

Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

August 2008

Volume 23, Number 08

There is no MVBA General Meeting this month, so UB is taking advantage of the timeslot to invite the community to a presentation/meeting on their proposed streetscape plan. There are a number of important items for our consideration including proposed changes to the Charles Street Streetscaping plan in the 1300 block, addition of large street medallions in the roadbed, lighting changes, signage, markers, etc., UB is planning a huge investment here, and they deserve careful consideration and constructive feedback, so please try to attend:

“The University of Baltimore invites you to a community briefing and presentation regarding the University’s proposed streetscape concepts—designed by Ayres Saint Gross—a distinctive schemata of paving, landscaping and planted trees throughout the UB campus. The anticipated timeline for the project is Fall 2008 through Spring 2011.

This presentation will be held on **Tuesday, August 19th at 7:00pm** on the 5th floor of the UB Student Center (21 W. Mount Royal Avenue). We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to jquigley@ubalt.edu or 410.837.5036 by Tuesday, August 12th. Thank you.

Mount Vernon is Theater Central

Believe it or not, Mount Vernon is home to THREE great live theaters. Each one is a bit different, but they are all first class. Don’t just try one, but try them all this Fall. **The Theatre Project** was called the “Best theater in Baltimore” by City Paper for making cutting edge material accessible to everyone. Located at 45 W. Preston Street near the Meyerhoff, their schedule includes *Baltimore: The Opera*. Subscriptions can be purchased for only \$ 80 for 6 shows.

Spotlighter’s Theater is where top theater professionals can be found enjoying a show – it’s that good. This small theater company at 817 Saint Paul Street has been producing the eclectic, hysterical, classic and stirring for more than 30 years in Mount Vernon. This fall season is daring, funny and inexpensive to enjoy – don’t miss their staging of the musical “Hats” about a woman struggling with her 50th birthday. Songs by Melissa Manchester and Steve Lawrence, among others. Tickets for all shows are under \$ 20.

Center Stage is a nationally honored theater but, incredibly, many Mount Vernonites have never set foot inside this full time professional facility. Now’s your chance. Center Stage is offering a package of six shows for \$ 60 and half priced subscriptions for a limited time. The box office is at 700 N. Calvert and is open every day, or go to centerstage.org.

All of these theaters are committed supporters of the community. Let’s help them stay vital and fill their seats with strong neighborhood support this year.

Mount Vernon in the News

MVBA members Prime Rib and Helmand have been selected by *Zagat* as Top 5 Favorite restaurants in Baltimore.



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.

We have a couple of Top 40 Under 40 Honorees in Mount Vernon. The selections were announced in *Baltimore Magazine's* August edition to recognized young movers and shakers in Baltimore. Andrea Shelby, owner of MV Fitness at 1016 N. Charles, and her husband Justin Shelby, who developed the condos above the retail level, were honored for their innovative businesses. Both businesses are MVBA members and die hard community supporters.

And Dubey's Antique Shop at 805 N. Howard was honored as a Best of Baltimore winner, also by *Baltimore Magazine*. Antique Row is undergoing a renaissance – check them out if you have not been there lately. Great changes are happening there and we have lots of MVBA members, including Dubey's, who are taking the lead on Howard Street.

And which institution received a full page spread in the Sunday Washington *Post* Arts Section? That would be our own Contemporary Museum for their widely acclaimed show "Cottage Industry." The *Post* had nothing but raves for this cool, stylish and surprising exhibition that continues until Aug. 24. The Contemporary, also an MVBA member, is open Wed. – Sun. noon – 5 p.m. Congratulations to Irene Hoffmann and her staff for making such a great splash in the national press.

Try a Bit of Volunteering

We're still looking for residents willing to tuck a few Mount Vernon maps in their purses, backpacks, cars or briefcases to help visitors needing assistance in the neighborhood. Contact Susan Warren at sbwarren@hotmail.com to help.

More New Members and Contributions

Many thanks to the Walters Art Museum, an MVBA member for many, many years and a strong supporter of the community. The Walters has just donated \$ 500 to the association's endowment fund and is now a lifetime member. We appreciate the Walter's vote of confidence in the work of the MVBA. Another large thank you goes to Jean Bartlett for her contribution of \$ 500 as a lifetime member of MVBA. MVBA welcomes much-admired florist Chris Psoras and her business Flowers by Chris as business members of the association. At

1019 Cathedral, Flowers by Chris has a strong following throughout the city and a large commercial business providing flowers to offices and other businesses. We love this business' terrific window displays which only add to the great look in this stretch of Cathedral – it has become a colorful and appealing destination thanks to the many MVBA members in that block who work to make it so.

A Few Cultural Events in Mount Vernon

Enjoy **The Art of Reading Book Club** at the Walters on Sunday, August 24, 3 p.m.

The Hound in the Left Hand Corner by Giles Waterfield
Location: The Walters Parlor; 5 West Mount Vernon Place. Price: Free for Members; Non-Members, \$5.

Check out the **Peabody Jazz Quartet** every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at An die Musik LIVE – 409 N. Charles Street. Tickets are just \$ 8. Stop for dinner at Sotto Sopra or Sascha's, both have dinner specials for An die Musik patrons.

It's not all about Renee Zellweger

Wow, there I was, just me, sitting across from Marion Tumen in Sotta Sopra. She was kind of thanking me for the souvenir photo album I put together for her, and what I would really like to think is that she was making time to say good bye to me. She had been in town for two months as part of the crew filming *My One and Only*. It was Friday and she was leaving early Sunday morning. The film crew was heading to Albuquerque, New Mexico for two weeks to finish the film.

Pressure was on; how do I hold conversation with someone who has been in the personal space of Robert Duval, Demi Moore, Joe Mantegna, Kim Basinger, Nick Nolte, Sandra Bullock, Robert Downey, Jr., Kyra Sedgwick, Christopher Noth, Jessica Lange, Bruce Willis, Reese Witherspoon...etc, etc; I think you get my point. Now is not the time to freeze up, I thought. "I've made a major decision in my life." I said to Marion while eating my vegetarian meal. "I've changed the direction of my toilet paper." Once I saw the smile on her face I felt a bit more relaxed. Truth is - she made it easy for me. Marion is non pretentious, kind, attractive, approachable, and very much in the moment person. For her two months here she became

2008/2009 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS

Current Area 28 parking permits expire on September 30, 2008. You can start renewing on-line beginning August 25th at www.baltimorecity.gov/government/parking.

OR

VISIT THE RPP OFFICES at 200 West Lombard Street, Suite B.

Apply on-line by September 16. New residents must apply in person after September 18 at the RPP office. See documentation requirements below or on-line. For further info, call the RPP office at 443-573-2800.

PICKUP PERMITS at one of three Mt. Vernon Belvedere Association sponsored pick up sites! **Only pre-paid** permits can be picked up. No applications will be accepted. MVBA can be reached at 410-528-1919 or e-mail at parking@mvba.org.

PICKUP SESSIONS:

Wednesday, September 17, 6pm – 8pm
Saturday, September 20, 10am – 12 noon
Location: Belvedere Condominiums
1 East Chase Street
John Eager Howard Room

Tuesday, September 23, 6pm – 8pm
Location: Midtown Benefits District Office
1221 North Calvert Street

GENERAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

You must provide your driver's license and **current vehicle registration**. **The registration should be in your name and reflect your Mt. Vernon address**. If the vehicle registration is **not** in your name, you will also need to provide a **notarized letter** from the owner of the vehicle stating that you are the sole driver, along with proof of residency (a current lease, current utility bill, cable or phone bill).

Students and military must have and show a current ID.

If the vehicle registration is out of state and you do not have a Maryland driver's license, you must obtain a non-resident permit from the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles. You must provide the receipt from DMV and provide a copy of the application.

Lack of proper documentation will result in the issuance of a temporary permit only. Temporary permits may only be picked up at the RPP office.

Please Note—Ordinance 06-0316 requires that all expired decals must be removed from the windshield. Failure to do so may lead to a citation notice. Abuse, photo-copying, altering, selling etc... is considered a misdemeanor and there is a fine of \$1,000 and up to a year in jail. In the event this occurs, everyone in that household can be removed from the RPP program. For the entire City Code, go to [www.Baltimore City gov](http://www.BaltimoreCity.gov) and go to City Charter or Codes, Article 31.

Residential Parking Permit renewal is provided as a service by you local community association, the Mt. Vernon Belvedere Association. If you are not already a member, please consider joining! Visit our websight at www.mvba.org for more information and to join.

one of us.

Marion won honorary status among the dog people. Whenever she was not working 10, 11, 12, or 14 hour days she would mingle among the dog crowd with Lulu, a mixed breed, who by the way, had a part in the movie.

Mt. Vernon was the back drop for several scenes in the film. The Belvedere, the Engineers Club, the Washington Apartments, and the Spotlighters Theatre were the Mt. Vernon sites for filming. While shooting at the Washington Apts., several Mt Vernon-ites, I was among them, were hanging out watching the slow moving action; after all, we did know Lulu, and this was Lulu's time. What fun it was seeing the 1950's cars, and clothing. Among the cars were an old police car, and an old taxi. I was talking with one of the owners of the cars and he pulled out his wallet, as if he was showing me his family, and showed me his other well taken care of vintage cars. He was rightfully proud of his antiques vehicles

While hanging out I had an opportunity to speak with several of the other crew members. Stephen Walker, who I've know for years. He used to live on Tyson St. - he and his wife supplied the props; and Boots Shelton, who had been a client of mine on two occasions - he was the main camera person. While talking to Boots, Marion came out of the Washington Apts. and headed my way, "Come with me and I'll get you in to watch the filming from inside" she said "and then you can have lunch with us" "O.K. that sounds wonderful!" I replied. Well, walking in, I see three director chairs with names on them, and Marion Tumen was on one of them. Holly cow, she was the script supervisor, the one who makes sure that the actors' movements match the script. She has to be very attentive, oh, what a big day for me! During one of the pauses between filming Marion had someone in the next room roll the scene for me with Lulu. I felt so privileged. Then the director, Richard Loncraine, came in, so it's the director, Richard; the script supervisor, Marion; and me. "ACTION" the director called.

Regina Minniss

The Baltimore Summer Antiques Show

is coming back to the Baltimore Convention Center August 28-31! The Show will return in its 28th year with over 550 international dealers from around the world as the largest summer antiques show in the nation.

Aisle upon aisle will include items of fine art, jewelry, silver, porcelain, American folk art, decorative accessories, furniture, glass, textiles and more ranging in period from the antiques to 20th century design. A 60-dealer Antiquarian Book Fair will compliment the show by offering rare books, first editions, fine manuscripts, autographs, and unusual bibliographical material.

Rounding out the show is a FREE six-part lecture series featuring top industry experts and designers. Enclosed you will find a brief description and schedule of the lecture series. Admission to the show is just \$12 and good for all days of the show. Hours vary from day to day:

Thursday, August 28	12 pm - 8 pm
Friday, August 29	11 am - 7 pm
Saturday, August 30	11 am - 7 pm
Sunday, August 31	11 am - 6 pm

Even if you're not a collector, the Baltimore Summer Antiques Show is an incredible opportunity to view and learn about some of the finest antiques and fine art in the world. No where in Baltimore can you get this much history and art under one roof at one time.

Architectural Review Committee

At its June 24th meeting, the committee reviewed the following:

1. **904 North Charles Street**—Brownstone is to be repaired and repainted and a discussion on the color of the cornice.
2. **1223 North Calvert Street**—Discussion took place regarding the painted top of basement-entrance concrete steps and whether it can be removed. Also, discussion on a painted section of the brownstone and whether it can be removed.

3. **505 Park Avenue**—There was discussion on the installation of a new awning/canopy over the front door. There was also discussion on the choice of a replacement front door, exterior lighting, replacement garage door, gutters and downspouts, and color scheme of the lower half of the building.

4. **1222 North Calvert Street**—The following issues were discussed:

- There is a large structural crack in the stone dormer which needs to be addressed.
- In the structure of the stoop, several marble support stones have fallen out.
- The windows need attention and can be restored
- There is a vinyl window in the mansard.
- Metal cornice/internal gutter piece needs careful re-attachment.
- Colors need to be chosen.
- Rear windows need to be addressed.

5. **1226 Saint Paul Street**—Restoration of the original windows was discussed.

6. **'Mount Vernon Stable' 909 North Charles Street**—There is more information needed about the proposed scope of work on the exterior.

7. **1301 North Charles Street**—

Discussion regarding the partial replacement of old faded grey shingle roof with new black shingle with the recommendation that the replacement shingle closely match the original.

This September, 4 East Madison Inn, celebrates 5 years in Baltimore.

Chef/Partner, Sandra Lawler, has been cooking! Feeding the Inn guests breakfast. Creating holiday dinner parties for neighboring business's and fund-raisers. Inventing wedding and rehearsal dinners. And of course, serving "Lunch in the Garden" every summer.

This quiet, in the know, sort of dining, is now a full-fledge restaurant.

A member of the Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (Buy Local Baltimore/Mt. Vernon), is now open to the public three nights a week with dining both inside the 1840's-era Mansion and in the Garden.

Together with sous chef Maia Tabet, their goal is: delightful food, sustainably sourced, prepared simply with a French-Mediterranean flair.

Herbs from the garden, home-made sausage and pate's.... organic chicken, lamb, Chesapeake fish.... Occasional surprises from around the country: Cajun Sausages, Artisanal Oils; and Imported Cheese from around the world, help to add personal touch's from Sandy and Maia.

Private parties may reserve the whole space, so a call ahead for reservations may be helpful.

4 east madison street

(just east of charles)

thursday friday saturday

5:30-9:00

byob

410.605.2020

www.4EastMadisonInn.com

13th Annual Baltimore Book Festival

Volunteers needed in two hour shifts to man our booth. The festival is September 26th, 27th, and 28th. The hours are Friday 5PM-9PM, Saturday and Sunday 11AM-7PM. If you volunteer you'll have a chance to meet some of your neighbors. We also need books to sell. So, if you have any books, or time to spare please call Regina Minniss at 410-837-4897 or email rminniss@coldwellbankermove.com

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee, chaired by past president Steve Johnson, has been selected to seek interested and qualified individuals to serve a 3 year term on the board of directors. Two director's terms expire each year. This year, the terms of Petula Nash and Barabara Jean Gilbert expire. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, please contact Steve Johnson at membership@mvba.org by September 15, 2008.

Follow the Journey of a Medieval Shrine from Creation to Present Day
Focus show presents the latest research on the shrine of Saint Amandus

Baltimore—Walters Art Museum visitors can discover how the shrine of Saint Amandus has evolved from creation to present day in the focus show *The Special Dead: A Medieval Reliquary Revealed*, from Aug. 2, 2008 to Jan. 18, 2009. The shrine, a box-shaped reliquary decorated like a church, once contained the remains of Saint Amandus, who is credited with converting pagan inhabitants of Flanders, or present-day Belgium and northern France, to Christianity.

The Walters holds a considerable collection of medieval reliquaries, including the shrine of Saint Amandus, the only reliquary of its kind in the country. This object is encased in gilt metal, and its interior was hollowed out from a single piece of oak using hand tools.

“Focusing on a single artwork from the collection, *The Special Dead* offers an intimate look at how medieval artists approached the challenge of enshrining venerated remains,” said Walters’ Director of the Curatorial Division and Curator of Medieval Art Griffith Mann. “We are also using this opportunity to solicit visitor feedback on an exhibition topic still in its planning stages for spring 2011.”

The Special Dead will highlight conservators’ and art historians’ recent research on the shrine. The technical research, such as CT scanning and tree-ring dating, will help answer how it was made, where, when and how later changes affected its original appearance.

Admission and Hours

Admission to *The Special Dead: A Medieval Reliquary Revealed* is free. **The Walters has changed its museum hours to 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, eliminating Friday evening hours.** The museum is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Walters will be open the day after Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day.

The Mount Vernon Belvedere Association Wants You! Join the association using the form below.

Mail to: MVBA Membership
 700 North Charles St #5C
 Baltimore MD 21201

The following information is needed to process your membership. It will not be used for other purposes.

Name: _____

Company / Institution: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Home: _____

Phone Work: _____

Would you like to serve on a committee or be a volunteer? Yes / No

Would you like to have your name listed as a new member? Yes / No

Type of Membership (circle one)

Please make checks payable to MVBA for any MVBA memberships.

Type	Amount
Individual	\$20.00
Family/Dual	\$30.00
Student	\$15.00
Senior Citizen	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$30.00
Business	\$50.00
Institution	\$150.00
Benefactor	\$350.00
Benefactor	\$350.00

John Eager Howard Society

Lifetime Membership

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to the Baltimore Community Foundation for any John Eager Society membership.

Individual	\$350.00
Family/Dual	\$500.00
Business	\$500.00

ENDOWMENT FUND

Thanks to those listed below who have generously contributed to MVBA's Endowment Fund known as the John Eager Howard Society. The fund is intended to provide financial resources for the Association in the future through the use of the interest earned on the fund. The principal of the fund cannot be accessed by the Association. If you would like to join, contact any Board member of the Association

Endowment Fund Contributors

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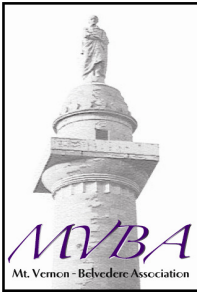
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Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

1221 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Md 21202

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To contact members by phone, call MVBA's main number 410-528-1919 and select the desired extension from the menu.

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Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

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See Page 3

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