

Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

May 2008

Volume 23, Number 05

MVBA General Meeting

This month's general meeting will include a presentation by Streuver Brothers regarding the State Center Project.

The general meeting will take place at the Belvedere Hotel, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, beginning promptly at 7:30pm. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend.



Cool and Classy Downtown Living: Showcasing our great neighborhood!



THE MVBA participated in two community fairs sponsored by Live Baltimore to promote city living to potential homebuyers. On Saturday, April 12th, the MVBA was one of several community associations present at the BRAC (Base Realignment & Closure Commission) event, which showcased Baltimore to military personnel and their families who will be moving to Maryland as a result of the bases closing in New Jersey and Virginia. And on Saturday May 10th, the MVBA was one of the community associations that participated in the Buying into Baltimore fair, which provided information on Baltimore city neighborhoods to prospective homebuyers.

During both events, Sheryl DeWalt, Larry Peterson and Petula Nash shared information with interested homebuyers, including a packet on Mount Vernon that the MVBA had put together. The packet has information on cultural and educational activities, and on Mount Vernon a child-friendly neighborhood; a flyer on the benefits of living in Mount Vernon; a map of Mount Vernon; and a listing of all the properties for sale in our neighborhood.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following organizations, which contributed material for the packet: the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, CENTERSTAGE, the Maryland Humanities Council, the Mount Vernon Cultural District, the Peabody Institute, the Pratt Library and the Walters Museum. In addition, thanks to our members Sheryl DeWalt, Ernest Liotti, Bill Oelke, Larry Peterson, and Susan Warren for their wonderful assistance.

These two important events are part of the MVBA's efforts to increase the visibility of our neighborhood and contribute to our larger initiative of actively marketing and showcasing our neighborhood.—*Petula Nash, PR Committee Chair*

Welcome New Business and Institutional Members

MVBA is very pleased and proud to welcome the following entities to the Association this past month: The Baltimore Opera Company, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, The Preston Street Apartments at 218 E. Preston Street and the Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore. Our business membership is now over 130 and still growing. We are happy to represent the interests of our entire community - residents, businesses, and religious and cultural institutions.

Other Business News

A tip of the community hat to MVBA member Mughal Garden Restaurant for their fresh new exterior look. The restaurant has a new partner who is on-site regularly. This owner is focused on improving the restaurant



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.

and being a positive part of the community. He notes that the restaurant offers a 10% discount with a coupon (coupon is on the back of the carry out menu right inside the front door to the left). The food has always been excellent at Mughal Garden (rated "Excellent" by Zagat in 2007), now the exterior reflects that quality. If you have not been there for awhile, it's time to go back.

Our own Spirits of Mount Vernon is making news all over town. The Oceanaire Restaurant & Spirits of Mt Vernon recently sponsored a wine dinner at Oceanaire which was a sellout. One local publication noted that the "wines were spectacular!" Spirits is a large contributor to all things benefiting the community - we are lucky to have them right on Charles Street. Please support this and our other wonderful small businesses.

Mount Vernon in the News

May 4, 2008's Washington Post featured a "road trip" for Washingtonians to explore H.L. Mencken's Baltimore. Mount Vernon sites made up half of the suggested stops for travelers: The Owl Bar in the Belvedere, The George Peabody Library, the newly-restored brownstone on Cathedral Street that is now part of the School for the Arts, the Maryland Club, the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Maryland Historical Society.

Fundraiser for Children's Park A Huge Success

Volunteers from around the Mount Vernon community came together the first weekend in May at Baltimore's historic Flower Mart to take part in a critical fundraiser for the benefit of the Mount Vernon Children's Park. The fundraiser - which involved the last-ever sale of glassware and fine china by renowned artist Michael Weems - brought in more than \$10K for the park in the space of just two days. This fundraiser required a tremendous amount of manpower, as well as support from the Baltimore-area business community. Accordingly, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who had a hand in this endeavor, especially Michael Weems who generously donated to the park *all* proceeds from the sale of his glass and china. In addition to the sale of glassware and china, volunteers sold more than 600 raffle tickets at Flower Mart. The popularity of our the raffle was no surprise given the inducements - a beautiful wine basket donated by Spirits of Mount Vernon and dinner-for-two

Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks & Landscapes
and
Friends of Mount Vernon Place
present

A Free Public Forum

Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 PM

Baltimore School for the Arts

Corner of Cathedral & W. Madison Street in Mt. Vernon.
On street parking available nearby.
Meeting in the elegantly restored Drawing Room.
Please use the Madison Street entrance.

*Why Is the Olmsted Legacy &
Vision for Baltimore
Relevant for
Comprehensive Planning Today?*

Keynote Speaker: DOUGLAS MCCOACH
Director, Baltimore City Department of Planning

Doug McCoach will explore the role of the Olmsted Brothers firm in the origins of the Baltimore Department of Planning. He also will discuss the newly adapted Open Space Zoning District and suggest strategies for protecting parks and open spaces as a vital part of our communities, Q & A

Since January 2007, Doug McCoach has served as Director of the Baltimore City Department of Planning and For 23 years, practiced architecture at RTKL Associates. A Baltimore native, he is committed to creating opportunities for all citizens to participate in The continuing regeneration of Baltimore City

6- 7:00 P.M.— Sign-in.
Tour the beautifully renovated and expanded
Baltimore School for the Arts.
Visit the art gallery.



6:30 P.M.— ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Friends of Mount Vernon Place
410-962-5070 for meeting information

7:00 P.M.— Keynote Speech. Q&A
See opposite.



8:00 P.M.— ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks & Landscapes

410-375-6949 or jbec423@comcast.net for more info

8:00—8:45 PM— Reception

at Copra Restaurant on Charles Street. Many thanks to Spirits and Copra for their generous support of the park!

Thanks also to Whole Foods of Mount Washington for its gift of more than 400 paper bags (yes, we said 400!), which were used for packing up glassware and china for our generous customers. PNC Bank and Midtown Community Benefits made it possible for us to take credit cards at the fundraiser (resulting in a major boost in sales) and Eddie's of Mount Vernon kept our volunteer sales staff from passing out from dehydration with a donated supply of bottled water - many thanks! Other supplies for the fundraiser were generously supplied by Home Depot, Wal-Mart and the Metro Gallery on Charles Street.

Thanks also to Mike Shecter and Steve Shen for holding the china and glassware in storage for the *entire*

Flower Mart 2008 – Lemon Stick Booth

Many thanks for our helpers this year. They were Steve Chesbro, Laura Epp, Jim Forcum, John Garland, Sharon Haefner, Taylor Hubbard, Virginia Jarvis, Mollie Jenckes, Susan Kern, Patrick Lowe, Bill McCarthy, Mary Sue McCarthy, Jane McConnell, Cathy McDermott, Peter Merles, Regina Minniss, Eileen O'Brien, Myrna Petersen, Danielle Shapiro, John Shields, Ruth Spann, Sandy Sparks, Robert Wagner, and Asylyne Wright. They all worked hard, and I hope they all had fun. I know I enjoyed all their company!

This was the first year that the Friends of Mt. Vernon Place (FMVP) ran the booth. I was ready to give it up and pass it on to someone else within the Mt. Vernon/Belvedere Association, but the Association did not want to keep it. I was flattered when the reason was that no one could run it as well as me. In the wings was the Friends of Mt. Vernon Place. Since I'm on the Board with them, it ends up that I will still run the booth. With a fresh source of volunteers it feels new to me.

We were blessed with good weather, and our sales were more than last year. Gross was \$5702 (07'-\$5591). We ended up netting \$2,173.29 (07'-\$1943.40). The lemons went way up in price. Last year the cost was about \$1000.00 for 28 cases, this year they were about \$1500.00 for 26 cases. For next year we will make an effort to find a sponsor. If anyone knows of someone or a business that might help out please have them contact me, Regina Minniss, rminniss@cbmove.com, or 410-837-4896.

MVBA MEMBER OFFER



- First Month Free
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feast!

at 4 east

"lunch in the garden"

wednesday*thursday*friday

11:30-2:00

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!OPENING JUNE 13 FOR DINNER!

vegan to carnivore

byob

wake up to breakfast off the garden



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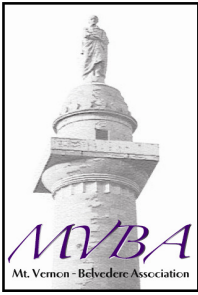
year leading up to this fundraiser.

Many others are responsible for contributing their time and talent to this fundraiser. Thanks to Maureen VanDyke for her fabulous flower arrangement, and Rosemary Roddy and Brandt Petrasek (our strategic planners) for their business savvy and persuasive sales pitches. The heavy lifting (literally) was handled by David Creyzt, Jeff Arnold, Steve Shen, Susan Warren, Russ Bloomquist, Philippa Strydom and Laura Giantris, who were responsible for loading, transporting, and unloading the seemingly endless boxes of glass and china. And thanks also to Larry Peterson and Tom Sabia for loaning their pick-up truck for this purpose!

Our all-volunteer sales force included Amy Sepinwall, Mark Borer, Gina Queen, Sue Pippin, Jae Patton, Pat Mikos, Wendy Tien, Dipti Shah, Nicole Hoskins, Nat Gordon-Clark, Gillian Cook, Peter Quinn, Karen Lemmert, Eric Lowe, Jayson Fricke, Paul and Rosemary Roddy, Philippa Strydom, Laura Giantris, Steve Shen, and Brandt Petrasek. Many thanks to all for a job well done!

Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake presents

For the second straight year, Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake is in search of Baltimore's "Top Neighborhood Dads." The contest is being launched in preparation for Father's Day to honor those dedicated men who have given selflessly to keep Baltimore's neighborhoods strong, clean & safe. Baltimore neighborhood associations are asked to nominate their top neighborhood dad, along with the reasons he should be recognized for his work. NOTE: The nominees need not be actually fathers, simply men who have given fatherly love through their work for the community. Print nomination form <http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/Top_Dads_nomination_form.pdf>



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
Kenn Hobbs

Ex-officio Members

Steve Johnson
J.J. Pecora
Mary Ann Henderson

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

MVBA's general meeting will take place at the Belvedere Hotel, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, beginning promptly at 7:30pm. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend. A presentation by Streuver Brothers regarding the State Center Project will be main topic this evening

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.

