



# The Penn Brancher

Newsletter Update for the Penn Branch Citizens Civic Association

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2019-- 7:00 PM**

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

## OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Welcome to the 2019 edition of the Penn Brancher! We hope everyone had a safe and warm holiday season, and we're looking forward to what's on the horizon for the Penn Branch Community in 2019.

## LOOKING BACK

### A Community That Comes Together Stays Together

By now many of you have heard about the great Holiday Community Potluck held in December 2018, it was more than a success and filled with great surprises. One being a large beautiful basket filled with precious gifts from the cities Afro-American Museum that was donated to the Association by our neighbors Kim and Lance Holt (3600 block of Texas Ave SE) for a raffle that resulted in bringing in via a raffle \$185.00 to our Treasury. We give them a big thank you along with the families that toiled over great recipes and brought great meals to this event that were shared with all. Finally, we were entertained by one of our own talented youth, young Mr. Elson (Amiri) Nash a student (33rd Place SE), currently at Duke Ellington High School; he rendered the most beautiful piano concerto that brought tears to your eyes. Amazed at his talent and his ease of production was a wonder for all to hear and see. Don't miss out next year -December 2019 -an event planned for you to enjoy your neighbors, good food and kick off the Holiday season.

### 9-11 Memorial Cleaning Efforts

The public works committee thanks all who took the time to come out this past year to assist in conducting a comprehensive cleaning

of our communities 9-11 Memorial Park. Your efforts were more than appreciated and do not go un-noticed by all the members of our community.

We want to thank Mayor Muriel Bowser for her support in kicking off the Holiday Bazaar at the Shops at Penn Branch. Over 350 registered to attend and 15 local Market 7 Vendors and Food Trucks.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### First Meeting of the Year -January 8, 2019

The association thanks all who were able to come out to our first meeting of the new year. Knowing we have a growing number of young people we had our community school

Ann Beers to come out and provide to the community the many programs they have in place for Pre-K to 5th grade. We were amazed to find out that not only have they met their enrollment goals but have exceeded them and now have a waiting list for the early childhood component (students - age 3-4). This site has a large contingency of parents from West of the River choosing this school for early childhood programming. All pre-K - 4-years-old are in an all-day program (8:00 am - 3:00 pm and 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm after school hours).

The presenters were very enthusiastic and encourage all Penn Branch parents with young children to consider Ann Beers as the school of choice for their students - enrollment for next year is open - go to the following link <http://enrolldcps.dc.gov/> and enroll your child now. You can call the school at 202-939-4800 for a site visit and view the school profile at: <http://profiles.dcps.dc.gov/pdf/beers2011.pdf>



Planet Fitness' GM gave a nice overview on her journey to the Penn Branch location and on the facility itself. She's offering one lucky resident of Penn Branch a membership with full access to all gym activities for one year.

### **Commercial Vehicles Parking**

Commercial vehicles cannot be parked overnight in residential neighborhoods. Report it as an abandoned or dangerous vehicle by calling the PEMA Customer Service Department at (202) 541-6083 or the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311, whether they are spotted on public space (the curb line) or private space.

### **O Street Wall - Current Problems and Issues**

Developers continue to purchase one of three lots along the O Street Wall. The committee is asking our current councilmember to update the legislation to make all land that abuts the wall on O Street SE -a no build area into perpetuity.

### **Roadway Repairs to Fort Davis Drive SE-Fort DuPont Drive Network-Halted Due to Federal Shut Down**

This roadway is a federal road managed by the US Department of Interior. The roadway was budgeted to be fully reconstructed from Pa. Ave SE to Riggs Road SE (where it officially ends) in 2018. In the interest of safety, the Public Works committee has successfully convinced the Federal Transit Authority to invest in short term upgrades of this major thoroughway in the interim. The long term repairs have been halted by the recent federal government shut down. The federal workers are hopeful that they will be back at work on this two-year project by March 2019.

### **PENN BRANCH UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **A Bright and Artistic Youth Returns HOME - Brandye Lee**

This beautiful young lady grew up in this community and has traveled for years with professional dance groups...she is back home with us performing **RISE 2019** at **THEARC** on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2019, located at 1901 Mississippi Ave SE. Tickets purchased at the door are \$30, if purchased through her

mom, Jeanarta McEachron (3520 Texas Ave) is offering the community group rate tickets at \$25 per ticket. Let's support this talented young lady, if interested please email either Jeanarta or Brandye at the following email addresses below:

[brandyelee@gmail.com](mailto:brandyelee@gmail.com)

[jeanarta.mceachron@gmail.com](mailto:jeanarta.mceachron@gmail.com)

or call 202-669-2653.

Community members DPW will begin the process of removing trees from our community on February 2, 2019. Leaf season and pick up has concluded—please do not continue raking your leaves to the curb line. Bag all remaining leaves and place in your large trash cans. Let's all help keep our neighborhood clean and safe.

### **PENN BRANCH HAPPENINGS**

**Sick and Shut In** - Sarah Weaver of the 1700 block of Highwood Pl SE is recovering from a diabetic episode - we wish her a full and speedy recovery.

**Deaths** - We regret the passing of long-time Penn Branch resident Robert Richards, husband of 36 years to Mrs. Laura Richards of the 3500 block of Carpenter Street SE. Mr. Robert Richards, a Community Activists, Housing Expert and three-time Chair of our communities' ANC 7B07.

**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](mailto:elsonb13@gmail.com).

**This publication and update has been brought to you by:**

Shannon Thomas, President  
Jacquelyn Cannon, Vice President  
Kyle Murphy, Recording Secretary  
Elson Nash, Corresponding Secretary  
Towana Banks, Treasurer  
LaVerne Thomas, Parliamentarian

**We'll see you on February 12, 2019  
Please don't forget to pay your membership dues if you have not already. Thanks for your continued community support.**