



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



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## IN THIS ISSUE ...

### Legislative Update

**Longfellow Condominiums Ribbon Cutting – March 15**

**Emery Recreation Center Community Meeting – March 17**

**Pizza and Pupusas to benefit the Mt. Pleasant fire victims– March 20**

**Tax Assessment Town Hall – March 25**

**Truancy Policy Forum – March 25**

**Save the Date – Ward 4 Age In Place Symposium – April 24**

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### Dear Neighbors:

There will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday March 18th. Here are a few highlights of the measures to be considered that day:

- **Pre-K for All DC Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0537**, which will establish a voluntary high quality pre-k program to provide 2,000 new Pre-Kindergarten classroom slots within 6 years and will ensure that all 3 and 4-year olds who reside in the District have an opportunity to participate in high quality Pre-Kindergarten settings.
- **Motor Vehicle Theft Protection Act of 2007, Sections 8 and 10(C) of Bill 17-0138**, which will establish the District of Columbia Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Commission and a Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund to reduce motor vehicle theft in the District of Columbia.
- **Street Sweeping Improvement Enforcement Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0396**, which will authorize use of an automated parking enforcement system and allow recorded images of parking violations to be submitted, and allow notices of infractions generated by an automated parking enforcement system to be served by mail.
- **Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0528**, which will strengthen the ABC Board's enforcement authority to fine for ABC violations and take enforcement action for not cooperating with MPD officers and ABRA investigators; to clarify the quantity of alcohol that may be shipped into the District of Columbia; to require nightclubs to submit security plans with their license applications.
- **Omnibus Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0135**, which will grant domestic partners standing as god parents and kinship caregivers in order to aid the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

I hope this is helpful information and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us).

*Muriel*

### **Longfellow Condominiums Ribbon Cutting – March 15**

All neighbors are welcome to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the Longfellow Condominiums at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2008. The Longfellow Condominiums are a new community located in Petworth at 738 Longfellow Street N.W. (the corner of 8th and Longfellow Streets.). This is a new 4-story condo conversion with 66 units.

Mayor Adrian Fenty, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, ANC 4D President Everett Lott, and ANC 4D Commissioners have been invited to participate in the ribbon cutting. Following the ceremony an open house will be conducted with a light fare reception. For more information about the Longfellow Condominiums, please check out [www.738longfellow.com](http://www.738longfellow.com) or call Lamont Akins at 202-652-1018.

### **Emery Recreation Center Community Meeting – March 17**

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will provide an update on the field and the play court renovation project at Emery Recreation Center on Monday, March 17, 2008 from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM at the Emery Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW. Also the gymnasium at Emery Recreation Center will be temporarily closed from March 31 to April 14, 2008 for scheduled repairs and to refinish the gymnasium floor. During this closure patrons who want to use an indoor gymnasium are encouraged to visit the Lamond Recreation Center at 20 Tuckerman Street, NE. The phone number there is: (202) 576-9542. For more information about DPR's activities and programs, please visit: [www.dpr.dc.gov/dpr/site/default.asp](http://www.dpr.dc.gov/dpr/site/default.asp) or contact Jackie Stanley at (202) 671-0420.

### **Pizza and Pupusas to benefit the Mt. Pleasant fire victims– March 20**

On Wednesday night, the Mt. Pleasant community suffered a devastating loss when a fire burned down a large apartment building at 3145 Mt Pleasant Street, displacing almost 200 people and destroying all their possessions. The Latino Economic Development Corporation is hosting a benefit fundraiser for the victims of the fire.

Please join us on Thursday, March 20 from 6 to 8:30PM at Moroni and Brothers Restaurant at 4811 Georgia Avenue, NW (just north of Decatur Street). Come to one of Georgia Avenue's newest gems, and enjoy pizza straight from an Italian brick oven alongside traditional Latin fare. Please RSVP to Kate Drew at [kdrew@ledcdc.org](mailto:kdrew@ledcdc.org) or call (202) 829 – 2090. We would love to see you, and your support would go a long way.

Additionally, Neighbor's Consejo at 3118 16th Street, NW. is accepting donations of toiletries, non-perishable food, clothing, school supplies, food and clothing store gift cards, as well as monetary donations via cash or check. Please consider making a donation. For more information please call Evar Sandoval at (202) 234-6855.

### **Tax Assessment Town Hall – March 25**

Councilmember Phil Mendelson (At-Large) has announced his annual series of Town Hall meetings focusing on the District's recently announced tax assessments. The workshops are designed to both educate residents on the tax assessment process as well as help taxpayers utilize the appeal process.

Representatives from the District's Office of Tax and Revenue will join Councilmember Mendelson at each of the workshops to answer questions.

According to the District's Office of Tax and Revenue, residential property assessments have slowed in growth compared to recent years, rising about 2.3%. Residents have until April 1, 2008 to begin the appeals process if they feel the proposed 2009 assessment does not reflect the market value of their property.

The closest meeting to Ward 4 is on March 25th at the Chevy Chase Community Center at 5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW from 6:30-7:45pm. For more information contact: Jason Shedlock, at [jshedlock@dccouncil.us](mailto:jshedlock@dccouncil.us) or call (202) 724-8779.

### **Truancy Policy Forum – March 25**

On Tuesday March 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM the Office of the State Superintendent of Education is hosting a Truancy Policy Forum called Truancy – The Absence Epidemic. This will be held in the Old Council Chambers at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, NW, Ground Floor, Metro: Judiciary Square (Red Line).

While creating an obvious threat to students' academic progress, truant behavior also serves as a strong indicator of other social problems in adulthood. For the 2006-2007 school year, the reported average truancy rate for the District of Columbia public schools (DCPS and public charters) was 17.42 percent.

The District of Columbia is committing collaborative, multi-agency attention and resources to the implementation of conditions and supports to address and reduce the rates among our students, thereby increasing their chances for academic and personal success. Recognizing that the reduction of truancy must be addressed collaboratively - as a community problem - by parents, students, educators, agency officials, business leaders, and other community stakeholders, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education is hosting an evening discussion to allow practitioners, researchers and stakeholders to explore strategies for effectively reducing truancy rates in the District of Columbia. Please RSVP to Stephanie Cheng at [stephanie.cheng@dc.gov](mailto:stephanie.cheng@dc.gov) or (202) 724-1398.

### **Save the Date – Ward 4 Age In Place Symposium – April 24**

Please save Thursday, April 24 from 9:30 to 1:30 PM for a Ward 4 Age In Place Symposium at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW. Lunch will be provided. There will be representatives of Age In Place programs that offer senior citizens quality home repair and maintenance services that enhance the integrity of their home, promote senior independence and enable seniors to stay in their homes longer. For more information please contact Joy Holland at [jholland@dccouncil.us](mailto:jholland@dccouncil.us) or call 202-724-8052.