



The Bolton Hill Bulletin

July 2014

Vol. XLIV N^o7

Published by the Mount Royal Improvement Association

The MRIA Board of Directors does not meet in July or in August. The next meeting will be on September 2 at 8 p.m.

News from MRIA

New president Steve Howard opened the meeting and introduced and welcomed four members of the Prince Hall Lodge, inviting them back to future meetings.

Police report Officer Righter noted that major crime was down in the area in nearly all categories. But he cautioned that people with smart phones were being targeted, so it is best to keep your phone in your pocket while walking--no talking on the phone and walking at the same time. With the warm weather and kids out of school, Officer Righter advised that crime is likely to pick up. Use caution and be alert while walking.

North Avenue Streetscape Visioning Update Sandra Sparks, captain of one of three sections of the North Avenue project, and David Nyweide explained the scope of the project on West North Avenue extending from Charles Street to the end of North Avenue. Sandy's section is from Charles to McCullough. The Neighborhood Design Center is coordinating the visioning for the streetscape. A Near West North Avenue Visioning Workshop took place May 7, one of three workshops for area residents to provide their input about revitalizing the North Avenue streetscape. About 50 people shared their memories of North Avenue, identified connections and barriers they currently

observe, and brainstormed ideas for the future. Three of the most frequently mentioned goals for North Avenue were better pedestrian safety and accessibility; more commercial development; and greening. Residents said they wanted a North Avenue where they could do much of their shopping, a beautified place with narrower, pedestrian-friendly streets and broader, well-lit sidewalks that is more of a destination than a thoroughfare. Using the input of area residents from the workshops, neighborhood meetings, and tabling along North Avenue, professional volunteers affiliated with the Neighborhood Design Center will produce visual renderings of how the streetscape could be changed to reflect the vision of residents. Look for an announcement of a public design review opportunity at the end of August.

Memorial Apartment Renovation begins After a year of Partnership negotiations, design approvals, financing submissions and revisions to encumber more than \$20M in funding, the Memorial Apartments Corporation and Somerset Development went to closing with the blessing of HUD, and the project is moving forward! Savvy neighbors will have noticed that some construction components have already begun to gather on the site at 301 McMechen Street across from SAV-A-LOT. The building, which was erected in 1967, will receive a complete overhaul starting with new windows and

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ending with new, upgraded apartments for senior residents. "We've increased programs to assist with the transition and trips to let our residents escape the noise from time to time," said Ruth Royster, Coordinator of Resident Services for the tower under the management of Habitat for America. According to the construction manager, residents will move into vacant apartments while their area is being renovated. No one will be displaced. "We will appreciate the patience and cooperation of neighbors all around!" said Connie Lieder, board member and Park Ave. resident. Construction workers will be looking for parking in the area and have been asked to use McMechen across Eutaw Place near Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary. Likewise, construction vehicles will be coming and going. BH neighbors are encouraged to be aware and exercise caution when moving around the site.

Strawbridge Church sold Sat auction The auction took place on June 16; the building sold for \$25,000 to Greg Kamenetz, who has other property in the neighborhood and lives in Bolton Hill.

New executive director for Midtown Benefits District

Michelle Wirzberger brings years of experience in political and issue campaign management, community organizing and grassroots advocacy, from her former position as Director of Legislative Affairs for City Council President Bernard "Jack" Young, and in previous roles at the Community Law Center, and Citizens Planning and Housing Association. She says she brings "deep commitment to community empowerment and public service." Welcome, Michelle. We look forward to meeting you.

Upcoming Events

Memorial Apartments Groundbreaking July 2 11am 301McMechen

Music, food, friends, fun. Bring the family! Come on out for a bite to eat, something to drink, and enjoy some great music with your neighbors. As always, hot dogs, burgers, brats, water, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available for a small fee (cash only - small bills appreciated!). We need volunteers, so feel free to contact us at calendar@boltonhill.org if you're willing to help. We need people to set up, cook, sell items, and clean up

Artscape July 18-20

That phantasmagorical, cosmic mix of music, art, performance, and food starts on Friday evening, July 18 and energetically continues until Sunday evening, July 20. Yes, we experience road closings, more traffic, many visitors, and fewer parking spots, but the attendees have such a good time and are generally respectful of the neighborhood. So enjoy.

Band Concert July 16 5:30 pm

The band concert featuring the Dave Bach Consort, was rescheduled for July 16, beginning at 5:30. Music, food, friends, fun. Bring the family! Come on out for a bite to eat, something to drink, and some great music with your neighbors. As always, hot dogs, burgers, brats, water, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available for a small fee (cash only - small bills appreciated!). We need volunteers, so feel free to contact us at calendar@boltonhill.org if you're willing to help. We need people to set up, cook, sell items, and clean up.

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Neighborhood News

Neighbor on team looking for beginning of universe

Toby Marriage, assistant professor in the JHU Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, who has lived in the 1400 block of Park Avenue since 2010, calls himself a cosmologist, or someone who studies the universe as a whole, trying to determine, for example, its age and size. And he's attempting to answer some of those questions at JHU with a highly regarded astrophysicist, Dr. Charles Bennett and a team of students and post-docs. They are building a telescope in the Bloomberg Center for Physics, that, when completed and assembled, will be used to study the oldest light in the universe to help answer one of the fundamental questions asked by astrophysicists: How did it all begin? Specifically, the team is building a telescope that can "see," by analyzing the cosmic microwave background, the faint after glow of energy released during the first instant of the universe's existence, using a complex telescope, Cosmology Large-Angular Scale Surveyor, or CLASS. Toby, who grew up in Alaska and earned his PhD at Princeton, works closely with the students and post-docs to design, build, and qualify state-of-the-art technology for CLASS, including the optical instrumentation and a shield to protect the detectors from the Earth's magnetic field. And he insures that the moving parts are progressing in unison. The work is being done as quickly as possible to get the telescope in the field. When finished, CLASS will be tested in the Krieger School's lab, then taken apart and carefully shipped to Chile for reassembly in the Atacama Desert, very high and very dry, to make "seeing" easier. The first telescope will be shipped in pieces relatively soon. Another telescope will follow, and then another. In all, there will be a four telescope array looking back at the light from the beginning of the universe--over 13.8 billion years ago. What a thrilling project!

Editor's note: *Since astrophysics is not my area of expertise, I relied on an article by Joe Sugarman in the Johns Hopkins School of Arts and Sciences magazine for the above information and many of the words.*

Bolton Hillers serve in Ukraine as election observers

Barbara Cates and Giulio and Jill Venezian volunteered and were selected to serve as election observers of the Ukrainian early presidential elections under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The three spent a little over a week in Ukraine, first being oriented to the Ukrainian election process and trained in their duties during the election. They were then deployed to various voting sites; the three Bolton Hillers were not sent to the same site. Each observer was paired with an observer from another country, plus an interpreter and driver. The teams observed ballots being cast, being transported to district election offices for tabulation, and being tabulated. Barbara, Giulio, and Jill were part of a group of 900 election observers from OCSE participating countries; 90 of whom were from the US. According to Barbara, the days were long, but the election ran smoothly. The three observers each said the Ukrainian people were welcoming and genuinely glad to have them there. For more information about the work of the OSCE, go to their website, **OSCE.org**.

Two Farmers' Markets nearby

Whitelock Community Farm Stand is open Saturdays between 10 am and 1:00 pm on Whitelock Street and Brookfield Ave. State Center Farmers' Market, Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm at 201 Preston St, just north of the State Center building. Both markets stay open through November.

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