

Mount Vernon Square

Neighborhood Association

Uniting our historic community since the 1970s

March 2007



Mayor Fenty to Address MVSNA

Tuesday, March 20th, 7:30 pm
Metropolitan Community Church
Corner of 5th & Ridge Streets NW

Agenda:

- **Welcome Mayor Fenty!** Discussion of MVSNA issues
- Public safety/crime report: MPD Officers from 3rd & 1st Districts invited
- Request for Support of Neighborhood Event at NJ & O Park - Reverend Boddie, 3rd Street Church of God
- Discussion & Adoption of 2007 MVSNA Goals

Message from the President

Spring is in the air and flowers are not the only thing sprouting up in and around Mount Vernon Square. Over the past month, we have seen the Yale Laundry reach its full height. One of the new apartment buildings in the Mt. Vernon Triangle area off 4th Street is nearing completion and what will become the new Safeway, retail, condominiums and rental apartments at 5th and K/L Streets has quickly emerged. In addition, the new homes at 4th and Ridge are rapidly moving forward and residents are moving into Mt. Vernon Place and other new and renovated housing on M Street. In addition, new neighborhood businesses such as Old Dominion have opened in the Convention Center with more soon to come. It is an exciting time for our neighborhood.

Given the influx of residents and businesses that have arrived and will flood in over the next 2 to 4 years, MVSNA's Executive Committee has proposed several substantial changes to the organization's structure and boundaries geared to include our new neighbors, expand opportunities for participation, and provide financial stability for the Association. Among these changes are including the Mt. Vernon Triangle area and the Convention Center within MVSNA, incorporating and obtaining charitable status so that donations to the Association are tax deductible, and establishing a 10-member board of directors. We are eager to hear your thoughts on these significant changes, which are among the 2007 goals to be considered at this month's MVSNA meeting.

The dramatic development in our neighborhood also comes with growing pains. Over the last month, MVSNA has actively worked to address dangerous construction situations including the unsecured hole in the ground at 226 N Street and unpermitted construction at 1221-23 4th Street. We are slowly making progress and addressing additional problems posed by work at both the Yale Laundry and 442 M Street. First Vice President Si Kailian's advocacy has moved forward the disposition of 1222, 1226 and 1232 4th Street, a portion of which is owned by the DC government, which has not allowed the developer to move forward with his long-approved plans. The Home Again Program has scheduled an April 24 hearing to sell the property, which, according to the developer, is largely due to MVSNA's efforts. Our thanks also to ANC 6C Commissioner Dixon who, with MVSNA support, obtained an order from the Board of Zoning Adjustment to shut down Fun Fair Video at 5th and K Streets.

Over the past month, MVSNA has advocated for a vibrant area in which to eat and shop. The Executive Committee supported Vegetate restaurant's application for a liquor license, which was finally granted by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. We have also supported grants to allow Shaw Main Street's continuation of "the Green Team" that cleans the 7th and 9th Street commercial corridor on a regular basis and in support of tree box improvements and signage for small businesses in that area. Second Vice President Sam Farmer and I also met with Bill McLeod, the Executive Director of the Mt. Vernon Triangle Business Improvement District, to discuss how we can work together for a clean and safe neighborhood to our south.

As always, there is so much to do and we need your help to do it. If you are interested in taking on a project for MVSNA and assisting us as we move forward with our goals for 2007, please join us as a member and contact us. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting this Tuesday, March 20, when we are joined by Mayor Adrian Fenty.

Fun Fair Update

A huge thank you to ANC 6C02 Commissioner Mark Dixon for all of his efforts to shut down Fun Fair Video, the video porn arcade at 919 5th Street NW. As a result of his efforts in cooperation with MPD 1D, the BZA denied their appeal and cleared the way for the C of O to be revoked. The Attorney General should be issuing a written Order within 90 days after which DCRA will be able to enforce closure of the establishment. Thank you also to those neighbors that submitted testimony and conducted a site visit.

Attention High School Students!

Become a Casey Trees 2007 SUMMER INTERN



- Learn to identify, inventory, mulch, water, and weed DC's trees
- Get to know your city as you work in all wards and communities
- Reach out to your community about the importance of trees and community plantings
- **Earn a \$1,750 Stipend**

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Friday, April 13, 2007

For questions or further information, please contact Buffie Brownstein

Phone: (202) 833-4010, ext. 107

E-mail: bbrownstein@caseytrees.org Website: www.caseytrees.org

Interested in a Tree Box fence?

Thanks to our Neighbor Rob Riggins for coordinating a bulk price for iron tree box fences. He has been quoted \$525.00 and can arrange installation for anyone who is interested. Please contact Rob within the **next few weeks** at 202-487-8800

4th Street Project Sees Movement From the City

MVSNA previously voted to support this mixed income development about 2 years ago. The Home Again Program has scheduled a hearing as to the disposition & sale of 1222, 1226, & 1232 4th St NW to Todd Collins Development. This would enable the developer to go forward with the entire project which includes 6 lots & one existing house (total of 16 family sized condos).

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (ODMPED) has scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. in the Board Room (9th Floor) 801 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Written statements may be submitted for the record at the hearing or until close of business, Friday, April 27, 2007. Mail to: Erik Johnson, Director Home Again Program, ODMPED, 801 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Shaw Anti-Crime March March 31, 12:00 pm, and meet at 9th & O Streets, NW - the march will proceed north to P Street, east to 5th Street, south to N Street, then west to 7th Street and end at 7th & O Streets, NW where a rally will be held. Although plans are still being made, there will be bands, choirs and activities. Councilman Jack Evans encourages those wanting to participate in the planning process to attend the meetings at Scripture Cathedral, 1331 9th Street, NW, every Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 pm. For more info contact: wrahim@dccouncil.us

2007 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 - Megan Lavin
lavinmegan@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary – Jefferson Parke
jeffersonparke@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary - Melanie Mfume
melanie.mfume@gmail.com

SPRING CLEAN-UP PLANS PROGRESS

MVSNA has arranged for the DC Helping Hand Program to deliver a huge load of compost to the corner of 4th & Ridge for neighborhood use. When it arrives, everyone please feel free to use the **FREE** compost in your treeboxes and gardens! DC will also provide us with tools, bags and trash pickup on our Clean-Up Day: **April 21st, 8AM, meet at 4th & M Sts NW.**

Add your thoughts to the MVSNA neighborhood blog at:

<http://lifein.mountvernonsquare.org>

To download an MVSNA membership form & view lots of neighborhood info:

<http://www.mountvernonsquare.org/>

To join the MVSNA yahoo listserv, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mvsna/>

To **ADVERTISE** in this Newsletter, contact any MVSNA officer or call 202.256.9193!

Upcoming Events

Mar 20 - MVSNA Meeting, **Mayor Fenty to Attend**

Mar 31 – Anti-Crime March, 12pm, 9th & O NW

Apr 4 - ANC 2C Meeting, 6:30PM, 440 R St NW

Apr 11 - ANC 6C Mtg., 7pm, NPR 635 Mass Ave NW

Apr 12 - PSA 101 Meeting 6:30PM, 1100 NJ Ave NW

Apr 17 - MVSNA Meeting, 7:30pm, 5th & Ridge

Apr 21 - MVSNA Spring Clean-Up (rain date Apr 22)

May 15 - MVSNA Meeting, 7:30pm, 5th & Ridge

Police Contacts

PSA 308

Lt. Ralph Neal - (202) 673-7403,
ralph.neal@dc.gov

PSA 101

Lt. Robert Fulton - (202) 698-0380,
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