

THE Charles Villager

Charles Village Civic Association

Baltimore, Maryland

Winter 2011

Charles Village—A Great Place for Living with Kids

It's no secret in our family that my parents, longtime suburban dwellers, want my husband, me and our two children to make the move to Baltimore County. Lower taxes. Safer streets. A yard. Better schools. You know the drill.

So I had to contain myself a few weeks ago when my mother, after a morning spent strolling with our 10-month-old all around Charles Village, said nonchalantly, "This really is a great place to have small kids."

I didn't want to make too big a deal of her concession....but, yes, I really did! Because the woman has seen the light! When I think about my life as the parent of two kids under two, I can't imagine living anywhere else but Charles Village. Sure, I get annoyed that there is nowhere to put our strollers except along the wall of our living room, a location now known as *conveyance alley*. Recently, in order to prepare for hosting a friend's wedding at our house, we removed all the conveyances and for the first time, I saw my first floor as it was meant to be. Alas, the next day, everything came rolling back.

And sure, some days, I dream of a garage—or a backyard where we could stow strollers and bicycles without fear of them getting borrowed (permanently) by someone we don't know. On those days, I grumble and groan. And then I take comfort in the many, many things that I love about having small kids in Charles Village.

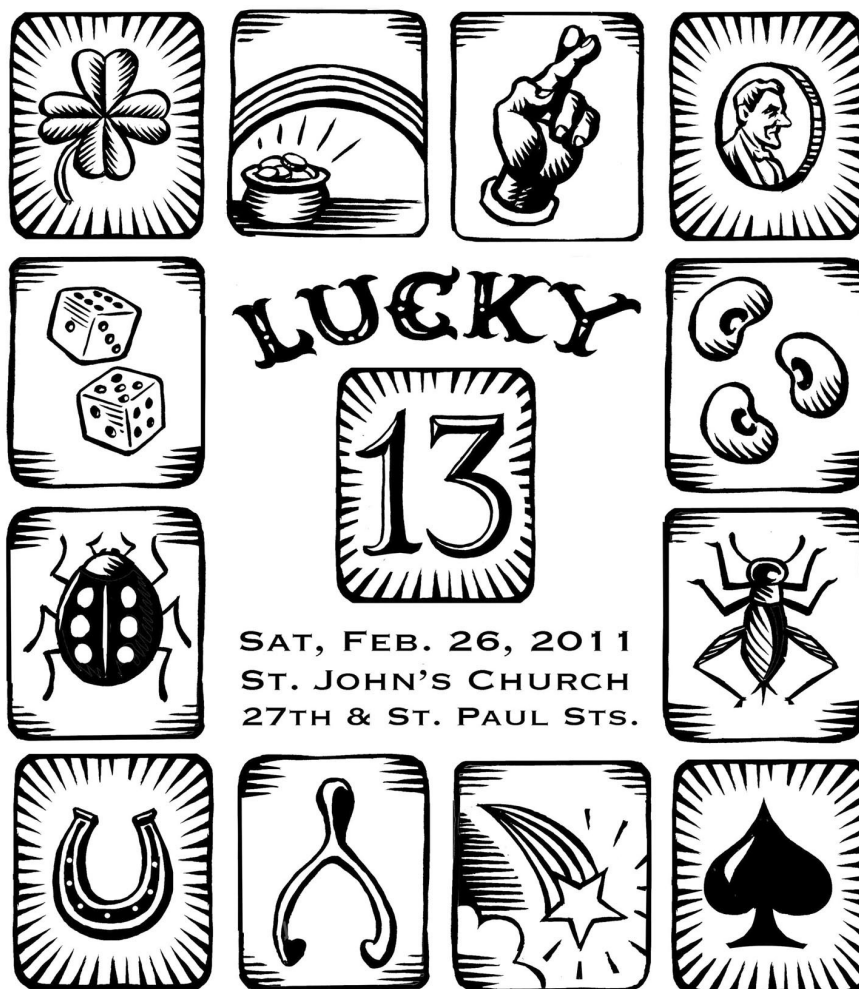
I love taking my children for a walk in one of the aforementioned conveyances, stepping out of our door and basically choosing what kind of mini-adventure we'll have. Will we head to the Barclay School playground, with its great little climbing wall, multiple slides, and swinging bridge? Will we browse for books at Barnes & Noble (and ride in the elevator, to my toddler's delight)? Will we stroll to the Abell Open Space, where I'm sure to see other parents and have some adult conversation? Will we pick up some things for dinner at Eddie's Market, stopping to look at various dogs/bikes/flowers along the way—or, if the time is right, the moon and the hundreds of starlings roosting in the trees along Calvert Street? Will we get a burrito at Chipotle? Will we walk up to the Bufanoanimal sculptures near the gym on the Johns Hopkins campus? Or to the art museum? Or to Wyman Park Dell? Or to the Punjab Market, where the friendly owners give my daughter a juice box? Or to Sherwood Gardens?

As great as the spur-of-the-moment adventures are, I love our rituals even more. Tuesday mornings we try to hit the tots program at the Village Learning

Living with Kids, continued on page 8

THE VILLAGE LEARNING PLACE PRESENTS

SPAGHETTI DISCO



DINNER: 5:30 - 8:00 DANCE: 8:00 - 11:00 CASH BAR
TICKETS: \$14 ADULTS, \$7 KIDS, AGES 3 AND UNDER FREE

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Introducing Zipcar to Charles Village & New CVCA Benefit

On December 10, the Parking Authority of Baltimore City placed two new Zipcars on the south side of 33rd Street west of St. Paul Street in designated on-street parking spots. This was made possible through a partnership between Zipcar, the world's leading car sharing service, and the Parking Authority in an effort to decrease traffic, congestion and parking demands in the community. Zipcar has proven to decrease the number of personally owned vehicles in the communities where Zipcars are located.

National studies show that one Zipcar can remove 15 personally-owned vehicles from the road, as members tend to give up or hold off purchasing vehicles when they join the Zipcar network. Studies also highlight that Zipcar members walk, bicycle and use public transit more often and opt to reserve Zipcars when they really need a car or truck.

Representatives from Zipcar and the Parking Authority attended the CVCA General Meeting on December 1 to discuss how Zipcar works and to ask for the community's support for designating the new parking spaces for Zipcars.

Through this face-to-face meeting and email communications, CVCA President Jennifer Erickson received an over-

Zipcar, continued on page 8



CVCA MEETINGS

General Meeting, Wednesday, March 23, 7 PM
SS. Philip & James, Downstairs, 2801 N. Charles Street

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

GREGG BERNSTEIN, Baltimore City State's Attorney
DEPUTY MAJOR WORLEY, Northern District Police Department
ED SKRODZKI, JHU Security
DAVID HILL, Executive Director, CVCBD

Board of Directors

Wednesdays, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18
CVCBD Office, 2434 St. Paul Street

You are invited...

**The Friends of
Wyman Park Dell
Annual Meeting**
Tuesday, March 22
6 to 7:30 p.m.
The Dizz, upstairs
300 West 30th Street

**Achievements & Future Plans
Election for 2011/2012
FWPD Board of Directors**

Free Admission. You buy the drinks. We provide the appetizers.

Please let us know if you will attend by e-mailing wymanparkdell@gmail.com
Visit www.wymanparkdell.org

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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April 20 for FESTIVAL '11 issue

THE CHARLES VILLAGER
2942 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21218



President's Letter

Jennifer Erickson, CVCA President

2010 was a very busy year for the CVCA. To stay up to date, I encourage folks to read the website, attend our Community/Membership meetings, and sign up for the e-mail updates. CVCA Members and interested Charles Villagers receive important information and updates via this e-mail distribution. Please visit the CVCA website at www.charlesvillage.net and request to be signed up for the e-mail distribution, become a CVCA member or Business member, get updates on community happenings like the 25th Street Station project or the Charles Street Reconstruction project, or even purchase the Charles Village poster and cookbook. The e-mail provides information not only about the CVCA and its activities, but also includes the many and varied community events going on in and around Charles Village from activities in the Wyman Park Dell, to the Village Learning Place and our schools: Barclay & Margaret Brent. The CVCA also promotes our local businesses through CVCA membership and especially through those businesses that provide discounts to CVCA members.

CVCA's 2010 Highlight of Accomplishments

- ▶ **New traffic calming measures.** Removal of rush hour restrictions on St. Paul Street and on 28th Street from Howard to Charles, will provide traffic calming, safety improvements, and much needed additional parking for CV residents. In addition, streets with missing pedestrian crosswalks, walk/don't walk and one way signs, were reported and fixed.
- ▶ **Zip Car in Charles Village with Discounts for CVCA Members.** See page 1 for information.
- ▶ **Many Land Use/Zoning issues** Supporting new businesses such as Maxies and Ledo's. Working with property owners to promote quality of life and density control measures. Planning continues with the City/DOT/25th Street Station Developers coordinated with our neighbor associations of Old Goucher Community Association (OGCA) and Greater Remington Improvement Association (GRIA) towards a more effectively designed, successful Planned Unit Design (PUD) project.
- ▶ Sponsoring the first Snowflake Tour of Charles Village Homes that attracted more than 100 folks touring our



Please see
VOICES—
the green insert
for updates & ways
to get involved with
your neighborhood
public schools!

Welcome Charles Village Volunteer...

RICH WALTHER, E. 32nd Street

The Charles Villager Distribution Manager

Please contact Rich at rwalther@comcast.net
to help with distribution. Extra volunteers are needed
to deliver the Festival issue around Baltimore.

- ▶ beautiful historic homes and public buildings. All done in beautiful weather without record-breaking snow fall!
- ▶ Ongoing communication outreach efforts including the new CVCA e-mail distribution list, *The Charles Villager* and CVCA website for community updates and information sharing.

2011 promises to be another year full of activity. CVCA needs YOU to help and volunteer for the community. Here is a sampling of volunteer opportunities:

1. **Land Use & Zoning Committee.** This committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday evening to review issues and requests related to planning, zoning, liquor laws, housing code violations and historic preservation in Greater Charles Village. Committee members attend City hearings to advocate on behalf of Charles Village, review City and State legislation affecting land use (i.e. live entertainment, group homes and comprehensive rezoning), meet with and discuss requests from applicants for changes in zoning (e.g. landlord requesting to increase the number of dwelling units in a building or transfer liquor licenses). Volunteers from a cross-section of the community bring varied perspectives and professional expertise to fully represent Charles Village's interests. The committee hears the requests, discusses the issues, and makes recommendations to the CVCA Board of Directors for support or opposition and then advocates to the appropriate City authority on behalf of the Charles Village community. This is a time consuming and important function and one that directly affects our quality of life as neighbors/residents.
2. **Safety Committee.** This committee meets on an *ad hoc* basis to work for more effective safety in Charles Village. As a Safety Committee member, you could work closely with the Charles Village Community Benefits District (CVCBD). The committee also sends representatives to the Safety Advisory Council (SAC). SAC members include representatives from Johns Hopkins University, Northern Police District Neighborhood Services Division, Maryland State Department of Parole & Probation, Union Memorial Hospital Public Safety, Greater Homewood, and the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and CVCA. The SAC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 1pm in the CVCBD Conference Room. SAC advises and coordinates CVCBD safety efforts, which include the newly re-organized Court Watch program. If you are concerned about Charles Village Safety, become involved and join the CVCA Safety Committee.
3. **Charles Village Holiday House Tour Committee** and the **Charles Village Festival Committee.** Both committees meet for months before the special event. Volunteers can get involved to whatever extent desired. To ensure these events continue to be successful, more volunteers are needed.

Again, please consider becoming involved or more involved in our wonderful Charles Village neighborhood. Visit www.charlesvillage.net for a listing of all the CVCA-related committees. We need your help and want to hear from you. Please contact me at CVCAPresident@CharlesVillage.net or see any CVCA Board member if you want to volunteer.

See you at the great family fun event of the year in Charles Village—the Spaghetti Disco.
Jennifer Erickson, CVCA President

Join the CVCA, shop locally & SAVE!

Become a CVCA Business Member!

Contact Dana Moore,
CVCA Membership Secretary
radazania@yahoo.com
www.charlesvillage.net

For discounts offered, your
CVCA Membership Card must be pre-
sented at time of purchase. Offers sub-
ject to change without notice.



CVCA Works for You!

- ▶ Land Use— Zoning & Liquor Board Hearings
- ▶ Residential Permit Parking Areas 12/12A & 37
- ▶ Greening— Tree Stewards
- ▶ Beautification— Charles Village Garden Club
- ▶ Safety— Neighborhood Walkers
- ▶ Sanitation
- ▶ Traffic Calming
- ▶ *The Charles Villager* newsletter
- ▶ *Charles Village Cooks: A Taste of The Village* cookbook

Join Today

Welcome New Members

Dominion Ice Cream
Future Care Charles Village
Wheely Good Smoothies

Non-Profit Members

Greater Homewood
Community Corporation
Tuerk House

CVCA Business Members

Donna's
Eddie's Market
Just Cut It
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Niwana
Darker Than Blue
Charles Village Disc. Liquors
Randall & Sonnier, LLC
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JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

This year's Snowflake Tour of Village houses decorated for the holidays was a huge success. More than 100 people went on the tour! My house was on the tour and many of the visitors were from well north of the City, including Reading and York, PA. Several visitors were a terrific source of info for *Village Chat*. **Jim Burns and Jaana Mylthoma** just purchased a house on East 27th Street. They plan to renovate and recently held a pre-renovation party to kick things off. **Sue Walther**, East 32nd Street, also mentioned the significant green renovations to her house. **Linda and Rollin Olson**, 3000 block Guilford, told me their son **Brian Olson** recently married **Sarah Richardson** and they now lives a block away on East 30th Street. Brian is a grad student in Computer Science at George Mason University. and Sarah works in human genetics at JHU.

Also taking the Snowflake Tour...

Relatively new residents, **Lani and Chas Miller** are studio jewelers and antiquarians, who have a studio in their home. Check out their website at www.TheAncientLink.com. **Shari Edelson**, 2700 block Guilford Avenue was very involved in the beautification project mentioned in an earlier Chat. Kudos to all of the folks who organized this successful effort.

Village Gardeners— If you hate winter and the cold, close your eyes and think about a warm spring day and a garden that needs a little attention. Guilford Avenue's **Beverly Fink**, who has her hand in several public gardening projects around Charles Village, is recruiting volunteers to work in the **Barclay School Gardens** one day a week, once a month during the spring, summer and fall. The five flower bed areas in the Barclay gardens are established and simply need to be weeded and sustained. If several folks volunteered this work would be done in no time. And what is seven days out of the year? If you are new to the neighborhood and want to meet some folks, this is a great way to do it. I am also looking for folks to help with **Village Guerilla Gardening**. Is there an empty uncared for plot near your house? It doesn't take much to fill these small spaces with flowers and greens, and you don't have to have any gardening experience to participate. If you are interested, contact Beverly Fink at bvrlyfink@yahoo.com or me at dawnacobb@gmail.com.

Villagers in the news— Congratulations to **Steven Rivelis**, 2800 St. Paul. Steve was awarded the 2010 Alumni of the Year from his *alma mater*, the University of Maryland School of Social Work. The nomination stated, "His resume of advocacy is long and deep; his resourceful approach to problem-solving is matchless; his inventive solutions are inspired; his integrity is unquestioned. But, in the end, it is his compassion and empathy for others as he helps them to help

themselves that makes his work a true tribute to his *alma mater*."

More big news— Former CVCA President and Guilford Avenue resident, **Dana Petersen Moore**, has opened her own law firm, Peterson Moore, LLC downtown at 111 S. Calvert Street, Suite 2700. After 25 years of working at big law firms, she is striking out on her own, which is very exciting. Reach her at 410.835.5676 or DanaPMoore@gmail.com. Good luck Dana!

Congratulations to **Anders Hulleberg**, who won the NCAA Div. III cross country championship on November 20, and led his Haverford College team to its first-ever NCAA title. Many Division III schools are liberal arts colleges and don't offer scholarships to their athletes. JHU is in Div. III for cross country. My husband, **Paul Hulleberg** and I were there, watching nervously, trekking all over the course to catch the runners. When it came time for the finish, we raced back to the homestretch. I craned my neck and could see the lead pack coming but it was awhile before I realized that Anders was in the lead. At that point I started to cry. Two years ago Anders broke his leg a week before the cross country season and last year he finished a disappointing 89th at this event (aka The Nationals). Through discipline and hard work— at some points in his training running twice a day for 90 miles a week— Anders ran the race of his life, making the *Baltimore Sun*, *New York Times*, *CBS Sports* and other media outlets. He became a minor celebrity on his college campus. It's a big accomplishment so I hope you will forgive me for touting my own kid's big win. And it all started many years ago when he ran and won the Charles Village Kids Fun Run during the Charles Village Festival!

Earlier in the cross country season, I attended a race hosted by JHU. A familiar looking gentleman with at least two cameras turned out to be **Jay Van Rennselaer**, a professional photographer and St. Paul Street resident, whom I often see at Donna's. A few weeks later he gave me two CDs of all the pictures he took that day as well as permission to use them in a Youtube video I made of the race. Check out some of his photos in my Youtube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbnFnjJgvpY>. They are the very first ones of the runners in action. Jay just returned safely from photographing an archaeological dig undertaken by JHU faculty and students in Egypt. Thanks so much Jay!

Bicycle Boulevard— Baltimore City is working to expand and connect its bike lanes. Guilford Avenue will have



Drew Rock, Kathy Rock, Beverly Fink and Carol Huppert planted trees on the east side of 3000 Guilford to replace two lost in the mini-tornado that swept through Charles Village last August.

the first designated bike boulevard according to **Gary Letteron**, a Harwood resident and dedicated bicycle rider. In recent months, the community gave input into the proposed changes necessary to create the bicycle boulevard, extending from University Parkway to Mount Royal Avenue. Many traffic improvements will discourage through traffic and reduce speeds along the way. See the many details for the bike boulevard on page 9.

Changes at Charles and 29th... You may have noticed the construction of the new roadway and sidewalks on W. 29th Street along the southern edge of Wyman Park Dell. This project removed the *sweep* going south on Charles to create a safer 90-degree right turn onto 29th Street. The old sweeping roadbed will be a vehicle free pathway that nicely enlarges the active parkland. This project leads up to the reconstruction of Charles Street from 29th Street to University Parkway, which will be underway later in the year. To learn about this major Charles Street construction project, go to <http://www.charlesstreet.mdprojects.com/>

Calvert Street resident, **Cathy Goucher** and fellow art therapist and Charles Villager, **Jill Scheibler**, recently launched an art studio for emerging adult artists with disabilities. Located in the **Load of Fun/Arts** building in Station North Arts District, **Make Studio** has steadily grown since its launch last February. Now open two days a week for artists to work, the studio also offers on-line art sales. Cathy and Jill participated in local fall festivals and the 2010 **Holiday Heap** in Charles Village. Check out their website <http://www.make-studio.org/> and link to their Facebook page for details about the studio's mission and program as well as information about the artists and their inspirations. Cathy and Jill are happy to host visitors to their studio at Load of Fun studio to talk directly

about their art and creative process. Also, check out the ever expanding theatre venues on North Avenue. See *Art in the Village* on page 7.

Speaking of the Holiday Heap...

I was impressed with the variety and quality of the crafts. St. John's Church was packed with shoppers supporting local craftspeople.

It was fun to see St. Paul Street resident and BMA Director, **Doreen Bolger**, in the *Baltimore Sun*. She was featured in the Real Estate section's *Dream House* column.

According to Abell Avenue's **Paul Burk**, for the past year **Pat Taylor** of the Waverly Improvement Association has organized a group of volunteers to take dinner over to the firefighters at Greenmount Avenue Engine 31 Firehouse on Wednesday evenings. This started out as an informal goodwill gesture during the firehouse renovations by **Laura Kindseth**, the former Waverly Main Street Manager. Laura is settling in well with her new position as Main Street Manager in Los Cruces, NM. Now that Laura has moved away, Pat has taken the lead. If you are interested in helping, let me know and I will let Pat know.

Jeanne Knight reports that Elections for the Old Goucher Community Association were held on November 29 after a viewing of the *Evolution of Eva*, an old movie filmed on the old Goucher campus! Officers include: **Jeanne Knight**, President; **Peter Duvall**, Vice President; **Heather Giles**, Secretary and **Jason Pyron**, Treasurer. Jeanne reports that Old Goucher has a Facebook page!

Congratulations to **Chauna Brocht** and **Kris Misage** of old Goucher. They welcomed baby **Simone Marie Misage Brocht** born on November 25. **Jasmina** is being a very helpful big sister. Congratulations!

St. Paul Street resident and Loyola University Maryland professor, **Ron Tanner** has just published his illustrated novel *Kiss Me Stranger*. You can get a copy on Amazon, at **Barnes & Noble Johns Hopkins** or on February 10 at his reading at **Atomic Books** on the Avenue in Hampden.

In my last column I wrote about Villagers involved with **bmrefiber**, the effort to convince Google to bring its high speed optical fiber to Baltimore. I omitted the name of **Jon Lesser** and the first name of **Charles Martucci**, both of whom are involved along with **Patrick Roanhouse**, **Jason Pyeron**, **Emil Volcheck** and **Robin Truiett-Theodorson**. My apologies.

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



CVCBD Spring Meeting on Financial Plan Set for March 29 at Lovely Lane Church

The Spring Meeting on the Financial Plan will be held on March 29 at 6:30 to 8: PM at Lovely Lane Methodist Church Hall, 2200 St Paul Street. This meeting will allow CVCBD property surcharge taxpayers the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed CVCBDMA Budget and Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2011-12, beginning July 1, 2011.

CVCBD Board of Directors for 2011

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 THE HONORABLE BELINDA CONAWAY, City Council Representative
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 KAREN REESE, Man Alive, Inc., Nonprofit Representative



On the right is an example of the new cans placed next to a current CVCBD wire basket for comparison. CVCBD borrowed the new can from Stevenson University, which recently purchased these cans for their Baltimore County campus.

Help CVCBD Raise \$60,000 for Trash Cans

The CVCBD has introduced a fund raising campaign to raise \$60,000 by July 1, to purchase 100 new trash cans. We have submitted several grant applications to area foundations. Now, we are also asking for your help!

The new cans are larger and heavier than the ones currently in use and will have an enclosed top. Costing \$600 each, the new cans will improve sanitation conditions throughout the Benefits District and discourage the attraction of rats. Painted dark green, the cans will be embossed with the CVCBD logo and name. These attractive cans should help dress up Greater Charles Village. Our goal is to raise \$60,000 by July 1, 2011 and gradually install the new cans over the next 4 months.

Please help us reach this goal! Send your tax-deductible contribution to the Charles Village Community Foundation, 2434 St Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Add *New Trash Cans* in the memo line. Thank you for making a difference in your neighborhood.

—David Hill, Executive Director

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Court Watch Tracks Defendants

The Charles Village Court Watch program is designed to track a defendant accused of committing crimes in Charles Village as each case goes through the legal system from arrest to disposition and incarceration.

The program has three components:

1. Maintain a monthly "Court Watch" report and distribute this report to the community so that residents can be informed as to who has been arrested and the status of the defendant's court case.
2. Review active court cases and flag specific cases of special interest.
3. Influence the sentencing decision in specific court cases
 - A. Submit a Community Impact Letter to the prosecutor.
 - B. Assign community volunteers to attend active cases and sentencing hearings.

The CVCBD Safety Advisory Council (SAC) started the Court Watch last October. The SAC consists of representatives from the Abell, Charles Village, Harwood and Old Goucher community associations, Northern District Police Department, the State Attorney's Office, Parole and Probation, Johns Hopkins University, Union Memorial Hospital and CVCBD.

Stephen Gewirtz and Sharon Guida, both long-time residents of Charles Village, have volunteered to help implement the Court Watch program. Their support has been essential to the success of this program. Stephen and Sharon devote many hours of their personal time conducting research on defendants, writing Community Impact Letters, keeping the community informed about cases via e-mail, and attending meetings. Recently, a feature in *The Messenger* and Peter Hermann's column in *The Baltimore Sun* focused on the dedicated and persistent tracking and court work by Stephen Gewirtz. Steve is out front making our Court Watch program an ongoing success, while Sharon diligently writes the important community impact letters and coordinates communications.

The CVCBD SAC meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Benefits District office. Meetings are open to the public.

The monthly Court Watch Report is available online at www.charlesvillage.org. On the home page, click the *Reports* tab. As of February 4, SAC has submitted 42 Community Impact Letters to the Baltimore City State's Attorney Office regarding specific cases of interest and concern to the community.

—David Hill, Executive Director



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

Benefitting the VLP... The 13th Annual

SPAGHETTI DISCO

Saturday, February 26
St. John's, 2640 St. Paul Street

Find out about free programs & events at
www.villagelearningplace.org

Liesje Gantert, Executive Director



Story time on the first and third Tuesday mornings in the beautiful VLP library.

Charles Village really is an awesome place to be a parent! As a member of the Village Parents, a resident of Abell Avenue and the Village Learning Places's Director of Development, I love being a part of the groundswell of people working to make our neighborhood the best place to raise a family. As Laura Wexler shouts out in her front page article, the VLP is already one of the reasons that parenting in the city is such a great experience.

Tots Tuesdays combine a story time with snacks, songs, and craft-making. Our beautiful old library fills with the happy noise of babies, toddlers, and grown-ups learning and laughing together. Parents and caregivers learn effective literacy and language development, and they also learn about each other—forming friendships and play groups. Our circulating library has a truly stellar collection of books for children of all ages, including board books, Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Award winners and works by local authors. Our nationally-recognized after-school and summer program, Let's Invest in Neighborhood Kids (LINK), now serves pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade students. And, of course, our groovy Spaghetti Disco, for kids and the kid in all of us, is the best neighborhood party that happens all winter!

The VLP is also an incredibly family-friendly workplace. Four of my co-workers and I have brought our babies to work, shared in raising them and been rewarded by the connections between parenting and the mission and work of the VLP. As I write this, 6-month-old Malcolm, whose mommy, Nikki, runs our fantastic Tots Tuesdays, is in my lap. Please join our great ongoing programs for the whole family, and let us know what other activities you'd like to see at the VLP. One of the best things about the VLP is that we are formed by and respond to this community, and we look forward to growing with you and your kids for years to come. —Darran Tilghman

VLP Calendar

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

Senior Tea — 2nd Tuesdays, 11:00 am to Noon

Seniors are invited for free performances or presentations, and refreshments.

February 8— **Ballroom Dance**

March 8— **Celtic Harpist**

April 12— **Kenny Abrams, Allstate Insurance**

2nd Wednesdays at the VLP — 2nd Wednesdays, 7 to 9 pm

The 2nd Wednesdays series features performances, lectures, cultural enrichment, and the opportunity to share food and conversation with neighbors each month.

February 9— **Sin in Mobtown: The History of Baltimore's Block**

March 9— **CSI: Baltimore!**

April 13— **Local Poets**

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

Our renowned series, presented in partnership with the Baltimore City Historical Society, returns for a third year of talks by local historians and raconteurs.

February 17— **Spies in the Neighborhood.** Edward C. Papenfuse, State Archivist

March 17— **Desegregation, Baltimore, 1954: What Happened?** Howell Baum, University of Maryland

April 21— **A Life in Baltimore.** Gilbert Sandler

GED Class

The VLP and Baltimore City Community College are partnering to offer free GED classes. Prepare for the GED exam by learning and practicing math, reading and writing skills. Check with the VLP library for class availability.

Haircuts: \$16



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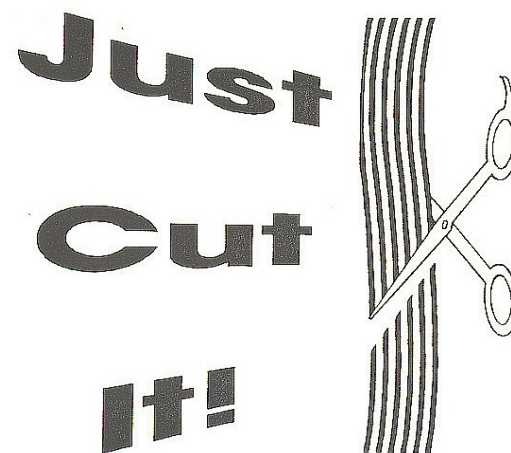
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ARTS IN THE VILLAGE 7

Jennifer Burdick

The Baltimore Museum of Art
Seeing Now: Photography since 1960. This gripping exhibition of over 200 images examines moving and at times frank subject matter. February 20– May 15. Bring the kids to the BMA on Sundays from 2–4 pm. There is always something fun to do— whether inspired by the African American experience or photography. General Information: 410.396.7100. Box Office: 410.396.6001 or visit www.artsbma.org.

Barnes & Noble Johns Hopkins
Both **Jessica Anya Blau** and **Paula Bomer** will read from their latest novels, *Drinking Closer to Home* and *Baby*. February 17 at 7 pm.

The Walters Art Museum
Don't miss *Treasures of Heaven: Saints, Relics and Devotion in Medieval Europe*. This exhibition of 133 works will explore the emergence and transformation of several key types of reliquary, moving through history February 13– May 15. For more on exhibits and programs at the Walters, visit www.thewalters.org

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). *The Narcissism of Minor Differences.* An exhibit of 18 acclaimed artists, including Goya, Philip

Guston and Sam Durant, explores the dark side of intolerance using art, historical artifact and documentation. Through March 13. Decker and Meyerhoff Galleries in the Fox Building, 1303 Mt. Royal Avenue.

Center Stage continues the season with *Second City Comes to Baltimore*. The fabled comedy/improv company from Chicago has assembled an ensemble of talented actors-singers who spoof and play with the many Baltimore icons— Hons, The Wire, Mayors...and much more. Closes February 20. Harold Pinter's *Homecoming*. Closes February 20. 410.332.0033 or www.centerstage.org.

Everyman Theater
The season continues with the Baltimore Premiere of Steven Dietz' *Shooting Star*. Sparks fly and snowflakes fall as two old flames meet by chance in a blizzard bound airport. Humor, heartache, secrets, and snow— where is the final destination for these two? Through February 20. Box Office: 410.752.2208 or www.everymantheatre.org.

The Single Carrot Theatre, 120 W. North Avenue, will open Pulitzer-prize winning Paula Vogel's *The Long*



Kota Ezawa, *Lennon Sontag Beuys*. 2004. Collection Monroe Denton: Promised gift to The Baltimore Museum of Art. ©Kota Ezawa, Images Courtesy of Murray Guy

Christmas Ride Home. Runs March 16– April 17. A troubled family's Christmas Eve road trip unearths the lifelong effects of trauma and sexual alienation through the use of Bunraku-inspired puppetry. Tix 443.844.9253 or visit www.singlecarrot.com.

Run of the Mill Theater at THE LOF/t 120 West North Avenue, will open *R.U.R. Reboot* by Debbie Harbin February 17. A World Premiere adaptation of the 1923 classic by Karel Capek which introduced the term *Robot!* Tix: Brownpapertickets.com or runofthemilltheater@gmail.com.

Strand Theater Company, 1823 N. Charles Street, showcases women artists. *The Year of Magical Thinking* adapted from Joan Didion's best-selling memoir runs February 3–19. www.strandtheatercompany.org.

Mobtown Theater, 3600 Clipper Mill Road (Meadowmill) Suite 114, presents Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*. This classic comedy of manners will keep you laughing to the very end. January 14– February 5. info@mobtownplayers.com.

Hopkins Symphony Orchestra continues its season with **Aaron Copland's Suite from Appalachian Spring**. Mattin Arts Center. Sunday, SDS Room. February 20 at 3 pm. 410.516.6542 or www.jhu.edu/jhso **19th Annual Concert for Children and Families.** The Hopkins orchestra

will perform excerpts from **Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade**. After the performance, the audience is invited onstage to meet the musicians and see their instruments. Saturday, March 12 at 1 pm Shriver Hall. FREE.

Bach Concert Series with T. Herbert Dimmock, Director. The concerts are free (donations requested) and held at Christ Lutheran Church, 701 South Charles Street. February 6 and March 6 at 4 pm. Info: 717.533.6873 or www.bachinbaltimore.org

Baltimore Concert Opera. Baltimore has lost its full opera productions, but there are now opportunities to hear opera at the Garrett Jacobs Mansion in Mt. Vernon. *Ameleto* by Franco Faccio will be performed March 25 & 27. Tickets: 443.844.3496 or www.BaltimoreConcertOpera.com.

The Concert Artists of Baltimore Edward Polochick, Director, will present **Afternoon Delights** on Sunday, February 27 at 2:30 am and **Blockbuster Beethoven** on Saturday March 26 at 8 pm. at the Engineer's Club in Mt. Vernon Place. An optional lunch or dinner may also be included. Tix: 410.625.3525 or www.cabalto.org.

Loyola University's **Julio Fine Arts Gallery** in the DeChiaro College Center will feature *Headform for the Age of Magical Thinking* by Laure Drogoul, whose works are a hybrid of new media, sculpture, and performance with audience participation. Monday– Friday from 11 am–5 pm and 1–4 pm on Sundays.

Baltimore Folk Music Society offers *American Square and Contra Dancing* at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church. 8 pm every Wednesday. 410.366.0808 or visit www.bfms.org.

For weekly updates subscribe to **Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance** listserv at www.baltimoreculture.org.

E-Mail info about new art venues and productions to: jennifer.burdick@verizon.net or call 410.467.5462.

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Place. There is Mother Goose on the Loose on Thursdays at Enoch Pratt's Waverly branch. But perhaps my favorite is our Saturday routine. We get up, eat something, get dressed and head out on foot to the Waverly Farmers Market. After buying our produce and a few tasty treats, we head over to the Abell Open Space and play with the gang that regularly gathers there. Then, a few minutes after 10 a.m., we head up to Barnes & Noble for the Saturday story hour, which, more often than not, features a visit from a life-sized children's book character and a craft. Then we walk back home, stopping for lunch at Eddie's or Ledo Pizza. We've had a morning of fun without ever getting in the car. And it's nap time! Hallelujah!

It's a very nice life, this life with small children in Charles Village—as even my mother, who is well-known by the morning crew at Eddie's, where she gets her regular cup of coffee, will admit. And this life is getting better every day, as more and more families make their homes here.

Last year, I started Village Parents with another parent, Laura Scott. We're a volunteer parent group whose mission is to develop initiatives for strong neighborhood schools and recreational and enrichment opportunities for families. We have happy hours or potlucks at Abell Open Space, and volunteer at Barclay and Margaret Brent schools. We are, essentially, people who love living in Charles Village, and we want to do everything possible to be able to stay here as our children grow.

I look forward to the day when my children are old enough that I can help them learn to ride bikes (word on the street is that Wyman Park Dell is a great place for first-time cyclists) or send them down to Eddie's with a few bucks for a carton of milk. When that day comes, I will miss strolling around the Village with them. But I will not miss conveyance alley!

Visit charlesvillageparents.org to join Village Parents and sign up for the email list.

—Laura Wexler,
writer, editor and co-producer of *The Stoop*
Storytelling Series, stoopstorytelling.com.

CHARLES VILLAGE FESTIVAL

June 4 & 5 at Wyman Park Dell

Inviting Volunteers— The Charles Village Festival showcases this wonderful place where we live, study and work. A committee of volunteers with the Charles Village Community Foundation puts together all of the activities for the weekend in partnership with the four organizations benefiting from the Festival— Charles Village Civic Association, Charles Village Recreational League, Friends of Wyman Park Dell and Village Learning Place.

Check out www.charlesvillagefestival.com. To volunteer for a Festival '11 activity, please e-mail me at johnpmclane@gmail.com.
—John McLane, Chair, Festival Committee

Zipcar, continued from page 1

whelmingly positive response from the community for the addition of Zipcars in Charles Village.

The two new Zipcars on 33rd Street are part of a growing fleet of on-street vehicles located throughout Baltimore City. Currently, 18 vehicles are located in parking garages and on surface lots at the Johns Hopkins Homewood Campus. Zipcars are also on the campuses of Towson University and Goucher College.

To become a Zipcar member, go to www.zipcar.com and enter your information. In a couple of days, you will receive your Zipcard membership in the mail. Then, you go online or call a toll-free number to make reservations— minutes in advance or up to a year ahead of time. At the time of your reservation next to a Zipcar, you hold your Zipcard over the scanner behind the driver's side windshield, and the doors automatically unlock. The keys are bolted to the dashboard with a zip cord. Drive wherever you need to go. Up to 180 miles, gas and insurance are included in the price of the reservation. Return the car to its home parking spot by the end of your reservation.

A new CVCA benefit allows CVCA Members to join Zipcar at <http://www.zipcar.com/cvca> for discounted membership fees and weekday hourly rates. Learn more at www.zipcar.com.

—Tiffany R. James, Parking Authority of Baltimore City



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DOT Designates Guilford Avenue as Safe for Bicycle Boulevard from Downtown

In other cities across the globe, bicycle boulevards have increased the number of cyclists by creating a safe corridor where beginner cyclists feel less intimidated.

Guilford Avenue is a commonly used bicycle route through the center of Baltimore from Downtown. Being a quiet residential street, cyclists are attracted to riding on Guilford Avenue with less vehicular traffic. The Public School Headquarters parking lot at North Avenue acts as a traffic diverter for all vehicles traveling north, but allows bikes to continue through.

Needing a connection in the city's bicycle network between the Collegetown Bicycle Network in north central Baltimore and Downtown, the Department of Transportation (DOT) will add improvements to Guilford Avenue between Mt. Royal and University Parkway. Guilford Avenue will be designated as a bicycle boulevard or roadway where bikes and cars share the road at near equal speeds. In the planning process, the DOT sought and received valuable community input to help determine what design treatments were appropriate for specific locations.

Design changes for the Guilford Avenue bicycle boulevard include:



Painted sharrows will mark Guilford Avenue.

- ▶ Adding sharrows along the length of Guilford Avenue from University Parkway to Mt. Royal Avenue, where the project meets Phase 2 of the Jones Falls Trail.
- ▶ Adding green sharrows on approaches to 33rd Street crossing and green bike lanes on the 33rd Street median crossing.
- ▶ Adding white pavement markings to delineate the on-street parking from travel lanes.
- ▶ Adding a Stop sign to 20th Street at Guilford Ave, just north of the Public Schools headquarters.
- ▶ Maintaining the 27th Street intersection as a 4-way Stop.



The Guilford Avenue bicycle boulevard will feature mini-circles as shown above to improve safety and security at the intersections of 22nd, 24th and 32nd Streets.

- ▶ Replacing 4-way stops at the intersections of Guilford Avenue with 22nd, 24th and 32nd Streets with mini-circles. Community input played a vital role in helping DOT determine where the mini-circles were needed to improve safety and security.
- ▶ Extending curbs on the southwest corner of North Avenue and Guilford to provide for better bike and pedestrian protection.
- ▶ Widening the median crossing at North Ave from 6 feet to 12 feet. While two separate crossings for pedestrians and bicycles were preferable, the location of signal poles prevented this option.
- ▶ Adding bike and emergency vehicle-friendly speed humps on the 2600 and 2700 blocks of Guilford Avenue.
- ▶ Adding wayfinding signs to indicate destination, distance and direction.

Once the project is complete, residents of Guilford Avenue will see little difference in the road as a whole—except for increased bike traffic. Where Guilford Avenue ties into Mt. Royal Avenue, this year Phase 2 of the Jones Falls Trail will be constructed, which will allow cyclists to continue onto the Inner Harbor. With other quiet residential streets across the city, Baltimore will likely see an expansion of the bicycle boulevard network in the future. Guilford Avenue will be the first!

—Nate Evans, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner,
Baltimore Department of Transportation, 443.984.4094
Blog: www.bikebaltimore.org
Map: www.baltimorebikemap.com

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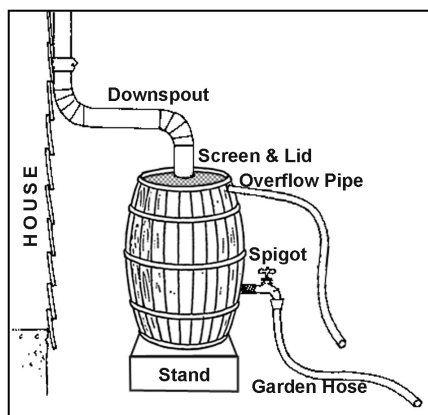
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New Blue Water Baltimore Helps Green Houses, Streams and Chesapeake Bay

Spring is just around the corner and so are fresh opportunities to make Charles Village a more sustainable neighborhood. The new non-profit organization, Blue Water Baltimore (BWB), first known as the Baltimore Water Alliance, merged five local watershed organizations including the Jones Falls Watershed Association. BWB will help with indoor and outdoor water conservation projects to protect your home, our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.



Install a rain barrel at your home to save our streams and save you money.

Inside your home, Blue Water Baltimore will recommend and help with small, easy steps that will significantly reduce your water use and eliminate water wasted by inefficient faucets and toilets. Outside your home, Blue Water will identify and assist with cost-saving measures such as planting a tree or installing a rain barrel. These actions are only a few of the options you have as a community member.

This spring, do your part to help make Charles Village a greener, more sustainable neighborhood. Register for a free water audit to learn what you can do at home to improve your neighborhood and the Chesapeake Bay. Call 410.254.1577, extension 106, or e-mail Dana Puzey at dpuzey@bluewaterbaltimore.org. To register online for a free audit or to learn more about what we can all do to restore our local waterways, visit the new website, www.bluewaterbaltimore.org.

— Dana Puzey, Program Director, Blue Water Baltimore



PRIVILEGED PURSUITS PARTY

Saturday, Feb. 26, 3–7pm at
Johns Hopkins' Homewood Museum
 Party like it's 1802, when the Carroll family built Homewood! Learn period dances from Choregraphie Antique, witness exciting demonstrations of historical swordsmanship, and try your hand at games of chance including faro and whist. Everyone is invited to partake in savories, drinks, dancing and more!
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CHARLES VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Charles Village Civic Association (CVCA) informs neighbors through our newsletter, *The Charles Villager*, 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 build community through the Neighborhood Walkers 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

Benefits include voting rights at CVCA's General and Town Meetings; invitations to special events; e-mail news; a mailed subscription to *The Charles Villager* for members living *beyond* the neighborhood boundaries, and business discounts.

CVCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

September 30 marks the start of each CVCA Membership Year.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual/Household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business/Institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Senior Citizen | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Life Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Non-Resident (non-voting) | |

Name(s) _____
List adults to be included in the membership.

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☐ Please call me to discuss volunteer opportunities, interests, and opportunities to become actively involved in the Charles Village neighborhood.

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RENEWAL & PICK-UP for Residential Permit Parking RPP Area 37— Charles Village West

Residents of RPP Area 37 (unit and 100 blocks of West 26th Street, including unit block of East 26th Street, north to 29th Street, not including 28th Street; unit and 100 blocks of West 27th and 29th Streets, and 2600–2800 blocks of Maryland Avenue) must renew and/or register, purchase, and display their new annual parking permits and visitors passes for 2011 before March 31. Residents with handicap tags must also purchase RPP Permits. Residents with available off-street parking will not be permitted to purchase permits unless they prove that the number of cars registered to that address exceed the number of available off-street parking spaces.

February 15— First Day to renew RPP Area 37 online or downtown at the Parking Authority Offices; however, permit decals and visitor passes will not be available for pickup at the Parking Authority until March 20.

March 27— Community RPP Area 37 Pick-Up for new and renewal prepaid permit decals and visitors passes on the Front Porch, 2746 Maryland Avenue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 1— City enforcement of 2011 Area 37 RPP decals and visitors passes begins.

Only residents who renew online or pay for a new permit with a credit card OR mail in a check or money order *prior to March 24* will be able to pick up their permits at 2746 Maryland Avenue on March 27. Residents need to bring current proper documentation and identification papers— vehicle registration, driver's license, current lease, non-resident permits, notarized letters, student or military ID, etc.

The RPP application site is <https://pabc.t2hosted.com/cmn/auth.aspx>. Note: This is a different URL than what you used in previous years. The Parking Authority is using a new system to process payments for permits. For instructions on how to use the new website, go to www.charlesvillage.net. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Parking Authority by e-mail at rpp@bcparking.com or by phone at 443.573.2800, extension 819 or 863.

COST: \$20 per year for a Resident Parking Permit Decal. Limit of 4 registered cars per household.

\$20 per year for a Visitor Pass. Limit of 2 visitor passes per household.

Number of allowable households per property address to be determined by review of zoning records.

If you do not have online access, you can go to the Village Learning Place (VLP), 2521 St. Paul Street, for free access to a computer. See VLP hours on the top of page 6. For the step-by-step online RPP registration procedure and regulations, please go to the CVCA website at www.charlesvillage.net.

Note: A Parking Citation (fine) for not displaying a current RPP decal or pass in Area 37 is now \$52 for each occurrence.

Thanks to the City Parking Authority and community volunteers, for making the RPP Area 37 Community Pick-Up possible on March 27. **Volunteers make it possible to continue community distribution of parking permits.** Please show your kind appreciation for all their generous assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon L. Guida, Charles Village West RPP Community Coordinator at SLG2700@cs.com or 410.889.0436.

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