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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

Dear Community Members:

One of my key priorities is to make the District of Columbia the healthiest, greenest and most livable city in the nation over the next 20 years. I recently unveiled my Sustainable DC Plan that will help my administration achieve this goal and ensure the District takes the steps necessary to improve the quality of life for every resident through sustainable planning and practices. It is a culmination of the Sustainable DC initiative that began in the summer of 2011, and is based on suggestions from the public, recommendations of District agencies, dedicated stakeholders, and working groups.

The Sustainable DC Plan will address current and future challenges to: create jobs and grow the District's economy; improve the health and wellness of residents through clean air and water and access to healthy food and lifestyles; improve access to services and assistance for diverse communities and those in need across the city; and protect the climate and the environment.

Fulfilling the vision for a Sustainable DC will not be an easy task; however, with the efforts of District agencies and community-based organizations, it can become a reality for all residents. One of the goals listed in the plan is to cut the citywide obesity rate by 50 percent by 2032; many District agencies are already working on such goals. For example, this past year OAPIA organized a workshop to inform the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through healthy eating and exercise. OAPIA is also planning a health fair in May to provide preventive care in the form of health screenings for the AAPI community.

OAPIA and other District agencies will continue to reach out to and have dialogue with the community and the critical partners whose help we need to realize the ambitious goals of the Sustainable DC Plan.

Let's all work together to make the District of Columbia the healthiest, greenest and most livable city in the nation. Please visit www.sustainable.dc.gov to learn about our plans.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA News

OAPIA and the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) Register Residents for Smart 911



OAPIA, in partnership with the Office on Unified Communications (OUC), promoted the Smart 911 program to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and registered over 40 residents for the program on Monday, March 4, 2013 at the Asian and Pacific Islander Senior Center.

[Smart 911](#) is a free service provided by OUC. With this service, people can create a profile for their household that includes the vital personal and medical information 911 call takers and first responders need in the event of an emergency. If a call to 911 is placed, their profile will be immediately available to call takers and first responders to provide faster and more effective assistance. People with limited English proficiency may also identify their preferred language.

OAPIA Celebrates the Lunar New Year with the Wah Luck House



OAPIA celebrates the Lunar New Year with seniors from the Wah Luck House in Chinatown on March 5, 2013.

District News and Announcements

Mayor Vincent C. Gray's Budget Town Hall Schedule

Mayor Vincent C. Gray will be hosting multiple budget town halls in all wards across the District. Please attend these budget town halls to learn more about the Mayor's upcoming plans for the District's budget for fiscal year 2014, any current spending pressures, and how the budget will address any challenges facing the city. The list of upcoming budget town halls can be found below.

Luke C. Moore High School - Ward 5

1001 Monroe St NE, Washington, DC 20017
Wednesday, April 10, 2013
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Columbia Heights Recreation Center - Ward 1

1480 Girard St NW, Washington, DC 20009
Thursday, April 11, 2013
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Turner Elementary School - Ward 8

3264 Stanton Rd SE, Washington, DC 20032
Wednesday, April 17, 2013
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Brightwood Elementary School - Ward 4

1300 Nicholson St NW, Washington, DC 20011

Thursday, April 18, 2013

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Charles Sumner School - Youth

1201 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20036

Saturday, April 20, 2013

11am - 1pm

Charles Sumner School - Ward 2

1201 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20036

Saturday, April 20, 2013

2pm - 4pm

Logan School - Ward 6

215 G St NE, Washington, DC 20002

Thursday, April 25, 2013

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Alice Deal Middle School - Ward 3

3815 Fort Drive NW, Washington, DC 20016

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Department of Employment Services Community Room - Ward 7

4058 Minnesota Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20019

Thursday, May 2, 2013

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Spotlight: Jessica Li of the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project



Jessica Li is the Director of Programs for the [Asian/Pacific Islander \(A/PI\) Domestic Violence Resource Project \(DVRP\)](#). She oversees direct services for survivors of domestic violence, community outreach programming and spearheads DVRP's fundraising efforts. Jessica has worked with the Metropolitan Police Department Asian Liaison Unit, domestic violence agencies (such as DC SAFE and the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence) and A/PI community leaders to raise awareness about services for survivors. She is also a member of the Cherry Blossom Giving Circle and a Board Member with the Conference on Asian Pacific

American Leadership (CAPAL).

Jessica moved to the Washington, DC metropolitan area six years ago to work on refugee resettlement, and particularly with Burmese, Bhutanese and Iraqi refugees. She joined DVRP's staff in 2011 and appreciates the DC government's support of A/PI communities. In particular, DVRP values its partnership with OAPIA and the Office of Victim Services (OVS) in working to ensure that all survivors of domestic violence in Washington, DC have access to critical lifesaving resources and services that are both language and culturally specific.

March is Women's History Month



Women's History Month traces its beginnings back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. In 1978, the school district of Sonoma, California, participated in Women's History Week, an event designed around the week of March 8 (International Women's Day).

In 1981, responding to the growing popularity of the event, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland) co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution proclaiming a "Women's History Week." This week was well received, and soon after, schools across the country began to have their own local celebrations. The next year, leaders from the California group shared their project at the Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants not only became determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, but also agreed to support an effort to have Congress declare a national Women's History Month.

In 1987 Congress expanded the focus to a whole month. Soon, other state departments of education began to encourage celebrations of National Women's History Month as a way to promote equality among the sexes in the classroom.

The [Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives](#) offers many free events celebrating Women's History Month [here](#). For more events within the District, please visit [here](#).

DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs usually convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

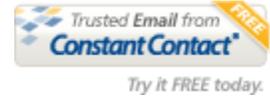
The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 6:30 pm in Conference Room 1107 at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.

All commission meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions about the commission or its meetings, please contact oapia@dc.gov.

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