



## DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

*Greetings & Best Wishes  
for the Season!*

The dark days of December are upon us, and I am grateful for the many residents of Howard County who have illuminated their homes with festive lights strung from every nook and cranny. The more lights, the better. The more colors, the more joyous!

I hope you all are planning celebrations to enjoy the holiday season but please remember that Covid is still with us even though we have more resources than we did a year ago and are better situated to combat the virus and protect our health. We've made progress: a year ago we were reluctant to gather in groups even with family members to celebrate the season. Not long after last year's holidays, many of us were able to access the vaccine and returned to a lifestyle that resembled our pre-Covid existence. My wish for this new year is that we continue to make steady and deliberate steps to regaining normalcy.

The Council wrapped up their legislative year by clearing the docket of most of the tabled bills. The Council, which also serves as the Zoning Board, rendered decisions in two Zoning cases that have occupied the Board's schedule for more than two years. The first of these cases was the Erickson Senior Living facility, located on Route 108 in Clarksville. The Zoning Board ruled in favor of the project with significant community enhancements, including a public dog park. The second case dealt with the addition of 230 luxury apartments in the parking lot of the Hickory Ridge Village Center. That case was denied by a vote of 3 to 2 because the plan didn't meet the criteria for the redevelopment of a New Town village center. I voted to deny Kimco's development plan. Read all about it on page 5.

*Deb*

Subscribe to my newsletter [here](#).

# Council Updates

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER LEGISLATION

On November 1, the Council introduced new legislation; the final vote occurred on December 6. No new legislation was introduced due to the Council's December recess. Highlights from this session include the following:

## MY LEGISLATION

**CB77 HEARING EXAMINER AS FACT FINDER IN ZONING BOARD CASES** I co-introduced this bill with Christiana Rigby. This bill will assist in modernizing the quasi-judicial process of Zoning Board matters by assigning evidentiary hearings to the Hearing Examiner. After months of reviewing and revising the bill with input from the County's Hearing Examiners, the public, and Council colleagues, we were able to reach a consensus on critical amendments that defined what makes the record, how it will be presented to the Zoning Board, and when the Zoning Board will hear a case directly without the Hearing Examiner's involvement. This bill as amended is an important process change that addresses longstanding concerns about elected officials sitting as Zoning Board members. *Passed as Amended.*

## COUNCILMEMBERS' LEGISLATION

**CB82 MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE** Christiana Rigby and Opel Jones. *Passed as Amended*

## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS



December 20, 7pm — Councilmanic Redistricting Public Hearing

January 3, 7pm — Legislative Session

January 5, 1pm — Monthly Meeting

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S LEGISLATION

**CB85 HOUSING DISCRIMINATION UPDATE** Aligns local code with State laws regarding source of income for residential leases and adds additional protections for commercial leases holders. *Passed as Amended.*

**CB90 CONTRACT FOR BODY WORN CAMERA PROGRAM** Emergency legislation to approve the hardware contract for the Body Worn Camera Program. *Passed.*

**CR163 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.** Appropriates \$15 million from Fund Balance (one-time funds) to recurring costs for HCPSS salaries as a result of contract negotiations. *Passed.*

**CR166 APFO WAIVER FOR GREENFIELD PROJECT.** Approves an APFO waiver for an adults-only disability housing project. *Passed.*

Council Legislation: Click [here](#).

# Council Updates

## TABLED LEGISLATION

**CB88 HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPAIR REQUIREMENTS** Liz Walsh. Prohibits the willful failure to maintain historic structures. *Tabled*

**CB87/ZRA 198 AGE-RESTRICTED HOUSING SIZE & DENSITY LIMITS** Dunteachin Estates HOA. Limits the size and number of units for 55-plus developments. *Tabled*.

**CB83 POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD** County Executive. Defines membership criteria and duties of the citizen board reviewing the Body Worn Camera program. *Tabled*.

**CR140-143 SOLAR PILOTs** County Executive. These four resolutions extend Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for solar electricity generation on agricultural preserve land. *Tabled*

## NEW OFFICERS & APPOINTMENTS

At its legislative session on December 6, the County Council elected the following new officers and appointments:

- **County Council**  
Chair Dr. Opel Jones, District 2  
Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, District 3
- **Zoning Board**  
Chair Deb Jung, District 4  
Vice Chair Liz Walsh, District 1
- **Board of License Commissioner (Liquor Board)**  
Chair David Yungmann, District 5  
Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, District 3
- **Maryland Association of Counties, Legislative Committee & National Association of Counties**  
Liz Walsh, Deb Jung (alternate)



# Council Updates

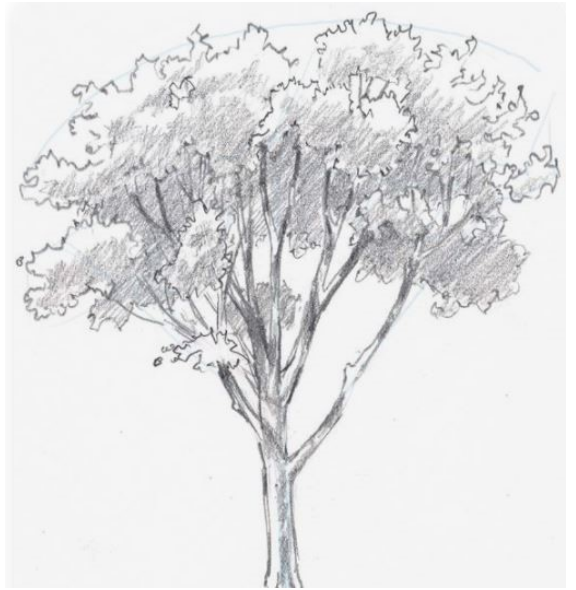
## FOREST BILLS

Since the summer, the Council has been debating bills seeking to amend the Forest Conservation Law. It has been a long and winding path through the so-called legislative woods but the Council finally reached a determination at December's voting session.

Councilmember Walsh introduced CB78, which would address a loophole in the Forest Conservation Law. Under current law, certain tree protections only apply in the later phases of the subdivision process, providing the opportunity to clear cut parcels prior to the submission of development plans to the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ). This timing allows developers to circumvent forest conservation obligations. CB78 sought to close this loophole by first defining trees that cannot be disturbed (ie specimen trees) and requiring a look-back provision that would require developers to document removed trees within five years prior to the subdivision process.

In September, the Administration introduced a competing bill (CB64) addressing the same loophole through a DPZ permitting process. CB64 would require property owners of parcels one acre or larger to file a Notice to Proceed before cutting or clearing specimen trees. For parcels in the subdivision process, a Declaration of Intent would be required for tree removal and such a declaration would postpone development for five years. Private property owners, mainly in District 5 but also District 4, with no intention of subdividing their land testified to the punitive aspects of CB64. The bill was intended to curtail bad actors in the subdivision process but average homeowners were being asked to take extra steps if they wanted to remove trees for the installation of a deck or a pool or if the trees were diseased.

Both these tree bills were tabled for further consideration. In the meantime, Councilmember Yungmann filed a compromise bill (CB89) in November that would establish a look-back provision but without the expanded definition of specimen trees. In December, all tree bills were voted on. Councilmember Walsh amended her bill to remove all changes except for the expansion of protection to trees with a diameter of 24 inches or 75% diameter of the State champion for the species; CB78 passed as amended. The County Executive's CB64 failed. Councilmember Yungmann's CB89 passed as amended. The County Executive vetoed Councilmember Walsh's CB78 (which increased the number of trees that would be protected) after the vote. It goes to a veto override vote in January.



# Zoning Board Updates

## HICKORY RIDGE VILLAGE CENTER

On December 1, I was joined by Councilmembers Walsh and Yungmann to deny the petition to redevelop the Hickory Ridge Village Center with 230 apartments, increased retail, and a parking garage. The Zoning Board found that Kimco's plan failed to meet one of the primary criteria for a Village Center redevelopment: the residential portion of the development must not overwhelm the commercial portion of the Village Center. Based on the evidence presented over two years, the Zoning Board determined that Kimco's proposal overwhelmed the Village Center in every category: size, bulk, height, intensity, and density. A written Decision and Order will be forthcoming.



## CURRENT & UPCOMING CASES

The Zoning Board hears cases involving Zoning Map changes. The following cases have completed the preliminary review by the Planning Board and are either scheduled or will be scheduled to appear before the Zoning Board.

ZB 1125M, Olde Scaggsville, LLC.: Request to change 0.469 acres on the north side of Route 216 west of Route 29 from Rural Residential Mixed Use (RR-MXD-3) to Business (B-1).

ZB 1124M, A.R. Levering, LLC.: Request to change 0.4 acres at 5481 Levering Avenue, Elkridge, from Residential Environmental Development (R-ED) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2).

ZB1126M, Howard County Department of Public Works: Request to change 6.19 acres at the Circuit Courthouse in Ellicott City from Historic Office (HO) to Historic Commercial (HC).

ZB 1127M G&R Maple Lawn, Inc.: Request to amend preliminary development plan at 11788 Scaggsville Road, Fulton, in an MXD for 109.6 acres to an additional 473 dwelling units (125 SFD, 148 SFA, 200 Apartments); change the land use designation from single family detached to single family detached and other residential; and to increase the permitted residential density from 2.2 dwelling units per gross acre to 3.0 dwelling units per gross acre.

# HoCo By Design: General Plan

On November 17, the County Executive informed the County Council via letter that he had decided to postpone the final consideration of HoCo By Design until newly elected Councilmembers take office in 2022. In his letter, he cited Council “bandwidth” as the reason but neither the Council as a body nor individually were contacted in advance of his decision. Click [here](#) for more.



In a response letter, I informed the County Executive that HoCo By Design should remain on track so that the County is prepared for the General Plan and Comprehensive Zoning. I have not received additional information or communication with the County Executive as of yet.

Here’s an excerpt from my letter to the County Executive:

The County’s future success is dependent upon a predictable and focused process for identifying growth and infrastructure needs; but it is unclear at this point what process is being pursued. The previous Administration’s review of the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations was terminated during your term in order to focus on the General Plan and now the General Plan is on hold. The fiscal cost to the taxpayers of consultants for the General Plan is estimated to exceed \$1 million, while the contract for the jettisoned revision of the land development regulations was \$234,000. Howard County seems to be back to square one.

I stand ready to move forward with the initially proposed timeline so that the County is prepared to meet its state obligation of updating its General Plan. The Council understood its obligation to this decennial deadline when we passed CR89-2020, which initiated the HoCo By Design guidelines. Your administration also understood the importance of this deadline as they strenuously argued against an amendment to CR-89 that Councilmember Walsh and I introduced to initiate the General Plan process starting in 2021, when we hoped that in-person public participation would be possible. While it may be politically inconvenient to engage in a debate about the General Plan during an election season, I urge you to reconsider your postponement and meet with the Council to discuss putting the General Plan process back on track.

The Department of Planning & Zoning is reporting on its website that the public will have additional opportunities for input but no dates have been scheduled.

Click [here](#) for more.

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# Redistricting

## COUNCILMANIC REDISTRICTING 2021

The Councilmanic Redistricting Commission recommended Plan E as the Councilmanic Redistricting Plan for Howard County. Per the Howard County Code, a County Council Public Hearing is scheduled for December 20 at 7pm. Click [here](#) for more.

### Upcoming dates:

- December 20: County Council Public Hearing on Councilmanic Redistricting Plan
- December 30: Amendment prefile on Councilmanic redistricting bills.
- January 4: Council vote on redistricting bills. If no action is taken then the Commission's recommended plan is adopted.

## CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

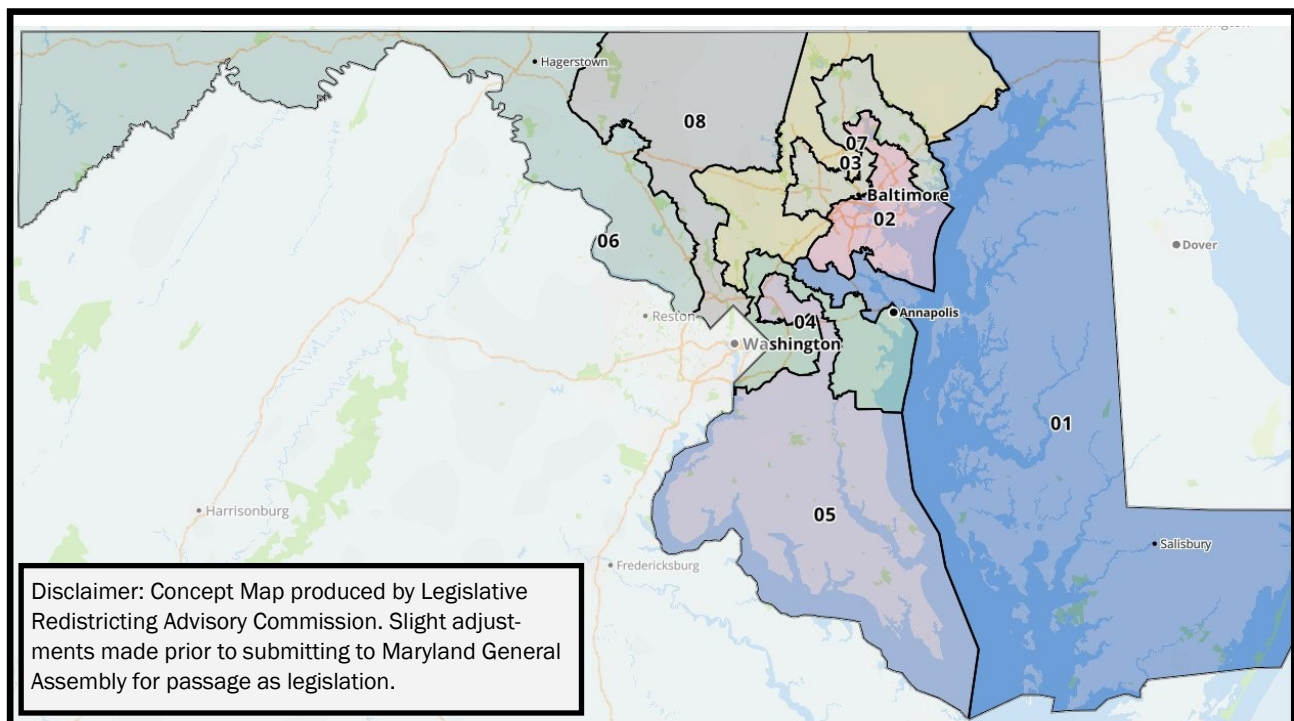
The Maryland General Assembly convened to pass a Congressional Redistricting Map. The next day, the plan was vetoed by the Governor and overturned by the General Assembly.

As passed, all residents of Howard County Council District 4 have the same Congressional representative.

## STATE REDISTRICTING

State legislative lines have not been proposed before the General Assembly yet. The Maryland General Assembly is expected to consider new maps in the coming months.

### New Congressional Redistricting Map



## General Assembly

The 2022 General Assembly begins January 12. Committee meetings for the House of Delegates will be held virtually this session. More information about testifying will be released soon.

The Howard County Delegation has named their Chairs: Congratulations to Delegation Chairs Senator Clarence Lam (District 12) and Delegate Courtney Watson (District 9B). Click [here](#) for more.



The House of Delegates has made its Committee appointments for the upcoming session. Congratulations to Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary (District 13) on her appointment as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

## COVID-19 Updates

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### Vaccine for 5-11 Year Olds

The Health Department has received a limited allocation of pediatric vaccine from the State. Many County pediatricians, family health practices, pharmacies, and large retailers also offer convenient vaccine appointments. Please contact your child's healthcare provider directly before making an appointment through the Health Department.



Click [here](#) for more.

# School Updates

## EXTRACURRICULARS POSTPONED

Due to rising COVID-19 cases, HCPSS has postponed the following activities until January 15: athletic practices and contests, theater rehearsals and performances, school concerts, after-school clubs and field trips.

## HIGH SCHOOL MIDTERMS SUSPENDED

The Board of Education (BOE) voted to suspend midterms for the 2021-2022 school year. The final exam is now worth 10% of the course grade.

## COVID LEARNING LOSS


Early fall assessments indicate that fewer Maryland students are meeting or exceeding academic expectations as compared to assessments from 2018-2019:

- 35% of students met or exceeded expectations in ELA, down from 43.7% in 2018-19;
- 15% of students met or exceeded expectations in math, down from 33.0% 2018-19;
- 40% of kindergarteners demonstrated readiness, down from 40% in 2018-19. Click [here](#) for more.



## FEDERAL AID IMPACT FORMS

*Deadline December 31*

HCPSS is eligible to receive Federal funding through Federal Impact Aid programs for students who have a parent or guardian who



The following Wednesdays are now 3-hour early dismissals for all students, with no half-day pre-K/RECC:

	Dec. 15, 2021	
	Jan. 19, 2022	
	Feb. 16, 2022	
	March 16, 2022	
	April 27, 2022	
	May 18, 2022	

works on Maryland Federal property or who is a member of a uniformed service. Eligibility is determined through the Impact Aid form on HCPSS Connect Synergy. Click [here](#) for more.

## APPLY FOR JROTC

*Deadline January 3*

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) introduces students to a potential career path in the US Armed Forces. These programs teach fundamental life skills, such as leadership and discipline. For Howard County, the JROTC programs are located at Atholton, Howard, and Oakland Mills High Schools. Click [here](#) for more.



**BOE NEWS: [CLICK HERE.](#)**

## County Updates



### WELCOME GREGORY DER AS HOWARD COUNTY'S NEW POLICE CHIEF

Howard County's new Police Chief fills this role with 19 years of experience in the Department, ranging from school resource officer, hostage negotiator, property crimes detective, and fire and explosives investigator. Chief Der is the first person of Asian descent to lead the Police Department and is a graduate of Mt. Hebron High School.



### WELCOME LOUIS WINSTON AS HOWARD COUNTY'S NEW FIRE CHIEF

Howard County's new Fire Chief has served the Fire Department for 30 years. Chief Winston has held positions as a field Battalion Chief and an Assistant Chief for Administrative Services overseeing the department's budget, human resources, and recruitment. He is also the president of the Phoenix Sentinels, an organization that works to improve career opportunities for minorities in the fire service.

## Howard County Government Closings for Christmas Holiday on December 24th and 25th

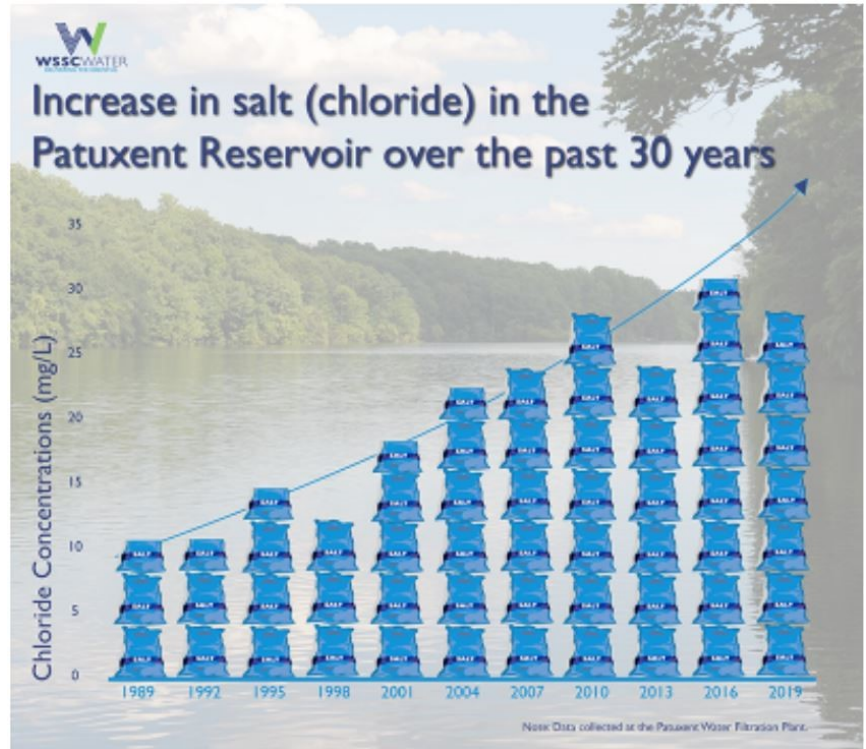
A list of what's open and closed in observance of the Christmas holiday on December 24th and December 25th. Click [here](#) for more.



# County Updates

## WINTER PREPARDNESS

Help protect local streams and drinking water sources by not over salting driveways and sidewalks in preparation for winter weather. A coffee mug of ice melter is enough for a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Salt used to melt ice and snow seeps into the groundwater and runs off into storm drains contaminating waterways and corroding pipes. It takes only one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Click [here](#) for more.



## ROUTE 108

Intersection improvements at Route 108 and Centennial Lane have begun. Currently westbound Route 108 is being excavated for widening and a ditch line. Crews are also installing a rock base for the new roadway. On Centennial Lane, the old roadway is being removed. This work involves hammering and loud noises Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3pm. This project is estimated to cost \$8.2 million with a \$5.2 million cost share from Howard County. Click [here](#) for more.

The intersection improvements include:

- Widening both directions of MD 108 approaching Centennial Lane/Beaverbrook Road.
- Adding a second left-turn lane onto Centennial Lane from eastbound MD 108.
- Extending the right turn lane on westbound MD 108.
- Widening Centennial Lane to accommodate additional turning traffic.



# Keeping up with Deb



Retirement Ceremony for Howard County Police Chief Lisa Myers



Swearing-in Ceremony for Howard County Fire Chief Louis Winston



Jonathan Branch, Howard County Veterans Day Parade



Sue Song, Korean American Senior Association



Korean American Senior Association Annual Meeting



Cho Young Rae, President, Korean American Senior Association



Dr. Edward L. Cochran and the dedication of his eponymous East Columbia 50+ Center



# Community Updates

## HCC NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Howard Community College (HCC) is partnering with the State Department of Labor to expand apprenticeship programs through a \$250,000 grant. The expanded program will include two new career pathways for students: a new surgical technician apprenticeship program to support the increased demand for skilled workers in healthcare and a new Comp-TIA technology support apprenticeship program for information technology. Click [here](#) for more.



**ENROLLING NOW**

**Prekindergarten**

ages 3-5 years  
full-day; full-year

**410-313-6440**

[www.cac-hc.org](http://www.cac-hc.org)



**Community Action Council**  
of Howard County

## LETTERS TO SANTA

The Howard County Library System is assisting Santa by collecting wish lists in specially designed red mailboxes located at all six branches. The libraries are also hosting Mitten Trees where child-sized mittens, hats, and scarves can be donated for distribution by the Community Action Council to local children.

## DECK THE HALLS TRACKER

The County now has an interactive map listing residential and commercial light displays throughout the County. Check the map for planning a family outing of inflatable snowmen, prancing deer, and twinkling trees. Click [here](#) for more.

## VILLAGE NEWS

[Wilde Lake](#)

[Harper's Choice](#)

[Hickory Ridge](#)

[River Hill](#)

[Town Center](#)

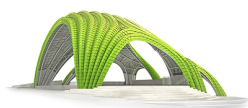
## Upcoming Events



### WILDE LAKE HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ART: 50 YEARS AS A CREATIVE CATALYST

January 6-February 5; reception January 9, 3pm  
Bernice Kish Gallery, Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Ln  
Click [here](#) for more.

Celebrate Wilde Lake's 50th birthday with this exhibit of art from alumni and former/current staff. This showcase was made possible by Matthew Pickett and the Wilde Lake HS visual arts program.



## CHRYSALIS

MERRIWEATHER PARK  
AT SYMPHONY WOODS

### CHRYSALIS CONCERT SERIES

Music, art, culture, kid's programming, and more: the Chrysalis boasts a full fall of events. Click [here](#) for more..



### TOBY'S DINNER THEATER

November 5-January 9  
Click [here](#) for more.

Based on Irving Berlin's classic film, two WWII veterans with a successful song-and-dance act follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters to their Christmas show at a rural Vermont lodge .



### 2022 NYE PEACE PARTY

Busboys & Poets  
December 31  
Click [here](#) for more.

Peace activists and literary powerhouses will be in person at Busboys and Poets to ring in the New Year.