



# Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

June 2009

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Abell Community:

Is it me, or is our neighborhood looking verdant and lush all of a sudden? I guess that's what a month's worth of prodigious rainfall (not to mention the prodigious talents of Abell's many devoted gardeners) will do. The old adage holds that 'April showers bring May flowers', and one stroll around our neighborhood confirms it. With summer almost upon us, much is afoot in our community...

Among spring's new arrivals; the much-anticipated Waverly Ace Hardware held their grand opening recently, and it did not disappoint. A neighborhood hardware store is a genuine – and rare – asset for a community, and from the looks of it, this one is no exception. The store looks great inside and out. It's clean, well-stocked, and staffed with employees eager to help. If you haven't visited yet, I encourage you to check them out – they're located in the old Waverly Post Office building (more recently the site of a Blockbuster Video store) at 601 Homestead Street. More details follow on Page 2...

The warmer weather signals that summer is on the way, and in the Abell community, that means that the Summer Film Series can't be far behind. This will be the third year the AIA is hosting free outdoor movies in the Abell Open Space, and we once again have some great selections. We've drawn on your suggestions to come up with a lineup that has something for everyone. A full listing can be found on the last page of this newsletter, and summaries of the films can be found on our website at [www.abellimprovement.org/whatsnew.html](http://www.abellimprovement.org/whatsnew.html)

And on a decidedly less sunny note, while vacationing last month, my wife and I received some awful news: our house had been broken into. No one was hurt (including our very *un-*intimidating dog, Peanut), and the thieves didn't steal anything that couldn't be replaced – for which we're grateful. But as those of you who have been victimized can attest, it's a nasty experience that no one deserves.

If there's any silver lining here, maybe it's that our misfortune can serve as a reminder that the warmer weather often brings an uptick in crime in our neighborhood, including break-ins. I'd encourage you to take a moment to review your home's security. Ensure that locks on your doors and windows – particularly those in the rear of the house – are functioning, and consider adding an additional deadbolt lock to windowed rear doors (out of arm's reach if an intruder should break the glass). Think about installing a motion-sensor light if you don't already have one. Install 'stops' on double-hung windows. And finally, take the time to take pictures or video of your valuables – this will make it far easier to file a claim with your insurance company should your home be burglarized. The Baltimore Police Department posts some good tips on their website: [www.baltimorepolice.org](http://www.baltimorepolice.org).

Stay safe, and we'll see you at the movies!

Paul Burk  
President, Abell Improvement Association

### Inside:

Summer  
Outdoor  
Film Series

Volunteers  
Needed for  
Street Fair

Waverly  
Ace  
Hardware  
Now Open

Barclay  
Recreation  
Center  
Summer  
Camp

### **Ace Hardware Opens in Waverly**

The long awaited Waverly Ace Hardware officially opened on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The store is fabulous, and the folks who work there are too! Pam Smith is the manager, and there are already a few community residents working at the store. The store has over 8,000 square feet of space and over 20,000 items. They have all kinds of hardware, lawn and garden supplies, kitchen supplies, paint, tools, plumbing and electrical supplies, automotive supplies, and even a pet supply section. The friendly staff can help you find anything you need, and if they don't have what you need, they will order it for you!

Did you know that Waverly Ace Hardware is a local business? That's right! Owners Gina Schaefer and Marc Friedman are based in Washington, D.C., and own six Ace Hardware Stores, four in D.C. and two in Baltimore. All Ace Hardware stores are part of a cooperative, and are independently owned and operated.

The address of the store is 601 Homestead Street. It is behind the Rite Aid on Greenmount Avenue near the Giant, in the old Waverly Post Office Building.

Phone: 443-627-8893

Hours of Operation are:

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Website: [www.acehardwaredc.com/waverly](http://www.acehardwaredc.com/waverly)

See you at Ace!  
Bonnie Bessor

### **Congratulations, Newlyweds!**

Best wishes to Guilford Avenue residents **Steve Gewirtz** and **Janet Wright**, who exchanged wedding vows here in Baltimore on April 20.

### **For Rent – Vacation/Retreat/Renewal**

*Cove Cottage at Tilghman*

Just 15 minutes from St. Michaels, this 4 BR, 2 bath fully-stocked Cape Cod with front & back water views, CAC; sleeps 5-10. Visit [www.vrbo.com/142726](http://www.vrbo.com/142726) for photographs and details on amenities, nearby activities and rates. Affordable rates with economic relief packages for families, individuals and seniors. Offered by Cassandra Orem and Vonnie Gowe. For info: 443-695-9299

### **Welcome to Our New Neighbors**

From **Laura Scott**:

*My husband, Andy, and I moved to Abell Avenue this past November from DC. Andy is a law clerk downtown and I am a "retired" journalist, now staying home with our new daughter. We're anxious to meet new neighbors here.....*

Laura, Andy and Avery live in the 3000 block of Abell. We'll watch for you, **Laura & Andy** – 'bet we'll see you at the Open Space!

**Matthew Thurber** and his wife **Elodie** are new residents at 3211 Abell, and they are very happy with their new neighborhood. Matthew likes to play chess, and is offering their house as a place where others who enjoy the game could gather to play on summer evenings:

#### **SUMMER EVENING CHESS**

*All sorts of chess players will be welcome to come and play chess at 3211 Abell Ave. The first meeting will be on Thursday, June 18 at 7 pm. Contact Matthew Thurber at 410-889-2373 or [derekthurber@yahoo.com](mailto:derekthurber@yahoo.com).*

Do you have new neighbors? Or are you a new neighbor? Tell us about you! Send a note to [sbtreadway@aol.com](mailto:sbtreadway@aol.com).

### **Contractor Recommendations**

This column is a regular feature. If you have had a great experience with a contractor for your home, please send your recommendation to [sbtreadway@aol.com](mailto:sbtreadway@aol.com)

Didon Pachner:

House cleaning: Carolyn Goodwyn – 410 372 7278  
*She is thorough, reliable, affordable, and most important, honest.*

Jim Anthony:

Painting: Casey Cutlip – 443 631 2416  
*His work is excellent and reasonably priced. He was very dependable and one of the nicest persons I have ever met. I strongly recommend him.*

Judy Berlin:

Home Improvement: Matt Baker - 443 257 4723  
*Licensed and insured; what can one say about a contractor with a B.S. in history who listens to NPR.... He works alone - is very particular about his work and doesn't want to be looking over anyone's shoulder. I give him four stars.*

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# Non-Profit Organizations & Volunteer Opportunities

## **Barclay Recreation Center & Summer Camp, June 15 - August 7**

Under new leadership, the Barclay Recreation Center has made many improvements. The facility is open 7 days a week, and boasts a gym for basketball, game rooms, a weight room and a wellness center. Future plans include a computer lab. The center is available for group use.

Improvements to the center include:

- Establishment of an advisory board
- Increased staff
- Establishment of a safety and security system, including sign-in for everyone in the building. Every door is locked, and an attendant lets visitors in.
- Successful partnership with the school and the recreation center

Once again, the Rec Center will be hosting a summer camp - **Camp Baltimore at the Barclay Recreation Center**. The camp is expected to serve 75-80 children, and runs from June 15 to August 7. The camp will serve ages 5-12. Five trips and all meals are included with the tuition.

Tuition for the basic camp, from 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m., is \$225. Extended camp, which includes before and after camp care from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., is \$300. Installment plans and group rates are available.

The staff ratio of 15:1 will include youth workers. Scholarships will be provided by community support groups. Adult volunteers who successfully pass a background check are needed.

For more information about the summer camp, or about volunteering at the recreation center, contact Paul Huskey at 410-396-6073.

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## **Street Fair Volunteers Needed**

The 2009 Abell Street Fair will be held Sunday, September 13. The AIA needs volunteers to help plan and run the event. The subcommittees are:

Publicity  
Silent Auction  
Setup and Breakdown  
Crab Feast  
Grill Station  
Bake Sale  
Children's Activities  
Music and Entertainment  
Vendors

Please contact **Kathleen Hruska**, [kshruska@mac.com](mailto:kshruska@mac.com), 410-467-8566, if you are interested in helping plan this great event!

## **Trash Guidelines**

As spring has sprung and summer is right around the corner, we must be diligent about following the city trash guidelines in order to keep our neighborhood clean and the rat population low. There may always be rats in the city, but we don't have to feed them; so, please put a lid on your trash can, or only put out your trash on the morning of pickup.

Also, please remember that the city will assess a \$50 fine to those who do not follow the trash regulations. If you have a problem with a neighbor or spot a problem property, please be proactive and contact the property owner, call 311, or let someone on the AIA executive committee know about the problem. The city is working hard these days to keep our neighborhoods clean. You can learn more about their efforts and what you can do to help at <http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org>.

## **Thank You, Abell**

We would like to thank the Abell Community for all your overwhelming support after the loss of Mark. The cards, the food, the visits, the phone calls, and the nights spent with Robin were very much appreciated. Your support has given us so much comfort through such a difficult time.

In addition, we would like to thank you for the very nice tree planting in memory of Mark on April 11, 2009. That day was so evident of a true community and we are glad that we could be apart of it.

Thanks again,

The Theodorsons and The Truietts

# - Bulletin Board -

## Officers Contact List

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## NEW TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Baltimore City will begin  
One Plus One Trash &  
Recycling in July.

Trash may be put out after 6  
p.m. the night before, by 6 a.m.  
the day of pick-up. **All trash  
must be in secure cans with  
tight-fitting lids.**

Watch for community  
announcements regarding pick-  
up days.

## 2009 Abell Outdoor Film Series

Friday 7/3 - **Some Like It Hot**, 8:45 p.m.

Saturday 7/4 - **Ghostbusters**, 8:45 p.m.

Friday 7/10 - **The Straight Story**, 8:45 p.m.

Friday 7/17 - **Buster Keaton** double feature - **Sherlock, Jr.** &  
**The General**, 8:45 p.m.

Friday 7/24 - **Raising Arizona**, 8:45 p.m.

Friday 7/31 - **Roxanne**, 8:30 p.m.

Friday 8/7 - **Annie**, 8:30 p.m.

Friday 8/14 - **Star Wars**, 8:15 p.m.

Friday 8/21 - **The Jungle Book**, 8:15 p.m.

Friday 8/28 - **The Goonies**, 8:00 p.m.

Friday 9/4 - **Pee Wee's Big Adventure**, 8:00 p.m.

Friday 9/11 - TBD: *we'll hold a drawing at the 9/4 showing - the  
winner will get to choose the movie!*

**In the event of rain, movies will be shown on the following  
Saturday.**

## Charles Village Garden Walk Sunday, June 7, 11AM - 4PM

This year's walk includes 20-30 gardens south of 29<sup>th</sup> Street, from  
Howard Street to Guilford Avenue. A rooftop garden will be featured.  
Wine will be served at the Village Learning Place's garden, where  
admission is with Garden Walk tickets only.

Tickets may be purchased for \$10 the day of the walk at the Charles  
Village Festival. Tickets are also available for \$8 on Saturday, June 6 at  
the Festival, and May 30 at the Waverly Farmer's Market.

## AIA General Membership Meeting

**Saturday, August 8**

10:30 a.m.

Barclay Recreation Center

Please send **newsletter contributions** to Shelley Treadway, 3026 Abell  
Avenue, or email to [sbtreadway@aol.com](mailto:sbtreadway@aol.com). Deadlines for newsletter  
submissions:

August 8

**Street Fair Issue**

September 16

**Fall Issue**

November 17

**Holiday Issue**