

No General Meeting in February

As a reminder, there is **no** MVBA General Meeting in February. Please join us on Tuesday, March 17th at 7:30pm for our next MVBA General Meeting held. Details regarding this general meeting will be posted in the March 2020 Newsletter.

Please pay special attention to the Safety Tips provided below from BPD at the February 4th Safety Meeting.

As always, our general meetings are free and open to the public, members and non-members alike. Please join us to discuss important issues and events related to our Mount Vernon community.



Safety Meeting Follow-Up with Major Gaines

In follow-up to the February 4th Safety Meeting with BPD Central District Major Daryl Gaines

along with his support team, below are the **Safety Tips** as requested during the meeting:

- When walking, please do not get so distracted by your cell phone that you're not paying attention to your surroundings.
- Try not to walk with your cell phone up to your face or in your hands if possible. Keep it in your pocket or out of sight.
- Walk in well-lit areas whenever possible.
- Please do not walk down the street holding your car keys in your hand. If possible, try to keep them in your pocket and try to get into the habit of unlocking your car doors while your keys are still in your pocket. Familiarize yourself with your vehicle's remote control features.
- Separate your vehicle and house keys.
- If you think you're being followed, go into an open business if possible and let someone know.
- Do not leave items or empty boxes inside of your vehicle in plain sight.
- Do not leave any valuable items in your vehicle overnight.
- Always make sure someone is aware where you are going. When possible, utilize your smartphones feature and share your location with someone you can trust.
- Invest in a doorbell security camera system of your choice (cannot recommend brand).
- If you have a home alarm system, please make sure you set the alarm when you leave home.
- If you see someone or something suspicious, please make sure you notify the police.
- Use your smartphone to take pictures of your electronic devices' serial numbers: computers, televisions, smartphones, tablets, etc. (When purchasing these items, the serial number can be located on the box with the bar code). Once you have photographs of your serial numbers, be sure to email them to yourself and to save the photographs to the cloud---that way they are available if needed.

Again, thank you to Spirits of Mount Vernon located at 900 N. Charles Street for hosting this

Safety Meeting as well as to our Councilmen Eric Costello (District 11) and Robert Stokes

(District 12) for attending and supporting our community.

For any questions on the February 4th Safety Meeting, please reach out to us at

safety@mvba.org.

New MVBA Business Members

Each month, we will be recognizing businesses that join MVBA membership.

Encourage your neighbors and other businesses in Mount Vernon to become members of MVBA. It is only \$20 for Individuals and \$50 for Businesses, per year, to become a member. We welcome all businesses in the neighborhood to join MVBA by clicking [HERE](#). If you have any questions on membership, please reach out to our Membership Committee Chair, Julie Canard at membership@mvba.org.



Business Round Table: Winter Quarterly Meeting this Thursday

Thursday, February 20th, 9-11am

Chase Brexton | 1111 North Charles Street

MVBA continues to welcome all local Business Owners to next month's quarterly Business Round Table held on Thursday, February 20th from 9-11am at Chase Brexton at 1111 N. Charles Street (corner of Charles & Chase Streets). We will be joined by our Councilmen Eric Costello and Robert Stokes for Districts 11 and 12, respectively. Join us for an informative meeting for all community business owners.



Follow-Up on Thread Informational Meeting

As mentioned in our January 2020 newsletter, we welcomed Jenelle Harvey, Thread Community Networks & Events Volunteer Recruiter at our January 21st General Meeting to provide an overview of Thread's organization and volunteer opportunities.

Thread is a non-profit organization that has worked to support under-performing Baltimore City High School students for the past 15 years. They enroll 9th grade students who rank in the bottom 25% of their class and face an abundance of challenges outside the classroom, connecting them with up to 5 volunteers (a Thread family) who provide them with continuous support and increased access to community resources for 10 years. Once enrolled, Thread commits to never giving up on a single student and their students consistently defy the odds.

For more information on Thread, please visit thread.org. You can also check out a [TEDx talk](#) by their founder, Sarah Hemminger as well as the [2018 New York Times Op-Ed](#) by David Brooks about their organization.



Baltimore City Council Legislative & Community Updates

Below are the recent legislative updates by Baltimore City Council:

- Council President Scott recently introduced a [Charter Amendment that would remove the appointed members of the Board of Estimates](#), reducing the size from 5 to 3 members. Per President Brandon Scott: "Reducing the Board of Estimates to the three elected members, all with equal weight to approve or reject City contracts involving

taxpayer dollars, is one way we can clean up City government and make it more efficient and more supportive of our local communities.”

- Council President Scott continues to work on implementing his [Legislative and Policy Proposal \(2019-2020\)](#). Several policies are making their way through the legislative process with three signed into law. You can find an update on the status of these policies in the [Policy Tracker](#).
- The next Council Meeting is **Monday, February 24th**. [Click Here](#) for the calendar for all upcoming Council Meetings and Hearings. All hearings and council meetings are open to the public. You'll need a photo id to enter City Hall.

Below are the recent community updates via Baltimore City Council:

- Applications are available for the **Bmore Beautiful Say YES! Program**. This program is a youth engagement grant that provides support to neighborhood organizations by providing funding for youth to engage in activities that directly affect the cleanliness and beautification of the neighborhood. If you are interested, email Natasha.neale@baltimorecity.gov for an application.
- The Community Law Center has a [Tax Workshop for Nonprofits](#) on March 27, 2020 from 12-1 or 6-7pm.
- Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (BCRP) has launched [Recreation 2025](#), their five-year strategic plan.
- Strong City Baltimore is holding their [Neighborhood Institute 2020 “Building Civic Power”](#) on March 28, 2020.
- The South Baltimore Gateway Partnership is holding [A Community Capacity Building Conference](#) on Friday April 3, 2020 from 8:30-5pm at the Horseshoe Casino. This workshop gives priority to organizations in South Baltimore, but is open to groups in the entire City.
- The [2020 Census](#) is in April, and Baltimore wants to make sure that **Everyone Counts**. Accurate census numbers impact funding and representation for Baltimore. **It is important that everyone participates in the Census.**



MVBA Winter Tree Pruning

Saturday, February 22nd | 9am-1pm

Meet-Up Location | Mount Vernon South Park

(Charles at Centre Street)

Join us to take care of Mount Vernon's trees this **Saturday, February 22nd**. No tree pruning experience necessary. We'll meet up in the park south of the Washington Monument.

This is a rain-or-shine event, so please dress for the weather. Wear closed-toe shoes, and bring work gloves if you have them. We recommend bringing a water bottle.

For more information about MVBA tree events, visit

[Eventbrite](#).





Gallery Show of Willa Bickham at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

811 Cathedral Street (*Read Street Entrance*)

Opening Reception | Saturday, February 29th | 4-6pm

Join Emmanuel Episcopal Church located at 811 Cathedral Street (Read Street Entrance) for the opening reception on Saturday, February 29th from 4-6pm showcasing the works of local artist, **Willa Bickham**.

The Willa Bickham Exhibition will run from **February 29th through April 13th**. Hours for the exhibition are:

Fridays 5:30-8pm | Saturdays 1-4pm | Sundays 12-4pm





Winter Weather Reminders

from Baltimore City

With winter weather here---despite no snow, Baltimore City reminds everyone of the following:

- ***Residents are responsible for removing snow from the sidewalk in front of your house.***

Per City Code, snow removal is required within 3 hours after the end of a snow or ice event unless the snowfall stops between 3pm-6am, in which case snow must be removed by 11am. Failure to shovel the snow from the sidewalk in front of your property can result in fines from the City.

- BPD reminds you not start your car and go back inside to let it warm up. It's against the law to leave your car running with no one inside, which can result in a fine, and it increases potential for robbery. BPD also reminds everyone not to leave anything in your car and to make sure that it is locked.
- DPW reminds you that on days/nights where the temperatures are to drop below freezing to have your faucet on the lowest level on a drip to prevent pipes from freezing.

Stay safe and warm this winter season!





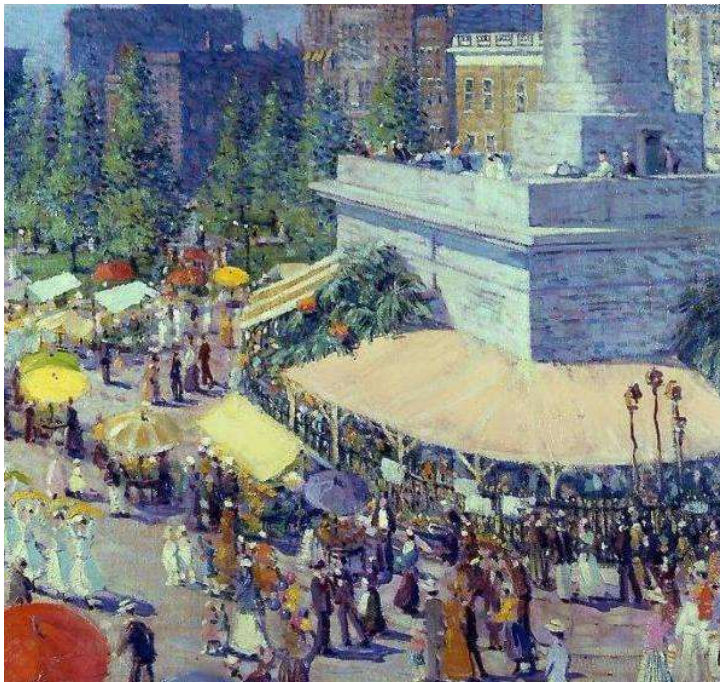
65th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, March 15th | 2pm

Mount Vernon Place

Before you know it, it will be leprechaun day in Mount Vernon. The kick off to the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on **Sunday, March 15th** begins in Mount Vernon Place and heads South along Charles Street until it ends at the Inner Harbor.

Mark your calendars to join in the festivities!



Mount Vernon Place Conservancy

Flower Mart 2020

As mentioned last month, the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy (MVPC) is thinking Spring, as it's already gearing up for Flower Mart 2020 being held on **Friday, May 1st** and **Saturday, May 2nd** at Mount Vernon Place. This year will be even better than last!

For more information on Flower Mart 2020, visit mvpconservancy.org/flowermart2020. For questions about FlowerMart 2020, email the Conservancy at flowermart@mvpconservancy.org.



Flower Mart Criterium | Mount Vernon Place

Sunday, May 3rd | Mount Vernon Place

Team BBC and all of its partners and supporters are excited to welcome you back on **Sunday, May 3rd** to the **Flower Mart Criterium at Mount Vernon Place!** This race caps off a weekend of festivities coinciding with the 100-year old tradition of Flower Mart, a festival dedicated to the greening of Baltimore's public spaces.

Located in beautiful, historic Mount Vernon Place, in the shadow of the *original* Washington Monument, this fast and furious crit is already gaining a rep as a MABRA spring classic.

Technical turns, gnarly downhill corners, a leg-sapping hill all await the hardest of road racers before the piece-de-resistance: the cobbles of Mount Vernon. Burnish your hardman bonafides

on 'Star Wars Day' Eve and make sure to come early or stay late to enjoy all of Mount Vernon's offerings!

For more information, please visit www.teambbc.net.



Homelessness, Panhandling & Loitering

Officials at the Mayor's Office of Human Services would like our help tracking incidents of homelessness, panhandling and/or loitering, as mentioned previously. By sending a quick email to the following email address:

homelessoutreach@baltimorecity.gov regarding your experiences with homelessness, panhandling and/or loitering, it gives officials an opportunity to track these incidents and begin outreach with the individuals, as necessary. Of course, please call 911 if there is an emergency.

Coming Up in March

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**
Sunday, March 15th | 2pm
- **MVBA March General Meeting**
Tuesday, March 17th | 7:30pm



CONTACTS 2020

Officers

President	Michele Richter	president@mvba.org
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Treasurer	Onahlea Shimunek	treasurer@mvba.org
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Secretary/Information Officer	—	secretary@mvba.org

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Mario Brandhorst
Julie Canard
Jack Danna
John Molino
Scott Ponemone
Lex Wiesand

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Clean + Beautiful	Michele Richter	cleanandbeautiful@mvba.org
Community Service + Engagement	—	community@mvba.org
Development	Steve Shen	development@mvba.org
Dog Park	Marci Yankelov	dogpark@mvba.org
Grants	Jack Danna	grants@mvba.org
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Trees + Greening	MJ Dame	trees@mvba.org
Zoning	Steve Shen	zoning@mvba.org

Ex-Officio

Jason Curtis
Jack Danna
Steve Johnson
Brian Levy

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

Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association, 1 East Chase Street, Suite 2, Baltimore, MD 21202

[Unsubscribe](#)