



HEATING FUELS: BIG DISCOUNT PROGRAM!

Reminder: Association members can get significantly reduced heating and service contract prices. On Budget Plans, **Heating Oil is \$1.78/ gal; Propane is \$1.249/ gal.** Contact Velvet.na@gmail.com if interested.



UPDATE and CONTACT US! from Assn. president Paul Brickman
Please email us at Velvet.NA@gmail.com to add a spouse's email address or about new folks moving in near you so we can welcome them to our neighborhood. And check out our website www.VelvetValley.org --Thanks! -- Paul Brickman, Assn. Pres.

HALLOWEEN KIDS' "TRUNK OR TREAT PARTY"

On Saturday, October 31, the Neighborhood Association sponsored its annual kids' Halloween Party with much success and social distancing. Over 25 kids and grandkids participated, along with 18+ impressive Halloween-decorated vehicles. Kids received free pumpkins, decorating kits, and 3-lb bags of prepacked, mixed candies. Attendees voted the best-decorated vehicle: the family of Mari Lacanfora and Randy Morrison, joined by kids Max & Mackenzie; also, their mummy costumes, including GrandMummy, blew everyone away.



WILD TURKEYS?! At least two sightings of a large wild turkey were seen by residents east of Baronet and behind homes on the north side of Velvet Valley Way--before Thanksgiving. Hopefully, they have survived to add to the neighborhood's color, but don't get close; they can be aggressive. Photo by Thelma Sinsky's son Gary.

NEARBY NICE HIKING TRAIL: RED RUN VALLEY TRAIL

Walkers, bike riders, dog-walkers, and skaters are safe on these paved paths, along with side detours, and it's only a 10-minute drive. From Owings Mills Blvd south, turn right onto Red Run Blvd and go 0.7 miles to the small parking entrance on the left. The trail extends into Soldiers Delight if you're ambitious. See link:

www.alltrails.com/trail/us/maryland/red-run-stream-valley-trail

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Neighborhood Association annual dues fund many programs, social & kids events, landscaping, security cameras, website and other initiatives. Its efforts enhance our sense of community, home values, appearance and safety. Please support us; if not already, pay dues online via PayPal at www.VelvetValley.org

STREET CLEAN-UP BY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN. BOARD: Over the Nov. 21-22 weekend, Neighborhood Assn board members volunteered and walked ALL of our streets, picking up debris and raking the storm drains clean. YOU, too are asked to help keep your front yards clean and adjacent storm drains clear of debris on an ongoing basis, perhaps asking your lawncare service to help, if you use one.

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

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

New residents continue to move into our community-- please help us welcome them. The Association's Welcome Committee meets with each new family to make them feel welcome, and your help to identify new move-ins helps alert us. Let us know at Velvet.NA@gmail.com

- **2503 Caves Forest**, Beth & Geoff Adams
- **2302 Velvet Ridge**, Alicia & Octavio Delasuaree
- **9 Rainbow Ct**, Shirl & Julian Taylor
- **2506 Velvet Valley Way** (corner), Meghan & Josh
- **2316 Velvet Ridge**, Katie & Ross Shaffer

NEW ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Sept. 2020-Aug. 2021 (*elected at the Sept. 12th annual event; at the first board meeting, officers were elected.*)

Officers

Pres.: Paul Brickman
VP: Grant Cleverley
Treasurer: Stuart Denrich
Secretary: Joan Kinsey
Goddard

Other Directors

Mollie Caplis
Marcia Castleman
Ina Dreiband
Kate Eglseder
Cheree Johnson
Danielle Koch
Claudio Levin
Lisa Levin
Katie Miller
Randy Morrison
Erin Sher Smyth
Julie Tasher
Lynn Tomlinson
Leslie Walker
Gary Wand
Harlan Zinn

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS & WINDY

DAYS: During windy days, papers and other recycling materials left out are getting blown onto the street and lawns. Please try to secure these loose materials by stacking heavier items on top, such as bottles. Also, please be mindful of your home's appearance, which reflects the community. **Fallen, large, dead trees** are unsightly, and can be stored in neat, cut piles away from the front.
Thanks!

STREET SAFETY BY DRIVERS & WALKERS

More residents than ever are out walking and running. For safety, please consider the following:

- Drive slowly; our neighborhood speed limit is **25 MPH**.
- Walk on the **oncoming-car side**, wear bright clothing, and carry a flashlight if dusk is approaching.
- Walking a dog, hold the leash close to you, and clean-up after your dog.
- The Neighborhood Assn. is exploring placing roadside "Drive Slow" signs and offering high-visibility safety vests to residents.

NEIGHBOR NEWS

- **Matt and Liz Pollock**, on lower Velvet Valley, were delighted to welcome daughter Evelyn on Sept. 21. Congratulations!
- **Leslie and Irv Walker**, on Grenadier, "We hosted our daughter's wedding in our back yard on Sept. 26th. 43 guests, and no one got Covid! We kept it safe with a really big tent, small tables spread apart, and plated meals...even designated chair holders for the Bride & Groom's Horah dance while guests cheered them on." Also, Leslie & Irv became grandparents for the third time on Nov. 19th, with healthy Levi Stuart Walker, who joins sisters, Lorelei and Layla.
- **Sandy & Les Guthorn** are ecstatic to have their daughter **Meghan** and son-in-law **Josh** buy a home just up the street from them on Velvet Valley.

Random thoughts on living in Velvet Valley --by Claudio Levin, Celadon Rd.

Secluded, wooded, spacious, yet easy to get into the city for a night out

Walkers, runners, bikers, occasional golf cart, baby strollers, old and young a melting pot

Springtime peepers welcoming another changing of seasons

Foxes scurrying across the yard, gone before you can snap a picture

Deer roaming our neighborhood, eating our prized plantings

Chimneys sending out wonderful smells of wood burning

Autumn leaves turning, glowing bright in a setting sun

Smells of fresh cut grass in the spring

Cold crisp nights, no breeze, no sounds, the quietness of living here.

HOME SAFETY & SECURITY

- **Police advise** to lock your cars, keep outdoor lights on, and pick-up delivered packages quickly to avoid theft. Thieves are following delivery truck drop-offs.
- **External motion-sensed cameras**, at **Wyze.com**, are an inexpensive, reliable outdoor competitor. They are **great** external and internal cameras that record day and nighttime movements. Police say door videos help track perps.
- **LED outdoor lighting** strongly discourages would-be intruders, adds beauty and security to your home, and saves electricity costs by 90%. Start by simply replacing existing bulbs with LEDs that are very affordable. Upgrades include motion detectors, fixtures for parking areas, driveways, and timers allowing them to automatically go on at dusk and off at dawn.

BARCS Report: Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter is Maryland's largest open-admission shelter, caring for 12,000+ animals each year, and a 501c3 nonprofit. No animal is turned away. Before BARCS, only about 2% of animals at the shelter were spared euthanasia. Today, more than **90%** are released to loving homes, or rescues.

This holiday season, we are surrounded by the love of our animals and the joy of daily miracles. When a dog walks out the door looking up excitedly at her new dad, or when a fearful cat purrs for the first time in the arms of his new mom, we are reminded why their lives are worth saving.

Now, we are operating with minimal staff and resources, COVID has forced BARCS to change our operations. But not changed is the daily influx of homeless animals coming through our doors in need of a miracle. We have remained open every single day of 2020.

Many from our community came forward and helped us place hundreds of animals over the spring and summer. But our shelter has filled up again -- with animals who need help. **We are seeking adopters, foster homes, and monetary or supplies donations** to continue saving lives. If you are able to help, please go to www.barcs.org/urgent-care/. Thanks.
Note: BARCS' Dir. of Veterinary Medicine resides in our community.

NEIGHBOR SERVICE RESOURCES and NEXTDOOR.COM

Snowplowing: The Assn. gathered resident-reco'd plow services with good rates; let us know if interested.

Babysitting, Pet Sitting & Plant Care: Peyton (19) and Eliza (16) can be contacted through dad Grant Cleverley's cell 410-532-8847.

NextDoor.com: is a FREE, non-spam listserv which reaches nearby neighbors for recommendations of contractors and retail services, as well as offers to sell, give-away, or buy items, and alerting lost/found pets. No one's email or phone is exposed. Example referrals include tutors, plumbers, electricians, auto repair, veterinarians, painters, lawn and tree-cutting, etc. It's totally safe, and you can always dis-enroll. Worth a try!

Lost or Found Pets: text or call Paul if you lost or found an untagged pet (410-598-6036), and we will immediately email our neighbors with your description and photo. Please: **Make sure your pet is tagged** with your name, address and cell!!!

Municipal e-Newsletter Enrollment: If you would like to be added to frequent e-newsletters from Councilman Izzy Patoka or County Exec John Olszewski's office, contact their reps at: council2@baltimorecountymd.gov or mbernstein@baltimorecountymd.gov .

RECIPE: SOURDOUGH WAFFLES, from Lynn Tomlinson

If you've taken up sourdough baking during home isolation and looking for tasty ways to use up the "discard" starter, this waffle recipe is a family favorite, adapted from a NY Times recipe. The waffles are light and crispy with a delicious sourdough tang. We make extra and freeze them to pop in the toaster.

The night before you cook the waffles, mix these ingredients in a large bowl and let sit at room temperature:

- 1 cup unfed sourdough starter
- 1 cup buttermilk, or substitute 1 cup of milk or non-dairy milk of your choice with one teaspoon of vinegar stirred in
- 1 cup all-purpose flour (spelt flour also works well)
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar

In the morning, whisk together:

- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup canola oil or melted butter or melted coconut oil
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Add this mix to the sourdough batter. Warm your waffle iron, and ***right before you're ready to cook***, add:
1 teaspoon baking soda (I sift it through a strainer to avoid clumps)

Stir well. The batter will bubble up. Ladle scoops of batter into the waffle iron and cook until golden brown and crisp on both sides. You can try using this same batter to make pancakes! Pour on maple syrup and enjoy!

If you don't have sourdough starter and you'd like to give it a try, email me at lynntomlinson1@gmail.com, and I'd be happy to share some of mine. The original starter came from the San Francisco Bay area, home of the world's most famous sourdough.

NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE SALES and "FEATURES & BENEFITS" Sales Tool

The MLS data below are provided by Association Board director Randy Morrison, whose firm provides home sales and contractor services. (www.RandyAnna.com).

Note: The Association developed a wonderful "**Velvet Valley Features & Benefits**" flyer to help home sellers and their agents to leave out for visiting prospects. Contact us if you would like a copy.

Address & Status	Origl Price	Sold / Expired Price	Days on Mkt	Contract / Closed Date	Acres	Year Built	Interior Sq Ft	Bd-Rms	Bths Full & 1/2	Garage Spc	Carprt Spc
ACTIVE/ Contract:											
12 Bucksway Rd	\$ 749,880	\$674,444	50	11/10/20	0.86	1976	2,048	4	2+1		3
CLOSED:											
2323 Velvet Ridge	\$ 450,000	\$425,000	3	11/16/20	0.9	1969	3,199	4	3	2	
2506 Velvet Valley Wy	\$ 550,000	\$550,000	7	11/6/20	1.87	1962	2,357	5	3+1	2	
2316 Velvet Ridge	\$ 549,000	\$550,000	25	10/9/20	1.94	1986	2,826	4	3+1	2	
2503 Caves Forest	\$ 924,000	\$950,000	4	7/31/20	2.0	1978	4,070	4	3+1	3	
10807 Baronet	\$ 599,900	\$560,000	37	7/14/20	2.69	1967	3,408	4	2+1	2	
2302 Velvet Ridge	\$ 589,900	\$529,900	19	4/28/20	0.7	1969	3,708	4	3+1	2	
7 Rainbow Ct	\$ 459,900	\$425,000	31	3/31/20	1.01	1960	2,366	3	2+1		2
11106 Verdant	\$ 665,000	\$620,000	103	2/14/20	2.05	1973	4,074	4	4		2
11014 Park Heights Av	\$ 625,000	\$586,000	291	8/14/20	0.99	1981	3,302	6	4	2	
2422 Velvet Valley Wy	\$1,050,000	\$783,000	146	6/5/20	2.38	1968	4,588	6	4+2	2	
EXPIRED:											
2505 Caves Forest	\$ 635,000	\$625,000	75		2.0	1977	2780	4	4+3	2	
10905 Park Hts. Av	\$ 574,900	\$569,900	132		0.66	1959	2369	5	5+3	2	

JEMICY SCHOOL REPORTS: Jemicy is thrilled that prudent protocols and precautions enabled both campuses to open for in-person learning for the first 13 weeks of school! Those living close to the Lower Campus were able to hear the sounds of classes, recess, and lunch, as we spent as much time outdoors as possible. Some of our students did "attend" remotely, as a virtual option. Routines, relationships, and expectations formed during the initial part of the school year will prove invaluable to our students' academic progress this year.

Leading up to Thanksgiving, the decision was made to transition to an all-virtual model through the end of December. Holiday travel and get-togethers presented more risk than we were willing to take considering the well-being of our students and families. We plan to reopen our doors and welcome our students back on **January 4**. In the meantime, our faculty is teaching from campus.

Although gathering for theatre performances and athletic competitions are not possible for the time being, we have found creative ways to remain connected to our school community. Multiple "Coffees with Ben," a National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, visits from many college and university reps, and even an evening "Zoom and Bloom" floral design class for our parents were all conducted virtually.

We are also proud to boast that, in October, Jemicy's Graduate Dyslexia Certificate Program (in partnership with NDMU) earned comprehensive accreditation through the International Dyslexia Association. It is the first and only graduate dyslexia program in Maryland and provides participants with cutting-edge research and evidence-based skills/methods to be effective/competent teachers of students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and other related learning differences.

Jemicy extends its warmest regards and best wishes to our Velvet Valley neighbors for a happy and healthy holiday season. We certainly hope that you and yours are doing your best to cope during these unprecedented times. Stay safe and well!

THANK YOU! The Association is very grateful to Kate Eglseder for her reliable, expert newsletter editing and also thanks each of our board members and residents for their contributions. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and health and joy in the New Year.