

Butchers Hill March News

March 2011

As a community we have spent the last two monthly meetings exploring the options concerning Residential Permit Parking (RPP) prompted by the results of a parking survey that showed 67% of cars parked in the neighborhood did not live (or were not registered) in the neighborhood. There are strong feelings both for and against RPP.

The needs in Butchers Hill fall outside the recommended guidelines of RPP, and even if it is agreed to petition the neighborhood for RPP, and the neighborhood votes yes to move ahead with RPP, there is no guarantee that RPP and/ or the city will agree to accommodate Butchers Hill's request based on their findings.

Upper Fells Point is beginning the process of RPP and Fells Prospect is in discussion at the Executive committee level. If one or both of these become a reality, that will push more 'visitors' to the Butchers Hill neighborhood.

The Executive Committee, for the third month, has discussed the pros, cons, and concerns on the direction to take. We have determined that Butchers Hill should vote again on whether to move forward with the petition and ask for the parameters that best fit the majorities needs.

Here is our proposal for the information to be included in the neighborhood petition:

- Boundaries included in the RPP request would be for all streets within the border of Butchers Hill.
- Hours 7 AM– Midnight - Monday through Friday.
- 3 hour parking allowed for visitor vehicles.

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RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS (RPP)

As the conversation on Resident parking permits continues, Parking Authority Representatives, Vincent Thomas and Tiffany James were invited to attend the February meeting to answer any open questions, so when a decision and vote are taken on whether to conduct the neighborhood survey, everyone would have good information on which to base their decision.

The following questions were raised:

- Commodore John Rogers School: There are 50 to 60 staff but only parking on playground for 35 cars. Can they be given permits to park from 7am to 5pm? Up to Community organization to allow "X" permits and how they handle payment for permit.

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PROPOSED REDISTRICTING

Proposed Redistricting Councilman Jim Kraft spoke on the current Redistricting Plan at the February meeting. The background: after every 10 years the census redistricting is required. The city's 14 districts should each be about 46,000 residents (based on a population of 630,000 to 650,00), plus or minus %5. Census data is available in late March/early April but the Mayor is required to present a map of redrawn districts to the City Council by February 1st. The City

PARKING (Continued on page 3)



Patterson Park DOG PARK

William Vondrasek, Chief of Parks, presented preliminary plans for a Patterson Park Dog Park:

The proposal is to combine the southern two tennis courts off of Linwood Ave to establish a dog park similar to Canton or Locust Point creating an area of 14,400 square feet for dogs to be run 'off leash'. This is a temporary 'fix', while a longer term concept is being worked out.

(Continued on page 3)

SAVE THE DATES!

2011 Butchers Hill Events:

- Spring Flea Market – Saturday, May 14
- Potluck Picnic – Friday, July 8
- Fall Flea Market – Saturday, Sept. 10
- House Tour – Sunday, October 9
- Art Night—November 2
- Holiday Potluck – Sunday, December 4

MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 27	Feb 28	1	2 Butchers Hill General Meeting 7PM	3	4	5
6	7	8 Book Club 7:30 PM Streetscape Committee 7PM	9 C.O.P. 7:30 PM Executive Committee 7P	10	11	12
13 St. Patrick's Day Parade 2PM Washington Monument	14 Land Use Committee 7PM	15	16 Block Reps & Crime Prevention 7PM House Tour Committee 7PM	17	18	19
20 Spring Equinox 7:21PM	21 Flea Market Committee 7PM	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 C.O.P. 7:30 PM	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	Apr 2

BHA Committees and Monthly Meetings

- **Crime Prevention/Block Representatives:** *Wednesday, March 16th 7PM, 2105 E. Baltimore St.* Meets monthly to share information from our block representatives and to coordinate action. New block representatives wanted; if interested e-mail or call Carolyn: c.boitnott@verizon.net, 410-522-4991. Police ask that residents call 410-666-DRUG to report repeated suspected drug activity, but always call 911 if you need immediate police response.
- **Butchers Hill Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.):** Butchers Hill Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.) has been regularly patrolling the neighborhood for over eleven years, and conducts its walk-arounds on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We meet at 7:30 p.m. at the intersection of Patterson Park Ave. and Lombard St. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Evan Helfrich, 410-342-2148, ubik14@netscape.net.
- **Community Representative, School 27 School Improvement Team:** Carolyn Boitnott, 410-522-4991.
- **Education Committee:** For more information please contact Carolyn at c.boitnott@verizon.net, 410-522-4991
- **Flea Market Committee:** *Thursday, March 21st, 7 PM, 105 S. Chester St.* Join us for wine and light fare at the March Flea Market Meeting. New members are invited to check out and join the fun and fellowship of this great committee. All are welcome! For more info contact: William White at 410-563-7941 or willilicious@hotmail.com
- **House Tour Committee Meeting:** *Wednesday, March 16th, 7 PM, 2029 E. Pratt St.* For information contact Dee at DeeLundelius@verizon.net, or Sue Noonan at SueNoon@cavtel.net. See page 4 for more.
- **Community Initiatives:** *No meeting this month.* Call Kathy Hackett for info, ktyhack@gmail.com, 410-327-2447. Welcome New Neighbors! To request a New Neighbor Packet or sign up for our monthly e-newsletter and other breaking news, please e-mail bhamember@gmail.com.
- **Book Club:** *Tuesday, March 8th, 7:30 PM* to discuss "The Imperfectionist" by Tom Rachman. For more information contact: Anne Puckett, anne_puckett@hotmail.com, 410-675-8765.
- **Land Use:** *Monday, March 14th, 7 PM, at the White House, 27 S. Patterson Park Ave.* The Land Use Committee reminds homeowners in the 2100 & 2200 blocks of E. Baltimore St. and the 2200 block of E. Pratt St. that you live in a City historic district. All exterior work and painting must be submitted to CHAP and Butchers Hill. We would be happy to help with any questions. Contact Virgil Bartram: 410-327-4964. CHAP's number is 410-396-4866.
- **BHA Executive Committee:** *Wednesday, March 9th, 7 PM, 232 S. Patterson Park Ave.* For more information contact Tori Simms, 410-209-9677, tori_simms@hermanmiller.com.
- **Streetscape Committee:** *Tuesday, March 8th, 7 PM, 2211 E. Lombard St.* Focus is education and assistance with trash and litter—a healthy and attractive neighborhood. Contact Amy Finney: astringer_6@yahoo.com, 443-465-5958 or Betsy Wadsworth: bwads2211@comcast.net, 410-558-1312. New members most welcome!
- **Newsletter:** *Tuesday, March 22nd* is the deadline for all articles, ads, and notices for the APRIL issue of the BHA newsletter. Contact Patricia Clark: BHAnewsletter@gmail.com



BUTCHERS HILL GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 2ND



Meeting: 7:00 PM St. Andrew's Church Hall, Chester & Lombard. Contact Tori Simms, tori_simms@hermanmiller.com
AGENDA: Vote on 2011 budget: RPP vote on petition. Must be a paid member to vote. (See pg. 1).

(Continued from page 1) RPP

- Is it true that if you have a garage, you are not eligible for a permit? Correct, if have one car and a garage you would not need a permit although you could have a permit for a 2nd car and obtain visitor permits. It's not necessary to have a car to get a visitor permit.
- How long is the Visitor's Permit good for? 3 days each week. If a problem, BHA could challenge the regulations.
- What guarantee that annual cost of a permit wouldn't be raised in the future? No guarantees, although it has not been raised in 25 years.
- While RPP might solve the day problem for those near Johns Hopkins, it does not solve the evening problem for all BH residents – simply not enough physical spaces exist.
- If I live on an Alley street can I sign the petition? You can only sign the petition if you live on a street where a sign will be posted, but you are eligible for a permit.
- Must the parking survey be redone? Yes, we have to do it again.
- What constitutes a block? Each side of street is a block. We can specify which blocks are to be included.
- What about Churches? RPP signs will not be posted contiguous to church property, allowing parking.
- Can a church or business be included in the survey? No, only residents.

In summary, the process will be as follows:

- Back to BHA Executive Council to formalize hours, requested modifications, etc.
- Formal Proposal presented to the BHA membership.
- Vote by BHA Members yea or nay to conduct the neighborhood survey based on the approved proposal details.
- If yea, must survey all residential units – need 70% at least to ensure we meet the 60% response rate required. One signature per unit.
- 60% of all units must vote yes.
- Then to the Parking Authority within 60 days of start for new parking survey and approval.

DPW and TWITTER!

Just wanted to let you know that DPW will now be tweeting when street sweeping is cancelled. This means that residents will not have to move their cars and will not be ticketed according to DOT who does the enforcement. The twitter handle is @BaltimoreDPW. <http://twitter.com/BaltimoreDPW>

We will try to repost this on Councilman Kraft's facebook as well, but Twitter should have the most up to date information. Hope this helps!

Meghan Gorman,
Office of Councilman James B. Kraft, 501 City Hall, Baltimore,
MD 21202
410-396-4821 Meghan.Gorman@baltimorecity.gov

(Continued from page 1) REDISTRICTING

Council has 60 days to accept, amend, or develop their own plan. Mr. Kraft is chairing the committee. The proposed plan would remove several streets (Baltimore and north) from District One. Councilman Kraft has spoken to the Mayor about the need to consolidate neighborhoods rather than taking them apart. Council will be briefed on February 9th followed by hearings at City Hall at 5pm on February 16th and 23rd (meeting on the 23rd will be televised on channel 25). This will be followed by public meetings in various locations from 5 to 8pm on March 2nd, 3rd, 9th, and 16th. Final vote will be taken on March 28th. If you are available to attend any of the meetings, please let your voices be heard.

http://www.baltimorecity.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Bnm45Yvl_vc%3d&tabid=1003&mid=1770



(Continued from page 1) DOG PARK

While there would be no surface change, amenities could be added like logs, mounds, and possibly a water channel. As there is no formal budget, this could be accommodated through the department for a modest price. (As an FYI, the Locust Point dog park cost \$230,000 and the neighborhood raised \$30,000 of the cost).

Concerns voiced were:

- Separate into large and small dog areas? Would not be sufficient space for dogs to run.
- Surface area bad for dogs. What is wrong with non fenced off-lead hours as proposed for Riverside Park?
- If this park is established as a half-way measure we may never have the response for a real dog park.
- Non dog owners didn't like dogs jumping on them or even running at them as they walked, jogged through the park.

It was agreed that there would be a walk through at the park with Councilman Kraft, Parks and Rec representatives, Friends of Patterson Park, and representatives of dog groups to discuss other options. Email thoughts or ideas to:

william.vondrasek@baltimorecity.gov.

Patterson Park Public Charter School—One Straw Farm

If you are interested in eating delicious, fresh, organic, locally-grown vegetables this summer, join many of your neighbors and participate in One Straw Farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program at Patterson Park Public Charter School (PPPCS). One Straw Farm donates a portion of their membership fees to PPPCS. So choosing PPPCS as the pick up site for your CSA share not only supports a local farm, but also supports a neighborhood school. To participate and for more information, log onto www.onestrawfarm.com or Jennine at JennineA@aol.com, 410-675-7976 for more information.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

(Continued from page 1)

- Allow Commodore John Rodgers to purchase up to 30 permits per year.
- Visitor permits do not have any day/time limitations within our boundaries (but people who try to sell them will be subject to all of the penalties.)

For your information: For a specific party during the week, there are visitor day passes available for free.

Should this proposal be passed at the March General Meeting (please remember that you must be a paid member to vote), there would be a door to door survey of the entire neighborhood. Signatures would be gathered from 70% of the households agreeing that RPP makes good sense. This information would be forwarded to RPP. At that time, the parking authorities would survey the cars in the neighborhood during the hours requested.

Based on the results of the parking survey, this will determine the times Butchers Hill is eligible to post/ enforce permit parking.

Thanks to all who have participated in this process to date. Your time, questions and concerns are important to the neighborhood at large.

See you in the 'hood.

-Tori Simms
President BHA

STREETSCAPE COMMITTEE :

The new leadership team for the **Streetscape Committee** is **Amy Finney** and **Betsy Wadsworth**. Amy and Betsy extend an enthusiastic welcome to new and current committee members and block captains. The first event will be Butchers Hill's participation in the annual city-wide Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 16. Please refer to the calendar page for meeting dates, contacts and committee goals.



HOUSE TOUR COMMITTEE :

If you've ever thought about making your house one of our featured abodes --- 2011 could be your year! Contact Dee or Sue by email. Deelundelius@verizon.net or Suenoon@cavtel.net

If you think you would enjoy the fun of being a part of the planning, set-up or operation of the 2011 tour, please come to our friendly gathering Wednesday evening March 16th at 2029 E. Pratt St. We will have beverages & snacks. All are welcome.



Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Opens New Visitor Center March 3rd

Fort McHenry unveils its new visitor center that will house interactive exhibits and an audiovisual presentation that will feature multiple screens. This significant unveiling marks the day the song officially became our National Anthem. 2400 E. Fort Ave., 410-962-4290, www.nps.gov

Volunteers are needed in the mornings the week of March 7-11 to serve as proctors for the Maryland State Assessment test given to students in Grades, 3-8 at Commodore John Rodgers School. Please call Carolyn Boitnott if you can help any of those mornings. 410-522-4991 or by email c.boitnott@verizon.net

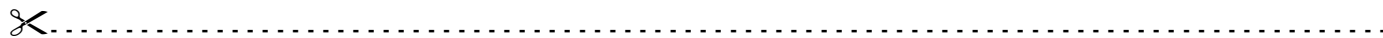
LASER LEVEL NEEDED

Need to rent 360 degree, self-leveling, laser level - to scribe level for floor and ceiling of one room. Owner may accompany level and be paid for its use. Sandy - 410-371-8346.

LIMITED TIME 50% SAVINGS ON HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

The first step is a comprehensive, diagnostic energy audit conducted by a contractor on the MD HPwES list to provide a report specifying improvements needed. Many of those improvements and the cost of the Energy Audit are eligible for the 35% rebate (up to \$3,100) from the Md. Energy Admin. when combined with a 15% rebate from your utility could equal 50%.

Check details at:
<http://energy.maryland.gov/homeperformance/index.html>



- BUTCHERS HILL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP - please renew for 2011 now!

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ New Neighbor Packet? _____

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. Make checks payable to the *Butchers Hill Association* and return form and payment to BHA, 27 South Patterson Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21231. Paid members may have 3 free classified ads per year of 50 words or less. Ads are subject to available space. No commercial or political ads.

The editor reserves the right to refuse any ad. Address ads to BHAnewsletter@gmail.com