



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



February 11, 2009

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Dear Neighbors,

I have heard from many residents in Ward 4 and across the city regarding the proposed tuition increase at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). I have written a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the President of (UDC) expressing my strong concern about the significant tuition increase. Education remains a top priority for me and I will continue to advocate for the best education options for our residents. The possibility that many DC students will not be able to attend our university is not an option. Financial aid, which is crucial for many, may not cover tuition costs if this increase is allowed. While I understand UDC has financial constraints, it is critical they remember that UDC serves the residents of the District of Columbia.

I would also like to provide you with a brief update from the Washington Area Sewer Authority (WASA). We have had unseasonably cold weather, and water utilities have experienced record numbers of water main and service line breaks due to the expansion and contraction of the pipes. DC WASA has repaired over 125 water main breaks in the month of January. WASA normally repairs 125 water main breaks in a 3-month period.

WASA is continuing its multi-year fire hydrant upgrade program. In the past two years WASA has replaced nearly 2,400 hydrants, which will continue throughout 2009, with an additional 700 hydrant replacements planned. As Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) assess fire hydrants, they place an out-of-service ring on hydrants that are not available for use.

The water quality division at WASA, now allows residents of the District to view water quality results on their web site at www.dcwasa.com/waterquality. If you need to speak with a water quality representative please call 202-612-3440.

As a member of the committee on Public Works and Transportation I will continue to provide oversight of this agency asking the necessary questions until the results are what we all want.

Muriel

Legislative Corner

Upcoming Council Hearings:

Saturday, February 14

10:00 am, Council Chamber, Room 500, Committee of the Whole, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, agenda items: "Youth Issues".

Thursday, February 19

11:00 AM, ROOM 123, Public Roundtable, Committee of the Whole, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, agenda items: PR 18-78, the "Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Area Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2009". This plan would approve the strategic framework for the revitalization of six currently underutilized areas immediately surrounding the Fort Totten Metro Station and the intersection of Riggs Road NE and South Dakota Ave NE. Individuals and representatives of Organizations who wish to testify at the public hearing are asked to contact Aretha Latta at 202-724-8196 or alatta@dccouncil.us by Tuesday, February 17.

Please visit the new DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Literary Poetry Contest- February 18

Join Higher Achievement for their 4th Annual Literary Love Poetry Performance. Celebrate Valentine's Day and be inspired as middle-school students from the Washington Metropolitan Area perform their original love poems. If you would like to attend please contact Cara Leidy at 202-544-3633ext 109 or rsvp@higherachievement.org. The program will take place at the Gala Hispanic Theatre located at Tivoli Square 3333 14th Street NW on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7 pm.

Higher Achievement is a non-profit organization that provides middle school children from underserved areas year-round academic enrichment programs and preparation for top high school placement. You can also visit www.higherachievement.org for more information.

Register now for Spring Break Camp

March 23 - 27, 2009 is the spring break recess for District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will introduce Spring Break and Spring Break Sports Camps for children and youth ages 6 to 13 years old at 22 DPR centers. All Spring Break Camps will operate from 9 am - 5 pm each day. Ward 4 camp sites are: Emery Recreation Center, Fort Stevens Recreation Center, Lamond Community Center, Riggs-LaSalle Recreation Center and Takoma Community Center.

Registration can be completed on DPR's website, www.dpr.dc.gov, or in person at any of the Spring Break camp sites. There is a \$25 registration fee per participant for DC residents and \$35 fee for non-residents. For additional information Contact DPR Camp Central at 202-671-0295 or e-mail DPRcamps@dc.gov.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, a nonprofit organization serving people of all ages in the Washington metropolitan area who are blind and/or visually impaired, is recruiting adult volunteers to serve as leaders of their adult support group "Circle of Friends". Adult volunteers lead group sessions for people who are visually impaired and /or blind.

Volunteers will have the option to lead the support group in non-strenuous exercises, meditation, and arts & crafts. These sessions will be held at Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind's offices. If you are interested in attending an orientation to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Jocelyn Hunter at 202-454-6422 or jhunter@clb.org.



Do Not Call List update

As of February 5th cell phone numbers are available to marketers. You may put your phone number on the “Do Not Call” list (as you can for your home phone) by going on the web site www.donotcall.gov or calling 1-888-382-1222. If you do this by phone, it must be from the phone number you wish to add to the Do Not Call list. This list is maintained by the FCC.