

## Buddha Bar to Open in Mount Vernon Triangle!

**B**uddha Bar has signed a lease for space at 455 Massachusetts Avenue, NW in Mount Vernon Triangle. This 9,400 square-foot restaurant and bar will be the hottest place to see and be seen – drawing people from all around the area to the Triangle.

Created by George V Entertainment, the Paris-based restaurant group has 10 locations around the globe, including New York and Las Vegas. Buddha Bar offers diners a unique cuisine, combining bold Asian flavors with delicate French essences and dramatic decor along with great music to create an unforgettable experience.

455 Mass is owned and managed by ASB Real Estate Investments, a division of ASB Capital Management, and Penzance Companies. It is a new 12-story, 240,000 square foot, Class-A office building with a unique glass façade that complements the architecture of the Triangle. Its elegant interior is appointed with polished stone and dark wood finishes. The landlord was represented by Bill Dickinson, Melissa Webb, and Will Collins of The Rappaport Companies. Bill Miller and Alex Walker of Transwestern represented Buddha Bar.

Buddha Bar will open in December. To learn more, visit [www.buddha-bar.com](http://www.buddha-bar.com).



*Mandi Wedin of ASB Real Estate Investments is pleased to announce Buddha Bar will be opening in 455 Mass*

## Inaugural Mount Vernon Triangle House Tour

**M**ark your calendar for May 17 for the inaugural Mount Vernon Triangle House Tour. A number of Triangle residents will open their residences for our prying eyes to take in their great style and decoration. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event. Net proceeds will benefit Strive DC, a life-skills training organization preparing individuals to reenter the workforce. Look for tickets to go on sale shortly.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please come to the next Marketing Committee meeting on April 14 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at 440 L Street in the Community Room, or email [mvtbill@downtowndc.org](mailto:mvtbill@downtowndc.org) and help staff the House Tour on the day of



*Potential buyers explore the Madrigal Lofts, one of the buildings included in the inaugural Mount Vernon Triangle House Tour*

the event. Volunteers each get a free ticket to the House Tour as a way of saying thank you.

### Streetscape Update

*The first important step was the rebuilding of L Street in the autumn of 2008. This summer, 4<sup>th</sup> Street will be widened, returned to two-way traffic, and repaved. In 2010, New Jersey Avenue will be restored to include two-way traffic and the 96 bus will be rerouted to serve the Avenue in both directions. Look for K Street to be streetscaped soon, too. Hats off to our friends at DDOT, and best wishes to its new Director, Gabe Klein.*

## A Message from the Executive Director

The District Department of Transportation will soon step up surveillance of commercial areas to ensure compliance with District regulations on the placement of signs and other objects in public space, with particular attention to sidewalks. *Title 24 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations* prohibits the placement of any signs on sidewalks in the District, with a few exceptions if one has a public space permit.

DDOT has received numerous complaints about the proliferation of non-permitted signs, parking, and outdoor cafes in public space.

DDOT plans to increase enforcement of the regulations to ensure safe travel for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

This enforcement effort, timed to coincide with the return of warmer weather and increased pedestrian traffic, will begin soon with a 7-day warning and public education period. DDOT will then begin issuing citations. Public space infractions call for a fine of \$150 for the first violation which then double for subsequent violations.

Please take the time to obtain a permit for your A-frame sign, outdoor café, or anything else in public space. And, please don't use the sidewalks for parking or unloading.

Have a great Spring!



Bill McLeod, Executive Director

## Trees Planted in Triangle Park



Jim Woodworth, Councilmember Tommy Wells, and Hans Moennig help plant 34 trees in Triangle Park.

Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District, working with Casey Trees, recently planted 34 trees in Triangle Park, located at 3rd Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW. This initiative was made possible through a partnership including the Mount

Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District, DC Department of Parks & Recreation, and Casey Trees, which very generously provided the trees.

"I am pleased that DPR was able to partner with the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District and Casey Trees in an effort to beautify Triangle Park," stated Clark Ray, director of the Department of Parks & Recreation. "This is another example of what can be achieved when community, business, and government agencies join together."

Triangle residents who helped plant and will help maintain the trees were briefed earlier this year at Second Baptist Church about the revised design for the landscape and the tree-planting event.

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1250 H Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 661-7590  
[www.mountvernontriangle.org](http://www.mountvernontriangle.org)

*The Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District provides clean, safe, economic development, and marketing services to the Mount Vernon Triangle community.*

### MVTCID Board of Directors

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*Prospect Diversified Development*

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## Metropolis Club: An Emergency Room for Life

The Metropolis Club was established in 1966 as a social club in Downtown and a place for members of Alcoholics Anonymous to meet – thereby serving as an “emergency room for life,” according to a noted member.

The Metropolis Club has been open every day since, including when the city suffered through the 1968 riots. Not one window of the club was broken during the riots, so members often referred to the site as “the holy land” since most of the surrounding area sustained extensive damage. The organization moved into its current location on the second floor of 928 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW in 1981.

Members of the Metropolis Club were instrumental in putting an end to the practice of “locking up drunks” by assisting in the classification of alcoholism as a disease by the Federal government in 1968. Many members of the Metropolis Club courageously volunteered to be plaintiffs in the litigation, and one key member was selected – Luke Easter. His testimony pointed out that public drunkenness is a symptom of the disease and, accordingly, alcoholics should be *treated* instead of *jailed*. Legislation grew out of this landmark case, [Easter v. The District of Columbia](#), which later paved the way for detox and rehabilitation centers at St. Elizabeth’s and Lorton Prison.

The reach of the Metropolis Club is far and wide – drawing local residents, suburban dwellers, noted politicians, and even internationals who have heard of the Club in their travels. The Metropolis Club’s success has inspired the founding of other chapters of AA around the region resulting in the expansion of the number of meetings from 10 to 35 each week.

As the progenitor of clubs throughout the region that provide AA members with places to meet, the Metropolis Club remains a powerful, healing force serving the needs of the community. To learn more about this neighborhood resource, visit the Metropolis Club’s website at [www.met-dc.com](http://www.met-dc.com).

## 5th Street Ace Switches to Wind Power

Through Clean Currents, a DC area clean-energy business, every kilowatt-hour used by 5<sup>th</sup> Street Ace Hardware is offset by wind energy. The amount of electricity used by 5<sup>th</sup> Street Ace Hardware is estimated to be 150,000 kWh. This translates into 237,492 pounds of carbon dioxide being offset through harnessing the wind, which is the equivalent of taking 19 passenger vehicles off the road for an entire year!

“My team and I are proud and excited to be promoting environmental sustainability in downtown Washington,” said Gina Schaefer, owner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Ace Hardware. “We look forward to more opportunities to green our business in the future.”

To convert to green energy sources, Ms. Schaefer worked with Clean Currents, Local First DC, and the Latino Economic Development Corporation.

How can you make the change to sustainable energy? Clean Currents can switch you to a clean energy contract in a deregulated energy market like ours. If your business or building is unable to



*Gina Schaefer stands in front of her green store, showing off spring flowers for sale.*

directly switch your contract, you can still become a green-powered business by purchasing renewable energy credits.

To explore using renewable energy, visit [www.cleancurrents.com](http://www.cleancurrents.com).



### Expanded Clean Team

*Our Clean Team has expanded to four members through a grant from the Department of Local and Small Business Development. Thank you DLSBD and the Department of Public Works!*

## Calendar of Events

- April 14 5:30 pm – Marketing Committee Meeting; The L, 440 L Street NW, Community Room
- April 16 4:00 pm – Board of Directors Meeting; Downtown BID Boardroom
- May 12 6:00 pm – Marketing Committee Meeting; The L, 440 L Street NW, Community Room
- May 13 10:00 am – Property Managers Meeting; G&J Deli – 317 K Street NW
- May 17 12:00-5:00 – Inaugural Mount Vernon Triangle House Tour – 5<sup>th</sup> and K NW
- May 30-31 1:00 pm – Mount Vernon Triangle Walking Tour – Carnegie Library

*Tree Lovers!*  
More than 60  
volunteers showed  
up to plant trees in  
Triangle Park



Mount Vernon Triangle  
Community Improvement District  
1250 H Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005