



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

June 2017

Dear Neighbors,

Happy Summer!! (once the cool, rainy days stop - they will, right?) Hope you're all gearing up to enjoy the Charles Village Festival (June 3-4), including the Garden Walk through our neighborhood on Sunday afternoon (June 4). People from all over will be strolling through our alleys and streets to visit backyard gardens; some extra litter cleanup beforehand would be welcoming.

If you've had problems parking due to the water main replacement, please know that I have negotiated free parking on the Municipal Lot at 32nd Street and Barclay (Farmers Market lot) for AIA residents displaying the Area 12 decal or visitor permit. The Municipal Lot has about one hundred spaces and is available to us 24/7 except during Farmers Market hours on Saturday mornings. Thanks to Maureen Daly (Barclay Street), who suggested that AIA should pursue this possibility. This accommodation will continue until the water main construction is finished. Many thanks to John Genda, manager of the city's Off-Street Parking department, for his helpful understanding of our situation. Mary Pat Clarke, our councilwoman, and Emilie Drasher, Waverly Main Street, facilitated our meeting. Thank you to all.

At a meeting of the Safety Committee, it was suggested that folks who are available weekdays could organize daytime neighborhood walks to supplement our on-going evening Safety Walks (last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.). More eyes on our homes, backyards, and alleys during the day might help to lessen break-ins and mischief. Anyone who would like to participate in a daytime neighborhood walk, please contact me (lforlifer@gmail.com, 410-243-1287) or Jo Ann Robinson (jooiman64@gmail.com, 410-338-1552). We will arrange dates/times to suit participants.

Our fund-raiser and raffle at Peabody Heights Brewery was wonderfully successful, raising much-needed cash to help pay for our Summer Film Series (~\$900 license fee), Street Fair up-front costs, and donations to Barclay School teachers and the summer Peace Camp at the 29th Street Community Center. The folks at the brewery, good partners to our neighborhood, donated space and part of the bar tab. Bonnie Bessor (31st Street) worked hard to organize the event, Anita Rubarth-Lay (Abell Avenue) solicited many wonderful raffle prizes from local businesses, and many members of your AIA Executive Committee volunteered to help the event run smoothly. We're grateful for your generosity and hope you had a rousing good time!

Do let me hear from you if you have suggestions or problems we could address together.

Linda Forlifer

President, Abell Improvement Association

lforlifer@gmail.com

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Street Fair is September 17!

Dear Neighbors,

Don't forget to put the Abell Community Street Fair on your calendars. This year, the fair is on Sunday, September 17, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is our neighborhood's biggest and best event of the year. Annual traditions of the fair will continue including the children's parade, live music, free books, local art, a bake sale, silent auction, t-shirts, and crab feast. As always, plentiful food and drink will be available.

On the day of the fair, there will be no parking on Abell Avenue along the 3000 and 3100 blocks and on 31st and 32nd street on either side of Abell Ave up to the alleys.

Please consider volunteering for an hour on the day of the fair and/or contributing an item for the silent auction. To do so, please contact the committee members below:

Volunteer- Summer Claypoole
(summerclaypoole@gmail.com)

Donate silent auction items - Jenny Harbold
(joharbold@yahoo.com)

NEW THIS YEAR! We are offering space for artists in our neighborhood to exhibit some of their work at the fair! If you are interested in helping with this endeavor or are an artist who would like to contribute a piece, please contact Jackson at jgilmanforlini@gmail.com

On behalf of the Street Fair Committee, we are looking forward to a great day in Abell. Stay tuned.

Jackson Gilman-Forlini, Co-Chair
Drew Northrup, Co-Chair

Rebekah Geller Wins International "My Family Story" Competition



Photo by Daniel Kucin Jr.

Rebekah Geller, age 12, of the 3100 block of Abell, has won an international Jewish art contest in the 22nd annual "My Family Story" competition, an educational initiative that aims to increase students' knowledge of their family's roots and to strengthen their connection to the history of the Jewish people. The competition, open to Jewish students ages 12-15 from around the world, is overseen by Beit Hatfutsot - The Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv. Her piece, titled "Music Tells the Stories," was one of 50 winning entries out of 20,000 entries from 28 countries. Rebekah will receive a free trip to Israel in June.

Rebekah's piece comprises a papier-mâché and cardboard violin mounted on sheet music used at her family's Organic Family Band klezmer performances. She incorporated family photos, written passages, and sculpted figures of family and band members in the piece. Ilene Dackman-Alon, the museum's director of education, says, "Music is such an integral part of Rebekah and her family, and I think she did a fabulous job showcasing that in her project. It is such a delightful expression of her family's special talent and uniqueness."

Rebekah performs regularly with her family's band. She is also a member of a string quartet that meets on Abell Avenue, and the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestra. Rebekah and her brother Jacob have performed at the Waverly farmer's market, too. It is a real treat to happen upon them playing from their front porch on Abell on sunny days.

Congratulations, Rebekah, from your Abell neighbors!

Please see the [JMore Magazine article](https://www.jmoreliving.com/2017/05/11/baltimore-youngster-wins-international-jewish-art-contest/) for more on Rebekah and her award at <https://www.jmoreliving.com/2017/05/11/baltimore-youngster-wins-international-jewish-art-contest/>

Best Wishes to Steve & Janet

Steve Gewirtz (who has resided in the 3000 block of Guilford Avenue since 1970) and Janet Wright are moving to Silver Spring to be near family. We have collected for them these memories and good wishes from:

THE ABELL COMMUNITY

Since 1970 Steve has been at the heart of many activities in this community, including civil rights and the movement to end the war in Vietnam. He was a much loved and respected math professor at Morgan State University and raised two wonderful children, Allan and Andrea, in Abell/Charles Village. For the neighborhood Steve has been a fantastic information resource. "Ask Steve" is the common refrain when one is in doubt about a fact, event or official position. He is encyclopedic, and if he didn't know he always went the extra mile to find out.

Steve's wife, Janet, moved here almost 10 years ago and since then we have enjoyed her good cheer and kindness, the gardens she created with spectacular lantanas and soothing hydrangeas, and her adventurous daughter, Alicia, who is currently serving the Peace Corps in Zambia.

Twefie Millspaugh, Karen Olson, Didon Pachner, Jo Ann Robinson

THE BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

When we all decided we needed a Court Watch program in the 14th District I did what we all do, "Asked Steve." He went on to establish the template, reporting system and update schedule for all such court watches that now exist. He attended the hearings of importance, let us know their dates/locations and was there to help us get oriented to court procedures. Steve's contributions were so important: a SUN reporter once told me that Steve was the best court reporter in Baltimore!

The Honorable Mary Pat Clarke, 14th District Baltimore City Council

THE CHARLES VILLAGE BENEFITS DISTRICT

It is no secret that Steve Gewirtz and I have been at odds from time to time over the past ten years. Nevertheless, I am the first to admit that he made some worthwhile suggestions that helped us improve our services. Furthermore, he has been a valuable member of the Safety Advisory Council and did an excellent job with the Court Watch.

David T. Hill, Executive Director, CVCBD

I am sad to see Steve leaving this community. I have always looked up to and relied on him to help, mentor and lead in our Court Watch Program. This program is recognized throughout our city. I knew if I had a question or needed help in monitoring a certain case Steve would step up for us on short notice. He was never a man that would suppress his opinion and always would voice his thoughts. I truly respect his character, intelligence, and refinement. Stephen, I am going to miss all your help and assistance. Don't ever change.

Tony Brown, Director of Safety Services

ONE AND ALL

You will both be greatly missed. We wish you well in the next phase of your lives. Best of Luck. Godspeed.

Abell Improvement Association Awarded HCPI Spruce-Up Grant to Improve 32nd Street Open Space

In May the AIA was awarded an HCPI Spruce-Up grant of \$16,740 after submitting a successful application for an AIA Creative Placemaking and Crosswalk Project proposal. Thank you to everyone who contributed your thoughts and feedback by taking the neighborhood survey online. With the 70 responses we received, the AIA submitted a proposal to work with the Baltimore Neighborhood Design Institute to incorporate artwork and refresh the Open Space pocket park on 32nd Street. Stay tuned for further details as we start to hold community meetings on next steps. If you would like to be involved please follow the AIA website - www.abellimprovement.org - and contact us here:

<http://www.abellimprovement.org/contact-us>

Thursday Trivia Nights

See how you stack up against your friends and neighbors in *Thursday Night Trivia*, hosted by Abell residents Andrew Northrup and Courtney McManus

June 8 - 7:00 p.m.

July 13 - 7:00 p.m.

Peabody Heights Brewing
401 E. 30th Street

★ Golly, it's fun! ★

Like *Thursday Night Trivia* on
Facebook to get reminders

AIA Happy Hour Fundraiser

Many thanks to all the friends and neighbors who came out to Peabody Heights Brewery, LLC on May 19 to drink good beer and support the Abell Improvement Association. We raised over \$1,900, exceeding our goal. A fun time was had by all. Thanks to MOM's Organic Market - Hampden, Baltimore, Howl, Local Color Flowers, Bird in Hand Charles Village, PekoPeko Ramen, Sam's Canterbury Cafe, CorePower Yoga, B.Willow, Peabody Heights Brewery, R. House, CinéBistro at The Rotunda, Race Pace Bicycles, Jo Ann Robinson, Shelley and Michael Treadway, Courtney McManus, Ryan Oliver, Free Range Pottery, Danielle Scott, Teresa Pfaff, and Joel Urbanowicz for donating gift cards and raffle items. The addition of the Simple Sands Food Truck rounded out the night. Thanks to all who wrote generous checks and bought raffle tickets and beer. We also signed up some new AIA members that night. Proceeds from the event will benefit the programs we provide in the community, including grants to teachers at the Barclay School and our Summer Film Series. It was a success!!!!

Bonnie Bessor



Barclay Game Changers Youth Documentary Night

Barclay Elementary/Middle School is pleased to present a series of **short films created by our students** through the Chanel Me Media course. We cordially invite you to come join them for the screenings and a panel discussion at the Waverly Enoch Pratt Library, 400 E. 33rd Street, on Tuesday, June 6 at 5 p.m. Students have worked extremely hard on their projects and will be leading the panel discussion along with other guests. Admission is free.

Time Banking in Abell

AIA is a member of LetsBMore, the Baltimore Time Bank. A time bank is a group of people and organizations who agree to give and receive services measured in hours rather than dollars. You earn hours (time credits) by helping another member. You can save time credits and redeem them later for help from another member. A time bank builds community and fosters a sharing economy that extends the traditional monetary economy.

In February, LetsBMore members earned time credits for helping a friend move. In March, they earned credits for writing letters to their legislators as part of the Abell Community Resistance. Some of the services being offered include gardening, tax preparation, moving, driving, and chemistry tutoring.

Please sign up at the website <http://letsbmore.org>. You can ask for services you need and offer services that you like to do. You are welcome to borrow time credits and pay them back later.

Gertrude S. Williams Speaker Series Juneteenth Lecture June 19, 7 p.m.

Of all Emancipation Day observances, Juneteenth falls closest to the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year when the sun, at its zenith, defies the darkness in every state, including those once overshadowed by slavery. (Henry Louis Gates)

The next event in the Gertrude S. Williams Speaker Series falls on JUNETEENTH, the celebration of freedom that dates to June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, when the enslaved population there first learned that Abraham Lincoln (who had since been assassinated) had published the Emancipation Proclamation two and a half years earlier. In honor of this historic moment, Dr. Takkara Brunson, a member of the History faculty at Morgan State University, will discuss The Meaning of Juneteenth in Baltimore. She will deliver an illustrated lecture on the origins and evolution of Juneteenth and its relevance in our city today. Please join us in reflecting on and learning more about this Emancipation Day observance, which, in the words of historian Gates, recognizes “the last place in the South that freedom touched.”

**MONDAY, JUNE 19
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Doors open at 6:30
29th Street Community Center,
300 E. 29th Street

Please RSVP @
www.strongcitybaltimore.org/events/
or 443.213.0394

Proposal for Bike Lanes from Wyman Park (JHU) to Herring Run Park (Lake Montebello)

Since March public meetings about a proposed **walking/biking trail** in the **center of the grass medians** along East 33rd Street have generated much controversy, as residents have tried to understand the implications and the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network has advocated that the "world class urban trail network" for Baltimore City must include the 33rd Street medians, rather than any alternative routes.

Composed of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Bikemore, and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network is asking for input on its proposals to create a trail for walking and biking down the center of the East 33rd Street grass medians from Hillen Road to North Charles Street OR to create a two-way bike lane along only the north side of 33rd Street (in the current parking lane).

Many residents on or near E. 33rd are concerned that the proposal to build a bike lane in the median will result in the loss of green space and of trees on the historic Olmsted parkway, which is on the Baltimore City Landmark List.

City Forester Erik Dihle confirmed that digging into the median or compacting the soil by using heavy equipment will kill the trees lining the median; the feeding roots of trees are within the top 6 inches of the soil and extend across the width of the median. Cutting feeding roots or lessening the soil's aeration and drainage will damage the trees. 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.

Other complicating issues of the center-median bike lane plan:

- requirement to close eight intersections to left turns and north-south traffic
- loss of gardens (west of Calvert St., in 200 block E 33rd) and shrub plantings (around Loch Raven Rd.)
- elimination of about 100 trees currently in the center of the medians
- loss of neighborhood signs (Waverly Historic District, Waverly Village)
- loss of brick plazas around Greenmount Avenue (including historic event marker)
- necessity to move infrastructure (light poles, manhole covers, conduits) currently in the median
- lack of a plan for maintenance of a median trail
- lack of conversation with residents about other routes from Wyman Park to Lake Montebello, routes that would avoid the high bus and motor-vehicle traffic of 33rd Street. CHUM has already proposed a route; another possible route would be 32nd/Homestead east to Etherslie north to Stadium Place east to Lakeside, connecting the park-like area of Stadium Place to the other nearby parks and to the 32nd Street Open Space.

More information can be found and comments and questions can be directed to:

- Friends of 33rd St. Green Space: [facebook.com/Friends-of-E-33rd-St-Green-Space-1649806641995888](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-E-33rd-St-Green-Space-1649806641995888)
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy: railstotrails.org/baltimore
- Erik Dihle, City Arborist, Forestry: erik.dihle@baltimorecity.gov
- Bill Vondrasek, Director, Recreation & Parks: william.vondrasek@baltimorecity.gov
- Eric Holcomb, Commission for Historic & Architectural Preservation: eric.holcomb@baltimorecity.gov
- Matthew DeSantis, Dept of Planning: matthew.desantis@baltimorecity.gov
- Frank Murphy, Director, Dept of Transportation: frank.murphy@baltimorecity.gov
- Mary Pat Clarke, 14th District Councilwoman: marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov

Abell Neighborhood Walks

When: June 27, July 25 - last Tuesday of every month

Where: Leave from the Abell Open Space

Who: Neighbors, Benefits District Security and Baltimore Northern District Police

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

Time: 7:30 p.m.

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

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**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.

DUMPSTER DATE:

Saturday, June 10
31st Street at Abell

Abell Summer Film Series

June 16 *Kubo and the Two Strings* 8:30 p.m.

A young boy named Kubo must locate a magical suit of armor worn by his late father in order to defeat a vengeful spirit from the past.

June 23 *The Goonies* 8:30 p.m.

In order to save their home from foreclosure, a group of misfits set out to find a pirate's ancient valuable treasure.

June 30 *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* 8:30 p.m.

A national manhunt is ordered for a rebellious kid and his foster uncle who go missing in the wild New Zealand bush.

July 7 *Pan* 8:30 p.m.

12-year-old orphan Peter is spirited away to the magical world of Neverland, where he finds both fun and danger, and ultimately discovers his destiny -- to become the hero who will be forever known as Peter Pan.

July 14 *The Iron Giant* 8:30 p.m.

A young boy befriends a giant robot from outer space that a paranoid government agent wants to destroy.

July 21 *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* 8:30 p.m.

An introvert freshman is taken under the wings of two seniors who welcome him to the real world.

July 28 *Stardust* 8:30 p.m.

In a countryside town bordering on a magical land, a young man makes a promise to his beloved that he'll retrieve a fallen star by venturing into the magical realm.

Films are shown in the Abell Open Space on 32nd Street between Abell & Guilford on Friday nights (rain date is the following Saturday) and are free to the public. BYO chair or blanket & bug repellent. *Show times are approximate.*

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

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

- ◆ July 17 Street Fair Issue
- ◆ September 17 Fall Issue
- ◆ November 17 Holiday Issue

If you can volunteer to deliver newsletters, please contact sbtreadway@aol.com.