



# Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

AUGUST 2007

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## Farewell to the President

We say a very fond farewell this month to our outstanding MVBA President Jack Danna. Jack will be leaving Baltimore to attend graduate school at NYU this fall where he will be studying Urban Planning. We think Jack will have much to share in his classes with all of his practical experience, and success, as Executive Director of the Pigtown Main Streets program as well as an MVBA Board Member and Officer. In his short seven months at the helm of MVBA, Jack has made enormous contributions to the community, especially getting the personal support of Mayor Dixon for a potential full-fledged conservancy for Mount Vernon Place. We will miss Jack and invite him back to see the fruits of his work as we continue to become a better, stronger neighborhood.

## Mount Vernon Place Parks Conservancy is MOVING AHEAD!

On a recent visit to Mount Vernon (see related article about the Mayor at the Children's Park) MVBA Board Members Jack Danna and Brian Coleman briefed Mayor Dixon on the efforts the Friends of Mount Vernon Place and MVBA to establish Baltimore's first park conservancy for the revitalization and full refurbishment of the Mount Vernon Place Parks. Mayor Dixon expressed support for moving to the next stages with this plan. Her personal approval paves the way for a formal announcement of the conservancy, as early as September and getting the conservancy rolling this Fall. Many thanks go to Friends of Mount Vernon Place President Jane McConnell Karen Footner for their partnership and expertise in bringing the conservancy concept to the fore and to Dr. Lance Humphries for his countless contributions to this major endeavor. The goals of the conservancy will be to fully restore the historic features of the park, to upgrade the systems of the park and to provide extensive disabled access in every area possible. The conservancy is expected to assume management of the parks during refurbishment and after completion which is targeted for the 2015 bicentennial of the laying of the Washington Monument cornerstone. The work in the parks is anticipated to cost \$ 7-8 million which will be raised by the conservancy from a combination of federal, state, local and private funds.

## Mayor Dixon Tours Children's Park

Sheila Dixon visited the new Mount Vernon Children's Park for a personal tour of this new half million dollar, community-led project in Mount Vernon at 801 N. Calvert Street. The tour was conducted on July 25 by MVBA Board members Jack Danna, Brian Coleman and Paul Warren, with the additional input of Maureen and Louis Van Dyck of Park Avenue, the largest individual donors to the park effort. The Mayor noted her approval of the overall design, an element credited to Maureen Van Dyck. The Mayor even requested Mrs. Van Dyck's assistance with another park design project for the city. The Mayor also talked extensively with Mount Vernon parents and children who were in the park at the time and she tried out some of the equipment herself, including the stainless steel see saw. Yes, the Mayor had a great time on our see saw, in a skirt, no less.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.mvba.org).

—————**-BITS AND PIECES-**—————

**Waxter Center Development** – A recent Baltimore Sun article announced that the mixed-use 600-unit residential development proposed at the Waxter Center on Cathedral and Eager is moving forward. There are still a number of large hurdles and opportunities for community input before this project becomes a reality.

**925 Saint Paul Update** (letter requesting targeted housing inspection has been sent)

**101 W. Read** – The developer reports trouble with finalizing financing for this 95-unit apartment project. He hopes to have it locked in by mid-August.

**Brexton Developments** – The historic Brexton is scheduled to be under reconstruction this summer for an extended-stay hotel with completion scheduled before the end of 2008.

**Parking developments** – Meetings with city officials continue to try to get momentum moving for structured parking in Mount Vernon.

**Attendance** of MVBA representative at Seton Hill/BGE hearing

### Mount Vernon in the News

Congratulations to Brewer's Art for recent coverage of their culinary excellence and unique beer offerings in both the Washington Post and New York Times. And congrats also go to the Pretentious Pooch store for the huge feature article and photo showcasing this fun and beautiful retail space. More cudos to Minato for the rave reviews they have received from multiple sources for both the fresh design of their new space at 1013 N. Charles and their ongoing commitment to outstanding Asian food. And, finally, a big cheer goes to the new chef of Abacrombie who is earning great reviews too as the Abacrombie undergoes a change in ownership this year. And welcome to My Thai, located in the old Minato space at 800 N. Charles. My Thai has already been the subject of a very positive article in the Sun.

### 311 is Important for Mount Vernon

If Mount Vernon doesn't call 311, other neighborhoods will be receiving our share of city services. Call 311 – note: you can call 311 from cell phones! -- or go to 311 on-line for any and all of the following:

- Alley cleaning
- Illegal trash dumping
- Properties with high weeds or debris accumulation
- Missing street signs
- Properties with broken windows and peeling paint
- Broken sidewalks and storm drains
- Lack of curb cuts at corners
- Street lights burned out
- Rat eradication
- Graffiti

**Congratulations to our own Dr. Lance Humphries**, MVBA's Property Stewardship Chair and resident historian, for his election as President of the city's new Historic District's Council. The Council is a collaboration of over 20 historic neighborhoods (with membership still growing after less than a month in operation) who will be speaking out on the effectiveness of the city's historic preservation efforts.

### Mount Vernon Tree Planting

MVBA President Jack Danna met in July with Rebecca Feldberg, head of the city's Forestry Department to discuss problems with the city's planting of street trees in Mount Vernon. Ms. Feldberg committed to an extensive planting of trees in Mount Vernon this Fall to remove the large back log of dead trees and empty wells in the community. The Fall planting should include many trees planted in poor condition this Spring that have not survived this Summer, as we expected would be the case.

We have many trees – new and old – that are struggling in the current drought. Please water street trees near your home or business so that they can survive the summer.

### Huge Michael Weems Sale at Women's Industrial Exchange

Check out the incredible porcelain dinner and coffee services from the Michael Weems Collection on sale at the Women's Industrial Exchange (333 N. Charles) on Friday, August 24 (10 a.m. – 8 p.m.) and August, 25 (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.). In addition to this special sale of Michael Weems items at low, discounted prices, the Exchange will also have its classic selection of handmade gifts for sale. The Michael Weems items were provided to the Exchange by the Mount Vernon Children's Park in a special partnership to lend Mount Vernon's support for this important and historic neighborhood non-profit.

## Events in Mount Vernon

### Mount Vernon Place Park

*Signing in the Rain*, a classic movie in the park, sponsored by Friends of Mount Vernon Place. Wednesday, August 8 at dusk. Free.

*West Side Story*, another great classic in Mount Vernon Place, Wednesday, August 22 at dusk. Also sponsored by Friends of Mount Vernon Place. Free.

**Center Stage** begins its 2007-2008 season with on September 14 with *Aresenic & Old Lace*. Season passes are on sale every day at the box office or on line for as little as \$ 60 for all six plays of the season!

### The Walters

*Gee's Bend, the Architecture of the Quilt* continues at the Walters until August 26.

The Walters was recently named one of the Top 10 Admission-Free Attractions on the East Coast by AAA.

**The Baltimore Symphony's** fall season means it's time to grab \$ 25 seats for the chance to see the BSO. Start enjoying Marin Alsop in her first performances

as full-time Musical Director on Friday, September 28 with a selection of several of her own musical favorites. FYI - The BSO's annual black tie fundraiser is Saturday, September 15.

**The Theatre Project** features *Red Light Winter*, August 8-19

In this new play by Pulitzer finalist Adam Rapp, two friends travel to Amsterdam after grad school and both fall in love with the same prostitute, a woman named Christina. Warning: play contains adult situations and nudity. Tickets are only \$ 4-10 at 45 W. Preston Street.

### Spotlighters Theater

This amazing theater has been entertaining city audiences for 43 years. Find out what keeps them exciting and meaningful for all those years with the production of *Ruby Doo*, a Baltimore Playwrights Festival Production written by George Tilson. August 17-September 2. *Rudy Doo* is a dark comedy in two acts: Can a menage a trois be far behind when an abused, run-away heiress and a brain-injured hockey player join a palsied recluse who killed his caretaker with a jelly doughnut? Tickets \$ 15 for adults. Student and senior discounts available. 817 St. Paul Street.

**At the Lyric Opera House**, Macy Gray performs on September 13. A night of Autumn Smooth Jazz with Paul Taylor, Leela James and Bob Baldwin happens on September 15. Morris Day and the Time perform on September 22.

## Liquor issues

**The Five Seasons Restaurant** application, along with a hearing regarding several violations, takes place on August 9, 3pm at City Hall. The applicant is requesting an extension into adjoining space which is opposed by nearby residents.

**801 North Charles Street**, El Patron Mexican restaurant (on the second floor), is under fire from neighboring residents due to loud noise and possible operation beyond 2am. The liquor board has been contacted to investigate the operation. The location has a Class "B" Restaurant license which includes the second floor.

## Help Clean Up the New Neighbors!

The moving season has begun and it's time to help our neighboring landlords train their new tenants (and remind the old ones) about what the city trash rules are and what we expect!

In a few weeks, the MVBA Sanitation Committee is blanketing the neighborhood with City calendars and MBVA fliers with the trash guidelines.

If you'd like to help, please email [sajela@earthlink.net](mailto:sajela@earthlink.net) and subject it "trash". The date of the activity will be chosen shortly.

**In the meantime**, Tuesday and Friday 5-7pm: Trash (in covered cans) and paper recyclables 2nd and 4th Monday by 7am(barring holidays): Plastics and glass in clear or blue bags.

## Baltimore Book Festival, September 28th, 29th, 30st. - Volunteers needed!

Looking for people and books. Do you have a bunch of books that you've been trying to get rid of? Donate them to the MVBA booth at the book fair! We will give you a tax deductible letter. Call Regina Minniss at 410-837-4896, or email [miniss@coldwellbankermove.com](mailto:miniss@coldwellbankermove.com). I will come and pick them up, or you can drop them off at our booth, which will be in front of 700 Washington Place.

**We also need people to man our booth!** The fair starts on Friday 28th at 5:00PM to 9:00PM, then Saturday 29th, and Sunday 30st. from 11:00AM to 6:00PM. Pick your time. You will meet other Mt. Vernon residence and have fun! Call Regina Minniss at 410-837-4896 or email [rminiss@coldwellbankermove.com](mailto:rminiss@coldwellbankermove.com).



# 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 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  
.....

### Appointed Member:

Bill Oelke

### Ex-officio Members

J.J. Pecora  
Mary Ann Henderson

### Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

**There is no general meeting in August.**

### RPP (Residential Parking Permits)

**Renew your permits on-line at [www.baltimorecity.gov/government/parking](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/parking) beginning August 19th or visit the RPP offices at 200 West Lombard Street, Suite B. Apply on-line by September 18. New residents must apply in person after September 20 at the RPP office. For further info, call the RPP office at 443-573-2800. Pick-up permits in September. Pick-up locations in Mt. Vernon to be announced. Visit [MVBA.org](http://MVBA.org) for locations. Current permits expire 09/30/07**

### Paper Recycling schedule:

Every Tuesday & Friday after 7pm

### Bottle Recycling schedule:

July 9, July 23

August 13, August 27

