

Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

September 2008

Volume 23, Number 09

The next General Membership meeting will be held on September 16, 2008, at the Belvedere Hotel, lobby level. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Members and non-members are welcome.

Our Guest Speaker: Mr. Ernst Valery, Project Manager for the Somerset Development rehab of 101 W. Read (formerly the Medical Arts Bldg) will present an update on the status of the project.

Update Proposed Homeless Shelter at Centre Street and the Fallway

We've received no action from the city on the promised community impact study, yet we understand that there will be a bill introduced in City Council on September 15 for "conditional use approval" of the project. Watch for more information on this issue.

Streetscaping Update

Charles Street streetscaping is clearly behind its original schedule. The city is now projecting a late spring completion. The good news is that the streetlights we fought for (the tall historic style instead of the square Inner Harbor/highway lighting originally planned) is going in and looking great. The remaining trees should be removed any day in preparation for work on the west side of Charles.

Mount Vernon Fall Tree Request

MVBA has requested extensive tree work for the Fall season from the city's Forestry Department. We are working on confirmation that all work will be completed this season, but, as in past years, communication from this department has been poor. City Council representative Bill Cole is working with the MVBA to support our tree initiative and to get better responsiveness from the city. We've noted that, without many yards in Mount Vernon, outside of Mount Vernon Place, the street trees *are* our tree canopy and, therefore, critical to creating a healthier, cleaner and cooler environment and curb appeal in Mount Vernon.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Theatre Project is always on the lookout for great volunteers. Their volunteers help fold programs, tear tickets and get to see the show for free. If you're interested in helping out with any of the events listed, call Erica at 410-752-8558 or e-mail office@theatreproject.org.



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 sign up for email communications at www.mvba.org.

Sanitation Committee

Our sanitation inspector is here to keep Mount Vernon/Belvedere looking good! Here are some reminders for you, and for you to share with your neighbors, to help keep the neighborhood clean and avoid those costly fines:

*Trashcans can be placed outside for pickup only on Tuesdays & Fridays between 4:30pm and 6:30pm
* All rental buildings are required to have covered trashcans for tenants.

* Please do not use your neighbors cans or dumpster, individuals can be fined for this.

* Bulk Trash pick-up, Regular Trash and other sanitation schedules can be obtained through calling 311

Trash and Re-Cycling Guidelines

Set out all mixed paper and bottles and cans, alongside your regular trash, **every Tuesday and Friday 4:30pm-6:30pm.**

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 not acceptable, they clog the recycling machines.

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.

Call 311 to report trash violations.

If you are interested in joining the MVBA Sanitation Committee to help further educate our neighbors and address additional sanitation concerns, please email <sajela@earthlink.net>.

Upcoming MVBA Elections

This year, two members of the board of directors terms expire, Petula Nash and Barbara Jean Gilbert. MVBA has formed a nominating committee to seek qualified candidates to fill these two positions. However, the existing board members have indicated that they wish to continue to serve. If you have any desire to serve on the board of directors, please contact the committee chair, Steve Johnson, at sjohnson009@sprintmail.com.

Mount Vernon Business News

Business, institutional and non-profit members, mark your calendars for this year's **Mount Vernon Business Roundtable**. This important annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29 at the Engineers Club from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. This is the best opportunity of the year for our business membership to network with each other, get caught up on major community developments, trends and news and to share their concerns and priorities with MVBA leadership. We expect a full house this year and lots of good discussion. Don't miss it!

Congratulations to **Kumari Restaurant** at 911 N. Charles Street for the outstanding renovation of their building's exterior. Check out the fresh color scheme, new windows and signage that truly reflect the quality of the cuisine that this terrific restaurant offers. If you have never been to Kumari, make it a point to get there. Kumari is great for a quiet meal for two, or a group gathering –be sure to pass around the entrees to get a taste of every amazing dish.

The Woman's Industrial Exchange

It is a very exciting time for The Woman's Industrial Exchange! We have started celebrating First Thursdays with a shopper's social from 5-7pm and a crafters' circle from 6-8 pm each First Thursday. We are also pleased to announce that the Dogwood Cafe will be opening in our Tea Room space in early November, joining our shop and Sofi's Crepes in our historic building. And we are once again bringing you Holiday Mart at Carroll Mansion on December 6 and 7.

We are currently looking for some volunteers to help customers and ring sales in the gift shop, especially during our weekday hours (10 am to 4 pm). Our customers are wonderful people who love to hear about our history and about our special items. We also need volunteers for special events and special projects.

About the Exchange

The mission of The Woman's Industrial Exchange is to actively support women's economic advancement and well being. The Exchange serves disadvantaged individuals by providing the opportunity for assistance through selling, refining and marketing their handcrafted items.

The Woman's Industrial Exchange continues to serve its non-profit mission as an outlet of hand crafted goods made by needy women and men intent on supporting themselves with dignity. Consignors receive the majority of the sale price of items sold by The Exchange. We work with over 150 consignors who create especially for The Exchange quality hand made crafts. Please check out our website to learn more about us at www.womansindustrialexchange.com.

Green Dining with no Gas Needed! Walk to Your Favorite Restaurant While Keeping our Business Community Strong!

If we want to keep our great restaurants in Mount Vernon, we need to support them with our patronage. As we can all guess, these are not great times for restaurants especially in the midst of streetscaping. So we're asking all of our members, business, residential and institutional, to make a focused effort to keep your dining dollars right here in the neighborhood. Here's a sampling of great deals from MVBA member restaurants:

City Café Half-Price Hamburgers & Turkey Burgers on Monday nights, 10 oz Center Cut New York Strip Steaks just \$14.95 (\$23 regularly) and all bottles of wine half-off on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, 2 for 1 beers and discounted appetizers Mon – Fri 4 pm to 6:30 pm and Sat/Sun 3 pm to 5:30 pm

Prime Rib Sunday Nite Lite! features a three-course menu for \$33 and a half-price wine list. What a great chance to enjoy one of the city's top establishments.

Minato Creative cocktails (the melon margarita gets a big thumbs up and martini lovers are very well taken care of, too) plus appetizer specials at prices that would shock any Asian food fan. Minato is not only the most glamorous sushi place in town, but the friendliest as well. Remember that sushi also makes for great healthy, low-fat dining.

Sotto Sopra The Wednesday night's chef's tasting menu is a steal at \$38 and includes a choice in September of fabulous dishes like roasted game hen, seared halibut, and veal involtini. Incredible. Again, another top restaurant where you can enjoy a great dinner for the price of an entrée elsewhere. Reserve in advance.

Mughal Garden Fresh, fabulous and huge lunch buffet \$ 9.49 including tax! Sunday brunch buffet only \$11.61 with tax.

Kumari \$8.95 Lunch buffet and weekend lunch buffet for \$10.95. This is the only Indian/Nepalese restaurant in town, so expect some of the most interesting and delicious offerings around from this favorite of Baltimore foodies.

Akbar Order two entrees and receive \$ 5 off, order three entrees and receive \$ 10 off. Dine in only through 10/31/08. \$ 8.95 weekday lunch buffet, \$10.95 weekend lunch buffet. Find out why these lunches always draw a full house. Truly amazing flavors and variety.

Sammy's Trattoria \$ 35 pp Italian family dinner. More great Italian food than you could possible eat. Great for a get together of family or friends. Reserve in advance.

Indigma Check out this lunch: seven amazing Indian tapas, plus a fresh, colorful and flavorful Indian salad bar, plus an amazing dessert selection in a gorgeous dining room for only \$ 9.95 per person. Tapas dinner for only \$ 16.95! Half price bottles of wine on Wednesday. And on Thursdays, buy two dinners and get the third free.

Never on Sunday The Best Gyro in Baltimore and huge fresh pizzas for only \$ They deliver too!

Brass Elephant Every Friday is Half Price Wine Night. And now is the time to experience this legendary restaurant and their new chef with a \$29 prix-fix dinners from 5 to 7 p.m. Tues-Sat and all day Sundays.

Neo Viccino Anyone young enough and lucky enough to have a student ID can enjoy \$ 10 large pizzas, \$ 6 pitchers of draft and \$ 1.50 bottles of beer. Or, for older folks, go for the signature pastas, salads, and entrees and half priced bottles of wine on Wednesdays.

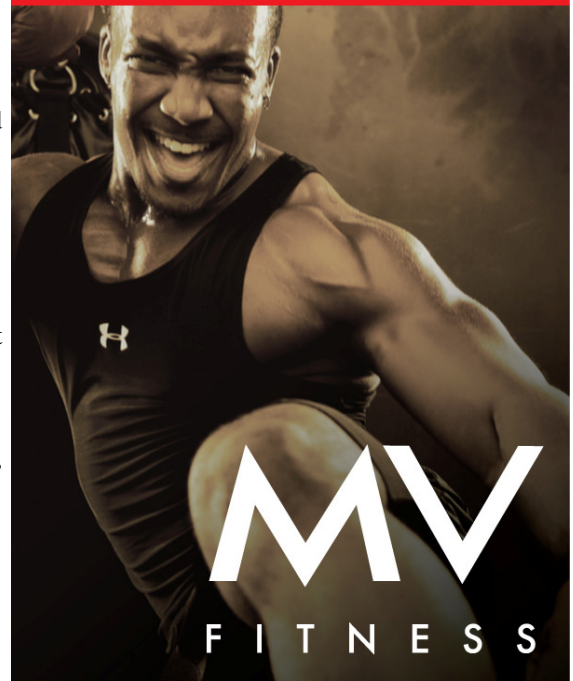
XS Turn this Happy Hour into a great dinner! \$1 Sushi and \$ off drinks, Monday – Friday 4 – 7 pm

Owl Bar Try the new Sunday Endless Brunch Buffet from 10 am to 2 pm in the John Eager Howard Room \$ 14.95 per person. Little known fact: the Owl Bar also has a great children's menu!

Any restaurants not mentioned here are asked to send their special offerings to membership@mvba.org. We will gladly include you in the October newsletter.

“**Mozart Modern,**” presented by the SONAR New Music ensemble Sunday, October 5, 2008, 1:30 PM at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, corner of Charles and Franklin Streets. A concert of Mozart-inspired compositions by celebrated new composers, performed by Peabody Conservatory alumni and students. Free with a suggested donation of \$10-\$20; all proceeds to benefit the Historic Niemann Organ Restoration Fund of the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore.

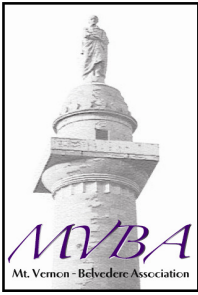
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Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

1221 North Calvert Street
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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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Kenn Hobbs

Ex-officio Members

Steve Johnson
J.J. Pecora
Mary Ann Henderson

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

RPP Permit Pickup dates & times

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

13th Annual Baltimore Book Festival

The festival is September 26th, 27th, and 28th.
The hours are Friday 5PM-9PM, Saturday and
Sunday 11AM-7PM.

