



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



December 28, 2007

Happy New Year!

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Sekou Biddle**

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Dear Neighbors:

Sekou Biddle, our Board of Education member for District 2, which is Wards 3 and 4, recently updated me on the results of the process to approve standards for DC Public Schools in health, physical education, and world languages.

During the November 30th public hearing, more than 30 individuals and groups shared a variety of testimony and made suggestions to the standards. There were significant and material changes that needed to be made to world languages standards and for that reason the Board of Education has asked the State Superintendent for Education's staff to make those revisions and present another version of this document in the future. The health standards were met with a great deal of support. The Board of Education did make some minor changes including emphasizing the teaching of abstinence as the best strategy to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and strengthening the definition of discrimination to match what is currently reflected in the District's Human Rights Act. Physical education underwent some minor changes and realignment as well. After another meeting in mid-December, we reviewed the changes and offered some additional suggestions and changes. The final step is for the State Superintendent of Education, Deborah Gist and her staff, to present the health and physical education standards to the State Board for their approval.

Mr. Biddle feels very good about the final product and the level of public participation and input that went into creating these standards. "This was a diligent and deliberate process. Its end product is a set of top flight standards our education community can be proud of," Sekou said.

I hope this is helpful information. Please visit the website for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education at:
<http://osse.dc.gov/seo/site/default.asp?seoNav=|31191|e> for continual updates.

Muriel

MPD's Gun Amnesty Program takes 279 guns off the street

Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier announced the results of a Gun Amnesty Program that was conducted Saturday, December 15, 2007 at three locations in the District of Columbia. The Gun Amnesty Program, which is a part of the Metropolitan Police Department's commitment to reducing gun violence in the District, offered an opportunity for people to turn in their weapons to authorities without fear of prosecution. During the day-long program, a total of 279 total guns were turned in. The total amount paid under this program was \$14,450.

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There will be another gun amnesty program this Saturday, December 29, from 8 AM to 4 PM. No identification is required. No questions will be asked. Only weapons in working order will be accepted. The program is open to residents of the District of Columbia or one of the following jurisdictions: Prince George's County, MD; Montgomery County, MD; Arlington County, VA; or Alexandria, VA. No payments will be made to gun dealers; if gun dealers bring in weapons, they will be taken, but no payments will be provided. Guns can be turned in at the following locations: Shiloh Baptist Church at 1510 9th Street, NW, Johnson Memorial Baptist Church at 800 Ridge Road, SE, Union Temple Baptist Church at 1225 W Street, SE. For more information please visit: www.mpdc.dc.gov/gunamnesty or contact Yvonne Smith at 202-727-8809.

Reminder about DPW's holiday schedules

Just a reminder from the Department of Public Works, that because of the upcoming holiday on Tuesday, all trash and recycling collections that normally occur between Tuesday and Friday, will "slide" to the next day. In once-a-week collection neighborhoods, Tuesday's collections will be made Wednesday, and so on. In twice-weekly collection neighborhoods, Tuesday's and Friday's collections will be made Wednesday and Saturday and Thursday's collections will be made Friday. Residents should have their trash and recycling ready for collection by 6 am of their collection day(s).

The Department of Public Works will collect holiday trees and greenery between January 2 and 19, 2008. Residents should strip their trees and greenery of all ornaments and tinsel and place these items at the curb between January 2 and 19. Trees and greenery collected from curbside by January 19 will be mulched.

After January 19, residents who want their trees to be mulched, may bring them to the Ft. Totten Trash Transfer Station, 4900 Bates Road, NE, where a special container will hold the trees for pick up by a contractor and mulched. This service will be available until it is determined that there is no further need for and the season has ended. Ft. Totten is open to residents weekdays, 1 pm to 5 pm, and Saturdays from 8 am to 3 pm. Residents also may place their trees with their trash and the collection crews will pick them up as space permits in their trucks. These trees will be taken to the landfill. For questions about these collections, please call the Mayor's Call Center at 202-727-1000.

Please note that parking enforcement will be in effect on Monday, December 31 (New Year's Eve).

Resources

Friends of Lafayette Park have launched a new website

Please visit the newly launched Friends of Lafayette Park website developed by their board member Phoebe Millon: www.thefolp.org .

Winter classes at Chevy Chase Community Center

There are many classes available this winter at the Chevy Chase Community Center located at 5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW. Here are a few of the options with available space as of December 27th: Toddler Tiempo, Music Together, Abakadoodle, Photography, Gymnastics, Piano, Sewing, Senior Momentum, Ballet, Guitar, Drums, Karate, Ballroom Dancing, Folk Dancing, Drawing & Painting, Fencing, Slimnastics, French, Spanish, Yoga, Toddlers in Motion. Register soon! Please contact Fran Scott to register at (202) 282-2204.