.](#)



The John A. Wilson Scholarship

## THE JOHN A. WILSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The H Street Community Development Organization is offering scholarship funds to eligible seniors graduating from a Washington, D.C. Public/Public Charter School. For more information [Click Here](#). Preference will be given to students from

Ward 5, 6, & 7.

**Application Deadline:** Items must be postmarked by **March 5, 2018**

**Mail To:** The John A. Wilson Scholarship  
H Street Community Development Corporation  
916 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

**Submit Online:** Candidates may also submit their completed applications and essay at: [scholarship@hstreetcdc.org](mailto:scholarship@hstreetcdc.org)

Contact: Eric P. Jones  
(202) 544-8353 or [eric.jones@hstreetcdc.org](mailto:eric.jones@hstreetcdc.org)

## MAYOR BOWSER ANNOUNCES “VACANT TO VIBRANT DC”

*Friday, December 15, 2017*

Mayor Bowser launched “Vacant to Vibrant DC,” a new five-point plan to transform vacant spaces into approximately 70 units of workforce housing, community green spaces, and economic development opportunities for small businesses throughout the city. The plan will reduce the District’s vacant property inventory by reactivating up to 50 sites from the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Property Acquisition and Disposition Division. Vacant spaces in Ward 7 Deanwood neighborhood are slated for this project. [Read More.](#)

## NEWS FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

12/25/17 Vol. 3, Issue 51  
2017 in Review [Read More.](#)

12/28/17 Vol. 3, Issue 52  
Cold Emergency [Read More.](#)

## THREE D.C. NEIGHBORHOODS WORTH WATCHING IN 2018

*By Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, 12/15/17*

Washington, D.C., is in a state of constant change with new projects announced every week. As new projects come, so too do neighborhood real estate prices fluctuate.

**Deanwood, Hillcrest, Mayfair/Hillbrook** are highlighted. [Read More.](#)

## WASHINGTON, DC’S POPULATION CLOSING IN ON 700,000

Wednesday, 12/20/17— Mayor Muriel Bowser today applauded the latest estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, which show Washington, DC’s population continued to climb in 2017. Newly released figures indicate the District of Columbia is quickly approaching 700,000 residents after a growth rate of 1.4 percent between July 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017 – ranking the District eighth in percent growth among the states. As of July 1, Census data estimated the District’s population to be 693,972. [Read More.](#)



## HERE’S WHAT SOUTHEAST BOULEVARD COULD LOOK LIKE

*By Nick Burger (Contributor),  
Greater Greater Washington, 12/26/17*

The District is trying to replace the awkward,

unattractive former highway that divides Capitol Hill and the Anacostia River with a revamped roadway that can provide a range of public benefits — chief among them better connecting those two areas of the city. ... On December 11, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) held the second community meeting on the redevelopment plan for the Southeast Boulevard and Barney Circle. [Read More.](#)

**Important: The Public Comment Period Ends January 24, 2018 for the Southeast Boulevard and Barney Circle Environmental Assessment.** Don’t miss the opportunity to provide comments about the proposed changes that may impact traffic crossing the Sousa Bridge into our neighborhoods. [Read More.](#)

## MAYOR BOWSER ANNOUNCES \$4.7 MILLION INVESTMENT IN KINGMAN AND HERITAGE ISLANDS (WARD 7)

On January 12, 2018, in honor of the Year of the Anacostia, Mayor Bowser announced significant conservation and investment commitments for Kingman and Heritage Islands. ...Consistent with the Kingman Island & Heritage Island Planning and Feasibility Study, the new investment will support outdoor classrooms, bathrooms, and accessible routes and pathways for visitors to the islands. These improvements will mean greater use of the island by District residents and visitors, which in turn, will help expand successful school and volunteer programs already in place. [Read More.](#)

## 2018 (12 WEEK) dFREE FINANCIAL FREEDOM SEMINAR SERIES

*Presented By The Federal City Alumnae Chapter of  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Economic Development Committee*  
Location: The Capital View Library, 5001 Central Ave SE, Washington DC 20019

**Saturday January 27, 2018 from 10am-12noon** is the date for the Kickoff of the 2018 dFree Financial Freedom Seminar Series. The Kickoff is free and highlights on seminar topics, guest speakers and graduate testimonials will be discussed.

The 12-week Saturday series begins **February 10, 2018 and ends April 28, 2018** (except 1st Saturdays and Easter Weekend). It’s free for the general public and includes seminar books. **Learn how to pay off your debt, and save more than you could ever imagine.** Be excited to experience financial security that lasts generations, to create legacies, support philanthropic causes, and teach others to do the same. For more information, contact: [Economic@thefcadcst.org](mailto:Economic@thefcadcst.org)

## NEWS FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER 1/4/18 Vol. 4, Issue 1

We’re Making Progress and There’s More Work to Do. [Read More.](#)

## COAT DRIVE IN REMEMBRANCE OF ED POTILLO

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy of service and many others who have dedicated their lives to empowering others, join the Ward 7 Democrats in their inaugural MLK Day of Service Children’s Winter Coat Drive in remembrance of Ed Potillo former Ward7 Democrats Chair. Drop off a new or gently used clean coat or make a donation in Ed’s name to benefit children in Ward7 at the Ward 7 Democrats meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2018. For additional information call 202- 335-0004 or contact: [info@ward7dems.org](mailto:info@ward7dems.org).



Image via Board of Zoning Adjustment documents

## AFFORDABLE FORT DUPONT PARK PROJECT TO UNDERGO REDEVELOPMENT, ADD 90 UNITS

*A new below-grade parking garage is also in the works  
By Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, 1/2/18*

An affordable housing project in the Fort Dupont Park neighborhood is going to undergo a redevelopment that will increase the number of units available, according to an application for the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). Located at the corner of 35th and B streets SE, the developer behind the Meadow Green Courts Apartments project plans on replacing 52 apartments across seven three-story buildings with a three-story, 90-unit apartment building. [Read More.](#)

**WARD 7 BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT  
THERAPEUTIC SESSIONS**

Therapeutic Sessions is an innovative rehab company that offers a range of highly-skilled physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, chiropractic treatment, strength and conditioning programs, wellness programming, and work rehabilitation for on-the-job injuries in an outpatient rehabilitative setting. They are located at 3905 Dix Street NE, Washington, DC 20019, Phone: 202-680-4864. Hours of Operation: 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Saturday by appointment only. [Read More.](#)

**WARD 7 BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY OF THE  
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**

The **Building Futures** Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training program is a free 6-week class that connects low-income DC women and men ages 21+ with family-sustaining jobs in the construction industry and related occupations. The curriculum includes construction math review, blueprint reading, tool identification and use, OSHA 10, CPR/First Aid, Scaffold Basics, and Flagger Safety & Traffic Control certifications, as well as job readiness preparation. The class includes employability workshops as well as individualized job development. Case management services help ensure retention in the program and on the job. A travel stipend is provided. Applicants interested in joining the building trades are academically tested and need to score at 8th grade or above in reading and math, be drug-free (including marijuana), and possess a valid driver's license or learner's permit. Classes are held four times per year at the Local 891 Cement Masons Union at 1517 Kenilworth Avenue, NE. For more information call (202) 974-8223. [Read More.](#)



**MAYOR BOWSER'S  
YEAR THREE  
TRANSITION PLAN  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
REPORT**

Mayor Bowser released her Year Three Transition Plan Accountability Report.

The report shows that during the Bowser Administration's first three years in office, the Mayor has either delivered, launched, or prepared to launch 96 percent of the promises she committed to during the 2014/2015 mayoral transition. The report delivers on Mayor Bowser's commitment to transparency and accountability, and offers a comprehensive look into the Administration's goals and priorities. Learn more and read the report [HERE.](#)

**SOUTHEAST WELDING CENTER PRESENTS THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO START A CAREER IN WELDING**

Southeast Welding Academy (SEWA) has partnered with the DC Office of Youth Programs to train 40 In-School Youth in Welding, Ages 18-21. Classes will be held after school from 4pm – 7pm - Tuesday thru Thursday. SEWA invites you to spend three paid days a week in a Career Readiness Program. This In-school Program is designed to introduce welding and other offsite activities. You can become a skilled welder while in high school.

Registration Deadline – March 3, 2018

Classes Start – March 13th, 2018

Requirements:

- DC Resident
- Must Be Enrolled In School

Documentation:

- DC Identification
- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card

If you are interested contact SEWA or SEWC  
Southeast Welding Center  
(202) 290 - 1370 or (202) 610 - 9858

Website: [www.southeastweldingacademy.org](http://www.southeastweldingacademy.org)

Address: 1103 W Street SE, Washington DC 20020

**MAYOR BOWSER CELEBRATES MORE  
THAN 400 FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS  
HOUSED DURING  
"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"**

Mayor Bowser today attended a lease-agreement signing as part of the city's successful "Home for the Holidays" campaign to place 400 of the District's most vulnerable families and individuals into permanent housing during the holiday season. The celebration of the campaign took place at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center, a central intake point for families and individuals experiencing homelessness, with four families receiving keys to their new homes. Tomorrow, an additional 20 families will sign lease agreements, bringing the total number of households housed during the campaign to 422. [Read More.](#)

**EAST RIVER JAZZ BRUNCH**

*January 14 through September 9, 2018*

In partnership with East River Jazz, the Anacostia Arts Center will host monthly series of afternoon jazz beginning January 14, 2018 at 3:00 PM. Guests can purchase an affordable bottomless brunch at Artdrenaline Café, from 11 AM to 3 PM, before enjoying cutting edge jazz presented by regional jazz musicians. East River Jazz Brunch will take place the second Sunday of each month. This event is Free and open to the public. Anacostia Arts Center is located at 1231 Good Hope Road SE, DC. Artdrenaline Café is located within the Arts Center.

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS BICENTENNIAL  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Celebrate the bicentennial of Frederick Douglass's birth with the National Park Service and its community partners on Saturday, February 17 and Sunday, February 18, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site located at 1411 W St SE, Washington, DC 20020. This year's programs and activities will honor the legacy and activism of Frederick Douglass and his connection to the Anacostia community in which his historic home lies. There will be community lectures, dramatic performances, hands-on kids Activities and musical performances.



**WARD 7  
COUNCILMEMBER  
VINCENT GRAY  
1/12/18  
NEWSLETTER  
"New Year, Same  
Focus on Ward 7"**

...while it is a new year and many make resolutions to change to a new focus, I remain laser-focused on the quality of life for Ward 7 and residents on the East End of the District of Columbia. [Read More.](#)



**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY  
LECTURE SERIES**

In celebration of 2018 African American History Month, noted historian Carrol "C.R." Gibbs will deliver Lecture Series on African History and Culture in various locations including Ward 7 during the months of January and February. C.R. Gibbs is the author/co-author of six books and a frequent national and international lecturer on an array of historical topics. [Click here](#) for more information about Mr. Gibbs and for a list of presentation

**METRO ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF  
PARKING CHANGES EFFECTIVE  
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

Effective Monday, February 5, 2018, Metro will expand hours when parking fees are charged, lower parking fees at two stations as part of a pilot program, and begin charging higher fees for "non riders" at additional stations. In addition, a \$2 fee for Saturday parking will begin February 10.

The changes will allow Metro to maximize utilization of parking facilities without increasing the daily parking rate for Metro customers on weekdays. [Read More.](#)



Photo courtesy of D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities

**MARION BARRY MEMORIAL  
STATUE, WHAT TO EXPECT  
THE EIGHT-FOOT-TALL STATUE WILL  
BE UNVEILED MARCH 2018 OUTSIDE  
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
By MICHELLE GOLDCHAIN, CURBED, 10/30/17**

...The statue is commissioned by the Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) in partnership with the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) and the Marion Barry Commission. ...The model completed last week and stands eight feet high. The \$300,000 project is expected to meet the deadline with an unveiling scheduled for March 6 of next year (2018), Barry's birthday. The placement of the statue will be outside the John A. Wilson Building along Pennsylvania Avenue NW. [Read More.](#)

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others? — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*