



Sept. 2016-Aug. 2017:

Association Officers

President: Paul Brickman
Vice-Presidents: Jennifer Roberts & Harlan Zinn
Treasurer: Stuart Denrich
Secretary: Claudio Levin

Directors

Paul Brickman
Scott Culiner
Stuart Denrich
Kate Eglseder
Todd Ehrlich
Claudio Levin
Jennifer Roberts
Larry Robinson
Daniel Sarubin
Robert Scher
Ronnie Silverstein
Ellwood Sinsky
Erin Sher Smyth
Dana Stein
Lynn Tomlinson
Ulku Ulgur
Irv Walker
Harlan Zinn
Stanford Zinn

Past Presidents

Stanford Zinn
Barry Zuckerman
Richard Livingston
Jerome Leibowitz
Norman Tucker
Sondra Crain
Shelley Goldseker
Irwin Barshack
Harlan Zinn

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017

Greetings friends and neighbors,

This newsletter is for ALL residents of our Velvet Valley/Velvet Ridge neighborhood. The officers and directors of our Neighborhood Association welcome your active participation in our Association, our activities and volunteer groups. Below are the topics of this newsletter that follow. Questions and comments may be sent to: Velvet.NA@gmail.com .

Topics:

- 1. Surveillance Camera Security System Operations**
- 2. Rainbow Hall Use & Zoning Update**
- 3. Speeding and County Police**
- 4. New Neighbors & Departures**
- 5. Neighbor Resources & Family News**
- 6. Children Events**
- 7. Annual Picnic & Association Meeting**
- 8. Neighborhood Pride & Safety**
- 9. Neighborhood Website**
- 10. Jemicy School Reports**

BALTIMORE COUNTY-RELATED:

- 11. Owings Mills Library News & Offerings**
- 12. County Services**
- 13. Your Septic System – Care & Cautions**
- 14. Assn. Board Members (9/2016 – 8/2017)**

1- SECURITY UPDATE & SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM

Over the last year, there have been no security problems, thefts or break-ins in our neighborhood. This contrasts with other nearby communities such as Stevenson, Greenspring /Quarry, etc. There were two instances where we provided Security Program members to use with police: one

vehicle and license plate camera images for a car speeding past a stopped school bus loading kids, and another, of a pick-up truck that had suspiciously stopped after dark and the driver used a flashlight to scan the front of a home.

Maintenance on the surveillance camera system has been required occasionally to replace parts and reconnect internet outages, in addition to our annual service contract with the security system company.

2- RAINBOW HALL USE AND ZONING UPDATE

The Neighborhood Association, together with The Valleys Planning Council (VPC), has been successful in preventing widespread commercial use and development of the Rainbow Hall estate on Park Heights Avenue near Velvet Valley Way. The previous variance that the owner had gained to establish a church has expired, and apartment rentals have been denied after numerous court hearings. Harlan Zinn and Mark Wilson, together with the VPC, are currently exploring convening a working group to explore zoning and use options for large estates that are changing owners with the intent to maintain single family residential use.

3- SPEEDING & SAFETY: HUMPS AND POLICE MONITORING

Speeding above the 25 MPH limit on Velvet Valley Way and Baronet has continued, primarily from cars cutting through from Caves Rd. and Jemicy School stops. In an effort to better control and limit speeding, the Neighborhood Association approached the County's Traffic Engineering Dept. to request posting additional 25 MPH signs. The officials denied this, noting their tests proved more signs do not slow traffic. They offered to install gentle asphalt speed humps along the street, primarily at straight-aways. The Association is now exploring where any new humps might be installed, and a majority of nearby affected residences will need to sign a petition to be circulated once a plan is finalized. In addition, the Traffic Engineers encouraged that the community work with the Franklin Police Precinct to set up occasional speed radar monitoring on the street.

In addition to speeding vehicles, we continue to hear stories about pedestrians walking in low-light conditions. If you're out walking in early morning or dusk, please remember to wear bright/reflective clothing and carry a flashlight to alert approaching cars.

4- NEW NEIGHBORS & DEPARTURES

The Neighborhood Association warmly welcomes our new arrivals, some belatedly. To help us identify and welcome all new arrivals as they occur and to help newcomers be aware of our community and activities and help with lost/found animals, **PLEASE let us know when you are aware of new individuals / families moving in nearby.**

The following are families that have joined our community in the last year or so, as well as departures.

BARONET

10800 - Monique & Grant Cleverly

10908 - Susan & Harold Levin

BUCKSWAY

5 - Julie & Avi Tasher

CAVES FOREST

2502 - Greg Anderson

CLIFFSIDE

4 - Marlene & Glen Taylor

6 - Carmen Paniza & Reynaldo Guzman

SUSAN CT

1 - Jamie & Dennis Shepard

VELVET RIDGE

2305 – Vlad Opper

2307 – Carol (Karen?) & Peter France

2405 – Molly & Jonathan Caplis

2411 – Yuko & Sam Steinbach and son

VELVET VALLEY WAY

2302 – Ben Shifrin & Steve Fellen

2304 – Liz & Matthew Pollock

2306 – Simita & Udaya Talwar

VERDANT

11100 – Stacey & Barry Levin

DEPARTURES:

Debbie & Marty Disney, 11 Bucksway

Janet & Richard Livingston, 10800 Baronet

Alison & Aaron Magat, 5 Celadon

Marnie Goldman & Karl Spector, 2505 Caves Forest

Al Shapiro, 1 Susan Ct.

5- NEIGHBOR RESOURCES & FAMILY NEWS

Young people who live in our community have expressed an interest in baby or dog sitting. If you have a need, we will gladly send out an email to the community for anyone who may be able to help.

Babysitting & Dog-sitting:

- Lucy Saper, 16, who lives on Velvet Valley Way, is available to babysit and dog-sit and can get anywhere in the neighborhood. Her cell is: 443-204-0105.
- Grant & Monique Cleverly moved onto Baronet in December, and their charming, responsible and kind two daughters (ages 15 and 13) are available for babysitting. Contact them through Grant's cell: (410) 532-8847 or his email grant@tensilestystems.com

Other:

- Bettye and Jerry Leibowitz are ecstatic about their new grandson, Tyler James Bickoff, born Sept. 10, 2016.
- Jane & Paul Brickman became grandparents again when their Arlington-based daughter Jen and hubby Patrick gave birth to Nathan Andrew Rasche on April 10th.
- Ellen and Tony Glasser are very proud of their daughter Rebecca Netanya Glasser on her graduation from Pikesville High School -Class of 2017- and her acceptance into University of Vermont Class of 2021 to study Neuroscience.
- Donna Eden offers that: if anyone is interested in primarily native, deer resistant plants, I'd be happy to show them my front yard. I'll have a lot of little hellebores (Lenten roses, non-native) to share in the fall; call Donna at 443-742-7402 or email: dze1946@gmail.com.

6- CHILDREN EVENTS

Last October's **Neighborhood Halloween Party**, held at the Jemicy School, was a huge success, with dozens of happy, costumed kids and parents joining in the fun. We hope to repeat this again this coming Halloween.

In addition, the Neighborhood Association's volunteer **Kids Committee** is working on another event for this summer, and we will announce details when they are realized.

7- ANNUAL PICNIC & ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

The annual **Neighborhood Picnic and Association General Meeting** will be held again this summer, similar to last year, with gourmet food trucks offering delicious options of entrees (including vegetarian options), side dishes and desserts; and interactive fun activities for children as well—all free for families who are Association members. Our goal is to hold the event soon after Labor Day so families are back from vacation and attendance can be maximized. Details will be announced, and we hope you'll be able to attend.

8- NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE & SAFETY

Newsletter contributions from residents always include requests that each family occasionally walk around their property and adjacent street curb area to remove accumulated trash, such as old newspapers, cans and wrappers as well as leaves, branches and grass cuttings which tend to clog storm drains on the streets. Of course, regular lawn/weed trimming also enhances neighborhood appearance and avoids that "abandoned" look. And if there is a grass/leaf covered storm drain in front of your home, please help clear it to avoid street flooding and topsoil run-off.

Last fall and winter, BGE's contractors cut down many trees interfering with utility lines, especially along Park Heights, which created quite a mess. Due to the Association's many calls and follow-ups, most of those cuttings have now been removed; however, we are pushing for additional clean-up with BGE, State Environment officials and the contractor.

9- NEIGHBORHOOD WEBSITE

As an all-volunteer effort, the planned Association's community website has been delayed; we now are selecting an outside service to expedite completion. The website will include community events and news, list a restricted / secure resident directory, and eventually provide a list of resources that neighbors have used and recommended (e.g., painters, plumbers, electricians, snow plowing and lawn cutting, etc.).

For neighbors wishing to communicate with others for service referrals, lost animals, etc., we suggest emailing the Association or Paul Brickman to send out a special email, and to also consider joining Nextdoor Caves Valley. To enroll in the free Nextdoor C.V. listserv for community resources, you may sign up at: <https://cavesvalley.nextdoor.com/login/>

10- JEMICY SCHOOL REPORTS

After many years serving the Jemicy School, Jane Evans is retiring as Director of Advancement. Jane was recognized and celebrated by the school a few months ago. Going forward, input for future news will be provided by Bonnie Wasserman, Director, Publications and Communications.

Jemicy's Head of School, Ben Shifrin, has moved into our community on Velvet Valley Way and assures us he will be an enthusiastic neighbor and that the School will be as supportive as ever in neighborhood events and concerns.

Jemicy School notes it “would like to thank our neighbors for their patience during their year of construction. They are almost done and look forward to a more peaceful school environment in September. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.”

BALTIMORE COUNTY TOPICS & RESOURCES:

11-OWINGS MILLS LIBRARY

The relatively new public library at 10302 Grand Central Avenue in Metro Centre Owings Mills, has lots of family and community activities and publishes a monthly newsletter. Summer reading activities and events for tikes, elementary, middle, high school kids and adults are listed online at: www.bcpl.info/summerreading .

Scheduled events at the Owings Mills branch, such as Storytimes, yoga lessons, trivia nights and more can be found at: www.bcpl.info/events/datelines-owings-mills

You can subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter emails at: <http://mailchi.mp/bcpl/celebrate-free-comic-book-day-with-us-950981?e=46de2bb962> .

The Owings Mills library has a wealth of DVDs, including movies and cable TV programs, within its inventory and you can also borrow through them from other County and City libraries to meet your literary, movie and reference requests. Their friendly and very accommodating staff can additionally train you on downloading free public library books on your own e-reader, such as a Kindle.

12-COUNTY SERVICES

Baltimore County employees have often proven to be very resident-focused and helpful. A directory and link to various departments and services can be found at: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/infofor/residents.html

At this website, you'll find diverse resources listed such as: animal services (lost pets, dead animal pick-up, vaccinations, neutering), police news by precinct (we're covered by Franklin), trash & recycling pick-up and composting hints, Upcoming Events by categories, and residential code violations. You may be surprised by the wealth of services offered.

13-YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM – CARE & CAUTIONS

Baltimore County has a very helpful brochure on septic systems: how they are designed, work, and should be maintained in this area – information that few homeowners really are aware of. It can be downloaded from the following online link: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/groundwatermgmt/educational.html>
Then select the link: *Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems: A Guide to Maintenance*

Homeowners with a modern style regular septic system, including all those installed in Baltimore County since 1985, need to be pumped out only every 2 to 3 years, depending on the number and usage habits of its residents. An honest septic maintenance contractor should be able to tell you how it looked at the last pump out and how soon it will need to be pumped again. Many pumping contractors in our area charge around \$200 to pump out a typical septic tank. Those with older “drywell” systems may need maintenance more often.

In addition, BGE Home, at 1.888.bgehome offers water and sewer line protection plans, as well as well pump replacement plans – all at reasonable annual fees relative to the incredible expense associated with repairs and replacement.

14-BOARD DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Association Board Directors are elected at our summertime annual meeting by attending Neighborhood Association members. At their first board meeting, the new directors elect the officers to serve for the year and form committees to follow through on programs and actions to serve the community. All directors serve as volunteers. The officers and directors currently serving are as follows.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Email</u>
<u>Officers</u>		
1. Paul Brickman (President)	2300 Velvet Valley Wy	Paulbrickman1@gmail.com
2. Jennifer Roberts (Vice president)	2405 Velvet Valley Wy	jenmedura@hotmail.com
3. Harlan Zinn (Vice president)	10628 Park Heights Av	zinnhk@gmail.com
4. Stuart Denrich (Treasurer)	16 Bucksway Rd.	stuartSSD@gmail.com
5. Claudio Levin (Secretary)	6 Celadon	clevin@clinical-md.com
<u>Other Directors</u>		
6. Scott Culiner	2500 Velvet Valley Wy	H: smculiner@verizon.net
7. Kate Eglseder	10811 Baronet	keglseder@towson.edu
8. Todd Ehrlich	3 Cliffside Ct	phunwithphood@hotmail.com
9. Larry Robinson	2309 Velvet Ridge Dr.	imrldr8@verizon.net
10. Danny Sarubin	2322 Velvet Ridge Dr.	dannysarubin@gmail.com
11. Robert Scher	2412 Velvet Valley Wy	rescher@ober.com
12. Ronnie Silverstein	2504 Velvet Valley W	ronnie.silverstein@gmail.com
13. Ellwood Sinsky	2416 Velvet Valley Wy	esinsky@comcast.net
14. Erin Sher Smyth	2303 Velvet Ridge Dr.	Erin.Sher@baltimorecity.gov
15. Dana Stein	2403 Velvet Valley Wy	depstein00@yahoo.com,
16. Lynn Tomlinson	2501 Velvet Valley Wy	Lynntomlinson1@gmail.com
17. Dr. Ulku Ulgur	2511 Velvet Valley Wy	uulgur@gmail.com
18. Irv Walker	5 Grenadier Ct	iwalker@coleschotz.com
19. Stanford Zinn	2410 Velvet Valley Wy	Stanfordzinn1@verizon.net