



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



November 16, 2007
Happy Thanksgiving!

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Council calendar for the week of November 19**
- Muriel applauds Chief Lanier's closing of El Pulgarcito Restaurant**
- Muriel hosts a community walk and crime meeting in Takoma**
- Takoma Recreation Center hosted swim meet**
- Kudos to ANC4C and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority**

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

Upcoming Events

- Muriel hosts a Community Health Fair – November 17**
- Muriel hosts meeting on Rock Creek Parkway construction – November 19**
- Save the Date - Councilmember Bowser's Holiday Party – December 15**

Resources

- DC Department of Health's Medical Assistance Administration provides transportation services to DC Medicaid recipients**
- DDOT's tree planting season has begun**
- Energy Star Rebate Program has been extended to December 7**

Dear Neighbors -

Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday next week, we will not send a newsletter on Friday November 23. Please watch your email for our next edition on Friday November 30. I wish for you and your family a Thanksgiving filled with much for which to be thankful.

Here is the DC Council calendar for the upcoming week:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

11:00 AM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, PARKS AND RECREATION, Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson Agenda item: "District of Columbia Libraries FY 2007 Close Out Review".

12:00 (NOON), ROOM 412, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson Agenda item: "The Office of the Attorney General".

4:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Jim Graham, Chairperson Agenda item: "Clean Cars Act of 2007", Bill 17-0099.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, COMMITTEE MEETING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman

MEASURES IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE "Board of Zoning Adjustment Mary Oaks Walker Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0522.

MEASURES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES 1. "Non-Resident Taxi Drivers Registration Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0113. 2. "Bicycle Registration Reform Act of 2007", Bill 17-0091. 3. "Enhanced Professional Security Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0199. 4. "Child Support Compliance Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0291. 5. "Frank Harris, Jr. Offset Justice Amendment Act of

2007", Bill 17-0436. 6. "Appointment of the Chief Medical Examiner Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0351. 7. "Director of the Child and Family Services Agency Sharlynn E. Bobo Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0343. 8. "Required Sources of Supplies and Services Approval Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0315. 9. "Director/Chief Risk Officer of the Office of the Risk Management Kelly Valentine Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0344.

4:00 PM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Tommy Wells, Chairperson Agenda item: "Director of the Office of Disability Rights Eve L. Hill Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0449.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson Agenda items: 1. "Producer Licensing Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0252. 2. "Property & Casualty Actuarial Opinion Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0253. 3. "Interstate Insurance Producer Regulation Compact Act of 2007", Bill 17-0254.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22 Thanksgiving Day - Holiday Observed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 No scheduled public meetings.

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

Muriel

Muriel applauds Chief Lanier's closing of El Pulgarcito Restaurant

On Saturday, November 10, 2007, two males were stabbed and critically injured while inside of the El Pulgarcito of America restaurant, located at 5313 Georgia Avenue, NW. Therefore, pursuant to her authority under the Emergency Suspension of Liquor Licenses Act of 2005 (D.C. Law 16-20, D.C. Official Code § 25-827), Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier closed the restaurant effective at 5:00 pm on November 11, 2007, for up to 96 hours subject to a hearing and pending disposition by the Alcohol Beverage Control Board under D.C. Official Code § 25-826.

Chief Lanier took this measure because she found that continued operation of this establishment may present an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public. Muriel completely supported her decision and demanded closure of restaurant to complete the investigation. The police investigation into this incident is ongoing.

Muriel hosts a community walk and crime meeting in Takoma

On Thursday evening, November 15, more than 50 residents joined Muriel for a walk around the streets in the Takoma neighborhood to identify problem areas, which was then immediately followed by a community meeting to address ways to increase safety along the well-used routes in and around Takoma.

Muriel was joined by MPD Chief Cathy Lanier, along with Inspector Linda Gilmore Brown, who has recently been named the Interim Commander of the MPD Fourth District, PSA 401 Lt. Ronald Thomas, Captain Theresa Weedon, Officer Melvin Scott who is in charge of school security and a number of other MPD officers. From WMATA, Transit Police Captain Tracy Simmons and Art Lawson also participated in the meeting. From DDOT, Billy Terry helped review the need for additional street lights and tree trimming that will help illuminate the sidewalks. Also noted was that many street lights make the street brighter but not the sidewalk. DDOT will investigate adding lights to make the sidewalks safer.

The police began the meeting with an announcement about an arrest that happened in Takoma Park, MD on Saturday November 10th, along with the recovery of a shotgun, of a suspect that they believe is responsible for approximately 13 robberies in Takoma, DC. They hoped to close between 10 and 12 of those cases this week.

The theme of the evening was that better communication between the police and the community will keep the community safer. The discussion started out with the steps that MPD is taking to improve communication within their command structure and also with neighboring jurisdictions.

WMATA Transit Police added that there is an open line of communication with MPD and they collaborate with MPD on a regular basis. Additional outreach is needed for senior residents and residents in multi-unit dwellings who may not be informed about crime prevention and ways they can protect themselves. Muriel and MPD are committed to making sure these populations receive the information.

Residents mentioned concern that many criminals simply cross the Maryland line to avoid capture and also that 911 calls sometimes get sent to the wrong jurisdiction. Police Chief Lanier stated that MPD has the authority to pursue felons across the Maryland line and they do. The MPD is also in the process of formalizing processes between the inter-jurisdictional agencies to improve communication. The problem with 911 calls has to do with the cell tower on which they are received and then directed. It was recommended that residents also know their local Police Service Area (PSA). The PSA lieutenant's phone number should be programmed in their cell phones so they can quickly officers when necessary.

Chief Lanier reminded residents that rapid communication is what is most critical when a crime is committed or in the event of suspicious activity. Residents should trust their gut instinct if something doesn't feel right and seek safe shelter and call the police. Please try to get as much detail about what suspects look like, what they are wearing, where they were, what direction they were headed so that information can be provided to the police.

The police were commended for their attention to the email listservs but it was suggested that the listservs be used for not just reporting on crimes committed but also for consulting with residents and asking for feedback. The police committed to doing that.

Residents expressed a need for more foot patrols. Chief Lanier said that the "Operation Full Stride" is in effect now and they are continuing to expand the program so more foot patrol will be on their way. She also mentioned the 600 new "smart cars" that will be deployed on the streets will enable officers to speed up their response and spend less time doing paperwork.

Residents have seen fights break out with kids leaving Coolidge High School on their way to the Metro station. Officer Melvin Scott, who is a Coolidge graduate, is working with parents, students and alumni at Coolidge on truancy and other behavior issues. Also ANC4B01 Commissioner Sara Green, described the program Safe Takoma, a cross-border non-profit organization focused on improving safety. Safe Takoma has a program with students at Coolidge. Safe Takoma is hosting a mediation and conflict resolution workshop at the Takoma Recreation Center this Saturday. Officer Scott will ask the school resource officers to work with Safe Takoma on their youth initiatives. More information about Safe Takoma and their programs is available from Sara Green at 202- 829-8802 or from ANC Commissioner Faith Wheeler at 202-882-7565.

Finally, residents were reminded that Police Service Area 401 has a community meeting on the second Saturday of every month at 11 AM in the Shepherd Park Library at 7430 Georgia Avenue, NW. PSA meetings are an opportunity to provide input to the police and to get to know the officers who protect you and your family.

Here is a list of the phone numbers mentioned during the meeting:

Lt. Ronald Thomas, PSA 401, 202-375-9726 cell, Ronald.thomas@dc.gov

Tracey Simmons, Metro Transit Police, 292-577-7159 cell

General line for Metro Transit Police, 202-962-2121

Direct line for 311 (non-emergencies) 202-737-4404

Traci Hughes, Executive Director, MPD Office of Communications, 202-727-9346, traci.hughes@dc.gov

Takoma Recreation Center hosted swim meet

On November 10th and 11th, The Takoma Recreation Center was the site of a world-class competitive youth swim meet, an event that was sanctioned by USA Swimming through Potomac Valley Swimming. USA Swimming is the national governing body for competitive swimming in the U.S. Potomac Valley Swimming includes the District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, the counties of Fairfax and Arlington and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church in Virginia. Potomac Valley Swimming has more than 8000 swimmers and is one of the largest in total number of swimmers in all of USA Swimming.

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation's WAVE swim team competed in the swim meet both days. Congratulations to all the swim meet participants!

Kudos to ANC4C and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority

ANC 4C voted on Tuesday November 13, to give a small grant to the Pearl and Ivy Educational Foundation of the Xi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for their annual donation of books to the children in the Spring Road shelter. These books will be presented to the children in the shelter at their annual holiday party on December 16th. The books will be purchased from Sister Space and Books who will be reopening their bookstore at 7702 Georgia Avenue, NW in 2008. Sister Space and Books is an independently owned bookstore with titles of special interest to African Americans, women, and the faith community. In addition to operating the bookstore on the ground floor, Sister Space and Books will have office space, writing workshops, and group literacy meetings on the 2d floor of its newly leased space. This is a great example of an ALL Ward 4 project! Congratulations to all!

Upcoming Events

Muriel hosts a Community Health Fair – November 17

Councilmember Bowser will host a Community Health Fair on Saturday November 17th from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Emery Recreation Center located at 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW. This event is cosponsored by the DC Department of Health and the DC Office of the Attorney General.

There will be many services provided free of charge:

lead testing for children;

HIV/AIDS testing and counseling,

flu shots,

dental screenings,

pneumonia shots (for the elderly),

substance abuse screening and counseling,

rodent control information.

For more information please contact Joy Holland at 202-724-8052 or jholland@dccouncil.us.

Muriel hosts meeting on Rock Creek Parkway construction – November 19

Muriel is hosting a community meeting along with Councilmember Mary Cheh (Ward 3) on Monday, November 19, 2007 from 6:30 PM to 8 PM to discuss Rock Creek Parkway construction issues. The Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, Adrienne Applewhaite-Coleman, will be present to answer questions and concerns from the community. The meeting will be at the Knollwood Retirement Home, 6200 Oregon Avenue, NW, in the "Gold Room."

Attendees driving into the main entrance at Knollwood Retirement Home should park in the large employee lot (the first sharp left turn after entering from Oregon Avenue) and walk up the hill on the sidewalk to the main entrance.

Also residents can get updates at any time about the status of construction along Rock Creek Parkway from the Federal Highway Administration's website. Please go to www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov. Then look under "Projects" with the subheading "Traffic Advisory." For more information about the meeting, please call Councilmember Bowser's office at 202-724-8052.

Save the Date - Councilmember Bowser's Holiday Party – December 15

Please save the date for Councilmember Bowser's Annual Ward 4 Holiday Party at the Kingsbury Day School, 5000 - 14th Street, NW from 6 to 8 PM. Please bring an unwrapped toy, book or game for children ages 2 to 18 years old. Please no violent toys. Board games would be welcomed. For teenagers, gift cards are recommended. Donations of wrapping paper would also be appreciated.

Resources

DC Department of Health's Medical Assistance Administration provides transportation services to DC Medicaid recipients

The DC Department of Health's Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) provides transportation services to DC Medicaid recipients who are not enrolled in a DC Medicaid Managed Care Program (MCO).

Recipients, or their care providers, who need transportation to and from medical appointments are encouraged to call 1-866-796-0601. After business hours, and on holidays and weekends, calls are automatically routed to other MTM call centers that are staffed on a 24-7 basis. The information is integrated through a central reservations system, providing complete 24-hour access for recipients, healthcare providers and caregivers who wish to schedule services or modify existing reservations.

When placing a call to request transportation, the operator will ask to verify and/or update the Medicaid recipient's contact information. The address and telephone information is matched with the Medicaid recipient's ID number to verify eligibility and accuracy. For more information about this program, please contact Yolandra Plummer Diallo, Program Director, Medical Transportation Management Inc. at 202-263-4640 Ext 4300 or by email: yplummer@mtm-inc.net

DDOT's tree planting season has begun

The District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) officially started its annual tree planting season this month. DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) will plant more than 4,900 street trees citywide in all eight wards. Planting begins in Ward 1 and will wrap up in Ward 8 in April - the reverse order of last year's planting season. Planting locations are based on requests made by residents to the Mayor's Citywide Call Center before July 15, 2007. Species of trees to be planted include Willow Oak, Katsura, Dawn Redwood, Kwanzaa Cherry, Sugar Maple, Cucumber Magnolia, and Accolade Elm.

DDOT will also replace approximately 1,400 trees that died as a result of the summer drought. Many of the replacement trees will be relocated to better planting locations within the immediate area. DDOT's arborists determined that this summer's drought was the worst that trees in the city had suffered in 25 years. The majority of the trees that perished in last year's planting season are covered under contractor warranty.

DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration will be placing informational cards on residents' doors in blocks where trees are planted. Residents will receive watering instructions as well as DDOT's brochure of services and schedules. During warm weather, DDOT asks residents to help water the trees that they have requested for planting during the first two years of the life of the tree. It is best to water each tree with about 10 gallons of water every five days from May through September.

DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration currently has 11 arborists on staff - more than any time in the city's history. The arborists oversee planting, inspection, pruning, tree care, resident outreach and other tree-related functions in all eight wards. The mission of the UFA is to establish a full population of street trees within the District and to ensure that those street trees are maintained in a healthy and safe condition. Street trees are trees located between the curb and sidewalk on all District-owned lands. Currently, UFA oversees approximately 140,000 city street trees in all eight wards. For more information about DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration, please visit: <http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/site/default.asp>.

Energy Star Rebate Program has been extended to December 7

The District Department of the Environment's (DDOE) Energy Star Rebate Program has been extended until December 7, 2007. District residents can receive rebates on Energy Star rated clothes washers (\$150), refrigerators (\$100) and room a/c units (\$50).

Residents are asked to fax, email, or mail an application and supporting documentation (receipts and a copy of a Pepco bill) to LaKeisha Estep, Energy Star program manager, by December 7, 2007. Mail-in applications must be postmarked by December 7, 2007. Hand delivered applications will be accepted until December 14, 2007. The deadlines were instituted to ensure that rebates are adequately processed and issued to DC residents by or before Monday, December 31, 2007.

Please visit the DDOE website: <http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/site/default.asp> to download the rebate applications. For more information, call the Energy Hotline 202-673-6750.

You can submit an Energy Star rebate application via:

1. Fax: 202-673-6725 (Attention: LaKeisha Estep)
2. Email: lakeisha.estep@dc.gov. Please send applications and supporting documentation (receipts and a copy of a Pepco bill) in PDF Format
3. Hand delivery/Mail:
2000 14th Street, NW
Suite 300E
Washington, DC 20009

Thank you for partnering with DDOE to make the District of Columbia environmentally friendly.

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
www.murielbowser.com