

## MT. VERNON CLEANUP PLANNED - Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - July 23, 1986 - page 2

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Mt. Vernon Ave. area businessman Waldo Tyler is planning a block party, of sorts, to clean up some vacant lots in his neighborhood.

Tyler, who owns a pharmacy and a dry cleaning business in the Mt. Vernon Plaza, is tired of looking at the mess across the street from the plaza. A vacant lot at the northeast corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and N. 20th St. is weed- covered and strewn with bottles and litter.

Tyler contacted city officials twice about the lot, which is for sale, but the city says its hands are tied because it does not own the land. City officials say they're looking into ways to improve the property, but Tyler doesn't want to wait around and watch the weeds grow taller.

Beginning at 4 p.m. Aug. 9, Tyler wants help from community residents to cut down weeds, pick up trash and generally clean up the lot. Tyler said Melvin Jacobs and James Bridges, who both own landscape firms, have promised to grade the soil and plant grass seed after the lot is cleared.

Tyler said he's looking for people willing to donate plastic bags and elbow grease. So far, the only help that has been offered has been from Jacobs and Bridges, and from several people who frequently socialize in the lot.

Tyler, however, isn't discouraged. "We're hoping it will have a ripple effect," he said. He said he might get some help from visitors to the 6th annual **Columbus Black Expo**, scheduled for the same day as Tyler's block party.

In addition to the 20th St. corner, Tyler has turned his energies to the southwest corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and N. 21st St. Tyler hopes he can convince neighborhood residents to clean up that corner as well.

NeighborNews photo by Gordon Kuster

### CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

'MT. VERNON CLEANUP PLANNED', *Columbus Dispatch, The* (online), 23 Jul 1986 2  
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