



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



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## **Dear Neighbors:**

I'm so pleased to be going to the 2008 Democratic National Convention next week to represent Ward 4 and the District of Columbia and also to continue to highlight the plight of DC residents and how we are disenfranchised from the electoral process. I will have the opportunity to witness the great zeal and enthusiasm our country has for the democratic process. However, the fact remains that DC residents do not have voting rights in Congress. Many people outside of the DC metropolitan area are not aware that we are not full members of our nation's electoral process. I look forward to talking to people at the Convention to help educate them on how they can help end our taxation without representation.

District residents are entitled under the Constitution to the same rights and responsibilities as all United States citizens. We have uncomplainingly accepted our responsibilities, including the obligation to serve in the defense of our country and the obligation to pay taxes just like all other citizens. I don't need to remind you why your interests should be represented. We can only fully do that with a vote in our national legislature. There is simply no defense for not granting this basic right.

The 2008 Convention program will highlight Americans coming together to change the course of our nation and will be a terrific opportunity to highlight DC residents' inability to participate in our national legislature.

If you are interested in following the Convention experience, there will be a daily webcast at: [www.demconvention.com](http://www.demconvention.com) and you are also invited to submit questions by email and video to be answered from the floor of the Convention hall. I hope you will do so and exercise your right to participate in this historic event.

*Muriel*

### **Councilmember Muriel Bowser and Mayor Adrian Fenty announce development partner for the 3800 block of Georgia Avenue, NW**

Today, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Councilmember Muriel Bowser announced, ahead of schedule, the development partner for the three DC government owned properties in the 3800 block of Georgia Avenue. Donatelli Development and Mosaic Urban have been selected in the competitive process to build a combination of restaurants, retail stores and housing at 3813 and 3815 Georgia Avenue, NW as well as a vacant lot at 3825-29 Georgia Avenue, NW. This is a \$5 million mixed-use project and is expected to generate: about 50 new permanent jobs, 5,000 square foot retail space, and at least 5,000 square feet of space for sit-down restaurants, 30 percent of the 12 housing units will be affordable.

3815 Georgia Avenue was once the home of the legendary Billy Simpson's House of Seafood and Steak which was built in 1923. "I hope the new project will continue the long tradition of having a restaurant, like Billy Simpson's, that offers great food at great prices, and a place where neighbors can meet," said Councilmember Bowser.

Today began the negotiation process with the development team. All the comments and suggestions collected at the community meeting held last night will be incorporated into the negotiations with the developer. Ground breaking should be in early 2009.

These projects will join other new mixed-use developments nearing completion above the Petworth Metro Station at 3700 Georgia Avenue, known as Park Place, with 153 condos and 17,000 square feet of retail space with 20% of the units to be sold at less than 60% of the area median income. And also the Georgia Commons at 3910-3912 Georgia Avenue, NW with 19,500 square feet of retail and 130 rental apartments above. The Georgia Commons includes 57 affordable housing units. The Safeway Company previously announced plans to replace the 21,000 square foot store at Georgia Avenue and Randolph Street, NW with a state of the art 55,000 to 60,000 square foot lifestyle store. The store would occupy the ground floor with a multi-story residential building above it. Parking would be provided in an underground parking garage. The new store will feature floral, service seafood, service meat, organic produce, prepared food and deli departments, a drycleaner, Starbucks, pharmacy and a wide variety of grocery products including organic grocery items.

### **Tomorrow: DCPS Annual Beautification Day – August 23**

Councilmember Muriel Bowser encourages residents to come out for an hour or two or five to help with the Annual DCPS Beautification Day, tomorrow, Saturday August 23 from 8:00am to 1:00pm in preparation for the start of school on August 25th.

Volunteers are needed to help with projects at schools across the Ward. They are also looking for site managers to facilitate the day's activities at each school. If you are interested in volunteering please visit: <http://www.k12.dc.us> or email: [dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov](mailto:dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov), or call 202-442-5447.

Even if you have just ONE hour to volunteer on Saturday, August 25 that would be much appreciated. Our schools need your help! Thanks!

### **Petworth and Emery Recreation Centers undergo renovations**

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has begun two renovation projects at Ward 4 recreation centers. The Petworth Recreation Center at 801 Taylor St., NW will begin renovations on September 2 and work as already begun at the Emery Recreation Center, at 5801 Georgia Avenue, NW.

At the Petworth Recreation Center, there will be extensive work throughout the interior of the building and the roof will be replaced. In the interior of the building, DPR will: renovate the restrooms; paint the interior; install a new tile floor; renovate the kitchen area, including the installation of new appliances and cabinets; re-stain the hardwood floors; and install new exterior doors leading to the spray park. New blinds and furniture will be added upon completion of the interior renovations. Work will begin on September 2, 2008 and is scheduled to be completed by late October 2008. The building will be closed during the project, but the grounds of the recreation center will remain open.

At the Emery Recreation Center, work has begun to improve the multipurpose field and exterior basketball courts. The outdoor play courts will be closed until October to allow them to be converted to basketball-only courts and expanded to high school regulation size. A new playing surface and new basketball standards will also be installed. The work to the play courts is in addition to other work currently underway,

including: renovation of the softball and football practice field; installation of an irrigation system to service the softball and football practice fields and new infield cut-out and installation of backstop fencing for the softball field.

If you have more questions about either renovation project, please contact the office at 202-724-8052 or also contact DPR at 202-673-7665.

### **More District Residents to Get Help With Utility Bills**

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), administered by the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), typically closes in June when its funds run out for the year. This year, through an infusion of \$1.3 million from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development the program will remain open until Fiscal Year 2008 ends September 30. This means that about 1,000 more low-income residents will receive energy assistance from the District Government this year. Nearly 30,000 residents have already received grants toward their utility bills, totaling almost \$18 million.

LIHEAP provides one-time grants (typically between \$250 and \$1,000) for low-income residents who have received a disconnection notice for electricity or gas service, or who are already disconnected. The amount of assistance is based on household size, total household income, heating source, and type of dwelling.

To apply for a grant, please visit the DDOE Energy Office at the Frank Reeves Municipal Center, 2000 14th Street, NW (Suite 300 East) or call the Energy Office Hotline at (202) 673-6750. Applications are also available online at <http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/cwp/view,a,1209,q,493111.asp>.