

September 3, 2018

THE COMMUNICATOR!

Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. Newsletter News, and Updates of What's Going On, In, And Around Ward 7!

MHCDO AFFORDABLE HOUSING EVENTS

There are two remaining housing events scheduled for **September 18 & 29th**. [Click here](#) to register for one or both of the events.

MHCDO's Affordable Housing Navigator
Your Route to DC's Affordable Housing

Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (MHCDO)
Upcoming Housing Events: Free & Open to the Public

Date	Event	Time
June 25	Affordable Housing Strategies	5:30p – 7:30p
June 30	First Time Homebuyer's Workshop	1p – 3p
July 17	Foreclosure Prevention	5:30p – 7:30p
July 28	Senior Homeownership Day	1p – 3p
Aug 25	Foreclosure Prevention	12p – 2p
Aug 30	First Time Homebuyer's Workshop	5:30p – 7:30p
Sept 18	Homeownership Sustainability Event	5:30p – 7:30p
Sept 29	The Beauty of 7: Ward 7's Homeownership Benefits	12p – 4p

Events held at Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (MHCDO); register at mhcdo.org

Since 1979 MHCDO has helped thousands obtain and sustain housing in the Nation's Capital.

Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (MHCDO)
3939 Benning Rd., N.E. WDC 20019
202-396-1200 | mhcdo.org

2ND ANNUAL WARD 7 DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, 9/8/18 12 PM—6 PM

Join Councilmember Vince Gray for the 2nd annual Ward 7 day celebration on **Saturday, September 8, 2018**. This year's event will take place at the Marvin Gaye Park (5200 Foote St, NE) from **Noon—6 PM** and will feature live music, children's games and activities for the entire family, resources and information sharing, free food, and much more.

This year's partners include: Cedar Realty Group, DSLBD, East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Ward 7 Business Partnership, Safe-way, and WACIF. Join in the celebration of the community's vibrant fabric! For additional information contact Latisha R. Atkins at 202-741-0898.

DC FIFTH ANNUAL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT—9/29/18

Parents and family members are encouraged to attend.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is pleased to announce that the fifth Annual DC Parent and Family Engagement Summit will be held on Saturday, **Sept. 29, 2018, from 10 AM to 3 PM** at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC 20001. Information provided at the Summit will engage, inform, and empower parents and families to effectively support the highest level of quality education for all the children in the District of Columbia. The Summit will also allow parents to provide feedback to OSSE on the state education plan.

For more information or questions, please contact Valrie Brown at Valrie.Brown@dc.gov or at (202) 299-2093. [Click here to register.](#)

*****CHANGES TO THE INCLUSIONARY ZONING*****

YOU MUST NOW REGISTER FOR CLASSES

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 an Inclusionary Zoning Orientation class provided by MHCDO on the **4th Thursday of every month at 12:00 PM or 2:30 PM**. [Click here](#) to register on line or call 202-650-5604 for more information or to register by phone.

JOIN OUR MAIL LIST!

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

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL CHOLESTEROL EDUCATION MONTH

What is cholesterol? - Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance found in your body and many foods. Your body needs cholesterol to function normally and makes all **that you** need. Too much cholesterol can build up in your arteries. After a while, these deposits narrow your arteries, putting you at risk for heart disease and stroke.

How do you know if your cholesterol is high? - High cholesterol usually doesn't have any symptoms. As a result, many people do not know that their cholesterol levels are too high. However, doctors can do a simple blood test to check your cholesterol. High cholesterol can be controlled through lifestyle changes or if it is not enough, through medications. It's important to check your cholesterol levels. High cholesterol is a major risk factor for heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States.

How often should you have your cholesterol checked? The National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) recommends that adults aged 20 years or older have their cholesterol checked every 5 years. Preventive guidelines for cholesterol screening among young adults differ, but experts agree on the need to screen young adults who have other risk factors for coronary heart disease: obesity, smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, and family history

Can children and adolescents have high cholesterol? Yes. High cholesterol can develop in early childhood and adolescence, and your risk increases as your weight increases.

If you have high cholesterol, what can you do to lower it? - Your doctor may prescribe medications to treat your high cholesterol. In addition, you can lower your cholesterol levels through lifestyle changes:

- ◆ Low-fat and high-fiber food (Eat more fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, and whole grains).
- ◆ For adults, getting at least 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate or 1 hour and 15 minutes of vigorous physical activity a week. For those aged 6-17, getting 1 hour or more of physical activity each day.
- ◆ Maintain a healthy weight.
- ◆ Don't smoke or quit if you smoke.

[Read more.](#)

DC FIRST FRIDAYS SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

The September "DC First Fridays" event will be held on September 7, 2018, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at MHCDO, located at 3939 Benning Road NE, Washington, DC 20019.



The Guest Speaker is [Mr. Dana Sheppard](#), Acting Deputy Commissioner and Associate Commissioner Risk Finance Bureau, DC Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB).

The Topic of Discussion is "Coffee and Capital." [Click here to RSVP](#). Plan to attend and network!! Contact Vivian Mercer at 202-650-5621 for additional information.

CALVARY WOMEN'S SERVICES SEPTEMBER OPEN HOUSE 9/21/18

You are invited to visit the facility on Good Hope Road! See what makes [Calvary Women's Services](#) special and hear inspiring stories about the women served. Calvary Women's Services empowers homeless women in Washington, DC, to transform their lives through housing, health, education, and employment programs. Guests will be led on a personal tour by a staff member. Drop in any time from **9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**. Location—1217 Good Hope Road SE, Washington, DC 20020. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

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



NEWS FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

8/9/18 Vol. 4, Issue 32, [Read more.](#)
8/16/18 Vol. 4, Issue 33, [Read more.](#)

DC RANKS POORLY IN NATIONWIDE SCHOOL STUDY

By Mike Murillo, WTOP, July 31, 2018

Public schools in the nation's capital fared poorly in a nationwide ranking of states. **On a list, which included all 50 states and the District, D.C. was ranked 49th overall by WalletHub.** Only Louisiana and New Mexico fared worse.

"D.C. specifically, had a lot to work on when it comes to its dropout rate; it's the highest in the country," said Jill Gonzalez, an analyst with WalletHub.

Gonzalez said the results, which did not take into account D.C.'s charter schools, **showed one of every three high school students in D.C. are dropping out of school, including 40 percent of low-income students.**

Some states have lowered dropout rates by providing alternative high schooling options, such as online courses. Gonzalez believes similar options, to avoid students dropping out of school altogether, could be beneficial for the District.

When it comes to test scores, fourth and eighth graders didn't do well in math and reading, which led to lower SAT scores. **"Test scores and dropout rates really were D.C.'s demise here,"** Gonzalez said. [Read more.](#)

CAN SCHOOLS BE FAIRLY RANKED ON A FIVE-STAR SYSTEM? DC IS ABOUT TO TRY

By Perry Stein, Washington Post, July 30, 2018

The highest-performing public schools in the District could soon boast they are city-approved, five-star campuses. And the lowest-performing schools could be stuck with just one or two stars.

The star system, **expected to roll out in December,** reflects a strategy to make school data more accessible to families and provide a uniform approach to assessing charter and traditional public schools.

Supporters of the plan say the five-star rankings will hold schools accountable while providing parents with a consistent and digestible way to measure hundreds of schools. But critics fear the ranking system's reliance on test scores will reserve the highest accolades for schools that educate the city's wealthiest students and give paltry ratings to schools that serve the District's most vulnerable children — even if students are improving academically and socially on those campuses.

...At Turner Elementary in Southeast Washington, for example, more than 85 percent of the student body is considered at risk. But at Janney Elementary in Northwest, just 2 percent of students are at risk; the school posts some of the city's highest test scores.

Cathy Reilly, executive director of Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators, a local advocacy organization, said the star ranking system does not capture the reality that students enter schools with different abilities and challenges. "It's not a level playing field," Reilly said. **"How are the kids going to feel who are in a one-star school?"** [Read more.](#)

THESE 10 DC SCHOOLS ARE MAKING BIG GAINS WITH AT-RISK STUDENTS.

WHY AREN'T THEY MORE POPULAR?

By Josh Boots, Greater Greater Washington 8/2/18

When test scores are announced in the District of Columbia, some public schools are high-fliers every year. They're the schools that families clamor to get into, and they tend to be in the city's most affluent neighborhoods, where students come to school with loads of advantages. No one is surprised when these schools score well.

What does surprise — and I dream of the day when it doesn't — is when schools serving students who face tremendous challenges also perform highly. It's worth taking a finer look at which schools lead this category while we await the results from PARCC tests that DC students took this past spring. It's also worth asking why these odds-beating schools don't attract a larger share of families from their surrounding neighborhoods.

Last fall, based on tests taken in spring 2017, my organization, EmpowerK12, recognized some of these schools with high percentages of at-risk students for beating expectations with our Bold Performance awards.

...Here are the 2018 Bold Improvement Schools:

- Aiton Elementary (DCPS / Ward 7)**
Center City Shaw ES/MS (Charter / Ward 6)
- DC Bilingual ES (Charter / Ward 1)**
- Friendship Blow-Pierce MS (Charter/ Ward 7)**
- Ketcham Elementary (DCPS / Ward 8)**
- Kimball Elementary (DCPS / Ward 7)**
- KIPP Northeast MS (Charter / Ward 5)**
- KIPP Promise ES (Charter / Ward 7)**
- Nalle Elementary (DCPS / Ward 7)**
Thomson Elementary (DCPS / Ward 2)

...Together, these schools educate 3,400 students in DC, of whom 14% receive special education services and 62% are considered at-risk. Nearly half of DC students tested in 2017 were considered at-risk. On the PARCC standardized tests, the more at-risk students a school serves, the lower a school's median student growth percentile. This data is what sets those expectations I alluded to earlier. This is the crux of the socioeconomic achievement gap that our city, our region, and so many other American communities must address. By contrast, Bold Improvement Schools serve a high at-risk student population and have combined math and English language arts growth rates dramatically higher than similar schools — an average of 16 points more.

...Digging more deeply into what has contributed to such improvement at these schools, all 10 Bold Improvement Schools benefited from the presence of a strong, inspirational school leader; have a pervasive culture of high academic expectations for every single student; are deeply invested in teacher quality; focus on supporting the whole child, including their families; and push for access to additional resources and greater autonomy. [Read more.](#)

SECOND SUNDAY JAZZ PRESENTS

Pianist **Bill Washburn**

Paying tribute to **Thelonious Monk**

September 9, 2018 @ 3 PM to 5 PM

FREE Admission/ Donation Appreciated Event.

[Click here](#) for more information.

A partnership with Anacostia Arts Center and East River Jazz, Second Sunday Jazz brings FREE monthly jazz performances to Anacostia. Location: Anacostia Arts Center, 1231 Good Hope Road, SE, Washington, DC, 20020, Tel. # 202-631-6291.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY IN DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS DEEPLY UNEQUAL

Technology is so scarce in some of D.C.'s public schools that fundraising for equipment has become a routine part of teachers' jobs.

By Kate Rabinowitz, Washington City Paper, July 12, 2018

Each spring, D.C. students ages 8 to 14 log in to computers to complete a standardized test called PARCC, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. The test will go on to define student capability and teacher performance, and influence staffing decisions and how parents choose schools for their kids.

But at some public schools, technology access is so limited that students barely get to use computers to practice for the computer-based test. **And some schools report having equipment so old that staff are afraid to let children use it before the test, in case the precious computers break.**

This is just one example of what it's like to teach and learn in a tech shortage. An analysis of a DC Public Schools' technology inventory across schools, received through a Freedom of Information Act request, reveals broad disparities in the equipment as of February 2018.

Garrison Elementary School in Ward 2 had more laptops than students and staff, **while Randle Highlands Elementary in Ward 7 had less than one laptop per every 13 students and staff.** The data revealed a more extreme gap District-wide in desktops, **where the poorest-resourced schools reported having less than one desktop for every 20 students and staff.** [Read more.](#)

FEMALE DC DEVELOPERS TALK NEIGHBORHOODS TO WATCH

By Christina Sturdivant-Sani, Commercial Observer, 8/1/18

...Mullenex (Barbara) also named two other neighborhoods in Northeast—**Carver Langston and Deanwood.**

She described **Carver Langston** as being "geographically isolated" in Northeast between Benning Road and Maryland Avenue Corridors. "There's a lot in that area that you look at and think something great needs to happen there," she said. Mullenex said she could visualize the repurpose of a cluster of shuttered D.C. public schools that sit atop a hill in the neighborhood, the revitalization of nearby Hechinger that houses retailers including Dollar Tree and Ross Dress For Less, and the **redevelopment of the Langston Golf Course.**

Further north, Mullenex said, "I think **Deanwood** is going to explode." Pamela Bundy, the president and CEO of Bundy Development Corporation, who also sat on the panel, noted Deanwood as a neighborhood to watch. She did not return CO's request for comment. Mullenex said the neighborhood's proximity to Metrorail and the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, plus its direct route to the H Street corridor and "really nice residential fabric" make it an appealing part of the city for development. Michelin-acclaimed restaurant Ivy City Smokehouse is planning to open a second location at the Strand Theater development in Deanwood, which is often referred to as a food desert, as CO reported in April. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAY 2018

Join Francis Gregory Neighborhood Library's first Health and Wellness fair on **Saturday, 9/15/18 from 12 PM to 4 PM.** The library is hosting a variety of activities to appeal to the health minded individual or family including free blood pressure checks, a diabetes workshop, Yoga classes, natural hair care, meditation and essential oil workshops, chess workshop, a double dutch demonstration and a visit from the DC Hand Dance Association. Their will be surprise guests for children, raffle prizes and free giveaways. All ages welcome. Location: 3660 Alabama Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20020 - 202-698-6373.

WARD 7 MIXED-USE PROPERTY TRADES FOR \$13.5M, A 45% INCREASE FROM 2013 SALE

By Jon Banister, BisNow, 8/2/18

A shopping center fully leased to retail, medical and office tenants near Fort Davis Park in Ward 7 has just sold for well above its previous value as developments move forward in the surrounding area. Gas station magnate Joe Mamo, through the entity Penn-Bama LLC, acquired the Fort Davis Center at 3863 Alabama Ave. SE for \$13.48M. The property last sold in 2013 for \$9.3M, according to property records, and its latest assessed value was \$7.6M.

...The 44K SF mixed-use center is occupied by the D.C. Department of Human Services, Children's National Health System, Fort Davis Dental Associates, KRA Corp., FlexCare Pharmacy and Lee's Mini Market. It was built in 1949 and last renovated between 2007 and 2013 and also features a 60-space surface parking lot. The property is about a half-mile from the Penn Branch Shopping Center, which Jair Lynch acquired in 2016 and began renovating, with plans for a second phase that could add multifamily and a grocery store. It is about a mile from Skyland Town Center, where WC Smith and Rappaport began construction earlier this year on a project that is slated for 500 apartments and 320K SF of retail at full build-out.

[Read more.](#)



APPROVAL, EYE LESS DENSITY, MORE GREEN SPACE

By Ethan Rothstein, BisNow, August 3, 2018

Barry Farm, one of the largest public housing complexes in Washington, D.C., and one of the largest planned developments east of the Anacostia River, is in a state of flux. After Barry Farm's development team



— A&R Development, the Preservation of Affordable Housing and the D.C. Housing Authority — had its planned-unit development approval vacated by the D.C. Court of Appeals in April, it has gone back to the drawing board, the Washington Business Journal reports.

Construction on the new apartment structures was set to begin next year, there is no updated timeline, or even firm plans on what comes next. Something must be built, as 115 households have already been moved away from the existing, 444-unit complex into temporary housing, with 85 families set to be relocated, D.C. New Communities Initiative Director Angie Rodgers told the WBJ. Attorney Aristotle Theresa said the residents are being coerced to move off-site, but he and Rodgers agreed the current conditions for residents are far less than ideal.

[Read more.](#)

UNITY, HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL TO OPEN SPECIALTY CENTER IN WARD 7

Unity Health Care announced 8/9/18 a partnership with Howard University Hospital to provide specialty medical services to residents in Wards 7 and 8 at the new East of the River Health Center, located at The Conway

Center in northeast D.C. near the Benning Road Metro station.

Upon completion in early 2019, the center, which sits amid a high-impact, mixed-use development, will also include low-cost housing for about 200 families as well as a job training program provided by So Others Might Eat (SOME).

The new medical facility will offer 43 exam rooms and significantly expanded medical services to residents.



AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM WAIVES ENTRY PASSES FOR SEPTEMBER WEEKDAYS

Visitors to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in D.C. will not be required to have passes to enter on



[weekdays in September.](#)

The museum will be open to all on a first-come, first-served basis on weekdays in September, though passes will be required for the weekends of Sept. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 and 29-30. [Click here for more information.](#)

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL TAPPED TO RUN NEW SOUTHEAST D.C. HOSPITAL

By Peter Jamison, Washington Post, 8/10/18

George Washington University Hospital would take the helm of a new hospital to be built in Southeast Washington over the next several years, according to a tentative agreement D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) signed Friday, establishing the presence of one of the city's top medical institutions east of the Anacostia River.

Under the agreement, GW would run, and perhaps eventually own, a new medical facility catering to the District's poorest and most violence-plagued neighborhoods. The new hospital would replace United Medical Center, the District's troubled public hospital, which has struggled to make money and last year was rocked by questionable patient deaths. The letter says officials hope to open the hospital on the campus of St. Elizabeths in ...2023. ...The hospital would have between 100 and 125 inpatient beds and would offer obstetric and nursery services. ...Council member Vincent C. Gray (D-Ward 7), who chairs the council's health committee, welcomed the announcement of the new partnership. [Read more.](#)

CHILD CARE COSTS IN D.C. ARE SKY HIGH. HERE'S WHAT D.C. LAWMAKERS ARE TRYING TO DO ABOUT IT

By Martin Autermuhle, WAMU IN NEWS, 8/8/2018

...The bill, known as "Birth-to-Three For All D.C.," will expand a current subsidy program so that more families become eligible for it, and also impose a cap on how much of a family's income can go towards child care costs.

... The bill is divided into two parts: health and education. On the health side, the bill creates a program to provide specialist services during pediatric visits for families in wards 7 and 8, and expands an existing initiative that puts children at risk of developmental delays and disabilities in touch with medical services. It also creates a program to send child development experts to the homes of immigrant families and at-risk children, and establishes a lactation consultant certification program at local universities.

...On the education side, the bill address both the cost of care and compensation of those who provide it. First, it requires that D.C. increase its subsidy rates for child care centers serving low-income kids with vouchers. The annual subsidy is currently \$15,820, roughly \$7,000 short of what the city estimates it costs to provide child-care services. The bill also mandates that the additional subsidy money go to increase salaries for child-care workers, many of whom make just over the minimum wage.

Come to the Table: Martha's Table Open in Ward 8 New Location at Stanton Square Offers Resources, Programming

By Elizabeth O'Gorek, East of the River, August 21, 2018

Martha's table is open in Ward 8! Their location at The Commons at Stanton Square (2375 Elvans Rd. SE) offers resources for neighbors of all ages with an emphasis on programming for families with young children. In addition to the food market and affordable clothing store, the non-profit offers quality early childhood education for kids from 6 weeks to second grade.

The goal at Martha's Table is to support stronger children, stronger families and stronger communities by increasing access to education, food and opportunity in the District. The new location has a focus on young children and the community that raises them, believing that every child deserves both the opportunity for the brightest future as well as a deeply engaged family and community that are committed to that success. [Read more.](#)

CURRENT EXHIBITION AT THE ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Your Community Your Story. Celebrating Five Decades of the Anacostia Community Museum 1967-

2017. On view through January 6, 2019. The exhibit explores the history of neighborhood change and activism in six Washington, DC communities:

Adams Morgan, **Anacostia**, Brookland, Chinatown, Shaw and Southwest.

Free Admission, Free Parking
Daily Hours—10 AM to 5 PM Tel # 202.633.4820
1901 Fort Place SE, Washington, DC 20020



SEPTEMBER TRIVIA

Birthstone: Sapphire
Flower: Morning Glory, Aster, & Forget Me Not
Horoscope:
Virgo (August 21—September 20)
Libra (September 21—October 20)



BLACK HISTORY FACTS FOR SEPTEMBER

[Click here for September Monthly facts.](#)