



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

December 2017

Dear Neighbors,

On Monday 11/13, neighbors from the Harwood and Abell Communities enjoyed a bountiful potluck dinner and membership meeting at the 29th Street Community Center. Approximately 40 residents and 5 guests shared food and information.

Kim Wiggins (Live Baltimore) explained financial assistance for home-buyers and the new Friends of Barclay Elementary/Middle School. Johnny Macon (Neighborhood Design Center) introduced the Master Planning process for East Harwood. Tony Brown (Charles Village Benefits District) reported on crime and security efforts.

Mary Pat Clarke (City Council) asked for support for City Council Bill 17-0144, Discounted City Services & Equipment for Nonprofit Events, to RESTORE the 50% discount to groups sponsoring events promoting positive community celebrations (nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable, or religious organizations and those not required to pay any taxes), e.g., Main Street Programs, Retail Business Districts, business improvement districts, block clubs, and community, neighborhood, and homeowners associations. The bill excludes pub crawls and road races. Please spread the word about this bill, which is crucial for continued community building and raising the funds we need to do so. Contact Mary Pat for more information (MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov).

Joel Urbanowicz, AIA Treasurer, reported the financial success of the AIA Street Fair in September 2017. Teresa Pfaff gave an update on the Spruce-Up Grant for improvements to the 32nd Street Open Space; AIA will host a community meeting at the Waverly Library on Saturday, 16 December, noon-2:00, to hear from volunteer designers P.E.L.A.

Joel and I explained the proposal to install a T-Mobile telecommunication facility (8 panel antennas & 1 microwave dish with rooftop equipment) on the roof of the Telephone Apartments at the northwest corner of 31st and Guilford. This would require a zoning variance and is being opposed by near-neighbors. One usually sees these antennas atop tall buildings and church steeples; in this case they would be only one floor above the 3rd-floor bedrooms of nearby neighbors. A Board of Municipal Zoning and Appeals (BMZA) hearing has been postponed until 19 December so T-Mobile contractors can attempt to satisfy objections of AIA members and the Charles Village Land Use Committee.

Abellites were invited to run for a volunteer office (president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, member-at-large) or to be part of the Nominating Committee (to be appointed in December). AIA's annual meeting and elections will be on Saturday, 20 January, 10:30 a.m., at the Waverly Library.

Everyone is invited to share upcoming holiday gatherings. Carol around the neighborhood and then warm up with snacks on Sunday evening, 17 December. And then ring in the New Year at our annual Progressive Dinner, 31 December.

I hope to visit with you all over the holidays!

Linda Forlifer
President, Abell Improvement Association
lforlifer@gmail.com

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Abell Arrivals

Abell welcomes Mike & Jenny Nance and their daughter Junie (4½ years old), who moved to the 3000 block of Abell this year. Their new baby Jerome was born October 2. *Congratulations, Jenny and Mike!*

32nd Street Open Space Spruce-up Grant Community Meeting

Saturday, December 16 • 12-2 p.m.
Waverly Library – 400 E. 33rd St.

We've collected your ideas for our neighborhood park; now it's time to review the design ideas from P.E.L.A., the volunteer landscape architectural design firm working with AIA. Options for improvements to the Open Space park on 32nd Street will be presented by P.E.L.A designers at a community meeting on December 16. Please come help shape the future of the Open Space.

For more information, contact
Teresa Pfaff: pfaffter@gmail.com

Educator Betty Williams



Former resident of Barclay Street and distinguished educator Betty Williams died on the 29th of October at the age of 94. We mourn her passing and extend condolences to her family.

When the Abell Community celebrated its centennial in 2011, Miss Williams joined the festivities. With videographers Janet and Tim Kahoe, she shared memories of growing up on the 3100 block of Barclay Street in the 1920s and

1930s and attending “Colored School” 115. She brought several friends to the banquet in the Abell Open Space where the video was premiered, and she happily read about herself in the Charles Villager. In a note to me, she wrote, “Thank you, thank you for the DVD; it makes me feel so important to the Abell effort.” She confessed that she had “stopped in” at what was then Donna’s restaurant at 31st and St. Paul to “pilfer copies of the Charles Villager, which I sent to my New York and Virginia relatives.”

Our communities are enriched by knowing and honoring Miss Williams. Her note indicates that she welcomed the recognition. Obituaries may be found in *The Baltimore Afro American* and *The Baltimore Sun*:

<https://www.afro.com/betty-williams-retired-baltimore-educator-dies/>;
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/new/s/obituaries/bs-md-ob-betty-williams-20171106-story.html>

Jo Ann Robinson

The Astonishing Legacy of Photographer Joseph Kohl ((1957-2002))

If a single picture is “worth a thousand words,” what value might a city put on 55,000 portraits of its people, places and mores captured with empathy, humor and grace? In “Unscripted Moments” - the title of the current exhibit of more than 70 of Joseph Kohl’s photos at the Maryland Historical Society, scholars, artists, history buffs and denizens of all strata of Baltimore City now have the good fortune to explore what the *Baltimore Brew* has called this “breathtaking body of work” by the late brother of our neighbor Debbie Kohl (3100 block of Guilford Avenue). In addition to the current exhibit, which runs through April 30, the Historical Society has established a permanent collection of his work. For details visit the MHS website: <http://www.mdhs.org/>. Baltimore is deeply in the debt of the Kohl family for ensuring that Joseph’s legacy will be preserved.

Jo Ann Robinson



Elizabeth Is Moving--but Not Far!

Our long-time neighbor, Elizabeth DuVerlie, will soon be moving out of her home in the 3100 block of Abell Avenue. She came to Abell 27 years ago, in July 1990, and has been a valued, active member of the Abell Community. For the Abell Improvement Association, Elizabeth and the Membership Committee conceived of, prepared, and delivered Welcome Bags for new residents - festive bags filled with a brochure about our community; information on local restaurants, shops, and services; flyers on trash disposal and residents' responsibilities to keep the adjacent alleys, sidewalks, and gutters clean; bus schedules; and more. Elizabeth also served multiple years as an officer, including president, using her skills in community mediation and restorative justice to help us deal with contentious issues.

During her time on Abell Avenue, Elizabeth has hosted many visitors from around the world, in Baltimore for short-term postings at Hopkins' Homewood and medical campuses. We missed her presence in the early 2000s while she lived in Romania during her 2-year USAID fellowship to promote women's work in international development (School of Public Health).

In 2013, Elizabeth won Best Face Lift in the Painted Ladies contest; her contractor had removed shingles from the second-floor bay and restored it to its original appearance (with pilasters). She obtained the Historic Restoration Tax Credit for refinishing her floors before moving in and also for the complete tear-down and replacement of the old built-up roof in 2015.

Of note is Elizabeth's unique (on the west side of her block) ability to park a car in her bricked back garden. And she loves the vibrant red leaves of the maple outside her bay window!

Elizabeth's many neighborhood friends are pleased that she's moving only a few blocks north, to the Carrollton Condos (at Greenway and University Parkway). She intends to remain an active participant in AIA's many social activities.

Linda Forlifer

The Art of Joules Fallier



Bury Guns Not Our Sons: Stop the Slaughter of Our Daughters is the title of Abell resident Joules Fallier's provocative display of ceramic tiles shaped into guns and other weapons mounted on a carpet, each signifying a person killed on the streets of Baltimore in 2015. She has displayed the installation on 32nd Street between Abell and Barclay for the contemplation of shoppers on their way to and from the Farmer's Market. It was a prominent feature of the Ceasefire of November 3-5, appearing at Pennsylvania and North Avenues as well as at a Sunday night candle-lighting on Brentwood and 32nd Streets where neighbors lit candles for each of the 303 homicides occurring in the city up to that night. Among those who visited the Brentwood site were Megan and Charlie Beller and their three sons from the 3200 block of Abell Avenue. "It's good for the kids to know that their friends and neighbors are thinking about how to make the world a better place," Megan told a Baltimore Sun reporter. We thank and salute Joules, who organized the candle-lighting event, for helping to raise community awareness and encouraging us to come to grips with one of the most critical issues in our city.

Trees, Lighting and Safety

Many of the trees in our community are mature, beautiful providers of much-needed shade and cooling and of brilliant fall color. Yet when they obscure night lighting or block clear views of our sidewalks or stop signs, it puts us all at risk. AIA wants to forward information about problem limbs or shrubs to facilitate action from the city forestry department. Please help report trees or shrubs in the neighborhood that block lighting or signs: email Jo Ann Robinson, jooiman64@gmail.com.

Thursday Night Trivia

Come join the fun at
Thursday Night Trivia,
hosted by Abell residents
Andrew Northrup and
Courtney Oliver

December 14 - 7:00 p.m.
January 11 - 7:00 p.m.
Peabody Heights Brewery
401 E. 31st Street

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

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Trash & Recycling Schedule

Trash Every Tuesday
Recycling Every Thursday

DUMPSTER
December 23
Abell at E. 31st Street
Arrives around 8 a.m.

AIA Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers

Saturday, January 20, 2018 • 10:30 a.m.
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Waverly Branch
400 East 33rd Street

Persons who are interested in running for any AIA office may submit their name for nomination to Linda Forlifer (lforlifer@gmail.com) or Bonnie Bessor (bbessore@gmail.com). For details about officer roles and duties, visit <https://www.abellimprovement.org/about-us>.

Meeting agenda items include Open Space improvements, the 2018 budget, and new businesses on Greenmount Avenue. Updates will be posted in upcoming AIA notices and on message boards. If you have a discussion topic to add to the agenda, please contact Linda Forlifer (lforlifer@gmail.com).

Light refreshments will be served.

Abell Holiday Events

SEE FLYER IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

HOLIDAY CAROLING

Sunday, December 17 ♦ 6:00 p.m. ♦ Meet at 3212 Abell Avenue

Contact host Jim Anthony with questions:
janthony@towson.edu ♦ 410-243-2269

NEW YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Celebrate New Year's Eve at four homes from 7 p.m. to next year with your Abell neighbors. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/2wXquaK>

Contact Shelley Treadway if you can host a course:
sbtreadway@aol.com ♦ 410-458-4138

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

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

- ♦ January 17 - Winter Issue
- ♦ March 17 - Spring Issue