

YOUTH: OUR TREASURED RESOURCE

Mount Vernon's Youth Bureau provides safe and effective programming for our young people

In his State of the City speech last month, Mayor Young made it clear that Mount Vernon's youth will always be a top priority within his administration. That commitment is clear when looking at the availability and effectiveness of programs that the city offers for our young people. "Structured after-school programs and activities provide our children with valuable youth development supports during the critical times of the day. The city works diligently to provide alternatives to unsupervised time and crime through programs that afford youth with positive academic and social interactions." said DaMia Harris, Deputy Director - Mount Vernon Youth Bureau.

Mount Vernon's Youth Bureau leads the way in providing safe and effective programming for children of all ages. After-school activities, educational assistance and job/career preparedness are the focus of much of the bureau's programming efforts.



**Mayor Young Presents:
Free Real Estate Seminars**
*"How to Buy/Sell/Finance Real Estate
Without Losing Your Shirt"*

Join Liz Lindsey, former owner of Lindsey Real Estate in Mount Vernon and Edna Haber, former owner of Haber Mortgages and CEO of White Horse Mortgages, for real estate know-how and answers to your questions.

Seminar Dates:

Buying Smart: Monday April 6th at 6:30pm
Selling Smart: Saturday, April 18th at 12 noon
Buying Smart: Monday, April 27th at 6:30pm
Selling Smart: Saturday, May 9th at 12 noon.

Seminars will be held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at One Roosevelt Square in Mount Vernon. Email reseminars@CMVNY.com for more info, or call 665-2361.



Pay Your Fine Online

Mount Vernon now offers online payments for parking tickets

The City of Mount Vernon Parking Collections Bureau is now accepting online payment of your parking tickets. Visit www.CMVNY.com for details.

Important Phone Numbers - City Departments

- Aging: 665-2315**
Programs and services for senior citizens
- Assessment: 665-2325**
Property valuations, exemption applications
- Buildings: 665-2483**
Permits for construction, certificate of occupancy, building inspections
- City Clerk: 665-2348**
Marriage licenses, birth/death certificates, taxi licenses, dog licenses
- Civil Defense: 665-2390**
Public safety, emergency management
- Consumer Affairs: 665- 2433**
Consumer affairs and protection
- Finance: 665-2312** Tax collections, accounts payable
- Fire Department: 665-2626**
Public safety, fire prevention
- Law: 665-2366**
Civil litigation, administrative proceedings
- Management Services: 665-2340**
Information systems, data processing
- Mayor's Office: 665-2360**
- Parking Bureau: 699-7230** Parking enforcement
- Parking Ticket Collections: 665-2592**
Fine collection, management of scofflaws & parking boots
- Police: 665-2500** Public Safety
- Public Works: 665-2334**
Street and sidewalk maintenance, traffic signals
- Recreation: 665-2420** Recreational programs
- Registrar: 665-2348** Vital records
- Veteran's Services: 665-2319**
Assistance to veterans and veteran's ceremonies
- Water Supply: 668-7820**
Water meter readings, sewer maintenance
- Youth Bureau: 665-2344**
Creative and innovative programs for youth.



Moving Forward and Making Progress

*DESPITE THE 'DOOM AND GLOOM' MEDIA REPORTS,
MOUNT VERNON IS MOVING FORWARD*

In Mount Vernon, we are moving forward and progress is being made. Examples include:

- *Increasing efficiency through technology – not only can you now pay your parking tickets online, but we're moving towards online availability of Building Department forms and fee payment, payment of Recreation Department fees, water bills and, hopefully, property taxes.*
- *Upgrading our document and asset management systems*
- *New internal budgetary controls that have reduced expenses by \$1.5 million compared to the 2008 budget*

On the public safety front, the **Mount Vernon Police Department** has reduced the rate of measured violent crime and, with the help of Westchester County Executive Andy Spano and Legislator Lyndon Williams, we'll soon be installing an automated gunshot detection system that will make our streets safer and provide a more effective and response to reports of gunshots.

The preparation of our **Green Initiatives** plan is moving along. The comprehensive strategy will increase our energy efficiency and make Mount Vernon a more earth-friendly place to live and work. It will also position Mount Vernon at the forefront of the Green Revolution so that we will be able to enjoy the economic benefits of these new technologies.

The **Mount Vernon Fire Department** has placed back into service a third ladder truck which would improve response time and decrease the need for mutual aid from neighboring communities.



Mayor Young addresses the State of the City

Funding is in place and the **elevators will be repaired/replaced** in both the Fleetwood and Third Avenue parking garages as well as the Armory.

**JOIN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
FOR OUR EARTH CELEBRATION 2009**

City to hold a series of April events in honor of Earth Day

As earth friendly practices become the norm, Mount Vernon is positioning itself to be on the forefront of the 'Green Revolution'. On Wednesday, April 22nd the world will celebrate Earth Day and Mayor Young and the City of Mount Vernon is planning a series of events for that week so that we can promote conservation and earth-friendly practices. We invite all that live and work in our city to participate.



E-Waste Drop Off Day

Saturday, April 18th 9am – 3pm
Municipal Lot #1 on South 5th Ave between 1st & 2nd Streets
Enter on 5th Avenue side only

Accepted items include: Computer monitors, towers accessories and printers; fax machines, phones and cell phones, washers, dryers and refrigerators, air conditioners, alkaline batteries, lamps and small appliances (toasters, blenders, radios, stereos & speakers) and used compact fluorescent bulbs. ****Westchester residents only**

Community Awareness Day - Sunday, April 19th

Earth Day Celebration - Wednesday, April 22nd 11:00am
Location: Graham Elementary School

Community Garden Day - Friday, April 24th 10:30am
Location: Stevens House (corner of So. 6th Ave & W 4th St)

Adopt-a-Block Day – Saturday, April 25th 10:00am - 12noon
Location: Mount Vernon Public Library - 28 South 1st Ave.
Residents and community groups will gather and pledge to Adopt-A-Block and help to keep that block litter-free. Call 665-2361 or email hmler@cmvny.com to join this effort.

For more information, visit: www.CMVNY.com

On The Horizon

Great news on some long anticipated infrastructure projects

Despite the ever-tightening economic times, things are happening in Mount Vernon and progress is being made. That progress is clearly evident with the status on several infrastructure projects that are either near completion or soon to begin construction.

Petrillo Plaza awaits just a few finishing touches before it is unveiled as an efficient transportation hub that not only enhances the aesthetics of the downtown area, but also makes it more business-friendly. While serving Mount Vernon as County Legislator, Mayor Young secured more than \$10 million to fund this much needed project.

We have reached an agreement with the MTA under which they will completely rebuild the **Park Avenue Bridge**. Soon, the days of a kidney-jarring ride over the bridge will be over and a new bridge will be in place and perfectly compliment the already improved downtown area.

Over the years, **Memorial Stadium**, which was built to honor the fallen soldiers who gave their lives in duty to our country, was allowed to fall into a sad state of disrepair. Our young athletes who host athletic contests there and the seniors who use the field for recreation deserve much, much better. As your County Legislator, Mayor Young led the fight to secure the funding to rebuild Memorial Stadium and thanks to current legislator Lyndon Williams who saw the effort to completion, the Westchester County Board of Legislators voted to award the City of Mount Vernon over \$10 million in Legacy funding which will go towards the design and construction of a new stadium. Once again, Mount Vernon will be home to the premier recreational facility in the region.

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Visit www.CMVNY.com



We're Online
Check Us Out!

Mayor Young Appoints Helen Blackwood as City Judge

Loretta Hottinger to become new Corporation Counsel

Mayor Clinton I. Young, Jr. announced on March 23 that Helen Blackwood has been chosen as the new Mount Vernon City Court Judge. Mayor Young also announced that City Councilmember, Loretta Hottinger, Esq. will replace Blackwood as the City's Corporation Counsel. The appointments will take effect on May 1, 2009.

Ms. Blackwood, Mount Vernon's Corporation Counsel, will replace Judge Brenda Dowery-Rodriguez, who retired in January 2009.

"Helen Blackwood brings years of legal expertise and professionalism to the Mount Vernon City Court. Her experience and understanding of New York State laws and policy are exemplary. As the City's Corporation Counsel, Ms. Blackwood assembled a team of outstanding attorneys and saved the city millions in litigation fees and judgments. She is a life-long Mount Vernon resident. I am confident she will preside on the bench with integrity, fairness and compassion," said Mayor Young.



Ms. Blackwood has served with distinction as the Mount Vernon Corporation Counsel since October 2002. She received her undergraduate degree from Colgate University. She received her Juris Doctor from New York Law School and an advanced degree from New York University School of Law. In 2008, she was one of only three lawyers to be selected in the listing of "New York Super Lawyers" in the area of government practice. Ms. Blackwood currently services as first vice president of the board of directors of the Westchester County Medical Center Board; helped to establish the Mount Vernon Public Library Foundation; and is first vice president of the Westchester Black Bar Association.

Mayor Young also announced that Loretta Hottinger will serve as the city's new Corporation Counsel.

(continued on page 3 – see Judicial Appointment)

Judicial Appointment

(continued from page 2)

Hottinger, who currently serves on the City Council, will oversee the City's Law Department. The Law Department provides legal advice to the Mayor, the City Council and all City officers and Departments. The Law Department also represents all City agencies, such as the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

"Loretta Hottinger has been a champion for the people and will continue to do so in her new position. Her resume, her experience and her passion are perfectly suited to best serve the people of the City of Mount Vernon," said Mayor Young.

Ms. Hottinger graduated from New York Law School and was admitted to practice in New York State in 1981 and to the Federal courts shortly thereafter. Her legal career has focused primarily on civil litigation including practice in the State and Federal court from Riverhead, Long Island to Orange County. The majority of her trials and appellate work has been in the 5 boroughs of New York City.

Join Mount Vernon's Bravest

Applications for Firefighter's exam now available



Date of written examination: Sat., June 27, 2009- 8:00am
Application deadline: Friday, May 29th, 2009 - 4:00pm

This examination is being given for the purpose of establishing an eligible list to fill vacancies as they occur in the City of Mount Vernon.

You may obtain applications at the Civil Service Commission, Room 14, City Hall, Roosevelt Sq. North, Mount Vernon from Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm. Applications are also available at Mount Vernon Firehouses located at 470 E. Lincoln Ave, 431 S. Fulton Ave, 50 W. 3rd St, and 9-11 Oak St. or online at www.CMVNY.com.

The City of Mount Vernon will not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed or national origin. We encourage women, African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and other minorities to apply.

For more information, contact the Civil Service Commission at 665-2357.

Automated Gunshot Detection Technology Coming to Mount Vernon



Thanks to the help of Westchester County Executive Andy Spano and Legislator Lyndon Williams, Mount Vernon will soon benefit from an automated gunshot detection system that uses sound sensing equipment, GPS technology and a camera system to instantly identify gunshots and alert police dispatchers.

Funded by Westchester County, this system could be in place by the summer and will provide law enforcement with a number of advantages. This technology filters out firecrackers and car backfires and will instantly identify gunshots and pinpoint where they were fired within 25 feet. When a shot is fired, cameras in the area are activated, capturing images of any vehicles and people in that area at the time of the shooting. Police will know when and where a gun was fired, how many weapons were fired as well as ballistics information. This faster response means that officers now know exactly where to respond and what the situation is like when responding. They know where to look for evidence and witnesses and shooting victims can be quickly located and rushed to medical treatment.

Said Mayor Young, "On behalf of Mount Vernon, I sincerely thank County Executive Spano for recognizing the tremendous need for this technology in our city. This system will allow our police department to zero in on gunfire almost immediately, as well as lessen the threat to others in the neighborhood. The criminals should be on notice that we are using every resource possible to lock them up and remove illegal guns from our streets. This will go a long way in reducing crime and promoting safer communities in the City of Mount Vernon."

The system has successfully been implemented in cities across the U.S. including Boston, Minneapolis and Richmond, VA.