

union square
association
GENERAL MEETING
wednesday 7:00 pm
november 7, 2007
1401 hollins street
baltimore, md 21223

union square association, inc.
p.o. box 20520, baltimore,
md 21223

union square online:
<http://www.union-square.us>
email: news@union-square.us



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

By Fran Rahl, Dir. Historic Preservation

If you own or rent property in the area, the property is likely to be in the Union Square-Hollins Market National Register historic district. W. Baltimore St., W. Pratt St., S. Schroeder St., and S. Fulton Ave. roughly bound the district. Buildings on both sides of the perimeter streets are also in the district.

Owners of buildings in the district can benefit from special tax treatments relating to preservation/restoration expenses. But of more importance is maintaining or bringing back the historic look and charm of the area.

Regardless of your motivation, please be aware that the district falls under regulations of CHAP (Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation). CHAP is the city agency which sets the standards for the appearances, materials, and processes related to work on the exterior of your historic building.

More details are available from Fran Rahl, Director of Historic Preservation for the Union Square Association, Inc., and from CHAP. Fran can be reached at 410.945.1497 or francis.rahl@verizon.net. CHAP web site: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/historic/>

Note that a CHAP Authorization to Proceed and a city building permit must cover all exterior work. This includes everything from replacing windows and doors to painting. Please comply with these requirements to avoid potential stop work notices, fines, and even redoing unpermitted work. Sadly, this has happened in a number of cases over the past few years.

PARK GETS GRANT FOR \$350,000!

The Union Square park has received a much-needed and long-overdue grant for \$350,000. Just think of the possibilities!

Come to the meeting to learn more details and get updates about this exciting development.

ZONING LAWS AND UNION SQUARE

Baltimore City zoning laws have a major impact on various aspects of our community and the future direction of the neighborhood.

A city official is scheduled to attend the General Meeting. Come join with your neighbors and bring all your questions.

SOWEBO ARTS

By **Scotty Stevenson**, Sowebo Arts, Inc.

The Sowebo Arts & Music Festival is Sunday, May 28th.

SOWEBO ARTS FESTIVAL SALON SHOW CALL FOR ART

Our fanatically non-juried, unvetted, "not for the faint of heart" Art Show wants your paintings, sculptures, photographs, mixed media.

Surprise us!

This show hangs in our new gallery and we have new instructions this year. If your work is 4 feet or less for it's longest dimension you may enter up to 2 pieces. If longer than 4 feet you may enter 1 piece. The work must be ready to hang; wires, hooks, etc... If you have a large work or work with special needs it would be helpful to talk with us ahead of time. We are very flexible.

We also are looking for art show volunteers as always.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by **Christopher Taylor**, Union Square Association President

Greetings to all! I want to begin with a few big thank yous.

First of all, thank you to **Jocelyn Merisca** and the rest of the members of this year's **Cookie Tour Committee**. They are off to a great start and have already secured 25 houses for the tour this year. However, they still need your help! There is a role for all of us to play in this great event. If you would like to get involved by volunteering, opening your home, buying an advertisement, or serving on the committee, please contact Jocelyn at jocelyn_bryan@hotmail.com. For further information, check out the Union Square website.

I also want to thank **Cari Knowles** and the rest of the community members who came out to the park planting event a couple of weeks ago. It was a great success and the park looks wonderful. The park is something we all value and it takes dedicated members like Cari and her committee to maintain it.

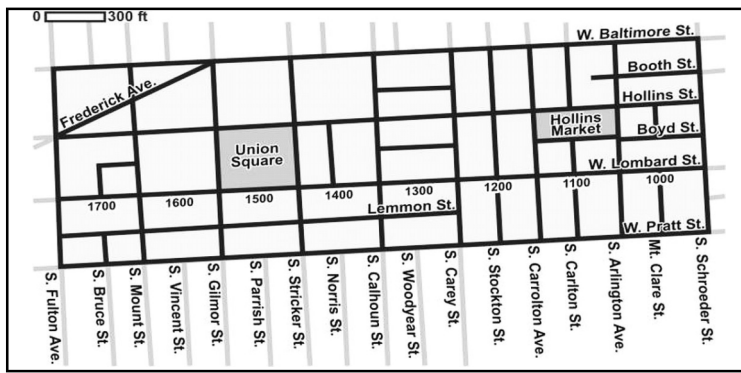
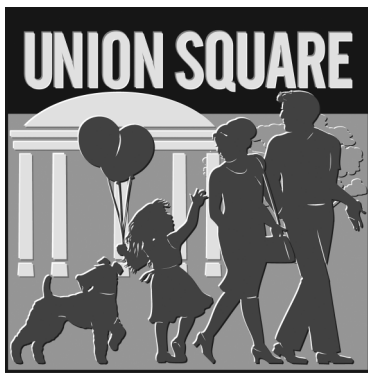
We have a packed agenda for this month's meeting. One of the items we will discuss is the recent number of burglaries that have occurred in the neighborhood. It appears to be the work of one sophisticated individual who enters most homes from the rear. Please be aware that we are working vigilantly to solve this problem. I have asked some of our brightest young community members to help me fight this problem. On October 22nd, we met with Deputy Major Bloodworth and Major Green from Western, as well as representatives from Southern to map out an action plan which clearly defines responsibilities on both sides (the police and our community) to address crime in our neighborhood.

This team, which consists of **Ben Burns, Tonya Osborne, Bridgid Burke, Jason Bass, and Andelson Merisca**, has already developed a number of long term strategies. We will present their ideas, and the results they've already gotten at this meeting. This team will continue to meet with the deputies every three weeks.

Another exciting piece of this month's agenda is the discussion of \$350,000 park funding. Representatives from the City Parks and Recreation will be at our meeting to go over plans, share ideas, and receive input from us about ways in which the money from the city will be used. Please come out and have your ideas heard. I want to thank **John McDade** and Cari Knowles for spearheading this committee.

For me, the money means more than just our ability to renovate the park. It symbolizes the rebirth of our neighborhood. The reason why we are able to accomplish this physical rebirth is because of the mental and spiritual renaissance that we are creating together. This is the second year in a row that we are approaching 100 members and it is not hard to find people to get involved anymore. There are people from all different generations, lifestyles, and races that actively participate. We have a long way to go, but everyday I am inspired by the vast majority of people who have put aside past differences and competing visions to create arguably one of the strongest community associations in the city.

Please come out and get involved in our future. I'll see you Wednesday!



VISIT UNION SQUARE ONLINE

Learn more about Union Square at the web site. *Union Square Online* is www.union-square.us

NEIGHBORS CORNER

By Christopher Taylor

The Union Square Association would like to recognize the accomplishments of one our neighbors, **Miss Larnell Custis Butler**.

Miss Butler is a former art teacher and art consultant. She was the first black female to receive a full art scholarship from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia. Presently, she is an artist, poet, and writer of editorial letters and essays.

In the Winter 2006 issue of "Passager" literary magazine, Ms. Butler's drawings are on the front and back covers. Four of her poems and four of her drawings are inside the literary magazine on pages 38 to 41. To obtain a copy of "Passager Magazine" please contact them directly at 410.837.6022.

Her editorial letters have been published in *Newsweek* magazine, *The Baltimore Sun*, the *City Paper*, the *Baltimore Afro-American* newspaper and many other national and local publications.

Also, Ms. Butler provided, at her own expense, several drawings that were used as door prizes at the Union Square Association General Meetings last year.

The board would like to congratulate Ms. Butler! You are a great asset to our neighborhood!

To submit a brief biography of accomplishments or to nominate a neighbor, email taylfour@msn.com or put it in my mail slot at 1533 W. Lombard.

We will pick one person a month who will be published and will receive a 50.00 gift card to the restaurant of their choice in Baltimore. Call with any questions 443.415.0554

UNION SQUARE REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES

\$750,000 1008 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 1/1/0	\$185,000 1201 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 0/0/0
\$479,900 1056 W BALTIMORE BR/BA½BA 0/0/0	\$172,000 1028 BOOTH BR/BA½BA 1/1/0
\$390,000 1402 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 5/2/0	\$169,900 23 S CALHOUN BR/BA½BA 4/3/0
\$379,900 1706 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 4/3/1	\$169,900 127 S SCHROEDER BR/BA½BA 4/2/0
\$379,900 1217 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 0/0/0	\$159,900 1003 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/1/0
\$365,000 1615 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 3/2/2	\$159,900 1716 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 5/2/0
\$350,000 1417 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 4/3/2	\$158,500 1110 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/1/0
\$335,000 1406 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/2/0	\$158,000 1204 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 2/1/0
\$330,000 1714 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 0/0/0	\$155,000 1004 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 4/1/0
\$329,700 1136 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/2/0	\$150,000 13 S CAREY BR/BA½BA 4/3/0
\$305,000 1712 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/3/0	\$150,000 1203 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 6/2/1
\$299,000 113 S GILMOR BR/BA½BA 3/2/0	\$149,000 1735 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 3/2/0
\$289,000 108 S STRICKER BR/BA½BA 2/2/0	\$145,900 203 S CALHOUN BR/BA½BA 2/1/1
\$284,500 117 S SCHROEDER BR/BA½BA 4/3/1	\$139,000 1609 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 4/3/0
\$279,900 1607 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/2/0	\$132,000 1220 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 2/1/0
\$275,000 1411 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 5/2/0	\$132,000 1222 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 0/0/0
\$269,000 13 S CALHOUN BR/BA½BA 3/2/0	\$129,000 1022 BOYD BR/BA½BA 3/1/0
\$260,000 1139 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/3/0	\$125,000 1300 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 5/2/2
\$259,900 120 S SCHROEDER BR/BA½BA 3/2/0	\$125,000 1723 W BALTIMORE BR/BA½BA 3/1/0
\$255,000 1018 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 4/2/0	\$119,987 1216 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 4/1/0
\$250,000 1030 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/1/0	\$114,900 1230 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 4/1/0
\$239,900 1148 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 4/2/0	\$110,000 1429 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 6/2/0
\$239,000 1138 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 3/1/0	\$103,900 1108 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 2/1/0
\$238,000 6 S GILMOR BR/BA½BA 4/2/0	\$100,000 1004 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 4/1/0
\$238,000 1225 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 4/3/0	\$99,900 1314 W BALTIMORE BR/BA½BA 3/1/0
\$225,000 1239 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 2/1/0	\$99,000 1608 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 5/1/0
\$220,000 1422 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 4/1/1	\$95,000 1515 LEMMON BR/BA½BA 1/1/0
\$214,500 1328 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 4/2/0	\$85,000 1631 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 0/0/0
\$210,000 1606 HOLLINS BR/BA½BA 5/4/1	\$85,000 1725 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 5/1/0
\$210,000 47 S ARLINGTON BR/BA½BA 4/2/0	\$74,900 1424 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 4/2/0
\$209,900 130 S SCHROEDER BR/BA½BA 3/1/0	\$59,900 1620 W BALTIMORE BR/BA½BA 3/1/0
\$200,000 31 S CAREY BR/BA½BA 4/2/0	\$59,900 1622 W BALTIMORE BR/BA½BA 4/1/0
\$199,900 20 S ARLINGTON BR/BA½BA 3/2/0	\$45,000 52 S FULTON BR/BA½BA 0/0/0
\$195,000 1107 W LOMBARD BR/BA½BA 3/3/1	\$44,950 1337 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 2/1/0
\$189,000 1226 W PRATT BR/BA½BA 2/1/1	\$25,000 1005 BOYD BR/BA½BA 2/1/0

SBCS NEWS

By Erika Brockman, Executive Dir., SBCS

Southwest Baltimore Charter School (SBCS) board meetings, are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at 26 N. Fulton Street at the Bon Secours Community Center.

Also, the USA/SBCS Yard Sale will be May 20 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the square.

CHESS CLUB SUMMER PROGRAM

By Damon Clark

The Chess Club will continue to run over the summer from 12pm-2pm every Sunday at 1401 Hollins St.

UNION SQUARE SOCIAL - A BIG SUCCESS AND A BIG THANK YOU!

The Union Square Association would like to thank **Marc Greene** and **Michael Hosley** for hosting the May social. Approximately forty neighbors came out to enjoy each other's company, eat the delicious foods prepared by Marc, and admire their lovely home. We would also like to thank Melvin Knight and Daniel Mots of Coldwell Banker for sponsoring our social. They made a generous contribution to offset the expenses of the social. Please feel free to contact them if you have any real estate needs at 410.433.7800. It is always good to support those that support us.

TRASH SCHEDULE

There will be no trash collections on Thursday, November 23 – the Thanksgiving holiday – otherwise, there will be the usual Monday and Thursday collections for the rest of the month: Mondays 6, 13, 20, and 27; and Thursdays 2, 9, 16 and 30.