



NEWSLETTER

November 2019

The Clarion Newsletter — Volume 34, Number 11

General Meeting

Tuesday, November 19th | 7:30pm

As a reminder, our next General Meeting will be held this month on **Tuesday, November 19th** beginning at 7:30pm at The Modell-Lyric located at 140 W. Mount Royal Avenue.

Please be sure to attend this meeting as we'll be holding our MVBA General Election 2019 as outlined below.

At this meeting, we will receive an introduction on The Modell-Lyric, our host location this month---visit them at modell-lyric.com for more information. We will be joined by Matt Achhammer, Community Liaison for the Liquor Board to learn of any community updates from the Liquor Board. We'll also be joined by Larry Nunley, DPW Community Liaison to discuss water-related issues.

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.

New MVBA Business Members

Each month, we recognize new 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.



MVBA General Election 2019

As previously mentioned, the next MVBA General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 19th. **To vote in this election, your MVBA membership must be current.**

Following are the slate of candidates for the four (4) board positions including President, Vice President and Directors (2) that are up for election:

- President - Michele Richter (*Incumbent*)
- Vice President - Wesley Stuckey (*Incumbent*)
- Director 1 - John Molino (*Incumbent*)
- Director 2 - Lex Wiesand (*Current Secretary*)

Short bios follow for each of the candidates:

Michele Richter

Michele Richter is a 10-year resident of Mount Vernon and current President of the Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association (MVBA) since Fall 2016. Prior to this position, she was Vice President of MVBA. Michele enjoys working towards making Mount Vernon a more livable and vibrant community and leads the Clean & Beautiful Committee as well as the Liquor Committee as well as participates in the Business Round Table discussions. Michele continues to assist the Architectural Review Committee as well as attends other MVBA committees and works with neighboring community associations as necessary. Michele also serves on the Midtown Community Benefits District Board as well as the Midtown Clean & Green Committee. She is a wife for 23 years and a mother of two boys ages 15 and 13. Previously, she worked in the clinical research industry for over 20 years. She also co-owned and operated an antiques business in Baltimore for 14 years. Currently, Michele is a business partner of the Co-Op at Madison Street and Maryland Avenue

in addition to being an investor in other properties within Mount Vernon.

Growing up in Baltimore, Mount Vernon has always been a special place to Michele. She loves the architecture and high quality craftsmanship found in the neighborhood. She enjoys renovating and restoring these buildings to showcase their significant architectural details and to bring a fresh life into these historic spaces. Michele seeks the opportunity to continue serving on the MVBA Board as President, and she continues to work towards her goal of making Mount Vernon a destination for people of all ages while improving the appearance and livability of the community. Michele believes that Mount Vernon encompasses the best of Baltimore both historically and presently and wants to demonstrate how valuable and truly special this neighborhood is.

Wesley Stuckey

Wesley Stuckey is a designer, printmaker, and educator originally from Mississippi, now living and working in Baltimore, Maryland. His work has been published by HOW Magazine, PRINT, Focal Press, Princeton Architectural Press, Tattly.com, a project by SwissMiss, and by Communication Arts. His work has also been featured in exhibitions across the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Mid-West, in Arkansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, and in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to traditional print design and printmaking, Wesley's work primarily focuses on branding, illustration, and environmental graphics, with the occasional interactive project for the web. He graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art in the Graphic Design MFA Program with Ellen Lupton in 2011.

Over the last 10 years, Wesley has made Baltimore his home. Now, as a property owner and a small business owner, he is active in the restoration of his historic Mount Vernon home. He is also passionate with his work to help local businesses and non-profits grow and build strong relationships with their neighbors and customers.

Most recently, Wesley organized, designed, raised funds, and lead the charge in creating Oktoberfest Mount Vernon. This event has continued to grow over the last 3 years. The event

supports local businesses and performers during a 2 day festival that ultimately is a positive catalyst for the neighborhood and MVBA. Each year, over 2,500 attendees came to the festival and enjoyed food, beer & wine, and entertainment.

In addition to actively being current Vice-President of MVBA, Wesley sits as the MVBA representative on the Midtown Community Benefits District Board and is on the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy's Maintenance Committee.

John Molino

John Molino lives on the 200 block of East Read Street, with his wife, Ellen, and two children, Annie and Jay. He moved to Mount Vernon in 2005 and bought a home here in 2008, the same year he and his wife joined MVBA.

John gradually got more and more involved in the neighborhood since that time. He started volunteering with neighborhood tree plantings, and during the creation of the Mount Vernon Master Plan, which was finished in 2013, he participated on the Open Space Transportation & Parking sub-committees. In 2015, he assumed responsibility for the neighborhood playground and started working with a few neighborhood families as *The Friends of Mount Vernon Children's Park*. Since forming, the group organized park clean-ups, fundraisers, social gatherings, and had new equipment installed in the playground. In 2016, he joined both the MVBA Tree Committee and MVBA Development Committee. He's been a Director on the board with MVBA for the past two years and continues to foster relationships with Midtown and local universities to organize volunteer events.

John is employed as an Economist for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and takes the MARC train to D.C. four times a week. He will continue to bring the perspective and concerns of neighborhood families to the board.

Lex Wiesand

Alexandra (Lex) Wiesand is a long time Mt. Vernon resident with a passion for the Cultural District that embodies

everything great about urban living. She moved here at age 18 during her first year at Towson University, where she graduated with a Political Science degree. All throughout college she lived and worked in Mt. Vernon with her father, David Wiesand, of McLain Wiesand Custom Furniture. Her love of art and design blossomed here and she enthusiastically decided to join the family business full time, where she is now the Workshop Manager.

Two years ago, she purchased her second house in Baltimore City, a beautifully preserved historic home on Park Avenue where she lives with her roommates, two cats, and one dog. She has been witness to many changes around the city and neighborhood over her past thirteen years here and is equally devoted to development, as well as historic preservation. She served on the MVBA Board for the past two years as the Corresponding Secretary and wishes to continue her involvement with the MVBA. She has gained so much knowledge over the past two years, and she greatly enjoyed her time working with MVBA members, local businesses and institutions, and fellow neighbors to accomplish great things for our great neighborhood.

All of the above candidates will have an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves to the general membership at the upcoming November 19th General Meeting.

For reference, below is a listing of each position and their respective responsibilities.

President *(serving 2-year term)*

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

Additional Responsibilities include:

- *The President shall preside at all Board and General Membership meetings of the Association.*
- *The President shall have general management and direction of the activities of the Association and all powers ordinarily exercised by the President of an organization.*
- *The President shall prepare the agenda for all meetings of Directors and the general membership, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and shall call special meetings of the members and directors, consistent with the bylaws.*
- *The President shall sign all contracts and agreements in the name of the Association following a resolution of the Board of Directors.*
- *If the amount or scope exceeds approved budgets, the President shall sign all notices, checks, drafts, warrants, or other orders for the payment of money which are drawn, and also signed by the Treasurer.*
- *The President shall serve as the representative of the Association at meetings and in discussions with public and private agencies, unless the Directors authorize a special committee or individual to represent the Association.*
- *The President shall have such other powers and duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the Board of Directors.*

Time Commitment for Position:

30+ hours per week

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Vice President *(serving 2-year term)*

The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform all duties and have all the powers of the President.

Additional Responsibilities include:

- *The Vice President shall also have such additional powers and duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.*

Time Commitment for Position:

20+ hours per week

Note: Officers (includes President and Vice President) shall be a property owner, business owner, and/or tenant within the boundaries of the Association who have demonstrated a longstanding commitment of at least two (2) years to the community through an existing track record of service on the Board or on Committees, unless waived by two-thirds (⅔) of the board members eligible to vote. No officer may hold more than one office concurrently.

Director *(2 positions serving 3-year term)*

The purpose and function of the Board of Directors of the Association shall be to provide advice and consent to the President in the day-to-day management of the Association's affairs.

Additional Responsibilities include:

- *Meeting and acting as a board and adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of meetings and management of the Association as are deemed proper, not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association.*
- *Participate in the planning of the meetings of the Association and to prepare recommendations for the membership.*
- *Approve the expenditures funds by the officers of the Association and to approve and adopt a budget for the Association each year.*
- *Receive an annual statement of income and expense and provide for its audit.*
- *Act on behalf of the issue(s) at a general meeting of the full membership.*
- *Execute such additional duties as may be required by the bylaws, as amended from time to time.*

Time Commitment for Position:

10+ hours per week

Elected board members must be members in good standing who are eligible to vote and shall be a property owner, business owner, and/or tenant within the boundaries of the Association who have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to the community through an existing track record of service on Committees, by volunteering, and/or by improvement of properties in the community.

All board members are expected to act as a Chair/Co-Chair of a MVBA Committee. Additionally, all board members must disclose potential and real conflicts of interest to the Board and recuse themselves, if appropriate.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

As per the newly approved bylaws, the following three Officer positions will be appointed by the Board of Directors following the November 19th General Election:

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Secretary/Information Officer *(serving 2-year term)*

New Position, No Current Appointment

The Secretary/Information Officer shall retain accurate records of all Board and Membership meetings of the Association. Records both digital and physical shall be accessible to board members and shall be transferred to a newly elected Secretary/Information Officer upon commencement of that member's term. The Secretary/Information Officer shall keep a record of those members who attend each meeting. In the event of a vote challenge, it shall be the responsibility of the Secretary/Information Officer to ascertain from a review of the membership rolls and membership cards whether an individual is entitled to vote. Unless waived, the minutes of the preceding Board and Membership meetings shall be read at each Membership meeting of the Association and submitted to the membership for their approval or amendment. The

Secretary/Information Officer shall be responsible for maintaining and updating all social media accounts and promoting the interests of the Association in the digital domain.

Time Commitment for Position:

15+ hours per week

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Development Officer *(serving 2-year term)*

New Position, No Current Appointment

The Development Officer shall be responsible for representing and promoting the interests of the Association regarding historic preservation, development, and zoning matters.

Additional Responsibilities include:

- *The Development Officer will oversee the work of the Chairs of the Architectural Review, Development and Zoning Committees, if such Chairs are appointed by the President. If no Chair is appointed to any of the three committees, the Development Officer shall act as Chair of that committee.*

Time Commitment for Position:

15+ hours per week

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Treasurer *(serving 2-year term)*

Onahlea Shimunek, Current Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for fulfilling duties to ensure the Association remains in good standing as well as responsible for all funds in the name of the Association and shall deposit all funds in a bank designated by the Board of Directors. *(Candidates for Treasurer should have a financial or accounting background, given the fiduciary responsibilities of the position.)*

Additional Responsibilities include:

- *The Treasurer shall have major responsibility for the collection of dues each year and shall bring to each meeting of the Association, an up-to-date record of all paid and unpaid members.*
- *Unless specifically waived, the Treasurer shall make a report to the membership at least twice a year at an Association meeting of the financial condition of the Association.*
- *The Treasurer shall also prepare and submit to the Board a budget at the start of each year, projecting income and expenditures, which budget shall be adopted or amended.*
- *The Treasurer shall retain records of all transactions and prepare an annual report of the income and expenses and submit same to the Board of Directors. Financial records both digital and physical shall be accessible to board members as necessary.*

Time Commitment for Position:

15+ hours per week

Applicants interested in any of the three appointed officer positions will be contacted following the Board's review and appointment.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this election taking place on Tuesday, November 19th starting at 7:30pm!



 Image may contain: night, sky and outdoor

48th Annual Monument Lighting



Thursday, December 5th | 5-8pm

Mount Vernon Place



The 48th Annual Downtown Partnership Monument Lighting will take place Thursday, December 5th, from 5-8pm in Mount Vernon Place. The West Park will be transformed into a holiday village with food and community vendors; the North Park will be merry with food trucks, bars, face painting, photos with Santa, and more.

More information can be found at GoDowntownBaltimore.com.





MVBA Holiday Party 2019

Tuesday, December 10th | 6pm to 9pm

Marie Louise Bistro | 904 North Charles Street

Oh, What a Night!

Prepare to have a load of fun!

Join the MVBA for a night of Holiday Fun!

Hors d'Oeuvres | Full Cash Bar

One Beer, Wine, or Rail Beverage Included

Cocktail Attire | Raffle

\$35 MVBA Members | \$40 Non-Members

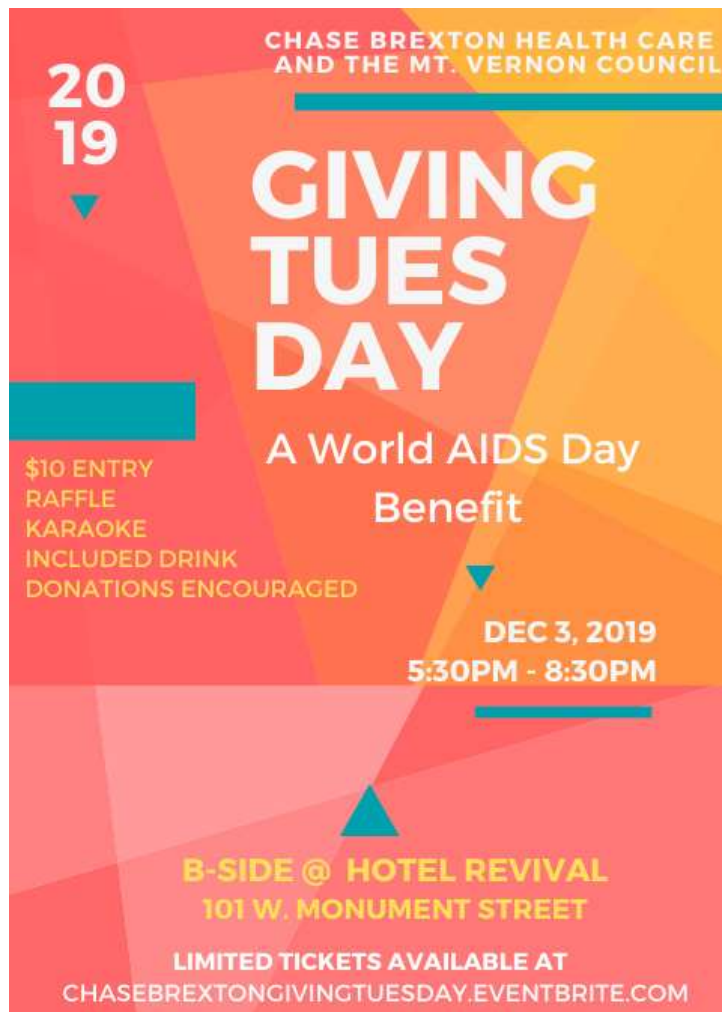
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Tickets are available through Eventbrite.

Purchase your tickets now, by clicking below.



Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors and share on Facebook.



Chase Brexton Giving Tuesday

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Tuesday, December 3rd | 5:30-8:30pm

Join Chase Brexton for this holiday event. For more details

and tickets, click [here](#).



The poster is divided into two main vertical sections. The left section has a light gray background with a subtle grid pattern. It features the text 'CHASE BREXTON' in large, bold, black serif font, followed by 'HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE' in a similar but slightly smaller font. Below this, it says 'Get an insider look at one of Baltimore's most iconic buildings!'. Further down, the date and time 'December 12th, 3-6PM' and the address '1111 N. Charles Street' are listed. At the bottom of this section, it says 'RSVP TO: CELLIOTT@CHASEBREXTON.ORG'. The right section is a solid blue color. It contains the text 'BRING GENTLY USED COLD WEATHER GEAR OR MAKE A DONATION, AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL TOUR OF OUR HISTORIC VAULT!'. Below this, it lists 'Adult & Children's:' followed by a list of items: coats, hats, gloves, scarves, long johns, underwear, and socks. It also mentions 'plus sizes needed' and 'light refreshments will be served'. At the bottom of the poster, there is a line drawing of the Chase Brexton building, with the words 'MONUMENTAL • LIFE' written above it.

CHASE BREXTON

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Get an insider look at one of Baltimore's most iconic buildings!

December 12th, 3-6PM
1111 N. Charles Street

RSVP TO:
CELLIOTT@CHASEBREXTON.ORG

BRING GENTLY USED COLD WEATHER GEAR OR MAKE A DONATION, AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL TOUR OF OUR HISTORIC VAULT!

Adult & Children's:
coats
hats
gloves
scarves
long johns
underwear
socks

plus sizes needed
light refreshments will be served

MONUMENTAL • LIFE

Chase Brexton Holiday Open House

Thursday, December 12th | 3-6pm

Chase Brexton | 1111 N. Charles Street

Get an insider look at one of Baltimore's most iconic buildings!

For more information on this event, click [here](#).



Mount Vernon Place Conservancy

Restoration Plans for North & South Squares



The squares of Mount Vernon Place require a significant investment to ensure their future. In 2011, the City of Baltimore approved the Conservancy's restoration plans for the North and South Squares at the Master Plan level. Check out this video [here](#) to learn more about what the Conservancy has been doing since that time. The video highlights why the Conservancy was formed, briefly addresses their award-winning restoration in 2014-15 of the [Washington Monument](#), and presents a first look at their more detailed plans for the squares. The work involves all new infrastructure to make the squares more sustainable, and strategies to make the squares safer and more accessible.

Stay tuned for more restoration information in the new year.





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.



Baltimore City Council Legislative Updates

The next Council Meeting is **Monday, November 18th**. [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.

Coming Up in December

- **48th Annual Monument Lighting**

Mount Vernon Place

December 5th | 5-8pm

- **MVBA Holiday Party**

Tuesday, December 10th | 6-9pm

Marie Louise Bistro | 904 North Charles Street

- **No MVBA General Meeting** in December

CONTACTS 2019

Officers

President	Michele Richter	president@mvba.org
Vice President	Wesley Stuckey	vicepresident@mvba.org
Treasurer	Onahlea Shimunek	treasurer@mvba.org
Recording Secretary	—	secretary@mvba.org
Corresponding Secretary	Lex Wiesand	corsecretary@mvba.org

Directors

Mario Brandhorst
Julie Canard
Jack Danna
Teddy Davidson
John Molino
Steve Shen

Committees

Architectural Review	Steve Shen	arc@mvba.org
Business	Onahlea Shimunek	business@mvba.org
Children's Park	John Molino	childrenspark@mvba.org
Clean + Beautiful	Michele Richter	cleanandbeautiful@mvba.org
Community Service + Engagement	Teddy Davidson	community@mvba.org
Development	Steve Shen	development@mvba.org
Dog Park	Marci Yankelov Bea Harris	dogpark@mvba.org

Ex-Officio

Jason Curtis
Jack Danna
Steve Johnson
Brian Levy

Grants	Teddy Davidson	grants@mvba.org
Liquor Review	Michele Richter	liquor@mvba.org
Marketing + Promotions	Wesley Stuckey	marketing@mvba.org
Membership	Julie Canard	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](#)