



STRONGHOLD CIVIC ASSOCIATION
"WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY"

SCA Newsflash!!

Message from the President



President McDuffie salutes outgoing President, India Lockett at the November meeting.

Greetings,

At the September 2009 meeting, the Stronghold Civic Association (SCA) elected its officers for the 2010-2012 term.

The new Executive Board is comprised of Vice President Doris Newton, Treasurer Gloria Burns, Corresponding Secretary Laura Jackson, Financial Secretary India Lockett and, Director of Planning David Scott. I was elected and am pleased to serve as your President.

At our November meeting, the SCA honored the outgoing Executive Board for their hard work, dedicated leadership, and commitment to community service. Each new officer presented their predecessor

with a certificate of appreciation and flowers. The honorees included: Past President India Lockett, Trina Butler (Vice President), Lisa Butler (Treasurer), and Delores Powers (Secretary). The SCA also acknowledged the continuing support of Rev. James Coleman, Pastor of All Nations Baptist Church, and Minister Hugh Terry, who faithfully ensures that SCA has access to the church for its monthly meetings.

We also hosted a "Meet & Greet" reception at our November meeting. The turnout was great, as was the food! The SCA would like to thank Lawrence Newton for coordinating the "Meet & Greet," as well as all who attended.

Finally, as we usher in a new year, I urge you to take a moment to reflect and consider how you can help to strengthen our community. Please join us at our next meeting, and bring your ideas, concerns, and solutions. As our motto states, we are "working together for our community."

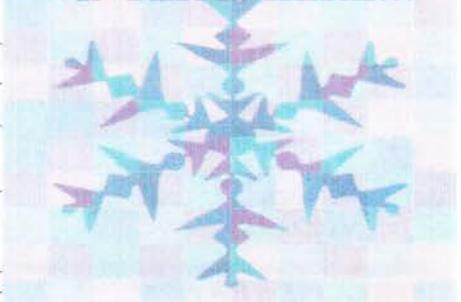
Have a safe and happy Holiday!

Kenyan

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WINTER IS HERE!!!



KNOW YOUR ANC

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) The District of Columbia is divided into eight wards and 37 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) within these wards. Advisory Neighborhood Commissions are bodies of local government in Washington, D.C. They consider a wide range of policies and programs affecting their neighborhoods, including traffic, parking, recreation, street improvements, liquor licenses, zoning, economic development, police protection, sanitation and trash collection, and the District's annual budget. <Our 5C07 Commissioner is Barrie Daneker> For more information visit <<http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/wards&ancs>>

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5C

Address: P.O. Box 77761, Washington, DC 20013; **Neighborhoods:** Bloomingdale, Eckington, Edgewood, Truxton Circle, Pleasant Hill, West Brookland, **Stronghold**; **Meeting Location:** Please call 202-550-0619 for meeting location. **Meeting Date:** 3rd Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm



ALUMUNI NEWS: Justin Fairfax is a former SCA Vice President. He grew up on Everts Street and is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Butler and son of Charlene Fairfax. See full article here and at <http://sanford.duke.edu/alumni/news/fairfax.php>

Fairfax Brings Concrete Change to Neighborhood

by Jackie Ogburn-Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy

Sanford Board of Visitors member **Justin Fairfax** (PPS '00) has a long and impressive list of leadership and public service positions on his resume. As an undergraduate at Duke, he was president of the National Panhellenic Council and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was chosen as the graduation speaker for his PPS class.

After graduation, he served as a Young Trustee on Duke's Board of Trustees, was Tipper Gore's briefing coordinator at the 2000 Gore/Lieberman presidential campaign headquarters in Nashville, and worked as Sen. John Edward's personal assistant during his 2004 vice presidential campaign. He earned a law degree from Columbia University where he was selected as a member of the *Columbia Law Review* and clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Gerald Bruce Lee. Now he is a senior associate in litigation at Wilmer-Hale in Washington, D.C.

But the place where Fairfax perhaps most brought his public policy skills to bear was on that most clichéd task of local government: fixing potholes. Actually, it was more than just potholes; it was 30,000 feet of new paving on alleys and streets of crumbling brick, scattered gravel, and broken asphalt in the neighborhood where he grew up. (*cont'd, pg 4*)

GET WELL
WISHES...



*We are happy to learn that Kenyan's Father, **Gregory McDuffie**, is recovering from a recent injury.

Also wishes are being sent to

***Herbert Robinson**, Everts St.

IN
MEMORIAM



*Freddie's **mother** passed away in Nov. (2800 block of N. Capitol).

*Dianne Barnes' **husband** passed away in Nov. (Dianne is our former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner).

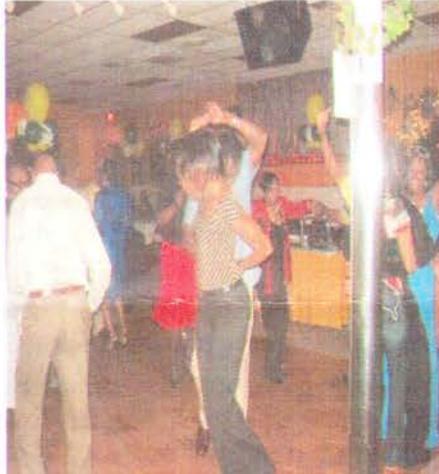
Please continue to offer prayers and support to all of the families.

Farewell 2009!! A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR...

Reunion Cabaret May 2, 2009



Reunion Cabaret May 2, 2009



Stronghold Scholarship Recipients



We have lots of other photos from these great events thanks to our President and others.
If you'd like to see more pictures of any event, please send me an email <phenomw@msn.com>

SCA Celebrates 18th! September



...Thanks Charter Members for making it all happen in Sept. 1991! Your good work continues to make a difference today!

Happy 18th Anniversary!!!

"My soul encourages you: Crank the volume. High as your heart can stand it; and Experience life out loud!"

-Nola Divine-

[Inspired by short poem "Headphones." For more, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jR746KZZ75g>]





"Stronghold Civic Association "
Meetings held monthly
1st Monday
at 7:00 pm
All Nations Baptist Church
(corner of N. Capitol & RI Ave, NE)

Mark your Calendar
Next SCA Meeting is Monday, January 4, 2010

(cont'd from pg. 2) **Alumni News: Justin Fairfax**

Between the end of the Gore campaign and the time that Fairfax enrolled in law school, Fairfax was working as a legislative correspondent in Edwards's U.S. Senate office on Capitol Hill. He moved back in with his mother in the Eckington area of northeast Washington, D.C.

"The place had issues," he said, "the common urban problems of decay, disrepair and drugs." He joined the neighborhood civic association, which at that time was a handful of people, mostly seniors, meeting in the local church basement.

Fairfax teamed up with a childhood friend from the neighborhood, **Kenyan McDuffie**, and began pulling other people into the organization through neighborhood events, such as clean-up days. Soon, young parents and newer residents were involved. Fairfax thought the broken state of the streets was the perfect metaphor for the state of the neighborhood and a good place to start to turn things around.

At first, people were understandably skeptical that anything would change, Fairfax said, because the area had been neglected for decades.

"The only things more often and more badly broken than the streets in the neighborhood were past promises to fix them," he said. However, Fairfax remained optimistic, engaged the community, developed a public policy strategy and pushed forward. Eventually, the entire neighborhood bought into this vision, and people became excited about the possibility of helping to literally lay the foundation for a brighter future for their beleaguered, but beloved, neighborhood.

"I used my PPS training to navigate the city bureaucracy," he said. There was initial resistance from the city, but Fairfax's group got a commitment from the mayor's office and the project became a line item in the city budget.

Fairfax left for law school in 2002, and by the time he returned to DC in 2005 a large swath of the streets were paved. "They have been a catalyst for improvement in the neighborhood," he said. "They are literally the ground we stand on."

His aunt still lives in the neighborhood, as does his mother, who has since remodeled her house. Some former residents who had left returned, including McDuffie, and others have improved their properties. The experience was further proof to Fairfax that everybody can make a lasting, positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities. "Wherever you are is your public policy realm," he says.

FAVORITE QUOTES

***"Don't ask God to order your steps, when you have no desire to move your feet."-Anonymous**

***"If only we'd stop trying to be happy we could have a pretty good time."-Edith Wharton, American author**

***"Happiness is never about having or doing, it's about being. When we stop trying so hard to capture happiness and just allow it to flow into our lives, then the need to be happy ceases and happiness as a state of mind begins to settle in."-Anonymous**

[Editor's Note: Thanks to Mrs. Vivian Rouson for sharing some of her favorites! Please share yours next time!]

Newsletter comments? Want to add info to the newsletter? Please send to: **Doris Newton, Editor:**
phenomw@msn.com Electronic copies/hardcopies of newsletter available.