

# BUTCHERS HILL

January 2023



**BETH BRAUN**  
BHA PRESIDENT

## *Dear Neighbors,*

So this is my last letter. It feels so weird to be writing that sentence. I have served on the BHA executive committee for twenty years and been president for five of those. While it has been an honor and a pleasure, it is time (some might say past time) to hand the reins over to new leaders.

Butchers Hill is an amazing neighborhood. It didn't get to be that way by accident. It has taken the volunteer efforts and advocacy of many people over the years to create and maintain the beauty, relative safety, and sense of community that exists in our neighborhood. I urge each of you reading this to get involved: come to a meeting (I know...you already have too many meetings, but it is a great chance to meet other people), volunteer at a fundraising event or cleanup, pay your dues, however you feel you can best make your mark on the neighborhood.

The Butchers Hill Association is not an HOA. It is a community organization for people who live in the neighborhood, those that own their homes and those that rent. It is important to have the participation of and input from both of those groups. Likewise, it is important to maintain the socio-economic diversity (the fact that the houses were built in different sizes wasn't an accident) and increase the racial and cultural diversity in the neighborhood.

The challenge going forward will be balancing the desire for development and density, breaking up large houses into small apartments; with welcoming families that want full-size houses; with maintaining some affordable housing stock. This is the same challenge that BHA leaders have faced and succeeded in for decades. The next leaders will continue to succeed both at that balance and at keeping Butchers Hill the awesome neighborhood that it is as long as there is a pool of people that believe in the neighborhood who are willing to put forth the effort to keep it great.

As always, take care of yourselves and each other,

— *Beth*

## **Dues Are Due**

It is time to pay your dues for 2023. Dues are \$10 per person, \$20 per couple. Dues for seniors are \$6 per person. You can pay online on the website, [butchershill.org](http://butchershill.org) or by check. If paying by check, you can bring it to the January general meeting (see p.2) or mail it (or drop it) to Butchers Hill Association / 12 N. Collington.

The dues per person are not a huge amount of money but, combined with the dues of all the members, they help pay for this newsletter, the website, social activities, and more. More important than the monetary value is the fact that you are affirming that you are part of the neighborhood—a member of the association of people charged with bettering the Butchers Hill neighborhood. If you would like to vote in the January election, you must have paid your 2023 dues.

## **2023 BHA Executive Committee Election**

Every year at our January general meeting, we elect our executive committee for that year. This year the nominating committee has offered this slate for consideration:

Dan Kiselik – President

Dani Sossaman – Vice President

Billy Motel – Vice President

Michele DeHaven – Treasurer

\*\*Joshua Ruck – Recording Secretary

Colbi Furman – Correspondence Secretary

Andrew Crummey – Parliamentarian

Jane Brown – Member At Large

Arch McKown – Member At Large

Patrick Filbert – Member At Large

\*\*Sarah Hoover had been nominated as recording secretary but is unable to fill the role. Joshua Ruck has been nominated to fill the vacant seat on the board, but the specific position may change.

## **Spicy Brownie Recipe**

One of the highlights of the Winter Potluck last month was the spicy brownies from Ryan Walter. He agreed to share the recipe with everyone. You can find it on the Butchers Hill website at [butchershill.org](http://butchershill.org). (And hint: the secret is hot sauce!)

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

## January BHA General Meeting

Wed., Jan. 4, 7pm, St. Andrew Orthodox Church (enter through Lombard St. door)

### Agenda:

- Elections
- Leaders from several partner nonprofit organizations will be on hand to talk about their plan for 2023.
- Committee reports
- Check out the detailed agenda posted to the website prior to the meeting. [butchershill.org/events](https://butchershill.org/events)

## BHA Committee News & Notes

### Streetscape Committee

**Thank you December dumpster crew** \\ The December dumpster was a great success, in spite of the rain. Thanks to Ann, David, Lindsay, and Sandy, the dumpster was packed full when it was picked up. Thanks to DPW for our driver delivering it at a reasonable time and informing us that in the future NO METAL can go into the landfill. It must be recycled. And thanks to Adam and the fact that he has for years volunteered to use his truck to collect metal and recycle it, we have been ahead of the curve.

**Curbside Christmas tree pickup/mulching** \\ Jan. 5-29, place the tree (with no trimmings) out with your regular trash. You may also take trees to Sisson Street Citizen Drop-Off Center to be mulched. If you bring your own bag, you can take rough cut tree mulch for your garden or tree pit.

**Absolutely no plastic bags or styrofoam in recycling** \\ It clogs up the conveyor belts at the recycling center. Then all sorting has to stop while the bits are manually removed. Also, recycling that is contaminated with food and grease can't be recycled. All bottles, cans, and paper must be clean.

### Winter Gardening Tips

- After the first frost it is time to plant spring-flowering bulbs. This prevents them from sprouting prematurely. Always choose a sunny, well-drained location.
- Outdoor plants in winter still need maintenance. Water only when we have had less than three inches of precipitation for more than a month. Shovel snow (that does not contain snow melt chemicals or salt) off walkways into tree pits, plants in containers, and gardens as both insulation and slow watering. Save pruning of trees and shrubs until Feb.
- Weekly gutter and sidewalk trash patrol will keep our neighborhood clean and safe.

**A good habit is born** \\ While putting out your weekly trash, wear a glove to pick up the bits of debris that have blown onto your sidewalk and gutter and toss them in with your trash. Smile, job well done, and we all thank you!

**Reminder to pet owners** \\ There is only one place for dog poop, and that is your own garbage can!!

### Safety Committee

The Butcher's Hill Safety Committee wishes everyone a safe and bounteous new year. We will restart our community safety walks Wed., Jan. 18, at 6pm. We'll start at Halcott Square, 118 S. Duncan, and proceed south to Pratt then west to Washington and return on East Lombard. These walks are a great chance to get out, meet your neighbors, and to look at the neighborhood from a safety perspective. We are usually accompanied by a BCPD officer or two and most walks result in 311 calls on abandoned property, safety hazards, and broken infrastructure. All are welcome to join us, dress warmly.

**Safety tip** \\ The committee reminds everyone to password or otherwise lock their Venmo, Cash App, and any other cash-sending apps on their smartphone. Thieves have recently been stealing smartphones to use the apps to send money to themselves. For more tips like these, check out the community safety site at [zekecohen.com/community-safety](https://zekecohen.com/community-safety).

### 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).

### House Tour Committee

The House Tour Committee remains on recess until we begin planning the 2023 tour. We hope our neighbors have a happy holiday and a wonderful New Year. For anyone setting a New Year's goal to join a BHA committee, we would love to have you join us! Email Emily at [horbackwarren.emily@gmail.com](mailto:horbackwarren.emily@gmail.com) to be added to our mailing list.

### Connect with Butchers Hill



ButchersHill.org



Butchers Hill  
Blocks



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# School News

## Commodore John Rodgers School

### Important dates \\

Jan 3: School starts back after winter break

**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** \\  
Accepting applications for 2023-24 school year in grades PreK-8th. Join PPPCS for an in-person Prospective Families Open House on Jan 21 at 9am. [pppcs.org/enrollment](http://pppcs.org/enrollment)

**Clay Hill Enrollment** \\  
Accepting applications for 2023-24 school year in grades K-5th. Join PPPCS for an in-person Prospective Families Open House on Jan 21 at 11am at 6410 E. Pratt St. (Clay Hill is PPPCS's partner school) [clayhillpcs.org/enrollment](http://clayhillpcs.org/enrollment)

## January Notes & Activities

**Snow Emergency Phases** \\  
Phase One: All moving vehicles must have snow or all-weather-radial tires or chains. Phase Two: Parking is prohibited on designated snow emergency routes, including Pratt, Lombard, and Baltimore Streets and Patterson Park Avenue. Phase Three: Only emergency vehicles may drive on city streets. All radio and TV news will announce this.

If a Phase Two seems imminent, it is advisable to look for parking on non-emergency streets as soon as possible. If Phase Two is announced and you can't find a space, call 311 to find out where the city has designated parking for our area. Vehicles parked on snow emergency streets will be ticketed and towed so snowplows can do their work.

**Code Blue** \\  
The city health commissioner declares Code Blue days when the temperature (with wind chill) falls below 14 degrees. Temperatures below 10 degrees require pets to be brought into a heated space.

During Code Blue, city agencies work to distribute meals to at-risk senior citizens, provide home weatherization services ([dhcd.baltimorecity.gov](http://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov), (410) 396-3023), provide additional cold weather education and outreach efforts ([health.baltimorecity.gov](http://health.baltimorecity.gov)), and help individuals apply for energy assistance (410) 396-0900.

For more information, service request, or to find a nearby shelter, call 311 or 211. Our nearest Community Action Partnership (CAP) Center is at 3411 Bank St., (410) 545-6518.

**Protect your pipes** \\  
Know where the water shut off valve is for every sink, toilet, tub, or shower. If you can't find those, know where the main shutoff valve for the whole building is located. When daytime temperatures remain below 25 degrees for more than a day or two, water pipes located close to an unheated exterior wall can freeze and break,

leaking water continuously. These are usually under sinks or touching an exterior wall. Make sure heat reaches these areas. In an unheated area (basement, crawl space), it is possible to insulate the pipes or wrap them with electric powered heat tape. The easiest solution is to keep both the hot- and cold-water faucets on with a pencil-thin stream of water, especially overnight. Water bills are cheaper than damaged walls.

If a pipe seems frozen because the water doesn't run, carefully use a blow dryer to gently warm the pipes. Warming too quickly can break the pipe at a joint. Be alert to sounds of running water in unheated vacant properties. Adjacent properties can become flooded. Call 311 to report or 911 if water is impacting your property.

**NO FOG down your drains** \\  
Fats, oils, and grease cause sewer backups when put down drains or toilets. The congealed fats catch debris and clog pipes. Discard used oils from cooking by pouring into a used can or jar or using paper towels and then discard into the garbage.

## Other Good Stuff

**Beat the winter blahs** \\  
Baltimore's museums are family friendly and welcoming. Frequently the museums do not charge for admission, but may require timed entry and/or charge for certain exhibits.

**Creative Alliance** \\  
3134 Eastern Ave., main gallery, education programs, dance studio, programs, performances and more. [creativealliance.org](http://creativealliance.org), (410) 276-1651.

**Walters Art Museum** \\  
600 N. Charles St., explore the galleries with suits of armor, fossils, Asian art, furniture, and more. Check out the calendar of programs. [thewalters.org](http://thewalters.org), (410) 547-9000.


**Baltimore Museum of Art** \\  
10 Art Museum Dr., including modern art, the Cone sister's collection plus a replica and video of their Bolton Hill apartment, and early American collection. Also houses Gertrude's restaurant, reservation suggested. [artbma.org](http://artbma.org), (443) 583-1700.

**American Visionary Arts Museum (AVAM)** \\  
800 Key Highway, view self-taught, intuitive, detailed artistry. Visiting just the museum store and the slideshow is free, otherwise there is a fee for admission and timed entry. [avam.org](http://avam.org), (410) 244-1900.

**Chinese New Year** \\  
Jan. 22, Year of the Rabbit, celebrated for fifteen days culminating Feb. 5 with a lantern festival. Characteristically, those born under the sign of the Rabbit are perfectionists and like to plan things and seek out the best. They are cautious, artistic, friendly, kind and compassionate.

**Ice Skating in Patterson Park** \\  
the Mimi DiPietro Family Skating Center, near the dog park along Linwood Ave., is open. Admission is \$5, skate rental is \$3. Public skating hours are Tues. 4-6pm and Sat. 3-5pm. For information about other hours, birthday party packages, and private rentals, call (410) 396-9392 or email [rbrave@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:rbrave@baltimorecity.gov). [bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/ice-skating](http://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/ice-skating)

# January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2 Federal Holiday	3	4 <b>General Meeting</b>	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11 <b>Safety Com. Mtg.</b>	12 <b>Executive Com. Mtg.</b> 	13	14
15	16 MLK Day Govt. Offices Closed	17	18 <b>Safety Walk</b>	19	20 Feb. newsletter deadline	21
22 Chinese New Year	23	24 	25	26 	27	28 Birdwatching
29	29	30	31			

 Indicates recycling collection days

## Butchers Hill Committees & Chairs

Executive	Beth Braun <a href="mailto:butchershillpresident@gmail.com">butchershillpresident@gmail.com</a>	Thurs., Jan. 12, 7pm Park Superintendent's House Meets the second Thurs.
Flea Market	Sara Gebase <a href="mailto:butchershillfleamarket@gmail.com">butchershillfleamarket@gmail.com</a>	No meeting this month
House Tour	Emily Warren <a href="mailto:horbackwarren.emily@gmail.com">horbackwarren.emily@gmail.com</a>	No meeting this month
Land Use	Virgil Bartram <a href="mailto:Virgil@ArchUV.com">Virgil@ArchUV.com</a>	No meeting this month
Safety	Cheryl McDonald and Tim Eveleigh <a href="mailto:tim.eveleigh@gmail.com">tim.eveleigh@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:butchershillcrimecommittee@gmail.com">butchershillcrimecommittee@gmail.com</a>	Wed., Jan. 11, 7pm Meets the second Wed. Zoom link at <a href="https://butchershill.org/safety">butchershill.org/safety</a>
Streetscape	Andrew Crummey <a href="mailto:andrew.crummey@gmail.com">andrew.crummey@gmail.com</a>	No meeting this month

## Tentative Save the Dates 2023

Apr. \ Clean up/Dumpster  
June 3 \ Spring Flea Market & Craft Fair  
July \ Potluck Picnic  
Sept. 23 \ Fall Flea Market & Craft Fair  
Oct. \ House Tour & Clean up/Dumpster  
Dec. \ 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](https://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.