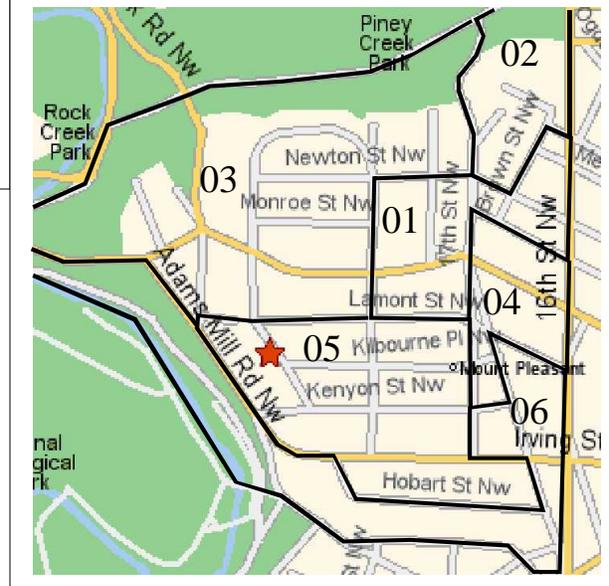


ANC 1D03 NEWSLETTER

Jack McKay, November 21, 2002

I promised regular newsletters, so that everyone in my district would know what was going on in their ANC, even if they never attend an ANC meeting. I'm going to try to hand-deliver this to everyone in my district. That's not so easily done, because of the numerous basement and third-floor rentals, as well as the inaccessible apartment houses. I'm sure I'll miss some folks. Please don't be offended if I miss your abode.

So here goes, with newsletter number one.



Residential Permit Parking

I bring this up because there is a move to obtain Residential Permit Parking (RPP) zoning for the 1600 and 1700 blocks of Park Road. RPP exists to prevent commuters from using our neighborhood streets as free all-day parking lots. If your block is more than 70% occupied during the day, and has many parked cars not belonging to residents, then you can get your block zoned for RPP, meaning that only cars with permits can park for more than two hours during the day.

That seems fair, but the District's implementation of RPP has two great flaws. First, it is block by block, so one block may be zoned, the next not. That is the case on Lamont Street: the 1700 block is zoned, the 1800 block is not. Well, all those commuters just drive the additional block, and their cars now clutter up the 1800 block. The problem isn't solved; it is merely shoved onto the next block. Second, people with cars registered outside DC cannot, with some exceptions, get RPP permits, and a great many Mount Pleasant residents (two-thirds of us are renters) do keep their cars registered elsewhere. Right or wrong as that may be, if they can't get parking permits, and they want to leave their cars parked on the street all day, then they too move their cars to the unzoned blocks.

So if the 1700 block of Park Road is zoned, then the 1800 block will be afflicted with a lot more parked cars. We will have to see how bad the daytime parking problem gets there, and determine if it is appropriate to request zoning for that block as well. I don't much like doing that, because the parking problem is just moved yet again, to blocks just a bit farther away. But if daytime occupancy in other blocks approaches 70%, then we'll have to look into extending RPP zoning still further.

ANC Election Results

- 1D01: Barbara Bitondo
- 1D02: Will Grant
- 1D03: Jack McKay
- 1D04: vacant
- 1D05: Peter Muller
- 1D06: Dominic Sale

ANC Policy on Substance Abuse

Some years ago the Mount Pleasant ANC developed a Policy on Substance Abuse, to address neighborhood problems with alcohol and drug abuse. The principal power of the ANC in this area is its advisory role in alcoholic beverage licensing. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board pays serious attention to ANC recommendations when a business's ABC license comes up for renewal, so this "advisory" power is substantial.

This is a fairly touchy subject, tending to pit the Mount Pleasant Street business owners, some of whom depend upon income from selling alcoholic beverages, against nearby residents, who object to the unpleasantness caused by men with alcohol problems. The current Policy is will expire if not renewed at the December ANC meeting, so a review of the Policy will be on the agenda. If this is a hot topic for you, be sure to attend. Call or e-mail me for a copy of the current Policy.

December ANC meeting

The next ANC meeting (with the "lame duck" commissioners) will take place Monday evening, December 2, 8:00 pm, at La Casa, 3166 Mount Pleasant Street. All ANC meetings are open to the public.

Nonetheless, daytime parking isn't the issue: even with 65% occupancy, one can always find parking on the zoned blocks during the day. Our problem is parking at night, not during the day. More troublesome, therefore, is the effect of RPP on nighttime parking. While the restrictions apply only during the day, and the commuter cars presumably go away at night, there remain the resident's cars with non-DC plates. A number of residents leave their cars on the street all day and night, and take the bus or Metro to work. It's pretty common on my (unzoned) block to have an out-of-state car camp out in front of my house all week long, not budging until the weekend. Forcing all those cars onto unzoned blocks exacerbates the nighttime parking problem there. That's not fair to the residents of unzoned blocks.

Even worse would be the extension of RPP from daytime hours into the night. Then, not only will you have those out-of-state cars clogging your block, but you will be prohibited from seeking parking on zoned blocks. I'll fight any attempt to do this.

DC's S. 529 College Savings Program

This has nothing to do with your ANC, but it's good news from the DC Government, which has finally completed its Section 529 College Savings Program. "Section 529" is the Federal code providing for state-operated savings plans. These plans are popular because (1) there's no limit to the amount you can put into the plan, (2) earnings on these deposits accumulate without taxes, (3) withdrawals from the plans, if used for college expenses, are Federal tax free. The DC plan also permits contributions to be deducted from your DC income, up to \$3000 for a single contributor, \$6000 for a joint-filing couple. If your child's college plans don't work out, your money isn't lost; it can be withdrawn for other purposes, but you lose the Federal tax exemption on earnings.

For further information, and application forms, call 1-800-987-4859, or visit www.DCCollegeSavings.com.

Autumn Leaves Collection

The DPW will collect leaves from November 4 through January 12, 2003. Here are your three options for collection:

1. Rake loose leaves into piles in your curbside treebox space (not the street). They will be collected with a vacuum trailer;
2. Place bagged leaves in your curbside treebox space and they will be collected by a packer truck; or
3. If you have alley trash collection, you may place bagged leaves where you put your trash. Those leaves will be collected with the trash.

DPW strongly encourages you to take the first option, because their vacuum trucks can collect loose leaves more quickly. Put leaves out by December 1 for collection between December 2 and December 13.

Columbia Heights Development and Traffic

The commercial development around the Columbia Heights Metro station will certainly increase traffic through Mount Pleasant. How will the traffic to this area be handled, and how will that affect us? A Columbia Heights Traffic Study will be undertaken, contracted out to the private sector. At this time the Scope of Work is being prepared, and comments on this SOW are invited from the ANCs, to be offered to DDOT at a meeting at the Reeves Center, November 25, 6:30 pm. The proposed study area includes none of Mount Pleasant, though presumably the evaluations of the 16th Street intersections (Columbia Road, Park Road, Irving Street, Harvard Street) will reveal the increased traffic levels to be expected on our streets.

18th and Newton

This intersection has in the past been troubled by young men using the area for drug dealing. A number of residents have observed that this problem has returned. We're speaking to the MPD about it.

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