



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*July 3, 2008*  
*Happy Fourth of July!*

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**Dear Neighbors:**

Here are some highlights from the July 1 legislative session:

- ★ Councilmembers Muriel Bowser, Carol Schwartz and Council Chair Vincent Gray presented Rev. Dr. Jerry A. Moore a recognition resolution on his 90th birthday. Rev. Moore was the first Republican elected to the DC Council, and served as a D.C. Council member-at-large for 15 years from 1969 to 1984.
- ★ Priority Employment for Economically Disadvantaged Youth in the Youth Employment Program Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-048, passed on final reading and will ensure that 30 percent of jobs in the DC government's youth employment program go to economically disadvantaged young people.

The following bills all passed on their first reading and will move to the next session:

- ★ Injured Fire Fighter Relief Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0676, which will require that members of the FEMS Department with severe performance-of-duty injuries shall have an extension of the allowable work days in a less-than-full-duty status from 64 days to 170 days; and to require the Department to employ those members in non-firefighting duties.
- ★ District of Columbia Youth Council Establishment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0582, which will establish the District of Columbia Youth Council to provide an organized youth perspective on various issues to the Council of the District of Columbia.
- ★ Animal Protection Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0089, which will amend the penalty for animal cruelty, abandonment, and fighting and to allow courts to order counseling, treatment, community service, or forfeiture of the right to possess animals for those convicted of animal cruelty, abandonment, or neglect.
- ★ Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008, B17-0492, will establish a sustainable energy utility to reduce the city's energy use, train residents for green jobs and help low-income residents limit their energy bills through improved efficiency.

Please visit the DC Council website for more details at: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us). The final legislative session prior to recess will be July 15, 2008.

*Muriel*

### **Reminder to use fireworks safely this Fourth of July**

Councilmember Muriel Bowser reminds residents to practice caution and follow all safety rules if using fireworks in their home celebrations this weekend. In the District of Columbia any fireworks or firecrackers that explode such as cherry bombs, roman candles, or floral shells are illegal. A complete list of approved fireworks is available on our website: [www.murielbowser.com](http://www.murielbowser.com) on the home page in the left hand column.

To reduce injuries, the DC Fire and EMS Department recommends the following safety tips:

- \* Always read and follow label directions.
- \* Always have an adult present.
- \* Only ignite fireworks outdoors.
- \* Always have water or sand nearby to extinguish fireworks after use.
- \* Never experiment or attempt to make fireworks.
- \* Light fireworks one item at a time.
- \* Never relight malfunctioning or dud fireworks.
- \* Store fireworks out of the reach of children.
- \* Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- \* Never throw fireworks at another person.
- \* Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- \* Stand at least 15 feet from burning cones and fountains.
- \* Do not light fireworks near combustibles, such as gasoline, newspapers, etc.
- \* Do not ignite fireworks that have been wet and then dried.
- \* Do not light fireworks at any place other than the fuse.
- \* Only use items that have the label clearly listing the manufacturer's name, address, and warnings.

For more information regarding firework safely visit the District Fire and EMS website at [www.fems.dc.gov](http://www.fems.dc.gov) or the Metropolitan Police Department at [www.mpdc.dc.gov](http://www.mpdc.dc.gov).

### **DPW's holiday schedule for trash, recycling and parking enforcement**

**Trash and Recycling Collections:** There will be no trash and recycling collections on Friday July 4. All Friday trash and recycling collections will be conducted on Saturday July 5. Trash and recycling containers should be put out for collection no earlier than 6:30 pm the night before collection and removed from public space by 8 pm on the day of collection. Ft. Totten Trash Transfer Station will be closed Friday. It will reopen Saturday for residents to bring bulk trash.

**Parking Enforcement:** DPW will suspend enforcement of parking meters, residential parking, and rush hour lane restrictions on Friday, July 4. It also will suspend towing of abandoned vehicles.

Other services that will be suspended for Independence Day include scheduled street and alley cleaning, graffiti removal, and nuisance abatement.

**Household Hazardous Waste/E-Cycling/Shredding:** The Benning Road Trash Transfer Station, at 3200 Benning Road, NE, will be open Saturday, July 5, 8 am to 3 pm to receive residents' unwanted toxic items, such as pesticides, batteries and motor oil. Electronics, including televisions, computers and cell phones, will be accepted. Residents also may bring up to five boxes of personal paper documents and credit cards to be shredded for free.

To view DPW's trash and recycling holiday schedule please visit <http://www.dpw.dc.gov> and click on Holiday Schedule under the "Information" header or call the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311 or (202) 727-1000 if calling from outside DC.

### **Zoning hearing on regulations rewrite: building height – July 10**

The Office of Planning (OP) is leading a multi-year public effort to review and revise the District's zoning regulations. It has been almost fifty years since the zoning regulations have been completely reviewed and updated.

This zoning review is based in part on the city's Comprehensive Plan. Following the Comprehensive Plan, at the end of the process, the District will have zoning regulations that meet the needs of our ever changing, thriving city. We will have regulations that guide the development of the city and manage the competing interests of neighborhood stability and economic and residential change.

There will be a hearing (the first of several) on Thursday, July 10 at 6:30 PM in the Office of Zoning hearing room at 441-4th Street, Suite 220 that will consider general rules applicable to the definition of the measurement of height. This case is No. 08-06-1 and more information can be obtained by calling 202-727-6311.

The Office of Planning has a special website to keep the public informed about the efforts to rewrite the zoning regulations at <http://www.dczoningupdate.org/>. This site contains information on the process and multiple ways for citizens and interested parties to get involved. This site can be used to sign up for working groups, read draft recommendations, and offer your comments on any phase of the project.

### **Congratulations Riggs-LaSalle Girls' Softball Team!**

On Saturday, June 21, 2008, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) hosted the Championship Tournament at the Riggs La Salle Community Center, 501 Riggs Rd., NE, to conclude the 2008 season of the DPR Girls' Softball League, Ages 11 to 15 division. The girls' softball team from the Riggs La Salle Community Center defeated the King Greenleaf Recreation Center team, 3 - 2, to earn the honors of 2008 league champion. Five teams and 90 players participated in the DPR Girls Softball league this season. For more information please contact the DPR Athletic Programs Administration at (202) 671-1700.

### **What does that utility mark on my street mean?**

Our office frequently receives inquiries about which utility company has placed marks on their street. We thought it would be useful to compile a list. Here are the utilities and the color of the markings they generally use to mark streets for future work to be performed.

- Pepco electric: Red
- Washington Gas: Yellow
- DC WASA water: Blue
- DC WASA sewer: Green
- Communications (phone, cable, etc): Orange

Residents can also call Miss Utility 1-800-257-777 for additional information about the markings.