



## K Street

**T**he K Street streetscape, a \$7 million project funded by DDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, is making great strides and will be completed in May 2013. Trees are being planted now and the groundcover will be planted in spring.

Not far behind, the New Jersey Avenue streetscape, a \$10 million project, is currently in design. A second community planning meeting took place on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Bible Way Church, and the project is expected to start in the spring of 2014.



*Chef Roberto Donna and Hakan Ilhan will open Alba Osteria in 425 I*

## Alba Osteria Coming To 425 I Street

**H**akan Ilhan has announced that he will be opening a neighborhood osteria at 425 I Street. His first restaurant, Al Dente, located on New Mexico Avenue, NW, has a huge following, and the legendary Roberto Donna will be the executive chef for this new eatery, which will have 130 seats with an outdoor café for 90 diners.

The menu will range from seafood to pasta, and include antipasto plates for appetizers. The décor will be modern and bright in keeping with the style of the building with its large first-floor windows. The new location will open in summer just in time for dining alfresco.



## Results of the MVT CID Retail Survey

The results from the retail survey are in, and 97% of those who responded (over 300 responses!) live in the neighborhood. For restaurants, the top request was coffee/tea shop, followed by craft brewery. And for retail, there was significant interest in an organic grocery followed by women's fashion and home furnishings.

## Happy 2013 From MVT



## Prepare For Snow!

Winter is here, so get ready before the ice and snow arrive. District law requires that property owners and tenants remove snow from public space around their properties within eight hours after a snowfall. After that, city inspectors can fine you! Sidewalks in front of your residence, office, retail store, or parking lot have to be cleared to facilitate the flow of pedestrian traffic. That means you need to clear all the snow from the entire sidewalk – not just a path from your door to the curb. The MVT CID Clean Team shovels around bus shelters, storm drains, crosswalks, and our parks. So, please do your part to keep The Triangle safe and looking great throughout the winter.

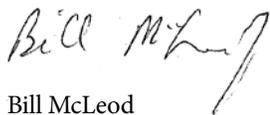
## Letter from the Executive Director

I am pleased to report that the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District has been awarded another grant from the Department of Small and Local Business Development for cleaning and improving public space in Mount Vernon Triangle. The grant in the amount of \$86,965.81 for FY13, was the fifth such grant received from DSLBD.

"This grant comes at the perfect time," stated Bill McLeod, Executive Director of MVT-CID. "With this funding, we are able to once again expand our normal services and increase the number of landscapers on staff for weeding and mulching trees, parks, and our exciting new linear park along K Street."

The grant is for a 12-month period and is available to small BIDs and Main Street organizations whose budgets do not exceed \$1 million. The funding will allow MVT-CID to maintain a four-person "Clean Team" seven days a week, and expand to three full-time landscapers to weed and mulch the 400+ tree boxes and six parks throughout Mount Vernon Triangle. Thank you Councilmember Tommy Wells, Councilmember Jim Graham, and DSLBD!

Thank you,



Bill McLeod



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**Mount Vernon Triangle CID**  
901 4th Street, NW  
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*The Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District provides clean, safe, economic development, and marketing services to the Mount Vernon Triangle community.*

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## 5th and I Hotel Update

The parking lot at 5th & I is owned by the District of Columbia. Five years ago, the city held a competition to select a developer. A team headed by Donohoe Development and Spectrum Management was selected.

The project will be a 132-room boutique hotel and a residential building with 140 units and retail on the first floor; including a 4,000 square foot restaurant facing I Street.

The Deputy Mayor's office held a surplus property hearing on November 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the MVTCID office. Donohoe-Spectrum hopes for City Council approval as soon as January so it can begin construction in spring 2014. Construction will take 20-24 months.

## We Wish "Success," Much Success

A new organic restaurant will be opening at 917 5th Street, NW – in the former Fun Fair Video space. Cuisine will be modern American with some Mediterranean touches using locally-sourced, seasonal, farm-fresh ingredients. The restaurant, which will initially be known as "Success," will have 85 seats and eventually outdoor seating on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

We understand the permanent name will be "Psilo."

Owner Reza Akhavan was the former manager at Front Page in Dupont Circle, and he also helped reopen Shaw Tavern on Florida Avenue.

"I am happy to be in this neighborhood and see other building permits being issued all around me," says Reza. "New buildings will make the area more interesting. And, all the restaurants in the neighborhood will make The Triangle a great restaurant destination. We plan to open in early spring."



Reza Akhavan, left, seated next to 555 Mass resident Thais Austen and new ANC Commission Marge Maceda, will open Psilo on 5<sup>th</sup> Street



## Wise Guy Pizza Open

Tony Erol has opened Wise Guy Pizza in Mass Court, located at 300 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The New York pizzeria features pies styled after those in the Big Apple, and it also sells bagels baked on-site in its pizza ovens. The initial response has been so strong that Tony has had to reconfigure the kitchen to accommodate all the demand.

## Mayor Gray Announces Task Force

Mayor Vincent Gray announced on October 18, 2012 the establishment of a Streetcar Financing and Governance Task Force to advise the Executive Branch on potential sources of funding and forms of governance for the District of Columbia's planned streetcar system. It is anticipated that one of the new streetcar lines will run down K Street through Mount Vernon Triangle – connecting H Street, NE to Georgetown.

The 14 member Task Force will be chaired by City Administrator Allen Lew and will include six public members with expertise in transportation system design and engineering, public-private development partnerships, project financing, and economic development.

The Mayor appointed Charles “Sandy” Wilkes, Chairman of The Wilkes Company and Secretary of the MVTICID as one of the members. Because of his commitment to the Task Force and his work with other nonprofit groups in the city, Mr. Wilkes will



reluctantly be stepping down from the MVTICID Board of Directors having been a founder of our organization, which was then followed by eight years of service on the Board.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Wilkes for his years of outstanding leadership to MVTICID and the countless hours volunteering in various roles. We wish him the best in his work on the streetcar system and his other endeavors.

# 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival



The 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival is less than four months away: March 20 – April 14. It will include events featuring traditional and contemporary art, culture, and the natural beauty of the

cherry trees. The 2013 Festival commemorates the 101st anniversary of the gift of the ornamental cherry trees from Japan to the United States. There are three ways Mount Vernon Triangle merchants and property owners can play a part in the nation's greatest springtime celebration: City in Bloom, Petal Pass, and Cherry Picks.

The City in Bloom campaign encourages all businesses and organizations to promote our region throughout the Festival, showcasing spring in Washington, DC to the nation and the world. Participants from the hospitality, tourism, retail, and transportation industries will place Cherry Blossom signage, decals, banners, pink lighting, and blossom projections on iconic buildings.

Petal Pass is part of City in Bloom and provides incentives for Festival attendees to explore the many attractions the region has to offer. The Petal Pass is a free guide for pass holders to find their way to participating retailers, restaurants, museums, and attractions which will offer exclusive discounts and special incentives in order to drive traffic to their locations.

And the Cherry Picks restaurant program highlights the area's vibrant restaurant scene. Restaurants are encouraged to create blossom-inspired presentations, feature cherry infused drinks, and underscore the Festival's celebration of spring with seasonal ingredients. Our own Kushi participated in last year.

If you have any interest in participating, please contact Remi Allen at [remi@downtowndc.org](mailto:remi@downtowndc.org) or (202) 638-8372.



*Kushi brought students from Tamagawa University to perform in front of their restaurant during last year's Cherry Blossom Festival*

# MVTCID Calendar of Events

January 9	12:00 noon	Property Managers Meeting	901 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
January 15	6:00 p.m.	Marketing Committee Meeting	901 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
January 17	5:00 p.m.	Board of Directors' Meeting	901 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
January 21		Presidential Inauguration	National Mall
February 13	12:00 noon	Property Managers Meeting	901 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
February 19	6:00 p.m.	Marketing Committee Meeting	901 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
March 13	12:00 noon	Property Managers Meeting	901 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
March 19	6:00 p.m.	Marketing Committee Meeting	901 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
April 18	5:00 p.m.	Board of Directors' Meeting	TBD



## Spotlight on the Clean Team

Antoine Perry has been with MVTCID serving on the Clean Team since March 2011. A model Clean Team member, you may recognize Mr. Perry from his second job as one of the elves at the Holiday Market in front of the Portrait Gallery. Mr. Perry recently moved from Gospel Rescue Mission into his own apartment where he enjoys cooking and reading.



## Photos with Santa

More than 150 children and adults (and even a few dogs) had their pictures taken with Santa Claus outside his temporary workshop at 5th and K Street, NW on November 29th. Thanks to all of our volunteers. You can view all the pictures on the Mount Vernon Triangle CID FaceBook page. Happy holidays!



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