

THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

4 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

THE CURRENT

DISTRICT DIGEST

D.C. Council rejects people's counsel pick

By unanimous vote, the D.C. Council yesterday rejected Mayor Adrian Fenty's nomination of attorney Vicky Beasley to head the Office of the People's Counsel. The agency represents consumer interests in utility rate hike cases.

Beasley's nomination has been controversial because critics said she has little experience in utility rate cases. They also argued that Beasley, an attorney at the Patton and Boggs law firm, might favor utility company interests.

The longtime and popular incumbent in the job, Elizabeth Noël, said the mayor did not ask her to stay on.

"The council must disapprove to clear the way for a new nominee,"

said Ward 4 Council member Muriel Bowser, whose committee oversees utility regulation.

Beasley "is a talented person but does not have widespread support," Bowser said.

Later in the day, the council approved an emergency measure that will allow Noel to stay on as people's counsel until a successor is confirmed. Bowser dissented on that vote.

— Elizabeth Wiener

Burke School to host bone marrow drive

A bone marrow drive to be held in honor of "cancer warrior" Lindsay Rawot will register potential donors at Edmund Burke School Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rawot, 22, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma in November 2008 and has since undergone three different regimens of chemotherapy and multiple surgeries. Some of her friends who live in Cleveland Park have organized the drive.

"After each failed attempt at remission, I have learned to replace 'Why me?' with 'What's next?' to save my life," Rawot says in a news release. "My current 'What's next?' is a bone marrow transplant. I have been unable to beat my cancer with my body's own strength, so I am searching for the one person who can save my life."

Rawot's goal is both to find a donor for herself and to help others through DKMS, the bone marrow donor center that will host

Saturday's drive. Potential donors must be between 18 and 55 years old and in good general health. They will have their cheeks swabbed and their information will be listed on the national Be The Match Registry.

Edmund Burke School is located at 4101 Connecticut Ave. NW. Visit dkmsamericas.org for more information.

DCPS sets schedule for makeup days

D.C. Public Schools announced its snow makeup calendar last week.

According to a news release, the school system will convert March 19 from a professional development day to a regular instruction day.

May 17, previously a parent-teacher conference day, will also be a regular school day.

June 18, which was supposed to be a half-day, will now be a full instruction day.

And school will be in session on designated makeup days June 21 and 22, with June 22 becoming the last day of school for students and teachers.

Summer school will begin June 28.

Wells introduces bill on dangerous dogs

Ward 6 Council member Tommy Wells introduced legislation this week to target negligent owners of dangerous dogs.

The proposed legislation identifies "at-risk" owners as someone who has already owned one dog deemed "dangerous" by the Department of Health, according to a release from Wells' office.

The bill would require classes in dog ownership for any owner who has owned a dog deemed danger-

ous by the D.C. Health Department. Also, all dogs in the household would have to complete dog training and pass an exam, as well as be implanted with an informational microchip.

The proposal would also increase penalties for owners whose dogs seriously injure children under 16. Under Wells' bill, such an offense would be a misdemeanor with fines up to \$10,000.

Casey Trees to hold spring tree plantings

Casey Trees has announced its spring 2010 community tree-planting schedule. The nonprofit will provide 400 trees, as well as tools and assistance, to groups that have requested plantings at 23 locations across the city during March and April, according to a news release from the organization.

Individuals or groups interested in applying for the fall schedule should submit their applications by June 15.

In Ward 1, the Cesar Chavez Public Charter School at 770 Kenyon St. and the Columbia Heights Village Apartments at 2900 14th St. will receive trees.

In Ward 2, Restore Mass Ave will plant Casey-donated trees along the 2200 block of Massachusetts Avenue.

Trees will be planted at four sites in Ward 3: McLean Gardens at 3811 Porter St.; Murch Elementary School at 4810 36th St.; at 2939 Van Ness St.; and at 3221 Woodland Drive by the Woodland Normanstone Neighborhood Association.

In Ward 4, the Raymond Education Campus at 915 Spring Road, Barnard Elementary School at 430 Decatur St., Roosevelt High School at 4301 13th St. and Sherman Circle will receive trees.

For more information, including a detailed schedule, visit caseytrees.org.

Georgetown business organizes fundraiser

A new Georgetown business will raise money for Haiti earthquake relief as it celebrates its grand opening tomorrow.

From 6 to 9 p.m., Fitness Together, a personal training fitness studio, will host an Oscar-themed bash to celebrate its opening at 3222 N St.

Guests will be invited to donate \$25 to the Red Cross, which has provided support to Haiti since the devastating January earthquake.

The party's Oscar-themed features will include gift baskets and a chance to win a Hollywood studio tour.

Corrections policy

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