

The Bolton Hill Bulletin

August 2012 Vol. XXXXI N

Published by the Mount Royal Improvement Association

The MRIA Board will not meet in August. The next meeting will be at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, in the Upper Parish Hall of Memorial Episcopal Church. All neighbors are encouraged to attend

News from MRIA

Community meeting focuses on crime Concerned about increased crime in the Bolton Hill area, Major Denis Smith from the Baltimore City Police Department met with about 70 neighbors on Monday, June 25, in Fitzgerald Park. City Councilman William Cole and Delegate Keiffer Mitchell were also present to hear neighbors' concerns. Major Smith told residents that the victims in the crimes were lured from outside the neighborhood by an advertisement on Craig's List for a car for sale and had taken a sum of money to purchase the car. This crime follows a trend of recent crimes in the Baltimore area where individuals answer an ad to purchase a car or other costly item and are robbed by the party placing the ad.

Baltimore Police urge individuals who use internet commerce sites to heed the following safety tips to avoid being a victim of such a crime. When meeting someone for the first time, please remember:

- To insist on a public meeting place; conduct your transactions in a well populated area--during the day. Shopping malls and busy plazas with heavy foot traffic make good public locations
- Know your vendor; ask for a name and do your homework. In Maryland criminal histories are available to the public at **caseresearch.courts.state.md.us**
- Pay with certified check or bank check made payable to the name of the seller. This helps to make sure the name of the seller is real and prevents you from carrying large amounts of cash
- Do not let persons unknown to you into your home. Be cautious. For further information, call Baltimore Police Public Affairs , 410-396-2012

News From the Hill

New dorm for MICA Needing dorm space for an increasing student enrollment, MICA will build a three-story dorm on Mica-owned property at 120 McMechen Street, in an area now used as a parking lot. The planned building will include 62 units to increase the Commons from 99 units to 161 units with 92 parking spaces. The new building will also include studio and meeting space. Dan Gilbert, Manager Space Planning & Construction Services, Operations, met with the MRIA Board last April to describe the rationale for location and need for the new living space. At that meeting, Board Members and neighbors asked for input into the design of the building, and Pres. Joe Palumbo appointed Tom Seiler, Steven Marker, Greg Baranoski, Steve Marker, and Marcia Hart to be the neighborhood representatives for this project. Ac-

cording to Gilbert, MICA will begin construction this fall and hopes to have the dorm ready for occupancy by next fall in time for the opening of the school year.

August 23, and upperclass students will arrive on Saturday, August 25. MICA will let neighbors know more about specific street closing and move-in procedures through the Bolton Hill website and other communications, focusing on those streets most affected by the traffic and parking limitations.

Elementary/Middle School Our neighborhood school, Mt. Royal Elementary/Middle School was recognized by a Baltimore Sun editorial on June 24, 2012, citing a recent independent evaluation of city schools and notes, "Both the Mt. Royal Elementary School and the Baltimore School for the Arts got positive ratings for effective teaching, and that their example strongly suggests that with the right leadership, instructional methods and support structure, all kids have potential to excel. The challenge will be to replicate these successful models in other schools so that the kind of highly effective teaching they exemplify becomes the rule rather than the exception." What a nice accolade for our neighborhood school!

And more from Mt.Royal School Parents are working with the school and the Baltimore City Public School Food Services to bring more fresh produce to kids starting this fall. The school has received funding to start a fresh fruits and vegetable snack time several times a week and is also part of a district grant to being salad bars to school. Thanks to MRIA and Bolton Hill/Mount Vernon neighbors for supporting these efforts. Community volunteers interested in helping prepare snacks, educating kids about fresh food, or just getting engaged with the school can email midtown.mountroyal@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

MRIA Annual Crab Feast August 22, 5-8 p.m. BST Club \$

Come crack crabs and celebrate the hard-working police officers, fire fighters, and other security and community personnel and their families in appreciation of all their efforts to help maintain our quality of life. Let's show these hard-working men and women that we value their contribution to the neighborhood! Hot dogs and burgers are hot off the grill but crabs must be ordered in advance. Please contact Barry Blumberg for crab orders and reservations, 410-669-0175 or at **blumbergs@earthlink.net**. Sign up sheets will also be posted on the drinks machine at the swimming pool after August 12. Contact Lee Bowers, co-chair, 410-225-7956, to help with the set up and take down, grilling, and all the other tasks that make for a successful party.

War of 1812 exhibit open at Maryland Historical Society Opened on June 10, 201 W. Monument Street in Baltimore's historic Mt. Vernon \$ During this anniversary year, two centuries removed from the War of 1812, America's Second War of Independence, the Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) is retelling a dramatic story. With five thousand square feet of displays and more than a hundred historic artifacts, the largest bicentennial exhibit in Maryland, "In Full Glory Reflected, Maryland During the War of 1812," was unveiled on June 10th. In four separate galleries filling an entire floor of the museum, visitors may explore the growth of Baltimore, built on shipbuilding and worldwide trade. Next, they can visit a tavern, the information center of the young republic. Following the drift into a war over issues of trade, the conflict with Britain moved from the

high seas to the shores of the Chesapeake. An 1814 invasion culminates with victory in Baltimore. The iconic MdHS artifact, the original Star Spangled Banner manuscript, penned by Francis Scott Key soon after the battle that immortalized Fort McHenry and its garrison flag, will be featured along with a gallery devoted to the defenders of Baltimore. Go to mdhs.org or call 410-685-3750.

The Druid Hill Farmers Market Every Wednesday from 3:30 - 7:30.

More than just a market. Visit their website for a full list of the FREE programs they offer at the market. Weekly yoga, music, plant and art workshops, kid's activities and more.....**DruidHillPark.org**. And don't forget the Ride Around the Reservoir opportunity on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Jazz in the Sculpture Garden Saturday nights, August 4,18, 26 \$

The Baltimore Museum of Art presents jazz performances every other Saturday night through August. Tickets will be limited in case of inclement weather, but might be available if the weather is clear. Call the Box Office after 4 pm on the day of the performance to see if tickets are available. August 4, hear Kevin Mahogany with the Dave Stryker Group,; August 18 listen to Tracey Curbeam, and on August 25, hear the incomparable Ethel Ennis. See **bmacert. org** for more details or call the box office 443-573-1701

Open House at Bromo Seltzer Art Tower Saturday, August 4, between 1 and 5.

View Impressive artwork from professional artists, visual art as well as performances. Visit with the artists, see their studios, view and or purchase art, entertainment. 21 S. Eutaw St.

Neighbors in the News

Remembering **Josephine de Butts** In the death of Josephine de Butts in May, Bolton Hill lost not only one of its most elegant and entertaining daughters, but a remarkable window into our past. Both her father and grandfather were rectors of Memorial Episcopal Church. Her family was living in the rectory when she was born 101 years ago, and her grandfather, who served in the Confederate Army before becoming rector at Memorial, would have been familiar with the area when Bolton Hill was developed. Josephine had elegant good looks, a refined sense of style, a superb sense of humor, and an explosive laugh. With her razor sharp wit, delight in the mischievous, and perfect manners without pomposity, she successfully negotiated the adversity of being the parson's daughter. With a soft southern accent acquired from her relatives, she could entertain and regale friends

with stories drawn from her experiences or handed down by family tradition. She was not one to let gloom or silence grip a gathering nor could she be socially intimidated, but she was empathetic and self deprecating when appropriate and agonized over her own perceived shortcomings.

Although Josephine moved to Roland Park with her husband, Dan, and three daughters many years ago, her affection for and ties to this area remained strong. Although she had friends throughout the city and Baltimore County, she retained a love and appreciation for this community where many of her closest friends resided. She was the last of a cohort of remarkable and entertaining ladies who contributed greatly to the charm of life in Bolton Hill, and it is fitting that her memorial service was held at Memorial Church.

-David Maulsby

Classified Ads

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Do you have a photograph of something interesting in the neighborhood? A drawing you or one of your children did? Would you enjoy sharing it with everyone who gets the electronic version of the Bulletin?

If so, please send it to bran@toad.net (5" x 5", JPG at 300 dpi) and we may be able to display it here next month.