



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

Spring 2024

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President's Letter

Dear AIA Community Neighbors,

The Spring Newsletter is here! The Spring Newsletter is here! (In case you don't get the reference, watch the 1979 film "The Jerk," starring Steve Martin. Also, I recommend that you take a couple of hours to relish the two part documentary on Apple+, "Steve!," about the life and work of this remarkably talented and profound man.)

The above introductory paragraph may seem like a filler, but with each and every president's letter, I struggle to draft an essay that is meaningful, purposeful, informative, and somewhat entertaining. The use of a forty-five-year-old silly movie moment to lead off with may not be anything of these things, (although I hope I got you to crack a smile, at least,) but the attempt to be informative is an appropriate lead here.

Today I learned (TIL) a new word: Adhocracy. According to Britannica, ad hoc, the root of adhocracy, means "for this" and "for this situation." "In current American English, it is used to describe something that has been formed or used for a special and immediate purpose, *without previous planning.*" As for adhocracy, the example given in "Word Genius" is "the neighborhood group was an adhocracy that everyone felt comfortable contributing to."

Notice the emphasis of "*without previous planning.*" Unfortunately, none of the many upcoming community events are happening without planning. Fortunately, many of us in our Abell Community feel comfortable contributing to our adhocracy. Guess what? (I bet you knew this was coming.) **We welcome more of you to join us!** In the newsletter, you'll find contact information for event-planning neighbors who would love to hear from you. Some of them are meeting weekly to plan and organize for events that will occur throughout the next six months.

First up, our General Membership meeting will be held Wednesday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the 29th Street Community Center. Look for AIA emails and neighborhood sign boards with updated details. Contact me, Anita Rubarth-Lay, with suggestions for agenda items. Please, please, plan to attend! We need your input and engagement.

There will be a Sidewalk Sale, May 4th, and Memorial Day Picnic in the Open Space, May 26. As you may know, Charles Village Festival is no more, but AIA's Open Space will be a part of The Charles Village Garden Walk on June 2nd. Contact Anita Rubarth-Lay or Bonnie Bessor if you are interested in getting involved.

The theme of this year's Porch Prom on June 1st is "Abell in Wonderland." Lauren Jackson would love to have you join the committee planning sessions. Drew Northrup is the contact person for September's Street Fair. "Over the Rainbow" is the theme. As you can see, we are reliving our younger years and creating memorable childhoods for Abell's children.

Other possibilities for us are in the works, like Open Space Movie Nights, Waverly Commons Music in the Open Space, and the 2024 Baltimore Book Festival in and around Waverly Main Street the last weekend of September. These are all things that will need planning and engagement from Abell Community neighbors. Lots to do and enjoy!

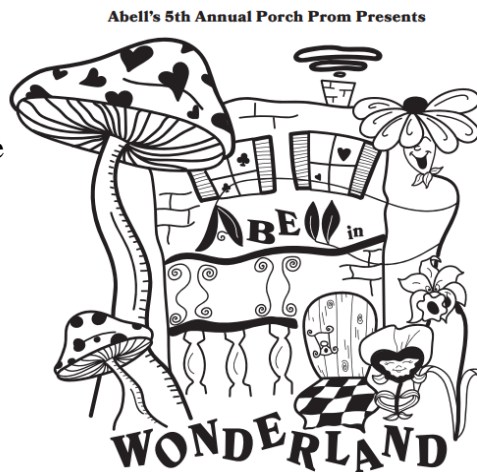
Finally, if you are not a current dues paying member of AIA, please contact Bonnie Bessor, our treasurer at bbessor@gmail.com, or, go to our website, <http://abell-improvement-association.square.site/>, to sign up and pay directly. One of the perks of becoming a member means that you will be better informed through the members' email list.

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Porch Prom is June 1, Supplies and Volunteers Needed

Porch Prom 2024 will be on the evening of June 1st on Abell Avenue and planning is in full swing! This year's theme will be "Abell in Wonderland" and the committee is seeking donations to help with decorating the event. If you have any materials in your house that would fit this theme, or that would be useful for crafting that you'd like to donate, please reach out. Think things like large pieces of cardboard, pieces of tea sets, paper mache supplies, and whimsy decor. The committee will also be hosting some crafting nights on May 2, 9, 16, and 23 to help prepare for the event. If you have anything you'd like to donate, or you'd like to volunteer to help craft decorations or set up the event, please get in contact with Lauren Jackson, laurenjxson@gmail.com.



Abell Community Fair Volunteers Needed

The 51st annual Abell Community Fair will be on September 22. The committee has started meeting a few times a month on Thursday evenings and is looking for volunteers to help with planning, publicity, vendor coordination, and more. If you're interested in getting to know your neighbors and having a good time helping out with a fun event, please reach out to Drew Northrup (atnorthrup@yahoo.com).

Baltimore Time Bank Meets May 2

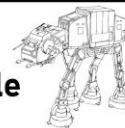
LetsBMore, the Baltimore time bank, has resumed in-person meetings following a pandemic pause. The next meeting will be a potluck at the Village Learning Place (2521 Saint Paul St.) on Thursday, May 2, 7:00 PM (doors open 6:45). During the pandemic, members of LetsBMore collectively contributed over 1000 hours for COVID-19 relief. These days, members are helping each other in various ways: tutoring English (TESL), delivering surplus food to communities in need, help with Windows 10, cooking lessons with an Instapot, picking up Ensure for a cancer patient, house cleaning and much more! Visit their website at <https://letsbmore.timebanks.org/> to learn more about this creative & caring group. If you have any questions, please contact Emil Volcheck at (443) 791-9910 (text preferred) or by email at volcheck@acm.org.

Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!

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



Abell Community Charity Sidewalk Sale



Community Sidewalk Sale Saturday, May 4

Our community sidewalk sale is back! Begin gathering your treasures that you no longer need and set up your front sidewalk or porch on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a morning of shopping in the neighborhood to benefit charity.

To participate, we ask that you commit to donating a portion of (or all of) your proceeds to a charity of your choice.

To help us better plan and promote the sale, please let us know if you'll be participating by signing up via a form that can be found here: <https://www.abellimprovement.org/post/community-sidewalk-sale-saturday-may-4>

We will email you with more details regarding the pick-up of unsold items.

June Garden Walk

The Charles Village Garden Walk will be Sunday, June 2, from 12pm-4pm and Abell will be part of the route this year! Keep your eyes out for events in the neighborhood and check out their website for updates: <https://www.cvgardenwalk.org/>.

Election Day - May 14

There are primary elections on May 14th, don't forget to vote!

Open Works Installs Wi-Fi-Enabled Bench at 29th Street Community Center

Nearby maker space Open Works has been busy building and installing benches with solar canopies in central and east Baltimore. According to Open Works' Executive Director, and our neighbor, Will Holman, each can provide about 200 cell phone charges on 6 hours of direct sun, and will provide free wi-fi. The first one was installed at the 29th Street Community Center this past July and the second one was installed at the Nate Tatum Center this past December. More are underway and they have plans to install twelve in total thanks to grant funding from Central Baltimore Partnership and the Baltimore Civic Fund.



Support Families Impacted by the Key Bridge Collapse

Many of us are still reeling from the collapse of the Key Bridge in March. If you'd like to support the families of the victims, please go here: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/265-mima-keybridgeemergencyresponse/>

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

What's New in Waverly

There is so much happening on Waverly Main Street. To quote our neighboring newsletter, *The Charles Villager*, "Over the last 18 months, six new businesses have opened their doors on Greenmount Avenue: Red Emma's Bookstore and Cafe, 3128 Greenmount; Jinji's Chocolate, 3100 Greenmount, also known as the Town Hall building; Eat This 2, 3111 Greenmount; Tokoa Skin, 3040 Greenmount, a quaint getaway for a relaxing skin rejuvenating experience. Additional openings included Toki Underground, 2731 Greenmount Avenue and Chihuahua Brothers, 433 Merryman's Lane." And recently Zehbras Fitness, a crossfit gym, opened at 3302 Greenmount, the old Boulevard Theater.

On top of all that, there are some amazing events coming to the area this year. Check out these flyers and don't miss out!

New Neighbor Announcements

On March 17, Kelly M. King and Jackson Gilman-Forlini of E. 30th Street welcomed a baby girl into their family. She was named Francesca Rose Forlini and weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. She is excited to call Abell her home.

Sophie Aron and Sindbad Fennimore of 302 E. 31st St are delighted to welcome their daughter Helena Magnolia Aron, born Tuesday, April 9. They couldn't be happier to bring her home to Abell.

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

WAVERLY MAIN STREET PRESENTS THURSDAYS **MAY AND JUNE** 5:30-8:00 PM
LIVE MUSIC - FOOD VENDORS

MAY 2 **KERQ**

MAY 9 **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO** BALTIMORE STEEL ORCHESTRA

MAY 16 **FATHER OF THE YEAR**

MAY 23 **LADY HATCHET**

MAY 30 **CALEB STINE** JUNE 6 **SAC AU LAIT**

JUNE 13 **LOVE JUDAH SOUND**

JUNE 20 **CARIBBEAN MAESTROS**

CUMMINGS & Co. REALTORS CHARLES VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION JOHN'S HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
WAVERLY W WAVERLY ACE HARDWARE

WAVERLY COMMONS - 32ND ST & BRENTWOOD AVE
for more information contact johnspurrier@gmail.com (410) 303-2400

BALTIMORE

BOOK FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024 WAVERLY

POWERED BY BALTIMORE

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, 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>

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

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Alexa Heidrich

AIA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

29th Street Community Center – 300 E. 29th Street

Look for community notices the week of the meeting for agenda details

Memorial Day Community Picnic Sunday, May 26

Mark your calendar for our traditional Memorial Weekend Picnic on Sunday, May 26, in the Open Space on 32nd Street between Abell & Guilford, 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 27



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

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, for more info.

- Saturday, May 11
- Sunday, June 9

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.

COMMUNITY DUMPSTERS

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.*

PEABODY HEIGHTS BREWERY EVENTS

There's always something happening at Peabody Heights Brewery! Some of their recurring events returning this summer will be:

- **Friday Night Concerts** in the beer garden, starting in May and running through October
- **Butch Garden** (queer dance party), the first Saturday of the month from June to November
- **The Baltimore Plant Swap**, the third Sunday of each month

But there will be so much more. Keep up with their schedule on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/Peabodyheightsbrewery/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PeabodyHeightsBrewery>

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). Please have your submissions in by July 12 (for the summer issue), and 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

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