

# Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

November 2009

Volume 24, Number 10

**The next general membership meeting will be November 17th at the Belvedere Condominiums, lobby level. Meetings begin promptly at 7:30 pm and all are welcome to attend. State and City representatives plan to attend to have open conversations about Baltimore City Liquor laws and possible changes. Elections for board members will also take place.**

## LIQUOR BOARD HEARING CLOSES RED SQUARE

Red Square was before the Board of Liquor License Commissioners on October 22 to answer numerous charges brought by the liquor board regarding their operation. Included was the community's assertion that Red Square had not lived up to its agreement between Red Square and the community that was agreed to during the liquor license renewal process in April of this year. However, their attorney successfully argued that the breach of agreement could not be discussed during the proceeding, but would have to be addressed initially at a conference hearing.

The numerous charges against Red Square brought forth by the Liquor Board included: Establishment was selling alcohol and allowing patrons to consume on the premises after 2:00 a.m.; No food being prepared or served at 2:30 a.m.; (The serving of food even during normally open hours has been a long standing concern); No application for transfer has been filed and an individual, not a licensee, identified himself as owner; (This was the result of a sign suddenly appearing in their window that indicated that Red Square was under new management with a new name); Proof of payment of 2008-2009 Tangible Personal Property Taxes has not been submitted. (Red Square provided a receipt at the hearing indicating that the property taxes had been paid).

In the end, the Liquor Board imposed fines in excess of \$2,000 and ordered them to remain close for 60 days. No access of any kind may take place during this period. MVBA, through its attorney, Michelle Wirtzberg, will follow up on the breach of agreement issue as soon as possible.

## SUITES ULTRA LOUNGE

Recently, MVBA learned that Suites was served with a notice of intent to close their operation using the City's Padlock Law. A call to action to the community took place as follows:

For over a year MVBA has been working very hard to try and eliminate a very problematic nightclub in our community, Suite UltraLounge. Our community organization has done just about everything in our power to try to work with this operator to get them to become a good community partner, without success. As you know, Suite UltraLounge has negatively impacted our community physically, emotionally and financially. Over the past year we have challenged their right to continue to operate because they are such a community nuisance. We've been through liquor board hearings, sought help through City Council, again worked through liquor board proceedings and then into Baltimore Circuit Court. Now again, we're back to the liquor board to try to resolve this ongoing nuisance. Thankfully, Councilmen Bill Cole, Councilman Jack Young, and Council President Rawlings Blake has recognized the frustrations and impact this club has had on our community and wrote a letter to Police Commissioner Bealefeld requesting a Padlock Hearing, as permitted by City Law. Commissioner Bealefeld has agreed to



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).

conduct a public hearing regarding the padlock request.

Letters were requested to be written by the community and submitted to the Police Department by November 10. In addition, the community was invited to attend the hearing scheduled for November 16 at the Police Department Headquarters, beginning at 10am.

### MVBA ELECTIONS

Currently, all the officer's terms end this year (in November) and elections must be held to fill the seats. In addition, two of six regular board member seats expire at the same time. Presently, the slate of candidates listed below are proposed for the respective positions. The remaining one regular director's position has not yet been confirmed. Lisa Neu was the only individual to be nominated from the floor for a seat on the Board.

President - Jason Curtis, incumbent

Vice President - Paul Warren, incumbent

Corresp Secretary - Phillipa Strydom, incumbent

**Secretary - Sheryl DeWalt:** Sheryl DeWalt has lived in Mt. Vernon at the Belvedere since March 2004. In May 2004, I was asked to take notes for a General Membership meeting since the secretary was unable to be there. Two months later, the MVBA Board asked me to take notes at the Board and General Membership Meetings and I've been doing it ever since. I have helped out with Business Roundtable meetings, safety fundraising events, Holiday Party, and other assorted activities when requested. I have also been assisting the Treasurer for the past two years. I want to take an even bigger, active role in MVBA by being a true Board member.

**Treasurer - Matt Newcomer:** Matthew Newcomer is a 2005 graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland with a degree in Economics and a minor in Spanish Language and Cultures and is currently pursuing his Masters in Business Administration degree at the University of Baltimore. He has lived in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood since the Summer of 2005 and worked as a Senior Analyst for the Corporate Trust Services division of Wells Fargo Bank since October 2006. Matt joined the membership of the MVBA this year and immediately volunteered to take on the position of "Tree Czar" for Susan Warren. He is anxious and excited to begin working closely with the board not only as the Treasurer but in numerous other areas as well to develop and promote our neighborhood.

**Lisa Neu—Board Member:** Lisa Neu has been involved in the Mt Vernon community long before becoming a resident here. Involved in door-to door campaigning during the Fight the Height issue she became aware of the many issues impacting the residents. Professionally she is a nurse practitioner and adjunct faculty member at Stevenson University

### AT THE LAST GENERAL MEETING..

Our keynote speaker, Mr Stephen Fogelman, spoke of several liquor issues, and in particular, Ultra Suites Lounge. Mr. Fogelman apologized to the community regarding all the issues surrounding Suites, but noted that the lack of enforceable rules at the liquor board, forced the Board to approve Suites bottle club

permit.

Of concern by many, were the apparent use of promoter based events at numerous clubs in the area and how to get control of these events. There were also concerns regarding one-day liquor licenses, but it was noted that the track record for such licenses is usually very good, with the more problematic one-day licenses occurring infrequently. The only option for communities to oppose one-day licenses is if the community can demonstrate that the applicant has been problematic elsewhere.

Another area to investigate are changes to state law that would help communities manage problem clubs. This would include but is not limited to, public hearings on transfers of licenses, stronger background checks for applicants, providing more opportunity for community input on license applications, and changes that would prevent Class B restaurants operating more like night clubs.

Present at the general meeting were Councilman Bill Cole, Michelle Wirtzberg of the Community Law Center, and Ian Hines from the Mayor's Office.

## MVBA's Annual Holiday Party

Thursday, December 10, 2009

6:30pm-9:00pm

Mt. Vernon Stable and Saloon

909 N. Charles Street

\$20 per person

Cash Bar

Rsvp to [s\\_dewalt@hotmail.com](mailto:s_dewalt@hotmail.com) or 443-928-8100

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**AT THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM****The Christmas Story: Picturing the Birth of Christ in Medieval Manuscripts**

December 3, 2009–February 28, 2010

Christmas, one of the most joyful seasons for Christian communities worldwide, celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the dramatic events that took place during his infancy—from his nativity in a lowly stable, to the angel’s announcement of this news to local shepherds, to Herod’s murder of all the babies in Bethlehem and his narrow escape from that slaughter. As it is recounted in the Christian New Testament, the Christmas story is remarkably short on specifics. In rendering the story into pictures, it fell to medieval illuminators to supply the details. Even today, popular representations of these events are based on images that were first devised by the artists of the Middle Ages.

This exhibition draws on the extraordinary holdings of the Walters Art Museum, and an anonymous private collection, to illustrate the Christmas story in the way that it has been understood for centuries, with Books of Hours and Missals from around the Christian world.

Hours are Wednesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is free. The Walters Art Museum, 600 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

## 38th Annual Lighting of the Washington Monument Presented by Saul Ewing

Thursday, December 3rd (First Thursday)  
5:30—7:30pm  
Mount Vernon Square

Don’t miss the 38th Annual Lighting of the Washington Monument. Enjoy holiday entertainment, fireworks finale, and this year’s celebrity lighter, Baltimore Orioles’ Nick Markakis

Baltimore’s Monumental Occasion is going green with energy-saving LED lights replacing old-fashioned bulbs on the Monument this year. BGE Smart Energy Savers Program [www.bgesmartenergy.com](http://www.bgesmartenergy.com) is a proud partner of the Monument Lighting, providing this year’s energy-efficient holiday lights to help Baltimore save energy and money.

**WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION.** Monday, December 21, 7 p.m., at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore (Charles and Franklin Streets). Free and Open to the Public: Celebrate with a seasonal ritual including songs, poetry, and drama. Turn the Wheel of the Year, light the New Year fire, celebrate the return of the sun, bless the newborn babes, taste the sweetness of life. Children and infants are warmly welcome. Food and fellowship will follow. Additional information: First Unitarian Church, 410-685-2330, Pat Montley 410-252-6074, or [office@firstunitarian.net](mailto:office@firstunitarian.net).

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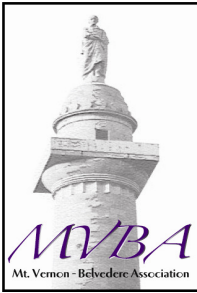
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**(Choral Eucharist, 1st Sundays)**  
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**Wednesdays: Eucharist, 6 PM (Chapel)**

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# 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 ..... sanitation@mvba.org  
Property Stewardship..... Barbara Jean Gilbert..stewardship@mvba.org  
Liquor..... Steve Johnson..... liquor@mvba.org  
Zoning..... Paul Warren ..... zoning@mvba.org  
Marketing..... Regina Minniss ..... rminniss@cbmove.com  
Development..... Paul Warren ..... development@mvba.org  
Safety..... Gary Oldenburg..... safety@mvba.org  
Membership..... Susan Warren ..... membership@mvba.org  
Parking..... Pam Stewart ..... parking@mvba.org

### 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

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

