

# Bolton Hill

## Community Association

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## \$12,000 raised at Samaritan Community gala

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<https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton/bulletin/12000-raised-at-samaritan-community-gala/>

The Samaritan Community's annual fundraiser, held at the historic Charles Theatre on May 21, raised more than \$12,000. At the "Movie Night" gala, guests enjoyed food from Tapas Teatro, fine wine, a movie of their choice at The Charles, and a silent auction from a wide array of Baltimore-based businesses, artists, and vendors.

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Samaritan Community, a human-services 501c(3) non-profit located in the basement of Memorial Episcopal Church, annually serves roughly 1,000 men, women, and children living in crisis here in Baltimore. Its services include a food pantry, clothing shop, case management services, computer workroom, emergency financial assistance, individual counseling, group support, life enrichment, and more.

Samaritan Community wishes to thank everyone who supported this event. If you'd like to find out more about the organization, visit them online at [www.samaritancommunity.org](http://www.samaritancommunity.org).

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## Despite rain, Boltonstock rocks

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<https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton/bulletin/despite-rain-boltonstock-rocks/>

Ursula Ricks Project plays Boltonstock 2018. Photo by Rob Helfenbein

The weather on Saturday June 2 was horrible, especially right around 5 p.m., when Boltonstock was scheduled to start. The rain poured and the wind blew.

But thanks to the generosity of [Memorial Episcopal Church](#) and a lot of last-minute work by organizers Jessica Wyatt and Chas Phillips, the show went on as an indoor festival in the church's main sanctuary. And the smaller but very enthusiastic crowd of attendees loved it.

Starting at around 3 p.m., volunteers worked feverishly to transform the church into a concert hall, setting up food and beverage stands on either side of the entrance, and a stage in front of the altar, with a kids' area to the right and community tables on the left. There was even lots of room for a dance floor, which was well used over the course of the evening.

[Classical Revolution Baltimore](#) opened the festival, giving a new twist to classical music by combining classical instruments with beatboxing and other present-day touches. The group encourages new people to get into classical music by organizing free classical music performances in unlikely venues such as bars, cafes, and parks—and at Boltonstock.

When the [Ursula Ricks Project](#) hit the stage, the party really started. Ricks captured the ears and hearts of the audience with two great sets that had everyone dancing the rain away. Many people voiced the hope that Ursula would return again next summer when Boltonstock returns outdoors in Sumpter Park.

Despite the weather, many community partners had tables setup near the stage where they explained the work they do in the 21217 area, and how others can get involved. The organizations included [Corpus Christi Parish](#), [Communities United](#), [The Garden Church](#), [Jubilee Arts' Youth in Business Program](#), [Kappa Alpha Psi- Kappa League/Guide Right Program](#), [Little Leaves at the Rawlings Conservatory](#), [No Boundaries Coalition](#), and [Wide Angle Youth Media](#).

During the last-minute rush to move everything indoors, the organizers set a goal of \$1,200 to break even and cover costs. The final tally blew past that goal, making a bit of a profit that will be set aside for producing the 2019 event.

"The 21217 community showed up," said Chas Phillips. "The fact that Boltonstock covered costs and made a little bit of money for future events is a testament to this neighborhood's generosity and spirit." Many people deserve thanks for making the day a success, including Peabody Heights for donating a keg of beer, and The Wine Source, for providing the wine at cost, with free delivery and generally great service.

Neighborhood volunteers included Mare Consugar, Rob Helfenbein, Don Palmer, Andrew Parlock, Linda Rittleman, Lisa Scott, Carol Shrewsbury, Peter Van Buren, Chris Whisted (with Little Havana), and Alisha Wolf. Many other folks also helped during the event.

A huge thank-you goes to Memorial Church for not only allowing the festival to use its space last minute, but also for helping everything run smoothly. Without this incredible generosity, Boltonstock 2018 would have been DOA. Instead, it R-O-C-K-ed!

## **Bolton Hill**

Community Association - <https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton>

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## Neighborhood fountains flowing

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<https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton/bulletin/neighborhood-fountains-flowing/>

For the first time in several years, the fountains are sparkling all across Bolton Hill. Up and down Eutaw Place and Park Avenue, and in the lush environs of the so-called “Lion Park” and John St. Park, the waters are flowing.

Bolton Hill’s fountains are some of the neighborhood’s most treasured features. But it takes a lot of conscientious oversight and cooperation between Bolton Hill neighbors, clubs and associations, and city agencies to keep them running.

Park Avenue medians are graced 8 huge cast-iron urns, replanted this year by John Kyle and Peter Satten.

### Park Avenue

The fountains in the medians of the 1600 and 1700 blocks of Park Avenue have been maintained and cared for for many years through a cooperative effort of the City and a host of committed neighbors. In the past year or so, the City has provided new motors to run the fountains and new LED lights. The Department of Recreation and Parks’ Kermit Taylor has been steadfast in his determination to support the work on these and other neighborhood fountains.

Near-daily maintenance to clean the fountain basins and maintain appropriate water levels is provided by neighbors who view the medians and the fountains as their front yards. This year, when it became clear that the fountain basins needed to be scraped and re-painted, a team of neighbors including Gary Schilling, Bill Heaps, Peter Satten, Chris Engler and John Kyle got together to power wash them to remove chipping paint and then to repaint them.

### Lion Park

Meanwhile, in the green space on the 300 block of W. Lanvale affectionately known as Lion Park, the fountains are flowing again after three years of persistent effort on the part of City agencies, the Atrium Association, City Council Member Eric Costello, and Justin Lane, Chief of Staff of City Council District 11.

The fountain lights are working again in Lion Park. Photo by Camille Mihalic.

After having to bring in outside experts for some of the refurbishment, City workers finalized the installation of new motors, new flood lights, new plumbing and new electrical systems. It’s especially wonderful to see the fountains’ flood lights, which have not been operating for at least a decade, illuminating the gently rippling waters at dusk.

Lion Park is owned by the City, managed by the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, and leased to The Atrium Association. Over the past two years, it has undergone a major refurbishment with brand new benches, new street lights, repaired and repainted street lights, refurbished gates and fences and redesigned

landscaping throughout.

## Eutaw Place

The most newly restored fountain on the Eutaw Place medians is on the 1800 block, installed several years ago with funds raised by neighbor Ellen Joyce. It's solar-powered! But it—and the surrounding grounds—still require maintenance, now undertaken by a coalition of neighbors and workers from Midtown and the Dept. of Recreation and Parks.

The same is true for the oldest fountain in the park, the Gunther fountain (called the “swan fountain” by many even though it actually features a goose on top), which dates from the nineteenth century. Parts of the structure—including the bird on top, which was originally a bird with a putti, or cherub, astride its back—were replaced in the twentieth century. The whole thing was repaired and repainted last year through the efforts of Christian Roth and the Bolton Hill Garden Club and City Council President Jack Young, and it looks beautiful this summer.

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The Francis Scott Key Monument and fountain, regilded and repaired in the 1990s through a restoration organized by neighbors Lynn and Bob Pellaton, is also historic. Unfortunately, it's one of two Eutaw Place fountains that currently is not operating.

It has been much photographed—and much maligned—since its erection in 1911.

President Bill Clinton attended the monument's reopening after it was restored. Recently, however, it was vandalized with red paint during the aftermath of the removal of Confederate monuments (Key, who wrote the national anthem, was also a slaveholder), and subsequently damaged by a well-intentioned neighbor who attempted to power wash the paint off the marble base.

The monument is currently fenced off while restoration efforts continue.

The Centennial or Children's Fountain also is not running—because it no longer exists. It used to sit on the 1600 block of Eutaw Place, in front of what is now Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary school. The fountain previously had been installed at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876 (thus its name) and was donated to Eutaw place. Sadly it fell into disrepair and was demolished.

Another fountain that calls for restoration is the fountain in **Contee-Parago Triangle Park** on the south end of the neighborhood. Built in the 1970s, the modern fountain with brick reflecting pool is surrounded by benches, a circle of mature willow oaks, and a circular brick wall.

Perhaps some civic-minded neighbor will undertake another restoration effort to add to the crown jewels of Bolton Hill—its fountains.

## News briefs

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<https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton/bulletin/news-briefs-3/>

1214 Eutaw Place. Staff photo

### Proposed development at 1214 Eutaw Place

On the west side of Eutaw Place across from Francis Scott Key Monument stands an enormous building that has been vacant since 1992. At one time, this was the site of two houses which were combined to create a boarding school, and then later converted into as a nursing home.

The building has deteriorated after more than 25 years of neglect. But developers Patrick Grace and Tim Klempa now have plans to create 23 apartments and three offices in the structure. After completing multiple projects in Washington, D.C., these developers came to Baltimore 8 years ago, and have been involved with projects in the 200 block of east Redwood Street downtown, at 805 Cathedral Street, and the old Cathedral School. They are currently involved in the 108 West Saratoga Street project.

Current zoning for the site allows unlimited office space but only 20 residential units, and the developers are seeking the support of BHCA for a zoning variance. At a special June 21 BHCA meeting held at the building site, the Board and BHCA members toured the site with Zoning Committee Chair Charlie Duff and the developers.

After a review and discussion of the developers' plans, the Board voted to support their request for a zoning variance for lot size and parking, provided that the project meets all CHAP requirements.

### Artscape 2018

[Artscape](#), America's largest free arts festival kicks off on **Friday, July 20** and runs through Sunday. As always, there will be many street closings in our area, and other traffic changes. Here's the list of [traffic modifications](#).

Parking Authority officers will be out in force and ticketing. All vehicles parked in Bolton Hill **MUST** display a valid area 3 permit or visitor's pass for the entire weekend.

Additional special event passes for your guests can be purchased by going to the Parking Authority, 200 W. Lombard Street, Suite B, between the hours of 8 am–5 pm, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Parking Authority at [rpp@bcparking.com](mailto:rpp@bcparking.com) or 443-573-2800, extensions 863, 845, or 851.

### Crab Feast

BHCA hosts an annual crab feast to show our appreciation to the people who serve our neighborhood, including members of the Baltimore Police and Fire Departments, MICA security, and Midtown Baltimore staff. Honorees and neighbors meet for an evening of good times and camaraderie.

The fun happens this year on **Tuesday, August 28**, from 5–7:30 pm at the Bolton Swim & Tennis Club. As the date gets closer, look for more information to be emailed through BHEN and posted on kiosks throughout the neighborhood



As always, **volunteers are needed** to assist with the event. It won't take much time, and your commitment can be flexible. If you'd like to help, please email [Treasurer@BoltonHillMD.org](mailto:Treasurer@BoltonHillMD.org).

## Updates

- Results from a survey assessing interest in a dog park around the neighborhood will be out in September.
- The City Zoning Board approved the zoning variance requested by the developers for Strawbridge Church on Park Avenue.
- Nan Rohrer has been named president of the Midtown Community Benefits District. They describe her as "a proven leader in community and economic development" with 20 years of experience in city management, program implementation, and consensus-building. [Read more](#).
- Look for an update on the Eutaw Flats project in September issue of the Bulletin. For now, here are some before and now photos of the construction. (Staff photos)

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## Party with a Purpose supports immigrant rights

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<https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton/bulletin/party-with-a-purpose-supports-immigrant-rights/>

*By William Hamilton*

As headlines about federal policies that resulted in children being separated from their parents along the US–Mexican border shocked the nation, some 50 Bolton Hill residents gathered on a July Sunday to support and become better informed about immigrant families living in Baltimore and the state of Maryland.

Esperanza Center staff provided information about immigrants in Maryland.

Rachel Scott and Pete Ma opened their Bolton Street home for a BHCA [Social Action Task Force](#) “Party with a Purpose” highlighting the work of Esperanza Center of Catholic Charities of Maryland and the Capital Area Immigrant Rights (CAIR) Coalition, organizations that support, educate, and provide legal services and family assistance for immigrants in the area. Several members of Esperanza Center’s Baltimore staff attended and spoke.

Postcard-making station at the Party with a Purpose supporting immigrant rights. Photo by José Fernandez.

Partygoers contributed more than \$3,000 in donations, which will be shared by the two organizations. Many participants signed letters to legislators demanding support for immigrant families and wrote post cards with messages of encouragement and solidarity to immigrant parents being held and separated from their children and to the incarcerated children. “We were thrilled with the way the event turned out and with the support from the community,” said Rachel.

According to information provided by Esperanza Center, roughly 15% of all Maryland residents—nearly one million adults and children—were born outside the US, with another 11% of US-born Marylanders related to at least one immigrant parent. The most common countries of origin for immigrants living in the state are El Salvador, India, China, Mexico, and Nigeria. According to the American Immigration Council, more than 40% of Maryland’s immigrant population in 2015 had a college degree. Some 250,000 immigrants in the state are undocumented.

Learn more about local efforts to support and advocate for Maryland immigrant families at the [Esperanza Center](#) and [CAIR Coalition](#) websites.

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## Shining new light on Maple Leaf Park

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<https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton/bulletin/shining-new-light-on-maple-leaf-park/>

Maple Leaf Park is tucked away at the north end of Bolton Hill and cherished by those who know how to find it. Residents around the park have taken special care over the years to enhance its landscaping, with help from the Midtown greening crew to sustain it.

The park's latest enhancement is the installation of four new classic Bolton Hill lamp posts in early May. They replaced old 40-foot lamp posts designed more for a parking lot than a park. The new LED lamps emanate light laterally, improving the safety of the park beneath the tree canopy and greatly improve its aesthetic appeal.

A Maple Leaf Park fund held by the Bolton Hill Community Association made possible the purchase of the lamp posts, which were installed by the City Parks and Recreation Department. To see them for yourself, look for one of the discreet entrances to the park through alleyways off Laurens Street and Bolton and Robert Streets.

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## The celebrities of John Street

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<https://dev.fatcat-studios.com/bolton/bulletin/the-celebrities-of-john-street/>

By Jean Lee Cole

In 1906, *Baltimore Sun* reporter Emily Emerson Lantz described John Street as “a modest little scrap of a street—only six short blocks in all.” Yet what erudition, artistic inspiration, and human experience lived there. In “John Street and Its Celebrities” (*Baltimore Sun*, Apr. 8, 1906), Lantz, who lived herself at 1704 John, lovingly depicted some of her illustrious neighbors.

Lantz (1862-1931) got her start at the *Baltimore News* in 1894 before she was taken on by the *Sun*, where she wrote features, art criticism, and a regular column, “Frocks and Frills,” over the course of the next three decades. Her series on Maryland counties was eventually published in book form under the title *The Spirit of Maryland* (1929).

Lantz wrote:

John street is not an imposing thoroughfare from an architectural point of view. There is not a church, nor a club, nor a public building along its length. The term “palatial residence” could not by any flight of imagination be applied to a single one of its quite group of houses, but it is none the less picturesque, pre-eminently homelike and possesses an air of refinement. There are a good many trees, suggestive of the retirement of a country town, and diversity is accorded to almost every block by the interspersion of cottage houses, with plats of green grass and little porches before their entrances.

The latchkey of one householder is not a passkey to the entire block. Visitors recognize the houses of their acquaintances by some distinction architectural feature, and are not dependent upon an elusive number, or remembering that their friend’s home is the with step from the drug store. The interiors of the residences are as diversified as their exteriors.

But it is not for any of the above mentioned reasons that John street is unique among the streets of Baltimore. There is a quaint, pretty and hospitable adage, “The ornaments of the house are the guests who adorn it,” and as with houses so with neighborhood sections— it is the people who reside there who give to a locality character and distinctive interest. Cheyne Row, London, England, will be forever associated with the lives and literary work of Thomas and Jeanie (Welsh) Carlyle, with Dante Gabriel and Christina Rossetti, with Rev. H. R. Haweis and other distinguished writers, and quiet John street bears her literary laurels with so much modesty that Baltimoreans as a rule do not appreciate the fact that within the short six squares that comprise this street have been grouped the homes of an unusually brilliant coterie of literary men and women— writers some of whom are known upon both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, while all of them have achieved distinguished reputations in the world of letters.

And who were these illustrious figures?

- Thomas Smith Gregory Dabney (1303 John St.): “One of the wealthiest pioneer planters of Mississippi, whose fortune was swept away by the Civil War,” Lantz wrote; “a man of such heroic courage, such remarkable endowments and such peculiar sanctity as to almost consecrate as holy

ground any spot which he might call home.”

- Lucy Meacham Thruston: “It is not often a writer fulfills in personality the ideals of womanhood presented to the imagination by the pen, but the authoress of 'Mistress Brent' is a very charming woman—lovable, approachable, with the freshness of April and the inspiration of October. She is in keeping with her stories. . . How often her John street neighbors have found a bunch of March violets upon their breakfast plate, or a dish of crisp cookies— proof of her Virginian housewifery skill in which she takes womanly pride— or a current magazine, with a page folded down and spicy marginal criticism annotating the article indicated. Only literary folk know the coziness of a literary neighbor.” (Thruston, it should be noted, lived at 254 Robert St., not John St. But apparently she lived close enough to count.)
- Katharine Pearson Woods (1508 John St.): Author of *Metzerott*, *Shoemaker* and other novels espousing the values of Christian Socialism. “It seems odd to imagine this gifted woman happy in the environment of primitive mountain people, yet she speaks with lighting eyes of her mission work, and one of her pleasantest relaxations, she said, is the delight of telling fairy stories to the mountain children, to whom the gates of the golden land of fairy imagining were never before unlocked.”
- Dr. Richard Henry Thomas (1718 John St.): Physician, poet, novelist, historian, orator; president of the Quaker Peace Association of America, dean of the Woman’s Medical College of Baltimore (which closed in 1910), “friend of the Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier,” and uncle of M. (Mary) Carey Thomas, founder of Bryn Mawr College. Lantz wrote, “While Baltimore was wrapped in a cloud of fire upon the appalling night of Feb. 7, 1904, Dr. Thomas is said to have preached at Light Street Mission, with a sea of flame dividing him from his home.”
- Mary F. Grace (1609 John St.): “Widely known in the United States" as a translator of works in French and Spanish.
- Kate Mason Rowland: Writer, historian, editor, and socialite, “a bird of passage that has nevertheless frequently alighted in Baltimore and for a season, at least, has called John Street home.”
- Eugene Lemoine Didier: "Well-known Maryland author," expert on Edgar Allan Poe and author of *The Life and Letters of Mme. Bonaparte* (Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte was a Baltimorean and wife of Napoleon Bonaparte III).
- Musicians including Jenny Lind Muller Green, “the talented pianist, organist and choir director,” Horace Hills, Jr., “composer and choirmaster of Mount Calvary Church,” Emily Whelan, an “orchestral director,” and organist Gertrude Woods.
- Artists, notably women artists, including M. Louisa Steuart (1611 John St.) and Ruth Johnston, “daughter of the noted writer, Richard Malcolm Johnston.” Both taught at MICA.

Lantz went on to name a variety of university professors and prominent members of the legal profession. It was, needless to say, an expansive compendium, running some four thousand words.

Who knew John St. could nurture so much human greatness? Nevertheless, at least one neighbor apparently felt left out. A few days after Lantz’s column was published, a letter to the Sun came from “An Unknown Author” who averred that “I, even I, with my family, live on John Street . . . It was really unkind in Miss Lantz to leave out the rest of us, as we are all celebrities in our own estimation, and as John Street is only ‘six blocks long,’ it would not have taken up much more of your valuable space for her to have mentioned all of us.”

*Long Ago and Right Here features Bolton Hill news from the past, gleaned from the archives of the*

*Baltimore Sun and other publications. We welcome submissions at [editor@dev.fatcat-studios.com](mailto:editor@dev.fatcat-studios.com).*

*Jean Lee Cole is a professor of English at Loyola University Maryland and co-editor of the Bolton Hill Bulletin.*

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