



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



May 23, 2008

Happy Memorial Day!

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Dear Neighbors:

This morning, Friday, May 23, Mayor Fenty and I announced the acquisition of 6425 14th Street, NW, better known as The Tewkesbury, for affordable housing through a joint effort with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

6425 14th Street is a 26-unit apartment building in “shell” condition which has sat vacant since the 1980s in the middle of the stable Brightwood community. Over time, the property has become an eyesore in an otherwise quiet neighborhood. I would like to thank the community groups, especially the Brightwood Community Association and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A, who have worked diligently to bring this blighted property to our attention. I made a promise to the community and the acquisition of this property is the first vital step to fulfill that promise. It is my hope that this disposition will provide for housing focused on our senior residents of Ward 4.

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development also announced the release of the Solicitation for Offers and invites development teams to respond. The District seeks a highly-qualified development team to plan, finance, build, and operate the building on the 12,100 square foot parcel. The use may include mixed-income housing, senior housing or age restricted housing. The RFP is available at: <http://dcbiz.dc.gov/dmped/cwp/view.asp?a=1365&q=608163&PM=1>. A developer will be selected by July 2008 to begin the restoration for the property and return it to use for affordable housing.

Again my thanks to the Brightwood neighbors and congratulate them for their persistence and patience!

Muriel

Master Pedestrian Safety Plan Announced

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty announced earlier this week that the District has released its final draft of the Pedestrian Master Plan. The plan is a culmination of 18 months worth of study that examined all aspects of the District's pedestrian environment. The detailed planning process included extensive agency and community stakeholder involvement through a Technical Advisory Committee, an online survey, focus group meetings, field surveys in specific corridors and a citywide public meeting.

Last year, 25 pedestrians were struck and killed in the District. In 2008, 9 pedestrians have been struck and killed to date. The goal of the plan is to reduce the number of pedestrians killed and injured in crashes with motor vehicles and to increase pedestrian activity by making walking a comfortable and accessible way to get around the city.

The plan calls for \$18M in improvements and recommendations over a 10 year period. The focus of the pedestrian improvement plan in Ward 4 is along New Hampshire Avenue from Park Road, NW to Peabody Street, NE. The complete plan is available at this website: <http://www.tooledesign.com/projects/dc/reports.html>

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will schedule public comment meetings in June to discuss the strategies of the Pedestrian Master Plan. We will be sure to advertise those meetings in this newsletter.

Reminder to keep your lawn trim this Summer

The DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) started its enforcement of seasonal grass cutting rules on May 1. Councilmember Bowser has been working with DCRA and DPW to encourage all property owners to keep their lawn trimmed. She is also working with DPW to be sure the grass in public space around Ward 4 is kept mowed. The growing season runs from May 1 through October 31 every year. DCRA inspectors will be on the lookout for overgrown grass and weeds. Grass and weeds in your front, side and rear yards that are more than 10 inches tall could lead to fines and other costs. During growing season, all property owners are required to maintain their premises in a healthy and sanitary manner free of trash and excessive vegetative growth. Grass pollen is a common trigger for asthma and allergies. Keeping grass cut is part of an overall preventative strategy to control respiratory illness. Excessive growth can harbor rats and other vermin leading to serious public health implications. Failure to comply with a Notice of Violation during the growing season may result in DCRA cleaning the property and billing the owner for cost of the cleanup. Report suspected violations to DCRA at (202) 442-4400. Seasonal grass cutting rules are from Section 800.10 of the DCMR14.

DISB holds seminar on how to avoid mortgage default – May 31

The District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) in partnership with Emory Beacon of Light, Inc. is sponsoring at Ward 4 Public Forum on Sub-Prime Lending and Mortgage Default Prevention on Saturday, May 31st 2008, 11:00-1:00 PM, at Emory United Methodist Church, 6100 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20011. For more information please contact DISB at 202/442-7775, lucy.drafton@dc.gov, or www.disb.dc.gov.

ANC 4C07 and UNTS sponsor a community day – May 31

ANC4C07 and the Upshur, New Hampshire, Taylor Street Association (UNTS) are sponsoring a "Strengthening Our Neighborhoods" community day on Saturday, May 31 from 12 pm to 4 pm outside on the field at Clark Elementary School, 4501 Kansas Avenue, NW. There will be food, music, fun and games for all ages. This event is free and open to the public. Invited DC government agencies include: Department of Housing, DC Office on Aging, Department of Employment Service, Department of Transportation, Department of Health, MPD, DC Fire and Emergency Management. For more information please contact ANC4C07 Commissioner Shanel Anthony at 202-291-6455 or 202-723-6670 or by email at shanelanthony4c07@gmail.com.

Free tickets and transportation to high school baseball tournament – May 31

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission (DCSEC), in partnership with the Congressional Bank Baseball Classic (CBBC), are offering a limited number of free tickets to the CBBC and are available at all DPR recreation centers. The Congressional Bank Baseball Classic, the District's first-ever, citywide high school baseball championship series, will take place on Saturday, May 31 at National's Park. Washington Nationals Third Baseman Ryan Zimmerman will join Mayor Adrian Fenty and DC Council Chairman Vincent Gray as honorary chairs of the Classic.

Tickets for school-aged children will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The championship tournament will recognize baseball achievement in DC schools as well as highlight outstanding District scholar athletes.

Free bus transportation to and from the game will be offered at the following DPR sites: Emery Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Ave., NW, Riggs La Salle Recreation Center, 501 Riggs Rd., NE, and Takoma Community Center, 300 Van Buren St., NW. Parents and interested youth are asked to contact their local recreation center site manager for tickets and bus schedules. For more information please visit either www.washdcsports.com or www.dpr.dc.gov or call 202-671-1540.

Reminder: Ward 4 Family Fun Night is May 31!

Councilmember Muriel Bowser invites you to join her on Saturday May 31 (June 1 rain date) for the 8th Annual Ward 4 Family Fun Night followed by a FREE performance of The Shakespeare Theatre's production of Hamlet at the 18th Annual Shakespeare Theatre Company Free For All. The family fun night will be from 4:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre at 16th Street and Colorado Avenue NW, Washington, DC and Hamlet by William Shakespeare directed by Alexander Burns (original direction by Michael Kahn) will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Shakespeare Theatre Company is happy to reserve up to eight general admission tickets per household to the picnic and the play. Your tickets will be held at the Carter Barron Box Office. Ward 4 Family Fun Night will be at a large tent in the grassy area to the north of Stage Road that will be easily seen from the Carter Barron parking lot. The barbeque begins at 4:30 p.m., general admission seating in the Amphitheatre begins at approximately 7:00 p.m. Please note that audience members line up early to get the best general admission seats. To reserve your free tickets please go to: http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/about/ffa/ward_four.aspx.

Food and drink will be provided. In the event of rain on May 31, please call Kristen Barden at 202-841-2813 after 1:30 PM to find out the status of the picnic. For more information about Hamlet please visit: www.ShakespeareTheatre.org. Please join us as we kick off another great Summer in Ward 4!