

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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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MHCDO

MHCDO currently has the following vacant positions. Opening Date: March 5, 2018
Closing Date: March 30, 2018
Grant Writer (Part Time)
Housing Program Manager (Full Time)
[Click here](#) to view the Vacancy Announcements.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE-THIRD OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS IN DC DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP?

Nearly one third of the women in DC indicate that violence is the cause of their homelessness or housing instability.

Under the leadership of the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness's Women's Task Force, Kris Thompson, executive director of Calvary Women's Services and co-chair of the Women's Task Force, has completed the first-ever DC Women's Needs Assessment and recently presented the results of this ground-breaking survey of more than 400 homeless women in our city. This report provides opportunities for women's homeless and domestic violence systems to strengthen and improve the programs and services they offer women. We can make it possible for more women to change their lives. [Read More.](#)

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AT DCPL



In honor of Women's History Month, enjoy special programming at DC Public Libraries dedicated to the achievements of women. Travel back in time with the Female Re-Enactors of Distinction to learn about women from different eras. Choose between two perfor-

mances: Saturday, March 24, 2 p.m., Anacostia Library and Saturday, March 31, 11 a.m., Woodridge Library. All ages welcome (kids under 9 with caregiver).

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.](#)

JOIN OUR MAIL LIST!

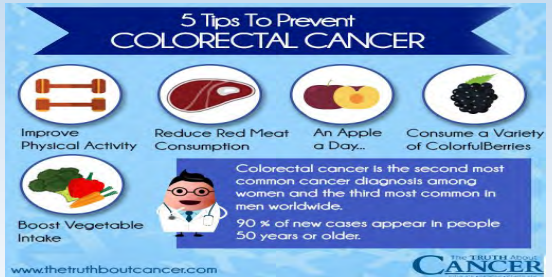
Don't miss important events and information. Click [here](#) to join.

MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Colorectal cancer affects people in all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people age 50 and older. The 5-year survival rate of colorectal cancer is only 54-65%. The good news? If everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to encourage people to get screened.

Screening of blood, tissue, and bodily fluids can detect colorectal cancer. Hundreds of studies have determined that the following lifestyle factors increase the risk of colorectal cancer:

Smoking, Excessive alcohol consumption, High consumption of red meat and processed meat, Low physical activity, Nutrient deficiencies such as folate and vitamin B6, High BMI (body mass index), Low vegetable consumption. [Read More.](#)



Colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosis among women and the third most common in men worldwide. 90% of new cases appear in people 50 years or older.

www.thetruthaboutcancer.com

NETWORKING AT DC FIRST FRIDAYS RESULTS IN EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Rondy Wooten a participant at the 2/2/18 DC First Friday event got a job by networking. While at the event he spoke to LaSharn Vines-Goodman, Housing Counselor, and informed her that he was a returning citizen recently released from prison and was seeking employment, she advised him to contact her on Monday, 2/5/18, he did and she referred him to a program for returning citizens. He went to the location, completed an application, and was hired the next day 2/6/18 for a construction job with benefits. His socializing clearly demonstrates exactly what our DC First Fridays is all about – networking for jobs, and business opportunities! Mr. Wooten states, "Just as I was beginning to lose hope, Ms. Goodman was there for me. I am working today because of Marshall Heights and Ms. Goodman. I am forever grateful."



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](#). Contact Vivian Mercer at 202-650-5621 to RSVP or for additional information. Plan to attend and network.

MARCH 2018 DC FIRST FRIDAYS

The MHCDO March "DC First Fridays" event was held on March 2, 2018. The Guest Speaker was [Ward 5 DC Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie](#) who discussed "Business and Economic Development Championing East of the River."



STATUE HONORING FORMER MAYOR MARION BARRY REVEALED IN D.C.

The new "Mayor for Life" statue is one of only three full-body statues in the city of

African Americans By Michelle Goldchain. Curbed, 3/5/18 This Saturday, 3/3/18 in front of the John A. Wilson Building, former D.C. "Mayor For Life" Marion Barry once again made history. An 8-foot-tall, bronze statue of Barry by Maryland-based sculptor Steven Weitzman was revealed. [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.](#)



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



Minim House Picture from Tinyhouseblog.com

DC IS TRYING A TINY HOUSE ON FOR SIZE

By Nena Perry-Brown, Urban Turf, 2/2/18

DC's Vacant to Vibrant initiative has already gotten the ball rolling on various endeavors to increase the supply of work-force and affordable housing throughout the city, with public-private partnerships and vacant property auctions. One of the programs under the initiative's umbrella will be on a much smaller scale. The Department of Community and Housing Development (DHCD) is partnering with the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation to build a **single tiny home, designed by Minim House**, in the 1100 block of 50th Place NE (map) on a site previously slated to be included in

last month's auction of 30+ vacant properties. Students from the Academy of Construction and Design at IDEA Public Charter School in Northeast will assemble the house. [Read More.](#)

MINIM HOME DESIGN NOW IN PRODUCTION FOR BUYERS

<http://tinyhouseblog.com/tiny-house-for-sale/completed-minim-homes-now-available-for-buyers/>

For pictures of the Minim Home click on this link. [Read More.](#)

YOGA TUESDAYS WITH ME FIRST YOGA & BEYOND

45 minute class at the Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20020 will: Focus on the health benefits of yoga for health and wellness, Focus on improving flexibility, and proper breathing, Improve blood circulation through the joints and tissues, and Increase mobility, meditation to relieve stress, and lower blood pressure. Location—Large Meeting Room, 2nd Floor. Please bring your own mats! For more information call 202-727-6044.

JC NALLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL OFFERING FREE ADULT GED PREP CLASSES (SPREAD THE WORD)

It's never too late to get your GED. The program provides free books and pays the GED testing fees. **The next orientation will be held on Tuesday, March 27th at 5:30pm for classes starting April 3rd.** Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. You progress through the GED Prep classes at **your own pace**. If you are interested in getting your GED please contact Mr. La'Mont Geddis, Director of JC Nalle Community School at: lgeddis@nccf-cares.org or call 202.396.9330 Ext333. **Spread the Word about this class.**

THINK YOUR CAR HAS BEEN TOWED?

During the winter storms, cars parked along snow routes may be towed or relocated to allow proper snow removal and safe passage within major corridors. If you suspect your car has been towed **at any time during the year**, please call the Towing Control Dispatch Center at (202) 541-6083. You can be notified about a towed vehicle immediately when you enroll in DPW's Tow and Boot Alert System. Just visit dpw@dc.gov, select the "Tow and Boot Electronic Alert Program" **Banner** at the top of the page and follow the prompts to register your vehicle.

8 HISTORIC DC HOMES ONCE OWNED BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN ICONS

By Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, 2/8/18

From Duke Ellington to Langston Hughes, see where these celebrities once lived in the nation's capital.

[Read More.](#)

D.C. TEACHERS WILL NOT BE ASSESSED ON HOW MANY STUDENTS THEY PASS THIS YEAR

By Perry Stein, Washington Post, 2/14/18

D.C. teachers' annual assessments will not take into account how many students pass their classes this academic year, the school system said in an email to educators this week.

The announcement comes a month after a citywide investigation uncovered a culture where D.C. Public Schools teachers said they felt compelled to pass undeserving students to meet lofty graduation rate goals and keep their jobs.

A small portion of some teachers' annual assessments hinged on whether enough students passed their classes. [Read More.](#)

BOWSER ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES FINANCING COMPLETE FOR SKYLAND TOWN CENTER

Community Will Finally See Buildings Rise at Long-Delayed Project

Today, 2/27/18 the Bowser Administration announced that construction of Skyland Town Center is underway following the closing of the first phase of commercial financing, thereby paving the way for the issuance of the Tax Increment Financing bonds that will support the long-delayed project. The first phase includes construction of 263 units of workforce housing and 80,000 square feet of retail and is expected to be completed in approximately two years. [Read More.](#)

SIGN UP FOR THE AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE TODAY!

By Adwoa Masozi, AARP DC, 2/8/18

The AARP Smart Driver course is geared towards drivers 50+ (though any driver may attend) and covers practical defensive driving techniques, the effects of the normal changes to vision and hearing caused by aging and the effects of medications and alcohol. The course reviews the latest 'rules of the road' and operating vehicles safely in today's environment and with today's technology. It is not a behind-the-wheel course but a classroom seminar with a good deal of interaction between the participants. There is no pass-fail. For most drivers who complete the course there will be a small reduction in their auto insurance costs. Instructors are unpaid volunteers. [Read More.](#)

ABANDONED CONGRESS HEIGHTS COMPLEX TO UNDERGO MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR REDEVELOPMENT

By Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, 2/22/18



Expect over 200 new apartments, many of which will have at least two bedrooms each. A neglected housing complex near the Congress Heights Metro station is going to see new life, thanks to an \$82 million redevelopment planned for the property. Parkway Overlook, located at 2841 Robinson Place SE, consists of 20 vacant buildings, totaling 266 units, but will eventually entail 220 new affordable apartments. Most of these new units will be two- and three-bedrooms with some one-bedrooms included. There will also be 11 permanent supportive housing units. [Read More.](#)

TWO PROJECTS WILL PROVIDE SENIOR HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES IN WARDS 5 AND 8

DHCD recently closed two loan agreements totaling more than \$17.5 million that will help preserve 159 affordable housing units in Wards 5 and 8, including 65 units for residents age 55 and older. The funding was made available through the HPTF. ...DHCD also provided Vesta Maplewood LLC, a joint venture between Vesta Corporation and Hopmeadow Development, Inc., with nearly \$6.7 million in HPTF financing for the preservation of 94 affordable housing units at Maplewood Courts, 2306 Hartford Street, SE in the Garfield Heights neighborhood. Ten affordable units will be available for households at or below 30 percent MFI and remain affordable for no less than 40 years; 84 units will be available for households at or below 50 percent MFI. [Read More.](#)



7 HEALTH WARNING SIGNS YOU SHOULD NOT IGNORE

By Cheryl Bond-Nelms, AARP, 12/15/17

Here are seven warning signs that may be cause for concern.

1. Tearing sensation
2. Crushing chest pain
3. Tingling in the arms or other extremities
4. Dizziness
5. Sweating
6. Numbness
7. Swelling

[Read More](#)

10 NOTABLE D.C. PROJECTS DESIGNED BY BLACK ARCHITECTS

By Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, 2/19/18

From museums to dwellings to public artworks. [Read More.](#)

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.](#)

Note: In January, 29 households in the District received more than \$1.718 million in down payment and closing cost assistance to become first-time homeowners.

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.

TWO MILLION RIDERS: STREETCAR RIDERSHIP EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS AT TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY

By Nena Perry-Brown, UrbanTurf, 2/28/18

3,500 riders used the streetcar on an average weekday last year and 2,800 riders used the streetcar on an average weekend day. Two million total passengers have used the streetcar during its two-year existence. Prior to the streetcar taking its first trip, DDOT projected average daily ridership of 1,500 people. The fact that it is free to ride the streetcar surely contributed to its popularity, and it stands to reason that daily ridership would probably dip somewhat if there was a charge. DDOT public information officer Terry Owens informed UrbanTurf that any plans to begin charging for the streetcar would be enacted after completion of the streetcar extension across the Anacostia River to Benning Road Metro station. The extension to Benning Road is anticipated to be complete as early as 2024. [Read More.](#)

CONCERT: MOREHOUSE GLEE CLUB 3/23/18



Get ready for a musical treat. The Morehouse College Glee Club will present a free concert Friday, **March**

23 at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 945 G St. NW, Noon.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES ARE NOW EXEMPT FROM TOPA

In a vote, the D.C. Council has passed the amendment

By Michelle Goldchain, Curbed, 3/6/18

This Tuesday, the D.C. Council voted to exempt single-family homes from the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). The TOPA law dates back nearly 40 years, and it allows renters to be able to have the first right to purchase the residence they live in if the property owner plans on selling the site. [Read More.](#)

DC HIRES VETS EVENT - OPEN TO ALL VETERANS AND VETERANS' SPOUSE

The DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR) in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and the DC National Guard on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 will host its second DC Hires Vets event offering veterans and veteran spouses the opportunity to connect with District and Federal agencies as well as private sector companies. Select participating agencies will conduct interviews and make contingent job offers on-the-spot.

Where: D.C. Armory, 2001 E Capitol St SE, Washington, DC 20003

When: Wednesday, April 4, 2018; 10:00am to 3:00pm.

[Read More.](#)

DC'S MOST DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS REVEALED

By Max Smith, WTOP, 2/27/18

According to a District Department of Transportation analysis focusing on severity, frequency and rate of crashes, Minnesota Avenue and Benning Road Northeast was D.C.'s single most-dangerous intersection in 2017. [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.](#)

NEWS FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

2/8/18 Vol.4, Issue 6, Our Schools - [Read More.](#)

2/15/18 Vol.4, Issue 7, #SaveDCTAG - [Read More.](#)

2/22/18 Vol.4, Issue 8, African American Job and Prosperity Fair - [Read More.](#)

MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER'S 2018 STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

Location: University of the District of Columbia Theater of the Arts, Connecticut Avenue and Window Place NW, Washington, DC 20008

Time: Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 5:30 PM

DC BUYS 2018

DC Buys is a unique opportunity for the local and regional vendor community to market their goods and services directly to the program managers and procurement personnel who ultimately make purchasing decisions on behalf of District agencies. Invited agency representatives will staff tables where information about their specific needs and upcoming solicitations will be made available to vendors. **Any professional seeking to do business with the District of Columbia should attend.** [Read More.](#)

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC 20001

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 — 9:30am to 3:00pm

[Read More.](#)



SOUTH CAPITOL STREET PROJECT PROMISES A NEW BRIDGE AND NEW LIFE FOR ANACOSTIA

By Luz Lazo, Washington Post, 3/3/18

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, one of the District's busiest commuter gateways, is past its life span. The bridge over the Anacostia River is decaying. Corrosion has eaten holes through the thick steel beams that were installed nearly 70 years ago, and despite a major overhaul in 2007, it continues to deteriorate. A mammoth construction project to replace the bridge kicked off last month, promising a new bridge in 2021. The project also will remake part of South Capitol Street into a scenic boulevard and improve the Suitland Parkway and Interstate 295 interchanges. It's the end of an era for a span that carries 70,000 drivers daily. [Read More.](#)

DC DMV AVAILABLE TO ATTEND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The DC Department of Motor Vehicles is available to attend your community meeting. They would love to hear your feedback and address any questions. They will also share their Strategic Plan and initiatives. To extend an invitation, please email: gwendolyn.chambers@dc.gov or call Gwendolyn Chambers, Public Information Officer D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles—202-729-7015 www.dmv.dc.gov. They look forward to engaging with you!

LEARN ABOUT PROPERTY SALES UNDER VACANT TO VIBRANT DC

The DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has scheduled public hearings to consider the proposed disposition of properties included in the [Vacant to Vibrant DC](#), Action 1—Auctioning Off to Gain Affordability, that was announced by Mayor Bowser on December 15, 2017.

The public hearings are conducted to ensure that all citizens are informed about the selling of the properties and have the opportunity to publicly present their views concerning the impending sale.

Each hearing will take place beginning at 6 p.m. in DHCD's First Floor Conference Room, 1800 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE: **Wednesday, April 4, 2018: Auction Sites in Wards 7 and 8.** View the [D.C. Reader notice](#) for complete details, including a list of the specific properties. This public hearing announcement also can be found on [Eventbrite.](#)