



Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

NOVEMBER 2006

Volume 21, Number 11

City Paper's 2006 Best of Baltimore Awards Rain on Mount Vernon!

Congratulations to these very deserving Mount Vernon winners of Best of Baltimore Awards:

Never on Sunday, 829 N. Charles
Gina, everyone's favorite waitress at Howard's Delly, 900 Cathedral
The Beatnik Barbershop, 241 W. Read
Read Street Tattoo, 882 Park
City Café, 1001 Cathedral
Spirits of Mount Vernon, 900 N. Charles
Mount Vernon Cleaners, 200 W. Read
Chained Desires, 136 W. Read
A.T. Jones Costumes, 708 N. Howard
Dr. Emily Richie, Chase Brexton Health Services, 1001 Cathedral
Charm City Yoga, 107 E. Preston
Renewing Touch, 519 N. Charles
Pretentious Pooch, 1017 Cathedral
The Prime Rib, 1100 N. Calvert
The Brewer's Art (Four Awards!), 1106 N. Charles
Edward Kim, New Chef at Saffron, 802 N. Charles
Sylvan Beach Café, 7 W. Preston
Café Mocha, 857 N. Howard
Eddies Market, 7 W. Eager
Iggie's Pizza, 818 N. Calvert
The Helmand, 806 N. Charles
Eden's Lounge, 15 W. Eager
Red Emma's Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 800 Saint Paul

Dukem, 1100 Maryland Avenue
Grand Central (Two Awards), 1001 N. Charles
Tusk Lounge at the Brass Elephant, 924 N. Charles
Dionysus, 8 E. Preston
First Sundays at The Hippo, 1 E. Eager
An Die Musik, 409 N. Charles
Center Stage, 700 N. Calvert
Contemporary Museum, 100 W. Centre

MVBA ANNUAL ELECTION

This year, all of MVBA's officers and two board member seats terms expire. Several board officers have indicated that they will seek re-election to their existing positions. MVBA appointed a nominating committee in July to seek out interested and qualified individuals to create a slate of candidates who would be nominated for vacant positions.

At the October general meeting, call for nominations from the floor did not result in any additional candidates, therefore, the slate of candidates listed below will be voted on at the November general meeting.

President—	Jack Dana
Vice President—	Paul Warren
Treasure—	Brian Coleman
Secretary—	Phillipa Strydom
Corresponding Secretary—	Lisa Heckman
Board Members—	Sandy Lawler Steve Johnson

The next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21, at the Belvedere Hotel, beginning promptly at 7:30pm.

Available bios for new candidates follow:

Brian Coleman is from Pittsburgh and started his career as a financial auditor with Arthur Andersen. After receiving his CPA, he relocated to Washington, DC and worked in finance for US Airways and E*trade before moving to New York to pursue an MBA at Columbia University in real estate finance and entrepreneurship. Brian recently relocated to Baltimore in order to start a small real estate development company. He was looking for a place to settle down, and was charmed by Baltimore and its neighborhoods' potential. Brian loves the energy of Mount Vernon; the festivals, outdoor concerts and cultural events make this a great place to call home. Brian is also involved with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the Baltimore Heritage Foundation.

Sandy Lawler moved here from Chicago, in 2002 after she and her business partner purchased 4 East Madison Street to historically rehab it into 4 East Madison Inn.

In Chicago, Sandy owned a special events company and an art gallery. She served on many boards and was president of the Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce, where issues between business and residents were her specialty.

Presently, she and her family (husband, daughter, niece and her family, assorted mutts...) live at 1307 N. Calvert.... it's on the Holly Tour this year.

Jack Dana, Paul Warren, Phillipa Strydom, and Steve Johnson are currently members of the board.

Lisa Heckman owns the very successful Iggies, which serves Neapolitan style pizza, pasta, salads, and soups. Located on Calvert Street, Iggies replaced the former Cambalou.

Our thanks to Petula Nash for chairing the Nominating Committee.



(410)-727-7777 FAX (410)-727-7797
www.biddlest.com
License #44432
215 East Chase Street

Mark your Calendar!



The MVBA Annual Party

Please join us to ring in the holiday season and celebrate the community's achievements in 2006!

Date: December 12th, 2006

Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Place: Red Maple ☞ 930 North Charles Street

Invitations will be mailed soon!



Stained glass artisan Charles Blackburn of Bolton Hill is now accepting commissions. His stained glass works have been seen on the MD House & Gardens Pilgrimage and on the cover of *Victorian Homes Magazine*. Windows, transoms, side lights, pocket doors, free standing panels. Traditional and contemporary. Call (410) 523-8665

Liquor news-

Transfer of ownership for a Class “A” beer, Wine & Liquor license at the Midtown Liquor store located at 17 West Biddle Street took place on November 9. Transfers of ownership are generally automatic and do not require a public hearing.

Architectural Review Committee—

The committee met on November 1 and discussed the following projects:

216-218 West Madison Street; Owner, Briane Coleman; Architect, Peter Fillat. This project involves converting the two properties from 14 apartments to 13 apartments to operate as a condominium.

1121-1123 Calvert Street; Owner, Matthew Herman; Architect, Peter Fillat. The project was recently presented as a plan to combine the two properties to form a condominium. The design included a proposal for a three story addition on top of the rear half of the 1123 address.

4 West read Street and 904 North Charles St; presenter; Justin Seto of the CL Design Studio. This is another project previously presented to ARC. The goal of this session was to discuss the treatment of new storefront windows for the former Gampy’s building; exterior work for 4 West Read, and new construction of a 4 story addition on the rear of the former Gampy’s building.

16 –18 East Preston Street; Owner, Tony Williamson; Presenter, Jim Novotny. A restoration project is in store for these two properties. The interior will be converted into 6-8 apartments with a possible basement or office space. As this was a first presentation, conceptual approval for the restoration was granted, but the ARC noted that design drawings will be required, especially for an addition to the rear of 16 East Preston Street.

At the October General Meeting—

Located just outside Mt. Vernon’s west boundaries, the State Center project will be the biggest development project in the area. MVBA will have at least one representative that sit on an advisory panel for the project. If anyone else is interested, please contact Paul Warren.

Deputy Major Joseph Conway of the Baltimore City Police Department addressed the group. Based on the same time as last year; assaults are down 50%, burglaries are down 57%, larceny is down 7%, and arson is up 1%. Street robberies have increased somewhat and a stronger police presence, both uniformed and plain clothes, have been added to our area as a result. There was discussion on the new “pod” camera across the street from the Grand Central. Lyle Nash is the MVBA representative and stays in contact with the police. He notes that the police are committed to doing what they can to eliminate crime in our area.

Peter Merles, Executive Director of the Midtown Community Benefits District was present and offered the following:



Edibles, toys and apparel for well-loved pets.

PRETENTIOUS Pooch

baltimore

443-524-7777
1017 Cathedral Street
Open: Tues.-Sat. 10-9

www.pretentiouspooch.com

FREE pet toy when you mention this ad. No purchase necessary.

The Midtown newsletter has been revived and has been mailed to all property owners. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail, call the Midtown office at 410-528-1512.

Peter briefly discussed the new strategic planning process that has included the hiring of Ann Cotton and the Shaeffer Center that will help facilitate the process.

There will be many trees planted in empty tree wells after all the weeds have been removed.

Midtown has revived the Safety Council which is a forum for sharing information among all of the institutions that provide security services and relay such information to the community.

Bits & Pieces from the general meeting:

The Medical Arts building renovation will begin during the first quarter of 2007.

10 W. Chase Street is multi-listed for sale.

The Brexton building is again for sale. There is no further work to take place by the current owner/developer.

MVBA has been working with a designer to develop a new and improved web site, which should be up and running soon.

There is a new dog park at the corner of Maryland Avenue and the 83 ramp.

Good News: E-Cycling Made Easier

Baltimore City has established free E-Cycling at all city drop-off sites. Special bins for electronic recycling are set aside at the Quarantine Road

Sanitary Landfill, 6100 Quarantine Road, Northwest Transfer Station, 5030 Reisterstown Road, Western Sanitation Yard, 701 Reedbird Avenue, the Eastern Sanitation Yard, 6101 Bowleys Lane, and the Northwest Sanitation Yard at 2840 Sisson Street. These drop-off locations are open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Capitol Recycling Services, Inc., located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, will recycle electronics including televisions, computer monitors, desktops, laptops, printers, scanners, dvd and vcr recorders, fax machines, PDAs, tape recorders, keyboards, mice, external disk drives, computer speakers, modems, remotes and cables. For additional information, please call 410-396-8450.

Midtown Development Corporation scores again-

Midtown Development announces that it is the contract purchaser of five Fidelity Real Estate properties on and around Cathedral Street in Mt. Vernon. The contract price is reportedly \$3.8 million. There are 44 units in approximately 40,000 square feet of space. The condition of the properties is unknown.

Presently, an initial study period takes place that will enable architects, engineers, and a home inspector to measure, draw, and analyze the buildings. Charlie Duff, President of MDC, notes and appreciates the commitments of pro bono architectural services from SMG Architects, Ziger Snead Architects, Manifold Design, Trostel and Pearre Architects, and David H. Gleason Associates.

When asked what are the plans for the properties, Charlie enthusiastically notes "to make these great houses into great assets for the neighborhood. How? We're perfectly flexible. We can develop them as a community LLC, as at MacGillivrays, or sell them to good owners, as we have often done along Calvert Street, or some combination of the two, or something else."

Charlie notes "that our objective, as always, is to find good owners who will restore the buildings and help to build the community. "

Interested? Call Charlie Duff at the Midtown Development Corporation, 410-327-7373

2006
HOLLY TOUR

Candlelight Tour

Saturday Evening, December 2, 2006 6:30pm - 9:30pm

Experience an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music at Mount Vernon's premier Beaux Arts address - 700 Washington Place. Tour four residences not on the Sunday tour.

TICKETS in advance *only*:

\$100
per person

Self-Guided Daylight Tour

Sunday, December 3, 2006 11am - 5pm

The 2006 Holly Tour takes you inside 10 of the most intriguing buildings in Mount Vernon. From graceful mansions to lovingly restored row houses, they offer a window on the past and a festive start to the season.

The Self-Guided Tour begins at Chase Court, 1112 St. Paul Street (entrance on Chase Street). Registration begins at 10am.

TOUR TICKETS in advance:

\$20
per person

TOUR TICKETS at the door:

\$25
per person

BRUNCH TICKETS - The Brass Elephant

\$35
per person

Order tickets:

Online @ www.hollytour.com*

By mail. Send your check and SASE The Friends of Mount Vernon Place
 before November 22, 2006 to: 1221 North Calvert Street

Name: _____ Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Number of tour tickets: _____ Number of brunch tickets: _____

Please circle requested brunch seating: 11:00AM 12:00 NOON 1:00PM

Tickets are also available at the offices of Coldwell Banker,
 905 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230.
 (see www.hollytour.com for additional ticket sale locations).

All proceeds benefit The Friends of Mount Vernon Place, a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of the Mount Vernon Place Parks.

* Each online ticket purchase includes a \$4 processing fee per ticket.

Interested in advertising in the Mt. Vernon Clarion? Rates:

- 1/8 page \$15 (2.5" x 2.5")
- 1/4 page \$45 (3.5" x 4.5")
- 1/2 page \$55 (7.25" x 4")
- Business card \$30

All we need is an image file in .jpg, .tif, .bmp, or a clean copy that can be scanned.

Call MVBA at 410-582-1919 or e-mail sjohnson009@sprintmail.com

Like to receive this newsletter by e-mail? Send a request to: sjohnson009@sprintmail.com.

The Mount Vernon Belvedere Association Wants You! Join the association using the form below. Want to Check out the MVBA? We invite you to join the next General Meeting on November 21, at 7:30 PM at the Belvedere Hotel located at 1 East Chase Street. Call Us at 410-528-1919 for more information.

Mail to: MVBA Membership
700 North Charles St #5C
Baltimore MD 21201

The following information is needed to process your membership. It will not be used for other purposes.

Type of Membership (circle one)

Please make checks payable to MVBA for any MVBA memberships.

Type	Amount
Individual	\$20.00
Family/Dual	\$30.00
Student	\$15.00
Senior Citizen	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$30.00
Business	\$50.00
Institution	\$150.00
Benefactor	\$350.00
Benefactor	\$350.00

John Eager Howard Society

Lifetime Membership

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to the Baltimore Community Foundation for any John Eager Society membership.

Individual	\$350.00
Family/Dual	\$500.00
Business	\$500.00

Name: _____

Company / Institution: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Home: _____

Phone Work: _____

Would you like to serve on a committee or be a volunteer? Yes / No

Would you like to have your name listed as a new member? Yes / No



Monday is Merlot Day

Take 10% off your favorite Merlot
Offer Valid for A Limited Period

Wednesday is Pinot Day

Take 10% off your favorite bottle of Pinot,
Pinot Noir or Pinot Gris
Offer Valid for A Limited Period

Located in Mt. Vernon's historic district,
Spirits of Mt. Vernon offers a terrific variety
of wines from around the world as well
as liquor and specialty beers.

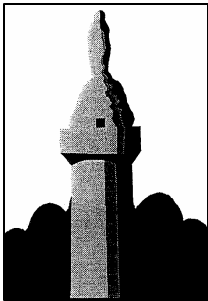
900 North Charles St. 410.727.7270
www.spiritsofmountvernon.com

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

Agora Publishing, Beth Ketzner
Allied Contractors, J.J. Pecora
Annie E. Casey Foundation, Inc., Scot Spencer
THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation
of Baltimore, Amy Silberman
Baltimore Community Foundation, Thomas Wilcox
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Keyser Development, Stan Keyser
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Mt. Vernon Supermarket, Steven Seo
Peabody Court Hotel, Jason Curtis
Maryland Club, Katherine Mandaro
Maryland General Hospital, Teresa Stephens
Monumental Life Insurance, Henry Hagen
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George & Analise Liebmann
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Scott & Ilana Mittman
Onahlea Shimunek
Charles L. Smith
Gordon Stick
H Mebane Turner
Lou & Maureen VanDyck
Julius Zulver
In memory of: Ruth Wolf Rehfeld
Dr. Stanley Mazer
Allen Golden



Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

1221 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Md 21202

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To contact members by phone, call MVBA's main number 410-528-1919 and select the desired extension from the menu.

Officers

President.....Jason Curtis.....president@mvba.org
Vice PresidentPaul Warrenvicepresident@mvba.org
TreasurerSteve Johnsontreasurer@mvba.org
Secretary.....Philippa Strydom.....secretary@mvba.org
Corr. SecretaryBrandt A Petrasek....CorrSecretary@mvba..org

Committees

Architectural ReviewCraig Kufner(arc@mvba.org)
Sanitation

Property Stewardship.....Lance Humphries
Liquor.....Steve Johnson
Zoning.....Paul Warren
Marketing.....Regina Minniss(rminniss@cbmove.com)
DevelopmentPaul Warren
SafetyLyle Nash.....(safety@mvba.org)
MembershipPetula Nash(membership@mvba.org)

Of Council Laura Giantris(council@mvba.org)

Board Members

Jane McConnell
.....
Jack Danna
Stan Keyser
Fitzgerald Hoskins
Petula Nash
Bill Oelke

Ex-officio Members

Steve Johnson
J.J. Pecora
Mary Ann Henderson

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

MONUMENTAL OCCASION!
The annual lighting of the Washington Monument takes place on Thursday, December 7. Festivities begin at 5:30pm with the lighting of the Monument shortly before 7pm.

