



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

# NEWS

www.chrs.org

March 2023

## CHRS Office Happenings and New Open Hours!

By Angie Schmidt

We have mentioned before about our ongoing housekeeping and general cleanup of the CHRS office. This was brought about by our decision to discontinue our rental of a storage unit on South Capitol Street SE, due to its increase in monthly fees and also its relative inaccessibility. We are happy to report that the storage unit has been emptied and the keys returned!

The unit was filled with paperwork, some which went to our archives at Gelman Library at GWU, some was brought back to our office for record-keeping and some went to the Benning Road trash transfer station for recycling. The heavy metal shelving we used for all this paper was happily picked up by a young man with a large pickup truck who planned to split it with his neighbor for garage and pantry storage. Neighbors on the Hill took a lot of wooden stakes used for previous years' house tour signage. And we were able to bring all of our house tour equipment back to the office for easier access.

While the office itself is still a work in progress, we are going to resume in-person office hours



IMAGE COURTESY JACK SCHMIDT

The CHRS Office is located on the lower level of Kirby House at 420 10th Street SE.

from 9 am–noon on Tuesdays. If you have something to drop off or would like to pick up some of our publications on the historic district or how to renovate your older home, please stop by! Our office manager, Jill Uvena Cullinane, will be there to help you. The office is on the lower level of 420 10th Street SE, just north of the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue SE. ✧

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# Spring Walking Tours Coming April 1

By Elizabeth Nelson

We're offering guided outdoor walking tours on Saturday, April 1. Tours include:

- **Our Industrial Past**—industrial and commercial sites, many of which have been repurposed. If you'd like to see an original Piggly-Wiggly, the site of an organ factory or the location of a robust brewing operation, this tour is for you.
- **SE Capitol Hill Alleys**—a trip back in time to explore the workaday world of both residential and commercial uses. Our history does not belong solely to the “rich and famous,” washer-women and laborers, people of color and recent immigrants made contributions to the story of Capitol Hill.
- **Notable People**—sites associated with many of the historically significant people who have made Capitol Hill their home. Curious to know where that famous Washington power couple, James Carville and Mary Matalin, made their nest and William Cody aka Buffalo Bill hung his hat? Your guide will show you.

Tickets on sale via Eventbrite until March 30, while supplies last. For additional details, visit [chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-april-2023](https://chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-april-2023). ★



IMAGE COURTESY ELIZABETH NELSON

Participants visit Walter Street SE during last year's Capitol Hill Alleys walking tour.

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## Lights-Out Hour DC on March 25

By Beth Purcell

CHRS advocates for the environmental and health benefits of “dark skies” and urges members to participate in Lights-Out Hour DC. This is a voluntary event in which individual residents, building managers and custodians of public monuments in the District of Columbia dim or extinguish non-essential lights for one hour from 8:30–9:30 pm on March 25, 2023. The purpose of the event, which coincides with internationally observed Earth Hour, is to raise public awareness of climate change and the impact of light pollution on human health and the environment.

In particular, in Council testimony and public comments CHRS has supported responsible streetlights on Maryland Avenue NE and

Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Features of responsible lighting include shielding streetlights to prevent light trespass upwards while still allowing for street level illumination levels needed for public safety, and using bulbs with Kelvin color scores of 2,700 or lower (lights with warm-toned yellow-white lights), that are healthier for humans. This is in contrast with blue-white bulbs that emit light at 4,000 Kelvin or higher because the short wavelengths scatter both within the human eye and in the atmosphere, increasing sky-glow. The American Medical Association states that streetlights set for 4,000 Kelvin are potentially harmful to human health.

Please join us in thinking about how lights affect our neighborhood on March 25. ★

# Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President . . . . . Angie Schmidt  
 First Vice President . . . . . Christine Mullins  
 Second Vice President . . . . . Tina May  
 Treasurer . . . . . Nick Alberti  
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 At Large . . . . . Fynnette Eaton  
 At Large . . . . . Delancey Gustin  
 At Large . . . . . Beth Hague  
 At Large . . . . . Jackie Krieger  
 At Large . . . . . Gary Peterson  
 At Large . . . . . Jim Thackaberry  
 Immediate Past President . . . . . Beth Purcell

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Budget & Administration\* . . . . . Nick Alberti  
 City Planning\* . . . . . Monte Edwards  
 Communications\* . . . . . Elizabeth Nelson  
 Community Development\* . . . . . Chuck Burger  
 Community Relations . . . . . Elizabeth Nelson  
 Environment\* . . . . . Joanna Kendig  
 Grants . . . . . Larry Pearl  
 Historic Preservation\* . . . . . Beth Purcell  
 House Tour . . . . . Eaton, Krieger & Schmidt  
 Investments . . . . . John Shages  
 Membership\* . . . . . Maygene Daniels  
 Public Safety\* . . . . . Undine Nash  
 Public Space . . . . . Steve Kehoe  
 Zoning\* . . . . . Nick Alberti

\* Chair is an appointed Board Member

## NEWSLETTER

Angie Schmidt and Kelly Vielmo, Editors

## WEBMASTER

Elizabeth Nelson

## OFFICE MANAGER

Jill Uvena Cullinane

To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: [caphrs420@gmail.com](mailto:caphrs420@gmail.com).

## ABOUT CHRS

Capitol Hill is a special place. We promote, preserve, and enhance the character of our historic neighborhoods.

Since its founding in 1955, CHRS has worked continuously to make Capitol Hill the desirable location it has now become. Due to CHRS's efforts, Capitol Hill won designation as a historic district in 1976. Today, that legacy of standing up for the community continues with our work in planning, zoning, historic preservation, and public safety.

CHRS is a volunteer organization, made up of Hill residents who love their historic neighborhoods and want to ensure that the unique character of the Hill is around for future generations. Come join us!

To learn more or join, please visit:  
[www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org)

# Historic Preservation Briefs

By Beth Purcell

The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB or the Board) considered the following cases at its virtual hearing on January 26, 2023. HPRB is responsible for determining if proposed changes to a building are consistent with the DC Preservation Act. A “concept review” is a preliminary determination of a building owner’s plan to alter the building, and if the concept is approved, the owner will return to the HPRB for a final review.

**637 A Street SE**, HPA 23-101, concept/construct two-story garage/apartment. The applicants plan to demolish an existing garage and replace it with a two-story building: garage on the first story and an apartment on the second story. There are already a number of two-story buildings near this project, including Brown’s Court.

The Board has often allowed demolition of existing garages without inquiring into their date of construction. The new building will be clad in brick. The alley elevation would have a roll top garage door, aluminum-clad exterior door, one aluminum-clad double-hung window on the first story, brick sills and headers, three more windows on the second story and an Azek cornice.

The yard-facing elevation would have aluminum-clad French doors and a double-hung window on the first story and three additional windows on the second story. At 20 feet tall, it would be within the height limit. We believed that the design and materials were appropriate. The Board found the project compatible with the Capitol Hill historic district and delegated authority to HPO Staff. Vote: 5-0.

On January 26, the Board approved the following case on the consent calendar:

- **531 12th Street SE**, HPA 23-090. The applicant submitted revised plans addressing the concerns of HPRB, CHRS and ANC 6B. For prior coverage see *CHRS News* February 2023. ★

**Interested in learning more about historic district designation?**  
Contact CHRS at [info@chrs.org](mailto:info@chrs.org).

## Celebrating Eastern Market at 150 Years

Join CHRS for a free, in-person Preservation Café on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 pm. Local historian, author, and tour guide Robert Pohl will present the colorful history of this important community asset, from its inception in 1873 through its resurrection from a devastating fire in 2007 to the present. Details: [chrs.org/eastern-market-150yrs-pc](http://chrs.org/eastern-market-150yrs-pc).

# April Preservation Café: Antique Mantels with Modern Sensibilities

Curious about mantels? Please join us Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 pm for a Virtual CHRS Preservation Café with Molly Acorn, Founder & Creator, Mantel House DC.

Ms. Acorn is an independent designer, marketer and architecture conservationist. A five-year resident of Capitol Hill, she's the founder and creator of Mantel House DC, a company that specializes in finding, restoring and installing historic mantels in private homes.

Ms. Acorn will discuss antique marble mantel conservation and

share how to clean, restore and install these historic pieces in your home. She will also cover historic trends in fireplaces and how to transform even a non-functional chimney into a beautiful and inviting centerpiece for your home. ★

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*Our CHRS Preservation Cafés are free to CHRS members and non members. We hope to see you online on April 11 at 6:30 pm. You can access the presentation link at [chrs.org/mantels-pc](https://chrs.org/mantels-pc).*

IMAGES COURTESY MOLLY ACORN



Learn about installing or restoring these beautiful marble mantels, found in many Capitol Hill homes.

# CHRS Seeks Nominations for Board

By Beth Purcell

CHRS will hold elections for the 2023–2024 Board of Directors by postcard ballot in May. The Elections Committee, chaired by Beth Purcell, includes Jim Thackaberry and Undine Nash. The committee is seeking recommendations of individuals who wish to be considered for positions on next year's CHRS Board of Directors.

The available positions include President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, each for one-year terms, and three At-Large Members for two-year terms. Nominations for the 2023–2024 CHRS Board of Directors

will be announced at the end of April and ballots will be mailed to CHRS members in May.

If you wish to be considered, to recommend someone, or to find out more about the duties of each position, please contact the CHRS office at (202) 543-0425 or email [info@chrs.org](mailto:info@chrs.org) and a member of the Elections Committee will respond. Each recommendation must cite the position for which the person wants to be considered and must include his or her resume. Recommendations must be submitted by the end of the day on Wednesday April 5, 2023. ★

## It's Spring Already? House and Garden Tour Time!

By Fynnette Eaton, Jackie Krieger and Angie Schmidt

The 2023 House and Garden Tour will take place May 13 and May 14 this year. The Committee has been busy pinpointing possible homes for the tour. To date, 8 to 10 houses have been identified that cross the Hill in a diagonal from 6th and A NE to 11th and Eye SE. We are still looking for houses so if you have a suggestion please let us know at [chrs2023tour@gmail.com](mailto:chrs2023tour@gmail.com).

Another way to support the House and Garden Tour is through advertising in the brochure, which everyone uses because it contains the map and the house descriptions. Advertisers will also be thanked in this publication and we will recognize them on our social media—many ways to reach many customers. If you would like a rate sheet, please contact Angie Schmidt at (202) 714-4502. ★

### Volunteer for the House & Garden Tour!

Can you spare an hour or two in April or May to help a good cause? CHRS is currently seeking volunteers for **docents, bicycle deliveries, tour promotion at Eastern Market, social media support, and photography and research**. To be a part of this year's house tour, contact Elizabeth Nelson at [Elizabeth\\_knits@yahoo.com](mailto:Elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com).

## Thank You, CHRS Supporters!

CHRS wishes to thank the following donors for their invaluable support:

### Memberships

#### Individual

Benita Cooper  
Carol Edwards  
Monte Edwards  
Judith V. May  
Rob Pilkington  
Clara Sachs  
William Silagi  
James Thackaberry

#### Household

Russell Burke &  
Shelly Wischhusen Burke  
Michael & Judith Canning  
Don & Jean Denton  
Joan Evans  
Linette Kilbourn  
Carrie McDougall & John Varesi  
Rhonda McMillion &  
David Whiteman  
E. James Morton &  
Matthild Schneider  
Claire Moser and Sam Ferenc  
Christine & Dan Mullins

#### Bronze

Dirk Debbink  
Fynnette Eaton & James Miller  
Kitty Kaupp  
Jackie Krieger  
Caroline Marshall  
Aileen Moffatt  
Msgr. Stephen Rossetti  
Carol Sadler and Steve Geimann  
Barbara & Edward Wendel  
Judith Zinter

#### Silver

Dorothy Robyn  
Rob & Angie Schmidt  
Susan van den Toorn  
Robert Weinstein & Judith Capen

#### Gold

Philip & Catherine Smith



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Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
420 10th Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003

## Mark Your Calendar!

*Please check website for current information—cancellations or postponements will be posted as they are known.*

### MARCH

**1** Monday, 7 pm  
Historic Preservation Committee meeting, 420 10th Street SE, first floor conference room.

**12** Sunday  
Photo Contest 2023: "The Capitol Hill Home." Submission deadline extended to Sunday, March 12, 2023. Details: [chrs.org/photo-contest-2023](https://chrs.org/photo-contest-2023).

**15** Wednesday, 6 pm  
Board meeting, Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.

**16** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
Zoning Committee Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE.

**30** Thursday, 6:30 pm  
Preservation Café: "Celebrating Eastern Market for 150 Years" with Robert Pohl, local historian, author, and tour guide. In-person in the Eastern Market North Hall. The presentation will be preceded by a brief Membership Meeting. Details: [chrs.org/eastern-market-150yrs-pc](https://chrs.org/eastern-market-150yrs-pc).

### APRIL

**1** Saturday  
Guided outdoor walking tours. Tickets available through Eventbrite. Details: [chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-april-2023](https://chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-april-2023).

**5** Monday, 7 pm  
Historic Preservation Committee meeting, 420 10th Street SE, first floor conference room.



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**11** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
Virtual Preservation Café: "Antique Mantels with Modern Sensibilities," with Molly Acorn, Founder & Creator, Mantel House DC. Details: [chrs.org/mantels-pc](https://chrs.org/mantels-pc).

**19** Wednesday, 6 pm  
Board meeting, Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.

**20** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
Zoning Committee Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE.

**The 2023 Mothers Day House & Garden Tour** will be held Saturday, May 13 & Sunday, May 14. Details: [chrs.org/mothers-day-house-garden-tour](https://chrs.org/mothers-day-house-garden-tour).