



The Bolton Hill Bulletin

May 2014

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Published by the Mount Royal Improvement Association

The annual meeting of the Mount Royal Improvement Association will be on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Episcopal Church, corner of Bolton and Lafayette. Enter through the double doors on Lafayette and take the stairs to the Upper Parish Hall. All neighbors are invited and encouraged to attend to elect Directors and Officers (see below). All members of MRIA are eligible to vote. Fred Lazarus will be our guest speaker. Note the time for this meeting--one hour earlier than usual, at 7 p.m., to allow time for socializing and refreshments.

News from MRIA

The Nominating Committee Slate for Officers and Board Members 2014-15 Nominees: President, Steve Howard; 1st vice president, Kendra Rice Parlock; 2nd vice president, Elizabeth Kennedy; Secretary, Linda Rittelmann; Treasurer, Barry Blumberg; General Counsel, Richard Rosenthal.

Nominees for Board of Directors, Class of 2017: Robert Ford, 1603 Park; Lisa Scott, 143 W. Lanvale; David Nyweide, 1833 Bolton; Kathleen Cahill, 224 W. Lanvale; Lorrie Caudle, 1304 Linden Green; Nirina Randrianarivelo, 1309 John St.; Michael Marcus, 214 Lanvale; Christopher Lyon, 1309 Bolton; Sandra Hinz, 1427 Park; Charles Phillips, 1739 Eutaw.

To fill a vacancy in the class of 2015: Greg Baranoski, 12 E. Mt. Vernon Place.

To fill vacancies in the class of 2016: Jack McFadden, 1423 Park; Victoria Lebron, 1729 Park Ave, #2.

Lazarus to be special guest speaker Fred Lazarus, the retiring president of MICA, will be guest speaker for the 2014 Annual Meeting. Lazarus has been a significant part of our neighborhood for 36 years as he oversaw the growth of MICA, as well as a significant part of the art scene in Baltimore. We owe him a debt of gratitude for the present state of BH.

Police Report: Captain Howe reported that Type 1 crimes had decreased, from 61 to 32, but that we've had an increase in property crime. Bolton Hill and the surrounding area have benefitted from an increased presence of officers on foot, on Segways, and in cars. But residents should be alert, now that warm weather is returning, for suspicious activities (people looking into cars, shaking doorknobs, looking into back spaces) and notify the BPD. If something looks suspicious, call the police and report it, either 911 or Capt. Howe 443-845-7685 or Major Marcus, 410-404-9111.

State Center project cleared to move forward In a massive victory for the State Center redevelopment project, Maryland's highest court unanimously rejected a lawsuit that had delayed the project for several years. The Court's decision removed the project's most obvious obstacle, and the lead developer, Caroline Moore, has publicly stated her desire to move forward quickly. The State Center redevelopment project (statecenter.org) is a proposed public-private partnership, originally conceived in 2004, that would revitalize the decades-old state office complex immediately southeast of Bolton Hill, bounded roughly by MLK Blvd., Howard St., Madison Ave. and Hoffman St. The Court noted that the complex "consists of five Soviet-block style buildings [and] it is agreed widely that these buildings

Classified Ads

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are long past their useful lives." State Center's location is ideal for building a modern transit-oriented community. State Center sits atop a Metro station, is adjacent to a light rail stop, and is within a short walk of Penn Station's MARC hub. It is also situated next to Mount Vernon cultural attractions like the Lyric and Myerhoff and neighborhoods like Bolton Hill. The redevelopment proposal envisions a mix of state offices, sustainable residences, street-level retail, and restaurants to create a vibrant community in which to live, work, and play. MRIA President John Kyle is hopeful that the project resumes quickly and noted that "a vibrant, 24/7 State Center community will provide significant benefits to Bolton Hill residents."

Stoop Sitting for fun and Scime deterrence Judith McFadden is suggesting an activity for both enjoyment and crime deterrence: Organized Stoop Sitting. Here's the plan: sit outside between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.--or choose another time--and invite your neighbors to do the same. Get to know each other and alert others that we are present on our streets. Sit on Monday evenings if your address is in the 1400s of any street; Tuesdays if your address is in the 1500s; Wednesday for the 1600s; Thursday for the 1200 and 1300s; Friday for 100s; Saturday for 200s; Sunday for 300s. If your address doesn't appear here, pick an evening and invite your neighbors out. Judith says that her block on Park Ave. stoop sits for fun on nice nights. "It's a great way to meet the neighborhood dogs and their people!. Let's begin after the Annual Meeting, May 6, or sooner, if you want.

Let's light up Bolton Hill According to our local police, bright lights are one of the best ways to discourage muggers and robbers at night. Our Bolton Hill street lamps are quite attractive but do not cast much light. Many Bolton Hill houses

have lights in the vestibules but not on the exterior facade of the buildings. This combination means that at night our streets and sidewalks are not as well lit as they might be. MRIA is encouraging homeowners to install additional light fixtures on the front facades of their houses as well as in dark areas in the rear or sides of their homes and to keep the lights on from dusk to dawn. Midtown Benefits has a lighting initiative which offers a \$100 grant for new front entry lighting fixtures and a \$50 grant for rear lighting facing the alley. To download their brochure go to midtowncommunity.org/ lit or call 410-528-1512. Lighting changes to houses in historic districts like ours should be reviewed by our neighborhood Architectural Review Committee (ARC) and by the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation (CHAP). For their requirements see the Resident Resources page at boltonhill.org and click on Architectural Review Committee.

Panhandling by youngsters Elizabeth Kennedy, responding to concerns about the safety of young people panhandling on the corner of Mt. Royal and North Ave, said she and others had met with city officials and learned that the BPD is unable to step in because of civil rights issues and Social Services can't intervene until a specific child and incident have been named. She noted that serious civil rights issues are at play here. Councilman Cole offered to reach out to the ACLU to discuss the issue. If you want to be part of this discussion, contact Elizabeth Kennedy, ekenned@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Near West North Avenue Visioning Workshop Wed., May 7, 5-9 p.m. John Eager Howard Recreation Center 2100 Brookfield Ave. in Res-ervoir Hill
For more information, contact Da-

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Tree Planting Saturday May 3, at 9 a.m., Park and North Aves

Guerrilla Gardeners on both sides of North Ave. are gathering to plant 17 American Lindens and 8 crepe myrtles, replacing the beautiful landscape effort of a dozen years ago that has fallen into ruin. To recap our successes thus far: the two gardens that Reservoir Hillers/Bolton Hillers replanted last November at Park & North are springing into prettiness. The 40 trees that survive along the median's half-mile were pruned for long-term health last month, again by Rez Hill/Bolton Hill volunteers led by TreeKeepers. You, too, can join in the success! Don't miss out! Safety vests, shovels and even some food provided. Register to help at baltimoretreetrust.org.

by Sarah Lord

Art Outside All day, Sunday, May 18 around the Druid Hill Reservoir, rain or shine lots of free parking.

Band Concert June 11
Stay tuned.

Neighborhood News

Susan Brockman, representing **Mid-Town Academy**, announced

that the Academy was looking for a new location after 17 years in the BH location. They have been working on a moving plan for a number of years and hope to be in a new site by the beginning of the 2016 school year. They have identified five sites around the area. Their Board plans to make a selection by October 1, 2014.

CSA site in neighborhood **Mt. Royal Elementary School** will be a pick-up site for a Community Supported Agriculture farm, One Straw Farm. If you join the group, with a half or whole share, you can pick up fresh farm produce once a week at the school. By joining a CSA, you support the farmer in the early days of planting and reap the rewards when the crops come in.

Neighbors in the News

Award-winning journalist and Bolton Hill resident, **David Grimm, PhD**, has just come out with his first book, *Citizen Canine: Our Evolving Relationship with Cats and Dogs*. An admiring review appeared in the New York Times on April 17. To quote the reviewer: "Mr. Grimm gives us an engaging account of how dogs and cats came to be our best friends..." David is the Online News Editor of *SCIENCE* magazine.

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