Living Boldly

News and notes brought to you by the DC Department of Aging and Community Living

Volume 4 Issue 4 A Newsletter for DC Seniors April 2024

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Charon P.W. Hines

Dear Seniors,

A new season is here! As we transition from winter's cool embrace and blossom into the gentle warmth of spring, I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits and health. The days are becoming longer, the sun is shining brighter, and new flowers are budding each day. Just as the seasons shift, so do our everyday lives. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "spring" as a sudden movement or to move upward or forward. It's our time to move forward and embrace new things in our lives, for each season brings its own unique charm and blessings!

As we enter the second quarter of 2024, discussions are already underway regarding the upcoming fiscal year 2025 for District seniors. At the end of February, DACL had the honor of partnering with Mayor Bowser for the FY25 Senior Budget Engagement Tele-Townhall. Seniors congregated at Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center in Ward 8 and various watch parties across the city, eager to hear directly from Mayor Bowser about how District funds are allocated and their impact on the aging community.

This invaluable event provided seniors with a platform to voice their perspectives on the city's achievements and their current priorities, needs, and concerns for the forthcoming fiscal year. Following the Tele-Townhall, I prioritized meeting with seniors who could not attend, recognizing the significance of your insights and feedback as we strive to enhance the aging experience in the District! The suggestions and changes proposed during these discussions are instrumental in our efforts to make our city the best place to age.

Change can be daunting, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. The continued evolution of DC is a testament to our community's resilience and commitment to supporting one another and making the District better, especially our amazing seniors. Let's embark on this journey of change together with optimism in our hearts and a "spring" in our steps. Remember, with every change comes new opportunities, new experiences, and new joys to be discovered.

Wishing you all a season filled with warmth, wellness, and wonderful new beginnings.

Warm regards,
Charon PW Hines
Director, Department of Aging
and Community Living

DACL Meets with FY2024 Lead Agencies

DACL's senior leadership connected with our lead agencies for FY2024 to discuss how our partnership and initiatives benefit DC's older adults daily and explore avenues for ongoing support in the future.

Ward 1 Lead Agency: DACL in partnership with East River Family Strengthening Collective

Ward 7 & 8 - East River Family Strengthening Collective

Ward 2 & 3 Lead Agency: IONA Senior Services

Ward 4: Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Day Care Center

Ward 5 & 6: Seabury Resources

50th Anniversary of the DC History Conference

DC Public Library, in partnership with the DC History Center and Humanities DC, brings you the 50th DC History Conference. The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the District's past, present, and future. The first conference was organized in 1973 and delivered in January of 1974, marking this as the 50th year of the conference. Since then, the conference organizers have provided a welcoming, educational, and stimulating forum for original research on and engagement with the history of the Washington, DC metropolitan area—prioritizing the local city but including nearby Maryland and Virginia, and the federal government.

DACL in the Community

The work of DACL is in our communities with you! Check out some of the amazing events and activities DACL staff participated in last month!

DPW Spring Services

Spring is here, and it's crucial to keep our city blossoming. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has begun its annual Spring Services, which will run through October 31, 2024. These services include street sweeping, alley cleaning, graffiti removal, mowing, and DPW's helping hand at neighborhood cleanups. Visit dpw.dc.gov for more information.

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Save the Date for Senior Fest

On May 29, 2024, the Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) will partner with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to host the annual Senior Fest on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC)! The event will feature music, live entertainment, exhibitors, health screenings, games, food, and more. For more details, visit www.seniorfest.splashthat.com.

National Scam Day

Annually, scammers take about $2.8 billion from seniors in the United States. To combat this statistic, DACL's Adult Protective Services Team (APS) held a forum with DC seniors to recognize "National Slam the Scam Day" on Thursday, March 7. This event was held in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Department, giving seniors skills to detect and defend themselves against scams. If you think you or a loved one have been scammed or have questions about scamming, please call the APS hotline, 202-541-3950.