

- Bulletin Board -

TAKE DOWN THE SIGNS!

It is illegal to post signs on utility poles, vacant houses, street signs and the like. While nobody is trying to penalize those who put up signs asking for help in locating lost cats or advertising a porch sale, people are definitely encouraged to take down the "WE BUY HOUSES" signs. If you take down a sign, make a note of exactly where and when you took it down, and turn that information and the sign in to the Northern District Police or Ralph or Dana Moore at 3015 Guilford. The City can impose a \$100 fine for each sign. Those signs are put there by 'house flippers,' who sell houses at great disadvantage to those who will ultimately buy them.

Mary Pat Clarke has introduced a bill which would raise the fine to \$200, and would give half the fine to the community group which has removed the sign.

Officers' Contact List

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The deadline for newsletter items is the 20th of each month!

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Email list and other info:
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RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Blue Bags: 5/8 and 5/22
Paper: 5/10 and 5/24
Regular trash pickup is every
Tuesday and Friday morning.

OLD GOUCHER FAIR

Saturday, May 6, 11am-4pm
Fun, food, music and children's
activities at the "Calvert Street
Park" 23rd and Calvert Streets

CHARLES ST. TROLLEY INFO

You may have seen articles about plans for a trolley on Charles St in recent articles in the Charles Villager or the Examiner. You can find more info about the proposal at:
www.charlesstreet.mdprojects.com/trolley.htm
www.charlesstreet.org/trolley

**PLEASE JOIN THE NEW FRIENDS OF THE
PLAYGROUND AT THE YMCA 1ST ANNUAL
PLAYGROUND WORKDAY AND CELEBRATION!!**
Saturday, May 6 - rain date May 13 - 9am-4pm (Cookout at 1pm)
Playground at Stadium Place

We'll spread mulch, lay sod, repair and spruce up our
playground...and then we'll celebrate with a cookout!

Kids can work with their parents, and teens can work on their
own. Please bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes & gloves if you
can!

If possible, please sign up at: www.stadiumplayground.com
For more information, leave a message at 410-235-3334

2006 CHARLES VILLAGE FESTIVAL & PARADE!

Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4
Wyman Park Dell

Proceeds from this year's festival will be shared by the Charles Village Recreation League, Friends of Wyman Park Dell, the Village Learning Place and the Charles Village Civic Association. An estimated 10,000 participants are expected to attend the two-day festival which includes a 5K Race and 1K Fun Run, the Charles Village Parade, a Garden Walk and a weekend of food, crafts and live entertainment.

For a schedule of events, or more info, visit:
www.charlesvillage.net/festival/festival.cfm



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Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

May 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Abell Community,

Spring is here! May kicks off our new and improved Annual Abell Improvement Association Membership Drive! See inside for details about how you can be a significant part of, and supporter of, the Abell Improvement Association in its continued work to maintain our neighborhood character, and improve the area as a whole! Show your pride in our neighborhood by becoming a member - and get a membership to show it, get on the Members E-mail List to get critical updates, information, share ideas, and more!

On April 27th we had our Quarterly members meeting, and usually the newsletter after that meeting would have the updates and outcomes of that meeting. Given the timing of that meeting and the deadline for this newsletter, such an update is not in this issue - and will be included in the June issue. The outcome of that meeting will circulate among the members email list soon, and be posted on the Abell website.

Instead, this issue of the newsletter concentrates on our membership drive, and contains several announcements and details of other activities in which you can get involved, and dates of several things happening in the next few weeks. Here are just a few:

- Saturday, May 13, 11am - Brunch to coordinate, plan, celebrate the upcoming Abell Community Street Fair - all those interested in volunteering and most importantly coordinating the event are welcome!
- Sunday, May 28, 4pm - Annual Memorial Day Picnic! See inside for details.
- Sunday June 5, 12 noon to 5pm - The Garden Walk during the Charles Village Festival. Share the beautiful gardens of our neighbors in the Abell Community!

Also - despite the rain - the *Spring Sweep Thing* on April 22nd was a success! Thanks to Jen Swanson for arranging the Clean Up - thanks also to Steve Gewirtz of Guilford Ave and Shelley Treadway of Abell Ave, who cleaned and weeded the Garden and Playground area in the Open Space, and big thanks to Elvira Smith of the 3200 block of Barclay - she and her crew cleaned the entire alley behind that block! Thanks to all others who participated!

There is still some work to do - but we will get to it soon!

Enjoy the weather! Get ready for a busy summer! Watch for great things happening in the Open Space, and a new and improved Website! And be a member of AIA!

-- *Odette T. Ramos*

President

MORE DEMO & BUILDING COMING FOR ST. PAUL STREET AREA

The new building on the west side of the 3200 block of St. Paul Street now has a name. It's being called The Olmstead to reflect the role of Frederick Law Olmstead Sr. and Jr. in the design of Wyman Park, the Dell, the 33rd Street median, Homewood campus, and several neighborhoods around the development.

Demolition should be started on the west side of the 3200 block of St. Paul Street by the time you get this newsletter, beginning with the garages on Lovegrove and then with the houses at the south end of the block. The Loading Dock and Second Chance are slated to be involved in the demolition and salvage of the existing buildings on the site. Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse is working to have the building certified as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver and part of that certification requires significant salvage and recycling of materials from demolition. (Several of the stones from the back of the houses are coming to AIA for our Open Space needs as well!)

The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. The project will be one of the first, if not the first, "green building" condo projects in the east coast. For more information about LEED go to www.usgbc.org.

SBER expects to start pouring concrete in July, with the new parking garage (526 spaces, of which 395 will be public) to be completed by August 2007, and the 107 condos ready in January 2008. To limit access to the site during construction there will be a 10-foot black chain link fence erected. At this point SBER is confident that BGE will accept their plans for the street trees, so work on the streetscape for the 3100 block should be starting this summer and will be identical to that of the 3200 block. There were some concerns that the garage wouldn't be very attractive from Lovegrove, and SBER is looking into a mural for that side.

On the east side, SBER is in negotiations with retailers for all of the spaces for the Village Lofts, but no more are ready to be announced at this point. --Patrick McMahon

NEW JHU STUDENT ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Caroline Bennett is the new Student/Community Liaison and Compliance Officer for JHU. She works 7pm-4am and will address any and all complaints about Hopkins students (parties, loud music and people, etc), and has been known to raid parties, discipline students, and report them on the spot. Please contact her via email at liaison@jhu.edu or by phone at 410-516-2359.

Caroline came to our Quarterly Membership meeting. There is a monthly report about incidences that circulates, and is available by contacting our AIA JHU liaison, Sarah Murray.

STREET FAIR PLANNING BRUNCH MEETING

On Saturday, May 13 at 11am, join us for a brunch meeting to coordinate, plan and celebrate the upcoming Abell Community Street Fair - all those interested in volunteering, and helping to coordinate the event are welcome! Come to Odette Ramos' house at 3001 Abell Avenue.

See you there!

AIA MEMORIAL DAY BBQ & PICNIC!

On Sunday, May 28, from 4-7pm, come join your neighbors and friends for the annual AIA Memorial Day picnic in the Open Space, at 32nd Street between Guilford and Abell Avenues!

We ask that you please bring a covered dish to contribute. The AIA will provide hot dogs, burgers, veggie burgers and beverages!

If you would like more info, or would like to help, please contact Jim Anthony at 410.243.2269 or janthony@towson.edu.

- ABELL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE -



Peanut the AIA membership hound, who lives at 3218 Abell Avenue, wants you to join!

What is the Mission of the Abell Improvement Association?

The Purpose of the Abell Improvement Association is to:

- Foster the general welfare of all residents of our Community
 - Maintain our Community's appearance, safety, and good order
 - Promote cultural, racial, and ethnic harmony
 - Foster a strong sense of neighborliness and community spirit
 - Represent the Community's interest to local and state government
- (from current AIA Bylaws as revised and approved April 20, 2004)*

Why become a member of the Abell Improvement Association?

Membership is about showing your support for the activities of the AIA - continuing to make our neighborhood (which includes Guilford Avenue, Abell Avenue, Barclay Streets and Greenmount Avenue between a 29th Street and 34th Street) a great place to live. Many of us chose to live here because this neighborhood is special and it is up to all of us to take care of and continue to improve it. We all benefit from work done by the AIA.

Your annual dues of only \$5 per person make a huge difference! **Our goal is to have 300 members this year!** Let's make that happen! Your contribution helps to cover basic operating costs, like printing newsletters, costs of community events, Open Space maintenance, initial Street Fair costs, and more. (You don't need to be a member to participate in social events or to receive the newsletter, but your support is appreciated!!)

What does the Abell Improvement Association do for you?

- Maintains and improves the **Open Space and garden on 32nd Street**
- Provides yearly service for **parking renewals**
- Organizes the **Annual Street Fair**
- Plans **social events** including the Memorial Day picnic, New Year's Eve progressive dinner and holiday caroling
- Improves lighting in our neighborhood with free **Light Up the Night** light bulbs for front porches
- **Coordinates Neighborhood Clean Ups** at least twice a year
- **Advocates for community improvements** including pedestrian lighting, better City services, enforcement of housing and sanitation violations and liquor Board issues, and more
- Keeps the neighborhood **connected and well informed** through monthly newsletters, website and members email list
- **Pursues grants and other resources** to improve the neighborhood as needed
- **Movies** in the Open Space, and more...

Membership Sign-Up Form - May 2006 through September 2007

Get 16 months of membership for the cost of one year! Please return the completed membership form and dues (\$5 per member) to Jim Anthony 3212 Abell Avenue (410-243-2269) or Miruna Patrascanu 3218 Abell Avenue (410-366-3883) no later than May 31

Name: _____

Name (if household has more than one member): _____

Address: _____ Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____

Email: _____ (check here to place your email address on the AIA Members E-mail list)

I want to get involved! I am interested in working with the following committee(s) (please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Street Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing/Sanitation Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walkers | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Liquor Board issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barclay School Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please list) | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact me as needed |