



## Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

December 2010

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Abell Community:

Ah, winter is here again, and the white stuff is falling – if only it were snow! A stroll around the Abell community tells me I'm not the only one whose car has been 'decorated' by our neighborhood's newest tenants, the crows that like to take up residence here at this time of year. Those of you pining for a white Christmas really should be careful what you wish for!

On a more serious note, many of you are aware of the recent armed robberies that occurred in Abell (two in the 3000 block of Abell, one in the 300 block of E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, and several others close by in Waverly and Charles Village). Police have stepped up patrols in our area, but it is still crucial that we all exercise extra caution when venturing out. Baltimore police officer Bill O'Donnell, who patrols our neighborhood, attended the last AIA membership meeting and provided some tips to help avoid being victimized. A list of those suggestions is inside on page 2.

On a more festive note, this Holiday season brings with it two AIA traditions –

**Christmas Caroling on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M.** The AIA is once again organizing a Christmas Carol outing. Carolers will meet at Jim Anthony's house – 3212 Abell Ave – then head out to serenade the Abell Community before returning to Jim's house for refreshments. Songbooks are provided, and no experience necessary. Contact Jim with questions – [janthony@towson.edu](mailto: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 without even leaving the neighborhood. We're looking for volunteers to host one of the four courses – Appetizers, Main, Dessert, and Champagne. Contact Robin Truiett if you'd like to volunteer – [rtruiett@yahoo.com](mailto:rtruiett@yahoo.com)

Finally, the AIA is currently looking for community members who would like to serve as an officer on our Executive Committee for 2011. 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 2011 AIA officer should contact Nominating Committee Chair, Miruna Patrascanu – [miruna.patrascanu@gmail.com](mailto:miruna.patrascanu@gmail.com).

Here's wishing you all a wonderful – and safe – holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

Paul Burk  
President, Abell Improvement Association

[www.abellimprovement.org](http://www.abellimprovement.org)

#### Inside:

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## Personal Safety in Abell

Officer Bill O'Donnell from the northern district of the Baltimore Police Department attended November's AIA membership meeting to address residents' safety concerns. These are some of the suggestions that Officer O'Donnell made to help you protect yourself when coming home or leaving alone:

- ◆ Carry a flashlight - use it to check dark nooks, between cars, etc.
- ◆ Call a neighbor when leaving or returning alone - have them step out onto their porch to keep an eye out as you head to/from your car.
- ◆ Consider carrying a loud whistle.
- ◆ Walk in the middle of the street; avoid dark sidewalks.
- ◆ Have your keys out & ready to unlock your door; lock it immediately behind you after entering.
- ◆ If you notice anyone watching you or exhibiting suspicious behavior, call 911 and police will come to check them out.

Remember to *keep your porch lights on all night* – doing so is an effective and inexpensive deterrent. Speak regularly to your neighbors, and inform them when you plan to be away overnight.



## Charm City Craft Mafia's Holiday Heap

Holiday Heap, an alternative craft fair put on by the Charm City Craft Mafia, will be held on Saturday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fair will take place in St. John's Church, 2640 St. Paul Street in Charles Village. This is the perfect place to buy all sorts of handmade and unique gifts for everyone on your holiday list - straight from the artists themselves. This year's fair will feature quirky ceramics, jewelry, screen-printed & hand-sewn apparel and accessories, hand-printed stationary, posters, stuffed toys, comics and more. Curbside Cafe will be parked out front all day offering burritos. Carma's Cafe will sell coffee. The fair is completely free to attend.

For more information and a complete vendor list, visit: <http://charmcitycraftmafia.com/holidayheap2010.html>

Rachel Bone

## Waverly Winter Wonderland

Join us on and around Greenmount Avenue for Waverly Main Street's Waverly Wonderland Holiday Happenings in December!

Saturday, December 11: *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*

- ★ St. John's in the Village Christmas Bazaar, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M., 3009 Greenmount Avenue
- ★ 11 A.M. – 2 P.M.: Take your picture with Santa at the recently renovated Waverly Fire Station at 3123 Greenmount Avenue. Free warm apple cider, cocoa and holiday treats. Kids shop for gifts!
- ★ First Annual Waverly Shop Crawl: 12 P.M. – 4 P.M. Discounts on shopping, dining and services!
- ★ Shoppers judge holiday window displays created by merchants.
- ★ Waverly Historical Walking tour 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.

Friday December 17th: *70's & 80's Christmas Party*

- ★ Huntington Baptist Church, 3100 Barclay Street, 7 P.M. – 11 P.M.
- ★ FREE family event! Come dressed to enjoy food, line dancing, fellowship and FUN!

Saturday December 18th:

- ★ Waverly Shop Crawl: 12 P.M. – 4 P.M. Discounts on shopping, dining and services!!

For more information email Regina Boyce at [traleese@yahoo.com](mailto:traleese@yahoo.com)

Bonnie Bessor

## Contractor Recommendations

From Mike Subelsky:

*We have used an amazing contractor, Jim Barnes, for several jobs in our house as several neighbors have also. They work frequently in Charles Village and know these houses very well. Recommend him very strongly for large and small jobs:*  
[james.barnes@inbox.com](mailto:james.barnes@inbox.com)

*Maureen Daly recommends an experienced daytime babysitter. She has excellent references. Contact Maureen at 443-28-4731, [maureen.daly4@verizon.net](mailto:maureen.daly4@verizon.net)*

If you have had a great experience with a contractor for your home, please send your recommendation to [sbreadway@aol.com](mailto:sbreadway@aol.com)

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# Non-Profit Organizations & Volunteer Opportunities

## Stadium Place Volunteering

### NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR/NEIGHBOR IN DEED PROGRAM

The Neighbor Helping Neighbor Program at Stadium Place is a time bank model of service exchange, where members provide a wide spectrum of support services and activities for other members. The program supports the participants in living independently and continuing to lead meaningful and engaged lives. As individuals age, they find it more and more difficult to execute their activities of daily living without some assistance. Neighbor Helping Neighbor helps residents who need assistance obtain it without financial hardship. The goal of the program is to minimize isolation issues for the older residents of Stadium Place (and hopefully expand efforts to the surrounding community) through assistance with rides to appointments or shopping, handyperson services, cooking, tutoring, leading classes and making phone calls to members who may be sick or shut in. Members of Neighbor Helping Neighbor have also assisted with household chores, community food drives, and one member started a crafts club at Stadium Place.

For more information on getting involved with this program, please contact the following GEDCO Senior Services staff at Stadium Place:

Wanda Carter – 410-235-7123 or [wcarter@gedco.org](mailto:wcarter@gedco.org), or Mack King – 410-243-0087 or [mking@gedco.org](mailto:mking@gedco.org).

## News from the Stadium Place Advisory Committee

### CAL RIPKEN FOUNDATION FIELD

Mel Brennan of the Y at Stadium Place is in the process of planning a ground-breaking celebration for the Cal Ripken Foundation Field. The possible date is Sunday, December 12th, but stay tuned for confirmation of the date and time. Phase I of this project is officially finished except for perimeter landscaping, scoreboard, and marking distance measurements around the track. There is no definite information on when programs will start at the field, but spring is the likely timeframe. The dirt should be removed from the Eilerslie/36th Street corner by mid-December.

### GREENHOUSE RESIDENCES

GEDCO's future development plans include The Green House® Residences at Stadium Place (with residential long-term care), the Village Center (a planned retail and commercial space), and market-rate housing as well. The Green House® Residences at Stadium Place will bring an innovative model of residential long-term

nursing care to the campus for 49 frail older adults, where they can continue to live and thrive. Financing commitments are now in place and closing. Construction should begin before the end of the year. There will be a groundbreaking celebration for this project early in 2011. Fundraising continues for post-construction operating costs, etc. This will be the first Green House® facility in Maryland - there are 52 around the U.S. The GEDCO offices will re-locate to the basement level of the facility after completion.

### CONDO PROJECT

A grant was received to solicit community input on creating a homeownership model for residents age 55 and older for the condo site along the 36<sup>th</sup> Street side of property. Details will be announced at a later time.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will take place in mid-January. If you have questions or concerns that you want addressed at the next Advisory Committee meeting, please contact Carla Ryon - (410) 235-0280 or Barb Ruland - (410) 235-3504.

More information on **volunteering at Stadium Place** can be found at GEDCO'S Stadium Place webpage: [http://www.gedco.org/site/c.ioJQIW0tEnH/b.5022283/k.949F/Stadium\\_Place.htm](http://www.gedco.org/site/c.ioJQIW0tEnH/b.5022283/k.949F/Stadium_Place.htm)

## The Barclay School Story Pals

Do you enjoy reading? Do you enjoy working with children? Then The Barclay School needs you as a STORY PAL! Spend just 20 minutes per week reading with one student, and make a lasting difference.

According to the National Institute of Education, one of the most important activities contributing to success in reading is **reading aloud to children**. Following this advice, a volunteer reads one-on-one with their Story Pal, a student in prekindergarten through 3rd grade who has been identified as struggling in literacy, once or twice a week for 20 minutes at The Barclay School. The program occurs during the school day (8 a.m.- 2:35 p.m.). There are numerous times that students are available, so we can accommodate a wide variety of volunteers' schedules. The individualized attention you can provide is invaluable when teaching a young child reading skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.

Join Story Pals and be a part of improving Barclay's reading community!

For more information about volunteering email Tatiana Truitt at: [volunteerbarclay@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerbarclay@gmail.com) or call 443-987-6326.

## - Bulletin Board -

### Officers Contact List

Paul Burk, President  
3218 Abell Avenue  
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Email list and other info:  
[www.abellimprovement.org](http://www.abellimprovement.org)

### Holiday Caroling

Sunday, December 19 ~ 5:30 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](mailto:janthony@towson.edu),  
410-243-2269

Kick off *Abell's Centennial Celebration* at the annual

### New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner

Celebrate New Year's Eve and the inaugural event of 100 years of Abell 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.

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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 Robin Truiett-Theodorson –  
[rtuiett@yahoo.com](mailto:rtuiett@yahoo.com), 410-340-8897

Details for participants will be distributed when locations are finalized.

### Trash & Recycling Schedule

**TRASH – EVERY  
TUESDAY**



**RECYCLING – EVERY  
THURSDAY**

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

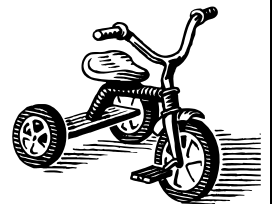
Trash may be put out after 6  
p.m. the night before, by 6 a.m.  
the day of pick-up.

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

### Parents – Please Claim your Toys from the Open Space

Many of the toys (18 at last count) in the Open Space appear to have been dumped or abandoned there. Please claim the toys that belong to you.

*Toys left in the Open Space after December  
10<sup>th</sup> will be collected and disposed of.*



### AIA Quarterly General Membership Meeting

The first of four 2011 AIA Membership Meetings will be held in late January. The meeting location, date and time will be posted on the AIA website - [www.abellimprovement.org](http://www.abellimprovement.org) - as soon as they meeting schedule is determined.