



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

Spring 2023

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President's Letter

Dear Abell Street Neighbors,

May I say, our street is a joy to behold with its best floral finery, lovely springtime perfumes, and evidence of the pride we have for our street and community! As I walk along admiring our gardens, diverse colors, and see the Open Space filled with children having fun exploring and enjoying their childhoods in a place we gave much thought and loving care to, I'm filled with gratitude. We are lucky to live here.

The gratitude I feel is for the contributions many people have made to create and maintain our community. Our community events and celebrations are a big part of that. Our traditional community picnic is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. (AIA will grill burgers and hotdogs, and we ask picnic attendees to bring a side dish, dessert or beverage.) In June, we'll be putting our imaginations on display with Porch Prom, and in September, we will celebrate a very special fundraising event, our 50th Abell Street Fair!

Most of the things we do can't be done without funds raised at the Fair, and of course, paying annual dues to be a member of Abell Improvement Association. We thank all our members, and we welcome new members. (Please join! We need your dues, but more than that, we need your support and thoughtful contributions.)

If you see me (silvery short hair, glasses, plump) walking along with my 14-year-old boxer mix, Minnie, please don't hesitate to stop and chat. We love meeting neighbors.

Anita Rubarth-Lay
3233 Abell Ave
512-350-0004
anitarl02@gmail.com

AIA Officers Needed!

Consider volunteering for one of the AIA's committees. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and learn more about what's going on in the neighborhood.

Right now, the neighborhood is especially in need of filling two open vacancies:

Open Space Chair - The open space, aka "pocket park" or "green space," is our neighborhood's cherished gathering space and play area with the incredible mural. The AIA is searching for someone to help look after the area.

Charles Village Community Benefits District (CVCBD)

Representative - Beginning July 1, the AIA will need someone to serve as its representative to the CVCBD. This is an excellent opportunity to support our neighborhood and get involved in the broader community.

Anyone interested in these positions should contact the AIA's President, Anita Rubarth-Lay (anitarl02@gmail.com).

New Neighbor Call-Out

Are you new to Abell? If you're receiving this newsletter and moved to the neighborhood recently, get in touch! Email Ian Mahoney at mahoney.iant@gmail.com

Have you explored **Abell's website**? We have information about upcoming events, neighborhood resources, and also galleries from recent community gatherings, to name a few. Check it out! www.abellimprovement.org

Remembering Charles Hughes

Sad news to share. Charles Hughes, a longtime resident of the 3000 block of Abell, passed away this past March. Neighbors may recall Charles' lively Christmas parties or his readiness to help with home repair jobs around the neighborhood. Charles was avid about Baltimore's street cars and helped to found the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. He was also among the group that helped to start the Baltimore Gay Alliance in 1975 and the Gay Community Center in 1977, the latter of which became what is now the Pride Center of Maryland. You can read more about Charles' amazing life in the Baltimore Sun's obituary published March 14, 2023: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/obituaries/bs-md-ob-carl-hughes-20230314-bev56lq5mndovbezwm33pjzq2q-story.html> or the obituary appearing in *Baltimore Outloud*.

Editor's Note: Baltimore Outloud link not available as of the time this newsletter went to print.

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends donations to the Baltimore Streetcar Museum.

Memorial Weekend Picnic – Sunday, May 28

Mark your calendar for our traditional **Memorial Weekend Picnic** on Sunday, May 28, beginning at 5 p.m. The AIA grilling team will be there to serve up hot dogs and burgers (meat and vegetarian). Bring a beverage, side dish or dessert to share with your neighbors.

Note: Rain date is Monday, May 29

Growing Greenmount Contest

If you're a local entrepreneur, you may want to check out the "Root to Success" contest. The prizes are retail space in the Waverly Gateway Building (3011-3017 Greenmount Avenue) or office space across the street, rent free for a year. Act soon! The deadline to apply is May 12. More information can be found at <https://growinggreenmount.org/>

Spring Cleaning Reminder

Summertime is coming, and with summer comes extra rainy weather. Now is the time to prepare your yard and alley for all that water! Sweep up leaves and other debris that collected in the winter, and make sure downspouts, gutters and drains are all clear.

Little actions make a huge difference – trash and dirt can clog storm drains and cause floods.

If you see a clogged drain or trash that has been dumped in the wrong place, request help via the Balt311 app or by calling 311. Notify AIA officers if you have questions or concerns.

Follow Us on Facebook!

The AIA's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AbellImprovementAssociation>, is a great source to stay up to date on what's happening in the community in between newsletters.

Street Fair 50th Anniversary

Street fair preparations continue! The fair will be on September 10th on Abell Avenue. This will be the fair's 50th anniversary so the organizers are looking to pull out all the stops. Want to help out? Have an idea for fundraising or something to donate to the silent auction? Photos or memories from past fairs that you want to share? Please contact Jane Lewis (jane.h.lewis@gmail.com) and Drew Northrup (atnorthrup@yahoo.com).

Join the AIA!

Becoming a member of the AIA costs just \$10 a year. Your contribution helps to cover basic operating costs, like printing newsletters, costs of community events, Open Space maintenance, initial Street Fair costs, and more. (You don't need to be a member to participate in social events or to receive the newsletter, but your support is appreciated.)

Learn more and sign up via the AIA's website:
<https://www.abellimprovement.org/membership>

The next AIA Quarterly Membership Meeting will be on Saturday, August 19.

Please look for exact location and agenda information on community message boards and media notices in the weeks prior to the meeting.

Thank You from E. 31st Street

Editor's Note: Sharing these notes of gratitude from neighbors impacted by last year's fire on E. 31st Street.

There is nothing that has the ability to shake your faith in humanity quite like the violence we experienced nearly a year ago when someone intentionally set fire to our homes on the 300 block of 31st street. However, any doubts we had about the goodness of people were more than fully assuaged by our neighbors here in Abell. The outpouring of love and support we received solidified all of the reasons why we chose to move here in the first place and is the main reason why we chose to rebuild and stay. - Lauren and Alex

We are so grateful for the support that we received in the wake of the fire last June. We know this event had an impact on our entire community and we will never forget how our neighbors rallied in solidarity in its aftermath. We are also grateful for your patience and encouragement as we slowly but surely put our house back together. Shout out to the west side of the block (and the south side too) for holding the fort down and keeping the block lively. -Tyler and Carla

It would be impossible to thank everyone who helped us on our journey to rebuild, but we wanted to provide a few acknowledgements:

To the AIA for all of the support and fundraising. To all of those who donated to the various fundraisers, and a special thank you to our neighbor Ian Mahoney for coordinating with the AIA

To Eddie and the Peabody team for hosting fundraisers and all of our neighbors who volunteered and the local businesses who donated raffle items

To Vonnie, Kathleen, and Rachel who worked tirelessly to help us look for missing cats

To Andrea for the handmade quilts

To Councilwoman Ramos and so many other neighbors, for clearing your schedules on Day 0 to be present and helpful

To our 31st street neighbors who gave us shoes, collected our mail, and adopted our plants

To the neighbors who left flowers and potted plants on 31st street, painted crosswalks, hung pride flags, and showed their support and continue to show their support

In honor of our Abell Neighbors, we have made donations to Baltimore Safe Haven, Southern Poverty Law Center, and AIA.

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

President

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Members-at-Large:

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Dan Walker

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CVCBD Representative:
open

**Trash & Recycling
Schedule**



**Trash every Tuesday
Recycling every other
Thursday**

Trash may be put out after 6
p.m. the night before, by 6 a.m.
the day of pick-up.

*Retrieve bins promptly after
pick-up.*

ABELL'S 4th ANNUAL PORCH PROM PRESENTS



3100 BLOCK
ABELL AVENUE

JUNE 3

5:00PM-
9:00PM

ATTIRE: FORMAL
WITH A SPLASH OF
PARANORMAL

DJ AND DANCING

EKIBEN FOOD TRUCK AND SNACKS

SIGN UP FOR TIN TYPE PORTRAITS BY WORMHOLE WORKSHOP

PRE-ORDER COLOR CHANGING CUPS AND SPECIAL GIFTS FROM PEABODY

ENTER PORCH PROM FLOAT DECORATING CONTEST

TO ORDER AND ENTER

ARTWORK BY DERICK BROOKS - derickbrooks.com

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**Want more information? Interested in volunteering?
Contact Lauren Jackson: laurenjxson@gmail.com.**

If you have items to contribute to the newsletter, please send them to Ian Mahoney (mahoney.iant@gmail.com) and Shelley Treadway (sbtreadway@gmail.com). The remaining 2023 issues are slated to go out in August and November. If you miss the deadline, get in touch anyway! And to share information on the AIA website, Facebook page or message boards, contact Shelley Treadway at sbtreadway@gmail.com.

Volunteer newsletter delivery persons are needed. If you can spare 30 minutes of your time, four times each year, please contact sbtreadway@aol.com.