



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

August 2009

Street Fair Edition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Abell Community:

With the dog days of summer bearing down on us, now is the time to look ahead to the cooler fall weather, and with it, the annual **Abell Community Street Fair**. This year's fair will be held on **Sunday, September 13th, from Noon to 5PM**.

What makes our Street Fair special to me is that unlike other fairs and festivals, ours is, and always has been, an entirely homespun affair. The people who live in this neighborhood are completely responsible for it. WE plan it, organize it, promote it, and attend it. We've done this year after year (for just how many years, no one seems to remember). Why do we do it? I think at least part of the reason is because we like to have an excuse to come together, to reconnect, to sit and catch up. I believe that for many of us, the Street Fair serves as a yearly reminder of what it is we like about this community.

The Street Fair is also the AIA's biggest fundraiser. We use the proceeds from the Street Fair to pay for the programs, events and activities that make our community stronger. Over the past year, these have included funding a **Mini-Grants Program** for teachers at the Barclay School, paying the licensing fees that allow us to show movies during our **Summer Film Series**, subsidizing the cost of **rain barrels** for community members, as well as hosting a variety of get-togethers, picnics, and other social events. By supporting the Street Fair, you are making these things possible.

It is in this spirit that I'm asking each of you to consider how you might get involved with this year's Street Fair. Many people have already generously volunteered to donate their time at the Fair, but we can always use more. Inside on page 3, you'll find out where and when we need help on the day of the Fair. Or maybe you can contribute in some other way. We still have plenty of spaces for vendors and exhibitors. Are you an artist or craftsperson (or do you know one) that would be interested in selling your wares? Or maybe you have something you could donate to our Silent Auction? We're always looking for high-value services or items (no junk-sale stuff, please!) to add to the auction table. And as always, Street Fair day is a great time to hold a porch sale. Let us know about it in advance so we can add you to our event map.

However you choose to do it, I hope you'll consider contributing to this year's event. And of course, I'll look forward to seeing you at the Fair on September 13th.

Paul Burk

President, AIA

www.abellimprovement.org

★ ★ ★ ★ PARKING REMINDER ★ ★ ★ ★

In order to hold the Street Fair, we must ask residents to move all vehicles from the 3100 block of Abell Avenue and the 300-400 blocks of 32nd Street between 8AM and 6PM on Sunday, September 13. Free parking is available on the northeast corner of Barclay and 32nd Street.

Inside:

Street Fair
Volunteer
Opportunities

Parking
Permits

Baltimore
Free Store

Great
Contractors

Contractor Recommendations

This column is a regular feature. If you have had a great experience with a contractor for your home, please send your recommendation to sbtreadway@aol.com

Emil Volcheck:

Mason or bricklayer: Louis Carloff, C&H Masonry, phone: (410) 391-1737.

Mr. Carloff repaired our crumbling brick steps. They look as good as new. He also did a pretty good job preserving the little column decoration that we have embedded in there. They cut the old bricks, re-mortared, pointed, etc.

Renting a Portable Storage Unit

Are you considering renting a portable storage unit from PODS or a similar service? Following are some Baltimore City requirements to remember:

Parking a storage unit on a city street requires a permit. Permits can be obtained from City Hall. They should be picked up at least 48 hours before the unit is delivered. Rates vary for different units; a permit for a PODS unit was \$65 in July. If you park a unit in a metered space, there is an additional charge of \$15/day.

Most rental companies require 2-3 parking spaces to drop a unit. The city will issue "No Parking" signs for you to post in advance of the delivery, which you can pick up when you obtain your permit. Copies of the parking permit should be posted on all sides of the storage unit.

Visiting Birds

A family of three **American Kestrels** spent several days in the 3000 block of Abell at the end of June. These are small, brightly colored falcons. They eat large insects, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. They were spotted atop an alley telephone pole, when the adults were feeding the juvenile. Watch for their return next summer!

Welcome to Our New Neighbors

Ben Tilghman writes: *After many years of coveting a spot in this neighborhood, my wife **Darran** and I leased 3002 Abell from Sylvia Cohn in February, moving all the way over from 3031 Saint Paul. I work as a fellow at the Walters Art Museum in the manuscripts and rare books collection, and Darran is the development coordinator for the Village Learning Place. On July 13, we welcomed our first child, **Susannah Evans Tilghman**, into the world. We've been so touched by all the amazing support, food, and well-wishes from our neighbors already - we're all feeling very lucky to be a part of this community.*

From **Jen Yogi**: *I moved into 3040 Abell Avenue in preparation for my job at Johns Hopkins University, beginning this fall. I'm originally from Rockville, Maryland, and recently graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland, where I studied Philosophy, Political Science, and Environmental Studies. I am thrilled to be a part of such a beautiful and friendly neighborhood, and hope to meet many of you soon! You might find me reading on the front porch, supporting my vegetarian diet at the 32nd Street Farmer's Market, or getting in on some urban gardening.*

From **Julie and Dave Taylor**, 3128 Abell: *We have a new addition to our household – our daughter **Emily Catherine** was born in March. I guess that would count as a new neighbor! Also in August, Dave's parents, John and Margaret, are coming to visit for about a month from Newcastle, Australia. I'm sure they will be out and about in the neighborhood, playing with Emily and such.*

Abell says good bye to **Brian Ralph, Megan Luther**, and **Miles**, age 5, formerly of 3005 Abell. They left Baltimore at the end of July, promising that great new neighbors were moving in. Brian will be a full time faculty member at Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall. We wish them the best of luck!

Do you have new neighbors? Or are you a new neighbor? Tell us about you! Send a note to sbtreadway@aol.com.

2009 ABELL COMMUNITY STREET FAIR

Sunday, September 13th Noon - 5:00pm

The **Abell Community Street Fair** is less than a month away! There's still plenty to do, both in advance and on the day of the event itself. **Volunteers are needed** for the following activities.

We'll need a team to distribute tables, erect canopies and wrestle the stage pieces into place. JHU students and staff will be assisting in neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, September 12, as part of the President's Day of Service. Why don't you join them with rakes and brooms to give our community a real "spit-and-polish" in preparation for the big day?

Are you a musician, artist, or entertainer? We're looking for **musical acts**. We anticipate a good turnout of invited vendors and **craftspeople**, but we'd like to highlight our own neighborhood talents. Bring out your guitars, canvases, beadwork and juggling pins!

Do you have culinary talents? The **Bake Sale** is in need of homemade **cakes, pies, breads and cookies**. We would like to offer coffee and fresh lemonade; put your percolators and juicers into service. Our own outdoor "Iron Chef Stadium" could use some intrepid **grillsters** (Contact: Jake Seagull). Can you steam a couple dozen ears of corn or whip up a bowl of your favorite coleslaw recipe for the **Crab Feast**?

Make sure word gets out about the fair; invite your family, friends and former Abell residents. Encourage your neighbors to organize **Porch Sales**. Remind drivers not to leave their cars parked on the 3100 block of Abell or the 300 block of E. 32nd Street over the weekend of September 12-13.

We are still looking for outstanding items for our **Silent Auction**. Donate some game tickets or a gift certificate to one of our local restaurants. Offer a cooking class, a beer tasting or an art lesson for a future date. Ask your employer for a donation of goods or services.

This year, neighborhood parents and grandparents are organizing a **children's parade** to take place at noon. All strollers, tricycles, bikes and Big Wheels (and their riders) are welcome. The **Moon Bounce** will once again grace the Open Space, and adults are needed to organize "turns."

Feeling philanthropic? Come, shop, eat and participate. You'll have the opportunity to **support** both the **Barclay School** and **Engine 31**. **School supplies and monetary donations** will be collected at the AIA membership table. Depending on the level of volunteerism and interest, we're investigating a dunking booth for this year's fair to raise additional funds. Would you be willing to get wet for two great causes?

STREET FAIR VOLUNTEERS! How, When and Where Would You Like to Help?

	Music	Crab Feast	Grill Station	Bake Sale	Silent Auction	Children's Activities	Dunking Booth
10:00	Assemble stage	Distribute tables and chairs; assemble canopies					
11:00			Set up grills; organize stations	Accept donations; make coffee	Organize/ display donations		Fill tank
12:00	Music Set I	12:40 Crab Run	Grilling (1-2 hr shift)	Manage sales (1-2 hr shift)	Accept bids (1-2 hr shift)	PARADE Moon Bounce (1-2 hr shift)	(1/2 hr shifts)
1:00	Music Set II	Ticket sales (2 hr shift)	Grilling (1-2 hr shift)	Manage sales (2 hr shift)	Accept bids (2 hr shift)	Moon Bounce (1-2 hr shift)	(1/2 hr shifts)
2:00	Music Set III	Crab Run	Grilling (1-2 hr shift)	Manage sales (2 hr shift)	Accept bids (2 hr shift)	Moon Bounce (1-2 hr shift)	(1/2 hr shifts)
3:00	Music Set IV	Ticket sales (2 hr shift)	Grilling (1-2 hr shift)	Manage sales (2 hr shift)	Accept bids (2 hr shift)	Moon Bounce (1-2 hr shift)	(1/2 hr shifts)
4:00	Music Set V	Crab Run	Grilling (1-2 hr shift)	Manage sales (2 hr shift)	Accept bids (2 hr shift)	Moon Bounce (1-2 hr shift)	(1/2 hr shifts)
5:00	Strike stage	Clean up	Clean grills	Clean up	Deliver items/ Collect payment		
6:00	Finish clean up; stack tables and chairs; consolidate garbage						

CONTACTS

Music: Robin Truiett-Theodorson • 410-340-8897 • rtruiett@yahoo.com

Crab Feast: Kathleen Hruska • 410-467-8566 • kshruska@mac.com

Grill Station: Jake Seagull • 443-415-7774 • jake.seagull@gmail.com

Bake Sale: Susanne Riveles • 410-467-2721 • Susanne1102@aol.com

Silent Auction: Miruna Patrascanu • 443-756-1409 • Miruna.Patrascanu@accenture.com

Children's Activities: Kathleen Hruska • 410-467-8566 • kshruska@mac.com

Dunking Booth: Kathleen Hruska • 410-467-8566 • kshruska@mac.com

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAB FEAST

Adults: \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 same day; Children (8-and-up): \$15.00

Number of Adults _____
Number of Children _____

Contact Information

Name _____
Address _____

Please return with check or cash to Kathleen Hruska at 3116 Abell Avenue.

Non-Profit Organizations & Volunteer Opportunities

Baltimore Free Store

Stuff. Community. Environment. These are three areas that The Baltimore Free Store is passionate about getting people to re-think their relationships towards. Through the redistribution of people's unwanted goods into the hands of people who need them, we are helping to alleviate the traumas of poverty, involve communities in working together to meet their own needs, and to lessen the harmful impact that our waste creates on the environment. We also use the distribution of free items to show people what can be done when communities work together and to get people to reexamine and redefine the way that they assign value to things and how that interacts with the excessive waste and consumption within our society.

Running currently out of a warehouse at 31 N. Haven St. in Highlandtown, the Baltimore Free Store generally collects donations twice per month at the warehouse, then give items out once per month at varying locations in low-income neighborhoods in Baltimore City at events called Free Markets (think flea market, but everything's free!). We will be closed for the month of August, but will begin accepting donations and holding Free Markets in September. For information about upcoming events, please visit our website at www.baltimorefreestore.org.

The Baltimore Free Store is an entirely volunteer-run organization, made up of a small Board of Directors, a few core (unpaid) staff, and a network of volunteers ranging from people who come out to every event to people who only come every once in a while. If you are interested in learning about how you can get updates on volunteer opportunities, please email our volunteer coordinator, Julia Sargent, at julias.bfs@gmail.com.

While the Baltimore Free Store is actively providing a valuable way for Baltimoreans to reuse/recycle their unwanted things and to get access to needed items while lowering our impact on the earth, we have a long way to go to reach our full potential. Our current priority is to find a building that will serve both as a collection center and a permanent distribution location. This will allow us to distribute items more efficiently and enable us to collect donations and distribute items more frequently. We are looking for a building in the Station North or Greenmount area that we can occupy while we become more sustainable and find a permanent location. If you have any ideas or resources to assist with this process, please email Julia Sargent at julias.bfs@gmail.com.

Barclay School

With a new school year around the bend, Barclay School is getting ready for another great year of hard work and achievement. We hope you will help us prepare by collecting school supplies for our teachers and students. Budgets are tight. We are in need of the following supplies:

Pencils	Printer Paper
Erasers	Construction Paper
Tissues	Dry Erase Markers
Glue Sticks	Hand Sanitizer
Notebook Paper	
Crayons, Colored Pencils and Markers	

Please contact **Katie Horn** at **443-324-3918** or khorn@greaterhomewood.org to participate in our school supply drive. We appreciate your support and generosity!

PICK-UP for Online Area 12 Residential Parking Permits Registrants

Saturday, October 17

WAVERLY FARMERS MARKET from 9 AM to Noon
32nd & Barclay Street. Bonnie Bessor and AIA Volunteers

EDDIE'S MARKET from 1 to 4 PM
3117 St. Paul Street. Bonnie Bessor and CVCA Volunteers

Register Online after September 21 for RPP Area 12 Charles Village & Abell 12A Permits.

After October 19, you must go downtown to the city's Parking Authority Office to pick up your permit.

Residents of Charles Village in the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Area 12 (north of 29th Street, west of Hunter Street/alley) and 12A-Abell (north of 29th Street, east of Hunter Street/alley) must register and purchase their annual parking permits and visitors passes. All current permits expire October 31, 2009. People with handicap tags must also purchase RPP Permits.

Cost for Residential Parking Permits: \$20 for a Parking Permit (decal); \$20 for a Visitors Pass

Note: A Parking Citation (fine) for not displaying a current RPP decal or pass in Area 12 is \$42 for each occurrence.

From **September 21 - October 15**, go online to complete the RPP application at <https://pabc.t2hosted.com>. **NOTE THAT THIS IS A DIFFERENT URL THAN WHAT YOU HAVE USED IN THE PAST.** The parking authority is using a new system to process payments for permits. If you do not have online access at home, you can go to the Village Learning Place, 2521 St. Paul Street, for access to a computer for applying online.

If you currently have a parking permit, you are in the RPP database and do not have to re-enter your information.

If you do not currently have a parking permit, you will need to choose the "create new account" option to create an account. The link for this is in the second paragraph of the "Customer Authentication" page, which is the page you see when you go to the URL listed above. Then, follow these steps:

1. Enter your drivers license number (with no dashes or spaces)
2. Enter your last name
3. If this is your first time logging into the new system, you will be prompted to change your password.
4. Click the "Home" button to see options for changing your mailing address and email and for adding or deleting vehicles.
5. Make any necessary changes.
6. Click on "Purchase Permits" NOTE: purchase of permits is not allowed to begin until 6 weeks before the expiration of the permits. Prior to September 21, the system will not allow you to purchase permits.
7. After you purchase your decals, you may have to exit and log on again to purchase visitors permits.
8. Print out your receipt. You will need to bring this with you to the pick up site along with appropriate documentation (see below).

Only residents who pay with a credit card OR mail in a check or money order **prior to October 15** will be able to pick up their permits at the Community RPP pick-up sites on October 17. *Residents must bring proof of residency and identification papers when picking up their permits on October 17— vehicle registration, driver's license, current lease, non-resident permits, notarized letters, student or military ID, etc.* See Rules and Regulations on the web-site at <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/parking/rpp/generalrules.php> or call 443.573.2800 for more details. The Baltimore City Parking Authority office is located at 200 West Lombard Street, Suite B.

If you don't pick up your permit on October 17, you must go downtown *after Monday, October 19*, with proper documentation and identification papers to purchase/pick up the permits directly from the Baltimore Parking Authority, located at 200 West Lombard Street, Suite B. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. Call 443.573.2800 or e-mail info@baltimoreprefparking.com.

IMPORTANT UPDATES ABOUT RPP REGULATIONS:

- All old permit decals must be removed before applying new permit decals to your car's windshield. Vehicle owners who do not remove old permit decals risk getting a ticket.
- There is a limit of 4 decals per household.
- Anyone falsifying documentation or abusing permits can be issued a citation of up to \$1,000.
- Abuse of permits (selling, photocopying, use by non-residents or visitors of residents) is a misdemeanor.

Volunteers from the community make it possible for us to continue community distribution of parking permits. If you are interested in volunteering to help with distribution on October 17, please contact Bonnie Bessor at 410-467-5170 or BBESSOR@GMAIL.COM.

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

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Email list and other info:
www.abellimprovement.org

Summer Film Series

FRI. 8/21 – *The Jungle Book*
8:00pm

FRI. 8/28 – *The Goonies* 8:00pm

FRI. 9/4 – *Pee Wee's Big Adventure* 8:00pm

FRI. 9/11 – Audience Member's Choice – Selected by a random drawing at the 9/4 screening - 8:00pm

All films are screened in the Abell Open Space. In the event of rain, films are shown the following Saturday.

New Trash & Recycling Schedule

TRASH – EVERY TUESDAY

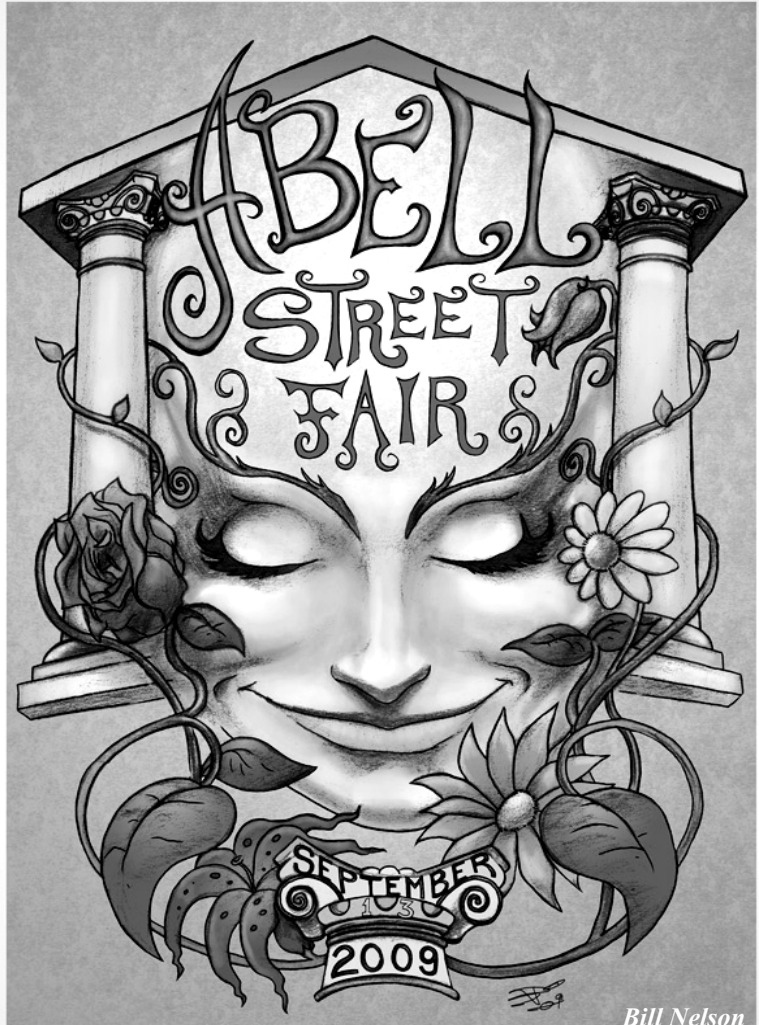
RECYCLING – EVERY THURSDAY

All trash and recycling is picked up in back of houses.

Trash may be put out after 6 p.m. the night before, or by 6 a.m. the day of pick-up.

Trash must be in secure cans with tight-fitting lids.

COME ONE, COME ALL 2009 ABELL COMMUNITY STREET FAIR



**SUN. SEPT 13TH
NOON-5PM
3100 ABELL AVE**

SILENT AUCTION

ALL-U-CAN-EAT CRAB FEAST

LIVE MUSIC

MOONBOUNCE

LOCAL ARTISTS & VENDORS