



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

Fall 2023

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President's Letter

If you've ever had to make a public speech, you've probably opened with an anecdote, something personal and hopefully enlightening, that fits with the topic of your address. I guess you could say my topic today is about creating community on Abell Avenue.

Yesterday, I was at the Waverly Market, which always makes me happy and grateful for living on Abell. The sight of so many people: young, old, colorful, beautiful, excited, and the sounds: jazz, folk, salsa, blues, fills me with feelings of generosity and joy.

As I'm not the only who becomes spellbound at the Market, I was not surprised when the stranger next in line at Dangerously Delicious Pies, realizing that I couldn't buy the pies I had already put in my bag because they only accept cash, insisted that she pay for me. At first, I resisted, thinking that since I don't know her, it would be a problem to try to pay her back. But, then, she said, "Pay it forward. I know you will so I insist you take my money. Just remember to Pay It Forward."

And here it is, the connection to my topic. Abell is all about paying it forward, or PIF.

When the Lombardi Family, in 1973, said, "Let's have a party," what followed was fifty more years of partying, of PIF. The magic of Abell Community's Street Fair, as well as all the other things we do as neighbors, to celebrate and enjoy each other, only happen because we PIF.

One of the best ways to feel like you are truly an Abellite is to become a member of the neighborhood association, The Abell Improvement Association. A measly \$10, which is exactly the amount of my pies for which I will gladly PIF, helps keep you informed through our members email list. Contact our treasurer, Bonnie Bessor, bbessor@gmail.com, or, go to our website, <http://abell-improvement-association.square.site/> to sign up and pay directly. There's a very long and detailed list of what your dues enable us to do. It's a lot!

Finally, the end of every year is an exciting time to live on our street. Halloween night is spectacular here. Families come from all around to trick and/or treat. If you're a new neighbor (Welcome!), you've probably noticed that our porches are scary and designed to make Halloween exciting and memorable for the children who will visit us that night. Be warned! One 8-ounce bag of little packets of candy corn won't be enough. But, if you aren't interested in participating, please remember to turn off your porch lights until it's all over.

As for November and December, be sure to put on your calendar The Joint AIA and Harwood Neighborhood Association Potluck to be held at 6:30 PM on Monday, November 6, at the 29th Street Community Center. Caroling will once again be a part of our neighborhood holiday events. The tentative date for caroling is Sunday, December 17.

At our latest AIA EC meeting, which are held once monthly via zoom on Saturday morning at 9:30, we gauged whether there is interest in once again having a Progressive Dinner on New Year's Eve. Please consider joining us to discuss this and other possible holiday gatherings at the next meeting. Becoming a member means you'll receive an invitation to the meeting on Saturday, Nov. 11th. We need your thoughts and ideas.

We are lucky to live here. If you see me (silvery short hair, glasses, plump) walking along with my husband, longbeard Jim, 14-year-old boxer mix, Minnie, and the newest addition to our family, 5-month-old Manuel, who's never met a strange dog or human, please don't hesitate to stop and chat. We love meeting neighbors.

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Street Fair Recap

The annual Abell Community Street Fair was a huge success! Many thanks to co-chairs Jane Lewis and Drew Northrup and all the incredible volunteers who dealt with numerous last-minute changes, up to and including shifting the entire footprint of the fair due to the rain. It was an event worthy of a 50th annual celebration. Despite a few showers, it turned out to be a day full of merriment, music, shopping, and food and drink. The committee would like to once again thank all of the sponsors who helped make the event a success.

Golden Meatball Awards

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the street fair, the committee handed out three “Golden Meatball” Awards (special shoutout to Bonnie Bessor for creating the awards). This year’s recipients were Ryan Lombardi, on behalf of the entire Lombardi family who started the tradition fifty years ago, Joann Robinson, and Susanne Riveles. As the award

says, thank you to all of the recipients for your steadfast and long-standing service to the Abell community!

Bake Sale Report

Susanne Riveles, the Bake Sale coordinator and one of this year’s Golden Meatball recipients, had this to say:

“This year’s Bake Sale was a big success and many factors contributed to this. Foremost, we had so many more bakers in the community bringing their delicious goodies to the Fair. We additionally enjoyed some direct donations from the Stone Mill Bakery. Everything ran smoothly and many generous buyers rounded up the payment they owed to the next larger dollar amount which we always appreciate. The coffee tables near the stage and close to the bake sale seemed to have enticed people to take their purchased dessert and sit down listening to the music. Not to forget the many helpers selling the goods so graciously and those who helped with setting up and dismantling the

booth. Thanks to all of this we raised a larger than ever dollar amount. To All a BIG ‘Thank you’”
– Susanne



Chili Cook-Off Recap

Many thanks to all the chefs and tasters who came out on October 22nd to the annual Abell chili cook-off. In all, twelve contestants entered the contest, showing off an impressive array of culinary skills. Thank you to Jaclyn Mahoney and Shelley Treadway for coordinating the event and congratulations to Kelly King and Jackson Gilman-Forlini on their winning chili! Check out the **complete gallery of photos**: <https://www.abellimprovement.org/post/chili-cook-off-gallery>

Photos courtesy of Emil Volcheck



Poison Ivy Control

Please be mindful of poison ivy in your yards and gardens and take steps to remove it if you find it on your property. It can be hazardous to passersby, especially if it's in an area close to sidewalks. If you need more information or tips for identifying or removing poison ivy, please consult this resource from the University of Maryland Extension:

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/poison-ivy>.

Tell the AIA what events you want to see in the neighborhood!

See all the information about street fair, chili cook-off, caroling, and the potluck in this newsletter and wonder how they got started? It's because folks in the neighborhood wanted them and the AIA helped support them and make them a reality. In that spirit, we want to hear from you! Want to do crafts with your neighbors, have an Abell karaoke contest, do a community scavenger hunt, or find out who the best cribbage player in the neighborhood is? Let us know!

If you have ideas for a community event that you'd like to see in the neighborhood, reach out to Ian Mahoney at mahoney.iant@gmail.com. There are no guarantees we'll be able to follow through on every idea, but we'd love to hear what events you would like to have in the neighborhood in 2024 and beyond.

Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!

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

Caroling in the Community

We'd like to bring back the cheer this year! Caroling is an annual neighborhood tradition. Our neighbors Joann Robinson and Shelley Treadway shared some history of this event which you can find below.

The tentative date for caroling is Sunday, December 17, beginning at 5 p.m. Gather at 3026 Abell Avenue and bring your musical instrument if you like. We'll stroll through the community for about an hour, and finish with something warm to drink. Look for more details to come in community message boards and social media.

Beginnings of the AIA Holiday Caroling Tradition

In September 1973, 4 months before AIA was incorporated, the officers of the nascent community association voted to skip their December meeting and "go caroling." We have no record of how exactly that went, but Minutes tell of well attended caroling and a holiday Open House hosted the next year by Marie Lombardi, which I personally remember for the huge vats of hot chocolate and cider, and the outlay of many treats that she served. From then through the 1980s, except for one year when "lack of interest" was reported, the community gathered to sing and celebrate the holiday season. Mrs. Lombardi hosted the after party several more times but also Megan and Walter Shook, the Armentis, John and Maryellen Lombardi, and once the Robinsons took turns. Often when the carolers strolled along the 3100 block of Abell, Santa Claus would appear – Jay Hinson, son of one of Abell's earliest families, perfectly disguised, passing out candy and cookies. The route was not always pre-planned but identifying places where seniors, young children – especially new babies! — or someone struggling with illness or loss might especially welcome a song of love and cheer was regular practice. Through this 1970s-1980s period the association contributed \$50.00 every year to either Santa Claus Anonymous, the Salvation Army or both.

Jim Anthony, our neighbor who recently moved, hosted the caroling evening for more than a dozen years through 2019. He welcomed carolers into his cozy, holiday-decorated home to enjoy cookies and cider after they sang.

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

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>

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

- Bulletin Board -

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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 DUMPSTER Tuesday, November 14

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

AIA Quarterly Membership Meeting and Potluck with the Harwood Community

The next AIA Membership is meeting at 6:30 PM on Monday, November 6, at the 29th Street Community Center at 300 E. 29th Street. Following our annual tradition, we'll be meeting jointly with the Harwood Community Association and having a **potluck dinner** together! Please bring a dish to share. Let Anita (anitarl02@gmail.com) know if you have any agenda items to propose.

The Book Thing Dates

Don't forget to check out The Book Thing! They are typically open the second full weekend of the month. Upcoming dates are listed below. Check out their website, bookthing.org, for more info.

- Saturday, November 11
- Sunday, December 10



Make sure to check out the 29th Street Community Center's website (<https://29thstreetcommunitycenter.org/>) to stay up to date on all of their amazing activities.

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). This is the last newsletter for 2023 but the newsletters will return in 2024! 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.