Neighborhood Highlights

Block Leaders at 38th and Aspen Street successfully organized to address concerns about illegal activities at the corner. With funding from Keep PA Beautiful, Mt. Vernon Manor CDC supported the block leaders, neighbors, youth, and police officers to beautify the corner’s vacant lot in April. Community members worked together to paint the fence, plant flowers, install solar lights, and create a handprint mural. Since the beautification effort, no serious crimes have occurred around the intersection. Residents and the 16th Police District continue to partner to ensure the community is a safe and vibrant place to live!

On Friday, July 21, the community and police came together for the 3rd Annual 16th Police District Promise Zone Community Fun Day. 300+ residents and partners participated in an evening that featured fun opportunities for officers and residents to interact, resource tables with great information, and local performances from youth and the 16th Police District! Thanks to everyone who made the day a success!

A special thanks to the generous event donors: West Philadelphia Financial Services Institution, Melrose Group, Alden Blyth, Joseph McQuillan, and Joel Spivak.

Look Out for New East Parkside Ambassadors!

Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation (CPCDC) recently launched the Ambassadors Program, which aims to combat dumping and beautify the streets and lots in East Parkside. The 3 staff members (pictured to the right) have currently been active between 40th and 41st Street from the bridges to Girard Avenue and on Girard Avenue from 38th to 40th Street. Their service area will expand as the program grows. If you have any concerns or requests for help, please contact CPCDC at 267-225-8356.
Community and Fresh Produce Grow in Mantua Urban Peace Garden!

The Mantua Urban Peace Garden at 38th and Brown Street has had a great season this summer. Gardeners gathered for a Garden Work Day on July 15 and tended their beds, some of which were overflowing with corn and squash! Mt. Vernon Manor CDC is working with Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell’s Office to secure a 5-year lease for the land (owned by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority) so that gardeners will have guaranteed access to the space for growing healthy produce and building positive community relationships. Current and interested gardeners are invited to the Friends of the Mantua Urban Peace Garden Elections on Monday, September 11, 6PM, in St. Jude Baptist Church (38th and Wallace Street).

Parkside Fresh Food Fest Combines Fun and Health

This summer, Centennial Parkside CDC, The Knight Foundation, Reading Terminal Market, and other local non-profits have partnered to create a food share program and festival series to bring fresh and healthy food to Parkside residents!

The festival series features cooking demos, live performances, and fun activities and resources for families. The final 3 events are scheduled for the following Thursdays from 6-7PM on the lot at 4235-39 Viola Street: August 24, September 7, and September 21.

The food share program works like this: interested residents subscribe at the start of summer to receive a regular basket of food, which includes fresh fruit, vegetables, local eggs/dairy, and other grocery items from Reading Terminal Market. Baskets can be picked up every 2 weeks during a food fest event where residents can also learn how to create a dish with the items in their share.

Interested in subscribing to next year’s food share? Please call Joyce Smith at 267-225-8356.
Mantua and Powelton Village Negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement with Schuylkill Yards Developer

In Spring 2016, Brandywine Realty Trust and Drexel University unveiled their plans to develop a $3.5 billion project (“Schuylkill Yards”) on 14 acres of land surrounding 30th Street Station. While this 20-year development may bring economic opportunities to the area, surrounding communities are concerned about the threat of displacement and gentrification posed by the project. To address these issues, organizations representing Mantua and Powelton Village (Mantua Civic Association, Powelton Village Civic Association, Mt. Vernon Manor CDC, and People’s Emergency Center) have negotiated with Brandywine Realty Trust for over a year to ensure that resources are committed so that the development results in inclusion and equity. In late June 2017, the community groups and Brandywine Realty Trust reached a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for the first phase of Schuylkill Yards. The CBA allocates $3.1 million to a Community Fund, which will support programs and initiatives that promote affordable housing opportunities, workforce development and job training, education, and community capacity-building. This agreement is a victory for our communities and will serve as a guide for future efforts in West Philadelphia and citywide!

Bringing the “Play” to Play Streets!

The West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhoods (a $30 million education initiative led by Drexel University) partnered with Fab Youth Philly to bring youth Play Captains to 3 of Mantua’s Play Streets this summer! Play Streets are blocked off to traffic in the summer to provide free lunches for children. From July 31 to August 18, 7 trained high school youth (6 of whom are from Mantua) brought fun activities and educational games to the following Play Streets: 36th and Olive Street, 38th and Olive Street, and 35th and Mt. Vernon Street. Next summer, Play Captains aim to bring the fun to even more blocks in the community!
NEW Program to Lower Your Water Bill!
The Water Department is now accepting applications for the Tiered Assistance Program (TAP). It helps reduce water bills for low-income customers and those with special hardships. To apply, you can request an application by phone (215-685-6300), go online (cap.phila.gov), or visit the Mt. Vernon Manor NAC Office (631 N. 39th Street, 215-475-9492).

Get Your House in Order!
Is your name on your property? Do you have a plan for your property after you pass? If your answer is "No" to either of these questions, you need to get your house in order! FREE legal resources can assist you understand the steps you need to take to protect your home:

- Community Legal Services (215-227-2400)
- Drexel University Community Lawyering Clinic (215-571-4013)
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance (215-981-3800)
- SeniorLAW (215-988-1242)

Sept. 21 COMMUNITY BRIEFING!
Calling all residents of Mantua, East Parkside, and Powelton Village! MVM NAC invites you to a Community Briefing on Thursday, September 21, 6PM-7:30PM, in the Mantua Haverford Community Center (631 N. 39th Street). Free refreshments, weatherization supplies, and healthy home kits provided!

TOPICS:
Healthy Homes
Recycling
Weatherization

Uninsured? Want to explore your health insurance options? The health insurance marketplace (www.healthcare.gov) has open enrollment from November 1 - December 15, 2017!

If you need insurance before or after the enrollment period, you may qualify to enroll if you have a qualifying life event. If you experience any of the following: moving to another state, losing health coverage, changing family size, or other life-changing events, then you can still take action to get covered! If you're interested in scheduling a FREE appointment with a health insurance enrollment assister, please call Mt. Vernon Manor CDC/NAC at 215-475-9492.
Back to School!

It’s that time of year again! Check out the following community events to welcome students back to school with the tools they need to succeed:

Back 2 School Event, Friday, August 18, 8AM-3PM, at High School of the Future (4021 Parkside Avenue): The Philadelphia School District is organizing a day-long event featuring free bookbags and supplies, kindergarten registration, resource tables, and live entertainment. For more info, call 215-400-4000.

The Men of McMichael School, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 7:30AM-8:30AM, at The McMichael School (3543 Fairmount Avenue): The Mantua Civic Association invites all men to participate in welcoming back the students of McMichael School on their first day! Interested participants should contact Christian Edge (ce398@drexel.edu).

Back to School BBQ and Backpack Giveaway, Saturday, Sept. 9, 1PM-4PM, at Miles Mack Rec Center (36th and Aspen Street): Action for Early Learning is organizing an afternoon of fun activities and educational resources. Stop by for backpacks and school supplies, Pre-K registration, and childcare job opportunities!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Times (Please Call Ahead to Confirm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First African Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>4159 W. Girard Ave</td>
<td>215-477-3100</td>
<td>4th Mon., 10AM-12PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Lutheran Church</td>
<td>3529 Haverford Ave</td>
<td>215-222-3570</td>
<td>Wed/Thurs, 9AM-12PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Baptist Church</td>
<td>3500 Baring Street</td>
<td>215-222-3930</td>
<td>Fridays, 11AM-1PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Vernon Manor CDC/NAC</td>
<td>631 N 39th Street</td>
<td>215-475-9492</td>
<td>3rd Fridays, 12PM-2PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s Emergency Center</td>
<td>325 N 39th Street</td>
<td>215-382-7523</td>
<td>Saturdays, 10:30AM-1PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfiguration Baptist Church</td>
<td>3732 Fairmount Ave</td>
<td>215-387-5708</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 5PM-7PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GET INVOLVED!

Monthly Neighborhood Meetings

**Promise Zone Public Safety Committee**, 1st Monday, 3:30PM  
Mt. Vernon Manor Apartments Community Room (3311 Wallace St)

**United Block Captains Association**, 1st Wednesday, 6PM  
Heavenly Hall Full Gospel Church (4017 Poplar St)

**East Parkside Residents Association**, 2nd Monday, 6PM  
Christ Community Baptist Church (1224 N 41st St)

**Friends of the Mantua Greenway**, 2nd Tuesday, 6PM  
Miles Mack Recreation Center (36th and Aspen)

**HUB Coalition**, 2nd Thursday, 6PM  
Cloister’s III Building (3900 Haverford Ave)

**16th Police District Captains’ Meeting**, 3rd Tuesday, 6PM  
Dornsife Center (3509 Spring Garden St)

**Powelton Village Civic Association**, 3rd Monday, 7:30PM  
Metropolitan Baptist Church (3500 Baring St)

**Mantua Civic Association**, 3rd Thursday, 6PM  
Grace Lutheran Church (36th & Haverford) or Church of Faith (772 N. 38th Street)

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**Make the Right Call!**

Ever hesitate to report an issue because you don’t know if it’s an emergency (911) or a non-emergency (311)? Make the right call in these cases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>911</th>
<th>311</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short dumping in progress. (Record and report the license plate number of any vehicles involved).</td>
<td>Vacant lot with overgrown weeds or illegal dumping. Call to request clean-up assistance or tools on loan from the Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cars parked illegally.</td>
<td>Abandoned cars in legal parking spots or abandoned bikes locked to public property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire emergency.</td>
<td>Building code violations, including fire code violations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal fire hydrant opened or water main break.</td>
<td>Fire hydrant that is knocked down but not leaking water. Broken or burned out street lights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic accident.</td>
<td>Traffic signal bulb is out or stop sign is in need of repair.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you witness criminal activity in progress (violent crime, drug deals, breaking & entering, noise violations, loitering, etc.), please call 911 immediately.
Mantua Successfully Re-Zoned! What Does It Mean for Residents and Developers?

As a result of almost 3 years of community organizing, supported by the Mantua Civic Association (MCA) and Mt. Vernon Manor CDC, Mantua was re-zoned on June 22, 2017! The new zoning will promote single-family homeownership, protect our parks, and ensure residents have a say-so in future development. Moving forward, when developers are interested in building beyond what’s allowed, they must first present their plans at a community meeting hosted by a Registered Community Organization (RCO) like MCA. Residents’ recommendations at these meetings will be passed onto the Zoning Board of Adjustments, which will make the final decision on allowing a development to move forward or not.

To find out more about the role of residents in the development process, please attend a special MCA Workshop on Thursday, September 21, 6PM, in Grace Lutheran Church. You can also email questions to mcaunitingmantua@gmail.com or call 267-227-9045.

Needed: Tax Prep Volunteers!

Mt. Vernon Manor NAC staff are excited to provide FREE income tax preparation services starting in 2018. This year, MVM NAC’s tax prep center returned over $270,000 back to the community! Interested in joining the team? MVM NAC is seeking volunteers to assist with intake between January and April 2018. If interested, please call NAC Coordinator, Lorraine Gomez, at 215-475-9492.
## Mt. Vernon Manor CDC/NAC Services and Resources

### HOUSING & FOOD
- Property Tax Relief
- Foreclosure Assistance
- Housing Counseling
- Home Repairs
- Rent Rebates
- Utility Assistance
- Weatherization
- Monthly Food Pantry

### BENEFITS, FINANCES & EMPLOYMENT
- Benefits Enrollment
- Health Insurance
- Resumes & Job Search
- Fax & Copy Machine
- Public Computers
- Income Tax Prep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency/Purpose</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th Police District</td>
<td>215-686-3160</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP Hotline</td>
<td>1-866-857-7095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>1-800-692-7462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Revenue</td>
<td>215-686-6600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Water Department</td>
<td>215-685-6300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Corporation for Aging</td>
<td>215-765-9040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee</td>
<td>215-685-3982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair Housing Commission</td>
<td>215-686-4670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenant Union Representative Network</td>
<td>215-940-3900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Housing Authority</td>
<td>215-684-4000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Save Your Home Philly Hotline</td>
<td>215-334-4663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>215-686-7150</td>
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For more community updates and news, check out our website at [www.mvmcdc.org](http://www.mvmcdc.org) and Like/Follow Us on

- [Mount Vernon Manor CDC](https://www.facebook.com/MountVernonManorCDC)
- [MVMCDC](https://twitter.com/MVMCDC)

To receive Mt. Vernon Manor’s monthly e-newsletter, please subscribe by emailing info@mvmcdc.org.

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**Mt. Vernon Manor Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)**

Mantua Haverford Community Center  
631 N. 39th Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
**Hours:** Monday-Friday  
9AM-5:30PM  
**Phone:** 215-475-9492  
**Fax:** 215-382-5147  
**Email:** info@mvmcdc.org

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This activity is made possible with funding from the Philadelphia Division of Housing and Community Development

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631 N. 39th Street  
Mount Vernon Manor CDC/NAC  
215-475-9492