



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

December 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Abell Community:

The first Christmas lights are up on houses in the Abell Community (or are those the ones that were *left* up from last year and recently reignited? It's always hard to tell...) which can mean only one thing: the holidays are upon us. And with them, two AIA traditions –

Christmas Caroling on Sunday December 20th at 7:00 PM. The AIA is once again organizing a Christmas Carol outing. Carolers will meet at Jim Anthony's house – 3212 Abell Avenue – then head out to serenade the Abell Community before returning to Jim's house for refreshments. Song books are provided, and no experience necessary. Auditions NOT required! Contact Jim with questions – janthony@towson.edu, or 410-243-2269.

New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner. Join your neighbors as we ring in the New Year and *progress* through four courses, ending with champagne at midnight. Attendees bring a dish to share at one of the courses. This is a great opportunity to celebrate New Year's close to home while catching up with your neighbors. We're looking for volunteers to host one of the four courses – Appetizers, Main, Dessert, and Champagne. Contact me if you'd like to volunteer – president@abellimprovement.org, or 410-366-3883.

And as if that weren't enough, Santa's comin' to town! Waverly Main Street will again be hosting **Waverly Wonderland on Saturday, Dec. 12th**. This yearly event invites shoppers to stroll the Greenmount Ave. corridor, taking in the festive shop window displays. Then get your picture taken with Santa at the Waverly Ace Hardware from Noon - 2PM. More details inside on page 2.

And while you're adding things to your calendar, the AIA has set dates for our 4 Quarterly Membership Meetings for 2010. The first of these, our **Annual Membership Meeting, will be Saturday, January 23rd at 10:00AM.**

It's at this meeting that we'll elect AIA officers for 2010. We're currently looking for community members who would like to serve as an officer on our Executive Committee. This is a great opportunity to take a leadership role in your community by bringing your ideas and enthusiasm to our organization. Those interested in submitting their name for consideration as a 2010 AIA officer should contact Nominating Committee Chair, Miruna Patrascanu – miruna.patrascanu@accenture.com.

Here's wishing you all a wonderful, restful Holiday Season.

Happy Holidays!

Paul Burk
President, Abell Improvement Association

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Transform Baltimore – The Baltimore City Zoning Code Rewrite

For the last 2 years, the City's Department of Planning has undertaken a comprehensive rewrite of Baltimore's antiquated zoning code. This effort, named "Transform Baltimore," is the first attempt to modernize the zoning code since 1971, and has far-reaching implications on the future of the city's development. The AIA's Housing Committee Chair, Susanne Riveles, has been following these developments. She was recently in contact with members of the Planning Department, who have given her an update on the status of the project. A report on her findings can be found on the AIA's website:
www.abellimprovement.org/WhatsNew.html

Passing of Hazel Jones

Long time Abell Avenue resident Hazel Jones passed away on November 15 at age 87. She lived at 3210 Abell Avenue for over fifty years. During World War II, Hazel and her husband, Kyle (Buz) Jones, moved to Baltimore. Buz became a truck driver and Hazel found work in the business offices of several downtown hotels, including the Emerson and the Lord Baltimore, where she worked until her retirement in the early 1980s. She rode the Number 3 bus to work at the Lord Baltimore, where she met many celebrities who came to town to perform at the Hippodrome and the Mechanic Theaters. After retirement she spent her time tending her beautiful rose garden, while also maintaining a front terrace of azaleas and primroses. She will be missed by the many Abell neighbors who loved her dearly.

Waverly Winter Wonderland

On **Saturday, December 12**, visit the Waverly Farmers Market to see Santa making his annual stroll from 9 to 11 a.m. Santa will then be at Ace Hardware from noon to 2 p.m. and will be available for free photographs for admirers of all ages. Free Greater Homewood coloring books, illustrated by Tom Chalkley, will be available for children. VOTE for your favorite holiday window display in Waverly Main Street (Greenmount Avenue from 28th to 36th Street and sides streets). Parking is FREE in Waverly Main Street every Saturday for the month of December! Join us in shopping local!



Parents Association

Charles Village has a new association for families - "The Village Parents" - that is aiming to connect neighborhood families to build an even stronger community and collaborate on supporting the neighborhood schools. Join the clan by visiting groups.google.com/group/charles-village-parents, where you can get in on the latest discussions and learn about activities and meetings in the works. Our first event is a Toy Swap, Dec. 6th at the Village Learning Place.

Laura Scott

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

Carlene Moscott

Carpentry: Dave Miller, Elite Concepts – 301 639 6013

This workman has done a beautiful job renovating the front of the building at 32nd St. and Barclay, the old Irina's restaurant. He does work on interiors as well, and is an excellent craftsman; can do all kinds of work

Melissa Schober

Plumbing: Erickson Plumbing - www.ericksonplumbing.com

We have had FABULOUS experiences with Erickson Plumbing. Our boiler was 25+ years and needed attention two winters ago. Then last winter it went. They replaced everything at the price quoted, let us put half down and make payments thereafter, and always showed up on time. And they cleaned up after themselves!

Beth Strommen

Painting & General Contracting: Jorge and Maria Georgiadis, M&J Painting and Drywall - 410-615-4092, Jorge.georgiadis1@verizon.net

Both my sister and I (and a friend of ours) have hired him, and we all would recommend him. He is affordable, timely, clean, and does excellent work. Plus, he and his crew are just plain nice folks.

Non-Profit Organizations & Volunteer Opportunities

Update – Engine 31 Firehouse on Greenmount Ave.

As many of you are aware, the Engine 31 Firehouse in the 3100 block of Greenmount Ave. has been shuttered since this summer. Years of deferred maintenance had left the building in such a state of decline, that it was determined that firefighters could no longer safely be housed there. Since its closing, City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke has led an effort to find resources and funding to rehabilitate the building and return the Engine 31 personnel to the site. In October, her efforts began to bear fruit as Baltimore City committed to use local funding, supplemented by volunteer help, to restore the firehouse and reopen it in 2010.

In the spring, volunteers will be needed to do light construction and renovation work (painting, etc.) inside the firehouse. When we know more about their needs and schedule, the AIA will put out a call for volunteers for these efforts.

In the meantime, communities have also been asked to help raise money to purchase ‘wish list’ items for the firehouse. These items include kitchenware, appliances, a television, workout equipment, and other necessities.

At the last membership meeting, the AIA voted to create an ‘Engine 31 Fund’ to support this effort, and to use our social events as fundraisers. Our first such event will be the New Year’s Eve Progressive Dinner. There, we’ll ‘pass the helmet’; asking attendees to make a small cash donation toward this effort. Other fundraising events will follow in the Spring, so stay tuned.

If you’d like to make a donation to the Engine 31 fund, please contact Paul Burk at president@abellimprovement.org or 410-366-3883.

Barclay School News

Story Pals Update

from Margaret A. Fries, Barclay School

The Story Pals program at Barclay School matches volunteers with young students for one-on-one reading opportunities. We are thrilled and grateful that the Abell Improvement Association has awarded a grant to our program this year. Funds from that grant will be used to furnish comfortable, inviting reading stations where our volunteer readers will be able to spend time reading to their students. Thank you for your generosity! We hope that you will visit the Barclay school in the future to see the new Story Pal stations. Currently, more than forty-five students are being read to by twenty-eight volunteers, and the program is growing weekly. The AIA has supported the Story Pal program from its inception last year, and the neighborhood has provided us with many of our wonderful volunteers. However, we still have students who would like to be partnered with a story pal. And we are always looking for gently used children’s books. If you would like more information, please email Margaret A. Fries at mafries@comcast.net or call 410-396-6387, ext. 205.

Gardening Shed

Volunteer gardeners who have helped tend the plantings at the Barclay school will no longer have to haul tools to and from the site. A small shipping container was installed on the grounds this Fall. Barclay students will initially paint it to mimic a barn, and later plan to decorate it with a mural. This shed may eventually serve as a community tool-sharing access location.

Union Memorial Community Conversation Forum

Susanne Riveles represented the Abell Improvement Association at the October 28 session of the Union Memorial Community Conversation Forum. Following are some of the items discussed:

- ◆ A flu clinic has been established to serve in flu emergencies.
- ◆ Complaints from the neighborhood about the loud noise of hospital generators have been addressed; sound bafflers were ordered and were to be installed by Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Residents observed that noise from larger police helicopters flights increased, and some did not follow the agreed-upon flight pattern. Dr. Campbell of Union Memorial apologized for the disturbance, and stated that Union Memorial has addressed the issue with the park police. Union Memorial reported that there were 29 helicopter flights in the July, August, and September 2009.
- ◆ Complaints about the arrival of delivery trucks for Union Memorial as early as 5:00 a.m., which is before the city allowance of 7:00 a.m., were responded to. Union Memorial was negotiating with the trucking/hauling company to come at a later hour.

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

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Email list and other info:
www.abellimprovement.org

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, by 6 a.m. the day of pick-up.

Trash must be in rigid containers with tight-fitting lids.

Holiday Caroling Sunday, December 20 ~ 7:00 p.m.



Carolers meet at Jim Anthony's house at **3212 Abell Avenue** before heading out to serenade the Abell community. After caroling, return to Jim's house for refreshments. Song books are provided.

Contact Jim with questions – janthony@towson.edu,

410-243-2269

New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner

Celebrate New Year's Eve close to home with your neighbors. Travel to four homes for four courses, beginning with appetizers and ending with champagne at midnight. Attendees should **bring a dish to share** at one of the courses.

If you would like to attend, or can volunteer your home to host one of the four courses –

Appetizers, Main Course, Dessert, or Champagne - contact Paul Burk at president@abellimprovement.org, or 410-366-3883.

Details for participants will be distributed when locations are finalized.

AIA Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 23

10:00 a.m.

Barclay Recreation Center

Please send **newsletter contributions** to Shelley Treadway, 3026 Abell Avenue, or email to sbtreadway@aol.com. Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

January 10

March 17

Winter Issue

Spring Issue