



May 2020

The Clarion Newsletter — Volume 35, Number 5

General Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, May 19th, 7:30pm

Please join us on **Tuesday, May 19th at 7:30pm** for our next MVBA General Meeting that will be held remotely via Zoom. Here's the Zoom information (as well as dial-in only) for attending:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84165065792?pwd=b21SYUtiQTGVqQUZkc01BKzFhODFwQT09>

Meeting ID: 841 6506 5792

Password: 980028

Join via Dial-In Only

Telephone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 841 6506 5792

Password: 980028

This month, we welcome **Eric Costello**, our 11th District Councilman, **Robert Stokes**, our 12th District Councilman, **Scott Davis**, Neighborhood Liaison from the office of City Council President, Brandon Scott, and **Nan Rohrer**, President of Midtown Community Benefits District. We have also invited **Major Daryl Gaines**, Central District BPD.

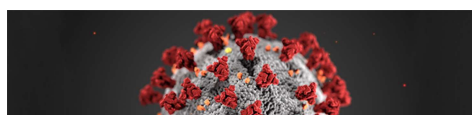
This meeting will be a great opportunity for community members to attend to ask questions to our guests and hear the latest that's happening in our neighborhood and beyond.

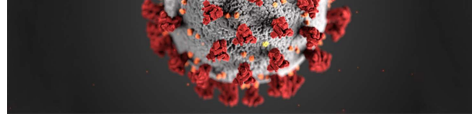
Please pay special attention to the links in the sections below with a wealth of information on the COVID-19 virus and resources available to you.

And 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.

Please reach out to us with any questions. The email directory is available at the bottom of the newsletter.

To all of our community residents, businesses, and institutions, thank you for being an important part of the Mount Vernon community, and we send our very best wishes to you and your loved ones during this challenging time.





Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Baltimore City continues to deal with the far-reaching impact of COVID-19. As of today, Friday, May 15th, Baltimore City has 3,505 COVID-19 cases and 183 deaths. For health resources on COVID-19, the City, State and Federal Government all have information on their websites:

- [Baltimore City Health Department](#)
- [Maryland Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

As mentioned last month, Baltimore City has launched an [online COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to see the number of COVID-19 cases, with breakdowns by race, zip code, age, gender and number of cases over time. Be sure to check it out, if not already done so.

To learn more about COVID-19 from the above-listed agencies, check out the websites via the links provided above. Information continues to change on a frequent basis, so please continuously visit these websites—lots of valuable information!

Additionally, please check out our [MVBA Facebook page](#) for information.

Wishes of good health to everyone!



Supporting Local Businesses Now

It's even more important now to support our local businesses. Whether it's buying groceries, prepared foods, wine/beer/liquor, toiletries, cleaning products, clothing—and even masks (shout out to ***Bushelers of Baltimore, Chase Street Accessories & Engraving, DifferentRegard and Mt. Vernon Cleaners*** (in making masks), **show your support by purchasing items locally.** Be sure to call the store and/or visit their website beforehand. And some stores even deliver!

Keep giving some **LOVE** to our Mount Vernon businesses!



Current & New MVBA Business Members

This month of May, we want to give a **SHOUT OUT** to all of our local MVBA businesses to say **THANK YOU** for what you do and **WE ARE THINKING OF YOU AT THIS TIME** as you endure these extremely challenging times. Please contact us at business@mvba.org if you would like us to post any information (ads, news, etc.) for your business.

Folks, 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.



Upcoming 2020 Primary Election | June 2nd

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the upcoming **2020 Primary Election will now be on Tuesday, June 2nd.**

This election will be primarily a "vote by mail" election. This means that you will automatically receive a mail-in ballot if you are an eligible voter. You should receive your ballot by mid-May. You do not need to ask for a ballot to receive one.

Your ballot will be mailed to the address that is on file. All mailed ballots included a return envelope and prepaid postage.

- To reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus, it's recommended that voters who can vote by mail do so. Voted ballots must be postmarked on or before **Tuesday, June 2, 2020.**
- Voters who prefer to drop off their ballots can do so at **designated ballot drop off locations** from **Thursday, May 21st through Tuesday, June 2nd.**
- If you are unable to vote by mail, you may vote in-person on election day, June 2nd, at **a vote center in the jurisdiction where you live.**

Check out the **Maryland State Board of Elections** website regularly for updates and more information.

REMEMBER - Your ballot must be postmarked on or before June 2, 2020, and the envelope must contain your printed name and signature to count!



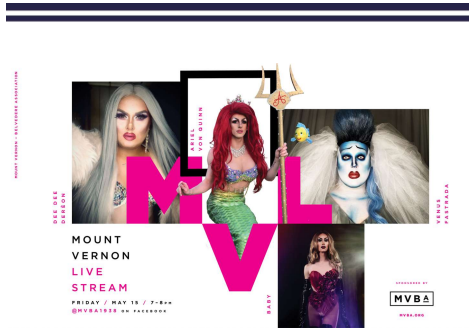
MVBA Video Questionnaire on Facebook

In light of the upcoming election on June 2nd, the MVBA Board created our first Video Questionnaire for candidates running for Baltimore City Mayor, City Council President, and District 12 Councilman to be introduced starting this weekend on the [MVBA Facebook page](#).

All of the candidates running for these seats were recently presented with a set of ten (10) important questions (each set specifically addressing the responsibilities of the three elected offices). Every candidate was provided a convenient opportunity to respond with a 2-3 minute video clip for each question.

Given the current circumstances, we believe the Video Questionnaire is the most efficient and effective method for each of the participating candidates to reach the 10,000+ residents and property owners, 500+ businesses, and numerous institutions within our Mount Vernon community and beyond.

These video responses give each candidate an opportunity to speak directly to YOU on their thoughts and beliefs in making Mount Vernon and Baltimore City stronger. We hope that you find these video responses helpful in selecting your best candidates for the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday, June 2nd via mail-in ballot.



MVBA Presents Mount Vernon Live Stream

MVBA wants to support the creative community in Mount Vernon while bringing a little cheer to everyone's week.

During this period of Social Distancing, each Friday starting today, May 15th, we will Live Stream at 7pm with some of our favorite performers on [MVBA Facebook](#). These are performers who have supported and entertained us over the last few years at Oktoberfest and at many at other local venues. It is our turn to help support them while our restaurants, bars, and venues are closed.

SHOW SOME LOVE!

Please consider tipping the performers and share this Live Stream to brighten someone's week. Tipping information (Venmo/Cash App) will be posted during and after the Live Stream.

UP NEXT

Next Friday, May 22nd at 7pm, [Ebb & Nova](#) will join us! Don't miss it.

More performers will be announced soon!





Updates

Below are updates from Council President Brandon Scott:

- Council President Scott continues to give daily updates on his social media (@councilpresBMS). You can catch up on previous updates on his [Facebook](#) page.
- At this past Monday's Council Meeting, President Scott's [Rent Relief Act](#) passed the Council. If signed into law, it will prohibit rent increases and late fees during the current state of emergency. "COVID-19 continues to have a significantly detrimental impact on our residents," said City Council President Brandon Scott. "While many are struggling to make ends meet, rent increases will be one less thing that our residents will have to worry about during this crisis."
- President Scott also introduced a [Resolution Calling for the General Assembly to Override the Veto of House Bill 1300 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future](#). President Scott remarked that "I am deeply saddened at the news that Governor Hogan has vetoed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a piece of legislation that would have brought insurmountable promise to our students in Baltimore, and across the State of Maryland. The children of Baltimore, were depending on this once-in-a-generation opportunity to have schools that are equitably funded."
- On Wednesday May 13th, the Board of Estimates, chaired by Baltimore City Council President Brandon M. Scott, [unanimously approved a \\$3 million transfer](#) from the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund to Baltimore City Schools for distance learning technology in the wake of the COVID-19 public health emergency. President Scott said that this is a "huge victory for Baltimore's students."
- You can find important COVID-19 resources around the City in this [asset map](#).

Please see upcoming City meetings below:

- The next Council Meeting is **Monday, May 18th**. It will occur digitally and you will be able to watch it on [CharmTV Channel 25](#) or you can call **(408) 418-9388 (Access code: 716 793 854)** to listen to the meeting.
- The Board of Estimates continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays--also meeting virtually. It can be viewed on [CharmTV](#).
- [Council Hearings](#) are being held virtually. You can see a list of [all hearings here](#).

Below are recent community updates and resources from the Office of City Council President, Brandon Scott:

- Baltimore Development Corporation is now accepting grant applications for the [Small Business Assistance Fund](#) until **Friday, May 15, 2020**. This is a \$5.5 million fund to provide financial assistance to small businesses with grants of up to \$15,000.
- The [Maryland Health Connection](#), the state's health insurance marketplace, has a Coronavirus Emergency Special Enrollment Period through June 15, 2020.
- The Mayor's Office of Employment Development has an online [COVID-19 Job Board](#) with companies that are currently hiring in Baltimore.
- Baltimore City continues to provide [daily meals](#) around the City. [See here](#) for a list of all meal locations in the City.
- The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success is also distributing [Grocery Boxes](#) on a weekly basis at sites around the City. Sites will be distributing boxes on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. See [here](#) for a list of all locations and times.
- Also, Baltimore City Schools in partnership with World Central Kitchen is also providing a week's supply of food at [10 School Pantry Sites](#):
 - Wednesdays from 10am-2pm: [Vanguard Collegiate Middle School](#), [Edgewood Elementary School](#), [Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School](#), [Fort Worthington Elementary/Middle School](#), [Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School](#)
 - Fridays from 10-2pm: [Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #237](#), [Southwest Baltimore Charter School](#), [Harford Heights Elementary School](#), [Sarah M. Roach Elementary School](#) & (12pm - 2pm) [Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins](#)

- BCHD, MOCFS, and Johns Hopkins is holding a Students Town Hall on Tuesday 5/19/20 from 5-6pm. Call 888-651-5908 access code 8727752 to participate.
- The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success has a [calendar](#) of activities and events for young people to participate in.
- Preservation Maryland has several [grant opportunities](#) for neighborhoods and organizations.
- Philanthropic organizations in Greater Baltimore have created the [COVID-19 Response Funding Collaborative of Greater Baltimore](#) to provide funding to nonprofits. May 29, 2020 is the deadline.

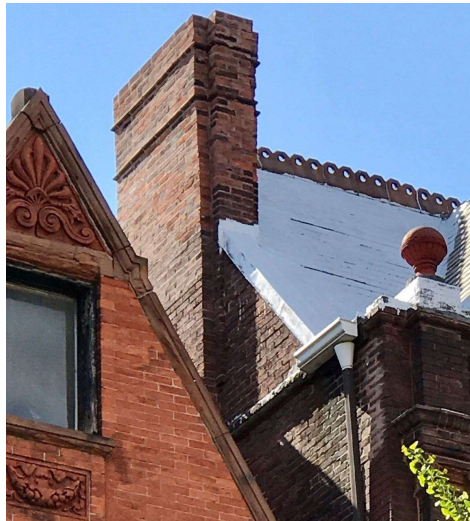


Census 2020

—
Not too late to complete your 2020 Census!
—

The [2020 Census](#) completion deadline date was April 1st. BUT, it's still not too late to submit your census information. **We're only at 49% compliance---goal is 73%!**

Baltimore wants to make sure that **Everyone Counts**. Accurate census numbers impact funding and representation for Baltimore. **It is essential that everyone participates in the Census.** Please help your community and our City by completing the census---and it's easy and takes little time to complete. Go to [2020 Census](#).



Reminder to all Mount Vernon Residents on Unpermitted Work

—

Please photograph and report any unusual construction or demolition activity to stewardship@mvba.org as soon as you witness it, and all reports will be kept confidential.

Given the current lock-down environment with fewer people on the street, some opportunistic developers and contractors have been taking extreme liberties to do unpermitted work.



As shown below, vinyl window replacement is not permitted; wooden window replacement is required given that Mount Vernon is a historic district.



Midtown Community Benefits District Update Addressing Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Due to public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, Midtown Baltimore is continuing to take necessary steps to protect our employees while servicing the district six days per week. We continue to follow necessary safety protocols and are constantly reassessing and implementing new strategies to add services as we can do so in a way that is safe for our employees and our constituents.

We are emptying the 150+ trash cans throughout the 144 block district, and the sidewalks and gutter lines are being cleaned with brooms and dustpans in addition to the littervac machine. Bulk pickup is still unavailable during this time. If you see particular areas of concern, please email us at service@midtowncommunity.org with any requests that are severe in nature. (Please note that our facebook page is not monitored for service requests).

We appreciate your continued patience and cooperation as we update our efforts to keep our staff and community safe during this unprecedented time.



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 June

- Primary Election | Vote by June 2nd
- No General Meeting in June

CONTACTS 2020

Officers

President	Michele Richter	president@mvba.org	Directors
Vice President	Wesley Stuckey	vicepresident@mvba.org	Mario Brandhorst
Treasurer	Onahlea Shimunek	treasurer@mvba.org	Julie Canard
Development Officer	Steve Shen	development@mvba.org	Jack Danna
Secretary/Information Officer	—	secretary@mvba.org	John Molino
			Scott Ponemone
			Lex Wiesand

Committees

Architectural Review	Steve Shen	arc@mvba.org	Ex-Officio
Business	Onahlea Shimunek	business@mvba.org	Jason Curtis
Children's Park	John Molino	childrenspark@mvba.org	Jack Danna
Clean + Beautiful	Michele Richter	cleanandbeautiful@mvba.org	Steve Johnson
Community Service + Engagement	—	community@mvba.org	Brian Levy
Development	Steve Shen	development@mvba.org	
Dog Park	Marci Yankelov	dogpark@mvba.org	
Grants	Jack Danna	grants@mvba.org	
Liquor Review	Michele Richter	liquor@mvba.org	
Marketing + Promotions	Wesley Stuckey	marketing@mvba.org	
Membership	Julie Canard & Lex Wiesand	membership@mvba.org	
Parking + Transportation	Steve Johnson	parking@mvba.org	
Safety	Vicki Schassler	safety@mvba.org	
Trees + Greening	MJ Dame	trees@mvba.org	
Zoning	Steve Shen	zoning@mvba.org	

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](#)