



Muriel Bowser

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Dear Neighbors:

Mayor Adrian Fenty released the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal on Thursday this week. The \$9.4 billion spending plan, includes \$5.66 billion in local funds. Typically, the proposed budget is the previous year's funding level for services plus increases for salaries, fixed costs and financing. This alone would have reflected a 5.7% growth, but the FY 2009 local budget proposal limits growth to less than 0.7%.

The spending plan makes significant investments in the areas of education; public safety; affordable housing, jobs and economic development; healthcare and human services; infrastructure and environment; and government operations and financing. The administration is eliminating vacancies for non-critical jobs and curbing fixed costs as well as reducing the cost of their financing obligations. At the same time, they propose tax relief for low-income residents, small businesses and owners of commercial real estate.

I look forward to a careful review of the Mayor's proposed budget during the upcoming DC Council hearings and welcome the community's feedback on all aspects of the budget. At my first reading, I think this proposed budget is fiscally responsible and yet at same time protects critical jobs for our teachers, police, public works and human services personnel. The budget addresses our Ward 4 priorities as well.

We know tough decisions have to be made in tough economic times. But unlike our suburban neighbors in Maryland and Virginia, we are not faced with huge increases in taxes and a reduction in services. I commend Mayor Fenty for this proposal that continues to invest in education, our neighborhoods and our people who are our greatest asset.

The budget proposal is available in its entirety at: www.budget.dc.gov and the hearing schedule is posted on the DC Council website at: www.dccouncil.us.

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Councilmember Bowser hosts Brightwood Update meeting – March 24

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser on Monday March 24 at 7 PM at the Brightwood Elementary School, 1300 Nicholson Street, NW, for a town hall meeting and community update.

This meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the proposed plans for the Curtis Chevrolet site at Missouri and Georgia Avenues. The District Department of Transportation will be on hand to update the community on the Brightwood Transportation Study. Emery Beacon of Light representatives will be there to tell us about their efforts to develop small and local businesses in the area. We really want to hear from you too so there will be plenty of time for your questions. For more information, please call the office 202-724-8052.

Councilmember Bowser hosts Summer Safety Meeting – March 26

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser for a Summer Safety Crime Briefing with the Fourth District Commander Linda Brown on Wednesday, March 26th at 6:30 PM at the Fourth District-MPD Substation at 801 Shepherd St NW. Commander Brown will provide a detailed summer action plan for the Fourth District at this meeting. For more information please call the office at 202-724-8052.

Also on March 26th at 10:30 AM there will be a Safety Seminar for our Ward 4 Senior Citizens to learn about how to prevent crime and fire safety tips at the Emery Recreation Center at 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW. Lunch will be provided. For more information please contact Officer Heather Straker at 202-715-7418.

Summer Youth Employment Registration – March 26 & 27

The Fourth District along with the DC Department of Employment Services will be holding early registration for summer jobs for our young people on March 26th and 27th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, at the Fourth District Headquarters at 6001 Georgia Avenue, NW. Parents are encouraged to bring the proper documents to avoid delay including: identification, proof of social security number, proof of citizenship and DC residency. For more information please contact, Alicia Rucker, Fourth District Community Outreach Coordinator at 202-715-7476, or 202-439-5474 cell.

Commission on the Arts hosts tour of the Wilson Building Collection – March 26

On Wednesday March 26, at 12:00 pm, Sondra N. Arkin will be leading a guided tour through the City Hall Art Collection on permanent display on floors G through 5 in the Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. This tour will focus on the women in the collection in honor of Women's History Month -- and will also be the first introduction to the 28 newest pieces in the collection.

The City Hall Art Collection, *The Art of the City*, has been assembled over the past three years under the sponsorship of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. It is the richest and largest permanent exhibition of the work of local artists in the city, featuring a broad range of work, from internationally known artists such as Jacob

Kainen, Sam Gilliam and William Christenberry, to work by many of the artists of significance working in our area now. All styles and media are included. The collection truly provides a window into the scope of creative talent and energy that DC offers today.

This is a unique chance to enjoy the collection along with the curator and to share your responses. Tours are given bi-monthly by either the curator or one of the artists. The tour is free; however, space is limited. Please RSVP to Beth Baldwin beth.baldwin@dc.gov with the number in your party. Meet at the receptionist's desk on the first floor near the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance. ID is required to enter the building.

Gateway Georgia Avenue Brainstorming – March 29

Please join Gateway Georgia Avenue business owners, neighbors, and community members for a community brainstorming meeting on how to revitalize Upper Georgia Avenue. The event takes place on Saturday, March 29, 2008, from 12:30p to 2:00p in the Shepherd Park Library Activity Room, located at 7420 Georgia Avenue, NW. The afternoon will include a summary of Gateway's 2008 revitalization programs, a open brainstorming and small group break-out sessions to develop action plans. This event is sponsored by Gateway Georgia Avenue, the DC Department of Housing and Community Development, and reSTORE DC Main Streets. The Shepherd Park Citizens Association, Concerned Neighbors, Inc. civic association, and ANC Commissioners Steve Whatley and Jourdinia Brown are co-sponsors. For more information, please contact Marc Loud at gatewaycdc@aol.com, or 202-291-2400.

Petworth Alley Clean-up – March 29

On Saturday March 29, from 9 AM to 1 PM please join the Concerned Parents of Petworth, Motivate Me for Life, St. Charles Baptist Church and Councilmember Muriel Bowser for a community clean up. Volunteers should gather in the alley in the 4400 block of Georgia Avenue, NW to clean the alley and meet other Petworth neighbors. There will be refreshments available. For more information, please contact Kwaco Atiba at 202-494-3518 or cpop2@hotmail.com.

Northern Corner/North Portal Estates Tree Planting and Clean Up – March 29 & April 5

Please join the Northern Corner/North Portal Estates community and the Casey Trees Foundation on Saturday March 29 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at North Portal Estates, East Beach Drive to plant 40 trees. The Casey Trees Foundation has awarded a grant to plant trees on the property of about 40 residents of Northern Corner/North Portal Estates neighborhood. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of this project (not just digging holes). Please call Clif Grandy at (202) 291-1152 or email clifathebeach@starpower.net for more information.

Also Northern Corner/North Portal Estates will participate in the 20th Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean up Day on Saturday April 5 from 9 AM to 12 PM. This event is sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation and is an opportunity to join your neighbors and improve the condition of the Potomac River by collecting trash and recyclables. Please meet at the East Beach Drive, North Portal Dive and the Kalmia Road Bridge. Please call Clif Grandy at (202) 291-1152 or email clifathebeach@starpower.net for more information.

Ward 4 Soccer League Spring Season Begins April 5

Children ages 3-11 years of age are invited to participate in the Ward 4 Soccer League spring season. Games begin Saturday, April 5 at Takoma Recreation Center, 300 Van Buren Street, NW phone (202) 576-9284 OR (202) 576-9285. The Department of Parks and Recreation Center program is free for DC residents. For more information on the league contact Gina Douglas, Friends of Takoma Recreation Center President at 202-726-1259 or by email: ginadouglas@starpower.net.

WASA Fire Hydrant Update

We have received a number of inquiries about the different colored bands around the fire hydrants and what they mean. These bands indicate the rate of flow from the hydrant and provide the fire department with a visual reference. Here is the list of colors and what they mean:

A RED band indicates a flow of 500 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.

An ORANGE band indicates a flow of 1000-500 gpm.

A YELLOW band indicates a flow of 1500-1000 gpm.

A BLUE band indicates a flow of 1500 gpm or greater.

The fire department completed an inspection of all public fire hydrants in the District last fall. The 2008 inspection of public hydrants is currently underway. WASA relies on customers advising them about leaks and damaged facilities in public space. So please if you see a problem, contact WASA at their 24-hour emergency line 202-612-3400, or e-mail them at info@dcwasa.com. As a reminder, you can always access the status of a fire hydrant online, by going to www.dcwasa.com and clicking on the fire hydrant status page.