



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*October 1, 2008*

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### **Dear Neighbors:**

As you are well aware, we are facing tough economic times. Just last week, the District's Chief Financial Officer predicted a \$131 million shortfall in revenue, following the tumult in the economic markets these past two weeks. Given the enormous progress the District has achieved in recent years, it would be a devastating blow to back-slide.

I hope Congress can very quickly come to an agreement to approve a responsible rescue plan that will put the nation on the course to an enduring solution to this financial crisis. This issue further demonstrates the urgent need for DC residents to have voting representation in Congress. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has been pushing for a quick and thoughtful resolution to this financial crisis but alas she has voice but no vote. I am committed to continuing the fight for voting representation in Congress and also for tightening our belt to make sure the DC government is able to provide the highest level of services that all District residents have come to expect.

Here is a list of some of DC Council hearings and highlights of the DC Council legislative meeting next Tuesday, October 7:

Thursday, October 2: 1:00 PM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson Agenda items: Ward 4 Neighborhood Investment Fund Boundary Expansion Amendment Act of 2008", Bill 17-0779. Purpose it to expand the boundaries of the Neighborhood Investment Fund boundaries in Ward 4.

Friday October 3: 10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson and Council Board of Elections and Ethics Investigation Special Committee, Agenda item: The Election Process and Procedures in the District of Columbia.

Tuesday, October 7 10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATIVE MEETING, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman

Wednesday, October 8: 10:00 AM, ROOM 123, INVESTIGATIVE HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Tommy Wells, Chairperson, Agenda item: DYRS Placements and Programs and Their Impact on Youth Violence and Public Safety.

Wednesday October 8: 11:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, PARKS AND RECREATION, Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson, Agenda item: Summer Program Review of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Please visit the DC Council website for more details at: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us).

*Muriel*

### **Changes to DMV fees go into effect today October 1**

Pursuant to the FY09 DC Budget Support Act, there are changes to driver's licenses, identification cards, vehicle inspections and excise tax exemptions for fuel efficient vehicles. Neighbors should have received a flyer in the mail over the last couple of days with information regarding these changes in the event you didn't here is a list of the changes.

Driver's licenses and identification cards will be valid for up to 8 years (previously only 5 years); the vehicle inspection fee will increase from \$25 to \$35, however the inspection will be valid for 4 years (previously only 2 years); the non-commercial driver's license fee will increase from \$39 to \$44; the excise tax exemption will be applicable for fuel efficient vehicles (excluding motorcycles and motorized bicycles) that exceed 40 MPG (city driving) and a one-time reduced registration fee will be applicable for fuel efficient vehicles that exceed 40 MPG (city driving). Additionally, the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles will roll out enhancements to its online services to include email renewal notices, status of out of state title requests, trip permit transactions (mainly for chartered buses and other motor carriers) and temporary driver's license, identification card and vehicle registration receipt printouts that extend expired credentials until they arrive in the mail. For more information please visit: [www.dmv.dc.gov](http://www.dmv.dc.gov) or call 311.

### **Councilmember Bowser and Mayor Fenty host ribbon cutting for new Riggs LaSalle Premier Athletic Field and Homecoming – October 3 & 4**

Mayor Adrian Fenty, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the DC Department of Parks and Recreation will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Premier Athletic Field at the Riggs LaSalle Community Center, 501 Riggs Road, NE on Friday, October 3, 2008 at 5:30 PM. This is DPR's first Premier Athletic Field and is also the largest multi-use artificial turf athletic field in the District of Columbia.

Immediately following the ribbon cutting ceremony, a pep rally will be held for the Lamond Riggs Steelers, a 40-year-old community organization which hosts 9 youth football teams, comprised of over 250 local young people. The two Lamond Riggs cheerleading squads will perform during the pep rally which kicks off their Homecoming weekend of activities including the Homecoming football game on Saturday, October 4.

The \$3.4 million Riggs LaSalle Premier Athletic Field project converted the existing football/soccer field and 60-foot baseball diamond to a 90-foot baseball diamond and new artificial turf playing surface, with inlaid game lines and markings. The baseball diamonds feature colored artificial turf infield cut-outs, using brown turf along the base paths and a combination of green and brown colored turf in the interior of the infield.

Other improvements made during the project include: lighting improvements, new seating for spectators, new press box, new scoreboard, new and repositioned dugouts for field safety, new goal posts, improved Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access, repairs and additions to existing fencing, new athletic field maintenance equipment.

This Premier Field joins the \$9.8 million, state of the art recreation center which was completed in April 2008 and has become the cornerstone of the community. It is one of the most environmentally sound DC government buildings with a LEED (Leadership Energy Environmental Design) certification of silver. For more information, please visit: [www.dpr.dc.gov](http://www.dpr.dc.gov)

### **Upshur Park Clean-Up – October 4**

Please join the Friends of the 16th Street Heights Parks on Saturday October 4 from 10 AM to 12 PM for a park clean up at Upshur Recreation Center, 4300 Arkansas Ave, NW. Please bring gloves and rakes. Refreshments will be provided. For more information please call Jean Badalamenti at (202) 829-2543 or email: [jnfz@starpower.net](mailto:jnfz@starpower.net).

### **Shepherd Elementary Fall Fest rescheduled – October 4**

Due to the rain last Saturday, the Shepherd Elementary School PTA's Fall Fest has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 4th, from 11am to 4 pm in front of the school on 14th Street between Jonquil and Kalmia, NW. There will be activities such as a moon bounce, a 20-kid obstacle course, a surfing wave rider (that adults can also play), face painting, a lucky-duck pick up, football toss, cupcake decorating, picture frame painting and much, much more. The Fall Fest is for the whole community and is a great opportunity for those of you who don't currently have a child at Shepherd, but want to hang out with your neighbors on a beautiful fall day to come by and enjoy the community spirit. The Fall Fest is a fundraiser for the school's many programs, including languages, teachers' aides, lunchroom monitors, classroom supplies, and more. For more information, visit [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org) and to volunteer, email Stephanie Scott at: [Stephanie.scott@dc.gov](mailto:Stephanie.scott@dc.gov).

### **Takoma Neighborhood Library gets a makeover**

The Takoma Neighborhood Library, the oldest neighborhood library in the DC Public Library system, located at 416 Cedar St, NW, Washington, DC will close on October 5, 2008 for a six-month makeover. The makeover will modernize the building while restoring some of its historic elements. One of four Carnegie-funded library buildings in the city, the one-story Renaissance Revival style brick building has continuously served the Takoma community since 1911. Improvements have been made to the building over the years, mainly to address heating and cooling, ADA accessibility and electrical upgrades.

This makeover will focus on the interior and exterior of the building. Work will include restoring woodwork, improving the lighting, developing a new floor plan, and refurbishing exterior masonry and metalwork. To compliment the restoration effort, the building will receive new carpet, windows, and furniture.

The Takoma Library is expected to reopen in the Spring of 2009. During the building's closure, library services can be accessed in three ways. Takoma Neighborhood Library staff will be operating out of a bookmobile located on site during the Library's normal business hours. The Juanita A. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library, located at 7420 Georgia Avenue NW, is the closest location that provides full Library services. In addition, the Library's website [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org) is available 24 hours a day.

### **Temporary closing of the Chevy Chase Community Center**

The Chevy Chase Community Center, located at 5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW, will also be closed for HVAC repairs and installations from October 1 to October 13. The temporary closures are necessary due to the need for additional work, and to ensure the continued safety and comfort of DPR patrons. For information about alternate DPR facilities, residents can contact DPR Customer Service at (202) 673-7647 or at [www.dpr.dc.gov](http://www.dpr.dc.gov).