

Bolton Hill

Community Association

Table Of Contents

Reboot of Festival on the Hill follows BHCA’s popular Arts in the Parks concerts	3
Did you know that you can take art classes at MICA?	5
Bolton Hill police coverage shifting from the central to the western BPD district	7
BHCA endorses restaurant license for Unity Hall	9
Hogan offers the city crumbling State Center, after thwarting redevelopment	10
Mt. Royal school to dedicate refurbished “Nut and Bolt” sculpture	12
Bolton Hill Notes	13

Reboot of Festival on the Hill follows BHCA's popular Arts in the Parks concerts

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/reboot-of-festival-on-the-hill-follows-bhcas-popular-arts-in-the-parks-concerts/>



What a festive summer in the ‘hood, thanks to Arts in the Parks! Now get ready for an almost-post-pandemic, full-blast version of Festival on the Hill, the long-standing fall celebration of life in Bolton Hill, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8.

But first: the final two (of 12) big *Arts in the Parks* concerts are on the September calendar, all outdoors at 6:30 p.m.:

- **Saturday, Sept 24**, celebrating the 106th birthday of writer and former Bolton Hill resident F. Scott Fitzgerald at Fitzgerald Park, Bolton and Wilson streets, with ragtime music, gin and tonics and brief readings.
- **Thursday, Sept. 29**, the Ray Winder Jazz Trio, rained out in August, at [Rozen-Ridgley Garden](#), 1500 McCulloh St.

This year’s October festival also has live music from Mambo Combo and Todd Marcus’ jazz group. There will be shucked oysters; baked goods; beer, wine and soft drinks; Corpus Christi (not Texas) chili; pansies, books and priceless antiques for sale; community booths, pets on parade and lots of activities for adults and children of all ages. The festival will fill the 1300 block of Bolton St. and W. Lanvale St. between Park Ave. and Mason St.

The festival has roots in the Eisenhower-era church bazaars organized by women of Memorial Episcopal Church. In 1969 they expanded and became the first outdoor Festival on the Hill. Brown Presbyterian Church joined in to bake and sell brownies while Corpus Christi Church invented its unique chili. This year look for these first-time features:

- **A (leashed) pet parade** at 10:15 a.m. Dogs, cats and other critters are invited to stroll together up Bolton to West Lanvale, take a left, and linger in the Kids Zone in front of the nursery school for some child-friendly socializing before returning the animal paraders back home. Should wrap up by 11 am. Let John McLucas know if you can take part: JCMcL1532@aol.com or at 1314 Bolton Street.
- **A homecoming tent.** Stop by and reconnect with former neighbors, graduates of Midtown Academy and Mt. Royal school and former Barracudas (the swim team at Bolton Hill Swim and Tennis Club). In addition, there will be exhibitions of memorabilia from earlier festivals and old photographs of Baltimore and Bolton Hill from the collections of Jacques Kelly and Patrick Ward. For more information, Festival@boltonhillmd.org .

Other features:

The Kidz Zone in front of Bolton Hill Nursery will include a bounce house, lollipop pull, duck pond, coin toss, spin art, face painting, stuffed animal adoptions, an art table and more. MICA, the city recreation and parks department and Single Carrot Theater are involved.`

Book sale. First, you donate books you've read or never will. Then replenish your shelves with new acquisitions at the festival. Drop off books for sale at the home of Kay Dickersin and Bob Van Wesep, 1308 Bolton Street, before Oct. 2. Vinyl records and jigsaw puzzles are welcome, but, please, no cassette tapes, CDs, college texts, encyclopedias, software or other technical manuals, magazines or Readers' Digest collections. For more info: Kristine.smets@gmail.com

Artists. Six neighborhood artists will exhibit their work.

Juniquities. If you are lamenting the lack of a Bolton Hill yard sale this year, unload the stuff you would have tried to sell there instead at the Juniquities booth between 8 and 10 a.m. It will be sold to benefit BHCA, Samaritan Community and the No Boundaries Coalition. Come back during the festival and load up on others' giveaways.

Volunteers still are needed. Contact Festival@boltonhillmd.org

– *Bill Hamilton*

Did you know that you can take art classes at MICA?

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/did-you-know-that-you-can-take-art-classes-at-mica/>



Photo courtesy of <https://www.mica.edu/>

For four evenings last spring, I could survey Bolton Hill from the third-floor corner classroom in MICA's main building at Mt. Royal and Lanvale.

It was not simply a new perspective of the neighborhood but also my first experience taking a MICA Open Studies course. About 20 classmates joined me from all kinds of backgrounds for all sorts of reasons for the Drawing Techniques course, where we came to each two-and-a-half-hour class with our drawing pads and other art materials from the syllabus.

The studio instructor, David Little, was engaged and enthusiastic to share his knowledge of the craft of drawing with us. With the help of artists' drawings and videos, he taught how well-known artists handle the fundamentals such as drawing a line or adding contrast. Our medium was charcoal sticks, which along with a chamois pad and puddy erasers, were a forgiving combination for a beginner like me, who last took an art class in middle school.

After introducing the specific topic of each session, he would demonstrate it himself and then walk around the easels of everyone in the room, offering keen and helpful advice as we tried applying it to our own drawings emerging on paper.

Little taught my classmates and me to sketch grid lines to help draw believable spheres and cubes and how to gauge the proportions and positions of simple still lives of bottles, balls, and towels to translate them to charcoal on paper. He encouraged us to create art by actively observing and discovering; squint to reveal the essence of a subject; focus first on drawing the main lines and save the details for last; do not be reticent to erase and try multiple times to draw accurately. As Little would say, "practice equals progress." And even by the end of the four-class sequence, I felt more capable of drawing what I can see

in front of me.

Open Studies students represent about a third of MICA's student body. The Open Studies program provides art classes for children, high school students, and adults throughout the year. Click [here](#) for more information and the latest course offerings.

– *David Nyweide*

Bolton Hill police coverage shifting from the central to the western BPD district

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-police-coverage-shifting-from-the-central-to-the-western-bpd-district/>



The mayor has approved a proposed city police redistricting map that will transfer Bolton Hill from the BPD Central District, which stretches south from the neighborhood and includes most of the Midtown benefits district and Downtown/Inner Harbor, to the BPD Western District. In addition to Bolton Hill, five adjacent and nearby neighborhoods will also move from the central district to the western district: Reservoir Hill, Madison Park, Upton, Druid Heights and Heritage Crossing.

According to western district Capt. Matt Corell, one of several officers attending the BHCA September meeting, the change will take effect before the year ends. The central district is essentially being moved eastward by adding 13 neighborhoods, including Fells Point, Upper Fells Point, Butcher's Hill, Washington Hill, Dunbar-Broadway, Oldtown, Gay Street and Johnston Square.

Every 10 years the city is required to reevaluate the boundaries of its nine districts, which represent the geographic allocation of administrative and service resources. Redistricting is designed to better balance and manage law enforcement outlays, enable police to respond to crime faster and more efficiently, create a balance between calls for service and geography, maintain a presence in high crime areas and increase patrols and interactions with neighborhood residents.

Redistricting involved a two-step process which began last spring. The review included data analysis and a citywide survey (which received just 375 usable responses – none from 48% of the 278 neighborhood statistics areas. No responses were received from Bolton Hill residents). The data analysis used five years of service information allocated over the neighborhoods and reflecting 2020 census data.

Accompanying the revised district map was information for the existing and proposed police districts on

population, workload, crime, area in square miles and racial composition. Public input was requested and a six-page survey was distributed requesting additional feedback. This time 650 residents responded, including speakers at community meetings where a Bolton Hill representative spoke. [Not surprisingly, some citizens opposed the changes.](#) BHCA monitored but took no formal position on the shift.

The slightly adjusted boundaries will increase the western district population from 32,700 to 45,700. The change will result in the western district moving from the second smallest to the smallest in population. The western district will continue to have the least white and most black residents of the nine districts.

The proposed changes will increase the area from 2.8 to 3.6 square miles, the second smallest footprint. The number of crimes that occurred the past five years in the western district was 15,567 with the old boundaries, increasing to 20,344 with the new boundaries.

Under the adjusted map approved by the mayor the central district population will increase from 40,900 to 46,300. It will expand from 2.6 to 3 square miles but remains the smallest. The number of crimes reported in the current central district from 2016 to 2021 was 23,929 while the proposed new district map experienced 26,809 crimes.

The proposed new boundaries for the western district are likely to facilitate coordination among members of the No Boundaries Coalition, which includes BHCA.

The crime rate over the past five years is lower in the proposed western district than in the existing central district. However, the proportion of crime that is violent as opposed to property crime is higher in the proposed western district than the existing central district.

– *Jim Prost. He is chair of BHCA's safety and security committee. Reach him at Safety@boltonhillmd.org*

BHCA endorses restaurant license for Unity Hall

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bhca-endorses-restaurant-license-for-unity-hall/>



BHCA's board this month authorized its president to enter into an agreement supporting limited liquor sales on premises at Baltimore Unity Hall events. The restaurant license being sought will support BUH's catering kitchen and will enable it to provide food and beverage services to individuals and organizations using the hall.

Under a memorandum to be signed by Unity Hall management and the leadership of BHCA and Madison Park Improvement Association, alcohol can only be served and consumed inside the hall with service not to take place after 10 p.m. on weeknights and midnight on Saturdays.

Unity Hall's board president and executive director were present as the board considered the proposal. They agreed to revisit the terms and performance standards laid out in the proposed memorandum of agreement annually. The catering program at Unity Hall, besides producing revenue, is intended to provide workforce training in culinary and hospitality programs for nearby residents.

Separately, BHCA's board also created a process by which its greening committee and the board would set priorities for landscaping and other improvements on public parks and spaces in the neighborhood throughout the year and set aside or raise funding for the work.

A third resolution supported by the board set standards to govern BHCA's role as a fiscal sponsor for organizations and groups of individuals who wish to raise money, using BHCA's tax-advantaged status, for projects in the neighborhood. That arrangement allows projects like the recent Contee Parago Triangle Park restoration to be managed by others within BHCA's membership who raised the funds and supervised the work.

Hogan offers the city crumbling State Center, after thwarting redevelopment

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/hogan-offers-the-city-crumbling-state-center-after-thwarting-redevelopment/>



Photo courtesy of The Baltimore Business Journal.

With his term-limited administration winding down, Gov Larry Hogan (R) has made the city an offer it probably should refuse: take possession of the aging State Center 28-acre campus once it is emptied out of all state workers.

When Hogan took office eight years ago a public-private plan was in place, supported by BHCA and all surrounding community associations, to restore the dilapidated complex into a \$1.5 billion mix of state and private office buildings and retail businesses, likely including a supermarket. Thousands of state workers would be officed there. That plan was constructed during the administration of an earlier Republican governor and a contract to start work was negotiated in 2009 during the term of Gov. Martin O'Malley (D).

Hogan, on taking office, decried the deal as a “boondoggle” and sought to stop it, which led to years of litigation and no progress. Last year with downtown Baltimore office buildings emptied out because of the pandemic, Hogan and Senate Leader Bill Ferguson (D), whose senate district includes downtown, made a deal to ship state workers expeditiously from State Center to privately owned buildings downtown. About 700 workers have vacated, with another 2,000 or so expecting to move.

The two candidates vying to become governor have not said anything about the project. It is not clear that Hogan can give away the property without legislative action.

“The surrounding communities and the entire city deserve a State Center site that lives up to its full potential,” Mayor Brandon Scott said. “My administration will work with this governor, the next governor, the surrounding communities and their elected leaders to develop a plan for the site that we can all be proud of — a plan that fits into our shared vision for Baltimore’s renaissance.” However, given the pace of these things, Scott likely will be gone, like Hogan, before a shovel turns.

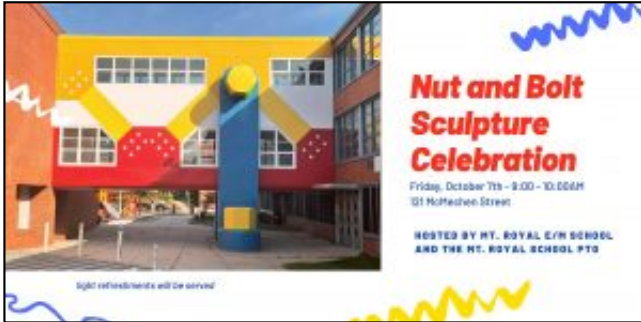
[The Baltimore Sun](#) called it Hogan’s “last ‘gift’ to Baltimore,” a bookend to his other major decision

upon taking office to kill the cross-city light rail Red Line. “Who is going to pay to remove the existing asbestos-laden structures? Redevelopment was possible in the original plan only because of those state leases. How will Baltimore attract developers now? Who will foot the bill?” the editors wondered.

One thing seems certain: those rotting buildings may or may not eventually be torn down, but the likelihood of a new development plan taking shape and being constructed in less than a decade is unlikely. Get used to the idea of an empty space to our south for years ahead. It seems almost certain.

Mt. Royal school to dedicate refurbished “Nut and Bolt” sculpture

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/mt-royal-school-to-dedicate-refurbished-nut-and-bolt-sculpture/>



After months of fundraising and a summer of construction, teachers, students, parents and neighbors will celebrate the bright new version of Mt. Royal Elementary/Middle School school’s sculpture, *Nut and Bolt*, on Friday, Oct. 7, at 9 a.m. The school is located at 121 McMechen St.

Nut and Bolt is in the public art collection of the City of Baltimore. Created by Arthur Benson, it was commissioned by the architecture firm Ayers Saint (now Ayers Saint Gross) in 1981 and funded through Baltimore City’s “Percent for Art” Program. Benson, the long-retired chair of MICA’s sculpture department, supervised the work.

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®, the toy building system invented in 1913.

The Maryland State Arts Council awarded \$50,000 to the Parent Teacher Organization to start the restoration, which came in at about \$75,000.

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-22/>



A long journey toward 120 townhouses begins with a single porta-potty

Since long before the COVID pandemic began, developer David Bramble has been promising to get started on the first phase of a three-stage development on Bolton Hill's north border that someday may include new market rate townhouse residences, 200 apartments, retail space and even a supermarket.

On August 25, the process formally got underway with a "groundbreaking" and lots of politicians present. Madison Park North on North Avenue is supposed to lead to the construction of 120 market-rate new townhouses selling for around \$300,000 apiece by 2025. You can read the gauzy details [here](#). But as of mid-September, only one thing was new: a porta-potty had arrived at the scene.

Celebrate Frank Shivers' contributions to the neighborhood, on Sept. 24

A celebration of life for the late Frank R. Shivers, Jr., [a 70-year resident of Bolton Hill](#) who wrote the [classic history of the neighborhood](#), is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 24 starting at 3:30 pm at Fitzgerald Park, before the second annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Birthday Party, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Shivers created and edited what today is this newsletter. And it was Shivers who led the campaign to create Fitzgerald Park on the site of a synagogue that was destroyed by fire.

He died last fall at the age of 94. [The Frank R. Shivers Jr. Fund](#) at the University of Baltimore has been created to support archives and research around Baltimore and regional history and architecture.

Here's something new: puppets in the neighborhood

Vlad Smolkin is an artist who operates a gallery from his home at 1512 Bolton Street. And on weekends from Sept. 17-25, you can see an (adult) puppet show, *The Return*, about life and death and revelation, with marionette artists and producers from New York and Baltimore. Smolkin calls it a "multi-artist collaboration of puppetry, painting, projection and sound." Tickets are \$40. More [here](#).

Architecture tour includes a nearby site, Oct. 1

Doors Open Baltimore, the annual tour of historic and interesting sites around the city, is back this year in person on Saturday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. It is sponsored by the Baltimore Architecture Foundation (BAF) and the American Institute of Architects Baltimore. There also are some guided tours the next day, Sunday. The many historic sites open around Baltimore on Oct. 1 include one near Bolton Hill, the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum, 1320 Eutaw Place. For more information about the event go to <https://www.doorsopenbaltimore.org/>.

Fall Dumpster Day is Oct. 15, 8a to 5p

Midtown Community Benefits District has arranged for a city dumpster drop off on Saturday, Oct. 15 for residents to drop off bulk trash items.

Loring Emsley Hawes, former Bolton Hill activist, is dead

Loring Emsley Hawes, [a longtime Bolton Hill activist](#), died during the summer on the Eastern Shore at the age of 92. He was a lawyer for civil rights and environmental causes, a charter member of the Bolton Hill Swim and Tennis Club and a Democratic political associate of his neighbor, the late Sen. Jack Lapidus. Hawes was 92.

About the Bulletin

The Bulletin is back after a summer recess with a new designer, Elizabeth Peters, taking over from Laura McConnell. Thanks for your good work, Laura, and welcome Elizabeth! Thanks, too, to Zhee Chatmon who provided our *Photo of the Month* each issue last year. We invite others to help write, edit, provide photos or work the business side. And we welcome new sponsors. Send your suggestions and comments to bulletin@boltonhillmd.org. Contributions to this issue came from, among others, Paula Jackson, Laura McConnell, John McLucas, David Nyweide, Jim Prost and Lee Tawney . Errors and omissions are mine.

– *Bill Hamilton*

Bolton Hill

Community Association