

# Bolton Hill

## Community Association

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## Will Belle Hardware close after nearly 45 years in Bolton Hill?

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/will-belle-hardware-close-after-nearly-45-years-in-bolton-hill/>



Mickey Fried, Belle's manager

The family-run hardware store on McMechen Street survived the economic collapse of 2008, the Freddy Gray uprising and two years of COVID shutdowns and supply shortages, but Micky Fried, who runs the place, has posted *going-out-of-business* signs and said the store would close sometime in June.

As *The Bulletin* closed this edition there were rumors that the St. Louis-based Save-a-Lot grocery holding company that owns the strip mall where the store sits is willing to sell it to a local developer and the developer says he would work to keep the hardware store operating. Details, perhaps, in the next Bulletin. Meanwhile, we are reprinting [Bolton Hill resident and ex-Sun journalist Ed Gunts' warm tribute to the store and its owners, which appeared first in the Baltimore Fishbowl.](#)

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## **Nyweide: BHCA stokes loyalties that matter – if you participate**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/nyweide-bhca-stokes-loyalties-that-matter-if-you-participate/>



Outgoing BHCA President David Nyweide

In my remarks at the May BHCA membership meeting, I referred to the “ring theory,” coined by Marc Dunkelman in a book called [The Vanishing Neighbor](#). The ring theory stipulates three layers of relationships in our American lives. The inner layer is our family members and closest friends. The outer layer is acquaintances we might know through work or social media. The middle layer is the relationships in which we voluntarily participate through religious or civic institutions, which include, yes, community associations like BHCA.

The middle ring is the glue that keeps civil societies functioning. Middle ring relationships form relational bonds between people through common purposes and, in turn, strengthen the communities around them. But it’s the middle-ring relationships that are deteriorating across the country as people spend more of their time on their inner- and outer-ring relationships, crowding out middle-ring relationships because they’re considered less important.

As you can gather from all the positive activities happening around Bolton Hill, we have healthy middle-ring relationships in our neighborhood, at least among our neighbors who are active in BHCA-related activities. Yet, if membership in our community association is any indication, the drop in BHCA members since 2017 shows that not as many of our neighbors have found supporting these activities worthwhile in recent years.

How come? Membership dues have been the same for as long as I’ve lived in Bolton Hill. In 2018, we jettisoned the “Mt. Royal Improvement Association” in favor of better name recognition with BHCA, which would seem to be a good reason why membership should increase. Our organizational reputation hasn’t suffered from scandal or mismanagement. In 2020 and 2021, COVID-19 interrupted our reliance on the parking permit pick-up in March to recruit new members and remind existing members to renew, but these trends pre-date the pandemic. While in the past three years we’ve seen growth in the number of members each calendar year before the May membership meeting and still have more time to add

members over the rest of 2022, we're still well below the high mark of 439 member households in 2017. It's easy to forget to pay our BHCA dues each year, and we might think we already paid or our spouse paid. Yet, even though it's easier than ever to pay dues online at any time of the year, we still have not returned to the membership levels of five to 10 years ago.

I wonder whether the drop in BHCA membership is evidence of the fraying middle-ring relationships in our country at large? As we found in our latest strategic plan finalized last year, about a quarter of Bolton Hill residents are over the age of 65, compared with 12 percent citywide according to Census data. Many long-time residents have been MRIA or BHCA members each year as a matter of course, yet as older residents of the neighborhood move on, newer residents have to find a reason to support their community association. And if they haven't had a reason to prioritize middle-ring relationships in their lives, they won't grasp the relevance of BHCA to their lives.

In the opening decade of the twentieth century, a philosopher named Josiah Royce published a treatise called "The Philosophy of Loyalty." Its central insight is that loyalty—directed by groups of people toward a cause or institution—can channel individual impulses into the larger purposes of a collective whole. Loyalty is healthy, Royce posited, when it doesn't demand exclusive fidelity to a single cause but allows individuals to have multiple loyalties. To apply the "Philosophy of Loyalty" to Bolton Hill, BHCA exists to stoke loyalties to what we love about our neighborhood. You can be a loyal member to BHCA while being loyal to the block where you live or the park nearest your home or a neighborhood project that especially interests you. You can be a loyal member to BHCA while attending a church in the neighborhood, joining the Bolton Hill Garden Club, or belonging to your homeowner's association.

We have to continually work to make BHCA relevant to everyone who loves Bolton Hill. BHCA is the conduit for fostering connections between neighbors to, in turn, work together on aspects of our community life that enliven and enhance the lives of everyone in Bolton Hill. I'm talking about an array of activities in our community life, some of which I highlighted earlier: volunteering to plan and put on the events we all love in the neighborhood; writing an article for the Bolton Hill Bulletin; spreading the word about an event in or around the neighborhood; sharing pertinent information from the City through the Bolton Hill Email Network or Facebook page; organizing neighbors to petition the City for traffic calming measures; throwing a Party with a Purpose to raise money for a non-profit doing great work; organizing a group to pick up litter; planting or weeding in a park or tree well; or leading a project that improves the greenscaping or hardscaping in a corner of the neighborhood. Membership dues and donations help make all these activities possible. Becoming a BHCA member recognizes that just as you take care of the house or apartment where you live, supporting BHCA is a key way to care for the community where you live.

Sometimes I'm asked why anyone would want to expend the time and effort to lead a community association, as I have for much of the past three years. My response is that it's because I love Bolton Hill. Some of you know the narrative hook of my Bolton Hill story: I was moving to Baltimore a little more than a dozen years ago, and when I would ask people who knew Baltimore about where to live, I kept hearing good things about a neighborhood called Bolton Hill. And so one day I drove up Eutaw and parked my car off McMechen and started walking.

Within a couple blocks, I was smitten enough by the architecture of the row homes that I decided I only wanted to look for an apartment in Bolton Hill. And when it was time two years later to look for a home

to buy, I only wanted to look here. Over time, I became more involved in the community association simply because I care so much about Bolton Hill and connecting it more and more with our neighbors to the west and north. I'll continue to be involved around Bolton Hill in greening work, rejuvenating the lot at Park and North Avenues, and serving in the BHCA executive committee as past president.

All of you have shown your loyalty to BHCA by coming out, which I'm grateful to see. Your charge after you leave this place is to ask the people you know in Bolton Hill—your neighbors—if they're BHCA members and urge them to become members if they're not. Tell them why BHCA is important for supporting what you love about Bolton Hill and relevant enough to support with your membership.

– *David Nyweide is the outgoing president of BHCA*

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## The squeegee people at the Mt. Royal Ave I-83 exit: fishers and the fished

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/the-squeegee-people-at-the-mt-royal-ave-i-83-exit-fishers-and-the-fished/>



### *Neighbors*

***“My car and I just got attacked by squeegee kids after I politely declined their services when pulling into exit six off JFX coming home, so they surrounded my car and lifted up my windshield wipers and sprayed the car down while banging on my glass with their squeegees and cussing me out. I already called the police to inform them.... I can only imagine how I would feel if I had kids or other passengers in my car and how terrifying it would be. These people are menaces and must be stopped firmly or things could end very badly the next time.”***

If you are a denizen of social media, perhaps you saw this Bolton Hill Nextdoor.com posting in late April, or others before it from time to time. Maybe you’ve had your car wipers damaged or your open window sprayed. (I have, and it’s annoying.) Each of these posts generates scores of comments, outrage and sympathy for the poster -- but also some for the young people who are essentially begging at the northeast corner of Bolton Hill.

Eric Costello, our city council member, bucked this specific complaint to the mayor’s office, calling it “illegal activity.” That triggered a multi-agency email response. Nevertheless, for the most part the guys are still there with their wipers and spray nearly every day, especially during evening rush hours and on weekends.

“When they break the law, we deal with it. Call 911,” said Capt. Fontaine Smallwood, executive officer for the Baltimore Police Department’s central district. But he acknowledged that the cops try to avoid arresting juveniles, even when they misbehave. “Our goal is not to arrest them,” he said. The presence of the young men around North Avenue and Mt. Royal Avenue generates 911 calls every week, he said. “But it’s not illegal to be there. I can’t just go out and arrest everybody.”

For those who don’t drive or who manage to avoid the I-83 exit, here is how it works: youth hover with

window-washing stuff on the curb on the east side of the exit ramp, waiting for a red light to stop traffic in all four lanes. Then they swarm around the idled cars, trying to reach as many as possible before the light changes. Sometimes they spill into or across North Avenue. Some are smiling and polite. Others become aggressive, and that sometimes sparks “pack” bad behavior that teenage boys of all races and classes are known to embrace.

Are these simply young dudes having fun with their pals while making a buck? Or are they a symptom of the city and state’s failure to educate and move into the working population large numbers of young people from the city’s grittier low-income neighborhoods? The kids hanging out at North and Mt. Royal don’t live where they are loitering, nor do they attend schools nearby, if at all.

Faith Leach in the mayor’s office calls them “disconnected” — that is, not connected to school or work. She estimated there are at least 18,000 of them in the city, although BPD’s Capt. Smallwood acknowledged that only a small fraction of that population engages with squeegee wipers. He agreed that probably 300 or fewer “squeegee kids” operate around town.

All cities have unemployed or homeless youth and school dropouts, but it is rare to run into squeegeers outside of Baltimore. In New York, then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani used the windshield cleaners as a symbol of disregard for law and order when he took office in 1994. He made them a focus of his bid to improve the quality of life in the city. They went away to avoid jail and have rarely re-emerged. (Giuliani, alas, is still at large.)

Nor are squeegeers a new problem: Baltimore’s city council in 1983 declared unsolicited windshield washing in the streets a crime in response to citizen complaints. (Black council members opposed that new law.) Before she went to prison Mayor Catherine Pugh promised to create new programs to get young people out of intersections; she praised them as entrepreneurs. In 2019 then-mayor Jack Young rolled out a program to eliminate squeegeeing, which his aide described as panhandling.

Last November Mayor Brandon Scott announced a 90-day action plan to provide alternative employment and health, education and housing resources. They lined up 10 jobs at a local hotel, financed by the city. Now he has a bureaucracy working on it.

Scott’s Office of African American Male Engagement, with a staff of eight and a cadre of non-profit partners, sends other adult Black males to the street corners for “a man-to-man exchange” with the squeegeers, most of whom appear to be in their teens. OAAME calls itself “navigators of unique environments” and “advocators for African American males,” 16 to 49. They call their outreach staff “fishers” and the target youth are “the fished.” The program is led by [Dr. Andrew Bundley](#), a former public-school teacher and principal. Bundley has made appearances at the I-83 exit.

Will this elaborate effort to turn begging young people into better citizens make a difference? Some people think we must learn to live with the annoyance, like our fathers and mothers before us.

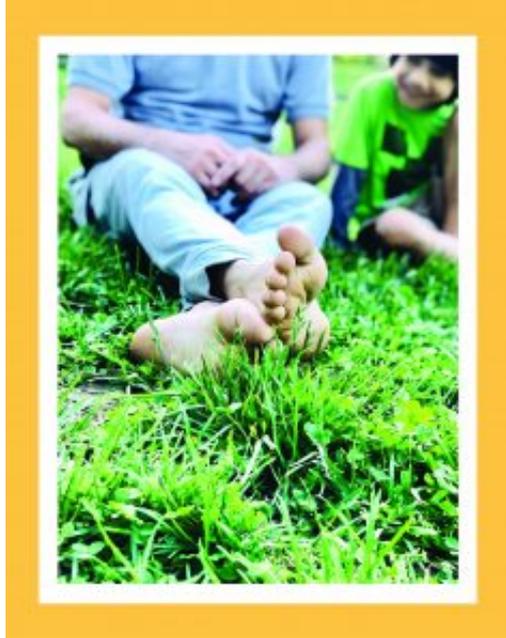
Kaye Whitehead, who teaches at Loyola University and hosts a WEAA talk show, says “If this was a lacrosse team in the street raising money with buckets for a trip to play in a tournament, no one would have an issue,” she says. “We as a city need to lean in and find ways to support them. The folks who were doing this 40 years ago have grown up, but this generation is running up against the same problems.”

– *Bill Hamilton*

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## Photo of the Month by Zhee Chatmon

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/photo-of-the-month-by-zhee-chatmon-7/>



Barefoot weather is coming. A new neighbor from Afghanistan was ahead of the rest of us.

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## Attention Bolton Hill renters: city doubles homebuying incentives

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/attention-bolton-hill-renters-city-doubles-homebuying-incentives/>



The city increased incentives for first-time homebuyers to \$10,000 in down-payment help and closing cost support for eligible households, as of May 1. Additionally, qualified homebuyers purchasing homes in so-called Impact Investment Areas will be eligible for \$20,000 in first-time homebuyer incentives. Some employers also contribute toward a home purchase.

“This is a very good thing. If you consider a young couple renting in Bolton Hill, if they work at Hopkins or one of the other employers that support home ownership, they can buy a condo or single-family residence and have lower payments than their rent,” said Marci Yankelov, a Bolton Hill realtor. Buyers still must qualify for a mortgage, she added.

The mayor said expanding the program, which originated years ago, is part of his strategy to increase Baltimore's population of middle-income families and is central to the city's response to declining population numbers.

The First-Time Homebuyers Incentive Program is funded with Community Development Block Grant funds. Eligible buyers must purchase the home for owner-occupancy and have a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Currently, AMI is \$55,950 for a household of one, \$63,950 for two, or \$79,900 for four. If conditions are met, the city will excuse 20% percent of the loan each year over five years so that it effectively becomes a gift.

An additional \$5,000 is available to homebuyers who purchase the house they have rented and occupied for at least six months, or have a household member with a disability.

Approximately \$2.5 million is available. The Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) administers the program. In past years DHCD has awarded about 200 loan/grants like these annually, on average. For additional information about the First-Time Homebuyers Incentive Program and other Baltimore City homeownership incentives, visit

<https://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/hho/homeownership-incentives>.



## Volunteers trim Park Avenue shrubs for safety and plant health

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/volunteers-trim-park-avenue-shrubs-for-safety-and-plant-health/>



A major pruning of shrubs on the Park Avenue median parks has left the parks cleaner and safer, if for a time a little naked. The Bolton Hill Greening Committee determined that the euonymus shrubs surrounding the fountains – which historically have been pruned to a height of about 3-5 feet every four years or so – had grown too large for the garden areas surrounding the fountains. They had expanded several feet over the black chain-link borders that edge the sidewalks, narrowing the sidewalk access points and obliterating view corridors to the fountains.

Their super-sized growth had also smothered the daylilies, hostas and other perennials that used to be a feature of these gardens in years past. While the exterior of most of the shrubs was beautiful, the euonymus had grown so large that their interiors became a mangled thicket of leggy branch growth, with leaves only on the outermost couple of inches. The shrubs were becoming a security, sanitation and a visual concern, and for these reasons it was determined that a light pruning would not solve the issues and that a heavy cutback was necessary.

The volunteers included members of the BHCA greening committee. Also in attendance were several Baltimore City Tree Keepers, experienced neighborhood gardeners, residents and property owners of the 1600 and 1700 blocks of Park Ave.

While the change was dramatic and the fountain areas look a bit forlorn for now, euonymus are legendary for their hardiness and resilience, and are expected to send out lots of new growth, albeit at a lower height than their previous incarnation. Moving forward, the Greening Committee is discussing a plan to plant non-invasive and native perennials in the gardens surrounding the fountains.

Thanks to Gary Schilling and Chris Ryder for organizing the pruning day, and for the hours of labor provided by them and Fritz Meyer, Kyle Cunningham, Lee Tawney, Vanessa Billings, Mark Anderson, Teddy Meyers, Nate Adams, and Greg Baranoski.

– *Greg Baranoski*



## Arts in the Parks gets bigger and better

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/arts-in-the-parks-gets-bigger-and-better/>



Ricardo Marlow (l) and Jimmy Wilson perform together at a recent concert.

The Arts on the Parks 2022 Program now includes two additional concerts. The picnic concerts and the F. Scott Fitzgerald birthday will be held at 6:30 pm in parks throughout the neighborhoods of Bolton Hill, Madison Park, and Historic Marble Hill.

Here's the complete lineup:

- **July 7** Jimmy Wilson & Ricardo Marlow F. Scott Fitzgerald Park
- **July 14** Todd Marcus Quintet Sumpter Park
- **July 21** Seth Kibel John Street Park
- **July 28** Ken & Bad 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 Parks
- **August 31** Triple Threat Brass Maple Leaf Park
- **September 8** Craig Alston Syndicate Rozen Ridgley Park
- **September 15** Barrage Band Orchestra Linda Park Apartments
- **September 24** F. Scott Fitzgerald Birthday F. Scott Fitzgerald Park

– *Lee Tawney*

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## **Waxter Center offers a high-quality gym for older Bolton Hill residents**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/waxter-center-offers-a-high-quality-gym-for-older-bolton-hill-residents/>



Photo courtesy of The Baltimore Sun.

### ***Walking Distance***

The Waxter Senior Center has a gem of a gym waiting to be discovered at 1000 Cathedral Street (410 396-1324). The facility was completely upgraded just six years ago and has been mostly closed during the pandemic. It remains not only in good condition but is greatly under-utilized. Any local resident 55 or over is eligible to use it.

In this “almost post-COVID” moment the gym is open Tuesdays thru Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some of the equipment is awaiting servicing since it was dormant these past two years, but generally all of the 40+ resistance training machines are in good condition, clean and ready to go.

Only a few Bolton Hill neighbors avail themselves of this gym for what is now the princely sum of \$15 a month. COVID precautions encourage social distancing and masks. Fancy gym attire is not a requirement in this casual and welcoming environment. Each person sets his/her own pace and can even spend time chatting with fellow gym rats around the water cooler.

Waxter is one of 13 city health department-run senior facilities across Baltimore. In addition to the gym, the center offers classes, exercise programs and inexpensive lunches. Lori Fagan is the manager for Waxter Center.

– *Lynn Pellaton*

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## Older residents also can catch a break on taxi fares

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/older-residents-also-can-catch-a-break-on-taxi-fares/>



The director of city's office of services for the aging, Jim Macgill, met with the BHCA Older Residents Task Force last month and reviewed a surprising array of programs and services that the city or state make available to older residents. One big surprise: subsidized taxicab rides.

The city health department offers a monthly subsidy to Baltimore City residents aged 60 or older, as well as adult residents under the age of 60 with a disability, to travel using taxicabs. The program is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

During the month of May only, a \$12 payment will enable the purchaser to obtain a \$100 card honored by seven area taxi companies (but not Uber or Lyft) to go anywhere the driver will take you: your doctor, your friend's house, your favorite casino. Low-income purchasers pay only \$6.

Ordinarily, eligible residents pay those same amounts for \$50 travel. More information is available at <https://www.caretaxicard.com/> .

Jointly with Baltimore County, the city office of aging services has compiled a fat booklet, *Community Resources 2022*, aimed at older residents, their families, caregivers, persons nearing retirement, those with disabilities and others. Copies will be available at the **BHCA meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 7**, at Memorial Episcopal Church.

**The Older Residents Task Force meets again on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. For details on attending contact [Olderresidents@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:Olderresidents@boltonhillmd.org) .**

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## **Bolton Hill Notes**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-20/>



***BHCA's June meeting is last till September***

The BHCA board meeting, which is open to all members, will take place in-person at **8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7, at Memorial Episcopal Church**, 1407 Bolton Street. The board takes the summer off and won't assemble again until Tuesday, Sept. 6. After a two-year COVID shutdown, more than 60 neighbors came together for the BHCA annual membership meeting in April. **Amy Sheridan** was elected to lead the organization in 2022-23.

### ***Garden Club awards \$5000 for Bolton Hill projects***

The Bolton Hill Garden Club announced its largest-ever grant award budget and most significant individual project grants to seven greening projects in Bolton Hill. Greening and Beautification Grants are awarded annually to help create and improve publicly accessible green spaces to beautify the Bolton Hill Community.

The largest grant, \$1,360, went to Jean Lee Cole to purchase and plant native plants in the newly restored Contee-Parago Park. Another \$1,345 went for the Sumpter Park plant bed revitalization, overseen by Lisa Johnson. \$800 went to plant six Princeton Elm trees and modify tree wells in the 100 block of Lanvale at John Street, led by John Leith-Tetrault. Claudia Sennett received \$445 for grass and tree work in Rutter's Mill Park; Chris Mirkovich, \$500 for restoration work at Anna Maria's Garden on Mosher Street; and Christian Roth, \$300 to plant Liriope and day lilies in 3 large urns in the 1900 block of Eutaw Place, and \$250, Susan Van Buren for pollinator garden maintenance at Zippy's Garden, at Mosher and Mason streets.

### ***Need a COVID booster shot? It's just a short walk or ride***

Still haven't had your COVID vaccinations or booster shots? You can get them for free on most days without straying far from home. Some of these locations also do on-site testing for COVID infections. Bring a photo ID, your vaccine card and your insurance certificate, if you have them. The US government is providing the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to all age-eligible people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

**State Center**, 300 West Preston St. The UM Medical System and Johns Hopkins Medicine are operating a tented COVID testing and vaccine (Pfizer only) location on the state employees' parking lot. Also, free home kits and masks are available. Hours vary. Appointments at [410-649-6200](tel:410-649-6200). More information [here](#).

**Walgreens Pharmacy**, 238 McMechen Street. The pharmacy is open M-F from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (with a lunch break from 1 :30 to 2). It's impossible to get through to the pharmacy by phone ([410 523-4704](tel:410-523-4704)), but they say they are accepting walk-ins. It's closed weekends.

**Park Avenue Pharmacy**, 1535 Park Ave. This tiny shop is not offering shots or tests. It will sell you COVID home tests.

**Rite-Aid Pharmacy**, 250 W Chase St. You can book an appointment online at <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/scheduler>. Or take your chances by walking in without one. The pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

**Safeway Charles Village**, 2401 N Charles St. Walk-in shots are available 10-3 Monday through Friday and 11 to 3 on weekends. Appointments can be had by calling 410-261-6110.

**CVS Charles Village**, 2504 N. Charles St. [410 662-7594](tel:410-662-7594). CVS offers free COVID testing, COVID shots, home COVID test kits and treatments for COVID symptoms, although treatment may require payment or insurance. Schedule appointments at <https://www.cvs.com/content/coronavirus?icid=cvs-home-s1-13-covid-resources> . The pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

### *All are welcome at John Street spring soiree*

After a COVID hiatus, residents and friends of the John Street Association, which maintains the small park and gardens on the closed-off street, are reviving their annual Spring Soiree **Saturday, May 21 from 4 to 8 p.m.** They'll be honoring their volunteers and donors.

"This year we're opening to all and publicizing more widely to help us celebrate these remarkable folks. It takes a village to tend the park year-round, keeping it well maintained, watered, weeded, and welcoming to all," said coordinator **Christine Lambert Pentino**. "We're excited that 1) the BGE gas line project was completed with minimal damage to the park and 2) we raised the money and completed replacement of the bluestone patio surrounding the fountain."

### *Robert Bunch suffers injuries in motorcycle crash*

BHCA board member **Robert Bunch**, a mechanical engineer and old house restorer, was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident in mid-April. Fortunately, most of his injuries are fixable; however, he has many months of recovery ahead of him. Robert and Anne Marie are very grateful for the kindness and support of their friends in Bolton Hill.

### *Former Bolton Hill preservationist, MRIA leader Romaine Somerville, 91, dies*

Romaine Stet Somerville died on April 19. She was a president of the old Mt Royal Improvement Association (now BHCA) and was a leader in historic preservation throughout the city. She and her

husband, retired Baltimore Sun reporter Frank Somerville, lived for a long time at 118 W. Lafayette Ave. *The Sun* ran an extensive [review of her life](#).

### ***No Boundaries Coalition Block Party moving to Unity Hall June 18***

The [No Boundaries Coalition](#)'s 15th annual Boundary Block Party will take place on **Saturday, June 18 from 12 to 4 p.m.**, returning to the site of the first boundary block party on Eutaw Place by what is now Unity Hall. Volunteer for the event by signing up [here](#). You can make a donation toward the event [here](#). Interested in being a vendor? Register [here](#) to have a booth, or just show up to have fun. Unity Hall is at 1501 Eutaw Place.

### ***More Park and Laurens traffic calming sought***

Residents around the Laurens Street and Park Avenue intersection are organizing to create a safer and more attractive streetscape that will encourage drivers to slow down and observe their recently installed stop sign. Their hope is to make pedestrian crossings more accessible for all, increase visibility for drivers and slow the overall speed of vehicles through the intersection to make our streets safer. More information at <http://bit.ly/ParkLaurens> .

### ***Baltimore Banner editor wants community input***

The new online Baltimore Banner news outlet, which plans to fully kick off in the fall, asked BHCA and a dozen other community associations to weigh in recently at a Zoom conference. The Banner's managing editor, Andrea McDaniel, promised more consistent and attentive coverage of city hall and the city council, and ongoing interest and an open inbox for tips and complaints from local neighborhoods. They have a five-year plan to compete aggressively with the *Baltimore Sun*, initially covering only Baltimore city and the county before spreading to other parts of the state. A non-profit, it aspires to economic self-sufficiency based on equal parts subscribers, advertisers and philanthropy. It begins with a \$65 million philanthropic grant. Get their free newsletter: <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/> .

### ***Nearby Avenue Market to get \$9.6 million renovation***

The decrepit Avenue Market on Pennsylvania Avenue, a few blocks west of Bolton Hill, will get a nearly \$10 million makeover starting next year, with completion scheduled for 2024.

Funds for the renovation of the market in Upton, which dates back to 1871, include a \$2 million congressional earmark by Maryland's two US senators and Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-Baltimore). The rest of the money will come from a mix of state, city and federal funds as well as philanthropic support.

Many of the market's 30 stalls are currently empty and the place is dark and damp. The market will stay open during the overhaul, which will begin in the rear section, now vacant. The No Boundaries Coalition operates a vegetable market and food coop at the market two days a week.

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

*The Bolton Hill Bulletin is published by volunteers 10 times a year. We relax during July and August.*

*Your contributions and feedback are encouraged; send them to [bulletin@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org).  
Laura McConnell is our designer. Marci Yankelov and Maurice Corbett are business managers.  
Contributors to this month's production include Greg Baranoski, Doug Kelso, Paula Jackson, Bonnie Legro, David Nyweide, Lynn Pellaton, Lee Tawney, Marci Yankelov, and Peter Van Buren. The errors and omissions likely are mine.*

*– Bill Hamilton*

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**Bolton Hill**

**Community Association**