



# 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.*

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### WARD 5 CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 2, 2011, the Ward 5 council office joined with police officers, community leaders, and residents to participate in the 5D kickoff of National Night Out, held on the grounds of the Community Academy Public Charter School (CAPS), located at 1400 First Street, NW. Mayor Vincent Gray and MPD Chief Cathy Lanier stopped by to participate in the festivities.

The event featured a range of community activities, including games, food, and music. At 7:00 pm, residents and officers participated in a National Night Out Community Bike Ride on the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

National Night Out is an annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, that occurs on the first Tuesday in August. The National Night Out campaign encompasses 9,500 communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. "I am pleased that my office was once again able to participate in National Night Out," said Councilmember Thomas. "This event not only highlights a neighborhood with tremendous community spirit, but our long-standing and positive working relationship with MPD and other law enforcement agencies."



*National Night Out was celebrated across the District on August 2, 2011. The 5D kickoff was held at CAPS in Ward 5's Truxton Circle neighborhood.*

### NCMS 3RD ANNUAL ART WALK DRAWS HUNDREDS

Scores of Ward 5 residents, including Councilmember Thomas, enjoyed North Capitol Main Street's 3rd Annual Art Walk, held on August 6, 2011. The event featured live music and numerous cultural performances, culminating with a quartet of Flamenco guitar players.

In addition, more than 20 Eckington, Bloomingdale, and Truxton Circle area residents volunteered their front yards for a sculpture exhibit organized by the Pink List Project that stayed in place throughout August. The Art Walk also included a block party on the unit block of T Street, NW, sponsored by Rustic Tavern, and a Artists' Village displaying the works of local painters, jewelry designers, and potters. "I applaud the work NCMS in bringing revitalization to the corridor and once again organizing this fabulous summer event," stated Councilmember Thomas.



*NCMS's 3rd Annual Art Walk was held on August 6, 2011.*

## WARD 5 SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Councilmember Thomas has long valued and promoted Ward 5's small business community, sponsoring events such as the Ward 5 Small Business Showcase, and speed networking with larger firms and institutions from across the ward and District. As part of these ongoing small business outreach initiatives, the Ward 5 Council office has had a long-standing working relationship with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GWHCC), which has provided small business technical assistance in Ward 5 since 2007.

On July 26, 2011, GWHCC sponsored a workshop on effective marketing strategies for small businesses, including the use social media, print advertising, websites, and the Ward5DOnline directory. Earl Hooks of My Local Merchant provided the training. More than a dozen businesses from across the ward attended. The event was held at Lace on the Avenue, located at 2214 Rhode Island Avenue, NE.

In addition to the GWHCC workshop, Ward 5 small businesses were able to participate in the Washington, DC Economic Partnership's August 2011 broadband technology training program, which provided training, education, and awareness of web-based resources to the District's small business community. The program focused on:

- How to use the Internet and search engines;
- How the Internet can be used to grow a business;
- How social media can assist businesses; and
- Internet security

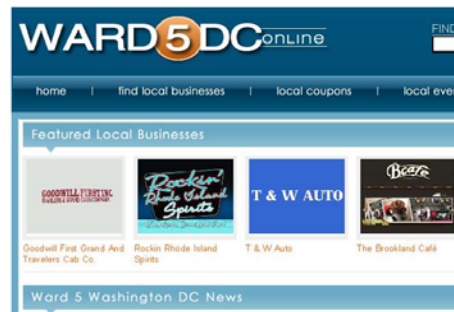
"I appreciate the efforts of GWHCC and the Partnership to embrace and promote the Ward 5 business community," said Councilmember Thomas. "These organizations are great resources and their focus on assisting small firms is invaluable."



*Gabriella Mossi of GWHCC reviewed the agenda for the small business workshop the organization held on July 26, 2011. The event featured a training session by Earl Hooks of My Local Merchant.*

## WARD 5 ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

Ward5DOnline.com makes it easier than ever before to locate and patronize Ward 5 businesses. This local business directory includes the wonderfully diverse range of businesses that call Ward 5 home. The site also provides coupons and neighborhood updates from the Ward's various blogs and listservs. "From art galleries and restaurants to hardware stores and auto repair shops, you can find it all in Ward 5," notes Councilmember Thomas. Help to strengthen your local neighborhoods and community by patronizing Ward 5 businesses! For information on how to add or expand a business listing, call 800.367.5088.



*Ward5dconline.com features an online directory of Ward 5 businesses.*

## RENOVATIONS BEGIN AT FIRST AND FLORIDA PARK

On August 16, 2011, Councilmember Thomas joined with Mayor Vincent C. Gray and a host of Ward 5 residents and civic leaders to break ground on the renovations to the park at First Street and Florida Avenue, NW. As chair of the Council's Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation from 2007 through 2010, Councilmember Thomas was instrumental in securing funding for the renovations. "Improving the accessibility of this park and making it more inviting and open has been a priority for me," said Thomas. "I now look forward to attending the ribbon cutting when upgrades are complete."



*Councilmember Thomas participated in the August 16, 2011 groundbreaking of renovations to the park at First and Florida.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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