



The Penn Brancher

Newsletter for the Penn Branch Citizens Civic Association



Next PBCCA Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 PM

in the **Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church** community room
(entrance at the rear parking area of the church)

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 edition of the Penn Brancher! As we all prepare to give thanks later this month, we here at the PBCCA are reminded how grateful we are to the Penn Branch community. Here's a closer look at some of the goings-on in Penn Branch right now!

AN UPDATE ON PENN BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER



As you know, local developer Jair Lynch plans to redevelop the Penn Branch Shopping Center at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues SE. On October 2nd, after the developer requested a map amendment for the site (AKA an "upzoning"), the DC Zoning Commission declined to approve the upzoning required to allow this development to move forward, after some local residents expressed concern that the plans could negatively affect their privacy and the structural integrity of their homes. The Commission requested that the developer make more concerted efforts to engage with the community and follow up with the Commission in November. We will continue to keep residents up to date as events develop.

Relatedly, in October, Mayor Bowser's Neighborhood Prosperity Fund, a pilot program that provides financial support for non-residential components of mixed-use projects in underserved neighborhoods awarded \$2.1 million to LDP Holdings, LLC for the Penn Branch Shopping Center in order to bring a small grocery store into the neighborhood. At present, Jair Lynch is in talks with several potential grocers for the Penn Branch Shopping Center.

PENN BRANCH HAPPENINGS

Annual Membership Drive – Though the 2017 calendar year is coming to a close, the PBCCA has already begun its 2018 fiscal year. As such, this is the perfect time for Penn Branchers to renew your PBCCA memberships and for new residents to join

the PBCCA. Household memberships cost \$20; your contribution helps ensure PBCCA can continue to serve as your advocate with city officials on a variety of issues, including land use and design issues, neighborhood improvements, and neighborhood crime and safety. For more information, please renew or join via our website at <http://pennbranchdc.org/membership/> or register for membership at the next monthly PBCCA meeting.

New Parents Group – Alicia Wilson Yao, 3414 Carpenter St., SE, is coordinating the launch of a "new parents group" for residents of Penn Branch and Hillcrest. This group will get together regularly to discuss the joys and challenges of becoming a new parent, as well as to coordinate outings and offer support to one another. If you are interested in joining this group, or if you have a neighbor who is interested, please e-mail Alicia at alicia1216@gmail.com.

PBCCA Annual Holiday Party: It's that time of year again! Our annual holiday celebration will be held on December 12 at 6:30 p.m., location TBD. Stay tuned for more details, and please plan to join us to celebrate the spirit of the season!

Leaves and Holiday Tress – Know the DPW Pick-up Schedule

While fall is one of the most beautiful times of the year here in Penn Branch, most of us have mountains of leaves to contend with as a result. All residents should have recently received the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) leaf removal schedule. If you did not receive the schedule, you can access the collection program dates, zones and schedules on the DC DPW website: <https://dpw.dc.gov/service/leaf-and-holiday-tree-collection>

DC Water Project – When Will It Affect You?

As part of its Capital Improvement Program, DC Water is replacing existing 12-inch and smaller cast iron water mains in various locations throughout the city. In Penn Branch, work will take place along or

near Carpenter Street, Highwood Drive and Highwood Place SE. These efforts will help improve water quality and system reliability, increase water pressure in some areas, and maintain adequate flows throughout the system.

The construction is scheduled to begin this December and conclude in April 2019. Work hours will be 7:00am-7:00pm Monday- Friday. If you have any problems when they are working on your block please don't hesitate to contact directly the DEC Water project manager, Mr. Ignatius Ajemba at (202) 787-4602 and ignatius.ajemba@dcwater.com

Calling All Superheroes -- PBCCA Wants You



The PBCCA is recruiting for block captains for the following streets: the 3500 and 3800 blocks of Pope Street; the 1600, 1700 and 1800 blocks of 38th Street; 35th Street; O Street; Branch Avenue; the 3400 block of Highwood Place; Nash Place; and Texas Avenue between Pennsylvania Avenue and 35th Street.

Volunteering as a Penn Branch block captain can be a great way to meet your neighbors, get out and enjoy some fresh air, and help ensure the safety and security of our community. As a block captain, you are an integral component in keeping your block actively involved in crime prevention efforts as well as information exchange between and among neighbors. PBCCA needs energetic volunteers to take on this task. In fact, you don't even need to be located on the block for which you are captain if yours is already covered. For those interested, please contact the Block Captains Chair at danlagraffe@gmail.com for further information.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTICES

PBCCA will host two guest speakers at the November community meeting: *Councilmember Anita Bonds*, current Chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development; and the *Marshall*

Heights Community Development Organization, the nonprofit organization devoted to community development activities across Ward 7.

Births – Alicia Wilson Yao and Titus Yao, 3414 Carpenter St., SE, welcomed their first child, Matthew James Yao, on 10 September 2017. Welcome to the neighborhood, Matthew!

Deaths – Mrs. Henrietta Murray, 3531 Texas Ave., SE., passed on October 26 at Providence Hospital. Her daughter, Carlotta Teal, also lives at their Texas Avenue home.

"Of many we are One" and we need your help to keep PBCCA informed about your neighbors who are sick, shut-in or who have passed.

ARTICLES & ADVERTISEMENTS

In 2018, we will be sending out quarterly installments of the *Penn Brancher*. We're always looking for your suggestions on those items about which you'd like to hear. Also, we're putting out a call for Penn Branch writers to submit stories or to share something newsworthy with the Penn Branch community. If you would like to contribute to the January 2018 PBCCA Newsletter, please contact the Communications Committee via e-mail at newsletter@pennbranchdc.org.

Also, please remember, if you're a Penn Branch resident or want to get the attention of one for your business, you can be encouraged to advertise in the upcoming January quarterly edition of the *Penn Brancher* newsletter. Ads prices are as follows: \$25.00 for a quarter page (3.5"x4.75"), \$50.00 for a half page (7.5"x4.75") and \$100.00 for a full page (7.5"x10"). Images should be in a .jpg or .pdf format, some customization is possible. Email info@pennbranchdc.org or call/leave a message at (202) 525-5972.

This publication update has been brought to you by:

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and the Communications Committee

We'll see you at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, November 14. Please join us online: www.pennbranchdc.org and on Twitter at [@pennbranchdc](https://twitter.com/pennbranchdc).