



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



September 21, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Note from Muriel about legislative priorities –

Pay day loans and DC voting rights

Kennedy Senior Wellness Center ribbon cutting

All Ward 4 ANC Commissioners and Civic Association Presidents meeting

Muriel assisted recent fire victims and reminds residents about fire safety

Upcoming Events

Ward 4 Dog Parks meeting – Rescheduled to October 6

Community Visioning for Upshur and Hamilton Parks – September 29th

DCPS School Garden Week – October 15-20

Resources

Welcome to new Ward 4 business - Blue Lotus Treasures

Casey Trees Foundation – Citizen Forester classes begin again

Dear Neighbors -

This past Tuesday, September 18th the DC Council returned from summer recess with an important legislative session. I voted to approve legislation that will require payday loan companies to charge the same annual percentage rate that banks and credit unions already charge. The payday lenders will have to adhere to a 24% cap on the annual percentage rate charged on a loan. This is a victory for our Ward 4 residents and I hope will prevent them from being taken advantage of by unregulated loaning practices.

As you probably know by now, we came up short on Tuesday in the U.S. Senate on the votes needed to get DC a vote in the House of Representatives. While that is extremely disappointing, we have to keep our heads high and remember that we actually passed legislation in the House and through a key Senate committee -- and were only 3 votes away on the Senate floor. It's the closest we've come in 30 years, and even though the outcome wasn't what we wanted, it must be seen as a high-water mark for the struggle. I will continue to keep fighting for DC Voting Rights and appreciate all the hard work everyone has contributed to this. We're not done fighting!

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 Bowser

Councilmember, Ward 4

Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 406

Washington DC 20004

202-724-8052-voice

202-741-0908

mbowser@dccouncil.us

Kennedy Senior Wellness Center ribbon cutting

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Mayor Adrian Fenty and Dr. Clarence Brown, Acting Director of the DC Office on Aging opened the Kennedy Senior Wellness Center with a ribbon cutting celebration and open house at 324 Kennedy Street, NW on Wednesday, September 19, 2007.

Muriel introduced legislation on Tuesday to name the center the Hattie G. Holmes Senior Wellness Center. Ms. Holmes was a community activist, serving as Chair of ANC 4D and was very active in the Ward 4 Democrats, the Upper Northwest Citizens Group, the MPD 4th District Citizens' Advisory Council. She was also an advocate for seniors' quality of life and promoted healthy lifestyles. For years she insisted that seniors must have a center in Ward 4 to call their own and now they do.

The Kennedy Senior Wellness Center is the first Ward 4 senior wellness center and joins 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. The Kennedy Senior Wellness Center offers: free membership for DC residents 60 years and older, health screenings and lectures, nutrition counseling/cooking demos, fitness studio/exercise classes and more...

The center will be open to the public the first week of October and the hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 9 am to 4 pm. The Director is Mr. Willie Hall Jr. and the phone number will be 202-291-6170 and fax # 202-291-2790. The center is part of the Senior Service network supported and funded by the DC Office on Aging with day-to-day operations managed by Providence Hospital and the Wellness Institute.

All Ward 4 ANC Commissioners and Civic Association Presidents meeting

On Saturday, September 15, Muriel hosted a meeting for all Ward 4 ANC Commissioners and Civic Association Presidents. There were presentations from DCRA, DPW, MPD and the Mayor's Office. Gloria Dickerson, from Muriel's office, spoke about the Ward 4 Cares Constituent Fund. DCRA Interim Director Linda Argo told the group about how DCRA handles nuisance and vacant properties in Ward 4 and how they can help. Commander Hilton Burton from MPD discussed how MPD is tackling open-air drug markets. Several representatives from DPW discussed abandoned automobiles and presented information on the process to have them removed. Ayana Rocket, the Ward 4 Neighborhood Services Specialist in the Mayor's Office, gave a power point presentation on "Fix-Its". All the agencies represented gave information to assist the Commissioners and Association leaders to better help Ward 4 constituents. Muriel will host future meetings so all Ward 4 residents can be knowledgeable of services offered by various agencies.

Muriel assisted recent fire victims and reminds residents about fire safety

On Sunday, September 16, 2007 a fire ravaged the home of the Gilbert Family in the 700 block of Emerson Street, NW. Ramsi and Letha Gilbert lost their lives in this tragedy. Councilmember Bowser and staff responded to assist the family during this difficult time. Councilmember Bowser joins Fire Chief Dennis L. Rubin to remind residents about the importance of maintaining working smoke detectors.

Please, please make sure you have working smoke detectors in your home. Here is some fire safety information to assist you from becoming the victim of a fire in your home. Free smoke alarms are available for private residences, not multi-family dwellings, by calling 202-727-1614. If you would like to receive a free smoke detector through the District's Fire/EMS give-away program, please complete the online Smoke Detector Request Form.

For more information on installing and maintaining smoke detectors along with making a home fire escape plan, please visit: <http://fems.dc.gov/fems/cwp/view,a,3,q,526018,femsNav,31511|.asp> or call (202) 727-1614.

Upcoming Events

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 at kbarden@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-741-0917.

Also on Saturday September 29 there will be animal licensing, micro-chipping and vaccination from 10 am to 2pm at 1201 New York Avenue, N.E. The licensing is \$13 for sterilized pets and \$46 for unsterilized pets. The micro-chipping is \$25 and the vaccinations are free.

Community Visioning for Upshur and Hamilton Parks – September 29

The Friends of 16th Street Heights Parks, along with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Councilmember Bowser's office, are holding a community visioning on Saturday, September 29, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Emory Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW. The meeting will focus on the community's vision for the parks and play spaces. Please come and bring your ideas. Lunch and childcare will be provided. For more information contact Jean Badalamenti at 202-829-2543 or friendsof16thstreetparks@googlegroups.com. We hope to see you on the 29th!

DCPS School Garden Week – October 15-20

Interested in starting a garden at your neighborhood school? Do you support gardening as a means to promote better nutrition, science education and environmentalism in D.C. schools? Mayor Adrian Fenty has declared Oct. 15 – 20 "School Garden Week" as a way of energizing gardening activities among parents, teachers and students citywide. This is a chance to get out and support your local school garden. Among the planned events: a panel discussion on how to start and maintain a school garden; a garden volunteer work day; a bus tour and a bicycle hop of successful D.C. school gardens. And if you have a camera, enter your child in this first-ever "School Garden Photo Contest." There are prizes for students and their teachers. Deadline for submission is Oct 1. For more information on "School Garden Week" go to: <http://www.dcschoolyardgreening.org/DCSchoolGardenWeek.html>

Resources

Welcome to new Ward 4 business - Blue Lotus Treasures

Blue Lotus Treasures, at 314 Carroll Street, NW, across from the Takoma Park Metro station opened its doors on Tuesday, September 18.

Blue Lotus Treasures is a mind/body/spirit store whose mission is to respond to the public's growing interest in spirituality by offering a source of high-quality inspirational products, as well as by providing a welcoming environment in which to meet and openly share thoughts and ideas. There will soon be monthly events such as poetry readings, children's hour, book signings, educational classes, etc., featuring local writers, artists, instructors, and practitioners. JoAnne Zabransky is the owner and she can be reached at 202-291-3003.

Casey Trees Foundation – Citizen Forester classes begin again

Citizen Foresters are local volunteers trained by the Casey Trees Foundation to serve the DC community by helping to restore, enhance, and protect our city's tree canopy. Citizen Foresters are responsible for utilizing resources from the city and non-profit organizations to improve the health of trees, increase tree cover, and promote and protect the city's green infrastructure. To become a Citizen Forester, volunteers complete a combination of free classroom instruction, field training, and community service. A panel of experts and guest speakers participate in the sessions. The curriculum includes three modules, each with a training and service component.

Sign up now for Casey Trees' next Citizen Forester volunteer class on the Planting and Care of Trees. Two sessions are offered beginning September 25th. This free class consists of 5-hours of classroom lecture and one 4-hour Saturday or Sunday field session. Register online or visit the Casey Tree Foundation website for more information on the Citizen Forester Program.

www.murielbowser.com