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# Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

Winter 2025

## New President's Letter

Howdy, neighbors,

Addressing you all for the first time, let me introduce myself. I am James "Jim" Rubarth-Lay, your newly elected Abell Improvement Association (AIA) President. You might recognize my surname as being shared by our outgoing president, Anita. I assure you that this in no way signifies a dynastic succession. It simply reflects that both of us love this neighborhood and want to help ensure that this organization continues to serve the community. We moved into our house on the 3200 block of Abell in 2015 and continue to be charmed by the people here, these old brick rowhouses, and all that the Abell community has to offer.

One of the underappreciated facets of our neighborhood are the many friendly dogs and their dog-walkers. Our young dog, Manuel, is among the friendliest. He is a medium sized, short-haired, yellow mutt of not quite two years. He loves to meet other dogs and people, so feel free to stop us for a greeting. You will see Manuel and Anita or me wandering the streets (and alleys! He's a village dog after all!) morning, midday, and evenings.

As much as our neighborhood has a cozy and intimate feel, with its tree-lined streets and so many amenities within walking distance, we are not insulated from what is going on in the wider world. With so much going on, maintaining our commitment to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and supportive environment for everyone - residents and passers-by alike - is fundamental to getting through all that, come what may. Be good to each other. Look out for one another.

There may not be much that an organization of our size can do to change the world, but we can improve our little corner of it, much of which you can read about in this newsletter.

We have heard that some residents do not feel heard or represented by the neighborhood association. At the General Membership meeting last month, one of the tweaks to the association's bylaws that the membership approved was to open up two new Member-At-Large positions. These two positions are open and I encourage members living on Guilford, Brentwood, Barclay, and the numbered streets to consider adding your voice to this community's.

Coming up this year are the perennial favorites, Street Fair, Porch Prom, Memorial Day picnic, and the Chili Cook-off, events that bring neighbors out to meet, greet, and celebrate our community.

Beyond the blockbuster events, I'd like to invite everyone to do the day-to-day things that make all our lives better. Greet people. Pick up rubbish and put it in the bins that are on almost every corner. Call 311 or use the Balt311 app to report graffiti that needs to be cleaned, or trash that's piling up in an alley.

Above all, remember that we have a good thing going here and we can make it better.

Jim Rubarth-Lay  
jrubarth@gmail.com

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

## New AIA Officers

At the January 27 General Membership Meeting, a new officer slate was elected:

*President* - Jim Rubarth-Lay

*Vice President* - Dan Walker

*Recording Secretary* - Andrew Limbong

*Corresponding Secretary* - Julia Embry

*Treasurer* - Bonnie Bessor

*Member at large #1* - Teresa Pfaff

*Member at large #2* - Sophie Aron

*Member at large #3* - Vacant

*Member at large #4* - Vacant

*CVCBD Representative* – Ruth Baker

Welcome to our new officers and thank you to our returning officers!

Missed this year's election but want to get involved? Consider volunteering for one of the vacant positions or one of AIA's committees. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and learn more about what's going on in the neighborhood. The committees include:

- Membership/Welcome
- Housing
- Sanitation
- Communications
- Open Space Management
- Safety
- Street Fair
- Porch Prom
- Film Series

## Dumpster Dates

Schedule for our first two dumpsters for 2025:

**Friday, March 21**

**Saturday, May 17**

Additional dates TBD. See <https://www.abellimprovement.org/events> for schedule updates.

## 2025 Abell Improvement Association Events



The AIA hosts several annual community events. Keep these in mind as you're planning your schedules for the year!

- May 25: Memorial Day Picnic
- May 31: Porch Prom
- September\*: Street Fair
- October 5: Chili Cook-Off
- December\*: Caroling and New Years Eve Festivities

\*Exact date to be determined; stay tuned to future newsletters, the AIA's social media, and the bulletin boards in the community for details.

## Mary Pat Clarke Project/Fundraiser

Two of our neighbors, Susanne Riveles and Jo Ann Robinson, are spearheading an effort to create a lasting neighborhood tribute to Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, who passed away late last year. They are looking to honor the countless ways Councilwoman Clarke supported our community and are exploring the possibility of a scholarship in her name for high school-bound youth at Barclay School and the 29th Street Community Center. Planning is still underway. If you'd like to assist them or would like to contribute ideas or funds, please reach out to Susanne at [susanne.riveles@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.riveles@gmail.com) and Jo Ann at [jooiman64@gmail.com](mailto:jooiman64@gmail.com).

## Tree Committee



The newly formed Abell tree committee is working on both a spring and a fall tree planting. The spring planting will be a volunteer event with free trees from TreeBaltimore. We hope to plant or re-plant ten trees on Abell Avenue at 3002, 3026, 3051, 3112, 3140, 3142, and 3144 (4 sites at the front and side of this location). If you have any thoughts about planting at these sites, would like to help with the planting that will take place in late April or early May (more information will follow), or if you live nearby and are willing to water the trees, please contact Rachael at [rvneill@yahoo.com](mailto:rvneill@yahoo.com).

The Abell tree committee also hopes to partner with the Greater Remington Improvement Association which is working with Charles Village and Harwood to apply for the next CBT Urban Tree Grant. We plan to identify twenty to thirty additional sites for new trees. This grant will include funding for contractors to expand tree wells as well as plant and maintain the trees for two years. If we are able to get the grant, planting will happen in the fall of 2025.

The Abell tree committee meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Neighbors interested in joining should contact Sarah at [Sarah.Kanchuger@me.com](mailto:Sarah.Kanchuger@me.com).

## Porch Prom Call for Volunteers



Get your formal wear ready for Porch Prom on Saturday, May 31st! The planning committee will have their first meeting on Thursday, February 27th at 7:00pm at Peabody Heights Brewery. It is essential for folks to join the committee so this yearly tradition can carry on! Email [abellporchprom@gmail.com](mailto:abellporchprom@gmail.com) for more info.

## Thank You Newsletter Carriers!

Thank you to all AIA Newsletter delivery volunteers for your timely work bringing news to the Abell community throughout the past year:

Judy Berlin  
Andrea Buchwald  
Allison Campbell  
Maureen Daly  
Sindbad Fennimore  
Michele Golden  
Peter Gottlieb  
Adwoa Hanson-Hall  
Becky Hersher  
Janet Kahoe  
Michael Klima  
Val Kuciauskas  
Yvonne Mathews  
Patrick McMahon  
Paul & Carlene Moscatt  
Julie Neale Taylor  
Didon Pachner  
Susanne Riveles  
Anita Rubarth-Lay  
Meg Stoltzfus  
Michael Treadway  
Jonathan Wetmiller

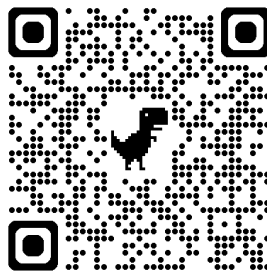
## 2025 AIA General Membership Meetings

The General Membership meetings for the next year will be held on the following dates:

- April Meeting - Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- August Meeting - Saturday, August 23rd, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- November Meeting – *Tentative:* Monday, November 3rd, 2025
- January Meeting - Saturday, January 24th, 2026

## 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.) Scan the QR code below to join the AIA, or sign up via the AIA's website: <https://www.abellimprovement.org/membership>



## Snow & Ice Events: Shovel Your Sidewalk



The City reminds all property owners or occupants of property that:

- All snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk must be removed within 3 hours after the end of a snow or ice event unless the snowfall stops between 3 p.m. and 6 a.m., in which case snow must be removed by 11 a.m.
- Please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

For more info, see <https://snow.baltimorecity.gov/baltimore-housing-reminds-everyone-be-shovel-ready>

## New Neighbor Call-Out

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](mailto:mahoney.iant@gmail.com)

## Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram

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

## - Bulletin Board -

### Officers Contact List

President

Jim Rubarth-Lay

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

Vice President

Dan Walker

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

Treasurer

Bonnie Bessor

412 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street

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

Recording Secretary

Andrew Limbong

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

Corresponding Secretary

Julia Embry

[julia.m.embry@gmail.com](mailto:julia.m.embry@gmail.com)

#### Members-at-Large:

Teresa Pfaff

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

Sophie Aron

[sophie.aron1@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.aron1@gmail.com)

(2 vacancies)

#### CVCBD Representative:

Ruth Baker

### 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 DUMPSTER

Friday, March 21

Saturday, May 17

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

### AIA Monthly Meetings.



Monthly meetings of the AIA executive committee members are normally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday beginning at 6 p.m. via Zoom. *All community members are welcome to attend.*

Scan QR code (left) for Zoom info

#### General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

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! They are typically open the second full weekend of the month. Upcoming browsing dates are listed below. Check out their website, [bookthing.org](http://bookthing.org), for more info.

- Sunday, March 9
- Saturday, April 12
- Saturday, May 10

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)

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)). The remaining 2025 issues are slated to go out in May, August, and November. 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).*