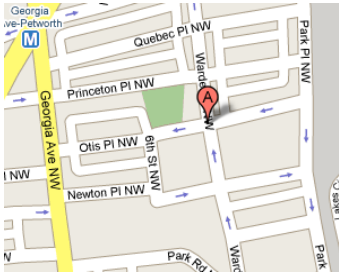


Park View United Neighborhood Coalition (UNC)

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March 2015 Community Newsletter

UNC Monthly Meeting



The United Neighborhood Coalition meets the first Wednesday of every month in the Park View Rec Center. Meetings are free and open to the public. Have an item

for the agenda? Contact the Secretary at 202-450-3871, or email parkviewuncdc@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 4th

Park View UNC Meeting, 7-8pm

Park View Recreation Center, 693 Otis Pl NW

Agenda

- Introduction
- Officer and Committee Reports
- Speaker: DC Home Performance with Energy Star Program
- Budget Feedback for the Mayor

DC Home Performance with Energy Star Program

A speaker from the District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) will attend the March meeting to discuss a program offering several rebates for efficient products and air sealing/insulation projects. You could be eligible to receive \$200 cash back on a BPI energy audit, 50% cash back on air sealing and/or insulation work up to \$800 for each, and a personal Home Energy Coach who will review your home energy audit and provide guidance on what improvements will help you achieve the most energy savings.



Budget Feedback for the Mayor

Mayor Bowser is currently soliciting feedback for her 2015 budget. Members of the UNC have the opportunity to submit comments. Do you have

an idea for what could be done in Park View?

Here are some of our ideas:

- A fully modernized building for Bruce-Monroe Elementary at Park View
- A completed redevelopment of Park Morton
- A streetscape plan for improved streets and sidewalks in Park View.
- The Great Streets plan extended to Park View's section of Georgia Avenue
- A stand-alone middle school in our area.

Bring your ideas for Park View to the March meeting and we will help communicate them to the Mayor!

Minutes of the February Meeting

Six members and 10 guests were in attendance.

Officers' announcements:

The President introduced the United Neighborhood Coalition and invited guests to join and participate. The Secretary and Vice President had nothing to report.

Speaker: Dean of Students from Bruce Monroe Elementary at Park View (BMPV)

John Lingat, Dean of Students at Bruce-Monroe Elementary at Park View (BMPV), spoke about the school. He started at BMPV in 2009 and has seen a number of changes at the school. The bilingual education program has grown and evolved into a 50/50 model with English and Spanish taught on alternating days. Enrollment has skyrocketed, and the school was partially modernized in 2012. The school hosts a number of parents events, including family nights, a weekly parents meeting, and monthly coffee chats with the Principal. A second grade teacher, Ms. Jacqueline Jaffe, earned the Rubenstein Award for Highly Effective Teaching this year. Dean Lingat agrees with many who have called the school a "hidden gem."

Community Announcements

The UNC will be holding an Earth Day cleanup event the Saturday before Earth Day (April 18th or April 25th). We are looking for neighbors to help distribute fliers for this event.

Speaker: Aryan Bocquet from My School DC

Aryan Boquet described the DC Common lottery. This is the second year of the common lottery, which now includes all DCPS schools and most charter schools. There are three goals of the lottery:

- 1) Simplify the process of school applications by offering one lottery and one deadline to parents, who can rank up to 12 schools.
- 2) Maximize the number of students who are placed immediately (avoiding the uncertainty of rapidly-moving waitlists)
- 3) Place students in their most preferred school

The lottery is random, with no preference for families who submit applications early, so families should feel free to take their time to make a decision.

When your lottery number comes up, the computer will go down your list and place you at the school you have ranked the highest on your list that still has open spots. You are automatically waitlisted at any school you have ranked higher on your list, but *not* on schools you have ranked lower. This helps to minimize the number of students on waitlists.

After you are placed, you must actually enroll in the school and prove DC residency in-person.

If you are not matched at any school, you will remain on the waitlists at all your schools until a spot opens up. There is also a Round 2 of the lottery, but during that round you may only apply to schools you did not list in Round 1. You may not participate in Round 2 if you are matched to a school in Round 1.

Q & A

How to preferences work?

“Preferences” give you special priority in the lottery, and include being in-bounds at a DCPS school or having a sibling at the school. Charter schools each have their own preferences. Families with a preference are given a place before families with no

preference – even if they pull a higher lottery number.

Do you get any preference at a school for ranking it higher?

No, how you rank a school does not affect your chance of getting into that school.

How fast to waitlists move?

This varies a lot by school. Last year there was movement on many waitlists through October.

How old do you have to be to enter the common lottery?

For most schools, a child must be age 3 by September 30th to enter preschool. Charters are allowed to set different cutoff dates.

What schools don’t participate in the common lottery?

Only a few schools. A list is available on MySchoolDC.org

Are the boundary changes in effect this year?

The boundary changes proposed by Mayor Gray are now in effect. Mayor Bowser may still make additional changes.

Speaker: Parent Experience

A parent who had been in the lottery last year described his experience. He encouraged parents to look for “hidden gems,” or schools that were high quality but not so popular that it was impossible to get in. He had been interested in bilingual programs, and actually listed BMPV at the top of his list. He was waitlisted at BMPV, and is now at JO Wilson, where his family is very happy. Most of the families he knew who entered the lottery last year are now happy with their schools, regardless of whether they got in to their first choice or something much lower down their list.

The meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

The UNC is a civic association located in the Park View neighborhood of Washington DC. Membership is free to those who live or own property within the UNC boundary. Join online at www.parkviewunc.org.