

MEETING REMINDER!
EASTLAND GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 6:30pm
@KENILWORTH ELEMENTARY

THE CLOSING OF KENILWORTH ELEMENTARY:
What does it mean for our children and our community?

Come to the meeting to hear DCPS explain the decision and answer your questions. The Executive Director of the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative (DCPNI) will also address our community at the meeting.

The Eastland Gardens Civic Association will continue to meet at Kenilworth Elementary on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in 2013.
See you there!

EASTLAND GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—February 2013

Dear Neighbors,

It was great to see many of you again at our first meeting of the year. For those of you who missed the January meeting, we discussed the high priority concerns facing our neighborhood and what we as a community would seek to do in the coming year. We also agreed that it was imperative to build up our active membership so that we can speak with one loud voice, and command the attention we deserve from those with the power to affect our neighborhood for better or worse. There is strength in numbers!

One of our community's highest priorities this year is the fate of Kenilworth Elementary School and the public property on which it sits in the heart of our neighborhood. Two days after our meeting, the **DCPS made the final decision to close Kenilworth Elementary School** and for our kids to go to Houston ES and Thomas ES instead. According to the DCPS report explaining the decision:

The low numbers of school-age population continue to be the driving factor behind the plan to consolidate the school. The two biggest concerns voiced by the community were the impact of the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative (DCPNI) and the interest in going to Thomas ES. We met with the DCPNI team and have agreed to work together to ensure that we leverage the site to support the redevelopment goals of this community, including a recreation center through the Department of Recreation. DCPS is committed to provide transportation to students from Kenilworth ES to Thomas ES. We plan to retain the building in our inventory so that when there is sufficient demand we can reopen the school.

Though it is distressing that Kenilworth ES will be closed at the end of this school year, it was heartening for DCPS agree that the site could continue to be used for our community redevelopment goals and to build a replacement recreation center co-located on the same land. At our February meeting, DCPS will send an official to explain the decision in person and to answer all of our questions. DCPNI's Executive Director will also speak at our meeting to discuss what this decision means for DCPNI's education goals for our community.

In more cheerful news, on February 6, DPR arranged for community members to tour the Raymond Recreation Center, a facility co-located with a school, now under construction in Ward 4. DPR explained that what will be built Kenilworth could be similar in size and amenities to what is being built at Raymond...and people liked what they saw. DPR promised to continue listening to our input on the design. Do you want a pool? Do you want a computer room? Exercise room? Meeting room? Get involved!

Have news you want to share? Please send your news to: EGCnewsletter@gmail.com

-The Eastland Gardens Civic Association Executive Committee