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Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

February 2022 Issue

Dear Neighbors,

New Year, new officers for the Abell Improvement Association!

For those who are new to the neighborhood: the AIA is the group of residents that organizes the annual Street Fair every fall, manages the local park known as the Open Space (see inside for exciting plans to commission a mural!), and generally helps neighbors connect with each other.

Everyone who lives in Abell is encouraged to join the AIA – and if this newsletter was delivered to your door, you’re in Abell! Flip to the back page for more information about how to join. It’s very easy. And if you think you’re a member of the AIA, but you can’t remember if you’ve paid your \$10 annual membership fees, check out the check-my-status link on the back page.

Perhaps you’re thinking “But I just moved here, and I’m not planning to stay forever.” AIA is for you! It’s a great way to meet neighbors and find out about fun events. And joining the AIA is a good way to make your opinions heard – the neighborhood association helps residents weigh in on proposals by city government and Johns Hopkins University.

Each year, AIA members meet in January to elect new officers. This year’s officers are:

President: Diana Emerson

Vice President: Tyler Lane

Treasurer: Rhea Nödel

Recording Secretary: Jim Anthony

Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Baker

CVCBD representative: Colin Chappell

At-large CVCA member: Caitlin Welte

At-large CVCA member: Ian Mahoney

A big thank you to outgoing president Maureen Daly for her service to the neighborhood during the pandemic! And a shout-out to Shelley Treadway for surprising Maureen with flowers on her last day in office. We captured the moment on Zoom.



That smile doesn’t lie.

Onward!

Your editor

Traffic Calming Update

The neighborhood traffic calming committee is making slow-but-steady progress. They helped orchestrate the repair of the little pieces of white plastic sticking out of the ground at the intersection of 19th Street and St. Paul and Howard and 28th Street. Those bollards help slow people down.

In the next few months, the lights on 28th and 29th will be retimed to slow traffic. And the committee is also working on a strategy to make Barclay Street safer for pedestrians.

In February, the Department of Transportation also published a new potential policy about how they'll use both risk and equity to prioritize where traffic calming will go, and who has to sign off. Everyone can weigh in! Check it out at: <https://bit.ly/3sC68Sz>

If you'd like to get involved in local traffic calming efforts, get in touch with Jennifer Libby Weeks: Jenniferlibbyweeks@gmail.com.

We're Getting A Mural!

The Abell Improvement Association would like to have a mural on the wall in the Open Space on 32nd Street. The deadline for artists to submit proposals was February 18th. AIA has already received multiple proposals, and neighbors will have a chance to weigh in on which one gets selected.

Contact Tyler Lane at lane.tyler@gmail.com to be part of the artist selection process. Artist selection to be announced March 4, 202

For more details about the project, check out: <https://bit.ly/3GFG51K>



The next membership meeting for the Abell Improvement Association will be Wednesday, April 20 from 6:30-8 p.m. Check the AIA Facebook page, website and community message boards for details.



Opposition to Proposed Hopkins Police Department

In January 2019, AIA members voted overwhelmingly to oppose the Johns Hopkins Police Department (JHPD), a private armed police force that could patrol our neighborhood. The new Johns Hopkins University Vice-President for Public Safety, Dr. Branville Bard, stated that he intends to develop and implement JHPD.

In November, AIA members voted to ask President Daniels to halt further development of JHPD.

In January, AIA sent that letter to Daniels jointly with four other neighborhood associations: Greater Remington, Harwood, Old Goucher, and Waverly Improvement.

President Daniels must get permission from Baltimore Police Commissioner Harrison to start the Johns Hopkins Police Department by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). At the January membership meeting, AIA members voted to send a letter to Harrison asking him not to sign an MOU.

If you would like to join the AIA Committee to Oppose JHPD, get slides to one of our presentations to AIA members, or have suggestions for ways to oppose JHPD, please contact Emil Volcheck at volcheck@acm.org or text/call (443) 791-9910.

Meet Dobby, the AIA Membership Animal

Check out the back page for a message from Dobby!

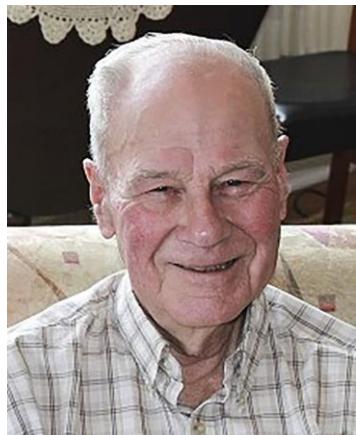
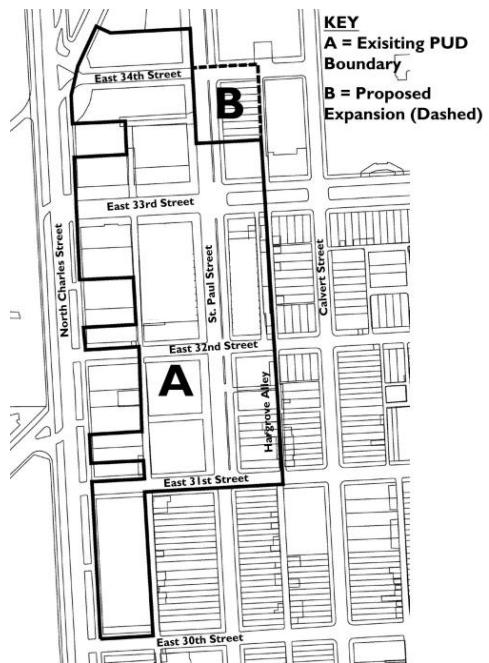
Have you explored Abell's [website](#)? We have information about upcoming [events](#), neighborhood [resources](#), and also [galleries](#) from recent community gatherings, to name a few. Check it out!

www.abellimprovement.org

Developments: New, Old, Welcome and Not

The area around Abell is getting a few new businesses and buildings! Some are more welcome than others. A quick update:

- *Red Emma's Bookstore* is moving forward with the renovation of its buildings at the intersection of 32nd and Greenmount. Red Emma's worker-owners say they hope to have a limited coffee shop/bookstore open later this spring or early this summer. The full store, with community space, will open later this year.
- A *Dollar General* store is planned for Greenmount Ave across from Pete's Grill, over the objections of many Abell neighbors who feel that the neighborhood deserves a store that is less exploitative of both workers and patrons. The property owner signed a 10-year lease with Dollar General. There will be a meeting to talk about a memo of understanding between the store and the neighborhood. Watch AIA Facebook, website and community sandwich boards for details.
- Saint Paul Street: the buildings currently occupied by Street Market and Bank of America are slated for redevelopment, with apartments on top and commercial space on the first floor. There is also a proposal to rezone part of the block between 33rd and 34th to accommodate more commercial space. The diagram to the right shows the new "PUD" boundary.



Remembering Gil French

Longtime Abell resident Francis G. "Gil" French died in January of complications from COVID-19. He was 91.

Gil lived on Guilford Avenue for many years. He led the math department at Baltimore City College, his alma mater. Early in his career, he worked on curriculum development for both math and computing courses for the Baltimore City Schools.

Gil also sang in the Handel Choir for nearly 40 years, and was an active part of Abell civic life. He served as president of the Charles Village Civic Association multiple times. His neighbors remember him as a friendly and kind local leader who loved music and was generous with his time, supporting young teachers, musicians and neighbors alike.

Recycling Updates

Hallelujah we got new recycling bins! They are large and blue and you can't miss them.

If you have old recycling bins, you can... recycle them! Just put the old ones into the new one. Or, you can use them as planters. They have handy holes in the bottom.

Recycling is currently on an every-other-week schedule due to COVID staffing shortages.

You can take extra recycling to the dump at Sisson Street. On off-weeks, you can take recycling to the back parking lot at Mervo High School (off Tivoli Street).

CVCBD update Police Consent Decree Update

The Baltimore Police Department is entering its fifth year under a federal agreement meant to fix systemic illegalities within the department. The agreement is called the "consent decree," and all residents have the right to weigh in on how it's going. Your neighbor Miller Roberts of Harwood represents the Northern District as a civilian liaison for the team that monitors how the consent decree is working. He wants everyone to know that a draft of the Fifth Year Monitoring Plan for the Baltimore Police Department has been released and is open for public comment.

Do you have thoughts on how the BPD conducts itself? Weigh in here: <https://www.bpdmonitor.com/fifth-year-monitoring-plan>. Responses were very trauma-centric for public safety. Or, get in touch directly with Miller at miller.roberts@bpdmmonitor.com. He also holds a weekly Zoom "office hour" on Thursdays from 6-7pm. To join, go to www.webex.com, Click "Join Meeting", Enter the meeting ID: 1320 992 4785, Password Northern20, or join by phone: dial 408-418-19388, enter 132 992 4785#connecting people to resources that actually exist. (Kristina Williams,

Officers Contact List

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- Bulletin Board -

Exercise Classes through the 29th Street Community Center

The community center is offering FREE virtual exercise classes through March 6th:

- Boot Camp: Monday through Thursday at 6am, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30pm and Saturday at 9am
- Resilience Flow: Wednesday at 5pm
- Resilience Strength: Monday at 5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday at 12pm

Fill out our enrollment form here:
<https://forms.gle/cq6pCHsPqPhiPbx6>

Local Job & Resource Fairs

There are two job and resource fairs planned for the area in March.

1. Wednesday, March 2 from 3-7pm at 2640 St. Paul Street (St. John's Church)
2. Saturday, March 26 from 10am-2pm at 1101 E. 25th Street (Corner Team Boxing and Fitness Club)

Come for the free catered food! Stay for:

- Fun activities for all ages!
- Job Fair!
- YouthWorks Application Help (Get hired on the spot!)
- Resource Fair! (Rent & Utilities Assistance, Digital Resources, Free Tax Prep Info, Broadband Benefit Program, Resume Writing Clinic, Grief & Mental Health Support, College Savings Planning, Expungement Help, and more!)
- COVID Vaccine Info & On-Site Clinic!
- Free COVID at-home rapid tests!
- Goodie bags for all

Dobby says: Pay your membership dues

The AIA Membership Animal, Dobby, is pictured in all his glory inside this newsletter. Dobby says: remember to pay your \$10 membership dues!

It's easier than ever.

1. Check your membership status here: <https://bit.ly/3JjL21K>
2. Need to renew your membership? There's a handy website for that!
<https://abell-improvement-association.square.site/>

Big shout out to Bonnie Bessor and Rhea Nödel for all their work to keep our neighborhood connected.

Trash & Recycling Schedule

**TRASH EVERY TUESDAY;
RECYCLING (EVERY OTHER)
THURSDAY**

Trash may be put out after 6 p.m. the night before; retrieve cans promptly after pick-up.

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

*Deadline for the next newsletter submissions:
March 17*

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.