

The next meeting of the MRIA Board of Officers will be the ANNUAL MEETING on Tuesday, May 1st at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Memorial Episcopal Church (enter on Lafayette Street). Elections of Board Officers will be held, and refreshments served. Be sure to come, and encourage all your neighbors and other residents to attend.

News from MRIA

MRIA Nominating Committee Slate for Officer and Board Nominations for 2012-13:

Joseph Palumbo Susan Henson-Haun Jon Kucskar Barry Blumberg Jill Kingery Richard Rosenthal Polly Duke Yoshiko Hayakawa Anna Watson	President 1 st Vice President 2 nd Vice President Treasurer Secretary General Counsel Past President 2013 2014	244 Robert St. 238 Wilson St. 1507 Park Ave. 1329 Bolton St. 149 W. Lafayette Ave 130 W. Lanvale St. 1408 Bolton St. 1821 Eutaw Place 1801 Eutaw Place,
James Harp Dave King Luis Quiroga Noell Damron	2015 2015 2015 2015 2015	Apt B 216 W Lanvale 215 W. Lanvale. 229 W. Lafayette Ave. 309 W. Lanvale St.
Marjorie Forster Dan Gilbert Steve Howard Brad Fierle Sally Wingo Susan Van Buren	2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015	1715 Park Ave. 302 W. Lafayette Ave. 1420 Mason St. 1701 Park Ave 1303 Linden Green 1500 Bolton St

Proposed Increase to Benefits District Surtax. At our March meeting, the Midtown Community Benefits District proposed a 37.87% increase in the Benefits District Surtax we all pay. The MRIA and Madison Park Improvement Association representatives joined together to fight this increase and prevailed. Recognizing the loss of revenue from the decrease in property values over the last couple of years and the value of the security patrols, the Benefits district did approve a 5% increase in the surtax. The Board of Estimates must still approve the budget, and we will continue to monitor its progress

MRIA fought the rezoning attempt of the Hiram Foundation's Hall on Eutaw place. This hall has been a problem for several years and finally came to a head when they were cited for using the facility for an unauthorized purpose. The Zoning Board ruled the facility could continue to be used as a multi-purpose center but could not be used after 10:00 p.m. and that no amplified music could be played after 9:00 p.m.

Jones Falls (I-83) Lane Closures. The Baltimore City Department of Transportation would like to advise motorists that beginning Friday, April 13th at 7:00 PM, the left lane of BOTH the northbound and southbound Jones Falls Expressway in the vicinity of 29th Street and Druid Park Lake Drive will be closed for the next 6-8 weeks and perhaps longer.

Heach month Northwest Citizen Convenience Center, 2840 Sisson Street. Baltimore City's monthly collection events of such hazardous household materials as oil-based paints, pesticides, herbicides, car and household batteries, drain cleaners, gasoline, pool chemicals, have resumed. Participants must show proof of city residency before they can drop off any hazardous items. Trash, asbestos, ammunition, fire extinguishers, industrial and medical wastes, and radioactive materials, including smoke alarms with a radioactive symbol, will not be accepted.

State Center Update. There is still interest in finding a way to move ahead with the State Center redevelopment project. Currently, a lawsuit is holding up the start of the project. There was a bill in the General Assembly that would have speeded up a decision on this litigation. However, the bill failed. Nevertheless, the State Center Neighborhood Alliance (SCNA) and other community residents and organizations remain hopeful. For more information, contact John Kyle, SCNA President.

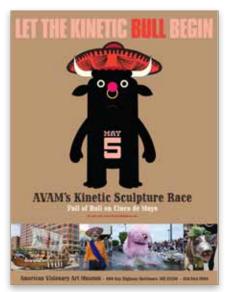
Upcoming Events

Flower Mart Friday-Saturday, May 4-5, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Mt. Vernon Square parks, Free.

Baltimore's Annual Rite of Spring will feature more than 130 vendors selling flowers, plants, garden accessories and unique gifts just in time for Mother's Day. Music, artful activities for children, and a menu of contests – including, naturally, The Grand Hat and The Pet Parade – plus a raffle and refreshments including the signature Lemon Peppermint Stick, should guarantee something to please everyone.

14th Annual Kinetic Sculpture Race Saturday May 5, beginning 10 a.m., American Visionary Art Museum and the entire Inner Harbor, Free

This almost world-famous, and indubitably hilarious, event kicks off at 10 a.m. from the Museum, but get there early to take part in



of De Feet! The wondrously inspired, human-powered works of art are designed to travel on land, through mud, and over deep Harbor waters. There are many great viewing spots along the 15-mile route through Baltimore so check out the website **KineticBaltimore.com**.

The Bach Concert Series Sunday, May 6, 4 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 701 S. Charles Street, Free

The final concert of the season includes Bourrée I, Bourrée II, Minuet, and Badinerie from Overture for flute and strings (BWV 1067) by J.S. Bach; J.S. Bach Cantata 157: Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn with Taylor Armstrong, tenor, Phillip Collister, bass; and the Prelude and Fugue in A minor (BWV 543) by J. S. Bach with Christopher Schroeder, organist

ARTWALK Thursday, May 10, starts at 5 p.m. Cohen Plaza, MICA, \$

This is every collector's fantasy: 3K (almost 2miles) of original art by nearly 400 of the nation's most talented emerging artists – the class of 2012 - for your perusal, with the option to buy. Meet the students and talk with them about their creative experiences at this preview party. Food, drink and spir-

ited conversation converge at the finish line.

5th Annual No Boundaries Block Party Saturday May 12, 1-4 p.m., Pennsylvania Avenue at Presstman Street, Free

Come out for music, food, art, and so much more in this celebration of community among neighbors of Central West Baltimore! This year's block party will feature gospel music with the Expressions of Faith Gospel Choir; Funk with J Pope and Funk Friday; Line Dancing with Elder Harris; Spoken Word with PATHS; and ongoing music with DJ Knight Magic. Free food, face painting, walking tours, health screening and more. For details go to **noboundariescoalition.org**/

PREAKNESS Saturday, May 19, Racing all day, but post time for the Stakes is approximately 6 p.m., Pimlico Race Course, \$

Be on hand to cheer those gorgeous equines as they strive to win the Woodlawn Vase and the second leg of the Triple Crown of horse racing. Put on your best hat, order up a Black-Eyed Susan and make a day of it, celebrating another Baltimore tradition in style.

Baltimore City Parks Our Passion: Photo Competition Deadline for Entries, Thursday, May 31

Before the end of May, enter this contest with a photograph of your own that captures the beauty and/or activity of any Baltimore City Park. You may just have the perfect image. Winning entries will be exhibited in the Orianda House in Leakin Park on June 10, 2012. Prizes to be awarded for first and second place in each category. Download the application form from at **pho**-





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