



# The Bolton Hill Bulletin

February 2014

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Published by the Mount Royal Improvement Association

The next meeting of the MRIA Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, February 4, at 8 p.m. in the Upper Parish Hall of Memorial Episcopal Church on the corner of Bolton and Lafayette. Enter through the red doors on Lafayette St. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend to meet the officers of the MRIA, hear a report about neighborhood safety and crime statistics from the Baltimore Police, meet new neighbors, hear what's going on in the neighborhood. Snacks and beverages, too.

## News from MRIA

### Nominations for board positions requested

Hey neighbors! We're looking for a few good members to serve as Mount Royal Improvement Association board members and officers for the year beginning in June 2014! We have a variety of positions open, ranging from one-year terms to three-year terms. We elect 10 board members, each for a 3-year term. All officer positions are for a one-year term. The officers are president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, secretary, treasurer, and general counsel. The Board meets each month, except July and August, on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m. The slate will be announced at the regular MRIA board meeting in April and will be voted on by the MRIA membership at the annual meeting in May. It's your chance to help make Bolton Hill safer, cleaner, and greener! Contact John Kyle at [pres@boltonhill.org](mailto:pres@boltonhill.org) or 410-523-4069 if you're interested in serving your neighbors or know someone who is.

### Report from the Baltimore City Police Department

Major Marcus, Central District commander, apologized for not having police representation at last month's meeting. Major Marcus wanted us to know that the Central District was down 37 officers from last year at this time (early January), a 50% increase in vacancies, or an entire shift of officer coverage. Major Marcus has put staff not in traditional street roles into pa-

rol cars to cover vacancies to cover the district. But, good news! Thirteen new officers started in the Central District this week!! And in addition the Central District has new resources from Midtown Benefits District. Encouraging, says Major Marcus.

#### BOLTON HILL CRIME STAT COMPARISON 2012 - 2013

	2012	2013	% Change
Violent Crime	37	32	-13.5%
Property Crime	220	235	6.8%
Total Crime	257	267	3.9%

Crime Stats – Overall crime in Bolton Hill went up by nearly 4% in 2013, compared to 2012, due largely to increases in larceny (16.9%) and auto thefts (23.1%). Violent crimes, aggravated assault and robbery, were down by 13.5%.

Major Marcus reported that the robberies that occurred in mid to late December took place in off hours, such as very early morning. The 12/18 robbery was in the 200 block of Lafayette and involved a 12-year-old suspect with a gun. A juvenile with a BB gun matching this description was apprehended and BPD is hoping to make a match. The three other robberies are still open investigations (as of Jan. 7). Maj. Marcus and Capt. Howe urged neighbors to call police if something looks suspicious and report it. Call 911, and then call Major Marcus directly at 410-404-9111 or Captain Howe directly at 443-845-7685 so they are aware of the incident as soon as possible.

You can help: to help officers responding to reports, put your house number on the front and the back of your

## Classified Ads

**Injured bird?** If you find an injured bird or mammal, you can get expert help from this licensed wildlife rehabilitator: Kathy Woods at 410-628-9736

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**Karen's Bookkeeping Service** Are you a small business owner who needs help with your Accounting or Office work? Call Karen at 443-743-0832

**Body pains, out of shape?** Pilates apparatus (reformer, tower), mat, Yoga and Personal training classes in Bolton Hill. Fully certified teacher. Individual and small groups. Contact: Monica Batkis-Odonnell at (518)852-0719, [monicayogapilates@gmail.com](mailto:monicayogapilates@gmail.com) [www.monicayogapilates.com](http://www.monicayogapilates.com)

**Windowmaster** 10% discount historic approved insulated glass windows. 410 867 1199 or [www.windowmasteruniversal.com](http://www.windowmasteruniversal.com) exp. 9/30

## Worship

### Beth Am Synagogue

Located in Historic Reservoir Hill  
2501 Eutaw Place  
410-523-2446 [www.bethambaltimore.org](http://www.bethambaltimore.org)  
Daniel Cotzin Burg, Rabbi

### Brown Memorial

Park Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Park and Lafayette Avenues  
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum and Church School; 11:00 a.m. Worship  
410-523-1542 [info@browndowntown.org](mailto:info@browndowntown.org)

### Memorial Episcopal Church

Bolton St. at Lafayette Ave.  
Sundays 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.  
410-669-0220 [www.memorialepisopal.org](http://www.memorialepisopal.org)

property, so that when you tell where an incident is occurring, the officers can find the place. In Bolton Hill the alleyways and configuration of the houses make it difficult for officers to identify properties from the back sometimes, so mark the back of your property, too.

### MRIA Safety Committee

Jill Kingery, co-chair with Barbie Klik, recognized and applauded the prompt responses she has received from police officers **including the Major and Captain** regarding the four recent robberies. The Safety Committee has identified twelve areas to focus on and have volunteers to head four of them. The committee still needs eight volunteers for positions with varying time commitments, most not so much. If you are interested in learning more about the tasks for block captains, court watch volunteers, MICA security liaison, liaison to State's Attorney office, liaison with religious institutions and community groups, contact Jill or Barbie. There is still plenty of time to volunteer!! Send an email to **crimereport@boltonhill.org** to volunteer or for more information.

Midtown Benefits District employs off-duty BPD officers on Segways to ride through the district a few evenings per week. If you want to volunteer to Ride Along, contact Paul Sheppard for training and volunteering. **Majorp-sheppard@aol.com.**

### Historic Tax Credit extended

The Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee voted to send a favorable report--to extend the application deadline for the City's Historic Tax Credit for two years--to the full City Council. It is because of the hard work of so many that this program continues to be a successful tool in the revitalization of Baltimore's historic neighborhoods and landmarks.

**Fire House Request:** The local firehouse is seeking funds to upgrade their exercise room and equipment. Monty Howard volunteered to meet with them to determine the scope and

specifics of their request.

## School News

### Mount Royal School:

MRS will be a CSA pick up for One Straw Farm next year!! If we get 10 signups, they will donate an 11th CSA to the school Food Bank. To sign up, contact the school.

### Midtown Academy

As part of Midtown's middle school program, students participate in electives at the end of the school day. One current elective is "Cook, Create, and Advocate," where students learn about healthy food choices, develop and cook recipes that students in the school can sample and evaluate, and collect data around students' food preferences. Another current elective is "Music Workshop: Guitar Edition," where students learn the basic skills and techniques for playing the guitar. The middle school students really enjoy their elective time at the end of the school day.

The Midtown Academy will host its annual Winter Open House on Friday, February 7 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Potential new students and their families are welcome to tour the school and meet with Midtown teachers and students during that time. Any questions about the open house can be directed to Rhonda Jones at 410-225-3257.

Jen Kassel

### Bolton Hill Nursery

Still finishing up all the details for moving in by middle of February, but eager to move in.

### Ernest Imhoff celebrates Druid Hill Park in new website

Throughout virtually every season of the past 50 years, I have explored Druid Hill Park on foot, often with camera in hand. It is a fascinating place, a jewel in Baltimore. Now I'm showing in images and words on a website what I have found and appreciated since 1963. This new book on the Web is an old dream come true. A skilled internet craftsman and friend, Stephanie Sawchenko,

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helped me create "My Droodle: Beauty and Mystery in Druid Hill Park." Our collaboration is shown at [mydroodle.wordpress.com](http://mydroodle.wordpress.com). This site is interactive; some pictures change by clicking, others automatically. Feel free to send comments by email. The foreword explains my purpose: not to make money but to show the wonders and some oddities of Druid. The large park is unknown to many; I hope the web site introduces people to this marvelous pleasure. We are developing a map. I hope you enjoy my images of this beautiful and mysterious place known in Baltimore as Droodle, short for Druid Hill. Ernest Imhoff

## Upcoming Events

### Music venue in neighborhood: Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. Eutaw Place

Eutaw Place is an intimate live music venue showcasing indie singer-songwriters and great local talent. It is located in the lower level of the historic Beth Am Synagogue in Baltimore's Reservoir Hill neighborhood, Eutaw Place brings to Baltimore musicians at an affordable ticket price in a comfortable atmosphere. **Guy Davis** is a singer, songwriter, and actor whose latest album, "Legacy" was picked as one of the Best CDs of the Year by National Public Radio (NPR), and the lead track on it, "Uncle Tom's Dead" was chosen as one of the Best Songs

of the Year. The Eutaw Place website has all the pertinent details: [eutaw-place.org](http://eutaw-place.org)

### The Tiffany Series Brown Memorial, February 9 at 3 p.m.

Warm up with music from the islands as the Catonsville Steel Drum Band plays calypsos, socas, and jazz. Organist Michael Britt will join them on classical works.

### Appealing Your Property Tax Assessment Monday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m., Memorial Episcopal Church Upper Parish Hall. (Lafayette Avenue).

All Bolton Hill residents and neighbors are invited to attend this public meeting sponsored by MRIA. Paul Fenn, attorney and resident of Otterbein, has experience with appealing property tax reassessments and shared his expertise with MRIA in 2008 and 2011. His program proved helpful, so the Board has invited him back since most Bolton Hill residents have received their 3-year property tax reassessment notices and are considering an appeal. **Pertenant** subjects will be covered in depth and there will be a question and answer period. The Maryland Dept of Assessments & Taxation website, [dot.state.md.us](http://dot.state.md.us), includes appeal forms and links to helpful pages.



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