

Bolton Hill

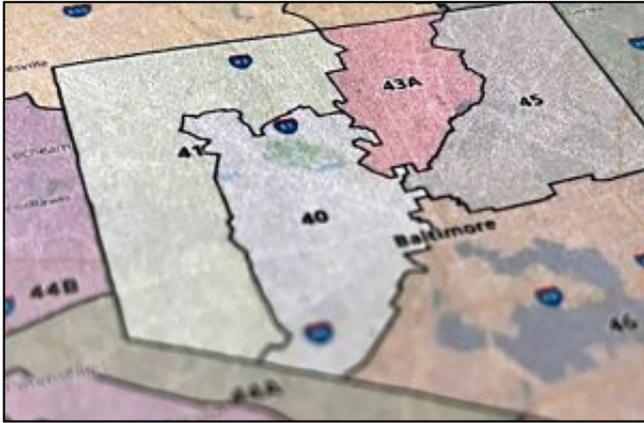
Community Association

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Bolton Hill is consolidated, loses legislative district 44a in redistricting

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-is-consolidated-loses-legislative-district-44a-in-redistricting/>



The loss of population for Baltimore City in the 2020 US Census is translating into a reduced voice in the Maryland General Assembly for the city. It also means that some Bolton Hill residents will have new legislative representatives as part of a consolidated General Assembly District 40 with its senator and three assembly delegates.

Assembly District 44A, since 2010 a city single-member carve-out from a district that was mostly in Baltimore County, will move entirely into the county. District 44a previously included a southwest sliver of Bolton Hill that ran down south from Linden Avenue.

“The maps have been approved by both the Senate and the House of Delegates,” said District 40 Sen. Antonio Hayes. “Legislative redistricting, unlike congressional maps, are in the form of a resolution – not a bill like congressional. The Governor does not have the ability to veto like he does with the congressional map and other pieces of legislation. Therefore, the map passed by the General Assembly is final. There will inevitably be lawsuits and the courts will rule if these maps are legally sufficient or, as in 2002, the courts can go as far as drawing their own maps,” Hayes said.

Roxane Lee Prettyman, who was chosen by the Democratic State Central Committee in 2021 to fill a vacancy in 44A, will be out of work unless she chooses to run in another district. A native of Sandtown-Winchester and a member of the central committee when selected, she is a retired paralegal. The senator who represented District 44 is Charles E Snyder III, who lives in Windsor Mill, in Baltimore County. His district no longer will bleed into the city, but he likely will continue to hold the seat.

The filing deadline for all candidates for state offices is Feb. 22. The Democratic primary is June 28. All Baltimore city representatives are Democrats.

All of Bolton Hill now falls into District 40, represented by Sen. Hayes, first elected in 2018, and by three incumbent delegates: lawyer Marlon Amprey, appointed last year by the party committee with Hayes’ support; Frank M. Conaway Jr., elected since 2006; and union staffer Melissa Wells, first elected in 2018. All face re-election this year.

The Bulletin will run information on the coming primary elections in the March issue after the filing deadline.

Photo of the Month by Zhee Chatmon

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/photo-of-the-month-by-zhee-chatmon-5/>



Feeling the love. Do you see what I see? Discovered this sweet ice patch while on a crisp walk near Mt. Royal Elementary school. Happy February Neighbors ?!

BHCA and neighbor groups get grant for “Green Streets” development

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-and-neighbor-groups-get-grant-for-green-streets-development/>



In cooperation with Madison Park and Historic Marble Hill community associations, the BHCA Greening Committee received a \$15,000 grant to plan a joint Green Streets project along parks and median strips at 1402 Eutaw Park (Mound Park), the 1400-1500 Eutaw Place median and Mosher Plaza.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust provided the funds to identify opportunities for native plantings, to increase the tree canopy and to replace impervious surfaces with more permeable materials along the boulevard that separates Bolton Hill from those other neighborhoods.

Lee Tawney, co-chair of the BHCA committee with Doug Kelso, noted that “the neighborhoods have been divided historically and socially by Eutaw Place (the “Red Line” which ran from North Avenue to Dolphin). We viewed this greening project as an opportunity to help bridge that divide.”

The \$15,000 was received and a RFP issued for a Green Streets concept plan. A working group of representatives from Madison Park, Marble Hill and Bolton Hill chose the landscape architecture firm of Hord Coplan Macht, Inc. to produce the plan. After meeting with stakeholders and the city departments of Housing and Community Development, Recreation and Parks, and Transportation, the [Green Streets concept plan](#) was completed on Jan. 18th. The next step is a second request to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for a second grant to start the work.

Is there a plan for restoring weekly residential recycling pickups?

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/is-there-a-plan-for-restoring-weekly-residential-recycling-pickups/>



Coincidence, says dictionary.com, is a *striking occurrence of two or more events at one time apparently by mere chance*.

For example, In the fall of 2021, Mayor Brandon Scott enthusiastically announced the city would be distributing 65-gallon recycling carts to every eligible household. The big blue bins have been welcomed by some and cursed by others but in November and December they rolled off box trucks and were plopped down in front of hundreds of Bolton Hill townhouses and elsewhere.

Then in mid-January the city’s new Director of Public Works, Jason Mitchell, announced that the city would be cutting in half its residential recycling pickup service. He blamed worker absenteeism caused by the pandemic and the need to assign drivers to snowplow duties. After two years of COVID the city still had no auxiliary backup work force plan.

It is the second time since COVID arrived in early 2020 that recycling services were suspended. In 2020 pickups halted entirely for nearly five months as DPW workers suffered from infections. The latest cutback was said initially to be “temporary,” although no one at DPW will use that word now. Rather, DPW spokespeople are linking the absence of recycling pickups to the distribution of the cans.

I called on Bolton Hill’s city council representative, Eric Costello, to ask DPW what the plan was: what was their goal for reinstating the pickups? He said he would inquire, but that DPW was generally, in his words, “unresponsive.”

About the same time, DPW's director Mitchell appeared on WYPR and discussed the staff shortages. He said the main problem was keeping drivers on the job because of competition from the private sector, and COVID. He said the department has instituted CDL training classes to upgrade employees and was hiring qualified new drivers. Other sanitation workers, while affected by COVID, were not in short supply and relatively easy to replace, he said. In briefly discussing the cutback on services, he did not use the word "temporary."

Larry Nunley is a community relations staffer for DPW who attends BHCA meetings often. This month he was asked about the plan for *restoring* weekly recycling and he promised to get an answer. Here is what his supervisor told him to say:

"Due to COVID-19 and the significant impact it has had on the city's Solid Waste Bureau, DPW, in an effort to sustain collection services, modified the collection of recycling services effective Jan. 18, 2022. The recycling modification plan also includes additional drop off sites. Information regarding the plan can be found on DPW's website... or by calling 311."

That seemed, to use Costello's word, unresponsive, so I posed this question again, this time to Yolanda Winkler, DPW's Chief, Office of Communications and Strategic Alliances: ***Does the department have a target date or goal for resuming weekly pickups?***

Winkler responded: *As you know, we have distributed recycling carts to over 150,000 residents. It is our ultimate goal to sustain recycling collections.... We are continuing to evaluate sustainable solid waste collection schedules.*

Perhaps it is just a hedge so that city officials can avoid criticism for announcing a goal and failing to meet it. For residents with cars and free time to haul their stuff, the DPW Station at 2840 *Sisson Street* will accept deliveries Monday-Saturday from 9 to 5. And pickups will continue on alternate Fridays. The next one in Bolton Hill will be Feb. 25.

About those blue bins: they are part of Mayor Scott's goal of increasing rates of household recycling across the city, his office said. They were paid for in large part through contributions from bottling and packaging trade associations that have opposed bottle taxes or other packaging limitations designed to cut waste and promote re-use. The mayor called it a "first-of-its-kind public-private partnership."

– *Bill Hamilton*

Reginald Scott roams Bolton Hill every morning to keep us informed

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/reginald-scott-roams-bolton-hill-every-morning-to-keep-us-informed/>



Reginald Scott

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

If you're a newspaper reader and you hear someone hurrying along on your front sidewalk or near your steps in the dark at 4:30 or 5 a.m., be glad that he is there.

Reginald Scott, 47, has been delivering the *Baltimore Sun* seven days a week in the early morning for 18 years now. His route previously included about half of Bolton Hill but for the past year and going forward he delivers papers to all of Bolton Hill and a swath of that city that stretches west and also takes him into southwest Baltimore.

He delivers *The Sun*, but also the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times* and *USA Today*. In Bolton Hill and one other neighborhood, down around Pigtown, he says, many of his customers get two or even three of the papers, especially on weekends, when his delivery day is longer and more complicated. The *New York Times* is the most in demand after *The Sun*. In some neighborhoods, demand for any newspaper is sparse, with only two or three customers.

"I get up at 2 a.m., feed my dogs and take them walking, then leave for the warehouse at 3. I pick up my papers there and then get started. I bag and sort them in the car, not at the warehouse," he said. The distributors for whom Scott works provide the plastic weather bags into which each paper is wrapped. "I pay for my gas and provide the vehicle," he said.

Often, he has brought his Bullmastiff, Bruno, along with him. He breeds dogs and has two Bullmastiff

puppies for sale at the moment. On weekdays the deliveries take about four hours; on Sundays it stretches to six. Then he heads to his home in West Baltimore. Weekdays he takes his nine-year-old son to school and tries for a quick nap before heading to his second job. He's a grill cook at the Cracker Barrel restaurant near Thurgood Marshall BWI airport.

That second job can add up to as many as 35 hours in seasonal weather, but these days it is only 20 hours a week. He has worked there for five years. "I love to cook," he said. For a dozen years earlier, he was manager at a McDonalds, but the long hours conflicted with his need to support his daughter (and now his son) in school activities. The daughter, 22, works with her mother at a federal agency.

A Baltimore native, Scott is a graduate of Woodlawn High School in the county. He followed his brother into newspaper deliveries, initially delivering on a bicycle. He likes the work routine, except for inclement weather. He said he usually starts his deliveries in the Bolton Hill area because people get up early and, before the pandemic, many left for work or the MARC train early. He tries to do south Baltimore later, he said, because if he leaves papers on the steps there too early, they disappear.

"They take them, and they read them. I actually caught a guy a couple of times there stealing papers. I told him, 'You see me most days. Just ask and if I have an extra paper, I will give it to you.'"

Cutbacks in the quality and the size of the *Baltimore Sun*, a once-great newspaper now in serious decline, has led to a loss of subscribers and, for Scott, revenue. He said he once could count on \$900 a week from his deliveries but it has dropped down to below \$600. Once the competing new *Baltimore Banner* starts up that could cut his revenue further. All of the papers, including *The Sun*, now are printed in Delaware. Until last month they were produced in south Baltimore.

"I'm here as long as they're printing." He said he likes the work and "it pays my bills." He also enjoys home improvement work and would welcome a full-time opportunity for that sort of employment.

– *Bill Hamilton*

BHCA hosts Black History Month party online or in-person

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-hosts-black-history-month-party-online-or-in-person/>



Lady Brion, Mecca, and Black Chakra

Join with neighbors in the 21217 community for the Sixth Annual Black History Month party **Sunday, February 20, from 3-5 pm**. Hosted by BHCA's Social Action Task Force (SATF), this annual "Party with a Purpose" celebrates the writings of Black authors, with presentations on current history-making in our own backyard.

What's the purpose? These events introduce neighbors to local organizations making a difference in our community, while generating support for their work.

This year's featured guests are [Wide Angle Youth Media](#), and the [Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum](#) on Eutaw St. at Lafayette. Plus, the three incredible poets from last year will be back: [Black Chakra](#), [Lady Brion](#), and Mecca. The two-hour program will be filled with poetry readings, both our local poets reading their own works, and neighbors reading the work of others.

Presentations by both non-profits will showcase the local history they are making. And it wouldn't be a party without music DJ'd by Bolton St. resident and musicologist Don Palmer.

You can either attend in-person or online. Guests wearing face masks may attend the live show in the main sanctuary of Memorial Episcopal Church, 1407 Bolton Street. The sanctuary can easily seat 80-100 people safely socially distanced. The party also will be broadcast live via Zoom, so you can opt to watch from the comfort of your home. A Zoom link will be posted on the BHCA [calendar events page](#).

Select a favorite work by a black author, and read it yourself as part of the program. Anyone can sign up to read [using this online form](#).

These parties run on donations, with the money shared between the two non-profits and the poets. Please consider donating generously online through the [BHCA website here](#), and select "Social Action Task

Force” from the “What would you like your donation to support?” dropdown menu. The suggested donation is \$10.

Want to get involved with the SATF? Email satf@boltonhillmd.org. Volunteers and new energy are always needed. What would you like to see happen in the neighborhood?

– *Peter Van Buren*

Pick up Bolton Hill (Area 3) parking permits at Fitzgerald Park March 26

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/pick-up-bolton-hill-area-3-parking-permits-at-fitzgerald-park-march-26/>



If your vehicle has a recent parking permit decal or placard, you'll likely be contacted by Baltimore's Parking Authority soon to renew online. This year, you'll have the option of

- 1) having your new parking permit(s) mailed *for an extra fee*.
- 2) picking permits up at the Parking Authority office downtown.
- 3) picking them up at the BHCA community permit pick-up in Fitzgerald Park at Bolton and Wilson Streets on Saturday, March 26 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. And while you are there you can renew your BHCA membership or make a voluntary contribution to one of several community projects.

To pick them up anywhere you will need personal ID and your vehicle registration card. Questions about parking permits? Go to the Parking Authority [website](#) or contact [Shamir Cole](#) with the Parking Authority. Questions about community parking permit distribution? Contact Patsy Andrews at parking@boltonhillmd.org. *If you are available to volunteer and assist in distributing the permits or related tasks, she'll be pleased to hear from you.*

Man accused of torching Bolton Hill residence faces federal and state charges

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/man-accused-of-torching-bolton-hill-residence-faces-federal-and-state-charges/>



Photo of burned house from rear on February 5, 2022

A man accused of setting fire to a house occupied by his ex-girlfriend on Bolton Hill's northern edge is in jail and likely to stay there for a while after his plea bargain with the state's attorney's office was rejected by a Baltimore judge. A day later Luther Moody Trent was charged in federal court as well.

Trent, 21, allegedly set fire on May 21 to a rented house in the 1900 block of Linden Avenue in Spicer's Run, occupied by Alexis Young and two other people. He was charged in state court with arson, attempted murder and a variety of other offenses. At a state court hearing in December Trent's attorney and a prosecutor from the Baltimore Office of the State Attorney agreed that Trent would plead guilty and accept a short prison term which amounted to time already served.

But the occupants of the house, whose lives were endangered said they were not given a chance to be heard by the court, and so the judge withdrew her approval of the negotiated deal and ordered Trent held in jail for a new trial date Feb. 18. Meanwhile charges were also brought against Trent in federal court for malicious destruction of property by arson.

The house had \$40,000 in damages, according to police reports. The U.S. Attorney who brought the federal charges against Trent has also indicted State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby for lying on an application for a bank loan and misrepresenting her financial situation to get federal COVID relief. [The Baltimore Sun has more details.](#)

Mount Royal gets \$50K grant to restore Nut and Bolt sculpture

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/mount-royal-gets-50k-grant-to-restore-nut-and-bolt-sculpture/>



Arthur Benson's Nut and Bolt Sculpture at Mount Royal Elementary Middle School.

The Maryland State Arts Council has awarded \$50,000 to the Parent Teacher Organization at Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School to start the restoration of Arthur Benson's *Nut and Bolt*, 1982 metal sculpture, with completion expected in the fall.

An additional \$20,000 is needed to complete the major restoration work, consultation of conservators, documentation, a wall plaque celebrating the artwork and its conservation, curricular programs, and a dedication event, according to Lauren Ross, a Baltimore Museum of Art conservationist who with Florencia Gutierrez, a BHCA board member and PTO leader, are leading the PTO project.

Benson, now 74, was a Bolton Hill resident and a Mount Royal EMS parent when he constructed the monumental structure 40 years ago. He served as faculty chair of the undergraduate sculpture department of MICA for 30 years;

Nut and Bolt is in the public art collection of the City of Baltimore. It was commissioned by James Pettit of the architecture firm Ayers Saint (now Ayers Saint Gross) in 1981 and funded through Baltimore City's "Percent for Art" Program. It was conceived as an aesthetic enhancement of an architectural footbridge connecting the school's learning spaces. The footbridge required vertical footing supports for stability, so Benson clad the bridge and cleverly disguised the footings with a painted design scheme inspired by TINKERTOYS®, a toy building system invented in 1913.

The PTO will host a virtual popcorn fundraiser from Feb. 21-25. Folks can host their own pop-up shop to raise funds for the school or they can just buy popcorn from others who have set up a pop-up for their child. For those interested in setting up their own pop up: Join Mt Royal EMS PTO's fundraising Event by downloading the Double Good app and entering the Event code: WTN GAO. Click here to download Double Good <https://dgpopup.app.link/d/1WZimpTFinb>

Interested in contributing to the fundraising campaign? Email mtroyalpto@gmail.com or donate through PayPal on the page: <https://www.mountroyalschool.com/pto>. Please specify that funds go to support the sculpture.

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-17/>



\$\$\$ for gardeners and preservationists with deadlines

looming

These three grant opportunities caught our attention:

- **Midtown Baltimore**, the community benefits district that covers Bolton Hill, is offering up to \$250 apiece for any person or group wanting to spruce up parks and public spaces in the community. Uses may include, but are not limited to gardening supplies (e.g. hoses, shovels, etc.), plant material, capital purchases (benches, lights, etc.), signage, or labor provided by Midtown or a qualified contractor. The funds may not be used for personal gain or materials/items to be used on personal property. More information at service@midtowncommunity.org
- **Bolton Hill Garden Club** greening grants aim to help create and improve public green spaces in the 'hood: the planting and maintenance of parks, public green space and tree wells. Priority projects focus on perennial flowers and native plants, shrubbery and trees, and gardening materials. In the case of tree wells for example, a grant can cover hardscape or labor costs to enlarge or prepare gardening spaces. [More information here](#). Deadline to apply is March 15.
- At **Maryland's Historic Trust**, applications are now accepted for the Historic Preservation FY2022 grant round. Applicants are encouraged to read the guidelines, view a recorded webinar or webinar slide deck and to contact program staff with questions. All applicants must submit an application by March 15, 2022. [More information here](#).

Unity Hall ready to hire full-time director

Baltimore Unity Hall-Center for Arts, Education and Training on Eutaw Place near McMechen Street is looking for an experienced, fulltime director to coordinate the organization's work, recruit new alliances and oversee its program to promote economic development in Central West Baltimore.

They hope to have a director in place by the time Unity Hall opens in April. The salary range is \$80-95,000 plus health insurance. [A job description is here](#). More information about Unity Hall can be found [here](#).

Will there be an Artscape in 2022?

Amid rumors that the current city government is unenthusiastic about restoring Artscape after a two-year COVID absence, the quasi-government agency Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts says it will make an announcement by March 1.

In The Pandemic Beforetimes, the city government was proud to claim Artscape as Baltimore's largest and most beloved annual arts festival that attracts an average audience of more than 300,000 people to Midtown Baltimore and the Station North Arts & Entertainment District each summer. "On the Artscape website, unedited since last year's cancellation, is this statement:

"BOPA looks forward to returning in 2022 stronger and healthier as part of the city's recovery, ready to celebrate the landmark 40th anniversary of Artscape." Typically held in late July or early August, planning for the festival used to be a year-around process involving MICA, University of Baltimore, community groups and lots of businesses and individuals.

School board postpones closing Eutaw-Marshburn school for a year

The Baltimore City school board gave Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School another year to operate but showed no sign that it was willing to reverse the school district's recommendation to close the school.

After hearing from a wide range of parents, teachers and community organizations opposed to permanently closing the school at Eutaw Place and Wilson Avenue, the board postponed but did not back down from plans to shut the 57-year-old school, which serves children who mostly live in nearby neighborhoods west of Eutaw.

BHCA's board voted to oppose the closure, submitting a letter in collaboration with adjoining community groups noting that substantial redevelopment is taking place that would in time likely expand the school's enrollment. Enrollment now is about 225 in a facility that, properly renovated, could handle 500 students. The system has delayed maintenance of the school and now says it will cost \$20 million to upgrade it.

Bolton Hill resident China Boak Terrell, CEO of a group working to bring investment to low-income, urban neighborhoods, said closing the schools and creating acres of vacant space and broken glass would be devastating for families and children. Representatives from the West Baltimore Inter-faith group BUILD also spoke against the closure of Eutaw-Blackburn and two other schools. More information [here](#) and [here](#).

Here's a chance to weigh in on transit planning

Bolton Hill is at a nexus of several transit options. The light rail runs along the southeast edge of the neighborhood, and the subway is a short walk south to State Center. Oddly, there is no nearby place where one can transfer from light rail directly to the subway or vice versa.

At this month's BHCA meeting we heard a presentation from the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) on its Statewide Transit Plan, a 50-year plan for the whole state. See the presentation slides [here](#). Some of the strategies for achieving the plan include:

- Integrated fare payment
- New technology
- Safety practices
- Customer-friendly features
- Enhanced service to essential destinations

What do you like about public transportation in Baltimore and around Maryland? What might be improved? MTA wants feedback on its draft plan by February 18. Click [here](#) to read the draft and leave your feedback.

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 business manager. Contributors for this issue, among others, are Zhee Chatmon, Rachel Helferd, Paula Jackson, Bonnie Legro, David Nyweide, Lauren Ross, Lee Tawney and Peter Van Buren. I own the errors and omissions.

– *Bill Hamilton*

Bolton Hill

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