

# Spotlight on Aging

VOLUME XXXII, ISSUE 3

A newsletter for D.C. Seniors

March 2020



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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

Our Performance Oversight Hearing was last month before the Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization. We always look forward to hearing directly from you about your experiences and how we can do an even better job of meeting you where you are, so thanks to everyone who testified, attended and watched!

Our Budget Oversight Hearing is scheduled for April 3, and we look forward to continuing the conversation before the Committee.

As I said in my testimony, the Department of Aging and Community Living is committed to making sure that the work we do within the agency is always reflective of the community we serve. That means that we're always listening and interested in knowing how we can best serve you.

We take this feedback back to the office — good, bad and everything in between — and we ask ourselves, “how can we make this experience better for our residents?”

I'd like to personally invite you to join us for one of our budget town halls taking place during the week of March 23. Check out our flyer on the following page for specific dates and locations.

This is an opportunity to learn about how Mayor Muriel Bowser's proposed 2021 investments will go towards ensuring every District resident has a fair shot at opportunity here in the District — especially our seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers. I look forward to seeing you there!

This month is also National Social Work Month! With more than 700,000 social workers in the United States and 5,000 in the District alone, chances are that you have known or currently know people who have dedicated their lives to the field of social work.

In District government, we're fortunate to have social workers at many levels, whether they're in the community working with our residents, or influencing policy and creating programs that enable our residents to thrive.

Social workers view all of us as we want to be seen — by our potential and not our mistakes. They recognize every individual's inherent value and help people realize their own ability to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential. Social workers are advocates, teachers, guidance counselors, problem solvers, innovators, organizers and activists.

At DACL, I'm fortunate to work with social workers who inspire me to lead with my heart, not just my head. Many thanks to all of the DACL social workers, the Senior Service Network social workers, and all social workers in D.C. for making this city a place where we can all live boldly!

## Cupid's Kids Spread Love to Homebound Elderly



More than 2,400 homebound seniors received handmade Valentine's Day cards as part of the Cupid's Kids Campaign. In its fourth year of the campaign, the Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) reached out to D.C. Public and Charter Schools to ask elementary and middle school students to make cards as part of an intergenerational project to connect schoolchildren with the frail elderly, who may also be isolated.

“Programs like Cupid's Kids are helping us bring our younger generations into this conversation, and teaching them about how they can be a part of the solution. We're proud to provide an introduction that will hopefully create lasting and impactful con-

nections,” said Director Laura Newland, Department of Aging and Community Living.

This year, 25 schools representing all eight wards participated in the project. DACL thanks the D.C. Public Schools and Charter Schools who helped spread love and positivity to over 2,400 homebound seniors.

A special thanks to the students of Charles Hart Middle School and the students of Ida B. Wells Middle School (pictured above), who entertained and passed out cards to seniors at Colony House and Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center, respectively.

We also want to thank “Good Morning America” for highlighting the Cupid's Kids story on their website and social media.

## Everybody Counts DC

Census 2020 is coming, and this will be the District's one chance to ensure federal dollars come to D.C. for programs that benefit every community in all eight wards over the next 10 years.

Starting the week of March 12, your household will be mailed a series of invitations to complete your census form online, by phone, or in print.

Your data is confidential, and will never be shared with any law enforcement agency of any kind.

You count! And your neighbors count on

you to help D.C. get the resources we need to build stronger communities.

If you need assistance, the D.C. Department of Aging and Community Living and other D.C. agencies are here to make completing the census easy!

Call us at 202-724-5626 if you need help completing the census.



# Get Involved

**Thursday, March 5**

**10:15 – 11:30 a.m.**

Community presentation provided by DACL & Partners, at the Bernice Fonteneau Senior Wellness Center, 3531 Georgia Avenue, NW – Ward 1  
Contact: Michelle Singleton 202-727-0338

**Monday, March 9**

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

DACL will provide an informational table to the patients and staff of the Physician's Office Building at Washington Hospital Center, Samet Atrium – First Floor  
106 Irving Street, NW – Ward 5

**Wednesday, March 11**

**9 a.m. – Noon**

Workshop for soon-to-be-released D.C. inmates, Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens, Beckley Federal Prison, 1600 Industrial Park Rd., Beaver, West VA 25813

**Friday, March 13**

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Community presentation and workshop with a health component, rendered by DACL and partners for the residents of St. Mary's Court, 725 –24th Street, NW – Ward 2

**Saturday, March 14**

**9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

DC – Census 2020 Training by DACL Gethsemane Baptist Church  
5119 4th Street, NW – Ward 4  
Contact: Shirley Fields 202-746-6082

**Monday, March 16**

**1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Community presentation provided by DACL and partners  
Model Cities Senior Wellness Center  
1901 Evarts Street, NE – Ward 5  
Contact: Stacie Mack 202-635-1900

**Tuesday, March 17**

**1 – 2 p.m.**

Community presentation provided by Transport DC  
Behrend-Adas Senior Fellowship  
Adas Israel Congregation  
2850 Quebec Street, NW – Ward 3  
Contact: Vivian Henning-Bailey 202-777-3243  
Open to the public

**Thursday, March 19**

**10 a.m. – noon**

Train to become a DACL Ambassador. To register contact: [dacl.communications@dc.gov](mailto:dacl.communications@dc.gov) or call 202-727-0374

**Thursday, March 19**

**1 – 2 p.m.**

Community presentation provided by the US Attorney's Office of D.C.  
Behrend-Adas Senior Fellowship  
Adas Israel Congregation  
2850 Quebec Street, NW – Ward 3  
Contact: Vivian Henning-Bailey 202-777-3243  
Open to the public

**Friday, March 20**

**10 a.m. – Noon**

DACL and partners community presentation  
Vida Senior Center  
1842 Calvert Street, NW – Ward 1  
Open to the public

**Wednesday, March 25**

**1 – 2 p.m.**

Community presentation provided by the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking  
Behrend-Adas Senior Fellowship  
Adas Israel Congregation  
2850 Quebec Street, NW – Ward 3  
Contact: Vivian Henning-Bailey 202-777-3243  
Open to the public

**Wednesday, March 25**

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Workshop for soon-to-be-released D.C. inmates  
Gilmer Federal Correctional Institute  
201 FCI Lane  
Glenville, West VA 26351

**Wednesday, March 25**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

The Senior Zone Senior Spa Day  
Emery Heights Community Center  
5701 Georgia Avenue, NW – Ward 4

**Friday, March 27**

**10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

DACL and partners graciously support the New Edgewood Recreation Center Senior Group Early Spring Fair  
300 Evarts Street, NE – Ward 5  
Open to Ward 5 Seniors age 50 and up

**Tuesday, March 31**

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Community Presentation and Workshop by the Board of Elections  
Hayes Senior Wellness Center  
500 K Street, NE – Ward 6

**March 2020**

# Valentine's Day Pageant



**Pictured left to right are Center Director Thelma Burless; Sheila Poole, Ms. Senior D.C. 2010; CDC Seniors Cameo Club Member Margaret Carter; Ms. Senior D.C. Trinette Chase; Toni Jackson, Ms. Senior D.C. 2014; Wendy Bridges, Ms. Senior D.C. 2015; and seated are Mr. Robert Sanders and Ms. Mildred Dickerson.**

Congratulations to the first winners of the Mr. and Mrs. Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Center title! Six participants competed in the pageant that was held on Valentine's Day and judged by members of the D.C. Seniors Cameo Club.

The candidates answered the question, "What advice would you give to our youth to encourage them to age gracefully?" All of the responses were well received.

The talent portion of the competition was a dance-off contest, and seniors showed off their fancy footwork. All of the candidates were outstanding, and the judges had a difficult task at

hand to select the new King and Queen.

Ms. Senior D.C. Trinette Chase crowned Ms. Mildred Dickerson and Mr. Robert Sanders as Mr. and Mrs. Genevieve N. Johnson. This couple will represent Genevieve Johnson Senior Center all year, and the center plans to host this event next year.

The Ms. Senior D.C. Pageant is searching for the next Ms. Senior D.C. If you know a District woman age 60 or older who should compete in the pageant, register online at [www.dacl.dc.gov](http://www.dacl.dc.gov). For more information, contact [darlene.nowlin@dc.gov](mailto:darlene.nowlin@dc.gov) or call 202-727-8364.

## DACL BUDGET TOWN HALLS



Lunch and Limited Transportation will be provided!

#LiveBoldly

**Join the Department of Aging and Community Living's Director, Laura Newland, at a FY2021 Budget Town Hall Discussion!**

For registration and transportation questions, contact your local wellness center or lead agency. For more information, contact DACL at 202-724-5626.

**Monday, March 23**

**RISE Demonstration Center**  
Wards 7 & 8  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
2730 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20032

**Tuesday, March 24**

**St. Albans Slatteree Hall**  
Wards 3 & 4  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
3001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

**Wednesday, March 25**

**Prince Masonic Hall**  
Wards 1, 2, 5, & 6  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
1000 U Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**Friday, March 27**

**VIDA Brightwood Center**  
En Español!  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
1330 Missouri Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20011

## Spotlight on Aging

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BE PART OF THE PROCESS!