

# Bolton Hill

## Community Association

## **Table Of Contents**

<b>Arts in the parks</b> .....	3
<b>Big doings are afoot at Contee-Parago Park</b> .....	5
<b>Jill Schumann is getting to know Bolton Hill after 19 years</b> .....	8
<b>Thom Shipley's book explores different eras of racism</b> .....	10
<b>How the Mount Royal School Garden came into being</b> .....	12
<b>It's Pride Month. Historians and storytellers wanted</b> .....	14
<b>A Salad Perfect for Summer</b> .....	15
<b>Bolton Hill Notes</b> .....	17

## Arts in the parks

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/arts-in-the-parks/>

*Neighborhoods come together for summer picnics, concerts in nearby parks*



*Drawing by Laurence Stephen Lowry, (1887-1976)*

BHCA and two adjacent neighborhood groups have developed a summer *Arts in the Parks* Program which includes a picnic concert series starting in July and concludes with an F. Scott Fitzgerald Birthday Party in September.

The Bolton Hill, Madison Park and Marble Hill neighborhoods have been divided historically and socially by the Eutaw Place median. “We view our Arts in the Parks program as an opportunity to further break down the divide,” said BHCA board member Lee Tawney, who helped arrange the program.

**Picnic Concerts in the Park***All events are at 6:30 p.m.*

<b><i>Dates</i></b>	<b><i>Artists</i></b>	<b><i>Park</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>
July 22	Ken and Brad Kolodner	Rutter's Mill Park	1400 Block Rutter Street
July 29	Seth Kibel Klezet	John Street Park	1300 Block John Street
August 5	Shodekeh	Rozen Ridgley Garden	1500 Block McCulloch Streets
August 12	Charm City Junction	Sumpter Park	Laurens & Roberts Street
August 19	Brandon Woody	Lena K. Lee Park	Madison and Pressman Street
August 26	Abdu the Flute-Maker	1420 Eutaw Park	1420 Eutaw Place
September 2	Triple Treat Brass (ORCH/ Kids)	Maple Leaf Park	Behind 1700 Block Park Avenue

The **F. Scott Fitzgerald Birthday Party** is being held on Friday, Sept. 24, in cooperation with the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society. It will be a celebration of writer and former Bolton Hill resident F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthday with readings, ragtime, and gin & tonics.

Sponsors and supporters include the Abell Foundation, Historic Marble Hill Community Association, Maryland State Arts Council, Friends of John Street Park, PNC Bank, Friends of Rutter's Mill Park, Midtown Community Benefits District, Friends of Maple Leaf Park, Bolton Hill Community Association, Friends of Sumpter Park, and the Madison Park Improvement Association.

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## Big doings are afoot at Contee-Parago Park

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/big-doings-are-afoot-at-contee-parago-park/>



*SavATree gives the Willow Oaks in Contee-Parago Park a much-needed pruning from top to bottom.*

With the help of major grants as well as generous donations from neighbors, the Friends of Contee-Parago Park have been able to implement several major parts of the park renovation this spring.

In March, SavATree Tree Service of Silver Spring performed much-needed pruning of the five magnificent willow oak trees that frame the park. Dead limbs were removed, and the entire canopy was raised to about 20 feet above ground level to improve visibility into the park and to allow more sunlight to filter down to plantings.

SavATree contributed two days of labor to this project, and the remainder was funded through a Baltimore National Heritage Area Neighborhood Placemaking Grant. That grant will also be helping to fund new signage that will be installed in the park later this summer.

Contee-Parago Park is bounded by Dolphin Lane, Bolton Street and Dolphin Street .

In May, [Blue Water Baltimore](#) removed the largely defunct fountain on the east side of the park, as well as several sections of concrete around the willow oak trees. This work was funded by an \$18,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation bundled together with several other stormwater mitigation projects in the city under the aegis of the Baltimore [Environmental Equity Partnership](#).



*Native species plantings (Virginia Sweetspire, left, and Smooth Hydrangea, flowering) on the south side of Contee-Parago Park along Dolphin Street.*

The fountain and concrete removal will keep thousands of gallons of stormwater runoff out of the bay and will also direct more water to the trees and other plantings. The fountain itself will be replaced by a new garden featuring large “conversation boulders” in an informal seating area, shade plantings and signage explaining the history of the park.

You may have also noticed new plantings installed by volunteers last fall, including more than 70 percent native species such as *Amsonia tabernamontae* (Bluestar), *Itea virginica* (Virginia Sweetspire), and *Hydrangea arborescens* (Smooth Hydrangea). They have taken root and are thriving along the south side of the circular brick walls on the south side of the park.

The innovative park design, which was created by the DC-MD-VA chapter of the [Association of Professional Landscape Designers \(APLD\)](#) through our partnership with the [Neighborhood Design Center](#), has been featured at the national meeting of Garden Clubs of America and in the national APLD newsletter.

Additional plantings will be installed when it cools off in the fall. We also will be removing the largest section of the circular brick wall, which is in a state of near-collapse and a longtime target of graffiti artists. A footer wall of under 1 foot will be retained to frame the space and plantings will be installed on either side to create a “natural wall” around that section. New brick piers will be installed on either side of the steps entering the eastern section of the park. Salvaged brick from the wall demolition will be used, wherever possible, for the new piers and footer wall.

The Friends of Contee-Parago Park are continuing to accept donations for this last stage of the renovation. You can send or drop off checks at 1203 Bolton St., made out to the *Bolton Hill Community Association* with “Contee-Parago Park” in the memo line, or donate through [GoFundMe](#). All

contributions to the GoFundMe are automatically deposited into our account line at Bolton Hill Community Foundation.

*–Jean Lee Cole*

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## **Jill Schumann is getting to know Bolton Hill after 19 years**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/jill-schumann-is-getting-to-know-bolton-hill-after-19-years/>



*Jill at the BMA*

[North Avenue Mission](#), a short walk east of Bolton Hill in Station North, calls itself a fellowship – of the unhoused and formerly unhoused; people who are food and housing insecure; those who use drugs or are in recovery; people of faith, no faith and different faiths; some with disabilities or mental illness; and a cadre of friends, neighbors and supporters.

It is Jill Schumann’s passion now that she is mostly retired.

A hybrid mutual aid organization and worship community, North Ave Mission wasn’t brought to the community. “It is grassroots, faith-expansive effort that sprung up from the community,” she says, “focused on supporting each other, reducing harm, meeting needs, and becoming leaders who turn the world upside down so that it’s right side up.”

There’s the Wednesday free market, Thursday Family Life gatherings at the YNot Lot and spontaneous encounters in or around St. Mark’s Church. Each brings together people from a nearby elder and disabled low-income building, people who work in street economies along North Avenue, like squeegeeing or panhandling, other neighbors from the community, and a wide range of volunteers.

“It’s a unique place and has been a wonderful experience, with lots of neighbors involved,” said Schumann. And it is a logical extension of how she and her husband, independently, have tied their professional lives to their faith. North Avenue Mission is a project of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In 2001, Schumann became CEO of Lutheran Services in America, a network of more than 300 health and human service providers around the country, based in Minnesota. She and her husband, now of 37 years, had been living in Gettysburg, PA, when she was hired by that organization.

She moved to St. Paul, MN and within a year she and the organization relocated to Baltimore. In 2002 she wound up buying an apartment in the Nightingale building in the 1400 block of Park Avenue, which once housed nurses at the hospital for women nearby. She traveled often from BWI and took the MARC train to DC regularly. On weekends, she drove home to Gettysburg, her garden and her husband, The Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg, who taught for 32 years, until his recent retirement, at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary.

When she left Lutheran Services, she organized and led as CEO a Maryland chapter for another non-profit organization, Leading Age, a consortium of providers of services to the aging. For two decades she and her husband mostly lived apart, connecting on weekends and holidays.

“I’ve loved my Bolton Hill apartment and my neighbors there, but it’s only now that I am beginning to feel really connected to the neighborhood,” said Schumann. In retirement she had expected to spend more time with her husband, traveling, and getting to know Baltimore better together. The pandemic, of course, has made Baltimore and travel mostly inaccessible.

A native of Pittsburgh, Schumann has degrees from Indiana University in Pennsylvania and Mt. St. Mary’s College on the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, with an almost-PhD from Rutgers University in New Jersey. During the pandemic she has consulted with Leading Age’s national office on public policy. “I’m not very good at retirement, but I’m getting there,” she said.

The 80-hour work-and-travel weeks have lately given way to volunteerism and the chance to slow down. At a Cape May beach house a few days ago, rain did not stop anyone from taking walks on the beach and into town, reading, playing Scrabble, and meeting friends for meals her husband cooked. That’s retirement at its best.

–*Bill Hamilton*

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## Thom Shipley's book explores different eras of racism

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/thom-shipleys-book-explores-different-eras-of-racism/>



At 87, Thomas R. Shipley has been a lot of places and done a lot of things.

The Mt. Royal Avenue resident grew up and raised a family in what he calls “a bigoted, rural redneck environment” in Caroline County farm country. “I had no intention of being poor like others in my family, so I got an education,” he said, earning first a degree in agriculture and, eventually, a Doctor of Education degree.

What followed were successful stretches at raising crops, working as a musician and teacher, marriage and raising a family, founding and operating profitable small businesses, and a long stretch in public education and administration for the state's Department of Education.



Now he has written a provocative and opinionated book. He wants young Black people (and anyone else) in and out of school to read it and to argue with him about his contention that contemporary racism is much more benign and less common than when he was younger.

*Racism Then and Now*, published by Page Publishing in Pennsylvania, is Shipley's assessment of how

young African Americans in Baltimore and everywhere need to seize the opportunities available to them and to develop social strengths and marketable skills instead of claiming entitlements. To get to this argument, he looks back on his own childhood and to the injustices all around him where Black people were involved.

He recalls a family retainer, Bessie Johnson, who cooked, kept house, did laundry, midwived, and helped raise first his mother from childhood and then his mother's family, including himself. While living with her partner and her own three children in poverty, Bessie Johnson brought love, patience, and stability to Shipley's boyhood, and taught him important skills and truths. Yet she was never allowed to join the family at the table she set for them. She said she understood, and kept to "her place," or so he was taught.

That era of Jim Crow laws, overt segregation, economic confinement, random violence and lynching against Black and immigrant families was a product of legislated and enforced racial discrimination. The denial of education to most Black people was "baked into our everyday ways of life," Shipley writes. Today is different, he correctly asserts, but then he wades into a complex argument about institutional bigotry versus individual racism that is destined to be a hard sell to many.

Young people whose families live today in poverty and struggle to keep up because of a legacy of, for example, school and housing segregation and red-lining that kept them from access to mortgages, home ownership and wealth accumulation are likely to scoff at Shipley's belief that in this era of diversity all around us "there is no such thing as a 'neglected minority'; there are only neglected individuals and that is mostly self-imposed."

He writes: "the discriminatory divide ... once all about race is now more and more driven by economics, education and personal behavior." Doors to success that were long closed are now opened to disciplined, educated and ambitious Black men and women, he contends. Without marketable skills and social graces, both attainable, too many young people today invite social and professional rejection, Shipley writes.

He invites you to read his book and argue with him. "I know it's not going to be well reviewed by some," he says.

Although gay, Shipley says he has not experienced the discomfort of discrimination. He lives in Bolton Hill with his partner of 26 years, Chris Taylor. He has volunteered to work with students at historically Black colleges in the region and now counsels budding entrepreneurs, working with mostly Black students and graduates at the University of Baltimore's School of Business.

*Racism Then and Now* is available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other book sellers and through <http://thomshipleybooks.com/>

—Bill Hamilton

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## How the Mount Royal School Garden came into being

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/how-the-mount-royal-school-garden-came-into-being/>



The idea for the garden grew out of fear that the Chesapeake Bay Trust would decline the Watershed Assistance Grant request for \$75,000, from the school Parent Teacher Organization, for a major de-paving and greening of the Mount Royal Elementary/ Middle School yard on McMechen Street.

At stake was the momentum that began building in the summer of 2017 with stakeholder formation meetings—community members and organizations, institutions and other non-profits, parents, teachers, and the school principal—for schoolyard changes.

The seeds of a new greening idea (no “depave”) arose from two visits over three weeks’ time to the beautiful Ladew Topiary Gardens and its well-regarded Butterfly House in Monkton.

A special relationship developed between Ladew and the school that would include in-classroom instruction and garden planting design by Ladew staff, and second and third-grade student visits to Ladew. It was all paid for by grant funds obtained by Ladew.

The next step that summer was for Kimberly Canale, Mt. Royal PTO President at the time, to request pro bono design help from talented landscape architect JoAnn Trach Tongson of Mahan Rykiel. JoAnn created the design for the 2,160 square foot site then occupied by two commercial dumpsters.

Then a MICA professor, who had led an architectural ceramics tour of Bolton Hill in the summer of 2016, agreed that he and two assistants would guide a dozen Mount Royal second-graders in designing and kiln-firing ceramic stepping stones for the garden.

In April 2018, the Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded the project \$5,000. It turned out that was about half of what was needed, so four other funding sources were identified, including the Bolton Hill Garden Club. Construction began in May 2018, where the handiwork of school parents, the Memorial Episcopal Creation Care Co-lead, and a “ringer” from Hamilton E/MS who had built its two gardens, was on full

display.

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## **It's Pride Month. Historians and storytellers wanted**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/its-pride-month-historians-and-storytellers-wanted/>



June is Pride Month in Maryland and nationally. It celebrates the 52 years that have passed since the Stonewall movement grew from New York to become a vital and successful national (and international) continuing campaign to protect and respect the rights of people attracted to members of their own sex.

Bolton Hill from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, or even before, has been home to open and closeted same-sex couples and gay individuals. They have played an important and consistent leadership role in preserving and advancing the community that is our neighborhood.

**The Bulletin** has suggested to several longtime members of that community that we would welcome a bit of history. What brought them to Bolton Hill? How were they or others treated in the early days? What contributions were important to them and to the city? Several have liked the idea, but none has come forward to write it. It is a story in search of an author. If that author might be you, send us a note: [bulletin@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org).

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## A Salad Perfect for Summer

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/a-salad-perfect-for-summer/>



This white bean salad is spring—and summer—on a platter. It's filled to the brim with dressed white beans, spinach, and walnuts and topped with pears and celery. The salad is finished with beautifully blanched asparagus for a perfect ode to the end of spring and the start of summer!

The best part of this salad? It's ridiculously easy to prepare and it's so versatile! So pick up fruits or vegetables that are in season at the Waverly or JFX Farmer's market or try it with these suggested substitutions:

- Cannellini Beans: Chickpeas, navy beans, great northern beans, corona beans or try it with a grain

like quinoa, freekeh, farro, or even a pasta, like pearled couscous or orzo

- Pears: Apples or nectarines
- Walnuts: Pecans or pumpkin seeds
- Spinach: Arugula
- Asparagus: Brussels sprouts or green beans

Get the full recipe [here](#).

--Kylie Perrotti, author of [The Weekly Meal Plan Cookbook](#) and founder of [The Baltimore Supper Club](#).  
Follow along on [Instagram](#) for more recipes.

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## **Bolton Hill Notes**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-11/>



### ***Police on the trail of our graffiti vandal***

BPD has identified a man they believe to be the graffiti vandal who has tagged “Kobe” on Bolton Hill public and private property. Residents whose property has been affected have submitted their contact information to the police, while the police build the case for a warrant for his arrest. The police have also been given video footage of the suspect as he sprayed his namesake tag in Bolton Hill. He is responsible for numerous acts of graffiti vandalism around Baltimore.

In May the Department of Public Works said it would implement a modified restart of graffiti removal services, suspended since the pandemic, but only on public property. But evidently prodded by the mayor, on June 3 the department changed directions and said it also would remove graffiti from private property, but with a “delayed restart.”

### ***Neal Friedlander stepping down; new board members are wanted***

Newly elected BHCA President Neal Friedlander announced that after 50 years in Bolton Hill, he and his wife will be moving to south Baltimore in September, requiring his resignation at that time. He agreed to notify the nominating committee of the coming vacancy, which will be filled by the BHCA board in the fall.

Benjamin Groff, a member of BHCA's board, also is leaving the neighborhood and is thus stepping down, moving to the Oakenshawe neighborhood. Residents interested in being considered for board vacancies should send a note with a paragraph of two about themselves and their Bolton Hill passions to [nominations@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:nominations@boltonhillmd.org). The board is especially interested in hearing from renters and people who live in the north part of the neighborhood.

### ***A place for poop at Mosher Park...***

BHCA's board agreed to fundraise and oversee the acquisition of a trash facility for dog walkers and others to use at Mosher Park, located at Mason and Mosher streets. The cost of acquiring and installing the equipment is estimated at \$800. Midtown Baltimore will remove the contents once the equipment is in place. Dog lovers and others will be invited to contribute, first to the fund, and then into the installed result of that fund.

### ***Memorial Episcopal Church will take the lead on Fall Festival***

Memorial's rector, the Rev. Grey Maggiano, has agreed that Memorial Episcopal church will sponsor the annual Festival on the Hill this fall, with support from Bolton Hill Community Association. The long-established outdoor festival will feature food, drink, music, children's activities, flowers, vendors and more. Volunteer captains are needed to oversee children's events, vendors, food, and entertainment. If you can volunteer, please notify [bulletin@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org).

### ***DPW seeks comments on "Water for All" discount program***

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking public comment on draft regulations to implement the new Water for All discount program, serving households with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The [Water for All Discount Program draft regulations](#) would apply to city residents who receive bills from the city for water and wastewater charges.

Residents who are enrolled in DPW's current discount programs, BH<sub>2</sub>O Assists or BH<sub>2</sub>O Assists Plus, on or before June 30, may continue in those programs for one year. However, customers must apply for the Water for All program no later than June 30, 2022.

DPW's Acting Director Jason W. Mitchell will consider public input before finalizing the proposed regulations. Comments can be emailed to: [publicworks@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:publicworks@baltimorecity.gov). Use this email subject line: Water for All Comments. Comments are due by Sunday, July 11, 2021. Click [here](#) to view the draft regulations.

### ***[Midtown Baltimore](#) wants you to know....***

- Corner trash cans are for pedestrian litter only, not for household or business trash. If you see someone dumping improperly, report it to 311. You may submit a [311 request online](#) at and then email a copy of the case number to [service@midtowncommunity.org](mailto:service@midtowncommunity.org).
- Property owners are responsible for keeping tree wells and sidewalks free of weeds. It's in Baltimore's city code. Constituents who have removed weeds can submit a [service request](#) for Midtown to collect this green debris.
- Watch for a tax bill in July. Midtown Baltimore's services to residents of Bolton Hill and three adjacent neighborhoods are paid for through an annual special benefits property tax surcharge. Surcharge bills are mailed in early July. If you do not receive your paper statement, [click here](#) to determine the amount owed for your property, which can be paid online.

### ***Goodbye for a short while...***

*The Bolton Hill Bulletin will be taking a summer break; next issue is in September. The Bulletin is published 10 times a year and distributed to dues-paying members of the Bolton Hill Community Association. It's also available on the BHCA website. We welcome your ideas, articles, events, photos and feedback. It is produced by Bill Hamilton, Kylie Perrotti and Marci Yankelov with regular contributions by other board members and neighbors. Contributors this month include, among others, Jean Lee Cole, Paula Jackson, David Nyweide and Lee Tawney.*

*We're especially grateful to Kylie Perrotti, who has handled the design work for the past couple of years in addition to her career as a professional designer and her other careers as cookbook writer and founder/editor of the Baltimore Supper Club Facebook forum. Now we need a new designer. The pay is fabulous. Resumes or inquiries to [bulletin@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org) [Please support our sponsors](#).*

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