

THE OAKWOOD HEIGHTS LANTERN

ISSUE NO. 4
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OAKWOOD HEIGHTS HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION ("OHHA")

12% TAX INCREASE PROPOSED BY SCHOOL BOARD FOR MAY 20 ELECTION! COME & MEET THE CANDIDATES AND HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

You may have read in the Journal News recently that the Mount Vernon School Board and the Superintendent, Tony Sawyer, are proposing a 12% tax increase. Voters will decide on May 20, 2008 if they want to approve the \$193,142,466 spending plan, which includes:

- salaries and contractual agreements
- extended day programs
- summer school programs
- instructional coaches
- kindergarten-2nd grade phonics program
- reading programs

Note: The proposal does not have the full support of the School Board.

OHHA has extended invitations to the candidates who will be seeking your vote. Meetings in the past have been well attended and productive. The candidates will present their platforms and the public will be allowed to ask questions. *Superintendent Sawyer was also invited.*

When: Monday, May 12, 2008
Where: The Wartburg, 1 Wartburg Place, Mt. Vernon
Time: 7:00 p.m. SHARP

'ONE MOUNT VERNON' MEETINGS

On March 11, 2008, Mayor Clinton Young held the first 'One Mount Vernon' neighborhood meeting at City Hall. He introduced his Commissioners and Department Heads. Some of the staff members worked with Mayor Clinton when he was the County Executive and some staff members are from the previous administration. The Mayor also allowed one hour for public comment on many issues. The Mayor intends to hold monthly 'One Mount Vernon' meetings at various locations. The dates and venues will eventually be available on the City's website.

DID YOU KNOW?

- STAR Exemptions up to \$2,100 are *not* limited to senior citizens.
- The Dept of Parking will give a discount for responses to parking tickets within one day and dismiss registration default tickets that are resolved in a reasonable time period.
- The Dept. of Weights and Measures is where formal complaints about stores or gas station prices can be filed.
- The Dept of Recreation offers salsa and yoga classes as well as line dancing.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

On March 26, 2008, the Mayor held a State of the City Address at the City Council meeting. Below are a few highlights from the meeting:

- Master Plan. The City has not had a plan for over 40 years. The plan will focus on smart development that attracts investors and also allows the City's workforce (i.e. teachers, firefighters, police) to live in the community that they serve.
- Go Green Program. Improve the air quality by using City-owned hybrid vehicles. A solar energy pilot program will also be developed.
- Petrillo Plaza Transit Hub. The hub, which will be located near the Mount Vernon East train station, will break ground in Spring 2008.
- Park Avenue Bridge. Metro North will renovate the bridge near Mount Vernon East train station.
- Fire Department Headquarters. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration closed the facility for mold issues. The City is securing funding to rebuild.
- Memorial Field. Plans are being developed for a new state of the art sports facility.
- Hip Hop Museum. Plans have been terminated.
- Youth Council and Youth Court. New departments.
- Improved Efficiencies.
 - Reduction of overtime by auditing all departments.
 - Collaboration with City Council. Focus on improving efficiencies.
 - Better response time between City Hall and general public.
 - Options will be available for the payment of taxes, water, parking fees, etc. on the City's website, <http://www.ci.mount-vernon.ny.us/>.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We want to hear from you. Please contact either of the two individuals with your comments or if you need to update our database with contact information.

- Lyndia Hayden – lyndia.hayden@gmail.com
- Fiorella Kelley – ftkelley@msn.com

Reminder: The \$20 membership fee (per household) is due every September. Dues are used toward the various mailings throughout the year, insurance and permit fees for the annual Block Party, relaunching the website and any other expenses that may arise. You can pay your 2008 dues by making a check payable to Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association. Please mail it to Fiorella Kelley, 16 Magnolia Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10553.