

Mount Vernon Square

Neighborhood Association

Uniting our historic community since the 1970s

AUGUST 2006

Next MVSNA Meeting

Tuesday, August 15th, 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 Districts invited.
- Alley Cat Allies
- DC Greenworks – Liz Tylander
- Pediatric HIV/AIDS Care - Tony Purcell

Message from the President

While the summer heat has finally subsided, MVSNA is keeping the heat on to improve the quality of life and address issues of concern in our neighborhood.

A huge thanks to our Vice President Si Kailian for organizing the walk-through of the neighborhood with DC government inspectors that will hopefully spur owners into better maintaining their properties. In addition, we have corresponded with staff for Councilmember Sharon Ambrose and many others to seek prompt government intervention at 226 N Street, where an unsecured construction site poses a safety hazard to pedestrians. Officer Tommy Barnes must be recognized for his outstanding work in finally getting 1103 5th Street shut down for good, with the last of the residents of the drug house gone and its entrance sealed. We are also following up with the Third Street Church of God regarding their properties on 4th and New Jersey Avenue to schedule a meeting with those living in that area.

We are continuing to work closely and cooperatively with residents surrounding the park at New Jersey and O Street to get the lights fixed, the benches and tables removed, "closed at dusk" signage posted, the storage area alongside the firehouse side of the park secured, and the broader renovation plan moving forward (the plans are posted on the MVSNA blog). Unfortunately, in response to a follow up e-mail we sent to the Department of Parks and Recreation inquiring as to the status of these, the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the area, Leroy Thorpe, has instructed DPR that he is "not in accordance with any of your plans." This makes it likely that this progress, which many in the community have sought for over three years, will not soon occur. I do not understand what Commissioner Thorpe's opposition could possibly be to repairing the park lights; it appears that he object to anything in which there is any level of MVSNA involvement. Nevertheless, DPR has placed these issues on its next operations meeting agenda, and hopefully they will move forward. The newly installed cameras overlooking the park may help, but they are not a substitute for adequate lighting.

We had a great turnout at our last meeting with over fifty people in attendance. This month's meeting will be interesting and educational, with presentations by Alley Cat Allies, Pediatric HIV/AIDS Care, and DC Greenworks.



Neighborhood News

MVSNA Partnership for Problem Solving Vacant Property Walk

On Tuesday August 8th at 10AM, MVSNA members walked the majority of the neighborhood with DC Government officials. The walk was 4 hours long and we surveyed about 50 properties and lots. We were joined by:

Officer Tommy Barnes
 Officer Tyrone Hardy
 Michael Brown, lead DCRA inspector for Ward 6
 Phillip Miller, lead DCRA inspector for wards 2&3
 Carlson Klaphor, Neighborhood Services Coordinator for Ward 2
 Bernice Bush, asst. for Peter Jones, Neighborhood Services Coordinator for Ward 6

We identified many issues ranging from hazardous construction sites, overgrowth, trash, business licensing, improper tax assessments and security of vacant housing. We walked the alleys and streets to get the full view when necessary. Our inspectors were provided with a comprehensive list and are now coordinating with DCRA, Office of Tax & Revenue, and the Board of Condemnation etc. to get these problems addressed. They are updating MVSNA continuously with regard to specific situations. Walking definitely highlighted the sheer volume of vacant & neglected properties in our neighborhood. The (ongoing) estimated count is about 70 buildings and lots.

Thank you to everyone who has participated on this issue, not just those who attended the walk. The DCRA inspectors were very thorough & tireless. Our Partnership for Problem Solving is moving forward!

Upcoming Events

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| August 15 | MVSNA Meeting, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church, 5 th & Ridge Sts. NW |
| August 17 | Wine Tasting & Art Show, 6-8pm, Good Libations, 5 th & M Sts. NW |
| Sept. 6 | ANC 2C Meeting, 6:30pm, 440 R Street NW |
| Sept. 19 | MVSNA Meeting, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church, 5 th & Ridge Sts. NW |

2006 MVSNA Officers

President – Cary Silverman
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First Vice President - Si Kailian
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Second Vice President – Sam Farmer
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Treasurer - Jeff Parke
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Recording Secretary – VACANT

Corresponding Secretary - Camille Bonta
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Life in Mount Vernon Square Blog Reaches 50th Post

Our neighborhood blog for Mount Vernon Square continues to grow. Recent entries include meeting recaps, the proposed plan for the park at New Jersey & O Streets NW, and an 1850 map of the neighborhood. Add your thoughts today at: <http://lifein.mountvernonssquare.org>

To download an MVSNA membership form & view neighborhood info: <http://www.mountvernonssquare.org/>

To join the MVSNA yahoo listserve, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mvsna/>

Wine Tasting and Art Show Thursday, August 17th, 6-8pm At Good Libations, 5th and M Streets NW

Three local artists, J. Coleman, Nicole Lockette and Sol, will be displaying their art on the outside of the store (there may be room for one more artist if someone is interested). Inside there will be a wine tasting of the following wines; Umarto Fiore Moscato, Sidwise Piont Noir Rose, Beaujolais Fluerie along with some cheese and nibbles.

Police Contacts

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

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

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