



# Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

Winter 2024

## Inside:

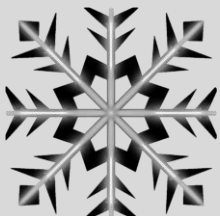
AIA Officers  
for 2024

2024 AIA  
Events List

Water Line  
Testing

Community  
Engagement

Winter  
Weather  
Gallery



## President's Letter

Dear AIA Community Neighbors,

The last newsletter message I wrote was addressed to Abell Avenue residents and in the first paragraph I talked about how lucky we are to live on Abell Avenue. And for this I say: Mea Culpa.

I say I am guilty of a great oversight because I have omitted so many of us who are part of the Abell Community. We are 29th Street, 30th Street, 31st Street, 32nd and 33rd Streets. We are Barclay, Abell and Guilford. We are a large, thriving community of people who love and live and work hard together.

Here is what one resident has to say about their life in the AIA community:

“The sounds of chimes ring in the air. We get to know many of our neighbors' pets, and the pets' names, before we get to know the humans. We look out for one another taking in packages for safekeeping when needed. Parking spaces for our cars can be cause for us to move ours when we realize that they're taking up two spaces. Shoveling snow may include more than just the snow and ice that is in front of only our house. Our block is where we only seem to know the meaning of ‘good neighbor.’ It seems to extend to the blocks on both sides of our block.” (Resident Since 2001)

And another:

“One of the amenities we have is the 40-foot wide 33<sup>rd</sup> Street median which I'm on almost every morning and afternoon cleaning up with my Arcmate pickup stick grabber. Walking along the median puts one in touch with nature, it's different than being on the sidewalk. Getting out of the house early in the morning is good for physical and mental health.”

We all have our thoughts and anecdotes to contribute about our love for this neighborhood, but the need for brevity takes precedence.

Instead, I want to invite every resident of our AIA neighborhood to become a member of a new committee dedicated to bringing us together for the purpose of really improving our lives here. After all, we are The Abell “Improvement” Association which is made up of all the streets mentioned above.

Please contact me, AIA's president, at [anitarl02@gmail.com](mailto:anitarl02@gmail.com) to join the AIA Community Engagement and Member Recruitment Committee. In other words, we want to reach out to all residents to inform them about the many things AIA does for them and encourage them to join and engage and become more involved in our community.

In keeping with the goal of the committee, if you are not a current dues paying member of AIA, please contact Bonnie Bessor, our treasurer at [bbessor@gmail.com](mailto:bbessor@gmail.com), or, go to our website, <https://abell-improvement-association.square.site/>, to sign up and pay directly. For the cost of two large lattes, you can become more engaged and be part of the enjoyment of living in our neighborhood!

Anita Rubarth-Lay  
President of AIA  
32nd Block of Abell Avenue  
512-350-0004  
[anitarl02@gmail.com](mailto:anitarl02@gmail.com)

[www.abellimprovement.org](http://www.abellimprovement.org)

## New AIA Officers

At the January 27 General Membership Meeting, a new officer slate was elected:

*President* - Anita Rubarth-Lay

*Vice President* - Drew Northrup

*Recording Secretary* - Andrew Limbong

*Corresponding Secretary* - Julia Embry

*Treasurer* - Bonnie Bessor

*Member at large #1* - Lauren DiMartino

*Member at large #2* - Dan Walker

*CVCBD Representatives* - Ruth Baker, Alexa Heidrich

Welcome to our new officers and thank you to our returning officers!

Missed this year's election but want to get involved? 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. The committees include:

- Membership/Welcome
- Housing
- Sanitation
- Communications
- Open Space Management
- Safety
- Street Fair
- Porch Prom
- Film Series

## Correction

In the last issue of the newsletter, the editor regrettably incorrectly identified one of the recipients of the Golden Meatball at last year's street fair. It was John Lombardi, and we greatly appreciate him and his family coming to celebrate with the neighborhood last fall.

## 2024 Abell Improvement Association Events

The AIA hosts several annual community events. Keep these in mind as you're planning your schedules for the year!

- May 4: Community Sidewalk Sale
- May 26: Memorial Day Weekend Picnic
- June 1: Porch Prom
- September 22: Street Fair
- October 6: Chili Cook-Off
- December\*: Caroling and New Years Eve Festivities

\*Exact date to be determined; stay tuned to future newsletters, the AIA's social media, and the bulletin boards in the community for details.

## Call to Test Interior Water Lines

City agencies are asking residents to help identify what material the water lines inside their homes are made from. This is part of an effort to create an inventory and find out if any of those lines are made from lead. You can perform the test yourself with a few simple tools. For more information, see: [www.servicelinepartnership.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.servicelinepartnership.baltimorecity.gov).

## New Neighbor?

**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](mailto:mahoney.iant@gmail.com)**

## Community Sidewalk Sale May 4

Start gathering your things - the AIA is planning to bring back the annual community sidewalk sale on Saturday, May 4. The footprint will extend several blocks beyond Abell Ave., e.g. onto the numbered streets, Guilford, and Barclay. More details to come, stay tuned to the AIA's social media and the billboards around the neighborhood.

## Snow & Ice Events: Shovel Your Sidewalk

The City reminds all property owners or occupants of property that:

- All snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk must be removed within 3 hours after the end of a snow or ice event unless the snowfall stops between 3 p.m. and 6 a.m., in which case snow must be removed by 11 a.m.
- Please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

For more info, see

<https://snow.baltimorecity.gov/baltimore-housing-reminds-everyone-be-shovel-ready>

## Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!

Keep up with AIA events at [facebook.com/AbellImprovementAssociation](https://facebook.com/AbellImprovementAssociation) and [instagram.com/abellcommunity/](https://instagram.com/abellcommunity/) - two great sources to stay up to date on what's happening in the community between newsletters.

## JHPD Public Assembly February 26

The public is invited to attend a virtual public assembly at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, on the proposed JHU private armed police force, convened by the Police Committee of the JHU Krieger School Faculty Senate. The agenda will include a presentation on implementation and jurisdictional concerns and a public Q&A session. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/JHPD-assembly> for Zoom link.

## Community Engagement and Member Recruitment Committee

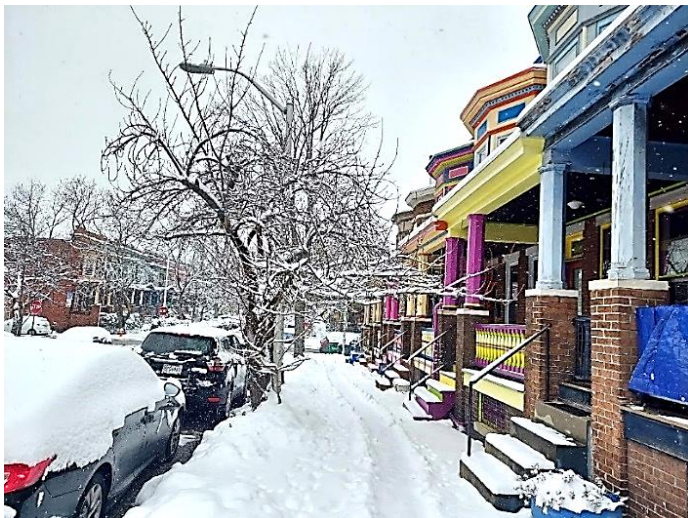
The AIA's Community Engagement and Member Recruitment Committee would like to hear from you! The committee is planning to host some events to meet new neighbors and raise awareness about the AIA's activities. If you have ideas or would like to be involved, please reach out to [anitar102@gmail.com](mailto:anitar102@gmail.com).

## Join the AIA!

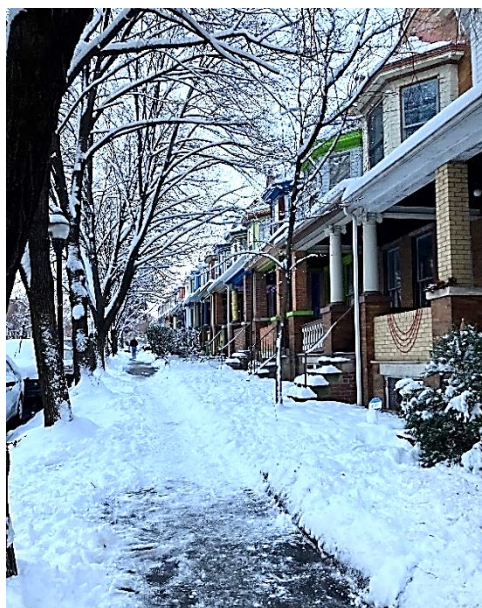


Becoming a member of the AIA costs just \$10 a year. Your contribution helps to cover basic operating costs like printing newsletters, supplies for community events, Open Space maintenance, initial Street Fair costs and more.

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



*We looked pretty  
in the snow!  
Thanks for  
clearing your  
sidewalks and  
steps.*



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

## Peabody Heights Brewery Events

There's always something happening at Peabody Heights Brewery! Keep up with their schedule on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/Peabodyheightsbrewery/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PeabodyHeightsBrewery>

**Saturday 2/24 - Sunday 2/25**  
(All Day) BrewBit 2ndStyle -  
Arcade Convention

**Sunday 3/3**  
Queer Made Market (1p-6p) -  
Quarterly Art/Makers Market  
featuring  
BIPOC/Trans/Underrepresented  
local artists

**Saturday 3/9 - Sunday 3/10**  
Game Face Con - Tabletop  
Gaming Convention

## - Bulletin Board -

### Officers Contact List

President

Anita Rubarth-Lay  
[anitarl02@gmail.com](mailto:anitarl02@gmail.com)

Vice President

Andrew Northrup  
[atnorthrup@yahoo.com](mailto:atnorthrup@yahoo.com)

Treasurer

Bonnie Bessor  
412 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
[bbessor@gmail.com](mailto:bbessor@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary

Andrew Limbong  
[andrewlimbong@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlimbong@gmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary

Julia Embry  
[julia.m.embry@gmail.com](mailto:julia.m.embry@gmail.com)

#### Members-at-Large:

Lauren DiMartino  
[laurenadimartino@icloud.com](mailto:laurenadimartino@icloud.com)

Dan Walker

[doctrrock@gmail.com](mailto:doctrrock@gmail.com)

#### CVCBD Representatives:

Ruth Baker  
[lunarnacl5487@gmail.com](mailto:lunarnacl5487@gmail.com)

Alexa Heidrich

### 2024 AIA General Membership Meetings

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our quarterly membership meetings.

Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 17 at 10:30 AM

Monday, November 3 at 6:30 PM (tentative, to be coordinated with Harwood)

Annual Meeting and Election of 2025 Officers:

Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 10:30 AM

### The Book Thing Dates

Don't forget to check out The Book Thing! Their monthly book giveaway event typically falls on the second full weekend of the month. Hours for browsing are 9a-5p. They use a timed-entry system. Check out their website, [bookthing.org](http://bookthing.org), for more info.

- Saturday, March 9
- Sunday, April 14
- Saturday, May 11



### Dine Out and Give Back

Celebrate the **29th Street Community Center** on **2/29** (LEAP DAY) from 4:30-8pm at **Gertrude's Chesapeake Kitchen at the Baltimore Museum of Art** for a Community Dinner. 20% of your bill will be donated to support the amazing work of the Center! Reservations are strongly encouraged! Book your reservation today on Open Table: <https://www.opentable.com/restr ef/client/?rid=7654&restref=7654 &corrid=ff20bd99-cd3f-4854-a46-d6950b228c51&fbclid=IwAR0Hb wnLGF eemjY377jIwSCqfV5e2538 3SNu8T1SR HVlXrXION4sry9Fj>

If you have items to contribute to the newsletter, please send them to Ian Mahoney ([mahoney.iant@gmail.com](mailto:mahoney.iant@gmail.com)) and Shelley Treadway ([sbtreadway@gmail.com](mailto:sbtreadway@gmail.com)). Please have your submissions in by April 12 (for the spring issue), July 12 (for the summer issue), and October 11 (for the fall issue). If you miss the deadline, get in touch anyway! To share information on the AIA website, Facebook page or message boards, contact Shelley Treadway at [sbtreadway@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sbtreadway@aol.com).*

### 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.

#### COMMUNITY DUMPSTERS

Saturday, February 24  
Saturday, May 18  
Saturday, August 24  
Saturday, November 30

Arrives around 7-8 a.m., usually on 31st Street near the corner of Abell. No hazardous materials, please.