



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*September 14, 2007*

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## Dear Neighbors -

On Tuesday, September 18th the DC Council returns from summer recess with an important legislative session. I look forward to working on policies that affect our neighborhoods, schools, our residents and our commercial corridors. We will focus our legislative initiatives and agency oversight on moving an aggressive Ward 4 agenda.

We will keep you posted on the Council's business and my actions in this newsletter. Also, stay tuned by checking the Council's website for legislative calendars and agendas. The complete legislative calendar and all legislative meeting agendas can be found at:  
<http://www.dccouncil.us/lims/default.asp>.

## *Muriel*

### **Muriel visits with parents and students at “Back to School” night around the Ward**

September is a busy month for DC Public Schools as they welcome students, teachers and parents back to school. As part of Muriel's commitment to world-class schools, Muriel has visited each Ward 4 school and is working closely with Mayor Fenty, 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 to make sure the schools are progressing with their modernization plans and repairs and to make sure they have the resources for excellent classroom instruction.

Muriel attended the recent Back to School nights at Coolidge High School, Sharpe Health School, Brightwood Elementary School, Clark Elementary School, and West Elementary Schools, during which she heard from parents, students, teachers and guests about their priorities at each school.

### *Muriel Bowser*

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At West Elementary School, the interim Principal Marlen Moses, announced a new Adopt-A-Computer program where community members can adopt-a-computer and receive periodic updates on how the computer is being used, which students are using it and what they are learning. Please contact Principal Moses at 202-576-6226 to find out how to get involved. West Elementary School is located at 1338 Farragut Street, NW.

### **Walter Reed Army Medical Center opens an amputee center**

Walter Reed Army Medical Center on Georgia Avenue opened a new Military Advanced Training Center (MATC) on Thursday, September 13. This is part of Walter Reed's efforts to continue to improve the medical care and rehabilitative services for its warriors in transition. The 31,000 square foot facility will offer unprecedented medical care and services for amputees and functional, limb-loss patients. The facility offers therapy and exercise areas, computer simulation training for military specific tasks and offices for psychologists, Veterans Affairs representatives, social workers, benefits counselors, researchers, physicians, and nurse case managers. For more information about the services provided at Walter Reed, please contact the public affairs department at: [WRAMCpublicaffairs@amedd.army.mil](mailto:WRAMCpublicaffairs@amedd.army.mil) or by calling Lori Calvillo at 202-782-8474.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Please join Muriel for Car Free DC Day – September 18**

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. The goals of "Car Free DC 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.

Muriel will lead a caravan of bicyclists to the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, beginning at 7 AM on the front steps of Coolidge High School, 6315 5th Street, NW on Tuesday September 18, 2007.

The caravan will ride to 16th Street to meet Mayor Adrian Fenty who will be taking the bus. The citizen caravan will regroup with Councilmember Bowser and Mayor Fenty at the Wilson Building.

Everyone is welcome to join the caravan. To participate, please call Kristen Barden at 202-724-8052 or email: [kbarden@dccouncil.us](mailto:kbarden@dccouncil.us).

If you aren't able to join the caravan 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.

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.

### **Kennedy Senior Wellness Center Grand Opening – September 19**

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Mayor Adrian Fenty and Dr. Clarence Brown, Acting Director of the DC Office on Aging, and the Ward 4 Ms. Senior DC Lynette Smith 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.

### **Meeting to transform DCPS middle and senior high schools – September 27**

Please come to the next meeting of Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators (SHAPPE) and the Parents United Middle Grades Group at Bell Multicultural High School's cafeteria on Thursday, September 27 from 6PM to 8PM at 3101 - 16th Street, NW. At this meeting there will be information about the local school-driven planning process for school transformation, resources that can support your school's planning process and how the federal law "No Child Left Behind" defines 'restructuring' and the goals of the planning process. Please bring your ideas, questions, and visions for the future!

There will be a light dinner provided. For more information please contact Margot Berkey at 202-232-1810 or [margotdc@gmail.com](mailto:margotdc@gmail.com) or Cathy Reilly at 202-723-3310 or [cathy.p.reilly@verizon.net](mailto:cathy.p.reilly@verizon.net).

### **Ward 4 Dog Parks meeting – Rescheduled to October 6**

Please join Muriel and Clark Ray, Director of DC Department of Parks and Recreation, at the Emery Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW, on Saturday October 6th, 2007 from 10 AM to 12 noon to discuss the draft dog park regulations introduced earlier this spring. There will also be a discussion about potential sites for dog parks in Ward 4. Please RSVP for this meeting to Kristen Barden, Communications Director for Councilmember Bowser at [kbarden@dccouncil.us](mailto:kbarden@dccouncil.us) or by calling 724-8052.

## **Resources**

### **DPW announces free graffiti removal voucher program**

The DC Department of Public Works announced its Graffiti Removal Voucher Program for District residents and business owners whose property has been defaced by graffiti. Beginning Monday, September 10, residents may call the Citywide Call Center at 202-727-1000 to obtain a voucher to be redeemed at McCormick Paints located at 15th and P Streets, NW and Duron Paints located at 14th and Clifton Streets, NW.

The paint store will match the color of the paint of the property and will provide property owners with paint, primer, a brush, roller, pan, drop cloth and graffiti scrubs free of charge.

The voucher program is part of Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's aggressive graffiti abatement plan, announced in June 2007, which will allow the city to remove graffiti on private property more quickly and help property owners remove graffiti themselves.

"The voucher program also will relieve some of the financial burden that causes residential and business property owners to delay removing the graffiti themselves. Not only will this program help to keep our city cleaner, it will help us keep it safer," said DPW Director William O. Howland, Jr.

For more information, or to receive a graffiti removal voucher, call the Citywide Call Center at 202-727-1000. Property owners should expect to receive the voucher within five days of making the request, and they will need to sign the voucher when they redeem it at the paint store.

### **DDOT city map updated and refreshed**

Newest version of citywide map includes new landmarks and features

Emeka Moneme, Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) announced that DDOT has released an updated version of its new citywide map, "Washington, DC: The American Experience." The citywide map - the first version of which was released by DDOT in February - was produced using GIS: Geographic Information Systems technology. The map clearly outlines District streets in an easy-to-read format. The reverse side provides detailed bus and Snow Emergency routes and other useful information such as a map of the city's bikeways, a

map of the DC Circulator bus line and a centralized map of the District's public transportation network of Metrorail and Metro bus.

The map also includes a mini-map of the city's car-sharing locations in partnership with Flexcar and Zipcar. "Our newest map is one of the most beautiful we have ever produced," said DDOT Director Emeka Moneme. "Residents can use it as a handy reference tool, for wall art, to navigate through the District of Columbia, or just admire the landmarks of the Nation's Capital. I hope residents across the city find it handy and useful."

For a copy of new citywide map stop by DDOT's headquarters at the Reeves Center, 14th and U Streets, NW, 5th Floor or contact Erik Linden at 202-671-2004.

### **Pinehurst Watershed volunteer opportunity – September 16th**

Looking for an environmental volunteer opportunity this weekend?

Please come out and get to know the Pinehurst watershed! On Sunday, September 16, at 2 PM a group of residents will walk the watershed and place a leaflet on the door of each (or as many as possible) of the 2,000 houses located in the land area from which rainfall drains into the Pinehurst Tributary of Rock Creek. The watershed includes portions of Chevy Chase DC, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne, and Chevy Chase MD.

The leaflet, which is the result of the watershed survey finished this spring, talks about how people can take steps in their own yards to minimize damage to our own creek and the Chesapeake Bay.

There will be a short briefing on how homeowner decisions contribute to pollution and erosion in the creek and a demonstration of some changes that can be made that will make a difference. Then the group will divide into pairs or small groups and head out into the neighborhood with maps and leaflets. You can enjoy beautiful yards in the neighborhood and see for yourselves the homeowner practices discussed in the briefing. Families are welcome. This is a fun activity for children. Please meet at Beth Mullin's house, 3345 Stephenson Place NW (between Broad Branch and 33rd St.).

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