



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Happy Leap Year!

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Dear Neighbors:

On Tuesday, March 4, at 10AM, the DC Council will have another legislative session. Here are a few of the highlights of bills to be considered: The following bills will receive a final reading and final vote:

- **Fire Hydrant Inspection, Repair and Maintenance Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0437**, gives the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) and DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) to require WASA and FEMS to work together to remedy the problems with hydrants and water pressure.
- **Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act of 2007 (introduced as Paid Sick and Safe Days Act of 2007) Bill 17-0197** provides paid sick leave – a needed benefit for working families. At the February 5 legislative session, I introduced two amendments that helped balance the needs of small business and working families. These amendments are as follows: An employer with 100 or more employees shall provide for each employee not less than one hour of paid leave for every 37 hours worked, not to exceed 7 days per calendar year. An employer with at least 25, but not more than 99 employees shall provide for each employee not less than one hour of paid leave for every 43 hours worked, not to exceed 5 days per calendar year. An employer with 24 or fewer employees shall provide not less than one hour of paid leave for every 87 hours worked, not to exceed 3 days per calendar year.

The following will receive a first reading:

- **Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0086**, will eliminate the duplicate roles of DCRA and the Office of Tax and Revenue when determining whether a property is vacant and speed up the process by which a property can be declared vacant. It also doubles the vacant property tax rate from \$5 per \$100 of assessed value to \$10 per \$100 of assessed value.
- **Loretta Carter Hanes Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0493** will require pesticide applicators to provide information to prospective customers and residents concerning the type of pesticide to be used and provide safety information concerning that pesticide.

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

Muriel

Kudos to MPD for assistance with Blair Road traffic

Councilmember Bowser and ANC4B Commissioners have encouraged the MPD Motor Carrier Unit to crack down on oversized trucks and speeding along Blair Road. MPD conducted an operation on Blair Road from Eastern Avenue to Cedar Street between Wednesday and Friday last week. They inspected 113 vehicles, cited 167 violations, put 9 vehicles out of service, and issued 113 fines totaling \$6,455. The PSA officer will continue enforcement. Thanks MPD for helping to keep residents safe along Blair Road!

Brightwood Neighborhood Investment Plan--- Public Comment Period ends March 21

The Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) is an annual non-lapsing, revolving fund to finance economic development and neighborhood revitalization in 12 target neighborhoods. The NIF is funded through an annual appropriation of 17 percent of a personal property tax, not to exceed \$10 million.

The Mayor must develop NIF Investment Plans for each of the target areas using input from community stakeholders including: Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, residents, business owners, the faith community, not for profit organizations, etc... The purpose of each Investment Plan is to set community priorities for how the NIF funds should be utilized in the target area over a five year period.

The District of Columbia Office of Planning in partnership with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, worked with community stakeholders to develop an investment plan for the Brightwood target area, which is bounded by Fern Street and Fern Place to the north, 16th Street, NW to the west, 5th Street, NW to the east and Kennedy Street, NW to the south.

The Office of Planning has published the draft Brightwood Target Area Investment Plan for a 30 day public comment period. Comments must be postmarked by the close of business on March 21, 2008. The plan can be downloaded from www.planning.dc.gov under "Neighborhood Planning" under the Ward 4 link.

For more information or to submit comments, please contact Malaika Abernathy, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator-Ward 4, DC Office of Planning, by mail at 801 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 4000, Washington, DC 20002; by telephone at (202) 442-7617; fax at (202) 442-7638; or email at malaika.abernathy@dc.gov.

Riggs/South Dakota Plan—Public Meeting on Draft Plan —March 11

The Office of Planning will present the draft plan for the Riggs/South Dakota Area Plan to the community on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 PM at the LaSalle Elementary School, 501 Riggs Road, NE. Highlights of the presentation will include discussion on the following: a revised market analysis, revised opportunity sites and an overview of the redevelopment framework. Please visit www.planning.dc.gov under "Neighborhood Planning" and then look under either Ward 4 or Ward 5. For more information please contact Malaika Abernathy, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator-Ward 4, DC Office of Planning, (202) 442-7617; or email at malaika.abernathy@dc.gov.

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Lamond-Riggs Citizens Association and the Lamond-Riggs Development Task Force hosted a meeting last Saturday, February 23 where they provided a community update on the exciting mixed-use project coming to Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue. Demolition of a part of the site has begun and this Summer, DDOT will reconfigure the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue. This project, Fort Totten Square, will include approximately 690,000 square feet of residential space, including affordable units, approximately 100,000 square feet of retail space, ample parking and a pedestrian-friendly streetscape with landscaping. "The community has been eager for the redevelopment of the Tiger Mart site. This project will bring much needed retail and housing to an underutilized corner and make this intersection much more pedestrian friendly," Councilmember Bowser said during the meeting.

Learn about the DC-CAS test for students — March 12

Every April DCPS students in grades 3-8 and 10th graders too, take the DC-CAS test to assess their knowledge and skills in math, reading, writing and science. On Wednesday March 12th at 6:30 PM there will be an information session about the test at Barnard Elementary School, 430 Decatur Street, NW. Parents and care givers will be able to learn about why this test is so important and come away with useful tips for improving students' performance. For more information please contact the DCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement, Office of Data and Accountability at 202-442-5615.

Kennedy Street NW Revitalization Plan—Mayor's Public Hearing— March 13

The Office of Planning will hold a Public Hearing on the draft Kennedy Street NW Revitalization Plan on Thursday, March 13, 2008 from 7 to 9 PM at 324 Kennedy Street NW at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center. The plan can be downloaded at www.planning.dc.gov under "Neighborhood Planning" then look under the Ward 4 link. Please contact Malaika Abernathy, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator-Ward 4, DC Office of Planning, (202) 442-7617; or email at malaika.abernathy@dc.gov to testify at the hearing.

DPR 2008 Summer Camp registration begins March 3, 2008

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) offers a diverse array of exciting urban recreation and camping opportunities for young people ages 3 to 17 including sports camps, aquatic camps, therapeutic camps, and other day camps. DPR also offers Discovery Camps for youth ages 6 to 13, and Little Explorers Camps for youth ages 3 to 5. Camp Riverview is DPR's premier overnight residential camp located on the shores of the Potomac River in Scotland, MD. DPR Summer Camps 2008 will run June 23 –August 15, 2008, Monday to Friday, 9 am – 5 pm. Review the list of camps and schedules before registration begins. More information is available at: <http://dpr.dc.gov>.