



The Thomas Connection

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Building Bridges, Finding Solutions

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The Newsletter of Ward 5 Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr.

DISCOUNT GROCER ALDI TO OPEN FIRST DC STORE IN WARD 5

ALDI is coming to Ward 5! On September 7, 2010, Councilmember Thomas, joined by Chairman Vincent Gray and At-Large Councilmember Kwame Browne, participated with ALDI executives, civic leaders, and neighbors in a groundbreaking ceremony for the District's first ALDI, to be located at 17th and I Streets, NE. ALDI is a discount grocer known for its premium select brands.

Construction is expected to take roughly six months, with the anticipated opening to be in the spring of 2011. The store will create about 20 jobs. Councilmember Thomas will work with ALDI to hold an on-site job fair prior to the opening.

ALDI offers more than 1,400 frequently purchased items sold under its select brands for prices up to 50 percent less than traditional supermarkets. ALDI eliminates overhead costs by using efficient practices such as a cart deposit system, smaller store footprint, open carton displays, and encouraging customers to bring their own shopping bags.

"As so many businesses continue to close their doors, we are thrilled to have ALDI expanding into and investing in the District," said Councilmember Thomas. "We're pleased to work with ALDI as a new community partner, and delighted that ALDI has selected Ward 5 as its first DC location."



Thomas participated in the ground breaking ceremony for ALDI on September 7, 2010.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DC OPENS IN WARD 5

On Saturday, September 11, 2010, Councilmember Thomas was a keynote speaker at the grand opening ceremony for the first neighborhood-based campus of the Community College of the District of Columbia (CCDC), located at the former Bertie Backus Middle School, 5171 South Dakota Avenue, NE. Also present were Council Chairman Vincent Gray, At-Large Councilmember Kwame Brown, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, UDC President Allen Sessoms, CCDC CEO Jonathan Gueverra, graduates of Backus, and a host of community leaders and residents.

Councilmember Thomas was instrumental in the location of CCDC at Backus through his work to secure insertion of language in the FY2010 Budget Support Act of 2009 authorizing the "University of the District of Columbia to have exclusive use of the closed Bertie Backus Middle School Building." Adding this language excluded the possibility of other uses not supported by the community, such as selling the campus to a private developer for conversion to housing.

The Backus campus will be home to CCDC's nursing, nursing assistant, and home health aide programs, as well as the architectural engineering, fashion merchandising, and construction management degree programs. It will also be a center for workforce development training and offer education programs for seniors.



Thomas was a keynote speakers at the September 11, 2010 grand opening ceremony for CCDC at Backus.

COUNCIL WELCOMES ATTENDEES TO CBC'S 40TH LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Councilmember Thomas—along with Chairman Gray and Councilmembers Yvette Alexander, David Catania, Muriel Bowser, Kwame Brown, Michael Brown, Mary Cheh, and Jack Evans—hosted a reception on September 15, 2010 to welcome attendees to the Congressional Black Caucus's 40th Legislative Conference, held each September in the District. The Congressional Black Caucus was formed in 1969 when the 13 black members of the U.S. House of Representatives joined together to address the legislative concerns of black and minority citizens. Today, the Caucus includes 41 members. The annual conference provides the District's elected leaders an opportunity to advance with Congressional leaders the importance of full representation for District voters.



Thomas and colleagues welcomed Congressional Black Caucus attendees on September 15, 2010.

DCBIA VOLUNTEERS LANDSCAPE MET BRANCH TRAIL IN WARD 5

On Saturday, October 2, 2010, DC Building Industry Association (DCBIA) members and residents volunteered their time to make landscape improvements along the Ward 5 section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail. DCBIA member firms donated materials valued at \$800,000. Councilmember Thomas, along with DDOT Director Gabe Klein, DCRA Director Linda Argo, and DCBIA Executive Vice President Gail Edwards celebrated the improvements at the event's ribbon cutting. "These improvements are a wonderful addition to the trail, and I appreciate DCBIA's volunteerism and spirit of giving back," said Thomas.



DCBIA members made landscape improvements along the Ward 5 section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail on October 2, 2010.

FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER COMES TO WARD 5

In October 4, 2010, Councilmember Thomas joined former President Jimmy Carter, former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and volunteers to assist Habitat for Humanity build and rehabilitate 12 homes in Ward 5's Ivy City neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity works with low-income families who are willing to help build their own homes and homes for others. Habitat is one of four developers awarded land grants from the District, along with funds from the first round of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, to produce more than 50 units of mixed-income housing in Ivy City. "It is an honor to host former President Carter in Ward 5 and we appreciate his assistance in advancing the revitalization of the Ivy City community," said Thomas.



Thomas joined former President Jimmy Carter on October 4, 2010 to assist Habitat for Humanity with building and renovating 12 homes in Ivy City.

HARRY THOMAS SR. DAY CELEBRATES FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

Councilmember Thomas hosted the 21st Annual Harry Thomas, Sr. Day on Saturday, September 11, 2010. The event, traditionally held at the Dwight Mosely Field, located at 18th and Perry Streets, NE, honors the legacy of Councilmember Thomas' father, the late Councilmember Harry Thomas, Sr., and celebrates his commitment to strengthening families and communities. The event featured a range of activities for all age groups. More than 300 residents attended.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS' 2010 WARD 5 EVENTS*

October 16	Ward 5 Leaders Meeting
October 29	Halloween – Recreation Centers
November 22	Thanksgiving Turkey Give-Away
December 16	Ward 5 Holiday Open House
December 18	Breakfast With Santa

* Dates subject to change.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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