

# Bolton Hill

## Community Association

## Table Of Contents

<b>It's fall, and Bolton Hill is alive again! Celebrate F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthday</b>	3
<b>Arts in the Parks memories from Zhee Chatmon</b>	5
<b>BHCA board approves new bylaws; members to vote in October</b>	6
<b>Twin murals at Park and North avenues completed</b>	9
<b>Remembering Sen. Jack Lapidus, Judith Kasper and Margo Taylor</b>	11
<b>BHCA to create directory of neighborhood security cameras</b>	13
<b>MICA students back on campus</b>	14
<b>Vietnam Vet, White House gardener, world traveler: meet Gary Grimmette</b>	15
<b>Bay Trust gives neighborhoods \$15K to plan Eutaw Place park improvements</b>	17
<b>BOLTON HILL NOTES</b>	18

## **It's fall, and Bolton Hill is alive again! Celebrate F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthday**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/its-fall-and-bolton-hill-is-alive-again-celebrate-f-scott-fitzgeralds-birthday/>



Friday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 pm, is the last in the popular summer Arts in the Parks series of free concerts. They were hosted in neighborhood outdoor settings by BHCA and adjacent Marble Hill and Madison Park community associations. This one celebrates the neighborhood's most famous literary figure. (The earlier programs were well attended. See Zhee Chatmon's photos.)

Scott Fitzgerald was born in Minnesota on Sept. 24, 1896, but lived on Park Avenue Bolton Hill during a critical point in his career as a 20<sup>th</sup> century novelist. The birthday party will feature readings, ragtime music and gin and tonics. The event also will honor Frank Shivers, the longtime Bolton Hill resident and historian who in the 1970s helped establish Fitzgerald Park at Bolton and Wilson streets.

Lots of activities coming up in the next four weeks. Click through for details.

*Saturday, Sept. 18, 9a - 3pm* [BHCA annual yard sale](#)

*Tuesday, Sept. 21, 11 am* [Unity Hall groundbreaking ceremony](#) with the mayor

*Friday Sept. 24, 6:30 - 8 pm* [F. Scott Fitzgerald birthday party](#)

*Friday, Oct 8, 1-5 pm* [Bolton Hill Garden Club pansy sale](#)

*Saturday, Oct. 23, 11-3pm* **Festival on the Hill at Sumpter Park**

*Saturday, Oct. 16, ,9-noon [Bolton Hill fall tree planting](#)*

*Tuesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 pm. **Midtown Baltimore 's 2021 Fall Town Hall***

---

## **Arts in the Parks memories from Zhee Chatmon**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/arts-in-the-parks-memories-from-zhee-chatmon/>

---

## **BHCA board approves new bylaws; members to vote in October**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-board-approves-new-bylaws-members-to-vote-in-october/>



### *New officers and board members approved*

Since the members of Mt. Royal Improvement Association voted to change the name and disassociate from MRIA's segregationist roots in 2018, BHCA has continued in operation under the old association's bylaws. Last year BHCA President David Nyweide and the organization's executive committee began the arduous process of creating new bylaws for the organization. Bylaws provide the basic rules of operation for an organization.

The new bylaws were approved at the September BHCA board meeting. The board also voted to designate former President **David Nyweide** to another term as president, filling the vacancy caused by Neal Friedlander's move away from Bolton Hill. **Linda Rittelmann**, who was president before Nyweide and led the effort to change the organization's name, will serve as past president. Three new board members were also nominated and approved: **Zhee Chatmon, Maurice Corbett** and **George Maris**.

A special membership meeting on Zoom in early October will enable all members to discuss and vote on the new bylaws which, if approved, will become effective immediately. While not a dramatic departure from the old way of doing things, the new bylaws underscore the break from MRIA's past.

After the updated BHCA bylaws are adopted and once former BHCA Treasurer Barry Blumberg wraps up transitioning all MRIA financial aspects to BHCA, we'll formally close out MRIA with the State of Maryland and the IRS.

The updated bylaws do not contain a mission statement. Bylaws are meant to cover the basics and be updated infrequently; we'll want to develop an updated mission statement separately and have the board

approve it (and more easily change it) as a matter of policy. Here's a summary of the main changes to the bylaws:

*Membership (anyone who pays BHCA dues):*

- Any individual of voting age may become a BHCA member by paying dues, regardless of whether s/he lives in the neighborhood. An institutional member must own or lease property in Bolton Hill.
- A membership committee has been added to the bylaws to signal the importance of staying focused on membership.

*Board members (anyone elected to serve on the BHCA Board of Directors):*

- Board members must be members who live or own property in Bolton Hill; up to two board seats are for representatives of neighborhood institutions.
- Two-year term for directors (instead of three years). Maximum three terms (still max six consecutive years). So, two classes of 15 instead of three classes of 10. The intent is to appeal to more people to serve on the board, especially renters, who may be less able to commit to three years than two. It also will allow the board to be refreshed more frequently.
- One-year term for officers, with a maximum three instead of two terms or max three consecutive years per position. A total of 35 (instead of 37) members of the Board of Directors (30 directors and five officers). General counsel and past president are no longer considered officers but are part of the executive committee. They have a say at executive committee meetings but not a vote at board meetings.
- In addition to treasurer and general counsel, secretary can serve without term limits so that if a good secretary wants to continue to take minutes at meetings, then great.
- After the nominating committee presents the slate of nominees for officers and directors for the coming year at the April meeting, at least 10 BHCA members may petition the committee for each alternative suggestion, and the committee must consider the suggestion for the slate between then and the May membership meeting, rather than allow nominations from the floor at the May meeting.
- The May membership meeting is for voting in the slate, and the bylaws don't say anything about filling vacancies at the May meeting. However, there is explicit language about filling vacancies at monthly board meetings by a vote of the board. The idea is that vacancies wouldn't be disallowed from being filled at the May meeting, but they'd be encouraged to be filled throughout the year. The nominating committee would present nominees, but nominations could be made from the floor to fill vacancies.
- Board meeting quorum has been increased from a third (13) to a half (18) as a way to signal the importance of board meeting attendance and to avoid having a few make decisions when most are not present. Board attendance over the past two years was never under 20 and averaged 24.6 in 2019-20 and 26.7 in 2020-21.

- To strengthen the importance of attendance, a board member with two consecutive unexcused absences or three excused absences shall be notified by the president. A board member with three consecutive or non-consecutive unexcused absences or four excused absences from meetings during the term may result in removal from the Board at the discretion of the president. The updated bylaws have provisions for resignation/removal, conflict of interest, and indemnification.
-

## Twin murals at Park and North avenues completed

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/twin-murals-at-park-and-north-avenues-completed/>



Artist Ernest Shaw last month completed the second of the two-part mural at Park and North avenues. The two pieces frame Park Avenue and feature a diverse group of young people to welcome students traveling across the intersection each weekday to Dorothy Heights Elementary and Mount Royal Public Schools. They also show symbols celebrating Bolton Hill's LGBTQ+ community and honoring the late Rep. Elijah Cummings.

The vivid colors and characters are [signatures of Mr. Shaw](#), an educator with roots in Bolton Hill who has created many celebrated murals throughout Baltimore. A locally owned firm, Mural Masters, managed preparation, permitting, logistics and equipment for the effort. This team was selected by the owners of the two properties at Park and North, Alex Aaron and Anthony Butler, who contributed the space for both murals and helped fundraise to complete them. Philanthropic and public support for the project, organized by BHCA, was provided by the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA), PNC Bank and the Abell Foundation, and more than \$10,000 was contributed by residents on both sides of North Avenue.

The completed murals are the first part of a larger effort, "Park Ave Unity", led by neighbors to enliven the intersection that serves as a gateway to Bolton Hill, Reservoir Hill, and West Baltimore. Since 2020, they have partnered with Midtown Benefits Improvement District to restore the vacant property at 1743 Park Ave. as a garden full of sunflowers and bee- and butterfly-friendly plants.

To improve the intersection's safety, BHCA worked with Councilman Eric Costello and the City Department of Transportation to install new turn signals for traffic entering Bolton Hill and Reservoir Hill from North Avenue. Further up the hill at Park and Linden, neighbors are exploring additional traffic calming measures that can reduce the danger to both pedestrians and drivers in this busy intersection.

In the coming years, as Madison Park North and adjacent commercial and residential properties are redeveloped, neighbors look forward to additional opportunities to work across North Avenue and with Midtown and the city to create a more vibrant, safe and welcoming gateway into our communities.

- *Chris Kingsley*

---

## Remembering Sen. Jack Lapidés, Judith Kasper and Margo Taylor

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/remembering-sen-jack-lapides-judith-kasper-and-margo-taylor/>

Three people with important ties to Bolton Hill died during the summer.

- **Former State Sen. Jack Lapidés**, a longtime resident of the neighborhood and a force in Baltimore and Maryland politics for more than three decades, died in July at the age of 89. He was known as the conscience of the General Assembly and a leader in preserving historic Baltimore.
- **Judith Kasper**, a longtime resident who with her husband raised a family in Bolton Hill while leading a distinguished career in medical research on aging, died Aug, 4 at the age of 72.
- **Margo Taylor**, new to the area but a successful Wall Street litigator, died in a Baltimore hospital in June. *Longtime Bolton Hill resident Tom Hasler writes:*

I first met Margo Taylor skiing in France in 1977. She became a friend to me and my wife, Bonnie. She had a particular skill in maintaining friendships – sending cards and encouraging visits. We kept in touch, and in 2014 my wife of 26 years died. A mutual friend who had lived in Baltimore invited both Margo and me to visit him in Colorado. I went for the change of scenery and change of routine.

Margo and I fell in love. That was 2016: I was 74 and she was 72 . The problem was that she had deep roots in New York, while I had completed a career as a journalist and entrepreneur here and was comfortable in Bolton Hill. We decided I would visit Margo once a month and she would visit me once a month, so we would see each other every two weeks. I called her at 9 a.m. every day.

I got to know Midtown Manhattan well. Her apartment had a terrace overlooking the East River, a fun place to hang out. We went to Old Saybrook, CT, not far from where she was born, and Newport, RI, where she owned real estate and hoped to move, eventually. Margo was a top sailor, sailing all over the world, including trans-Atlantic races. She had over 300 trophies. She was a member of three yacht clubs. She also had a career as a successful lawyer in Manhattan, specializing in litigation.

She survived four cancers, had a new immune system installed and her health was failing. Margo died in Baltimore in June after a series of strokes.

Elizabeth M. Taylor was born in New Haven, CT, and went to school in Westport. When she was 11 her parents purchased a 63-foot schooner and went to the Caribbean to join the fledgling charter business. Margo attended school in Antigua, BWI , while her parents took paying guests on the boat. Eventually they divorced and she and her mother moved to New York.

She attended Bryn Mawr College , graduating in 1965 cum laude. While in law school at the University of Chicago, she met and married a Swiss lawyer and left school to live in Zurich. When the marriage ended, she returned to Chicago and received her Juris Doctor degree in 1969. Margo joined the litigation department of the Wall Street law firm then known as Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts. She worked with other corporate firms before co-founding Connell & Taylor, with a clientele of foreign banks and large Japanese companies. She retired shortly before we came together.

She added light to my life. I miss her terribly.

---

## **BHCA to create directory of neighborhood security cameras**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-to-create-directory-of-neighborhood-security-cameras/>



BHCA’s board has approved a policy developed by the BHCA Safety and Security Committee to make it easier for neighbors who are victims of a crime to access camera footage taken by residents through their security systems.

Under the policy, residents with security cameras can sign up on a community-controlled list of camera locations with the contact information of their owners. When a specific incident is reported to police, they may be contacted by other neighbors with security cameras or the BHCA President or designee to find out if they have footage in the vicinity of a crime. If a camera owner is willing to share footage, the BHCA President or designee would share it with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) electronically as long as it has a police report number. Details on how to sign up will be shared over the Bolton Hill Email Network (BHEN) later this month.

BPD would not be able to contact camera owners on the list, but any resident always has the option of sharing footage directly with BPD. BPD has a separate program called CitiWatch to which some residents have volunteered, which makes footage available at the request of police. The BHCA policy is independent of but can supplement that program. The intent is to assist in community-assisted crime-solving while avoiding frivolous postings on social media. Safety and Security Committee Chairman Jim Prost can be reached

[safety@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:safety@boltonhillmd.org).

## MICA students back on campus

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/mica-students-back-on-campus/>



Maryland Institute College of Art is hoping for “close to normal operations” through the fall semester, the school has announced. That status extends to educational, residential, and supporting college functions. But neighbors are discouraged from visiting the campus.

- Residence halls are open and functioning with health protocols in place.
- Teaching and learning is taking place primarily in-person and on-campus using the resources of the college.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are mandatory for students, faculty and staff. Indoor masking also is enforced.
- The school is not allowing on-campus visits by the public or student families.

Fall classes began on August 30. International student enrollment and in-person attendance likely will be lower than in past years because of continuing restrictions on international travel and admissions. Some online course options have been created for students affected by travel bans. International students have accounted for as much as 30 percent of enrollment in the past.

## **Vietnam Vet, White House gardener, world traveler: meet Gary Grimmette**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/vietnam-vet-white-house-gardener-world-traveler-meet-gary-grimmette/>



*(Neighbors is an occasional series of profiles of people who live in Bolton Hill, aimed at showing the talent and diversity of folks who live among us. Nominations are welcome: [bulletin@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org) )*

Gary Grimmette, whose father died when he was a toddler and who dropped out of school before reaching his teens, has lived a life that has taken him from the mountain hollows of West Virginia to Michigan to Vietnam to Washington, D.C., to California, Florida, France, Italy, Egypt and lots of other spots along the way. In the jargon of country music, he has been a Ramblin' Man.

Now he lives in Bolton Hill, for the past year in a roomy apartment in the condominium building that was once the Quaker school on Park Avenue. On the walls are photos of his family, neighborhood kids whom he considers his godchildren; a photo of the man who sponsored him in AA and led him toward religion and sobriety since 1987; and lots of others.

He has worked construction, lived as a monk for several years, maintained gardens at the White House in the Nixon and Ford years as a National Park Service employee, started and ran a landscaping business in LA and lived for years abroad, picking up work when he could.

At 73, Grimmette is slender, with short white hair and a moustache. He is mostly retired and says he lives modestly on disability income that stems from his stint in the Vietnam War as a combat medic. He was injured, diagnosed with PTSD, decorated and says he was offered a purple heart for the service he rendered and injuries he sustained – but that by then, 1968, he had come to see the war as a mistake and regretted his role in it. “I turned it down,” he said.

“My father was a miner, but he died when I was just a year old, and my mother moved me and my two brothers with her to Detroit,” he said. Life was hard there, and he dropped out of school early to do whatever jobs he could find. His older brothers wound up working in Ford plants. At 16, Grimmette says he lied about his age with the knowledge of recruiters and joined the Army.

“I’ve had quite a life, lots of ups and lots of downs,” he said. He considers himself a political radical, independent of parties. He doesn’t trust the government and has refused to receive the COVID vaccine. “I trust in the Lord and my immune system,” he says. He reads *The Guardian*, listens to the BBC and trusts them and The Associated Press but no other media. He is opinionated and pessimistic about the country’s future: “It’s not the country I fought for.”

His passion continues to be gardening. He says he has joined the Bolton Hill Garden Club and helps neighbors maintain gardens in Laurens Street yards. He also puts time into keeping Maple Leaf Park, tucked away at the intersection of Bolton and Robert Streets and an alley off the 200 block of Laurens. “I want to put a fountain back there,” he said.

On the day we met, Grimmette had unplugged his computer and said he was giving up on email, troubled by SPAM and unwanted content he had received. “You can reach me by phone or by mail, but I won’t be back on email,” he said. He gets around Baltimore on an electric scooter.

*-Bill Hamilton*

---

## **Bay Trust gives neighborhoods \$15K to plan Eutaw Place park improvements**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bay-trust-gives-neighborhoods-15k-to-plan-eutaw-place-park-improvements/>



BHCA in partnership with the Madison Park Improvement Association has received a \$15,000 grant for a Green Streets Concept Plan from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to identify opportunities in three adjoining spaces; 1420 Eutaw Park, 1400-1500 Eutaw Place Median Park, and Mosher Plaza Park.

The grant supports improving stormwater practices, increasing the tree canopy, identifying opportunities for native plantings, and to replace impervious surfaces with more permeable materials, thereby improving environmental quality and climate resiliency.

Bolton Hill, Madison Park and Marble Hill neighborhoods have been divided historically and socially by the Eutaw Place Median (the “Red Line” which ran from North Avenue to Dolphin Street). We view the Chesapeake Bay Trust Green Streets Concept Plan as an opportunity to break down the divide.

Chosen from three responses to an RFP, the firm of Hord Coplan Macht will undertake the Concept Plan.

---

## **BOLTON HILL NOTES**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-12/>

### ***Festival on the Hill set for Oct. 23***

Bolton Hill's historic tradition of the Festival on the Hill fall celebration will take place this year at Sumpter Park on Oct. 23 from 11 to 3 pm. Memorial Episcopal Church is taking the lead this year in organizing the food, drinks, music and children's events that have sustained the neighborhood party for generations.

But volunteers are needed to ensure its success. If you can pitch in, contact the Rev. Grey Maggiano, [grey@memorialepiscopal.org](mailto:grey@memorialepiscopal.org).

### ***BHCA forms energy sustainability committee***

Amy Sheridan, one of two vice presidents of BHCA, is leading a committee to explore ways to encourage reliance on alternatives to carbon-based energy reliance in Bolton Hill residences and public spaces and plans one or more upcoming Zoom conferences to discuss possibilities. To join the committee or offer insight contact her at [energy@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:energy@boltonhillmd.org).

### ***Report non-functioning streetlights***

If you see in your block or nearby a street light outage, don't assume someone else has reported it. Streetlights are sometimes maintained by the city and other times by BGE. If you are uncertain, report it to both. Often a light pole will have a tag with a number and info on how to report it.

The best way to report a light outage to the city is by dialing 311 or using the city's 311 phone app. When you receive a 311 report number, forward it to the office of City Council member Eric Costello: [eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov). If you know it is a BGE light, call **1-800-685-0123** or use BGE's online reporting form.

### ***City now accepting compost waste at drop-off centers***

The city Department of Public Works has begun a pilot project for dropping off residential food scraps on any weekday [at several centers](#) including one close by in Remington at 2840 Sisson Street. The centers also accept recycling, bulk trash and toxic waste.

Food scraps make up 25 percent of the residential waste stream in Baltimore according to a recent sort of residential trash conducted under the *Less Waste, Better Baltimore* planning process. The drop-off program augments a more modest drop-off effort at the weekend downtown and Waverly farmers markets. More details [here](#).

### ***Roxane Prettyman selected for 44<sup>th</sup> district delegate***

Some residents of Bolton Hill have a new state delegate. The Baltimore Democratic Central Committee chose Roxanne Prettyman to be the sole city delegate from the 44<sup>th</sup> legislative district, which also includes a portion of Baltimore County.

Prettyman, who grew up in Sandtown-Winchester, is a paralegal at the Social Security Administration and served on the committee that selected her. She replaces Del. Keith E. Haynes, who had represented southwest and West Baltimore in the 44th and 44A districts since 2003 until he retired in July. Details on the process are [here](#).

Most of Bolton Hill is incorporated in a different district, 40. Both are likely to be modified during the legislative redistricting process that is underway. Baltimore City lost population in the 2020 census which is the basis for redrawing districts.

### ***Bolton Hill Garden Club is selling pansies***

Pre-order pansies now for local delivery Oct. 7-10 or pick them up on Friday, Oct. 8th, 1 to 5pm at Bolton Hill Nursery. A half-flat of pansies (9 plants) sells for \$20. A full-flat of pansies (18 plants) is \$30. Go to the Bolton Hill Garden Club website <https://www.boltonhillgardenclub.org> and click on the "Pansy Preorder Form" to place your order.

This event is one of the Bolton Hill Garden Club's annual fundraisers. Bolton Hill Garden Club is a non-profit organization that emphasizes preserving neighborhood parks and encouraging beautification and a sense of city living through plants, sustainable gardening, and educational and social activities.

### ***Midtown Baltimore meeting set for Oct. 26***

Midtown Improvement District Association's 2021 fall town hall will be held virtually on Tuesday, Oct. 26th at 6:30pm. During the meeting, we will be updating our constituents on organization projects and goals and will be announcing nominees for the 4 At-Large representatives to serve on our Board of Directors, (*one to represent each of the 4 neighborhoods*) for the coming calendar year. Additional information will be published at <https://www.midtownbaltimore.org/news> as it becomes available. The meeting Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84773826698>

### ***About The Bulletin. . . .***

The Bulletin is back after a summer recess with a new designer and, going forward, a monthly photo feature. Laura McConnell has agreed to take on design duties and Zhee Chatmon is our photographer. We invite others to help write, edit or work the business side. Send your suggestions and comments to [bulletin@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org). Contributions to this issue came from, among others, Tom Hasler, Lee Tawney, David Nyweide, Chris Kingsley, Paula Jackson and others. I own the errors and omissions.

- *Bill Hamilton*

---

**Bolton Hill**

**Community Association**