

3825-29 Georgia Avenue NW - A former government-owned site, this redevelopment project will produce a mixture of retail and residential uses at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Randolph. The residential portion will consist of 12 Condominium units at market rate prices, and the retail portion of the building will have space for two stores/businesses. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

Methodist Home Forest Side - The home, located in Chevy Chase at 2701 Military Road NW, received a loan from District revenue bond proceeds for the financing and construction of 33 private apartments and will offer Alzheimer's and dementia assisted living and specialized programming. Forest side is expected to open its doors this fall.

E.L. Haynes Public Charter School - In February 2009, E.L. Haynes was awarded the exclusive right to a long-term lease for Clark Elementary School, a former DC Public School, located at 4501 Kansas Avenue NW. E.L. Haynes will renovate the existing 46,000 square-foot facility, build an addition onto the site, and develop the extensive outdoor space into athletic fields, playspace, and outdoor academic space. E.L. Haynes' Kansas Avenue Campus will ultimately serve approximately 650 students when construction is complete, sometime very soon. The acquisition and construction was made possible through a revenue bond-backed loan from the District in the amount of \$13 million.

VIDA Senior Residences, 1330 Missouri Ave NW - Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Fenty, United States Treasurer Rosie Rios (pictured), VIDA Senior Centers, city officials, friends and neighbors at a groundbreaking for construction of 36 new units of Affordable Housing for seniors and a new Senior Service Center.



TOPPING OUT
3910-12 Georgia Ave NW - Georgia Commons, located near the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Randolph Street NW, is a planned mixed-use community with 130 units of mixed-income rental housing located above a new, state-of-the-art 28,000

square foot neighborhood health center for Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care. After reclaiming this formerly blighted parcel, Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Fenty, developers and community representatives on July 9th for a ceremony to commemorate the addition of the last beam on the top of this building. Opening is planned for spring 2011.

PLANNING A NEW DAY FOR WALTER REED

On August 7, 2009, the Federal Government declared 62.5 acres, more than half, of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) campus to be surplus property, providing the District the chance to redevelop it. Since that time, Councilmember Bowser and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development have hosted dozens of meetings, workshops, and town-halls to inform the community about this opportunity, and to explain the process for acquiring the land pursuant to the Army's requirements. The process is extensive. For the last year, the WRAMC Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), a decision-making body led by government officials and 10 citizen members, has made great progress by frequently meeting, soliciting community feedback, and discussing reuse alternatives and plans for WRAMC's 65 buildings. These buildings include a 35,000-square-foot gym, tennis and basketball courts, a 200-room hotel, and many historic structures. Ultimately, the redevelopment of the campus is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to positively transform Ward 4 in a way that reflects Ward 4 and its residents. Your comments, perspective, and feedback are vital to this process. Please contact my office or visit <http://dcbiz.dc.gov/> to get involved.

14TH STREET

The Office of Planning (OP) has targeted 14th Street in Ward 4's 16th Street Heights, from Spring Rd to Shepherd Street, as the first section for its Revitalization Strategy. This effort has been undertaken in conjunction with residents, merchants and our ANC Commissioners. In the next 6 months beautification efforts will include new tree boxes and improved lighting. There will also be new stop signs on residential streets to make it safer for children and bicyclists. The Department of Small and Local Business Development is accepting applications for façade improvements and will work with businesses on interior design. OP will also take inventory of vacant properties and others as potential opportunities for new and diversified retail.

This is just the first phase of a joint effort between the office of Councilmember Bowser, MPD, DCRA, as well as OP, DDOT, DPW, and DPR to improve the small businesses and

the residential quality of life in this area of 16th St Heights. The next phase will focus on commercial use up to Madison Street, as well as continuing to help look for new types of business to diversify the neighborhood. There is nothing more important than working to improve our communities. We will continue to work with all our city agencies, and with the newly formed 14th Street Uptown Merchants Association, which has been working hard to market the many local businesses located on this major transit route as well.



Councilmember Bowser is pictured at a fix-it walk through with District Agency Officials on 14th Street this past Spring.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

Councilmember Bowser serves as First Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) National Capitol Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The TPB approves the use of some federal transportation grants throughout the metropolitan region as well as setting long term priorities.

As chair of the TPB's Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force, Councilmember Bowser ensured funding for 20 new wheelchair minivan accessible taxis in the District which had been one of a few major cities without this service. She also pushed for funds to allow the DC Office on Aging to purchase two wheelchair accessible vans and to provide seniors with taxicab vouchers. Ward 4, which has the largest population of seniors in the city, will greatly benefit from this service.



COG is a regional organization based in the District which is comprised of 21 local governments, plus area members of the Council of the District of Columbia, the Maryland and Virginia legislatures, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.



Councilmember Bowser, pictured at Longfellow Street and Colorado Avenue NW, called on Pepco to restore power after the July 26 storm.

POWER OUTAGES

Councilmember Bowser convened a hearing to examine recent power outages that have affected thousands of District residents and to question the electric company's response. During five hours of testimony, Councilmember Bowser delved into Pepco's service reliability, communication strategy, and ways to improve outreach. Although the most recent outages were weather-related, the District agency responsible for ensuring reliable utility services testified that Pepco has considerable room for improvement in terms of its outage duration and frequency.

Ratepayers testified that not only did Pepco fail to deliver the power, but that the electric company also failed to provide reliable information about the outages or when they might be resolved. In response, Councilmember Bowser stated that, "in the instance when service interruptions cannot be avoided, Pepco has to do a much better job managing the outage and communicating with its customers. Customers need to know why outages have occurred and when they will be fixed."

In order to improve reliability and outreach, Councilmember Bowser in conjunction with the Public Service Commission and the Office of the People's Counsel, will be convening a public hearing to study the feasibility and reliability of undergrounding electric distribution lines in the District of Columbia; and the reliability of the electric grid in the District.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Those wishing to testify should contact Ms. Davida Crockett of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs via email at dcrockett@dccouncil.us, or by phone at (202) 741-0898, by Tuesday, September 28, 2010.



OFFICE OF WARD 4
COUNCILMEMBER BOWSER
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW,
Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20004

WAY TO GO DDOT!

As part of her continuing efforts to improve livability in Ward 4, Councilmember Bowser secured funding for the Great Streets project in Ward 4. DDOT began work on May 17th and will continue to improve Ward 4 streets throughout the year.



At his invitation, Councilmember Bowser attended President Obama's speech on his jobs program and its effect on Ward 4 at Gelberg Signs in Ward 4 on August 6.

DDOT has made great progress recently to improve our public space, including street and sidewalk improvements that will improve the quality of life for Ward 4 residents. Recent improvements include the following:

- Great Streets Georgia Avenue**
 - Project Limits – from Otis Place to Webster Street along Georgia Ave
 - Scope of work for this project includes – reconstruction of roadway and travel lanes; placing new granite curbs & brick gutters; signals & street lighting work; landscaping; reconstruction of sidewalks; construction of bio-retention ponds and building water quality catch basins
 - Project is currently in Phase 1 of construction

- Missouri Avenue**
 - Project limits – from 1st Street NE to Georgia Avenue
 - Scope of work for this project includes – excavation and milling of roadway; repaving all four lanes; reconstruction/repair of sidewalks; new ADA ramps and repair of curbs
 - Project completed

- Western Avenue**
 - Scope of work for this project includes – removal of deteriorated pavement and base within the roadway area; resetting or reconstructing curbs and placing new sidewalks; new wheelchair ramps; streetlight work; replacement of old fire hydrants; installation of 12" water line from 32nd Street to 31st Street; and landscaping

- Rock Creek Church Road**
 - Project limits – Warder Street to Allison Street NW
 - Scope of work for this project includes – excavation and milling of roadway; repaving lanes; repair of curbs
 - Project completed

TO SIGN UP FOR COUNCILMEMBER BOWSER'S E-NEWSLETTERS, please send an e-mail to Jim Slattery at jslattery@dccouncil.us
Follow us on Facebook too!

FOCUS ON 4
WARD 4 MID-YEAR REPORT

SUMMER 2010



FROM THE DESK OF COUNCILMEMBER BOWSER

The first half of 2010 was an exciting one for Ward 4. The renaissance of Georgia Avenue has continued forward around the Metro station with the recent opening of the Sala Thai restaurant and the new CVS. Ground has been broken on the long-anticipated improvements in Lamond-Riggs at Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue. The Tewkesbury Apartments complex, vacant for more than 2 decades, has been renovated into quality, affordable and accessible housing. We broke ground on the Vida Senior Residences on Missouri Avenue. I am extremely excited that the process for turning over the Walter Reed Army Medical Center from the federal government to the District for revitalization has begun. In developing our corridors, the first half of the year has been eventful, but there is still so much more to do.

During these difficult economic times, falling revenues have required the Council to make tough choices to right-size our government. I am pleased, however, to have led the charge to restore funding for vital social safety net programs. Of note, my committee restored almost \$700,000 to the grandparent subsidy program that provides a daily stipend for children in the care of their grandparents. I worked to restore \$1 million for services to at-risk children through the city-wide collaborative network—including the Georgia Avenue Collaborative—and budgeted an extra \$200,000 for Latino family organizations, and \$235,000 for green teams in Ward 4. In addition, I designated \$100,000 to help senior citizens age-in-place and \$654,000 for the Office of the Tenant Advocate. I remain committed to our seniors as evidenced by my annual State of the Ward 4 Senior Address (where I am pictured above). Recognizing that vacant properties should not be treated in the same category as occupied properties, I fought to reestablish a vacant property tax equal to \$5 per \$100 of assessed value. Vacant property owners now face a choice: bring the property into productive use or pay the vacant or blighted rates.

Over \$6 million was invested in Ward 4 school renovations so far this year and we couldn't be more thrilled with our \$75 million Race to the Top grant.

While the national economy seems to have stabilized, and the District's economy has done better than most, I do not expect to see real growth in our revenues for another 12-18 months. I am committed to ensuring that, even as we work to trim the size of our government, that important programs and services are available for District residents in need.

Even with these challenges, I will work to ensure that our schools continue to improve, our crime rates continue to go down, and that economic development in Ward 4 continues to move forward.

Warmest regards,

LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

The Committee held public hearings and roundtables on many bills, resolutions and topics, including:

- CAPCO Improvement Amendment Act
- Public Service Commission Timeliness Standards Act
- Tenant Bill of Rights Amendment Act
- Implementation of the Proactive Inspections Program by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
- Safe Plumbing Act
- Utility Reliability in the District of Columbia
- Neighborhood Preservation Amendment Act
- Blighted Properties Abatement Reform Act
- Billboard Blight Removal Approval Resolution
- Health Insurance for Children with Autism Act
- Financial Protection Amendment Act
- Equal Access to Employment for All Act

HEALTH CARE

With the recent passage of federal health care reform legislation, the Committee will have a busy few years bringing the District into compliance with the many new federal guidelines and mandates. Councilmember Bowser is already at work implementing the federal bill by approving legislation, providing coverage for dependents until age 26, ensuring that health insurance premium rates are reasonable and that rate-payers premium dollars are being spent more on medical care and less on administrative costs.

THE REASONABLE HEALTH INSURANCE RATE-MAKING AND REFORM AMENDMENT ACT will ensure that insurance companies do not unreasonably raise health insurance premium rates each year. The Council approved an emergency bill earlier this year to temporarily cap year-over-year rate increases. This bill represents a more comprehensive solution by requiring that health insurers pay at least 80 cents of every premium dollar collected for individual policies on medical care, and 85 cents of every dollar in group policies on medical care. It also gives more authority to the Insurance Commissioner to review rates and makes it more difficult for health insurers to rescind coverage. This bill received a hearing in June and is expected to become law this fall.

OPEN GOVERNMENT IS GOOD GOVERNMENT ACT

This bill is intended to strengthen the District's open meetings law, which is widely viewed as the worst in the nation. A great deal of important city business can currently be conducted in private, and then ratified by a public vote thus obscuring important deliberations and discussions. This legislation would require that any meeting of a quorum of public bodies, including the DC Council, must be conducted in public. The bill is currently awaiting a vote in Committee.

Councilmember Bowser is pictured below with community members and open government proponents at a press conference announcing her introduction of the bill.



ALTERNATIVE MONEY LENDING AND SERVICES REFORM AMENDMENT ACT
This bill combines elements of two bills previously introduced by Councilmember Bowser: the "Predatory Pawnbroker Regulation Act of 2010" and the "Financial Protection Amendment Act of 2009." The bill lowers the maximum loan interest rates chargeable by pawnshops, and amends the current check cashing fees to bring parity between the rates in the District and Maryland. Also under the bill, all new applications for pawnbroker licenses will be subject to the "great weight" of the affected local ANC.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS ACT
This legislation would require the Executive to publish on its website a record of all resolutions passed by the ANCs and to organize them for easy review. If a resolution comments on legislative matters, the Council will also publish them.

SAVING DC HOMES FROM FORECLOSURE
This bill will provide District of Columbia homeowners the option to request mandatory face-to-face mediation before their homes may be foreclosed. This means that a homeowner will have the option to meet with the bank or the loan service provider, or both, and an independent mediator to negotiate options in lieu of a foreclosure. The bill is modeled after a similar successful program that was implemented in Philadelphia, and will likely be approved by the Council this fall.

RENOVATION PENALTY ABATEMENT ACT
Currently, property tax bills cannot increase by more than 10% per year except in cases when homeowners undertake major renovations. In those cases, the homeowner is immediately subject to a tax bill penalty equal not only to the cost of the renovation but also equal to any assessment beyond the 10% cap. This is a significant disincentive for homeowners to renovation as many District homeowners currently pay taxes on less than half the value of their homes. This is a significant disincentive for homeowners to renovate as many District homeowners currently pay taxes on less than half the value of their homes.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

STATE OF THE WARD 4 SENIOR



On April 29, over 150 Ward 4 seniors attended the State of the Ward 4 Senior Address at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center in Brightwood Park. Government agencies and private companies, including the Department of Health, the District Energy Office, Wells Fargo, and AARP, informed seniors about services tailored specifically to their needs. Above: Councilmember Bowser prepares to give her address.

WARD 4 DISCUSSES GROUP HOMES

Formally known as Community Based Residential Facilities, the preponderance of group homes in Ward 4 has frustrated some residents for years. Recognizing this frustration, Councilmember Bowser has been working to facilitate a balance between the federal requirements for group homes serving people with disabilities and the need to maintain the single family nature of Ward 4 neighborhoods. In May, Councilmember Bowser hosted a Ward-wide forum during which residents heard from, and asked questions of, District agencies involved with the regulation of these facilities as well as from Attorney General Peter Nickles. To make the operations of group homes more transparent for residents, Councilmember Bowser has asked the Attorney General to research current law to see if there is a way to notify neighbors before a group home opens on a block and to encourage new operators to spread more evenly throughout the District. She has also requested that the City Administrator designate a single point of contact in his office to address community concerns about group homes and respond to inquiries.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2009, the District's homicide rate was the lowest it has been in over four decades. The District has made tremendous strides in reducing crime in Ward 4, and across the city, and this year, the crime rate continues to drop. Two of Ward Four's most attractive features are its tight-knit communities and its lower crime rate. Councilmember

Bowser looks forward to preserving these features by working with our new Fourth District Commander, Kimberly Missouri, and Second District Commander Matthew Klein to increase police presence in our neighborhoods and continue our positive momentum in the fight against crime.

We thank Chief Cathy Lanier for always being available to address pressing issues in Ward 4.

Want to keep informed about public safety matters in your neighborhood? Attend regular monthly PSA and Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) meetings.

Visit www.mpd.cdc.gov for more information or call my office.

WARD 4 WELCOMES IN-COMING FOURTH DISTRICT COMMANDER KIMBERLY MISSOURI...



...AND THANKS SECOND DISTRICT COMMANDER MATTHEW KLEIN FOR HIS CONTINUED SERVICE!

OFFICE HOURS IN THE WARD

Councilmember Bowser knows that residents have busy schedules and are not always able to make it downtown to the Wilson Building. Office Hours in the Ward provides an opportunity for residents to discuss constituent, legislative, and many other topics one-on-one with their Councilmember. A different local Ward 4 business serves as host of Office Hours in the Ward each time.

Join us for our next Office Hours in the Ward: **Saturday, September 25, at My Little Bistro located at 353 Cedar Street NW. For information, please contact Brandon Todd at 202-724-8052 or btodd@dccouncil.us.**

Thanks to this year's hosts:

- JANUARY - Peaches Cafe, 6214 3rd St. NW – South Manor Park
- APRIL - Flip-It Bakery, 4532 Georgia Ave. NW - Petworth
- JUNE - Ledo's Pizza, 7435 Georgia Ave. NW - Takoma

COMMUNITY WALKS

On April 7, Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Fenty and representatives of the Departments of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Transportation; as well as officials from the Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration and Metro, for a walk-through of 14th Street NW from Spring Road to Emerson Street. The improvements begun last year on the corridor have included better lighting of streets, working with small businesses on their facades to improve aesthetics and attract more customers, more foot and bicycle police patrols, all with stronger retail and resident involvement.

On May 27, Councilmember Bowser joined Lamont Akins, representatives of ANC 4D, Nick Majett of DCRA, and Kimberly Missouri, Commander of MPD's Fourth District, for a community walk in the Brightwood Park community. During this walk there were many quality of life matters addressed by DCRA and MPD including vacant properties, alley inspections, and WASA and DDOT issues. If you are interested in inviting Councilmember Bowser to your neighborhood for a walk-through, please contact Brandon Todd at 724-8052.

POOL PARTY AT UPSHUR

On Saturday, May 29, Councilmember Bowser joined the Friends of Upshur Pool, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and ANC 4C in co-hosting the opening of the newly renovated Upshur Pool in 16th Street Heights for the 2010 summer season. This Ward 4 jewel will be further enhanced this fall with the addition of new playground facilities and a new dog park.

SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES & PARKS

PETWORTH LIBRARY

Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Fenty in February at the Petworth Neighborhood Library where they knocked down the wall of a garage to make way for a new and improved community room. \$12 million renovations for the Petworth Neighborhood Library, began in June 2009 and includes a revamped floor plan, window and door restoration, roof repairs, improved ADA access, new mechanical and HVAC systems, new elevator, electrical and fire alarm upgrades, a new outdoor activity area and a 100-person meeting room. The library is scheduled to re-open in the Spring of 2011.

EDUCATION

BETTER FACILITIES. IMPROVING RESULTS
Under the 2010 Master Facilities Plan (MFP), Truesdell and Whittier will undergo school improvements, which will be divided into 3 phases. The first phase beginning in Summer 2010, will focus on classrooms and the scope

of work will include new flooring, new heating and air conditioning systems, new electrical outlets, new marker-boards, and new furniture. Furthermore, the MFP will also ensure that through these improvements facilities are equipped to support specialized programs.

In July 2009, thirteen District of Columbia Public Schools were transformed and deemed as Catalyst schools, with the purpose of promoting strategic school design and content delivery. Whittier was chosen as a STEM model (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and Takoma was selected as an Arts Integration school. The planning and design for each model took place during the 2009-2010 school year and the plans will be executed in the Fall of 2010.

Councilmember Bowser, Allen Lew, Director of the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, and other community stakeholders visited several schools in Ward 4 to determine school needs and to monitor the progress of school modernizations that have already taken place. For schools that will begin their modernizations, such as Whittier and Truesdell, Councilmember Bowser made certain that the needs of each school were completely addressed and included in the Modernization process.

GOOD NEWS FOR SCHOOLS!

After two and a half years of negotiations, a new DCPS teacher's contract (ratified previously in a vote by teachers, 1412-425) was approved unanimously by the Council in July. The contract provides teachers with a salary increase averaging 4% per year, and explicitly lays the groundwork for professional development. The true beneficiaries of this contract are our children.



Councilmember Bowser speaks to students at West Education Campus in 16th Street Heights at a special cherry tree planting in March.

RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

Shepherd Field: The soccer field and walking track adjacent to Shepherd Elementary School will be modernized and recreation opportunities for our children will be enhanced. The project is currently in the last stage of design.

Takoma Aquatic Center Improvements:

Long-needed improvements at the Takoma Aquatic Center commenced in June and will be completed in two phases to minimize disruptions to programming. Initial work, including general improvements to administrative areas, multipurpose rooms, and the weight room, is to be completed in August. Major work requiring the closure of the pool will begin in September. This work includes extensive work on locker rooms, the lobby area and the pool deck, shell, and markers in both the competitive and baby pools. The second phase work will be completed in October.

Upshur Recreation Center Playground:

Due to changing needs of the community, new innovative playground equipment will be installed along with advanced rubber safety surfacing. The addition of ornamental fences,

bike racks, benches, and picnic tables are part of this project which will break ground in September.

Upshur Park Dog Park: A collaboration between the District Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Friends of 16th Street Heights Parks, the dog park will be constructed at the corner of Arkansas Avenue and Allison Street NW. Ground was broken on August 3.

Raymond Recreation Center: A new state of the art recreation center will be co-located with the existing Raymond Elementary School. The new amenities will include an indoor gymnasium, a computer lab, multi-purpose rooms that can be used for programs such as arts & crafts and community meetings, and a dedicated senior room. The project is currently in the design phase with construction scheduled to commence this fall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEWKESBURY CONDOMINIUM RIBBON CUTTING



Two years ago, the District announced the acquisition of the former Tewkesbury Apartments located at 6425 14th St NW in Brightwood, and last May ground was broken. I am pleased to say that on Thursday, June 10 of this year, I joined Mayor Adrian Fenty, Councilmember Kwame Brown, Blue Sky Development, and the Brightwood Community association at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the site of the newly renovated Tewkesbury Condominium. In just two year's time, this property, which sat vacant since the 1980s in the middle of the stable Brightwood community, has been renovated into quality, affordable, and accessible housing.

RIGGS ROAD & SOUTH DAKOTA AVE

On March 8, Councilmember Bowser joined the Mayor, DDOT and the community to break ground for the much needed improvements at the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue in the Lamond-Riggs neighborhood. This is a necessary infrastructure and safety improvement project. The project is estimated to take 16-months and includes major roadway reconstruction and utility upgrades. Construction will take place daily from 9:30 am – 8:30 pm.

NEW PROJECTS ALONG GEORGIA AVE GROUNDBREAKINGS

3801 Georgia Avenue NW - In March, Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Fenty to

break ground on a 6-story, 49-unit condominium building at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Quincy Street NW. Construction is expected to take 16 – 18 months.

3813-15 Georgia Avenue NW - Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Fenty and Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Valerie Santos, at a groundbreaking in January for a new restaurant. Formerly owned by the District government, the site is better known as the former home of Billy Simpson's House of Seafood, which served as a meeting place for civil rights leaders and has recently been designated to the National Register of Historic Places. Construction is slated to start in fall 2010, with completion by early 2011.