

MVBA Newsletter | September 2021



General Meeting

Tuesday, September 21st

Please join us on **Tuesday, September 21st at 7:30pm** for our next MVBA General Meeting.

The September 21st meeting will be held remotely via Zoom. Here is the Zoom information for attending:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83578190887?pwd=dGRLTGVoTHl0eU5ncldhaUN0ckNaZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 7819 0887

Passcode: 752933

Join via dial-in only: +1 301 715 8592

This month, we welcome **Jon Pannoni**, Partner with Landmark Partners to provide an update on 4 East Eager Street. We welcome back **Ashleigh Coaxum**, *Paper Herald Owner*, to discuss her new bookstore opening soon. We've also invited **Central District BPD Representatives** to give us an update on crime in the community as well as **Councilmen Eric Costello and Robert Stokes** to provide any necessary updates for the neighborhood. Additionally, we'll hear from the candidates: **Jason Curtis, Jack Danna, Scott Ponemone**, and **Duke Tremitiere** running in the MVBA November 16th General Election; the candidates will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the general membership during this 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.

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





MVBA Membership Renewals Due

Annual MVBA membership renewals were due September 1st. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so immediately to be able to vote in the November 16th General Election. Also, 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](#).

Also, if you're membership expired, it's not too late to rejoin!

If you have any questions on membership, please reach out to our Membership Committee at membership@mvba.org.



MVBA General Election 2021

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the next MVBA General Election will take place on **Tuesday, November 16th at 7:30pm**. More details on the election will be provided in next month's newsletter.

To vote in the election, please be sure that your MVBA membership is current.

Following are the slate of candidates for the four (4) board positions including President, Vice President, and two (2) Directors with seat terms beginning on January 1, 2022.

- **President** | Jason Curtis (*2-year term*)
- **Vice President** | Jack Danna (*2-year term*)
- **Director 1** | Scott Ponemone (*3-year term*)
- **Director 2** | Duke Tremitiere (*3-year term*)

Bios for the above candidates follow:

Jason Curtis *(MVBA EX-Officio)*

Jason Curtis served as MVBA President for about 13 years. He has been involved in many aspects of Mt. Vernon, including that of General Manager of the Hotel Indigo Baltimore. He serves on various boards, including boards appointed by Mayor Scott. He has a great working relationship with many at City Hall, Midtown Community Benefits District, and various legislators, locally and at the state level. Jason currently serves on the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association and serves as the Co-Chair on the Legislative Committee, Co-Chair of the Baltimore City Chapter of the MD Hotel & Lodging Association, Visit Baltimore Board of Directors appointed by Mayor Brandon Scott, as well as the Baltimore Tourism Improvement District.

As former president, Jason totally understands the demand and challenges the MVBA President role requires and is committed to fulfilling that responsibility. He also appreciates the diversity of the community and will navigate appropriately, with a desire to bring more people together, to engage renters, property owners, business owners, institutions, and others to become engaged for common objectives.

Jack Danna *(Current MVBA Director)*

Jack Danna began his career in Baltimore in 2007 as the Director of the Pigtown Main Street Program, located in south Baltimore on Washington Boulevard. During his six-year tenure, he led a community-based commercial revitalization initiative modeled after the National Main Street Program. He founded the Annual Pigtown Festival which continues its signature event to this day, the "Running of the Pigs," celebrating neighborhood pride and its history. Danna also created a \$275,000 revolving loan fund to support commercial development and business recruitment and implemented an aggressive façade restoration program. Prior to leaving in 2007, Danna completed one of Baltimore's most successful community-led \$2.75 million eminent domain initiatives along Washington Boulevard – Pigtown's Main Street. Mr. Danna's work ultimately was recognized at the National Main Street Conference in Baltimore in 2005 for his excellence in urban commercial district revitalization.

In 2007, Danna joined the Local Initiative Support Corporation's (LISC) Commercial Markets Advisory division in New York City until 2010. In this capacity, he helped plan LISC's Urban Forum 2008 – a national planning and community development conference – in Indianapolis, Indiana. He also assisted in the creation of a comprehensive retail district market analysis for Downtown New Rochelle, New York, and managed the Commercial Markets Advisory online resource catalogue that serves 50 urban community development affiliates nationwide.

In 2017, Danna joined the Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP) as Director of Commercial Revitalization. Since serving in this role, he has been instrumental in creating one of Baltimore's most comprehensive small business development programs called the Neil Muldrow Fund (The Fund). To date, The Fund has secured \$3.5 million in funds to support business expansion initiatives and has awarded \$1.3 million in grants funds that have supported 59 businesses. Danna was successful in securing the Station North Arts District's participation in the City's \$1.5 million Design for Distancing Initiative in collaboration with the Baltimore Development Corporation and Neighborhood Design Center, which enabled restaurants and retailers to expand operations to the public realm with festive outdoor dining hubs and parklets.

Danna has a master's degree in Urban Studies and Planning from Queens College in New York City. He completed a graduate thesis titled "Contesting Willets Point in the Aspirational City." The thesis examined the planning concepts behind New York City's \$4 billion redevelopment plan for Willets Point located in the immigrant community of Corona, Queens. The thesis also evaluated the effectiveness of the City's Willets Point Worker Assistance Program designed to mitigate worker displacement as result of the development plan.

Danna resides in the 900 block of St. Paul Street in Mount Vernon, Baltimore, with his cat, Paco, and dog, Bijan.

Scott Ponemone *(Current MVBA Director)*

Scott Ponemone is a visual artist, a retired Baltimore Sun journalist and a proud resident and homeowner in Mount Vernon since 1993. He is married to a guy he first met in 1978 at a screening panel for the Maryland Film Festival. As an artist, his principal medium is watercolor. Over the past 40 years, he has had 23 one-person exhibitions in galleries from New York to Miami. He was awarded 13 artist residencies, including 4 overseas. As a journalist, his first job was with the Afro-American as its city hall reporter. He joined the Baltimore Morning Sun copy desk in 1975 and later became its first news page designer. He retired in 2011, a few months after his Calvert Street townhouse was paid for.

Living in Mount Vernon has been a joy for Scott. Being able to walk to so many venues—whether for concerts, theater, restaurants, haircuts, movies, train station, museums, and, for 18 years, for work—has been a great privilege to him. Scott was happy that I did not go house hunting in

Mount Vernon until he knew a little about buying and living with Federal period furniture. Those purchases taught him how to recognize original design and construction practices. So, when after four months of looking mostly in the Bolton Hill neighborhood, he first walked through a sale-by-owner townhouse on Calvert Street, he knew that was the home for him. While the sellers did not appreciate faux painted woodwork, they had honored its original floor plan and kept the kitchen on the ground floor. In due course, he restored much of the faux painting.

In short, Scott's strengths include not only his long-term commitment to the neighborhood but a serious interest in maintaining Mount Vernon's livability and its impressive streetscape of mid-to-late 19th-century townhouses.

Duke Tremittiere

Duke Tremittiere is a Baltimore-based consultant and former US government employee and UN civilian peacekeeper with a background in technical assistance and training projects. He served 25 years in government and international organizations implementing assistance programs all over the world. His most recent work provides technical writing and editing in French and English. A long-term resident of Dupont Circle, Duke bought a 19th century carriage house in Mount Vernon in 2014 and completed a large interior restoration. Since his move to Baltimore in 2015, Duke has been an active member of the MVBA, the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy and Baltimore Heritage. He has served as a volunteer at Flower Mart and at Conservancy grounds/planting activities.

Duke attended school in York, Pennsylvania, and Georgetown University. He holds a Master's degree from the European Inter-University Center at Venice, Italy. His hobbies include gardening, African arts, and foreign languages including French, Spanish, Italian, Swedish and Albanian. He is also an active member of the United Nations Association of the USA and the International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs.

Following is a list of responsibilities and requirements for the President, Vice President and Direction positions for your information.

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 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.

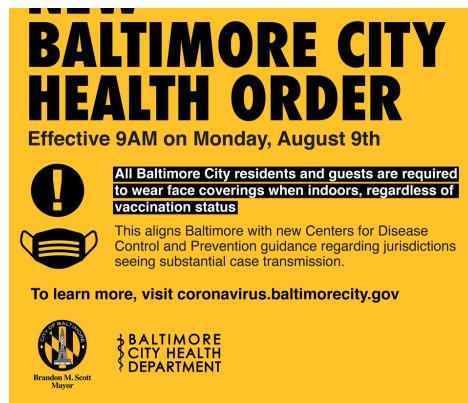
These candidates will be given a few minutes to speak and present themselves at the upcoming September 21st General Membership Meeting as well as at the November 16th General Membership Meeting before the election.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the November General Election taking place on Tuesday, November 16th starting at 7:30pm.

City Indoor Mask Mandate Still In Effect

08/05/2021

NEW



MIDTOWN BALTIMORE

Keeping Midtown Clean, Green & Safe

Midtown Baltimore | Information to Know!

Midtown Fall Town Hall | October 26th, 6:30pm

Please save the date for the Midtown's 2021 Fall Town Hall. This year's meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30PM. During the meeting, we will be updating our constituents on organization projects and goals and will be announcing nominees for the 4 At-Large representatives to serve on our Board of Directors, (one to represent each of the 4 neighborhoods) for the coming calendar year. We save plenty of time for questions and input from attendees and look forward to hearing thoughts on how together we can work to improve the district for all stakeholders.

Additional information will be published at <https://www.midtownbaltimore.org/news> as it becomes available.

Meeting Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84773826698>

Corner Trash Cans are for Pedestrian Litter Only

As a reminder, corner cans are not for household or business trash. These cans are for pedestrian litter only. If you see corner cans being used incorrectly, report it to 311 before notifying Midtown. This holds code enforcement accountable for issuing citations and logs the instance so it can be tracked and metrics are generated. You may submit a 311 request online at <https://balt311.baltimorecity.gov> and then email a copy of the SR number to service@midtowncommunity.org.

It's Time to Clean Up those Tree Wells and Weeds

Property owners are responsible for keeping tree wells and sidewalks free of weeds per Baltimore City Code. Constituents who have removed weeds can submit a service request at <https://www.midtownbaltimore.org/request-services> for Midtown to collect this green debris and a member of our team can make sure weeds are properly disposed of. By pulling the weeds along the sidewalk and the tree wells, it helps keep the district looking great, and makes it much easier for our crews to get trash when we are cleaning. By working together, we can keep our sidewalks and tree wells looking their very best!

Keep Up on What's Happening in Midtown

Learn more about what's happening in Midtown by signing up for our newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gZ1b7H> or follow us

on <https://www.facebook.com/midtownbaltimore/> for the most-up-to-date information.

Reporting Private Property Graffiti | Midtown

Help Midtown Baltimore report graffiti on personal property in Midtown!

In partnership with the Bolton Hill, Charles North, Madison Park, and Mount Vernon community associations, [Midtown Baltimore](#) is creating a comprehensive list of graffiti on PRIVATE PROPERTIES in the district. Your submissions will be shared with the Baltimore City Police Department and the State's Attorney's office.

>>>> To submit an incident visit: <https://buff.ly/3fJxK2N>

✓ This form is intended for reporting incidents of graffiti on PRIVATE PROPERTY ONLY. Please report each instance as a separate submission so that we have a thorough list of every occurrence.

✓ Instances of graffiti on public property should be submitted directly to 311 for remediation. You can file a report online or by calling 311.

✓ Please note, Midtown DOES NOT DO graffiti removal.

✓ All exterior work in CHAP Historic Districts and to City Landmarks require an Authorization to Proceed. Please follow these guidelines by CHAP on how to identify and remove instances. The guidelines and additional information can be found in Midtown's Graffiti Resource Guide, available online at: <https://buff.ly/3pbBNbc>.



PARKING
OF BALTIMORE CITY
AUTHORITY

RPP Area 28 Renewals Now Due!

The Parking Authority has resumed renewing Residential Parking Permits (RPP). Residential parking permits for Mount Vernon (Area 28) are being renewed now during **September**, the month our area usually renews. All permits that expired after March 1, 2020, will be honored until the end of your renewal month in 2021/2022 per the Parking Authority. **Parking permits may be renewed online and mailed or renewed in person at the Parking Authority at 200 W. Lombard Street. There are no local Mount Vernon pick-up locations this year due to the pandemic.**

Area 13 (Tyson Street) permit holders will need to renew their permits during November 2021.

For more information, visit the Parking Authority via their [website](#). If you have any questions about address eligibility, the online application, or their renewing procedures, please contact them at (443) 573-2800 or email rpp@bcparking.com.



Oktoberfest Mount Vernon 2021 Cancelled

Well, given that concerns over Covid-19 continue currently, MVBA will not be hosting our annual Oktoberfest Mount Vernon this October. Stay tuned as we figure out a way to keep the Oktoberfest spirit in the neighborhood this year.

We certainly look forward to celebrating Oktoberfest Mount Vernon next year in 2022!



Baltimore City Council Updates

- The next 2021 City Council Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 20th at 5pm**. Please note that all council hearings continue to be held virtually at this time. You can tune into the City Council meetings [online](#) or on CharmTV (Channel 25/1085HD). A list of [all of the hearings can be viewed here](#).
 - For more information on the Baltimore City Council, please visit them [here](#).
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Charles Street Promenade | September 25th

On Saturday, September 25th, join MVBA at the Charles Street Promenade. The Promenade -- not a festival -- is a fantastic opportunity bringing awareness to the many incredible small businesses along the stretch of Historic Charles Street that have seen their businesses dwindle during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Enjoy the day shopping and dining along North Charles Street. Portions of N. Charles Street from Saratoga Street to Mt. Royal Ave will close for pedestrians from 9am-3pm. Dine in a parklet at more than 10 plus locations. Shop unique and one-of-a-kind gifts and services at local retailers.

Please note that large gatherings are not encouraged or allowed. It's imperative that all who visit the promenade do so safely, and remain socially distanced, wash and sanitize their hands frequently, and wear a mask.



City's Plastic Bag Ban | Starts October 1st

The **Comprehensive Bag Reduction Act** was signed into law in January 2020, banning single-use plastic bags at the point of sale. The enforcement date changed due to the Pandemic, but now, beginning on **October 1st, 2021**, businesses will charge a minimum of \$0.05 for each alternative bag distributed to customers at checkout. In order to reduce waste and avoid the bag fee, Baltimore residents are encouraged to 'Plan for the Ban' and remember to **Bring Your Bag** when shopping!

Check out the full press release [here](#) and visit the [Baltimore Office of Sustainability's](#) website to learn more.



Mayor & DPW Restart Bulk Trash Pick-Up

Mayor Brandon M. Scott and Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Jason W. Mitchell announced that **bulk trash and white goods collection services for residents will resume on Saturday, October 2, 2021, with a modified schedule.**

Collections will occur on Saturdays from 7am to 3pm, with services focused on a different sector of Baltimore City each week. Residents can call 311 to schedule bulk trash or white goods collection. Each household will be allowed the removal of up to three items per month. As of September 17th, residents could begin contacting 311 to request a collection.

The collection schedule will be as follows:

- First Saturday of the month: **Southwest**
- Second Saturday of the month: **Northwest & Central**
- Third Saturday of the month: **Northeast**
- Fourth Saturday of the month: **Southeast**
- **DPW will make up all missed bulk and white goods collections during the week.**

For more information, please click [here](#).



Picking Up After Your Dog in the Community

Please pick up after your dog. It's a city requirement in which you can be fined --- and it's common courtesy to your neighbors. No one wants to step in dog mess. And did you know that rats are attracted to it and consume it?

Please be thoughtful to others in the community! MVBA thanks you in advance.



Homelessness, Panhandling & Loitering

Officials at the Mayor's Office of Human Services would like our help tracking incidents of homelessness, panhandling and/or loitering. 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.



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.



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



Water4All | New Water Billing Discount Program

Coming This Fall | Details Available Below

WATER4ALL

BALTIMORE

What is Water4All?

Water4All is a new water billing discount program designed to create more equitable access to water assistance for more Baltimore City residents.

Who is eligible?

Baltimore City residential households whose income is below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) may be eligible.

- For example, a 4-member household with an annual income of \$53,000 or less may qualify for this program.

A formula is used to calculate the maximum a household should pay for annual water and sewer services, based on a percentage of their annual income.

What is the next step?

- The Water4All application goes live in the Fall.
- Fill out an online interest form at bit.ly/Water4AllEOI or call (410) 396-9500 to request a paper copy of the form.
- DPW will contact you when the program officially launches and it's time to apply.

Fill out the Water4All Expression of Interest (EOI) Form to get more information about this program



BALTIMORE CITY
DPW
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Coming Up in October

- Midtown Fall Town Hall | October 26th

CONTACTS 2021

Officers

President	Michele Richter	president@mvba.org
Vice President	Wesley Stuckey	vicepresident@mvba.org
Treasurer	Angie Jackiewicz	treasurer@mvba.org
Development Officer	Steve Shen	development@mvba.org
Secretary/Information Officer	Susan Warren	secretary@mvba.org

Directors

Marjil Casso
Jack Danna
Scott Ponemone
Lex Wiesand

Committees

Architectural Review	Steve Shen	arc@mvba.org
Business	Onahlea Shimunek	business@mvba.org
Children's Park	TBD	childrenspark@mvba.org
Clean + Beautiful	Michele Richter	cleanandbeautiful@mvba.org
Community Service + Engagement	Lex Wiesand	community@mvba.org
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	Susan Warren & Angie Jackiewicz	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

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](#)