



The Bolton Hill Bulletin

July 2015

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News from MRIA

Summer Vacation for MRIA Board No meetings in July and August, so the next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 1 at 8 p.m. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so online at boltonhill.org/mria/m_membership.htm

Positive Change Task Force *In response to our neighborhood's desire to make a positive difference in our city after the riots, MRIA has charged a small task force with finding one goal that's doable within one year and achieving it. The task force will provide an interim report to the MRIA executive committee on or before August 1 and will report to the full Board on or before September 1 about the prospects and opportunities for long-term change. As head of this task force, Andrew Parlock writes,* "In the aftermath following the late April protests and unrest in Baltimore, many of us were left asking, 'What can we do to help? To make a change?' I personally was left with the question, 'What can I do tomorrow that can make a real change for the better in Baltimore?' To that end, a group of neighbors have organized a small task force to see what we can do to affect a positive change, not just in Bolton Hill, but in our surrounding communities and Baltimore. I have taken on the role of leading this group and organizing our meetings. Our charter is simple: develop a couple of good, high- impact ideas and the outlines to implement these ideas. We are not going to be a 'boil the ocean' group, but rather a short-lived, hopefully high-impact, group to organize ideas, decide on a goal, and mobilize resources. At our first meeting, we generated and discussed a slew of great ideas for real positive change, and the second meeting is set for June 25. Additional hands are always needed, and everyone is invited to get involved." Email Andrew Parlock at andrew.j.parlock@comcast.net.

State Center Update Caroline Moore from Ekistics, a development company involved with State Center, provided a history of this public-private venture. Projected to generate an additional \$6 million in tax revenue, this privately financed project has the full support of MRIA, the State Center Neighborhood Alliance, and other neighborhood groups. The project has already jumped many hurdles, most recently winning approval for leases and for PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes), but then the governorship change halted progress. Since some State funds are involved, Governor Hogan is currently reviewing the project. With the wonderful showing of community support at May's Block Party providing a positive sign to investors, perhaps

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the Governor will be favorably swayed. In addition to the previously reported interest in the Armory location by several large grocers, Midtown Academy Charter School is also reportedly interested in relocating to one of the development's buildings.

Mt. Royal Avenue Streetscape Project At June's Board Meeting, Caitlin Doolin, bicycle pedestrian coordinator at the City Department of Transportation (DOT) provided an update on the Mt. Royal Avenue streetscape project, that will resurface, recurb, and install a bicycle lane, plus provide aesthetic signaling and metered parking from Guilford to Mc-Mechen Streets. This federally-funded, state-approved project has been in the final design phase for more than a year. Construction is slated to start March 2016 with a projected 265-business day work period. When asked that MRIA receive at least 30 days' notice before work starts, Veronica McBeth, transit bureau chief at the City DOT, said the DOT will strive to give more advance notice. John Kyle asked about the streetscape project comments MRIA sent to DOT in May 2014 that have never received a response. Doolin explained that much of MRIA's input has been incorporated into final tweaks to the project before state approval. As follow up, she will send MRIA via Steve Howard the DOT's comments and responses, plus a timeline of meetings. Though the current plan does not address the cracked and disjointed sidewalks on West Mt. Royal, MRIA voiced its desire to work with the City to have this sidewalk resurfaced for pedestrian safety.

Neighborhood News

Festival Grants Awarded Using proceeds from last fall's Festival on the Hill, Bolton Hill Nursery has awarded grants to the following organizations for projects that benefit the neighborhood: Wilson-Mason Alley Gating & Greening, Corpus Christi Church, Midtown Academy, Mt. Royal Elementary/Middle School, Rutter Mill Park Association, and the Bolton Swim & Tennis Barracudas. The grants come with a big thanks to these associations for serving our community. Mark your calendars for this fall's Festival-on-the-Hill, October 10, and be ready to volunteer!

CAKE

By Nell O'Hara

I can't distract my eyes,
From the cake over there,
It was supposed to be a surprise,
But do you think I care?



It's pink, frilly icing,
Three stories tall,
I can't wait 'till the slicing,
The treat just seems to call.

Mother sees me staring,
Amusement on her face,
With the smile she is wearing,
She asks, "Would you like some

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Revamped Band Concert a Big Success On June 6, hundreds of neighbors convened in Arnold Sumpter Park for BoltonStock, this year's new version of the neighborhood's traditional summer band concert. On an absolutely perfect evening, the sweet sounds of Caleb Stine & the Gold Eagles filled the park and got both kids and adults dancing. The hard working band played continuously from 6 to 9 p.m., with only one 15-minute break, while attendees enjoyed grilled burgers and hot dogs, baked goods, beer, and wine. Under the excellent leadership of Chas Phillips and Victoria Lebron, the evening flowed easily, and many volunteers made light work of all the set-up, booth sales, and clean-up. A big thanks to everyone that helped kick off this new tradition in such a fine fashion. Now we have a whole year to plan how we can make the second annual BoltonStock even better!

Do Something

No Boundaries Coalition Meeting Tuesday, July 14, 6 p.m., St. Peter Claver Church (1526 N Fremont); regularly the second Tuesday each month, except in August.

Bolton Hill residents who would like to bridge connections with neighbors west of Eutaw Place are encouraged to join the No Boundaries Coalition (NBC) by attending the monthly meetings. Open to anyone who works or lives in Central West Baltimore, coalition members work together to plan advocacy campaigns, receive training on community organizing, participate in group discussions, and advocate for Central West Baltimore. MRIA Board members Steve Howard and David Nyweide participated in a very well-attended May 30 program organized by NBC and City Council President Young. At the meeting, elected officials and city employees reported on their discussion with Sandtown-Winchester citizens on police accountability, safe streets, jobs, and youth opportunities. Visit noboundariescoalition.com

Hymn Sing & Lemonade Wednesday, July 15, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church

Join the fun on the church steps to sing hymns requested by attendees, accompanied by a vintage reed organ. Lemonade will be served. In the event of excessive heat, hymn singing will take place in the sanctuary vestibule.

ArtScape Friday–Sunday, July 17–19, Mt. Royal & Charles between North Ave. & Preston

Artscape 2015 is going to be great! Entertainment includes George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Chris Jacobs Band, and Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue. Details here: artscape.org/plan-your-visit/Program

The main traffic modification is the closing of Mt Royal Avenue from

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Charles St. to McMechen St. from 7 a.m. Monday, 7/13 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, 7/21. Plus, Lanvale St. from Mt Royal to Rutter closes at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 16. Details here: artscape.org/plan-your-visit/Traffic-Modifications

As for Parking modifications, Festival signs will replace the standard Area #3 signage indicating that an Area #3 window sticker or visitor pass is required all weekend, just like last year.

For the best way to navigate the fun, check out the Artscape mobile app artscape.org/plan-your-visit/Get-The-App. New this year, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works will provide free water from their mobile water dispensary to those who bring their own container.

At Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church during ArtScape:

Silent Movie & Organ Accompaniment Friday, July 17, 7 p.m.

Watch the 1928 silent film classic "The Circus," starring Charlie Chaplin, accompanied on the Skinner Organ with an original score by BMPA music director Michael Britt.

Breakfast with Tiffany Saturday, July 18, 8:30 a.m. and Sunday, July 19, 11 a.m.

Take a tour of the famous Tiffany windows, led by James E. Schuman. A light breakfast will be served before the tour.

Organ Recital Saturday, July 18, Noon

Concert features organists Marvin Mills and Lizao Wang.

Choral Concert Sunday, July 19, 2 p.m.

Concert features the Schola and Luminare Choir from Archbishop Curley High School, under the direction of Michael J. Gaffney.

Baltimore Pride Parade & Block Party Saturday, July 25, Charles St. at Eager, Mt. Vernon. Parade starts at 3:30 p.m. and

Baltimore Pride Festival Sunday, July 26, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Druid Hill Park

Organized by the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, the origins of Baltimore Pride Celebration date back to 1975. In its 40 years, Baltimore Pride has grown to become Maryland's largest visibility event for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) individuals and their allies, providing an opportunity for the greater Maryland community to experience and learn more about the LGBTQ community through a week-end of wonderful events. Over the past four decades, Baltimore Pride has evolved from a small rally of a dozen activists to a full-fledged festival that welcomes 30,000 revelers annually. Visit baltimorepride.org.

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