

# Bolton Hill

## Community Association

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## Here's a way to limit the pain of auto ownership: neighbors sharing.

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/neighbor-car-sharing/>



Cars are expensive to own, costly to operate, maintain and insure, always in need of parking space and, generally, not good for the planet. Lately they seem to attract carjackers and thieves, as well. So, what's the solution?

Bolton Hill neighbors Jean Marie Adrian and John and Aften Beeler think they have one. They live around the corner from each other and share the Beelers' Subaru CrossTrek. They mostly park it at Adrian's house because he has off-street parking. They share the monthly payment costs, including insurance and upkeep, and each month they work out a calendar in which one party has primary possession but the other has access when the car is not in use.

**Jean Marie:** *I am away from my Bolton Hill home for extended periods of time and do not have to worry about a car left unattended on my parking pad in the alley.*

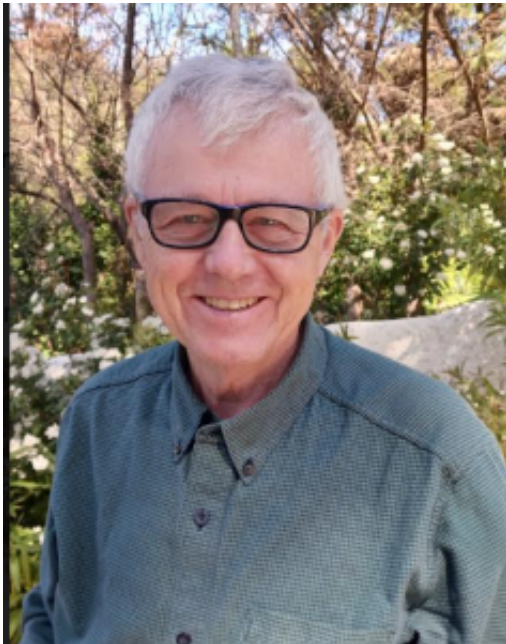
**Aften Beeler:** *We both work for the federal government full-time from home and we looked out on the street at our car, just sitting there. We don't go into D.C. much now.*

**Jean Marie:** *I am retired, and I am flexible for my transport needs, I ride my bicycle when I go downtown to the library, or to visit friends in Harbor East. And yes, I use the bike lane on Mt Royal and Cathedral Street often. I schedule my outings to the grocery store, post office or meeting with friends around my access to the shared car.*

**The Beelers:** *We're both from the south, Alabama and North Carolina, and we like to drive down there often. We schedule our trips when we know Jean Marie will be away. He goes back to France regularly and visits his daughter from time to time.*

It all began on BHCA's Facebook page. Jean Marie posted: *I have been a resident in BH since 2018, I am often away and have limited use for a car full time. I mainly need wheels to run errands around town a few times a week. I am looking for a Bolton Hill resident interested in exploring a car sharing arrangement with me. Sharing time use and all costs worked out in a written agreement. I will bring to the arrangement an off-street parking pad. PM me separately.*

Several neighbors weighed in, endorsing the idea or suggesting ZIPCar or Turo as alternatives. One, Marci Yankelov, had an extra car, a Toyota Prius, that she already had signed up to share through Turo. One of her neighbors was an occasional user. "It was a good experience," she said. "Like Airbnb, but for a car."



With the Beelers and Adrian, it is a more personal relationship. "I met John and Aften shortly after moving to Linden Avenue," Adrian said. It turned out that Adrian and Aften Beeler both had worked for Catholic Relief Services, a global charity headquartered in Baltimore, although they had not known each other there. When he retired after an extended assignment in Africa, he chose Bolton Hill for his new home. Neighborhood realtor Avendui Lacovara made the sale.

According to Aften, "Our arrangement is agreed in writing by contract. Jean Marie pays his share as the added-driver on the insurance and 50% of the monthly car loan payment plus actual fuel and maintenance costs, pro-rated to mileage travelled. A calendar for daily use is prepared collaboratively at the beginning of each month, accommodating each of our respective needs. If one party travels out of town by air or train the other party retains the exclusive use of the car during that period." They keep a log in the car and settle up each month.

Said Jean Marie: *"Even if sharing a car is not a solution for everyone, I see many of my retired neighbors and friends who still maintain two or more cars for their household after retirement. If double careers and kids might sometime justify the two-cars household, once you retire it is time to let go of car number two. It takes only minimum negotiation to coordinate and schedule trips to the gym, the grocery store or library with two retirees at home. It can work well."*

--Bill Hamilton



## Elections, gardens and street fairs. It must be spring!

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/spring-events-in-bolton-hill/>



The other signs of Spring: Candidate signs popping up around the neighborhood ahead of the May primary

**Tuesday, April 16:** *Will the mayor show up?* BHCA is cohosting with Mt. Vernon and other neighborhood associations a **mayoral and city council president candidates forum**, beginning at 6 p.m. at Emanuel Episcopal Church, 811 Cathedral St. As we write, all of those candidates except the mayor had accepted. The facility seats 500 and may be crowded. It also will be available for streaming on Zoom and/or YouTube. Watch BHCA's website for late developments.

**Thursday, April 18:** Each year **Midtown Community Benefits District** holds a Town Hall meeting to update constituents on organization projects and goals. This year it is on Zoom: Meeting ID: 851 2707 4147.

**Saturday, April 20:** The Bolton Hill Garden Club hosts its annual [spring plant and shed sale](#) at Fitzgerald Park (Bolton Ave. and Wilson St.) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20:** The West North Avenue Development Authority rolls out **its comprehensive revitalization plan** for improvements along North Ave. from Bolton Hill to Coppin Heights. 10-noon at Baltimore Unity Hall. Additional sessions are set for June 8 and July 13.

**Tuesday, April 23:** *Eric Costello and Zac Blanchard.* **Candidates for city council from districts 11** (which now only includes half of Bolton Hill) **and 12** will discuss city and neighborhood issues. Costello is the district 11 incumbent and Blanchard is his challenger: 6 p.m., First and Franklin Presbyterian Church, 210 W. Madison St. It also will be available on Zoom and/or YouTube.

**Saturday, April 27: Bolton Hill Annual Tree Planting**, 9 a.m. – noon, meet at Fitzgerald Park. No

experience necessary, tools provided. Just bring gloves and shoes that can get dirty.

**Wednesday, May 1:** *Flower lovers of the world, unite!* It's the first-ever **May Day baskets** celebration in Bolton Hill, hosted by BHCA and the Bolton Hill Garden Club. To participate, simply assemble a basket or vase of spring flowers in front of your home, business or place of worship. After 10 a.m., judges will take a look and declare winners and runners-up (no losers in this neighborhood).

**Thursday, May 2:** *Early voting begins.* There are eight designated locations which the city persists in calling **2024 Presidential Primary Early Voting Centers**. Perhaps you've heard both major party presidential candidates have sufficient delegates to be their party's nominee in the general election but there are still presidential choices on the ballot. More contested, you can vote for Democratic and Republican candidates seeking nomination for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, mayor, city council president and council members for (depending on where in Bolton Hill you live) districts 7 and 11. There also are 7 unopposed judges on the ballot. Early vote locations, none especially convenient to Bolton Hill, [are listed here](#). They are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. through May 9.

**Saturday, May 4: Boundary Block Party**, noon to 4 p.m. on the Eutaw Place median, 1505 Eutaw Place. Hosted by the No Boundaries Coalition.

**Tuesday, May 7: BHCA's annual membership meeting** – open to all. Light food and beverages as members choose a new slate of officers and board members and vote on the coming year budget. Parish Hall, Memorial Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 11:** The inaugural and free **Green Street Arts Festival; Bringing Neighborhoods Together** will serve as an opportunity to connect Bolton Hill and neighboring communities for music, food, art exhibitions and other fun at the Eutaw Place Median and at nearby Mounds Park. This also kicks off the summer-long Arts in the Parks concert series.

**Tuesday, May 14:** *Vote early and often (It's a tongue-in-cheek phrase.)* **It's election day**, in which you can in-person cast a ballot for candidates of the party of your choosing. Because Baltimore voter registration tilts heavily toward Democrats, that's where the excitement will be. Not sure where to vote? Go to <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch>

**Sunday, May 19:** BHCA has reserved a group of seats in the Grand Tier (1st balcony) at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for a 3 p.m. matinee performance, with Chinese conductor Tan Duc leading a Stravinsky concerto and more. Discounted tickets are available [here](#).

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## **Lee Tawney nominated to lead BHCA, with new officers and board**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/lee-tawney-nominated-new-officers/>



Lee Tawney, a 44-year resident of the neighborhood and founding leader of BHCA's summer Arts in the Parks music series, has been nominated to become the next president of the community association.

Officer and board elections will take place at the BHCA annual membership meeting on Tuesday, May 7 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Episcopal Church Farnham Hall. All BHCA members are welcome.

Amy Sheridan, BHCA's president for the past two years has chosen to step down. Other nominated officers going forward are David Nyweide, a past president, as first vice president; Elizabeth Peters, currently a board member and the designer for The Bulletin, second VP; and incumbents Linda Stirling, secretary, and Chris Kingsley, treasurer.

Biographies for all nominees can be found [here](#).

New board members nominated for two-year terms include Barbara Cates, Don Feuerstein, Maya Lee, John Leith-Tetrault, Oge Okoli and Jeff Thompson. Returning members for two-year terms include Barbara Francis, Stuart Galonoy, Florencia Gutierrez, Susan Haun, Thecla Meyer, Jason Perrotti, Marcus Pratt and Lisa Savage.

Nominated to fill one-year terms were John Butz, Beth Cole, Michael Flanagan, Steve Howard, Jim Prost, John Timson and Jacqueline Fiore.

The nominating committee was led by Margaret De Arcangelis and included Barbara Francis, Bill Hamilton, Christine Kent, John Murphy, and Yulia Suslova.



## Look for speed-slowing measures on Lafayette and Laurens, Costello says

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/traffic-updates-costello/>



City council member Eric Costello says that, after years of petitions from Bolton Hill and his office, the city Department of Transportation will take several “traffic-calming” initiatives on West Lafayette Ave. and Laurens St.

In what he called “first steps,” Costello told BHCA’s April meeting that the fixes have been promised for completion by May 31. He said he met with DOT Director Corren Johnson and secured the commitments.

“DOT will install parking striping on the exterior of the parking lane on each side of Lafayette between Eutaw Place and Bolton St., which will result in lane-narrowing and, hopefully, reduced speeds,” he said, adding that a sign refresh will occur for stop signs and speed limit signs on this corridor. A high-visibility crosswalk will also be installed at the eastern end of the intersection of Lafayette and Eutaw.

On Laurens St., DOT will install parking striping on the exterior of the parking lane on each side of the 200 block, which will result in lane-narrowing to reduce speeds. Flex posts will be installed on the east side of the intersection of Laurens and Linden Ave., on both sides of Laurens.

Neighbors have for months complained of high speed traffic heading west from Eutaw along the south border of Sumpter Park, where children often cross on foot or bikes. On Lafayette, nearly 200 residents and nearby residents two years ago submitted a petition with some 200 signatures calling for unspecified steps to reduce speeding in the blocks between Eutaw eastbound to Mt. Royal Ave.

Costello said fire department officials have resisted calls for speed bumps and other obstacles, contending that they interfere with efforts to move quickly east from the fire station on McMechen St. just west of Eutaw. So far, DOT has been more responsive to that concern than to calls for the speed bumps. The council member said that if these announced steps prove ineffective, he will push DOT for additional four-way stop signs at intersections on Lafayette and Laurens.



## **A first in neighborhood dining: table service 7 days a week at Noona's**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/noonas-updates/>



The interior of Noona's at 1203 W. Mt Royal Ave. -

Robert Cardoni

Noona's restaurant – now called *Noona's Curry & Pie* – is open under new ownership, and for the first time in many years, Bolton Hill residents can get a table-served lunch or dinner and cocktails seven days a week.

Whether that will last ultimately depends, says new owner Om Chhetri, on residents and diners in the neighborhood. He and his family have preserved the pizza offerings from the former Noona's, which was operated by restaurateur Phil Han. They have added an extensive Asian fusion menu centered on Indian and Nepali cooking with a wide range of chicken, lamb, seafood and vegetarian curry and tandoori dishes, rice bowls and biryani, samosas and naan.

“The menu is large, and we will continue serving the dishes that people tell us they like best,” he said. As before, Noona's also has an extensive selection of cocktails, beer and wine, with happy hour specialties. “I want to continue a menu of Italian, Indian and Nepali dishes,” said Om, who was born in Nepal and arrived in the U.S. in 2011.

The “old Noona's” opened at 1203 Mt. Royal Ave. in December 2018 as a spinoff from Han's popular café, Dooby's, in Mt. Vernon. Located in the Fitzgerald apartment building where it was preceded by Two Boots Pizza, Noona's did a brisk evening business until early 2020 when the COVID pandemic hit them. “Challenging,” is how Han understated the impact. Before COVID, his four locations had 100 employees. Afterward he struggled to keep 40 working, he said.

Om Chhetri and his older brother, Krishna, acquired the lease and some debt from Han last September and created the expansive new menu in February. Krishna, who is 49, has 30+ years in the restaurant business while Om, 34, worked in restaurants in Pennsylvania and New York. They are part of an extended Nepali immigrant family that operates pizza cafes in Perry Hill and Elkridge and a Nepali restaurant in Staten Island. “They are very successful,” Om said.

At a glance the 55-seat place looks the same: spartan, industrial décor with stacks of pizza carryout boxes along one wall. There are five employees as of now, including the owners' sister, Samiran Giri. Krishna also acquired a bar that Han operated in the Fell's Point Broadway Market. Han continues to operate Sugarvale, a cozy bar near the monument in Mt. Vernon, and Dooby's on N. Charles St.

Noona's Curry & Pie offers [online ordering](#) (with a clunky website) for pickup and has two sizes of pizza that can be ordered and delivered (for a charge) at Slice.com. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and until 11 p.m. on weekends. On warm days there is outdoor dining. They welcome catering opportunities.

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## First of 120 new townhouses going up on North Avenue

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/park-north-townhomes-in-progress/>



Nearly eight years after developers David Bramble and Mark Renbaum announced their intention to build market-rate townhouses, apartments and offices off North Avenue near Bolton Hill's northern border, construction has begun on an initial strip of residences facing Park Ave.

They are the first of 120 townhouses to be built on the several acres now called Reservoir Square. These initial model units will go on sale around June, according to the Ryan Homes website. Ryan, which has built some 40 recent housing developments in the Delmarva/southern PA region, has acquired the right to build the townhouses from MCB Real Estate, which is the overall developer. MCB is led by builder David Bramble, the Madison Park resident who also has been chosen to redevelop the city's Inner Harbor.

According to Theresa Stegman of MCB, construction continues on the remaining site infrastructure improvements, and "barring any unforeseen issues, we anticipate having all the new (interior) road extensions in place by this June. There will also be right-of-way work happening in North Avenue over the next several months.

"In preparation for installing the new traffic signals, our traffic contractor Traffic Systems Inc. (TSI) will begin saw cutting and other prep work to get conduits in place for the new signals. The prep work will move from Park down to Eutaw and we will try to move continuously, barring any underground surprises." She said to expect travel lanes on North Avenue to be restricted at times. Following behind TSI will be a work crew modifying curbs and gutters for new bus stops and bump outs, and then moving to median improvements. That likely also will affect traffic.

Stegman said Ryan expects to price the townhouses from the high \$300,000s to low \$400,000s. Although interest rates are higher than at the time the project began, she said the builders are bullish about the market. "There are no other new townhouse residences in the area at that price range," she said. Ryan houses on the market in the region range from high \$300,000 to mid \$800,000 pricing.

The next phase of construction will be a 200-unit apartment building at the corner of Park and North, with

groundbreaking expected as early as this summer and it is projected to take 21 months. Scheduling for a third-phase mixed-use office building with retail shops and a 15,000 square foot grocery is less clear, Stegman said.

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## **New BPD district commander is a woman with vast experience**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/new-bpd-commander-preston/>



Maj. Natalie Preston is the new commander of the Western Police District, which includes Bolton Hill. She has more than 24 years of experience with the Baltimore Police Dept.

*Jim Prost, chair of the BHCA safety and security committee, had an opportunity to speak with the major and learn about her experience and expertise and her suggestions for addressing safety and security issues in Bolton Hill in particular. He writes:*

She was promoted to major last year and named to succeed Maj. Matt Correll, who was promoted to head BPD education and training programs citywide. Preston, 44, grew up in west Baltimore and is quite familiar with the Bolton Hill and Reservoir Hill neighborhoods. She previously worked within the Central Police District, where Bolton Hill was located until the recent police redistricting. The major has a BS degree in criminal justice, and a master's degree in criminal justice administration. She is pursuing an additional degree in drug counseling.

She has served BPD in a variety of functions: narcotics, criminal investigation, juvenile crime, the district flex unit, the pawnshop unit, and most recently as public safety data liaison. She is a multiple award-winner for her services within the department. This has included a public safety service award, supervisor of the year award, and a community service award. She won a national black woman's award for her work in the Belair- Edison Community.

Safety and security issues in the western district include both violent crime and property crime. According to Preston, much of the crime is drug related. She said both Pennsylvania and North avenues are "hotspots."

Lately, a particular crime focus is on problematic businesses that are open early and close late (6 AM to midnight). These attract significant drug traffic. They often sell beer, wine and liquor, but even those that only sell groceries and carry-out food are problematic. She is working to get these businesses to open

later and close earlier, and to assert better control over their clients. With strong community support it is possible to have the most problematic business padlocked, she said.

At BHCA's April 2 board meeting, Preston said that she makes a point of close-watching those spots. "Every morning, I ride through the entire district before I arrive at work, checking on hot spots along Pennsylvania Ave., North Ave. and Preston Street," she said.

Crime in Bolton Hill is primarily property related (70 per cent of all the reported 288 crimes in 2023) with the highest proportion of incidents by the 13 crime types reported being auto theft (35 percent). There are a relatively low number of violent crimes such as carjackings (11, or 4 per cent in 2023). However, these incidents can be horrific and have a great impact on the perception of safety in Bolton Hill. To address these concerns, Maj. Preston has, subject to staff availability, mandated a patrol car in the Bolton Hill area, particularly for the midnight shift.

Other suggestions by the major for reducing crime in Bolton Hill are for residents to be constantly aware of their situation and what they see happening. Do not walk around unaware with your attention focused on your cellphone. Communicate with your neighbors about what you see and tell them of any unusual or suspicious activity. Tell your neighbors when you are going away, or coming home late or loading or unloading lots of items from your vehicle. Protect each other.

She stressed the need for better lighting and urged people to leave porch and front and backyard lights on at night, and be sure to keep the doors to your home and your vehicles locked. Do not leave items visible in your car. Do not walk with your arms full of items so that you are unable to react to sudden activity.

The major's advice: "If you see or hear unusual activity, such as unknown people sitting in a parked car for a long time, or a car or a group of people continuing to cruise or circle around the block, do not hesitate to call 911 and report the activity to the police and allow the police to check out the activity. Do not act on your own or as a vigilante. If you have any information with regards to a crime do not hesitate to contact [Metro Crime Stoppers](#)."

Maj. Preston agreed to work closely with the recently formed BHCA safety and security task force. She has also agreed to meet with other organizations that provide security services within and or adjacent to Bolton Hill (Midtown, MICA and the University of Baltimore) to determine how security patrols can better provide enhanced coordination and security.

Anyone can attend the monthly commander's meeting held on the third Tuesday of each month in person or via Zoom from 7 to 8 PM. The in-person meeting is held at western district headquarters at 1034 N. Mount Street. The Zoom meeting number is 972 7995 4248 and the passcode is 899 401.

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## **BYOB on first Friday (May 3) and see improvements in Park Ave medians**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/park-ave-first-fridays-may2024/>



If your walks, jogs or drives take you through the 1600 and 1700 blocks of Park Ave., you've probably noticed some changes in the medians over the last couple of years. The huge invasive euonymus bushes that blocked the view of the fountains were removed, and hundreds of native perennials were planted. These changes were the first phase of a landscape plan developed with Bolton Hill landscape designer extraordinaire Chris Mirkovich.

Concepts for the plan began as informal conversations among neighbors who decided to form the Friends of the Park Avenue Medians (FOPAM for those who need a good acronym) to coordinate efforts and invite others to take part. Many of those conversations happened around the fountain in the 1600 block of Park on the first Friday of the month, in what has become a tradition. This casual BYOB affair is a great way to meet neighbors and enjoy the plants that flower throughout the season.

We are grateful to all the volunteers who have spent hours removing invasives and weeds, pruning and mulching, and spring planting. Even though the plan emphasizes natives that are low maintenance and can handle drought and street/sidewalk pollutants, watering and weeding are still required. FOPAM hears lots of great feedback about the improved sightlines from streets and sidewalks and many have noticed an increased number of pollinators.

FOPAM is also grateful to the Bolton Hill Garden Club for the grant that helped fund phase one and is pleased to have received additional funding for phase two.

We invite you to "join" FOPAM. There are no dues, no commitments, just a way to be in touch with residents who are interested in our First Friday at the Fountain events and perhaps helping with our work to improve the parks. Just send a note to [FOPAM@boltonhillmd.org](mailto:FOPAM@boltonhillmd.org) with your name, email, address and phone number. Hope to see you round the fountain this summer!

--*Lisa Summers*

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## **Organist Michael Stefanek becomes minister of music at Brown Memorial**

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/organist-stefanek/>



Michael Stefanek in February began his role as Minister of Music at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Bolton Hill. Stefanek is organist and choir director and manages all the music ministries of the church. He was selected after a search that attracted applications from organists across the United States.

Kathy Arnold, who lives in the 1400 block of Bolton Street and is a musician herself, was on the search committee. She said “We are so fortunate to have Michael Stefanek in this role. He really is the best of the best!”

***There will be a reception for Stefanek on Friday, April 19 from 4 to 6 pm in the community room at Brown (entrance on Park Avenue). To RSVP, email [dbielenberg@verizon.net](mailto:dbielenberg@verizon.net).***

While many in the neighborhood are aware of the beautiful and historically significant Tiffany windows at Brown Memorial, the organ itself and the legacy of previous organists also are impressive. The pipe organ was built by the Skinner Organ Company in Boston and installed in 1931. Much of the original instrument with its 3,000 pipes is largely intact, having undergone a museum quality restoration in the early 2000’s.

“Everyone in the country knows and respects this organ. There are few like it -- it has a mature sound with warm character,” said Arnold. There is also a legacy of celebrated organists at Brown. Virgil Fox served as Brown’s organist while also leading the organ department at the Peabody Conservatory in the 1930’s and 1940’s. Dr. John Walker, another renowned organist, served in the early 2000’s and is now Minister of Music *Emeritus*. He was succeeded by Michael Britt, a Bolton Hill neighbor who was there until his death in 2022. “I feel honored to continue this legacy of excellence in my role as Minister of Music at Brown,” Stefanek said.

Stefanek, 43, moved to Bolton Hill from Salisbury, where he directed music ministries at Asbury United Methodist Church. Originally from Green Bay WI, Stefanek owns up to being a “self-described cheesehead”. He attended Oberlin college where he earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in organ

performance and earned a master's and doctor of musical arts degrees in organ performance from the University of Michigan.

“I believe we should respect the past and embrace the future” said Stefanek when asked about his vision for Brown. “The legacy at Brown is powerful but we can also have a mix of traditional music with newer, lesser well-known composers.” Stefanek looks to revive the Tiffany music series in the fall of 2024 and incorporate popular programming from the past with new artists and musicians. Stefanek enjoys working with students and wants to strengthen the connection with the Peabody Institute by setting up an organ scholar program.

Future plans may include smaller events, adding more family-oriented programming and expanding programming for children. “Baltimore has so much to offer. It is such a rich musical community and there are so many resources to draw from in the metropolitan area. I feel so fortunate to be in the role and I am excited about the future of the music ministry at Brown, Stefanek said. He can be reached at [mstefanek@browndowntown.org](mailto:mstefanek@browndowntown.org).

--*Sallye Perrin*

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## Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-april24/>



### *Join your neighbors at the BSO Sunday performance*

BHCA has reserved a group of seats in the Grand Tier (1st balcony) at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for the concert Sunday, May 19. Join your friends and neighbors for a wonderful evening. Drinks will be available for purchase before the concert and at intermission. Discounted tickets can be had at <https://boltonhillmd.org/event/bolton-hill-night-at-the-symphony-2/>

From the [BSO's writeup](#): Writing music that straddles Chinese and Western traditions, Tan Dun is a boundary-breaking artist of limitless imagination and inclusivity, conjuring a soundscape that makes use of everything from ancient relics to smartphones. This first American performance of Five Muses of Dunhuang brings to life forgotten instruments painted centuries ago on devotional murals in Chinese caves. As a conductor, Tan has unique insights into another perceptive witness and recreator of human ritual, Stravinsky, especially in this rarely heard transcription from a Chinese-themed opera. Stravinsky, with his keen ear for real-life rituals, leans into the real splashy Fireworks and Chinese-themed opera transcription.

### *Former White House gardener, neighborhood resident Gary Grimmette dies*

Gary Grimmette, a Bolton hill resident since 2008 and gardener whose life took him from the coal mine hollows of West Virginia across the world to Asia, Europe and to Richard Nixon's White House, died recently. He was 75.

Most recently Grimmette could be seen moving around on his electric scooter, or planting flowers and weeding in Maple Leaf Park, near where he lived in the Old Friends School apartments. He was especially close to and admiring of neighborhood children. [The Baltimore Sun ran a warm obituary](#) on April 8.

Grimmette was featured in the [Bolton Hill Bulletin in Sept. 2021](#). He had settled into a quiet retirement by then, disabled by injuries and trauma stemming from his participation in the Vietnam war. He had volunteered for service as a medic but came to see the war as a grave mistake and later, he said, turned down a Purple Heart medal awarded in the name of the president to those wounded or killed while

serving.

### ***Long Druid Hill Park makeover is a-l-m-o-s-t finished; maybe.***

City officials say just a few more months until construction around Druid Hill Lake and the now-hidden 52-million-gallon water tank will be complete. By summer's end, they say; it began in 2017 and was to have finished by 2022.

And then what? New construction projects are scheduled to make the lake, which is no longer a reservoir, a new recreation area. The city's Recreation and Parks Department plans community meetings to provide updates on the project. The next hybrid meeting is set for June 4, with details to be shared on the department's social media channels and website.

According to the [Baltimore Banner](#), the water tank project will segue into a new capital project, the Druid Lake Vision Plan, that may someday include a bridge across the water, a fishing pier, shorelines, an amphitheater, a swimming area, cafe and a boathouse. But don't hold your breath.

"In the next couple of months, we'll have a better understanding of what things cost and what we anticipate to be able to provide or implement in the phase one of construction," said Adam Boorman, the parks department's chief of capital development and planning. The parks department is aiming for construction to begin at the end of 2026.

### ***Midtown gets state money to plan art project on Eutaw Place***

Midtown Benefit District has been awarded a \$10,000 planning grant from the [Maryland State Arts Council](#) to celebrate the vibrant history of Bolton Hill and Madison Park through art!

The goal is to develop a stunning public art installation at the entrance to both neighborhoods, right in the heart of Eutaw Place. Over the next few months, Midtown will be engaging with stakeholders to establish a transformative project among our communities. This project is separate from BHCA's work to install six sculptures donated by a longtime Bolton Hill art-collecting couple in parks around the neighborhood.

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

The Bolton Hill Bulletin is published monthly except for July and August. 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](mailto:bulletin@boltonhillmd.org). Thanks to Paula Jackson, Sallye Perrin, Jim Proust, Lisa Summers and Lee Tawney, among others, for helping with this issue. Errors and omissions are the responsibility of the editor, Bill Hamilton.

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**Bolton Hill**

**Community Association**