



# Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

February 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Abell Community:

The holidays are behind us and winter seems finally to have arrived, and I want to begin by thanking all of the volunteers who helped coordinate our annual holiday traditions. Thanks to Jim Anthony for coordinating the holiday caroling and hosting the after-party, to Didon Pachner for organizing the New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner, and to Didon Pachner and Russell Wattenberg, Jim Anthony, Shelley and Mike Treadway, and Emil Volchek and Kathleen Wilsbach for hosting the dinner courses.

This past Saturday, January 26, the AIA Annual Meeting was held at the Barclay Recreation Center and discussed many important issues, including the election of officers and the approval of our budget for 2013. The meeting was well attended, continuing the strong trend that we have enjoyed over the last few years. If you have not yet attended a meeting or have fallen out of the habit, I encourage you to join us for the spring meeting on Wednesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Barclay Rec Center. The meetings are a great way to meet neighbors, to learn what is going on around Abell and the larger Baltimore community, and to discuss goals and projects of the AIA.

Each year at the Annual Meeting officers are elected to serve a one-year term that is capped with a two-year term limit. This year we welcome two new officers to the Executive Committee, Drew Northrup and Joel Urbanowicz, both of whom will serve as members-at-large. Our other officers will continue to serve another term, including Bonnie Bessor as Vice President, Kevin Darrow as Treasurer, Linda Forlifer as Corresponding Secretary, and Andy Scott as Recording Secretary. I am honored to continue to serve for one more year as President. Jim Anthony and Emil Volchek were also elected to represent the AIA on the board of the CVCBD. Outgoing officers include Michael Klima, who served two terms as a member-at-large, and Katie Flickinger, who served one year as a member-at-large. Both Michael and Katie will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as committee chairs. I want to thank them for their ongoing service to the AIA.

We also discussed a number of ways that neighbors can get out and take part in the community as the winter wears on. In particular, the Barclay Recreation Center is undergoing refurbishing as Greater Homewood Community Corporation is leading the way to reestablish the Rec Center as an important asset to the Barclay School and the surrounding community. John Bernet ([jbernet@greaterhomewood.org](mailto:jbernet@greaterhomewood.org)) is organizing those efforts. If you would like to take part in an upcoming work day at the Rec Center, please let him know.

Jimmy Stuart of the Baltimore Education Coalition spoke to us about the ongoing legislative efforts to secure funds to renovate all of the Baltimore City school facilities within the next ten years. The Coalition is organizing buses to take community members to Annapolis for a rally on February 25. The rally begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Maryland State House. More information about the buses will be announced shortly.

Finally, our 2013 budget was approved and includes funds to continue our many activities and projects including mini-grants for Barclay School teachers, the Summer Film Series, the annual Street Fair, the Memorial Day picnic, and more. Now that we have the funds in place, I want to encourage you to consider volunteering to help out with one or more of these events this year and to help make 2013 another great year to live in the Abell neighborhood.

Take care,

Drew Walker  
President, Abell Improvement Association

### Inside:

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### **School House Garden Ribbon Cutting and Earth Day Celebration**

*Saturday, April 20, 10:00 a.m.  
Merryman Lane and  
Brentwood Avenue*

Over the next couple of months an eye-sore will be transformed into a sculpture garden. Watch it unfold on your weekly trips to the Farmers Market. Look in a northeasterly direction to the lot that fronts on historic Merryman Lane, from which rubble has been moved, to which soil and other garden materials will be installed, and where silhouette sculptures will pay homage to School 115, which generations of African American children attended from the 1890's to the end of legal segregation. Mark your calendar and join the celebration on April 20 at 10:00 a.m.

*Jo Ann Robinson*

### **Barclay School Mini Grants**

In December 2012 and January this year, the AIA awarded 2 mini grants to Barclay school teachers for a total of \$750 – half of the AIA's \$1500 that is budgeted for the Barclay grants. A \$250 grant was awarded to Jeffery Slattery for transportation to a screening of "Lincoln" for his 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Another grant of \$500 went to Courtney Proctor to pay for a trip for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade drama students (82 in all) to see a performance at Towson's Pumpkin Theater.

### **Neighborhood Walkers on Patrol**

Would you like to get some fresh air, meet friends and help reduce crime in our neighborhood? Join your neighbors Thursday evenings at 8:30 at the Abell Open Space, between Abell and Guilford on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, to help patrol our neighborhood. Visit [meetup.com/charlesvillage](http://meetup.com/charlesvillage) where you can review the current schedule and sign up for walks. You can also subscribe to the walkers' mailing list - [walkers@abellimprovement.org](mailto:walkers@abellimprovement.org). To learn more about the Neighborhood Walkers on Patrol visit [www.charlesvillage.org/safety/walkers\\_on\\_patrol.html](http://www.charlesvillage.org/safety/walkers_on_patrol.html)

### **Tree Steward Volunteers**

Charles Village Tree Stewards is looking for volunteers from Abell this spring to assist Co-Chairs Gary Letteron, Mateusz Rosanski and Peter Duvall in planting new trees, digging new tree wells and enlarging existing tree wells. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please e-mail your contact information to Sharon L. Guida, CVCA - [guidahome@comcast.net](mailto:guidahome@comcast.net); use the subject line Charles Village Tree Stewards.



### **New Neighbors & Babies**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Abell Owner*  
Congratulations to Patrick Fink, who purchased a home in the 3000 block of Barclay this fall. Patrick grew up on the 3000 block of Guilford in the home of parents John and Beverly Fink, with his sister, Elizabeth. He is working at Legg Mason, and loves it here!

*From Sarah McLean:* Molly Marilyn McLean joined Campbell, Sarah, and Amelia on 11.29.12 !!! Abell welcomes the new McLean sister.

### **Thanks to Our Distribution Team**

Thank you to all AIA Newsletter deliverers and alternates for your timely work bringing Abell news to the community throughout the past year:

Anne Louise Stoner  
Twefie Millsbaugh  
Judy Berlin  
Maureen Daly  
Gina Weaver  
Joe DeMarco  
Jim Anthony  
Freda Kirkham  
Judith Geller  
Allison Campbell  
Kevin Darrow  
Julie Neale Taylor  
Paul & Carlene Moscatt  
Amber Eisenmann  
Kerry Langkammerer  
Annette Fallon  
Janet Kahoe  
Jo Ann Robinson  
Jonathan Wetmiller  
Didon Pachner  
Val Kuciauskas  
John Fink  
Amy Thompson  
Laura Scott  
Haakon Maxwell  
Michael Treadway

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## Revamping the Public School Buildings in Baltimore City

A survey taken in 2010 known as The Jacobs Report found that 69% of the buildings where the children of Baltimore City attend school are in “very poor” condition, while only 2% measure up to “good” or “best.” The piecemeal patching-up that has for so long been the standard approach to maintenance and repairs actually worsens the situation by failing to address the basic causes of long-term decay.

TRANSFORM BALTIMORE: BUILD SCHOOLS. BUILD NEIGHBORHOODS is a broad-based coalition with “a funding plan to renovate and modernize every school building in Baltimore City within ten years.” Modeled on successful projects in Greenville, S.C., Buffalo, N.Y., and Indianapolis, IN, the plan calls for block-grant funding, which is created by leveraging city and state funds to borrow the total amount of money needed to effectively upgrade city school facilities in 10 years, paying back that sum over a period of 30 years. An Interagency Committee on School Construction, appointed by the state legislature to assess this approach, has found that it is legal and feasible and will not affect the state’s bond rating.

To learn more about this vital undertaking see the Baltimore Education Coalition’s web site at <http://www.transformbaltimore.org>. To add your support to the campaign for the legislation that will make it possible, mark your calendar now to join the **Transform Baltimore Rally in Annapolis, February 25, 2013, 4:30-9:00 p.m.** Buses will be leaving from Barclay School. Laura Scott and Jo Ann Robinson will be attending the Rally Prep for School & Community Leaders on January 29. Please contact them for more information or to add you name to the bus roster.

Barclay and all neighboring public schools will be affected by this campaign. It’s a development that Abell residents should become informed about and involved in.

Laura Scott  
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Jo Ann Robinson  
Abell resident  
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### Retrofit Baltimore: Win-Win-Win

Abell is a beautiful neighborhood filled with many old and historic homes. While these homes are filled with character and charm, they were not always built with energy efficiency in mind. Retrofit Baltimore, a program of the non-profit Civic Works, seeks to connect homeowners with information about how to remedy this problem. Retrofit Baltimore has been hosting energy meetings for neighbors to find out how they can lower their utility bills by 20-40%, and improve the overall comfort, health and safety of their homes through an energy retrofit.

The time to act is now. As of 2012, the state of Maryland is offering rebates that cover 50% of the cost of any recommended energy improvements, and it has subsidized the price of an energy assessment by 80%. Retrofit Baltimore serves as a resource for the community and advocates for homeowners, providing science-based information and support through each step of the energy retrofit process. At the same time, Retrofit Baltimore ensures that your investments in energy efficiency create family-sustaining jobs for underserved Baltimore residents. Strengthening communities, saving the environment, and saving you money - attend a meeting to find out why a retrofit is a Win-Win-Win!

Retrofit Baltimore holds a number of informational meetings and joint workshops throughout the city. We will be hosting the Baltimore Green Fest on February 2 from 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the Mount Washington School with a number of other Baltimore environmental non-profits. For a full calendar of upcoming meetings and events, check out our website at [retrofitbaltimore.org](http://retrofitbaltimore.org). If you are interested in getting work done, please give us a call at 410.929.6139 or email Matty at [mguerin@retrofitbaltimore.org](mailto:mguerin@retrofitbaltimore.org).

*Jennifer Smith, Retrofit Baltimore*

## - Bulletin Board -

### Officers Contact List

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Email list and other info:  
[www.abellimprovement.org](http://www.abellimprovement.org)

### Trash & Recycling Schedule

**TRASH**  
**EVERY TUESDAY**



**RECYCLING**  
**EVERY THURSDAY**

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.***

***Residents may be fined for  
trash disposal violations.***

### PLEASE HELP THE STRAY PETS WHO NEED A "NEST FOR THE NIGHT"



The homeless pets that come into our care will be very grateful for donations of any of the following items: **feline pine litter; Friskies canned cat food; Regular Purina Cat Chow; and cat collars.** For those who need medical attention, including neutering and spaying, monetary donations are also welcomed. Checks should be made out to *Aardmore Veterinary Hospital* with "Nest for the Night" noted on the memo line. Donated items may be left on the front porch of 3004 Abell Avenue. Checks can be mailed there to the attention of Vonnie Gowe, or sent directly to Aardmore – 3130 Loch Raven Road, Baltimore MD 21218.

Thanks for your continuing support.  
Vonnie Gowe

### Schedule of 2013 AIA Membership Meetings

Please mark your calendars with the following dates and plan to attend the quarterly membership meetings. Normally, the meetings are held at the Barclay Recreation Center, 300 W. 29th Street.

Wednesday, April 17 • 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 24 • 10:30 a.m.

Wed, November 6 • 6:30 p.m.

Send **newsletter contributions** to Shelley Treadway, 3026 Abell Avenue, or email to [sbtreadway@aol.com](mailto:sbtreadway@aol.com). Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

March 17

May 17

August 8

September 16

November 17

**Spring Issue**

**Memorial Day/Film Series Issue**

**Street Fair Issue**

**Fall Issue**

**Holiday Issue**