



Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

MAY 2007

Volume 22, Number 5

Parking and Traffic

Think parking is tight now? Did you know that there are current plans on the table that will add over 700 new residential units and numerous retail units to Mount Vernon with NO NET INCREASE in parking spaces! Already, the University of Baltimore has agreed to join us in the call for the city to move forward with earlier plans for two surface lot acquisitions to develop structured parking (900 block of Cathedral, 1000 block of Saint Paul). We anticipate that the Charles Street Development Corporation and the Historic Charles Street Association will join the effort following their next board meetings.

We still have a vacancy for our Parking and Traffic Committee Chair and there is clearly a lot to be done, including surveys of street and off-street parking, and lobbying the city to help resolve the situation. Volunteers contact: president@mvba.org

Cultural Reception

The MVBA Board of Directors hosted a reception for the leadership of our cultural institutions as part of an initiative to get those institutions more involved in their community and visa versa. The representatives of the Walters, Center Stage, The Lyric Opera, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Peabody Institute, the Theater Project and the University of Baltimore were present to hear a presentation on the accomplishments and priorities of the community (parking, Mount Vernon Place, planning, marketing), and to begin to form plans to cement Mount Vernon as Baltimore's second destination.

Greening of Mount Vernon

Resident volunteers and a great crew of UB students took on the huge task of cleaning, weeding and planting scores of tree wells in the Calvert Street corridor and the Park Avenue/Madison Street area on April 27 and 18. In all, 80 tree wells were turned from ugly eyesores to community assets. Thank you to Midtown Development Corporation's Jeff La Noue and Linda Harrington, and Mount Vernon's own Brandt Petrusek for organizing the greening project and to Struever Brothers and Healthy Neighborhoods for the grant support to make it possible.

Charles Street Streetscape

We have just learned that the planned \$11M streetscape project for Charles Street has not been reviewed by the CHAP commission nor referred to our Architectural Review Committee for community input. There are conflicting messages from CHAP as to whether CHAP staff has even reviewed it, but it is clear that this project is subject to CHAP review just as the proposed new window grates on the Belvedere Garage or any other exterior project in this Local Historic District. Somehow it didn't happen so we're trying to get lighting, street furniture and other important elements of the project reviewed and back on track. Some specific concerns have been raised already, such as:

- The replacement of the existing (terrible) cobra street lights with the tall "shoebox" lights (as seen below Centre), perpetuates Charles Street as a highway (exit ramp for the Inner Harbor). Instead, there should be increased pedestrian lights as is the

The next General Membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 15, at the Belvedere Hotel, starting promptly at 7:30pm. Planned, but not confirmed as guest speakers, are either Senator Verna Jones, or Delegate Catherine Pugh, to discuss the outcome of this years session of the General Assembly in Annapolis and how it may impact our community.

case with premium historic districts in other cities. This is supported by various lighting studies and is a matter of economic development as much as preservation (don't make being in a car in the middle of the road more inviting than being on the sidewalk).

- Compatibility with the historic district and continuity with Mount Vernon Place should be the objective in selecting all light fixtures, poles, and street furniture (not continuity with the southern part of Charles St). The planned shoebox lights, traffic poles, newspaper corrals, etc. do not meet that standard.
- Newspaper corral placement should conform with the law (CB 05-0226, Appendix D, Section 1 B [g]). The planned placement does not.
- The large traffic control boxes that were inappropriately installed last year (also without CHAP review) should be moved off the poles and placed on the sidewalk.

Help! Newsletter Make Over Staff Needed

MVBA urgently seeks three volunteers to work on revamping our newsletter. This is our prime avenue of communication and something we know could be done much better, with some effort and creativity. Contact Petula Nash before May 20 to sign up for this important project: pnmvba@yahoo.com.

By-Law Change

A change to MVBA's current by-laws regarding certain membership offerings and changes is being proposed. The proposed change was created so that the Membership Committee would have the ability to be able to offer discounted membership programs to new members during special events.

The amendment process is indicated below with the proposed changes following.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments to By-Laws

Section 1. Any proposed changes in these by-laws shall be presented at two (2) consecutive meetings of the Membership sponsored by at least three (3) members in good standing. Prior to each such meeting, the Association's monthly

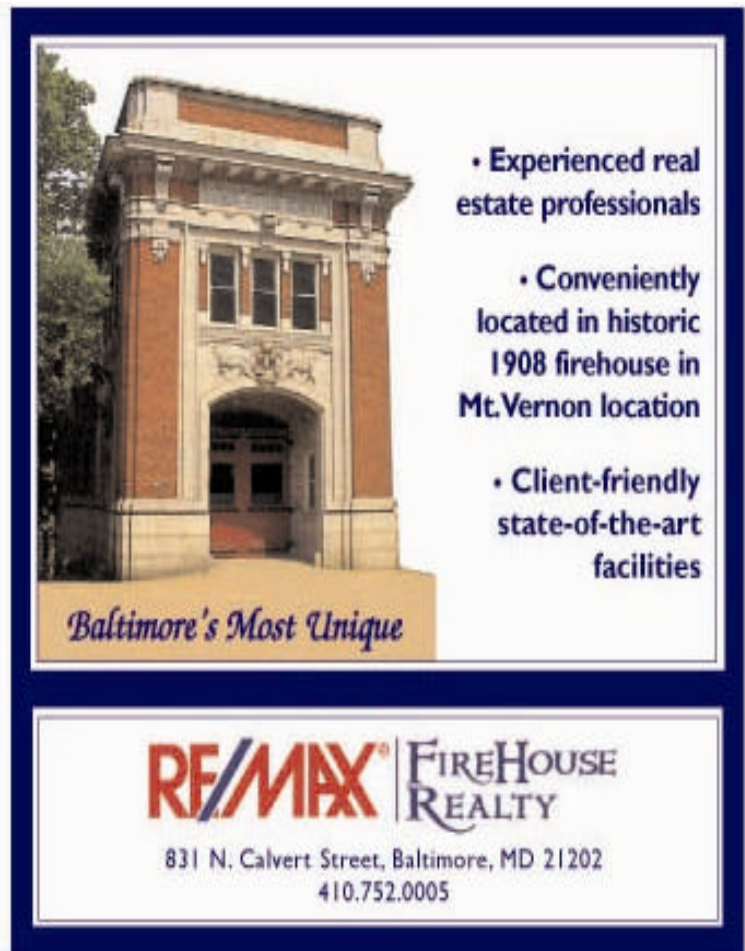
newsletter shall publish the proposed changes, and they may be voted upon as early as the second such meeting. If an amendment to the by-laws shall have been defeated, it cannot be offered again for at least six (6) months thereafter.

At the upcoming general meeting, the by-law change will be presented with discussion by those present. The final wording will appear in the June edition of the newsletter, with a final vote planned at the June general meeting.

Note that there are two versions of the proposed by-law indicated below. At the general meeting in May, the final wording will be determined.

Current by-law regarding Membership:

Section 3. New Member Incentive: Any new annual member who has never previously been a member and who joins the Association after July 1st in a calendar year by making an annual dues payment will be entitled to remain a member in good standing through the end of the following calendar year without paying any addi-



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tional dues.

Version 1

Section 3. New Member Incentive:

Any new annual member who has never previously been a member and who joins the Association after September 30th in a calendar year by making an annual dues payment will be entitled to remain a member in good standing through the end of the following calendar year without paying any additional dues.

Furthermore, in order to encourage new members to join the Association during the various events that take place in the neighborhood, such as Flower Mart, the Book Fair, and/or membership drives, the Membership Committee may determine discounted membership rates for use at such events. Only the following categories may be discounted, which may not exceed 50% of the value of their standard rate: Individual, Family, Senior, Dual Senior, and Students. Such discounted rates are subject to approval by the board of directors prior to the event in question.

Version 2

Section 3. New Member Incentive:

Any new annual member who has never previously been a member and who joins the Association after September 30th in a calendar year by making an annual dues payment will be entitled to remain a member in good standing through the end of the following calendar year without paying any additional dues.

Furthermore, in order to encourage new members to join the Association during the various events that take place in the neighborhood (such as Flower Mart and the Book Fair) and/or membership drives, the Membership Committee is authorized to set and offer a discount. The amount of the discount, which as noted above can only be offered during special events and/or membership drives, cannot exceed 50% of the value of the membership in question. A discount can only be given to the following membership categories:

- Homeowner – This category is also referred to as “Individual” and “Family/Dual”
- Renters – This category is also referred to as “Individual” and “Family/Dual”
- Others - This category is also referred to as “Students”, “Senior Citizen” and “Senior Citizens-Family Dual”.

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
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In memory of: Ruth Wolf Rehfeld
Dr. Stanley Mazer
Allen Golden



Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

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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
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SanitationSandy Lawler
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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
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Fitzgerald Hoskins
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.....

Ex-officio Members

J.J. Pecora
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Appointed Member:

Bill Oelke

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

FLOWER MART RETURNS!

Friday May 4th 2007, and Saturday May 5th
2007. 11:00AM-7:00PM

Paper Recycling schedule:

Every Tuesday & Friday after 7pm

Bottle Recycling schedule:

April 9 & 23

May 14 only (May 28 Holiday)

