



# The Bolton Hill Bulletin

November 2014

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The next meeting of the MRIA Board is scheduled for Nov.11 at 8 p.m. in the Upper Parish Hall of Memorial Episcopal Church on the corner of Bolton and Lafayette. Enter through the Lafayette Street doors. All neighbors are invited to attend; light refreshments.

## News from MRIA

**Heather Martin** is the Central District Planner in the City Planning Dept. Please contact her with any issues related to planning.

**Welcome Eric Costello** Newly appointed City Councilman for the District 11 to replace Bill Cole, says he's looking forward to working with MRIA and the residents of Bolton Hill. [Eric.costello@baltimore-city.gov](mailto:Eric.costello@baltimore-city.gov).

**BPD report:** Most crime down in the neighborhood. Capt. Howell reminded residents not to leave a car's engine running during the "warm up" time; don't make it easy for thieves. If your car is running and you are not in it, you will be ticketed. He reported that police officers may not text or talk on cell phones while driving. Are people being ticketed for texting while driving? Police are very active. You'll get a warning, and then you'll get ticketed. Same with talking on the phone. Don't do it.

**Broadband Campaign seeking support** Phil Spevack: Broadband is a term used to designate internet speed above 10 Mbps. At this time only Comcast provides broadband at about 25 Mbps. Fastest speed on DSL is about 3 Mbps. According to Phil, Baltimore City residents pay about \$1,000/yr. more than other places with broadband as we have only one provider, Comcast. The internet plays an important role in job creation and it's really important to grow the economy. When cities try to attract high tech jobs, companies weigh infrastructure heavily. At this time only 20-30 percent of Baltimore residents have an internet connection. The Broadband Coalition is a citywide campaign. The barrier for outside investors has been economic, and we want to get local citizens and organizations to back the campaign to increase broadband. Research indicates that the tipping point for outside investment requires 20 percent of homeowners, and 5 percent of renters to support broadband investment. The Campaign has set a goal for all 69 zones in the city. The philosophy of the Campaign is to start where market demand is greatest, so it is focussing on a few zones. You can join the Campaign for \$10. Currently, the city owns the infrastructure and conduits; over 3.9 million feet of conduit exists. Since the city has a "one dig" policy to install conduit every time a street is torn up, the campaign wants to be ready once a provider is identified. The campaign is working to potentially put out an RFI or RFP to get providers in line. Verizon has said they aren't putting fiber in Baltimore. The city owns the conduit. We need a provider. For more information and to donate to the campaign, see **crowd-**

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## Worship

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### Brown Memorial

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410-523-1542 [info@browndowntown.org](mailto:info@browndowntown.org)

### Memorial Episcopal Church

Bolton St. at Lafayette Ave.  
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[fiber.com/campaigns/baltimore-broadband-coalition](http://fiber.com/campaigns/baltimore-broadband-coalition). The MRIA Board voted to support the Broadband Campaign.

**State Center Update** After winning the legal case in March, the State Center redevelopment team has been working to get the project underway. Perceived delay because of many changes in personnel in the State agencies involved as the public partners in the project; the private partners are mostly the same from four years ago and are ready to move. Phase I is the development of the small triangular lot at the intersection of Preston and Howard that will include ground floor retail and offices for MTA and for State Dept of Planning on the upper floors. The large parking lot at the corner of MLK and Eutaw (Lot G) will be in the first phase and will include multiple buildings. The largest, a high-rise, will be the offices for the State Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene and will face Eutaw at the corner of Eutaw & Preston. Other state offices will remain in the newly builtspace. There will also be ground floor retail and a multi-level underground garage for about 600 cars compared to the 225 currently available. There will be some residential facing Madison. A smaller building will front on MLK; Midtown Academy and the developer are in serious talks to have the Academy move there. The building being discussed for Midtown Academy was originally designated for a new grocery, but grocers were not interested in the size or its location. However, several grocers are excited about having a grocery in the Armory, so all grocery attention is now focused there. Since the grocery is wanted earlier, redevelopment of the Armory will occur sooner if a grocer commits to the space. When the State agencies confirm the program and space needed by them, the developers can finalize financing. The goal is to have a shovel in the ground for the underground parking garage in March 2015. Besides financing, a temporary parking plan must be approved by then. About 200 cars must to be moved from the MLK/Eutaw lot. The plan will be shared with the surrounding communities for input and possible changes prior to its approval. The plan, not yet done, will include such strategies as using angle parking on Eutaw, Dolphin, and 29th St/Division; preserving the residential parking areas in Bolton Hill and Seton Hill; and creating some such protection for McCulloh Homes. The temporary parking plan must provide for not only the State employees but also the construction employees. A set of principles is available now -- contact John Kyle for a copy -- but no plan is yet available. It will be shared widely when it is. The State Center Neighborhood Alliance (SCNA) is an alliance of nearby community organizations and institutions. It continues to monitor the developer's planning. John Kyle is the MRIA representative and Beth Benner is the MRIA alternate. John currently serves as President of the Alliance. For further info, contact John at [kyleje@gmail.com](mailto:kyleje@gmail.com). Volunteers are also welcome to serve on committees such as traffic/transportation, retail, overall design, and jobs/employment.

John Kyle

**Midtown Community Benefits District** offices moving Michelle Wirzberger announced big news, Midtown is moving to 815 N. Howard St. The property needs extensive renovation that will take until 8/15. The current property at 1221 N. Calvert has been sold by UB, so Midtown is relocating temporarily to 1007 Cathedral St. (provided by UB). They expect to be there by 10/31. The move may affect services, and we

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are trying very hard to not impact you in any way, but it may take a day or two. There will be two moves: One move to storage, and another for daily operations and equipment. The temporary space is already configured as an office with lots of furniture. A neighbor asked about leaf collection. Michelle responded that it was an all-hands-on-deck operation. Litter vacs start collection with "no parking" signs posted on the streets. It's a rolling leaf removal service throughout the neighborhood. Another question: Street leaves versus sidewalk leaves? Michelle said she'd clarify. Midtown has 7-day-a-week service with weekend flex teams. MRIA will send a notice out on BHEN with clarity on schedule and process.

## School News

**The Midtown Academy**, our local charter school, will be hosting a curated art exhibit and auction on Friday, December 5 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. in the Fox Building at MICA. The event will feature the works of more than 30 prominent local and national artists, alongside those of Midtown students. For more information, visit the Midtown site at [baltimorecityschools.org/321](http://baltimorecityschools.org/321), or contact Margaret Carruthers at [mwcaruthers@yahoo.com](mailto:mwcaruthers@yahoo.com) or 443-255-6983.

**Mt. Royal Elementary Middle School** held its inaugural outdoor community movie night on October 6. Students, parents, neighbors and dogs enjoyed a beautiful evening of hot dogs, snacks and "Frozen." Look for an encore in the spring.

**MREM** is the site for Baltimore City Schools' new "Gifted and Talented" pilot program in grades K-5, as well the "Ingenuity" and STEM programs in Middle School.

## Upcoming Events

**Dance Happens** Saturday, December 6 at Booker T. Washington Middle School.

Winter performance Bolton Hill's children's dance company, Keep an eye on the BH Bulletin Board for more details.

**Bolton Hill Garden Club Greens Sale**, Sat. December 6, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church 1316 Park Avenue (enter on Lafayette Street)

The Greens Sale will showcase a variety of greens available for the holiday season. Cedar laurel and pine roping will be available, along with a variety of wreaths and holiday crafts. Go to our website for more information or pre order: [boltonhillgardenclub.org](http://boltonhillgardenclub.org). All profits from the Holiday Greens Sale benefit the Garden Club's greening efforts in Bolton Hill. Save the Date!

**Eutaw Place Live Entertainment** by Ari Hest w/Shelby Blondell at Eutaw Place Sat. Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. Beth Am Synagogue Lower Level \$ Singer/Songwriter Ari Hest will headline at Eutaw Place on Saturday night November 1, 2014. Local songstress Shelby Blondell opens. Doors open at 7:30 pm; show starts at 8:00. All ages welcome. Tickets are \$20 online and \$25 at the door.

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