



The Penn Brancher

Monthly Newsletter for Penn Branch Citizens Civic Association
"A Community on the Move"

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:00 pm**
Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church

3000 Pennsylvania Ave., SE Washington DC 20020, Fellowship Hall / Lower Level

President's Corner – February 2020



Dear Neighbors,

Can you believe it! January 2020 has come and gone! Thanks to the Board Members for holding it down in my absence at the January meeting. Teamwork made the dream work!

Happy February and Black History Month 2020, where the theme is "**African Americans and the VOTE**".

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) which granted African-American men the right to vote following the Civil War. It also marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement.

As we gear up for the 2020 election cycle and process all the craziness surrounding the impeachment trial, let's not get dismayed. Let's not lose faith in our institutions. Let's not lose faith in our elected officials. Most importantly, let's not lose faith in God. Instead, let's remember the Fifteenth Amendment and all the discriminatory practices, i.e. Jim Crow Laws, voter suppression, gerrymandering, and harsh voting restrictions that have been used to prevent us from exercising our right to vote. Let it inspire and energize us to get our families, friends, neighbors, and anyone of voting age, out to the polls and **VOTE** on November 3, 2020. The future of democracy, our families, and the planet depend on it.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we welcome our very own PBCCA neighbor, friend, trailblazer, visionary, leader, author, and world-renowned Pastor, Rev. Willie F. Wilson as our guest speaker.

Jacquelyn Cannon
President, PBCCA

Black History Month: Guest Speaker

Pastor Willie F. Wilson, born in Newport News, Virginia and ordained Nana Kwadwo Bofo I, a Wolof Priest in Gambia, West Africa, is very much at home in Anacostia where for over 40 years he has propagated and nurtured a Christocentric, Afrocentric, Afro-sensitive, *Weltanschauung* ministry at the historic Union Temple Baptist Church that



simply says: "*It's a Family Affair.*"

In 1986, Reverend Wilson was recognized by *USA Today* Newspaper as one of the 10 most valuable people in America. As a former Trustee on the Board of the University of the District of Columbia (2008- 2012), Reverend Wilson championed the cause of student affairs. Pastor Wilson was also the first African American chaplain at American University in 1969. As a 2002 mayoral candidate for the District of Columbia, he championed the cause of sound judgment and leadership for the residents of the District of Columbia. In February 2015 Pastor Wilson was inducted into the D.C. Hall of Fame, in October 2015 awarded the NAACP Freedom Fund Distinguished Religious Leader Award and in 2017 was inducted into the Civil Rights Hall of Fame in Montgomery, Alabama.

Rev. Wilson served as the Executive Director of the Program Committee of the historic Million Man March where he brought together leaders of all religious persuasions, entertainers, athletes, government and labor officials, professional associations, pan-African groups and many fraternities and community organizations in "operational unity." This march brought together almost two million black men for a peaceful day of unity and atonement.

In his home, Reverend Wilson has maintained a viable and loving marriage to Reverend Mary Lewis Wilson. Together they have raised their four natural children and have opened their home to many others. They now enjoy the blessed role of grandparents.

After 46 years of pastoral leadership, in November 2019, Rev. Wilson officially retired and successfully handed the reigns to his daughter, Rev. Dr. Anika Wilson-Brown.

Summer Youth Employment Program



The Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) is a locally funded initiative sponsored by the Department of Employment Services (DOES) that provides District youth, ages 14 to 24, with enriching and constructive summer work experiences through subsidized placements in the private and government sectors.

The city started accepting applications for the program on Friday, January 31st at 12:00pm. The applications are available at summerjobs.dc.gov. Applications will be open until February 29th. The Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program will run from Monday June 29th, 2020 through Friday August 7th, 2020. Visit: <https://does.dc.gov/service/mayor-marion-s-barry-summer-youth-employment-program> for more information.

DPR School Year and Winter Program Registration is Now Open!



Visit: <https://dpr.dc.gov/> for more information and to Register for classes in: Aquatics, Sports & Fitness, Camps, Therapeutic Recreation, Health & Nutrition, Arts, Nature & Outdoor Rec and many more!

Notable African American Birthdays

And Upcoming Events

- Feb 1 Langston Hughes - Poet
- Feb 2 William Ellsworth Artis - Artist
- Feb 3 DPR Spring Registration Begins
- Feb 4 PBCCA Executive Board Meeting 7pm, Rosa Parks - Civil Rights Movement icon
- Feb 5 Hank Aaron - Baseball player
- Feb 6 Bob Marley - Musician
- Feb 8 Justina Ford - Doctor & Humanitarian
- Feb 11 General Body Meeting, PABC 7pm, Daniel Chappie James – 1920 U.S. General
- Feb 13 Emmet J. Scott - Historian & Administrator
- Feb 14 Frederick Douglas - Abolitionist
- Feb 15 Fay Jackson - Journalist
- Feb 17 President's Day Holiday
- Feb 18 Toni Morrison - Author & Nobel Prize winner
- Feb 20 ANC7B Monthly Meeting, PABC, 6:30pm
- Feb 21 Denise Page Hood - U.S. Judge
- Feb 23 W.E.B. Du Bois - Civil Rights Leader & Scholar
- Feb 24 Lillie Brown - Civil Rights Activist
- Feb 26 Sissieretta Jones - Opera singer
- Feb 28 Etta Moten Barnett - Singer & Actress
- Feb 29 Augusta Fells Savage - Sculptor & Educator

PENN BRANCH HAPPENINGS

New Neighbors: If you are a new neighbor and have not received your official *PBCCA Welcome Basket*, please contact our Block Captain "Captain", Stan Benton, at itsstan@gmail.com. Please provide any news for the Newsletter to your Block Captain.

Recent Deaths: **Ms. Gladys Dorn**, longtime resident and active PBCCA member of the 3100 Block of O Street, made her transition on February 4, 2020. **Mr. Vernard Gray**, friend of PBCCA, a visionary curator, art collector, photographer, ultimate Jazz fan, videographer/filmmaker, and fashion designer passed away on January 20, 2020 while traveling in Cuba. Our sincere condolences to the Dorn and Gray families.



Traditional tasting served at the General Body Meeting from 6:30pm – 7:00pm. First come. First served.

Heads-Up: CVS in *The Shops at Penn Branch* has reduced its hours. New hours are: M-F 9:00 am to 9 pm; Sat 8:00 am to 9:00 pm; and Sun 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.



Remember: The DC Census 2020 is coming! Visit <https://dccensus2020.dc.gov/> for more detailed information. You Matter. Be Counted!

Stolen Packages: Thieves are stealing packages off front porches left and right! Request carrier hold your package at the P.O., UPS, or FedEx location for pickup later or deliver to another attended location. Be safe...not sorry!



Congrats to Super Bowl LIV Champs for a **COMEBACK WIN** over the 49ers!

Moving on Up! Leroy Clay III was recently promoted to Associate Chief Financial Officer for the Economic Development and Regulation Cluster within the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. **Congratulations Leroy!!**

*** Membership Card Replacement **

Please bring your old/expired membership card to the February General Body Meeting. It will be replaced with a current Membership Card if you are current with your dues.

This publication is being delivered to you by your local PBCCA Block Captain:

The PBCCA Executive Board would like to thank the Block Captains for being the backbone of this community and helping to keep everyone informed. ##