

**MIDTOWN
COMMUNITY
BENEFITS
DISTRICT**

1221 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Special points of
interest:**

- Midtown is aiming at cleaning every block in the district at least three times a week.
- Alleys are cleaned on Wednesdays once or twice a month.
- Request bulk trash pick-up on-line or by phone.
- Call 311 to report graffiti.
- **Watch your mail for our Strategic Study Survey. We are asking for input from all Midtown property owners**

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Volume X, Issue I

Fall 2007

The Midtown Community Benefits District

Invites all residents, property and business owners of Bolton Hill, Charles North, Madison Park and Mount Vernon-Belvedere to its annual

Fall Town Hall Meeting & Elections

Wednesday, October 17, 2007, 7:00pm

Berea Temple, 1901 Madison Avenue

Enter on Robert Street

(Shuttle Transportation is available from Mount Vernon and Charles North
Call 410 528-1512 to reserve a ride)

Our Agenda will include:

- Dessert Reception
- State of the District remarks by Michael Deets, Board Chairman
- Election of 2008 At-Large Representatives
- Presentation on Public Safety Initiative
- Tour of this historic house of worship

"At-Large" Neighborhood Representatives Nominated to Midtown's Board for 2007

The Nominating Committee of the Midtown Community Benefits District has presented a slate of neighborhood "at-large" representatives to serve on the Midtown Board of Directors for 2007.

The Nominees are Michael Deets to represent Charles North, "Tina" Gittens to represent Madison Park, Steven Shen to represent Mount Vernon-

Belvedere, and Joseph Palumbo to represent Bolton Hill.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Fall Town Hall Meeting if their qualifications have been established by the nominating committee. All nominees must reside in, own taxable property in, or represent a taxable property owner in the neighborhood they seek to represent. (See bios, Page 2-3)





CityWorks teen age summer employees helped Midtown staff keep Mount Vernon Square and Eutaw Place Parks clean

Watch your mail for our Strategic Study Survey. We are asking for input from all Midtown property owners. Please respond promptly.



Eutaw Place residents recently installed 2 new planting urns and upgraded flower beds under the leadership of Ellen Joyce and Carlo Van Greiken

At-Large Candidates

Michael Deets, Charles North

Michael Deets purchased his residence on Saint Paul Street in 1999 and became active with the Charles North Community Association shortly thereafter. He has been Secretary since 2002 and represented the community on the city's Strategic Neighborhood Action Planning Steering Committee for Midtown, Reservoir Hill and Seton Hill, where he served as chair of the Transportation subcommittee. Last year he has also started representing Charles North in the State Center Alliance. He has been representing the community

association on the Midtown Development Corporation Board since 2003 and the community association president on the Midtown Community Benefits District Board since 2005. In 2006, he was elected to the Midtown Community Benefits District Board as the at-large representative from Charles North and has been serving as the board's chairman.

Michael Deets is a deputy director at the Maryland Transit Administration, where he is in charge of the Office of Service

Development. Prior to coming to the MTA in 2003, he worked at University of Maryland Medical System for over 8 years in Facilities Management.

Deets grew up in Columbia, Maryland, and prior to moving to Baltimore served two years on the Board of Directors of the Columbia Association, two years on the Wilde Lake Village Board, one year as Chair of the Wilde Lake Architectural Committee and eight years on the Howard County Public Transportation Board.

Joseph Palumbo, Bolton Hill

Joseph Palumbo is an active member if the Spicer's Run HOA Board of Directors (2004 – 2007) and currently serves as its president. He has been a member of the Midtown

Benefits District Board of Directors 2006-2007; He has been an active Member of the District's finance committee and the operations committee.

Mr. Palumbo has been a resident of Bolton Hill From 1995 through 1997 and from 2003 to the present. He is the owner of a CPA practice In Anne Arundel County.

Steven Shen, Mount Vernon

Steven Shen is currently an At-Large member of the Board representing Mount Vernon-Belvedere and serves as Chairman of the Operations Committee. In the past year Mr. Shen worked closely with the District Administrator to increase the efficiency of cleaning operations by 300-500% throughout the District. Still not satisfied, he is encouraging residents of neighborhoods with a significant commercial component to authorize the

posting of 2 Hour No Parking signs to enable the use of mechanical street sweeping on a weekly basis and is investigating the return of regularly maintained wastebaskets to selected locations throughout the District in the continuing battle against litter. In the next year, Mr. Shen intends to continue his primary focus on developing a comprehensive plan to address the unique safety issues that face each neighborhood and its bordering com-

munities. The solution will likely require a significant commitment of capital from and unprecedented cooperation between MCBBD and institutional, governmental, neighborhood, and private partners.

Mr. Shen has an engineering and business background. He serves as chairman of the MVBA Architectural Review Committee and active in neighborhood and historic preservation issues.

At-Large Candidates (continued)

Florentina ‘Tina’ Gittens, Madison Park

Florentina ‘Tina’ Gittens moved to Baltimore with her family in 1995 and purchased the Gittens’ Madison Park residence in 2002. Ms. Gittens has been an active community member of the Madison Park community, advocating for safety issues, clean streets, the cleanliness of alleys and tree wells and the well being of senior citizens living in the Madison Park.

She is sensitive to the need to reengage community members for active participation in Madison Park and its initiatives; as

well as actively partnering with neighboring communities.

Ms. Gittens is a member of the Madison Park Improvement Association Board of Directors and serves on both the Finance and the Architectural Review Committees. During her residence in New York, she was involved in community revitalization and empowerment. Ms. Gittens has firmly planted the seeds of community involvement into her two sons, who actively participate in Madison Park activities and meetings.

Formerly a resident of New York City with a bachelor’s degree in Communications -radio and television from New York University; Tina worked in key support positions for social services agencies as Foster Care and the NYC Welfare Department. After moving to Baltimore, Tina worked as an Account Manager for MBNA and continues in that role at Bank of America in Hunt Valley, Maryland.



Neighborhood resident volunteers help clean and plant trees in Midtown

Entertainment Arts and Culture Abound in Midtown

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AT OUR NORTH

Located in the center of Baltimore, this was the first area in the city to receive the state designation as an arts and entertainment district. Spanning the communities of Charles North, Greenmount West and Barclay, Station North is a diverse collection of artist live-work spaces, galleries, row homes and businesses, all just steps away from Penn Station and Mount Vernon. To keep informed of all the activities visit www.stationnorth.org or call 410962-7075

CULTURAL DISTRICT AT OUR SOUTH

The Mount Vernon Cultural District anchors the south end of Midtown. It includes many of Baltimore’s great cultural venues. To learn about all the activities in the heart of Baltimore, visit www.mvcd.org where you may subscribe to the Cultural Districts electronic newsletter, or contact the Mount Vernon Cultural District at 217 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, Tel. 410-244-1030.

More tree well improvements are on the way, thanks to a grant from the Parks and People Foundation

Volunteers Green Midtown’s Tree Wells

Dozens of volunteers have turned out for tree well beautification efforts sponsored by the Midtown Community Benefits District and the Midtown Development Corporation. Neighborhood resident Brandt Petrasek lead the two day project last spring. Community residents were joined by students from the University of Baltimore in cleaning, refreshing soil, replanting and mulching tree wells on Calvert, Biddle,

Preston, and Madison Streets as well as Park Avenue. This effort was funded by grants from the Healthy Neighborhoods program and from Streuver Brothers Eckles and Rouse Corporation.

Volunteers replenished top soil, and planted spring flowering bulbs and grassy lariope. We are counting on residents to help maintain tree wells near their homes by removing trash

and watering plantings.

These positive results have resulted in a new grant from the Parks and People Foundation to allow us to revitalize more tree wells this fall. To involve your block, call the Midtown Office at 410 528-1512, or use the sign-up form on the volunteer page of Midtown’s website:

www.midtowncommunity.org



Midtown staff assists student volunteers from UB in replanting and revitalizing tree wells.

MIDTOWN
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: 410 528-1512
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E-mail:
info@midtowncommunity.org

*On the Web at
www.midtowncommunity.org
You may request services on-
line*

Watch your mail
for our Strategic
Study Survey. We
are asking for in-
put from all Mid-
town property
owners.

Please respond
promptly.



Keeping Midtown clean, green and safe

The Midtown Community Benefits District is a citizen-run advocacy and improvement group authorized by law in 1996 for a 160-block area. Midtown is made up of four communities: **Bolton Hill, Charles North, Madison Park and Mount Vernon/Belvedere.** Midtown was created by voter referendum in an effort to make our neighborhoods stronger, better places to live and work.

Our Mission:

The purpose of the Midtown Community Benefits District is to promote and market the District, provide supplemental security and maintenance services, provide amenities in public areas, provide park and recreational programs and functions, and...other services and functions as requested by the Authority and approved by an ordinance of the Mayor and City Council. (City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §268.) (Ord. 95-613.)

New Charter School May Open in Midtown

Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School plans to open in the Midtown area in



September 2008 pending approval from the Baltimore City Public School System. The school's vision is to nurture a love of learning in a family-like environment by providing an extraordinary and proven Montessori public school experience for families living in Baltimore City. School organizers are especially interested in bringing together a harmonious community of caring families from diverse backgrounds.

A charter school is a non-profit public school of choice that has the flexibility to use innovative methods of education while being highly

accountable for effective school management and student achievement. Like all charter schools, Baltimore Montessori PCS will have no admission tests or fees and will be open to all city residents through a lottery. Our school will open with children ages three through nine (4th grade) and

will expand annually, serving approximately 156 children up to age 11 (6th grade) by 2010.

Guided by the century-old principles of Dr. Maria Montessori, which are supported by current research, our mission is to prepare an environment that is responsive to each child's unique developmental needs, abilities and interests. The whole-child approach fosters respect for oneself, for others and for the environment. The ultimate goal at Baltimore Montessori PCS is that through mixed-age group-

ings, integrated curriculum, peace education, uninterrupted work periods, hands-on materials, art exploration and freedom within limits, all children will develop their full potential.

Organizers have developed a consultative partnership with the Washington Montessori Institute at Loyola College. There are approximately 300 public Montessori schools in the United States. Baltimore Montessori leaders say they look forward to being the first public school of choice in Baltimore to offer an Association Montessori Internationale curriculum. For more information, please contact Allison Shecter at 410-602-2642 or

