EAST CAPITOL VIEW CDC

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Winter 2002

NEWSLETTER

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EAST CAPITOL VIEW CDC RESIDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS BRING NEW VISION TO OFFICE



U.S. Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Alphonso Jackson, left, takes a minute to greet East Capitol View CDC Board of Directors, Evelyn Brown, center, President of the East Capitol View Dwellings Resident Council, and Felix Jones, right, President of CDC Board of Directors.

At the heart of the recent swearing-in of Resident Council members, during the District of Columbia Housing Authority's Holiday Celebration, were great stories. Not just the customary exchange of pleasant anecdotes or special meetings with luminaries whose very presence speaks volumes or even the familiar swapping of war stories among friends.

These stories were much more. *Much more.* They were stories of triumphs, trials, and testimonies. They were - and are - reasons to celebrate.

For Felix Jones, who was recently sworn-in for a first-term as President of the Capitol View Senior Resident Council, the occasion was reason to remember why he was there and to think about what and how to give back effectively to the community.

"I want to see the community grow and to see children develop themselves to their fullest ability," relates Mr. Jones, who didn't really set out to change the world—or his little part of it. It just sort of turned out that way. In giving his testimony, this strong figure of a man's voice deadpans to a diminutive whisper. He remembers it being one of those Hallmark kind of days. The kind of day that too few young men have yet to experience and our older men can only fondly remember.

It was that kind of day until what has proven to be a life altering experience interrupted the light-hearted sound of children playing summer games. And, in that moment everything - *everything* - changed. No one was left the same. Not the

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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP MEASURES ITS SUCCESS AS PROJECT UNFOLDS

They come from different places. They've been called to do different tasks. But, talk to members of East Capitol View CDC Board of Directors and it is crystal clear the rich variety in the leadership and their experiences serves them well in fulfilling their mutual undertaking: unite the voices of all the residents. That is what unites them. And, that is what keeps them single-minded in their drive to breathe life into the neighborhood that even they have called blighted.

But, despite the present condition of the buildings, they see the possibilities, they have embraced the vision, they are the keepers of the promise.

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-04
EXHIBIT NO. 39

"We are in the business of exceeding people's expectations."

Michael Eisner
CEO,
The Walt Disney Company

Executive Director's Message



Mr. Richard Jose' Bela
Executive Director

Dear Readers and Residents:

You will recall that our last Newsletter announced my appointment as Executive Director. It also announced the ten job openings we had to fill to complete our team for East Capitol View CDC.

I know you remember that we promised to employ as many East Capitol community members qualified for those positions as possible. We mailed out a neighborhood notice and many of you responded. Some of you filled out a job application or gave us recommendations. We followed-up with phone calls and formal interviews.

Now, we are happy to announce that we have filled those positions. The team includes ten employees. Five are residents or former residents of the East Capitol community. All are extremely well qualified and highly dedicated individuals. We are now preparing to provide you with the self-sufficiency services promised as part of the redevelopment program for this community.

Our next newsletter will highlight each of them and the work they are being trained to do. You will be favorably impressed with each of them and with the services they will offer you. We intend to work hard to assist you in reaching your goals for the New Year; whether it is a new job, a skills training program, needed health services, or buying a home.

But don't wait until our next newsletter. Our first community meeting of the year is on Saturday, January 26, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. at Marion P. Shadd Elementary Auditorium, 5601 East Capitol Street SE. We look forward to meeting many of you then, or any time thereafter at our offices across the street.

Together, we can make this year the year life got better.

Co-Chair CDC Board Of Directors Message



Ms. Lauren Vo
Co-Chair,
CDC Board of Directors

As we embark on the New Year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the many individuals and organizations that have supported the birth and growth of the Board and the CDC since its Incorporation in June 2000. These entities and individuals have given us the support, faith and partnership needed to reach our goals of providing quality economic and social services to the residents of the East Capitol community. Whether the support is in the form of a monetary contribution, in-kind services, technical support, referral services, or otherwise, we are truly grateful to each of you and look forward to a long and rewarding relationship.

American University, Washington College of Law, Annie F. Casey Foundation, A&R/THC, LLC, Capitol View Plaza Senior Resident Council, Department of Employment Services, District of Columbia Housing Authority, East Capitol Center for Change, East Capitol Dwellings Resident Council, Housing Opportunities Unlimited, Howard University, Living Classrooms Foundation, Manna, Inc., Marion Shadd Elementary School, Community Health Initiatives, Inc., Open Door Baptist Church, Southern Homes and Garden Cooperative, Unity Health Care, Inc., U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Verizon, and Wheeler Creek CDC.

We would also like to give a special thank you to Chris Regan, former Project Manager of the East Capitol area for the D.C. Housing Authority. We are truly grateful for all the extra miles Chris has traveled for the CDC Board and the residents of East Capitol during the past two and a half years. His commitment, patience and dedication to helping the Board empower our community have been an inspiration to all of us. We will miss him dearly and we wish him success in his future endeavors.

Finally, we thank all the residents of East Capitol for your continued interest in the revitalization of our neighborhood. Every time you come to one of our meetings, not only do you help us become a better organization, but you also help our community become a better place to live . . . for our families, our neighbors and our friends. We look forward to working with and getting to know each of you in the upcoming year and hope that we can help you and your families reach every one of your goals.

Remember, never under estimate your power to make a difference!

East Capitol View Resident Council Members Bring New Vision to Office

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boy whose life so abruptly ended that moment or the boy who took it so dispassionately by calmly walking up to him, putting a gun to his forehead, and pulling the trigger at point blank range. The depraved turn of this one moment touched not only the two boys but everyone who witnessed it. "I knew then I had to do something," recalls Mr. Jones, who grew up in D.C. public housing and is now a public housing advocate for



Felix Jones during swearing-in ceremony.

senior citizens. "I wanted to give something back." Now six years later, for Mr. Jones, that moment serves as a reminder that every resident has a moral responsibility not to waste our lives but to create a situation where our children can experience those Hallmark kind of days....time and again.

Like Mr. Jones, Evelyn Brown, who is now serving her 15th year as a Resident Council Member, recognizes the significance –and special responsibility–of providing guidance and protection for children. Since moving to the East Capitol neighborhood almost 33 years ago ("I moved in August of 1969 and began volunteering in October 1969"), she has been tireless in her effort to pour loving attention on the neighborhood she calls home.

"When I first started, " she says she just "wanted to make a home for my 11 children– seven boys and four girls." But then Ms. Brown realized



Evelyn Brown being sworn-in to her 15th year as Resident Council Member.

that was not enough. Not even close. "(District of Columbia Housing Authority) gave me a brand new house in East Capitol and I said, I can give something back to the community," says the President of the East Capitol Dwellings Resident Council, whose work with drug elimination programs, after school programs and computer programs have helped in bringing to light a new vision to the East Capitol community.

"In the long run, our reputation is what you have to uphold."

Jennifer Kraljevich
President of an Internet Service Company

Community Leadership Measures Its Success As Project Unfolds

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Involved since its inception, Jacqueline Matthews, who has lived in the East Capitol community for nine years, is secure in the project's ability to deliver on all fronts. "We can do this thing," she says matter-of-factly. Sound confident? Sure. But, her confidence does not come from arrogance, but primarily because the Board Members have done their homework. "We flew to where the developers were," she says. A luxury she believes was instrumental in the Board Members' ability to grasp this $110-million bull by both horns. "What helped us a lot was that they took us from where we were in public housing and flew us around the country to see how other people were doing. So we learned and gained a lot of knowledge about how other people were developing with their HOPE VI projects.," says Ms. Matthews. "It helped open our eyes to a lot of the possibilities... we gained so much."

Now, they are preparing to take what they have learned and help the residents move up to the next rung on the



Jacqueline Matthews Secretary, East Capitol View CDC

ladder. "The neighborhood has been at a standstill for a very long time and at this point it's giving the residents a chance to better themselves and take a step forward," says East Capitol View Dwellings' Resident Council Secretary, Joanne Paylor.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is a case manager and what services will that person provide me?*

A case manager is a human services worker who provides individualized services to residents. These services can pertain to job training, job placement, adult education, health or social needs. The case manager provides these services in a holistic way to ensure that residents can maintain and increase their self-sufficiency.

2. *Will I still be able to receive services after I have relocated?*

Yes, most definitely. We intend to provide services to residents who have moved off-site as well as to those still on-site. We plan to follow them through their relocation process to ensure they do not fall through the cracks. Because of the stress that some residents experience with relocating, they may fail to request services that are readily available to them. We are here to assist in seeing to it that does not occur.

"Good questions outrank easy answers."

Paul A. Samuelson
World-renowned economist

3. *Once I have relocated, is it still possible for me to participate in the CDC programs, even if I wasn't active prior to moving?*

Yes, provided you have enrolled for services with the CDC. All former residents are welcome and encouraged to participate in CDC programs. A vital part of the HOPE VI project is to make residents active partners in the redevelopment of their communities. As such, their participation in the various programs is critical to our success as a community on the grow.

4. *Can I just walk-in or do I need to have an appointment to be able to see a case manager?*

Naturally, an appointment is preferred. However, we do accept walks-in, as time permits. And, of course, a crisis situation—domestic violence, eviction or a health crisis—supersedes everything. We are extremely conscious of the fact that time does not always allow for a resident to schedule an appointment. With that in mind, we try very hard to help each resident whether or not they have an appointment. It is our goal to address each resident's special needs on an individual basis.

5. *Do the people who have not moved get priority to participate in the different programs available through the CDC?*

No. The programs work on a first-come-first-serve basis. It is our aim to service our entire community. With that goal, it is not practical to make a distinction between former residents and current residents.

Laying The Foundation

Just another apartment? Not hardly. For Lillian Mason, who has lived in public housing all her life, it's a home. It embodies a sense of accomplishment. It gives her, and her two daughters, more than just a roof over their heads. It gives them a chance to see the other side. A chance to experience how it feels to live in a place—that for the first time—she can call her own.

"I'm getting my own place," exclaims Ms. Mason, who is participating in the District of Columbia Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program.

She concedes that relocating has been a trial in her patience. Just ask her how she came about finding her new home and she says she did everything from looking in the newspaper to searching the internet for available housing. And, she kept looking until she found what best suited her family's needs.

While relocating may require persistence, finding suitable housing in the metropolitan area can be accomplished. "It is more challenging than it was a year ago," says Janice Burgess, deputy director of the Office of Planning and Development for DCHA. "But, we are looking for innovative methods in our search (for housing)."

For Ms. Mason finding her new home was well worth the time and energy she spent searching. Because in the end, moving into a two bedroom, two bathroom apartment is her dream come true.



Perspective View: East Capitol and Southern Ave.

For other residents who are in the process of relocating, Ms. Mason has a solid piece of advice: "keep looking until you get what you really want."

Revitalization Update

The East Capitol Hope VI Revitalization project is located on East Capitol Street, SE and Southern Avenue. The project is a viable mixed-income community with residential units, a community building and a retail center. This mixed-income community will include ACC-Assisted Rental units, affordable and market rate units, and homeownership units. The types of units will include townhomes, single-family homes, duplexes, grandhomes, a multi-family building with surface parking and a senior building overlooking a small courtyard and the revitalized Watts Branch Park.

The developer is currently working with the architects and the District of Columbia Housing Authority, along with representatives from the community and the Steering Committee, to finalize the designs of the homes and the mix of where these homes will be situated on the site. Particularly, the location of homes with garages are being analyzed based on the challenges presented by the sites' hills and the desire to make the site flatter. These designs will be shown at the next Community Task Force Meeting, January 26 at Shadd Elementary School.

In addition, the redeveloped site will have a community building and retail center with a grocery store as its anchor. The community building design is in the refining stages and the conceptual design phase is near completion. The design of the new building effectively incorporates the input of the community and takes into consideration the programs that will be available to those living in the New East Capitol community. The site plan for the commercial component is also progressing very well with potential tenants currently being selected. Additionally, placement/locations of most buildings have been finalized.

Currently, there are plans to accelerate the development of the new senior building. The site is ready for construction and various development factors are being addressed. The senior building presents an ideal opportunity to begin the redevelopment process ahead of the Phase I demolition and to move the project forward. This will make the senior building the first structure constructed in this redevelopment.

The site redevelopment plan has three phases. These phases include demolition of all structures on the site. The revised demolition schedule is as follows:

Phase I - demolition will begin when the relocation of the north side of East Capitol Street has been completed, approximately Summer, 2002.

Phase II - demolition will begin approximately Fall, 2002, after families on the southwest side of East Capitol have been relocated.

Phase III - demolition of Capitol View II will begin approximately Fall, 2004.

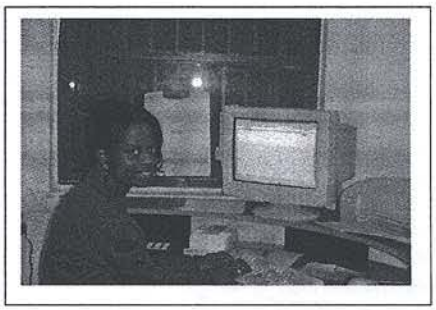
"We do not sprint to victory. Rather, we are long-distance runners in a relay race. We have come too far to be side-tracked or detoured or to get weak in the knees and not go the distance."

Susan L. Taylor
Editorial Director,
Essence Magazine

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work."

Colin Powell
U.S. Secretary of State

Making A Difference



Bettye Massenburg
East Capitol View CDC Intern

For Bettye Massenburg, this is not just an internship to complete her Master's Degree in Urban Economics from Howard University. It is also a philosophy. "I want to make a difference in the community and unite the residents," she says.

Raised in the Washington, D.C. area, Ms. Massenburg says she knew she wanted to work with a HOPE VI project so, for her, East Capitol View CDC was a perfect fit. Additionally, by coming onto the project shortly after the office opening has also worked in her favor. Providing her an opportunity to see first-hand how the CDC is structured and how it operates, has been, what she calls, "an eye opener." A challenge. An opportunity to grow. In short, a learning experience that has given her immense professional satisfaction.

In exchange, her desire is to provide the community and the residents with something of equal value.

A sense of growth. That the body of information they now have access to has grown because of her work "in (finding) resources that they didn't know of otherwise."

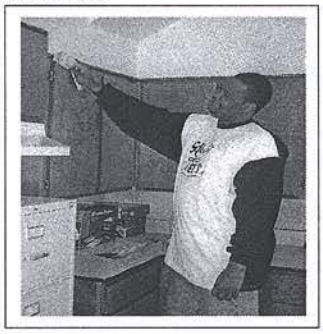
A sense of can-do. When she completes her internship, she wants residents to be able to say of her work that "she was a reliable and resourceful individual who helped me to open my eyes and broaden my horizons as to what I really wanted to do."

A Profile In Success

When most five-year-olds were still contemplating the difference between an apple pie and a mud pie, Donnell Chestnut was thinking about starting a business. He remembers telling his mother even then that "when I grow up I want to be rich or own my own business." Now at the tender age of 22 years old, he's on the way to attaining both.

A strong stature of a man, and genuinely nice guy, Mr. Chestnut recently secured his first business contract. (yeahhhh!!!) Not bad for an upstart maintenance company that opened just a few short months ago. And excellent good for a former neighborhood ruffian kid who says he used to be in the game.

But, that was then and this is now. The only use he has for the streets these days says the 1998 H.D. Woodson High School graduate is to help other young people like himself, who want to change their situations. Play a new game. Deal in a new business, where the profit—both financially and ethically—are respectable and the deficits aren't so, well, dangerous.



Donnell Chestnut
Owner, All Season's Maintenance

"I want to encourage not only my friends, but young people (in general)," says Mr. Chestnut, who has lived in the East Capitol View neighborhood since he was two years old.

Encouraged himself through his connection with the East Capitol Center for Change and the CDC, he says he has learned about budgeting, customer service, and taxes. In fact, he says he's learning something new about business everyday.

So what does he want people to learn from his story? Simply: "Your dreams can come true."

Calendar of Meetings

01/03/02	East Capitol View CDC Board of Directors/ Partnership (Open House) 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m., East Capitol View CDC Office, 5701 E. Capitol St. , SE, Washington, D.C. 20019
01/10/02	East Capitol HOPE VI Steering Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., DCHA, 1133 N. Capitol St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, Executive Director's Conference Rm.
01/17/02	East Capitol View CDC Board of Directors/Partnership Meeting 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., East Capitol Dwellings Community Center, 5725 E. Capitol St. , SE, Washington, D.C. 20019
01/26/02	Community Task Force Meeting (Public Awareness Meeting) 10:00 a.m.-12 noon, Marion P. Shadd Elementary Auditorium, 5601 E. Capitol St., SE, Washington, DC 20019
02/07/02	East Capitol View CDC Board of Directors/Partnership Meeting 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m., East Capitol Dwellings Community Center, 5725 E. Capitol St. , SE, Washington, D.C. 20019
02/14/02	East Capitol HOPE VI Steering Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., DCHA, 1133 N. Capitol St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, Executive Director's Conference Rm.
02/21/02	East Capitol View CDC Board of Directors/Partnership Meeting 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., East Capitol Dwellings Community Center, 5725 E. Capitol St. , SE, Washington, D.C. 20019
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Job And Business Opportunities

Relocation Outreach Worker — Housing Opportunities Unlimited currently has a full-time job opening for a Relocation Outreach Worker. Qualifications: Hardworking; basic computer experience; dependable; good telephone skills; exceptional organizational skills; task-oriented; and attentive to clients. If interested, please contact Chanel Smith at (202) 396-6827 to schedule an interview.

Community Health Nurse — The Community Health Initiatives currently has a full-time job opening for a Community Health Nurse. Minimum requirements: LPN+3 yrs. community health experience. Duties and Responsibilities: Assess health and developmental status of individuals through face-to-face interviews, home visits and group interactions; collaboratively establish goals for improvement of health and enhancement of quality of life; identify appropriate community resources for assistance in the attainment of goals; work with residents to develop a plan which would prioritize issues, coordinate resources, and implement the necessary actions for resolution; evaluate progress with resident to facilitate goal attainment and assist in problem solving throughout the process; serve as a mentor to assist in navigation of health care and social systems as well as provide consumer and other resource information regarding local organizations, and health care providers, and other duties as assigned by Community Health Initiatives.

"A man's bread and butter is only insured when he works for it."

Marcus Garvey
Founder of the
Universal Negro
Improvement
Association

EAST CAPITOL VIEW CDC

Richard Jose' Bela, Executive Director
Ethel Robinson, Executive Assistant

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Newsletter by P.A.L.S., Inc.
www.palsinc.net

We're on the web!
For the latest developments, updates, and news visit www.neweastcapitol.com

The East Capitol View CDC will publish quarterly newsletters.

Please let us know about any newsworthy events in the New East Capitol View Community that you would like to see highlighted in our newsletter.

Phone: (202) 583-4155
Fax: (202) 583-4130

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Face it: everything is centered around a name.

Some names roll off your tongue like hot butter on fresh popcorn. Others, well, let's just say they stick in your throat like the kernel at the bottom of the bag that never quite finished popping.

So, what's in a name? A great writer once said, the difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

So, what's in a name? The true essence of who we are—and what we are—is communicated through our name. That's why the name of our community newsletter is so important. As the primary source of information for and about our residents and community, our newsletter should convey what the *New* East Capitol represents and who we embody. If you think you have the answer to the question—What's in a name? - and would like to see it in banner headlines for all to see, we want to hear from you. Not only will the winner be profiled in the Spring 2002 newsletter, but the winner will also receive a $25 gift certificate. Eligible persons should submit their entry (along with name and address) to the East Capitol View CDC Office by February 28, 2002.

Employees and family members of East Capitol View Community Development Corporation, District of Columbia Housing Authority and other government agencies are ineligible to participate.