



The Bolton Hill Bulletin

July 2012

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It is time for a summer break. The next meeting of the MRIA Board will be held on September 4 at 8 p.m. in the upper Parish Hall of Memorial Episcopal Church (enter on Lafayette Street). All residents are encouraged to attend.

News from MRIA

The Midtown Community Benefits District is a city-chartered, neighborhood-run advocacy and improvement group that provides joint security, sanitation, and promotional activities for four geographically linked neighborhoods--Bolton Hill, Madison Park, Mt. Vernon, and Charles North. Midtown was created in 1996 and must be reauthorized at least every four years by the Baltimore City Council. Midtown's current reauthorization expires on June 30, 2012.

Over the past several months, MRIA representatives have been in discussions with the Midtown Board about issues that concern the four neighborhoods. For example, some Midtown Board members proposed a 38 percent tax increase to raise revenue to, among other things, install high tech security cameras in parts of the District. While MRIA voted against this tax increase, representatives from other neighborhoods supported it. The Midtown Board ultimately voted down this substantial tax increase. Also recently, another proposal looked to limit the length of Midtown's reauthorization, usually four years, to one year to address funding distribution concerns within the neighborhoods. The Mt. Vernon-Belvedere Association (MVBA) for example, complained that the Midtown funding structure is inequitable, suggesting that MVBA residents and businesses provide a disproportionately large percentage of funding for the services they receive. However, Bolton Hill's representatives note that the Midtown Board has not conducted a recent study of the funding structure or measured the monetary value of services provided to each neighborhood.

The MRIA Board voted unanimously to oppose this proposed change in reauthorization by the City Council, preferring the certainty of a four-year authorization. MRIA President Joe Palumbo met with the other neighborhood presidents to address the MVBA concern and recognizes the urgency to find common ground on unresolved issues.

Bolton Hill Garden Club awards Green Space Grants

In order to encourage residents to beautify our neighborhood's public spaces, the BHGC awards monetary grants for planting and maintaining our streets and other public spaces. This year the BHGC awarded over \$5,381, ranging from \$160 to \$1,000 for planting of annuals in the urns and fountains on Eutaw Place and North Avenue, and 12 Skimma Japonicas in Rutter Mill Park, to replace a tree that had been removed on Lanvale, for labor costs to move 15 large maple trees in Lion Park, to install roses, azaleas, bulbs and annuals in John St. Park, to replace perennials in Sumpter Park, for gator bags,

rose bushes, and mulch in Lanvale Triangle, for ground cover to prevent weeds in Fitzgerald Park, and plants, pavers, and drought-resistant plants to make Sumpter Park more useable as a community gathering place. For a complete listing, see the boltonhillgardenclub.org website.

The funds for these grants come from four fund-raising events held each year: pansy sale, holiday greens sale, spring plant sale, and summer garden walk. Thank you, BHGC.

Bolton Hill Nursery launches \$1million capital campaign. Tom Nealis, BHN Board President, announced that after lengthy consideration about the possibility of buying the house at 204 West Lanvale, currently owned by Family Children's Services of Central Maryland, BHN has delayed the purchase due to concerns about the nursery school's long-term financial position.

But Nealis noted that they are still "passionate" about owning the building. Therefore, the BHN has launched a \$1million capital campaign, Building Our Future, to raise the money for purchase and renovation of the building. This will allow BHN much needed larger classrooms and play space and will help BHN continue to attract home buyers and families to BH.

According to Bill Wells, board vice-president, long-time BH resident and nursery school alum, "We can't risk of the BHN's financial future. It's the perfect building for us, but we have to have the financial resources first to purchase the building. We believe the money and support is there to build our future at 204 Lanvale before it goes to another buyer."

Upcoming Events

Ports of America Chesapeake Fourth of July Celebration Wednesday, July 4; spectacular fireworks start at 9:30

Visitors can come early and enjoy entertainment, including the Naval Academy Band at the Inner Harbor Amphitheater. Holiday fireworks can be viewed from several locations in downtown and beyond, including Federal Hill, Fell's Point, and Rash Field.

A chance to learn forestry The City Forestry Board will pay a portion of the fee for a high school student interested in forestry as a career to attend Natural Resources Careers Camp in cool Garrett County July 22-28.

Campers, teenagers from all over the state, will work with professionals and professional tools to learn about careers in forestry. For more information and an application, Google: Maryland Forestry Boards, Natural Resources Careers Camp.

Artscape is coming! Mark your calendars for 2012 ArtScape, July 20-22.

Food, entertainment, art, music and more will bring many visitors to Bolton Hill and Station North, and to the Cultural area around us. The line up of performers includes jazz and soul, hip-hop, reggae, hard rock, and even a brass band. Something for everybody! A cosmic blend of creativity: art, crafts, food, music, dance, theater and more. Look for more detailed information in the newspaper about performers and other art activities, including things for children. Also look for information about street closings, which usually occur several days before ArtScape opens.

And a special added attraction! July 21 at 2 and 5 p.m. at the Brown Center at MICA.

Lyric Opera Baltimore presents "The Barber of Baltimore" - a 60 minute version of Rossini's comic opera "The Barber of Seville", sung in English and

set in Baltimore in the 1950's. Natty Bo (Figaro) is playing matchmaker for Rosanna (Rosina) and Aquavelva (Almaviva). The crabby Dr. Barnacle (Dr. Bartolo) tries to throw a wrench in things, but this is Baltimore, Hon, and everything ends happily ever after!

The Ride Around the Reservoir bike program continues on Wednesdays and Thursdays through the end of August. Between 5 and 8 p.m. you may borrow a bike and ride around the reservoir. \$5 donation to borrow a bike.

It is a cool way to spend a summer evening.

Farmers' Markets Abound

Lucky us! We can buy fresh-from-the-farm fruit and vegetables nearly every day of the week at a nearby Farmers' Market. On Saturday, it's the Waverly Market (7 a.m. to noon) and the Whitelock Community Farm Market (all organic, opens at 10 a.m.); on Sunday mornings the Baltimore Famers' Market under the JFX between Holliday and Gay Streets (open at 8 a.m.); Tuesdays at the Village of Cross Keys, 5100 Falls Rd (open 10 .m. to 2 p.m.); Wednesdays at the State Center Community Farmers' Market, 201 W. Preston (open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Tuesdays at Kenilworth, (3:30 to 6:30). Some of these markets also sell meat, seafood, and chicken as well as hot sauces, fresh spices and herbs, and prepared food to take home.

Neighbors in the News

Robert Ford receives Profile in Courage Award. And this neighbor has really been in the news as Ambassador to Syria since January 2011, where he exercised his "robust diplomacy" supporting the pro-democracy opposition against the government



of Syria. He was recalled in October 2011 because of credible threats to his safety, but Ford returned to Damascus in early December. As the violence worsened, the US recalled most of the embassy staff and in February 2012, closed the American embassy and removed Ambassador Ford. He now serves his post in Washington, D.C. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum awarded Ford this prestigious honor in May. You

can watch Caroline Kennedy present it on [youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch) profiles in courage. In addition, the Baltimore Sun featured him in an article Sunday, June 3. Read it and see photos on the Baltimore Sun website.

Netflix presents \$5,000 to MRIA
To thank the neighborhood for its co-operation during the filming of House of Cards, starring Kevin Spacey, Netflix donated \$5,000 to MRIA at the June Board meeting.

And more good neighborhood good news. The Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage that visited Bolton Hill earlier this spring, donated \$16,300 to MRIA to be use exclusively at Maple Leaf Park. Barbara White, who chaired the BH portion of the event was told that Bolton Hill had not raised this much in precious Pilgrimages. So thank you to all the homeowners and churches and volunteers who helped with the tours, ticket sales, and hostessing. And thanks to all neighbors who made the 'hood sparkle on a rainy day.

Classified Ads

Injured bird? If you find an injured bird or mammal, you can get expert help from this licensed wildlife rehabilitator: Kathy Woods at 410-628-9736

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