

# Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

June 2009

Volume 24, Number 06

**The next general membership meeting will be June 16th at the Belvedere Condominiums, lobby level. Meetings begin promptly at 7:30 pm and all are welcome to attend.**

## **Great News: More Parking!**

June brings yet another major MVBA accomplishment: bringing well over 100 more parking spaces to Mount Vernon during business hours in partnership with the city and as part of the Homeless Resource Center agreement. This plan will add spaces along Cathedral, Centre and St. Paul Streets by removing the 4-6 p.m. No Parking restrictions currently on these streets. This plan was pursued by Steven Shen, MVBA's architectural review committee chair and all-round brilliant community leader and should be implemented within the next month.

## **311 Reports Do Matter!**

Just like police reports, 311 reports are logged and utilized. Building inspectors, Sanitation Inspectors, Animal Control, .. City Services rely on the citizens to help inform them of where the problems are. One report of an overflowing dumpster in Mt. Vernon will be trumped by 5 reports of a similar infraction in another neighborhood.

So take a few minutes and call or email 311 when you see a problem... We can all use your help! There're a lot more of our eyes on the street than theirs!

## **Mount Vernon Business News**

The weather has made the much anticipated arrival of Lunch in the Garden at the Inn at 4 East Madison soggy and unpredictable, but larger rain-resistant umbrellas and indoor lunch space are being discussed. Lunch is served Wed-Thurs-Fri, 11:30-2:00.

Another tip of the hat to Feast @ 4 East for being named by Open Table patrons as Baltimore's Top 10 in the following categories: Fit for Foodies, Best Ambiance, Romantic, and a Neighborhood Gem. Check out this wonderful dinner spot Thurs. – Saturday evenings.

We are pleased to welcome to new business Zachi Café at 237-239 W. Read



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 [member-ship@mbva.org](mailto:member-ship@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).

Street. The old Designer's Hardware location has become an airy and comfortable café for breakfast, sandwiches, soups and salads for lunch and delicious homemade entrees ready to take home for dinner. All dinners – only \$ 7.99 each – come with rice and salad. Check out this new asset on a beautiful and revitalized Read Street.

The Read Street businesses are also working to bring back the Read Street festival, a very popular event years ago. They are currently raising money to purchase insurance coverage required by the city to hold the event on the street. Please help them out with a donation if you can.

The former Medical Arts Building at 101 W. Read Street has been transformed into the fully restored Professional Arts Building apartments – the only major residential development to open this year in Baltimore city. An official ribbon cutting will be held on June 29, but new residents are already moving in every day – bringing more vitality and feet on the street to Mount Vernon. The building sat vacant for many years waiting for a developer willing to deal with difficult issues including major asbestos abatement. The building now contains 96 brand new market rate rental units. All of these new residents are potential customers for our shops and restaurants and supporters of our cultural institutions. To those who are concerned about the impact these residents will have on already limited residential parking spaces, the owners were required by the MVBA to secure private parking spaces for tenants at a parking lot a half block away. The residents of the building are also not eligible for Zone 28 residential parking permits, making the likelihood of lot usage more likely for those who own cars.

Also note that there is a prime retail space in the first floor of the Professional Arts Building facing Cathedral Street. Other great spaces also on the market: large storefront space at 900 Cathedral and around the corner in the 100 block of West Read. The West Read location has extra high ceilings and large blank walls – perfect for a gallery. There are also charming old bay window storefronts in the 200 block of W. Read, several

vacancies along lovely Antique Row in the 800 block of N. Howard and one downstairs space across from the Helmand in the 800 block of N. Charles and another below Minato in the 1000 block. Spread the word to contacts looking to open or expand their retail or restaurant operations: **Mount Vernon is the ONLY Baltimore neighborhood with heavy foot traffic, dense residential and office/commercial usage, as well as the draw of our cultural institutions 7 DAYS A WEEK – DAYTIME AND NIGHT TIME.**

Our businesses and retailers are holding their own so far in this tough economy, but again ask our members to help pull them through with our patronage.

### Property Stewardship

Remember to send pictures of building code violations and work without posted permits to our attention at [violationphotos@mvba.org](mailto:violationphotos@mvba.org).

**Did you know?** All sidewalk sandwich-board signs are illegal. Clearly the city has bigger fish to fry, but we are being inundated with cheap plastic signs that don't conform to community standards. Our Architectural Review Committee is working on recommendations, so standby for more information on this and please don't invest in anymore plastic.

**Meet. Chat. Pray. Play.**  
**In the heart of Mt. Vernon.**  
[www.EmmanuelDowntown.org](http://www.EmmanuelDowntown.org)

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church

### The Great Hall & The Undercroft

Classes. Opera. Weddings. Lectures. Meetings. More.

**Sundays: Eucharist (spoken), 8:30 AM (Chapel)**

**Choral Morning Prayer, 10:30 AM**

**(Choral Eucharist, 1st Sundays)**

**Evensong, 6 PM (Chapel)**

**Wednesdays: Eucharist, 6 PM (Chapel)**

At "Emmanuel Corner" since 1854.  
 CATHEDRAL & READ STS.  
 410.685.1130

**Thanks** to City Paper for its leadership in responding to our efforts to clean up renegade and multiplying news-boxes. They led a multi-vendor clean-up campaign and we now have a much more manageable number. The new streetscape corrals will clean matters up even more.

**Liquor Issues**

**Suites Ultralounge:** Unfortunately, there is no real update on this problem establishment – we are still awaiting word from the judge on the matter of the liquor license. The teen events operate independent of a liquor license, so shutting that down will be an additional process, and of course there is perhaps a good chance of this popping up elsewhere if Suites is closed. It is difficult to track these events in advance, but if anyone can crack into the local teen web world for more relevant event information, please send an email to [safety@mvba.org](mailto:safety@mvba.org).

**Robert Oliver’s** at 1225 Cathedral Street (formally Spike & Charlies), has applied to the Liquor Board to have restrictions removed from the permission to have live entertainment. The current restriction is that live entertainment is limited to non-amplified music, piano and acoustical instruments only. Not to exceed 3 instruments. Music is limited to Monday through and including Saturday from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. MVBA plans to oppose the application as MVBA believes the restrictions are entirely appropriate for a restaurant setting and also the unrestricted live entertainment often results in troublesome operations.

Recently, there has been a report of a shooting inside the restaurant and the applicant has been charged with a violation of liquor laws: Two bottles of distilled spirits, one bottle of Tequila, 40 cans of beer, and 12 bottles of beer confiscated as not having been purchased from a wholesaler. This is a rather serious charge whose hearing on the matter takes place on June 11. The hearing on the restrictions is to take place on June 25, 3pm, at City Hall, Room 215.

**Trolley:**

The new Trolley Corporation continues to meet and study the proposed trolley implementation, funding and operations. MVBA is represented by Steve Shen and Paul Warren. Despite erroneous indications in the recent Urbanite Article, the community has NOT provided conditional support for the Trolley and we have cor-

**MVBA MEMBER OFFER**

**MV**  
FITNESS

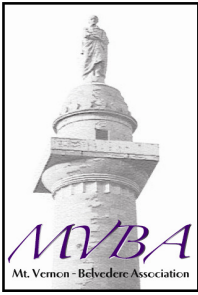
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rected the record with those involved. MVBA has not take any position yet, but has expressed concerns raised by the community. That said, the Trolley Corporation is working in earnest to address many of those concerns and it seems safe to say that at a minimum there will neither be wires in Mount Vernon Place nor an additional property tax district to fund the operations.

**Membership Renewals**

**This issue of the newsletter may be the last issue you will receive if you have not renewed your membership for 2009! Please be sure to renew as soon as possible. Renewal invoices have been mailed, so you may renew using the mailed invoice or you may renew at [www.mvba.org](http://www.mvba.org).**



# 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..... Barbara Jean Gilbert  
Liquor ..... Steve Johnson  
Zoning ..... Paul Warren  
Marketing ..... Regina Minniss ..... (rminniss@cbmove.com)  
Development..... Paul Warren  
Safety ..... Gary Oldenburg..... (safety@mvba.org)  
Membership ..... Susan Warren ..... (membership@mvba.org)  
Parking..... Pam Stewart

### Board Members

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

### Appointed Members:

Gary Oldenburg  
Stan Keyser  
Jim Maza

### Ex-officio Members

Steve Johnson  
Jack Dana  
J.J. Pecora  
Mary Ann Henderson

## 311 Violation Reports

Due to budget cuts, the city no longer offers 24hr, 311 service. PLEASE FILE YOUR OFF-HOUR COMPLAINTS THROUGH 311 ONLINE.

Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

Visit MVBA at [www.mvba.org](http://www.mvba.org)

