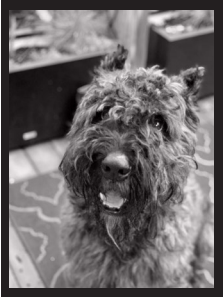


BUTCHERS HILL

February 2023



**ROCKET
BHA MASCOT**

Dear Neighbors,

It's 2:17, and I'm staring at a blank screen. My first opening for the BHA newsletter is due and I'm struggling with what to write. I haven't felt this kind of pressure since my eleventh grade English teacher informed me that not only my future, but the futures of any offspring I may have, were riding on a term paper elucidating

the motivations behind Captain Ahab's relentless pursuit of Moby Dick.

I needed inspiration. I needed guidance from someone who had been in the exact situation which I now found myself. So I called Billy Joel.

"Hey Piano Man, I need your help."

"Howz the dog? You walking him three times a day? The big guy needs his exercise." Billy Joel and Rocket kept in touch over the last year.

"Now that I'm BHA President, I have to write the opening to the newsletter. I'm drawing a blank," I said.

"Just like eleventh grade English class," said Billy Joel, "we've all been there. Have you tried that ChatGTP thing?"

"I could never get that past the BHA newsletter editors. They'd know right away I didn't write it." I said.

"The newsletter editors...they do other volunteer jobs like organize the flea market and monitor the dumpsters, don't they?" said Billy Joel.

"That must take a lot of time and energy," said Billy Joel. "Why do they do it? Why do so many people in your neighborhood choose to become involved and volunteer to make it a great place to live?"

"Because it's important to them," I said. "The neighborhood is important to them, but we really care about each other. We enjoy hanging out, stoop sitting, tree planting, safety walks, summer picnics, the café lights, flea markets, house tours, and chili cook-offs. We even enjoy getting together and planning these things."

"So you have fun planning and fun do'in." said Billy Joel. "Maybe Stevie Nicks and I should spend more time in Butchers Hill."

"Seven o'clock on the first Wednesday of the month," I said. "Perhaps you'll take some requests?"

"Don't push it, pal. You think I got Springsteen's bucks? President, smeshezident; you gotta buy a ticket just like everyone else."

I heard a click and without an encore, Billy Joel was gone.

— **Dan**

DAN KISELIK, BHA PRESIDENT

Communicate with Your Elected Officials

They want to hear from you and need to know which issues are most important to you. Email is a powerful communication tool. Voice your concerns, suggestions, and information to help them make important decisions.

Mayor Brandon Scott \\
mayor@baltimorecity.gov; (410) 396-3835.

District 1 City Council Member Zeke Cohen \\
zeke.cohen@baltimorecity.gov; (410) 396-4821.

District 13 City Council Member Antonio Glover \\
antonio.glover@baltimorecity.gov; (410) 396-4829.

If you are asking for their help with a problem, first call or go online to report the issue using the 311 system. When contacting the mayor or city councilperson, provide the complaint number (CR#) so it can be referenced during subsequent communication and staff follow-up.

Volunteer Needed — One Hour a Month

Delivering the BHA monthly newsletter requires two people. One to drive and the other to carry stacks of newsletters to our distributors who then go door-to-door to see that every household receives their copy. This usually occurs the last week of the month. We have a driver, but it goes quickly if there is a partner who carries the newsletters from the car to the door of the distributor. If this seems like something you could do, please contact Sandy: text (410) 371-8346 or email: ajs2201@verizon.net.

Butchers Hill...“Baltimore’s friendliest neighborhood”

February BHA General Meeting

Wed., Feb. 1, 7pm, St. Andrew Orthodox Church (enter through Lombard St. door)

Agenda:

- Dept. of Planning – CJR walking route improvement
- BCPD – community safety
- Presentation of traffic calming request to DOT

BHA Committee News & Notes

Safety Committee

The Butchers Hill Safety Committee will be busy in February planning how to execute the generous \$50K grant we received from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The committee met in late January with a number of East Baltimore neighborhood safety committees who had also received these grants to explore economies of scale and where we could work together as neighborhoods on concepts for a safer East Baltimore. We are hopeful that our proposed traffic calming, pedestrian/driver safety, and video technologies will provide a big safety benefit to Butchers Hill. If working on these issues interests you, please come to our February Safety Committee meeting and help us plan for a safer community—all are welcome.

On Feb. 15 at 6pm, we will conduct our next monthly community safety walk. We'll meet at Castle Street Park and explore safety issues in the northwest corner of Butchers Hill. These walks typically explore matters such as poor street lighting, abandoned property, and pedestrian/driving hazards. All are welcome to attend this event. Come out, meet your neighbors, walk your dog/cat, exchange safety tradecraft, and experience the wonderful diversity of our beautiful community.

Flea Market Committee

We are resuming monthly meetings on Feb. 21 to prepare for the June 3, 2023, spring Flea Market & Craft Fair in Patterson Park. It is fun to plan for 150 vendors, music, and the Butchers Hill Booth, and we welcome new folks and ideas!

This is not only a great event but raises funds for the two local schools BHA supports, other nonprofits and our neighborhood. For more information and to attend the meeting, email Sara at butchershillfleamarket@gmail.com.

House Tour Committee

The House Tour Committee's first meeting of 2023 will be held on Thurs., Mar. 16, at 6pm to begin planning for this year's tour. We'd like to warmly welcome all historic house lovers to join our committee. Anyone interested should reach out to Emily at horbackwarren.emily@gmail.com.

Streetscape Committee

Love living in Butchers Hill? It is friendly people and neighbors who care to keep our environment clean and green that give us all the feeling of quality of life. Show your love by joining the Streetscape Committee. We enjoy our planning meetings where we share libations and ideas. We attend to the natural environment by maintaining our tree canopy and two pocket parks, and by greening alleys and corners. We work to create safer intersections, monitor compliance with trash and recycling regulations, expedite public art and wall murals, and organize community cleanups and dumpsters. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

For more information, contact Andrew at andrew.crummey@gmail.com. We will be meeting monthly again starting Mar. 7. Come join in the fun!

Transportation Committee

With the help of Ethan Hasiuk from Zeke Cohen's office and in partnership with Upper Fells Point Improvement Association and Fells Prospect, we recently held a very successful meeting with DOT and have submitted a multi-year request for traffic calming in the combined area of the three neighborhoods. The request is tiered, and the first tier includes four-way stops at Pratt and Lombard and Collington. A second-tier request is for flashing red traffic signals at Pratt and Lombard and Chester. There was discussion about removing the traffic signals and replacing them to stop signs to reduce the instances of "racing to catch the light," but DOT suggested this as an alternative that would be quicker to implement, would have the same result, and could be easily changed back if deemed necessary.

The request also includes recommendations for the dangerous Collington and Baltimore St. intersection.

The final draft of the plan document is being finalized and will be posted on butchershill.org when it is ready.

Connect with Butchers Hill



ButchersHill.org



Butchers Hill
Blocks



ButchersHill
Baltimore



Butchers_Hill

Land Use Committee

CHAP Blocks in Butchers Hill \ The Land Use Committee reminds property owners in the 2100 and 2200 blocks of East Baltimore Street and the 2200 block East Pratt Street, that you live in a City Historic District. All planned exterior work, including painting, must be submitted to CHAP (the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation).

School News

Commodore John Rodgers School

Important Dates \ Feb. 1: Student Early Dismissal @ 12:30pm; Feb 17: School Closure (Professional Development Day); Feb 20: School Closure (Presidents Day)

Volunteers Needed \ Help clean out CJR ahead of next year's renovations. Email goldman@thecjrschool.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Donations Needed \ Feminine hygiene products and pads for middle school students; gently used Spanish-English dictionaries; gently used khaki pants (size 5 and up); gently used winter coats (size Youth Small-Adult XL).

Patterson Park Public Charter School

PPPCS Enrollment \ Deadline is Feb. 15. We are close to the lottery deadline when we must select new students. Please enroll as soon as possible for school year 23/24 in grades PreK-8. Apply at pppcs.org/enrollment/

Clay Hill Enrollment \ PPPCS's partner school, Clay Hill, is accepting enrollment applications for school year 23/24 in grades K-5. The deadline for the lottery is Feb. 15. Apply at clayhillpcs.org/enrollment.

February Notes & Activities

Friends of Patterson Park

Spring is around the corner and with it more activities in the park. Save these dates now and give yourself something to look forward to through the winter:

Kite Fest // Sat., March 25.

Observatory Opening Day \ Sun., April 16 (time to volunteer to help clean that day or to be a docent).

Earth Day Celebration \ Sat., April 22.

Dia del Nino \ Sat., April 29.

To join the Friends of Patterson Park coaching team, contact programs@pattersonpark.com. For other volunteer opportunities in the park, visit pattersonpark.com/volunteer.

Patterson Park Audubon

Follow on Facebook [@PattersonParkAudubonCenter](https://www.facebook.com/PattersonParkAudubonCenter) and Instagram [@audubon_pattersonpark](https://www.instagram.com/audubon_pattersonpark)

Registration for all events required, go to: patterson.audubon.org/events.

Birdwatching \ Sat., Feb. 25, 8-9:30am, meet at the Lombard St. entrance near the fountain. Please don't forget to register and follow COVID-19 rules.

DPW & BCPD

Paperless Water Billing \ Residents may sign up for the city's newly launched paperless water billing and new payment plan option, called PromisePay. Once enrolled, residents will have the ability to pay off past-due residential water bill balances over time without accruing interest.

To go paperless, log into waterbillportal.baltimorecity.gov/#Register. Your activation code can be found on the back of the monthly water bill. Select the paperless billing on the account summary page. Verify your email address and click the OK button.

Any residential water account in Baltimore with a past due balance of \$250 to \$5,000 is eligible to enroll in the interest free PromisePay payment plan.

Drop-Off Centers and Landfills \ New times: 2840 Sisson Street and 6101 Bowley's residential drop-off centers will remain open until 5pm. Quarantine Road landfill and residential drop-off center's new winter hours are 7:30am–3:30pm, Mon.–Sat. These hours will be in effect until March 12, 2023.

Safety Tip \ A reminder from BCPD: Be sure that doors and windows on all levels of your house are securely locked. Look around your row of houses. Could someone easily get onto your roof via stairs or another point of access? Be aware.

Other Good Stuff

Ice Rink in Patterson Park \ Linwood Ave., Skating sessions: Tues., noon–2pm; Sat., 3–5pm; \$5 entrance fee, \$3 skate rental. For more information, call (410) 396-9392.

Restaurant Week \ Ends Feb. 5; dinner deals featuring \$35, \$45, and \$55 menus. Visit baltimorerestaurantweek.com for the full listing of participating restaurants and to make reservations.

"Dancing with Trees" \ Sculpture exhibit through Feb. 19; Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park, 11am–3pm Thur. & Fri., 11am–4pm Sat. & Sun. Thirty-five exquisite wood sculptures by artist Joe Haviland, carved with a chainsaw and then polished to reveal the natural beauty of the wood. Donation requested at the door. More information at rawlingsconservatory.org.

National Parks Free Entrance \ Entrance fees will be waived on the following dates: Apr. 22 (National Park Week), Aug. 4, Sep. 23 (National Public Lands Day), and Nov. 11. Other fees (camping, parking, etc.) may have a fee. The annual pass to visit any national park is \$80. If you are 62 or older, a life-time pass is available for that price. Special passes are available for military service members and their dependents, anyone with permanent disabilities, those who volunteer in a park, and any fourth grader. In Baltimore, Fort McHenry is a historic national monument and historic shrine. In Towson, the Hampton Mansion is a national historic site. For more information, visit nps.gov/findapark.

February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 BHA General Mtg.	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7 	8 Safety Com. Mtg.	9 Executive Com. Mtg. 	10 Feb. newsletter deadline	11
12 Super Bowl LVII	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Safety Walk	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day, Gov't. offices closed	21 Flea Market & Land Use Com. Mtgs. Mardi Gras 	22 Ash Wednesday	23 	24	25 Birdwatching
26	27	28				

 Indicates recycling collection days

Butchers Hill Committees & Chairs

Executive	Dan Kiselik butchershillpresident@gmail.com	Thurs., Feb. 9, 7pm Park Superintendent's House Meets the second Thurs.
Flea Market	Sara Gebase butchershillfleaemarket@gmail.com	Tues., Feb. 21, 7pm
House Tour	Emily Warren horbackwarren.emily@gmail.com	No meeting this month
Land Use	Virgil Bartram Virgil@ArchUV.com	Tues., Feb. 21, 7pm Park Superintendent's House Meets the third Wed.
Safety	Cheryl McDonald and Tim Eveleigh tim.eveleigh@gmail.com butchershillcrimecommittee@gmail.com	Wed., Feb. 8, 7pm Meets the second Wed. Zoom link at butchershill.org/safety
Streetscape	Andrew Crummey andrew.crummey@gmail.com	No meeting this month

Tentative Save the Dates 2023

Apr. \\
June 3 \\
Sept. 23 \\
Oct. \\
Dec. \\
Cleanup/Dumpster
Spring Flea Market & Craft Fair
Fall Flea Market & Craft Fair
House Tour & Cleanup/Dumpster
Holiday Potluck

Butchers Hill Association Membership

Name(s): _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 Would you like to serve on a committee and/or volunteer at BHA events? _____ Which: _____

Annual dues (Jan. thru Dec.) are \$10 per person, \$6 for seniors and low-income. You can pay your Butchers Hill Association dues via PayPal or credit card online. Go to butchershill.org and click "Join BHA," then click "Renew" or "Application." If you want to pay by cash or check, make checks payable to the Butchers Hill Association and send to BHA, 12 N. Collington Ave., Baltimore, MD 21231.