

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—September 2013

Dear Neighbors,

We hope that everyone had a relaxing summer. With Labor Day behind us and children back in school—albeit **not at Kenilworth Elementary this year**—our monthly Eastland Gardens Civic Association meetings will start back up again. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, beginning on September 17. Just because we weren't meeting didn't mean that the world stopped turning...

On September 6, the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) will submit its application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a **\$30 million grant to “transform” Kenilworth Courts**. Should DCHA win the grant money—which will be leveraged many times over with money from its private developer partners—Kenilworth Courts would be remade into a mixed-income housing development with about 50% more housing units as exist now (from 290 units to 422 units). The new Kenilworth Courts would be made up of a mix of townhouses, “stacked flats”, and multi-family apartments...plus a little bit of retail along Kenilworth Avenue.

This is the same HUD grant that DCHA applied for last year, but did not win. One of the biggest changes from their application last year is that DCHA plans to **move about 70 public housing units from Kenilworth to Parkside** in a new 160-unit apartment building. It will be built by a private developer partner on the empty block between Caesar Chavez School and the new clinic still under construction on the corner of Kenilworth Terrace and Hayes St. This plan came as a complete surprise to almost everybody...we're told it only came together in August.

None of this is public yet, and disturbingly, none of it will be public until after DCHA submits the grant application. DCHA's suggestion is that we just focus on winning the money now and worry about the details later...but the Devil is always in the details. We're going to have to watch this closely and stay involved. **This could be a great development** that helps attract quality retail nearby and makes for a more attractive and safer Kenilworth. **It could also lead to a lot more traffic** in our neighborhood and on NH Burroughs Ave unless an alternate road is built allowing people to drive from Kenilworth across or northbound on DC-295 via Eastern Ave.

In other news, on August 2, the National Park Service (NPS) announced that *before* deciding whether to go ahead with their plan to bury Kenilworth Park and everything that lives in it under two feet of compacted soil, **NPS will do more testing of the groundwater** to see if they find contamination they didn't previously detect. Many people wondered whether it was necessary to destroy the park to prevent us from eating its dirt—at an estimated cost of \$18 million to be paid by DC taxpayers. Might this latest round of testing be a search for a new justification to do what NPS seems determined to do anyway? Only time will tell.

Finally, **our Acting President, Dan Milstein, decided to do what everyone else had the good sense not to do: sign up to be the ANC 7D02 Commissioner and represent our neighborhood in the ANC.** He's getting married over Labor Day weekend and will miss our next meeting.

-The Eastland Gardens Civic Association Executive Committee

To request City Services, dial 311 or visit 311.dc.gov

MEETING REMINDER!
EASTLAND GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, September 17, 6:30pm
@KENILWORTH ELEMENTARY

Focus this month:
DCHA's Kenilworth Transformation Plan
Guest Speaker from DCHA will answer your questions!



EGCA Elections will be held on November 19...interested?