



October 19, 2007

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Dear Neighbors -

Here is the DC Council calendar for the upcoming week:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

10:00 AM, ROOM 120, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, PARKS AND RECREATION, Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson - Agenda items: 1. "Capital Projects, Facilities Maintenance" 2. "Athletic Facilities Maintenance".

11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "Green Economic Development and its Benefit to Small Business in the District of Columbia".

2:00 PM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, David A. Catania, Chairperson
Agenda items: 1. "Health Services Planning Program Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0362. 2. "Health Services Planning Program Re-establishment Act Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0358.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, COMMITTEE MEETING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman

MEASURES IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE: 1. "Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Clarification Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0102. 2. "District of Columbia Regional Airports Authority Clarification Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0236. 3. "Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center Designation Act of 2007", Bill 17-0368. 4. "Historic Preservation Review Board Tersh Boasberg Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0430. 5. "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 2024, S.O. 05-1609, Act of 2007", Bill 17-0191.

MEASURES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES: 1. "Animal Protection Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0089. 2. "Student Access to Treatment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0092. 3. "Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0076. 4. "District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics Charles R. Lowery, Jr. Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0257. 5. "Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Peter B. Feather Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0355. 6. "Director of the Department of Human Services Clarence H. Carter Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0355.

3:00 PM ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "Police and Fire Cadet Programs Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0238.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

10:00 AM, ROOM 120, JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE, Jack Evans, Chairperson and COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0086.

11:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, Marion Barry, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "Evictions with Dignity Amendments Act of 2007", Bill 17-0061.

12:00 NOON, ROOM 120, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE, Jack Evans, Chairperson Agenda items: 1. "American Sociological Association Revenue Bonds Project Approval Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0459. 2. "American Immigration Lawyers Association Revenue Bonds Project Approval Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0460.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Tommy Wells, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "District of Columbia Libraries FY 2007 Close Out Review".

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

Muriel

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Fourth District MPD Drug Raid and Arrests

Muriel would like to thank the Fourth District MPD Vice Unit who conducted a narcotics search in the 500 block of Oneida Street NE on October 16th around midnight in reference to drug complaints in that area. They made four arrests and seized drugs and money. Commander Burton will have the vice unit continue to target known drug areas. Thanks to the community for your continued vigilance.

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Randolph Towers Cooperative – Investing in Quality Affordable Housing

Muriel attended the ground breaking ceremony on Thursday October 18 for the Randolph Towers Cooperative new condo building at 3900 and 3902 14th Street, NW. Two years ago the tenants at the Randolph Towers Apartments formed the Randolph Towers Cooperative to purchase their building. The Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), along with Eagle Bank and the Reinvestment Fund helped the cooperative acquire their building. Renovations are beginning now to create 137 condominium units which will provide lower and moderate income residents the opportunity to purchase their unit at below-market prices and achieve the American dream of home ownership. The renovation is expected to take 15 months to complete. Congratulations to the Randolph Towers Cooperative on this milestone!

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DDOT's pilot Visitor Parking Program Coming Soon to Ward 4!

Muriel received an update from DDOT Director Emeka Moneme on the status of the Visitor Permit Parking (VPP) pilot program to launch soon in Ward 4.

One of the last steps prior to implementation is to finalize the regulations granting DDOT the authority to conduct this pilot program. Those regulations are expected to become effective today October 19th.

DDOT has met with all of the affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) and is working closely with the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to ensure that this program is a success.

The VPP program is intended to respond to citizen's concerns regarding parking difficulties experienced by their guests and service providers under the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program.

DDOT will mail Visitor Parking Permits to the households of Ward 4 RPP Permit holders for use at any time by guests or service providers. Only one permit per household will be issued. This permit will be good for one year, will allow parking within the permit-holder's neighborhood (using ANC boundaries rather than the entire ward), and, unlike the current visitor parking pass obtained at the 4th District Police headquarters, will not be tied to any particular vehicle or guest. Information on how to obtain a visitor permit will be made available to residents who reside on a RPP street, but are not RPP permit holders.

As more information becomes available we will update the community through this newsletter. Also for more information please contact: Fran Harris, Program Analyst, Public Space Policy Branch, District Department of Transportation, desk 202-673-6535, main 202-671-2333, fax 202-671-636 or at www.ddot.dc.gov.

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Upcoming Events

Main Street Takoma Fall Clean-up Day – October 20

Get involved! Clean it up! Pick it up! Plant it and watch it grow! Grab your garden tools and come on out to Main Street Takoma's Fall Clean Up Day on Saturday, October 20, from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. (Rain date: November 3).

Volunteers will be sweeping, cleaning, weeding and mulching 4th Street, NW, from the Takoma Theatre to the Metro, including the gathering point at Triangle Park. Additional gathering points are at Laurel Avenue by the clock tower, and Morrison Park at Takoma Junction. For more information about Clean Up Day, please visit www.mainstreetakoma.org or write to: designcommittee@mainstreetakoma.org. Main Street Takoma is a volunteer-driven organization.

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Lead Poisoning Awareness Fair – October 20

Please join the Children's Health Forum, the DC Department of Health, and other community-based organizations on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at the Reeves Center, 14th and U Streets, NW in Washington, DC from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for a lead poisoning awareness fair. There will be free lead tests for children, education on lead safety for families, lead screening for toys, and lead-safe work practices for contractors and other home renovators.

Childhood lead poisoning is a completely preventable disease, and by working together we can ensure our children have bright and healthy futures. For more information please contact Traci Vincent at (202) 347-6143 or tvincent@chf4kids.org.

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Brightwood Transportation Study – October 22

Muriel encourages as many Brightwood residents as possible to attend an Open House on Neighborhood Transportation Issues to be held on Monday, October 22nd from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Fort Stevens Recreation Center, 1327 Van Buren Street, NW.

Neighbors are also invited to join an optional "walk around" to be conducted by the DDOT study team with the Brightwood Community Association and Brightwood ANC Commissioners prior to the meeting. The walk will begin at 3:30 pm on October 22nd (prior to the meeting) at Piney Branch and Rittenhouse, proceeding to 14th Street. The walk will end at the Fort Stevens Senior Center at 13th and Van Buren Streets, the location for the meeting.

This is the first meeting to discuss the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Brightwood Transportation Study. The primary purpose of the meeting is for residents to identify transportation issues and concerns in the neighborhood. Residents' input is needed to get this study underway to make necessary changes to improve traffic and pedestrian safety on neighborhood streets.

Written comments may be sent in advance or presented at the meeting to:
Mr. Cobby Williams
District Department of Transportation, 2000 14th Street, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20009
Or email: cobby.williams@dc.gov

At the meeting, the DDOT study team will briefly go over the preliminary scope and schedule for the study, which will cover from Van Buren Street NW to the north, 14th street to the west, Peabody Street to the south, and 5th Street to the east. After hearing from residents at the meeting, DDOT will fine-tune the study scope, collect data, and propose solutions that will be brought back to the neighborhood for consideration.

For further information or if you have special needs to be accommodated during this meeting please contact: Deborah Matherly at (202) 303-2653 at The Louis Berger Group or email dmatherly@louisberger.com.

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Georgia Avenue-Petworth Retail Forum - October 23

Muriel encourages residents to attend the Office of Planning's Retail Forum for the Georgia Avenue-Petworth neighborhood on Tuesday, October 23rd from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Green Door Service Agency, 1221 Taylor Street, NW. The forum will focus on the Georgia Avenue - Petworth commercial district, and will include a panel discussion on retail opportunities and challenges in the area. The forum will also include a discussion with residents on shopping habits and buying preferences.

This forum is part of the *Retail Action Strategy*; a citywide assessment of the District's retail potential. The *Strategy* will develop approaches to strengthen the District's retail base, as well as, ensure that neighborhoods are appropriately served by retail. The goal is to recapture significant retail spending that flows out of the District and promote vibrant commercial districts that will create expanded opportunities for small and local retailers. The *Strategy* is a collaborative project between the Office of Planning, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the Department of Small and Local Business Development and the Washington DC Economic Partnership. For more information, please contact Sakina Khan at the Office of Planning at 202-442-7600 or by email: sakina.khan@dc.gov.

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DPW Hazardous Waste Collection Day – October 27

The DC Department of Public Works (DPW) will hold its fall household hazardous waste and electronics recycling drop-off day Saturday, October 27, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Benning Road Trash Transfer Station at 3200 Benning Road, NE (at Anacostia Avenue, first left after crossing the river).

Residents may bring old cleaning and gardening chemicals; pesticides and poisons; acids, varnish and oil-based paints; solvents; aerosols; wood preservatives; spent batteries of all kinds; roofing tar; chemistry sets; automotive fluids, computer monitors, and TV screens to the collection site for free, environmentally safe disposal or recycling. Monitors and TV screens must be intact, not cracked, punctured or shattered. For more information please visit: <http://dpw.dc.gov/dpw/cwp/view,a,1200,q,575095.asp>

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Volunteers needed for Thanksgiving basket assembly – November 19-21

Muriel will be distributing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families and senior citizens this November. There will be three opportunities to sort and assemble the food baskets on November 19, 20 and 21st from 8 AM to 8 PM. If you are able to help collect food and assemble the baskets on any of those days, please contact Dr. Gloria Dickerson, Constituent Services Coordinator by calling 202-724-8052 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays or by email: gdickerson@dccouncil.us

Also Muriel needs the names and contact information for potential recipients of the Thanksgiving baskets. Please contact Dr. Gloria Dickerson at the number and email address above if you know of needy families or seniors in your neighborhood. Please have their contact information available to give Dr. Dickerson.

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Resources

Free Aerobics Classes at Rudolph Elementary School

Free aerobics classes are offered at Rudolph Elementary School at 5200 Second Street, NW (2nd and Hamilton Streets, NW) every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 PM. This program is sponsored by the Washington Hospital Center. For more information and to register for the class please call Johnette Wilson at 202-877-7489.

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Trice Hickman releases her debut novel – October 27

Please join Ward 4 resident Trice Hickman and neighbors for the release of her debut novel, *Unexpected Interruptions* on Saturday October 27th at Duke's City, 1208 U Street, NW from 6 to 8 PM. Ms. Wilson will be signing copies of her new novel.

The book has reached #2 on Amazon.com for advance sales. Please join us before Trice Hickman begins her fall 2007 *Unexpected Interruptions* Book Tour to seven cities. "I'm excited about the opportunity to meet readers and share in discussions about the book," said Ms. Hickman. For more information, please contact Ms. Hickman at: trice@trichickman.com.

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