

# Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

Summer 2024

## President's Letter

Hello, Abell Neighbors and Community,

We are entering that time of year when fall is fast approaching. We all know what that means: our August General Membership Meeting, Street Fair, Halloween, the Joint Potluck with Harwood, and Winter Holiday events. Our community is large, encompassing the blocks in between 29th to University Parkway, and also Barclay/Greenmount to Guilford. We have opportunities to meet, work alongside, and befriend a multitude of neighbors. Many in other neighborhoods would consider us very lucky indeed.

I know I've mentioned my serendipitous "origin story" before, the account of Jim and I and Minnie, our now fifteen-year-old pup, happening upon the neighborhood on a Sunday walk in the summer of 2015. I knew immediately I wanted to live here, didn't know where, didn't know how, but just knew. I'm sure you all have similar stories. Again, we're lucky to be here.

After an unanticipated five-year hiatus of living "abroad," I was perceived on my return as someone who could take on the duties and title of the President of Abell Improvement Association. The call came, and I answered in January 2022. My commitment to the presidency of our neighborhood association has been most successful because of the many long-term neighbors who work hard to sustain and nourish the vibrancy of our lives here. Without them, I would have been lost and ineffective. For their encouragement and help I will be forever thankful.

My term will end soon, in January 2024, when someone else will have the honor to take on the duties of that role. As someone much more talented and burdened with more responsibilities than I can ever imagine said recently, "The best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation...New voices, fresh voices, yes, younger voices." Looking around me, I see everywhere on our streets this new generation of new, fresh, and young voices.

I am asking you all to look within yourselves to see, as I had to do, if this is a role you are ready for. Forgive me if my depiction of the role of the President of AIA sounds overblown, but as the saying goes, all politics is local. Your participation, engagement, and willingness to take on a bigger role are essential to keeping our community special and thriving.

So, as we ready ourselves for another busy, exciting, and, yes, exhausting AIA season, step forward and do what you can. Please watch your mailbox for invitations, reminders, and calls for volunteering.

Thank you,

Anita Rubarth-Lay  
President of AIA  
32nd Block of Abell Avenue  
512-350-0004  
anitar102@gmail.com

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

## Inside:

Street Fair  
2024

- ★ Music
- ★ Silent Auction
- ★ Bake sale
- ★ Parking map

Book Festival

Chili Cook-off

Circulator

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Updated Map

General

Meeting Recap



## STREET FAIR INFORMATION

The annual Abell Community Fair is coming up on September 22nd. It will run from 12pm to 5pm. See below for details and street closure information.

### Bake Sale

*Please see this message from our Bake Sale coordinator:*

The Bake Sale at the Abell Community Annual Fair is looking for volunteer bakers and helpers with setting up the booth and selling the goodies. I am organizing and baking for this fundraiser for the 11<sup>th</sup> year. The fair represents the main fundraiser for the Abell Improvement Association and its projects in the community and this bake sale is part of that effort. We appreciate and recall all the great helpers, which included last year also students from JHU and Morgan State University who live in our community.

We are selling homemade items only!!! For example, cookies, cupcakes, muffins, whole cakes, pies, and bread produced by current and former community members.

My shoutout goes to all: Please bake and/or bake again and join us this year at the Fair on Sunday, September 22, 2024. Contributing to this is a tasty and fun way to contribute to the event and the community. It's a win-win tradition!

Please let me know now, but no later than Friday September 13th, if you plan to participate by baking something. And please be on the lookout for the volunteer signup to help with the booth on the day of the fair. If you have any questions, please email me.

Thank you,  
Susanne  
[susanne.riveles@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.riveles@gmail.com)



### Call for Volunteers

The fair couldn't happen without volunteers! They help with setting up the event (shifts starting as early as 8 a.m.), with running activities during the event, and with cleaning up after the event (last shift ending no later than 6:30 p.m.). Those interested can sign up for a shift here: [volunteersignup.org/JEMLF](http://volunteersignup.org/JEMLF)

### Silent Auction Items Needed!

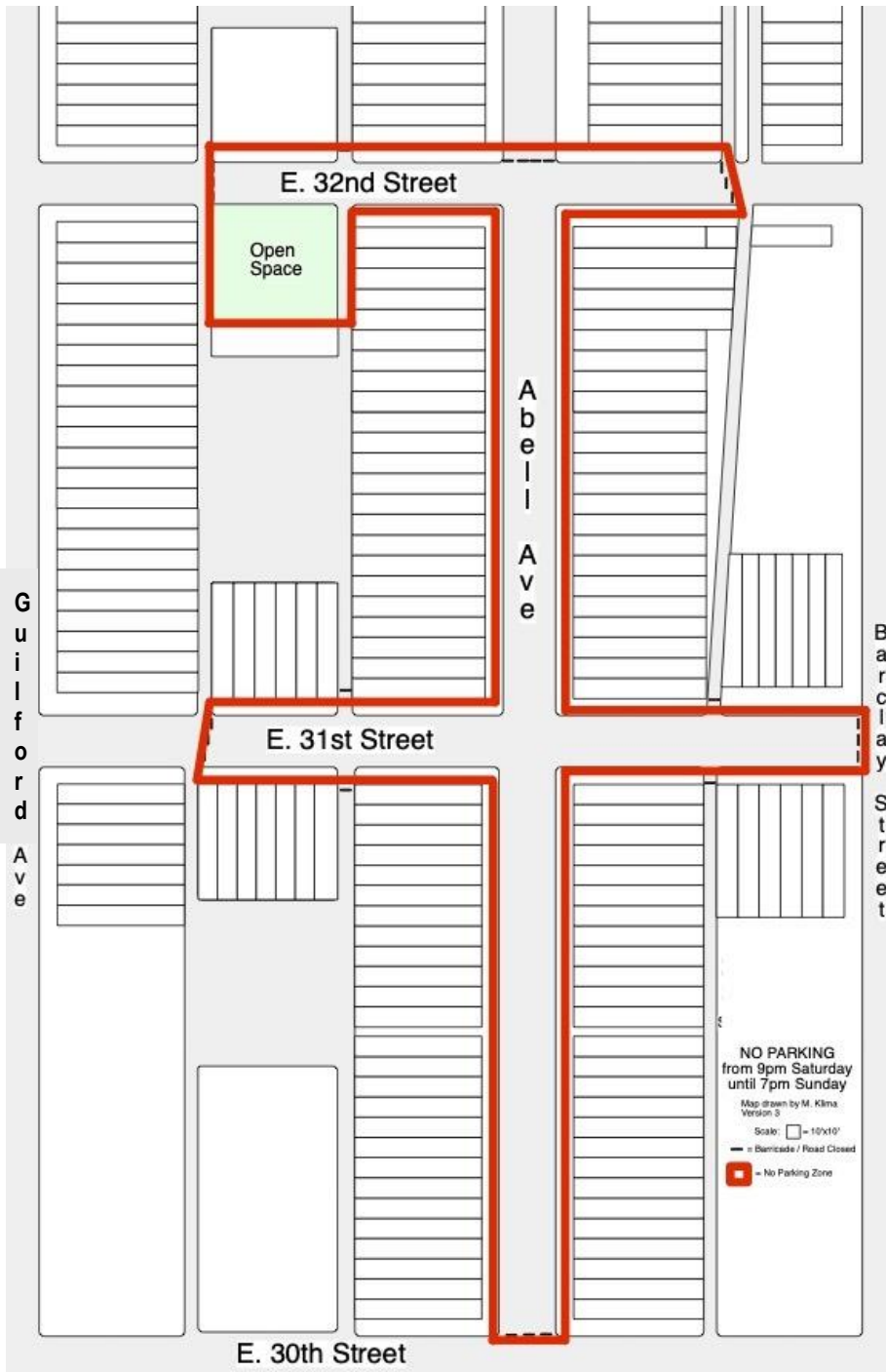
The silent auction is an important and fun fair tradition. Have an idea for something to donate to the silent auction? Please contact the silent auction coordinators Christine and Scott: [christine@campaignlygroup.com](mailto:christine@campaignlygroup.com) and [scott@campaignlygroup.com](mailto:scott@campaignlygroup.com).

### Music

Check out all the great musical acts that will be performing at the fair this year:

DJ Mills  
Eyas  
Alex Silva  
Stony Run  
Juipe  
Mara Yaffee  
Lights in the Attic  
Eze Jackson  
The Shroos  
Dominique Diglio  
The Lunar Year  
John Lee  
Ari Voxx

## Street Fair No Parking Zone

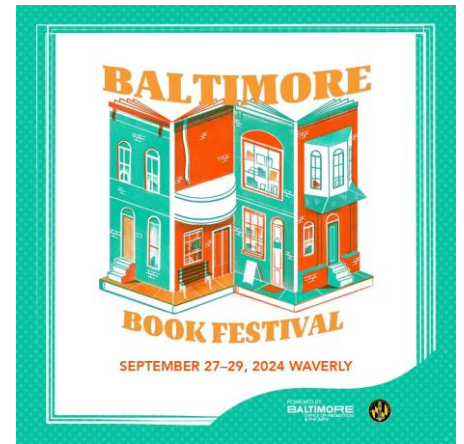


This is a map of the footprint of the fair. Please make sure that your car has been moved out of any area inside the lines by 9pm on September 21<sup>st</sup> (the night before the fair). The fair committee thanks you in advance, and we hope to see you at the celebration. Any questions can be directed to Andrew Northrup at [atnorthrup@yahoo.com](mailto:atnorthrup@yahoo.com).

In the event of rain, we may try to move certain portions of the event up onto the porches. If you live within the footprint of the event and are willing to assist if needed, the fair organizers would be grateful for the support.

## Baltimore Book Festival Info

The 2024 Baltimore Book Festival will be held Saturday, September 28–Sunday, September 29, 2024, in and around Waverly Main Street. Stay tuned for updates about events and street closures around the neighborhood. More information about the festival can be found at: <https://www.promotionandarts.org/baltimore-bookfest/>



## VOTE

### Election Day Is November 5th!

Check your registration status (see <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or [vote.org](https://vote.org)) and don't forget to vote this election season.

In addition to prominent races for federal, state, and local officials, there will be some important referendums on the ballot: cutting property taxes and reducing the size of the city council. AIA **opposes both ballot measures** because it feels they would negatively impact our community and the City. For more information on what will be on the ballot, check out <https://www.vote411.org/ballot> for updates.

## Memorial Day Picnic Recap

Many thanks to everyone who came out to the Memorial Day Picnic and brought such tasty dishes. Thank you to Jaclyn Mahoney for organizing the event and to all the volunteers who made it happen. Look forward to next year!



## Porch Prom Recap

We fell down the rabbit hole this June as Abell neighbors attended this year's Porch Prom themed "Abell in Wonderland". A huge thank you to Lauren Jackson and Kathleen Overman for throwing such a fun event. Here's a message they passed along:

First, congratulations to our winner:

- First Place - Lauren Dimartino's "Down the Rabbit Hole" on 31<sup>st</sup> St. (*who fell off a LADDER perfecting her decorations, talk about commitment!*)
- Second Place - Rachel & James' "Mini Golf Wonderland" on the 3200 block of Abell
- Third Place - Sabrina, Christian, & Jordan's "High Tea [snack] Time" on the 3100 block of Abell

We want to give a special thanks to Toki Underground, Peabody Heights Brewery, & THB for sponsoring the event, along with every volunteer who put in time to create decorations, brainstorm themes, and get everything set up for our 5th annual porch prom.

Interested in joining us for next year? Shoot us an email at [abellporchprom@gmail.com](mailto:abellporchprom@gmail.com).

## Peabody Heights Brewery Named Best of Baltimore!

A huge congratulations to our Peabody Heights Brewery for winning Baltimore Magazine's Best of Baltimore Reader's Poll! A well-deserved honor that reflects all of the hard work they put in, amazing events they throw, and great beer they make. Not to mention they're incredible members of our community and such an important part of our neighborhood. Make sure to check out their Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PeabodyHeightsBrewery/>) and Instagram pages (<https://www.instagram.com/peabodyheightsbrewery/>) to stay up to date on their beer releases and events!



## Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!

Keep up with AIA events at [facebook.com/AbellImprovement Association](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.

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)

## Recap from the General Membership Meeting

The last AIA general membership meeting was held on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Several important topics were discussed, many of which are discussed in this newsletter. Other highlights include:

- **Potential AIA name change:** The AIA is gauging the neighborhood's thoughts about whether the association's name should be changed. To learn more about the reasons why and to share your input, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/uf9fLyy33xuVSo mW9>, or scan this QR code for the survey:



- **Call for volunteers:** The AIA is looking for folks interested in helping with a **tree committee** to help coordinate tree planting and removal (when appropriate), and the **movie series** in the open space. If either of these projects speak to you, reach out! You can contact [mahoney.iant@gmail.com](mailto:mahoney.iant@gmail.com).

## Join the AIA!

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

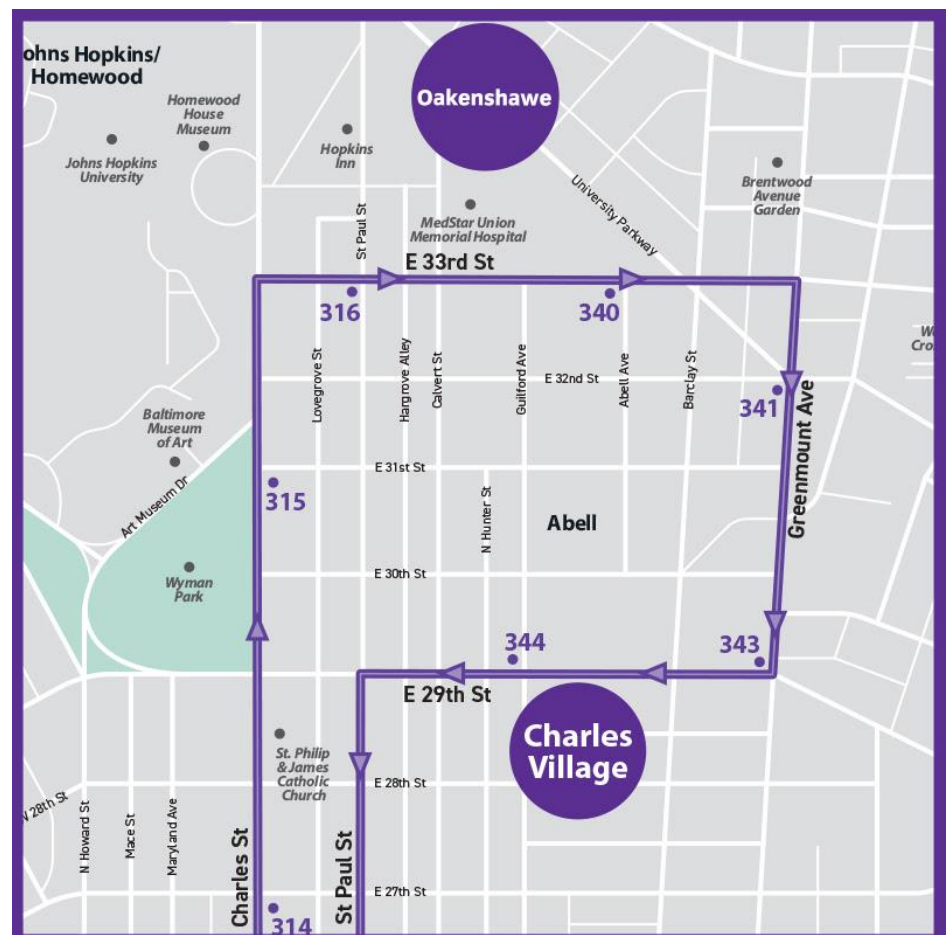
**PURPLE ROUTE  
WAVERLY  
EXPANSION**

**Northern end expanding east to Waverly**

**Southern end adjusted due to addition of Cherry Route**

CHARM CITY  
ESTD. **Circulator** 2010

**dot** CHARM CITY **Circulator** @CharmCityCirc CharmCityCirc.com



## - 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  
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Recording Secretary

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Corresponding Secretary

Julia Embry  
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#### Members-at-Large:

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

Dan Walker

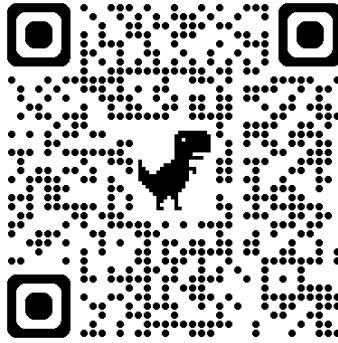
[doctrock@gmail.com](mailto:doctrock@gmail.com)

#### CVCBD Representatives:

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

Alexa Heidrich

### AIA Monthly Meetings



Our executive committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 6 p.m. *All community members who wish to attend are welcome.* We are currently meeting via Zoom.

Scan QR code (left) for Zoom info.

### Chili Cook-off Reminder

**Sunday, October 6**

**Abell Open Space, 32nd Street between Abell and Guilford**

Save the date for the AIA's annual chili cookoff. Stay tuned to the AIA's social media and bulletin boards for more information.

### 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.

Retrieve bins promptly after pick-up.

*Residents may be fined for trash disposal violations.*

#### COMMUNITY DUMPSTERS

Saturday, August 24

Saturday, November 30

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



#### 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, [www.bookthing.org](http://www.bookthing.org), for more info.

- Saturday, September 14
- Sunday, October 13

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 October 11 for the fall issue. 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](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).*