

Mount Vernon Square

Neighborhood Association

Uniting our historic community since the 1970s

April 2006

Next MVSNA Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 pm
Metropolitan Community Church
(Corner of 5th and Ridge Streets, NW)

Agenda:

- Public safety/crime report. Metropolitan Police Department officers from 3rd, 1st and 5th Districts invited
- 4th & Ridge Street Development
- Makini Niliwaambieni, Founding Principal and Charles Emor of Sunrise Academy

Message from the President

Let me express my appreciation to those who have returned membership application forms and submitted a voluntary financial contribution to the Mount Vernon Square Neighborhood Association (MVSNA). There has been a flood of interest and support since we distributed the application forms. If you have not already done so, please return your application by mail or at the next meeting. The form can be obtained from the MVSNA Website: www.mountvernon-square.org or by calling me at 202-247-5113. Most importantly, I encourage you to volunteer for one of the new MVSNA committees: public safety, regulatory affairs, membership, beautification, special events/fundraising, or advisory business group. You can also volunteer to serve as an Advisory Neighborhood Commission liaison or to help write or distribute the monthly newsletter. We need your help to achieve our many neighborhood goals, from addressing property and street/sidewalk issues to planning neighborhood events. We hope to have the new committees up and running with the next two months.

I also want to use this opportunity to note that the police have done an extraordinary job at cracking down on crime in the neighborhood over the past month.

If you attended our last meeting, you heard pledges from the police to address the drug activity stemming primarily from 211 Morgan Street and 1103 5th Street. I am happy to report that due to the efforts of Officer Tyrone Hardy (1D), Officer Tommy Barnes (3D), and others, those locations have been targets of increased police activity. Officer Hardy gained the cooperation of the owner of 211 Morgan to close the side of the house in which drug activity was occurring, evict those who were living there without a lease, and change the locks. The police also conducted several raids on 1103 5th Street, making numerous arrests. In addition, police held a meeting at the 2nd Northwest Co-op. (5th and N) to address gang-related violence and vandalism and put in place a 60-day “zero tolerance” zone for that area, including heightened police presence. If you see officers in the neighborhood, take a moment to introduce yourself and to thank them for their ongoing efforts.

Finally, I hope to see you at our spring neighborhood cleanup on April 22. Let’s work together to make our sidewalks and tree boxes an inviting sight for residents and visitors.

Cary Silverman
President

Be Connected Join MVSNA Listserve

To date, 186 residents of the Mount Vernon Square neighborhood have joined the MVSNA group listserv. The listserv serves as a forum for neighbors to stay connected between MVSNA meetings and to discuss issues of concern ranging from public safety to transportation. To join go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mvsna/>. Questions should be directed to niello8@yahoo.com.

Neighborhood News

Neighborhood Spring Clean-Up April 22

Join your neighbors on Saturday April 22 (Rain Date April 23rd) to spruce up the sidewalks and tree boxes in our neighborhood. Volunteers should meet at 8:00 am at the corner of 4th and M Streets, NW. Bring your rakes, brooms, gloves, etc! We will provide refreshments, trash bags & mulch. DPW will collect bagged trash after 1pm at the following locations: 5th & M, 4th & M, New Jersey & Morgan.

Speed Humps Approved by ANC

By a vote of 3-1, the ANC approved on April 6 speed humps for the 400 block on M Street, NW. The vote reflected calls from neighborhood residents in support of the speed humps. The speed humps are slated to be installed before November.

Public Presentation on Development Plans

The National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC) will hold a public presentation on April 25 regarding the development of two parcels of land in our community, one of which is located within the Mount Vernon Square neighborhood boundaries. Five development teams will present proposals for re-developing 1220 4th Street, NW and 1744 7th Street, NW. The presentation will be held from 6:30-8:00 pm at First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church located at 605 N Street, NW. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Church Parking on 6th Street, NW

The DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) has developed a preliminary plan to address the increased demand for parking on Sundays. DDOT proposes to allow back-in angled parking on Sunday mornings only on the West side of 6th Street, NW, between M and P Streets. DDOT is also review requests to delay enforcement except for safety violations until final plans are developed and can be implemented.

Upcoming Events

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| April 17 | Official observance of DC Emancipation Day
For information and a schedule of events go to www.empanicationday.dc.gov |
| April 18 | MVSNA Meeting |
| April 22 | Neighborhood Spring Clean-Up (rain Date April 23rd)
8:00 am; Meet at 4 th and M Streets, NW |
| May 6 | Shaw Open House 11am – 4pm
www.CulturalTourismDC.org |
| May 16 | MVSNA Meeting |

2006 MVSNA Officers

President – Cary Silverman
carysilverman@comcast.net

First Vice President - Si Kailian
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Second Vice President – Sam Farmer
farmer_sammy@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Jeff Parke
jeffersonparke@gmail.com

Recording Secretary – VACANT

Corresponding Secretary - Camille Bonta
Camille_Bonta@yahoo.com

New Heritage Trail to Run Through Mt. Vernon Square

This month, signs for the new “Midcity at the Crossroads: Shaw Heritage Trail” will begin appearing in and around Mt. Vernon Square. The two-hour, self-guided tour will include sites within the Shaw and Mt. Vernon Square Historic Districts.

The first sign is located at 7th Street and Mt. Vernon Place at the front of the Washington Convention Center. The tour proceeds north up 9th Street, down 7th Street, and east along M Street, before returning to end a block from where it started. Six of the trail’s 17 signposts will be within MVSNA boundaries. These signs will feature 415 M Street, which was once the home of a butcher at Northern Liberties Market and the Young Men’s Hebrew Association; landmarks at 4th and New York Ave., such as the Yale Steam Laundry; the Northern Liberties Market at 5th and L Streets; and the history of small businesses and shopping on 7th Street.

Mark your calendars for the official unveiling of the Heritage Trail on May 6 at 11 am at the Kennedy Recreation Center located at 1401 7th Street, NW. The formal program will feature the Royal Knights Drum & Bugle Corps of the United House of Prayer and the Shiloh Baptist Church Choir. At 12 noon, walk the new Heritage Trail during the Shaw Open House and stop into more than 40 neighborhood businesses, churches, and organizations offering free drinks, snacks, and entertainment along the way.

For more information go to www.CulturalTourismDC.org or call 202-661-7581.

Police Contacts

PSA 308 – Lt. Ralph Neal; (202) 673-6821

PSA 101 – Lt. Lofton and Lt. McCoy; (202) 727-4610

PSA 501 – Lt. George Caldwell; (202) 727-4503