



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

There are a number of DC Council public oversight hearings this week. The complete list of hearings can be found at:
<http://dccouncil.us/calendar.html>.

Muriel

Summary of DCPS School Reuse Meetings – April 9 and April 17

The Office of Planning is working with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education and the Office of Property Management to host community meetings to discuss the reuse of the school buildings that are slated for closure at the end of this school year. The meeting in Ward 4 to discuss the possible reuses of Clark and Rudolph Elementary Schools (both of which are slated for closure) was on Wednesday, April 9 at Barnard Elementary School.

Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser hosted a follow up meeting to hear from the community on Thursday, April 17th at the Emery Recreation Center at 5701 Georgia Ave., NW. There are immediate use ideas for each facility beginning in June 2008 and then the longer term use concerns. Both buildings will be retained in public ownership and the potential for future public school use will be reserved.

At last night's meeting, the community mentioned a number of possible reuse ideas including: recreation centers, affordable healthcare facilities, child care facilities, vocational education centers, community arts programs, senior citizen programs, swing space during school renovations. Most people also expressed a desire to keep the open space and playground space. Options that meet both the needs of the surrounding community and the District will be considered. Projects must reflect that the District will maintain ownership of the building and co-location of multiple uses to maximize efficiency is encouraged. Also projects should promote a safe environment, with active daytime and evening uses. There was also some discussion about modeling the reuse after The ARC in Ward 8 which is a multi-tenant approach. ANC4C distributed a copy of their resolution supporting the conversion of Clark Elementary School to a public charter school. ANC Commissioner Renee Bowser recommended that Rudolph Elementary be used for adult vocational education. Each ANC Commissioner said they would draft recommendations for each affected Single Member District. Upon receipt, Councilmember Bowser will forward all of the community recommendations to the administration. The decision for each school will be completed before the conclusion of the school year.

An announcement was made for a series of meetings Chancellor Michelle Rhee is having with parents, faculty, staff, and other community members about the school restructuring process. Each meeting will have the same agenda: a brief presentation on school restructuring by the Chancellor will be followed by an extended period for public questions and comments. The next meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 22: 5-6:30 pm at Bell Multicultural Senior High School, 3101 16th St, N.W and also on Tuesday, April 29: 5--6:30 pm at Anacostia Senior High School, 1601 16th St, S.E. Basic information about the school restructuring may be obtained at www.k12.dc.us/students/nclb/nclb.htm.

Zoning Rewrite Task Force is hard at work

The Office of Planning (OP) is leading a multi-year public effort to review and revise the District's zoning regulations. It has been almost fifty years since the zoning regulations have been completely reviewed and updated.

This zoning review is based in part on the new city's new Comprehensive Plan. Following the Comprehensive Plan, at the end of the process, the District will have zoning regulations that meet the needs of our ever changing, thriving city. We will have regulations that guide the development of the city and manage the competing interests of neighborhood stability and economic and residential change.

The Office of Planning has a special website to keep the public informed about these efforts <http://www.dczoningupdate.org/>. This site contains information on the process and multiple ways for citizens and interested parties can get involved. This site can be used to sign up for working groups, read draft recommendations, and offer your comments on any phase of the project.

Anyone can volunteer to participate in a Public Working Group. The Zoning Taskforce has appointed members. The Ward 4 representative to the Zoning Taskforce is Mr. Jerome S. Paige. Mr. Paige can be reached at 202-726-3081 or at jpaige@paigeandassociates.com. The Zoning Taskforce at its March 2008 meeting reviewed the recommendations of the Height Working Group. The Taskforce will continue discussion of those recommendations at their next meeting. The Taskforce meets every two months. The total process is expected to end in the Summer of 2009.

Reminder Ward 4 Age in Place Symposium is April 24

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser and sponsors Barney Neighborhood House, Fannie Mae, the DC Office of Aging and Washington Gas on Thursday, April 24 from 9:30 to 1:30 PM for an Age in Place Symposium at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. There will be representatives of Age in Place programs that offer senior citizens quality home repair and maintenance services that enhance the integrity of their home, promote senior independence and enable seniors to stay in their homes longer. Councilmember Bowser will also deliver her State of the Ward 4 Seniors address at 12:00 PM. For more information please contact Joy Holland at jholland@dccouncil.us or call 202-724-8052.

Reminder DPW's Hazardous Waste Collection at Carter Barron – April 26

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre parking lot at 16th & Colorado Avenue, NW, District residents may drop-off hazardous waste & electronics for proper disposal and recycling. For more information call 311 or go to www.dpw.dc.gov.

Takoma Pool closed on April 26-27 for public swim

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has noted that public swim hours at the Takoma Aquatic Center will change on the following dates due to special events: Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 – no public swim will be available these two days due to the Machine Aquatics Long Course Classic Swim Meet. The meet is open to the public for viewing and admission is free.

Other DPR aquatic facilities will be open and will follow their normal hours of operation. Please note that pools may not be available for open swim during classes and other events; please contact the pool to confirm open swim availability. For more information please contact DPR at (202) 673-7647.

Save the Date – Ward 4 Family Fun Night at Carter Barron – May 31

Please save Saturday May 31 (June 1 rain date) for the 8th Annual Ward 4 Family Fun Night followed by a FREE performance of The Shakespeare Theatre's production of "Hamlet" at the 18th Annual Shakespeare Theatre Company Free For All. The family fun night will be from 4:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. at Carter Barron Amphitheatre at 16th Street and Colorado Avenue NW, Washington, DC and "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare directed by Alexander Burns (original direction by Michael Kahn) will begin at 7:30 p.m. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.