



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*September 12, 2008*

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### **Dear Neighbors:**

Here are some highlights of measures to be considered at Tuesday's session:

- ★ **Protection of Students with Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0654.** This legislation will require that the State Education Agency develop and administer a Certificate of Approval process for nonpublic special education schools and programs by January 1, 2009; to prohibit the State Education Agency from placing students in nonpublic special education schools or programs that use aversive intervention techniques.
- ★ **Construction Codes Amendment Resolution of 2008, PR 17-0866.** This legislation will approve the proposed rules to amend Title 12 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.
- ★ **Section 8 Preservation Act of 2007, Bill 17-0441.** This legislation will protect the availability of publicly-assisted affordable rental housing, including Section 8 housing, for low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income households.

During the upcoming session, my colleagues and I will also continue work on a number of important issues including election procedures, handgun legislation, school reform and the summer jobs program.

This afternoon, I joined Mayor Adrian Fenty for the "topping out" ceremony for the Residences at Georgia Avenue, at 4100 Georgia Avenue, NW. "Topping out" consists of finishing the concrete super structure of a building. Now the walls will be filled in and brick laid. This is a 7 story mixed-use development project with 90,000 square feet total. There are 72 one and two bedroom rental apartments that will be 100 percent affordable housing at 60% area median income. Also 14 units will be set aside for participation in the DC Housing Authority voucher program. The first floor is 11,000 square feet and Yes! Organic Market will be the tenant in that space. There is also one level of below grade parking that will use space saver technology. This is a new parking mechanism that enables you to drive into the space and the space rises above to fit another car underneath. The building also will have a green roof. Occupancy is scheduled for February 2009

You may recall, I introduced legislation on July 15th 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. ANC 4C voted to support this and I look forward to a full vetting in the community along with a DC Council hearing during the Fall session.

Please visit the DC Council website for more details at: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us).

*Muriel*

### **DC Youth Orchestra Open House - September 13**

Come learn more about the DC Youth Orchestra (DCYOP) and check out the instruments. DCYOP offers beginning, intermediate, and advanced music instruction for ages 4½-19 for violin, viola, cello, string bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, percussion, recorder, harp, and beginning guitar. Fall semester starts the week of September 15. For more information and/or registration forms: call 723-1612, e-mail [info@dcyop.org](mailto:info@dcyop.org) or visit [www.dcyop.org](http://www.dcyop.org). DCYOP has been providing music education to our community since 1960.

DCYOP open house and classes are held at Coolidge High School at Sheridan & 5th Streets, NW. Enter from the parking lot at the rear of the building off Sheridan.

### **Car Free DC Day and Ward 4 activities – September 22**

Car Free Day is an international event celebrated every September 22nd in which people are encouraged to travel around their community without their car. Car Free Day was first celebrated in Washington, DC last year with approximately 1,000 participants committing to be car free for the day. On September 22, 2008

Car Free Day is expanding to a regional event that encompasses the Washington Metropolitan Area. Car Free Day is an opportunity to see how your neighborhood might look and work with a lot fewer cars.

Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser encourages neighbors to participate in Car Free DC day in the many ways that are available. She will be participating in Car Free DC in two ways: 1) To encourage people to use Metro Bus, she will be handing out free SmartTrip cards to passengers riding the Metro Extra Bus Route 79 at Kennedy and Georgia Avenue, NW at 8:30 AM, and 2) To illustrate the treasures you can see when out walking, she is hosting a walking-tour of the new Brightwood Heritage Trail that was unveiled in August. We won't have time to walk the whole trail but please join us at 5:30 PM on the west side of Georgia Avenue in front of the Emery Recreation Center at 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW near one of the 18 poster-sized street signs that comprise the trail. We will have a guided tour of a few of the storyboards and will end up around 7 PM at the new Brightwood Bistro at 5832 Georgia Avenue, NW (corner of Georgia and Missouri) where they will offer drink and appetizer specials for participants.

Please visit [www.carfreemetrodc.com](http://www.carfreemetrodc.com) for more information, to take the Car Free DC pledge and be eligible to win great prizes to reduce your carbon footprint.

### **DC WRAP grants still available to eligible families**

The District of Columbia Weatherization, Rehabilitation, and Asset Preservation Program (DC WRAP) is sponsored by the DC Department of the Environment/Energy Office and Energy Programs Consortium and provides grants for direct services in eligible homes to improve their energy efficiency and housing affordability. DCWRAP could provide eligible home owners with up to \$2,300 in weatherization improvements and a variety of cost-effective energy efficiency measures including lighting, insulation, furnace and air conditioning maintenance and repair and refrigerator and appliance replacement. Each home will receive a comprehensive energy audit at no cost to determine what energy efficient measures would likely benefit the home. Families will have to provide proof the home is their principle place of residence, the home cannot be in receivership or threatened by foreclosure and the total income of all income producing residents of the home falls within the range set for family size: For example, for a family of four, the maximum income would be \$60,000.

This is timely grant opportunity since energy costs are rapidly rising and temperatures are cooling. We are trying to make this as seamless a process as is possible and are trying to reach as many eligible families as possible. For more information please contact, Esther Siegel, Programs Coordinator, Energy Programs Consortium, 1615 M St NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036 [esiegel@energyprograms.org](mailto:esiegel@energyprograms.org), 301-587-1739 (direct line) or go to: [www.energyprograms.org](http://www.energyprograms.org).

**DC Office on Aging is looking for Centenarians**

The D. C. Office on Aging is preparing for the Twenty Second Annual Salute to District of Columbia Centenarians. Each year, residents who are 100 years of age or older are recognized for their contributions to our city. The DC Office on Aging will have a luncheon celebration for all the centenarians in October 2008. They need your help to identify all of the centenarians in your neighborhood.

Please contact Mr. Courtney Williams at the DC Office on Aging, at 441 Fourth Street N.W. Suite 900 or call (202) 727-8370 or email [Courtney.Williams@dc.gov](mailto:Courtney.Williams@dc.gov) by September 29 if you know of any of your church members, customers, friends or neighbors who are centenarians. Thanks.