



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



FOCUS ON

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Dear Neighbors:

This past Tuesday, February 19th, there was a Committee of the Whole meeting where, among other items, the committee considered:

- The Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0086, which passed unanimously and will go on to the March 4th legislative session for a first reading. This bill will eliminate the duplicate roles of DCRA and the Office of Tax and Revenue when determining whether a property is vacant and speed up the process by which a property can be declared vacant. It also doubles the vacant property tax rate from \$5 per \$100 of assessed value to \$10 per \$100 of assessed value.
- The Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0493 passed the Committee of the Whole and will go on to the March 4th legislative session for a first reading. This bill will require pesticide applicators to provide information to prospective customers and residents concerning the type of pesticide to be used and provide safety information concerning that pesticide.

I hope this is helpful information and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

I was pleased to participate in the blood pressure screening this week offered by the American Heart Association as part of their February Heart Month activities. The John A. Wilson Building has been illuminated in red throughout the month of February to remind women about the risk of heart disease and to encourage them to control their risk factors. Women in the District of Columbia have the highest rates of uncontrolled hypertension in the nation, according to the American Heart Association. "I encourage everyone to get their blood pressure taken frequently and if they need medication to be sure to take it with regularity," said Councilmember Bowser.

The Takoma Aquatics Center at 300 Van Buren Street, NW is offering a new aquatic exercise class tailored to promote wellness for individuals with physical disabilities. The class will begin on Monday, March 3, 2008 and will be held on Monday & Wednesday mornings from 10:00am to 11:00am for 8 weeks – 16 classes. Sean Link, the Site Manager of the Takoma Aquatics Center designed the class and will be instructing it also. This class takes advantage of water's natural buoyancy to increase participants' mobility, flexibility, strength, and endurance by working through a range of shallow water exercises and stretches. For more information and to register for the class please contact: Cynthia Poole at 202-576-9284 or Sean Link at 202-576-9285. Tell them it is Activity #: 4802.188. This first series will be free.

Muriel

Summary of the Upper Georgia Avenue Development Plan and relocation of Engine Company #22 – February 21 meeting

Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the DC Office of Planning hosted a meeting to update the community about the relocation of Engine Company #22 and the Upper Georgia Avenue Land Development Plan. Engine Company #22 is currently located at 5760 Georgia Avenue, NW and 11 firefighters and paramedics support calls for service from Petworth, Brightwood, Brightwood Park, Shepherd Park, Takoma, North Portal Estates and Colonial Village. There is a need to relocate the fire station to improve response times to the northern most portions of Ward 4.

Councilmember Bowser, the Office of Planning, DC Fire/EMS and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development are all working closely with the Department of the Army and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) officials to explore relocating Engine Company #22 to the corner of Aspen Street and Georgia Avenue, NW, on the WRAMC property. This location is one mile north of the current location. As has been discussed, the transition at the WRAMC property will be completed in the Summer of 2011. The Federal agencies have affirmed “in concept” their commitment to working with DC government to move the fire house to the grounds of the WRAMC but the details of the agreement have not been finalized.

The draft plan of the Upper Georgia Avenue Land Development Plan was released for public comment in the Summer of 2007. The Office of Planning received more than 20 public comments as well as oral testimony during the Mayor’s hearing in July 2007. They are currently revising the plan for submission to the DC Council in April 2008 and meeting with ANCs and community associations to discuss the changes made to the draft plan. The public will have another opportunity to comment on the plan at an upcoming DC Council hearing after the plan is submitted.

For more information please contact, Malaika Abernathy, the Ward 4 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator in the DC Office of Planning at 202-442-7617 or Malaika.abernathy@dc.gov. We will continue to keep you updated in this newsletter.

Reminder meeting Saturday: Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Corridor Development – February 23

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Lamond-Riggs Citizens Association and the Lamond-Riggs Development Task Force for an update on the redevelopment of the Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue corridor on Saturday February 23, 2008 from 10 AM to 12:00 PM in the LaSalle Elementary School auditorium, 501 Riggs Road, NE. In the coming months, DDOT will reconfigure the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue and a plan will be rolled out for mixed-use residential and retail buildings. The community has been an active participant in the planning process. As the projects gets closer to fruition we want to be sure residents understand the process, are able to provide input on what types of services they would like to have available there and know the timetables of construction. For more information please call Brandon Todd at 202-724-8052 or email: btodd@dccouncil.us.

Clark Elementary School Open House – February 25

There will be an open house/community meeting to discuss the future of Clark Elementary School on Monday February 25th at 6:30 pm at the school - 4501 Kansas Ave., NW. This open house is co-sponsored by ANC Commissioner Shanel Anthony 4C07, U.N.T.S. Neighborhood Association, the Clark PTA & Friends of Clark. Refreshments will be served.

Clark Elementary School’s teachers and students, Principal Wright and program partners such as: the Center for Inspired Teaching, Greater DC Cares, and Sports4Kids will be on hand to talk about the school.

Small Business Education Series at Shepherd Park Library – begins February 27

The DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is partnering with the DC Public Library to bring a Business Education Series to our neighborhood library. This FREE 5 part series will include vital information on how to start, grow, and expand your business. The Juanita E. Thornton /Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library at 7420 Georgia Avenue, NW, is hosting the Ward 4 series.

1. Starting a Home Based Business: Wednesday, February 27 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
(Presenter from Washington Area Community Investment Fund)
2. Writing a Business Plan: Wednesday, March 5 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
(Presenter from Latino Economic Development Corporation)
3. Understanding & Building Business Credit: Wednesday, March 12 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
(Presenter from the Department of Small and Local Business Development)
4. SBA 7(a) Loan Program: Wednesday, March 19 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
(Presenter from SBA, Washington Office)
5. DCPL Business Databases: Wednesday, March 26 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
(Presenter from DC Public Library)

Please contact Katina Bolden to register for individual classes at 202-727-2241 or via email at katina.bolden@dc.gov.

Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative –General Membership meeting – February 28

The community is invited to attend the General Membership meeting of the Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative on Thursday, February 28, 2008 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. The meeting will take place at the Community Academy Public Charter School located at 1300 Allison Street, NW (corner of 13th and Allison). Come out and hear about how to apply for their 2008 Community Grants and hear from past grantees. You can also find out how to register for FREE advocacy training. For more information please call Shakira Gantt at 202-722-1815 ext 351 or email: SGantt@garcec.org.