

Mount Vernon Square

Neighborhood Association

Uniting our historic community since the 1970s

May 2007

Next MVSNA Meeting

Tuesday, May 15th, 7:30 pm

Metropolitan Community Church

Corner of 5th & Ridge Streets NW

Agenda:

- Allen Smith, Manager of Vacant Property, DCRA
- Public safety/crime report: MPD Officers from 3rd & 1st Districts invited
- Discussion & Adoption of new MVSNA Bylaws

Upcoming Events

- May 15 - MVSNA Meeting, 7:30pm, 5th & Ridge
- May 29 - Shaw Happy Hour, 6:30PM, OD, 1219 9th
- June 6 - ANC 2C Meeting, 6:30PM, 440 R St NW
- June 16 - ANC 6C Zoning Mtg., 7pm, 635 Mass Ave NW
- June 13 - ANC 6C Mtg., 7pm, NPR 635 Mass Ave NW
- June 14 - PSA 101 Meeting 6:30PM, 1100 NJ Ave NW
- June 19 - MVSNA Meeting, 7:30pm, 5th & Ridge
- June 20 - ANC 6C02 Mtg., 6pm, 1219 NJ Ave NW
- June 23 - Shaw Community Day, NJ Ave & O St. NW

Message from the President

Mount Vernon Square Neighborhood Association often asks for your involvement and support, but what is not always made clear are the benefits that MVSNA provides the community and why it is worthy of your time and money. Let me provide a few reasons why, with examples of our work over the past few weeks.

- Notice of meetings of government agencies on issues that impact you. MVSNA officers directly obtain meeting agendas from agencies such as the ANCs, PSAs, Historic Preservation Review Board, Public Space Office, and Washington Convention Center Authority. We obtain lists of permits granted by Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and police crime reports. We monitor agencies and talk to officials regarding the status of other projects. When we identify issues of concern to our neighborhood, MVSNA posts this information on its website, blog, and in this newsletter.
- Contacts. If agency officials are unresponsive to your questions, let us know. We often have someone at the agency that we can contact directly. Our last two meetings have included Mayor Fenty in March and the Ward 2 and 6 Transportation Planners in April. This month, DC's new manager for vacant property will attend to hear your concerns.
- Problem Solving and Coordination. We work closely with property owners, developers, residents, and government officials to promote development that has a positive impact on the community. For example, we are regularly meeting with the Third Street Church of God as they decide the future use of their properties and we are proud to support their plans to have a community festival in the underused park and New Jersey and O Street on June 23rd.
- Representing you before government agencies. Our officers and volunteers regularly attend ANC, PSA, Washington Convention Center, Shaw Main Streets, and other meetings. In recent months, we have filed letters expressing our views on various construction projects and supporting grants to local businesses. We are continuing to pressure the Department of Parks and Recreation to fix the lights in the parks on the 600 Block of N Street and at New Jersey and O Street.
- Keeping you informed. Whether it is a fire, crime incident, newspaper or tv story about Mt. Vernon or Shaw, government agency action affecting our neighborhood, or a local event - check our blog for almost immediate information and an engaging discussion: <http://lifein.mountvernonssquare.org/>
- Clean and beautiful. In April, we held yet another successful cleanup & beautification effort, supplying compost (still available at 4th and Ridge), flowers & mulch (courtesy of Shaw Main Streets), shovels, brooms, trash bags, and coordinating trash pickup with the DC government.

When something comes up in your area of the neighborhood, call an MVSNA officer and you can expect information and action, quickly. But please ask yourself, when you make that call, send that e-mail, or read our information online, have you supported MVSNA? The information and services we provide take a significant amount of time to compile. Conveying information, through the newsletter and internet, come with duplicating costs and hosting fees. Programs and activities, like community cleanups, have costs for supplies and refreshments, not to mention sweat and tears. So please, after you read this newsletter, do one of the following: (1) write a check to MVSNA and reaffirm your membership and financial support; (2) volunteer your time to MVSNA -- to represent us before organizations or agencies, to organize a project, or to serve on our Board. MVSNA is your neighborhood organization!



