

Bolton Hill

Community Association

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BHCA schedules in-person membership meeting to elect new officers, board

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-schedules-in-person-membership-meeting-to-elect-new-officers-board/>



BHCA President Nominee Amy Sheridan.

BHCA's nominating committee has put forth a proposed slate of 19 officers and board members to lead the organization in the coming 12 months. The board also has approved a near-\$74,000 budget for the new fiscal year that begins in May.

Officers and board members will be elected at a membership meeting at **8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3 (social gathering and food at 7 p.m.)**. It will be the first in-person meeting in two years, pandemic permitting, and will be held at Memorial Episcopal Church's Farnham Hall. Nominations of others from the floor or in advance of the meeting are welcome. Only members who have paid this year's dues may vote.

The committee offered a slate of new and returning officers (new to their position are starred): Amy Sheridan, currently a vice president, for president*; Steve Howard, first vice president*; Yulia Susloff, second VP*; Bill Hamilton, secretary, and Chris Kingsley, treasurer.

Nominated for board terms ending in 2023 are Gary Blanco*, Elizabeth Peters* and Beth Ely Torres,

For terms ending in 2024 the nominees are Andrew Dupuy; Dan Gilbert, Stuart Galonoy*; J.R. Kellog*; Jason Perrotti*; Marcus Pratt*; Jim Prost; Lisa Savage Phillips; Bill Schmitz; Sarah Scott*; Linda Stirling and Josh Timson*.

[The budget for 2023](#) anticipates \$16,300 in dues and donations and \$17,000 in sponsorships and advertising, with most of the remaining income and expenditures earmarked for specific neighborhood

projects for which BHCA serves as a fiscal agent. Four neighborhood events which BHCA sponsors or supports have specific projected budgets.

A final BHCA board meeting will take place on **Tuesday, June 7 at 8 p.m.**, also in person at the church. It's open to all members. The board does not meet in July or August.

2022 Arts in the Parks program offers 11 free neighborhood concerts

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/2022-arts-in-the-parks-program-offers-11-free-neighborhood-concerts/>



The Ken and Brad Kolodner Quartet will play again at Arts in the Park.

The 2nd annual Arts in the Parks picnic concerts and F. Scott Fitzgerald Birthday, organized by the Bolton Hill Community Association Greening Committee, will be returning to the parks in the neighborhoods of Marble Hill, Madison Parks and Bolton Hill beginning in July.

Bolton Hill jazz trumpeter and recording artist Jimmy Wilson and guitarist Richard Marlow will kick off the series on **Thursday, July 7, at 6:30 p.m.** at F. Scott Fitzgerald Park on Bolton and Wilson streets. Thereafter the concerts will occur weekly each Thursday at 6:30 p.m., through Sept. 8. The final event at **6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24**, marks the birthdate 126 years earlier of writer F. Scott Fitzgerald, in the park that bears his name.

The Arts in the Parks program has been organized to help neighbors discover nearby parks and to meet their neighbors while enjoying the music of Baltimore artists. The program in 2022 has added three additional concerts to the schedule. All the concerts are free.

The music lineup includes:

- **July 7** Jimmy Wilson & Ricardo Marlow, F. Scott Fitzgerald Park
- **July 14** Todd Marcus Quartet, Sumpter Park
- **July 21** Seth Kibel, John Street Park
- **July 28** Ken & Brad Kolodner, Rutter's Mill Park
- **August 2** Ray Winder Rozen, Ridgley Park
- **August 11** Charm City Junction, Sumpter Park
- **August 18** Brandon Woody, Lena K. Lee Park

- **August 25** Abu the Flute-maker, Mounds Park
- **August 31** Triple Threat Brass, Maple Leaf Park
- **September 8** Craig Alston Syndicate Rozen, Ridgley Park
- **September 24** F. Scott Fitzgerald Birthday, F. Scott Fitzgerald Park

Members of the BHCA Greening Committee, who are stewards of the neighborhood's parks, include Jean Lee Cole, John Murphy, Henri Daniels, Bonnie Legro, Fritz and Thecla Meyer, Doug Kelso, Ben McNutt, Linda and Tom Stirling, Brian Causey, Christian Roth, Teresa Smith, Christine Lambert Pentino, Debbie Healy, Henry Patino, Mary Bianchi, Gareth Morgan, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Jean Marie Adrian, Camille Mihalic, Thelma Harrington, Chris Kingsley, Greg Baranoski, Lee Tawney, Steve Howard, Dena Fisher, Stephen Hanley, Albert di Vittorio, Nicholas Cohen, Gary Schilling, Chris Ryder, David Nyweide, Mario Blackwell, Claudia Sennett, Chris Mirkowyich, Leigh Hibler, Michele Ward, Charleye Dyer, Mary Anne Wylie, Grey Maggiano, Dick Williams, Dan Gilbert, Susan Van Buren, George Lavdas, John Leith-Tetrault, Curtis Ritz and Earl Johnson.

– *Doug Kelso and Lee Tawney*

Photo of the Month by Zhee Chatmon

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/photo-of-the-month-by-zhee-chatmon-6/>



April means tulips in Bolton Hill. Spotted recently in Contee-Parago Park.

Task force on older residents looking for ways to ease aging in place

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/task-force-on-older-residents-looking-for-ways-to-ease-aging-in-place/>



A cluster of BHCA members is looking for ways to create community-based support and promote resources available to residents who are 60+ and aiming to live a lot longer in their Bolton Hill residences.

The task force, assembled by BHCA board members Tom Hasler and Bill Hamilton, met with Rose Seamon, who leads a new state-sanctioned non-profit Community for Life Benefits program for city and county residents, affiliated with Keswick, a provider of services and assisted living. It is funded in part by the state and the Keswick Foundation and relies in part on fees.

They also agreed to create a survey for older residents of Bolton Hill to express their preferences and priorities for programs aimed at better enabling them to age in place.

Among those areas of interest, the task force determined, were social events such as luncheons, happy hours or other gatherings geared to older residents; connections to government or non-profit programs that support aging in place for residents; and other programs that might support older residents around financial, social, safety, home maintenance, health or other areas.

The task force will meet again **Saturday, April 23, at 10 a.m.** Bolton Hill residents interested in participating should contact olderresident@boltonhillmd.org for details. A representative from the city's health department's office on aging will attend the meeting.

The task force *so far* includes *Taunya Banks, Barry and Barbara Blumberg, Lynn Cripps, Jim Craigen, Tom Edmondson, Bill Hamilton, Tom Hasler, Carol Hylton, Karen Kaufman, Lynn Pellaton, John Leith-Tetrault and Colleen Palmer.*

Feeding the Eye: Why Beautification Matters

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/feeding-the-eye-why-beautification-matters/>



Spring finally is upon us. Which poses the question, what can we do to get a jump on enhancing Bolton Hill? The neighborhood is blessed with many wonderful historic buildings. Maintaining and restoring them and hardscape areas in need of repair require capital investment.

One low cost but significant thing we can all do to improve the overall look and tenor of Bolton Hill is to increase greening and beautification activity. These improving activities, small in cost in relation to capital ones, result in enhancing the feeling of areas by delighting the eye and senses. Perhaps seen as window dressing to some, it is nonetheless quite important. Beauty, and its appreciation, is an essential need for us as it feeds the eye which nourishes the soul.

When we look for a place to live, we look at the buildings, but we also look at how a neighborhood looks and feels. We are naturally attracted to places that are clean and look well cared for.

This Spring, Bolton Hill residents and businesses are encouraged to increase the number of gardens, window boxes, tree wells and planters. This will result in more people appreciating, respecting and being attracted to Bolton Hill and its adjacent neighborhoods.

A bonus to this, other than bringing the softening, cooling effects of the natural world closer (important with global warming upon us), is that studies have shown stress and crime reduces in areas where there is an increase in beautification activity. Why? Because what we realize, perhaps unconsciously, is that well-tended places show there is someone about who is paying attention, someone who cares. There is someone near who is weeding and tending the garden and watering the window boxes and planters.

So, let us all be encouraged to see what we can do to delight the eye in Bolton Hill and elsewhere in our fair city this growing season. Through our combined efforts, we can make the city truly a blooming garden for everyone.

Mark your calendars:

- Bolton Hill Spring Clean Up Day, **Saturday, April 16**, sunup to sundown, neighborhood wide. Sponsored by BHCA, the Bolton Hill Garden Club, and Midtown Community Benefits District. Rain Date: **Sunday, April 17**.
- Bolton Hill Garden Club's Spring Plant Sale and Garden Shed Sale, **Saturday, April 23** in Fitzgerald Park.
- Garden club educational programs for 2022 are open to the public in-person and via Zoom. For the program calendar visit: www.boltonhillgardenclub.org.

– *Lisa Johnson*

Helping others find their futures as immigrant Americans

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/helping-others-find-their-futures-as-immigrant-americans/>



Yavuz Goncu and Tracie Tracy with Picco (left) and Turk, who died last year.

Neighbors

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.

Yavuz Goncu grew up in a prosperous and educated family, attended an American school in his native Turkey where classes were taught in English, and was among a relatively elite group of Turkish students able to study abroad. “It’s not something every Turkish kid gets to do,” he acknowledged.

Nevertheless, moving to the United States and attending college here was a formidable adjustment – coming to grips with America’s customs and culture as a college student. So it was natural, perhaps, that he would join with a group of teachers eight years ago to found the [Chesapeake Language Project](#) (CLP) to help minimize the barriers that young immigrant students face in the region. He is CLP’s board president.

“It’s like a small family of students, teachers and mentors,” he said. “We try to surround each student with support that meets his or her individual needs. In some instances that means intensive English-language training for students who arrive with little or no knowledge of English. For others it can mostly involve help with class work and in navigating college admissions tests, paperwork and other barriers and pointing them toward high school graduation and college entry.”

In their first cohort of seven students from Baltimore city and the county, six graduated and five received college scholarships, he said. One received support worth \$79,000 a year as a “full-ride scholarship”

student at George Washington University in D.C. In all, the students were offered admissions to 40 colleges and universities.

A second cohort is made up of 12 high school juniors, mostly from Central and South America, with one from Afghanistan. Students are encouraged by teachers to apply when they complete middle school.

“Mentors get to know the children and their families, help them figure out their options and take them to visit college campuses to help them sort out the opportunities available to them,” Yavuz said. They track down available public and private scholarship and loan programs, negotiate grants and work-study programs and help students make choices. CLP offers small scholarships and assists in buying computers and books. It welcomes tax-deductible donations and new volunteers.

Mentors are asked to connect with students over several years, staying in regular contact and providing at least three hours each month of face-to-face support. Most do more, developing close relationships and becoming role models and friends.

Yavuz, 42 now, left Istanbul in 1996, joining an older brother who came two years earlier to attend Lehigh University and has more recently returned to their home country. Yavuz attended Rhode Island School of Design and then majored in architecture at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

He started his architecture career in Baltimore at Grant Architects in 2002, then joined Ayers Saint Gross Architects and Planners in 2004. In 2010 he became a partner in his own design technology firm, leaving in the summer of 2021 to join SK+I Architecture in Bethesda as a senior designer for multi-family and mixed-use buildings. His wife, Baltimore-native Tracie Tracey, is a program manager at Fearless Tech, a local company providing software development under government contracts.

Yavuz is president of the Bolton Square homeowner’s association and lives in a Mason Street townhouse with his wife and their brown Italian greyhound rescue, Picco.

– *Bill Hamilton*

The Y in Druid Hill: a hidden gem for Bolton Hill residents

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/the-y-in-druid-hill-a-hidden-gem-for-bolton-hill-residents/>



Walking distance

Looking for a modern, well-managed and welcoming place to exercise that you can walk to from Bolton Hill? Located at 1609 Druid Hill Avenue, [the Y in Druid Hill](#) can be reached by walking three short blocks west of Eutaw Place on McMechen Street to Druid Hill Avenue. Take a right on Druid Hill Avenue and you are there. (For drivers, there is off-street parking across the street.)

The facility, opened over 100 years ago, served Baltimore's Black community during segregation, and was the only place where African Americans could swim indoors during the Jim Crow era. Many of the community's famous residents, including Cab Calloway and Thurgood Marshall, learned to swim there. Its present location was made possible by a lead matching gift of \$25,000 from Julius Rosenwald of Sears and Roebuck, best known for the "Rosenwald Schools" he financed in southern states.

A recent tour of the Y revealed a completely updated facility thanks to renovation work completed in 2019. It has all the equipment—weightlifting, resistance machines and cardio equipment—comparable to what you find at the 33rd Street Weinberg YMCA. The difference is that the Y in Druid Hill is underutilized, so there is less waiting for access to the equipment. Its smaller size and super-friendly staff make it feel more intimate. The only drawback is for swimmers: the pool can accommodate water aerobics but is too small for lap swimming.

The Y's schedule of programs can be found at www.ymaryland.org/locations/druidhilly/druidhillschedules. There are two aerobics studios per week for seniors from 9 -10 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday. Facility hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and closed Sunday.

There are a variety of membership fees for all ages. Annual membership rates for seniors (65+) are \$54 for a single person and \$82 for a family. For persons aged 27-64 the single rate is \$60, and the family rate is \$106 (up to four adults). Teens and young adults 13-26 can join for \$43 annually. Lastly, there is a \$90 rate for a two-person household. For further information on membership contact DeAndre Shearin at deAndreshearin@ymaryland.org or on 410-889-9622.

– *John Leith-Tetrault*

City plans bike lanes expansions in and near Bolton Hill

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/city-plans-bike-lanes-expansions-in-and-near-bolton-hill/>



The city's Department of Transportation is planning bicycle lane "rapid enhancement" in and around Bolton Hill in the coming months, two city Department of Transportation planners told the BHCA April meeting. The projects focus on Mount Royal Avenue, Madison Avenue to the west and along Eutaw Place.

DOT bike planners Matthew Hendrickson and Patrick Patterson said the work is part of the Bike Baltimore Vision plan designed to improve safety for bike riders and pedestrians, fill in bike network gaps and reach completion with few delays. BHCA President David Nyweide said he hopes to hold a more complete meeting focused on the changes soon.

Along Mount Royal Avenue the "streetscape" concrete separated bike lane is to be extended from Lafayette Avenue in front of the MICA Fox Building, where it currently stops, to North Avenue, along the northeast side of the street. The extension will be built this summer and is intended to provide "low-stress" connections to neighborhoods south of Mount Royal.

Along Madison Avenue the "bicycle boulevard" goals are to extend connections to and from Reservoir Hill from just north of and crossing North Avenue to the north side of Eutaw-Marshburn school. Those additions also are planned for the summer.

Planning for the creation of a separated bike lane corridor along Eutaw Place from Druid Hill Park to Dolphin Street has been funded, with construction funding scheduled for FY2023. That plan envisions a two-way cycle track aligned on a northeast path from MLK Blvd to Dolphin, with two one-way lanes, then Dolphin to North Avenue along the Eutaw Place median, again with separated one-way lanes and, finally, from North Avenue to Druid Hill Lake Drive with one-way pairs on Eutaw and Madison protected by parking lanes.

Questions or comments can be addressed to matthew.hendrickson@baltimorecity.gov or patrick.patterson@baltimorecity.gov.

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-19/>



Bolton Hill Garden Club plant and garden shed sale is back, Saturday, April 23

After a two-year hiatus, the Bolton Hill Garden Club's [spring plant sale](#) will return to Fitzgerald Park (corner of Bolton and Wilson streets) **Saturday April 23 from 10 am to 3 pm** or until sold out. A variety of annuals, perennials, herbs and baskets will be sold in a market-style setting. In support for Ukrainian refugees, BHGC also will sell pre-planted peat pots with sunflower seeds, Ukraine's national flower, with proceeds donated to the United Nations refugee agency.

This year's event will include a garden shed sale. Community members are invited to donate gardening items in good and clean condition to be sold to help neighbors with their spring planting and enhance their stoops, window boxes and garden spaces. The following items are anticipated for sale:

- Garden tools, garden gloves, antique-vintage-new indoor decorative cache pots and flowerpots
- Outdoor urns, planters, flowerpots, and window boxes
- Trellises, fencing and edging, tomato cages, plant stakes, labels, twine
- Unused potting soil, topsoil, and mulch
- Bird baths and garden statuary; outdoor furniture, patio umbrellas
- Bird or bat houses
- Steppingstones and pavers

Donated items will be received on Friday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to noon at 1732 Bolton St. (Mason St. alley side) or by appointment. For further information or to make an appointment contact: Lisa Johnson: flora.bhgc@gmail.com or (202) 997-5965.

Tree planting next Saturday morning. Volunteers needed

BHCA's Greening Committee and Midtown Benefits will host a neighborhood tree planting Saturday, **April 23, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Volunteers are needed. Meet at Fitzgerald Park, Bolton and Wilson streets.

Makeover Day at Contee-Parago Park

The Friends of Contee-Parago Park on **Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** will be creating new planting beds, removing non-native plants including irises, daffodils and daylilies (which will be given away to volunteers), installing over 1,400 new plants, and unveiling new signage. The plan that was developed by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers contains over 90% native plants.

Midtown adds graffiti removal to its roster of services; Dumpster Day is coming

Midtown Benefits District has begun graffiti removal from public spaces in Bolton Hill and its three other neighborhoods. If you encounter graffiti, contact their staff. They've also arranged a spring cleaning Dumpster day, with a dumpster dropped at the corner of Park Avenue and Wilson Street **all day on May 12.**

Midtown operations staff have begun wearing new red uniforms that, Midtown says, provide better functionality. The tax-supported benefits district, which serves Bolton Hill and three other neighborhoods, announced the addition of two new staff: Kimberley "Shae" Davis, operations manager, a Hampton, VA, native; and Kaitlin Newman, social media manager, who has worked as a photojournalist in DC and Baltimore.

St. Francis Neighborhood Center has a leadership change

Christi Green, executive director of St. Francis Neighborhood Center for the past decade, is leaving. Torbin Green (not related) is the interim director after 10 years as a volunteer and more recently program manager and teacher. Christi Green will become executive director of the statewide Maryland Coalition of Families.

Since 1963 the center, with its new expanded facility at 2405 Linden Ave., has served children from low-income families in Reservoir Hill and neighborhoods west of Bolton Hill with after-school and summer enrichment programs. SNFC's annual fundraising event, this year in person, is themed "Spring in Paris" on **May 6 from 7-10 p.m.**

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 and Maurice Corbett are business managers. Zhee Chatmon provides photography. Contributors for this issue, among others, were Christine Delise, Doug Kelso, Lisa Johnson, John Leith-Tetrault, and Lee Tawney. I own the errors and omissions.

– Bill Hamilton

Bolton Hill

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