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

Message from the President

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

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.

• <u>Notice of meetings of government agencies on issues that impact you</u>. 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.

• <u>Contacts</u>. 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.

• <u>Problem Solving and Coordination</u>. 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.

• <u>Representing you before government agencies</u>. 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.

• <u>Keeping you informed</u>. 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.mountvernonsquare.org/

• <u>Clean and beautiful</u>. 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 <u>information</u> and <u>action</u>, 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!

Area ANC Commissioners Meet With the Community

On May 10th ANC 6C Commissioner Mark Dixon met with residents at the Mt. Lebanon Church at 1219 New Jersey Ave NW to hear the concerns of the community. Attendees included Sgt Clifton Weaver from PSA 101, David Chestnut, CEO of Sursum Corda, Pastor Edmonds, reps & church Elders from Mt. Lebanon, Revered Boddie from 3rd St Church of God, and several residents. Mt Lebanon provided an update with regard to their property on Morgan Street NW which they plan to develop into a IT and Photolab job training center and workforce housing in partnership with CVS. They plan to attend an MVSNA meeting. Mr. Chestnut gave an update with regard to a drastic reduction in crime and the redevelopment of Sursum Corda which is still working towards a resolution. Neighbor Melanie Henderson has started a petition to have speed humps installed on the 200 block of N Street NW and was able to gather signatures. We had some great discussion regarding vacant property, job training, development & social services. Commissioner Dixon plans to hold regular Single Member District meetings the third Wednesday of each month, The next one will be June 20th 6-8pm.

ANC 2C02 Commissioner Kevin Chapple held a SMD meeting on April 19th. Guest speakers included Gottlieb.Simon@dc.gov from the DC Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, DCRA head of Vacant Property office allen.smith@dc.gov, Ward 2 DCRA Head Inspector phillip.miller@DC.gov, & Sgt. Penn michael.penn@dc.gov. Video of the meeting is available here: http://anc2c02.com/anc/anc2c02smd/index20070419.html Sgt. Penn detailed some recent arrests including armed robbers around 4th & M, Gun recovery near the Bundy School, and other incidents also covered by MPO Barnes at the last MVSNA meeting. DCRA has enacted new regulations that reduce vacant property exemptions & are aggressively enforcing vacant property laws. They are now able to secure vacant properties that are dangerous & accessible without notifying the owner. They have also taken over class 3 tax designation (list is sent biannually to OTR but is retroactive to the report date.) Vacant lots are also subject to Class 3 taxation. To report a vacant property not on the vacant property list: in ward 2, email Inspector Miller (for ward 2). You can also fill out the form on the DCRA Website & fax it or call 202.442.4332.

<u>Shaw Community Day - June 23rd</u>

The Third Street Church of God is back in their sanctuary after a long renovation and is in the process of organizing s Shaw Community Day which will take place Saturday June 23rd at the Park on the Corner of New Jersey Ave & O Streets NW. They plan to offer food, health screenings and youth activities. The Church welcomes members of the neighborhood to attend and participate in the event, If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Reverend Adiamo C. Boddie at 202.347.5889 or boddieandsoul@aol.com. A planning session is scheduled for Monday, June 7 at 7:00pm

Third Street Church of God

1204 Third Street NW, Washington, DC | www.ThirdStreet.org Rev. Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders, Senior Pastor Rev. Adamio Boddie, Assistant Pastor

Police Contacts

PSA 308

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2007 MVSNA Officers

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• At the Last Meeting...

• Last month's MVSNA meeting covered many important and interesting topics. MPO Barnes from PSA 308 provided • some details and context of recent crime in the neighbor-• hood. Among the reports were the fire at 6th and N, the shooting at Gibson Plaza, arrests at 7th and O, and the bur-• glaries along Marion Street. As always, Officer Barnes explained the behind the scenes police work and characters surrounding investigations like the shootings along 7th. • DDOT reps Chris Ziemann (Ward 2) and Chris Delfs (Ward 6) came to answer residents' questions about neighborhood transportation planning. Among the more • interesting discussions was that of the pending increase in pedestrians that will arrive with Yale Lofts and City Vista. DDOT has plans to make many of the intersections more pedestrian friendly including a redesign to the intersection of 5th, L and NY Ave to shorten the crossing. Sherri Woods of ONE Ministries presented exterior design • plans for the proposed "Hoagie House" development on the corner of 4th and N. The plan is to renovate the building • and to use it for ONE Ministries' Unique Learning Center. • Included in the design are plans to extend the rear to 3 stories, to add an enclosed stairwell to the back of the building, • and to turn the existing fenced in asphalted area into a park-• ing lot and half basketball court. MVSNA voted and sent a Letter to HPRB expressing all neighborhood concerns. • ANC 6C will have this item on their Zoning agenda on • June 6th, 7pm, 635 Mass. Ave. For full meeting details, go to http://mountvernonsquare.org/meetings

Add your thoughts to the MVSNA neighborhood blog: <u>http://lifein.mountvernonsquare.org</u> To download an MVSNA membership form & view lots of neighborhood info:

http://www.mountvernonsquare.org/

To join the MVSNA yahoo listserve, go to:

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

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

<u>PSA 101</u>

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