



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



October 15, 2008

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Councilmember Bowser and Mayor Fenty announce development of 6425 14th Street, NW – October 16 and upcoming DC Council hearings**
- Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center celebrates first anniversary – October 17**
- New DCRA Virtual Permit Center opens at Home Depot**
- DPW expands recycling program**
- DC Medicare savings program has been expanded**

Muriel Bowser

Councilmember, Ward 4
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 406
Washington DC 20004
202-724-8052-voice
202-741-0908
mbowser@dccouncil.us

Dear Neighbors:

Please join me and Mayor Adrian Fenty tomorrow Thursday, October 16th at 10:30 AM in front of 6425 14th Street, NW, better known as The Tewkesbury, to announce the developer chosen to renovate the building into 26 mixed-income condominiums and also develop 54 single-room-occupancy units for senior housing at 1330 Missouri Ave NW. Both projects will have at least 51% of the units dedicated to affordable housing. These projects are being maintained for affordable housing through a joint effort with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

The Tewkesbury, at 6425 14th Street, is a 26-unit apartment that has sat vacant since the 1980s in the middle of the stable Brightwood community. Over time, the property has become an eyesore in an otherwise well-kept neighborhood. I would like to thank the community groups, especially the Brightwood Community Association and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A, who have worked diligently to bring this blighted property into compliance. I made a promise to rid the community of this nuisance property and we will move quickly to have this building restored to the grandeur the neighborhood once knew.

Upcoming DC Council hearings:

Friday, October 17

9:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, agenda item: Mayor's Fiscal Year 2009 gap-closing proposal. The public oversight roundtable will focus on the Mayor's emergency legislation implementing a Fiscal Year 2009 gap-closing plan. The public roundtable will explore related issues including: expenditure decreases, revenue proposals, spending pressures, revenues forecasts, and balancing the budget and four-year financial plan in light of the current economic downturn.

Tuesday, October 21

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, COMMITTEE MEETING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman

Please visit the new DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Muriel

Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center celebrates first anniversary – October 17

Please join Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Dr. Clarence Brown, Director of the Office on Aging, and Paul Granaldo, Vice President of Providence Hospital on Friday, October 17, 2008 from 10:00am to 2:00pm, to celebrate the first anniversary of the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW in the renovated site of the old Kennedy Theater. There will be tours of the facility as well as a reception.

The Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center became a wonderful addition to the Ward 4 community in the Fall of 2007 and joined the city's 12 other senior recreation program centers, where residents over the age of 60 may take part in programs that challenge them to remain active and involved in the larger community.

It is a great place for DC seniors to socialize, exercise, and participate in a variety of programs designed to help enhance quality of life. The Center promotes wellness as an optimum state of health and well-being. This is achieved through health promotion, health education, recreational activities and preventative disease education. The Center believes that the key to wellness is identifying health risks and teaching the necessary lifestyle changes to reduce those risks. Our fitness and nutrition programs are fun and designed to raise awareness about living a healthy lifestyle and getting more enjoyment out of life.

We encourage you to visit on Friday (or any day) and take a tour and pick up an activities schedule. Membership and services are free to all District of Columbia residents who are age 60 years and older.

The Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm. For more information contact the Center Director, Ms. Teresa Moore at 202-291-6170 or fax # 202-291-2790. The center is part of the Senior Service network supported and funded by the DC Office on Aging with day-to-day operations managed by Providence Hospital and the Wellness Institute.

New DCRA Virtual Permit Center opens at Home Depot

DCRA recently opened a Virtual Permit Center at DC's only Home Depot store at 901 Rhode Island Ave, NE. This permit center offers a popular online service, DCRA's "Postcard Permit" for home improvements. The permit center is located at a site that is popular for home improvement professionals and do-it-yourselfers. It is also Metro-accessible, right next to the Rhode Island Ave Metro station.

For the first time, District residents and licensed contractors planning home improvement projects can get both the materials they need, and the required permits, all in one trip. Permit applicants can also take advantage of Home Depot's extended, seven-day-a-week service hours: 6AM-10PM Monday-Saturday and 8AM-7PM Sunday.

The Virtual Permit Center is easy to find in the front of The Home Depot store. There are two self-service kiosks each equipped with computers linked to the District's Postcard Permit system. The online process for Postcard Permits at The Home Depot Virtual Permitting Center is exactly the same as from any other computer: The permit applicant submits the information required for the particular type of permit requested (e.g., plumbing, electrical, structural), pays the associated fee with a credit card, and prints out a paper permit for his or her records. The applicant can also call the DCRA Permits Customer Service Center at (202) 442-4589 at any time for assistance in completing the process.

DPW expands recycling program

On October 6th, the Department of Public Works (DPW) expanded its recycling collection to accept a much longer list of items for recycling, especially plastics. Now residents can recycle film plastics like grocery, produce, and dry cleaning bags, as well as aerosol cans and a variety of rigid plastic including plastic lawn furniture, toys and flower pots.

District residents exceed national recycling rates for newspapers, cardboard and plastic and glass bottles. But there are opportunities to increase the overall recycling rate by increasing the number of acceptable items and diverting more cardboard, steel and aluminum cans from the landfill to the recycling processing center. For a complete list of recyclables go to www.recycle.dpw.dc.gov.

DC Medicare savings program has been expanded

D.C. City Council won final approval for an expansion of the District's Medicare Savings Program. The approved resolution extends the program's coverage to an additional 16,000 seniors and individuals with long-term disabilities in the District of Columbia, providing an average savings of \$4,700 in annual healthcare costs. The new resolution eliminates the asset limit for the Medicare Savings Program, so personal savings are no longer taken into account when applying for the benefit.

The Medicare Savings Program pays for all of an individual's Medicare cost sharing – monthly premiums, annual deductibles and provider coinsurance payments. The only out of pocket costs that participants have are prescription drug co-payments of \$2.40 - \$6.00 each. To learn more, contact the GW Health Insurance Counseling Project at 202-739-0668, or call your local senior service organization. You can find additional information, eligibility criteria and flyers at this website. http://groups.google.com/group/DC_Medicare_Savings_Coalition

The GW Health Insurance Counseling Project is a not for profit organization that provides free information, assistance, legal services, and education about health insurance to people with disabilities and seniors living in the District of Columbia.