



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

August 2017

★ STREET FAIR EDITION ★

Dear Neighbors,

We're into the last month of summer and enjoying lots of outdoor time in the beautiful weather we've had recently. Many residents are working hard to plan and organize our annual Street Fair, which we'll enjoy on the 3000 and 3100 blocks of Abell Avenue on Sunday, 17 September. You'll find lots of information in this newsletter about the Children's Parade, Crab Feast, All-Day Live Music, Stoop Sales, Bake Sale, Silent Auction, and how you can help out on the day of the Fair.

In the coming months, our community will be brainstorming ideas about improvements to our Open Space on 32nd Street. We can begin the discussion on Saturday, 26 August, at our General Membership meeting (Waverly Library Meeting Room, beginning at 10:30 a.m.). Teresa Pfaff plans to host a table at the Street Fair for community input on possible changes to the Open Space. In a small space with many users, we want to allow as much flexibility as we can. During the 8/26 meeting we can also discuss the possibility of using bike-friendly speed humps (as on Guilford Avenue south of 28th) to slow the speeders now endangering pedestrians on Barclay and 31st streets.

News from the wider community: Susanne Riveles (3200 block Abell) is now president of the board of the Charles Village Community Benefits District. The new vice president is Dave Stahl, owner of Pete's Grille on 32nd Street at Greenmount. The northeast quadrant has some new power on the CVCBD Management Authority!

At the Partners Meeting of the Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP) on 9 August, the past year's achievements and priorities for Fiscal Year 2018 were discussed by the approximately thirty attendees. Local schoolchildren worked this past spring to design Station North Mini-Golf, which is now open Thursdays and Fridays 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays noon-9:00 p.m. Enjoy a game of Putt-Putt at the corner of Lafayette and Charles! Emilie Drasher, director of Waverly Main Street, highlighted the many facade improvements and murals funded and facilitated by Main Street: Main Street Hats, Rite Aid, Peabody Heights Brewery, Mondo Deco, The Book Thing, Herman's Discount, Normal's, Waverly Crabs, and more! And our neighborhood now hosts Full Circle Auto Repair & Training Center, 3419 Greenmount, training individuals with criminal backgrounds to be auto mechanics. In two years Full Circle has placed >45 graduates in full-time positions locally.

I hope to see you all at the Membership Meeting on 8/26 or at the Street Fair on 9/17.

Linda Forlifer
President, AIA

www.abellimprovement.org

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Abell Street Fair



Children's Parade



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PARKING REMINDER - Between 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17, all vehicles must be removed from:

- ♦ Abell Avenue, 3000 & 3100 blocks
- ♦ E. 31st Street between the Barclay Street alley and the eastern (nearer to Abell Ave.) Open Space alley
- ♦ E. 32nd Street between the Barclay Street alley and the western (nearer to Guilford Ave) Open Space alley

Any vehicle left in these locations will be ticketed and cannot be moved once the fair is under way. Free parking is available in the municipal lot on the northeast corner of Barclay and 32nd Street.

The Baltimore Greenway Plan: A Neighbor's Comment--and a Reply

Abell resident Noah Bers, in an e-mail to AIA officers, commented on AIA President Linda Forlifer's June newsletter article about the proposed routing of part of the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network along 33rd Street. Noah observed that the article contained "no mention of the benefits [of the trail] to the community" and offered the following points (*see also Linda's replies below to the asterisked points*):

- Linda's article claims that the bikeway would require the closure of "eight intersections to left turns and north-south traffic," but no traffic study has been completed, and nowhere has it been reported that intersections need to be closed completely to north-south traffic.*
- Linda writes, "Perhaps it would be possible to safeguard tree roots by using permeable paving suspended above the soil surface, but no hard evidence has been provided to support this claim or to show that such a surface has been used anywhere." In fact, such techniques have been successfully used at the Indianapolis Cultural Trail.*
- Linda claims that the trail will result in loss of garden space in the 33rd Street median. These garden areas can and should be incorporated on each side of the trail. But is protecting a handful of shrubs (many non-native, none threatened) a reason to resist improvements that protect human lives?
- Although Linda says that about 100 trees will be eliminated, she does not mention that the hope is to replace many of these with a strain of blight-resistant elm*--the tree specified in the Olmsted's design and originally planted there. Some of the existing trees are diseased and dead and must be removed anyway.
- Linda mentions the potential loss of neighborhood signs, but these can be moved and replaced. The sign at the entry to the Waverly neighborhood has already fallen into disrepair and is only half there.
- Linda also expresses concern about the loss of the brick plaza and historical event marker at 33rd and Greenmount. It is not clear why those could not be incorporated into any bike plan.
- Linda notes that no plan has been offered for maintenance of the trail. But is a separate plan needed? Will not the trail be maintained in the same way as the rest of the city's transportation and trail infrastructure?

Noah also recommended, as background for further discussion, an article by Bikemore Director Liz Cornish at www.bikemore.net/news/ and a summary provided by City Council member Mary Pat Clarke's office of answers to questions about the proposal asked at a May 24 meeting, available at docs.google.com/document/d/16cbNwILDSvSG0H56HrcfZLrsHsWzouzqg473eHUGAVY/edit

Noah wrote further, "Abell is a neighborhood full of bicycle and foot commuters. For many of us, it's our primary transportation, and we are as deserving as any other neighbor to go about our lives and return home to our families." He pointed out that in just the preceding two weeks, two Baltimore cyclists had been killed in collisions with motorists.

Linda Forlifer replies to three of Noah's points as follows:

- At a March 6 meeting at the Waverly Library, Linda, neighbor Jo Ann Robinson, and others saw maps of the planned route prepared by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Contrary to Noah's first point, these maps clearly showed that no fewer than eight intersections would be closed to north-south traffic.
- The website of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail (indyculturaltrail.org) makes no mention of a "floating trail," that is, a trail with permeable paving suspended above the ground. And a staff member for the trail organization, in a phone conversation with Linda, said he had not heard of such construction in his three years with the group.
- The 100 trees to be removed cannot be replaced because they are in the center of the median, where the proposed trail would run.

It is the editor's understanding that the discussion in the previous newsletter was based on notes and reports from individuals who attended the several public meetings on the topic of the bike trail. Having reviewed that discussion and Mr. Bers's response, we offer the following concluding observations:

- The agencies responsible for transportation, forestry and historic preservation will make the final determination based on research and public comment. We encourage readers to weigh the perspectives in the previous article and Mr. Bers's letter and let their own views be known to the city agencies.
- Whatever our various perspectives, the Abell Community cares about the safety of all commuters and deems the recent deaths of cyclists to be unacceptable.
- It is generally understood that advocates for a trail in the medians are no more haters of trees than are opponents of the trail universally opposed to cyclists. (*continued on p.3*)

The Baltimore Greenway Plan –
cont'd. from p. 2

- The medians run through several different communities, the needs and concerns of which are all deserving of consideration and respect.

Neighbors wishing to participate in further dialogue on the proposed bike trail are encouraged to participate in online community forums and future community meetings devoted to the topic. As a matter of editorial policy, this newsletter seeks to inform its readers about community issues without taking sides and will continue to observe that policy.

Abell Welcomes Baby Bernie

Bernard Matthew White was born at 12:03 a.m. on June 1, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. New mother Ariela Berlin is returning with Bernie to Barclay Street to live with Grandmother Judy Berlin. Judy says the handsome fellow looks like Ariela. Congratulations to Ariela & proud grandmother Judy Berlin and step-grandmother Connie Whiting!

Contractor Recommendation

From Jo Ann Robinson
Elise Victoria -
evlandscaper@gmail.com, 443-691-6002 - recently used her considerable talents to work a bit of magic on what has always been a troublesome corner of my back yard. She cleared debris, installed a stepping stone path, trimmed a big old Jack Pine, top-coated the depleted soil, put in blooming, native perennials, and created a "swell" with river stone to control water flow. Her company is 2nd Nature Design and Landscaping. She is a neighbor, with an office in the 3600 block of Greenmount Avenue. She is professional, reliable and committed to her art. I enthusiastically recommend her.

Best Wishes to Jan and Gil French

Jan and Gil French, generous, gracious neighbors who resided in the 2900 block of Guilford Avenue since the 1950s, recently moved to Roland Park Place. We are not saying Goodbye to them, since they are just a short hop away, and we expect to be saying Hello to them frequently at the Farmer's Market and other community happenings. However, their change of address is a good excuse for telling them how highly we value their contributions to Abell and Charles Village.

Both are pillars of the Charles Village Civic Association, with Gil being one of its first presidents and Jan involved in numerous ways, including publication of the CV Cookbooks. To them the Village Learning Place, and especially the Grace Darin Lecture Series, owe a great deal. They have been a supportive presence at many an AIA event. Indeed, Bake Sale Chair Susan Riveles reports that Jan's amazingly delicious black bottom cupcakes are THE biggest draw at the Abell Street Fair every year. Jan's culinary gifts were also on display at their famous February parties. Gil drew on his wit, humor and penchant for versifying to compose some remarkable invitations to those affairs.

As teachers – Gil demystifying the rigors of Math at City College High School and Jan teaching Kindergarten at Barclay Elementary School – they have touched many generations of young lives. Ellie (Robinson) Mitchell recalls how "Mrs. French created the kind of classroom where every child wanted to please their teacher because we all loved her so much and we knew she loved us in return. We had lots of fun while learning left from right, letters, numbers and perhaps more importantly how to be a good friend and a nice person." Jan and Gil modeled these qualities for all of us. We thank them, look forward to seeing them often, and wish them all the best.

Jo Ann Robinson

Passing of Alfred Chase

Family and friends gathered at Peabody Heights Brewery on July 29 to toast Al Chase, 27 year partner of Connie Whiting and resident of Vineyard Lane. "Chase" passed away on July 25 at age 70. He and Connie had a small lead inspections business. Chase was also a lead abatement contractor, but people came to him for help or advice on everything from hanging sashed windows in an old house, or changing a carburetor, to advice for the lovelorn. His calm and friendly demeanor made him easy to talk to. Chase was the father of two, Aaron Chase and Ariela Berlin, and 'stepfather' to Aaron's siblings Kelly and Kenneth, and Connie's children Jeremiah, Forest, Julia and Zoe. The biggest joys of his life were his grandchildren; whether by blood or not, he loved them enormously. He was blessed to have met the most recent addition, Ariela's baby boy, born just 7 weeks before his death. He was a great animal lover. He was most often seen about the neighborhood, walking with Connie, or granddaughter Sofia and their two dogs, or more recently lunching in front of Eddies or reading on the front porch.

Chase was in a nearly fatal auto accident in 1984 and told he'd never walk again. In 2006 he was diagnosed with a cancer with a two year life expectancy. After exhausting clinical trial options at UMH, he continued at Hopkins. These treatments, though difficult, bought him many years, even allowing him to work for most of that time. The results he got were unusual. One might attribute part of the success to his positive and easygoing nature. He will be missed.

Twefie Millspaugh and Connie Whiting

2017 Abell Community Street Fair - Sunday, September 17, Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Children's Parade and Activities

The Street Fair opens with the Children's Parade. The theme this year is "Around the World and Back to Abell. There's No Place Like Home." All children are invited to participate and wave the flag of their choice. As always, the kids will make their own costumes and floats with guidance by Carol Serksnis and other adults who help with the creative process. After the Parade there will be various children's activities: games, crafts and art, all needing adult supervision. If you would like to join Carol and other parents in this rewarding aspect of the Street Fair experience, contact her at carol_serksnis@yahoo.com, phone 443-629-8004.

Bake a Treat for the Bake Sale

Since 1973, baked goods fresh from the Abell community's kitchens have been sold at the Street Fair. To continue this delicious tradition, please sign up to contribute your favorite cookies, pastries, cupcakes or cakes to the 2017 Abell Bake Sale. (No store-bought goods, please.) To contribute, please contact Susanne Riveles: susanne.riveles@gmail.com or phone: 410-467-2721.

Silent Auction – Abell's Biggest Fund Raiser

The Silent Auction Challenge is to collect items that bidders will want because they are unique, stunning, valuable, useful, or just plain fun. Please help us by searching among your own treasures for something to contribute, or asking for a donation from a merchant, artist or service provider whose work you value. The Silent Auction is a major source of AIA's yearly fundraising. If you would like to donate, please contact the Silent Auction chair Jennifer Harbold at joharbold@yahoo.com.

Street Fair Vendors Wanted
For-profit and non-profit vendors who would like to have a presence at the Fair to sell goods or distribute literature for a given institution or program, please contact Gretchen Gettes at ggettes@yahoo.com.

Street Fair Stoop Sales

Free space on Abell Avenue is available for any resident of the Abell community to have a stoop sale during the Fair. Use your own stoop, set up your own table, or rent a 6' table plus two chairs for \$10.00. **To register for the stoop sale**, please contact Gretchen Gettes – ggettes@yahoo.com.

Support Abell Community Street Fair Musicians

The joy and pleasure that live musicians bring to the Abell Street Fair cannot be measured. But the performers can be rewarded. To show appreciation and help support the wonderful performers who play at the Fair, please donate to, and share this link for the 2017 Abell Street Fair Fun Fan Fund: gofundme.com/2017abellstreetfair

Donating and sharing this link in your social media will make a real impact on our ability to continue to provide top quality musical acts at the Abell Street Fair in the future!

We are thrilled to announce the following performers for this year:

Sac Au Lait
Other Colors
Manners Manners
Swing N Samba
Nina Gala
Frontier Dentists

Charles Street Fiddlers
Hexgirlfriends
DJ Mills
Derrick Michaels
Amber Twait



AIA 2017 STREET FAIR CRAB FEAST PRE-ORDER FORM

Sunday, September 17, 2017 ■ 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.



Number of orders for 3 crabs: _____ x **\$ 7.50** = _____ (\$10 day of fair)
No. of orders of 12 crabs: _____ x **\$25.00** = _____ (\$27.50 day of fair)
No. of all-you-can-eat orders: _____ x **\$35.00** = _____ (\$40 day of fair)

**Pay in advance
September 9-16**

Payment Total Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Address _____ **phone or email** _____

Pre-order payments will be accepted September 9 – 16

Please return with cash or check made out to **Abell Improvement Association** and deliver to
Jo Ann Robinson - 3012 Abell Avenue

2017 Abell Community Street Fair Volunteering

Every aspect of the Abell Community Street Fair depends upon volunteer labor. This includes the Street Fair Planning Committee that has been meeting since May, and it will include everyone who responds to the call for baked goods, silent auction donations and taking auction bids, help with kids' activities, serving of food and drink, and setting up and taking down the Fair infrastructure. Please check the options summarized on this page and page 4, and identify the way that you would like to help. Then contact the person named for the activity you have chosen on page 4, and/or to donate an hour or two of your time on the day of the Fair, contact volunteer coordinator Andrew Northrup – atnorthrup@yahoo.com. There is no better way to get to know more of your neighbors and to support this great tradition of the Abell Street Fair. All the profits will go back to the community as support for programs for children.

BEFORE THE FAIR:

Arts and craft supplies are needed for making hats, costumes and floats for the **Children's Parade** and other **children's activities**. Contact **Carol Serksnis** (carol_serksnis@yahoo.com, 443-629-8004) to donate.

We need two people to flyer cars two days before and on the morning of the Fair reminding neighbors to move their cars in the 3000 and 3100 blocks. Contact Andrew Northrup at atnorthrup@yahoo.com if you can help distribute flyers.

DAY OF THE FAIR:

Set up & clean up: Early in the day, we need a team to distribute tables, erect canopies, and wrestle the stage pieces into place. Late in the day, we need folks to strike the same and clean up the fairgrounds. Please contact Andrew Northrup at atnorthrup@yahoo.com if you can serve in this capacity.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Andrew Northrup, atnorthrup@yahoo.com, to serve at the fair in one of the roles below.



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ = no parking 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

STREET FAIR VOLUNTEERS - How, When and Where Would You Like to Help?

	Music	Crab Feast	Bake Sale	Beer & Wine Sales	Membership Table	Silent Auction	Children's Activities
8:00	Assemble Stage		Distribute tables & chairs; assemble tents, canopies for all activities, hang banners, block streets, etc.				
11:00		Set up tables & chairs, drink station	Accept donations; Make coffee	Set up tables, cups	Set up table, shirt display	Set up display	Parade Marshals/ Crossing Guards
12:00	Manage stage	Manage Crab Feast	Manage sales	Manage sales	Manage sales	Accept bids	Parade - kids & parents to be in parade, activity host
1:00							Children's activity host
2:00	Manage stage	Manage Crab Feast	Manage sales	Manage sales	Manage sales	Accept bids	Children's activity host
3:00							Children's activity host
4:00	Manage stage		Manage sales & clean up	Manage sales	Manage sales	Distribute winnings	
5:00	Strike stage	Clean up	Clean up	Break down	Break down	Break down	
6:00		Finish clean up; stack tables and chairs; consolidate trash					

Please visit the
Abell Community Street Fair Facebook Event Page: goo.gl/RG84fp

- Bulletin Board -

AIA Quarterly Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 26
10:30 a.m.

Discussion topics will include:

- ♦ Improvements to the 32nd St. Open Space
- ♦ Pros & cons of speed humps for Barclay, 31st Street

**Waverly Branch
Enoch Pratt Free Library
400 E. 33rd Street**

Abell Neighborhood Walks

When: Aug. 29, Sep. 26

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Leave from the Abell Open Space

Who: Neighbors, Benefits District Security and Northern District Police

Why: For a pro-active, safe, informed community

Gather after the walk on a neighbor's porch for refreshments and sharing of neighborhood news. Location TBA at the walk.



Thursday Night Trivia

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

September 14 - 7:00 p.m.

Peabody Heights Brewery
401 E. 31st Street
It's always fun!

New Member Social and Chili Cook-off Sunday, October 8 ♦ 5:00 p.m.

Abell Open Space at 32nd St. between Abell & Guilford

All residents of Abell are welcome

★ Come meet your new neighbors and enjoy a bowl of chili

★ Enter your chili for a chance at winning a prize

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.