



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

April 2019

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

Spring. That time of year when you wake up from the longest nap of your life and think “Wow, the trees outside my house were alive this whole time. What a world.”

It's the time of year to find your groove, try new things and meet new people. And, in the spirit of those last two items, I'm taking a turn as the editor of this, your trusty neighborhood newsletter. And I have a favor to ask: send me your news! No piece of news is too small, no concern too banal, no celebration too narrow; as long as you want your neighbors to know it, help fix it or celebrate it, I want to help you alert them.

To that end, one piece of news that didn't make it into the newsletter elsewhere. The city has a **new(ish) 311 app for smartphones**. It is significantly easier to use and better-designed than the old app, and it makes it quite simple to track requests and get in touch with the city. To download the app, search for “Balt 311” in the App Store.

I also want to take a moment to update the neighborhood on an issue that brought many of us out earlier this year. Since we last met as a full community, the Johns Hopkins proposal for a private police force has progressed significantly. In March, the bill was brought before the Baltimore City delegation in both the House of Delegates and the state Senate. It passed 3 to 2 in the Senate and 9 to 4 in the House. District 43's delegation split. Curt Anderson and Maggie McIntosh voted for the bill at this stage, and Regina Boyce and Mary Washington opposed it.

The bill then advanced through the relevant committees and it was approved in late March by both the full House and the full Senate. The members of District 43's delegation voted the same way they had previously. The final bill referenced maps showing where the police force is requesting authorization to patrol. The Homewood Campus map shows boundaries that extend as far east as Calvert Street between University Parkway and 28th Street. Before a new police force could start policing that area, the next steps would include (1) for the Baltimore City Council to “[approve] a resolution affirming that the University has received the support required...” from members of the “relevant” surrounding communities and (2) the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the university and the Baltimore Police Department.

Anyway, if you want more information about the police, there's lots of real reporting out there!

Lastly, it's been my impression that Abell is at its BEST when the weather gets warmer! (That might be true for Baltimore in general, but Abell is the best neighborhood in Baltimore, obviously.) People are out gardening, the route to and from the Farmer's Market is packed, folks are grilling and playing outside. We have outdoor movie screenings, we start preparing for the Street Fair and (this year) we paint the storm drains! So, now is your moment: get involved! Here's an easy one: the neighborhood needs a new safety chair (or chairs) to help organize the community walks. There's more info inside. Check it out.

Onward!

Becky Hersher

Inside:

2019 AIA
Officers

Storm Drain
Art Project

Barclay
Science
Olympiad

Bread Bakery

Spring
Reminders



Keep it Dry!

Our neighborhood is getting wetter. Last year was the wettest year on record – 145 days of precipitation – and the most extreme rain fell during the Spring and Summer months.

Remember to check that your sump pumps and basement dehumidifiers are working. Also make sure that nothing is obstructing the pump's outflow. Clear out gutters and keep the alleys free of debris to prevent flooding.

New Safety Chair

The AIA needs a new safety chair (or co-chairs). Responsibilities include coordinating community walks with the BPD Northern District, attending CVCBDMA Advisory Council and Northern District Community Council meetings, and supporting safety initiatives like porch lights and trimming trees that block light.

If you're interested in getting involved, email Bonnie Bessor at bbessor@gmail.com.

Store Your Things!

Are you running out of space in your home for all your precious items, especially your bicycles, but also other stuff? Our neighbor Patrick McMahon wants to help you out.

Patrick has some extra space in the 3200 block and would love to rent you a section at what he describes as "a very reasonable rate." Contact Patrick at (410) 599-5123 or patrickmcmahonaicp@gmail.com.

Streetscaping Project Begins

Johns Hopkins University has started a construction project on St. Paul Street, from 31st Street to 33rd Street. The construction also extends along 33rd Street between Charles Street and St. Paul Street.

The plan is to upgrade asphalt and concrete sidewalks to brick, put in new lighting, "enhanced landscaping", new benches and new trash and recycling bins.

In the street, the plan is to upgrade the medians, add granite curbs, and repave.

According to the project plan, it should be complete by the end of December 2019. While construction is going on, two southbound travel lanes on St. Paul Street will be open to traffic, and all the businesses on St. Paul Street will remain open. However, some parking spots will be unavailable over the coming months.

For more information visit: http://www.jhfre.jhu.edu/projects/Charles_Village_Streetscape/index.htm

Farmer's Market Spring Fest

The second annual Food, Art & Community Fest is coming up at the Waverly Farmer's Market. There will be "festive decorations" and even more food and art to purchase than usual.

*Saturday, April 20 7am-noon
32nd and Barclay Street*

En-Abell-ing Clean Water!!!



The Abell Improvement Association is looking for creative ideas for a community-themed storm drain art project. Trash and pollutants entering our storm drains clog our water pipes, cause flooding and enter the harbor and Chesapeake Bay, impacting fish and other aquatic species.

Here's the fun part: We will vote on a theme and create stencils to decorate and educate through our storm drain inlets! Please submit -- in pictures or in writing -- your ideas, slogans or other inspiration for our community art project to lane.tyler@gmail.com. We will present the themes and have a ballot vote at our next community meeting in April.



Thank You Newsletter Volunteers

Thank you to all AIA Newsletter delivery persons for your timely work bringing Abell news to the community. Your ongoing involvement is crucial.

Jim Anthony
Jane Berg
Judy Berlin
Allison Campbell
Danielle Corcoran
Maureen Daly
Jerry Druch
Rosalie Eck
Annette Fallon
John Fink
Michele Golden
Peter Gottlieb
Ed Hargadon
Audrey Huang
Janet Kahoe
Michael Klima
Val Kuciauskas
Paul & Carlene Moscatt
Arlene Ogurick
Didon Pachner
Susanne Riveles
Jo Ann Robinson
Andy Scott
Bill Surine
Julie Neale Taylor
Michael Treadway
Jonathan Wetmiller

The next AIA
Quarterly
Membership Meeting
will be held in April.
Please look for exact
date, time and
location on
community message
boards and media
notices.

A stellar performance by the Barclay Maryland Science Olympiad Team!

The Barclay Science Olympiad team has just wrapped up an impressive season.

The team competed in the “Einstein” division of the Maryland Science Olympiad Regional Competition in March at Morgan State University. The “Einstein” division is for the most experienced teams in the region, so the competition was stiff. Nonetheless, the team placed 4th in its division and 5th overall out of 19 teams. Congratulations!

One of the teams Barclay beat was Lakeland Elementary/Middle, whose STEM program is supported by UMBC and Northrop Grumman.

Barclay did particularly well in the following categories:

- *Rollercoaster*: The team placed 2nd.
- *Crimebusters and Density Lab*: the team placed 3rd.
- *Boomilever, Thermodynamics and Water Quality*: The team placed 4th.
- *Anatomy & Physiology and Heredity*: The team placed 5th.

The Barclay team is led by new Middle School science teacher Ms. Woods, and supported by Johns Hopkins University.

The team’s strong performance sent them to the State Finals, which were held at Johns Hopkins University at the end of March.

Resident Responsibility Reminders

As Spring explodes into its full exuberance, it’s a good moment to remind ourselves of some of the responsibilities we have for our property:

- Abutting sidewalks, gutters and alleys should be clean, safe and sanitary.
- Keep grass, weeds and other plant growth below 8 inches.
- Remember to prune trees and shrubbery so they don’t block foot or car traffic.

If you need help with basic “Spring Cleaning” tasks, please get in touch with Becky Hersher at 603-494-3213.

Motzi Bread Bakery Coming Soon

Your neighbors Russell Trimmer and Maya Muñoz are opening a bread bakery called Motzi. Russell is the former lead baker at Woodberry Kitchen.

The name Motzi comes from the Hebrew prayer over bread, called “HaMotzi.” According to the bakery website, they buy their grains locally and ferment the dough for longer than 24 hours to get a “tender bread with a crisp crust.”

The storefront is on track to open in Fall 2019. In the meantime, they are offering a limited number of 6 month (26 week) bread subscriptions.

Find out more at their website, <https://www.motzibread.com/subscribe>

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- Bulletin Board -

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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; retrieve cans
promptly after pick-up.*

DUMPSTER DATES

April 27

FRIENDS OF BARCLAY NEWS & COMING EVENTS:

- *The Barclay Bulldog Basketball program* has received a \$25,000 grant from Under Armour. According to Coach Pablo Koropecy, \$11,000 from the grant will go to refurbish the gym floor, \$5,000 will go toward murals in the gym and the remaining funds will be used to install height-appropriate hoops on the sides of the gym for younger, shorter players. The Abell Improvement Association wrote a letter of support for the grant application.
- *April 18: FOB Monthly Meeting.* 8-9pm at 3032 St. Paul St. Come chat with neighbors who are interested in the continued success of the Barclay Elementary/Middle School.
- *April 27: Mayor's Spring Cleanup.* The Friends of Barclay will be organizing events for the annual Spring Cleanup. Sign up for the E-newsletter below or watch the community sandwich boards for details about how to volunteer.

*For more information, contact info@friendsofbarclay.org
Sign up to receive FOB's monthly E-Newsletter on their
Website - <https://www.friendsofbarclay.org/>*

Thursday Night Trivia

The most unique trivia in town

Upcoming dates:

April 11 and May 9 - 7 p.m.

Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E. 30th Street

https://www.facebook.com/thursdaypeabodytrivia/?tn-str=k*F

Please send **newsletter contributions** to Becky Hersher,
2911 Guilford Avenue, or email rhersher@gmail.com.

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

May 17

Film Series Issue

July 17

Street Fair Issue

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