



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



FOCUS ON

August 7, 2007

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Focus on Ward 4 Schools

Muriel tours Shepherd Elementary School

Councilmember Muriel Bowser is committed to ensuring our schools are ready for children on August 27th! On Tuesday July 31, 2007, Councilmember Bowser along with Mayor Fenty, Chancellor Rhee, Allen Lew, the Shepherd Elementary PTA President, the principal, teachers, ANC Commissioners, members of the Ward 4 Education Compact (recently formed by Councilmember Bowser), representatives of Turner Construction Company, and other interested community leaders, met to tour Shepherd Elementary school to assess their facility's readiness for the opening of school on August 27th.

Mr. Warren Peck led the group on a tour of the building and pointed out the areas that were still in need of repair and assistance. The Mayor and Chancellor Rhee committed to all the repairs highlighted during the tour including, among others, window replacement, removing old and broken equipment and remodeling the bathrooms. Chancellor Rhee will specifically address the curriculum issues. Parents also requested remedial programs for children requiring additional support services.

After the tour, Muriel called for a briefing on the readiness of all Ward 4 schools. This meeting will be on Tuesday, August 7th .

Economic Development in Ward 4

Tax free shopping started Saturday August 4th ! Please support Ward 4 businesses!

The District of Columbia will offer a sales tax holiday beginning Saturday, August 4 through midnight Sunday, August 12, to provide buyers an exemption from the 5.75 percent DC sales tax for shoes, clothing, accessory items and school supplies. The exemption covers each item costing \$100 or less.

The sales tax exemption will apply to each eligible item regardless of how many items are sold on the same bill to a customer. It will also apply to layaway sales if the retailer and customer enter into a layaway agreement or the customer makes the final payment on the layaway order during the exemption period.

For more information about the sales tax holiday, the public and businesses should call the customer service center at (202) 727-4TAX (4829). In addition, there will be a second tax holiday held in November, beginning the weekend following Thanksgiving, November 23, and continuing through midnight December 2.

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Keeping Our Neighborhoods Clean and Safe

Come join us Tuesday, August 7th for National Night Out events around the Ward!

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, that takes place on the first Tuesday in August from 5PM to 9PM. Councilmember Bowser's office is actively participating in National Night Out by rallying community members throughout the District of Columbia to join with neighbors and police officers in their PSAs to be a part of this annual event.

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.

National Night Out is designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Please join us at one of four locations in Ward 4, or come to all four:

- ★ PSA 401 Lt. Ronald Thomas 202-730-0603 at Takoma Elementary School, 7010 Piney Branch Road, NW
- ★ PSA 402 Lt. Suleika Brooks 202-715-7476 at Coolidge High School, 3rd and Sheridan Street, NW
- ★ PSA 403 Lt. Daniel Aurigemma 202-730-0606 at Rudolph Elementary School, 5200 - 2nd Street, NW
- ★ PSA 404 Lt. Derrick McNeely 202-730-0601 at St. Paul Episcopal Church, Rock Creek Church Road and Webster Street, NW

All locations will have a community cook out with music, games and activities for young people, along with information on community safety. Come out and be part of this National Neighborhood Party. For more information call Alicia Rucker, Fourth District, Community Outreach Coordinator, MPD, 202-576-7247 office, 439-5474 cell.

Ward 4 ban on single-sales of alcohol in effect

Beginning on August 1, 2007, the Targeted Ward 4 Moratorium Zone for single containers of beer, malt liquor or ale, as issued in D.C. Official Code § 25-341(b) and 25-341(c) (2004), became effective for all Class A and Class B alcohol retailer licensees that are located within Ward 4.

All Class A and Class B licensees 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
- ★ 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.

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The geographic boundaries of the Targeted Ward 4 Moratorium Zone to contain a significant portion of Ward 4, including the areas surrounding Georgia Avenue, N.W., Kennedy Street, N.W., 14th Street, N.W., Blair Road, N.W., Riggs Road, N.W., and Taylor Street, N.W.

The Targeted Ward 4 Moratorium Zone will expire four (4) years from its effective date of September 30, 2004.

After August 1, 2007, all holders of off-premises retailer's licenses, Class A and B, located within the Targeted Ward 4 Moratorium Zone, who are found in violation of D.C. Code, may be subject to such penalties as provided by District of Columbia law.

If you are a Class A or Class B retailer and need assistance with disposal of single containers of beer, malt liquor and sale in sizes 70 ounces or less, you may request in writing with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board a disposal permit that will allow you to sell and transport your remaining items to other District retailers and wholesalers.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration's Chief Investigator, Johnnie Jackson at (202) 442-4423 for assistance.

Muriel joins the residents in congratulating the Metropolitan Police Department for terrific police work!

On Thursday July 26th, at approximately 0300 hours the Fourth District Vice Unit with assistance from the Vice Units of the 3rd, 5th and 7th Districts, conducted search and arrest warrants at 6 locations in PSAs 401 and 402. This operation stemmed from citizen complaints about drug trafficking in the area around the perimeter of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The search warrant locations were on Georgia Avenue, Butternut Street and Highland Avenue, NW. During the execution of these warrants 7 guns, 2 ballistic vests, a large amount of drugs, 4 vehicles and money were seized and 11 suspects were arrested. Councilmember Bowser stated, "My gratitude to all the citizens that have called and written about this illegal activity and to the police for their diligence and commitment to working with us to see this operation through to this great end."

Neighborhood Clean-ups

There have been a number of successful clean-up efforts across the Ward during the last few weeks!

A few highlights:

- ★ On July 21, 2007, Muriel led an alley clean-up in the alley behind the 500 block of Olgethorpe Street, NE.
- ★ On July 28th, 2007, Muriel, along with the Mayor's Clean City Coordinator and the Department of Public Works, organized a graffiti blitz along Georgia Avenue.
- ★ Muriel joined ANC4C01 Commissioner Dee Jolley who led a clean up around 13th and Madison Streets to Missouri and Colorado Avenues.

There were lots of residents who participated and made these events successful to improve our neighborhoods. We need your continued efforts to keep our city's streets, alleys and yards clean of debris and overgrowth.

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Please call DPW's Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP) to organize a neighborhood cleanup. They have a Helping Hand Program that will provide tools and trash bags to community groups organizing neighborhood cleanup projects. Graffiti paint-out kits are also available. DPW will even send trucks to pick up the bagged trash collected by tired volunteers! For more information about the Helping Hand Program and to get an application form, please call the Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP) office at (202) 645-7190. For additional city services, please call the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at (202) 727-1000.

Recent Community Events

Ribbon Cuttings

On July 28th, Muriel was joined by Mayor Adrian Fenty, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation Wanda Durden and members of the Friends of Petworth Recreation Center, along with lots of parents and kids to inaugurate the new spray park and 'tot lot' at the Petworth Recreation Center, 801 Taylor Street, NW. This is a welcomed addition to the Petworth community and much thanks is given to the Friends of Petworth Recreation Center who secured private funding, in addition to DC government funding, and followed this project closely until completion. The spray park will be open this summer from 1-3:30pm Monday through Friday and from 1:00-4:30pm on Saturdays. Please call the recreation center for more information (202) 576-6850.

On July 20th, Muriel along with Mayor Adrian Fenty and members of the Kennedy Street neighborhood toured the new Kennedy Street Senior Wellness Center, at 324 Kennedy St NW. This new wellness center will be open in September and will provide services that promote healthy habits, enhance social, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing and help to prevent unnecessary and costly medical problems associated with the aging process. In her remarks, Councilmember Bowser commented that, "This new wellness center will be a tremendous resource for the Ward 4 community. I hope that all of our seniors and their caregivers will take advantage of this facility." For more information please call the DC Office on Aging, Willie Hall at 202-552-4874.

A celebration of summer learning at Howard University! On August 2, Councilmember Bowser attended the close-out ceremony for the 7th Annual Academic Remediation and Technical Arts program. Howard University graduates and professionals each summer provide literacy and computer graphic courses. More than 75 young people participated in this program this summer. The Friends of Carter Barron Foundation of the Performing Arts sponsored the 7th annual close out ceremony.

Upcoming Events

Citywide Job Fair – Wednesday, August 22, 2007

With more vendors, more space and more jobs available to eager job seekers, the DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR) is proud to announce that the 2007 Citywide Job Fair will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at the Washington Convention Center from 10 am to 4 pm.

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Save the Date....

Councilmember Muriel Bowser will host a Business Roundtable on October 4, 2007. The Roundtable will bring businesses together to discuss how to improve the business climate in the Ward, how to take advantage of existing programs and services and how the revitalization of our corridors will be good for business. Don't miss this important discussion. More information will appear in this newsletter in the coming weeks...

Resources

DDOT's visitor permit parking pilot project in Ward 4

This summer, the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) will introduce a one-year, pilot project to test a new Visitor Permit Parking (VPP) program for households on Residential Parking Program (RPP) streets in Ward 4. The VPP program is intended to respond to citizen's concerns regarding parking difficulties experienced by their guests and service providers under the RPP program.

DDOT will mail Visitor Parking Permits to the households of Ward 4 RPP Permit holders for use at any time by guests or service providers. Only one permit per household will be issued. This permit will be good for one year, will allow parking within the permit-holder's neighborhood (using ANC boundaries rather than the entire ward), and, unlike the current visitor parking pass obtained at the 4th Police District headquarters, will not be tied to any particular vehicle or guest. Information on how to obtain a visitor permit will be made available to residents who reside on a RPP street, but are not RPP permit holders.

More information can be obtained by calling Fran Harris, Program Analyst, Office of Strategic Planning, Public Space Management Administration of the District Department of Transportation at 202-673-6535 or at the main DDOT office 202-671-2333. Please also visit www.ddot.dc.gov.

Emergency Assistance Available for DC Electric Utility Customers

Emergency assistance is available to low income District residents who have received a disconnection notice for electric service, or are currently disconnected.

Once eligible residents receive a disconnection notice from the utility company, they can come to the District Department of the Environment's Energy Division (DDOE) without an appointment. All applicants must bring the disconnection notice, proof of income, most recent utility bills, and a picture ID to DDOE Monday through Friday, between 8:30am and 4:30pm. DDOE is located at 2000 14th Street, NW #300E.

Residents are also encouraged to take advantage of the Utility Discount Programs (UDP) which offer discounted rates on electric, gas, telephone and water bills. Please call the Energy Hotline at (202) 673-6750 for details.

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Additional resources

GreenDoor

Green Door prepares women and men with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other mental illnesses to work and live in the Washington, D.C. community. For information, visit www.greendoor.org. Green Door has offices at 1221 Taylor Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011. Summer 2007 issue of Green Door News is available on their website, www.greendoor.org.

They accept fully functioning, gently used and new items. Contact Aaron.Braverman@greendoor.org or 202-462-4092 x336 before donating. Aaron will make sure that donations reach the member who made the request.

Volunteer opportunities at Walter Reed

There are volunteer opportunities at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Please visit the Walter Reed website at <http://www.wramc.amedd.army.mil/>. Click on the various organizations listed, and there will be specific opportunities available through those organizations and instructions on whom to contact.

New WMATA website features maps, shops and businesses near Metro

Metro riders can now find shops, restaurants and other points of interest near Metrorail stations by visiting Metro's website - www.metroopensdoors.com. The new feature added to the Metro website maps nearby banks, drugstores, grocery stores, hotels, museums and restaurants, and also provides the addresses and phone numbers for these businesses. There also is a blank field below the map where customers can enter businesses they would like the site to search for.

Website visitors can find the maps through the web pages for individual Metrorail stations. For example, to find places of interest near a specific Metrorail station, click on the "Maps & stations" link from the home page. Either click on the "Find a stop/station" link or choose the clickable rail map. Select the particular station, then click on "Google neighborhood map." The map will pinpoint the station location and navigation links on the right and allow users to select the type of business they want to find.

The maps are generated through a free service from Google. The businesses and other points of interest shown on the maps are plotted using data maintained by Google. Customers or business owners who want to add, remove or change listings need to contact Google's Local Business Center page.

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