

# Bolton Hill

## Community Association

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## Getting and giving news and support with people in Ukraine

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/getting-and-giving-news-and-support-with-people-in-ukraine/>



Katia (R) and her mother at a rally in D.C.

In her day job, **Katia Pokhodnya** works from her Bolton Hill home for the Securities and Exchange Commission. She responds to whistleblowers – sometimes brave, aggrieved men and women willing to report corporate wrongdoing or fraud. But today she is in touch with other brave and aggrieved people, friends and family on the run or enduring bloodshed in her native Ukraine.

She talks to them every day – some in Kyiv, where she was raised, and others who have fled the capital or left the country – women, some with children. She speaks also with men who cannot leave and are fending off the Russian invasion as best they can and trying to live their lives.

“All of them are traumatized by the war, and many still can’t believe it is happening to them. They are surviving day by day, many not thinking long term. Some are wondering if they’ll ever be able to go back, worried about their children. One says that her child doesn’t want to go back home, where such bad things are happening,” the 38-year-old lawyer said. “We talk about their options.”

Katia left home with her parents and a sister in much calmer circumstances in 1998, a few years after the breakup of the Soviet Union, when Ukraine and Russia were pledging partnership and mutual protection. As a student there she was taught in both Russian and Ukrainian.

She studied and lived in several cities before marrying and settling in Bolton Hill. She, her husband, and **two** children live in a townhouse which, these days, flies a blue-and-yellow Ukraine flag. **She is co-president of Mount Royal school’s PTO.**

She is, she says, ready to invite those escaping the war to come to America and hopes the country will quickly change immigration policies to welcome Ukrainians escaping war. In the first days of Russia’s attack she was among the people who supported the stadium authority displaying Ukraine’s colors. She participated in protest demonstrations in D.C. and began encouraging donations to humanitarian organizations supporting Ukrainians.

Now she is more concerned about American support for the long haul. She hopes neighbors will join her in contributing to organizations helping families and supporting the military in Ukraine, but also with advocacy – reaching out to Maryland’s congressional delegation and keeping them focused on pressuring Russia and supporting the people of Ukraine. “Ukrainians are fighting for the democratic values we all believe in, for freedom and self-determination, and American people’s support means so much right now,” she said. “We need to understand that higher gas prices are one way we are showing our support,” she added.

On her Facebook page she frequently updates friends and neighbors in this country with moving stories and ways to help, suggesting this compilation of resources, which she updates regularly:

<https://linktr.ee/kpimus> “We have to stand with Ukraine,” she said.

“It is tiring to see pictures of tragedy every day,” she said. “We become desensitized; numb. We use defensive mechanisms to keep functioning, to go on. It’s our human nature. But as long as Ukrainians are getting killed, it is the world’s duty to keep speaking, to keep protesting, to devote what efforts we can to making it stop. It is our duty to help.”

Katia and neighbors are hosting a fundraiser to support Ukraine on Friday, March 25, from 5-8 p.m. at Guilford Hall Brewery, 1611 Guilford Ave. Suggested contribution is \$20 or more.

– *Bill Hamilton*

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## **Boltonstock gives way to block party. Festival on the Hill set for Oct. 8**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/boltonstock-gives-way-to-block-party-festival-on-the-hill-set-for-oct-8/>



A Festival poster from pre-pandemic times.

BHCA has proposed dropping the annual Boltonstock celebration this year and instead supporting the No Boundaries Coalition block party to be held in June, as NBC moves its offices to the new Unity Hall on Eutaw Place. The party will take place on the Eutaw Place park median that fronts the renovated building.

As part of its budget-making process and after hearing from board and other members, BHCA leaders also suggested giving up the Halloween parade. It was created last year to give neighborhood children an outdoor event during the pandemic. It was hosted by BHCA's social action task force and No Boundaries Coalition and held around Sumpter Park. The hope is that the decline of the pandemic will allow traditional treat-or-treating this year.

In framing a budget to be voted on by BHCA's board, Treasurer **Chris Kingsley** and other leaders held online and in-person meetings to hear from neighbors, then proposed sponsoring these upcoming events with BHCA funds and volunteer leadership: The NBC Block Party on June 18; Arts in the Parks concerts from July – September; the annual crab feast for neighbors and first responders on Aug. 25; and a full-fledged Festival on the Hill Oct. 8 after two years of COVID-truncated festivals. Volunteers will be needed for each event.

The 2022 Festival on the Hill will include a Kids Zone, books, Junktiques, an auction, craft vendors, wine, oysters, beer, basketball hoops, Corpus Christi chili, Daunte's soup, jerk chicken, the Bolton Hill Swim Team tacos in a Bag, hot dogs and the Tilted Row restaurant. Returning to the stage will be Mombo Combo, Mr. Will and Midtown Academy, among others. **Louie Wilder** and **Lee Tawney** are organizing.

BHCA will host a "Party Planning 101" training session in the spring to encourage and educate new volunteers to take leadership in these and other neighborhood events. BHCA will continue to promote, for

example, the Easter egg hunt in Rutters Mill Park and the garden club's spring flower sale April 23.

“None of this precludes adding additional events to the BHCA calendar,” said Kingsley. Last year's first-time five *Arts in the Parks* concerts, put together by the association's Greening Committee, drew residents to a mix of parks in Bolton Hill and nearby Madison Park and Marble Hill neighborhoods. Neighborhood associations from the three areas had hoped to kick off a Green Streets Arts Festival in May, but pushed it back a year because of COVID concerns.

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## Changes coming soon to Contee-Parago Park; resources still needed

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/changes-coming-soon-to-contee-parago-park-resources-still-needed/>



Mockup of new signage to be installed at Contee-

Parago Park in March.

This spring will see a completely revitalized Contee-Parago Park, located on the southern end of Bolton Hill at the end of Bolton Street, with new seating, new signage and over 1000 native plants.

A planting day scheduled for Saturday, May 7, will bring together neighborhood residents and volunteers from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers DC-MD-VA chapter (APLD). Non-native plants will be removed from the park and given away, and over 1,400 new plants will be installed. Mark this date on your calendars!

The planting day culminates a two-year effort in honor of the park's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Neighbors on the 1200 block of Bolton Street and Dolphin Lane have undertaken a renovation of the park to highlight its history and to give it new purpose.

Contee-Parago Park was established in 1971 and is likely the first park in the city named after Black citizens: William Gales Contee (1891-1987) and Edward Wilson Parago, Sr. (1898-1983). The men and their families lived in Bolton Hill from the early 1930s – two of the first Black homeowners in the neighborhood. The family of Reese Culbreath, Parago's grandson, still lives in a house on Dolphin Lane.

In a 1971 *Baltimore Sun* story about the park, Contee “modestly suggested” that it was named for him and Parago simply because they were “the oldest property-owners here.” While the statement was modest, it was not insignificant.

As historians and journalists have uncovered, Bolton Hill then was a locus for segregation efforts. Shortly before Contee and Parago purchased their homes on Dolphin Lane in the 1930s, a *Sun* article reported that Bolton Street residents successfully asked a court to bar what the *Sun* called “Negro invasions” – Black people moving just around the corner.

Just a few years after Contee and Parago purchased their homes, the National Housing Act of 1934 opened the door for redlining and other discriminatory practices that solidified segregation in Baltimore neighborhoods. In the 1960s, so-called “urban renewal” cleared Black neighborhoods, including houses on the land where Contee-Parago Park now stands.

In the 1971 *Sun* story, Contee confirms this, recalling “when Bolton Street was lined with houses, all the way down to Biddle Street.” Contee claimed that it was an “honor” to have the park named after him. Reading with hindsight, one wonders if his statement was tinged with irony. He continued, in a similar vein: “I like the people and they like me. . . . I was able to buy my house and educate my children.”

New signage to be installed in the park this month will place the park within this history, while also providing biographical details and a photograph of Contee and Parago. The original park plaque, currently hidden behind shrubbery near the entrance on the northeast corner of the park, will be installed in a more prominent location near the new sign.

Serra Stone Company will install a new seating area to replace the broken fountain installed in 1971. The large circular wall surrounding the eastern part of the park, near collapse for years from the growth of the large Willow Oak trees planted near it, has been taken to ground level. New brick piers will be installed to anchor the railings along the entrances and the remaining brick walls on the south side of the park.

Paved areas were removed last fall by Blue Water Baltimore – part of a \$1.4 million National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to improve watershed health. These areas will be transformed into beds for new plantings of Maryland native plants. Using a plan developed by APLD, more than 70 percent of park plants will be native to the state. Native plants mitigate air pollution and stormwater runoff. They also provide food and habitat for birds, pollinators and other beneficial wildlife.

The new planting was inspired in part by the native Willow Oak trees. These trees have matured into lovely specimens that provide wonderful and welcome shade to a hot, sunny stretch of Dolphin Street, and also display beautiful yellow foliage in the fall. The Red Bud trees and Oakleaf Hydrangeas currently in the park are also native.

On the May 7 planting day, the new signage and seating areas will be unveiled. Neighborhood residents and volunteers from APLD will remove non-native plants from the park and install new beds to make room for over 1,400 new plants. Plants removed from the park will be available for folks to take home with them. A commemoration celebration that will include the Contee and Parago families will be scheduled once pandemic conditions permit large gatherings.

The renovation required expensive infrastructural repairs and improvements to the park. The Friends of Contee-Parago Park are a few thousand dollars short of covering all costs. If you’d like to donate, please do so online at the [BHCA website](#). *Please designate the Contee-Parago Park renovation for the funds.*

The Friends group also needs volunteers to join the maintenance crew. While native plants require less water and maintenance once established, they require regular care for two years following planting. If you are interested in neighborhood parks, native plants, birds or pollinators, and can spare a few hours this summer and fall, please contact **Jean Lee Cole** ([jeanleecole@gmail.com](mailto:jeanleecole@gmail.com)) or **Steve Oliner** ([stephen.oliner@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.oliner@gmail.com)).

– *Jean Lee Cole*

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## Construction coming to a close at Unity Hall

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/construction-coming-to-a-close-at-unity-hall/>



Unity Hall is almost ready for occupancy. The newly renovated former union headquarters at 1505 Eutaw Place will complete construction by April 6, according to developers.

During a hard-hat tour conducted March 8 by Somerset Development officials, workers were painting, finishing up wiring and lighting, and readying a large commercial kitchen for occupancy by an established caterer. The long-vacant 30,000 square-foot facility is expected to begin its new life as a center for community arts, education and training by June, in time to play host to the No Boundaries Coalition block party June 18. NBC will move its headquarters into the facility by then.

Offices and rehearsal space for Single Carrot Theater are near completion. The 15-year-old troupe produces what it calls “socially relevant theatre as a form of civic engagement.” The new theater facility can accommodate up to 125 seats, according to the developers, but will initially be used for rehearsals. That hall is one of several meeting and engagement areas on three levels, with floor-to-ceiling windows providing natural light, that eventually will include an art space and room for yoga and other classes.

Other tenants will include Baltimore Music Box, The Community Builders and Building Our Nation’s Daughters (BOND). Unity Hall will operate as a charitable, non-profit organization that will provide program and office space for community-based organizations, art studios, co-working spaces, a commercial kitchen, auditorium and job training facilities. It will be a venue for community meetings and events, exhibits, music performances, theater, and other cultural events, as well as program spaces for education, outreach services, and workforce development. A fulltime on-premises director will coordinate activities.

The building originally opened in 1964 as a union headquarters for the Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers. Later the Empowerment Temple briefly ran community programs out of the building. More recently the structure has suffered from deferred maintenance. The hall is part of a contiguous campus of structures that Somerset Development has adapted with MAC, a non-profit organization spun off from Memorial Episcopal Church. These include the senior citizen residence Linden Park and the market-rate Jordan Apartments, which houses The Tilted Row restaurant.

## **Bolton Hill Nursery names new leader**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-nursery-names-new-leader/>



Francine Marchese

**Francine Marchese**, a longtime teacher and early childhood education leader, has been selected to lead the Bolton Hill Nursery starting in July. She replaces **Beth Casey**, the school’s executive director, who is retiring.

Marchese is currently a teacher and professional development coach in Baltimore County public schools. She also teaches at Johns Hopkins University’s school of education and at the University of Maryland. Trained as an artist, she has a master’s degree in education and trained as a coach at Columbia University’s teachers’ college. She lives in south Baltimore and has two grown children.

“Francine’s professional background more than prepares her to take the reins at BHN,” a BHN board announcement said. “She is steeped in best practices in early childhood education as well as teacher support and we are confident she is ready to lead at Bolton Hill Nursery.”

## Nick Mosby's Dollar-house proposal is likely dead

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/nick-mosbys-dollar-house-proposal-is-likely-dead/>



City councilman Eric Costello (l), who represents Bolton Hill, and City Council President Nick Mosby.

Baltimore's City Council has seemingly buried the council president's proposal to re-create a "Dollar-house" program.

Acting as a committee of the whole, the council deadlocked 7 to 7 with one absence when Council President Nick Mosby insisted on a vote after a hurried and contentious meeting on March 3. Unlike the original Dollar-house program of the 1960s, Mosby's plan called for targeting only longtime residents who have been renting rather than owning.

The original program invited residents to buy vacant houses for a dollar provided they bore the cost of renovation with low-cost loans and agreed to live in them for several years. Mosby's package of three bills would have offered \$25,000 grants to those acquiring the houses but would have required them to bring them up to code and live in them. He wanted to limit the available houses to neighborhoods historically impacted by redlining and disinvestment.

Council member **Eric Costello**, whose district includes Bolton Hill, said he voted with Mosby "as a courtesy" to let the proposals move out of committee but told the council president he would not support the package presented. Mayor Brandon Scott and the city's housing agency opposed the legislation.

Costello said he believed the package presented "could, unintentionally, negatively impact the people it was targeted to help. The cost of bringing the designated properties up to code would far exceed the grants and could put the new owners in an underwater situation," he said. The cost of fully renovating townhouses in nearby Upton, he said, has shown that it takes about \$200,000 to restore each house.

## Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-18/>



### *Deadline looms for 2022 parking permits*

The deadline to purchase a 2022-23 Zone C parking permit for Bolton Hill residents is March 23. Do it by then and you can pick up the permit outdoors on March 26 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Park, at Bolton Street at Wilson.

The [parking bureau website](#) is clunky and exasperating, but it beats going downtown to 200 W. Lombard St. to pick up your sticker under restrictive safety conditions. The understaffed agency is open MWF 9:30 to 4:30. All current permits expire March 31.

To pick up your permit at either place you'll need to bring a driver's license and the vehicle registration for each car. While you are at Fitzgerald Park, you can renew your BHCA membership. Bring a credit card.

### *Scientist, cellist and neighbor Paul Feldman has died*

Longtime Bolton Hill resident **Paul D Feldman**, who for more than half a century led research on comets and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University, has died. He was 82. [The Baltimore Sun ran an extensive obituary](#) on his life and work.

### *Plant Swap coming at Rutter's Mill Park March 26*

Meet neighbors and welcome spring Saturday, March 26 from 1:30 -3:30 p.m. at this free plant swap. Bring clippings, seeds, gardening supplies, planters, or plants to swap with others. Or, simply come by! Rain date: Sunday, March 27, 1:30pm-3:30pm. On-street parking is available on Lafayette or Mosher streets or Mount Royal Avenue. There's no parking in front of the park entrance, which is at 1408 Rutter Street.

### *Midtown Benefits town hall set for March 30*

The Midtown Community Benefits District Annual Spring Town Hall Meeting will be held on virtually on Zoom on March 30th, 2022 at 6:30pm. Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8162840235#success> . Hear about the past year's accomplishments and learn what is planned for the year ahead. The district's proposed FY2023 budget will be presented for community input. This meeting will also be live-streamed on Midtown's Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/midtownbaltimore>.

### *Ana Maria's Garden gets a spring scrub*

Neighbors banded together on a brisk Saturday, March 5, to participate in a spring-prep cleanup of Ana Maria's Garden, located at Mosher St. and Mason St.

With the sun providing a sneak-peak of spring warmth, the group trimmed away all of the winter-burned liriopie, weeded tree wells and garden paths, pruned shrubs, and carried away litter. Discussions around gardening, gardening tools and plant recommendations were held as the group worked. The cleanup crew included **Steve Howard, Chris Mirkovich, Shari Shapleigh, Colleen Stuart and Peter and Susan Van Buren**. Another clean-up is planned tentatively for April 23 for mulching, gravel refresh and planting liriopie in areas that are bare.

### *City recruiting lifeguards for 2022 summer season*

With the pandemic perhaps under control, the city parks department is planning a full summer of swimming pool activities and is recruiting seasonal lifeguards. The newly renovated and expanded pool at Druid Hill Park is scheduled to open on Memorial Day. Lifeguard positions pay from \$13.50 to \$18 per hour. Free certification courses are available. Further information by calling 410 396-0677, 1938, 3838 or 3841. Or go here <https://secure.rec1.com/MD/baltimore-md/catalog> and click on *aquatics*.

### *State college scholarship application deadline is May 6*

State college scholarships are available for eligible applicants with a May 6 application deadline for the coming fall school year. Senatorial scholarships are made available through the Maryland Higher Education Commission and distributed through state senate offices. Current high school seniors and both full-time and part-time degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students and private career students in the 40th District are encouraged to apply through the office of **Sen. Antonio Hayes**. For more information, click [here](#).

### *Election Filing deadline extended to March 28*

With seven candidates in the running for three 40th district House of Delegates seats, filing deadlines have been extended from last month until March 28. That district includes Bolton Hill. The delay was ordered by Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge **Joseph M. Getty** as the court considers Republican challenges to the new map of Maryland General Assembly districts. The outcome of the suit is unlikely to impact the 40<sup>th</sup> district boundaries significantly.

So far 40<sup>th</sup> District **Sen. Antonio Hayes** has no opposition in the Democratic primary, still scheduled for June 28. Christopher Anderson has filed as a Republican.

Incumbent candidates for the House of Delegates are **Melissa Wells, Frank Conaway Jr. and Marlon**

**Amprey**. Democratic primary challengers to them are **China Boak Terrell**, who lives on Bolton Street, **Kathy Shulman** of Roland Park, **Juan Snell** of Reservoir Hill and **Crystal Jackson Parker** of West Baltimore. There is one Republican candidate so far, **Zulieka A. Baysmore** of Madison Park.

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

*The Bulletin publishes monthly except in the summer and invites your feedback, suggestions and submissions. Send them to [bulletin@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org). Laura McConnell is our designer. Marci Yankelov and Maurice Corbett are business managers. Contributors for this issue, among others, were Beth Casey, Jean Lee Cole, Paula Jackson, Chris Kingsley, Chris Mirkovich and Lee Tawney. I own the errors and omissions.*

*– Bill Hamilton*

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**Bolton Hill**

**Community Association**