

# BATES AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

### Upcoming BACA Meetings:

- June 6
- July 11
- August 2<sup>nd</sup>
- September 6
- October 3
- November 7
- December 5

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### Officers:

Geovani Bonilla  
*President*  
Miles Holloman  
*Vice President*  
Tracina Leake  
*Secretary*  
Margaret Stevens  
*Secretary*

### Crime in PSA 501 is Down Overall; But Not in our Neighborhood ?

With 4 homicides and a shooting in the BACA general area, it would appear violent crimes increased. In actuality, violent crime was down 10% in our PSA in 2010 compared to 2009. Overall crime was down 3%.

A lot of emphasis was given to the homicide of William R. Mitchell at Florida and N. Capital ST in January. This homicide led to responses from City

#### **Council Member**

**Thomas**'s Office and to a community safety assessment with **Mayor Vincent Gray, Chief of Police**, 5<sup>th</sup> District MPD Commander and many DC Government Agency Directors.

In response to community concerns, MPD has changed its patrolling tactics in our neighborhood. You will see an increase in mountain bike officers,

walking beats, number of officers assigned to the area and other crime fighting tactics.

Bates Area Civic Association is organizing a neighborhood crime watch program and is seeking Block Captains for this program. **Tuesday and Thursday, community residents come together at the corner of P and First ST NW for weekly neighborhood walks.**

### Florida Avenue Park to Receive a \$1.4 Million Facelift This Year

In December 2010, Department of Parks and Recreation presented at the Bates Area Civic Association's meeting the preliminary plans for the renovation of the Florida Avenue Park. The renovations include the relocation of the basketball court to a different section of the park, improved lighting and removal of the existing playgrounds. Three new playgrounds for different ages will be added.

Bates Area Civic

Association residents raised concerns regarding the existing park and provided DPR input on improvement needed to make the park safer for residents to use. These recommendations included: stronger fence bars, lighting, loitering enforcement, and closing of the gate along First ST to reduce the flow of traffic from the liquor store across the street.

The next steps for DPR are to select a contractor to perform the renovations and start the

improvements. During the renovation phase, the park will be closed to the public.

Bates Area Civic Association is seeking volunteers to organize community programs at the park. **Jon Hasse** is coordinating these efforts and can be reached by email at **jwh.east@gmail.com**. Activities may include: concerts, arts, festivals and other fun community events.

<http://Batesareacivicassociation.org>

Visit Our Website and Blog Online

## ANC and BACA Initiatives



*Mayor Gray and Chief Lanier at Neighborhood Walks*

Safety continues to be our community's top concern. 5C01 Bradley Thomas conducted a follow up neighborhood walk with multiple District Government Agencies and community members. The walk focused on problem areas for DCRA, MPD and DPW to focus on. Commissioner Thomas has also organized a Community Advisory Panel to advise

our ANC on key focus issues and address concerns. Commissioner Thomas may be reached by email [5C01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:5C01@anc.dc.gov). Commissioner Thomas will be organizing a second walk in upcoming months.

As a follow up to the January neighborhood walk with Mayor Gray, CM Thomas, Chief Lanier and other DC Government agencies lead to a

meeting with DDOT, WMATA, Commissioner Thomas, Geovani Bonilla and other civic leaders. The meetings were to focus on the relocation of the bus stop in front of the liquor store at N. Capital ST and Florida Avenue. DDOT and WMATA are supposed to come back and present several viable options to the community on how to either relocate or make reduce loitering at the bus stop.

*Traffic on First ST, New Jersey, Florida Avenue and P ST NW is a challenge to say the least. DDOT currently addressing some issues.*



## Enough Traffic in Our Neighborhood?

First ST NW and New Jersey Avenue are alternatives to North Capital Street, which lead to heavy congestion in our neighborhood. P ST is congested due to east-west traffic. New development has also limited parking in our area.

BACA is working with DDOT, ANC and community residents to address some of these issues. A resident of the

200 block of P ST NW collected the necessary signatures to make the block residential parking. The application was submitted and the block is now residential parking only M-F from 7:30am – 7:30pm.

A resident of the 100 block of P ST NW lead efforts to implement speed control devices on P ST NW. Commissioner Thomas and the ANC are

working with DDOT to implement speed control devices. Speed humps have now been installed.

Geovani Bonilla requested a safety study to be done at the intersection of First and New York Ave. Safety study was conducted and DDOT is looking at measures to address congestion.



## Our Community Gets New Trees Planted

Urban Forestry Administration and DDOT planted trees all throughout our community. The tree planting was coordinated between the Bates Area Civic Association and Ian Leahy from DDOT. Most

of our streets received new trees.

The new trees are easily identifiable through the rainwater catchers placed around them. These water catchers will allow the trees to collect fresh rain water and

slowly disperse the water. Caring for these trees will require community involvement. I ask that you please adopt the tree closest to you. If you would like to receive a watering kit, please contact me at [Mrgeovani@aol.com](mailto:Mrgeovani@aol.com)

## Community Crime Watch/Block Captain Program

Crime in our neighborhood is a concern for all of us. We have seen a great increase in burglaries, auto thefts, and thefts from autos and assaults with dangerous weapons. Most of these crimes are crimes of opportunity and preventable. During the March BACA Meeting, Sergeant Michael Boyd conducted a workshop on how to prevent many of these crimes.

A Block Captain Program has proven in many PSAs to be an effective way for neighbors

to reduce crime and for communities to become cohesive. The program is composed of a Block Captain that is responsible to collect and organize contact information for members of a block. The success comes from neighbors knowing each other, knowing when to initiate a phone tree to alert each other of crime.

We currently have volunteers for P ST, 1400 and 1500 block of First, 200 block of R and 1400 of NJ. Would you like to lead your block? Contact Geovani at [Mrgeovani@aol.com](mailto:Mrgeovani@aol.com)



Metropolitan Police join community members in community walks.

## Neighborhood Beautification and Clean Up, June 11

Bates Area Civic Association needs volunteers to organize community clean up and beautification projects. Through community efforts, we can clean and beautify our community. Department of Public Works assists with this project by providing us with trash bags, tools and solid waste pick up.

Free mulch is also provided through DPW. BACA due paying members may also receive a rose bush to plant in a tree box. The mulch can be used in residential yards and tree boxes through our

neighborhood. Recycling city cans make it easy for the mulch to be transported from the dump location to your home.

BACA due paying members may receive a free rose bush to plant in a tree box and maintain.

If you would like to organize these projects, please contact Geovani at [gbonilla@hospicemanagement.com](mailto:gbonilla@hospicemanagement.com).

**Saturday, June 11 from 10am – 1pm** free mulch will be available at the corner of P and First ST NW. Neighborhood clean up will also take place.



Neighbors participate in Community Block organized by Bates Area Civic Association residents.



## Economic Development

*Harris Teeter, TD Bank, Pot Belly Pig, CVS and other shops are just a few of the new exciting places within walking distance from us.*



Economic development is essential to our community. As several projects have taken place within proximity but not in our civic association boundaries. Several local businesses are promising to our community however.

The Mayor's Office approved the funds for a small business plan to be conducted for our area. Also, the Engine Company 12 Firehouse (N. Capital and Florida) is being redeveloped into a first floor restaurant with a

roof top deck to accommodate parties of 100 or more.

A new coffee house is scheduled to open at N. Capital and P ST NW and one has opened at the 200 block of Florida Avenue. Constitution Square at First ST NE have now opened with a Harris Teeter, CVS and several restaurants. North Capitol Main Street continues to focus on redevelopment of new businesses in our area.

Wal-Mart is scheduled to open 5

stores in Washington, DC. The anchor Wal-Mart store and Lowes will be in Ward 5 at New York Avenue and Bladensburg Rd. A second Wal-Mart will open close to New Jersey Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> ST NE.

The M.M. Washington school building will be developed into a 90 apartment complex for senior citizens with a community center. The JF Cooke and Langston buildings are still open for RFPs and development.

Commissioner Bradley Thomas is chairing the 5C Economic Development Committee. Watch for his updates.

### Upcoming Meeting

Next BACA meeting is June 6. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss upcoming redistricting of Wards, ANC and Police Service Areas. Meeting location is Mt. Sinai Church at 1615 3<sup>rd</sup> ST NW at 7pm. **ANC Bradley Thomas, Special Guest.**

**Saturday, June 11**  
Free Mulch and Community Clean Up. 10am – 1pm at Corner of P and First ST NW.

**Membership**  
BACA membership is \$20. Please join by contacting Margaret Stevens at [margaret.stevens@yahoo.com](mailto:margaret.stevens@yahoo.com)

**Have a Recommendation?**  
If you have a suggestion for a project or would like to coordinate one, please

## Must Read – Community Information

**New Police Commander**  
*Lamar Greene* has been promoted to **Assistant Chief of Police** and *Andrew Solberg* has been promoted to **Police Commander** for the 5<sup>th</sup> District Police Department. Commander Solberg attended the March 2011 BACA meeting to introduce himself to our community.

**Mr. Leonard Howard, Jr.** is the new Constituent Services Associate from Councilmember Thomas' office.

**Mr. Carl Thomas** is the new Ward 5 Liaison from Mayor Gray's Office.

**Metropolitan Police** meets with BACA residents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Harry Thomas Recreation Center (1743 Lincoln Rd NE) at 7pm to address safety concerns.

**Flower Power 2011** Walk and Reception needs a chairperson and organizers. This event starts with a walk through our community judging the different gardens and tree boxes our community has to offer. The walk concludes with a reception and celebration. This brings the most beautiful yards our neighborhood has to offer.

### Key Contacts:

**Leonard Howard, Jr. CM**  
Thomas Constituent Services, Phone: 202-724-8024. Email: [lhoward@dccouncil.us](mailto:lhoward@dccouncil.us)

**Bradley Thomas, 5C01**  
Commissioner. Email [5C01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:5C01@anc.dc.gov)

**Commander Solberg** email: [Andrew.Solberg@dc.gov](mailto:Andrew.Solberg@dc.gov)

Carl Thomas, Mayor's Liaison Email: [carl.thomas@dc.gov](mailto:carl.thomas@dc.gov)

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BACA Website and Blog

<http://Batesareacivicassociation.org>