



Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

JULY 2007

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2007 promises to be an important year for the Mount Vernon community. So the Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association will be hosting a "Candidates Forum" for City Council representatives. Now that the neighborhood is split into two councilmatic districts with each holding a key area, we are anticipating a strong turnout of our residents and businesses. This forum offers voters the opportunity to meet the candidates and ask questions that are salient to you and our community.

Under the guidelines established by MVBA, each candidate will appear in person and there will be no substitutions. In addition, every candidate will be asked to give a 5-minute presentation that details his/her position on key issues that affect the Mount Vernon neighborhood. All candidates will also have two minutes to respond to questions. We look forward to our members engaging with the candidates.

Development News

Plans for a new Waxter Center, along with a new residential/retail development on the current Waxter Center property (Cathedral and Eager Streets across from City Café) are proceeding. Mount Vernon will be represented at an initial review of proposals by MVBA Development Committee Chair Paul Warren. Two proposals have been submitted. One by Howard Chambers and a team of architects and investors and a second from, Millenium Real Estate Services, whose team includes architects are Hord, Caplan and Macht.

MVBA has initiated a series of meetings designed to lead to increased structured parking for Mount Vernon. The city's Parking Authority is supportive of MVBA's proposals and has pledged to work with the community in resolving what is a looming parking shortage for residents as well as businesses.

After years of requests from the community, the city has finally wrestled control over the long-vacant property at 222 W. Monument Street. Formerly owned by Ms. Hallie Steele, the building will be sold to a new owner who will be rehabbing the property soon. We thank State's Attorney Blair Griffith for making this happen.

• **Trash Pickup Reminder:**

Trashcans can be placed outside for pickup only on Tuesdays & Fridays between 5-9PM. All rental buildings are required to have covered trashcans for tenants. Please do not use your neighbors cans or dumpster, individuals can be fined for this. Bulk Trash pick-up, Regular Trash and other sanitation schedules can be obtained through calling 311.

• **Recycling Reminder:**

Paper goes out at the same location and on the same nights as your garbage. Flatten and tie boxes with twine, put newspapers in paper bags or stack and tie with twine. Bottles and cans go into blue grocery bags only. Place bags in front of your property on the second and fourth Monday before 7AM.



SUBSCRIBE!

If you are getting this newsletter in the mail, you are probably missing out on important email newscasts, neighborhood alerts and early electronic delivery of this newsletter itself. Help save a tree and convert to email delivery by sending an email to membership@mbva.org with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line and your full name in the body. Non-members can join the association and sign up for email communications at www.mvba.org.

Special Thanks:

Congratulations to MVBA member Bill Hazelhurst and his development team at the Printer's Square project for being awarded a 2007 Baltimore Heritage award for their excellent preservation and restoration work of a firehouse and surrounding buildings at the corner of Mount Royal and Guildford Avenues. This new residential enclave of more than 60 new units is an outstanding addition to our community, and we thank Bill for delivering a first class project to Mount Vernon.

“Think Globally-Live Locally”

Many new and existing businesses are shaping Mount Vernon and stimulating new investment that adds to our neighborhood's vitality. Whether a café, theater, gallery, or our old stand-bys, these businesses add to our neighborhood's identity and authenticity. Because of these businesses, people seek Mount Vernon out as destination neighborhood, and we should do our best to support these establishments. Listed below are a few new things that are happening around the neighborhood.

Eddies of Mount Vernon

This standard bearer of Mount Vernon is now offering an array of certificated organic products. In addition, the local grocer has a robust selection of fresh vegetables and produce from local Baltimore County farms.

Read Street Books**229 West Read Street**

An enclave of the one located on Baltimore's Historic Read Street, this bookstore and coffeehouse has expanded to include “The Studio” that offers Poetry every Thursday Night and Live Music on Fridays and Saturdays.

Minato is reinventing itself at its 1013 North Charles Street location just north of Grand Central. This urban hip café infuses traditional sushi sashimi and rolls with contemporary Asian entrees such as Katsu Don breaded organic pork with egg over rice and fresh seasoned vegetables.

Lunch Monday through Friday 11:30 to 2:30

Dinner Sunday through Thursday 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Friday through Saturday 6:00pm through 11:00pm]

www.minatorestaurant.com

Tel: 410.332.0332

4 East Madison Inn's Garden Café has opened for the summer!

Our neighborhood's secret...Lunch in the Garden, at 4 East Madison Inn is more a popular than ever! Hours this year are shorter but the menu has some delicious additions from the carnivorous Roasted Chicken, Brie and Apple Wrap, to a great Rosemary Focaccia Sandwich with Baltimore's Best vegan Grilled Portabella nestled in middle. So take a break and have Lunch in the Garden!

Wednesday-Fridays 11:30 to 2:00 PM

Midtown Yoga, 107 East Read Street

The yoga studio that brought spiritual insight and tranquility to downtown Baltimore has expanded its facilities and offerings to a Read Street outpost.

EL Patron

New home-style-authentic Mexican restaurant, 801 North Charles Street

The Hippo undergoes changes to its art deco building on the corner of Charles & Eager St. The late addition of the wrapped marquee will be removed to reveal the shelf that originally housed the signage of the building. The single corner door will be replaced with a double door flanked by return of the rounded sidelites that were part of the original design of the building. In addition, the entire façade will be washed in light.

On the Eager Street side of the building, the late addition sometime in the 1950's, a retractable awning will be installed over the entire length of the fenestration, approximately 19ft and will be used only at night. All of the changes were approved by MVBA's Architectural Review Committee.

ARC retroactively approved the awnings and their color located at 1014 & 1018 N. Charles Street (TEN14 Condominiums), where MV Fitness is located along with the MV Fitness signage. The ARC did not approved the original lighting design using silver gooseneck fixtures. The owner is looking into the use of either low profile LED fixtures or bi-directional fixtures to light up the solid areas of the building. ARC also reviewed 716 Park Avenue, an extension of the Biltmore Hotel, regarding the installation of a railing.

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 by-law change may be voted on at the July general membership meeting.

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.

Mount Vernon Parks Conservancy Update

On June 28th the Friends of Mount Vernon Place and MVBA hosted a community breakfast to formally create the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy. The event was held to garner critical support for this exciting endeavor from the various cultural institutions and organizations located in Mount Vernon. These stakeholders responded positively to the creation of a Mount Vernon parks Conservancy.

We reported that in a recent meeting at City Hall, Deputy Mayor Andy Frank expressed a strong interest in our goal to establish a public-private partnership to fully restore and to adequately support ongoing maintenance to the parks of Mount Vernon Place.

The Mount Vernon Place Conservancy will attract and coordinate resources to protect this legacy of 19th century Baltimore and a National Historic Landmark. The Conservancy will thoughtfully manage the parks to become a place of pride for all Baltimoreans and a top destination for visitors. This public-private partnership is modeled after similar conservancies that have reinvigorated Central Park and Bryant Park in New York City.

Your support is needed! Below is a suggested template that you or any busi-

ness can send to Andy Frank expressing your endorsement of The Mount Vernon Place Conservancy. Or you can visit MVBA's website and download this template at this link: http://www.mvba.org/docs/mvp_conservancy.pdf

We would like to collect all of the Support Letters in order to present them at one time. Please send your letter by August 7, 2007

Friends of Mount Vernon Place
1221 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Suggested Template for Mount Vernon Conservancy

Mr. Andrew Frank
Deputy Mayor, City of Baltimore
100 N. Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Frank:

[On behalf of ____,] I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the formation of a Mount Vernon Place Conservancy. A Conservancy will bring a new level of awareness, respect and care for this important National Historic Landmark and the historic heart and soul of Baltimore City. Mount Vernon Place has been called "the finest urban space in America" by the distinguished urban critic Lewis Mumford.

The beauty of Mount Vernon Place is a contributing factor to the residential and business revitalization of the Charles Street corridor. It is a significant attraction for the cultural tourist, and with its restoration, will lure visitors from the Inner Harbor to the parks and to the adjacent cultural institutions.

The creation of a conservancy is central to the success of a fundraising campaign to restore the parks and to provide for its continuing maintenance. It is vitally important that the plans for the restoration proceed quickly, not only to capture the current momentum of the city, but to ensure that Mount Vernon Place is restored in time for its bicentennial in 2015.

We appreciate your interest and assistance on behalf of the City of Baltimore. We support the collaboration of Friends of Mount Place and the Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association with the City to make this plan a reality.

Sincerely,

Your Name



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

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.....

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Mary Ann Henderson

Appointed Member:

Bill Oelke

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

The next general membership meeting will be held on July 17, 2007, at the Belvedere Hotel, beginning at 7:30pm where MVBA will host a candidates forum for City Council Representatives



Join at www.mvba.org

Paper Recycling schedule:

Every Tuesday & Friday after 7pm

Bottle Recycling schedule:

July 9, July 23

August 13, August 27

