



The Bolton Hill Bulletin

August 2014

Vol. XLIV Nº8

Published by the Mount Royal Improvement Association

The next meeting of the MRIA Board will be on Tuesday, September 2 at 8 p.m. in the Upper Parish Hall of Memorial Church, corner of Bolton and Lanvale. Enter from Lanvale. All neighbors are invited and encouraged to attend. Refreshments.

News from MRIA

Crab Feast volunteers are needed! A few good people are needed to assist with the feast. It won't take long and time commitments can be flexible.

- 4-6 people to arrive early and help set up tables, 4-5 p.m.
- 4-5 people to assist during the feast 5:00-7:30
- 3-4 people to grill (hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers) during the feast, 4:30--7:30
- 5-8 people to assist with cleanup, 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Please call Jill Kingery at 443-621-4300 (mobile) or e-mail jillkingery@gmail.com if you are able to help. More information on how to place your crab order will be available, posted throughout the neighborhood and on BHEN, closer to the date. Thanks for your help!

News about Strawbridge Church As reported last month, Greg Kamenetz was the winning bidder on the Strawbridge Church located at Park and Wilson. He does not settle on the property until August but says that once he has title, he will work with MRIA to seek community input as to its highest and best use.

North Avenue Streetscape Visioning Update Community review meeting Thursday, Sept. 4 7-9 p.m.

After receiving input from neighbors around the western corridor of North Avenue, the North Avenue

streetscape visioning project is well underway. Professional volunteers affiliated with the Neighborhood Design Center are translating that input into visual renderings of the streetscape. While incorporating beautification ideas they are also examining traffic patterns and walkways to try to better accommodate bicyclists and improve lighting for pedestrians.

Their preliminary work will be presented for community reaction at the Community Review Meeting at the John Eager Howard Recreation Center in Reservoir Hill on Thursday, September 4, 7 to 9 p.m. Eventually, the drawings will be used by the Baltimore City Department of Transportation when it is time to refresh the North Avenue streetscape.

Upcoming Events

Crab Feast Wednesday, August 27, 5-8 p.m.

MRIA's annual Crab Feast to honor the Baltimore Police and Fire personnel, MICA Security, and Midtown personnel who serve our neighborhood will be held Wednesday, August 27 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Bolton Hill Swim & Tennis Club. Our honorees and neighbors meet for a good time eating a visiting. This is the way we say thanks to the people who don't live here, but help look out for us. Volunteers are needed! (See above.)

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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Worship

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410-523-1542 info@browndowntown.org

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Jazz Saturday, August 2, 4-8 p.m. 2229 Pennsylvania Ave, Baltimore.

The Royal Theater & Community Heritage Corporation Presents The Courtyard Summer Music Series A Taste of Jazz @ The Avenue Bakery Featuring Campbell & Company Jazz "Music With A Personal Touch" FREE performances by Baltimore's most consummate musicians all summer long! Light fare and drink available for purchase throughout the afternoon. Donations will be accepted to help rebuild the The Royal Theater "One Brick @ A Time!" royaltchc.com and theavenuebakery.com

Neighborhood Interest

Trees can suffer in the summer; help them. Three reasons why street trees die young: not enough water, not enough root space, the trunk flare is covered up. Summer heat can kill young trees. The 25 new trees on North Avenue's median are doing well (Mt Royal Elementary/Middle School students were among the neighbors who helped plant them), thanks to MRIA generosity and the Midtown water truck--and amazing Mother Nature this year. How much water does a tree need? If your street tree was planted this year or last, it needs 10 gallons of water twice a week May through October. Do take pity, too, on thirsty older trees, whose shade is so valuable.

Are your tree pits at least 4x8 ft? If not, consider enlarging them. Yes, it takes effort, but your tree will thank you for it by living longer and healthier.

Weeds ugh: please pull them up. Do not use horrible weed-killing compounds because they get into the tree's roots.

Light mulching is ok, heavy mulching not. Do not put mulch against

the tree trunk! Where possible, dig out that root flare after a rain. If you cannot see the trunk flaring out at the trunk base above the soil, then bugs and viruses are happily living under the damp bark and chewing away at the base of the tree. And that's why trees break off at the ground and topple over in storms.

Sarah Lord



Bees thriving in Bolton Hill. You'd never know there are 40,000 ladies in Sarah Lord's backyard. They quietly come and go all day long; in the air they "waggle dance" directions for their hive sisters: where the pollen is and what kind and where water is. Individually they live only a few weeks but what an industrious, inspiring community they are! They don't like the color brown, but they have learned that Sarah is not a bear, so it is rare that she dons her white bee suit.

Sadly, farm chemicals are wiping out bee colonies, and suburban weed-killing lawns are a death trap. Bolton Hill, it turns out, is a great place for honey bees because we don't much use as many pesticides (I've stopped altogether) and the city's too broke to mow dandelions and clover all that often.

So the ladies buzz about their business, flower to flower, and unlike wasps and yellow jackets they have zero interest in stinging unless you pose a direct threat to the hive. Tim

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Wheeler in the Sun reported recently that Home Depot and other garden stores sell flowers that are full of pesticides that kill bees. Finding growers who specialize in neonicotinoid-free native flowers is the only polite thing to do if you love your bees. Sarah's neighbors love them too.

(Editor's note: I am a neighbor and I do love those bees, since I know many hives have collapsed. I'm always pleased to see them on the flowers in my garden.)



Bolton Hill animal-lovers take care of unowned cats.

Luz and Noelle Damron are looking after a cat colony in our area, making sure the homeless cats are fed, watered, sheltered when necessary, and most important, neutered and spayed. Luz and Carmen Pentella feed the cats, in two spots safe for the animals, in a collection of 10 bowls, which Luz takes home once a week to wash and sterilize. The Damrons also pick up glass and trash in the alley where the cats stay and put down clean bedding material. Luz says their activities with the cat colony conform to city and animal welfare ordinances--for the safety of the cats and the people who live around them. Most of the cats were abandoned when neighbors moved away.

They feed and water about nine "regulars" and some "drop-ins" of different ages, colors, and gender. The Damrons would love to have help to keep the cats safe and fed, so they are not detrimental to the neighborhood. Contact Luz Damron for more information. You can donate time to feed and/or clean bowls, or donate cash or cat food. asturiancayfelina@gmail.com

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