

THE Charles Villager

Charles Village Civic Association

Baltimore, Maryland

Holiday 2009

Charles Street Block Celebrates 100 Grand Years

According to *A Brief History of Charles Village* by Gregory Alexander and Paul K. Williams, the row of houses in the 2900 block of North Charles Street was designed by architect John R. Forsythe and built by James T. Miller in 1909.

This grand block of homes is unique in several ways. Located across from Wyman Park Dell and situated at the beginning of the Olmsted-designed Charles Street boulevard, there are



Photographer Greg Pease captured the 2900 block of North Charles Street in its springtime glory. This full color photo is featured in *Charles Village Cooks: A Taste of The Village*, 2008.

gorgeous views all year long. The use of limestone on the first floor and exterior trim was not a traditional building material for residences. These also were the most expensive homes built in the neighborhood. 2943 North Charles sold for \$21,000 and the interior homes starting at \$15,000.

100 years old. Still standing pretty. Time to celebrate!

Homeowners Joe and Suzanne Rexing, Dawna Cobb and Paul Hulleberg, my husband Charlie Kelly and I decided we needed to do something to mark the landmark occasion. We gathered one summer night in the Rexing's backyard with food and drink to brainstorm. As the wine flowed so did the ideas.

Should we have an architectural expert do a public tour or do a photographic exhibit and a lecture at the Museum? Should we do a more thorough historical research of the block of houses or just throw a private party for friends and family? With six opinionated and busy people, it soon became apparent that a single event was not going to happen, but we decided to coordinate our efforts..

2900 Charles, continued on page 8

Welcoming... First SNOWFLAKE TOUR of Charles Village Homes

Sunday, December 20, Noon to 4 pm

Tour beautiful houses— many decorated for the holidays— and notable buildings in Charles Village.

Tour starts at the VLP, 2521 St. Paul Street.

Tickets: \$15/person. \$12 with student ID.

On sale— the new Tom Chalkey Charles Village poster (see page 12) and *Charles Village Cooks: A Taste of the Village* with photos by Greg Pease.

For advance Snowflake Tour tickets and more information, go to <http://snowflaketour.info>

Sponsored by the Charles Village Civic Association and Village Learning Place



This Tom Chalkey illustration is one of 20 in the Greater Homewood Coloring Book, published to celebrate Greater Homewood Community Corporation's 40th Anniversary. Details at www.greaterhomewood.org.

Celebrate The Winter Solstice In Wyman Park Dell

Sunday, December 20, 7 to 9 pm

Enjoy the warmth of a bonfire while listening to Celtic music performed by traditional Irish musicians, Jim Eagan & Friends.

Special appearance by Herman Heyn, Baltimore's Street Corner Astronomer. Fire eating demonstrations.

On sale for your refreshment— mulled cider, hot chocolate, cookies and marshmallows for roasting.

Sponsored by the Friends of Wyman Park Dell & Gertrude's at the BMA with grant funding by the Parks & People Foundation

VLP's International HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 20

Join us at the Village Learning Place, 2521 St. Paul Street, to celebrate winter holidays from around the world. Enjoy food, crafts, live music and dance performances that reflect different holiday customs, along with a bake sale, book sale, and a chance to visit Santa!

At the same time, the VLP will be a stop on the Snowflake House Tour. Come visit the festively decorated historic homes of Charles Village. Also, some of the Village's finest churches and private buildings will be open.

Tickets are available in advance or at the VLP from 10 am to 4 pm the day of the tour. See www.snowflaketour.info for more details.

Calling for Snowflake Tour Volunteers to help with greeting and guiding. Contact Ron Tanner at rtanner@loyola.edu

**Area 12 & 12A RPP PICK-UP
Saturday, November 21
Waverly Farmers Market, 9-12
Eddie's Market, 1-4
*Details on page 2***



CVCA MEETINGS

**General Meetings
Wednesday, 7 PM**

December 2

January 27

**SS. Philip & James
Parish Hall, Downstairs
2801 N. Charles Street**

**Board of Directors
Wednesday, November 18,
December 16, January 20
Charles Village Community
Benefits District Office
2434 St. Paul Street**

CHARLES VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Charles Village Civic Association represents the interests of residents in working with businesses, institutions, and government to preserve, enhance, and promote the quality of living in the historic neighborhood of Charles Village in Baltimore City.

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THE CHARLES VILLAGER

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January 8 for Winter 2010 issue

THE CHARLES VILLAGER

2942 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21218



President's Letter

Jennifer Erickson, CVCA President

As your newly elected CVCA President, I am excited about all of the new offerings the CVCA is bringing to the community this year—the newly designed CVCA Website, Membership Cards with Status Designation and ties to community businesses, the Snowflake Tour of Charles Village, the Caricature Map and the new CVCA President e-mail address.

Please visit our new website: www.charlesvillage.net. Ron Tanner has been tirelessly updating our website, which he previewed live at the September 30 Annual Meeting at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

We believe the website will be a valuable living resource to the community by providing updated information about neighborhood activities, resources/links to many valuable services, archives of *Charles Villager* back issues, photo galleries of Charles Village activities and our online store where you can purchase both the beautiful Charles Village cookbook and the new Charles Village caricature map.

This year we also created and introduced a new CVCA Membership Card program. As a LIFE or Annual CVCA Member, some of you have received your inaugural CVCA membership card at the Annual Meeting.

Each LIFE household/member will receive a specially designated LIFE membership card in the mail. For those who pay dues annually, you will receive your membership card once your dues are processed. Our Membership Committee, newly chaired by Dana Moore, is in the middle of the mailing process.

Your membership card not only shows your commitment to the Charles Village community, but in some circumstances will provide discounts at local Charles Village businesses. In addition, we will introduce and provide CVCA Business Member decals to business members. This way you will know which businesses participate in the Membership Program as you enter their place of business. Membership discounts, specials and other important information related to Charles Village Businesses will be added to the website

Thanks for RPP Help

Volunteers make it possible for the CVCA in coordination with the Abell Improvement Association (AIA), to continue the convenient pick-up of RPP permits at the Waverly Farmers Market in the morning and Eddie's Charles Village Market in the afternoon. Otherwise, everyone registered would need to go downtown to the Parking Authority Office during business hours. Many thanks to Bonnie Bessor for organizing all the volunteers. Bonnie is looking for volunteers to organize the 2010 operation well in advance. Contact her at 410.467.5170 or bbessor@gmail.com.

shortly. We will continue to add businesses to the Membership Program throughout the year. Find updates on the website and in the *Charles Villager*.

Another exciting development is the Charles Village caricature map beautifully crafted by cartoonist Tom Chalkley and introduced just in time for holiday purchases. You may buy the poster as well as the Charles Village cookbook through the CVCA website or by contacting a CVCA Board member.

Another special highlight coming up in a hurry is the first Snowflake Tour of Charles Village—the annual holiday home tour. This year the CVCA is partnering with the Village Learning Place and the tour will include not only homes in Charles Village but also notable local buildings. Please visit the new website dedicated to the Snowflake Tour: <http://snowflaketour.info>. This year's tour will include a map of those participating homes/buildings and a brochure.

This upcoming year will be full of activity. If you want to become involved in our wonderful neighborhood—voted a top 10 U.S. Neighborhood this past year—please let us know. Also feel free to contact me at the new e-mail address: CVCAPresident@yahoo.com.

Happy Holidays. Jennifer Erickson, CVCA President

Area 12 & 12A RPP PICK-UP

All RPP permits paid by credit card OR check PRIOR to November 19 will be available at both sites below. Go online for all details.

Register online for RPP permits at:

<https://pabc.t2hosted.com/cmn/auth.aspx>

Saturday, November 21

WAVERLY FARMERS MARKET

From 9 AM to Noon

32nd & Barclay Street

Bonnie Bessor and AIA Volunteers

EDDIE'S CHARLES VILLAGE MARKET

From 1 to 4 PM

3117 St. Paul Street

Bonnie Bessor and CVCA Volunteers

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Volunteers— Thank you for Delivering This Newsletter

Chuck Bullamore, Coordinator of Distribution

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers listed below. They deliver 5,000 copies of each issue of the *Charles Villager* door-to-door, as well as stock distribution points (such as Eddie's) throughout the area. To meet our goal of delivery to all area residences, we still need to fill in some gaps. Please contact Chuck Bullamore if you are able to help out with this for a few minutes five times a year. You can deliver door-to-door in your own block if that's where the need is; or we also need people willing to deliver perhaps a few blocks away. We also need volunteers to call to fill in for someone who may be temporarily unavailable for a particular issue. Thanks and farewell to those volunteers who have left us during the past year:

Richard "Arjay" Johnson, Barbara Rauch, and David Canova.

If you can help too, e-mail Chuck Bullamore at csbullamore@jhu.edu, or call at 410.366-8245.

North Howard Street
Chris Jensen— 2800, 2700 & 2600

Maryland Avenue
Betty Hill— 2800
Reggie Parker— 2700
Jim Coffin— 2600
John Schrufer— 2500

North Charles Street
Dawna Cobb— 2900
Lee Truelove— 2700, 2600 & 2500

Saint Paul Street
Brad & Jennifer Erickson— 3300
Kent Waters— 3000
Jennifer Burdick— 2900
Ron Schultz— 2800
John Spurrier— 2700
Marcia Holden— 2600
Jacques Kelly— 2600 (west side)
Lee Truelove— 2500

North Calvert Street
Emily Gould— 3200 & 3100

John Fink— 3000
Bob Cooke— 2900
J.W. Radabaugh— 2800
Karen Morley— 2700
Rory Flanagan— 2600
Sheila Rees— 2500, 2400 & 2300

Guilford Avenue
John Fink— 3200
Linda Olson— 3100
Didon Pachner— 3000
Chris Bruce— 2900
Ken & Dorris McElroy— 2800 & 2700
Lauren Redmond— 2600
Jennifer Martin— 2500
Peter Duvall— 2400

Abell Avenue
Michael Howard— 3200
Matthew Weinstein— 3100 & 3000

Barclay Street
Michael Grant— 3200
Simone Thompson— 3000 & 3100

Vineyard Lane
Simone Thompson
East 33rd Street
Brad & Jennifer Erickson— 100, 200, 300, & 400

East 32nd Street
James Aguirre— Unit, 100, 200, 300 & 400

East 31st Street
James Aguirre— Unit, 100, 200, 300 & 400

East 30th Street
Dawna Cobb— Unit

Businesses & Institutions throughout Charles Village and the Area
Carol Anderson-Austra, Dawna Cobb, John Spurrier, Chuck Bullamore, Gil & Jan French and Sandy Sparks

Area Distributors throughout Charles Village
Charles Baker, Ed Hargadon, Cornel Rubino and Jim Casey

Didon Pachner— 200
Linda Olson— 300

West 29th Street
Betty Hill— 100 & Unit

West 27th Street
Diane Brunetti— 100 & Unit

East 27th Street
John Spurrier— Unit

West 26th Street
John Schrufer— 100 & Unit

East 26th Street
Jim Zitzer— Unit

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neighborhoodmatters.jhu.edu
the community's point of access
to Johns Hopkins University



Community contact at JHU: Salem Reiner, Office of Community Affairs,
commrelations@jhu.edu or 443-287-9900

Village Chat

Dawna Cobb

dawnacobb@gmail.com

My heart sank when I opened the paper to read that Miriam Frankl, a 20 year old JHU student, died from injuries sustained when she was hit while crossing the service lane of St. Paul Street at 35th Street. Many decry the new red light cameras that have been erected around the City, but I favor them if they get people to stop running red lights. Another disturbing but not nearly as devastating news article concerned a recent poll of City residents commissioned by Mayor Dixon. 72% of 1,812 residents polled found the City's cleanliness to be fair or poor and 57% rated rat removal in the same category. I doubt the survey asked whether residents: 1) put their trash out in cans without lids; 2) place trash out in plastic bags; 3) throw trash into storm water drains; 4) leave take-out trash on the curb next to their cars; and, 5) believe it is someone else's job to clean up after them. My sense is that many Baltimore residents if they were being honest, would have to answer yes to at least one of these questions. While the City has the responsibility to collect trash, all citizens have a responsibility to properly dispose it.

Is there hope that the situation can be improved? The next day's paper reported an effort led by former Abell Improvement Association president, **Mary Washington**, Deputy Director of the Parks & People Foundation, to clean up the Harris Creek watershed, which starts in Clifton Park and ends by spewing incredible amounts of trash into the Inner Harbor in Canton. Much of the trash is captured by an interceptor, which on some days hauls in enough trash to fill a dumpster in two hours! Parks & People is working with 17 city neighborhoods in hopes of reducing the trash that ends up in that East Baltimore watershed. To Mary and Parks & People, we wish you much success.

More authors in our midst— Sarah Templin of the 3200 block of Guilford Avenue noted that her fiancé, **Bruce Willen** and a former **Villager**, **Nolen Strals**, have co-written their first book *Lettering and Type*. Another Villager, **Kyle Van Horn**, also

contributed to the book. Published by the Princeton Architectural Press, the book will be available at the MICA bookstore and Atomic Books and also online through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The book is about contemporary typeface design and lettering— all sorts of artistic alphabets, illustrative lettering, and graphic design, bridging the gap between a cool coffee table book and an informative textbook. Nolen and Bruce own and run a graphic design company called Post Typography. www.letteringandtype.com. In the kitchen Sarah has been busy preserving some of the farmers' market bounty for colder days. Plum preserves and home-made Jamaican ketchup were two of the items she has put up for the winter.

And artists too... Maryland Avenue's Cornel Rubison, recently worked with Baltimore City District Court Judge Jack Lesser to create a work of art that was auctioned off on October 9 for the benefit of the Community Law Center. Cornel has also created an installation at the Creative Alliance, which is entitled *Crying*. Cornel, a regular contributor to the *The New Yorker* magazine, is a Maryland State Arts Council grant recipient and a 2009 Baltimore City Grant Award winner.

Congratulations to **Tom and Emily Prevas** of the 3200 block of N. Calvert Street on the birth of their daughter, **Lillian**, on October 7. Everyone is doing well, if a little sleep deprived.

Making national entertainment news is **Elena Moscat's** Web series, *Life after Lisa*, which is about college life 20 years ago. The good news is that the Writer's Guild of America has agreed to extend union benefits to writers of several web productions including Elena's. Check out www.filmfest.com. Elena grew up on Abell Avenue and her parents **Paul and Carlene Moscat** still live on the 3100 block.

The Baltimore Marathon came in and out of the Village once again. This year, a large number of photographers and an HBO cameraman were seen snapping and filming in the 3000 block of Guilford Avenue. They were filming

the famous Gummy Bear give-away and Eye of the Tiger character who cheer on the runners with only a few miles to go to the finish. If you were inconvenienced by the street closures, put next year's race, usually the second Saturday in October, on your calendar now and plan to park your car in a place that will enable you to leave the neighborhood that morning. I e-mailed the race organizers to encourage them to place more electronic street signs a week ahead of time warning of street closures.

Villagers Karen Cook, Dick Cook and Sandy Sparks were featured in a recent *Baltimore Messenger* article about the 40th Anniversary of the Greater Homewood Community Corporation, the north Baltimore community umbrella organization that works in about 40 north Baltimore neighborhoods. Go to www.greaterhomewood.org.

Did you see the recent *New York Times* travel section story on 36 hours in Baltimore? **Carma's Café** on 32nd and St. Paul Streets received a well-deserved shout out!

Charles Village residents **Javid Mahajan and Pat McCarthy** own **Kashmir Imports** in Harbor East at 655 S. President and also in Union Station, Washington, D.C. They opened an on-line store www.kashmirimports.com. New items, found in the Kashmir region this fall, will be on the shelves for holiday shopping. **Dana Moore** told me that she recently ordered a beautiful beige silk jacket with gorgeous embroidery. Call 410.201.2700 for more details.

Charles Village resident **Sara Mathes** has partnered with Hampden resident **Jill Andrews** to open a custom gown design studio! **Jill Andrews Gowns** offers custom designed and made-to-order evening and bridal gowns, lingerie and corsets, and will also showcase the work of fine local jewelry and hat designers. The studio is located in the beautifully renovated Northern Police District building at 3355 Keswick Road and can be reached at 410.338.2525.

Centennial on Charles Street— Joe and Suzanne Rexing celebrated the 100th birthday of the houses on the 2900 block of Charles Street by hosting a party for neighborhood friends.

Donna's Donna Crivello and Chef Andy Thomas catered the sumptuous food that included oysters, roast beef and rotolos. Spotted there were so many people I fear I might leave someone out. Here's who I remember seeing: **Beverly and John Fink, Evelyn Cannon and Jim Casey, Andrea Van Arsdale and Keff Krimmel, Pam and Charlie Kelly, Craig and Nancy Charlow, John Spurrier, Judy Hoffmann and Enzo Grippo**.

Abell Avenue's Robin Truiett-Theodorson has started a concierge business. Are you too busy to pick up your dry cleaning? Need a birthday cake for someone? Want to plan an event, but don't know where to start? Checkout Robin's new endeavor at urbanalternatives.com.

Charles Village is now home to its own cupcake café! **Sweet Sin Cupcakes** has just opened at 123 West 27th Street. www.sweetsincupcakes.com. Open from 7 to 7, all of their products are gluten free AND they serve Zeke's coffee.

Many of you may have read about the benefits of cutting back on sugar and white flour in your diet, walking regularly and eating lots of fruits and vegetables. Guilford Avenue's **Fran Pluciennik and Mike Simon** have and they look fantastic. I often see Mike and Fran walking through the neighborhood in the early morning, but recently saw them at a community meeting and noticed how slim they looked. When I inquired, I learned that they have sworn off sugar and white flour, embraced more veggies and fruits and walk through the area each morning and evening. Not only do they feel better, but they look terrific. Congratulations!

Please send neighborhood news to: Dawna Cobb, dawnacobb@gmail.com or 2943 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

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Mayor Sheila Dixon and Walter Brown, Coordinator CVCBD Safety Program, discuss the Neighborhood Walkers on Patrol Program, Friday morning, October 30.



Safety Workshops for Residents

On October 8, the CVCBD Community Safety Program and John Hopkins University Campus Safety began a series of workshops for residents to promote awareness of personal, home, identity and business safety. The CVCBD, JHU and several specialists are providing the training.

November 12, 6 PM	Personal Safety	Barclay Recreation Center
December 10, 6 PM	Home Safety	Waverly Library
January 14, 6 PM	Business Safety	Darker Than Blue Café

For more information and to register, contact Walter Brown Coordinator, Community Safety Program at 410.235.4411 or walter@charlesvillage.org

Mayor Dixon Joins Neighborhood Walkers

On October 30, Mayor Dixon joined the Benefits District's Neighborhood Walkers on Patrol Friday morning walkers group. Starting at the Terra Café at 25th and St Paul, the Mayor, Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke and 20 residents and Police officers walked for an hour along 25th Street, Guilford Avenue, 28th Street and St Paul Street. The officials discussed safety issues, made note of potential problems and left post cards on windshields reminding owners not to leave their valuables in plain sight.

Last year, the CVCBD, Johns Hopkins University, Union Memorial and Northern District Police revived the Neighborhood Walkers patrols. Currently, six walker patrols walk each week. For information about these walks or to start a walkers group in your own area, contact: Walter Brown, Coordinator of the CVCBD Community Safety Program, at 410.235.4411 or walter@charlesvillage.org.

CVCBD Launches Fall Leaf Removal

On October 1, five additional workers joined the sanitation team to help with the Benefits District's Fall Leaf Removal Campaign. The workers will be with the staff until mid November to help residents remove the fallen leaves in a timely manner. During the month of October, these workers and the regular staff removed almost 4,155 bags of trash and leaves from the District.



By the end of the Fall Leaf Removal Campaign in mid-November, CVCBD staff will sweep and collect more than 5,000 bags of leaves and trash.

Local Youth Paint CSX Fence

Recently, Sister Margo Thomas, an active resident of the Harwood neighborhood, recruited several local youth to help her paint the CSX fence at 26th and Barclay Avenue. The CVCBD provided the paint.

The Benefits District has a fee for service contract with CSX to maintain the fence line, routinely removing vines and weeds and mowing the grass along the fence on 26th Street from Howard to Lock Raven.

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VILLAGE LEARNING PLACE

2521 St. Paul Street • 410.235.2210

VLP Library Hours

Monday	Noon– 8 pm
Tuesday	10 am– 6 pm
Wednesday	Noon– 8 pm
Thursday	Noon– 6 pm
Friday	10 am– 6 pm
Saturday	Noon– 4 pm
Sunday	Closed

Announcing the 12th Annual SPAGHETTI DISCO Saturday, February 27

Please visit our new & improved website:
[www.villagelearningplace](http://www.villagelearningplace.org)

Liesje Gantert, Executive Director

VLP Calendar

International Holiday Open House and Snowflake Tour of Charles Village Homes— Sunday, December 20, Noon to 4 pm

Join us as we celebrate winter holidays from around the world. Enjoy food, crafts, live music and dance performances that reflect different holiday customs, along with a bake sale, a book sale, and a chance to visit Santa! At the same time, the VLP will be a stop on the Snowflake House Tour. Visit the festively decorated historic homes of Charles Village, featuring three-story Victorians and Edwardians, porch-fronts and *painted ladies*, 1920s arts and crafts homes and much more. Also, some of the village's finest churches and private buildings will be open for viewing. Tickets are available in advance or at the VLP from 10 am to 4 pm the day of the tour. See www.snowflaketour.info for more details.

Village U — Fall Semester through December 6

Village U continues the decades-old tradition of free adult education in the Village. Registration is rolling; contact Emily at 410-235-2210, ext. 208 or at emily.gould@villagelearningplace.org for more details. Fall course information available on our website: www.villagelearningplace.org.

2nd Wednesdays at the VLP — 7 to 9 pm

A monthly series of performances, lectures and cultural enrichment with time for conversation. Meet interesting people from across the City. Enjoy refreshments.
November 12— Holiday Artisan Market
December 10— The authors of TKF Foundation's book, *Open Spaces Sacred Places*, will discuss the healing power of nature in cities.
January 14— TBA

Baltimore History Evenings — 3rd Thursdays, 7 to 9 pm, January through June

Returning for a second season, this lecture series for adults, presented in partnership with the Baltimore City Historical Society, features local historians and personalities exploring different aspects of our city's history. Check out www.villagelearningplace.org for speaker schedule.

Senior Tea Series — 2nd Tuesday, 11 am to Noon

Seniors are invited for free performances and presentations. Refreshments served.
November 11— Conservation workshop presented by BGE
December 9— The Ages on Stages acting ensemble will perform improve with audience participation.
January 13— TBA

Tots Tuesdays — 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 10:30 to 11:30am

An interactive storytime that encourages language development and literacy for toddlers and their parents and caregivers, during which families enjoy stories, song and dance and snacks.

7th Annual Read Between the Wines— A Roaring Success

It was “23-skiddoo!” as the Village Learning Place rolled back the clock to the Roaring Twenties and rolled out the fun for its 7th Annual Read Between the Wines on Saturday evening, October 17. “It was a fantastic party supported by an amazing volunteer committee— all to raise funds for VLP programs and library services,” says Executive Director Liesje Gantert. This year's event hit new heights with the most tickets ever sold and 175 supporters in attendance, resulting in over \$32,000 for VLP operations.

Notable as the first themed Read Between the Wines, the main library area portraying a 20's speakeasy and many of the guests dressing the part in flapper dresses and fedoras. Besides a “Prohibition Punch,” longtime sponsor, The Wine Source, provided wines and cocktails. Caterer Agapé House offered a great variety of fresh and savory foods. Rainy weather did not dampen the fun as a live jazz ensemble entertained guests in heated tents in the VLP's garden. As always, a live and silent auction added to the buzz of the evening.

Beth Pepper, a longtime resident of Charles Village and current VLP Village Vanguard member, commended this year's Read Between the Wines as “the best fundraiser I've been to in a long time. Everyone did a marvelous job,” she added. “I loved the theme and the company. The night was a total success.”

Another guest, John Fink, calls “Read Between the Wines an opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones, have a bite, have a sip, make a bid, write a check, and support a wonderful community resource.”

Darran Tilghman, VLP's Director of Development, who attended this year's Read Between the Wines accompanied by her new daughter Susannah, is not surprised by this positive feedback. “It's always a blast when our neighborhood comes together to support the VLP.”

—Emily Gould

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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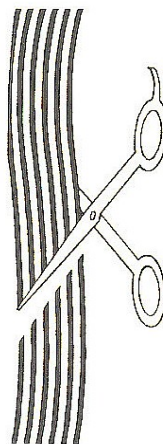
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Special Holiday Services:

- †Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist, 6:30 p.m.
- †Sunday, December 20, 4 p.m.
Bach Advent Cantata with Choral Vespers,
- †Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, 7:30 p.m.
- †Christmas Day Eucharist, 11 a.m.
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ARTS IN THE VILLAGE 7

Jennifer Burdick

The Baltimore Museum of Art
General Information: 410.396.7100;
Box Office: 410.396.6001 or visit the
Web at www.artsbma.org.

There are two terrific special exhibits at the BMA. **Matisse as Printmaker** blends the rich Cone collection of Matisse's print work with works from the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation. Organized by the American Federation of Arts, this exhibit will continue until January 3. Additionally, in celebration of Edgar Allan Poe's death 150 years ago, we dig into the BMA's collection for an exploration of images of ravens and other creepy things. Curated by BMA Director and Charles Villager, Doreen Bolger, this fun exhibit will close January 17. Charles Villager, Paul Mintz' work is featured in a exhibition of work by Baltimoreans inspired by Poe—a project of Art of Purpose. Another resident, Val Seeburg, also has her work included in this fine project.

Bring the kids on Sundays from 2–4 pm. There is always something fun to do, whether inspired by Matisse or the upcoming holidays.

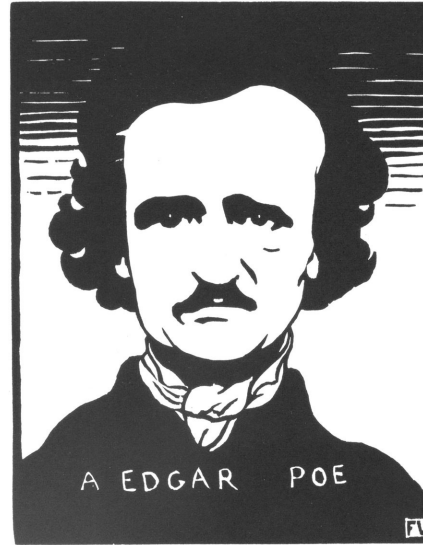
The Walters Art Museum opens a special exhibition: **Heroes: Mortals & Myths in Ancient Greece**. This ex-

hibit examines what was expected of ancient Greek heroes, how they were worshiped and how they were portrayed in the arts. The exhibit includes 100 stunning objects—statues, reliefs, vases, bronzes, coins, jewelry and gems. This special project is dedicated to Christine Dunbar Sarbanes who was a hero to many. Runs thru January 2.

For more on this exhibit and other special programs at the Walters, visit www.thewalters.org. Also listed on the website are the Walters—Special First Friday Nights and other events.

Everyman Theater continues the season with **The Mystery of Irma Vep** by Charles Ludlum. Murder and mayhem ensue as this definitive spoof on Gothic melodramas pulls us laughing along at a breakneck speed! Runs November 11 thru December 13. Box Office: 410.752.2208 or www.everymantheatre.org.

Center Stage opened the season with a delightful Oscar Wilde favorite, **The Importance of Being Ernest**, which runs until November 8. This is one of CS's best efforts. The next production comes from The Lookingglass Theatre—**Around the World in 80 Days**. This will be a treat for the holidays



Félix Vallotton. À Edgar Poe (To Edgar Poe). 1894. The Baltimore Museum of Art: The Cone Collection, formed by Dr. Claribel Cone and Miss Etta Cone of Baltimore, Maryland, BMA 1950.

and is appropriate for ages 8 and up. November 24–December 20.

Center Stage will again offer **Family Night Out**. This special includes tix and dinner for only \$10. The next date is the Sunday, December 6 evening performance. Center Stage's new programming includes Cabaret evenings: Scottish singer/actor Euan Morton is featured November 12–15. Finally, as a special holiday treat: David Sedaris' **The Santaland Diaries** featuring Associate Artist Robert Dorfman in tights. December 8–20. 410.332.0033 and www.centerstage.org.

Two new theatre companies have opened in Station North and are doing great work.

The Single Carrot Theatre, 120 W. North Avenue, will stage **Illuminac-tem**—a celebration of the curiosities and intrigue of nightfall. November 25–December 20. Tix 443.844.9253 or visit www.singlecarrot.com.

The Strand Theater Company, 1823 N. Charles Street, will present **[Sic]** by Melissa James Gibson. Three neighbors discuss, flirt, argue, share their dreams and plan their futures with unequal degrees of deep hopefulness and abject despair. November 20–December 13. www.strandtheatercompany.org.

Vagabond Players, 806 South Broadway, Fells Point, continues with light and silly **The Christmas Bells** by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope & Jamie Wooten. This cast has great comic timing. October 23–November 22. Call 410.563.9135 for tickets and information.

Down at **Spotlighters**, 817 St. Paul Street, there are two upcoming productions: **The Prevalence of Mrs. Seal** by Otis Bigelow. Come and see if you can keep track of this wacky lady.

Through November 15. Then for the holidays—**Cinderella** by Rogers and Hammerstein. A Prince, a Pumpkin and a Glass Slipper...and wonderful music. A treat for all ages. November 27–December 20.

Shriver Hall Concert Series has a remarkable array of talent this year. On Saturday, November 14 at 3 pm the **Pavel Haas Quartet** from Prague will perform in a free concert. The next great program will be on Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 pm with the **Juilliard String Quartet**. Fee charged.

The Bach Concert Series performances are held at Christ Lutheran Church, 701 S. Charles Street on the first Sunday of every month at 4 pm. Most performances are free of charge. The concerts begin with an illustrated lecture by Director T. Herbert Dimmock. The concert on December 6 will feature the **Second Cantata** from the **Christmas Oratorio: Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend** with Dayseye from Bryn Mawr School.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra has a season rich with a diverse selection of programs. Subscriptions can still be had for as little as \$25 a seat. Visit BSOmusic.org for a complete listing. Or call 410.783.8000.

The Baltimore Folk Music Society offers American Square and Contra Dancing at 8:00 pm every Wednesday at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, 2200 St. Paul Street. This is a great way to have fun and get a little exercise as well. Visit www.bfms.org or call 410.366.0808.

Music for the younger, hip set, is right in our neighborhood. **The Ottobar**, 2549 North Howard Street, is happening every night of the week. Some shows require advanced tix...check out the website www.theottobar.com or call 410.662.0069.

Finally, for a weekly update on all that's worthwhile in the arts and culture scene, subscribe to the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance listserv at <http://www.baltimoreculture.org> or go to BaltimoreFunGuide.com or fun-saver@baltimorefunguide.com

Please e-mail info about new art venues and productions to Jennifer Burdick at jennifer.burdick@verizon.net or call 410.467.5462.

We're stuck on Charles Village



JENSEN PLUMBING
410.467.1813

See Many Architectural Gems on Snowflake Tour, December 20

2900 Charles, continued from page 1

Dawna and Paul, owners since 1998, chose to do a complete historical research of their home at 2943. They are curious about its history, who lived there and for how long. They know that their house was a home to some very interesting people, but they don't know much about the previous owners or what changes they made to the house over the years. During their renovations they discovered one owner's family tree written on the wall underneath old wallpaper, the signatures of some wallpaper hangers in another room dating back to 1913, and a hidden closet that was unearthed during a recent bathroom renovation. There is also a big wall safe in one room that they have never opened. The basement was used as a doctor's office when this block was known as doctor's row, but that is the extent of their knowledge. They are looking forward to learning about the past, adding their own chapter to the history and preserving the old house.

Since Charlie and I bought our house from the first owners in its original condition— one electric outlet, 10 amp service, lead pipe plumbing and more antiquated fixtures— we did not feel the need to do the research.

Joe and Suzanne were just finishing a complete renovation of the living ar-

eas of their house and were itching to show it off. The Rexing's opted to have an Open House on Sunday afternoon, October 4. Now, that sounded good to Charlie, and I particularly liked the idea since their house is so modern and ours is so traditional, a great opportunity for people to see the contrast of new and old. Best-laid plans— remember I mentioned that original condition of our house? Well, two weeks before the Open House some of our 100-year-old plumbing decided enough already. Major leak. Major mess. No Open House for us.

Joe and Suzanne went ahead with their plans and invited over 100—how appropriate— friends, family, coworkers and neighbors to celebrate their renovations. Keeping it in the neighborhood they hired Donna's to cater the event. When Rexing's bought their home in 1993, the house was divided into apartments and most of the original interior appointments were destroyed. They opted to keep some of the apartments and live in the ground level basement and first floor of the home. Now, their home is spectacular.

As I mentioned, most of the original interior appointments were removed or destroyed, so Joe, an architect, and Suzanne felt free to decorate their home in the clean, uncluttered, modern style that they both love. I was amazed at how beautiful it meshed

with the classic Edwardian exterior and remaining interior architectural details.

So how are Charlie and I, owners since 1971, going to celebrate our 100 year old house? I believe in Santa Claus, and our home is made to decorate for the Holidays. We will be on the first Charles Village Snowflake Tour. Our house is the only row house on the block that has never had an apartment or doctor's office. Although we have made some changes over the years, we still have the hand painted ceilings, oak woodwork, pressed leather wainscoting, gaslights, pocket doors, and seven mantels. Step back into history and come see our 100-year old house dressed up in its holiday finery with hopefully, no leaking century-old plumbing.

—Pam Kelly



On the Snowflake Tour, December 20, visit the Kelly's Charles Street home, decked with Pam's extensive Christmas collection. See the front parlor above and the many original 1913 architectural details and hand-painted ceiling and lighting fixtures.

Tour St. Paul Street House— Grand Again

Ron Tanner and Jill Eicher, who reclaimed the once-notorious frat house on the corner of St. Paul and 28th Street, upgraded their living room chandelier recently with a great flea market find— a converted gasolier—but they were having trouble finding shades for it. While walking their dogs, they mentioned this to St. Paul Street resident Jacques Kelly. Jacques reappeared from his house moments later with three vintage gasolier shades. He gave the shades to Ron and Jill, who thought, *Where else but in Charles Village would such a thing happen?*

Visit the Tanner's house on the Snowflake Tour, Sunday afternoon, December 20. **For advance Snowflake Tour tickets and more information, go to <http://snowflaketour.info>**

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JHU Sorority Sisters Give Back with Story Pal Reading Aloud Program at Barclay School

On October 8, I had the privilege of going to Barclay Elementary School and being one of the Story Pals. Immediately, when I entered the cafeteria, where the program was being held, I saw smiles light up across the student faces. I could tell that they were excited for us to be there, and that made me excited as well. Being greeted with the infamous line, "I want that one, she looks like the best," was a great start to the afternoon.

Story Pals is a new program that the sisters of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at Johns Hopkins University have adopted. We have the opportunity to walk to Barclay Elementary School—less than a mile from campus—and take a break from the everyday stresses of a college student. Once a week three or four sisters go to Barclay and spend time with the elementary school students, helping them with their homework and reading stories to them out loud.

The students range from Kindergarten to 5th Grade and are in an after school program that Barclay offers. During the hour or so that the sisters are at the elementary school the students pick a few books that they want to read and the sisters read the books with them. After spending one afternoon at Barclay I have realized how rewarding a program this is, not only for the students at Barclay, but also for the sisters of my chapter.

I soon recognized that they were eager for help on their homework, but more excited to show me how smart they were. The girls I was working with read me all of the sentences that they were writing for their homework, and tried to finish as quickly as possible so we could start reading the story books. As I helped them finish their sentences for spelling, I encouraged them to try to spell out the words that they didn't think they knew. It was incredible to see how excited they got when they spelled a new word correctly!

Once they finished their homework, it was time for us to read a storybook. Despite my offer to read to the girls, they wanted to read to me! Not only was it relaxing to sit and have a story book read to me, but it was encouraging to see two girls get so excited about reading!

As the afternoon ended and I said goodbye, I thought about what had just taken place and recognized that taking a little time out of our everyday lives giving back to the community. Spending a little time reading with some elementary school students, can make all the difference. A little statement of encouragement about spelling a

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word right, or reading a book out loud could make one of the girl's days. Being a Story Pal is a rewarding experience. Just knowing that I made a few students laugh and smile while reading a storybook certainly made my week!

I have recognized through Story Pals that we know a lot about giving. Devoted to Kappa, JHU and most importantly in the eyes of the Baltimore community, we desire to interact and give back. The Story Pals program is especially important because our national philanthropy program is called Reading is Fundamental and is devoted to encouraging students that reading is fun and exciting!

In this holiday season, just remember you may be told, "I want that one, they look like the best!" For more information about Eta Epsilon, contact Arthika Chandramohan at jhu.kappa.president@gmail.com. For information about Barclay's Story Pals program, contact Susan Lattimore at slattim2@jhu.edu.

—Gabrielle Flaum, Eta Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, Johns Hopkins University

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CVCA Introduces Full-Service Website

CVCA proudly inaugurated its full-service website: www.charlesvillage.net. By *full-service*, we mean a site that offers ongoing, updated information and resources for our great neighborhood and its residents. Check out the **press room**, which contains links and downloads of all Charles Village-related news features from 2009. Our website also offers an archive of Charles Villager back issues. If you want to orient yourself to the rich array of services and institutions that sustain Charles Village, check out the **resources** page.

Our research showed that there are surprisingly few photos of Charles Village online. We are remedying that by posting **photo galleries**. This is one way to put Charles Village on the map and ultimately bring national attention to the good things happening in our great neighborhood. We are convinced that more recognition will bring more resources, stability and prosperity to Charles Village. The website's front page showcases seasonal photos. The other galleries showcase photos from Village events. We welcome photo submissions from residents (limit 5 photos) for the seasonal gallery and the classic images galleries.

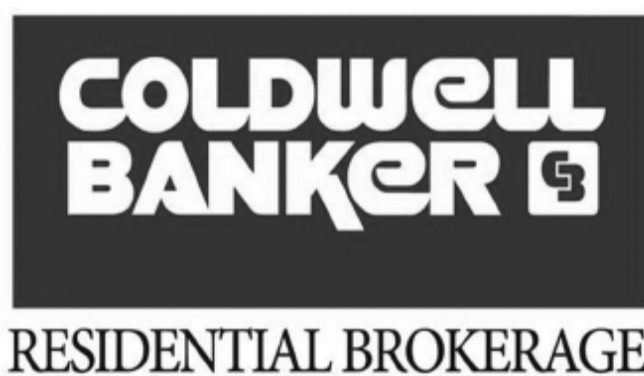
The website's front page also features the latest CVCA news, including a letter—updated quarterly—from the CVCA president, Jennifer Erickson. Another notable feature is the **online store**. Through this convenient utility, CVCA sells its cook book, its new caricature map, and tickets to its events. Online customers can pay with PayPal (a free payment service) or with a check.

As for the website's design, our banner (see page 2) shows the distinctive Victorian roofscape of Saint Paul Street. The green canopy of the main page suggests the comfort of our lovely tree-lined streets. The blue-sky motif signals our hope for the best and brightest future in this great community.

Please take some time to acquaint yourself with all of the features of CVCA's new website and let us know what you think. Contact me at rtanner@loyola.edu.

—Ron Tanner

**Go to CVCA's new website—
www.charlesvillage.net**



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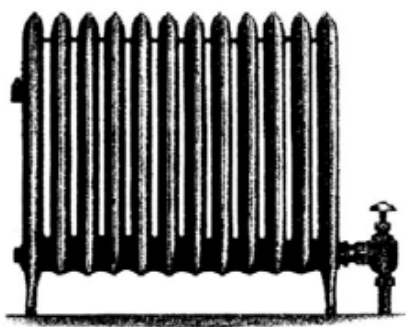
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The Charles Village Civic Association (CVCA) informs neighbors through *The Charles Villager*, www.charlesvillage.net and listserv messages. Through its membership and committees, CVCA supports activities like the annual Charles Village Festival to build a sense of community and improve our quality of life. We make our voices known on planning, zoning, liquor, traffic and other issues affecting the neighborhood. We help prevent crime and encourage Neighborhood Walkers patrols in partnership with the Charles Village Community Benefits District. We beautify the neighborhood by organizing clean-ups and plantings. We support strong schools and recreation activities for our children and youth.

CVCA Membership Benefits

Membership includes: voting rights at CVCA's General and Town Meetings; invitations to special events; Google e-mail news; a mailed subscription to *The Charles Villager* for members living *beyond* the neighborhood boundaries.

CVCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

September 30 marks the start of each CVCA Membership Year.

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☐ \$5 Non-Resident (non-voting)

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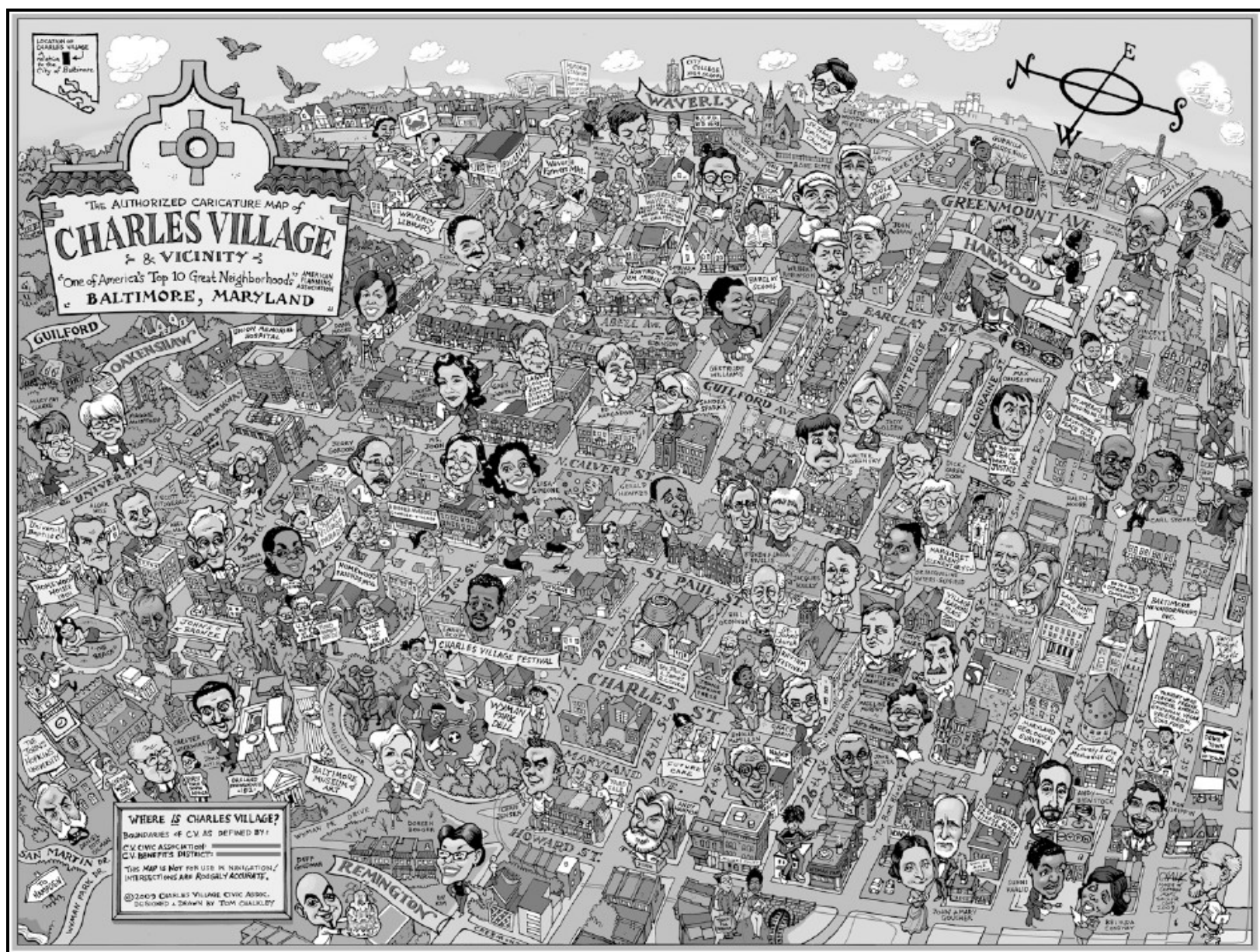
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Tom Chalkley created this full-color poster (18 x 24 inches) to celebrate Charles Village's designation as "One of America's Top Ten Great Neighborhoods in 2009" by the American Planning Association. The poster sells for \$15 and will be available during the Snowflake Tour and at www.charlesvillage.net.

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