



NEWS RELEASE

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JAMES MONROE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES REDESIGN OF MEMORIAL GARDEN AND CREATION OF BRAND-NEW RENTAL SPACE

The James Monroe Museum is excited to announce the renovation of its Memorial Garden!

The new garden is being designed as a beautiful and functional outdoor space. When completed, it will boast a handsome re-graded patio; a custom-designed tent structure; two specially-built mobile bar/catering units; new benches; a water fountain; and planter boxes and pots that will feature seasonal landscaping. The famous bust of President James Monroe by Margaret French Cresson will continue to preside over the renovated garden.

The goal of the garden renovation, which is targeted to be complete by the spring of 2011, has been to provide the James Monroe Museum with a space for holding its own public events. Next summer, the museum will offer a new slate of public programming, including lectures, concerts, demonstrations, teas, wine tastings and receptions.

“Over the last several years, the museum has undergone many changes and improvements that have increased our ability to educate the public about the story of James Monroe,” said Meghan C. Budinger, acting director and curator of the museum. “Renovation of our garden space is one more step in that process. We are very excited about the plans for the space, and we hope that the community will take advantage of all we will soon be able to offer.”

The garden will also be available to rent for private events. Its intimate size makes it the perfect choice for the bride and groom who want to celebrate their wedding in an elegant way that also minimizes stress and expense; the family marking a special birthday or reunion; or the group wishing to hold a reception or cocktail party.

In addition to privacy and the historic ambiance of downtown Fredericksburg, rental of the garden space will include free admission to the museum for guests on the day of the event and delivery and set-up of tent, chairs and tables. Contact Special Events Coordinator Adele Uphaus-Conner at auphaus@umw.edu or 540/654-1123 for more information about rental pricing and policies.

The James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library is the largest repository in the country of artifacts and documents related to the fifth president of the United States. The museum was first opened in 1927 by Monroe descendants as a place to house their own personal collections, which had been handed down through generations of the family. It is both a Virginia Historic Landmark and a National Historic Landmark. Administered now by the University of Mary Washington, it is open daily, except for major holidays, with an admission charge.

For directions and other information, call 540/654-1043 or visit the museum’s website at www.jamesmonroemuseum.org.