



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



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**Muriel announces Ward 4 schools are ready for students**

On Wednesday, August 22, 2007, Muriel along with Mayor Adrian Fenty, Allen Lew, Executive Director of the new Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), and DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee, and Deputy Mayor for Education Victor Reinoso announced that all DC public schools will be ready to receive students for the start of the school year. The press conference occurred at Coolidge Senior High School where the athletic field has undergone a major transformation including a new turf field, 8-lane track, baseball and softball inserts, a new scoreboard, press box, lighting system and steeplechase. The interior of the school has also received much needed attention including new hallway lighting, paint, locker repairs and replacement, etc... Some repairs will continue into the school year but will not impair classroom instruction. Muriel said that these improvements show students that the city believes "they are worth this investment. They are worth state-of-the-art facilities." And she added, "This is only the beginning. We will continue to closely monitor the progress to the facilities and classroom instruction throughout the year." Click here to go to Washington Post article "Cost Rises On D.C. School Repairs: Problems Greater Than Expected" from 8/23/07. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/22/AR2007082202820.html>

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## **DCPS Annual Beautification Day tomorrow – August 25**

Muriel 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 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at your neighborhood school. August 25th will culminate the summer work performed at the schools. Community volunteers will be asked to work on exterior and front grounds of schools buildings – including painting, clean-up and landscaping.

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 tomorrow!

## **Economic Development**

### **Muriel meets with Ward 4 alcohol retailers**

Muriel held a meeting last week with all the Class A and Class B alcohol distributors in Ward 4 affected by the single sales ban. This meeting was conducted in conjunction with the Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) and explained the law and how each distributor can transition their business to comply with the law.

After August 1, 2007, all holders of off-premises retailer's licenses, Class A and B, located within Ward 4 are prohibited from dividing a manufacturer's package of more than one container of beer, malt liquor, or ale, to sell an individual container of the package if the container is less than 70 ounces or less; and also prohibits selling, giving, offering, exposing the sale, or delivering an individual container of beer, malt liquor, or ale if the container is 70 ounces or less. The Targeted Ward 4 Moratorium Zone will expire four (4) years from its effective date of September 30, 2004.

Muriel invited the Director of the Department of Small and Local Business Development, Erik Moses, to the meeting to ensure that the affected businesses have the resources they need to continue to thrive and prosper in Ward 4. More information about the resources available to local businesses can be found at [www.dsldb.dc.gov](http://www.dsldb.dc.gov) or by calling (202) 727-3900. For more information about the single sales ban, please contact the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration's Chief Investigator, Johnnie Jackson at (202) 442-4423.

## **Keeping Our Neighborhoods Clean and Safe**

### **Muriel tours the Unified Communications Center**

On Monday, August 20th, Muriel toured the Unified Communications Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE to better understand how the 911, 311 and Mayor's Call Center 727-1000 systems operate and how best to help keep residents safe. During the tour, Muriel met with operators and supervisors to review the types of calls received and how they are routed. Muriel was present to hear a few calls come into the Center and witnessed how calls are taken and dispatched.

Here is a summary of the recommendation for residents from the Unified Communications Center:

In the event of an emergency call 911

Dial 911 to request police, fire, and emergency medical services in situations that ARE life-threatening, involve serious violent crimes like homicide or assault, or that are in progress.

It is critical that you provide the operator with information that is as accurate and complete as possible. Try to remain calm, and speak slowly and clearly. While the information you provide will vary with the incident, there are some critical details that will be required in almost every instance.

These include:

- A brief description of the crime;
- Time of occurrence;
- Exact location (including street and unit/apartment numbers, if applicable);
- Extent of injuries or property damage, if any;
- Description of any suspects: gender, race, height, weight, clothing, hair color/style, facial hair, scars/marks/tattoos;
- Weapons used, including a description;
- Description of suspect vehicle: make/model, color, tag numbers (including jurisdiction), whether there are temporary tags on the vehicle.
- Direction of flight: down what street/alley; on foot, bicycle or motor vehicle

Also, it is critical that you give the call-taker your phone number-especially if you are calling from a wireless phone-so that the police can call you back if they need additional information.

In the event of a situation that is not life-threatening call 311:

Dial 311 to request services for situations that ARE NOT life-threatening, not serious, or are not currently in progress. You may also call 311 to request general information from the police department. During calls to 311 you may be asked for the following critical information:

- A brief description of the crime;
- Time of occurrence;
- Exact location (including street and unit/apartment numbers, if applicable);
- Extent of injuries or property damage, if any;
- Description of any suspects: gender, race, height, weight, clothing, hair color/style, facial hair, scars/marks/tattoos;
- Weapons used, including a description;
- Description of suspect vehicle: make/model, color, tag numbers (including jurisdiction), whether there are temporary tags on the vehicle;
- Direction of flight: down what street/alley; on foot, bicycle or motor vehicle.

Providing this information is important because it will enable the police to investigate and/or follow up on the crime that has occurred.

Residents and visitors are also encouraged to call (202) 727-1000, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to request scheduled services such as trash removal, potholes, bulk pickups, and recycling. Residents may also use this number to report a missed scheduled service, inquire about city agency phone numbers and hours of operation, and to pursue other customer service-related items. For further information about when to call 911 or 311 or 727-1000 please visit: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547634,mpdcnav\\_gid,1554.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547634,mpdcnav_gid,1554.asp).

## **Muriel encourages kids to walk and bike to school**

On August 22nd, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Network, which is co-chaired by Councilmember Muriel Bowser, and Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells launched a new Web site: [www.saferoutespartnership.org](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org) to help parents, schools, local governments and advocacy groups implement programs that will encourage more kids to walk and bike to and from school.

As children prepare for the start of school on Monday, the SRTS Network is taking steps to make their trip to school a healthier activity. The SRTS Network is organized by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

The \$612 million federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which was approved by the U.S. Congress in 2005, provides funding to all 50 states and the District of Columbia to support education and enforcement programs and to help communities improve infrastructure such as building sidewalks and bike paths.

The SRTS program is an important initiative, as the percentage of U.S. students who walk and/or bicycle to school declined from approximately 50 percent in 1969 to only 15 percent today. At the same time, obesity rates have increased dramatically among children of all ages. Today, more than 33 percent of children and adolescents-approximately 25 million kids-are overweight or obese. In addition, the SRTS program helps relieve traffic congestion caused by parents driving their children, which is substantial in many U.S. communities.

"We created this Web site to help people take action now to bring SRTS programs to their communities," said SRTS National Partnership Director Deb Hubsmith. "The potential benefits of SRTS programs include healthier children, reduced congestion around schools, less pollution and safer streets." For more information, please contact: Glen Harrison, DC Network Organizer, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, glen@waba.org, (202) 518-0524.

## Recent Community Events

### **Muriel holds debriefing on tennis tournament parking**

On Tuesday, August 14, 2007, Muriel hosted a debriefing on the Legg Mason Tennis Tournament parking and their effect on our neighborhoods. Along with the Councilmember and her staff, there were ANC Commissioners Robert Bland and Jim Jones, representatives from the Metropolitan Police Department, the National Park Service, the Mayor's Office, and the 16th Street Heights Civic Association President Tim Letzkus. Efforts to reduce the impact of parking on the neighborhood included: issuing special visitor passes to nearby neighbors and discouraging visitors from parking on local streets. The parking permits and letters were distributed door-to-door one week before the tournament start date by the Councilmember's office to the residents that were affected by the tournament. MPD also had an abundance of permits at the 4th District that residents could pick up if needed. The Department of Transportation posted "no parking" signs and the National Park Service set up barricades the day before the tournament. MPD patrolled the perimeter areas and NPS enforced parking during the entire tournament.

Improvements for next year will include large maps of the entire area that will be distributed by the Councilmember's office to all agencies/persons involved to make sure no streets or residents are overlooked. Muriel will work closely with the ANC Commissioners, equipping them with additional permits to distribute in their SMDs. The Councilmember's office will brief the affected ANC Commissioners and civic associations prior to the event. We are hoping the improvements will make the tournament parking situation better for years to come.

### **Councilmember Muriel Bowser's office at the 2007 Citywide Job Fair**

On Wednesday, August 22, 2007, Muriel's office participated in Mayor Adrian Fenty's 2007 Citywide Job Fair at the Washington Convention Center. There were hundreds of public and private vendors and more than 17,000 eager job seekers who participated in the day-long job fair. The event was sponsored by the DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR), in partnership with the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES). The job fair drew more than 145 employers – including District and federal agencies and more than 60 employers from the private sector. DCHR Director Brender L. Gregory said the huge turnout was higher than anticipated and attributed the numbers to the wide variety of positions available. DCHR will survey both government and private sector exhibitors over the next few weeks to gauge the success of the job fair.

## Upcoming Events

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

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.

## **DCRA Housing Service Center will close early on August 28**

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) will close its Housing Service Center on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 2:00 p.m. for staff training. This training is part of the preparation for the transition of the Rental Accommodations and Conversions Division from DCRA to the Department of Housing and Community Development on Oct. 1. The Housing Service Center will resume regular hours on Wednesday, Aug. 29 at 8:15 a.m.

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

On Tuesday, September 18, the District of Columbia will celebrate its 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](mailto:kbarden@dccouncil.us).

Also please look for Councilmember Bowser on CNN Headline News every 24 and 54 of the hour beginning the first week of September until Car Free Day, Tuesday, September 18th.

## **Resources**

### **Ward 4 welcomes the DC Youth Orchestra Program! Sign-up now!**

The DC Youth Orchestra Program (DCYOP) is in the heart of Ward 4 at Coolidge High School. There are instrumental music classes for beginning, intermediate and advanced students from age 4 ½ to 19.

The new semester starts September 11th and there will be an open house on Saturday, September 8 at Coolidge High School from 9:00 am to 12 noon. The open house will be an opportunity to try out instruments, talk to teachers, and register for classes.

There are early registration discounts through September 1, 2007. The Fall 2007 Semester runs from September 11, 2007 to January 20, 2008. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes for violin, viola, cello, string bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba, percussion, recorder, harp and beginning guitar are available. All classes take place at Coolidge High School. For more information call 202-723-1612 or email: [info@dcyop.org](mailto:info@dcyop.org)

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