

Bolton Hill

Community Association

Table Of Contents

Festival on the Hill, Halloween parade set for Saturday, Oct. 23	3
Bolton Hill, meet your new recycling cart!	4
The Eagles have landed at Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School	5
Neighbors supporting Afghan refugee response and re-settlement	7
Photo of the Month by Zhee Chatmon	8
Arnold E. Sumpter: the park and the man 50 years later	9
Neighbors	11
"Foxy Ned" Hanlon was Bolton Hill's baseball Hall of Famer	13
Bolton Hill Notes	15

Festival on the Hill, Halloween parade set for Saturday, Oct. 23

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/festival-on-the-hill-halloween-parade-set-for-saturday-oct-23/>



What could possibly be more fun than Bolton Hill’s historic annual outdoor fall celebration *Festival on the Hill*? Suppose you add to it a parade of young neighborhood ghouls and goblins in costumes? Then it emerges as *Festivalween 2021*.

All of that is coming together on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Arnold Sumpter Park, with a mix of live music from some of the city’s best talent, plus oysters, beer and other food and the usual, albeit COVID-adjusted, games and activities.

Lead sponsors this year are Memorial Episcopal Church and No Boundaries Coalition. Volunteers and [donations are still needed](#). Contact Grey Maggiano, grey@memorialepisiscopal.org.

Bolton Hill, meet your new recycling cart!

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-meet-your-new-recycling-cart/>



Ready or not, the city has begun dropping off huge, wheeled recycling bins house-by-house and at other eligible buildings in Bolton Hill. The shiny blue plastic containers will hold 65 gallons of recyclables (or two large children). They dwarf the un-lidded yellow containers given away by a previous mayor and still in use here and there.

Over the next five months the bins will be delivered to about 190,000 curbside-pickup eligible households across the city. In Bolton Hill they are to be filled and rolled out for pickup early each Friday at the same spot used for solid waste pickups. Each bin is coded to a specific location. They are intended to hold plastic, aluminum, steel or tin cans, newspaper and other mixed, clean paper and glass bottles and jars (No scrap metal, tools, trash, yard waste, clothing or household goods, wires or stained pizza or carryout boxes, or plastic bags).

The bins pose a dilemma for rowhouse residents without access to an alley: where to store them? Not in your front yard, please. They seem better fitted to suburban cul de sacs than to 19th century historic neighborhoods. But they are here to stay unless you want to send them back or trade for a 35-gallon version. In that case call 311 to opt out or to figure out how to get the delivered bin picked up.

The Eagles have landed at Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/the-eagles-have-landed-at-mount-royal-elementary-middle-school/>



Principal Steve Skeen congratulates student leaders selected as the Golden Eagles of their class during a celebratory outdoor breakfast.

The Golden Eagles of Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School are back on campus after nearly two years of virtual learning. While the transition to in-person instruction was a challenge, the school was more prepared than most thanks to the strong leadership of its administration.

Now in his fourth year as principal, Steve Skeen has guided Mount Royal through the pandemic by balancing the social and emotional well-being of students and the critical need to continue their academic progress, while keeping students and staff safe from COVID-19. In the Spring of 2020, Skeen and a team of teachers implemented a pilot project for in-person learning for a small group of elementary students. “The idea was to have proven COVID mitigation policies in place early on so that we were prepared to safely welcome all of our students back,” says Skeen. “It also allowed us to meet the needs of students that were struggling with virtual learning and provide them face-to-face interaction.”

Anticipating a complex set of issues this year, Skeen shored up the school’s mental health staff to include two psychologists, a therapist, guidance counselor, social worker and a “wholeness specialist” focused on social and emotional learning. This team in addition to seasoned and talented teachers ensured the school would be ready to meet any challenge. With a clearly thought-out plan and resources in place, Mount Royal welcomed back nearly 750 students from pre-K to eighth grade on Aug. 30 and hasn’t looked back.

One of the first desegregated schools in Baltimore, Mount Royal has since 1958 carried a tradition of excellence and opportunity. The school’s vision states that “Mount Royal students will unlock their individual, exceptional abilities in order to choose how they will make the community and world a better place.” Mount Royal is one of only four schools in the city to offer the Ingenuity Project, which attracts bright middle school students from across the district. The program emphasizes preparing students for college and careers in STEM fields by exposing them to a rigorous science and math curriculum.

Mount Royal also offers advanced academics programs to provide an accelerated curriculum and the

opportunity to earn middle school honors credits. Elementary school students can place into the Gifted and Advanced Learning Program which puts them on a path of rigorous academic excellence at an early age. Prior to the pandemic, the school grew from 2 to 3 stars in the state's rating system and continues to finish in the top 10 in reading and math scores on district-wide assessments.

While academics are highly important, the school produces well-rounded students by integrating a variety of subjects at all grade levels. The curriculum includes visual, instrumental, vocal and theatre arts in addition to Spanish, health, physical education, and coding. Surrounded by MICA, Mount Royal has a unique partnership with the art college and its students. After-class clubs and enrichment programs include the Baltimore Urban Debate League, Civic Leadership, Spanish club, Writers in Baltimore, Robotics, Code in the Schools and Higher Achievement.

To learn more about Mount Royal, email the Parent/Teacher Organization at mtroyalpto@gmail.com.

-- *Ellen Molino*

Neighbors supporting Afghan refugee response and re-settlement

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/neighbors-supporting-afghan-refugee-response-and-re-settlement/>



A group of neighbors led by Samantha Ritter is organizing to support refugee families arriving to Baltimore. “We are looking for furniture donations and vacant apartments or homes nearby that could be utilized from 1 to 6 months by families as they settle in Baltimore,” she said. A family will settle into the neighborhood shortly.

Memorial Episcopal Church is backing the effort. Financial contributions are welcome; click [here](#). For more information contact Samantha Ritter: boltonhillforrefugees@gmail.com

Photo of the Month by Zhee Chatmon

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/photo-of-the-month-by-zhee-chatmon/>



Each month the Bolton Hill Bulletin will feature a photo by Bolton Hill photographer Zhee Chatmon. If you would like to hire Zhee for photography, find her information at www.zheechatmon.com.

Arnold E. Sumpter: the park and the man 50 years later

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/arnold-e-sumpter-the-park-and-the-man-50-years-later/>



Throughout the winter, spring and summer of the first COVID year, as Baltimoreans and the world hunkered down to avoid the virus, Bolton Hill residents were blessed to be able to exercise, take their children to play and unwind at the sprawling green space on Laurens Street known as Arnold E. Sumpter Park.

It is the neighborhood's largest park. But who was Arnold E. Sumpter? Just some forgotten politician?

Half a century ago Arnold E. Sumpter was a popular young man with his future still ahead of him. He grew up in New York City, living in Harlem, then Queens. He had a strong family, according to his brother Carl E. Sumpter, a retired NYC Department of Corrections captain, who still lives in New York.

“Our mother was a strong role model who believed in ‘giving back.’ As a middle school teacher, she advocated for better educational resources for the area children and provided one-on-one counseling. Our father taught us work ethics. We were known as the Sumpter boys, who seemed to be always working with our father,” said Carl.

Arnold Sumpter played sports, excelling in basketball at Flushing High School. He then attended Hampton Institute in Virginia, before transferring to Morgan State

in Baltimore, pursuing a degree in Urban Development. At 23, he had married his sweetheart, Cynthanie and they were expecting their first child, Arnolda, whom he never met. They lived in Baltimore city, where he worked as a youth programs supervisor for the parks department.

On Aug. 3, 1971, Arnold Sumpter was supervising the loading of equipment onto a truck at Murphy

Homes, a large public housing complex on West Argyle Avenue. He needed the equipment in Druid Hill Park, where he was taking a group of children for an athletic tournament. He was shot and killed, possibly from a passing vehicle or, as police speculated at the time, by a sniper from inside one of the high-rise buildings. According to his brother, the killer was caught and prosecuted, but details are hard to come by today.

The city paid tribute to Arnold E. Sumpter by placing his name on a park rich with history. It had, dating back to 1860, been part of Baltimore's first professional baseball field, Madison Avenue Grounds, with an enclosed field, stands and bleachers. Both white and black professional teams used the stadium. The Negro League team Baltimore Enterprise played the Washington Mutuals there in 1870. The catcher for Washington was Charles R. Douglass -- the son of social reformer, author, and orator Frederick Douglass.

“Arnold loved working with those kids, his co-workers, the community and the City of Baltimore. Few of us get the opportunity to do what we think we might want to do. My brother was living his dream,” said Carl. “With gratitude, my family thanks the City of Baltimore for honoring my brother Arnold E. Sumpter, by naming a park after him, a place where Baltimoreans can rest themselves and enjoy the view. This park is a blessing to Arnold, our family and the generations to bear tribute.”

- *Bill Hamilton*

Neighbors

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/neighbors-6/>



The Birenbaums are focused on children and learning

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

The Birenbaum household is all about education.

First, meet Milo, 6, a shiny new first grader at Midtown Academy and very happy to be there. Sonny, almost 4, still goes to Bolton Hill Nursery. Simon, the dad, is assistant principal at Benjamin Franklin High School in south Baltimore. Whitney, the mom, taught for 11 years at Midtown, the neighborhood public charter school. She now runs a non-profit literary organization for and led by middle and senior high students in the city.

They're very busy but celebrate the relative normalcy of this school year after huddling at home like the rest of the world when COVID shut everything. Last year Whitney with other parents organized a pod of children including Milo to study and play in nearby parks and behind their townhouse on West Lafayette Avenue. The boys put on coats, masks and helmets and rode bikes and scooters relentlessly up and down the sidewalk in front of their home.

Simon, meanwhile, worked with staff and students at Benjamin Franklin High to hold things together emotionally and technically as they switched to on-line classes. "It's a small (690 students in grades 9-12) community-centered school with a food bank, day care for students who are parents, and other services," he said, for teens drawn from the low/lower-middle income industrial neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay. Many students fell behind and suffered disproportionately from not having in-person classes, he said.

While her children were safe and occupied, Whitney, working at home, tended to the business of *CHARM: Voices of Baltimore Youth*, a literary arts program founded by students and teachers "because

students need to have their voices heard,” she said. They publish a literary magazine, poetry and anthologies and last year invited students to write online about their educational experience during the pandemic, a segment called [*This Is Not a Snow Day*](#). That led to a hardback anthology, *Our Voices Unmasked*, writing and art produced by city youth during the pandemic.

“The kids are all over the map, more than 50 schools,” she said. She is the only full-time employee. She fundraises and runs the publishing side of the business and relies on teachers and volunteers. Students who write or work there are paid.

Whitney and Simon have been married nine years and are in their late thirties. They came to Baltimore with Teach for America, an organization that recruits and assigns college graduates to teach in disenfranchised communities and promote educational equity. She came from the University of North Carolina after growing up near the Outer Banks. As a girl she and her sister published and distributed a Sunday neighborhood newspaper. “Our neighbors told us it was better than the town paper,” she said.

Simon is from St. Louis and went to Rice University in Houston where he decided to give teaching a try. He arrived in Baltimore in 2005 and taught at Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy in West Baltimore originally. At Benjamin Franklin last year “I was meeting and working with the teachers and trying to hold it together and find ways to reach our students, trying to make it work. Now it’s about re-integrating the kids and helping those who never connected with the online classes. It feels different, but I think we’re making progress. The school offers real opportunities for the students. We want them to take advantage of them.”

Whitney landed in Bolton Hill shortly after arriving in Baltimore, first sharing an apartment on Park Avenue with other young women and then living in Fitzgerald apartments. She and Simon bought their home about eight years ago. She serves on the board of Bolton Hill Nursery and is still connected, through Milo and friends, to Midtown Academy. “I know Midtown. I love Midtown. Milo knows that they know him. We love it here,” she said.

"Foxy Ned" Hanlon was Bolton Hill's baseball Hall of Famer

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/foxy-ned-hanlon-was-bolton-hills-baseball-hall-of-famer/>



Long before more our Baltimore Orioles were led to success by the fiery Earl Weaver, there once was a champion baseball club in Baltimore in the 1890s. This club was also called the Baltimore Orioles, and they were led by Edward "Ned" Hanlon, a long-time resident of Bolton Hill and Baltimore's first great baseball manager.

Hanlon was born in 1857 in Montville, CT and he was playing for the Cleveland Blues in 1880, only four years after the National League was founded. In 1881 he began a successful eight-year run with the Detroit Wolverines, and he had his best statistical season with them in 1887 as captain of a team that won a championship series. During a 13-year career as a player, he rapped out 1,318 hits, but he was best known as an excellent defensive centerfielder and a speedy base runner.

In 1888-89 Hanlon was selected as a player in Albert Spalding's "Around the World Baseball Tour" which promoted the game in such destinations as Hawaii, Australia, Egypt, Ceylon, France, and Britain. The group was welcomed home with a banquet at Delmonico's in New York City attended by Theodore Roosevelt and Mark Twain.

Harry von der Horst, owner of the Orioles and son of a prominent local brewery owner, hired Hanlon in 1892 to manage the team. Hanlon bought an elegant corner row home at 1401 Mt. Royal, a spot now occupied by MICA's Bunting Building, where he and his wife Helen and their five children lived for over 30 years.

Hanlon was given stock in the team and full authority over baseball operations, and he immediately made shrewd player moves that transformed a last-place team into one of the greatest teams in baseball history, gaining him the nickname "Foxy Ned." He assembled a core of feisty players which included future Hall of Famers, and he developed a "scientific baseball" approach. That approach made frequent use of the hit-and-run, the double steal, the suicide squeeze, and the "Baltimore Chop." Hanlon's Orioles intimidated

and out-smarted other teams, winning three straight NL pennants (1894-1896) and producing a style of play that was imitated by many teams.

After the 1898 season, Hanlon moved on to manage the Brooklyn Superbas (later the Dodgers) for seven years while winning two pennants. He also had short stints with the Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds and won 1,313 games and five pennants during his 19-year managerial career.

After leaving his baseball life behind him, he joined the Baltimore Parks Board in 1916, becoming its president in 1931. Tragically, his son Lt. Joseph T. Hanlon was killed in World War I. Ashburton Park in northwest Baltimore was renamed Hanlon Park in 1920 to honor his memory.

On April 14, 1937, Ned Hanlon died at age 79 at the home of one of his daughters near the Roland Park Library. His funeral service was held at Corpus Christi Church, attended by many notables from the baseball world. Testimonials poured in. Hall of Famer Connie Mack, an honorary pallbearer at his funeral, remarked that Hanlon was "the greatest leader baseball ever had . . . and I don't believe any man lived who knew as much baseball as he did." *Sporting News* added that he was the "game's greatest strategist" and "the Father of Modern Baseball."

Foxy Ned was laid to rest in Baltimore's New Cathedral Cemetery where three of his famous Hall of Fame players from the old Orioles are also buried: John McGraw, Wilbert Robinson, and Joe Kelley. No other cemetery has as many Hall of Famers. Ned Hanlon was finally elected to the Hall of Fame in 1996 in the same class as another Orioles managerial great -- Earl Weaver.

-Tom Delise

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-13/>



Bolton Hill historian, educator Frank Shivers dies

Frank R. Shivers Jr., [a resident of Bolton Street since 1955 and a chronicler of Baltimore history](#), died on Oct. 5 after a long period of ill health. He was 96.

He was born in 1925 in New Jersey. He served in World War II, then studied at Yale University, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in English. He met his wife, Lottchen (better known as Lottiie), in Cincinnati and the young couple moved to Baltimore in 1951.

As a local historian and author, Shivers' published work includes *Bolton Hill: Baltimore Classic*; *Maryland Wits and Baltimore Bard*; *Walking in Baltimore* and *The Architecture of Baltimore* (with Mary Ellen Hayward). He also co-authored a book on Chesapeake Bay. At a neighborhood celebration honoring the novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald last month, Shivers was called out for his successful campaign to create a park named for Fitzgerald near where his family lived.

Shivers taught at Johns Hopkins University's School of Professional Studies in Business and Education and was named "Teacher of the Year." Previously he taught English for a generation at the Friends School. He and a neighbor took the lead in Bolton Hill's blue plaques program to remember and honor former residents of historic importance. He was the founder of this newsletter, the Bolton Hill Bulletin.

North Avenue gets money, attention from state government

Legislation pushed through in Annapolis by Sen. Antonio Hayes and Del. Marlin Amprey and signed into law in April has led to the creation as of Oct. 1 of a new public authority dedicated to remaking the West

North Avenue corridor. (Hayes and Amprey's shared district includes Bolton Hill.)

The West North Avenue Development Authority, Hayes said, is charged to work in coordination with residents to create a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy for the avenue and its buffer zone. The plan will be targeted at benefiting the residents, housing, neighborhoods, economic development and transportation of both pedestrians and vehicles.

Hayes, the mayor and a plethora of politicians and neighborhood leaders kicked off the project at a Sept. 30 news conference at Coppin State University. Coppin along with MICA are expected to engage and support academic and economic development in the area. Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford was present. He helped initiate a state grant of \$250,000 to get planning underway.

BHCA will be represented on the authority by its president, David Nyweide.

Mayor Brandon Scott said North Avenue and its residents have suffered from disinvestment. "North Avenue has been a window into the city, all that once was Baltimore, all that is wrong about Baltimore, all that can be for Baltimore," he said.

Hayes said that in 2021 alone some \$55 million in public and private funds have been allocated for projects on or nearby West North Avenue. Much of that money is transportation funding under the "North Avenue Rising" project that has led to new traffic lights, bus lanes, bike lanes, enhanced bus stops, roadway re-paving and new sidewalks along the avenue. Construction is also expected to start early in the new year on Madison North, a market-rate housing and retail center on the north side of North Avenue.

BHCA membership approves new bylaws

In a special Zoom remote membership meeting this month the membership of BHCA voted without opposition to adopt a set of bylaws to serve the organization. Highlights of the new bylaws are [here](#). The new bylaws replace those of the now defunct Mount Royal Improvement Association, BHCA's predecessor organization from the 1920s. The name of the organization was changed in 2018 to disassociate today's Bolton Hill from MRIA's segregationist roots.

Despite the noise, crime in Bolton Hill remains relatively low

Although the local Fox TV station likes to harp on crime in the city and the police scanner app Citizen can make us all feel under siege, police statistics compiled by the BHCA safety committee chairman this month show reported crimes, and especially crimes of violence, to be low in Bolton Hill.

Notwithstanding the increased incidence of homicides and shooting incidents citywide and in Baltimore County, in our neighborhood there have been only eight reported incidents of violent crime for the year through Sept. 25, according to data assembled by James Prost. Those incidents were categorized as aggravated assaults (7, compared to 11 in a comparable period last year) and robbery (1 compared to 7 in 2020.) There were no shootings or homicides recorded in Bolton Hill either year, BPD data shows. There have been six auto thefts compared to eight last year.

The overwhelming majority of crimes in the neighborhood are so-called property crimes, primarily reported package “porch piracies” and thefts of items left in yards, cars, garages and storage sheds. There were 66 property crimes in Bolton Hill this year, up from 42 in a comparable period in 2020.

“Some of these incidents can be averted by having UPS and FedEx packages delivered to nearby stores and other designated spots. Locked cars, garages and storage buildings are less likely to be entered than if left unlocked. BPD says porch lights left on at night reduce the likelihood of an intruder entering a building. Police ask that all incidents be reported to 911. Want more detail or other information? Contact Jim Prost at safety@boltonhillmd.org.

Unity Hall is hiring neighborhood construction workers

Know someone who lives nearby and has construction skills or wants to break into that industry? [Unity Hall](#) at 1505 Eutaw Place is hiring and has pledged preferences to workers living in and around central west Baltimore.

Redevelopment of the 30,000 square-foot former union headquarters, built in 1964 and mostly vacant for more than a decade, has begun and is expected to continue through the spring 2022. Mayor Brandon Scott, city council member Eric Costello and a range of community and civic leaders were on hand for the groundbreaking in September.

Once complete, Unity Hall is intended to break down barriers that have traditionally divided the community and to contribute to a healthy neighborhood by providing resources and a venue for creativity. It will house non-profit organizations and a community kitchen with a job training component. For job information stop by the site or email David Hansen (hansendavid743@gmail.com), Ateira Griffin (atiera.griffin@bond.org) or Nabeegah Azeez (nabeegah.azeiz@noboundariescoalition.com) .

About The Bulletin. . . .

The Bulletin publishes monthly except in the summer and invites your feedback, suggestions and submissions. Send them to bulletin@boltonhillmd.org. This month we kick off a Bolton Hill “Photo of the Month” by neighborhood photographer Zhee Chatmon. Laura McConnell is our volunteer designer. Contributors for this issue, among others, are Tom Delise, Paula Jackson, Grey Maggiano, Ellen Molino, Jim Prost and Samantha Ritter. I own the errors and omissions.

– *Bill Hamilton*

Bolton Hill

Community Association