



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

June 2014

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

Summer is here, and it is great to see all of our neighbors out and about, enjoying the Abell Open Space, walking dogs, tending gardens, and porch-sitting.

We've got a lot of great things coming up over the next few months and I hope you will join your neighbors for some summer fun.

Here is a list of just a few things for you to enjoy with your neighbors this summer:

The Abell Community Summer Film Series is one of my favorite things about living in this neighborhood. What a great way to enjoy the outdoors, hang out with neighbors, and see some awesome movies! The Film Series will kick off on Friday, July 25 with the classic "Back to the Future", and will continue for seven weeks through September 5. All films are screened in the Abell Open Space (32nd Street between Abell and Guilford) at sunset. See inside for the full line-up of films!

Street Fair Planning - MANY thanks to Joel Urbanowicz and Haakon Maxwell for stepping up and co-chairing the 2014 Street Fair! The date is officially set for Sunday, September 21. As usual, we will need LOTS of help to bring the Street Fair together. If you are interested in helping with planning or preparing, and/or volunteering on the day of the Street Fair, email Haakon at haakon.maxwell@gmail.com to get involved.

AIA Quarterly Membership Meeting - Saturday, August 16, at 10:30 a.m. at the 29th Street Community Center (300 E. 29th Street.)

Annual Street Fair - Sunday, September 21, from 12-5 p.m.

See inside for even more information about what is going on around the neighborhood.

Hope to see you all around.

Take care,

Bonnie

Bonnie Bessor
President, Abell Improvement Association

Street Fair Plans are Moving Forward

Dear Neighbors,

Don't forget to put the Abell Community Street Fair in your Fall calendar. This year, the Fair is on Sunday, September 21st.

Planning is well underway by a large team of volunteers, with hopes that we'll pull off the best Abell Street Fair in recent memory.

Two substantial changes will be made this year: Professional food vendors will serve the Fair instead of us, and we are bringing back stoop sales.

First, food: With many thanks for their heroic service in years past, we've decided to give Lorri Randolph and Michelle Golden a break from grilling duties, and we will instead invite local food vendors to join the Fair. We've already contacted half a dozen local businesses and met with enthusiastic interest.

Stoop Sales were once a part of the Fair, but have dwindled in recent years. We aim to revive them. We'll make vendor spots available to residents whose property does not face the Fair itself. We can already boast at least one reservation for a Stoop Sale spot by someone who doesn't live on Abell.

Traditional institutions of the Fair will continue as ever. The theme for the Children's Parade is Ancient Greek Mythology. The excellent Bake Sale will showcase Abell's best bakers. The Silent Auction is already receiving donations. We've chosen artwork for the T-shirts and posters. We have volunteers booking bands, reserving rentals, seeking vendors, applying for permits, talking to crab houses, etc.

If you want to volunteer, we could use a few organized people to assist with planning. The major work is underway, but some of the jobs are big enough that a helper would **be** great. And of course, on the day of the Fair, we'll need volunteers. If you'd like to help in any capacity, please contact Haakon Maxwell (haakon.maxwell@gmail.com).

The next AIA newsletter will feature a lot more information about the Fair, including the entertainment line-up, details for pre-ordering crabs, pressing volunteer needs, etc.

We are really looking forward to a great day in Abell.

AIA Street Fair Committee

Great Contractors

From Jessie Weber & Nancy Eddy: "We recently had **Jeffrey Lauren** create a half bathroom for us on our first floor, along with some other renovations, and he did a great job for a very reasonable price. We highly recommend him. He can be reached at **443-250-4773**."

Steve Windows recommends **Chris Tattersall**, "...a licensed tree expert who removed a tree from our backyard. His price was more than fair. It was fun just to watch him work. His phone number is **717-881-4314**."

John Fink recently hired **Budget Waterproofing**. "They are in Linthicum, **410-609-1240**."

Reasonably priced, they are A rated by the Finks, BBB and Angie's List. They installed a French drain on three basement walls, a ½-hp sump pump and piping to water Beverly's garden. We had a gully washer the day after installation; no wet floors. Dry is wonderful after 32 years!"

Baltimore City Teacher of the Year Awarded to Barclay School Teacher

Baltimore City's Teacher of the Year award was given to Elizabeth Barletta, a fifth grade math and science teacher at Barclay Elementary/Middle School. Ms. Barletta has taught at Barclay School for four years.

"Baltimore City Schools selects the Teacher of the Year through a rigorous, competitive process. Teachers must have at least five years' experience and demonstrate qualities of effectiveness and leadership. Ms. Barletta was selected by the award committee after extensive review of applications, essays, and recommendations, followed by interviews and classroom observations of the finalist candidates," noted Stephanie Sterling of Great Schools Charles Village.

Congratulations to Ms. Barletta!

Giant Step Forward

Community members of Friends of the Giant Step Forward Steering Committee, chaired by Debra Evans of Better Waverly, met this spring with Waverly Giant representatives to address concerns about the appearance and service at the store. They developed the following list of expectations, with two sets of goals. Please send your comments/feedback to Jo Ann Robinson, 3012 Abell Avenue - jooiman@msn.com.

Create a safe, clean and inviting environment for customers and local neighbors by hiring additional staff and/or security to:

Exterior

- ◆ Remove trash and debris three times a day seven days a week from the entire Giant premises
- ◆ Manage hacks by not permitting cars to line up in front of the store
- ◆ Manage customer pick up in front of the store so it coincides with directional arrow for traffic flow
- ◆ Enforce no double parking in front of the store
- ◆ Remove panhandlers from the Giant premises
- ◆ Control speeding cars/cut through traffic in the parking lot
- ◆ Enforce proper use of handicapped parking spaces

Interior

- ◆ Regularly (several times a day) clean and sanitize the restrooms
- ◆ Regularly clean the floors and store entrance
- ◆ Regularly restock carts of food/goods not purchased at checkout
- ◆ Organize cart return area so the same size/type of carts are stacked together

Create a professional, friendly and quality shopping experience for customers by:

Quality

- ◆ Regularly dispose of expired foods/goods
- ◆ Regularly restock fresh produce goods, especially during non-peak customer hours
- ◆ Label various cheese in the deli

Customer Service

- ◆ Provide regular training and staff supervision with the goal of understanding the purpose and execution of professionalism and customer service
- ◆ Monitor the number of open checkouts and the length of lines at checkouts, and if the customer's wait time is more than 5 minutes, open additional checkout stations, especially at peak times
- ◆ Provide a bell at seafood counter to prioritize service to customers
- ◆ Implement a policy that employees are not to use cell phones while assisting customers at checkout
- ◆ Provide self-scanners
- ◆ Regularly recharge mobile carts
- ◆ Implement semi-annual employee and customer service surveys

Thanks and Best Wishes

Ann Louise Stoner

Ann Louise Stoner, a stalwart resident of the 300 block of East 30th Street for the past half century, has decided it's time to move to a smaller home. Ann Louise has quite literally taken care of the block and her neighbors - sweeping sidewalks up and down the street, mowing grassy areas, tending to pets, greeting newcomers, and in all ways being a great neighbor. We wish her much happiness in her new home in Towson.

Eileen Canzian

Arlene Ogurick adds, "She was welcoming to newcomers, got to know and be there for her neighbors - helping during illness, watching out for neighbors' homes, helping with pets. Long before there was a Benefits district, Ann Louise made both sides of 30th Street near her home and the alley look top notch, clean, trimmed, mowed, swept - she took pride in her home and community and inspired others - we will really miss her."

Neighborhood Awareness

We are fortunate that someone noticed the absence of an elderly resident of the 3000 block of Abell this June when he hadn't been seen in his usual haunts for two days. He had fallen in his home, and was unable to contact emergency services.

Please be aware of your neighbors who live alone and may be frail. Ask them if there are family members who call daily. If not, organize a group of neighbors and make a roster for a daily call or visit.

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

Bonnie Bessor, President
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bbessor@gmail.com

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Vice President
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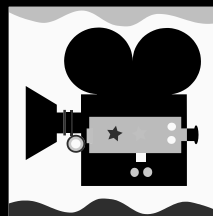
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Email list, AIA Executive
Committee and General
Membership meeting minutes
and other info:
www.abellimprovement.org

Summer Film Series



July 25	<i>Back to the Future</i>	9:00 p.m.
August 1	<i>Wadjda</i>	9:00 p.m.
August 8	<i>Hook</i>	8:30 p.m.
August 15	<i>The Lego Movie</i>	8:30 p.m.
August 22	<i>Roman Holiday</i>	8:30 p.m.
August 29	<i>The Rescuers</i>	8:00 p.m.
September 5	<i>Moonrise Kingdom</i>	8:00 p.m.

Films are shown in the Abell Open Space on Friday nights (rain date is the following Saturday) and are free to the public. *Show times are approximate.*

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.*

AIA Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 16
10:30 a.m.
29th Street Community
Center
300 W. 29th Street



Topics to be discussed
include:

Street Fair Plans

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

Deadlines for newsletter
submissions:

August 8 - **Street Fair Issue**
September 16 - **Fall Issue**
November 17 - **Holiday Issue**