



The Bolton Hill Bulletin

June 2015

Vol. XLIV No 6

Published by the Mount Royal Improvement Association

MRIA June Board Meeting Tuesday, June 2, 8 p.m., Upper Parish Hall of Memorial Episcopal Church, corner of Bolton & Lafayette. Enter at Lafayette St. doors.

All neighbors are invited to attend; light refreshments. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so online at boltonhill.org/mria/m_membership.htm

President's Address *MRIA's Annual Meeting occurred 2 days after the curfew was lifted. MRJA's President, Steve Howard, offered these words to the group:*

"WHEW. What a week we have had. But, I am not here to talk about the past week. I am here to talk about the past year. And, the coming year.

Show of hands - How many people have shopped at Mondawmin in the past year? How many people have done something in Upton or Sandtown in the past year? How many people know someone who lives in Upton or Sandtown? OK.

Baltimore used to have the motto 'Greatest City in America'. We are sooooo, so close. So close we can feel it.

Yes, the taxes are too high. No doubt. But the high taxes have already driven away a lot of the whiners and obstructionists. Yes, we have an inadequate transportation system, but Bolton Hill has some of the best transportation in Baltimore, with the Metro, the Light Rail, and the MARC train within walking distance and I-83 right on our border. Yes, our schools have some real problems, but good people are working on it. And Bolton Hill has two outstanding schools, Mt Royal Elementary Middle and Midtown Academy, and Eutaw Marshburn is trending right.

We have a reasonable cost of living that you just don't see in Washington or Boston or New York. We have enviable greenspace, with Sumpter Park, Fitzgerald Park, the medians of Park Avenue and Eutaw. We have well preserved historic architecture that you just can't see in Cheyenne or Bismark or Omaha. And, because of MICA and the Maryland Film Festival and the Everyman and Single Carrot theaters who have moved and made room for new ventures, we have a creative class that you just don't see in Bel Air or Finksburg or Laurel

What we don't have is a functional criminal justice system. Because of fifty years of disinvestment and the war on drugs, we have made it too easy to arrest people who can't be convicted. And, too easy to ignore the criminals who are truly harming our community. Six Baltimore police officers have been charged. They are entitled to every due process. They are entitled to the

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Daniel Cotzin Burg, Rabbi

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410-523-1542 info@browndowntown.org

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Mt. Royal
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same due process that we expect for every defendant in the future. Not the due process that has been accorded to some in the past.

We need legislative fixes for our criminal justice system. But we are not going to wait for the General Assembly to act. We are going to show up at the No Boundaries Block Party on Saturday. We are going to meet people whose lives are different from ours.

And, I am creating a small task force, charged with finding one goal that's doable within one year and achieving it. They will report to the MRIA Board of Directors on or before September 1st about the prospects and opportunities for long-term change, with an interim report to the executive committee on or before August 1st.

Andrew Parlock is in charge. (montani1970@yahoo.com). Communicate with the task force, but don't wait for them. If you see an opportunity for positive change, act on it. If the people lead, the leaders will follow.

Bolton Hill is the greatest neighborhood in Baltimore. And, Baltimore is SO close to being the greatest city in America. Together, we will make it happen."

MRIA Awardees These neighbors were recognized for their service to our community:

John Kyle, for his admirable service in supporting retail and commercial development for the benefit of Bolton Hill residents

Doreen Rosenthal, for her many years of admirable service managing electronic communications.

Barbara White, for her many years of admirable service to the membership committee.

Jake Boone, Donato Brockman, Patrick Okolo, and Andrew Parlock, for their valiant service protecting the neighbors of Bolton Hill on the evening of Monday April 27, 2015.

Keynote Speaker Tom Wilcox, president of the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), spoke at May's MRIA annual meeting about BCF's efforts to improve city neighborhoods and education, while being mindful of race, equity and inclusion. Using charitable donations, BCF invests in Baltimore neighborhoods to make them safe, clean, green and vibrant. Their education investments create effective leaders and great teachers to boost school readiness. BCF helps individual donors carry out their charitable goals, while giving people who care about Baltimore a way to join together to make a difference in our town. You can dig deeper at bcf.org.

Neighborhood News

News Coverage Baltimore received a great deal of news coverage in recent weeks, and much of this was very disturbing. Many of us have received inquiries from friends and family about these events. Not all the news surrounding these events circulated as widely and often as the burning cars and looted stores. Specifically relating to Bolton Hill, here are some of the many other news worthy items that deserve attention.

Bolton Hill neighbors in *Esquire Magazine*: esquire.com/news-politics/a34696/baltimore-vandalism/

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Ned Pollard's article in *The Gate* from the University of Chicago (Ned and his family live in Bolton Hill; he is a sophomore at UChi): uchicagogate.com/2015/05/05/anger-in-april-baltimores-forty-seven-year-rough-ride/

Jessie Milan Jr's Op-ed in the *Baltimore Sun*: baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/bs-ed-freddie-gray-leadership-20150512-story.html

The PBS NewsHour segment, *Perception of Police Depends on Your Baltimore Zip Code*, highlighted two neighborhoods, Sandtown and Bolton Hill. Though the two neighborhoods are less than a mile apart, they experience vastly different relations with the police and different repercussions from the unrest. pbs.org/newshour/bb/perception-police-depends-baltimore-zip-code/

The ABC, CBS and the PBS NewsHour Websites featured the work of our neighborhood's Samaritan Community:

ABC - on.aol.com/video/the-samaritan-community-offers-help-to-those-struggling-in-baltimore-518808240

CBS - baltimore.cbslocal.com/2015/05/05/resident-group-working-to-bring-change-to-baltimore/

PBS - pbs.org/newshour/rundown/5-ways-to-help-baltimore/

Our Religious Community After the unrest, our community needed to come together. So, sister churches in the neighborhood held a prayer service at Brown Memorial. With the sanctuary full of people, the group offered prayers, sang hymns, and named the many people in the community who needed peace, healing and justice. At the end, the group circled the church's perimeter, holding candles to symbolize the image of God embedded in every human and remind all that a united city will rebuild Baltimore. Donated food and water items were collected during the service and delivered to the Sandtown-Winchester community.

Wells Fargo Bank Volunteers On May 6th, trucks and a dozen Wells Fargo Bank volunteers arrived at the Memorial Apartments Senior Towers, unloading toiletries and essentials for 200 people. Under the leadership of Andrew Bertamini, Maryland Regional President of the bank, and Wanda Best, the Executive Director of the Upton Planning Committee Inc., a make-shift drug store was set up in the community room to distribute items to residents, who streamed in with much appreciation. The volunteers were assisted by Memorial Apartment's Activities Director Ruth Royster and Board Member Monty Howard, along with John Kyle and David Scott on behalf of MRIA and the Bolton Hill community. Though Save-A-Lot had re-opened by this point, longtime resident Elizabeth Hawkins noted, "We really weren't sure what we were going to do without our RiteAid. So, we all thank you kindly!" And, Ms. Royster pointed out that "there has been a real outpouring of love and support from Bolton Hill and the surrounding communities. We didn't ever expect to see a bank helping us, but Wells Fargo is clearly one of our best neighbors!"

The Bolton Hill Bulletin is published for members monthly by the Mt. Royal Improvement Association

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Do Something

Boltonstock (Bolton Hill Band Concert) Saturday, June 6, 6 – 9 p.m., Arnold Sumpter Park, Wilson Street between Bolton and Eutaw

Join the fun at this year's revamped version of the neighborhood's traditional summer band concert. The musical talents of Caleb Stine & the Gold Eagles will be featured, along with delicious food, beer and wine, a bake sale, and plenty of children's activities. Plan on attending what will undoubtedly be one of the most festive and family-friendly evenings of the summer. Volunteers are needed, please contact Chas Phillips, chas.phillips@gmail.com.

Third Annual Solstice Jazz Concert Friday, June 19, 6 – 9 p.m., Rawlings Conservatory Lawn, Druid Hill Park

Summer starts to sizzle with the cool sounds of Gregory Thompkins and his local Jazz Explosion Combo, joined by award-winning saxophonist, Claire Daly. Bring chairs and blankets to enjoy this free concert on the lawn of the Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory. With both Busia's Kitchen and Everything Turkey food trucks on hand, lots of tasty refreshments will be available for sale, or bring your own. Donations welcome.

Solstice Celebration around the Lake Sunday, June 21, 8 – 11 p.m., Druid Hill Park Reservoir

The Baltimore Conservatory Association and the Friends of Druid Hill Park present a spirited celebration of summer's arrival, starting at the Green Man Sculpture and winding around Druid Lake. Wear red, gold or yellow to honor the sun, while enjoying hayrides, tarot card readings, music and more. \$5 suggested donation. For more information visit rawlingsconservatory.org or friendsofdruidhillpark.org

Orioles Tickets Thanks to Caroline Peri and the Downtown Partnership, discounted tickets to Orioles games are being offered to all supporters of Downtown Baltimore. Discounts are available for all non-prime games (e.g., not when the Yankees are in town), and for each game, you can choose from different sections at different price points, so there's something for everyone and every budget. For tickets, go to: goo.gl/yCDlo4, and learn more about the Downtown Partnership here: goo.gl/IjZhgb

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