

Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

February 2008

Volume 23, Number 02

All are welcome to attend the Association's general membership meeting on February 19th, 2008 where our guest speaker will be Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld, III.

Meetings are held at the Belvedere Condominiums, 1 East Chase Street, lobby level, and begin promptly at 7:30pm.

There is a brief bio for Commissioner Bealefeld located elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

SMOKING BAN IN ALL BARS AND RESTAURANTS IS NOW IN EFFECT.

With the arrival of the city ban on smoking in bars and restaurants, which is forcing smokers to step outside to smoke, Midtown has ordered a stock of outdoor cigarette urns that have been approved by the Mount Vernon Architectural Review Committee in keeping with the new Charles Street streetscaping plan. The urns are available in both a bronze and aluminum finish. There is a regulations that requires owners of bars and restaurants to keep the sidewalks in front of their establishments free of used smoking material. It is hoped that the urns will provide a means to minimize the presence of cigarette butts and the like. If you would like to purchase an urn or need more information, please call The Midtown Community Benefits District office at 410-528-1512 or email pmerles@midtowncommunity.org

Participate in a public art project!

Rebecca Nagle is working on a public art project that will temporarily go in Mt Vernon Place for the exhibition "Beyond the Compass, Beyond the Square." She is looking to include community of MVBA in the making of the project.

The project will decorate planks of wood for a new bench to be temporarily installed in Mt Vernon Place. The bench will be in the park only for the duration of the exhibition "Beyond the Compass, Beyond the Square." The planks on the bench will be created through a dialogue between the communities of Mt Vernon, Bolton Hill, Madison Park, Upton, and Sandtown. Community members will make their planks in response to the plank made before it by a different community. In workshops, community members will be given the questions "what do I want to give my community?". The bench will be a collection of the different planks made by different communities and be a visual representation of the dialogue between the communities.

The workshop will last 20 minutes and will involve community member drawing and writing on provided paper cards. Meeting location is at the Belvedere Condominiums, February 19th, 7pm.



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@mvba.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.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld, III is a 26 year veteran of the Baltimore Police Department, starting his career as a Police Cadet in the Central Records Section and working his way through the ranks. His prior assignments include:

Deputy Commissioner, Operations Bureau
Chief of Detectives
Area Chief of the Patrol Division, and
Commander of the Southern District
Commander of the Drug Enforcement Section
Eastern District
Southwestern District
Western District

As Deputy Commissioner of the Operations Bureau, his responsibility included overseeing the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigation Division, Organized Crime Division and Homeland Security Division. These Divisions comprised essentially 80% of the Department's operational force.

Police Commissioner Bealefeld has attended the Community College of Baltimore and the Anne Arundel Community College and has received significant law enforcement training throughout his career. He is the recipient of four bronze stars and two unit citations. He is married and has two children.

Subscribe to the Midtown Community Benefits District monthly newsletter!

The Midtown Community Benefits District is now publishing a monthly electronic newsletter. Please call the Midtown office at 410 528-1512 or email pmerles@midtowncommunity.org to be included on our distribution list. A printed version can be mailed upon request.

Midtown Spring Townhall Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 7:00pm . Midtown Community Benefits District Spring Town Hall Meeting including presentation of the budget. Associated Jewish Federation building at Mount Royal Avenue at Maryland Avenue

Curious about restaurant cleanliness?

Pursuant to Baltimore City Health Code 6-606(b(3)

(ii) the Health Department is required to notify Neighborhood Associations of food establishment closures. Enter into your browser or click on the link below. Closures are listed by month and year.

<http://www.baltimorehealth.org/foodclosures.htm>

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TWENTIETH CENTURY STRINGS AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

On Friday, February 15, 2008, 8:00 pm, faculty and students of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and guest artists will present a program of twentieth century music for strings at the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, downtown at the corner of Charles and Franklin Streets. The concert is free and open to the public. For details: www.firstunitarian.net/activities/events/index.asp

815 St. Paul Street

The application for a liquor license that would enable the convenient store to sell alcoholic beverages has been withdrawn due to technical issues. As it turns out, the store is within the 300 foot limitation to a nearby church (St. Ignatius, main building). This restriction applies only to class "A" licenses, which was the type of license the store would have had to obtain. Note that class "B" restaurant licenses are exempt from this rule in Mt. Vernon.

Recycling Guidelines

Starting January 8, 2008, "Single Stream" starts.

Set out all mixed paper and bottles and cans every Tuesday and Friday 5pm-7pm, the same time as your regular trash each week. Recycling materials should be set out in front of house. Your regular trash goes in the same location as it did previously.

Recyclables are:

* Metal (Aluminum, tin, and steel food and beverage containers)

* Plastic (Bottles and jars with 1 – 7 on the bottom)
 * Glass (Bottles and jars)
 * Mixed Paper (All colors, mail, books, newsprint, folders, magazines, cardboard, cereal boxes, office and school paper)
ONLY the items above are acceptable!

For example: Do not put items such as window glass, used food containers, waxed boxes, or aluminum foil into your recycling container.

Do not use plastic bags for your recyclables. Plastic bags are no longer acceptable.

3 options: 1). purchase and use a recycling bin;
 2). use a container of choice that is clearly marked as recycling material;
 3). use a cardboard box.

Weekend Banking Comes to Mount Vernon

Not here to bank during the week? No problem! PNC, a lifetime member of the MVBA, is open from 9 – 12 noon on Saturdays.

New Businesses in the Neighborhood

Business is booming at Night of the Cookers at 885 N. Howard Street. An offshoot of a popular Brooklyn restaurant, everyone is raving about the huge portions, the fabulous flavors and the personal attention of the chef. Don't miss the dinners and Sunday brunch We're pleased to have this new establishment in Mount Vernon!

Welcome New Business Members

Joining us this month are top restaurants Indigma and Sotto Sopra, the Howard Street Merchants Association, The Baltimore Hostel, and Water Spirit Wellness Center on Mount Royal Avenue. These are all first class operations and we are delighted to have them in Mount Vernon and a part of the MVBA.

More Investment in our Historic Architecture

Hats off to Emmanuel Episcopal Church at Cathedral and Read which is undertaking \$ 3 million in renovation to their very important building. A new slate roof has been completed and many more projects will be done in the coming year.

2007 Tree Report

As part of the MVBA's Tree Planting initiative, the city planted 44 new trees this Fall throughout the neighborhood. While they came close, the Forestry Department again was unable to complete the community's list, leaving some tree wells with stumps, others with dead trees and some completely empty. We will be pushing again in Fall 2008 for more plantings to address these and any new tree needs. With one more season we should be able to erase a decades-old backlog of neglected tree replacements. MVBA thanks Tom Stosur of the Mayor's Office and Rebecca Feldberg, City Arborist, for their partnership in this effort, and to MVBA's past President Jack Danna for his ongoing lobbying out of the MVBA's "branch office" in New York.

Read Street is Happening!

Around the corner, Read Street is also hot these days. A new middle eastern restaurant is preparing to open in the old Designer's Hardware location. Read Street Books has expanded to two townhouses – stop by for fresh coffees, desserts, interesting books and live performances. Jay's is always hopping with live jazz and a great cocktails. Not one, but two of the best shops in Baltimore for a fabulous hair cut are on Read Street too: Neal's and The Beatnik Barber – both are Baltimore originals with their own fun style. Sandarac and Oroko are some of the most interesting places to shop and enjoy in the whole city. And, if you are looking for a hidden jewel in Mount Vernon, check out the Toy Museum at 222 W. Read. This is a beautiful and fascinating collection – enjoyable to share with visitors or friends – that was voted one of the **Top 10 Museums in Baltimore** by citysearch.com. Open Thurs – Sat, 11-4, \$5 admission, and worth every penny. Take your time to enjoy this treasure. Kudos also to the Read Street merchants who have restarted their own business association and are working together enhance this charming block

MVBA Thanks ...

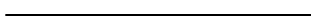
Our sincerest thanks go to MVBA Board member Petula Nash and the entire team that put together this year's holiday party. Thanks also to Sasha's for hosting the MVBA in their elegant restaurant.



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.....Jason Curtis.....president@mvba.org
- Vice PresidentPaul Warrenvicepresident@mvba.org
- TreasurerBrian Colemantreasurer@mvba.org
- Secretary.....Philippa Strydom.....secretary@mvba.org
- Corr. SecretaryRobert BeachyCorrSecretary@mvba..org

Committees

- Architectural ReviewSteven Shen.....(arc@mvba.org)
- SanitationSandy Lawler
- Property Stewardship.....*Vacant*
- Liquor.....Steve Johnson
- Zoning.....Paul Warren
- Marketing.....Regina Minniss(rminniss@cbmove.com)
- DevelopmentPaul Warren
- Safety*Vacant*(safety@mvba.org)
- MembershipSusan Warren(membership@mvba.org)
- ParkingPam Stewart

Of Counsel Laura Giantris(council@mvba.org)

Board Members

- Petula Nash
- Barbara Jean Gilbert
- Sandy Lawler
- Kendra Whitlock Ingram
- Ernest Liotti
- David Wiesand

Appointed Member:

Bill Oelke, Walters Art Museum
Stan Keyser

Ex-officio Members

- Steve Johnson
- J.J. Pecora
- Mary Ann Henderson

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

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Meeting including presentation of the budget.
Meetin Location: Associated Jewish Federation building at Mount Royal Avenue at Maryland Avenue

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