



# Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

March 2008

Volume 23, Number 03

## Homeless Shelter plan under the Fallsway

MVBA has been informed that the city is considering locating a new 200-250 bed homeless shelter under the Fallsway near the new Our Daily Bread. City representatives, including Andrew Frank of the Mayor's office, will be at the next general meeting on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Belvedere Building, 1 East Chase Street, to discuss the proposal and to provide more details. The MVBA has already requested a community impact study be completed before any decisions are made on the project.

All, members and non-members alike, are welcome to attend.

## Mount Vernon Children's Park

Thanks to generous donations from a number of Mount Vernon residents, the Mount Vernon Children's Park will soon place another order for personalized "playground bricks," which we hope to install at the front gate of the playground by early summer. Indeed, we would like to extend a special thank you to Mary Frances Parvizi, Chris Forsberg and Eric Lowe for their recent brick purchases.

If you would like to make a permanent and personal contribution to the Mount Vernon Children's Park by purchasing a brick (inscribed with your name or that of a loved one), please place your order today! Playground bricks be ordered on-line at [www.mountvernonchildrenspark.org](http://www.mountvernonchildrenspark.org). You can also place an order by contacting Laura Giantris at [lgiantris@gmail.com](mailto:lgiantris@gmail.com) or 443-322-6853.

The Mount Vernon Children's Park is funded through the generous donations of Baltimore's philanthropic community, businesses, property owners and residents. All donations and brick purchases are tax-deductible and are made through the Midtown Community Fund, a 501(c)-3 organization.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to purchase a brick, and keep in mind that this may be last opportunity to place an order for some time to come. If you have already ordered a brick, but would like to make an additional contribution, please either visit our website or contact Laura Giantris who will be happy to assist you!



### 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).

## Developments, Etc,

The Streetscaping project along Charles Street is now one third of the way completed with major utility repairs and upgrades nearly finished. The next step will be the installation of granite curbs beginning on the south end of the project (Madison Street) and moving northward.

Groundbreaking on a Prayer Garden located behind the Basilica of the Assumption is currently scheduled for mid-April.

Mount Vernon will be out in force at Live Baltimore's "Greenlight Baltimore" event on Saturday April 12 from 10:30 am – 2:00 pm. This is the first major event in the city showcasing Baltimore and its neighborhood's to families and individuals relocating to the area as a result of the Base Realignment program (BRAC). Live Baltimore reports that they have had twice the number of expected registrants, most of them coming from New Jersey. You can be certain that MVBA will be there, highlighting our incredible urban community to all of the attendees. If you would like to participate, send an e-mail to Jason Curtis at [president@mvba.org](mailto:president@mvba.org).

## Mount Vernon in the News

Congratulations to MVBA members Michael Polizzi and Michael McCarthy on the wonderful article on their house in the Baltimore Sun. We've said it before, we'll say it again, we need more coverage like this on our unique housing options to attract more residents to Mount Vernon. Condo, townhouse, carriage house, it doesn't matter. Show off your home by contacting the Sun's "Dream Home" columnist at [real.estate@baltsun.com](mailto:real.estate@baltsun.com). Let's keep our homes in the news!

Kudos to these MVBA member restaurants for being selected by Baltimore Magazine as "Best Restaurants" of Baltimore: Sotto Sopra, The Brass Elephant, The Brewer's Art, The Helmand, Prime Rib and Ixia. Once again, Mount Vernon has more top restaurants than any other community in the metro area. Go and enjoy these, and all of our other great culinary treats, shops and clubs. Strong businesses continue to make us a strong and attractive neighborhood.

## Flower Mart Can Make You (or your pet) a Star!

Calling all dogs with good looks and people with talent! Get ready for two exciting contests at this year's Flower Mart on May 2 and 3. A Pet Mascot for Flower Mart will be selected after a Pet Parade in front of the main stage on Saturday May 3, 2008. Judging will be at 1 pm same location. Registration for the contestants will be at the humane society booth on Friday and Saturday. What is your special talent? Tap dancing, drumming, baton twirling, accordion playing? We know we have lots of talented residents and business folks in Mount Vernon, and now is your time to shine as a contestant in Flower Mart's Superstar Contest. Fill out the on-line form at [www.flowermart.org](http://www.flowermart.org) and plan on showing your stuff on Saturday May 3 at 1 p.m.

## The Mount Vernon Map

The beautiful, new Mount Vernon Map has arrived! Look for it all over the neighborhood to name a few. Grab a couple to share with visiting family and friends, and anyone who might be considering moving to the neighborhood. The map showcases how rich we are in architecture, entertainment, culture, dining and shopping. This project also demonstrates how committed all of the diverse interests in Mount Vernon are to working together for a better community – we thank our businesses, cultural institutions and residents for their partnership in making the map possible. The map also will be distributed at the Inner Harbor Visitor's Center, all downtown hotels, as well as major cultural and special events. Thank you to the BSO and Center Stage for special help in getting the map to their audiences and to the Historical Society and the Peabody for their significant help in distribution. We anticipate the map will be an important tool in MVBA's efforts to grow an even healthier and more vibrant commercial presence throughout all of Mount Vernon, and to bringing larger audiences and more visitors to our cultural institutions, both of which are absolutely critical to a great residential experience in Mount Vernon.

### Mount Vernon Business News

MVBA welcomes these terrific new business and institutional members to the Association: The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, The Peabody Institute, Sotto Sopra, Sascha's, A People United, The Antique Row Association, An die Musik LIVE, Water Spirit Wellness Center on Mount Royal, Indigma Restaurant, Mughal Garden Restaurant, the C. Grimaldis Gallery, Dubey Antiques, the HI Baltimore Hostel, and Mathew John's Hair Salon and Gentei Menswear, both on fashionable Morton Street.

Here's a chance to try two of our businesses at the same time! Check out the Indigma Wine Dinner on March 19 at 6:30 p.m. An incredible five-course dinner is just \$55 per person plus tax and gratuity. Wines selected and provided by our own Spirits of Mount Vernon. Call 410-605-1212 for reservations.

We are pleased to welcome the Baumgarten Stamp Co.



**MVBA MEMBER OFFER**

- First Month Free
- 10% Off Monthly Rates
- 30 Day Guarantee

[www.mvfit.com](http://www.mvfit.com)

to the newly renovated 1305 St. Paul Street. Thanks and congratulations to MVBA member The Michael Group for the excellent work on this building. We also welcome another new business, SaSa's Spa at 1111 Park Avenue (at Howard Street).

**No Trash Collection for  
March 21st Good Friday.**

## Fabulous Cultural Events in March

**Sunday, March 16 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.** GRAND OPENING at the Walters! *Maps: Finding Our Place in the World*. This is perhaps the largest special exhibit mounted by the Walters in 50 years. Maps by DaVinci, Thomas Jefferson and Cortes. Incredible items in the gift shop too. We thank the Walters and their volunteers for helping to get the new Mount Vernon Map to visitors at this wonderful exhibit. The Walters expects 100,000 visitors from March to June. What a great way to introduce our community to these cultural patrons. Thank you, Walters!

**Big Music in a Small Space** – that's what you'll find at An die Musik, 409 N. Charles Street. Jazz, world and classical artists fill the schedule including: Irish music by Robin Bullock on March 14, the NY-based jazz ensemble Fonda/Stevens Group on March 22 and Chen and Tong on the piano and violin on March 30. Check out the restaurant discounts offered for An die Musik patrons at Sascha's (10% off total bill) and Sotto Sopra (20% off total bill, except Mondays & Opera Nights, on Mondays save 50% off bottled wine). Check out the entire back room of incredible CDs. It's a music store right in Mount Vernon.

**Center Stage** opens Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* on Wednesday, March 19. Tickets are as low as \$ 10 each on weeknights!

**Romeo and Juliet**, the world's most famous love story, by the Baltimore Opera Company, March 29 and April 2, 4, 6.

**At the Meyerhoff:** *Pop Goes Vegas* on March 14, 15, 16; the man, the legend, the one and only *Tony Bennett* on March 22; *Andre Watts plays Brahms* March 27, 28, and 30.

**Tim Miller's** hilarious one man show *Us* skewers the gay marriage debate through Broadway tunes and, yes, striptease, at the Theatre Project March 15 and 16. March 26-30 the theater will feature *Playing the Rapture*, an original performance work that focuses on American Evangelical belief in a time when the faithful will be suddenly removed from the Earth.

**Mozart's *The Magic Flute***, an intricate plot, yet accessible and entertaining at the same time, is presented by the Peabody Opera and Concert Orchestra, March 12, 13, 14, 15

**4 BY TENN**, four short plays by Tennessee Williams runs from Mar 21 - Apr 13 at the Spotlighter's Theater on Saint Paul Street.

Join MHC on **March 15, 2008 at 12 pm** when it transforms its office (108 West Centre Street, Baltimore) into a coffee house to showcase the art and storytelling of Kianga Ford as she remaps Mount Vernon through her new audio work, "Mapping Mount Vernon—the Story of This Place." Commissioned by the Contemporary Museum, Ford's 40-minute tour will lead visitors through the neighborhood on a journey that will introduce a series of narratives and characters, crossing time and collapsing the fictive and the real.

Then, on **April 5 and May 3, 2008**, take a guided walking tour of the haunts of Mount Vernon's literary luminaries, with MHC's popular "Literary Walking Tour." Join other literary aficionados at 1 pm at Old St. Paul's Rectory (24 West Saratoga Street, Baltimore) and retrace the footsteps of the enigmatic Edgar Allen Poe, the curmudgeonly H.L. Mencken, hip-hop star Tupac Shakur, and more, following a map created by Baltimore artist Tom Chalkley.

**Architectural Review Committee—**

The Architectural Review Committee met in February and discussed the following properties:

**1015 North Calvert Street:** discussion included a suitable front door replacement and appropriate material for replacing the mansard roof.

**914 St. Paul Street:** the discussion involved window replacement, painting the first floor rear brick wall due to peeling paint, construction of a dormer, and enlarge three existing windows on the courtyard side.

**916 St. Paul Street:** the discussion involved painting the first floor rear brick wall due to peeling paint and construct a dormer. There was also a discussion on the need to install a fire exit stair system in the rear to service both buildings.

**929 N. Calvert Street:** This project involves demolition of an old garage and constructing a two story carriage house. There was additional discussion on parking issues and lack of a second egress from the main building, which houses apartments.

**855 N. Howard Street:** The discussion involved the third floor windows, second floor leaded light windows, and a new fire escape stair system on the rear of the building to include a deck arrangement.

**911 N. Charles Street:** The complexity of the proposed façade renovation led to the decision to postpone the presentation so that the presentation could be made on site, to include both the owner and the architect, probably in March.

**Liquor/Restaurants:**

The following locations for transfer of ownership will be considered at the Liquor Board's office on March 11.

Jay's on Read Street

The Mt. Vernon Supermarket at 815-817 N. Charles Street

The application for a restaurant license at 1218 N. Charles Street to include outdoor table service was heard on March 6 and approved. The restaurant, formally Cobber's Pub, will be called Aloha Tokyo.

### **Andrew Frank - Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood and Economic Development**

Prior to joining the administration of Mayor Sheila Dixon, Mr. Frank was the Executive Vice President for the Baltimore Development Corporation (the city's economic development arm) for six years. He oversaw business retention and attraction, land assemblage and redevelopment, capital budgeting, commercial revitalization, and urban design and planning.

Among his achievements at BDC, Mr. Frank helped structure public private partnership financing for several major redevelopment projects, including three Tax Increment Financing (TIF) projects (totaling \$170 million); the \$100 million redevelopment of the Montgomery Ward Building, completion of the City's 7-mile waterfront promenade and Baltimore's new Inner Harbor Visitor's Center.

In May 2004, Mr. Frank was appointed to the position of Inner Harbor Coordinator, expanding his responsibilities as the BDC's EVP. As Inner Harbor Coordinator, Mr. Frank oversaw implementation of the 2003 Inner Harbor Master Plan, chaired the intra-agency Inner Harbor Task Force, and managed major capital projects such as the \$5 million renovation of the West Shore Park. As Inner Harbor Coordinator, Mr. Frank engaged the private sector in creating a waterfront improvement district to raise standards and improve day-to-day operations and management.

A 1992 graduate of the University of North Carolina with a Master's degree in Regional Planning, Mr. Frank has worked in the private sector, developing affordable housing, and in the public sector with the Baltimore City Department of Planning and Department of Housing and Community Development. Since 2000, he has co-taught a real estate development class in the Urban Studies and Planning Department at the University of Maryland College Park.

He proudly lives in Baltimore City with his partner and son.



# 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 President .....Paul Warren .....vicepresident@mvba.org
- Treasurer .....Brian Coleman .....treasurer@mvba.org
- Secretary.....Philippa Strydom.....secretary@mvba.org
- Corr. Secretary .....Robert Beachy .....CorrSecretary@mvba..org

### Committees

- Architectural Review .....Steven Shen.....(arc@mvba.org)
- Sanitation .....Sandy Lawler
- Property Stewardship.....*Vacant*
- 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

- 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

#### Midtown Community Benefits District Spring Town Hall Wednesday, March 19, 7:00pm .

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

#### No Trash Collection for March 21st Good Friday.

**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.

