

Working with the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT)

- ★ In March, Councilmember Bowser hosted another Ward 4 ANC and Civic Association Presidents' meeting. This meeting focused on DDOT issues and the Spring/Summer construction season—streets, trees, sidewalks, alleys and traffic calming. We identified a lot of issues and encouraged ANC Commissions to submit resolutions to DDOT to prioritize projects. "I think it is really important that our ANC Commissioners and civic association leaders play an active part in helping to guide the work of government. I value their commitment to our neighborhoods," Councilmember Bowser said during the meeting.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser meets monthly with the Director of DDOT and is very pleased that Anna Chamberlin has been hired as the Acting Transportation Planner for Ward 4. We look forward to working together to better accommodate the needs of Ward 4 residents.
- ★ We insisted that planned construction projects are listed on the DDOT website. Please visit: www.ddot.dc.gov and click on "Major Construction Initiatives" to see the schedule for local street, alley and sidewalk projects.
- ★ We are pleased that many Ward 4 road, alley and sidewalk projects have begun this Spring. Please continue to let us know which areas in your neighborhood need

attention. This information will help us work with DDOT to better maintain and improve the infrastructure in Ward 4.

- ★ We hear about the need for traffic calming all over Ward 4. We are working towards a more comprehensive approach to traffic calming because as an unintended consequence of placing traffic calming measures on one street, the traffic migrates to blocks close by where no traffic calming measures exist. DDOT is continuing to evaluate traffic calming upgrades and we look forward to working closely with neighborhood block captains and ANC Commissioners to develop neighborhood solutions.

Business Improvement District on Georgia Avenue!

Since joining the Council, revitalization of the commercial corridors of Ward 4 has been one of my biggest priorities. An additional \$1.2 million is being added to the \$300,000 approved earlier this year for the pilot, one-of-a-kind business improvement district (BID) demonstration project that will provide enhanced DPW services along the Georgia Avenue corridor. This BID is expected to kick-off this Summer.

Developing Georgia Avenue in Petworth!

At the end of April, Mayor Adrian Fenty and I announced the release of a solicitation for offers for three DC government owned properties along the 3800 block of Georgia Avenue, NW. This is another great step forward to bring much-needed revitalization to Georgia Avenue. Multiple development partners are sought to turn these properties into retail and restaurants for the Petworth neighborhood. These sites could also include housing, with a requirement that 30% would be affordable. An advisory group provided input for the solicitation documents.

These projects will join other new mixed-use developments nearing completion above

the Petworth Metro Station at 3700 Georgia Avenue, known as Park Place, with 153 condos and 17,000 square feet of retail space. Twenty percent of the units will be sold at less than 60% of the area median income. Also the Georgia Commons at 3910-3912 Georgia Avenue, NW is coming on line soon with 19,500 square feet of retail and 130 rental apartments above. The Georgia Commons includes 57 affordable housing units. The Safeway Company previously announced plans to replace the 21,000 square foot store at Georgia Avenue and Randolph Street, NW with a state of the art 55,000 to 60,000 square foot lifestyle store.

Legislative Corner

- ★ Councilmember Bowser's legislation introduced on March 4, to make **permanent the Ward 4 moratorium** on the sale of individual containers of beer, malt liquor or ale, passed on June 3 and will become law.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser introduced legislation in June to **expand the boundaries of the Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF)** targeted area in the Brightwood and Upper Georgia Avenue neighborhoods. This legislation will enable a larger cross-section of community organizations to be eligible to apply for matching grant funds to assist in strengthening their community. The NIF Grants are intended to improve the quality of life of each neighborhood through civic action and resident involvement.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser introduced legislation in June to require the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to **add signage in front of structures where raze or demolition permits have been requested** to their public notification requirements. Currently, only affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions are notified of raze/demolition permits. This bill would require a property owner to placard a property for a minimum of 30 days before DCRA could issue a raze or demolition permit.
- ★ DC Council had a public hearing on the **Upper Georgia Avenue Great Streets Redevelopment Plan** and also the **Kennedy Street Revitalization Plan** in June. The plans, which have been developed by the DC Office of Planning in collaboration with Councilmember Bowser's office, community stakeholders and District government agencies, provide guidance on land use, zoning, transportation, housing and economic development strategies for revitalizing these corridors.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser introduced the **Senior Citizens Housing Modernization Grant Fund Act of 2008** to authorize the Mayor to make grants available for home repairs to qualified seniors who live in an area affected by new planned unit developments. The money for these grants would come in part from the developer.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser introduced legislation called the **Health Care Non-licensed Personnel Criminal Background Check Amendment Act of 2008** to require that non-licensed health care personnel, such as nurses aides, orderlies, assistant technicians and home health aides, register with the City and that non-licensed health care workers working outside of a health care facility undergo criminal background checks.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser introduced the **Juvenile Auto Theft Prevention Act of 2008**, which will require progressive discipline against juveniles who commit acts of motor vehicle theft.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser supported the **Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008** which will speed up the process which by a property can be declared vacant by eliminating the duplicate roles of DCRA and the Office of Tax and Revenue. It also doubles the vacant property tax rate from \$5 per \$100 of assessed value to \$10 per \$100 of assessed value.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser supported the **Omnibus Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2008** which will grant domestic partners standing as god parents and kinship caregivers in order to aid the prevention of child abuse and neglect.



Children enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt at Upshur Recreation Center.

Let's Keep Ward 4 Beautiful!

We are here to help make sure government is working for you. We need your help to keep Ward 4 looking its best.

This summer please remember to keep your lawn trim and free of debris. Grass and weeds that are more than 10 inches tall could lead to fines. During growing season, all property owners are required to maintain their premises in a healthy and sanitary manner free of trash and excessive growth.

Abandoned or dangerous vehicles parked on private property can harbor rats and other pests. Please help report these vehicles to the Mayor's Call Center at 311. DPW will contact the owners and post a warning notice on the vehicle stating that the owner must remove it within the next 45 days or DPW will remove and tow it to the storage and auction facility.

Please call 311 to report illegal, commercial signs posted in public space such as signs posted on utility poles and street lights.



New Riggs LaSalle Community Center opened in April 2008.

Save the Date
June 28 & 29: 16th Annual DC Caribbean Festival – Parade kicks off the festival at 11 AM on Saturday June 28th and runs along Georgia Avenue from Missouri to Barry Place. For more information visit: www.dccaribbeanfestival.com

August 9-17: Legg Mason Tennis Classic at the William H.G. Fitzgerald Tennis Center at Carter Barron/Rock Creek Park – This annual event benefits the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation. For more information visit: www.leggmasontennisclassic.com.

Councilmember Bowser's office has been working closely with the organizers of both events and D.C. agencies for optimal traffic coordination.

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Muriel Bowser's FOCUS ON 4 WARD 4 MID-YEAR UPDATE

June 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is my honor to be your Ward 4 Councilmember and to implement our vision for Ward 4 - the vision that we created together and that we keep making better. You expect your government to work smarter and more efficiently and especially to be responsive to your concerns. I do too!

You have great expectations for your family, your block, your neighborhood and this Spring report is my way of making sure you know I do too!

★ Together we are creating new recreation opportunities for our residents with the grand opening of the Riggs-LaSalle Recreation Center;

★ Together we are protecting the environment and keeping the Ward clean with alley clean ups and a graffiti blitz throughout the ward;

★ Together we are assisting our most vulnerable residents including our seniors and disabled neighbors at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center;

★ Together we are creating economic opportunities so our residents can live, work, shop and play in Ward 4;

★ Together we are looking for solutions to increase our public safety and make our streets safer;

★ Together we made sure Ward 4 priorities were included in the 2009 budget and approved by the DC Council; and

★ Together we look forward to watching the transformation of our school buildings and enhanced curriculum and staffing in our schools, so that our students will return in the Fall with even more opportunities for learning.

This is an aggressive and common sense agenda built on your expectations. We have more work to do but I hope you'll agree we've done a lot so far. Your advocacy and activism is truly appreciated every step of the way. I hope that you will continue to share your vision of Ward 4 with me and my staff. I look forward to seeing you around the ward.

My warmest wishes,

Muriel Bowser
 Ward 4 Councilmember



Councilmember Muriel Bowser joins Takoma Education Center students for Arbor Day.

Focusing on Our Senior Residents

One of the roles of good government is to protect those most vulnerable among us, like our senior citizens. Ward 4 has the highest percentage of seniors in any ward in the District of Columbia with 21%. Our seniors are very independent but many are in need of some in-home services such as minor home repairs, financial planning, home health services, transportation, recreation and socialization to help maintain their independence.

In response to this growing need, Councilmember Bowser gathered all of these services in one place on April 24th at the Ward 4 Aging in Place Symposium. More than 30 experts in the aging in place field provided information to more than 200 Ward 4 residents at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW. We gathered leaders from across the aging in place field—home modification experts, geriatric care managers, financial planners, home health care workers, to name a few so our Ward 4 senior citizens could access all the information they need to age gracefully in their own home. "My goal as the Ward 4 Councilmember is to help make aging in place a safe and comfort-



Ruth Simms celebrated her 101st birthday in January 2008. Doesn't she look great?

able experience for our seniors. This includes making sure there is a sufficient amount of affordable housing and access to quality health care throughout the Ward and the City," said Councilmember Bowser. "Last Fall, I supported the Chevy Chase neighbors to preserve the former Shoemaker Home on Military Road for senior housing," she added. The Methodist Home plans to open the facility in August 2009.

Councilmember Bowser delivered her State of Ward 4 Seniors address at the Symposium on April 24. The complete address is available on our website at: www.murielbowser.com.

6425 14th Street, NW Moving from Blight to Quality Housing

On Friday, May 23, Councilmember Muriel Bowser and Mayor Fenty 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 acquisi-

tion 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." A developer will be selected by July 2008 to begin the restoration of the property and return it to use for quality housing.

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



Councilmember Muriel Bowser greets Mayor Adrian Fenty with Councilmember Kwame Brown at the Topping Out ceremony for Park Place at 3700 Georgia Avenue in Petworth.

Delivering More Resources for Ward 4

My colleagues on the DC Council and I have approved the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget which includes \$5.7 billion in proposed local funds and \$8.7 billion in total funds, in one of the most fiscally conservative budgets DC Council has passed in recent years.

Here are some highlights I demanded for Ward 4 in the FY2009 budget:

Safety First

★ **Pedestrian Safety:** More than \$800,000 was approved for the installation of imbedded crosswalk lighting in Ward 4. Additional funding will support a study of lighting improvements needed around the Metro Stations at Takoma, Petworth and Fort Totten. I've heard from a number of residents concerned about the safety in and around our Metro stations. These funds will go directly to study lighting that improves safety.

★ In response to residents' concerns that people arrested for crimes are quickly returned to the street before adjudication, I secured funding for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to conduct a study of arrests and sentencing for violent crimes, including juvenile offenders.

★ **Police, human services, recreation and employment opportunities:** To keep our

streets safer, I made sure to include money for additional crime cameras and other innovative crime fighting tools along with human services, recreation and employment opportunities for our young people.

Economic Development

★ **Commercial property tax relief:** My colleagues and I on the DC Council know that small businesses provide the majority of retail and support services throughout the District of Columbia. In response to small business' concerns about the rising property assessments and waning revenues, we voted to reduce the current tax rate on the first \$3 million of assessed value from \$1.85 to \$1.65 per \$100 of assessed value.

Schools and Youth Enrichment

★ \$9.5 million was approved to establish a voluntary pre-kindergarten program throughout DC Public Schools to ensure that 3 and 4-year olds who reside in the District have an opportunity to participate in high quality pre-kindergarten.

★ The Council fully-funded the school modernization plans for an additional \$18 million. The budget also includes adding

music, art and physical education instructors at all public schools.

★ **Youth Jobs Fund** will be established to ensure that all District of Columbia young people who want enriching summer jobs will have the opportunity to be employed.

★ More than \$2 million was designated for capital improvements to Ward 4 recreation centers to begin to rebuild Raymond Recreation Center and to renovate Fort Stevens, Upshur and Hamilton Parks.

Infrastructure

★ I fought long and hard to reopen Klinge Road, a cross-park connector road. Unfortunately, the majority of DC Council members did not agree. The recommended \$2 million to begin to repair Klinge Road and reopen this road for motor vehicle traffic was not approved. Instead the \$2 million designated in the Mayor's budget will be used to fund much needed alley repairs.

Keeping Ward 4 Clean, Green and Moving Forward

Ward 4 has great neighborhoods that really come to life in the Spring with community clean ups to remove debris from the winter months, plant new trees and keep our streets and alleys looking their best. I am working hard every day to ensure that we continue to get the services we need to maintain, improve and make our neighborhoods even better. Residents are also working hard to do their part to help keep our streets, alleys and public spaces looking their best! Spring time is a great time to get involved. Here are some of the ways we've been helping to keep Ward 4 clean, protect the environment and improve your ability to get around Ward 4.

redeemed at McCormick Paints located at 15th and P Streets, NW and Duron Paints located at 14th and Clifton Streets, NW.



Councilmember Muriel Bowser greets the DPW graffiti team.

Getting Rid of Graffiti

Councilmember Muriel Bowser along with the Mayor's Clean City Coordinator, the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, and the Department of Public Works are organizing graffiti clean up events along the major commercial corridors of Ward 4 twice a month this Spring and Summer. If you notice graffiti in your neighborhood, please call 311 and also notify Lisa Adams, my Constituent Services Coordinator at 202-724-8052, ladams@dccouncil.us. The City is committed to cleaning up this graffiti within 48 hours of notification.

The DC Department of Public Works also has a FREE graffiti removal voucher program for District residents and business owners whose property has been defaced by graffiti. Residents may call the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311 to obtain a voucher to be

Pilot Visitor Parking Permit Program (VPP)

At the end of last year, the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) introduced a one-year pilot project to test a new Visitor Permit Parking (VPP) program for households on Residential Parking Program (RPP) streets in Ward 4. Councilmember Bowser heard from residents that their guests and service providers had difficulty parking on streets during the day with the RPP. The VPP program responds to these concerns. DDOT mailed visitor parking permits to the households of Ward 4 RPP permit holders for use by guests or service providers during RPP hours. Only one permit per household was issued. This permit allows for parking within the permit-holder's neighborhood (using ANC boundaries rather than the entire ward), and, unlike the previous

visitor parking pass obtained at the police stations, will not be tied to any particular vehicle or guest. Councilmember Bowser has received good feedback on this program and it is now being replicated in other wards in the city. Please continue to let us know your thoughts and suggestions for improvement.



Friends of 16th Street Heights Parks hard at work at Upshur Recreation Center.

16th Street Express Bus Coming Soon!

With soaring gasoline prices,

improving public transportation is critical to saving money, the environment and reducing congestion. Metro currently has five express bus routes, called Metro Extra buses, one of which runs along Georgia Avenue all the way down through Chinatown to Pennsylvania Avenue. Metro is expanding rapid bus service throughout the region, and will include Metro Extra bus service along 16th Street in the coming months. Councilmember Bowser encourages increasing public transit capacity, as well as biking and walking, because these improvements are less expensive and will have a big impact on congestion.

Share the Road — Bike to Work Day

Over the last several years, DC has worked hard to become a more bicycle-friendly city. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) continues to build trails, add bike lanes and bike racks, and teach bicycle safety in the schools. This Spring, DDOT will launch SmartBikeDC, an automated bike rental system that is the first of its kind in North America.

On Friday, May 16th, Councilmember Bowser led a convoy of bicyclists through the Ward as part of *Bike to Work Day* to encourage more people to consider alternate modes of transportation to and from work. "Bike to Work Day is a wonderful opportunity to thank our region's bicyclists for the smart transportation choices they make every day. Alternatives to drive-alone commuting, like biking and walking, reduce traffic, protect our environment, and improve the overall health of our residents," said Councilmember Bowser.

Blagden Avenue sidewalk into Rock Creek Park

For many years, residents have wanted a sidewalk along Blagden Avenue that connects with Rock Creek Park for recreation. We are working closely with the DC Department of Transportation and the National Park Service on final revisions to comments to the environmental assessment to comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We expect the NEPA process to be completed very soon. After National Park Service approval, the project will be scheduled for final design and construction. We will update the community as progress continues.

Working with Our Partners

Councilmember Bowser recently met with Councilmember Valerie Ervin from Montgomery County about traffic calming measures needed for the Ward 4 and Montgomery County borders. One of the items they discussed was improvements needed at the 16th Street traffic circle. DDOT has met with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and have evaluated the traffic data for the circle. Together they are working on both short-term and long-term alternatives that would maintain the circular configuration but better direct traffic. Councilmember Bowser will host a meeting with Councilmember Ervin to update the community on these cross-border issues.