



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

Here is a brief summary of the bills upon which a final vote was taken, and the results, during the legislative session on Tuesday, January 8th:

- ★ “Public Education Personnel Reform Amendment Act of 2007”, Bill 17-0450, giving DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee the authority to terminate non-union employees who aren’t performing. The vote was 10 to 3 with Councilmember Bowser voting yes.
- ★ “SafeRx Act of 2007”, Bill 17-0364, requiring pharmaceutical representatives to be licensed in the District of Columbia. The vote was 7 to 6 with Councilmember Bowser voting no.

Reminder that the DC Council will hold the following public oversight hearings:

- ★ Saturday, January 12, at 1 PM, in the Council Chambers, Room 500, Committee of the Whole, Youth Issues
- ★ Monday January 14, at 10 AM in the Council Chambers, Room 500, on the process for the closure of DC Public Schools.

I hope this is helpful information and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Early this morning, there was a 2-alarm fire in the 5600 block of Kansas Avenue, NW in which two long-time Ward 4 residents were killed. I have been in contact with the family of the victims and we are assisting them. I would like to remind residents about the importance of having working smoke detectors in your home. The DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) canvassed the neighborhood this morning, visiting 60 homes, 30 of which did not have working smoke detectors. DC FEMS will come install one for FREE in your home, at your convenience, if you call 202-673-3320. These smoke detectors also detect carbon monoxide, another toxic gas. Please call and request a smoke detector to make sure your family is safe.

Muriel

Kudos to MPD's Fourth District!

Wednesday evening January 9, 2008, the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Fourth District received calls for gunshots at 14th and Upshur NW and also at 4600 9th ST NW. Upon arrival officers observed a subject run around the grounds of the school between Allison/Arkansas/Upshur. They were able to apprehend said subject and recover a gun. Additionally, as they entered an alley behind the 4500 block of Arkansas Ave they smelled marijuana and as they investigated subjects began to flee from a garage in the alley a quick look at the garage revealed that it was being used a cook house/cut house for cocaine. Thus a search warrant for both the home and garage was obtained at 1 AM. The MPD team recovered over a kilo of cocaine, marijuana, scales, cutting equipment, etc, and two suspects were apprehended.

This is great work by our Fourth District police! Congratulations on recovering such a large amount of drugs. This will have a major impact on the quality of life in the area.

Ward 4 Preview of new Meridian Restaurant at the Lofts at Brightwood – January 14th

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser, ANC Commissioner Dee Jolley 4C01 and the Brightwood Community Association on Monday January 14th at 7 PM for a preview of the new Meridian Restaurant's Southern, Caribbean, Creole and low-country cuisine. Meridian Restaurant is located in the Lofts at Brightwood at 5832 Georgia Avenue, NW (corner of Georgia and Missouri Avenues, NW). Please RSVP to 202-724-8052. See also Meridian's website to reserve a table for restaurant week from January 15 to 20th, www.meridianrestaurant.com.

Come volunteer with Councilmember Bowser and the Ward 4 Cares Committee on January 21!

Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the Ward 4 Cares Committee would like residents to volunteer with us on Martin Luther King Day – Monday, January 21 – at the Roosevelt Senior High School at 4301 13th Street, NW from 8:30 am to 12 noon to help with painting inspirational quotes and murals throughout the school (including a mural dedicated to Washington Redskins player Sean Taylor), building benches and bookshelves, transforming multiple classrooms and lounges and other projects.

This project is in collaboration with City Year Washington's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Please visit their website for more information: www.cityyear.org.

Even if you aren't a carpenter or painter, please come join us for this celebration of Dr. King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action. Please let us know if we can count on you that day by calling Lisa Adams, Constituent Services Coordinator at 724-8052 or by email ladams@dccouncil.us.

Resources

DC Economic Partnership hosts workshop on business finances & taxes- January 16

On Wednesday, January 16, 2008, please join the DC Economic Partnership for a discussion on business tax requirements and financial reporting tools, entitled "UNCLE SAM & YOUR BOTTOM LINE, UNDERSTANDING YOUR BUSINESS FINANCES & TAXES." The discussion will feature The Honorable Jack Evans, Councilmember, Ward 2, Chair of the Committee on Finance & Revenue, Dr. Natwar M. Gandhi, Chief Financial Officer, Government of the District of Columbia, Glen Groff, Director of Compliance Administration, DC Office of Tax & Revenue, Peter McKenna, Partner, Beers & Cutler, and Peter Justin, President & CEO, Mybizhomepage.com.

The workshop will be from 9:30-11:00am at the Washington, DC Economic Partnership, 1495 F Street, NW. Metro Stations: McPherson Square (Blue/Orange Lines) or Metro Center (Red/Blue/Orange Lines). This event is FREE. However, registration is required. Visit: www.wdcep.com to register, or call 202.661.8670. Seating for this event is limited. Please register ASAP.

District Department of the Environment Offers Free Home Radon Testing Kits

January is National Radon Action Month (NRAM), and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) is taking action. DDOE is offering FREE Home Radon Test Kits and conducting Radon community workshops by request. Radon can not be seen, smelled, nor tasted. Radon is a pollutant that comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and can enter the indoor-air we breathe. Radon has been reported as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US that causes about 15,000 deaths a year. If a home is contaminated with radon, levels usually register high during cold months when windows and doors are closed. DDOE is encouraging DC residents to test their homes now because dangerous levels could unsuspectingly exist.

To get a FREE Home Radon Test Kit or request a workshop, DC residents should call the DDOE Radon Hotline at (202) 535-2302 or visit the DDOE website at ddoe.dc.gov.

Fire Hydrant Information

There has been some confusion about the different bands and rings around some fire hydrants in the area. All newly installed fire hydrants will have reflective tape/ bands placed around them to indicate two pieces of information to the Fire Department. 1) The observation of reflective tape/ band on a particular fire hydrant tells the Fire Department that it has been upgraded and 2) that a water distribution system flow availability analysis was performed.

Fire hydrants that do not have a reflective band/ tape have not been upgraded but in no way indicates a fire hydrant is out of service. On a daily basis, WASA electronically informs the Fire Department which hydrants have been upgraded.

If a fire hydrant is placed out of service you will observe an out of service ring placed on the fire hydrant nozzle. Fire hydrants that require maintenance will also receive a ring clearly indicating that. The objective is to eventually upgrade all public fire hydrants and affix the appropriate markings to better assist the Fire Department in suppressing fires and protecting District citizens.