



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



August 17, 2007

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Focus on Ward 4 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! Muriel looks forward to seeing you around the Ward that day!

DDOT School Transit Subsidy Program

Councilmember Bowser and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) would like to remind parents, guardians, and others about the annual School Transit Subsidy Program. To take advantage of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) School Transit Subsidy Program, you must follow the rules listed below in order to qualify for reduce fare on Metrorail and Metrobus for students:

1) All students and/or parents must obtain Student Travel Applications from their school BEFORE coming to DDOT. Travel Card Applications are no longer given at the DDOT School Transit Subsidy Office.

2) Have your Student Travel Application signed, dated and stamped by your school principal before you arrive at: DDOT, Mass Transit Administration:

2217 14th Street NW, 2nd floor

(Near the intersection of 14th Street and Florida Avenue, NW.)

202-673-1740

Monday - Friday 8:15 am - 4:45 pm

Wednesdays 8:15 am - 7:00 pm. (months of August-October)

As the School Transit Subsidy Program prepares for the start of School Year 2007/2008, we would like to remind you of the following: District law mandates that in order for students to receive discounted travel on Metrobus and Metrorail they must meet all of the following three qualifications: 1) Under 19 years of age with the exception of student with disabilities who are eligible until 22 years of age; 2) Resident of the District, 3) Enrolled in an elementary or secondary public, charter, private or parochial school that is located in the District of Columbia.

If you meet the above criteria, please follow the steps above and bring your signed, dated and stamped application to DDOT's School Transit Subsidy Office. If you have questions or concerns please contact the School Transit Subsidy Office at 202-673-1740.

Economic Development

Councilmember Muriel Bowser welcomes Sister Space and Books – a new bookstore for Ward 4!

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Faye Williams (owner of Sister Space and Books), and the Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corporation are pleased to announce that Sister Space and Books is opening a bookstore in Ward 4 at 7702 Georgia Avenue, NW.

Sister Space and Books is an independently owned bookstore with titles of special interest to African Americans, women, and the faith community. In addition to operating the bookstore on the ground floor, Sister Space and Books will have office space, writing workshops, and group literacy meetings on the 2nd floor of its new leased space.

“This is great news for retail development along Georgia Avenue,” said Councilmember Bowser. “This new bookstore continues my priority to make Georgia Avenue a destination point for shopping and dining. Washington, DC loses about \$4,000 per household in retail spending by residents who shop outside of the city. Recapturing this spending is one of my top priorities because it will create greater conveniences for residents, more job creation in our city, and increase the tax revenues,” she added.

Ms. Bowser thanked the Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corporation for its work to recruit Sister Space and Books to the Upper Georgia Avenue corridor. "Gateway's persistence in marketing the Gateway business district to prospective businesses, its superior ties to local property owners, and its relentless pursuit to make Georgia Avenue clean and safe, have helped bring Sister Space to Georgia Avenue," she said. Marc Loud, Executive Director of Gateway Georgia Avenue, said “Good Things Are Happening on Georgia Avenue,” and “we are looking forward to working with Sister Space and Books and continuing to diversify retail along upper Georgia Avenue.”

A grand opening for the Sister Space site is planned for the fall.

Councilmember Muriel Bowser tours Kennedy Street businesses

As mentioned in this newsletter last week, 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 business corridor. On August 14th, in conjunction with the Barney Neighborhood House, Muriel toured the following businesses on Kennedy Street: Washington Sun News Paper, Mary Wood Florist, Theophus Brooks Upholstery Shop, Horton Funeral Home, Quality Printers, Andrene's Caribbean & Soul Food, and North West Cleaners. During the tour she received feedback from the businesses on what they think are the constraints to their continued growth.

Muriel will continue to participate in the planning and business development in the Kennedy Street corridor. Public meetings on the Kennedy Street coordinator 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.

Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the DC Chamber of Commerce Business Resource Center invite you to an open house

The DC Chamber of Commerce Business Resource Center (BRC) has recently relocated from Georgia Avenue to another Ward 4 location at 7059 Blair Road, NW, Suite 203 in Takoma. They are hosting an open house in their new state-of-the-art facility on Thursday, September 13, 2007 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

The DC Chamber's Business Resource Center (BRC) serves entrepreneurs and small business owners by offering FREE access to relevant educational resources, counseling and a secure, hi-speed wireless Internet connection.



Their services include 1-on-1 counseling, an access to capital program, small business management & cultural awareness seminars, and the Verizon Small Business Technology Learning Center. Plus, an Asian business program which helps Asian-American businesses obtain sustainability and growth.

BRC is there to help turn your business model into a model business. They can be reached at: 202-545-0220 phone or 202-545-0227 fax and also at www.dcchamber.org. Arthur Slade is the BRC Director and can be reached at aslade@dcchamber.org.

Keeping Our Neighborhoods Clean and Safe

This Summer, Water a Street Tree

Councilmember Muriel Bowser encourages residents who have a young tree near their sidewalk to help out by watering it with 10 gallons of water every week during hot, dry weather. (That's two of the big plastic drywall buckets.) Residents can skip the watering when it rains.

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT), which oversees the city's 144,000 street trees, reminds District residents to join DDOT in the watering of young trees during this summer's hot and dry weather.

So far this year, DDOT has planted roughly 4,000 trees across the District — many of them young street trees along sidewalks.

"Our tree canopy is one of the most magical things about the nation's capital," said DDOT Director Emeka Moneme. "Residents and visitors alike realize that Washington is a real 'tree city.' That's why it's important for us to be proactive about protecting our existing trees."

Recent Community Events

Councilmember Bowser spoke to the DC Youth Advisory Council

Muriel gave opening remarks during the DC Youth Advisory Council's (DCYAC) annual youth leadership summit on August 13. The DCYAC was created by young people and District officials to enable them to have a voice in the policies, programs and actions within the city. The DCYAC is responsible for influencing change on legislation and policies that impact young people, and for creating more youth and adult partnerships. The DCYAC has 32 diverse members from across the District ranging in age from 13 to 22. For more information about how to participate in the DC Youth Advisory Council contact Janice Ferebee or Carol Talley at 202-727-7976 or email dcyac@dc.gov.

Upcoming Events

DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs sponsors a Back-to-School Sidewalk Fair

The DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) is sponsoring its first-ever Back-to-School Sidewalk Fair on Thursday, August 23 from 2:00 - 8:00 PM at 941 North Capitol Street, NE, near North Capitol and K Streets, on the sidewalk plaza.

DCRA, District government agencies and corporate sponsors are joining forces to collect school supplies for District of Columbia Public School students.

Look for children's activities and educational information from the Department of Housing and Community Development and District of Columbia Public Schools. There will also be representatives from Housing Inspections, the Office of Consumer Protection, the Office of the Tenant Advocate, the Rental Accommodations and Conversions Division, Department of Employment Service, D.C. Fire and EMS, Department of Health, Department of Insurance, Securities & Banking, D.C. Public Library, Department of Parks and Recreation, Metropolitan Police Department, National Guard, Office of the Attorney General's Child Support Services Division, Office of Human Rights, Office of Tax and Revenue, and the Office of Unified Communications.

Radio station "Heaven 1580 AM"'s Matt Anderson will broadcast live from the event from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Ericka Fowler at 202- 442-4987 or ericka.fowler@dc.gov.

MPD Back to School Day, August 25th

Councilmember Muriel Bowser encourages residents to participate in the Metropolitan Police Department's Back To School Day on Saturday, August 25, 2007 at the Fourth District Station, 6001 Georgia Avenue, NW, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Come join in the fun with artist Daniel Allen and his Poster Design Contest, Jean Design (bring a pair of old jeans), bike safety demonstration, McGruff the crime dog, MPD mounted horse unit, library card sign up and free Back Packs with school supplies. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information please contact: Alicia Rucker, the Fourth District's, Community Outreach Coordinator at (202) 576-7247 office, (202) 439-5474 cell.

Join Councilmember Muriel Bowser for DC Car Free Day, September 18th

On Tuesday, September 18, the District of Columbia will celebrate it's first Car Free Day. Over 1500 cities around the world hold car free events, including many in the United States.

First organized in France in 1998, the "In Town Without My Car" event was later made a National European event in 2000 by the European Commissioner for the Environment, see: <http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/wallstrom>. The goals of what has become known as "Car Free Day" are to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transportation and to raise environmental awareness about the impact of cars on the overall quality of life.

On September 18th, please pledge to leave your car at home and reconnect with the city and people. Whether you take the bus with your neighbors, walk to lunch or dinner, or organize a bike ride or walking tour in your neighborhood, there are many ways to participate.

Councilmember Bowser will lead a convoy of people on bicycles from Ward 4 to the Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. To participate in the convoy, please call Kristen Barden, Communications Director for Councilmember Bowser at 202-724-8052 or email: kbarden@dccouncil.us.

Resources

The Higher Achievement Program needs mentors

Work with motivated scholars in our community!

The Higher Achievement Program is a year-round academic enrichment program for middle school students that provides: help with homework, dinner, math, literature, and technology classes, art and culture studios, college-aged and adult mentors working with scholars every step of the way.

Higher Achievement needs mentors! Please consider mentoring a small group of intellectually curious 5th and 6th graders once a week. Higher Achievement provides a neighborhood achievement center, a challenging curricula, the training, and the support mentors and students need.

They are actively recruiting mentors for the After School Academy to begin the last week of September at the Center. For more information, please visit their web site at: <http://www.higherachievement.org>, or call Karen Berry at: 202.544.3633 x 133 email: kberry@higherachievement.org Bright kids are waiting for you!

Back to School Health Information for Teens and their Parents

The DC Campaign is a nonprofit organization founded in 1999 with the mission of improving life and health for adolescents by cutting teen pregnancy in half. The vast majority of teens without private physicians need assistance to find where to go for health care services. Adolescents typically rely on word of mouth for much of their information about health services, and while they readily identify “the clinic” as a source of medical services, few know clinic locations, hours or how to make an appointment. In response to the concerns raised by young people, the DC Campaign produced a web-based directory of health services complete with address, phone number, hours and available services. An additional benefit is being able to locate services in a specific quadrant of the city with one simple click.

Please visit www.teenpregnancydc.org. On the ‘Tips for Teens’ page there are reasons teens need to go to the doctor, services they can get on their own, how to make an appointment, what to bring to an office visit as well as payment information. For more information, contact Brenda Rhodes Miller at 202.789.4666 ext 11 or bmiller@teenpregnancydc.org.