

Bolton Hill

Community Association

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BHCA opposes effort to close Eutaw-Marshburn School

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-opposes-effort-to-close-eutaw-marshburn-school/>



Theresa Marshburn was much more than a crossing guard for students bounding down Eutaw Street in the 60s. The community organizer and activist dedicated her life to serving and improving the lives of Baltimore youths and their families. In 1971 Eutaw Elementary was renamed Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary in Theresa Marshburn's honor.

Bolton Hill Community Association's board has voted to oppose the fast-track effort by Baltimore City Public Schools to close Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School on Bolton Hill's western border at the end of this school year, June 15.

After consulting with leaders of two adjacent community groups whose residents are most impacted by the closing, BHCA's president is sending a letter to BCPS taking exception to the closure, announced on Nov. 9. The city's Board of School Commissioners, made up of mayoral appointees, is to vote on Jan. 11.

Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School 11 [EMES11] was built in 1965 during the Urban Renewal of the area, and is named for Theresa Marshburn, a beloved crossing guard from the community. BCPS has proposed returning the empty property to the city once the school is closed. The school faces Eutaw Place between Wilson and McMechen streets. It also houses the Crispus Attucks Recreation Center.

The school has been under-performing and under-enrolled for the last several years. At EMES11, 99 percent of the students qualify for free or assisted breakfast and lunch. According to the notice, "a sustainable elementary program is about 400 – 500 students. " This is because the school system receives funding on a per student basis, so smaller schools suffer lower funding, leading to a shortage of teachers and resources. But many schools operate just fine at a population of 250.

The recommendation splits the school three ways, revising the zoning to send some kids to Dorothy I. Height Elementary, some to Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary and the rest to Furman Templeton Preparatory Academy. All are a half mile away from EMES11.

The school was scheduled and due for a renovation, replacing windows, installing AC and other upgrades. But at a hearing in the auditorium on Nov. 22, representatives from BCPS Facilities Design & Construction said "There are cracks in the skin of the building so we can't put in new windows." The official recommendation reads thus: "The Eutaw-Marshburn building has serious structural weaknesses

related to the exterior of the building, which cause frequent leaking and flooding. The building also needs a new HVAC system and new windows, which cannot be completed without addressing the structural issues.”

Neighbors tried to get a meeting with the representatives to walkabout and see the cracks and leaking but BCPS declined. City council member Eric Costello appeared at one of the two meetings at the school for parents and neighbors and spoke against the closure.

The school recently welcomed a new Principal, Karen Starliper, who came on board in early November. She’s energetic, smart and engaging. She employs social media to advertise the good things that are happening at the school and the parents love her. Neighbors and volunteers have been impressed.

The big points:

1. BCPS made a promise years ago to renovate and now they say they can't.
2. Doing this to families now is unconscionable.
3. Kids crossing North Avenue or Pennsylvania Avenue at rush hour is insane.
4. The recommendation made incorrect assumptions about future development and population.

The parents also lamented the likely loss of the Judy Center, an early childhood education program out of Promise Heights; the network of social workers provided by The University of Maryland.

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/judy-centers>

If the buildings are left vacant, (they would be ‘returned to Baltimore City’) there is a danger that the abandoned three acres will present a host of new problems in addition to being a huge gap in the community.

Bolton Hill residents interested in preventing this travesty should make their perspectives known in writing, sent to the school board before 5 p.m. on Jan. 3. Written comments must include full name - address - phone number and designation as neighbor or community partner. Send to: Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, 200 E. North Ave., Room 406, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, or email portfoliorecommendations@bcps.k12.md.us. Additional information at <http://www.baltimorecityschools.org> .

– *Monty Howard*

Photo of the Month by Zhee Chatmon

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/photo-of-the-month-by-zhee-chatmon-3/>



Meghan Healy of Robert Street is feeling festive, decking the halls and spreading good cheer! Whatever traditions bring the joy this season, we celebrate with you. Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays!

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.

As city loses residents, Bolton Hill remains stable

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/as-city-loses-residents-bolton-hill-remains-stable/>



It's no secret that Baltimore lost population between 2010 and 2020, dipping below 600,000 residents in the 2020 national census for the first time in more than a century. Fifteen percent of Black residents and 11 percent of white Baltimoreans skipped to suburbs or other places. A significant influx of Hispanics, up 44 percent, was not nearly enough to offset those losses.

But population trends varied significantly from neighborhood to neighborhood within the city, as a [city planning department breakdown](#) reveals. Bolton Hill, for example, had a slight gain in residents over the decade, and the neighborhood became more racially and ethnically diverse. While the number of housing units in Bolton Hill grew only slightly, the new census showed an uptick in vacancies, perhaps in part a result of COVID 19 while the census was being conducted, and its impact on students attending MICA and other nearby schools that shut down.

Bolton Hill residents grew from 4,924 in 2010 to 5,034 in the new census count. White residents made up 2,427 of that larger number, or about 48 percent. Black residents were down slightly from 2010's 1,581, to 1,515, or 30 percent of the neighborhood total. Asians accounted for 597 (about 12 percent), up substantially from 361 in 2010, while Hispanics in Bolton Hill grew from 294 to 480 in 2020, according to the census, or just under 10 percent of the population. Other categories were smaller.

Black residents make up about 60 percent of the city's 585,700 residents identified in the 2020 count. [A Brookings Institution analysis](#) of Baltimore's population decline suggested, however, that the decline is escalating, not stabilizing. According to Brookings' count, the city lost 7,735 residents between 2011 and 2016, but the exodus swelled to more than 30,000 in the last five years.

Bolton Hill resident Charlie Duff, who heads a neighborhood revitalization group, called the overall numbers "bad news for Baltimore." [Writing in the Baltimore Sun](#) with MICA's former president Fred Lazarus, he compared the city's decline to Philadelphia, which grew by 5%, and Richmond, which grew by 6%. "We should be doing at least as well as Philadelphia and Richmond. They are not boom towns like Washington. They are cities like Baltimore, with slow-growing economies, rowhouses and many challenges." They cited a study commissioned by Live Baltimore that the city could grow by 44,000 people per year "if we did the right things."

Midtown Belvedere grew from 3,830 in 2010 to 4,666 last year, a 22 percent jump. Mt. Vernon grew by

14 percent; Downtown residency grew by 61 percent, to 7,171 as the number of housing units there grew by 76 percent. All three became more racially mixed. Nearby Reservoir Hill's population fell, as did the number of residents in neighborhoods just west of Bolton Hill. Madison Park fell by 9.7percent and Upton dropped 16 percent.

– Bill Hamilton

#iamboltonhill. BHCA will open Instagram account, encourage neighbors' photos

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/iamboltonhill-bhca-will-open-instagram-account-encourage-neighbors-photos/>



BHCA's board has adopted a [comprehensive communications policy](#) to govern how the organization manages its outreach to the neighborhood through the BHCA website, the Bulletin newsletter, BH E-mail Network (BHEN) mailings, the BHCA Calendar and the BHCA Facebook page. Starting in the new year, the organization also will have its own Instagram account using the hashtag **#iamboltonhill**. BHCA board member and photographer Zhee Chatmon is overseeing creation of the Instagram pages.

The compiled policies mostly adopt existing practices. These limit commercial or political use of the sites, require monitoring of the Facebook pages, encourage constructive dialogue and not the harangues that often plague social media and try to limit participation to those who live or work in or near Bolton Hill or have another appropriate connection, such as a property or business owner, teacher, elected official or governmental agency.

Content related to each communications channel must be administered by members of the Bolton Hill community who are current BHCA members, live in the neighborhood and have served or currently serve on the BHCA board of directors. The BHCA president, in consultation with the BHCA executive committee and current administrators, will appoint those administrators.

Remembering Ernie Imhoff, a Bolton Hill and Baltimore Sun favorite

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/remembering-ernie-imhoff-a-bolton-hill-and-baltimore-sun-favorite/>



Ernie Imhoff. Baltimore Sun file photo.

Ernie Imhoff, a longtime Bolton Hill resident and Evening Sun editor, [died December 1](#) at the age of 84.

Even though we lived in the same neighborhood and worked in the same building, there was a time when I regarded Ernie as “the opposition.” Ernie was an Evening Sun man, and I was a morning Sun guy. Hard though it is to believe nowadays, there was an era in the 1980s when competition between the two daily newspapers was fierce. Members of these rival newspapers might exchange pleasantries but not story ideas or leads.

The Sun, with its foreign bureaus and large Washington contingent had the reputation of being lofty, if boring. The Evening Sun had the raucous, scrappy spirit of an underdog. Once when The Sun was dubbed as one of America’s top 10 newspapers, wags on The Evening Sun reacted by wearing t-shirts that read, “Evening Sun: One of America’s Newspapers.”

Ernie, with his joyful demeanor and his “Hi Babe” salutation, epitomized the spirit of the Evening Sun. He was an editor who enjoyed his job and by example, reminded the room that newspapering, despite its hassles, could be fun.

Ernie called guys “Babe,” a moniker that seemed unique to denizens of this city. I thought this habit might be connected to one of Baltimore’s famous ballplayers, Babe Ruth. I tried to interview Ernie for a column in the morning Sun I was writing about “Babeness.” He wouldn’t talk to me about it. Old divisions, I guess.

I got to know Ernie better during fishing trips to Tilghman Island. Riding with a carload of guys headed

to the Eastern Shore, Ernie regaled us with tales of his adventures with Bill Burton, the Evening Sun outdoors writer who was once described as “having a lot of bear in him.” According to Ernie, when traveling with Burton you stopped for refreshments at various watering holes along the way. Then on the return trip you accompanied Burton as he reappeared at these establishments, threw some freshly caught fish in their kitchens, hollered “Burton” and departed.

Ernie was fair minded. When the papers merged in the early 1990s, he was given a handful of management duties, including ombudsman. This assignment, responding to complaints from readers about coverage, was pretty much a thankless job but he handled it with grace. He didn’t always agree either with the complainers or the reporters and editors who had handled the stories at issue. But thanks to his years of experience, Ernie knew when journalists took short cuts, or as he used to say “angled a story” to make it seem better. He also wasn’t shy about criticizing bosses when he thought their moves short-changed readers.

Ernie was fit and occasionally walked from his Bolton Hill home to the newspaper building at Centre and Calvert. I missed him on those walks but would see him and his extended family at Bolton Swim and Tennis Club. He reveled in telling how when their first grandchild was born his wife, Hilda, got behind the wheel and rocketed up to New England to see the new arrival, setting speed records along the way.

Ernie told me that when he was as an earnest young reporter for the Middletown Press in Connecticut, he learned a valuable lesson from an editor about collegiality. Late in the day, he was pecking at the typewriter when the rest of his colleagues had repaired to the local watering hole. The editor came up to Ernie and told him “Stop typing, start drinking”. He obeyed his boss. Years later at the end of the workday in Baltimore if Ernie got thirsty, he would phone co-conspirators and announce they had a pending appointment with King Gambrinus. This was code for meeting for beers at the old Baltimore Brewing Company on Albemarle Street.

For more memories of Ernie Imhoff, click [here](#).

– *Rob Kasper*

Bolton Hill Nursery seeks new executive director

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-nursery-seeks-new-executive-director/>



Bolton Hill Nursery, the nonprofit nursery school on West Lanvale Street that serves children 2 to 5 years old, is searching for a [new executive director](#). The deadline for applications is Jan. 7.

Created in 1969, the school provides 70 children with play-based nursery school and pre-kindergarten programming, with a staff of 16. Beth Drummond Casey, the current director, is retiring at 66 after a lifetime in education. “Our first child, my daughter who lives in Hampden, has had her first child, and now I look forward to being a granny,” she said.

Although the new director won’t begin work until July, the board hopes to move quickly through the search process and find a replacement by early spring, she said. “We started the search knowing that teachers already are making decisions about the coming school year, and we wanted to cast a wide net. It’s a fun, interesting and important job.”

Get to know Baltimore's little, Little Korea

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/get-to-know-baltimores-little-little-korea/>



Kong-Pocha is at 12 W. 20th Street.

When my husband and I were house shopping a few years ago, a flyer at an open house in Barclay mentioned its proximity to Baltimore's Koreatown. As a Los Angeles-area native whose favorite L.A. neighborhood is Koreatown, this piqued my interest. I had no idea Baltimore had a Koreatown!

Miniscule compared to Koreatowns in L.A. or New York, Baltimore boasts a small collection of Korean restaurants and bars in Charles North/Old Goucher, about a 15-minute walk from Bolton Hill.

(Disclosure: I am white, I've never visited Korea, and most of my knowledge of Korean cuisine comes from cooking [Maangchi recipes](#). I do not purport to be an expert.)

The Korean population in Baltimore City thrived from the 1970s to the 1990s. The city's first Korean grocery, Far East House, was on North Avenue. (Unfortunately, no Korean market remains nearby). As of 20 years ago, Koreans were the largest non-white, non-Black ethnic group in Baltimore City, and the Korean immigrant population constituted 9-16 percent of the neighborhood in question. Since then, many people of Korean descent have settled in the suburbs, especially Howard County. U.S. Route 40 west from Baltimore to Ellicott City – which state officials have designated “Korean Way” – features many restaurants and markets (including the popular Asian supermarket, H Mart).

Baltimore's “K-town,” or Little Korea, is bounded by North Avenue. on the south, N. Howard Street. on the west, 24th Street on the north, and N. St. Paul Street on the east. However, most establishments I am aware of are centered around N. Maryland Ave. and N. Charles Street, between 20th and 22nd streets.

All the restaurants offer traditional Korean recipes including soups, casseroles, and rice dishes – as well as alcohol, such as soju. Be-One Korean BBQ, Jong Kak, and Kong-Pocha also have Korean barbecue options. Jong Kak provides charcoal tabletop braziers for barbecue. Kong Pocha – which only recently added a sign identifying itself – also specializes in fried chicken (original, butter & lemon, or spicy).

A few of the restaurants boast karaoke rooms and stay open late – Be-One and Jong Kak are open until midnight on weekends, with Kong-Pocha staying open until 3 or 4 am. Nam Kang operated a separate karaoke and sports bar behind the restaurant. It's one of the older Korean restaurants in town – on 22nd, but it's unclear if it remains open. Finally, there is the Crown, which includes Karaoke, DJs, and live

music nightly until 2 a.m. I've never been there, but I've heard wild stories about its late-night revelry!

Baltimore's small Koreatown offers a filling, fun and late night out, only a short hop from Bolton Hill.

– *Andrew N. Dupuy*

New Bolton Hill resident is a man of many places

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/new-bolton-hill-resident-is-a-man-of-many-places/>



Damon and Chi at Westminster Palace.

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 by emailing bulletin@boltonhillmd.org.

Damon Silvers, who moved to Bolton Hill early this year, lives a life that is a tale of three cities. Four, actually.

For much of the past two years he was not going into his office near the White House, where he is Senior Strategic Advisor and Special Counsel to the President of the AFL-CIO. Like most professionals, he was working from home in Takoma Park during the early COVID months.

The last two years were critical ones for the AFL-CIO, a federation of 55 unions representing some 12 million members. Silvers, 57, worked on the Biden Administration transition team that led up to the inauguration. He was involved, as well, in shaping the first Biden initiatives proposed to Congress, including labor law reform, the recently passed bipartisan infrastructure bill and the now House-passed Build Back Better package of social and economic reforms.

“Until the pandemic hit, living in the Takoma Park apartment was fine. I was working all the time, going out, traveling a lot. But suddenly I could not go out, could not travel, working all the time. It was like a prison cell. I decided I could afford a house, and after consulting my grown children and the woman I care most about, I came back to Bolton Hill, which I think is one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the country. It reminds me of Church Hill in Richmond, where I lived and went to high school, with its grand old 19th century architecture. I love it.”

But he has a complicated life. In 2017 at a conference at the University of Texas at Austin, he met an

“enchanted” woman, a member of Parliament from Newcastle, in northeast England. He asked her out on a date. He offered any city in Europe. She chose “the greatest city in the world,” Newcastle. That’s where Chinyelu (“Chi”) Onwurah was raised by immigrant parents from Nigeria and Ireland, and which she now represents as a Labor Party member of the House of Commons, which meets year-around at Westminster, in London.

So, before the pandemic and during – as travel restrictions have allowed – Silvers has ping-ponged from Baltimore to D.C., commuting by car to the office, but also flying often to London and accompanying Chi home on weekends back to Newcastle. She has come to Baltimore, as well, most recently in September, but like many elected officials she is wary of being out of her district.

Silvers has done his job via the Internet from England, coping with the five-hour time difference. Chi, for her part, must show up, and so they go to London. She cannot cast Parliamentary votes or attend hearings online, and she is a shadow cabinet member in opposition to the government of Boris Johnson.

“Having the new house has been a blessing,” Silvers said “On a nice day I can sit up on the roof deck and look out across the neighborhood. I’ve sailed a few times with friends, and with Chi once, on the Inner Harbor and I hope to get my own boat in the water in the spring. I hope to repeat last winter’s fabulous experiences cross-country skiing in Druid Hill Park.”

He lived in Bolton Hill in the 1990s, on the top floor of an old mansion. He was commuting then, too, to Delaware, where he was a law clerk at the Delaware Court of Chancery while his wife worked in Baltimore. He joined the AFL-CIO staff in 1997.

Silvers is a graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School. He has two grown children, one a PhD student at Durham University, not far from Newcastle in Durham, England, and the other studying astrophysics at Haverford College, in Pennsylvania.

– Bill Hamilton

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-15/>



Getting ready for the holidays? Get vaxed for free, close to home

Planning a trip out of town over the holidays? Or perhaps you will have a house full of visitors? The surest way to protect yourself indoors and out is to have your first and second COVID 19 inoculations and, if you are eligible, a booster shot. You can get the shots for free, a short distance from where you live.

The state health department has opened a vaccine and testing site at State Center, 300 W. Preston St., between Eutaw and Mason streets. The shots are offered on a walk-up basis for people 12 and over on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon, and on Saturdays until 3:30 p.m. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays they offer COVID tests, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The facility will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Appointments for testing for all ages are recommended. Vaccines for young children require an appointment.

Walgreens at 238 McMechen St., Rite Aid at 250 West Chase St., and Safeway's pharmacy at 2401 N. Charles St. all offer shots by appointments and sometimes on a walk-in basis. Park Avenue Pharmacy is not offering the shots, but it does sell at-home COVID test kits.

Leaf Collection is underway

During leaf season, Midtown's Green Team is out cleaning up leaves in the streets, sidewalks, and parks. Midtown Benefits District staff monitor the community, focusing on areas that have yet to be serviced and those that have the greater needs. In all they cover 144 blocks, including all of Bolton Hill, collecting fallen leaves from over 4,000 trees.

With many still working from home, you may experience short bursts of noise when a team is on your block, a short-term noise in exchange for streets and sidewalks cleared of leaves. Midtown says it will only deploy within times allowed by municipal noise codes. To protect Midtown workers, brief road closures may be necessary.

Midtown takes the leaves it collects to partners at urban farms and community gardens to be composted.

In more densely populated and high vehicular traffic areas, Midtown teams sweep the leaves by hand and bag them for trash collection, which can be a tedious process. They ask for your patience as they collect these leaves. Midtown will be back several times over the upcoming weeks to collect leaves. If you need to have piles of leaves collected or leaf bags removed, please submit a request online at <https://www.midtownbaltimore.org/request-services>.

Owner of Mount Royal Tavern dies

An owner of the famous (some would say infamous) Mt. Royal Tavern has died.

[Ron Carback](#), a Baltimore native who gave up a career in banking to run a dive bar that Esquire magazine in 2016 ranked among the country's best such joints, died of complications of skin cancer. He was 71. His longtime friend and co-owner, Chris Kozak, continues running the bar.

Not a regular at the tavern? This film, [Dirt Church](#), captures its spirit.

Reverse holiday caroling set for Sunday, Dec. 19 , 3-4:30 p.m.

Stroll the neighborhood and enjoy holiday music from different groups throughout the neighborhood.

featuring:

- 3 in Threes: Selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and other holiday favorites, inside Memorial Episcopal Church
- Brett Naylor: holiday music. Ana's Garden at the end of Mosher St.
- David Storey: Christmas music on the organ, corner of Bolton in front of Cookhouse
- Frintini Family Band: All ages sing-along-caroling. John St. Park and West Lafayette.

It's hosted by: Brown Memorial Presbyterian and Memorial Episcopal churches. Brown Memorial will offer cocoa and cookies on the church's front steps.

Legislators to discuss state funding initiatives

The four legislators who represent most of Bolton Hill will hold a Zoom hearing Thursday (Dec. 16) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to discuss legislative bond initiatives for the 40th legislative district and beyond.

A Legislative Bond Initiative (LBI) is a request for state funding to support specific local or non-state owned capital projects. These projects include various cultural, historic, health, educational, and economic development projects not funded by other state capital grant and loan projects.

Sen. Antonio Hayes and Delegates Melissa Wells, Frank Conaway Jr. and Marion Amprey, all Democrats, will host the meeting. To register go to

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tcOqqjwiE9cvW2Oc-v3QMPq1UU6WDnCa?mc_cid=e7afa27eeb&mc_eid=17d5f50cbb

About The Bulletin. . . .

The Bulletin publishes monthly except in the summer and invites your feedback, suggestions and submissions. Send them to bulletin@boltonhillmd.org. Laura McConnell is our designer. Marci Yankelov is the business manager. Contributors for this issue, among others, are Drew Dupuy, Monty Howard, Paula Jackson and Rob Kasper. I own the errors and omissions.

– *Bill Hamilton*

Bolton Hill

Community Association