



Yvette Alexander

Making Ward 7 One

COMMUNITY NOTES

<http://www.yvettealexander.org>

JANUARY 31, 2011

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- **Public Services and Consumer Affairs,**
Chairperson
- **Economic Development,**
Member
- **Health,** *Member*
- **Human Services,**
Member

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Events 2
- Events 3

State of the Schools—Ward 7

On Saturday, January 29, members of the community gathered at Kelly Miller Middle School to discuss their concerns about the District of Columbia Public Schools in Ward 7. Councilmember Alexander, Interim Chancellor Kaya Henderson and Mayor Vincent C. Gray were in attendance. During the town hall meeting the proposal of the STEM program and the progress of construction of the new H.D. Woodson campus were presented by employees of DCPS. Information on public safety in the schools and the role that parents and community members can play in the improvement and advancement of Ward 7 schools was discussed thoroughly. Each school in Ward 7 had a representative present to meet and discuss their program and curriculum with community members who might be interested in sending their children there or to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan Enrollment is Open

The District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) reiterates the availability of the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) through the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The program provides affordable health insurance for District residents unable to purchase health coverage in the commercial marketplace because of a pre-existing medical condition.

PCIP was first announced in September 2010 by the DC Department of Health Care Finance, a co-chair of the District’s four-member Health Reform Implementation Committee, along with DISB. (The District departments of Health, and Human Services are the other two members.) To qualify for the PCIP, one needs to have a pre-existing condition, has not been insured for at least six months prior, and must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien. The program is administered by GEHA, a health insurance carrier under contract with DHHS.

District residents can apply for the program, with coverage starting less than a month later. Information on the application process and monthly premium rates for DC can be found at www.pciplan.com.

Community Announcements



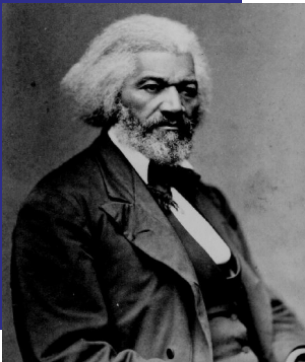
- **Healthy Solutions** invites you to its **Open House** on **Tuesday, February 1, 2011 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** at the new Ward 7 office at the Center for Green Urbanism located at 3938 Benning Road NE, Washington DC 20019. Parking is available. Come meet, greet, and learn about Healthy Solutions and be there for the launch of our National Black Agriculture Awareness Initiative and the UN International Year for People of African Descent.
- **GWCI and Avon Foundation For Women** will conduct a health fair entitled "**Say Yes! To Your Health**" in honor of World Cancer Day. The health fair will be hosted by the Yes! Organic Market in the Fairlawn neighborhood of Ward 7. The event will iterate one of the key points of our platform: the importance of fitness and nutrition in an effort to prevent cancer. **Friday, February 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Fairlawn Yes! Organic Market located at 2323 Pennsylvania Ave, SE.

Please attend the **WrightVision Foundation First Annual "Father and Daughter's Ball"** to honor fathers and other male role models in the community. The cost is \$75 for a father and daughter couple. This event will take place on **Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Josephine Butler Parks Center located at 2437 15th Street NW. To purchase tickets contact Darnice Wright 202-651-0038 or visit www.wrightvisionfoundation.org.

- **Project SEARCH** is a competitive, one-year high school transition program that provides job skills training and work experience for students with disabilities, ages 18-21, who are in their last year of school. At Project SEARCH, students work three 10-12 week supported employment rotations at the U.S. departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services. While part of Project SEARCH, students have the opportunity to learn real-world skills and start their career path. To learn more about Project SEARCH and how to apply, please visit one of the information sessions: **Monday, Feb. 7, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** at the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 901 D St. SW; **Tuesday, Feb. 8, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW; **Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.** U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC. For more information, please contact Project SEARCH Program Manager Deirdre Williams, deirdre.williams@dc.gov or (202) 492-1270.



- The **Davis-Bacon Wage Act Workshop** will be held **Wednesday, February 9, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at the Housing Resource Center Boardroom Anacostia Gateway Government Center located at 1800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20020. At the workshop, construction-related firms can learn how to avoid costly restitution payments and fines on federally-funded and assisted construction projects. They will also learn about wage rate and certified payroll record requirements. All DBE/CBE/DSVOB construction firms are strongly encouraged to attend.



- **Frederick Douglass 193rd Birthday Celebration.** Come and celebrate Frederick Douglass' love of books with special tours, music, guest lecturers, kids activities, and more on **Saturday, February 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The Opening Ceremony starts at 10 a.m. at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. On-site parking is not available. For more information, please go to www.nps.gov/frdo or call 202-426-5961

- **11th Annual Tax & Financial Services Fair** will take place **Saturday, February 26,**

Community Announcements cont'd.

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The event is sponsored by the Office of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. The event is free and only open to D.C. residents

- The **DCPS Out-of-Boundary Lottery** allows you as parents and families to look inside and outside your neighborhood to find schools that work best for your children's unique needs. The process is part of our goal of ensuring every student - from every school in every ward - has access to a top-notch education. More than half of our students attend schools outside their neighborhood boundaries. The Pre-school/Pre-K portion of the lottery is for all families who are interested in applying for a preschool or pre-K seat in DCPS. For the Out-of-Boundary, Pre-School and Pre-K online application, please go to https://lottery.dcps.dc.gov/main_entry.aspx. You have until **February 28, 2011** to complete and submit your application.
- The **HBCU STEM Fellowship Program** provides fellowships and stipends to graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) who have gained admission into Master's level programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) areas at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware or Washington, DC. The fellowship is administered by the Educational Advancement Alliance and sponsored by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) agency. For more information on how to qualify for the fellowship please call 877-GradOpp (472-3677) or info@gradopp.org. you can access the application by going to http://www.gradopp.org/HBCU_STEM_Fellowship_Application_2011.pdf. The application must be postmarked by **March 18, 2011**. The completed application should be sent before the deadline to:
HBCU STEM Fellowship Program, 5828-B Market Street, 1st Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19139-3152, www.gradopp.org
- The **Cesar Chavez Fellowship** is a program for 11th grade students consisting of a three-week unpaid internship at a non-profit organization, government office, lobbying organization, or any other group that works in the public interest in the Washington Metropolitan Area. As fellows (interns), students learn about and assist host sites with the work required to realize their missions and objectives as they develop their own professional skills while deepening their understanding of public issues. We are currently seeking host organizations to **host our students for Fellowship from May 31 to June 17th**. For more information please contact: Juliet Mohnker at juliet.mohnkern@chavezschools.org or 202-398-2230 ext 113.
- **DC Public Library and Madame Tussauds DC are hosting "Guess Who?"** a wax figure hunt throughout the city from **January 5—March 9**. A different wax figure will visit one of the 25 library locations and contestants have to name the figure, identify the wax figure's location and tell what the figure is reading or doing. Contestants have the chance to win a trip for four to New York City. The first contestant at each library to correctly answer the questions will receive two free tickets to Madame Tussauds DC. For more information, please go to <http://www.dclibrary.org/guesswho>



If you want to share your **Community Announcement with Ward 7**, please send a detailed email to **Tiffany Brown, Director of Communications**, at tbrown@dccouncil.us.

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About Ward7

Ward 7 sits on the most eastern part of the city. It is composed of 29 neighborhoods, over 72,000 people and has the largest number of children living within its boundaries. There is one public high school, H.D. Woodson Senior High, and several public charter high schools including Cesar Chavez and Friendship Collegiate Academy. The Ward has over 25 public and public charter elementary and middle schools. Ward 7 is surrounded by the Anacostia River on the west, Prince Georges County, Maryland on the north and east, and Ward 8 on the south. Some of the oldest communities in the District are in Ward 7, including Deanwood and Kenilworth.

Fitness Update—Share Your Story

Great news Ward 7! My training sessions are going well with Daryl Pendleton. I have made a lot of progress and I'm really excited about the possibilities of achieving my own fitness goals. I know that if I can do it, you can do it too! I would love to hear your stories about your workout routines and nutrition plans and the goals that you have reached so far. Please email your great news to tbrown@dccouncil.us so that we can share it with the community. Let's Keep Moving Ward 7!