

Living Boldly

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

Volume 1 Issue 3 A Newsletter for D.C. Seniors July 2021



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Laura Newland, Director
D.C. Department of Aging
and Community Living

Just two months ago, Mayor Muriel Bowser presented her Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Budget and Financial Plan to the DC Council – a budget that is guided by equity. The Mayor's budget is committed to investing in what we all know will be the pillars of equitable recovery from the financial impacts we all felt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$17.5 billion budget is called the Fair Shot Budget, providing relief, recovery, and growth opportunities to all residents in all eight wards, including our city's older residents, adults with disabilities, and caregivers. And as we continue to recover as a city, I can assure you that this year's budget is committed to building a more equitable Washington, DC, giving more and more Washingtonians the fair shot needed to thrive.

Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2022 Fair Shot Budget is one that honors the sacrifices of our residents during COVID-19 by setting our community up for a strong recovery. A strong economic recovery. And a strong recovery of our community's physical and mental health.

With this budget, we are doubling down on our commitment to building back better starting with the foundation of a more equitable Washington, DC.

Our response over the past year and a half has been unprecedented, and we have much to be proud of. We have worked together as a community to:

- Deliver more than 2 million meals to more than 6,600 older adults since the start of the Public Health Emergency;
- Launch a senior tech program providing iPads and technical support to 500 qualifying older district residents;
- Launch a Call & Talk line currently engaging close to 100 residents with friendly calls and conversations throughout the public health emergency;
- Host two Virtual Mayor's Annual Senior Symposiums on Channel 16, which included a special meal delivery for more than 800 seniors in FY20 and 900 seniors in FY21; and
- Host the first ever Virtual Ms. Senior DC, where Ward 5 resident, Ms. Vanella Crawford was crowned queen and will represent us on the national stage in October!

With this Fiscal Year 2022 budget, we will continue a robust COVID-19 response that will help us protect residents and keep our community safe.

Just last month, I testified before Councilmember Anita

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A New Queen is Here - Congratulations Ms. Vanella Crawford



Ms. Senior DC Pageant 2021

Name of contestants L to R: Janice Talley Trent, Teresa Anne Smith, Vene' La Gon, Ann Rollins, Annetta Hampton Nicholas, Vanella Crawford, LaVerene Adams, Elynore Hooker Herron

This year, DACL, in partnership with Seabury Resources for Aging and the DC Seniors Cameo Club, hosted the first ever virtual Ms. Senior DC pageant. Eight, talented District women competed for the title of Ms. Senior DC 2021, sharing their talents and philosophy of life with the Dis-

trict. On Sunday, June 27, Ward 5 resident, Ms. Vanella Crawford was crowned DC's newest queen! Congratulations to Ms. Crawford and all of this year's contestants. Thank you for having the courage to show all of us how you live boldly. To watch the full pageant, please visit dacl.dc.gov.

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Congratulations to our Welcome Back Makeover Contest Winner, Model Cities!

In honor of reopening in person programming and PRIDE Month, DACL hosted a “Welcome Back Makeover Contest: Better Together! Five of our senior wellness centers worked with participants to decorate the entrance, parking lot, and other exterior, public-facing area to create a warm, inclusive, and fabulous

destination. Thanks to the support of our LGBTQ Advisory Committee, a winner was selected. Congratulations to the seniors of the Model Cities Senior Wellness Center and thank you to all of our wellness centers for participating. We’ll continue to ensure our spaces promote joy, visibility, and PRIDE all year long.



Congratulations to our 2021 Pride Decoration Winners - Model Cities!

Director’s message

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Bonds and the Committee on Housing and Executive Administration, sharing our agency’s FY22 budgetary decisions and what this means for you.

In FY22, you can expect more engaging activities closer to where you are, whether it’s through our senior socialization hubs, senior wellness centers, virtual activities at home, or a combination — there will be more opportunities to get out and engage with one another as we all get reacquainted after more than a year of social distancing.

Operationally, DACL will be making it easier for you to connect with the services and supports you need by bringing in our intake, assessment, and case management all in one place. We are working towards a system that will be easier for you and will connect seamlessly to our entire portfolio of services.

If you have more complex needs, our multi-disciplinary approach will make it quicker for you to get the services and supports you need.

Because that’s what you deserve. As the Mayor mentioned, this budget is all about setting up our communities for a strong recovery post-COVID and these investments will push us towards a more equitable recovery in all eight wards.

For more information about the Mayor’s Fair Shot budget, please visit budget.dc.gov. To view my complete budget testimony, please visit dacl.dc.gov.

— Laura Newlands

In Case You Missed It - Thanks for attending our Older Americans Month Drive Up Celebrations!



Older Americans Month was truly a celebration! DACL had a wonderful time celebrating and bringing joy to District seniors. To view photos from the Drive Up Celebrations and other Older Americans Month events, please visit dacl.dc.gov and click on photo gallery.

Last Chance - Sign up for the 4TH ANNUAL BRAIN GAMES!

JOIN A TEAM AND REPRESENT YOUR WARD!

Join the Department of Aging and Community Living for our 4th Annual Brain Games, a city-wide trivia competition for District seniors that promotes brain health.

Brain Games will take place from July 19-27, 2021

WARD 1, 2, 4 - TERRIFIC: (202) 387-9000

WARD 3 - IONA: (202) 895-9448

WARD 5 - SEABURY: (202) 529-8701

WARD 6 - SEABURY (202) 397-1725

WARD 7 - ERFSC: (202) 534-4880

WARD 8 - ERFSC: (202) 562-6860

CONTACT YOUR LEAD AGENCY TO REGISTER
Registration begins May 24 and ends July 2, 2021

