

BUTCHERS HILL

FEBRUARY 2015



BETH BRAUN
BHA PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

As I warned in my letter last month, I will be reminding everyone here about the importance of volunteering. Let's start with a review of 2014.

Last year we were fortunate to have successful fundraising events—two flea markets and a house tour. This year, in addition to those planned events, we will also have a garden tour. Our fundraising activities pay for our other activities—stoop meetings, summer and holiday potlucks, newsletter, neighborhood greening, crime prevention, and our annual teacher breakfast.

And each year, we support some of the nonprofit organizations that we partner with to make life better in southeast Baltimore. Last year we supported Commodore John Rodgers School, Patterson Park Public Charter School, Friends of Patterson Park, Community Law Center, Banner Neighborhoods, St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Creative Alliance, Baltimore Tree Trust, Casa de Maryland, Neighborhood Design Center, Audubon of Maryland, SECDC, and the Highlandtown Train Garden.

We need volunteers to be successful in every aspect of what we do. All of our officers, committee chairs, and committee members are volunteers. Volunteers do everything at each of our fundraising activities. Volunteers put together this newsletter, and then different volunteers deliver it. We also have volunteers that are involved with tree plantings, neighborhood cleanups, bump out adoptions, and dumpster

babysitting. As you can see, there are many different ways to join the others and support the neighborhood.

*(Pres. message
continued on page 3)*



WWW.BUTCHERSHILL.ORG



CALLING ALL GARDENERS & ARTISTS

Butchers Hill Garden Tour, June 7 - will feature area artists in every garden. Butchers Hill is a rare commodity: downtown living where green space is not only prized but nurtured. We are proud of the small bits of heaven we create and love sharing them. Help make this fundraising event happen.

- Volunteer your garden or suggest another you know is beautiful.
- Volunteer as an artist to sell/demonstrate your work in a garden setting.
- Help make the Garden Tour booklet the best ever: design, write copy, or sell ad space.
- Help organize volunteers for the day of the tour.

The garden tour only happens every other year, but it goes a long way toward showing why Butchers Hill is a wonderful place to call home. We will start working on this event soon. If you want to be involved, please don't wait to volunteer. Contact committee chair, Joe Rehak at jrehak@lightspeedsystems.net, or 410-967-9578. Artists contact Kini: kinicollins@gmail.com

2015 DUMPSTER SCHEDULE

The BHA Streetscape Committee has ordered a community pitch-in dumpster every other month, starting April 25 for the Spring Cleanup through as late as December this year. The last dumpster of 2015 is expected to be December 12. Remember, dumpsters are only available for four hours (usually 9am-1pm), from drop-off until pick-up. Each date and location will be listed in the Butchers Hill Newsletter as it gets closer.

Baltimore's Friendliest Neighborhood!

FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Ground Hog Day	3 Streetscape	4 BHA General Meeting	5	6	7
8	9 Land Use	10 NL Deadline	11 COP	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day Recycle Bin Sale, 9am-1pm, 6101 Bowley's Lane
15 Baltimore Restaurant Week (thru 2/28)	16 President's Day <i>Govt. Holiday</i> Flea Market	17	18 Crime Prevention Ash Wednesday	19 Executive Committee Lunar/Chinese New Year	20 American Craft Council Show (thru 02/22)	21
22 Washington's Birthday	23 Eastern Orthodox Lent	24	25 COP	26	27	28

2015 SAVE THE DATES:

April 25 – Spring Cleanup & Dumpster

May 9 – Spring BHA Flea Market

June 7 – Garden Tour &
Art Along the Way

July 10 - Potluck Picnic

Aug. – Teachers Breakfast

Sept. 12 – Fall BHA Flea Market

Oct. 3 – Fall Cleanup & Dumpster

Oct. 11 – BHA House Tour

Nov. – Art Night: Shop & Schmooze

Dec. 6 – Holiday Potluck

BH COMMITTEES & CHAIRS:

BH CITIZENS ON PATROL (COP)

Evan Helfrich
ubik14@netscape.net
410-342-2148

NEXT MEETING:

Meeting 2nd & 4th Wed. of the
month, 7:30pm, at the intersection of
Patterson Park Ave. and Lombard St.

CRIME PREVENTION

Carolyn Boitnott
c.boitnott@verizon.net
410-522-4991

Wed., Feb. 18, 7pm
2105 E. Baltimore St.
Meets on the third Wed. of the month

EXECUTIVE

Beth Braun
butchershillpresident@gmail.com

Thurs., Feb. 19, 7pm - TBD

FLEA MARKET

Ray Hofmann
rayhofmann@aol.com

Mon., Jan. 16, 7pm -
232 S. Patterson Park Ave.

LAND USE

Virgil Bartram
Virgil@ArchUV.com
410-327-4964

Mon., Feb. 9, 7pm - Meeting at the
White House in Patterson Park

STREETSCAPE

Andrew Crummey
andrewcrummey@gmail.com

Tues., Feb. 3, 7pm - 120 S. Chester St.
Interested in affecting positive changes
in our BH neighborhood? Join us!

ENJOY VALENTINE'S DAY CLOSE TO HOME

At one of our neighborhood's restaurants:

Salt Tavern: 2127 E. Pratt St., 410-276-5480, open Tuesday through Sunday at 5pm. Reservations recommended.

The Life of Reilly Irish Pub & Restaurant: 2031 E. Fairmount Ave., 410-327-6425; open Tuesday through Sunday, 11am-2am, Monday, 3pm-2am.

ABSOLUTELY FEBULOUS

Feb. 15-28 - Baltimore Restaurant Week will include, in addition to deals on restaurants, special offers on B&B rates and hotel packages, as well as Buy One, Get One Free (BOGO) ticket offers at top attractions, museums, and shops. For details, check out the website at www.absolutelyfebulous.com.

CHAP BLOCKS IN BUTCHERS HILL The Land Use Committee reminds homeowners in the 2100 and 2200 blocks of E. Baltimore St. and the 2200 block of E. Pratt St., that you live in a Baltimore City Historic District. All planned exterior work, including painting, must be submitted to CHAP and Butchers Hill. We are happy to help with questions. Contact: Virgil Bartram: 410-327-4964 or Commission on Historic & Architectural Preservation (CHAP): 410-396-4866.

For a new neighbor packet or more information about Baltimore's Friendliest Neighborhood, visit www.ButchersHill.org

FEBRUARY BUTCHERS HILL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING: Wed., Feb. 4 at St. Andrew Orthodox Church hall, Lombard & Chester Sts., enter on Lombard St. Agenda: 2015 BHA budget presentation and vote; expected presentations regarding stormwater fees and BGE smart meters.

(Pres. message continued from page 1)

If you would like to be part of the volunteer team, send me an email at butchershillpresident@nfb.org and let me know what you are interested in doing (including tasks that may not be listed above). I will forward your request to the correct person who will contact you with more details.

Take care of yourselves and each other,
-Beth Braun
President

P.S. I was asked to remind everyone because it is kind of confusing—although we live in southeast Baltimore, with regards to mechanical street sweeping we are in the central district. Our street sweeping schedule has **not changed**. Please refer to the posted signs if you are unsure of a particular street's schedule.

WATERFRONT PARTNERSHIP ICE RINK AT THE INNER HARBOR

Sun., Feb. 15 - The last day the ice rink will be open under the newly extended schedule. Only open Thursday through Sunday. Info online: innerharboricerink.org. Admission: \$9 adults, \$7 children, \$3 skate rental.



Photo from Waterfront Partnership Flickr Page

FREE BALTIMORE PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

The Department of Public Works has mailed a free calendar to every household listing all government holidays and changes in trash/recycling pickup. If you didn't get one mailed to your home, you may request one by calling 311.

❄️ SIDEWALKS WANT YOU ❄️

To keep them free of snow and ice! You are responsible for clearing the sidewalk of snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of the property where you live.

Here's a tip: sweep or shovel early while it is easier, and remove the snow and ice from the front of the building to the curb, because melting snow freezes to a sheet of ice covering the walkway later. And please help neighbors who may be elderly or disabled. If a building is vacant, the owner is still responsible for removing the snow and ice.

PARKING DURING SNOW EMERGENCIES:

Snow Emergency Routes in Butchers Hill: Baltimore, Lombard, Pratt & Washington Streets and Patterson Park Ave. Stay alert as to which snow emergency phase Baltimore City is calling for.

PHASE 1: Vehicles must have snow or all-weather-radial tires or chains.

PHASE 2: No parking on streets with 'Snow Emergency Route' signs. If it looks like Phase 2 might be imminent, it is advisable to look for parking on a non-emergency route street as soon as possible. If Phase 2 is called 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 routes will be ticketed and towed so snow plows can do their job.

PHASE 3: Only Emergency Vehicles may drive on city streets.

FREE FUN AT THE WALTERS

Feb. 6 - Mid-day concerts: noon, classical guitarist Andrew Marino; Feb. 28 - 11am, Peabody Strings

Feb. 6-8 - Hackathon: Artbytes 3 Hackathon, 10-5pm.

Feb. 12 - Early Valentines: 5-9pm, love-themed Super Thursday Party, with music, cocktails, and more.

Feb. 22 - Lunar or Chinese New Year Celebration: noon-3pm, with traditional performances in honor of the Year of the Sheep.

For more information on these events and more, go to www.thewalters.org/events.

BHA ARTIST AT AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL SHOW

Feb. 20-22 - The ACC Craft Show, held at the Baltimore Convention Center, features 600+ of the top juried artisans from across the country showing their handcrafted, contemporary jewelry, clothing, furniture, home décor, and one-of-a-kind art to wear and for your home. Look for Butchers Hill neighbor, Megin Diamond, at booth 321 featuring her silver service pieces and jewelry. More information can be found at: shows.craftcouncil.org/baltimore.

TWO CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION = \$10 OFF YOUR WATER BILL

Mark Cameron, from the Department of Public Works, encourages us all to send in the certificates that the Streetscape Committee gave out for participating in Butchers Hills' approved events: the spring and fall cleanups, tree plantings, and the sidewalk permeable surface removal and greening work projects. If ten dollars in your pocket is not worth sending in your credits, you may donate them to a neighbor who can use them or give them back to the Streetscape Committee, and we will see they are used. Either way, we are sending the message that we support the greening of Baltimore and stormwater pollution reduction, and that we are committed to a greener neighborhood and city.

PATTERSON PARK MASTER PLAN SURVEYS

If you are in Patterson Park this winter, and are asked to take a usage survey, please take the ten minutes to help. The master plan rewrite process is well underway, but the committees are still in need of feedback from neighbors that use the park. The surveys are being conducted in all four seasons to ensure that people using the park for as many different uses as possible are surveyed.

You may volunteer to help give surveys, or take a survey, at the white house by the Lombard St. entrance, any Fri. or Sat. afternoon between 3-6pm. Contact Yijing: 301-346-8496, giuliahe0130@gmail.com.

HOW TO FIGHT YOUR TAX ASSESSMENT

If you received an assessment notice and you feel the Total New Market Value does not reflect the market value of your property, you may file an appeal and/or obtain information on this property from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. Appeals must be signed and returned within forty-five days of the date of the notice. You should send this by certified mail, so you have proof of your appeal request.

Gather the documents to support your case, including the worksheet that they used to calculate the value (they will give it to you upon request) to check for errors in square footage, number of bedrooms/bathrooms, etc. Take pictures of problems that affect the value of your home--cracks, problems with heating, plumbing, electrical systems, structural/roofing/window problems, etc., and then get an estimate of the cost of repair. Use the comparable sales with the help of a real estate agent, and then compare the differences that might make the "comp" more or less valuable than your home.

You will get an appointment with an assessor designated by the Supervisor of Assessments. After this hearing, you will receive a final notice. If you are still dissatisfied with the value, you can appeal to the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. This appeal must be filed within thirty days of the date on the final notice. And if you are not satisfied with that ruling, you can appeal to the Maryland Tax Court. (There are no fees. This is an informal, administrative hearing. You may not need a lawyer, but may be able to represent yourself.)

To find more information, search the internet for "how to appeal a tax assessment in Maryland" for state information, interactive sites, or relevant videos. Many area residents have used these tips and had success at receiving lower assessments. We provide this information as citizens and not trained professionals. We thank Victor Corbin, former Fells Prospect Community Association president, for sharing this information.

To receive monthly newsletters via email contact: ktyhack@gmail.com



BUTCHERS HILL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like to serve on a committee? _____ Which: _____ Are you interested in volunteering at BHA events? _____

Annual dues (Jan. thru Dec.) are \$10 per person, \$6 for seniors and low-income. Now we can pay our Butchers Hill Association dues via PayPal online! Log on to www.butchershill.org and click on "Join BHA," then "Renew" or "Application." If you want to pay by cash or check, make checks payable to the Butchers Hill Association and send/deliver to BHA, 27 S Patterson Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21231.