



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Happy Labor Day!

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Muriel thanks all the hard work to prepare schools for first day
EPA propose Chillum gasoline spill remedy
DCRA launches online building permits
Energy Star rebate program will conclude on September 7
September is Preparedness month in DC

Upcoming Events

Kennedy Senior Wellness Center grand opening – September 19
“Get Fresh” Festival at RFK – September 8
Invitation to screening of new documentary film – September 10
Predatory Lending Town Hall Meeting –September 11
Literacy Volunteer Fair – September 13
Washington Humane Society ‘Labor of Love’ – September 1-4

Resources

DPR Fall 2007 activity guide now available
DISB offers financial education seminars

Focus on Ward 4 Schools

Muriel thanks all the hard work to prepare schools for first day

Councilmember Muriel Bowser would like to thank DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee, Allen Lew, Executive Director of the new Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), the Deputy Mayor for Education Victor Reinoso and all the parents, teachers, principals, and friends of DC Public Schools who worked so diligently this summer to make sure the schools were ready for students earlier this week for the start of school. “During my tour of all the Ward 4 schools this summer, I witnessed a new source of energy and commitment to our schools. The schools look great and will be productive learning environments for our students,” Muriel said.

EPA proposes Chillum gasoline spill remedy

On August 30, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its recommendations for cleaning up the site where a gasoline release occurred at the former Chevron gas station located in Chillum, Maryland in October 1989. This release has impacted Ward 4’s Riggs Park community. The purpose of the remedy is to clean up the contaminated groundwater resulting from the Chevron release. In addition, the remedy is designed to protect human health from potential exposure to subsurface gasoline vapor intrusion into homes.

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Here is a summary of EPA's statements:

EPA's proposed remedy includes:

- 1) Continued operation of the existing groundwater remediation system in Maryland;
- 2) Expansion of the existing system by installing additional recovery wells at an angle across Eastern Avenue, and
- 3) Installation of individual vapor mitigation systems in homes above the plume where measured vapor concentrations exceed EPA's remediation standards for indoor air of Benzene (8 ug/m³), MTBE (17 ug/m³), Xylenes (100 ug/m³), Ethylbenzene (1000 ug/m³), and Toluene (5000 ug/m³).

The EPA will host an open house and public meeting on Thursday September 6th, 2007 at Jesse LaSalle Elementary School, 501 Riggs Road, NE. From 4 to 6 pm there will be representatives from the EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on hand to answer questions about the proposed remedy and health related issues in an informal setting. The public meeting will begin at 6:30. Councilmember Bowser will resume the monthly community meetings on this issue on October 4th at 6:30 Pm at LaSalle Elementary School.

A public comment period from August 30, 2007 to October 29, 2007, during which time members of the public can provide comments to EPA's proposed remedy. All comments will be considered before the final remedy is selected.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed remedy must submit comments to EPA before October 29, 2007. Comments must be submitted in writing to: Andrew Fan, Project Manager, EPA Region 3, Mail Code 3WC23, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or by fax to: 215-814-3113 or by email to: fan.andrew@epa.gov.

DCRA launches online building permits

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) earlier this week launched the first fully-online permitting process available to District residents and contractors licensed in the District – Postcard Permits. The permits are available for limited-scope jobs within the District, such as:

- * Repairing or replacing an existing fence,
- * Interior demolition (for less than 5,000 square feet),
- * Fire escape repair,
- * Fixing the front porch steps in a single-family home, and
- * Installing 10 or fewer lighting fixtures or electrical outlets.

"We realize that many District residents and businesses have simple permitting needs," said Acting Director Linda K. Argo. "Moving some of these less-complicated permit process applications online will mean that thousands of DCRA customers will no longer have to make a trip to our offices. This new feature is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and customers can access and submit permit applications at a time that's most convenient for them. It is the first step in automating our entire permitting infrastructure."

The move to online permitting follows DCRA's recent opening of a completely restructured, redesigned Permit Center. Many permitting forms for more complex construction jobs are now available online – easily available to download and fill out, before making a trip to DCRA.

The application process for a Postcard Permit is simple:

Visit dcra.dc.gov

Click on the "Permits" link

Then click on "Get a Postcard Permit Online"

The permit may be paid for online with a credit card. After completing the application process, the postcard permit is issued as an Adobe PDF file. This file can then be printed or saved on a personal computer.

There are six categories of Postcard Permits:

1. Building Postcard Permit (available to all)
2. Electrical (General) Postcard Permit (available to all)

The following permits are only available to licensed contractors:

3. Electrical (Heavy-Up) Postcard Permit
4. Mechanical Postcard Permit
5. Plumbing Postcard Permit
6. Gas Fitting Postcard Permit

Energy Star rebate program will conclude on September 7th

Muriel is evaluating the possibility of extending the District of Columbia's Department of the Environment (DDOE) Energy Star rebate program which is scheduled to conclude on Friday, September 7, 2007. The cutoff date was instituted to ensure that rebates are adequately processed and issued to DC residents by or before Sunday, September 30, 2007. Residents can receive rebates on Energy Star rated clothes washers (\$150), refrigerators (\$100) and window a/c units (\$50). Rebates are available for 1 clothes washer and /or refrigerator, and as many as 2 window a/c units per customer.

You must fax, email, or hand deliver your application and supporting documentation (receipts and a copy of Pepco bill) to LaKeisha Estep, Energy Star program manager, as soon as possible. Mail-in applications are no longer being accepted to avoid possible delays in the mail delivery system. Please visit:

<http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/cwp/view, a,1209,q, 492845.asp> to download the rebate applications.

You can submit an Energy Star rebate application via:

1. Fax: 202-673-6725 (Attention LaKeisha Estep)
2. Email: lakeisha.estep@dc.gov

Please send applications and supporting documentation (receipts and a copy of Pepco bill) in PDF Format.

3. Hand delivery:

2000 14th Street, NW
Suite 300E
Washington, DC 20009

Thank you for partnering with DDOE to make the District of Columbia environmentally friendly!

September is Preparedness month in DC

Mayor Fenty has proclaimed September as Preparedness Month for the District of Columbia and there will be a series of events throughout the month to highlight preparedness programs and encourage citizen participation in preparedness efforts.

Sponsored annually by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action.

More than 625 national, regional, state and local organizations, including Serve DC and HSEMA, have pledged to distribute emergency preparedness information and sponsor activities throughout the month that will promote emergency preparedness.

Muriel hopes you and your family will join us at one or more of the preparedness activities that will help you know about what you can do to prepare for emergencies of all types, both natural and manmade. Please visit: <http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/site/default.asp> to learn more about the events around the city during the month of September.

Upcoming Events

Kennedy Senior Wellness Center Grand Opening – September 19 – Save the Date

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Mayor Adrian Fenty and Dr. Clarence Brown, Acting Director of the DC Office on Aging invite the community to attend the ribbon cutting and open house for the new Kennedy Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW on Wednesday, September 19, 2007. The ribbon cutting will be at 10 AM and the open house from 11 am to 7 pm. To RSVP please call: 202-724-5626.

The Kennedy Senior Wellness Center will be the first Ward 4 senior wellness center and will join the city's 12 other senior recreation program centers, where residents over the age of 55 may take part in programs that challenge them to remain active and involved in the larger community.

“Get Fresh” Festival at RFK – September 8

The DC Department of Health's Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) and the Senior Commodity Supplemental Foods Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs are hosting their annual "Get Fresh" Festival on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at RFK Stadium Parking Lot 6 from 10:00 am to 3:00pm.

The festival celebrates National Farmers' Market Week. The purpose of the festival is to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables among District of Columbia residents.

There will also be:

- 1) FREE Immunizations for children 0 to 13 years of age.
- 2) Prostrate and Breast Cancer Screenings
- 3) Vision and Dental Screenings
- 4) A cooking competition between the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department, Fire Department and the Department of Corrections. Each team must prepare an appetizer, main dish and dessert using the fruits and vegetable found at the farmers' market on that day. The contest is a Spin-off of the Iron Chef Cooking Show.

For more information please contact: Sabrina Lewis, FMNP Coordinator, WIC State Agency, 2100 Marth Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Suite 409, Washington, DC 20020, Telephone (202) 645-5663, Fax (202) 645-0516.

Invitation to screening of new documentary film – September 10

Councilmember Muriel Bowser along with Council Chair Vincent Gray and Councilmembers Mary Cheh (Ward 3), Yvette Alexander (Ward 7), and Harry "Tommy" Thomas (Ward 5), and the Center for Responsible Lending, invite you to a screening of "In Debt We Trust: America Before the Bubble Bursts."

This new documentary by award-winning journalist Danny Schechter explores the burgeoning debt crisis affecting American consumers. The film delves into the rapidly growing burden of credit card debt, the mortgage meltdown, payday lending, and bankruptcy. This documentary has special significance for policymakers as the District moves toward creating a healthier financial climate for residents by protecting consumers

from predatory payday lending practices.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Dr. Robert Manning, frequent radio and television commentator on financial issues and author of "Credit Card Nation."

WHAT: Screening of "In Debt We Trust," preceded by reception and followed by panel discussion

WHERE: E Street Cinema, 555 11th Street N.W. (entrance on E St. between 10th and 11th)

WHEN: 5:30 PM, Monday, September 10, 2007

Reception - 5:30 PM

Screening - 6:00 PM (sharp!)

Panel discussion - 7:30 PM

Please RSVP to jfaust@dccouncil.us at (202) 724-8062.

Predatory Lending Town Hall Meeting –September 11

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, DC Attorney General Linda Singer and the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs will be hosting a predatory lending town hall meeting on Tuesday September 11th at 9:00 AM at Powell Elementary School, 1350 Upshur Street, NW. We will offer a bilingual presentation detailing what a prospective and recent homebuyer should be careful of when selecting a mortgage. The Attorney General will also discuss what residents can do to avoid the risk of foreclosure. For more information please contact: George Escobar, Acting Deputy Director, Office on Latino Affairs, 202-671-2824 or by email: george.escobar@dc.gov.

Literacy Volunteer Fair – September 13

Help an adult get a GED, learn to read or learn English!

The DC Public Library System in partnership with DC LEARNs will host an adult literacy volunteer fair at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library on September 13, 2007, from 6:30-8:30 PM.

Learn more about adult literacy, meet representatives from local adult literacy program and sign up to be a volunteer. To register, call Ben Merrion at (202) 727-2431 or email benjamin.merrion@dc.gov.

The D.C. LEARNs literacy calendar lists significant literacy events or deadlines, as well as a selected number of regional and national events that may be of interest to the D.C. literacy community. If you know of any upcoming literacy events in the DC region, please submit them to the calendar!

If you want to volunteer as a teacher or tutor for GED, ESL, ABE (Adult Basic Education) or computer training please enter your information into their volunteer database: www.readoutloud.org

Resources

DPR Fall 2007 activity guide now available

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Fall 2007 guide features activities and events for children, teens, adults, families and seniors, as well as specialized programs for people with disabilities. Please feel free to browse all that is offered. The book includes a directory of facilities, a guide to educational and child care programs, various teen activities, arts and crafts for all ages, sports and fitness resources, a listing of senior services, swimming, and much more!

In addition to the traditional athletic and recreational fall programming, DPR is now offering some new classes this season including Clowning Around, a clown college for youth ages 13 to 16; Hand Dance Instruction for Young Men, where students will learn the techniques of hand dancing; Children's Theatre, where participants will be taught acting skills and will perform throughout the city; and Silvah Sistahs, a performing arts troupe for active seniors, ages 55 and older.

Some specialized programs and classes have a nominal fee, but most programs are FREE to DC residents, plus scholarships are available for all fee-based programs. To register for any program, please visit or contact your local recreation center.

http://dpr.dc.gov/dpr/frames.asp?doc=/dpr/lib/dpr/services/pdf/2007_fall_guide.pdf

Labor of Love Weekend Volunteer Orientation

The Washington Humane Society needs your help! If you don't already have plans to head out of town this Labor Day weekend, the Washington Humane Society is hosting a special "Labor of Love" volunteer orientation at the DC Shelter (operated by the Washington Humane Society) on 1201 New York Avenue, NE. This orientation will be specifically geared toward increasing volunteer adoption counselors at the DC shelter.

Volunteer adoption counselors play matchmaker by assisting potential adopters visiting the shelter in viewing adoptable animals, and assisting the adoption staff in determining the suitability of a particular animal and family.

The new volunteer adoption counselor orientation will be held this Saturday, September 1st at 10:00 a.m.! Becoming a Washington Humane Society volunteer is a two-step process. After the orientation on Saturday you will be asked to attend a mandatory on-site training on either:

Sunday, September 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at 1201 New York Avenue, NE 20002

Tuesday, September 4th, at 6:30 p.m. at 1201 New York Avenue, NE 20002

Volunteer adoption counselor overview:

Show adoptable animals to prospective adopters during shelter viewing hours. M, T, Th, F from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sat/Sun from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Weekday evening hours and weekends are most in need of volunteer adoption counselors. Provide information about specific available animals and the adoption process to shelter visitors. Casually interview prospective adopters and help them identify animals appropriate to their lifestyle and interests. Commit to 8 hours per month, in time periods no less than 2 hours, for a 6-month time period.

No sign-up necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Eleanor Blackford, Volunteer Program Manager, EBlackford@washhumane.org 202-723-5730 (ext. 208) or visit the volunteer page on our web site www.washhumane.org. All volunteers must be at least 18-years-old. The Washington Humane Society cannot accommodate community service or required volunteer hours.

DISB offers financial education seminars at a library near you

Following the success of the monthly first Wednesday's Money-Saving Seminars, the DC Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) has joined the Business Division of the DC Public Library in hosting monthly financial-education seminars and workshops for the rest of 2007.

The seminars are designed to help individuals and families reduce debt, save money and build wealth. The goal is to create innovative strategies to motivate Washingtonians to develop better financial habits. All seminars are held every last Thursday of the month and are free and open to the public. During the presentations, DISB will introduce attendees to DC Saves, a local offshoot of the America Saves campaign, which promotes saving over spending.

WHAT: Financial Education Seminars

WHEN: Last Thursday of the month, from 3 pm to 4:30 pm

WHERE: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street, NW, Great Hall

Call (202) 727-1171 for information. For general inquiries about these seminars, contact Michelle Phipps-Evans at (202) 442-7822.