

Mount Vernon Square

Neighborhood Association

Uniting our historic community since the 1970s

March 2006

Next MVSNA Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 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
- Presentation on potential coffee shop on 1200 block of 4th Street
- Discussion and ratification of 2006 MVSNA goals and priorities
- Establishment of new MVSNA Committees

Message from the President

You know that crime is bad when you consider setting 911 and 311 to your speed dial. Recently, there seems to have been a surge in neighborhood crime, which has generated substantial conversation on the MVSNA Yahoo e-mail list. I and the members of the Executive Committee appreciate all of the constructive suggestions that you have provided for taking action. Even I have felt safety in our neighborhood deteriorate, as my car was broken into one week and hit the next by what appeared to be someone racing a stolen car. Twice, in as many weeks, I have called 911 to report gun shots and 311 to report suspicious activities. I know many of you share my concerns.

What can we do? There are many small things we each can do to make our community less prone to crime. Keep your patio light on; pick up trash and debris around your block; and report broken streetlights to 727-1000. Although it may often feel like an exercise in frustration, report anything suspicious to 311 and 911 because ultimately it can help us obtain increased police patrols. Over the long term, the MVSNA Executive Committee has set forth an ambitious agenda, including creating a Public Safety Task Force, holding a town hall meeting on public safety, attending Police Service Area (PSA) meetings, cracking down on known nuisance properties, increasing Orange Hat Patrols, and seeking increased MPD foot and bike patrols. I hope you will consider joining the Public Safety Task Force or volunteering to assist in other public safety initiatives.

Public safety is one of many issues that the MVSNA Executive Committee discussed during its retreat on March 4. The outcome of the retreat is a statement of goals and priorities to guide us in the year ahead. Often, organizational goal statements tend to be worded in truisms and inspirational statements. This is not such a document. Rather, it provides a specific MVSNA "to do" list for 2006. In addition to our public safety goals, the document provides a detailed plan for better organizing MVSNA, expanding communication, building community, and keeping the neighborhood clean and beautiful. It also expresses our priorities, among other areas, with respect to historic preservation, street and sidewalk repair, and addressing nuisance properties and illegal construction. I encourage you to read the draft goal statement, which is available on our Website www.mountvernonssquare.org, and provide us with your thoughts and suggestions. This draft is not set in stone. It will be presented to the membership at the March 21 meeting for discussion and approval.

These goals are within reach, but we need your help. MVSNA will soon establish several new committees and positions. A description of each is included on the membership application form. We hope you will volunteer to participate or lead in one of these important areas. We cannot accomplish these ambitious neighborhood goals without you! We also have a vacant officer position – recording secretary. While the duties of recording secretary may not be glamorous, the individual who serves in that position is a member of the Executive Committee and has a very important role in the leadership of MVSNA.

Finally, please complete and return the membership application form both to reaffirm your commitment to MVSNA and to allow us to update our records. Membership dues are voluntary, but we encourage you to contribute any amount to help us achieve our goals.

In closing, I'm excited to serve as your new MVSNA president and am looking forward to working with all of you to shape the future of our neighborhood.



Cary Silverman
President

Be Connected

Join the MVSNA Listserve

To date, **180** 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.

City Repairs Broken Street Lights

Thanks to action by Carlson Klaphor, our Ward 2 Neighborhood Service Coordinator, and the persistence of Mount Vernon Square residents, numerous broken street lights have been repaired, including several on the 1200 block of 5th Street, as well as some on the 400 and 500 blocks of N Street. Residents are strongly encouraged to report broken street lights to (202) 727-1000. A well-lit neighborhood helps deter crime and creates a safer environment for residents and visitors.

2006 MVSNA Officers

At the February 21 MVSNA meeting, the following residents were elected to serve as members of the MVSNA Executive Committee. Terms expire February 2007.

President – Cary Silverman
president@mountvernonssquare.org

First Vice President - Si Kailian
niello8@yahoo.com

Second Vice President – Sam Farmer
farmer_sammy@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Jeff Parke
jeffersonparke@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary - Camille Bonta
Camille_Bonta@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary – VACANT

Police Contacts

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

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

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

MVSNA Membership Application

All Mount Vernon Square neighborhood residents are encouraged to join the Mount Vernon Square Neighborhood Association (MVSNA). Please complete the attached application. A financial contribution is not required, but is encouraged so that the MVSNA can fund activities, including the publication of this newsletter and neighborhood beautification projects.

MVSNA to Consider Neighborhood Goals and Priorities

At the March 21 MVSNA meeting, residents will be asked to consider a draft document that sets forth goals and priorities for the Mount Vernon Square neighborhood in 2006. The document, developed by the MVSNA Executive Committee, focuses on six key areas: MVSNA growth and organization; improved communication; community events; neighborhood safety; neighborhood aesthetics; and historic preservation, infrastructure, and development. Among some of the goals that the MVSNA will be asked to consider are: increased MVSNA membership and fundraising, cracking down on nuisance properties, surveying 2006 DC political candidates on issues important to MVSNA, and a summer block party. A copy of the draft goals and priorities will be made available for review at the March 21 MVSNA meeting and online at www.mountvernonssquare.org.

Transportation Issues Discussed at MVSNA Meeting

At the February 21 MVSNA meeting, Ramona Burns, Ward 2 Transportation Planner, presented the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) recommendation for installing speed bumps on the 400 block of M Street to slow speeding traffic. At the meeting, MVSNA unanimously approved sending a letter of support for the speed bumps to Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2C and city officials. Unfortunately, the ANC tabled consideration of the speed bumps at its March meeting. Residents also requested prompt restoration of the brick sidewalk on the 400 Block of M Street and expressed concern regarding dangerous intersections at New York and New Jersey Avenues and at New York Avenue and 5th Street. Ms. Burns responded that she would look into these issues.

Upcoming Events

March 21 MVSNA Meeting
7:30 pm; Metropolitan Community Church

March 20 Street Sweep Resumes
Street cleaning parking restrictions enforced.

April 18 MVSNA Meeting

April 22 MVSNA Neighborhood Cleanup
Details to follow

Go to www.mountvernonssquare.org for a map of your PSA and other useful information! Maps available at the next meeting.