



February 15, 2018



# 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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Carter G. Woodson (1875–1950)

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month in America, is an annual observance in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and in the Netherlands (as of 2016) where it is known as Black Achievement Month. It began as a way for remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated annually in the United States and Canada in February, as well as in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands in October.

Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian [Carter G. Woodson](#) and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week." This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of [Frederick Douglass](#) on February 14, both of which dates black communities had celebrated together since the late 19th century. At the time of Negro History Week's launch, Woodson contended that the teaching of black history was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society.

February marks the observance of many other important milestones in African-American history. On February 1, 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. The 15th Amendment, granting black men the right to vote was adopted on February 3, 1870; on February 12, 1909 the NAACP was founded; and on February 25, 1870, [Hiram Rhodes Revels](#), the first black US Senator, took the oath of office.

*"If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated."*  
Carter G. Woodson

## 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.

## SENIOR BUDGET ENGAGEMENT TELEPHONE FORUM 2/20/18

Join Mayor Bowser for her first ever Senior Budget Engagement Telephone Forum designed specifically to hear from senior residents about their ideas, suggestions, and priorities for next year's budget. The Forum will take place on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 12:00 noon. **To RSVP, please call 202-442-8150 or visit the following website: [www.engagement.dc.gov](http://www.engagement.dc.gov).**

In addition, Mayor Bowser will host in-person Budget Engagement Forums across DC. These forums are opportunities for the Bowser Administration to hear directly from residents about their community's priorities before they finalize the budget. The forums are also an opportunity for residents to share with neighbors about the issues they care most about, and to gain insight from the experiences of other residents. **The in person Budget Engagement Forums will take place:**

**Thursday, February 22, 6:30 PM**  
Watkins Elementary School, 420 12th Street, SE

**Saturday, February 24, 10:00 a.m.**  
Kramer Middle School, 1700 Q Street, SE

To RSVP for a budget engagement forum, visit: [2018budgetforums.eventbrite.com](http://2018budgetforums.eventbrite.com)

## INCOME TAX HELP

Beginning 2/1/18, the DC Public Library will host income tax return preparation for qualified residents. The library partners with AARP to provide service to the following Ward 7 & 8 neighborhood locations:

- Anacostia Neighborhood Library - Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Bellevue (William O. Lockridge) Neighborhood Library - Saturdays
- Deanwood Neighborhood Library - Mondays and Wednesdays

[Read More.](#)

## JOIN OUR MAIL LIST!

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

## FEBRUARY MARKS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Every year, 1 in 4 deaths are caused by heart disease. The good news? Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for people to make healthier choices.

Make a difference in your community: Spread the word about strategies for preventing heart disease and encourage people to live heart healthy lives.

[Read More.](#)

## MARCH 2018 DC FIRST FRIDAYS

The next "DC First Fridays" event will take place on **March 2, 2018, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at MHCDO, located at 3939 Benning Road NE, Washington, DC 20019. **Our guest speaker will be [DC Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie](#).** Contact Vivian Mercer at 202-650-5621 to RSVP or for additional information. Plan to attend.

## FEBRUARY 2018 DC FIRST FRIDAYS

The MHCDO February "DC First Fridays" event was held on February 2, 2018. The Guest Speaker was [At-Large DC Councilmember Elissa Silverman](#), who discussed "Activities or Capabilities that she is championing East of the River."

## 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.](#)

## 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.](#)



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## CAPITOL VIEW LIBRARY RENOVATION



The Capitol View Library, at 5001 Central Avenue, SE reopened on 12/18/17 with improved entrance to the building, expanded space, a new computer lab, upgraded electrical, AC and heating, new elevator, more meeting and study space, new furniture and windows. The library will close again in Spring 2018 for the exterior renovation. The Library will open an interim location on the grounds of J.C. Nalle Elementary School during the exterior renovation. The total project budget is \$7.9 million. [Read More.](#)

## 20 AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY DESTINATIONS IN WASHINGTON, DC

*By Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, Updated 2/1/18*

With the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), there may be some that believe that the Smithsonian museum is the be-all-end-all of where to go for black history and contemporary culture in the nation's capital, but that's not true. From the African American Civil War Museum to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, there are plenty of sites worth the hike for discovering how significant African Americans have been not only in Washington, D.C., but in the nation.

[Read More.](#)

## A NOTE FROM YOUR PEOPLE'S COUNSEL WILL A TAX CUT SHOW UP IN YOUR UTILITY BILL?

**JANUARY 2018**

...did you know that OPC is working hard to make sure that any tax savings Pepco or Washington Gas receive are passed on to you? When electric or gas rates are set they are based on a utility's cost of providing the service – which includes the taxes they pay. In effect, you are paying the utility's tax bill, so when the income tax rate on corporations drops from 35 percent to 21 percent, as it did under the new law, those savings should be passed down to you.

The DC Public Service Commission has already announced that it will initiate proceedings to determine how gas and electric ratepayers in the District will benefit from the corporate tax reduction. In addition, Pepco and Washington Gas have announced plans to lower their customers' bills early this year. OPC applauds these actions. OPC will closely scrutinize "the books" to make sure that any tax savings realized by Pepco or Washington Gas are returned directly to consumers to lower your utility bills. This is your money and OPC believes you should get the full benefits of lower taxes! [Read More.](#)



## THEARC PHASE III RIBBON CUTTING

**Thursday, February 22, 2018—11:00 am**

**1901 Mississippi Ave SE**

Please join us to celebrate the completion of the 93,000 SF third building

at THEARC Campus. The new facility will feature a black box theater, four new partners: Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation, The Bishop Walker School for Boys, The David Lynch Foundation, The Phillips Collection and an expansion of Children's National medical clinic. Join us as we celebrate this new resource for Ward 7 & 8 families.

RSVP to: [akriz@thearc.org](mailto:akriz@thearc.org)

## ILLEGAL DUMPING ARREST

During the month of December, Sixth District Environmental Crimes Officers identified a massive illegal dumping within the vicinity of Kenilworth Park that weighed approximately 2 tons. The debris, that was discarded, included construction material from dry wall to damaged wood, household appliances, a large water heater, and numerous trash bags. The amount of debris discarded could have been hazardous to wildlife in addition to damaging vegetation. But after an extensive investigation, Environmental Crimes Officers identified a suspect. After, successfully, applying for a warrant, Officers brought the suspect to the Sixth District station and were provided a full confession to the illegal dumping. The suspect was placed under arrest without further incident.

This is just one of the many arrests that Environmental Crimes Officers have made within Ward 7. The Sixth District Environmental Crimes Officers, along with our DPW (Department of Public Works) and DDO-EE (The District's Department of Energy and Environment) partners have made huge strides throughout Ward 7 within the past couple of years after formulating the DUMPBUSTERS program. Additionally, the Environmental Crimes Team was recently featured on NBC (<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Dumpbusters-Crack-Down-on-Illegal-Dumping-Washington-DC-467206903.html>).

Illegal Dumping can have severe effects on wildlife, the environment to include the waterways, and the community. **Should you come across any illegal dumping in your neighborhood, please call 911.** It is important to get a license plate number should a vehicle be involved or a detailed description of the alleged subject(s) to include direction of travel.

## THE FIRST 60 PAGES OF AMENDMENTS TO DC'S COMP PLAN ARE OUT

*Here's a first look. By David Whitehead (Housing Program Organizer), Greater Greater Washington, 1/29/18*

The Comp Plan describes the planning challenges DC faces, pointing forward towards future solutions and policies and guiding the actions and decisions of district agencies. Here's what you should know about the first set of amendments. [Read More.](#)

## DPR TO OPEN SELECT GYMS AT 6AM

Starting Friday, February 9, 2018, DPR will open Deanwood, Takoma and Turkey Thicket fitness centers at 6 a.m. "Fitness First" is an initiative allowing early risers with a free space to workout in Ward 7, Ward 4 and Ward 5. Fitness First continues the effort to regain the title of America's Fittest City as ranked by the American College of Sports Medicine and to provide fitness opportunities for residents before traditional school and work hours.

## CHILD CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

*By Kathleen Donner, East of the River, 1/15/18*

With a mission to ensure children are properly secured in safety seats and belts, **DC Safe Kids** in partnership with Children's Health Project of DC holds free child safety seat inspections at THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Ave. SE, **Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** For more information, call 202-476-3618.

## OSSE RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON DCPS GRADUATION AND ATTENDANCE OUTCOMES

*January 26, 2018*

Today the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) released the final results of their investigation into graduation practices at DCPS. The DCPS internal review as well as the OSSE report indicate that the failure to implement policies and routinely inspect practices in our schools led to a systemic breakdown that failed our students. Many DCPS high schools did not follow grading and credit recovery policies, and one-third of graduates received a diploma despite exceeding the number of absences allowed under the DCPS grading policy. This issue was particularly acute at Anacostia, Ballou, Dunbar, Eastern, Roosevelt, and H.D. Woodson High Schools, with Ballou High School being the most severe. [Read More.](#)

## STATE OF WARD 7 ADDRESS –3/14/18

Council Member Vincent Gray will conduct his "State of Ward 7 Address" on Wednesday, **March 14, 2018 at 7 pm** at Ron Brown College Preparatory High School (4800 Meade Street, NE). At this year's event, you'll hear about the legislation that was put forth on behalf of the Ward and residents throughout the District. You'll also gain knowledge on the current state of the Ward, learn how to engage in our community and meet your local leaders. ...If you have any questions or need more information, contact Mr. Mysiki Valentine at: [dvalentine@dccouncil.us](mailto:dvalentine@dccouncil.us) or call 202-724-8900.



## CONGRESS HEIGHTS AWAITS ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS ARENA

*By John Muller, East of the River, 1/19/18*

Before a packed gathering at the

R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center last month, a roll call was given acknowledging the contributions of 18 certified business enterprises to site preparation and construction of the new 4,200-seat Entertainment and Sports Arena. Scheduled to open in Congress Heights in September, the facility will be the home of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Washington Mystics and the National Basketball Association (NBA) G League affiliate Capital City Go-Go, and will serve as a practice facility for the NBA's Washington Wizards.

[Read More.](#)

## WHAT IS RENT CONTROL AND WHY DO WE HAVE IT IN DC?

By *Rahul Sinha (Contributor), Greater Greater Washington, 1/22/18*

You've probably heard of rent control, but you might not know what it means or how it works in DC. ...DC is also a city known for its strong protections for renters — most notably the [Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act \(TOPA\)](#) — and what we call rent control. Over the past two years a number of efforts have been made to amend DC's version of rent control, but larger unresolved issues remain if we want to maintain a stock of lower-cost rental units in the city. Here's what you need to know about the system. [Read More.](#)

Part 2 of this series, "DC has had rent control for 40 years, and it's no longer working" By *Rahul Sinha (Contributor) 1/23/18.* [Read More.](#)



## CONWAY CENTER OPENING COMING SOON

The Conway Center is a new mixed-use affordable community located on Benning Road in NE, DC. It will provide 202 units of affordable housing, job training for 300 students per year at an expanded SOME Center for Employment Training (SOME CET) and a Medical and Dental Health Center operated by Unity Health Care for 10,000 patients annually all under one roof. Residents and staff will begin to move in as early as February before the building dedication scheduled for May 19, 2018.

## METRO APPROVES PLAN TO REPLACE DEANWOOD METRO PARKING LOT WITH MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

By *Nena Perry-Brown, Urban Turf, 1/25/18*

...WMATA has elected to move forward with eliminating the Park and Ride surface lot at Deanwood Metro station to make way for a mixed-use development. The project would replace the 1.6-acre surface lot at the station, whose 194 spaces are vastly underutilized (roughly 36 percent of the spaces were used during the first half of the fiscal year). In 2013, Metro conducted a study as to what kind of development would best suit the location, landing on a concept for a Metro garage with 150 spaces and a building with 138 apartments and 10,000 square feet of retail. [Read More.](#)

## DC COUNCIL INTRODUCES BILL THAT WOULD BREAK UP DCRA

By *Nena Perry-Brown, Urban Turf, 1/23/18*

DC's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) has tried over the past year to streamline its permitting and approval processes, but now the bloat and bureaucracy of the agency seems to have come to a head. On Tuesday, DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson proposed a bill that would split the agency into two separate departments. [Read More.](#)

## COMMISSIONER PRESSES EVENTS DC ON ACCESSIBILITY TO PLANNED FACILITIES

As plans for fields unveiled, *Carson Carr points out 'great barrier' to Ward 7 use.*

By *Elizabeth O'Gorek, East of the River, 1/25/18*

At the RFK City-Wide Redevelopment Meeting held Wednesday evening at St. Luke's Parish (4925 E. Capitol St. SE), **Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7F Chair Sheila Carson-Carr (7F03)** raised the issue of accessibility to the site for residents living across the Anacostia River from the RFK Campus site, calling the E. Capitol Street Tunnel a "great barrier" to access by pedestrian and cyclists.

Her comments came after Events DC [introduced a timeline and schematic plans](#) for the first phase of the short-term plans for the stadium site. The first phase calls for multipurpose recreational fields for lacrosse, soccer and little-league baseball and features green space, a playground, restroom facilities and a pavilion.

Carson-Carr expressed concern about affordability and access to these facilities for all District residents, especially those living on the opposite side of the Anacostia River from the stadium site. [Read More.](#)

## DESPITE A PANOPLY OF PROGRAMS, D.C. SENIOR CITIZENS STILL EXPERIENCE HUNGER

"Information is powerful. If people knew about this stuff, they would come out."

By *Laura Hayes, Washington City Paper, 1/25/18*

...In fiscal year 2017, the city provided 346,026 "congregate meals" to 5,333 seniors, according to Karen Dorbin, DCOA's director of external affairs and communications. Congregate meals are more than nutritionally beneficial. They free up seniors' money, and seniors use the dollars saved to buy other necessities, like medication. The meals also coax seniors living solo out of their apartments for a social occasion.

For those too frail or otherwise unable to venture out, the city also offers various home-delivery programs. Some are vacuum-packed, refrigerated meals, while others don't require any heating or storage. Dorbin says D.C. seniors received 681,034 home-delivered meals in fiscal year 2017.

**But not everyone knows these and other programs exist.** [Read More.](#)

## THE FATE OF DC'S FAMILY-SIZED UNIT BILL TO BE BASED ON RESULTS OF STUDY

By *Nena Perry-Brown, Urban Turf, 1/24/18*

While the District's stock of new residential units has grown markedly over the past several years, a cursory glance at the city's new developments reveal a unit mix that skews more toward singles and roommates. Last year, the [Family Unit Amendment Act of 2017](#) was introduced with the aim of correcting this imbalance by ensuring that more three-, four- and five-bedroom affordable units are built. This year, it looks like the bill's goals may get implemented — partially.

As introduced by Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, the legislation asks the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) to create a mechanism to biennially assess the need for family-sized units by taking inventory of how many larger apartments are in each of DC's wards and how many of those units are occupied by very- and extremely-low income households. [Read More.](#)

## TRANSFORMATIVE DEANWOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, MAPPED

From affordable housing to retail, see what new projects to expect in this Northeast neighborhood.

By *Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, 1/30/18*

Deanwood is getting noticed more and more, and that should be of no surprise. In August 2017, Redfin deemed the Northeast D.C. neighborhood one of the hottest neighborhoods in the U.S. In a statement, Redfin real estate agent Steve Centrella said, "You can get more home for your money, while staying within the city borders." [Read More.](#)

## NEWS FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

1/18 Vol. 4, Issue 3—Ballou Update [Read More.](#)

1/25 Vol. 4, Issue 4—A Fair Shot [Read More.](#)

2/1 Vol.4, Issue 5—Kicking Off Black History Month [Read More.](#)

## MAYOR BOWSER LAUNCH 'A FAIR SHOT: A TOOLKIT FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN PROSPERITY'

On Thursday, February 1, Mayor Bowser kicked off Black History Month with the release of **A Fair Shot: A Toolkit for African American Prosperity**. The toolkit provides an overview of DC government funded programs and services that support African American residents on their pathway to the middle class. The guide outlines services for individual residents, senior citizens, families and business owners. [Read More.](#)

## MAYOR BOWSER RELEASED PLAN TO CLOSE DC GENERAL FAMILY SHELTER

Mayor Bowser has released the plan and timeline to close DC General Family Shelter by the end of 2018, keeping a promise to District residents to close once and for all the outdated shelter. The closing of DC General marks an important step forward in the Bowser Administration's plan to replace DC General with safe, dignified, service-enriched short-term family housing programs across the District. [Read More.](#)

## MPD 6TH DISTRICT NINTH COHORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY—3/7/18 -7PM

This free, fun, and interactive session series provides insight into the way MPD works and covers topics such as: The Recruit Training Program, Common Policing Scenarios and Challenges, Juvenile Issues and Youth Investigations, Patrol Services and take Station Tours, Specialized Policing Units (e.g., K-9, bomb squad, harbor patrol), The Use of Force Discussion, & Various Policing Topics from Command Staff Members. This is a great way to connect your local police department, learn about its operations, and interact with your fellow citizens over topics of mutual interest. [Read More.](#)

## MARION BARRY'S COMMEMORATIVE STATUE TO DEBUT MARCH 3

Former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry's commemorative eight-foot-tall statue will be installed outside the John A. Wilson Building along Pennsylvania Avenue NW on Saturday, **March 3 at 11:30 a.m.** with a dedication by Mayor Muriel Bowser and Council Chair Phil Mendelson.

## NOTICE OF ROADWAY RESURFACING

DDOT will begin roadway resurfacing work on Benning Road NE from 42nd Street to East Capitol Street on or about February 5, 2018. Construction is schedule to be complete by April 9, 2018 weather permitting. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Project Manager, Mr. Jaswant Singh Matharu at 202-671-4686.