



# Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

JUNE 2007

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## Children's Park A Huge Success – Thanks to You

The Mount Vernon Children's Park hosted a fun-filled dedication celebration on May 5, officially kicking off the park's first full year in operation. This park exists due in large part to the unwavering support of the Mount Vernon community. To all those who supported the construction of the park – financially or otherwise – please accept a heartfelt thank you from the parents and children of this very special neighborhood.

While there are so many individuals, organizations and businesses who had a hand in the creation of the children's park, we owe a special debt of gratitude to Maureen Van Dyke and Susan Warren, both of Park Avenue, who came up with the idea for the park and then worked tirelessly for several years to make it a reality. As a special tribute to Susan and Maureen, a beautiful stone sundial will be mounted on the park's south-facing wall, along the hedge maze, to remind generations to come of their timeless gift to the community and the city of Baltimore.

As many of you know, the park is the result of a partnership between the city and the Mount Vernon community. While the city made available the site, the Mount Vernon community (with Maureen and Susan leading the charge) raised more than \$500,000 to design, construct and equip this important addition to our public space. According to our agreement with the city, the Mount Vernon community also is responsible for funding the future operation of the park.

To this end, an operational fund has been established, and monies are being raised, for upkeep and repairs. Although the fund initially began with a zero account balance, Merritt Downtown Athletic Club on Centre Street quickly came to the rescue with a \$1,000. donation. Thank you to the club for this timely and generous gift. The park also recently received a generous gift of \$2,000. from Comcast, specifically earmarked for programming. Thanks to Comcast, the kids will enjoy five free Saturday performances at the park this summer (program events listed sepa-

rately in this issue of the Clarion). Thanks also to the Baltimore Sun for advertising the summer program, a gift valuing more than \$4,000.

The park's operational fund received another sizable infusion of cash with the sale of glassware at Flower Mart this year. Thank you to all of the volunteers (and there were many) who helped with sales, as well as those who bought the beautiful glassware. But a special thank you goes to Brandt Petrasek who single handedly organized this critical fundraiser.

If you would like to make a contribution to the operational fund, please visit our website at <http://www.mountvernonchildrenspark.org>. There you can purchase a personalized brick or make a donation in any amount. All gifts are made through the Midtown Community Fund, a 501(c)-3 organization, and are tax-deductible.

## Flower Mart 2007 – Lemon Stick Stand

The Flower Mart has settled into two days. This is the second year for the Friday and Saturday event. We were blessed with sunny weather, but there was a bit of wind on Sunday afternoon.

I feel that I can never thank the volunteers enough, they are so, so important. Barbara Jean Gilbert (who was working with a handicap again this year- knee surgery), Susan Kern, Taylor Hubbard (new to Mt. Vernon), and Michael Hyman, were there for both days. Showing up to hull the 28 cases of lemons from the Peabody Court Hotel to our booth were David Wiesand, Duncan Stuart (who stayed into the day), and Sharon Haefner. This is the first year that we have had to pay for the lemons, \$1083.34. The citrus crop was not good this year, so special thanks to Frances Thompson and Mary Debbi-Bell at Peabody for charging us only their cost. Others who were so kind to pitch in were Cheryl Casciani, Erin Colliau, Jim Forcum, Eve Hanan, Amal

**The next General Membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 19, at the Belvedere Hotel, starting promptly at 7:30pm. Our tentative guest speaker is Major Palmere, head of the Central Police District, where a discussion on the new community policing**

Sa'ad, and Nancy VanMeter. As far as I can tell they all had a good time!

Money wise we grossed for both days \$5591 (\$5699 last year). With some MVBA merchandise sales, and the lemon stick sales, minus our expenses we netted \$1943.40 (\$2762 last year). Really not bad especially since there were so many events going on at the same time such as the Maryland Film Festival, the Kinetic Sculpture Race, and Cinco de Mayo, and since we had to pay for the lemons.

Please think about volunteering next year, we'll need you.... Regina Minniss, Marketing Chair

**Come One, Come All! \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Mt. Vernon Children's Park**  
**2007 Summer Saturday Schedule**

**June 23**

Magic & Mischief

Master magician Brian Curry dazzles audiences with magic, comedy, and a few surprises!

**July 14**

Bunjo Butler, The West Baltimore African Talkin Drum

Storyteller Bunjo Butler shares stories, songs, and music in the African, Carribean, and African American tradition

**July 28**

The Maryland ZooMobile

A fun and educational presentation by the Maryland Zoo, including live animal ambassadors (weather permitting), artifacts, and biofacts

**August 04**

The Kinderman Show

Three time Emmy Award winner John "Kinderman" Taylor inspires the imagination through song and dance

All programs begin at 10:00 AM

Admission is Free!

The Mt. Vernon Children's Park is located at the northeast corner of Madison and Calvert Streets

**These programs are made possible through a generous grant from Comcast Cable Co.**

**Another Huge Success at Flower Mart for Children's Park**

The Children's Park had a wallop of a weekend at the Flower Mart, selling over \$ 20,000 in Michael Weems glassware – that's \$4,000 more than last year! Thanks go to Brandt Petrasek who managed the booth this year and to Steven Shen who assisted with transportation. It was a stellar crew of volunteers who worked to make those sales happen, with the remarkable Rose Roddy working every shift. Thanks to those volunteers and to all who purchased glassware this year. We hope to be returning with more amazing items next year. If you missed the Flower Mart sale, check out the selection at the Women's Industrial Exchange, 333 N. Charles Street. The WIE is selling Michael Weems glassware and dinnerware in their shop through a partnership arrangement with the Children's Park. The WIE shop is open Monday - Friday, 10 - 4 and Saturdays 11 - 3.

**Tree Planting Update**

The City's Forestry Department promised to begin a large planting of trees in Mount Vernon in March. Unfortunately, this major planting in early Spring dwindled down to the planting of approximately 16 trees the third week of May. All of these new trees will be watered by the MVBA's watering contractor during the summer. These trees appeared to be in poor condition at the time of planting, a situation that has been noted to the Forestry supervisor. If you are near a new tree, please supplement watering as much as possible.

**Proposed liquor license application raises ire of the Mt. Vernon Mews community**

Five Seasons Restaurant, located in the NW corner of the Guilford Avenue Shopping center, is seeking permission to expand their current operation into adjoining vacant space of about 1200 sq. ft. Nearby residents have expressed ongoing concerns of the restaurant/night club operations, citing issues regarding parking, noise, fights, weapons, and distribution of flyers that have content inappropriate for a residential neighborhood. The scheduled hearing at the Liquor Board has been postponed until the applicant meets with representatives of the community and the MVBA. The meeting is scheduled to take place on June 12.

**Community Calendar -- Don't miss these great Mount Vernon Events!**

**Movies in the East Park**—July 11 An American in Paris

Yoga in the West Park

Every Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Presented by Friends of Mount Vernon Place, Sponsored by



### Downtown Athletic Club

Marin Alsop conducts Brahms and Dvorak  
June 14 and 15 at 8:00 p.m., June 17 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets  
start at \$ 25. Check out the BSO's award-winning new  
conductor!

### A Comic Strip

At the Theater Project (45 W. Preston)  
June 14, 16 and 17. Tickets are \$ 15. \$11 for seniors and  
students.

### Gee's Bend Community Day at the Walters

June 16 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Meet the quilters of Gees Bend, Alabama, enjoy music,  
story telling and quilting demonstrations. Free.

### Baltimore Heritage Annual Preservation Awards

Thursday, June 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Engineers Club  
Baltimore Heritage Members \$ 50, Non-members \$ 60.  
Call 410-332-9992 to reserve tickets.

### Magic Show in the Children's Park

Saturday, June 23 at 10:00 a.m.  
Sponsored by Comcast with advertising by the Baltimore  
Sun

### The Wizard of Oz with live orchestration by the BSO

June 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$ 25. Half price for  
children.

### Family History Seminar: Using Land, Court and Probate Records to Research your family history.

Saturday, July 7, 2007, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$50/  
MdHS Members, \$60/ Non-members. Reservations re-  
quired. Call 410-685-3750 ext. 321. Breakfast and lunch  
included.

### 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 ac-  
cessed 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  
Biltmore Suites Hotel, Rajen Patel  
Comprehensive Car Care, Bob Wagner  
Engineering Society of Baltimore  
Fisher Real Estate, Barbara Fisher  
Goldseker Foundation, Timothy Armbruster  
Keyser Development, Stan Keyser  
Lyric Foundation, H Mebane Turner  
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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Scott & Ilana Mittman  
Onahlea Shimunek  
Charles L. Smith  
Gordon Stick  
Melinda Swihart  
H Mebane Turner  
Lou & Maureen VanDyck  
Julius Zulver  
In memory of: Ruth Wolf Rehfeld  
Dr. Stanley Mazer  
Allen Golden  
J J Pecora



# Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

1221 North Calvert Street  
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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 President .....Paul Warren .....vicepresident@mvba.org  
Treasurer .....Brian Coleman .....treasurer@mvba.org  
Secretary.....Philippa Strydom.....secretary@mvba.org  
Corr. Secretary .....Lisa Heckman .....CorrSecretary@mvba..org

### Committees

Architectural Review .....Craig Kufner .....(arc@mvba.org)  
Sanitation .....Sandy Lawler  
Property Stewardship.....Lance Humphries  
Liquor.....Steve Johnson  
Zoning.....Paul Warren  
Marketing.....Regina Minniss .....(rminniss@cbmove.com)  
Development .....Paul Warren  
Safety .....Lyle Nash.....(safety@mvba.org)  
Membership .....Petula Nash .....(membership@mvba.org)

Of Council . . . . . Laura Giantris .....(council@mvba.org)

### Board Members

Stan Keyser  
Steve Johnson  
Fitzgerald Hoskins  
Petula Nash  
Sandy Lawler  
.....

### Ex-officio Members

J.J. Pecora  
Mary Ann Henderson

### 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)

