

## Tunnel Opens

Tunnel Fine Wines & Spirits, located near the intersection of 4th and H Streets NW, opened on October 12. Its curious name derives from its close proximity to the 3rd Street tunnel and from the long, narrow shape of its interior that leads to four different sections: spirits, beer, white wine, and red wine with a tasting room.

Co-owner Negest Dawit (she's known as TG) worked for three years at a cigar shop in Union Station before opening her own cigar shop on 9th Street – TG Cigar. When the landlord approached TG about renting another space to open a second business in the neighborhood, she seized the opportunity to partner with her friend Feleke Girma.

"We did research on the neighborhood. Residents were paying market



*Tunnel owners Negest "TG" Dawit and Feleke Girma*

rate for new condos," said co-owner Mr. Feleke Girma. "We wanted to make our store look like a boutique shop, so we spent money on renovating the store and storefront and a high-quality sign."

Not wishing to be perceived as a nuisance business contributing to the social problems of this evolving neighborhood, Tunnel will not sell single

*[I have] my own cigar shop on 9th Street – TG Cigar. When the landlord approached me about... a second business in the neighborhood, I seized the opportunity!*

–Negest Dawit

beers, but only six-packs of premium imported beer and selected domestic beer, bottles of spirits holding at least 750 milliliters, and wines chosen from small wine growers to showcase products not available in local supermarkets.

Tunnel will be hosting weekly beer, wine and spirits tastings on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Tunnel Fine Wines & Spirits is located at 311 H Street, NW. Store hours are Monday – Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. You can call them at (202) 842-3838 or email [contactus@tunnelliquor.com](mailto:contactus@tunnelliquor.com) for delivery to regular customers. ▶

## Safety First



*MVTCID is now hiring MPD Officers on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights to help maintain safety*

## Eye Street Lofts

The concept design for Walnut Street Development's Eye Street Lofts was recently approved by the City. The new 12-story building at 443–459 Eye Street, NW will have 169 rental units and 10,000 square feet of retail space.

Eye Street Lofts' façade will incorporate the existing storefront of Central Auto Works and the façades of two brick Victorian townhouses. Amenities such as a café and a neighborhood retail shop will be housed on the ground floor.

The project will now move into the design phase. Walnut Street



*The Eye Street Lofts will incorporate three historic buildings*

Development plans to break ground in April 2008, with leasing to begin in the autumn of 2009.

Visit Walnut Street Development's web site at [www.wsd.com](http://www.wsd.com) to learn more about this project. ▶

## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Triangle,

Many of you have commented that the neighborhood seems much safer lately. This is good news; it means our efforts are paying off. Beginning in August, MVT CID started hiring MPD officers to patrol the neighborhood on Friday and Saturday nights. We also worked with one building owner to seal the entrance to his empty building, and another to install a gate over his back staircase to prevent intruders from walking up on the roof. We negotiated with the National Park Police to patrol our five pocket parks more frequently. The Coalition to Shut Down Fun Fair Video appears to have succeeded in its campaign this October. And, some residents, in particular, Thais Austin, have even been working directly with police to identify problems in the neighborhood.

Safety is everyone's concern. As we have taken on different parts of the challenge, improvements are being noticed. It takes a village to change a community.



Bill McLeod  
Executive Director

## Celebrating Bible Way Church

On September 29, Bible Way Church celebrated the centennial of its founder, Bishop Smallwood E. Williams, who was born in 1907 and died in 1991.



Yvonne Williams stands beneath a relief sculpture of her father in front of Bible Way Church

In 1927, a young Elder Williams was dispatched to Washington, DC – when the city was known as a “preacher’s graveyard” – to launch a new church of the Pentecostal faith. He began preaching in front of a fire hydrant at 7th and O Streets NW, having chosen this spot because of the pedestrian traffic going in and out of the O Street Market.

The congregation became known as Bible Way. In 1936, the congregation rented property on the church’s current site at 1100 New Jersey Avenue, NW; they pitched a tent, and within a year, purchased the property. A new church designed to seat a thousand people was built in 1946, and by 1978, a second sanctuary seating three thousand had been built next to it. This is the modern façade we see today.

Bishop Williams was instru-

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## Mount Vernon Triangle CID

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[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.

### MVT CID Board of Directors

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Downtown BID

Yvonne Williams  
Bible Way Church

#### Staff

Bill McLeod  
Executive Director

## MVT Honors Founding Executive Director

The Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District presented its 2007 Public Service Award to Gerry Widdicombe for his outstanding leadership and service to the organization. Mr. Widdicombe received the award at MVTCID's Annual Meeting on September 20, held at Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

"There is no one more deserving of this Public Service Award than Gerry Widdicombe," stated Sandy Wilkes, Secretary of MVTCID. "He was instrumental in forming the Community Improvement District, and without his direction and persistence, this organization would not have gotten off the ground."

From May 2004 to December 2006, Gerry Widdicombe served as MVTCID's first executive director. He was then appointed to the



*Bob Gladstone and Charles (Sandy) Wilkes present Gerry Widdicombe with the Public Service Award*

Board of Directors in December 2006, and was re-elected during the 2007 annual meeting. In his current position as Director of Economic Development of the Downtown DC BID, Mr. Widdicombe focuses on housing and retail policies, and directs the organization's research efforts.

Congratulations Mr. Widdicombe! ▶

## Fun Fair Video Ordered to Close

On October 17, Judge Susan Winfield granted a Temporary Restraining Order requiring Fun Fair Video to discontinue its business activities immediately. The adult entertainment shop had been operating without a certificate of occupancy revoked ten years ago.

The Office of Attorney General Linda Singer, working closely with Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Director Linda K. Argo, issued this statement: "Fun Fair Video's doors have been open far too long. I don't care whether you're running a hardware store, a corner grocery, or an adult entertainment shop - if you don't have a certificate of occupancy, you are not going to do business in the District."

After a series of inspections that determined that a substantial portion of Fun Fair's business was sexually oriented, and that the mechanical amuse-

ment machines found on the premises were unauthorized, DCRA revoked the shop's Certificate of Occupancy. Finding that public decency was compromised by the activity in and around Fun Fair Video, DCRA also revoked Fun Fair's mechanical amusement machine license.

"DCRA has worked diligently to ensure that Fun Fair ceases its flagrant violation of District law," Argo said. "This business has attempted a sophisticated set of maneuvers to avoid complying with our city's regulations, but this ruling sends a clear message: DCRA will take action."

Instead of complying with the order to close, Fun Fair Video lodged an appeal with the Board of Zoning Adjustment. On October 1, the Board of Zoning Adjustment issued a written order denying the appeal, and then a hearing on November 9 granted a preliminary injunction against Fun Fair Video's reopening. ▶

## Bible Way

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mental in housing development in the neighborhood, especially for seniors and low-income individuals. He worked with HUD to build the Golden Rule Apartments and the Golden Rule Center; after his death, Golden Rule Plaza was completed to continue his legacy. Bible Way Church currently sponsors over 350 units of affordable housing under the leadership of Apostle James Silver, Bible Way's second pastor, who has been serving the community for 16 years.

During his 64 years of service, Bishop Williams was revered by his congregation and the larger Washington community as one of the great spiritual leaders of the 20th century, a bold advocate of the Civil Rights Movement, and a strong supporter of affordable housing. ▶

## Park Clean-Up Kudos

On Saturday, October 13, ten neighborhood volunteers came together to help the National Park Service clean up the parks at 5th and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, known as Reservations 72 and 74. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to pick up trash and then paint the wrought-iron fence, benches and trashcans. Thanks are due to the Na-



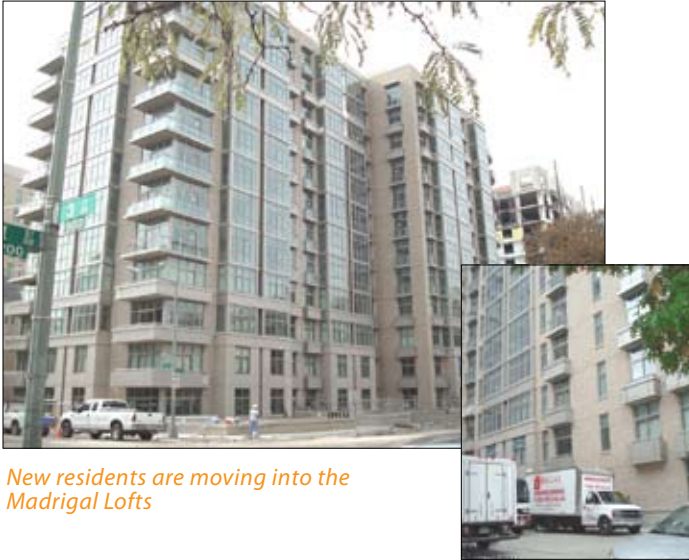
*Volunteers have fun cleaning up the parks and getting to know their neighbors*

tional Park Service for providing staff and supplies, to Chinatown Starbucks for donating coffee, and to all the volunteers who are helping to make a difference in the neighborhood. ▶

## Calendar of Events

January 24	4:00 pm	Board of Directors' Meeting	Downtown DC BID Boardroom
February 13	5:30 pm	Marketing Committee Meeting	Downtown DC BID Boardroom
March 12	10:00 am	Property Managers' Committee Meeting	Downtown DC BID Boardroom
April 24		Annual Members' & Board of Directors' Meetings	TBD

## Madrigal Lofts



*New residents are moving into the Madrigal Lofts*

## Clean Team



*Edward Dabney and William Coleman work on the Clean Team to maintain the neighborhood seven days a week*

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