



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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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.](#)

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.](#)

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.



Wishing you Holidays filled with fun and laughter, and very best wishes for a prosperous new year.

Wishing you peace, love, and joy this Holiday Season and throughout 2018.

*From the MHCDO Staff
Board of Directors
And
Volunteers*

DECEMBER IS AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

AIDS Awareness Month is a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services. According to AIDS.gov, more than one million Americans are living with HIV, but one in five of them are not aware they are infected. While the total number of people with HIV in the United States has increased recently, the annual number of new infections has remained relatively stable. There is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. It also serves as a prime opportunity to remind people of how important it is to get tested and to know your results. [Read More](#)

JANUARY 2018 DC FIRST FRIDAY

The next "DC First Friday" event will take place on January 5, 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 Phil Mendelson DC Council Chairman who will discuss "District of Columbia's Budget and Developing Future Projects." 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 4th Thursday of every month from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm. Call 202-396-1200 for more information.



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DECEMBER DC FIRST FRIDAY 12/1/2017

Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. (MHCDO) held its December DC First Fridays event on Friday, December 1, 2017 at 6:00pm. DC First Fridays is a monthly business networking forum that is open to all businesses in the District of Columbia. It provides an opportunity to meet participating businesses, panelist and keynote speakers, share information, and seek potential partners for ventures.

The Guest Speaker this month was Sheila Edmundson Deputy Mayor, DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity who spoke on "Future Strategies for Redevelopment and Planning." View her presentation on [YouTube](#).



MHCDO IS DOING GREAT THINGS! WARD 7 AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL TEAMS

Presented with a Monetary Donation at the December DC First Friday Event

At the December DC First Fridays event on December 1, 2017, MHCDO presented monetary donations to the Marshall Heights Bisons (Keith Bullock, Coach), the Ridge Road Titans (Charles Turner, Coach), and the DC Raiders (Renaldo Brown, Coach) American Youth Football (AYF) teams to help them reach their funding goals to compete in the American Youth Championship held during the first week in December in Kissimmee, Florida. Congratulations to the Marshall Heights Bison Pee Wee Team who won their games and are now 2017 AYF National Champs. The event was a huge success with over 80 people in attendance. MHCDO is a strong contributor of our youth achievements/accomplishments. We helped to make their dream a reality! View the presentation on [YouTube](#).



VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS VISIT D.C. FOR FORUM ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Hamil Harris, Contributing Writer, Washington Informer, 12/7/17

Scores of young girls wielding oversized tennis rackets and dreams of stardom filled the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center (SETLC) on Saturday, 12/4/17... But for Venus and Serena Williams, their return to the Center had a somewhat somber purpose: the launch of the Yetunde Price Resource Center for which they have provided funding and named in honor of their slain sister. The new addition to the pristine tennis facility located in Southeast will assist those adversely affected by community violence to identify, access and utilize support services which currently exist in Ward 8. [Read More](#).

CALL THE MIDWIFE - EXPECTANT MOTHERS FACING CLOSED DOORS AT MATERNITY WARDS HAVE OTHER OPTIONS

By Candace Y.A. Montague, East of the River, 12/14/17

The recent closures of maternity wards at United Medical Center and Providence Hospitals have left expectant mothers in a bind. ...Enter the Certified Nurse Midwife. The title itself means "with woman." More women are discovering that having a CNM with them throughout their pregnancy can mean access to more personable and personalized care. ...Many Ward 7 and 8 residents, including expectant mothers, have to travel 10 miles or more for screenings, checkups and medical procedures. However, the East End has a few hidden gems that can meet the needs of pregnant women. ...[Read More](#).

UDC ANNOUNCES SPRING 2018 CLASSES

The University of the District of Columbia-Community College Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Division (WDL) has announced their Spring 2018 Schedule of Classes. They have some new and returning courses at the Marion Shadd Campus located at 5601 East Capitol St SE, Washington, DC 20019. Interested D.C. residents with a high school diploma (including a G.E.D. or equivalent) who wish to enroll in classes need to attend a One Stop Student Service Day. Courses are offered at no cost to D.C. residents. All of our courses are in high-demand, high-wage Career Pathways. Don't wait, registration ends January 4, 2018. Call 202-274-5617 or E-mail john.brooks@udc.edu or ajeeda.aljabbar@udc.edu if you are interested in registering.

DC CHANGES COURSE AND REINSTATES A SUBSIDIZED TAXI PROGRAM

By Benjamin Sullivan (Guest Contributor) 11/21/17
Greater Greater Washington

DC has partially restored the Transport DC program after protests. The program offers a \$5 cab ride to people with disabilities who are going to jobs or a doctor's appointment, and was cut in October. Now, it allow rides anywhere in the first 15 days of the month. [Read More.](#)

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

WINTER WONDERCAMP

DPR offers a fun option for our younger constituents during the DC Public Schools (DCPS) winter break from 12/26/17 –12/29/17. Winter Wondercamp is offered for youth 6 to 12 years old runs on would-be school days from 9am to 5pm during school winter break. Locations: Ward 7— Ridge Road Community Center, Deanwood Recreation Center, Kenilworth Recreation Center, Hillcrest Recreation Center. Ward 8—Barry Farms Recreation Center. [Read More.](#)

COUNCILMEMBER VINCENT GRAY'S MEETING WITH SAFEWAY REGIONAL MANAGEMENT RESULTS IN MINNESOTA AVENUE STORE'S LONGER HOURS BEING RESTORED

...I'm pleased to report that as of today, (12/11/17) the Safeway located in the East River Park Shopping Center (Minnesota Avenue, NE and Benning Road, NE) will again be open until 10 p.m. The reduction in hours of operation in August with minimal notification to the community caused a storm of complaints from residents ...[Read More.](#)

UPCOMING DEVELOPMENTS: MINNESOTA & BENNING / EAST CAPITOL STREET

12/1/17 Washington DC Economic Partnership (WDCEP)

This Map of the Month highlights completed and upcoming development north of East Capitol Street. This area is primarily a part of the Deanwood neighborhood in Northeast D.C.

As of 2010, Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue and Minnesota Avenue were designated as Great Streets corridors. A city-funded program, Great Streets provides funds for local businesses to promote economic development and community-building along major D.C. corridors.

Since 2001 more than \$1 billion of development has been built in the area, including more than 2,400 residential units and nearly one million sq. ft. of education/medical space. In addition, there is more than five million sq. ft. of planned development in the pipeline (select the table below for more details). [Click here](#) to view the map and see renderings of the development.

Minnesota & Benning / East Capitol Street

	Projects	Total SF	Education / Medical SF	Office SF	Residential Units	Retail SF	Est. Value (\$ millions)
Completed (2001 - 8/2017)	36	4,411,046	977,181	305,938	2,462	30,290	\$1,008
Under Construction	5	480,436	37,659	34,534	423	2,054	\$141
Pipeline	20	5,034,045	70,290	643,864	3,947	365,616	\$1,163
Totals	61	9,925,527	1,085,130	984,336	6,832	397,960	\$2,312

SERVE DC - THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON VOLUNTEERISM LET'S TALK ABOUT SNOW!

When the National Weather Service is forecasting snow Mayor Bowser and Serve DC are asking you to step up in your community by adopting a senior and joining the DC Volunteer Snow Team at www.snowteam.dc.gov.

While the news of snow may bring joy to some, there are many senior residents and persons with access and functional needs in your neighborhood who have difficulties traveling to appointments and performing daily activities in the aftermath of a snow event.

Here is how you can help. Mayor Bowser created the DC Volunteer Snow Program to match volunteers with senior residents in need of shoveling. Volunteers clear the steps and immediate sidewalk spanning a property. More than likely, there is a requester in your immediate community. Sign up to adopt a senior in your community today. Go to www.snowteam.dc.gov. For more information, contact Serve DC at 202-727-7925.

SIDEWALK SHOVELING EXEMPTION

All residential and commercial property owners must remove snow/ice from the sidewalks around their property within the first eight hours of daylight after a storm ends. The Department of Public Works enforces the "Winter Sidewalk Safety Rules," by citing residential and commercial property owners who have not cleared their sidewalks within 24 hours after the storm ends. Residential property owners may be fined \$25 and commercial property owners may be fined \$150.

Residential property owners may be exempt from sidewalk shoveling enforcement if you live in your own home and are 65 years old and/or a person with a disability. Residents must apply annually for the exemption. It will not carry over from one year to the next. For information about getting an exemption [Click here.](#)

LEAF COLLECTION

Collection crews are behind schedule in some areas of the city, which has been exacerbated by recent winter weather events. Leaf collection crews are the backbone of our city's snow program. When snow is predicted, the trucks' leaf collection equipment is replaced with snow plows and salt spreaders, and the crews receive snow and ice removal assignments. Questions about the collection schedule in your neighborhood, please contact the customer service specialist Hope Cousin directly at Hope.Cousin@dc.gov.

DC COMMISSION ON FATHERS, MEN AND BOYS (CGMB) ARE SEEKING BARBERSHOPS AND BOOK DONATIONS

Barbershops have always been a culturally significant place for men to gather and discuss current events, politics, and sports. It's a place where fathers spend time with their children and where boys learn to become men. Now it is a place for reading and learning too. Interested in getting involved? Participating barbershops will receive 10 to 20 books. If interested in participating, you want to recommend a barbershop or you would like to make a book donation, contact us at cfmb@dc.gov or 202-545-3058. [Read More.](#)