



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Focus on Ward 4 Schools

Muriel Tours Ward 4 Schools to Review Readiness for the First Day of School

With just over two weeks before the new school year begins, Councilmember Bowser wanted to check on the status of school improvements in Ward 4. She toured five Ward 4 schools on August 8th to assess the progress made to the facilities and review areas that need additional attention. Muriel visited: Roosevelt Senior High School, Clark Elementary School, LaSalle Elementary School, Coolidge Senior High School and Whittier Elementary School.

Muriel met earlier this week with the DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee's Transformation Team to review the conditions found at these schools and the rest of the 17 schools in Ward 4. They reviewed the staffing, support services, facilities, and the readiness of the teachers, students and community. "Parents need to know that there is a system in place to make the needed repairs in our schools," Muriel said. Muriel has received a pledge from the Transformation Team to get as much done as possible before the start of school.

Muriel Hosts Education Town Hall meeting with DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee

Councilmember Muriel Bowser hosted a Ward 4 Education Town Hall meeting on Thursday, August 9th with DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee, the State Superintendent of Education Deborah Gist and Mayor Adrian Fenty. More than 250 people packed the Sharpe Health School auditorium on 13th Street, NW to hear the vision for DC public schools. Ms. Rhee outlined her vision to improve DC Schools, which included student achievement, securing a safe, secure learning environment for our students and encouraging community and parental involvement. Breakout sessions concluded with an opportunity for Ms. Rhee to hear back from each table with their summary of concerns. Muriel looks forward to continuing to work closely with Chancellor Rhee, Superintendent Gist and Deputy Mayor Victor Reinoso to ensure our students have the best schools!

DCPS Annual Beautification Day - Saturday, August 25

Councilmember Muriel Bowser encourages residents to come out for an hour or two or five to help with the Annual DCPS Beautification Day on Saturday August 25 from 8:00am to 1:00pm at your neighborhood school.

If you are able to help out that day please contact Blondine Hughes the Ward 4 Coordinator for the Beautification Day at 726-9246 or Sheila Banks, the Secretary for the Ward 4 Beautification Day at 722-9253.

Even if you have just ONE hour to volunteer on Saturday, August 25 that would be much appreciated. Our schools need your help!

Economic Development

Muriel Participates in the Kennedy Street Corridor Revitalization Plan

The DC Office of Planning has launched a comprehensive planning effort to look at ways to attract a variety of new investments and amenities to the Kennedy Street corridor. Nearly 100 people participated in a three-hour community workshop held at the Emery Recreation Center on July 21 to engage community members, business people and organization leaders to help identify where they envision improvements along Kennedy Street. During this workshop the participants discussed how these improvements might be sustained and which ones should be priorities.

Additional public meetings are planned for September 29th and October 27th. Stay tuned in this newsletter for more details about those upcoming meetings. If you have questions or want to know more, please contact Malaika Abernathy, Ward 4 Planner, at the DC Office of Planning 202-442-7617 or by email: malaika.abernathy@dc.gov.

Keeping Our Neighborhoods Clean and Safe

National Night Out – August 7th

The fields were full of children, parents, grandparents and POLICE! Yikes, what happened? But wait...it was fun!

Yes, Muriel joined fields of children, parents, grand parents, friends and neighbors for the National Night Out festivities throughout Ward 4 on August 7th.

The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,500 communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

At Coolidge High School, Takoma Elementary School, Rudolph Elementary School, St. Paul Episopal Church and on Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase there were community cook outs with music, games and activities for young people, bingo for seniors, along with information on community safety. The community gathered at Coolidge was very pleased to be joined by a visit from the MPD helicopter. Kids got to see inside the cockpit and talk to the pilots too.

Muriel thanks all the volunteers and police officers that helped plan the events and business owners that gave their support and helped to make the National Night Out 2007 a BIG success throughout Ward 4.

Muriel Congratulates the MPD and Community for Continued Collaboration

Councilmember Bowser acknowledges the hard work performed by the homicide detectives from the Violent Crimes Unit and the community, who after several months of investigation arrested a suspect on August 8, 2007 in the murder of Mr. Jacques Komla. Mr. Komla was found on January 25, 2007, at approximately 8:30 pm, in the 4400 block of Georgia Avenue, NW, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The apprehension of this homicide suspect was a team effort by the MPD officers, detectives and members of the community.

Recent Community Events

Constituent Services at Work: Councilmember Bowser's Office helps Shepherd Park Fire Victims

On May 21, 2007 a fire occurred in the Shepherd Park home of Ms. Richardson and her family. Ms. Richardson and her grand children were displaced from their home in the 7400 block of 13th Street, NW. After weeks of attempting to locate another residence, the Richardson family is safe and secure in a new home with the assistance of Councilmember Bowser's office. However, the family is still in need of household furniture and monetary assistance. Monetary donations are being accepted at PNC Bank located at 7601 Georgia Avenue, NW. If you wish to make furniture donations, please contact Kamaria Mabry, Councilmember Bowser's Constituent Services Coordinator at 202-741-0915. We appreciate the kindness and generosity of Ward 4 neighbors!

Muriel helps close the Young Readers Program at Powell Elementary School

Muriel gave remarks to the 75 parents, children and friends assembled at the closing ceremony for the summer literacy program on August 7th sponsored by Verizon in partnership with the League of United Latin American Citizens. This program has been in existence for the last 3 years at Powell Elementary School with the support of Principal Lucia Vega and Verizon. The Young Readers Program provides literacy instruction for children in grades 3 to 5 or ages 8 to 11. Thirty students participated in the 2007 Summer program.

Upcoming Events

Career Development Workshop – August 17

Councilmember Muriel Bowser in partnership with the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES) One-Stop Operations is sponsoring a career development workshop on Friday, August 17, 2007 at the Peoples Involvement Corporation, 4921 Georgia Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20011 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The sessions will include: life skills, resume preparation, interview and job search techniques. For more information call DOES at 202.724.7000 or visit our web-site at www.dcnetworks.org

Resources

Your Feedback Is Needed!

Residents of Crestwood and 16th Street Heights are accustomed to the annual Legg Mason Tennis Classic held each summer on the grounds of Carter Barron at 16th Street and Kennedy Streets, NW in the William H.G. Fitzgerald Tennis Center. This annual event brings additional visitors and guests, which creates some challenges for residents. In an effort to mitigate the parking concerns this event creates, Councilmember Bowser, in conjunction with the Fourth District Police Department, delivered visitor parking permits to affected blocks around the Fitzgerald Tennis Center. Councilmember Bowser would like your feedback on how the program worked this year and your recommendations to improve it. Please email your comments and suggestions to: Kamaria Mabry, Councilmember Bowser's Constituent Services Coordinator, at kmabry@dccouncil.us before noon on Tuesday August 14th. Councilmember Bowser is hosting a debriefing meeting with all agencies involved. Thanks for your assistance.

Pepco Calls for Conservation as Heat Drives Energy Demand

Pepco is urging customers to conserve energy wherever possible as extremely high temperatures are expected to push demand for electricity to near record levels across the entire Mid-Atlantic region.

Pepco and PJM, the regional power grid operator for 13 states including Maryland and the District of Columbia, said voluntary conservation measures are needed to meet the peak demand for power, especially between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Prudent use of electricity could help maintain the reliability of the interstate transmission system and prevent the need for additional, more stringent energy-saving measures.

Pepco offers the following conservation tips for electricity consumers:

- Close curtains and blinds to keep out the sun and retain cooler air inside,
- Postpone using major electric appliances such as stoves, dishwashers and clothes dryers until the cooler evening hours,
- If health permits, set your air conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees and use fans if available to aid cooling,
- Turn off non-essential electric appliances and equipment.

Pepco will continue to monitor conditions and request the public's assistance as necessary. For more energy-saving tips, visit www.pepco.com.