

Fall 2009

Ingrid M. Turner

DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER



Working for YOU!

Dear Fellow District 4 Residents:

Working for YOU as Prince George's County Council representative for District 4 continues to be an honor and a privilege. Thank you again for the opportunity. This newsletter serves to update you on the progress we have made in District 4 and inform you of some wonderful initiatives taking place throughout our communities.

The fiscal health of our County continues to dominate conversations. We are in the midst of some of the most difficult challenges this County has ever faced, but I remain confident that our history of fiscal responsibility, good government policies and partnerships with the community, municipalities, state and federal agencies will allow us to confront our challenges, keeping District 4 and Prince George's County the wonderful places they are today. Our shared sense of community is more important than ever before, and by working **TOGETHER** we will emerge from this journey an even stronger and better community.

District 4 continues to be a vibrant, diverse and engaged community. Our public schools are making record improvements; crime is at an all-time low; and initiatives to protect the environment and provide world-class recreation facilities define us as a leader. Additionally, as one of only four counties in the state of Maryland to earn a Triple-A Bond Rating, Prince George's County is better-positioned to deal with the current economic crisis.

Assisting me in public service are some very hard-working and dedicated people. A list of my staff, office contact information, and frequently used numbers are located on the tear-out card for your easy reference. I hope you find it a useful tool. As always, if I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me – your District 4 Team stands ready to assist. Let us continue to work **TOGETHER** to make our community we call home the best that it can be.

Always working hard for you,

Ingrid M. Turner, Esq.
Council Member – District 4

Working for YOU!



Legislative Year 2009

This Legislative Year, I am serving in a number of Council leadership positions including Vice-Chair of the Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee, and a member of the Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee. My statewide appointments include the Governor's Workforce Investment Board of Directors, the Board of Directors for the Maryland Association of County Officials (MACo), and the Legislative Policy Committee for MACo.

Regionally, I serve as Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Human Services and Public Safety Committee. In this capacity I am bringing together regional elected and school leaders to evaluate and discuss successes and challenges in combating childhood obesity. We will use this opportunity to learn from each other and find ways to promote a culture of health and fitness. The physical well-being of our community is important, and I will continue to collaborate with M-NCPPC and various other organizations to benefit all Prince Georgians.

It has been my pleasure to award a number of grants to community organizations providing critical services such as food, shelter and educational resources. Demand for emergency services is on the rise while we are facing a reduction in public donations. Finding ways to support funding for these vital community programs must remain a high priority. I continue to advocate for additional funding during these challenging economic times, to help ensure our citizens in need will be provided with critical services.

EDUCATION MATTERS



Council Member Turner gives the commencement address to the ERHS graduating class of 2009.

Greenbelt Middle School on the Horizon. Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is continuing its plans to build a new middle school in Greenbelt. The construction contract is expected to be awarded in January 2010 with the new school possibly opening in the fall of 2011.

"We anticipate there will be no interruption to existing school operations during the new school construction with the athletic fields being the exception," said Lawrence Fryer, Chief Operating Officer, PGCPS. "Our goal is to ensure that a quality LEED-certified school is built for the students and families of Greenbelt."

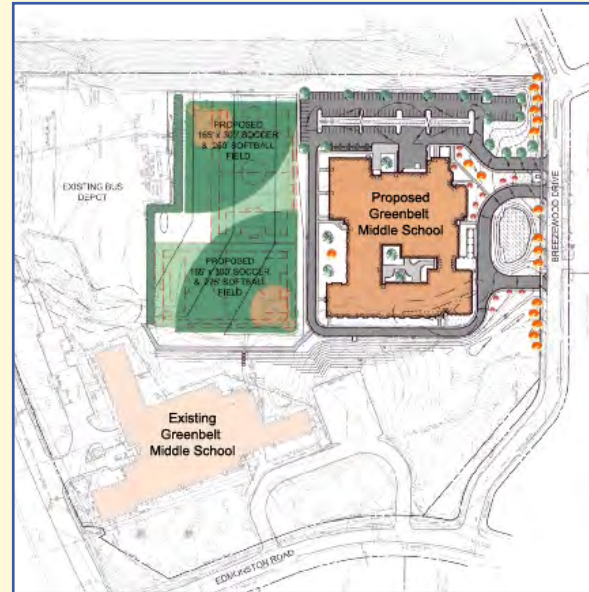
As previously reported, the new school will be a state-of-the-art 135,743 square foot, two-story

building that will feature interior and exterior administrative and academic areas for school instruction. The "green" building will allow instructional spaces to receive maximum daylight. Historic wings of the school are slated to be renovated during the school construction.

Community meetings will continue to be held periodically as the project continues to develop, and updates will be available online at www.pgcps.org under the "Schools" tab.

Driven to Walk ... for Our Teen Drivers. *Each year approximately 970,000 teens are involved in car crashes - that's 1 out of every 4 teen drivers!* Over 400,000 teens are injured every year and 5,000 of them will die in car crashes. Twice as many teens will die as a result of car crashes this year as will die from drugs, homicide, suicide, diseases, or any of the other things parents are concerned about. Yet most parents are not aware of these statistics until one of their teens is involved in a crash.

Safety Driven, Inc., a local non-profit organization, has started a program called **Driven To Walk...for our Teen Drivers**. They gather weekly to walk the neighborhoods to educate parents, teens, communities, and organizations to help bring attention to the epidemic of teen car accidents. For over 20 years, car accidents have remained the #1 killer of teens. Driven to Walk believes that once parents are informed and armed with the tools to monitor and educate their teen drivers, **TOGETHER**, we can make a major difference. The organization is also calling for a major push and encouraging local schools, churches, parents, and youth organizations to actively support the annual National Teen Driver Safety Week which is October 18 – 24th. For more information, please visit the web site at www.driventowalk.org or contact Mr. Alvin Butler at abutler@driventowalk.org.

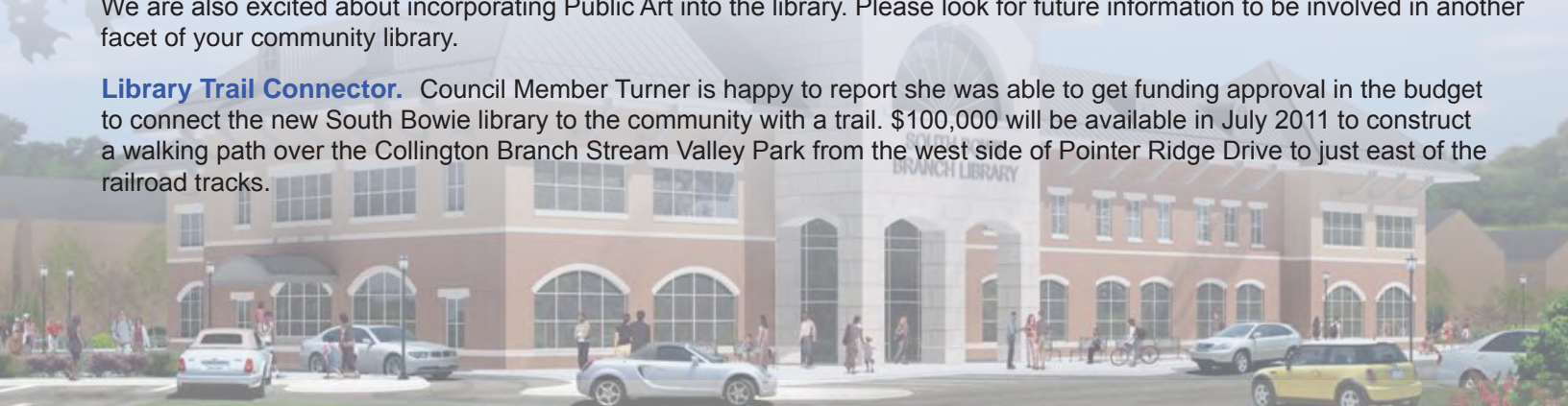


South Bowie Library. Together, we, elected officials and residents, have successfully lobbied for a new South Bowie Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. This long awaited day for the ground breaking has arrived. All are invited to celebrate this monumental day, tentatively scheduled for October 2009. **TOGETHER** we continue to push for this 45,000 square foot library that will be a resource for children and adults alike at the new Hall Station mixed-use development at the intersection of Central Avenue and Hall Road. The library is Hall Station's focal point, providing a civic presence to complement the credit union, pharmacy, coffee shop and 300 housing units.

The South Bowie Branch's design with a capacity of 110,000 items/volumes was guided by the community. The children's area features an interactive early literacy area and a life-size steel tree in full spring bloom! The living room-like adult area includes comfortable reading areas, a fireplace, study rooms, 50 computers--all in a soaring two-story space. Public meeting rooms, a computer training lab, conference room and a drive-up service window complete the project.

We are also excited about incorporating Public Art into the library. Please look for future information to be involved in another facet of your community library.

Library Trail Connector. Council Member Turner is happy to report she was able to get funding approval in the budget to connect the new South Bowie library to the community with a trail. \$100,000 will be available in July 2011 to construct a walking path over the Collington Branch Stream Valley Park from the west side of Pointer Ridge Drive to just east of the railroad tracks.



LAND USE MATTERS



Bowie State MARC Station Sector Plan. The Bowie State MARC Station Sector Plan, a project led by the Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and conducted in partnership with Bowie State University (BSU) and area residents, businesses, and property owners, has entered into its second phase. With the input received from a broad range of stakeholders regarding the area's opportunities and challenges, the Planning Department has prepared a preliminary sector plan to shape the future growth and development of the Bowie State MARC Station area. Specifically, the sector plan provides strategies and an implementation plan to foster a viable, environmentally sensitive, pedestrian-friendly, and transit-supportive mixed-use community center at the MARC Station that serves BSU students and faculty, surrounding neighborhoods, and MARC commuters.

Preliminary Sector Plan. To ensure stakeholders had an opportunity to review the completed analysis and proposed area recommendations, copies of the preliminary sector plan were distributed in June at various locations in and around the sector plan area and an electronic version was posted on the project website. On July 14, 2009, the joint public hearing allowed stakeholders an opportunity to provide testimony regarding the sector plan in the presence of the

Prince George's County District Council and Planning Board. Stakeholders were also able to submit written testimony in addition to or instead of speaking at the joint public hearing.

Next Steps. The Planning Department project team will review submitted testimony and present their recommendations to the Planning Board in September 2009. The District Council is anticipated to evaluate the plan in February 2010.

For further information, please contact the Project Manager, Kierre McCune at 301-952-3211 or Kierre.McCune@ppd.mncppc.org or visit



BSU students and area residents provide feedback on Design Alternatives during the charette process.

the project webpage www.pgplanning.org/Projects/Ongoing_Plans_and_Projects/Community_Plans/Bowie_MARC.htm.



Council Member Turner, Amina Anderson, Senior Program Officer with the Prince George's Community Foundation, and Samuel Parker, Chairman of the M-NCPPC, present Ms. Samantha Key, a junior at BSU with a certificate and laptop computer for winning the design cover competition.

Glenn Dale-Seabrook-Lanham and Vicinity Sector Plan Update. On July 23, 2009, the Prince George's County Planning Board recommended that the preliminary Glenn Dale-Seabrook-Lanham Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment move forward for publication and community review. The preliminary plan updates the 1993 plan for the Glenn Dale, Seabrook and Lanham communities. All property owners within the community planning area should have received notices in August regarding the preliminary plan's availability and the joint public hearing to be held by the County Council and Planning Board on **October 6, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Council Hearing Room located on the 1st floor of the County Administration Building.

The plan defines recommendations and strategies to achieve the following objectives: walkable, safe and attractive neighborhoods; vital pedestrian oriented commercial areas that serve resident needs; well defined and inviting gateways; creating and maintaining a community forest consisting of parks, open spaces and green streetscapes; preserved historic buildings, landscapes, watersheds, wetlands and environmental resources; expanded and interconnected parks and recreation areas; interconnected bicycle and pedestrian trails and sidewalks; accessible and high quality public facilities; improved roadways and crosswalks for pedestrian safety; and the development of a new mixed use transit oriented community center.

The preliminary plan also includes a Sectional Map Amendment (SMA) which proposes several focused changes in zoning to support recommended land uses and future development consistent with the plan's vision, goals and policies. The joint public hearing will provide property owners and neighborhood residents with an important opportunity to address the County Council and Planning Board regarding the plan's recommendations and the SMA's proposed zoning changes.

For more information, contact Angela Ruppe or Robert Duffy at (301) 952-4797 or robert.duffy@ppd.mncppc.org.

FY2010 Grant Applications. Non-profit organizations play a valuable role for our communities. This year, our focus is strictly on organizations that make the greatest impact during these difficult economic times and we are looking for organizations that help with basic needs, address foreclosures, home ownership and education and provide assistance to our youth or seniors. Applications are due no later than **November 30, 2009** and must include detailed information on how the grant money will be used. For additional information, visit www.PrinceGeorgesCountyMD.gov/District4 or contact Ingrid S. Harrison at ISHarrison@co.pg.md.us or 301-952-3094.

**GLENN DALE
SEABROOK
LANHAM &
VICINITY**



COMMUNITY MATTERS



Down Payment on Your Dream. Now is an exciting time to purchase a home in District Four! The *Down Payment on Your Dream* program, will provide eligible first time home buyers with up to \$20,000 down payment and closing cost assistance when buying a vacant, foreclosed home in Prince George's County.

Prince George's County received \$12.8 million to help eligible first time home buyers realize their dream of home ownership and revitalize communities negatively impacted by foreclosures as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), established under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. The *Down Payment on Your Dream* program is a wonderful opportunity for first time home buyers to purchase a great home at an affordable price and play an active role in reviving our neighborhoods. For additional information, call 301.883.5456 or visit www.princegeorgescounty.gov/dream.

Bowie First. Council Member Turner has partnered with the City of Bowie in support of *Bowie First*, a new mortgage assistance program providing qualified police officers and teachers with up to \$1,000 in closing cost assistance. The Maryland Mortgage Program will award matching funds, for a total of \$2,000 in assistance. Applications are available at the Bowie City Hall in the City Managers Office, 214 Kenhill Drive or online at www.cityofbowie.org.

CB-11-2009. Council Member Turner and her council colleagues recently passed a bill that requires the registration of vacant or unoccupied houses with the Department of Environmental Resources and establishes a penalty for failure to register the properties. The goal of this registration system is to identify foreclosed properties before they become an eye sore and to help maintain our communities. Registration forms are available online at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DER or by contacting the DER's Foreclosure Registration Unit at (301) 883-6100. There is no charge to register vacant property.



Helping Our Youth Sports Organizations. Over the last year Council Member Turner and her staff have worked diligently with the M-NCPPC to find additional ways to support local youth sports organizations. The South Bowie Boys and Girls Club was awarded \$25,000 to support their programs and efforts to build a permanent snack bar and restroom facility. The City of Greenbelt's Aquatic and Fitness Center was awarded \$100,000 to support Prince George's County residential use of the facility. The Dream Makers Academy was awarded \$20,000 to provide basketball and academic life skills to help keep our youth active, engaged and connected. The Lanham Boys and Girls Club was awarded \$20,000 to make much needed improvements.



Lanham Boys and Girls Club football team practices.

Kevin Snowden, President of the Lanham Boys and Girls Club, applauded Council Member Turner

"for being a big supporter of the Lanham Boys and Girls Club Inc., since the day she took office." He further stated, "We are especially grateful for the funding support she provided last year to repair our roof, the football scoreboard, and to make improvements to our snack bar. This year she provided funding that will allow us to purchase new aluminum bleachers for the football field, which the club desperately needs. Council Member Turner's commitment to excellence and dedication to our community is very much appreciated by all of us here at the Lanham Boys and Girls Club, and we say thank you!"

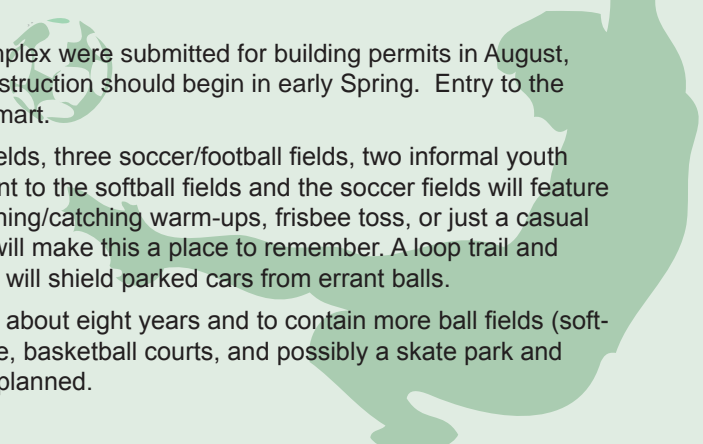


Green Branch Athletic Complex Update. The proposed Green Branch Athletic Complex will be located on a 380-acre parcel of land at the southeast corner of US 50 and US 301 in Bowie. This tract of land is partially developed with the Prince George's Stadium, home to the minor league Bowie Baysox baseball team.

The construction drawings for **Phase One** of the Green Branch Athletic Complex were submitted for building permits in August, and the project is scheduled to go out to bid within the next six months. Construction should begin in early Spring. Entry to the new complex is designed to be from Mill Branch Road, across from the Walmart.

Phase One of this new athletic complex will contain three full-size softball fields, three soccer/football fields, two informal youth soccer fields, a multi-age play area, and a picnic area. A large space adjacent to the softball fields and the soccer fields will feature a concession/restroom building and a passive area suitable for practice pitching/catching warm-ups, frisbee toss, or just a casual opportunity to watch all the action. Special finishes and graphic treatments will make this a place to remember. A loop trail and multiple parking lots along the park road will make accessibility easy. Berms will shield parked cars from errant balls.

Phase Two, which is not yet funded or designed, is envisioned to happen in about eight years and to contain more ball fields (softball, baseball, cricket, lacrosse, and soccer/football), an outdoor batting cage, basketball courts, and possibly a skate park and indoor soccer facility. Additional parking and a maintenance facility are also planned.





Youth Leadership Bowie attends a Council Session with Council Member Turner as their host.



Council Member Turner poses with the ACE Award winner and friends during the pizza lunch for the PBIS winners at Greenbelt Elementary School.



Council Member Turner poses with WUSA 9 News Anchor Lesli Foster.



Senior citizens gather at the Bowie Senior Center with Council Member Turner for a chat session and bingo.



Council Member Turner presents Beth Novick a proclamation for 2008 Teacher of the Year for the U.S. Eastern Region.



Members of the Bowie community join Council Member Turner and staff at the 2009 Bowie Memorial Day Parade.



The Samuel Ogle Middle School Lady Rams Basketball Team were honored with a proclamation from Council Member Turner for winning the middle school championship.



This summer, the Office of Council Member Turner was delighted to have Titilope Ajai, also known as Titi, serve as a summer intern. Titi is a proud Bowie resident and Bowie High School senior that enjoys the community environment and its people.

She is an active student at Bowie High School, where her extracurricular and volunteer activities include the Global Anti-Destruction Alliance, Ladies With Class,

Junior Civitan, National Honor Society, Music Honor Society, and Overall SGA Sergeant at Arms. She also volunteers for Evangel Cathedral's tape ministry. Titi finds volunteering to be rewarding as she gains new skills and experiences.

As an intern for Prince George's County Youth Employment Services (YES), Titi came to the District 4 office and broadened her perspective of the legislative process in county government, explored the municipalities in District 4 and acquired knowledge about planning, land use and health. She also worked with Council Member Ingrid M. Turner and the District 4 Team on administrative duties and participated in several community events. The District 4 Team was excited to have Titi and looks forward to her returning next summer.



Tomeka C. Bumbry, Chief of Staff, 2009 Leadership Prince George's graduate.



INGRID M. TURNER

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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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ALWAYS WORKING HARD FOR



KEEP IT CLEAN - THINK GREEN

Going Green

Our environment is so precious. We all must take steps to be environmentally conscious; our children and grandchildren deserve nothing less. I recently introduced a bill to amend the tax credit for homeowners who install solar energy conservation devices. This tax credit will help homeowners invest in energy efficient improvements such as solar energy or geothermal devices. This credit can be combined with State and Federal credits which will significantly reduce your overall costs. There are limited funds available for this program so please apply with the Prince George's County Office of Finance at www.co.pg.md.us/Government/Agency-Index/Finance/forms.asp or call 301-952-4765, before this year's credit is depleted.

Reusable Grocery Bags

I remain committed to protecting our environment and introduced a resolution supporting the reduced use of non-biodegradable plastic grocery bags in our grocery stores and other retailers by encouraging recycling and the availability and use of reusable bags by the businesses and citizens of Prince George's County. I plan to visit several community grocery stores to hear from my constituents and to encourage the use of reusable bags. My staff and I will be at the following locations:

Safeway – Bowie Town Center

4100 Northview Drive, Bowie
Saturday, October 10, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Super Giant/Freestate Mall

15500 Annapolis Road, Bowie
Saturday, October 10, 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Co-Op/Greenbelt

121 Centerway, Greenbelt
Wednesday, October 28, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Giant/Lanham

10501 Greenbelt Road, Lanham
Thursday, October 29, 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Safeway/Greenbelt

7595 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt
Thursday, October 29, 11:30–12:30

If you would like to receive a complimentary reusable grocery bag, while supplies last, please contact my office at 301-952-3094 or District4@co.pg.md.us.

2nd Annual GreenFest

Prince George's Community College
Saturday, October 3, 2009
12:00–4:00 p.m.

Going green is something everyone can take part in, whether it is simply picking up trash and depositing it into the appropriate bins, purchasing eco-friendly products, or by removing unused electrical devices from outlets around your living area – you can significantly impact the amount of energy we use every day. Please join us at the Prince George's County 2nd Annual GreenFest to learn more about going green. In addition to the valuable information, there will be green vendors, green jobs, living green workshops, games, food and giveaways on site. This free event is open to the public and registration is not required.



Holiday Food & Fitness Expo

Wayne K. Curry Sports & Learning Complex
Saturday, November 14, 2009
9:00–2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the fifth annual Holiday Food & Fitness Expo hosted by the Prince George's County Health Department, in partnership with the Prince George's County Public Schools. For additional information, please contact Melony Griffith at mggriffith@co.pg.md.us or 301-883-3153.