



**Mt. Vernon United Tenants, Inc.**

Mail: P. O. Box 2107, Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 10551  
Office: 2 Gramatan Avenue, Suite 304 ~ Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 10550  
Phone (914) 699-1114 ~ Fax (914) 699-7449  
Email: mvut@erols.com - Website: www.mvut.org

## **MID-OCTOBER 2015 "NEWS & UPDATE"**

### **Annual Meetings**

September/October is a time many organizations hold their "Annual Meetings". We've been involved with three (3) separate ones in the past few weeks:

#### **1) *Hunger Action Network of New York State (HANNYS)* – Sept. 28**

Dennis is a long-time Board Member of this statewide anti-hunger, anti-poverty organization. A major theme of this year's Annual Meeting was the movement to recognize food as a **Human Right**. We're enclosing a two-sided flyer about an upcoming "Empty Bowls" fundraiser to be held in the Hudson Valley this Saturday October 16 which is *World Food Day*. While it is distinctly possible that you'll receive the mailing too late to attend, we thought it was important to include it as HANNYS will be doing other "Empty Bowls" events throughout the year.

#### **2) *Mt. Vernon United Tenants (MVUT)* – October 6**

At *MVUT's* Annual Meeting we reviewed the past year's accomplishments:

- Over 150 eviction preventions and over 25 families/individuals rehoused.
- Building organizing campaigns/efforts in over twenty (20+) buildings.
- Key public policy victories:
  - o Renewal of State Rent Laws
  - o Passage of low County Rent Guidelines
  - o Increasing eligibility criteria for Mt. Vernon's SCRIE program

And began to outline plans for the coming year. Three (3) tenants were elected to our Board of Directors – both Elizabeth Hayes of 8 North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Dorianne Roe of 663-73 Locust Street were re-elected and Vivian Spady of New Rochelle was elected. Our *By-Laws* allow one (1) of the nine (9) members to be a tenant who resides in a municipality outside of Mt. Vernon. We had a special guest at our *Annual Meeting* – State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson and her aide, Donna Drayton.

(See Over)

### **3) *Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State (NPC/NYS) – October 8 and 9***

Dennis is also a long-time Board Member on this statewide coalition and he was re-elected at this most recent meeting. The *Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP)* is our largest funding source and all of the over one hundred and fifty (150+) groups that receive funding under the *NPP* all got significant increases this year and next year pursuant to a large bank settlement due to housing discrimination. Jamie Rubin, the new State Housing Commissioner was the guest speaker at the Conference and he was clear that with additional funding, the State would expect additional results. *MVUT* has always performed beyond expectations and we're confident that we'll continue to do so. We'll be looking to our members and friends to help us to continue to do so.

#### **Upcoming Public Events**

*MVUT* will be participating in three (3) separate Public Events to which we'd also invite you our members and friends:

##### **Wednesday October 14**

The *Larchmont/Mamaroneck League of Women Voters* is sponsoring an educational event with the Mamaroneck School System "How To Restore Trust and Confidence in Albany" that will feature New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. (It will probably be too late by the time this mailing is received).

##### **Tuesday October 20**

*Westchester For Change* is sponsoring "Educational Inequality: A New York State Regent's View" with State Regent, (and former Mt. Vernon Superintendent) Judith Johnson. *MVUT* is a co-sponsor of this event (see copy of flyer enclosed).

##### **Saturday October 24**

"The Past, Present and Future of Community Planning for Fair and Affordable in Westchester". Is Westchester Winning The Fair Housing Battle While Losing Federal Funding? *CSEA* Headquarters -- 595 West Hartsdale Avenue, Hartsdale (see copy of flyer on reverse side of *Westchester For Change* flyer).

**Many of you have contributed to our last fundraising appeal in the prior mailing. THANK YOU !! If you haven't as yet, please donate today. Thanks again !**