

JUNE 2025 ; ISSUE 1

MARSHALL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



NEWSLETTER



Housing Department

April marked Financial Literacy Month, a time dedicated to empowering individuals and families with the knowledge, tools, and resources to make smart financial decisions. Each week, unique programming was taught as MHCDO partnered with Citi Bank and the Washington Real Estate Brokers Association. Experts in their field professionally taught each session, moderated by equally impressive professionals. Weekly sessions conducted were Cloud-Based Financial Recordkeeping, What to do with Big Mama's House, How to Qualify for a Home Mortgage, Post Purchase Education & How to Financial Grow and Maintain Your Business Roundtable.

The series was attended by local residents and professionals such as financial planners, mortgage loan officers from non-sponsored banks and insurance professionals and was a huge success.

● UPCOMING EVENTS

The Housing Counseling Department is pleased to announce the planning and coordination for the National-themed "June is Homeownership Month". This year MHCDO's theme is "Your Home, Your Power." We are excited to partner with Citi Bank, the Washington Real Estate Brokers Association and Clark Premier Realty Group.

MHCDO has departed from the regular basic programming typically offered during homeownership month. The topics we will present are: Turn Assets into Opportunities (Smart Equity), Stay in Your Home: Tools and Strategies (Foreclosure Prevention), Ready, Set, Go! (Emergency Preparedness) & Keys to the Future: Breaking into the Real Estate Industry.



MHCDO's Housing & Small Business Department with partners of Citi Bank (April 2025)



Workforce Development

● UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers have come on board to give the 3732 Minnesota Ave., NE Prosperity Hub a facelift by offering to paint and bring new life to the facade of the building. Others have committed to design a backyard space with the potential of establishing a community garden and bistro. Small business owners and entrepreneurs seeking working space in Ward 7 are invited to inquire about utilizing the Hub's Small Business Incubator and Service Center.

Watch this space next month for a list of workshops and programs designed to support non-profit organizations and small businesses seeking organization capacity-building guidance, grant and contract opportunities, and grants management basics.

Interested in finding out more information about Workforce Development offerings at MHCDO or hiring graduates of the programs should contact:

Blythe Patenaude at (202) 704-2581

May 19th marked the beginning of the Construction Basics CORE- Cohort 2 in conjunction with NRPC/MHCDO's joint project at 301 Florida Avenue, NE in the District. Twenty-one participants will work toward certifications in Construction, OSHA 10, Fall Prevention and CPR/First Aid during their 80-hour program over five weeks subsidized by the developers.

On May 29th, an exclusive Construction Hiring Fair was held at MHCDO's main office at 3939 Benning Road, NE with over 18 NRP subcontractors committed to hiring trained District residents. Cohort participants prepared for the event by updating their resumes and preparing brief introductory statements about their skills and talents pertaining to employment. Sixteen participants set goals of meeting with representatives from three companies hiring in areas of interest to each applicant. Following the program, subcontractors will contact individuals to schedule interviews or complete online applications for further evaluation.

The Workforce Development unit closes out the month of May with its last quarter blitz to update resumes and identify job opportunities for individuals who have taken classes during the last year including Job Readiness Programs, Construction Certificate Training & Food and Customer Service Programs.





DSLBD Dream Accelerator Pitch Program

To close out our Financial Literacy Month activities, The Small Business Development Team conducted a presentation entitled “How To Financially Grow & Maintain Your Business” during MHCDO Housing Department’s 2025 April Financial Literacy Month Workshop Series. The series was sponsored and co-presented by Citi Financial Services.

The Small Business Development Program Team started Small Business Month by hosting the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development’s (DSLBD) 2025 Dream Accelerator Pitch Program (May 1). The SBDP Team (E. Allen and D. Jones) showed impressive distinction by being the only community based/nonprofit organization to provide small business coaching/counseling service during the networking sessions at the 11th Annual “Power Up DC” Small Business Summit conducted by DC HealthLink at DC MLK, Jr. Memorial Main Library (May 6).

Small Business Development

April – Financial Literacy Month & May – Small Business Month

MHCDO’s Small Business Development Team was in active recognition and participation during the observances of Financial Literacy Month (April) and Small Business Month (May) in 2025. The SBDP Director attended the Main Street America 2025 Annual Conference (April 7-9, Philadelphia, PA) with MHCDO’s Main Streets Team and gain valuable information and perspective on the National Main Street framework, delivery, and impact.

MHCDO leadership provided representation to its educational partner, Howard University’s School of Business, through participation in two of their entrepreneurship development events. First, as a panel judge for the 2nd Annual HU School of Business New Venture Development Class’s Business Plan & Pitch Competition (April 23rd) and secondly as a reviewer of a venture presentation by the start-up tech firm INVY.Co (Shana Viera, Founder) to leaders of the Howard University/ PNC Bank Entrepreneurship Center (April 30th).



MHCDO at the “Power Up” Business Summit

Deanwood Heights Main Street

Deanwood Heights Main Street's Marvin Gaye Weekend was a resounding success, drawing a diverse crowd to The Strand Restaurant. Set to be an annual celebration, the evening featured vibrant performances of Gaye's iconic hits by DJ J5, capturing the essence of his timeless soul and socially conscious lyrics. Attendees raved about the experience, which included face painting, free popcorn, a Chuck Brown mascot appearance, and a Latin dance demonstration that honored Gaye's cultural influence through conga rhythms. The event's seamless execution, heartfelt tributes, and strong sense of community created a night of connection and nostalgia, solidifying its place as a true cultural highlight.



Chuck Brown mascot showing off his guitar skills



"Get Dance!" Dance Troop performing at Marvin Gaye Weekend



Deanwood Heights Director, Paul Spires, on the dance floor



Nannie Helen Burroughs Day

Pioneering educator, orator, religious leader, and civil rights activist Nannie Helen Burroughs was born in Virginia to formerly enslaved parents. Burroughs dedicated her life to advancing education and empowerment for Black women. In 1909, she founded the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, D.C., a groundbreaking institution that provided vocational and academic training at a time when few opportunities existed for African American women. Burroughs believed in the importance of self-reliance, moral integrity, and professional development, and her school reflected these values, preparing women not just for work, but for leadership in their communities.

Burroughs would have been 146 years old this year. On Saturday May 10, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 7C sponsored a Community Resource event in her honor at Marvin Gaye Park. The event featured food, music, information on city services and family-friendly activities.



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7C PRESENTS: **NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS' DAY**

COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENT

CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF A TRAILBLAZING EDUCATOR AND ADVOCATE WITH AN AFTERNOON OF COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND CONNECTION. ENJOY FOOD, FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN, AND LOCAL RESOURCES WHILE HONORING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S RICH HISTORY AND THE POWERFUL IMPACT OF NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS. LET'S WALK, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER!

	SAT. MAY 10, 2025 FROM 12:00PM TO 5:00PM	RESOURCE PROVIDERS:
	MARVIN GAYE PARK (FOOTE STREET & DIVISION AVE ENTRANCE: ACROSS FROM RIVERSIDE LIMITED STREET PARKING AVAILABLE)	

COMMUNITY, CULTURE, CONNECTION

All ages welcome.
Free & open to the public!
Bring a friend!



Vendors at the Nannie Helen Burroughs' Day event



Ward 7 residents enjoying Marvin Gaye Park

Pennsylvania Avenue East Main Street

Safety & Beautification Progress on Pennsylvania Avenue SE

MHCDO is making progress on the Safe Commercial Corridors Grant for the Lower Node of Pennsylvania Avenue SE, supported by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. Through this grant, we are working with property owners, business owners, District agencies, and community partners to enhance safety and beautification efforts along the corridor. Key activities include façade improvements, lighting and security camera installations, and the development of a public art mural. In the coming months, residents can expect to see physical improvements begin, pop-up placemaking events alleyways, and continued collaboration to make the corridor safer, more welcoming, and vibrant.

Environment and Sustainability

Community Voices Shape the Future of Ward 7 Mobility

On May 28th, MHCDO and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) hosted a Community Listening Session where residents of all ages shared their lived experiences navigating Ward 7 and utilizing its green spaces. Neighbors voiced concerns about safety and cleanliness, with one resident noting, "It's not just about maintenance — it's a mindset. We need to change how we care for these spaces." Residents called for welcoming, accessible transportation and mobility options, including better lighting and more direct routes through Ward 7 and across the river. They envisioned a trail that connects communities, supports mental health, and a space for multigenerational activities like walking, picnicking, and even fish fries. MHCDO and WABA are grateful for the thoughtful feedback and remain committed to amplifying these voices in ongoing advocacy and planning efforts.





DSLBD Robust Retail Grantees

We're excited to share that **five businesses on the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor** have been selected as recipients of the **DSLBD Robust Retail Grant**—a powerful boost for our local economy and a testament to the resilience and innovation of our small business community.

"Small businesses shouldn't have to figure it out alone—and in DC, they don't have to," said Rosemary Suggs-Evans, Director of DSLBD. "From licensing to funding, DSLBD is here to help. The Robust Retail Grant is just one way we're making good on our promise to be every entrepreneur's first stop—and best resource—for growth."

Please join us in celebrating this year's grant awardees:

Thai Orchid, Addison Auto Parts, Braids by Fauzia, Karis Wigs, and A to Z Tobacco & Grocery.

Be sure to stop by, show your support, and shop small—because when our small businesses thrive, so does our entire corridor.

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"Small businesses shouldn't have to figure it out alone—and in DC, they don't have to..."

**-Rosemary Suggs-Evans,
Director of DSLBD**

SHARE YOUR IDEAS ON GOING ELECTRIC IN YOUR HOME!

DC's Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) is trying to understand how residents feel about switching their **gas appliances to electric** and wants to hear from you!



Please take **5 minutes** to fill out this survey to share your experiences, thoughts, and concerns about electrification. **Survey closes July 27th, 2025.**

What you say will **help DC tailor its programs and resources** to better support residents who want to transition their homes to electric.

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ELECTRICDOEE](https://tinyurl.com/electricdoee)