



Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

January 2006

Volume 21, Number 1

Our guest speaker at the January 17th general membership meeting, will be Mr. Henry Hagen, President of Monumental Life Insurance, and Chair of the Charles Street Development Corporation. Mr. Hagen will provide the latest update and lead a discussion on the feasibility of implementing a trolley system through Mt. Vernon. See article below:

For the past two years, Charles Street Development Corporation has been studying the feasibility of implementing a trolley system along a 7+ mile loop from the Inner Harbor to Johns Hopkins University. This trolley will be an economic development tool which will bring tourists up from the Inner Harbor to Mt. Vernon, the BMA and Hopkins and give students from MICA, University of Baltimore and Hopkins a way to travel downtown easily. Particularly in the neighborhoods north of Penn Station to Hopkins such a circulator could become a major development incentive for new residential, office and retail projects. CSDC has received two grants from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development for Phase I and Phase II feasibility studies, conducted stakeholders meetings and has met or is meeting with all relevant politicians and local community groups to see if there is grass-roots support for this effort. So far the response has been overwhelmingly positive and CSDC is committed to carrying forward this project as long as there is enthusiastic support in the community. In December, 2005, the Board of CSDC authorized a Phase III feasibility study, if funding is available, consisting of preliminary engineering and financial feasibility, including the devel-

NEW APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE ON READ STREET APPROVED—

At the January 5th hearing of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners, approval was given for a transfer of a class "D" license, formally held by the Dukem Restaurant, to 225 West Read Street. The applicant, Joseph Lamont, who has considerable experience in both ownership and operation of "tavern" style establishments, plans to offer quiet jazz, Broadway, and acoustical music. The maximum occupancy is expected to be around 60 persons. Since Mr. Lamont will be living above the establishment, he notes that he wants noise levels to be contained as much as anyone else would in the area. No restaurant is planned or required. There will also be no dancing.

As the application also included a request for live entertainment, to protect the community from the consequences of a future possible change of ownership, Mr. Lamont agreed that the permission for live entertainment would cease to exist upon sale and subsequent transfer of ownership of the business. The new owner would then have to re-apply for live entertainment.

2005 Historic Mount Vernon Award Winners Announced

The Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association was very pleased to be honoring the following groups and individuals for their outstanding contributions to the Mount

Vernon community this year. The awards were given at MVBA's annual Holiday Party on Dec 13 at 1112 St. Paul Street.

Mount Vernon residents Louis and Maureen Van Dyck for their many years of leadership in the revitalization of Mount Vernon including the restoration of three major properties and their support of many community organization and initiatives including the Mount Vernon Children's Park, Center Stage and Friends of Mount Vernon Place.

MacGillivray's LLC for the spectacular transformation of 900 North Charles Street from a dilapidated building into an award-winning commercial and residential property on one of the most important corners of Baltimore City. This group of residents invested personally in the health and growth of the community when they chose to save this property from possible demolition and to instead create a vibrant addition to the neighborhood and the city.

Spirits of Mount Vernon and its owners for finally giving Mount Vernon the first class wine shop it truly deserves in a dazzling shop that has changed the face of Charles Street and put Mount Vernon on the map as an upscale retail destination. The shop is already a major contributor as well to numerous community organizations and projects including the Holly Tour, the Children's Park and Center Stage.

Agora Publishing, Inc. for their painstaking and beautiful restoration of the Winans Mansion at 1127 Saint Paul Street. This massive certified historic restoration has saved one of the finest designs by the world famous architect Stanford White and it is right



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THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM PRESENTS, *THE ART OF LAW: LEGAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM, beginning January 14th.*

in the heart of Mount Vernon. This building, long vacant, will now be used as an office for Agora.

Jennifer Gray of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods for her dedicated responsiveness to the concerns and needs of the community this year. Ms. Gray is an outstanding city employee who has worked diligently to improve the community and address many critical issues for Mount Vernon this year.

Flower Mart approved for two day event. Tony White, city Director of Communications, recently attended a general meeting and updated those present on the application process for Flower Mart and other events. During the meeting, it was suggested that MVBA should put a list of concerns together so that they could be sent to the Flower Mart Executive Committee. President Jason Curtis asked that concerns be e-mailed to him (president@mvba.org) and that he would work with Jane McConnell, President of Friends of Mt. Vernon Place, where they

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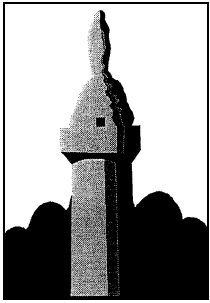
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ENDOWMENT FUND

Thanks to those listed below who have generously contributed to MVBA's Endowment Fund known as the John Eager Howard Society. The fund is intended to provide financial resources for the Association in the future through the use of the interest earned on the fund. The principal of the fund cannot be accessed by the Association. If you would like to join, contact any Board member of the Association. Membership includes lifetime membership in MVBA.

Endowment Fund Contributors

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In memory of: Ruth Wolf Rehfeld
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Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

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Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

**The Mt. Vernon Belvedere Association
would like to wish everyone a
successful and happy new year.**

**The general membership meeting will
take place on January 17, 2006, at the
Belvedere Hotel beginning at 7:30 pm.**

