



Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

MARCH 2007

Volume 22, Number 3

Let's show our support for the Baltimore School for the Arts!

As you are aware, the Baltimore School for the Arts, which is a Baltimore City Public High School, has been doing a terrific rehab and restoration job to improve the school's facilities. To raise funds for this major effort, they are selling floor tiles. As we have counted on the generosity and support of many institutions in our neighborhood, we feel it is important for us to show our support as well. As the MVBA cannot use its fund to purchase a tile, which costs \$250, several MVBA members have decided to raise funds to do so. Several of us will make a contribution but we need to raise more money. We hope that you will consider contributing as well. Any amount is welcome!

Checks should be sent to the MVBA - Please note "Baltimore School for the Arts" in the memo line. The MVBA's mailing address is 1221 N. Calvert Street 21202. The deadline is April 1, 2007.

On behalf of the MVBA, thanks so much! Susan Warren and Petula Nash

Support the Spring 2007 Spruce-up of Mt. Vernon Treewells – Volunteers Needed

Members of the Mt. Vernon community, MVBA, along with Midtown Development Corporation, Midtown Benefits District, and University of Baltimore are teaming up Friday April 27th and Saturday April 28th to help cleanup and spruce-up treewells throughout Mt. Vernon. Student volunteers from the University of Baltimore and members of the Mt. Vernon Community are being sought to clean, dig, and plant flowers, lariope grass, and mulch many of the neglected sidewalk treewells in Mt. Vernon. The spruce-up of the treewells can make a dramatic and positive difference to the streetscape throughout the neighborhood with just a little effort. All's we need is

YOU. The event will take place both days from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. You need to bring nothing but your willingness to have fun and desire to meet other members of our community while beautifying our historic and vibrant neighborhood. Everything else such as the tools (shovels, gloves, rakes, etc), plants, beverages and lunch will be provided. Please contact Brandt A. Petrsek (MVBA Board Member) by email or phone to sign-up or ask questions. He can be reached through petrsekaj@yahoo.com or by phone at 410-468-0776.

Membership – Moving forward!

Since heading the Membership Committee a year ago, I, along with Committee members Jack Danna, Steve Johnson, Bill Oelke and Brandt Petrsek, have been working on increasing our membership base. One of the Committee's first tasks was to develop a membership flyer to hand out to interested individuals. The flyer highlighted the MVBA's accomplishment, answered FAQs potential members have and included an application form. Our heartfelt thanks to Jay Villanueva of Jay Villanueva Design for his pro-bono work on designing the flyer.

As part of our overall efforts, in 2006, the Committee was present at the Flower Mart (sharing the Children's Park tent) and the HGTV block party to share information about the MVBA. These were wonderful opportunities to meet and chat with potential members as well as new and prospective residents. We hope to be present at many more of our neighborhood events!

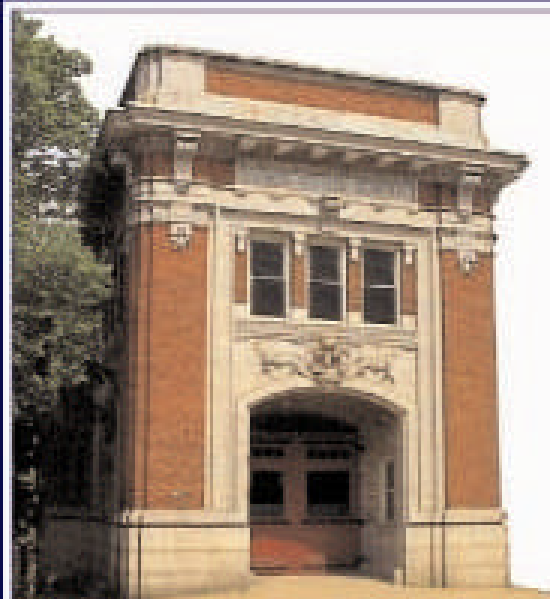
In 2007, we hope to build on these efforts and more broadly reach out to the Mount Vernon community. We plan to develop a package to hand out to new residents and welcome them to our beautiful neighborhood. In addition, we hope that our newly redesigned website will encourage and facilitate membership regis-

The next General Membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 20, at the Belvedere Hotel, starting promptly at 7:30pm. Our guest will be Mr. Charlie Duff of the Midtown Development Corporation. Mr. Duff will discuss Mid-town Development's Neighborhood Business Work's facade grant program for commercial businesses or property owners.

tration and renewals.

We hope that you will consider sharing the word about the MVBA and encouraging your neighbors and friends who reside in Mount Vernon to join the MVBA. With your sustained support, we can continue to improve our neighborhood!

For more information on membership, please go to <http://www.mvba.org/aboutmvba/membershipinfo.html>
—Petula Nash



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Midtown Community Benefits District News —

By now, many of you may have received Midtown's newsletter announcing the Spring Town Hall meeting on March 21st at St. Marks Lutheran Church, 1900 St. Paul Street, beginning at 7pm. We hope that you will attend.

The primary purpose of this meeting is the presentation of the FY 2008 budget and there will be an opportunity for the community to comment. This year, the proposed budget is for \$865,267 with no change in the current property surtax rate.

Given the increased revenue from rising property values, along with the combined efforts of several Midtown board members, Midtown is looking for ways to use the increased revenue more effectively. It believes it has found the answer by utilizing smaller and more manageable gasoline powered vacuum cleaners that can vacuum sidewalks quickly. It is hoped that rather than most sidewalks being cleaned only once a week, they may be done as many as three times per week. Trial runs have shown a marked increase in the amount of sidewalks that can be cleaned in a day. The budget will also permit Midtown to increase its clean team by one additional person.

There is also \$50,000 in revenue to be made available for a new pilot safety initiative that may employ off-duty Baltimore City police to patrol higher crime areas in the district.

Please attend and provide some input on the above!

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, Laurel Sereboff
 Baltimore Community Foundation, Thomas Wilcox
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 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.....Jack Danna.....president@mvba.org
Vice PresidentPaul Warrenvicepresident@mvba.org
TreasurerBrian Colemantreasurer@mvba.org
Secretary.....Philippa Strydom.....secretary@mvba.org
Corr. SecretaryLisa HeckmanCorrSecretary@mvba..org

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Liquor.....Steve Johnson
Zoning.....Paul Warren
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DevelopmentPaul Warren
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MembershipPetula Nash(membership@mvba.org)

Of Council Laura Giantris(council@mvba.org)

Board Members

Stan Keyser
Steve Johnson
Fitzgerald Hoskins
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.....

Ex-officio Members

J.J. Pecora
Mary Ann Henderson

Appointed Member:

Bill Oelke

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

The Midtown Community Benefits District Spring Town Hall Meeting will take place on March 21, where the FY 2008 budget will be presented and adopted.

**Location:
St. Marks Lutheran Church
1900 Saint Paul Street
7:00pm**

Paper Recycling schedule:

Every Tuesday & Friday after 7pm

Bottle Recycling schedule:

March 12 & 26
April 9 & 23

