



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



# FOCUS ON

*November 5, 2008*

*Muriel Bowser*

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**Dear Neighbors:**

Yesterday Ward 4 residents turned out in record numbers to vote for the Presidential candidates as well as our local official’s right here in the District of Columbia. There were over 31,000 Ward 4 voters exercising their right to vote for the candidates of their choice. I would like to extend hearty congratulations to all of our new and returning Councilmember’s and our Ward 4 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, who tirelessly serve our Ward 4 communities.

Today I had the opportunity to preview the remarkable new U.S Capitol Visitor Center with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. When it opens in December 2008, it will feature an exhibition hall, two orientation theaters, a 530-seat restaurant, and two gift shops making this the largest addition of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in its 215-year history.

The new U.S. Capitol Visitor Center is expected to bring even more visitors to the District and provide help for our tourist economy, just when we need it.

Please visit the new DC Council website for more details at: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us).

*Muriel*

**Fall and Winter Leaf Collection**

Leaf collection season runs from November 3, 2008 through January 10, 2009. DPW crews will vacuum leaves at least twice from curbside treebox spaces along each residential street. Residents are encouraged to rake loose leaves into piles in the treebox space in front of their homes the Sunday before the street’s scheduled collection. DPW collects leaves every year to promote public safety and prevent streets and homes from flooding due to clogged catch basins. Leaves collected by vacuuming will be composted and ready for residents and community groups to use in 2010.

Leaves also can be bagged and placed into the curbside treebox space for collection by a trash truck. Those with alley trash collection may place their bagged leaves next to their trash container for collection with the trash as truck capacity allows. Bagged leaves are not composted.

Leaf piles should be placed in the curbside treebox space (not the street or storm drains) and should contain leaves only. Tree limbs, bricks, dirt, rocks, or other items can damage leaf collection equipment. Leaves placed in the street reduce on-street parking and can create a fire hazard. Leaves also may be disposed of, free of charge, at the Fort Totten Trash Transfer Station at 4900 Bates Road, NE, Monday-Friday, from

1 pm to 5 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm. For additional information or to find out when leaves will be collected in your neighborhood, visit the Department of Public Works website at [www.dpw.dc.gov](http://www.dpw.dc.gov) or call 311.

### **Takoma Aquatic Center to Close at 4 pm on Friday, November 7**

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will temporarily close the Takoma Aquatic Center, 300 Van Buren St., NW, for the weekend, at 4 pm on Friday, November 7, 2008, as the center will be the site of the Potomac Valley Swimming November Open Meet. The meet is open to the public for viewing and admission is free.

Takoma Aquatic Center will reopen and resume regular hours on Monday, November 10. Other DPR aquatic centers will maintain their normal schedules; locations and hours are available on DPR's website, [www.dpr.dc.gov](http://www.dpr.dc.gov), in the "Aquatics" section, or by calling the Aquatics Division at (202) 671-1289.

### **Fall Fiesta at Upshur Park- November 8**

We hope you will be able to join the Friends of 16th Street Heights Parks, at Upshur Park (14th and Arkansas Avenue, NW) this Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm for their Fall Fiesta. There are activities for all ages, including a mariachi band, moon bounces, games, arts & crafts, and face painting. For additional information, contact Jean Badalamenti at [jnfz@starpower.net](mailto:jnfz@starpower.net).

### **Discussion “Diversity and Why It Still Matters”- November 12**

Join the Lowell School for an Evening with Michel Martin, host of NPR's Tell Me More, where she will be discussing “Diversity and Why It Still Matters”. Michel's commitment to multiculturalism will infuse the community with energy and highlight the mission of diversity at Lowell.

Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, 1640 Kalmia Road NW, Lowell Gymnasium. RSVP to [reserveyourseat@lowellschool.org](mailto:reserveyourseat@lowellschool.org)

### **Mayoral Hearing on the Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Development Plan- November 13**

The Office of Planning is completing a community planning process with area stakeholders (including residents, ANCs, neighborhood organizations, DC Council staff, businesses, property owners, institutions and government agencies) to develop a Strategic Development Plan and Revitalization strategy for the area surrounding the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue, NE. The plan assesses neighborhood conditions, develops a vision for the area and provides a framework to guide future growth and development for six opportunity sites. The Office of Planning is currently taking comments on the draft plan. The public comment period closes on Thursday, November 13, 2008.

There will be a Mayoral Hearing, Thursday, November 13, 2008 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm, at LaSalle-Backus Education Center, 501 Riggs Road NE, Washington, DC. Each individual or representative of an organization who wishes to present testimony at the public hearing should provide his or her name, address, telephone number and name of organization represented (if any) to: Malaika Abernathy no later than 5 pm November 12, 2008. All oral presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes. Written statements may also be submitted for the record until 5:00 pm November 12, 2008. For additional information, contact Malaika Abernathy, Ward 4 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, at (202) 442-7617 or [malaika.abernathy@dc.gov](mailto:malaika.abernathy@dc.gov)