

Bolton Hill

Community Association

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Time for BHCA nominations is now. Please come forward...

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/2024-bhca-nominations/>



Members mingle at first-ever BHCA Open House earlier this month (Zhee Chatmon)

Now's your opportunity to nominate yourself or a neighbor to make BHCA even better.

BHCA's nominating process is underway for board members and officers to serve two-year and longer terms leading the neighborhood organization. To qualify as a nominee, or to nominate someone, you only must be a member.

A member can be any adult resident of the neighborhood or the owner or employe of a business or property. Students and faculty at MICA or other neighborhood institutions are eligible as well. (Residents means renters, homeowners or those living in student and senior facilities.)

The nominating committee this year is chaired by Peg De Arcangelis. Submissions should go to nominating@boltonhillmd.org

BHCA is not "they," BHCA is you: giving us all [greenery](#), keeping us all [safer](#), [reporting](#) what's going on, and linking us all to the City, to [Midtown](#) and MICA, Madison Park and Marble Hill, and to each other. As a member of BHCA, you are part of a strong, recognized voice with the City.

As a **board member**, you have a seat at the table and direct access:

- State Center redevelopment planning
- Proposed City zoning and charter amendments
- Councilman Costello and Councilman Torrence
- Developers, ensuring their projects fit well within Bolton Hill
- City Department of Transportation to urge them [repeatedly] on slowing traffic
- City Department of Housing and Community Development, responsible for Pedestal Gardens redevelopment

And as an **officer**, you gain awareness of the many projects, large and small, that your neighbors start and

shepherd and bring to fruition.

Hope you'll jump at the chance to get a little more involved, do stuff with a few more neat people, and get the reward of feeling more of the love of Bolton Hill.

Email nominating@boltonhillmd.org to make the jump or invite someone in!

\$30,000 reward offered for arrest of Laurens Street carjackers

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/30000-reward-offered-carjacking/>



An unnamed Baltimore donor has offered up to a \$30,000 reward for information leading to charges against the young men who assaulted Ward Bucher and his son outside their home on Laurens Street on Sunday, Jan. 7. Baltimore Police are circulating a flyer inviting tipsters to contact Sgt. Novak at Metro Crime Stoppers by phone at 866-756-2587 or online at metrocrimestoppers.org. Informants are promised anonymity.

Bucher, 77, and his son, Jack, were unloading groceries at their home around 6:45 p.m. on that day when two black SUVs pulled behind and alongside them. Several young men or boys jumped out and began beating them, demanding keys to their car. Bucher, a preservation architect, sustained a fractured clavicle, fractures in two vertebrae, a broken rib and head trauma. He underwent brain surgery at UMMC as a result of the attack and is recovering at home. Baltimore Sun columnist [Dan Rodricks wrote about the incident.](#)

It was the most serious of a series of carjacking attempts in the neighborhood and across the city in recent months. While the mayor makes much of the decline in homicides in Baltimore (as in most cities across the nation) last year, he has said little about car thefts and carjackings. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, about 9,300 cars were stolen in the city in the first 10 months of last year, up from 2,832 over the same period in 2022. Many did not involve violence.

Bucher's wife, Lisa Johnson, has encouraged BHCA's Safety Committee to look for ways that neighborhood residents can be better protected against crime, short of guards on every corner. "We must do what we can to make the neighborhood environment more *inconvenient and difficult* for people who come here with criminal intentions," she said.

Her suggestions:

- A Bolton Hill traffic study led by traffic and civil engineers to make recommendations to refigure the neighborhood's traffic patterns. For example, angled one-way traffic could be implemented as well as blocking the through streets so there are no quick east-west getaway arteries. "There could be one-way traffic flow, and angled parking, on the east side of Laurens Street going toward Eutaw Place, then have one-way traffic flow from the west side of Laurens Street going toward Eutaw Place. Of course, it would be up to the traffic engineers to determine whether this could work," she said. Baltimore police say that streets that run uninterrupted through Bolton Hill north to North Avenue and beyond or east/west to and from west Baltimore make it easy for wrongdoers to come in, commit a crime, and exit quickly.
- "Ward and I are in favor of having a comprehensive License Plate Recognition camera system

(LPR) installed throughout the Bolton Hill neighborhood. It is my understanding Federal Hill has implemented this and there have been favorable reports.”

- A comprehensive camera system block-by-block so that there are no areas of the neighborhood lacking coverage. BHCA has a voluntary neighborhood camera network, but some blocks have few or no cameras. The onus should not be on citizens to provide this protection or appropriate lighting for the neighborhood.
 - More steel drop package boxes for front stoops and vestibules to combat porch pirating. “We installed one a few years ago and the thefts vanished.” She suggested a neighborhood bulk order program could hold down the costs.
 - She also favors a balanced approach in dealing with juvenile offenders. “I am all in favor of giving a break to the young who make mistakes and may lack direction and/or knowledge. I would be in favor of a measured three-strikes policy of some kind. And when infractions are made within that policy, have offenders receive remedial resources and care -- so they have the opportunity *to make amends* and to learn the law, learn to make better decisions, learn how their actions have consequences, and take a better road in life.”
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A short history of Eutaw Place and two women who helped preserve its charm

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/eutaw-place-history/>



Top: Henri Daniels outside her home. Bottom: Once slumlords ruled this 1400 block before a city program helped restore it.

Look up and down the stretch of Eutaw Place that forms Bolton Hill’s southeastern boundary today and you’ll still see gorgeous old brick and brownstone mansions – mostly well-kept and owner-occupied. Many of the city’s most prominent and wealthy professional and mercantile families once resided in the houses along the 1300 to 1800 blocks, from not long after the Civil War until the early 20th Century, when they moved out to Roland Park and beyond.

But by 1972, many of those historic places had been cut up into what the city’s housing director at the time, Robert C. Embry, called “real rabbit warrens.” [The Baltimore Sun](#) called Eutaw “a hotbed of petty crime and thievery,” with poor families crammed into small apartments owned by slumlords, in an article headlined [City moves to save Eutaw Place](#).

While there was discussion of demolishing the buildings, Embry kicked off an experimental program to get rid of neglectful landlords and find new owners to rehabilitate, occupy and maintain 11 of the homes and two vacant lots. He was nudged to do so, according to the *Sun*, by a lawyer and former city council member named Thomas Ward, who lived in Bolton Hill, owned two houses on Eutaw and saw “the possibilities of these magnificent old properties.”

Those 11 buildings had been parceled into 92 apartments along what was said to be the first great urban boulevard with a park (we call them medians) at its center in America. Originally known as Gibson Street, in 1853 the name changed, and Henry Tiffany oversaw the creation of a continuous parkway with fountains, sculptures and gardens. Big residences were going up all around. But a century after its naming, Eutaw was rapidly declining. Two local investors, Maurice Glick and Samuel London, were

singled out by the *Sun* for their predatory practices as landlords in the area, charging low-income tenants excessive rents by the week. A fire in 1962 in the 1300 block of Eutaw claimed the lives of five children.

The city bought or otherwise obtained the properties in 1972 and that's when **Henri Daniels** and **Cristine Barnes** came into the picture. They each qualified under the city's terms and bought two of the bigger houses, at 1308 and 1405 Eutaw Place. Half a century later, they're still there, proud owners of those well-preserved properties.

They each paid the city just \$1,600 for possession, and were provided a \$100,000 construction loan at 3 percent interest and a city-selected contractor to help bring their properties back to life. Owners had to live in the properties for five years or more. Henri Daniels was living on Dolphin Street and often walked in the neighborhood. She met a neighbor, [William Contee](#), who told her about the city program. She had been born on a farm in North Carolina but found her way to Baltimore and lived with her grandmother on North Avenue. When the houses became available, she was working as a city social worker.

The red brick house she acquired was built in the 1870s and had been chopped into seven vacant apartments. "It needed everything – a roof, floors, plumbing, HVAC" An empty lot next door offered parking. She moved in while the restoration continued, married and gave birth to a daughter who now is a doctor in Baltimore County. Henri occupies one of the house's four apartments, which, she says, "is about ready for renovation again."

Christine Barnes met her late husband, Ken, in graduate school in Pittsburgh and with another couple, Marvin and Sara Bingham, moved here. They took jobs, the four of them, in Baltimore County schools. Christine left work to have the first of two children. She recalls that there was a competition to qualify for the houses and that a city employee, who lived in Bolton Hill, tried to discourage them from buying the houses in hopes of getting them for a developer in a shady deal. "We got an appointment and went to see Embry and told him about it." She and her husband got a house in the 1400 block of Eutaw, near West Lafayette Ave. They "camped out in the basement" during renovation. A spread in the *Baltimore News-American* on April 28, 1974, on the Eutaw Place project featured a photo of Christine on a ladder spreading solvent and removing old paint from original woodwork.

That house had been originally built around 1865 but in the 1950s or 60's was "divided into seven apartments with tiny rooms and kitchens," she recalled. "It had original wooden trim and plaster moldings, covered by layers and layers of paint and wallpaper." The city-assigned contractor did the basics, she said, but it was left to her, mostly, to scrape the paint and restore the long-covered finer touches of the house, which are glorious today.

"We were close to one other couple and came to know the others who bought the houses. We became friends." Some of them sold and left after five years. Her family lived in a large part of the house and rented our three apartments. Her granddaughter lives in one unit now and is helping assemble a history of the house. Ken Barnes died on June 14, 2023.

—*Bill Hamilton*

How did the Linden Avenue gazebo wind up there?

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/linden-ave-gazebo-history/>



Some of the first-generation gazebo gang

There are only a handful of gazebos scattered about Greater Baltimore. One of the older ones is on Linden Avenue, just south of Sumpter Park.

But how did it come to be located smack dab in the middle of the brick roadway, blocked off to through traffic? Your intrepid reporter found the answer in Fells Point, where Charles and Darcy Norton have lived since 1980, above their small store that stocks exotic woolens, called Sheep's Clothing. They were happy to talk about moving to a part of Bolton Hill that was somewhat neglected in 1972 when they found it, the 1700 block of Linden Avenue. Houses could be purchased for just a few thousand dollars.

"We were young and foolish. The house was a wreck," recalled Charles Norton. A young acquaintance who lived near the Mt. Royal Tavern, Bill Trenner, worked for a company that had salvage rights to Seton Psychiatric Institute which had closed and was being dismantled (It's now Seton Business Park). The Nortons and neighbors bought remnants for their houses – wainscoting, window grates, pendant lights and other items from the hospital that had been in northwest Baltimore since 1844.

"There were three gazebos on the property of the hospital, and we were told we could haul one away for free," said Norton. It's not clear when they originally were constructed.

Cathy Shelley, who with her then-husband Bob purchased 1704 Linden, said "Sandy Sales, Peggy Webster and I approached city housing director Bob Embrey about blocking off the brick street and plopping down the gazebo to stop thru-traffic. "It sounds like a great idea," he told us." The men of the Linden Avenue gang of about 8 -10 residents dismantled the gazebo that was most accessible, stored it somewhere for a while and the city helped move and re-assemble it, she said.

Shelley said they paid \$7,000 for their house. “We bought it for the architecture.” She said the block was a bit lonely and isolated, with what is now Sumpter Park to the north and a strip mall to the south. The mall that now has Sav-A-Lot and Walgreens then had an A&P supermarket, a hardware store, a liquor store, a laundromat and a Rite-Aid. (Linden Avenue had been blocked in the 1960s to make way for townhouses and green space south of the strip mall, which was constructed in the early sixties.)

When the gazebo installation was complete, Bob Shelley created a poster for its dedication. “We drank champagne to celebrate, and we did it again for solstice celebrations” Cathy Shelley said. Musician Jimmy Wilson, who still lives in Bolton Hill, performed at the ceremony.

That generation has moved away, but a newer and younger cohort of Linden Avenue dwellers half a century later keep the gazebo in good shape. In 2022, with help from the city arranged through City council member Eric Costello and lots of fundraising, they managed a major restoration.

Gareth Morgan, one of several Linden Avenue activists, said they painted the gazebo red, green and ivory to carry forward the color themes that characterize the block: “red for the brick houses, green for the linden trees around us and ivory to reflect the marble steps.” Steven Skerritt-Davis is president of their block association today.

After years without it, weekly recycling pickups will resume in March.

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/recycling-resumes-in-march/>



It must be an election year. After more than three years of off-and-on recycling services and interruptions, the city announced this month that weekly recycling pickups will resume the week of March 4. If your biweekly pickup day is Friday, then weekly service will continue on that same date.

“We still have a few steps to go, but I’m confident that we’re now on track to return to weekly recycling the first full week of March,” Mayor Brandon Scott said in a statement.

This time last year, DPW’s then-director said it might take three years and hundreds of millions of dollars for new software, equipment and manpower to get the recycling guys back in service as they had been for many years prior to the pandemic. He left his job about that same time and has not been replaced.

But [according to The Banner](#), the city received nine 2024 Peterbilt Model 220s last week — the order was placed in 2021 — and has hired new drivers and crew members to reduce the vacancy rate on the Department of Public Works’ solid waste team to 8.5%, the lowest since before the coronavirus pandemic.

DPW entirely suspended service “temporarily” for months during the pandemic in 2020 citing absenteeism caused by COVID. They then shifted to biweekly pickup, citing workforce disruptions and increased recycling tonnage as residents stayed home.

Scott brought back weekly services in January 2021, a month after his inauguration. But a year later, he cut back the service once again, citing staffing shortages. Earlier he had overseen a massive distribution of giant blue plastic cans citywide, and it was rumored that the larger cans incentivized residents to recycle more materials than the existing trucks and work force could manage.

Reduced recycling services [has been a persistent frustration during Scott’s first term](#). The City Council has held marathon hearings questioning DPW officials, some spanning more than five hours which eventually led to the director’s resignation “for family reasons.” A year has passed and Scott has not appointed a replacement.

Bolton Hill neighbors remember Nancy Dorman

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bh-remembers-nancy-dorman/>



"There was no one in the world like Nancy Dorman. She believed in this city and the power of art and education. Humanity, a willingness to roll up her sleeves, and an unshakeable commitment to civic betterment -- Nancy embodied it all." (from a statement issued by the BMA).

Long time Bolton Hill resident Nancy Dorman, [who died on Jan. 12](#) of cancer at the age of 84, was truly unique.

Nancy was a successful career woman, starting with her work Capitol Hill in the offices of Sens. Joe Tydings (D-MD) and Walter Mondale (D-MN), followed by a stint in the Carter Administration as a specialist in domestic policy. After marriage to attorney Stan Mazaroff and a move to Park Avenue where she lived for over 50 years, Nancy began working for a venture capital firm founded in Baltimore, eventually becoming its administrative general partner.

Nancy's legacy will, however, be her philanthropic work, her passion for the arts and her commitment to Baltimore City. She served as a trustee at the Baltimore Museum of Art and with her husband created the Dorman/Mazaroff Contemporary Endowment Fund, and provided the lead gift for the creation of the Nancy Dorman and Stanley Mazaroff Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings and Photographs there. They are also gifting 90 works of art to the museum, as well as six sculptures [to be placed in parks in Bolton Hill](#).

Nancy was a committed volunteer with several other organizations in Baltimore. Virginia Adams, a member of the Enoch Pratt Free Library board of trustees and former Bolton Hill resident, shared that Nancy had been a trustee of the library, an active member of numerous committees and a generous donor.

Virginia noted that “Nancy was particularly devoted to enhancing the services offered by the library’s branches.”

Chris Wright shared that Nancy was a supporter of the Maryland SPCA and served on its board. Chris and her husband lived across from Stan and Nancy for over 30 years and were long-time friends. “Nancy was a delightful person to be around – always warm, affable, and interesting,” she said. “She was intellectually curious and always well-informed about issues of the day, particularly art and politics. She was a wonderful friend and gave one hundred percent of herself to any endeavor she undertook”.

Nancy co-chaired the Art Seminar Group, an organization dedicated to the study and appreciation of the arts. I was fortunate to work with her as its treasurer. Nancy strived for the best in every aspect of her work for the organization. She was open to new thoughts in contemporary art as well as revisiting the Old Masters. I found her sense of humor infectious and her thoughtfulness about organizational priorities extremely valuable. She cared deeply about the city and the extensive art scene that blossomed here.

Nancy and Stanley were avid collectors of contemporary art. On Dec. 9, 2023, BHCA board members Lee Tawney and Linda Stirling announced that Nancy and Stan had donated six sculptures from their collection to the BHCA to be placed in Bolton Hill/ Madison Park parks.

“Thoroughly dedicated to Bolton Hill where they lived for over 50 years, Nancy and Stan were keen that a way be found to find a home for their beloved sculptures in the neighborhood. Their artwork will provide a fitting legacy of their eye for fine art, of their love of life on Park Avenue and will truly enhance the quality of life in Bolton Hill and Madison Park,” said Tawney.

--Sallye Perrin lives on Landale Street and counted Nancy Dorman as a friend

Hold the two dates: greening briefing and Green Street Arts Festival

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/hold-the-dates-greening/>



The Bolton Hill Garden Club and BHCA’s Greening Committee will host a neighborhood greening briefing on Saturday, March 16 at 2 pm at Unity Hall.

Among other things, they will unveil more details for the planned first Green Streets Arts Festival to be held on Saturday, May 25. That all-day celebration of art, music and food will be held on the Eutaw Place median near Unity Hall and in Mounds Park and will kick off the 2024 schedule of Arts in the Parks summer music events.

At the greening briefing, the agenda will include plans for the Garden Club plan and garden shed sale, and status reports and planning for additional refurbished benches on Mt. Royal Ave., park fountains, tree well expansion, a report on the Amtrak community investment program and more.

The meeting is open to all neighborhood residents.

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-feb24/>



Our attentive BPD Western District Commander is moving on

Last July the mayor's office announced a redistricting plan for the Baltimore Police Department that moved police coverage of Bolton Hill from the Central District, which mostly stretched downtown, to the Western District, where the neighborhood was adjoined to others with much higher crime rates.

At the October BHCA meeting, Maj. Matt Correll, the Western District commander with 25 years' experience, gave a reassuring presentation, appearing thoroughly familiar with our neighborhood and fully aware of recent spikes in carjackings and other crimes. He said the district was short-handed but that extra attention was being given to Bolton Hill. Correll also attended BHCA's Open House earlier this month.

But as of Feb. 12, he is gone – moved to BPD headquarters to lead the department's education and training programs. It's not clear who will replace him, but Lt. Natalie Preston will be promoted to the position of major in the Western District. She has been with BPD since 2000. Preston holds a degree in criminal Justice from Coppin State University and a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Coppin. She is currently pursuing a degree in addictions counseling.

Marble Hill: How A Neighborhood Shaped the Civil Rights Movement

The historic preservation group Baltimore Heritage will conduct a public guided tour of neighboring community Marble Hill on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. It will begin at the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum 1320 Eutaw Place. You can reserve a ticket [here](#).

Marble Hill was the home to many groundbreaking civil rights leaders. Rev. Harvey Johnson began one of the first collective action movements there in the 1880s. In the 1930s Lillie Carroll Jackson engaged youth in "The Movement" and pioneered new non-violent protest tactics that were later picked up in cities across the country.

The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall grew up here, as did the chief lobbyist for the NAACP, Clarence Mitchell. The late Rep. Elijah Cummings, one of the most powerful voices for civil

rights in Congress, lived nearby. Some of the fundamental pillars of the civil rights movement were built here by activist neighbors with their eyes on the prize. Tickets are \$10-15.

Time to apply for garden grants is now

The Bolton Hill Garden Club's 2024 Greening Grants program is accepting grant proposals through March 1.

The grants are designed to create and improve public green spaces to beautify the Bolton Hill community. Garden Club grants fund the planting and maintenance of neighborhood parks, public green space, and tree wells. Previous awards have ranged from \$75 to over \$2,000. Applications for projects must be submitted by March 1st, 2024; grants will be announced by April 1 in time for spring planting.

For more information and a link to the Greening Grant Online Application, please see the attached announcement. For more information about the grants, contact Bonnie Legro at blegro119@gmail.com.

Dumpster Day is March 2

Midtown Benefits District has arranged with Baltimore City's DPW to have a series of community dumpsters available for bulk trash items. Dumpsters will be brought and removed to Bolton Hill from approximately 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 2 at 100 Wilson St between Median Park Avenue Parks

About The Bulletin....

The Bolton Hill Bulletin is published 10 times a year. It is designed by Elizabeth Peters. We invite others to help write, edit, provide photos or work on the business side. Send suggestions and comments to bulletin@boltonhillmd.org. Thanks to Zhee Chatmon, Barbara Francis, Paula Jackson, Garrett Morgan, David Nyweide, Joyce Ollner, Jim Prost, Linda Stirling, Lee Tawney and others for helping with this issue. Errors and omissions are the responsibility of the editor, Bill Hamilton.

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