

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—April 2013

Dear Neighbors,

On April 16, 1862 President Abraham Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act, thereby ending slavery in the District of Columbia. Since 2005, **Emancipation Day** has been celebrated as a public holiday in DC on April 16. Consequently, the **Eastland Gardens Civic Association will not be meeting on April 16** this year, despite being the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Instead we encourage you on this important holiday to participate in the holiday events. Look online for details: <http://emancipation.dc.gov/events>

In lieu of our monthly meeting, we also encourage you to attend the Public Meeting the National Park Service (NPS) is holding on **Thursday, April 11 from 6–8pm at the Educare facility at 640 Anacostia Ave NE. This meeting is the one opportunity the public has to discuss NPS's "Proposed Plan for Cleanup of the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site" before the public comment period ends on May 6.** In April 2012, NPS completed its study of the pollutants in the park and determined that because of the presence of trace amounts of PCBs in the soil, eating the soil in the park could potentially be bad for your health. NPS determined that there is no danger in breathing air in the park or touching the soil with your skin. The contaminants also pose no threat to groundwater, the Anacostia, plants or animals.

NPS is now seeking public comments on its Proposed Plan to protect the public from the potential health problems associated with habitually eating dirt in the park. The Proposed Plan is to spend an estimated \$18million to cover all of Kenilworth Park with 2 feet of new, clean dirt. The proposal will turn the entire 130-acre park into something of a construction site as the new dirt is put in place. At its conclusion, the park's dirt should be safer to eat, but the PCB-laden fish you can catch at the park's edge will still be very unsafe for eating. If you have questions for NPS about their proposed plan, please ask them at the meeting!

Background materials are online here: www.nps.gov/nace/parkmgmt/kpls.htm

Public comments can be submitted by email at this address: kenilworthpark_ou1@nps.gov

For those of you who missed our March meeting, it was focused on "Crime & Safety" in our neighborhood. Chief Ellerbe of the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department was our first guest speaker. The Chief explained how the demand for services is growing with DC's population and that FEMS is now trying to reform the way it deploys emergency vehicles and personnel to improve service. MPD's Lt. Eaves explained that MPD's new crime data system has not been working since it was introduced last summer; therefore, he could not offer us any reliable information about crime trends in our neighborhood or how it compares to other neighborhoods. Without data, he suggested that crime seems to be rising in Eastland Gardens.

REMINDER: On Saturday, April 13 from noon until 3:30pm, Eastland Gardens will have its annual **Earth Day Celebration/Community Clean-up Day**. Come and show community pride by lending a helping hand! Meet at the entrance of our community (Lee and Lee). Organized by Eastland Gardens Flower Club with DCPNI and the Student Veterans of America.

-The Eastland Gardens Civic Association Executive Committee

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

The Eastland Gardens Civic Association
Will NOT have its monthly meeting on April 16, due to the
Emancipation Day holiday

INSTEAD, YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND:

Public Meeting on the National Park Service's
Proposed Plan for Cleaning Up Kenilworth Park

WHEN: April 11, 6-8pm

WHERE: Educare of Washington, 640 Anacostia Avenue NE

WHY: NPS is proposing to bury all of Kenilworth Park in two feet of dirt over a period of years because the dirt in the park might not be safe to eat. Estimated cost: \$18million

**THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO ASK NPS QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE PROPOSED PLAN BEFORE THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ENDS ON MAY 6!!!**