



# The Penn Brancher

Newsletter June 2016 Update for the Penn Branch Citizens Civic Association



**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2016 7:00 PM**

in the **Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church** basement community room, rear parking area

## No PBCCA Meeting on June 14

Because the June meeting is scheduled to take place on June 14 Election Day, the Penn Branch Citizens Civic Association meeting is cancelled. Instead, we encourage residents to vote, as well as volunteer at the polls or assist in helping seniors get out to vote. Voters will select which candidate will represent Ward 7 in the fall general election: Incumbent, **Yvette Alexander**; former mayor and city council chairman, **Vincent Gray**; **Grant Thompson** and **Delmar Chelsey**. Voters will also select the Democratic nominee for president, Delegate to the US House of Representatives; At-Large City Council: Incumbent, **Vincent Orange**; **Robert White**, and **David Garber**, voters will also vote for US 'Shadow Representative', National Committeeperson, Republican Party; Local Party Committee Member, Republican Party. In other races, east of the River, voters will also vote for Ward 8 city council person, incumbent, **LaRuby May**; **Trayon White**, Maurice Dickens, Aaron Holmes, and Bonita Goode. The next PBCCA meeting will take place Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

## Welcome 2016-2017 PBCCA Officers

Penn Branch members elected new officers at the May community meeting. The community reelected **Jimmie Williams**, President, **Roy Ward**, Vice President, **Matt Pinardi** Treasurer, **Towana Banks**, Recording Secretary, and **Jacquelyn Cannon**, Correspondence Secretary; the position of Parliamentarian remains open, and according to PBCCA bylaws the President can appoint someone to fill the position. "I am looking forward to working to improve our community," said Jacquelyn Cannon who will serve as an officer for the first time. "We've accomplished a lot, but have a lot more work to do including moving forward with a senior's health and wellness citizens committee, fundraising and building our network of community volunteers", said President Jimmie

Williams. "We will establish a network of block captains, but we need younger people to take the helm since many pillars of our community want to pass the torch to the next generation." Stay tuned for the date of the swearing in. Congratulations to the PBCCA 2016-2017 officers!

## Housing Update

The real estate market has been extremely hot in Penn Branch. Listed homes are quickly being purchased and the value has risen consistently. This has sparked the banks to release properties on Texas Avenue and Highwood Drive for sale. Both properties have been nuisance properties and empty for years. We hope that the other empty properties will soon be sold to responsible owner who occupy the properties. We are happy to say that the Housing Committee will have two less nuisance properties to track and the community will gain a new neighbor. We hope this trend continues because it means less vacant homes and a growing Penn Branch community. We also will continue to work with property owners and city officials to address nuisance properties and problem residents.

## Penn Branch Shopping Center Updates

Major parking lot repairs are scheduled to begin in



the front side of Penn Branch Shopping Center in July. We will share details in a special update this month.

There are rumors that a health club, Uber and Children's Health might be considering locating at the shopping center. However, none of these rumors have been confirmed, and it is the policy of Rappaport Management, not to comment on perspectives given that nothing is certain until leases are

signed. In the meantime, let's continue to support the merchants who are located in Penn Branch Shopping Center, and remember to present your Penn Branch Membership card to participating merchants.

### **Pope Branch Stream Restoration Project**

The Pope Branch Stream Restoration Project is rapidly evolving. It is certain that residents have noticed the amount of dump trucks and other construction equipment being brought in on an almost hourly basis. The project leadership keeps the association informed of their progress and even sends updated pictures. The leadership team is asking for residents to avoid the area because it is an active construction zone. The final product will be a great addition to the Penn Branch Community upon completion.

### **Protecting Our Neighbors**

Neighbor Janet Falls encountered someone in her garage rummaging through boxes. When she confronted him, he ran out and jumped into a vehicle. Please report any unusual circumstances to MPD. Keep an eye for your neighbors.

### **Eagle Scout "Rudy Schrieber"**

Congratulations to our neighbor **Rudy Schrieber, Jr.** who just graduated from Duke Ellington School of the Arts, received a Lloyd Smith Scholarship, and earned the Boy Scouts highest rank achievable in the Boy Scouts program - Eagle Scout badge. Rudy is a member of Boy Scout Troup 500 on Capitol Hill. The designation "Eagle Scout" has a long history since its founding over one hundred years ago. Only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process. The requirements necessary to achieve this rank take years to fulfill. Rudy has been active in the Penn Branch community, attending meetings, cleaning 9-11 Park.

Rudy led two high adventure trips as a Boy Scout, a seven-day sailing trip beginning at Sea Base Islamorada Florida and sailing from Key West to Key Largo of the Florida Keys, and a nine-day hiking trip at elevations above 9,000 feet in New Mexico at the Philmont Scout Ranch; participated in a nine-day high adventure canoeing trip in the Adirondacks and another Sea Base high adventure trip in the Florida Keys;

He completed his Eagle Scout project benefitting Fort Dupont by creating an education garden adjacent to the park offices, refurbishing an existing accessible garden at the East end of the park, and painting blazes for an unmarked trail in the park;

He is the son of **Rudi Schrieber** and PBCCA



historian **Susan Harmuth.** Many Eagle Scout recipients go on to be leaders in the military, community

and even company CEO's. We are proud Rudy for working so hard to earn this ranks which takes a lot of work and years to achieve. Congratulations **Eagle Scout "Rudy Schrieber"**

### **Goodbye Baker Family**

Over the past year, we've seen several active and



long-time PBCCA supporters leave the area. We're very said to bid goodbye to the **Lisa Baker,** PBCCA Recording Secretary for the past 4 years and **Darryl Baker,**

Education and Youth Recreation Chair and their three daughters, **Sidney, Amber, and Zowie.** The Bakers were very active in the community and recently purchased a farm property where the family will develop their business Urban Grown Veggies. Stay tuned for a full tribute to the Bakers in the next newsletter.

### **Lawn Care**

Please remember that it's your responsibility to take care of the grass in front of your property, including the tree boxes. We can recommend several good landscapers who can help you take care of yards. If you live near a senior who is unable to care for the lawns, please let us know. We've received several complaints from residents

about neighbors who are not maintaining their properties. Please keep Penn Branch beautiful!

### **Animal Issues**

There have been sightings of foxes within the Penn Branch area, much like deer fox are part of the natural habitat, and should be left alone. We caution you not to attempt to approach or handle any of the animals including deer, fawn, wild turkeys, rat snakes or other animals. The animals are part of natural wildlife of the District of Columbia, and it's a federal offense to harm the animals. If there are issues, such as ill animals, please report any issues to Washington Humane Society (202) 576-6664.



Cats and Dogs – Please remember to tag your cats, and dogs. Several neighbors have raised concerns about cats roaming the area without collars or identification. The Humane Society will catch, trap, spay and release most untagged cats.

This publication update has been brought to you by:

Jimmie Williams, President  
Roy Ward, Vice President  
Lisa Baker, Recording Secretary  
Towana Banks, Treasurer  
Matt Pinardi, Parliamentarian  
Keith Lopes, Communications Committee Chair  
PBCCA Membership

Next meetng 7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 14. Please join us online: [www.pennbranchdc.org](http://www.pennbranchdc.org) and on Twitter at [@pennbranchdc](https://twitter.com/pennbranchdc). Thanks for your community support!