



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING

# Spotlight On Aging



VOLUME XXV, ISSUE 8

A newsletter for D.C. Seniors

August 2010



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Dr. Clarence Brown

Summer is in full swing, and many of you are taking time from your normal activities to spend time with family and friends and making efforts to stay cool during our periods of extreme record-breaking heat.

In previous issues we have listed tips to stay cool, and we hope you are doing just that. If you need additional assistance or information on staying cool, please contact us anytime during working hours, or use the citywide call center at 311 after working hours.

The recent storm caused power outages across the District, Maryland and Virginia, and we hope that all of our more vulnerable older residents fared well during these conditions. Our service providers did an excellent job responding to our seniors in need.

Those who experienced outages should be mindful of food safety to ensure that you do not become ill from food that was not maintained at proper temperatures during your loss of power. See information that is provided for you to help you remain well during these conditions.

On a different note, if your ability to maintain ownership of your home is threatened by property taxes, contact the Legal Counsel for the Elderly, which can make sure that you are signed up for programs to help with your property taxes. Don't be a victim of a property tax sale. Call Legal Counsel at 202-434-2170 for more information.

Please stay safe, cool and maintain your healthy lifestyle this summer.

## New Ownership and New Name for Senior Residence in Northwest

The Campbell Heights Residents Association has completed a two-and-a-half-year process that gave it ownership of their 171-unit apartment building. Under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, the residents partnered with Jair Lynch Development Corporation to buy the \$26 million building.

"We are the only development in the country where seniors have partnered to own their own building," said Sandra Truesdale, president of the association.

Councilmembers Jim Graham, Ward 1, and Jack Evans, Ward 2, worked hard with the CHRA Board President to assure that information submitted to the Council of the District of Columbia for the tax abatement was accurate for passage. The Council unanimously voted to pass the legislation for the tax abatement.

Not happy with the management of their building, the association began looking into ownership under the act. The process accelerated when the owners put the building up for sale in 2008.

"We were working toward that end before the



Excited residents of the 171-unit senior building celebrate the success of the purchase process at the event.



Mayor Adrian M. Fenty poses with Sandra Truesdale during the event to commemorate the purchase of the building.

sale," said Truesdale, adding that the association began the process in 2008.

The land that is now occupied by Campbell Heights is the former location of the District's famous African American hotel and music venue, the Dunbar Hotel. Located on the U Street corridor coined "Black Broadway" by Pearl Bailey, many African American elite, including musicians, stayed in the hotel. The Dunbar Hotel, with more than 400 rooms, was the only first-class option for persons of color to stay when it opened.

Truesdale, who headed the ownership effort, stated that each of the units will be renovated, the building will be under new management, and they now have a 20-year agreement with Housing and Urban Development. She also said the residents plan to rename the building the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments to reclaim its history.

## SAVE THE DATE!



WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR A STRONG GOLDEN AMERICA

### The National Hispanic Council on Aging's 2010 Annual Conference

Sept. 28 to 29

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel

480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. • Washington, DC 20024

202-484-1000

For more information, contact Rachel Griego at [rgriego@nhcoa.org](mailto:rgriego@nhcoa.org)

## D.C. Primary Election on September 14th

The September 14th Primary is open to persons who are registered Democrats, Republicans and D.C. Statehood Green voters to nominate a party candidate to the general election.

**Offices on the Primary ballot:** Delegate to U.S. House of Representatives, Mayor, Council Chairman, At Large Member of the Council, Ward Councilmember (Wards 1, 3, 5 and 6) and U.S. Representative, State Board of Education (Wards 1, 3, 5 and 6) and all Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners

### Important Information that seniors should know about the upcoming 2010 Primary and General Elections

Voter Registration Timelines (Primary):

Deadline for by mail registration: August 16

Deadline to make changes to existing party registration: August 16

In-person/office Registrations: August 17 to September 13

Same day registration: August 30 to September 14

During the early voting period and on Election Day, voters must present ID.

### In person absentee and early voting at board office August 30 to September 13

441 4th St., N.W., Old Council Chambers, First Floor Washington DC 20001

8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Monday to Saturday); closes at 4:45 p.m. on Monday, September 13

For more information, call the D.C. Board of Elections at 202-727-2525.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADRIAN M. FENTY, MAYOR

# Community Calendar

## August events

### 4th • 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

IONA Senior Services' "Good Eating, Good Eats" seminar and cooking demonstration will feature a live cooking demonstration at 5:45 p.m. with Chef Tianna Feaster, the owner and executive chef of Feast Your Eyes on This, a personal chef service serving the Washington area. A focus of the seminar and the cooking demonstration will be on easy to prepare, fun and diabetic-friendly foods. Audience members will have a chance to sample foods. The educational component of the evening, presented from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and repeated from 7 to 8:30 p.m., will be led by Jean Johnson, a nutrition and health specialist at the Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health, UDC Cooperative Extension Service. This program is free and open to the public. To ensure that there is enough food to sample, RSVP to 202-895-9448. IONA is located at 4125 Albemarle St., N.W.

### 10th • 11 a.m.

Seabury Ward 5 Aging Services will hold a discus-

sion on the new Medicare law at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 10, at 2900 Newton St., N.E. For more information, contact Vivian Grayton at 202-529-8701.

### 19th • 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Join IONA's new Plan Well to Age Well group, which meets the third Thursday of the month. This support group is an opportunity for people to share their thoughts, feelings and concerns encountered in the aging process. The group is free, but donations are accepted. IONA is located at 4125 Albemarle St., N.W.

### 28th • 11 a.m.

An Alzheimer's support group meets at 11 a.m. every fourth Saturday of the month at Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Center, 4817 Blagden Ave., N.W. Contact Holly Segal at 202-723-8537 for more information.

### 30th • 2 to 7 p.m.

A card party with prizes and a buffet will be held at Model Cities Senior Wellness Center, 1901 Evarts St., N.E. from 2-7 p.m. \$20 donations are due by Monday,

August 23. For more information, call Monica Carroll at 202-635-1900, ext. 24.

## October events

### Oct. 4 to 7

Take a bus trip to Atlantic City to see the 2010 Ms. Senior America Pageant with the DC Cameo Club. Rates, including accommodations at Harrah's, are \$241 (double), \$390 (single), with a \$60 rebate. Pageant preliminary and finals tickets will cost an additional \$45. Deposit of \$100 due ASAP. The bus leaves the Model Cities Senior Wellness Center on Monday, Oct. 4, and returns on Thursday, Oct. 7. For more information, contact Vernelle Hamit at 202-556-9893 or Monica Carroll, 202-635-1900, ext. 24.

### Ongoing

Barney Senior Program needs volunteers for a special "prom night" at the end of October. If you can design clothes, provide limousine service, perform music, do makeup and hair, cater food or help in some other way, contact James Thompson at 202-939-9020.

## Fenty Administration & U.S. Treasury Break Ground on New Affordable Senior Housing

### 36 New Units of Affordable Housing for Seniors in Brightwood

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Valerie Santos, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Director Leila Edmonds, and D.C. Office on Aging Director Clarence Brown joined Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios and Ward 4 residents this summer to break ground on 36 units of affordable senior housing at Vida Senior Residences, 1330 Missouri Ave., N.W.

"My administration is committed to providing affordable housing for our seniors to help maintain stable communities," Mayor Fenty said. "The Vida Senior Residences in Brightwood is just one of the projects we have pushed forth with to make sure our seniors can stay in their communities."

"Access to affordable housing is a challenge faced by communities across the country," said Treasurer Rios. "By providing states with cash to help them finance low-income housing construction, the Re-

covery Act is spurring development at a time when too many projects would otherwise be stalled."

"Vida Senior Residences in Brightwood is another example of the Fenty administration's commitment to providing quality affordable housing choices for District residents," said DHCD Director Leila Edmonds. "The use of stimulus funds from U.S. Treasury was crucial to this project moving forward to development."

Vida Senior residences are available to individuals 55 and older who earn 50 percent or less than the area media income. The project is expected to be complete in spring 2011 and create 55 full-time equivalent construction jobs over the 11-month construction period.

DHCD awarded Vida \$6,867,244 in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act under the Section 1602 Tax Credit Exchange Program. The D.C. Housing Finance Agency also provided Vida a \$150,000 loan in McKinney Act funding for predevelopment costs.

## What to Do During a Utility Outage

A utility outage is a situation where commodities such as electricity, water or gas service are interrupted.

In general, you should take the following protective actions:

- Keep a battery-powered radio and flashlight; have an extra supply of fresh batteries.
- Store essential supplies, such as flashlights, batteries, a portable radio, water, non-perishable foods, blankets and a manual can-opener.
- DO NOT use charcoal indoors! Without proper ventilation, fumes from burnt charcoal can cause a deadly situation.
- If the air conditioner is not functioning, during summer months stay cool by keeping out of direct sunlight and moving to the lowest floor of the building.
- Use food supplies wisely. Use refrigerated foods first, frozen foods second and non-perishable foods last.
- Remember that perishable items from

the refrigerator can be kept cool for about four hours if the refrigerator is left closed.

Learn how to safely and properly switch on/off gas valves, water lines and circuit breakers once utilities have been restored.

For general questions or to report a problem, call the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311. For power outages, call Pepco's 24-Hour Outage Report Line at 1-877-737-2662.

Additional phone numbers and resources: PEPCO Safety Emergency, 202-872-3432, to report wires down

PEPCO Claims Office, 202-872-2455, to request a form for electric service related damages

D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Hotline, 202-727-6161, to request assistance with emergency shelter or report a hazardous condition

Office of the People's Council (OPC), 202-727-3071, to obtain any information or assistance.

## SPOTLIGHT ON AGING

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441 4th St., N.W., 9th Floor,  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202-724-5622 • www.dcoa.dc.gov

Dr. Clarence Brown, **Executive Director**  
Darlene Nowlin, **Editor**  
Vikrum Aiver, **Photographer**

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Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subjected to disciplinary action.

**The Office on Aging is in partnership  
with the District of  
Columbia Recycling Program.**

## Metro Fare Hikes



**Starting August 1, Metro will raise fares again, including costs for seniors and riders with disabilities.**

For information on how this will affect fares on both buses and trains, visit [www.MetroOpensDoors.com](http://www.MetroOpensDoors.com) or call 202-637-7000.

## Centenarians Wanted

The D.C. Office on Aging is searching for District residents 100 years of age and older to honor at the annual event to honor centenarians. If you or someone you know will be 100 years of age or older by Sept. 30, 2010, please contact the office to make sure they are registered. Please tell us where the centenarian resided in 1930. Contact Courtney Williams or Darlene Nowlin at 202-724-5622.

## Free Medical Screening

Howard University Hospital is offering free colonoscopies to uninsured or underinsured D.C. residents age 50 to 64. For more information, call 202-865-7741.

