

# Bolton Hill

## Community Association

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## **BHCA votes to support row house preservation**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-votes-to-support-row-house-preservation/>



The BHCA board of directors voted at its March meeting in favor of a resolution that clarifies the reasons behind Bolton Hill's longstanding position against having more row houses in the neighborhood converted into multi-unit properties. The BHCA executive committee wrote the resolution, which was shared with the community for comment in advance of the board meeting.

The resolution supports a policy that would ban conversions of single-family row houses to multi-unit properties of three or more units. That proposal began as a multi-neighborhood response to a bill (#20-0561) introduced last summer in the city council that would make it easier to allow row house conversions in the Baltimore City zoning code.

In addition to Bolton Hill, the boards of community associations in Greenmount West, Madison Park, Marble Hill, and Mount Vernon have voted to support the same proposal. The vote by the BHCA board was not unanimous;. Those who did not vote in favor believed it should have narrowly focused on specific legislation or believed that the issue was not as important as others to the interests of Bolton Hill.

In the current Baltimore City zoning code, it is relatively difficult to add dwelling units to a property. Last year's city council bill as well as one introduced in January (#21-0009) would make it easier to convert row houses into multi-unit properties and allow even smaller efficiency units. In contrast, the proposal formulated last summer would solidify the difficulty in adding dwelling units to a row house, rather than undercutting it.

According to the 2019 American Community Survey based on the U.S. Census, approximately a third of Bolton Hill's housing units are owner-occupied. From one perspective, Bolton Hill's position against row house conversions could be construed as a protectionist move from a majority-white neighborhood, favoring owners over renters.

Yet, who stands to gain when a row house is converted into apartments? It's not existing residents, regardless of whether they rent or own. It's wealthy developers, who can afford to effect row house conversions and recoup their investment through rental income. They often engage a non-resident landlord who is not part of the community and is minimally responsive to the needs of the building's

tenants and maintaining the property itself.

In this regard, Bolton Hill's support of the proposal is aligned with predominantly African American neighborhoods in West Baltimore. They've experienced the ill effects of having too many houses converted to multi-unit properties, hollowing out their communities with absentee landlords and transient tenants.

As BHCA legal counsel Lisa Robinson explained at the March meeting, community leaders to the west have long believed that Baltimore City's Department of Planning has favored the interests of developers over existing residents. They fear that the city council legislation would weaken provisions of the zoning code restricting row house conversions. That would undermine their efforts to stabilize their communities with more homeowners and to build wealth in predominantly African American neighborhoods, which have suffered divestment for decades. They view Bolton Hill as an ally that can convert its privilege into clout to fight any legislation that would make it easier for more row homes to be converted into multi-unit properties.

*-David Nyweide*

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## Neighbors

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/neighbors-3/>

### **She's speaking out for public education in Bolton Hill**



*Stacy, Nathaniel and Mary Anne on a mission for school funding in Annapolis*

Stacy Wells is a cheerleader for public education, and especially for Mount Royal Elementary and Middle School on McMechen Street. Both her children, now 12 and 13, started there and the oldest, Nathaniel, is moving on to college-affiliated Bard School in the fall.

“We’ve always been partial to public schools,” she says. Her former husband Bill, who grew up and still lives in the neighborhood, attended Bolton Hill Nursery and Mount Royal, as well. “We volunteered at Mount Royal before our children were old enough to attend. “ She later served as president of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and has been active in recruiting staff there.

As their first child and his playmates approached kindergarten age, Stacy helped pull together several families over wine and cheese to discuss school options. They toured Mount Royal: “The kids were adorable, and the building was nice.” Over time several families from Bolton Hill placed their young children there.

Mount Royal Elementary is a zoned school, serving neighborhoods around it with kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The middle school is a citywide magnet school that draws from all over. The school rating site [www.Greatschools.org](http://www.Greatschools.org) says Mount Royal ranks about average in school quality compared to other schools at its level statewide, and above average for the academic progress of its students. It outranks most similar public schools in the city. About 700 students attend altogether.

“We’ve had a very good experience,” Stacy says, and we’ve grown interest in the school.” She valued especially her ability to walk the children to school before heading for the MARC train to D.C. and her job training inspectors for the Federal Aviation Administration. More recently she has mostly worked from home, making engagement with the school and the neighborhood easier.

That coincided with a rediscovery of her fondness for the theater. Growing up on a Christmas tree farm near Westminster, she performed in plays in high school. When her church, Memorial Episcopal, set up auditions for a performance of *The King and I*, she and Nathaniel tried out. “Everyone got a part, and it was a nice family experience, with my daughter, Mary Anne, sitting on the edge of the stage watching us.”

Now they are mainstays of the temporarily dark [Memorial Players](#), which hopes to break out of the COVID cloud someday soon and lift the curtain on its production of *Godspell*, scheduled to open just as the pandemic shut down Baltimore in March 2020. Stacy directed, Mary Anne was in the cast and Nathaniel was part of the stage crew in the 2019 production of *The Wizard of Oz*. “It’s been great watching all the kids bloom, seeing their growth.” She said.

The daughter of a career state employee, Stacy grew up thinking about public service, participating in programs such as Youth in Government and Model United Nations. She got a degree in Economics and Public Administration at UMBC and a master’s at the Maxwell School of Public Administration at Syracuse University. She worked in state government and consulting on government programs before joining the FAA nearly two decades ago. they are

She is a member of the vestry at Memorial Episcopal. [In the news lately](#) for its announced intention to spend \$500,000 in the coming years from a reparations fund, the church is working with community organizations to offset the damage stemming from the church’s historic participation in and defense of slavery in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. She’s engaged with that. She now lives near Lion Park. The kids split their time between Waxter Way and their dad’s home on John Street.

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## It was the best “Party with a Purpose” ever

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/it-was-the-best-party-with-a-purpose-ever/>



Remember February 2020? It was a different world ago.

That last February, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Black History Month Party was one of the neighborhood’s last in-person events. BHCA’s [Social Action Task Force](#) (SATF) had been organizing Parties with a Purpose since the first one in January 2017. One purpose is to have fun, but these parties also raise awareness, support, and donations for local non-profits serving the 21217 community.

A few years ago, the SATF organizers adopted a motto to highlight the spirit of the Black History Month Party - “It’s February. Open your windows.” As the SATF organizers discussed actions for 2021, they realized we all needed to open our windows more than ever.

Sunday, Feb. 21, was an icy cold mess outside but it was HOT online, with this year’s 5th annual Black History Month Party, broadcast live from Memorial Episcopal’s sanctuary, courtesy of its rector, the Rev. Grey Maggiano.

Moving the party online opened up doors, as well as windows, as the focus changed to local poets reading their own works LIVE, along with neighbors reading selections by black authors. Baltimore’s own Black Chakra, Lady Bryon, and MeccaMorphosis read their works, as did three younger poets from [CHARM: Voices of Baltimore Youth](#), Kendra Bryant, Amaya Burke, and Madison Mattison.

Don Palmer one again was MC and DJ for the event (check out his playlist below) while Jess Wyatt and the Rev. Grey managed the tech side. With non-stop, rapid-fire torrents of words streaming into viewers’ homes, the local crew of Baltimore Poets’ readings commanded center stage as they rocked the house.

As with all PWAPs, the hat was passed regularly to collect donations, like a rent party, with the money shared between designated organizations. This year’s party supported the poets directly, along with Charm Literary Magazine, and Organizing Black, a grassroots, member-led organization dedicated to fighting for the liberation of all Black people.

Thanks to the generosity of participants, this SATF Party generated the most donations ever: **\$2,350** split

between the three professional poets and the two organizations.

If you missed it, or want to hear these great performances again, [click here for the full, almost 2-hour video](#) recording of the event. If you want to support the ongoing work of the Social Action Task Force, donate online through the [BHCA website here](#), and select "Social Action Task Force" from the "What would you like your donation to support?" dropdown.

If you think that kids voices matter, [click here to become a subscriber](#) to Charm's Literary Magazine. Executive Director and Bolton Hill neighbor Whitney Birenbaum highlighted this as the best way to amplify their work. Volunteers and donations are of course always needed. Donate to [Organizing Black here](#), and support their efforts, particularly abolishing the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights (LEOBOR), and regaining city control over the Baltimore Police Department.

Want to get involved with the SATF, Email them at [satf@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:satf@boltonhillmd.org). Volunteers and new energy are always needed. What would you like to see happen in the neighborhood?

- *Peter Van Buren*

## The Program

[Click here for the video recording](#) of the whole event. Below is the program with the time stamps, and links to the poems, poets, and organizations.

- Start- Don Palmer, "[Dawn of Darkness](#)", by Ng?g? wa Thiong'o
- 1:50 - Kendra Parlock, "[won't you celebrate with me](#)", by Lucile Clifton
- 4:30 - [Black Chakra](#), live from the Memorial Episcopal Sanctuary
- 24:00 - Beth Fredrick, "[XXX](#)", by Dione Brand
- 28:00 – Whitney Birenbaum, Executive Director of [Charm: Voices of Baltimore Youth](#)
- 29:15 - Kendra Bryant
- 31:20 – Amaya Burke
- 33:15 - Madison Mattison
- After a bit of silence, Music – Don Palmer's playlist below
- 47:50 - Arianna Koudounas, "[Warriors Are Us](#)", by Tommy Woods, Lathrop Homes
- 49:20 – Peter Van Buren, "[Love After Love](#)", Derek Walcott
- 53:15 - Melanie Alfano, "[For Sandra](#)", by Nikki Giovanni
- 55:00 - [Lady Brion](#), also Founder and Executive Director of [Black Arts District](#) focused on the historic Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor.
- 1:19:00 - [Meccamorphosis](#)
- 1:33:00 - Ralik Hayes, Deputy Director of [Organizing Black](#)

## Don's music list

- *Bullfrog Blues*, William Harris (at the start, not recorded)
- *Canned Heat Blues*, Tommy Johnson (at the start, not recorded)
- *When You're Smiling*, Billie Holiday (at the start, not recorded)



- *Now is the Time*, Bud Powell (min 38:00)
  - *Driva'man*, Max Roach (after Now is the Time)
  - *Lon*, Blick Bassy (min 1:38:20)
  - *Sunny Side of the Street*, James Brooker (after Lon)
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## **Don't park in the 1200 block of Bolton Street**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/dont-park-in-the-1200-block-of-bolton-street/>



One of the contractors involved with Operation Pipeline (NPL) has placed No Parking signs 7 AM to 3:30 PM from March 8 to March 28, 2021 on both sides of the 1200 block of Bolton St. The No Parking signs will enable one lane available for moving traffic while construction takes place on either side of the street.

BGE will also be providing work locations and parking restrictions via its SMS text alert system. To receive those alerts and have the most up-to-date information, text BOLT1 to 855-281-8228. Postcards should be mailed to those within the project area next week with the latest information as well. This project will cover other parts of the neighborhood in the weeks and months to come. For a full account, click [here](#).

## **The Parks of Bolton Hill: Getting to know Douglas R. Morrison Park**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/the-parks-of-bolton-hill-getting-to-know-douglas-r-morrison-park/>



Douglas R. Morrison Park is located behind the homes on the east side of the 1700 block of Park Avenue.

Douglas R. Morrison (1893-1975) lived at 1717 Park Avenue for 70 years. He cared for the park, located behind his house, for years and planted many of the trees there, including the flowering magnolia, the big oak, the apple tree and two lilacs.

There is a notion, not confirmed, that the little walled area could have been a cemetery for the Bolton Estate. The Park was dedicated to Douglas in 1976.

*-Lee Tawney*

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## Architect of Bolton Square townhouses dies

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/architect-of-bolton-square-townhouses-dies/>



The architect who designed the award-winning Bolton Square townhouses as part of a 1960s Bolton Hill neighborhood revitalization program has died after a bout with COVID-19. Hugh Newell Jacobsen, whose mid-century modern design won a city competition to help develop the townhouse complex, was 91.

It was the first significant new housing to be built in the Bolton Hill neighborhood in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Jacobsen, just starting out on his own from a studio in D.C., spoke proudly of his work in Baltimore. The housing complex was built and opened in stages beginning in 1967.

Jacobsen attended a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration held by Bolton Square residents in 2018, accompanied by a son and grandchildren. His [Washington Post obituary](#) tracked his career from graduation at the University of Maryland and Yale School of Architecture. He was, the Post noted, obsessed with light in his designs. In his best-remembered residential projects, Mr. Jacobsen's trademark became a series of steep-roofed pavilions unfurling like a telescope. His houses had elongated windows to draw natural light into the space and pervasive white walls to reflect it throughout the room.

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## **Safety and security: things you can do to thwart porch pirates**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/safety-and-security-things-you-can-do-to-thwart-porch-pirates/>

*This is the first of a series of articles on Safety and Security in Bolton Hill by James L. Prost Chairperson of the BHCA Safety and Security Committee. If you have questions, or would like to participate on the BHCA Safety and Security Committee please contact him at [JProstmd@gmail.com](mailto:JProstmd@gmail.com)*

With the pandemic, online shopping has increased significantly. This growth in package deliveries has in turn resulted in increases in package thefts or so-called "porch pirating" (or in some Bolton Hill locations, "vestibule/stoop visiting").

In 2020, 43 percent of those receiving packages reported having a package stolen, up from 36% in the previous year. In Bolton Hill, larceny, which includes porch piracy as well as theft from automobiles, is by far the largest reported crime category. It accounts for approximately three-fifths of all crimes reported to the Baltimore Police this year to date. The number of larcenies so far this year is up 58 percent from 2020. How can you protect yourself from porch pirates/ vestibule/stoop visitors? Here are some tips, culled from online articles.

- **Use package tracking.** Know when your package is expected to be delivered (including any changes in arrival times) and make arrangements to ensure your package is not sitting on your porch for an extended period of time.
- **Require signature upon delivery.** This is inconvenient but you can make sure someone is home when your packages are delivered. *(However, we've noticed that FedEx, in particular, often drops boxes on porches that say signature required, without waiting for one.)*
- **Have your package delivered to an alternative location.** This could be a neighbor or a location that accepts deliveries such as a drug store or Amazon lockers. There are several in and near Bolton Hill.
- **If you have a home security system make it known.** Make sure a security sign is clearly visible. According to research by the University of North Carolina Charlotte, if security was known by intruders to be present, 87% of them would move on.
- **Install a camera or a video doorbell** -This can be a major deterrence to porch piracy. (More about a potential Bolton Hill Camera Network in a future *Bulletin*.)

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- **Install a mailbox sensor** -This small device attaches to your mailbox and informs you when your mailbox is opened. The sensor can be paired with your Home Security System, which could provide a video feed and allow you to communicate with whomever has opened your mailbox.
- **Install a lockbox** - These lockboxes are specifically designed to receive packages. Lock boxes either have a slot for drivers to drop items into and require a key to open, or require a special code you can provide the delivery driver.

*-Jim Prost*

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## Remembering our neighbor Dianne Ganz Scheper

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/remembering-our-neighbor-dianne-ganz-scheper/>



On Feb. 19 my beloved wife Dianne died peacefully at our home on Lanvale Street. The [Baltimore Sun obituary](#) provides a good account of Dianne's professional life and involvements as a professor emerita of Montgomery College and as a Senior Lecturer and Program Coordinator for the Master of Liberal Arts Program at Johns Hopkins.

Dianne called herself a "country girl" from rural Pennsylvania, and she was somewhat apprehensive about embarking on life in an urban environment when we moved into our Lanvale Street home in 1982. How quickly Dianne fell in love with our neighborhood and our block -- and that was not a honeymoon romance, because her love only grew deeper as the years went on. She would often say how privileged she felt to live in the most beautiful place not only in our city, but anywhere.

She loved taking her daily walks in the neighborhood and made many "wave-by" friendships with other walkers or people at their doorstep. She was a devoted patron of our local businesses and became good friends with people like Shawn at Park Avenue Pharmacy or Alex at Bolton Hill Grocery, the staff at Belle Hardware and everyone at On the Hill and Park Avenue Cafes.

Her day began with the neighborhood, as she would sit on her meditation pillow in the front parlor while it was still dark, with our cat Cassie at her side, watching Lanvale Street gradually awaken. Dianne like to quote one of her favorite authors, Charles Williams, a friend of C. S. Lewis, who had written about the magic and spirituality of "a city at work,"

She took joy in early morning sounds: Reginald Scott, our faithful paper carrier, bringing the NY Times every morning at 5; or if it had snowed, Miles, our friendly shoveler, scraping away at our steps, walkway and around our two cars even before we were up.

Dianne felt lucky to have such wonderful neighbors alongside and across the street, and we saw generations come and go. She missed her dear friend Bobbi Hahn, happily relocated in New Orleans, with whom she'd share everything from election night marathons to visits to the Waxter Senior Center. As seems common in Bolton Hill, Bobbi's place was taken with wonderful new neighbors Hari and Sami and their beautiful baby, Amaya.

Being able to walk to the BSO at Meyerhoff was always such a treasure, as was easy access to CenterStage and Everyman, to Lexington Market and Trinacria's, to Red Emma's, and to Amtrak's Penn Station for our runs up to NYC for theater weekends. All this made Bolton Hill incredibly special to Dianne. As a lover of poetry, Dianne always felt as serendipity the fact that our backyard garden design was created by a previous owner, Barbara Holdridge, who had founded Caedmon Records, which was devoted to recording live poetry performances, including such poets as Dylan Thomas, e e cummings, Archibald MacLeish and Marianne Moore.

In every way, Dianne and I have felt that living these almost 40 years in this neighborhood has been a blessing. Thank you, Bolton Hill.

*-George Scheper*

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## Ramps will be here before you know it.

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/spring-recipe/>



*Ramps from West Virginia.*

It's mid-March which means in a few weeks, we will be lucky enough to see ramps pop up at the farmer's markets. These wild onions are a spring delight—perfectly garlicky and oniony and work well in so many dishes. Their season is fleeting, lasting only from April until May or early June. Have questions? Here's a quick 101 on a foodie's best friend, the humble ramp:

1. **What is a ramp?** A ramp is a wild onion part of the allium family (you might see them called wild leeks). It has a very tender green leaf (which is edible) and a white and red root (also edible). The root tends to be more pungent than the leaves.
2. **Ramp season is just a few weeks, from late April until early June.** My dad grew up in West Virginia and he always recommends the earlier ramps over the later season ramps. The ones you get later in the season tend to be much stronger and pungent.
3. **Why are ramps expensive?** Ramps are expensive because they have to be foraged, and you can't find them just anywhere since they typically grow in very moist soil (which is why they're always so dirty!) They're also extremely delicate and difficult to wash. I've seen ramp prices vary from a flat rate of \$1 per ramp up to \$20 per pound.

If you see ramps sold at the farmer's market, do yourself a favor and grab a punch. Chop them up for fried potatoes for your breakfast or sauté them and serve on pork schnitzel sandwiches. Or, try out my recipe. This poached cod with ramps and pecorino Romano broth capitalizes on the pungent flavor of the ramps and pairs it against a flavorful and fragrant pecorino broth. This rich, garlicky broth is the perfect vehicle for poached cod, but try this recipe out with shrimp or scallops.

[Get the recipe here.](#)

- *Kylie Perrotti, a founder of the [Baltimore Supper Club](#)*

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## Mera Kitchen, Alma Cocina Latina offer new pandemic dining

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/mera-kitchen-alma-cocina-latina-offer-new-pandemic-dining/>



Most of the news about dining out this year has been bleak. More cheerful has been the arrival in December of [Alma Cocina](#) Latina, relocating from Canton to the old Chesapeake (and more recently Pen and Quill) restaurant site on North Charles Street. With it came two other interventions that offer free meals and fair wage kitchen work for recent immigrants.

Because they are close by Bolton Hill, Alma Cocina offers safely spaced-out indoor dining and carryout meals that are worth a try. It is open evenings and features dishes influenced by Latin America, especially the birth country of owner, Irene Stein; she is Venezuelan.

More unconventional is the [Mera Kitchen Collective](#), a worker-run catering and carryout business sharing their kitchen. It's designed to enable local women from around the world to put their cooking experience into creating menus that showcase dishes from Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere.

A third venture, led jointly by Stein and a Mera Kitchen founder, Emily Lerman, is called [Alkimiah \(Arabic, roughly, for alchemy\)](#), a non-profit morning kitchen operation at the restaurant preparing free, well-balanced meals for those in need and sustaining meaningful employment. Supported initially by DC celebrity chef Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen, plus city funds, Alkimiah has produced and helped distribute more than 100,000 free meals so far.

Today the project is backed by foundations and other philanthropy. Defying the poverty-wage norm of many restaurants, Alkimiah offers staff from Mera and Alma extra work at a guaranteed \$16 an hour. [The New York Times suggested](#) their model might be replicated by restaurateurs around the country.

Lerman, 37, came to Baltimore from Detroit a decade ago to get a public health degree at Johns Hopkins, then worked for Doctors Without Borders in Africa and Asia. That provided her insight into the need to empower women to work in a manner and on a schedule that supports their lives as parents and heads of families. The rest of the Mera Kitchen team consists of cofounders Aishah Alfadhalah of Kuwait and Iman Alshehab from Syria and staff members Courtney Turner of Atlanta and Emilienne Zongo, from Burkina Faso. Lerman also works on the staff of a non-profit organization that promotes co-ops and worker ownership.

Mera Kitchen began in 2018 with the women hosting booths at the Baltimore Farmer’s Market and the Saturday market in Waverly, plus pop-up events and dinners for 25 to 100+. “We were finding our way,” working out of several cafes and the Lord Baltimore Hotel kitchen , said Lerman . “Most recently we used Neopol Savory Smokery's facility We were set for our biggest event ever, a dinner for 900 last March, the very weekend when everything shut down.”

By then Mera Kitchen had attracted talented cooks, some of whom had worked in restaurants and run small food operations in their home countries. They raised funds on GoFundMe and got catering jobs by word of mouth.

“Our primary goal here is to create a lasting business, a for-profit carryout and catering enterprise run by these women,” said Lerman. “A lot of people want to volunteer but we are really about economic opportunity and ownership.” The organization created an employee assistance program that provides health or other benefits as the workers need it. To get on the weekly menu list for Mera Kitchen, click [here](#).

*-Bill Hamilton*

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## **Bolton Hill Notes**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-9/>

### ***Your last chance for input on the BHCA strategic plan***

The Bolton Hill strategic planning process is heading toward the finish line after more than a year of deliberations and drafting. The plan will replace one from 15 years ago and will guide BHCA as it makes decisions that affect development and amenities in the neighborhood. The board is likely to approve the plan at its April meeting. To comment in writing or to receive a copy of the plan contact [BHCAStrategicPlan@gmail.com](mailto:BHCAStrategicPlan@gmail.com) before March 24.

### ***How about a Zoom-based monthly speaker series?***

Are you, perhaps, tired of Netflix? Sick of dozing through re-runs of old TV shows like Seinfeld and Parks and Recreation? Craving something a bit more adult and more stimulating? How about a Zoom-based Bolton Hill monthly speaker series? Seriously.

“We have such a wealth of knowledge and talent in our Bolton Hill Community (history, architecture, art, theater, public service, etc),” said Fred Demers, a longtime resident of the neighborhood, in an email to BHCA. “Now that people are fairly comfortable with virtual gatherings, I am wondering what the interest level would be for a round of lectures and learning sessions, featuring neighbors and others who have expertise they are willing to share. Perhaps on a monthly-basis?”

Demers was for a long time a human resources executive at McCormick, the spice company, and now is a consulting career coach. He serves on the board of Bolton Hill Nursery and until recently on the vestry at Memorial Episcopal Church. He sees the lecture series as a way for community members to get to know each other better, especially at a time when in-person meetings are not practical. He wants to know if there is interest – in speaking, in participating, in helping create and manage the monthly series. He is soliciting feedback. Reach him at [frederickdemers@yahoo.com](mailto:frederickdemers@yahoo.com).

### ***Ready-or-not, new recycling bins are coming***

Like Sheila Dixon and Catherine Pugh before him, Mayor Brandon Scott has announced that the city will be distributing new wheeled and lidded recycling bins for free to homes that get city pickup services.

This collaboration is being funded by a \$9 million public-private partnership, including a \$3 million grant from The Recycling Partnership. That partnership includes a wide range of large corporations and associations, from Amazon to Waste Management Inc., which contracts with the city’s recycling program.

Then-Mayor Dixon put her name of the bright yellow bins distributed during her administration. The bins are still here and there, long after Dixon resigned. Pugh’s anonymous bins are still common sights in alleys and back yards. The latest iteration of bins will be blue. To learn what should and should not go into these bins, click [here](#). The mayor’s press release suggested a spring distribution. A spokesperson

for DPW said “in a few months.”

### ***BZA plans April hearing on 1700 Eutaw renovation***

The Board of Zoning Appeals has scheduled a hearing April 20 on a petition by a group of New York investors to waive off-street parking requirements as they seek to renovate and expand to 24 units the long-empty apartment building at 1700 Eutaw Place, at Wilson Street.

[As reported in last month's Bulletin](#), the property is technically in Bolton Hill, yet its renovation likely will have more impact on adjacent Madison Park. The community supports renovation for the building that attracts tenants who will stay and engage in the life of both neighborhoods. BHCA and the Madison Park civic organization have proposed a set of principles in a memorandum of understanding submitted to the developer. So far, the owners have not responded.

### ***Zoom party welcomes new Bolton Hill residents***

It was a rainy, cold Sunday, the last day of February. No wine flowing, no snacks, no nice house to visit.

Nevertheless, the annual BHCA New Neighbors Party, held on Zoom, drew 30 or more people, most of them residents of the neighborhood less than a year.

They had moved here, they said, from Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, Georgia and various Baltimore city neighborhoods, Maryland communities and DC. BHCA President David Nyweide and board member Susan Hahn, who produced the event, welcomed our new neighbors.

Architecture, proximity, family history and Bolton Hill's reputation as a welcoming and engaged community – those were some of the reasons people gave for moving into the neighborhood. If you meet a new neighbor, give him or her a hearty welcome. If your supply allows, offer a bottle of wine and a promise that in post-COVID 2022, the party will be more fun.

### ***Midtown Benefits residents meeting is March 30***

Join Midtown Community Benefits District leaders online for the Spring Town Hall March 30 at 6:30 pm to hear what the past year's accomplishments were and what is planned for the year ahead. During the meeting, the district's proposed FY2022 budget will be unveiled and community input invited. The Zoom Meeting ID: is [816 284 0235](#). The meeting will also be live-streamed to MCBBD's Facebook page.

[Midtown Baltimore](#) is seeking a full-time [AmeriCorps](#) member to serve as a Community Engagement Specialist to be a part of its team for 10 months. More information [here](#).

### ***Bolton Hill Nursery thriving in the COVID new normal***

Those little bundles running around at full speed on the Bolton Hill Swim and Tennis Club on the coldest February-early March days? Those were the girls and boys from Bolton Hill Nursery School.

“What a year! We are filled with gratitude for the many ways the Bolton Hill community has supported us,” said Beth Casey, executive director of the nursery. “Following the Governor's order, we closed our doors on Friday, March 13, 2020. Despite the global pandemic, we were able to reopen on Sept 1. Our play-based learning has continued to nurture creative, joyful and inquisitive two-, three- and four-year-old children. And since our opening day we've remained COVID-free!

“As many neighbors have no doubt noticed, our classroom walls have burst wide open to include our yards, the Park Avenue garden and the swim and tennis club playfield. This "new normal" has gradually begun to feel familiar.” They are, Casey said,, “grateful; to many for making high quality and daily outdoor learning a reality for our kids.”

### ***Longtime resident Katherine Abt has died***

Katherine Abt, a Bolton Hill resident much of her life from the early 1960s until recently, has died. [The Baltimore Sun](#) noted her work as a city social worker, writer and editor. She also spent five years with her two daughters on a cattle ranch in Wyoming where, according to [a family obituary](#), she “took turns editing the local newspaper, editing and writing for Teton magazine, substitute teaching, managing a bookstore and running a day care center.”

She died at the Bucks County, PA, home of her daughter, Claire Abt, where she relocated in 2018. The Abt family first came to live in an apartment in the neighborhood around 1960 , later acquiring a house on Bolton Street. Katherine Abt was 88.

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