



# The Bolton Hill Bulletin

July 2013

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The MRIA Board will not meet during July or August; the next meeting will be September 3, 2013, at 8 pm in the Upper Parish Hall of Memorial Episcopal Church, Bolton and Lanvale. All neighbors are encouraged to attend.

## News from MRIA

**The Annual Financial Report** for fiscal 2013, May 2012 through Apr. 2013, showed a positive net increase of over \$10,000. This was mostly due to a generous donation from House of Cards, the Netflix season series movie, partly made in Bolton Hill, and a reduction in Bulletin Expenses.

*Barry Blumberg, Treasurer*

**BPD Report.** Our new neighborhood BPD representative, Off. Brian J. Righter, reported that robberies and burglaries had declined in the neighborhood over the past month, and that the BPD now had three bike patrols during the day, and that he, Off. Righter, was one of those on the bikes. He noted that outdoor lights and watchful neighbors were very important to reducing crime.

**Park Ave Pharmacy and Chang's receive Board's support** The city plans to revoke the liquor licenses of small corner grocery/pharmacies who sell alcohol in areas zoned residential. Park Ave Pharmacy and Chang's fall into this category. The Board voted to send a letter asking that these two establishments keep their present licensing status as they have been good citizens to the neighborhood.

**Architectural Review Committee** Although Greg Baranoski has moved out of the neighborhood, he will continue, along with David King, as Vice Co-Chair of the committee, handling the daily work of the committee, including CHAP applications. Dan Gilbert will chair meetings, but CHAP applications should be mailed or emailed to Greg, [gbaranoski@covad.net](mailto:gbaranoski@covad.net) or David, [dkingdc@gmail.com](mailto:dkingdc@gmail.com).

**Strawbridge Methodist Church** Dan Gilbert, chair of the Architectural Review Committee, described the condition of Strawbridge Methodist Church and the plans of the Methodist Conference for it; they have already shored up the roof and want to demolish a chimney in the back of the building. To rehab the building to any sort of safety standard will be costly; some estimate \$4 million or so. Most likely the Methodist Conference will not spend

such a sum to rehab the building. The MRIA Board and the Methodist owners of the church building are concerned that the building will self-demolish, but no financial "angel" has appeared to help pay for the reconstruction. After discussion of ways to save the church and a vote to aggressively seek a financial partner to preserve the church, Pres. John Kyle approved a new task force to pursue a positive solution to the declining, deplorable condition of the Strawbridge Church. Dave King, [dkingdc@gmail.com](mailto:dkingdc@gmail.com) and Steve Howard, [stevehoward.howard@gmail.com](mailto:stevehoward.howard@gmail.com) will be co-chairs of the Task Force. If you want to serve on this Task Force, please contact John Kyle, [kyleje@gmail.com](mailto:kyleje@gmail.com). If you have \$4 million, please contact John Kyle.

## Upcoming Events

**Get ready for Artscape July 19-21** America's largest free art festival, a cosmic blast of music, dance, art, food, and street performances is nearly upon us. Street closings and

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rerouted traffic will begin about a week before the event, so be prepared. Check the Artscape website [artscape.org/visual-arts/visual-arts-detail/68](http://artscape.org/visual-arts/visual-arts-detail/68)) for a list of performers and venues, and don't forget to cross the Howard St. Bridge to N. Charles Street for "No Passport Required" a celebration of unique cultural differences. Road closings begin about a week ahead of the event; check the Baltimore Sun for those closings and a map of the Artscape space.

## Crab feast set for August 28

Mark your calendars for the annual BH crab feast to honor and thank the people who help keep us safe: police, firefighters, EMTs, and other safety personnel. More to come on this great event.



### **Soccer in Sumpter Park--Wednesdays 6 pm**

All ages welcome, all skill levels. Jeff Dugan, a neighborhood resident, brings soccer equipment to Sumpter Park each Wednesday evening and invites us all to join him for fun and physical activity. The purpose of this pick-up game is to have a fun evening with neighbors and to provide a way for families to have fun together. Games will be structured so that everyone can participate. It's for fun!

## **Neighborhood News**

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**A shout out for trees** What a job trees do for us—naturally. Trees filter particulate matter from vehicular traffic and buffer noise. They reduce incidence of childhood asthma. Shopping centers with trees bring in more customers who stay longer. Trees increase the value of your house and they reduce crime. Whoa, hold on—trees reduce crime? Yes, indeed, across comparable neighborhoods, studies have proven this continuously over the last 60 years. If you live where there are no trees, you are surviving in a “heat island” and you close your doors fast. If you live where there are shady trees to play under, you and your children and your neighbors are outside much longer—calmer, happier, getting to know each other, eyes on the street—becoming a community. Plant trees in barren neighborhoods high in crime and statistics show you are fighting crime remarkably effectively. Naturally.

**Neighbors “prettify” Triangle Park** A group of neighbors, spearheaded by Debbie Healy, have joined to enhance Lanvale Triangle Park. With generous donations from neighbors, they have replanted and put in a low iron fence. Recently, they have ordered two four-foot black metal contoured benches with mahogany slats. These are expected to be installed in late July. Our green spaces are notable here in BH, so thank you to these neighbors for taking care of this one.

**Festival on the Hill** accepting grant applications. Every year, Festival on the Hill proceeds are given back to the community through a grants process. The grants are reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from the Bolton Hill Community and Memorial Episcopal Church. Grant applications must be received no later than July 15, 2013 to be considered. Applications are being submitted through this electronic format. Questions about this process can be sent to [festival@memorialepiscopal.org](mailto:festival@memorialepiscopal.org).

**BPD introduces an online reporting** system for non-violent crime. Baltimore City Police have launched a new citizen online police reporting system: [baltimore-police.org/our-services/file-a-police-report-online](http://baltimore-police.org/our-services/file-a-police-report-online). The system allows Baltimore crime victims to file reports online for non-violent incidents such as car break-ins, vandalism and illegal dumping. Reports can be filed on various devices including a computer, tablet or smartphone. All the user has to do is go to the city police website, and click the reporting link and follow instructions, or click the link in yellow above and follow instructions. The actual filing link is located near the bottom of the page. Each report is assigned an incident number, and the user gets a PDF file of their report that can also be used to report loss for insurance.

## **School News**

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**Midtown Academy, Jen Kassel** Congratulations to The Midtown Academy's eleventh graduating class! Our graduates will be attending Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, St. Elizabeth School, Baltimore City College, Baltimore School for the Arts, Digital Harbor High School, Institute of Notre Dame, Baltimore Design School, Maryland Academy of Technology and Health Sciences, and Mount Saint Joseph's High School in the fall. Congratulations to two Midtown teachers too! Whitney Ward Birenbaum was a finalist for Teacher Of The Year in Baltimore City and Megan Saunders was a finalist for Early Career Teacher Of The Year.

**Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School, Monty Howard** The Eagles are off for the summer on June 12, but there are summer programs at the school and the Y, where neighbors can be involved and make a difference in these kids lives! It's best to call 410-396-0779 to meet Principal Evon Hewitt or Asst. Principal Karen Walker. 410-396-0779

The Bolton Hill Bulletin  
is published for members  
by the Mount Royal Improvement Society.

Judith McFadden, editor  
Joan Garlow, advertising  
Brande Neese, layout & design  
Barbara C. White, circulation

## Classified Ads

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