



The Penn Brancher

Newsletter Update for the Penn Branch Citizens Civic Association

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2019-- 7:00 PM

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

Our Mantra: A Community That Comes Together Stays Together

Need a Notary - our neighbor Laverne Johnson-Liggins is available to provide you with notary public services. She is a resident in the 1500 block of 38th Street SE. Her hours are from 10:00am- 8:00pm Monday - Sunday.

TAX NEWS

As a result of the government shut down tax refunds may be delayed up to 2 months. New Tax Laws are in effect that will impact the bottom line for individuals, families and businesses. For short form filers the District of Columbia provides free tax preparation in partnership with AARP and the DC Office of Aging. For federal taxes that are not itemized the IRS will assist via their customer support line. For more information go to:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs> The association encourages all residents to use a licensed professional to complete your taxes if you do itemization.

Helpful Hints from the Public Works Committee

WELL, THAT SHIP HAS SAILED...

Leaf pick-up season is over, so we ask each resident to take the time to sweep up all leaf debris and trash from the curb line in front of your homes. This will prevent debris from being pushed into the catch basin on your street. When these catch basins get full of litter the water has

nowhere to flow to and will sit on your property, eventually flowing into your home. This effort not only beautifies your property it keeps it aesthetically pleasing.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...HOW GREEN IS YOUR THUMB?

Greening the Lawn - Cleaning Your Block Spring is about to captivate us all with new blossoms and flowering trees. This is the perfect time to begin thinking about how to reset your lawns, so that they are full and green in the spring and all through the hot summer months.

Begin raking your lawn weekly, this will loosen up the soil and aerate the root system of the grass that is still thriving in your yard. After a good raking spread granulated lime and milorganite. This will further enrich the soil and strengthen the root system of your grass. Wait two weeks and rake again, this time apply Spring-Summer Weed and Feed, you may want to spread grass seeds throughout the lawn to ensure a full lawn in the Spring. **If you have green moss growing in your lawn add an application of granulated limestone to your yard. Don't forget coffee grounds are great for your rose bushes!**

ENJOY A DAY AT THE PARK

The Community Youth Park - 34th and Pope Street SE. Parents and Guardians of young children the public works committee has worked feverishly on upgrading the Park located at intersection of 34th Street and

Pope Street, some of you have begun to use the park and we encourage you to continue. We have recently been invited to participate in a hiking trail project for youth, which will begin near this location in **April 2019**. The Hiking trail project is called **Forest Bathing**. *Forest Bathing is defined by experts as "The slowing down and becoming immersed in the natural environment. You will be able to tune in to the smells, textures, tastes and sights of the forest. Participants will be able to take in their surroundings by using all their senses."* A specialist who will be leading this hiking event will be at our March 12, 2019 meeting to explain more about this fun filled activity. It is an event you don't want to miss. All our families are invited to participate in this outdoor hiking event. More details on this type of activity can be found at:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/07/17/536676954/forest-bathing-a-retreat-to-nature-can-boost-immunity-and-mood>

IT'S TIME TO PURGE!

WHO: PBCCA

WHAT: **The Yard Sale is Back.** Plans are underway by the Association to host a Flea Market

WHEN: June 22, 2019 (rain date June 29, 2019)

WHERE: Parking Lot of Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church.

RSVP: joanemck@aol.com asap!

This event led by our neighbors Joan McKenzie and Susan Hormuth gives all of us a chance to PURGE! our attics, basements or garages of some great items. There's **an old saying, "one man's trash is another man's treasure,**

PENN BRANCH UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Events, PA Avenue Baptist Church
Chat, Chew and Pray, March 23, 2019 from 2-5 pm, a time for conversation with your

neighbors while enjoying a great meal, fellowship and prayer.

PBCCA TIP CORNER

Our VP, Jacqueline Canon encourages everyone to consider purchasing The Ring. It wards off potential burglars and you get cash back from the District for participating in the Home Security Program.

Former President, Jimmy Williams reminds our cat lovers to put a bell on your cat's collar. This will alert and protect birds that something is approaching, and it's also a courtesy to our neighbors who have bird feeders.

David Kelley from, Benning Ridge shared a great safety tip. Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The sound of the horn will do two things, scare off the criminal and have your neighbors looking out their windows. **Think of it like this:** It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there too. **ALWAYS BE SAFE!**

PENN BRANCH HAPPENINGS

Reminder - "**Of many we are One**" and we need your help to keep PBCCA informed about your neighbors who are either sick, shut-in or who have passed. Also, articles can be submitted 10 days prior to the next scheduled meeting to elsonb13@gmail.com.

This publication and update has been brought to you by:

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