



**Update Us at:**  
**Velvet.NA@gmail.com:**

### COUNTY & STATE GOVT. REP CONTACTS

Our County and State government reps have proven to be accessible and supportive advocates and good resources in helping to solve issues and identify resources. Below is contact info for them:

- **Izzy Patoka**, Balto. County Councilman: District 2, 410-887-3385, council2@baltimorecountymd.gov, Justin Silberman. Staff chief
- **Lisa M. Belcastro**, State Delegate District 11, (410) 841-3833, Lisa.Belcastro@house.state.md.us, Tyler Hagen, Chief of Staff,
- **Jon S. Cardin**, State Delegate, District 11, (410) 841-3054, jon.cardin@house.state.md.us
- **Dana M Stein**, State Delegate, District 11, (410) 841-3527, dana.stein@house.state.md.us
- **Shelly L. Hettleman**, State Senator, District 11, (410) 841-3131, shelly.hettleman@senate.state.md.us
- **John A. Olszewski, Jr.**, County Exec., **Michelle Bernstein**, District 2 Outreach Coordinator, O: 410.887.5652; C: 443.991.9286; mbernstein@baltimorecountymd.gov

### FUN MUSIC EVENT, SATURDAY, SEPT. 12<sup>TH</sup>

A fun outdoor Music Fest will be held at the Jemicy Lower School on Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 - 8:30pm, free for all residents—and **only residents**. In an email poll taken of all residents during this time of social distancing and caution, majority preference was to skip the annual picnic, with food truck, tables and chairs that the Association has held in prior years. So, this year, there will be no tables. Bring your own lawn chairs or sit on the grass—socially distant from others, and listen to two wonderful, professional bands—thanks to Bucksway neighbor **Mark Towles**. There will be the same gourmet ice cream truck—FREE to Association paid members, as well as individual snack packs and beverages. Please make sure you respond to the Evite if you're planning to attend.

**Wearing Masks will be required unless you're eating ice cream.**



**UPDATE and CONTACT US!** from Assn. president Paul Brickman

Please email us at **Velvet.NA@gmail.com** to add new email addresses of adults in your household or inform us about new folks moving in so we can meet and welcome them to our neighborhood.

And check out our updated website at **www.VelvetValley.org**

### NEW COMMUNITY SIGNS

By now, you've seen the beautiful new community signs announcing "Velvet Valley" at the Park Heights corners with Velvet Valley and Velvet Ridge. The Association is grateful to the residents behind this: artist Lynn Tomlinson for inspiring design direction; Kerry Skarda and her BCG creative marketing agency for design and specs; and Grant Cleverley, who drove the idea, execution and installation, which took longer than anticipated due to County and State approvals, and then careful fabrication with the durable, sylvan Ipe wood by a local sign firm. These signs enhance our community awareness, cachet and home values. A new landscaping firm grooms our corners, and the Association's Landscaping Committee will be working on new plantings around the signs.



**SEE MORE** info and photos at our website: **www.VVVRNA.org**

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES DRIVE

The Neighborhood Association has started our Membership dues drive for the Sept. 2020 – Aug. 2021 year. Dues fund the many programs, social events, landscaping, kids' events, security cameras, website and other initiatives, including our new, classy community signs. The Association's efforts enhance our sense of community, home values, appearance and safety. So please support us with your timely dues payment. Contact us if you need a Membership Form, or pay online via PayPal at **www.VelvetValley.org** .

**ASSOCIATION BOARD****Officers**

President: Paul Brickman  
 Vice Pres.: Grant Cleverley  
 Treasurer: Stuart Denrich  
 Secretary: Joan Kinsey

**Other Directors**

Barry Berman  
 Marcia Castleman  
 Ed Dreiband  
 Ina Dreiband  
 Kate Eglseder  
 Claudio Levin  
 Katie Miller  
 Randy Morrison  
 Rose Seaman  
 Paulette Smith  
 Erin Sher Smyth  
 Sam Steinbach  
 Lynn Tomlinson  
 Irv Walker  
 Gary Wand  
 Harlan Zinn

**HEATING FUELS: BIG DISCOUNT PROGRAM!**

Once again, the Neighborhood Association's Randy Morrison surveyed local oil and propane heating fuel companies to provide significantly reduced prices to paid members for the 2020-2021 year. **Different** from last year, the companies are reliable providers of fuel and service plans. The savings to residents versus what they would pay on their own well-exceed the cost of annual dues. Once dues are received, details will be given to residents who express interest, and approved access will be given by the Association to the companies.

**For Heating Oil**, the price is **\$1.78/ gallon** on a Budget Plan through May 2021, and \$1.81 Pay-As-You-Go.

**For Propane**, the total quantity Pre-Buy price paid by check or cash is **\$1.109 / gallon**; \$1.199 paid by credit card; and \$1.299 Pay-As-You-Go.

**BGE POWER OUTAGE ACTIONS TAKEN:** The Neighborhood Assn. worked with BGE to analyze and act on too-many outages occurring due to trees on wires, as reported last January. At the Association's urging and follow-thru's, BGE contractors removed trees and limbs from the worst areas. Another case of your Association hard at work for its residents.

**HOME REALLY IS WHERE THE HEART IS!** From Grant Cleverley & Family

As I regularly walk my Chocolate Lab Harper, it is great to see all of the wonderful property improvements our neighbors have been doing during these crazy times.

I see many large projects like new swimming pools being installed, homes being painted and major renovations. I see new landscaping, paving of driveways, new roofs going on, and smaller, yet just as important things like new mailboxes, vegetable gardens, and removal of overgrowth and dead trees.

Even small improvement like planting some seasonal flowers or changing the color of a front door shows our neighbors (and potential buyers) what a great place we live.

Our family chose Velvet Valley 3½ years ago, moving from Ruxton. We have enjoyed getting to know many of our neighbors through the V.V. Association (worth every penny!) and have seen many positive changes.

We would like to believe the trend of investing in our homes and community will continue as we welcome many new homeowners and families which benefits us all.

THANK YOU. GOOD NEIGHBORS!

**NEARBY HIKING: CROMWELL VALLEY PARK** (Thanks to Lynn Tomlinson)

Cromwell Valley Park is a great spot for a walk or a picnic, about a 20-minute drive, just past Towson off 695 Cromwell Bridge Rd. With plenty of room to explore and wide, paved paths and woodland trails, you'll find forests, streambeds, farmland, and open fields. Check out the chickens at the Willow Grove Nature Education Center, or explore the historic Lime Kilns. Because of the variety of habitats, Cromwell Valley Part is also a great place for birding — 181 species of birds have been spotted at the park. There are lots of picnic tables to choose from — enjoy! (And take-out from McFaul's Ironhorse is nearby.) <https://cromwellvalleypark.org>

**STREET SAFETY BY DRIVERS & WALKERS**

Being homebound, more residents than ever are out walking and running. And with Jemicy School resuming classes in mid-August, traffic will increase. For safety, please consider the following:

- Drive slowly; our neighborhood speed limit is **25 MPH**.
- Wear bright clothing, and carry a flashlight if dusk is approaching; walk in the oncoming-car direction.
- Walking a dog, hold the leash close to you, and please clean-up after your dog.

**Who's That Silver Volvo???**

Neighbors often see friendly resident Mark driving around in his silver Volvo all day. Working the phone from home, he prefers moving in his car. He also plays his music rough-cuts loudly to refine his professional studio production sounds. Mark puts on 45K miles/yr. in the "hood", sends greetings.



**WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS**

In recent months, a number of new residents have moved into our community. Please join the Association in welcoming them. The Association's Welcome Committee meets with each new family to make them feel welcome, and your help in identifying new move-ins helps us identify these new neighbors; let us know at [Velvet.NA@gmail.com](mailto:Velvet.NA@gmail.com)

- 2505 Caves Forest Rd., Kelli Nemer
- 10535 Park Heights Ave., Brandon Bell
- 2412 Velvet Valley Way, Cheryl & Scott Salter
- 2422 Velvet Valley Way, Patti & Daniel Medinger
- 7 Rainbow Ct., Grace & Chester Hoover
- 11106 Verdant, Sandi & Eric Benzer
- 10807 Baronet, Marina Segel & Jennifer Landon
- 2503 Caves Forest, (TBD after 7/31 closing)

**NEIGHBOR SERVICE RESOURCES and NEXTDOOR.COM**

**Babysitting, Pet Sitting & Plant Care:** Peyton (18) and Eliza (16) can be contacted through dad Grant Cleverley's cell 410.532.8847

**Baked Goods:** Neighbor Suzanne Kassel of The Mondel Broad Bakery, near Jemicy, bakes for last-minute or preorders: Blueberry Cake, Lemon Pound Cake, Banana Bread, Mondel Bread, and more!. Her goods sell at The Pikesville and Towson Farmers' Markets and Don's Farmers' Market in Stevenson Village, or reach her at 443-280-0378 or [themondelbroad@gmail.com](mailto:themondelbroad@gmail.com). See [www.themondelbroad.com](http://www.themondelbroad.com)

**NextDoor.com:** Many residents have enrolled in [www.NextDoor.com](http://www.NextDoor.com) which is a FREE, non-spam listserv which sends your requests to nearby neighbors for recommendations of contractor and retail services, as well as offers to sell, give-away, or buy items people may have. Requests and responses are made through the NextDoor listserv, so no one's email or phone are exposed unless you provide it. Sample services searched include tutors, plumbers, electricians, auto repair, veterinarians, painters, lawn and tree cutting, etc. People have sought to buy and sell exercise equipment, cars, furniture, grills, etc. It's totally safe, and you can always dis-enroll. Worth a try!

**Clean Storm Drains:** Storm drains along each of our streets help prevent flooding and topsoil erosion. The top drain grills need cleaning of accumulated leaves, branches and grass, and this won't happen unless each homeowner adjacent to the storm drain helps keep it clean. Please chip in and clean the drains or, if you have a lawn mowing service, ask them to do it regularly. And never put lawn refuse or chemicals into the drains; these clog and also enter our water supply, wells, and drinking water.

**RECIPE: Kitchen Sink Tomato Sandwiches** (Thanks, Stu Denrich, adapted from the NY Times Cooking, Melissa Clark)

- 4 slices crusty country bread
- 1 fat garlic clove, halved crosswise
- Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling
- Kosher Salt
- Fresh ground pepper
- Mayonnaise, as needed
- 1 or 2 ripe but firm tomatoes, sliced
- Thinly sliced sweet onion like Vidalia or Walla Walla
- 6 slices cooked bacon (optional)

**Preparation**

1. Toast the bread. Take each slice and rub one side all over with the cut side of the garlic clove.
2. Drizzle bread with olive oil, then sprinkle with salt and pepper.
3. Spread mayonnaise on bread. Place the sliced tomatoes on top of 2 pieces of the bread. Cover tomato slices with onions and sprinkle with salt. Top with bacon if using, then top with the other 2 slices of bread to make 2 sandwiches. Eat over the sink.

**WELCOME COMMITTEE**

Paul Brickman



Erin Sher Smyth



Lynn Tomlinson



Joan Kinsey Goddard



Katie Miller



Kate Eglseder



Gary Ward



Barry Berman



Sam Steinbach

**WATER SUSTAINABILITY**

**TIPS:** Pamela Marks, neighbor & environmental atty.

**Keeping our Water**

**Clean:** Our neighborhood boasts delicious drinking water that is from right below our feet. What we put on the ground (on purpose or by accident) matters for the quality of our water and the streams and rivers around us. As a quick tip, we can take care with our paint, solvents, gasoline and other materials to avoid spills, and we also have the power as homeowners to demand that our contractors are responsible and careful. Ask your contractors what their plans are to prevent spills and for proper disposal of waste.

**Where does the Water**

**Flow?** Our storm drains direct runoff from the street through storm drains that flow across our neighbors' properties. So, think about what you are doing with, for instance, your old swimming pool water (there are services to properly dispose of this). Please do not drain such liquids into the street, because they will end up in a neighbor's yard.

**NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE REPORT**

The MLS data below are provided by Association Board director Randy Morrison, whose firm provides home sales and contractor services. ([www.RandyAnna.com](http://www.RandyAnna.com)). **Note:** The Association developed a wonderful "Velvet Valley Features & Benefits" flyer to help home sellers and their agents and leave out for visiting prospects. Contact us if you would like a copy.

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Acres	Int. Sq Ft	Bdrms	Baths	Garge Spcs
<b>ACTIVE</b>							
11014 Park Hts	\$610,000		0.99	4,573	6	4	2
<b>CLOSED</b>							
10807 Baronet	\$575,000	\$560,000	2.69	3,908	4	2-1/2	2
2302 Velvet Ridge	\$559,900	\$529,900	0.7	3,708	4	3-1/2	2
7 Rainbow	\$435,000	\$425,000	1.01	2,716	3	2-1/2	0
11106 Verdant	\$650,000	\$620,000	2.05	4,074	4	4	
2422 Velvet Valley	\$799,800	\$783,000	2.38	6,088	6	4+ 2-1/2	2
<b>PENDING</b>							
2503 Caves Forest	\$924,000		2	4,070	4	3-1/2	3
<b>WITHDRAWN</b>							
2505 Caves Forest	\$625,000	Rented	2	3,466	4	3-1/2	2
<b>EXPIRED</b>							
8 Bucksway	\$250,000	Auction & rented	0.83	3,632	5	3+ 2-1/2	2
10905 Park Hts	\$569,900		0.66	4,488	5	3-1/2	2

**JEMICY SCHOOL REPORTS:**

**JEMICY TO RE-OPEN ON AUGUST 17:** During this spring and summer, Jemicy's medical/healthcare re-entry team developed a plan for a cautious and careful start to the new school year. We eagerly anticipate opening our campuses on August 17 in a manner that will safeguard the health and well-being of our students and teachers.

**CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION CEREMONY:** Rain, thunder, and lightning delayed, but could not stop the Jemicy Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020, held June 19, on the field of the Upper School Campus. Adhering to social distancing, families watched from their autos as the event was projected on a 40-foot screen. Along with speeches and granting of diplomas, a plaque was revealed recognizing the fortitude by the Class of 2020, whose senior year was impacted by the pandemic. We are extremely proud of our 39 graduates, who were accepted by 76 unique colleges and universities and were awarded \$5 million in merit- and talent-based scholarships, and wish them the best of luck and success.

**VIRTUAL SUMMER AT JEMICY:** This summer, Jemicy offered a variety of stimulating online courses that aimed to engage students and help to maintain and enhance skills acquired throughout the school year. The courses, taught by Jemicy faculty, were offered in the areas of language arts, math, science, physical education/sports, the arts, and foreign language.

**PARAGRAPHOLOGY™ WORKSHOP FALL 2020 SESSION:** Explore Paragraphology, a multisensory, comprehensive, scaffolded approach to writing and note-taking that benefits children struggling with the writing process, and/or frustrated and overwhelmed when creating a written response. It is a proven, effective way to teach/help with writing and note-taking. **Teachers, tutors, and parents are invited to SIGN UP for the Fall 2020 session. (This workshop is offered to the general public, as well as those in the Jemicy community.)** For details and registration see [jemicyschool.org/summer/paragraphology](http://jemicyschool.org/summer/paragraphology).

**JOIN THE 2020 – 2021 BOARD!**

The Association's Board drives what can be done for our community. If you want to make a difference, will volunteer, want to meet other neighbors, we invite you to join the Board. It'll be elected Sept. 12. Contact if interested:

Velvet.NA@gmail.com  
THANKS!