

ALONSOVILLE VOICE

“IT’S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.”



Photo by Ann Laidlaw

Bag Man Mystery

DAVID BOLTON

He paints the fence along the alley next to Stony Run. He repairs the stone wall next to the alley. He removes indigenous plants from the slope paralleling that fence and wall. He plants plants and builds snow sculptures. As if stepping out of the 1940s, he croons tunes from the American Songbook. During the early days of the pandemic, he arranged to have a sing along, like the Italians. Each Sunday, 5pm sharp, up Wingate and down Wickford, neighbors popped out of their houses to hear John Dean’s music. He also can write.

One day John was walking his dog Louie, he noticed that not everyone was picking up after the dog. Now John, being the sort of neighbor he is, couldn’t ignore the situation. He bagged the scat. “But alas,” thought John, it had become a regular thing. Must be a big dog. Sometimes the sidewalk itself was the target. Right in the middle.

Now it was hard to imagine any of his dear neighbors being so irresponsible—like a professional dog walker breaking the law... maybe a young person walking the family pooch... too grossed out to do the right thing... not to blame the kids. Perhaps an older resident who should be in memory care? Someone else? Were they feuding with Evergreen? He was at a loss. The droppings had been mostly on Wingate, but also on Keswick and Cold Spring Lane.

He was running out of bags.

He shared his concern on the Alonsoville listserv. Anne Laidlaw asked if he was sure it was a dog. She had seen a large, dog-size coyote trotting up her driveway that very morning. He was trying to get past the fence next door.

John was pleased. He had forgotten about the coyote. That’s what it had to be.

Erin also saw the coyote on her patio. It ran up the garden path and leaped over the back fence. She described him as “big and hungry.” She considered calling animal control. She was not comfortable in the way he was eying her pond fish.

David Bolton

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Sara Pak

Newsletter Designer
Mother of Teddy, best dog in the world

Listserv issues?

Contact James Stevenson,
james.m.stevenson@gmail.com

Want recycling weekly? Call 311.
Make your voice known.



Patty Laidlaw. Photo by John Dean

A Nurturing Neighborhood 55 Years at 411 Wingate Road

DAVID BOLTON

Why did Patty and Chuck Laidlaw buy that 4-bedroom house in 1967? It was affordable. “We had three children and as post graduate students no money,” said Patty. “That was hard.” Few houses in the area were that cheap. They bought it for \$24,500. “It almost fit under our budget.”

Previously the Cleveland natives, who met in 1956, lived for three years in Philadelphia, where Chuck pursued a doctorate in urban planning. A job at the Regional Planning Council brought the family to Baltimore. Five days a week, Chuck would catch the 66 bus on Cold Spring Lane, taking him downtown.

David was six, Brian four, and Jenny six months when they came to Alonsoville. Patty described their childhood as “a little bit like Dick and Jane.” All three had paper routes. Jenny and David were lifeguards at the local pool and baby sat. As a budding entrepreneur, Brian pulled his little red wagon selling snowballs at the little league park in Gilman.

“The neighborhood was a place you wanted your children to grow up in. The residents were grounded in artistic and intellectual endeavors. There was also age diversity. She remembered Mrs. Leimbach cautioning the children walking on her garage roof. Recently, Patty also learned from her eldest that her kids had played in the sewers.

David and Jenny went to PS233, Roland Park Elementary and Middle, and Brian went to St. Paul’s. For high school, David went to Poly and Jenny Western. When Patty’s youngest started kindergarten, she went back to graduate school. “I majored in French literature at Brown, not very marketable.” She earned a master’s in counseling at Hopkins evening college. She was part of a trend, mothers returning to the job market.

She became a psychotherapist, first working in the outpatient pediatric psych unit at Hopkins Hospital. After six years, Patty went into private practice, specializing in work with children and families. Her toughest case? Maybe a three-year-old who had totally regressed to infancy. Couldn’t walk. Couldn’t speak. No wonder. Her family was a victim of a neighborhood firebombing. “One sister died, and another was burned severely. It wasn’t accidental.” Every session Patty would set the stage with “a huge fire truck and a doll house.” They would pretend the house was on fire, and the firetruck would come and

John wasn't totally sure that the intruder was a coyote. The scat was large. He googled fox scat vs. coyote. Anne Laidlaw said it was definitely a red fox. Her photo confirmed it. Troy S. Skinner agreed. Foxes have white-tipped tails. Coyotes have black-tipped tails.

Thus, the mystery was solved, and John advised leaving the foxes alone. From what he had seen, they avoided people and pets and stuck to rabbits. There were fox repellents for the garden or pond: <https://foxrepellentexpert.com/usa>. And if that didn't work, he'd be glad to help discouraging the animal.



Photo by Denise Bolton

put it out the fire and save the people. For months, they played with this scenario. "Then one day she climbed off her mother's lap and began to talk, eat and live normally."

"When I walked Chuck, sometimes he would stumble. All the doors would open, and people would come to the rescue."

Aside from being an urban planner, Chuck Laidlaw was also a Morgan professor and, like Patty, active in the community. As head of the Sewer Committee, a source for many jokes, Chuck wrote a column, "The Keswick Sewer Chronicles," in KIA's *Neighborhood News*. Here's a sample of "reporter" Laidlaw's writing in the August 1999 issue: "Greater Keswick's water and sewer lines have been cleaned, repaired as needed and relined.... The treatment consists of cleaning out seventy years of dirt and deposits.... But the pressurized popping of the lining used to open up individual water pipes didn't always work.... Some of the little cutouts weren't quite right and could allow soapy drain water to back up in basements. How do we know this? We found soapy water in our basement." The man was on the job.

Parkinson's stole Chuck Laidlaw's life over a ten-year span. Every evening, weather permitting, Patty would guide him down to the circle. First, he relied on a cane, then a walker, finally, the wheelchair. "When I walked Chuck, sometimes he would stumble. All the doors would open, and people would come to the rescue.... There's an ethos, a richness to the neighborhood: art and compassion." She called Alonsoville "a nurturing neighborhood. It nurtured me after Chuck died."

Now Patty resides in Roland Park Place, in a charming one-bedroom apartment with a balcony. Some of her old friends are there. "It fits me," she said. Patty does miss her garden. She hasn't left the neighborhood entirely. She has an open invitation to visit friends.



411 Wingate Road (1967)

Computer Problems?

Need help with your files or photos?

Call Doug Miller 443-226-0853

doug@processbydesign.net

www.processbydesign.net

NEWS & NOTES

- "Friends of Stony Run" has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant. Details to come.
- Department of Transportation is studying traffic patterns on Cold Spring Lane. This process has happened in the past. Hopefully this time something will be done to slow the traffic.
- On April 25, Darnyle Wharton, liaison for the Northern District, spoke to neighbors on Zoom about the plans the State's Attorney office has for reaching out to neighborhoods. Mr. Wharton said he would be "a voice for the neighborhood," passing on any concerns or complaints to the State's Attorney office.

Neighborhood Recommendations

Many thanks to Steve Ziger for collecting the emails of neighbors who shared their knowledge of workers and companies.

APPLIANCE REPAIR

Landers Appliance
<https://www.landersistappliance.com>

James Charles
Home Systems
<https://www.homesystemsservice.com/>

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Floodbusters
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<https://floodbustersbasements.com/>

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(410) 377-0500
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<https://ibelloupholstery.com/>

Riverfarm Woodworks
(571) 721-0988
(may be temporarily closed)

GENERAL CONTRACTOR / RENOVATION

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(410) 241-9423
<https://www.houzz.com/professionals/kitchen-and-bath-remodelers/baltimore-housewrights-pfvwus-pf~436300930>

Done Construction
Beth
(443) 529-4574
beth@doneconstructionllc.com
<https://www.doneconstructionllc.com/>

Maryland Bay Construction
Rob Burch
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Adam Preller
(443) 468-3805
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Contractor/Maryland-Bay-Construction-LLC-100566388496156/>

Scherr Contracting
(443) 677-4230
<https://www.scherrcontractingllc.com/>

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homefinishers@gmail.com

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(Miller father & son)
(410) 276-8799
(410) 893-7145
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Metal-Supplier/WLM-Ornamental-Iron-Inc-233679470009011/>

JUNK REMOVAL

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Erich Kortum
(443) 454-6310

Mike and Movers
(443) 814-2805
<https://mikeandmovers.com/>

T's Hauling and Moving
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<https://www.tshaulingandmoving.com>

Trash Be Gone
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/trash-b-gone-baltimore>

1-800-GOT-JUNK? Baltimore

BUNGII
<https://bungii.com/>

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ArborMack Tree Specialties
(410) 419-1102

Bartlett Tree Experts
(410) 526-6655
<https://www.bartlett.com/>

Blue Moon Farms (recommended for mulch delivery, not firewood!)
<http://baltimoresbestfirewood.com/products#/mulch/>

New World Gardens
Andreas
<https://www.facebook.com/newworldgardenslandscaping/>

Overlea Landscaping
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(410) 971-0489

Ryan Fowler
(443) 509-5028

PAINTING

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David Sura
(301) 992-0706

Eddie Estrada
(410) 375-7329

Pete Sisson
(410) 983-1124

Sam's Painting
(443) 610-3471

PLUMBING / SEWER / ELECTRICAL

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(410) 913-3380
aandjelectric@comcast.net
bgracey21@comcast.net

Maintain that drain
(443) 846-9210

Saffer Plumbing, Heating & Electrical
(410) 513-9803
<https://www.safferplumbing.com/>

Wes Plumbing
(410) 931-3535
<https://wesplumbing.com/>

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Horizon Roofing
Andre Burton
(443) 622-9291
<https://www.horizonroofinginc.net/>

Tomas Construction:
<https://www.tomasconstruction.org/>

WB Cooper Roofing
Brent Cooper
(410) 336-2500

TILING

Andy Thomas
(443) 804-1513

John Hernandez
(recommended, no contact)

Rick Smith
(recommended, no contact)

TRAVEL AGENT

Richards World Travel in Hagerstown
Kim Bushey
(301) 791-1010
<https://www.richardsworldtravel.com/>

WINDOWS

Forbes Design Center in Timonium
Elliot Lipple
<https://forbesdesigncenter.com/>

Loewen windows
<https://www.loewen.com/>
The Sanders Company (local dealer)
Sarah Kelly
SARAH@thesanderscompany.com.

WOOD FLOORING

Larry Severe
lsevere@hughes.net



Teddy Bear Pak
Golden Retriever 1 year old
Loves destroying things.

FEATURED DOG IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

SUBMIT A PHOTO OF YOUR DOG!

Your dog can be featured here in the Alonsoville Voice.

Please send a photo of your dog, along with the name, age, breed and anything else that makes your dog unique and adorable. Cats and gerbils may be considered in the future.

Submit all photos to ksarapak@gmail.com.



EVENTS

Alonsoville Memorial Day Picnic

MAY 29 (RAIN DATE, MAY 30)

Plan to join your neighbors for an afternoon of games, laughs, food, bouncing, music, and a fire truck!

Plus, the Cake Contest is back! Time to dust off your cookbooks. Create a theme for your cake from the categories below. The Baltimore City Fire Department will judge the entries. After the FABULOUS prizes are bestowed, WE EAT CAKE. What's not to like? There can never be too many cakes or prizes.

The categories are: Julia Child, tastiest; Elon Musk inventive; Kamala Harris, patriotic; Dolly Parton, showiest; Benedict Arnold, most inappropriate; Anthony Fauci, best tasting pie.

KIA is providing beer, wine, water, burgers, and dogs. Need to pay \$30 KIA dues? Stop by the table between 2 and 3:30 and talk to Mia.

Feel free to bring a side dish to share.
Alonsoville t-shirts available for purchase.
Silent auction for tree fund.

There will be a Google sign-up for volunteers. We'll be asking for tables and chairs, too.

SCHEDULE

- Noon Setup
- 2:00 Kickball at Linkwood Park
- 3:00 Bike, Dog, and Baby Parades
- 4:00 Food and Games start (water balloons, limbo and more)
- 5:00 Bring your dessert creation



Alonsoville Picnic, 2005

Photo by Jim Burger

One More Word

DAVID BOLTON

Been thinking about Dad lately, William P. Bolton, Jr. Always do around Memorial Day. On September 29, 1941, my father and mother were married in her parents' house on Longwood Road. A month after Pearl Harbor he was back in the Navy, bound for the South Pacific, where he would spend a year running Marines to shore in an amphibian vessel. He didn't talk much about those days, save the time he lassoed a pelican to loosen things up on the boat. Marines almost killed him. Dad had a wicked sense of humor.

Off San Martin Drive stands this monument. The words inscribed say it all.

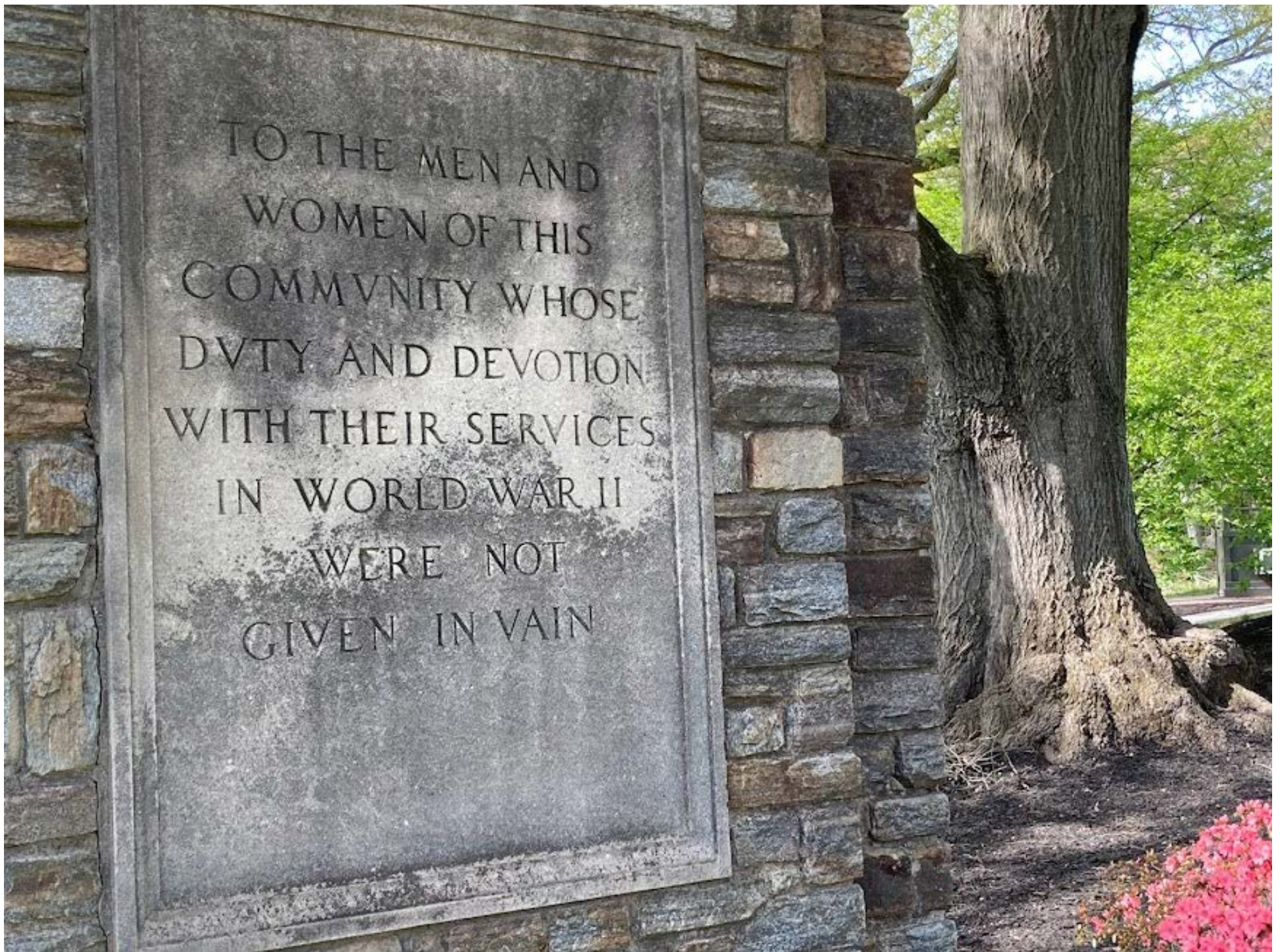


Photo by Denise Bolton