



# Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

October 2007

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**The next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16, at the Belvedere Condominiums, lobby level, beginning at 7:30pm.**

General Meeting Topic: Mount Vernon Place Conservancy

MVBA has been working with the Friends of Mount Vernon Place to promote the formation of a Conservancy to lead a \$8 million restoration of the parks. We have garnered preliminary support of the mayor, her administration and a number of our local stakeholders including Charles Street Development, Midtown Community Benefits District and the Historic Charles Street Association. Come hear a presentation on plans for this major initiative for Mount Vernon and the city and our progress thus far.

## 2007 Mount Vernon Business Roundtable

Businesses continue to join the MVBA in unprecedented numbers and the MVBA is responding with a gathering all of our business members for the first time ever on October 23 at the Engineers Club. This meeting will provide business leaders as well as non-profit and cultural institution executives to network, to receive an exclusive briefing on community developments and to provide their input on important community issues. Our businesses bring incredible vitality and attractiveness to Mount Vernon and the MVBA is poised to both advocate for them and bring them together as never before.

## Business News

And here's proof that we have the highest quality businesses in the entire metro area as seen in the latest "Best of" list by City Paper. Making the list this year from Mount Vernon are: Café Mocha on Howard Street (an award winner for the third year in a row – check out this incredible breakfast/sandwich shop if you haven't already), Gian Marco Menswear at 517 N. Charles, Charm City Yoga at 107 E. Preston, the UB Athletic Club, Dentist Stephen Mastella at 1030 N. Charles Street, Flowers by Chris on Cathedral, Pretentious Pooch on at 1017 Cathedral (this shop has won an armful of awards this year!), Akbar on Charles, Minato on Charles, Dukem on Maryland Ave, Chewy's at 1212 N. Charles, Brewer's Art (another multi-award winner this year), Grand Central, Ixia, An Die Musik at 409 N. Charles, The Walters, Theatre Project, and Center Stage. We did not take an exact count, but, once again, it would be difficult to find another Baltimore neighborhood with a "Best of" list like that.

Congratulations also to Sam Curerri of Sammy's Trattoria, 1200 N. Charles Street, for a great feature piece in the October issue of Baltimore Magazine. Selected by the magazine in the same issue as classic "neighborhood restaurants" in Mount Vernon were City Café, Iggies Pizza and Minato.

## Mount Vernon Map Coming in 2008

How many times have you been walking around the neighborhood and seen someone with a camera or a map of the city looking bewildered and lost? And if you approach them, they ask "What is there to do around here? Where can I have lunch or



## 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).

dinner? Is there anything happening here at night?" Well, those days will be gone with the arrival of the first Mount Vernon Map in early 2008. MVBA member Susan Warren is developing a colorful, user friendly map to promote the many cultural attractions and businesses that visitors now have difficulty finding and enjoying in the neighborhood. A distinguished map illustrator has been hired for the project. The map will be completed in early 2008 and distributed to all major hotels in the city as well as the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Center at the Inner Harbor. It will also include information on major annual events, history of the neighborhood, its significant properties and the Mount Vernon Place parks, as well as easy and interesting walking tours for visitors to enjoy.

### **Terrific Volunteer Opportunity**

Been looking for a way to make the neighborhood a little bit better? Well, here is a great place to start:

**Saturday October 13, 9:00 am. Community Tree-Well Planting** Meet at 1001 N. Calvert with your garden gloves and tools to help replant the tree-wells of the 900 and 1000 blocks of N. Calvert. This effort is made possible in part by a \$500 matching-grant from MVBA. Please contact Brandt Petrsek at petrsekaj@yahoo.com to volunteer.

### **Tree Planting for the Fall**

With continued pressure being applied by former MVBA president Jack Danna, the City's Forestry Department has moved into high gear on our tree needs for the Fall. Crews are removing dead trees, marking others for removal, and preparing to grind stumps. We send our thanks to Jack in New York for his ongoing help on this issue.

### **ELECTION SEASON**

As usual around this time of the year, MVBA has its own election process to fulfill. Normally during this cycle, there would only be two Director seats expiring after completing a 3 year term. However, due to resignations, there are three additional seats available. The nominating committee has met with numerous potentially qualified candidates and has selected the slate candidates below. At the October general meeting, there will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor for any one of the positions listed below. Nominations must be made and seconded by members in good standing.

**For President: Jason Curtis** moved to Mount Vernon in September of 2001. He relocated to Baltimore from Phoenix to assume management of the Peabody Court

Hotel. As General Manager of the Peabody Court, Jason oversaw the historic renovation of the property and was selected Maryland Hotelier of the Year in 2006. Jason has served many organization in the Mount Vernon neighborhood, including the Mount Vernon Cultural District, Midtown Community Benefits District, Belvedere Condominium Board of Directors, Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association and has also served as a Past President of the MVBA. Jason lives in The Belvedere at Chase and Charles Street.

**For Corresponding Secretary: Robert Beachy** is a professor of European history at Goucher College. He has lived in Mount Vernon for a little over four years, and resides in his house at 905 Saint Paul Street.

**For Director (3 yr): David Wiesand** is a Baltimore native and the owner and operator of McLain Wiesand, a furniture design and manufacturing company located in Mt. Vernon. The company specializes in high end wood, metal and decorative furnishings, accessories, antiques, as well as murals, art work and in home decorative paint finishes through its showroom Baltimore or five other locations throughout the country: New York, Chicago, Washington, San Francisco and Atlanta. David's family has owned property for many decades throughout Mount Vernon. David lives as well as works at his current location on Cathedral Street in a building he has been restoring for more than eight years. David has degrees from both Towson and MICA in Fine Arts.

**For Director (3 yr): Ernest Liotti** is a graduate of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. He is on the music faculty of Loyola College where he is the director of Choral music and teaches music history and film history. He is a lecturer at the Peabody Elderhostel Program and also pursues a career as a freelance lecturer. He has lived in Mt. Vernon for more years than he cares to remember and is an avid collector of 1930's industrial design. Some of his collection will be featured in an upcoming Yale publication to be released in 2008.

**For Director, remaining 2 year term: Kendra Whitlock Ingram** is currently the Vice President and General Manager of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. She comes to Baltimore from Detroit, MI, where she worked as Director of Pops and Special Projects for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Kendra has also worked as General Manager for the Phoenix Symphony and Orchestra Manager for Tulsa Philharmonic. She has been an adjunct faculty member of the Wayne State University Music Management Department and has served for 3 years as a panelist on the Michigan State Art Council grant review

committee. Kendra is a graduate of the prestigious American Symphony Orchestra League Orchestra Management Fellowship program and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Duquesne University.

**For Director, remaining 1 yr term: Barbara Jean Gilbert** commutes from Baltimore to Washington, where she is the Director of the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation's Public Affairs Center. She has been a resident of Mt Vernon for 5 years, and is currently serving as the Vice President of the Friends of Mount Vernon Place.

Barbara Jean has advanced degrees in both Urban Planning and Architecture. She previously practiced with a preservation/architecture firm in Washington DC on projects varying from restoration of landmark sites and renovation of single family homes, to preservation planning for large federal facilities.

### **The Waxter Center**

There has been much concern expressed lately from both residents and businesses about the status of the Waxter Senior Center property. The Sun reported that the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has entered into an agreement to negotiate with developer Howard Chambers who is proposing a 600+ unit development with units of approximately 375 square feet each and just over 300 parking spaces and a new senior center. While it is always good to see general development interest, this is not a done deal by any stretch. This project has many steps to proceed through and the concerns of the community about the high density, design quality, small units and inadequate parking have been expressed to both BDC and Mr. Chambers. They, in turn, are committed to trying to work through these issues.

This or any proposal for that location will have to receive the approval of the MVBA's architectural review committee and the city's Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation. We will continue to work with the city and developer and keep members informed on any new developments.

### **Abbey Hotel Sale**

The Abbey Hotel in the 700 block of Saint Paul Street was sold in February to an ownership group that also owns a motel property on Pulaski Highway on the east side of the city. This news is not positive. Already the new owners have installed a plexiglass barrier at their front desk (after just about every other business in the community has removed such barriers) and a new neon sign in the front window announcing "open 24 hours" does not send the

### **MIDTOWN BENEFITS DISTRICT FALL MEETING:**

The Midtown Community Benefits District serving the Charles North, Bolton Hill, Madison Park Mount and Vernon-Belvedere neighborhoods will hold its Fall Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday evening, October 17 at the Berea Temple on Madison Avenue in Madison Park. The business portion of the meeting will feature the election of one at-large members of the District's board of Directors from each of the four neighborhoods.

Written nominations for the at-large seats may be sent to the District Administrator at 1221 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 together with a brief statement of interest and biography from the candidate. To be eligible a candidate must own property or represent a taxable property owner in that neighborhood. Nominations of any person whose eligibility has been established by the officers of the District prior to the commencement of the meeting may also be made from the floor of the meeting. More info at 410-528-1512, Peter Merles.

Special topic this evening, will be the issues of community safety with a presentation by Beth Hart, Director of CityWatch and possibly also from Tom Yeager of Downtown Partnership.

right message either. We are working on some of these issues, but please help by reporting any problems to 311 or 911 as you deem appropriate.

### **Streetscaping**

If you see trees coming down and more hardhats up and down our main drag, it means that streetscaping is underway on Charles Street. This process will be a grueling 18 months for our Charles Street businesses, so make an extra effort to continue to support them. The good news is that, when all is said and done, our Charles Street will finally look like the grand street it is and should be with new sidewalks, lighting, and street surfacing.

### **Dog Park Moving Forward**

Thank you to MVBA member Kathy Jarmiolowski for taking the reigns of the new dog park initiative. Kathy is a top attorney and dog lover who is a great asset to this critical project. The University of Baltimore is currently working with the MVBA to locate potential sites for the dog park, something all of our dog owners are eager to see as a new amenity in Mount Vernon.

### **ATTENTION RPP PERMIT HOLDERS:**

We have learned that there is a possibility that a change in the law requires that expired residential parking permits must be removed from the windshield. There has been at least one instance where an individual has received a ticket for displaying expired permits. MVBA is looking into this issue.



# 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 ..... *Vacant* .....president@mvba.org  
Vice President ..... Paul Warren .....vicepresident@mvba.org  
Treasurer ..... Brian Coleman .....treasurer@mvba.org  
Secretary ..... Philippa Strydom .....secretary@mvba.org  
Corr. Secretary ..... *Vacant* .....CorrSecretary@mvba..org

### Committees

Architectural Review .....Steven Shen.....(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 .....*Vacant* .....(safety@mvba.org)  
Membership .....Susan Warren .....(membership@mvba.org)  
Parking .....Pam Stewart

**Of Counsel** . . . . . Laura Giantris .....(council@mvba.org)

### Board Members

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

### Appointed Member:

Bill Oelke, Walters Art Museum

### Ex-officio Members

J.J. Pecora  
Mary Ann Henderson  
Jason Curtis

### Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

## NEW TRASH PICKUP HOURS

**Tuesday and Friday 4:30-6:30pm:  
Trash(in covered cans) and paper  
recyclables.**

**2nd and 4th Mondays by 7am  
(barring holidays): Plastics and  
glass in clear or blue bags.**

**Watch for New Recycling Program  
in January!**

### Paper Recycling schedule:

Every Tuesday & Friday after 4:30pm-6:30pm

### Bottle Recycling schedule:

2nd & 4th Mondays, by 7am. Glass & Plastic  
in clear or blue bags

