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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

August 27, 2014

Dear Community Members:

I recently signed the "Sustainable DC Omnibus Act of 2014" into law, which advances several key sustainability initiatives, including: advancing energy efficiency in the District by requiring public utilities to provide electronic and aggregated data for energy reporting; expanding access to transportation to meet the needs of a growing population; and enhancing environmental education and making it more accessible to children.

The law will also ban the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) in the District effective January 1, 2016. Additionally, the law will require restaurants, carry-outs, food trucks and other entities that serve food to use compostable or recyclable food service products. Styrofoam is harmful to fish and other organisms in the District's waterways.

My Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) will provide technical assistance to the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) to help develop culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach strategies and related materials to educate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) owned businesses about the ban on using polystyrene and provide information on allowable food service products.

Overall, the law will enhance the District's natural and built environments, invest in a diverse clean economy, reduce educational and socioeconomic disparities among residents, and provide key incentives to help make the District healthier, greener, and more livable for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray".

Vincent C. Gray

## OAPIA in the Community

### **OAPIA Announces a Request for Applications for the FY2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant**

(Washington, DC) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) issued its Request For Applications (RFA) for the FY 2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant. Copies of the RFA can be found at [www.apia.dc.gov](http://www.apia.dc.gov) or at OAPIA's office located at 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 721N, Washington, DC 20001.

OAPIA is soliciting grant applications from qualified community-based organizations (CBOs) serving the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The grant is

intended to fund programs that provide services to the District's AAPI residents and/or merchants in the areas of employment, small business support, public education, public safety, housing services, legal services, health and human services, arts, culture and the humanities, Vietnamese American youth academic and mentoring services, and domestic violence intervention.

A pre-bidders meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 10 am to 12 noon in Room 1112 South at 441 4th Street, NW, Washington, DC. The deadline for submission of grant applications is Monday, September 15, 2014 at 12 noon.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.apia.dc.gov](http://www.apia.dc.gov) or contact Neel Saxena at [neel.saxena@dc.gov](mailto:neel.saxena@dc.gov) or (202) 727-3120.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

## Spotlight: DC Chinese Film Festival (DCCFF)



The DC Chinese Film Festival (or DCCFF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to discovering outstanding Chinese cinema around the world and to encouraging cultural diversity through films. Founded in 2011, DCCFF is run by passionate volunteers who share the same vision: to break cultural barriers and bring about social change through the power of film.

Every two years, DCCFF brings together artists, film professionals, film lovers, and scholars to Washington DC, the capital of documentary and independent filmmaking, for a week long treat of rare screenings, cutting-edge panel discussions, and networking events. This year's DC Chinese Film Festival will run from September 4, 2014 to September 7, 2014.

For more information on [DCCFF](#), please visit [here](#).

## August is National Water Quality Month



Did you know that a typical city block generates more than five times as much rainwater runoff as a forested area of the same size? This is because rooftops and pavement don't allow water to soak into the ground like forests, wetlands and grasslands do. Instead, rainwater runs off pavement into the nearest storm drain, where it's transported to local streams, rivers and

eventually the ocean. On its way to the storm drain, rainwater picks up pollutants like oil, antifreeze, pet waste, fertilizers and pesticides. In most places, storm water does not get treated, so all of those pollutants end up in local waters.

August is National Water Quality Month. Give these tips a try to protect water quality where you live:

- Don't over-water your lawn. Over-watering can increase the flow of fertilizers deep into soils and eventually groundwater supplies, which are an important drinking water source. Walk on your lawn to find out if it is thirsty - if your footprints remain, it is time to water.
- Wait for dry weather. Check the forecast before applying fertilizers, pesticides and other lawn care chemicals.
- Pick up trash and pet waste. Make sure your trash always goes in the trash can or recycle bin. Put pet waste in the trash or flush it down the toilet. When walking your dog, try to stay away from streams and other waterways. Walk your pet in grassy areas instead.
- Use rain barrels. Rain barrels are a great way to catch rain water off running off of your roof. Instead of flowing to the storm drain, the water collected can be used to water garden plants or wash windows and cars. Be sure to check local regulations before installing a rain barrel - some areas have laws that prohibit them.

For more information or resources concerning water quality, or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [DC Water and Sewage Authority](#)

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