



September 2020

The Clarion Newsletter — Volume 35, Number 9

## General Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, September 15th, 7:30pm

Please join us on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:30pm for our next MVBA General Meeting. The September 15th meeting will be held remotely via Zoom. Here's the Zoom information for attending:

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510408447?pwd=Q09RNEZKYmVGdVVkVkJnczc3QWdwZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 885 1040 8447

**Passcode:** 973426

### Join via Dial-in Only

**Telephone:** +1 301 715 8592 US

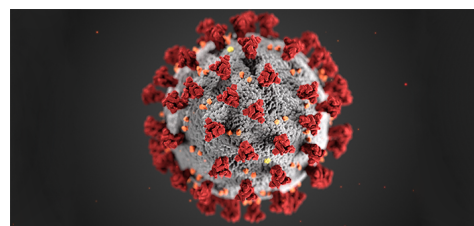
**Meeting ID:** 885 1040 8447

**Passcode:** 973426

This month, we welcome representatives from the *Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT)* to present the traffic change plans for West Chase Street as well as **Arshia Sethi**, Director of Community Partnerships at *Thread* to give us an update on everything happening at Thread. We will discuss the upcoming November General Election and introduce the two *Director* candidates. Additionally, we will provide an update on the *Design for Distance* initiative as well as provide MVBA Committee updates during the meeting.

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.



## Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Baltimore City continues to deal with the impact of COVID-19. As of September 11th, Baltimore City has 15,174 COVID-19 cases and 436 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 before, 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

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It continues to be important to support our local businesses. Whether it's buying groceries, prepared foods, wine/beer/liquor, toiletries, cleaning products, clothing----and even 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!

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### MVBA Membership Renewals Due

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**As mentioned last month, annual MVBA membership renewals were due by September 1st.** Be certain to ensure that your membership is current along with your contact (and other) information in Wild Apricot.

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 residents and 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](mailto:membership@mvba.org).

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## Residential Permit Parking Enforcement

### Resumed September 1st

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The Baltimore City Department of Transportation resumed parking enforcement of Residential Permit Parking on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Parking enforcement of parking meters resumed on July 13, 2020, prompting many drivers to park in nearby residential areas. This has created problems for residents trying to find available parking close to their home. If you do not have a permit on your vehicle, you will be subject to receiving a citation (ticket).

**If you have a blue or yellow decal, visitor permit(s), or any temporary permit with a 2020 expiration date, there is no action required.** These permits will continue to be honored until further notice, even if they are expired.

**Residents who live at an eligible RPP address can apply online immediately at [pabc.thepermitstore.com](http://pabc.thepermitstore.com) for a new permit if you meet one of the following criteria:**

- You are a new RPP customer who has not been able to purchase a permit due to the COVID-19 closure of PABC offices.
- You are an existing customer who has purchased a new vehicle or has new plates.
- You are an existing customer who moved from one RPP area to another. If you moved within the same RPP area, you may continue to use the decal and visitor permit(s) you already have.

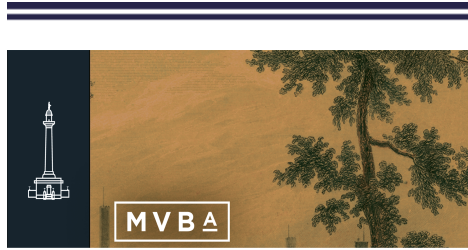
**Residents who qualify can apply immediately online at [pabc.thepermitstore.com](http://pabc.thepermitstore.com) to have a permit mailed to them.** The online application will allow residents to upload the required documents that are usually verified in person at the Parking Authority Office or at a Community Pickup. A Parking Authority team member will verify the documents online and mail residents their permits.

**The Parking Authority Office, located at 200 W. Lombard Street, is now open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.** Extended late-night hours and Saturday hours will not be available. The office will be open for residents who do not have online access or experience problems with the website.

For the safety of the Parking Authority employees and customers, the office will open with the following restrictions:

- *There will be a maximum of five customers allowed in the office at a time. Please form a line outside along the wall until you are called to come in.*
- *A mask or face covering must be worn at all times.*
- *A health screening will be required in the Arena Garage lobby closest to our office main entrance before you may enter the PABC office. If you do not pass the health screening, entry will be denied.*
- *Hand sanitizer will be available. Please use some when you enter.*
- *Please do not walk up to any employee desk. Please have a seat and wait to be called, as employees must wipe down surfaces between each customer.*
- *This information will also be posted on our [website](http://pabc.thepermitstore.com). If you have any questions about address eligibility, the online application, or our reopening procedures, please contact us at (443) 573-2800 or email [rpp@bcparking.com](mailto:rpp@bcparking.com).*

You can reach Parking Authority Team Members during regular office hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm). Please call 443-573-2800 or email [RPP@bcparking.com](mailto:RPP@bcparking.com). Information can also be found on their website at [parking.baltimorecity.gov](http://parking.baltimorecity.gov).



## MVBA General Election 2020

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the next MVBA General Election will take place on **Tuesday, November 17th** for two Director seats. *To vote in the election, please be sure that your MVBA membership is current.*

Following are the slate of candidates for the two (2) Director seats for serving a 3-year term beginning on January 1, 2021.

- **Director 1** | Marjil Casso
- **Director 2** | Angie Jackiewicz

Short bios follow for these two candidates:

### Marjil Casso

A resident of Baltimore since 2015, Mr. Marjil Casso, along with his business partner Mr. Thomas Mathison, manages a boutique consulting firm in Mount Vernon, Baltimore. With over 20 years of experience in international trade, sanctions, and export/investment issues, Mr. Casso was a program manager at the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in Washington, DC. He received his B.A. in Political Science and French Literature from the University of California (Berkeley), and his M.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. Among his hobbies and interests are classical music, opera, literature, architecture, and history.

### Angie Jackiewicz

Angie Jackiewicz is a lifelong resident of Baltimore as well as a business and property owner in Mount Vernon since 2013. During this time, Angie has volunteered countless hours to the Mount Vernon Belvedere Association and loves the architectural beauty of Mount Vernon. When Angie is not busy with her business and volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her family and her dog, Sammy. Angie really enjoys eating in the neighborhood restaurants and cafes with her colleagues.

Growing up in Baltimore, Angie would love coming to Mount Vernon with her mother to attend FlowerMart. Now, Angie continues that tradition with her family. With her attention to detail and hardworking nature, Angie will be a great asset to the community as a MVBA Director.

Following is a list of responsibilities for the Director position:



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.

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*Be sure to mark your calendars for this election taking place on Tuesday, November 17th.*



## Baltimore City Council Updates

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- The next City Council Meeting is **Monday, September 21st**; all [Council Hearings](#) continue to be held virtually. You can tune into the City Council meeting at 5:00PM [online](#) or on CharmTV (Channel 25/1085HD). A list of [all of the hearings can be viewed here](#).
- The Board of Estimates continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays--also meeting virtually. It can be viewed on [CharmTV](#).

***Below are updates from Council President Scott and the City Council as well as community resources and information to share.***

**Updates from Council President Brandon Scott:**

- Trash and recycling collection is a major concern for residents right now. Council President Scott [sent a letter](#) to Acting Director of DPW Matthew Garbark **expressing frustration at the ongoing challenges associated with regular trash and**

recycling pickup and calling on DPW to take steps to better serve

residents. President Scott is committed to “being out there to help alongside our solid waste workers and will be mobilizing my office to support in that effort until regular services can resume.” **See his full statement [here](#).**

- **Council President Scott is organizing volunteers to assist residents** in need of support during the suspension of recycling services. If you are interested in volunteering to help, you can [sign up here](#). Led by Council President Scott, our office will be organizing recycling pick ups around the city to help out residents who are unable to make it to a disposal location. More information on this initiative to come.
- The City Council will be holding an [Informational Hearing on Trash Collection](#) regarding the issues with trash and recycling collection on Tuesday 9/15/20 at 2:30pm. This is a virtual hearing.
- Council President Scott joined Mayor Young, and County Executives Olszewski, Ball and Pittman in [issuing a statement](#) regarding announced cuts to MTA services. They state “Make no mistake about it: **This decision will disproportionately impact our poor, Black and Brown residents, especially those living in historically-disinvested neighborhoods.** Particularly during a public health emergency that continues to have devastating impacts, we should not seek to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable.”

#### Service Updates:

- DPW has suspended recycling collection until November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be [14 collection sites](#) (one in each council district) where you can take your recyclables that will be open Monday to Friday from 7am-3pm. [Click here](#) for a map and list of locations along with hours of the City’s Convenience Drop-Off Centers where you can also drop off your recycling.
- MTA has [announced changes to the bus service](#), set to take effect on January 3, 2021. There will be ten virtual hearings for public testimony on the proposed changes from October 5, 2020 to October 16, 2020.
- [BGE urges customers](#) to take advantage of flexible payment options and energy assistance in advance of end of moratorium on service terminations on Nov. 15. The most important step that residential customers who are not current on their BGE bill can take is to contact BGE at 1.800.685.0123 and [BGE.com/assistance](#) as soon as possible.

#### Community Events & Opportunities:

- **Census 2020:** September 30<sup>th</sup> is the **LAST** day to complete the [census](#). Filling out the [census](#) is critical to ensure [Baltimore](#) receives the federal funding and political representation that we deserve. It takes 5 minutes to fill out the [census](#), and you can do it online. Please encourage everyone to complete the [census](#).
- **Lexington Market** has launched the first round of **VENDOR APPLICATIONS** for the renovated market. [Click here to apply](#) to secure a spot at Baltimore’s most iconic public market. Applications are open until **October 2, 2020**. Please share with your communities to ensure that everyone in Baltimore who is interested in being a part of Lexington Market has the opportunity.
- **Live Baltimore** would like to invite all community associations in Baltimore to participate in the *Virtual Trolley Tour* on **September 26, 2020** from **9-12**. This is a home-buying event that connects prospective residents to resources for buying a home in Baltimore City. The event is also an opportunity to showcase and market Baltimore’s neighborhoods. As a valued partner in that work, a BIG part of what makes the event successful is the participation and resources groups like yours provide. Live Baltimore invites you to participate in our Fall Virtual event. If you are interested to participate to showcase your neighborhood you can [Register your organization for the Trolley Tour](#). If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to reach out to Misty Keens at [mkeens@livebaltimore.com](mailto:mkeens@livebaltimore.com) or via phone at 410-637-3750 ext. 112.

#### Community Resources:

- Baltimore’s Behavioral Health Hotline has a new look and name: The [Here2Help Hotline](#) which provides 24/7 access to confidential advice and emotional support. You can call 410-433-5175.
- The [Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland](#) is offering free utility bill consultations where volunteer attorneys will give residents free legal advice regarding their water, gas, and/or electric bills. Attorneys will advise on issues such as bill disputes, shutoffs, and questions about financial assistance that may be available. This service is remote and started on August 27th. If interested call **443-703-3052** to register.
- MVLS is emphasizing the [My Home My Deed](#) to assist residents with the legal aspects of homeownership and titles. Check out their video [here](#).



### Tree Wells & Sidewalks | Clean-Up Weeds

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The tree wells and sidewalks throughout the community are still looking wild with highly grown weeds. Please, please clean up the tree wells and sidewalks in front of your properties. After all, it is your responsibility.

This is a great opportunity to work with your neighbors to get your block looking tidy!

Do your part to get our community looking good----we really need everyone's help on these efforts!



### Construction StartED on Latrobe Building

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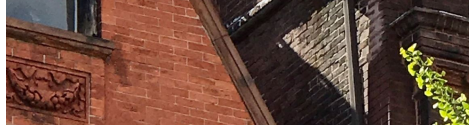
Great news! The Latrobe Building at 2 East Read Street has officially commenced construction.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to

Jen Webber at [Jennifer@ashnyc.com](mailto:Jennifer@ashnyc.com).

As mentioned last month, announcements will be posted regularly to the Mt. Vernon Neighbors Facebook group and also on Instagram at Latrobe\_Baltimore.





## Reminder to all Mount Vernon Residents on Unpermitted Work

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



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



**MIDTOWN**  
BALTIMORE

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Keeping Midtown Clean, Green & Safe

## Midtown Fall Town Hall (Virtual Meeting)

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Save the Date! Thursday, October 22nd | 6:30pm

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Tune in to learn what Midtown has accomplished and what new initiatives they're launching in the coming year to make them more visible and more valuable to their constituents. *Due*

to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Town Hall will be held virtually.

They'll be sharing on-going updates about this event over the next few weeks so please stay tuned to their [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for the most up-to-date information. Definitely check out their new website!



### Homelessness, Panhandling & Loitering

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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](mailto: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.



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### Oktoberfest Mount Vernon 2020 Cancelled

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Well, given the uncertainty of these Covid-19 times, unfortunately, MVBA will not be hosting our annual Oktoberfest Mount Vernon this October. Stay tuned as we figure out small ways to keep the Oktoberfest spirit in the neighborhood while maintaining safety this Fall.

We certainly look forward to celebrating Oktoberfest Mount Vernon again in 2021!







## Mount Vernon Ice Cream Night

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Well, Mount Vernon Ice Cream Night was a delicious success! Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy some local ice cream and give some love to Taharka Bros.



Everyone socially distanced, too! And as you can see, the children enjoyed the ice cream at the Children's Park.

A huge THANK YOU! goes out to John Molino who organized the event. Thanks John!



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## Coming Up in October

- Midtown Fall Town Hall | October 22nd | 6:30pm

*Wishing everyone a great start to Fall!*

## CONTACTS 2020

### Officers

|                               |                  |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--|
| President                     | Michele Richter  | <a href="mailto:president@mvba.org">president@mvba.org</a>         |
| Vice President                | Wesley Stuckey   | <a href="mailto:vicepresident@mvba.org">vicepresident@mvba.org</a> |
| Treasurer                     | Onahlea Shimunek | <a href="mailto:treasurer@mvba.org">treasurer@mvba.org</a>         |
| Development Officer           | Steve Shen       | <a href="mailto:development@mvba.org">development@mvba.org</a>     |
| Secretary/Information Officer | —                | <a href="mailto:secretary@mvba.org">secretary@mvba.org</a>         |

### Directors

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

### Committees

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

### 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](#)