

# Mount Vernon Square

## Neighborhood Association

***Uniting our historic community since the 1970s***

**May 2006**

### **Next MVSNA Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 pm**  
**Metropolitan Community Church**  
(Corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Ridge Streets, NW)

#### **Agenda:**

- Public safety/crime report. Metropolitan Police Department officers from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Districts invited.
- Discussion of progress of MVSNA goals and next steps to address neighborhood priorities.
- Open forum.

### **Message from the President**

Have you ever thought about the park at New Jersey Avenue and between N and O Streets and wondered why the lights are never on and why alcoholism, drug use, and vagrancy are allowed to go on unhindered? While just outside the Mount Vernon Square Neighborhood Association (MVSNA) boundaries, it is a park that we all should be able to enjoy, yet it is a public safety hazard and a de facto homeless shelter when the weather warms. We have begun an initiative to take back the park. This week, I wrote to Kimberley Flowers, the director of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Sean Metcalf of Councilmember Jack Evans' staff; Desi Deschaine, the Mayor's Community Affairs Coordinator; and Carlson Klaphor, Ward Two Neighborhood Services Coordinator, requesting that lights be turned on and the benches replaced. I also inquired into plans for future improvements. We have received confirmation that the park is indeed District property and has apparently been slated as the site of a future 9/11 memorial. DPR has promised a "detailed response" to our inquiry within the next week. If you would like to work on this effort, please contact me.

This month's expression of appreciation goes to Carlson Klaphor. Mr. Klaphor has been instrumental in addressing

the trash situation stemming from the dumpster at 401 M Street NW. After being contacted by Mr. Klaphor, Selective, the dumpster company, removed its dumpster but left behind its contents. In response, Mr. Klaphor immediately contacted Selective, the owner, and the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP) program requesting removal of the trash. He also contacted the owner of the port-o-potty on the property and had it removed. It is likely that the owner will face fines for literally trashing our neighborhood. (Update – DPW removed the huge trash pile 5/12/06, 3 day response! Thank you all – Si)

I was pleased and surprised to see concrete sidewalks replaced on the 500 block of N Street and on 3 of the 4 corners at 5th and N last week. There are paint markings on the concrete sidewalks along the south side of the 400 block of N and the north side of the 400 block of Ridge, as well as at the crosswalks at the intersection of 6th and N, which appear to indicate they are slated for replacement as well. We are seeking information from the District Department of Transportation on the status of those streets, as well as the timeline for the work. Unfortunately, the brick sidewalk on the 400 block of M Street that was cut in two and then filled in with asphalt by Washington Gas remains a mess. Former MSNSA President Deborah Ziska, Richard Rogers, and others are continuing their efforts with Washington Gas and Councilmember Evans to obtain full replacement of the sidewalk.

I hope to see you at our next meeting during which we'll talk about next steps in achieving MVSNA goals and receive a neighborhood crime update, which has picked up again in recent weeks.



## Neighborhood News

### Partnership for Problem Solving Session Scheduled

At the April MVSNA meeting, MPD Officer Barnes announced that his Partnership for Problem Solving Session will be held Saturday, June 10, from 11am-1pm at the Third District police station located at 1620 V Street, NW. The program trains community volunteers in the tools and methods for solving neighborhood crime and disorder problems. Residents are encouraged to attend. To register call (202) 727-1585 or (202) 727-2900 and for more information on the program, go to:

[http://www.mpd.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547074,%20mpdc\\_nav\\_GID,1541.asp](http://www.mpd.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547074,%20mpdc_nav_GID,1541.asp).

### Spring Clean-Up Held

MVSNA officers extend a big thank you to everyone who turned out on April 22 to spruce up many of the tree boxes in the neighborhood. Unfortunately the rain abbreviated the clean up efforts. Residents are encouraged to maintain the tree boxes in front of their properties by removing trash and weeds

### Update on Old Convention Center Site

On May 4, the second community workshop for the redevelopment of the old convention center was held. The meeting featured details about the mixed-use project which will include retail, rental and condominium housing, office space, park and event space, and possibly a new library. The timeline calls for completion in five years. Details can be found at <http://www.oldconventioncenter.com>

### Upcoming Events

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 29         | United House of Prayer Community Picnic<br>Kennedy Playground, 1401 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW                                                   |
| June 3         | Block party in front of ANC Commissioner Thorpe's<br>residence 1704 5 <sup>th</sup> Street NW 11:00am<br>(Chief Ramsey to attend)                |
| June 10        | Partnership for Problem Solving<br>Third District Police Station; 1620 V Street, NW<br>11am-1pm                                                  |
| June 15        | Joint ANC 2C, East Central Civic Assn. meeting with<br>MPD police & Councilmember Jack Evans<br>6:00 pm<br>United House of Prayer, 601 M St., NW |
| <b>June 20</b> | <b>MVSNA Meeting</b><br><b>7:30 pm</b><br><b>Metropolitan Community Church</b>                                                                   |

### 2006 MVSNA Officers

President – Cary Silverman  
[carysilverman@comcast.net](mailto:carysilverman@comcast.net)

First Vice President - Si Kailian  
[niello8@yahoo.com](mailto:niello8@yahoo.com)

Second Vice President – Sam Farmer  
[farmer\\_sammy@yahoo.com](mailto:farmer_sammy@yahoo.com)

Treasurer - Jeff Parke  
[jeffersonparke@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonparke@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary – VACANT

Corresponding Secretary - Camille Bonta  
[Camille\\_Bonta@yahoo.com](mailto:Camille_Bonta@yahoo.com)

### Blogging About Life in Mount Vernon Square

A recent addition to cyberspace is a neighborhood blog for Mount Vernon Square. The blog is intended to be a place where residents can share tips and tales about what makes living in our neighborhood great, and maybe sometimes a little frustrating. Have you been to a good restaurant within walking distance or had a good, or bad, experience with a contractor? Why not write a short entry about it? Or on any other number of topics. Entries so far have been about the new heritage trail, neighborhood construction, church parking, and the proposed yellow line expansion, among many other topics. Add your thoughts today at <http://lifein.mountvernonssquare.org>.

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

### Cash in on New Appliances

DC residents with an electric utility account are eligible for \$100 and \$50 rebates on Energy Star-rated refrigerators and window air conditioners purchased between June 1, 2005 and May 31, 2007. The program is being promoted by the DC Energy Office and rebates are being funded by the Reliable Energy Trust Fund. For details call 202.727.1000 or go to: <http://www.dceo.dc.gov/dceo/frames.asp?doc=/dceo/lib/dceo/rebBroch.pdf> to download the form

### 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