



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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IN THIS ISSUE ...

Councilmember Bowser unveils mosaic at Lamond Recreation Center – October 23

News on the 16th Street Heights Overlay from the Zoning Commission Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Development Plan

Free Home Energy Audits for District Residents

Ombudsman Releases End of School Year Report

Lafayette Elementary School's Annual Fall Festival – October 25

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Dear Neighbors:

On Thursday, October 23, 2008 I will unveil a 12 by 16 foot glass mosaic on the exterior of the Lamond Recreation Center, at the intersection of Kansas Avenue and Tuckerman Street, NE. This colorful glass mosaic, created by artist G. Byron Peck, includes references to native plant life, sports, and multi-generational friendships, and reflects the building's function as a center for community activities. Utilizing sustainable and recycled materials, the mosaic reflects the Lamond Recreation Center's status as the first LEED silver certified facility built by the D.C Department of Parks and Recreation. The Lamond Recreation Center mosaic was commissioned and made possible through generous funding from the D.C Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The unveiling will take place at the Lamond Recreation Center, 20 Tuckerman Street NE, at 4 PM tomorrow. For additional information contact Kendra Anderson at 202-724-5613 or kendra.anderson@dc.gov

Upcoming DC Council hearings:

Tuesday, October 28

2:00 PM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Jim Graham, Chairman, agenda items: Bill 17-907, the "Ward 4 ANC 4C07 Class B Full Service Grocery Store Amendment Act Of 2008" and Bill 17-941, the "Targeted Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium Act of 2008". Bill 17-907 would exempt a new, full service grocery store or substantially renovated full-service grocery store in ANC 4C07 from the current moratorium on applying for Class B alcoholic beverage licenses. Bill 17-941 would prohibit the sales of single containers of beer, malt liquor, or ale, by off-premises retailers located in a targeted area of Ward 4.

On July 15, I introduced Bill 17-0907, to exempt a new, full service grocery store (or substantially renovated full-service grocery store) within the boundaries of ANC 4C07 from the current Ward 4 moratorium on new Class B alcohol licenses. This legislation will enable a full-service grocery store to apply for a Class B alcohol license within ANC4C07. Tuesdays' hearing will enable us to hear from the community before DC Council takes action on this bill.

As many of you know on September 15, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia ruled and overturned the 2004 singles sales moratorium in Ward 4. During the September 17, 2008 legislative session I introduced both emergency legislation to avoid any lapse in the Ward 4 single sales ban and also permanent legislation to completely replace the 2004 measure. The hearing on Tuesday will deal with this permanent new legislation.

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

Muriel

News on the 16th Street Heights Overlay from the Zoning Commission

On October 20, the District of Columbia Zoning Commission approved the expansion of the 16th St Heights Overlay District. ANC 4C had petitioned for a map and text amendment to extend the Sixteenth Street Heights Overlay to properties located in the area bounded by Colorado Avenue on the north, Decatur Street on the south, 14th Street on the east, and 16th Street on the west. This was the first of two necessary votes and the record is now opened for 30 days for written comment only on the proposed action. All correspondence should be sent to: Zoning Commission c/o Office of Zoning 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210, Washington D.C, 20002. The correspondence should also include the case number: ZC 08-09. The final vote is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2008, 6:30pm. To obtain additional information contact the DC Office of Zoning at (202) 727-6311.

Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Development Plan

The Office of Planning is completing a community planning process with area stakeholders (including residents, ANCs, neighborhood organizations, DC Council staff, businesses, property owners, institutions and government agencies) to develop a Strategic Development Plan and Revitalization strategy for the area surrounding the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue, NE. The plan assesses neighborhood conditions, develops a vision for the area and provides a framework to guide future growth and development for six opportunity sites. The Office of Planning is currently taking comments on the draft plan. The public comment period closes on Thursday, November 13, 2008.

There will also be a mayoral hearing, Thursday, November 13, 2008 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm, at LaSalle-Backus Education Center, 501 Riggs Road, Washington, DC 20011. Each individual or representative of an organization who wishes to present testimony at the public hearing should provide his or her name, address, telephone number and name of organization represented (if any) to: Malaika Abernathy, Ward 4 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator (see contact information below) no later than 5 pm November 12, 2008. All oral presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes. Written statements may also be submitted for the record until 5:00 pm November 12, 2008. Written statements should be addressed to: Malaika Abernathy, Ward 4 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, DC Office of Planning, by mail at 801 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 4000, Washington, DC 20002, or by telephone at (202) 442-7617, or by fax at (202) 442-7638, or by email at malaika.abernathy@dc.gov.

Free Home Energy Audits for District Residents

District residents can prepare their homes for winter with a free energy audit from the District Department of the Environment (DDOE). The audits recommend easy, inexpensive ways to improve energy efficiency. For example, reducing air leaks can save up to 30 percent of the energy consumed in a home. In an older, historic home, this could mean as much energy loss as leaving a window open all winter. DDOE energy audits help residents save money and reduce global warming by wasting less energy.

DDOE has contracted with Elysian Energy, LLC and Patuxent Environmental Group to perform the audits. Inspectors measure energy characteristics, such as insulation levels, window efficiency, wall-to-wall ratios, heating and cooling system efficiency, the solar orientation of the home, and water heating systems. Diagnostic testing, which may include a blower door for air leakage and duct leakage testing, is often part of the rating.

At the end of the process, the homeowner or renter receives a one- to five-star rating for energy efficiency, and a report listing cost-effective ways to improve the rating. DDOE also offers information on tax credits and financing for energy-efficient home improvements. For more information, or to schedule an energy audit, call DDOE's Energy Office at (202) 673-6700 or visit our website www.ddoe.dc.gov.

Ombudsman Releases End of School Year Report

Ombudsman Tonya Vidal Kinlow announced the release of her office's End of School Year Report. The Office of the Ombudsman was created to assist DC residents seeking help resolving problems in three public education sectors: DC public schools (DCPS), public charter schools (PCS) and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC).

The law establishing the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education mandates development and distribution of monthly reports, as well as an end of the school year report. Each report provides real-time data to public education leaders about the types of issues public school families are experiencing in the schools. This is the first end of the school year report developed by the Office since it began operation in December 2007. The report contains comprehensive trend analysis and a report of Ombudsman activity from December 2007 through June 2008. The report notes that the Ombudsman's office has responded to inquiries from 433 individuals in its first seven months. Of those cases, the Ombudsman staff closed 325 cases by June 30, and had 104 pending completion. The average time to close the cases was 23 days.

As Ms. Kinlow continues community outreach efforts, residents can pick up flyers about the Ombudsman in each of the family-strengthening collaborative organization offices, public libraries, churches, schools and health clinics. The public can find monthly reports on the Ombudsman's activities on the Mayor's public education link at www.dc.gov and at www.ombudsman.dc.gov.

Lafayette Elementary School's Annual Fall Festival – October 25

We hope you will be able to join Lafayette Elementary School at 5701 Broad Branch Road, NW this Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 3:00 - 5:30 for their annual Fall Festival. There are activities for all ages, including the famous 6th grade haunted house, a cake walk, obstacle course, face painting, Halloween treat bag painting, a moon bounce, and much more! For more information please contact the school at 202-282-0116.