



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*May 30, 2008*

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## Dear Neighbors:

Tuesday, June 3rd is the 28th Legislative meeting for the Council of the District of Columbia. Here are some highlights of the legislative issues to be considered:

There will be a final reading and final vote on:

- ★ **Wards 4, 7, and 8 Anti-Sale of Single Containers of Alcoholic Beverages Amendment Act of 2008**, Bill 17-0532, which combines Councilmember Bowser's legislation to make the moratorium permanent for the sale of individual containers of beer, malt liquor or ale, along with the Ward 7 and Ward 8 Single Sales legislation to effectively create a moratorium in each of those wards.
- ★ **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Support Act of 2008**, Bill 17-0678. This received unanimous approval during the May 13th legislative session and includes \$5.7 billion in proposed local funds and \$8.7 billion in total funds. The FY2009 budget is one of the most fiscally conservative budgets DC Council has passed in recent years.
- ★ Final reading and final vote on the **Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008**, Bill 17-0086, was tabled at the May 13th session and will be heard on the non-consent agenda on June 3rd. This legislation will eliminate the duplicate roles of DCRA and the Office of Tax and Revenue when determining whether a property is vacant and speed up the process by which a property can be declared vacant. It also doubles the vacant property tax rate from \$5 per \$100 of assessed value to \$10 per \$100 of assessed value.
- ★ **Noise Control Protection Amendment Act of 2008**, Bill 17-0177. This legislation passed with amendments in the May 13th session. The amendments would restrict non-commercial public speech during the day to no greater than 80 decibels or 10 decibels above the ambient noise level when measured from 50 feet. The legislation originally used 70 decibels as its barometer.

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*

### **Reminder: Ward 4 Family Fun Night is TOMORROW!**

Councilmember Muriel Bowser invites you to join her on Saturday May 31 (June 1 rain date) for the 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](http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/about/ffa/ward_four.aspx) or call 202-547-1122, option 4 and leave your name, address, zip code and how many will be in your party and if you will be attending the picnic, performance or both.

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](http://www.ShakespeareTheatre.org). Please join us as we kick off another great Summer in Ward 4!

### **Community garden kick-off – May 31**

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will celebrate the summer gardening season with a Community Garden Kick Off event at the Twin Oaks Community Garden, 4025 14th St., NW, Saturday, May 31, from 9 am – 1 pm. In addition, DPR will begin accepting permit applications for 60 community garden plots at two DPR locations. There are 40 plots available at Twin Oaks Garden (202) 576-3253 and 20 plots at the Lederer Environmental Education Center, 4801 Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave., NE, (202) 727-8061.

Beginning Monday, June 2, 2008, applications for garden plots can be completed online on DPR's website, [dpr.dc.gov](http://dpr.dc.gov), in the "Services" section, under "Permits and Reservations". Community garden plots cost \$20 per calendar year, per plot, and include usage of on-site tools and land. For More Information please contact DPR Environmental Education at (202) 671-0299.

### **Brightwood Heritage Trail planning meeting – June 2**

The Brightwood Heritage Trail Working Group and Cultural Tourism DC invite you to attend a meeting to plan the celebration of the opening of "Battleground to Community: Brightwood Heritage Trail on Monday, June 2, at 6:30 at the Beacon of Light, 6120 Georgia Avenue, NW. The Trail is scheduled to open in late July 2008.

This self-guided walking tour of the historic Brightwood neighborhood consists of 18 signs complete with text, photographs, and maps. The trail tells the neighborhood's story, including the Battle of Fort Stevens, neighborhood development, schools, churches, heroes, and more. The Heritage Trail route takes about 90 minutes to walk and goes through the neighborhood and along the commercial section of Georgia Avenue. Contacts for information on this meeting are: Jane Levey at Cultural Tourism DC: [jlevey@CulturalTourismDC.org](mailto:jlevey@CulturalTourismDC.org) and 202-661-7581 or Pat Tyson at 202/577-6956.

### **Riggs Park Community Day – June 7**

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Lamond Riggs Community Association, Metropolitan Police Department, DC Fire and EMS and DC Parks and Recreation for the Riggs Park Community Day on Saturday June 7, 2008 from 11 AM to 4 PM at the Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center, 501 Riggs Road, NE. There will be a moon bounce, games, raffles, prizes, bingo, a DJ, face painting, food and fun for all

ages. DC Fire and EMS will have a health station and MPD will fly their helicopter onto the field and show kids all the operational gears and switches. MPD will also have their K9 and horse units available to greet residents. The Lamond Riggs Community Association will have their annual bazaar too. For more information please contact Officer Wilson or Straker at 202-715-7418 and for information about renting tables for the bazaar please call 202-290-3671.

### **PEPCO rate increase begins June 1, 2008**

As of June 1, 2008, 81% of a District customer's bill will go to the cost of the actual electricity, or "generation" PEPCO buys on the open market. These costs are not subject to local regulation. PEPCO acquires the electricity and passes the cost directly to the user.

As of June 1, consumers will be paying 13.0 cents per kWh. The Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) estimates this will mean a monthly increase of \$15-24 for customers using between 750 to 1250 kWh per month.

To reduce your energy consumption, first, become an educated consumer. Learn how to read your bill and develop a plan to test whether you can reduce the amount of electricity you use. Secondly, apply energy efficiency techniques, starting with small steps such as lighting with compact fluorescent bulbs and then moving on to larger projects like choosing energy star appliances, installing new windows, installing insulation or new energy efficient heating and air conditioning equipment as your budget allows.

For more information on energy saving tips go to OPC's website [www.opc-dc.gov](http://www.opc-dc.gov) or visit the Department of Energy site at <http://www.energy.gov/energysavingtips.htm> or <http://www.energystar.gov>.