AIA Summer Film Series

- Bulletin Board -

AIA Quarterly Membership Meeting
Saturday, September 12
10:30 a.m.
AIA Welcomes Barclay School Principal Armanda Carr
Discussion topics will include: The STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math) Curriculum
Student Achievement Funding Facts
Strengthening Community Support for our Community School

29th Street Community Center 300 East 29th Street

Please send newsletter contributions to Shelley Treadway 3026 Abell Avenue sbtreadway@aol.com.

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:
August 1 - Street Fair Issue
September 20 - Fall Issue
November 20 - Holiday Issue

TRASH EVERY TUESDAY

Trash may be put out after 6 p.m. the night before, by 6 a.m. the day of pick-up.
We would like to remind people that they are legally required to put their trash in durable trash cans with tight fitting lids. A recent uptick in the rat population makes obeying this law more important than ever. Thanks for your cooperation.

DUMPSTER DATE:
AUGUST 29
31st Street at Abell

AIA Summer Film Series

July 24  The Princess Bride  9:00 p.m.
July 31  Big Hero 6  9:00 p.m.
August 7  The Lunchbox  8:30 p.m.
August 14  Ernest & Celestine  8:30 p.m.
August 21  Mr. Smith Goes to Washington  8:30 p.m.
August 28  Mary Poppins  8:00 p.m.
September 4  Raiders of the Lost Ark  8:00 p.m.

Films are shown in the Abell Open Space on 32nd Street between Abell & Guilford on Friday nights (rain date is the following Saturday) and are free to the public. Show times are approximate.

Abell Improvement Association Newsletter
June 2015

Dear Neighbors:

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. (Martin Luther King, Jr., April 16, 1963)

A crisis such as the one experienced recently in Baltimore can make very clear that “whatever affects one...affects all...” Yet, the sense of belonging to a “network of mutuality” tends to fade as soon as a semblance of order is restored and each of us returns to her/his daily pursuits. I like to think that the work we do together as neighbors can help in small ways to keep us mindful of our common humanity and open opportunities to be of service to others.

For example, when we come together to launch the annual Abell Community Street Fair (scheduled this year for September 20) our goals include making a large enough profit to enable AIA to fund the Mini-Grant program for teachers and students at Barclay Elementary-Middle School and to maintain the “Other Grants” category in our budget. That source enabled the association to donate $500 to the Peace Camp that will be held at the 29th Street Community Center in July. Officers have challenged members to make individual contributions. One generous neighbor actually matched the $500! The camp, which is free to 40 kids, ages 6-12, is still working toward full funding. Its website is http://bypeacefulmeans.org/

Maintaining a sense of mutuality also involves getting to know and supporting those who lead and staff the anchor institutions in our community. At this year’s Memorial Weekend picnic at the Abell Open Space, we welcomed leaders and staff from the Charles Village Community Benefits District, Northern District Police and the 29th Street Community Center. Their presence deepened the sense of community as we enjoyed the fine weather, great food and spirit-lifting music courtesy of DJ Mills from Normals Bookstore. This picnic, like many that have preceded it, was possible because AIA veterans Shelley Treadway and Jim Anthony planned, shopped, set up, grilled, and oversaw the final clean-up. The heartiest of thanks to them.

As with the picnic, so with the coming Street Fair: for the second year in a row, two dedicated AIA officers are shouldering the major responsibility for making it happen. Elsewhere in this newsletter we celebrate the students of Barclay Elementary-Middle School. Please mark your calendar and have a wonderful Summer.

Jo Ann Robinson
President, Abell Improvement Association
www.abellimprovement.org
Abell Open Space Flower Garden Established

Guilford Avenue resident and AIA member Ben Howard has joined the Open Space Committee as caretaker of the long-neglected corner garden in the Open Space. Ben will lead AIA’s efforts to maintain the garden for perennial flowers, and welcomes volunteer help. If you are interested in donating time or flowers to the garden, please contact Ben as directed below.

We hope to turn this corner of the Open Space into an attractive feature that will beautify the neighborhood for years to come. To that end, please refrain from doing any work in the garden before coordinating with Ben, and please refrain from digging, playing, walking pets, or otherwise disturbing the garden.

Thank you,

Haakon Maxwell
Chairman, Open Space Committee
haakon.maxwell@gmail.com

Dear Abell Community,

I’m writing to you today about a new flower garden in the corner of the Abell Open Space. Last fall, Haakon Maxwell and I reworked the previous garden that had become overgrown with weeds in order to set the stage for a new garden.

In addition to beautifying that corner of the Open Space, the garden is also to serve as a memorial for a long time Abell Community member, Doris Singer. Doris moved to Abell in the 80’s and lived in the neighborhood for over 30 years. During that time, she served as an anchor in the community and a caretaker of her grandchildren.

The garden will contain a fig tree and a variety of perennial flowers. We welcome the donation of perennial flowers this spring, but please contact me before planting them in the space.

Your neighbor,

Ben Howard
202-486-6716
benjaminlsingerhoward@gmail.com

2015 Abell Community Street Fair Set for September 20, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Save the Date on your calendar for this year’s Street Fair, and please consider lending a hand.

This year’s Fair will once again open with the Children’s Parade, and feature our popular Silent Auction, Stoop Sales, local food vendors, beer from Peabody Heights Brewery, and wine from the Wine Source. There will be two stages for music again, with the main stage featuring amplified, exciting music from local bands, while the second stage offers a quieter platform for a wide variety of acts. We’ll have a Crab Feast as usual and this year, beer will be available very close to the crab feast, rather than a block away. Lesson learned. Children’s activities will be held throughout the Fair at the Open Space. Our Bake Sale will move from its customary location, and be located this year next to the second, quieter stage, where seating will be available for both. Vendors and non-profit community organizations will offer wares and information, and you will be able to renew your AIA membership for the year, too.

Details on pre-ordering for the Crab Feast, reserving Stoop Sale space on Abell Avenue, volunteering for a shift during the Fair, and more information will follow in the next newsletter.

If you would like to help organize the Street Fair, planning is under way and we’d be delighted to have your help. We are still hoping to find a couple volunteers to fill particular jobs that are critical to the Fair coming together.

Please contact Joel Urbanowicz (urbanow2@gmail.com) or Haakon Maxwell (haakon.maxwell@gmail.com).

On behalf of the dozen or so folks already working to make this Fair better than last year’s, thank you, and we look forward to seeing you on Sunday afternoon, September 20th.

Haakon and Joel

A Message from Derrick Weston - 29th Street Community Center

When I started at Greater Homewood Community Corporation I met with several of my colleagues to discuss their work. I was overwhelmed by the incredibly talented group of people that I now get to call my colleagues including Hannah Gardi at the 29th Street Community Center. Hannah explained the history of the center and described its reopening as the culmination of good organizing efforts. Since I was working as a community builder ("organizer") for York Road neighborhoods, I was inspired seeing what can be created when groups of people cared enough to put their collective energy into meeting a need for their neighborhoods.

Hannah stepped down from her position as center director in May. Ali Warhaftig, who had been overseeing the after school program was named as the new program manager. Ali has an amazing rapport with the students and a temperament that allows her to stay calm and collected even during the after school program’s most hectic moments. She’s also one of the most organized people I’ve ever met! Additionally, Regina Boyce has come on as GHCC’s new director of community services. Regina comes to the center from Councilman Jack Young’s office where she was deputy director of neighborhood relations. She has also been a long-time volunteer in the after school program. Lastly, I get the privilege of continuing community building efforts around the center focusing on Abell, Harwood, Charles Village, and Better Waverly.

All of us are excited to continue the important work of the center. We see this as a place where people can cross boundaries to discuss the important things that affect them all and to just be together as friends. We look forward to working with our neighbors in Abell to make the center a place of meaningful connections for all of our communities.

Derrick Weston