



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



September 5, 2008

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Dear Neighbors:

The National Weather Service has issued a Tropical Storm Watch for early Saturday and throughout the day. Gusty winds are expected to play a part of this storm. Also heavy rain associated with Tropical Storm Hanna will move north across the region. Along the path of this storm, rains of 3 to 6 inches are expected. Latest flash flood guidance indicates that amounts of 3 to 4 inches in 3 hours or less will cause small streams and creeks to flow out of their banks.

DC government is using the following websites to post additional information: www.72hours.dc.gov and www.hsema.dc.gov The District of Columbia government agencies are mobilizing personnel, equipment and other resources in anticipation of possible severe weather this weekend.

- ★ The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is staging generators and portable stop signs for rapid deployment to critical intersection and other vulnerable locations. Traffic control officers are on stand-by in the event they are needed to direct traffic at critical intersections.
- ★ The D. C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) is checking and cleaning catch basins in neighborhoods with repetitive flooding issues such as the Bloomingdale neighborhood in northwest. The authority also has portable pumps and generators that will be pre-staged at problem areas.
- ★ The Department of Public Works has equipment ready to assist with debris removal and is stockpiling sandbags for possible distribution in the event of localized flooding.
- ★ Both the Metropolitan Police Department and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department have personnel and apparatus on standby, including inflatable boats, in the event they need to perform water rescues or deal with other storm-related incidents.
- ★ Pepco advised that if you see a downed power line, stay away from it. Assume that all downed power lines are live and extremely dangerous. Don't touch any person or object that is in contact with a power line; the current could flow through you. Immediately call the Pepco emergency service number at 202-872-3432 to report downed wires. Call 911 only if there is an associated emergency such as a fire, automobile accident or, if medical assistance is required.
- ★ If you have a flooded basement in your home, never attempt to turn off power or operate circuit breakers while standing in water. Electricity and water are a dangerous combination. Even wading in a shallow puddle or flooded basement that is exposed to an energized line could cause a harmful or potentially fatal electrical contact.

Neighbors are encouraged to review their emergency plans and make sure all information is up-to-date and correct. Please check the status of your emergency kit and replenish any items that may be low. Water and non-perishable food to last for at least 72 hours for each household

member is recommended along with any medical supplies, prescriptions or other specialized items. For more information about how to make an emergency kit or a family emergency plan, please visit www.72hours.dc.gov or call 311.

Muriel

Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative's Back to School Block Party – Rescheduled to September 7

The Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Mayor's Office of the Clean City in collaboration with Motivate Me for Life, the City-Wide Coordinating Council – Youth Violence Prevention Program, and the Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative are pleased to invite you to a Stop the Violence, Back to School Block Party which has been RESCHEDULED for Sunday, September 7, 2008 from 2 PM to 7 PM in the 1100 block of Allison Street, NW (at Georgia Avenue, NW). There will be food, music, give away items, school supplies and lots of community spirit to spread around! Please call 202-722-1815 for more information.

Hamilton Park Clean-Up – September 7

The Friends of 16th Street Heights Parks is hosting a community spruce up at Hamilton Park, 1340 Hamilton Street, NW, on Sunday September 7 from 9 AM to 11 AM to help the park prepare for soccer season. Please come join your friends and neighbors to pick up trash, haul dead branches and clean up the field and playground. There will be drinks and muffins. Please bring your own rakes and gloves. For more information please contact Jean Bad

Unity in Your Community – Activities begin September 12

MPD's Fourth District along with Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser's Office and the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation and other government agencies are hosting a series of targeted neighborhood clean up events during the next few weeks. These events will focus on street sweeping, tree trimming, mulching for tree boxes and checking street lighting. The fire department will check smoke detectors and DPW will also tow abandoned vehicles. The first event will be for PSA 401 and will start at 8th and Dahlia Street, NW from 9 am to 11 AM on Friday, September 12. PSA 402 will focus on the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Somerset Street, NW on September 19th from 9 AM to 11 AM. On September 26 the work will move to PSA 403 and the 300-500 blocks of Delafield Place, NW from 9 AM to 11 AM. We will post additional dates and locations as they approach. For more information please contact MPD Officer Chante Brodie at: 202-715-7418 or by email chante.brodie@dc.gov

Three education meetings this week – September 8th, 10th and 13th

The Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) has produced a nearly final draft of the State Education Strategic Plan, which is available on the OSSE website (www.osse.dc.gov) today September 5th. The five-year plan outlines the goals, objectives, strategies and action steps that will focus and guide the work of OSSE as they strive to ensure all District of Columbia residents receive an excellent education. There will be a public roundtable to review the plan on Monday September 8 from 6 to 8 PM at Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy—Parkside Campus at 3701 Hayes Street NE, Washington, DC 20019. Please RSVP to Kathryn Aisenberg by Monday, September 8th by noon at Kathryn.Aisenberg@dc.gov or (202) 368-3101.

The District of Columbia State Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 10, 2008. At the meeting, the State Board will receive public opinion and discussion points regarding the essential role of family contributions in education. The meeting will begin at 5:00 pm at 441 4th Street, NW, in the District of Columbia State Board of Education Chambers, located on the ground floor of the building. Neighbors who wish to comment at the meeting are required to notify the State Board of Education in advance by contacting the Executive Director, Beverley Wheeler, by phone at (202) 741-0888 or by email at Beverley.Wheeler@dc.gov before the close of business Monday, September 8, 2008. The meeting will air live on DSTV Comcast Channel 99 and RCN Channel 18.

There will be a DC Family Education Expo on Saturday, September 13 at McKinley Technology Senior High School located at 151 T Street, NE, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all DC residents – parents, students, educators and community organizations. The theme of the Expo is “Education Excellence: All Students, All Parents, All Families” and is a citywide event for offer parents and families the opportunity to receive information and learn about educational resources and tools that will help them and their children succeed in school. The sessions will cover the gamut of topics from pre-k to postsecondary and will focus on literacy, lifelong learning, special education, and higher education financial resources. Translation and interpretation will be available to participants with limited English language skills.

In addition to the workshops, an exhibit hall will host community groups, nonprofit organizations, and D.C. government agencies that will share information about the education programs and services available to parents and families. A children’s pavilion and childcare will be available. The Expo also will offer a light breakfast and lunch to participants. The DC Family Education Expo is accessible by Metro on the Red Line to the New York Avenue/Florida Avenue/Gallaudet University station. For more information please call 202-678-8060, 202-727-6436 or visit: www.osse.dc.gov for more information about the Expo. Participants can register online or at the event.