



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Please mosey over and help us welcome new residents of our community. Most recently, these include:

- **10 Bucksway**, Jennifer & Thomas (“TJ”) Hance
- **2301 Velvet Ridge**, Betsy & Cory Plowman
- **16 Velvet Valley Ct**, Ann & Ed Shprukhman
- **2409 Velvet Valley Way**, Suzanne Katz & Jeremy Landsman

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!

HAPPY HOUR, Saturday, June 26, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

the VVNA will again sponsor an evening **outdoor** Happy Hour for Association members at the backyard home of one of our gracious neighbors. Details will be sent separately. Save the date—and please come! Outdoors & within CDC guidelines; please assure you’re vaccinated.

STREET SAFETY PROGRAMS

The VVNA has two programs to enhance safety: (1) VVNA-logo **SAFETY VESTS** were ordered for members at a big discount; (2) black and yellow **METAL SIGNS** will be installed at sharp curves and open stretches that tempt speeding, saying “SLOW DOWN For Pedestrians”. We are grateful to Jemicy School leadership for offering to pay for the costs! Homeowner approval is needed at key installation locations, so please respond with your OK if contacted.

Pedestrians are safer when **walking along the left-side curb, facing oncoming traffic**; if with a dog, hold pooch close to you when cars pass.

Also, three residents have had scary experiences with leaning trees and limbs threatening home structures and passing cars. Please be vigilant and proactive in cutting down **threatening trees and limbs**. If a tree falls from your property onto a neighbor’s and you were aware of the danger beforehand, you could be liable. The VVNA can provide a list of tree-cutting services residents have used.

Further, most homeowners take care of accumulating leaves, branches and cut grass **debris along their curb**, but when left, they clog **storm drains** and are unsightly. Please remove debris along your home’s curb, and assure that cuttings are not thrown down the storm drains. Clearing storm drain grates at your home also is helpful.

CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE – NEW!

A new VVNA Children’s Committee’s goal is to define and help provide information and resources for our many resident families with younger children. Led by moms and Board directors Katie and Julie, they soon will be sending out a survey to families with kids to define and prioritize what parents desire. The Association will then gather suggestions. **PLEASE HELP** Katie and Julie with your timely and thoughtful reply!

BEEES

Resident former beekeeper Claudio Levin recently rescued a neighbor from a swarmed cluster of thousands of bees on a shrub at their Velvet Valley home. Claudio explained that an over-populated hive will motivate a queen bee and her brood to flee and temporarily cluster, while they seek and build another hive. He was able to capture these bees for his empty apiary and hopes to have honey in a couple of years.

The
bee
rescue



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

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2021

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

Officers

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

Other Directors

Mollie Caplis
Marcia Castleman
Ina Dreiband
Kate Eglseeder
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



Joan Rief's Hellebores

Summer Libation,

thanks, Leslie & Irv Walker

- 2 oz of mezcal (the smokier the better)
- 1 oz of fresh squeezed lime juice
- Some Agave sweetener (to taste)
- Pour into a shaker with ice. Shake, pour and enjoy!

If it's too strong you can add some ginger beer or sparkling soda.

POLICE ADVICE & SAFETY ALERTS

The VVNA participates in the Police Pct. 3 monthly PCRC community meeting. Capt. Will Buckingham advised:

- Since Covid started, speeding, aggressive driving, and road rage have increased; be cautious.
- Locking vehicles overnight prevents theft.
- Video doorbells help prevent and solve crimes.
- Use of 911 is ENCOURAGED, even if not urgent, such as for abandoned cars; police will decide priority.

Video doorbells include Ring and Nest brands. We previously alerted residents to low-cost, motion-triggered outdoor cameras, such as Wyze or Blink.

NEIGHBOR NEWS

- **Alicia and Octavio Delasuaree** on Velvet Ridge welcome their third grandson, Tavi Jr., born Dec. 2, 2020. He is the first child of their son Tavi and wife Kathy, and joins cousins Chase and Reid. Octavio relates, "We are all very happy with the new addition."
- **Simon Benzer** (Poly 2016) graduated from the Univ. of South Carolina, School of Engineering & Computer Science with a BS in Computer Science. His Verdant Rd parents, Eric and Sandi, and brothers Paul and Jack are very proud!
- Kind Celadon neighbor **Joan Rief** is generously offering two things: (1) Her Hellebores have overgrown and she is offering some to neighbors who provide TLC (see pic); (2) If a frail or elderly neighbor needs help with food or other errands, Joan is willing to help. Joan's email: ppots3@verizon.net
- **Babysitting, etc:** Grant Cleverley's daughters Eliza (16) and Peyton (19) provide babysitting, pet sitting, plant care, mail retrieval, etc. Contact them thru Grant, cell: 410-532-8847
- **NextDoor.com** is a FREE, non-spam listserv which reaches nearby neighbors for recommendations of contractors and retail & professional services, as well as offers to sell, give- away, or buy items, and lost/found pet alerts. 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 he will email neighbors with your description and photo. **Please make sure your pet is tagged** with your name, address, and cell.

OUTDOOR NOISE – PLEASE BE MINDFUL

Many comments from residents noted prolonged, disturbing noise from neighbors or contractors with lawnmowers, chainsaws, leaf blowers, & power washers on weekends and very early or late hours, as well as prolonged dog barking. These disrupt cherished peace and sleep (unless it's *our* work or dog). Please be considerate and avoid weekend noise—especially early hours.

NOTE: Several newsletter items reflect input from multiple concerned residents. Though not every resident may be equally concerned, please be considerate and sensitive in matters that impact quality of life and neighborhood appearance. Thank you!

HIKING & DAY-TRIP

Hiking: We're surrounded by great and well-maintained parks and hiking trails. Try **Woodstock Trail**, adjacent to the Woodstock Inn, 1498 Woodstock Rd, Woodstock, MD. Poles and trail shoes suggested, some mud and wet and stream crossings possible. The trail also is used for running, horses, and mountain biking and is best from Nov thru March. Dogs are OK and must be kept on leash. Trail markings are not perfect. See www.alltrails.com/trail/us/maryland/woodstocksw Take Old Court Rd out to Woodstock and lunch at the Inn, inside or out.

Day-Trip: Harriet Tubman Museum The Eastern Shore, including Dorchester County, is rich in history. Visit the Harriet Tubman Museum, her childhood home and other historical sites related to the Underground Railroad. A fun and educational day trip or overnight visit. See: visitdorchester.org/harriet-tubman-museum



SUMMER COOKING & NUTRITION from Julie Katz Tasher, registered dietitian/clinical nutrition mgr. at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital.

Summer Cooking 101: Keeping it Safe and Healthy: have fun in the sun while lowering fat in favorite dishes.

Appetizers: Everyone loves finger food to munch on, try the following...

- Cut up some colorful veggies and add low-fat dip made with fat-free sour cream or mayonnaise
- Add peanut butter to crackers or celery sticks; raisins can make good "ants on a log"
- Use: Baked chips and salsa | • Dried fruit mixes | • Cheese and crackers | • Bean salad

Entrees: Some interesting twists on old favorites...

- Pita or wrap sandwiches with turkey, chicken, lean ham, tuna or salmon and some chopped veggies
- Replace mayo-based dressings with mustard or oil & vinegar
- Top salads with flaked tuna or salmon, oil and vinegar
- Grilled chicken, turkey cutlets, lean hamburgers, turkey burgers, salmon or tuna burgers, and veggie burgers are better options than steaks and hotdogs. A healthier prep: remove chicken skin, and drain burger fat
- Marinate your meat in low-fat Italian dressing, low-sodium soy sauce, lemon juice or herbs instead of salt-based seasonings
- Try grilling shrimp, lobster and scallops. Wrap seafood in foil with veggies and spices, grill quickly
- Choose whole grain rolls over white bread
- Try grilled vegetables on skewers. Use peppers, zucchini, mushrooms, and onions-- even add grilled pineapple and tomatoes to spice it up
- For a delicious twist on a hamburger, try a marinated Portabella mushroom sandwich topped with watercress and thinly sliced red onions. Also, grill eggplant, asparagus and corn on the cob for yummy side dishes.

Desserts:

- Colorful fruit salads with peaches, mangoes, berries, kiwis, melons. Top with low-fat yogurt or whipped cream
- Try grilling peaches, pineapple and bananas for a tasty treat

Police Vacant House Form

Are you going out of town? Don't leave your home looking unoccupied; use timer lights and stop mail and newspaper deliveries. Also, complete the Baltimore County Police's **Vacant House Form**, and email it to the Police Precinct 3 at pdpc03patrofax@baltimorecountymd.gov

Officers will check on your location for any unusual activity while you are away. If something suspicious does happen at your home, law enforcement will be able to quickly reach you or a local emergency contact from your form's information.

THANK YOU, once again to neighbor Board director **Kate Eglseder**, who skillfully, creatively and rapidly edits and adds interesting photos to our newsletter!

FUN FARMERS MARKETS (See more: baltimoremagazine.com/section/covid19/baltimore-farmers-market-guide/)

- **Baltimore Farmers Market & Bazaar:** the JFX Farmers Market under I-83 returns with a lineup of farmers, food kiosks & artisans. Corner of Saratoga & Holliday St, thru Dec. 20, Sundays, 7 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Pikesville Farmers Market:** this cozy parking lot market offers the likes of Flash Crabcake Co. seafood, Kona Ice snowballs, and local Boordy Vineyards and Twin Valley Distillery in a treelined setting. 1700 Reisterstown Rd., thru Nov. 30. Tuesdays. 2-6 p.m.

LIGHTEN UP! (Thanks, Grant Cleverley)

Police advise that a home's outdoor lighting discourages would-be intruders. LED lighting adds beauty and security, saves money, and reduces your carbon footprint. A 10-watt LED bulb illuminates the same as a 60-watt incandescent, and energy cost is only one-cent per day. Your safety and security are worth it. Upgrades include motion detectors and lights for parking areas, driveways, landscaping.

REAL ESTATE REPORT (MLS data provided by Board director Randy Morrison, whose firm provides home sales and contractor services (RandyAnna.com)). **Note:** The Association's "**Velvet Valley Features & Benefits**" flyer helps home sellers and their agents with visiting prospects; contact us for a copy.

Address	Current Price	Sq Ft	BR	BA	1/2-BA	ACRES	DATE
ACTIVE FOR SALE:							
2307 Velvet Ridge Drive	\$650,000	4,756	6	5	1	0.7	2/16/2021
UNDER CONTRACT:							
8 Bucksway Road	\$300,000	4,236	5	3	2	0.83	3/26/2021
SOLD:							
2409 Velvet Valley Way	\$1,080,000	6,256	4	4	1	1.93	5/12/2021
16 Velvet Valley Court	\$2,175,000	9,787	5	6	2	3.55	4/6/2021
2301 Velvet Ridge Road	\$560,000	5,758	4	3	0	0.76	4/29/2021
10 Bucksway Road	\$565,000	4,328	4	2	1	0.83	2/26/2021

JEMICY SCHOOL REPORTS: (Thanks, Bonnie Wasserman, Dir. of Communications)

Dear Jemicy neighbors, Jemicy is overjoyed that we were open for in-person learning for the majority of the school year! Our protocols and mitigation efforts proved to be successful, and we kept our students engaged and learning!

As we emerge from pandemic restrictions, the following point to Jemicy's careful return to normalcy.

- After-school activities are now offered on the Lower/Middle School Campus, and Upper School athletes are competing in golf, men's and women's lacrosse, tennis, and our inaugural year of baseball!
- On May 8th, the Senior Prom was held in a ventilated tent at Irvine Nature Center.
- The Upper School Performing Arts Dept. will present a creative, virtual production of *Clue* before school's end.
- Graduation (with minimal attendees) will be held on May 26 for the Class of 2021's forty-four students, who, we are proud to boast, were admitted to 137 unique colleges/universities and earned nearly \$9 million in merit-based scholarships!
- Enrollment is full for Camp Jemicy 2021, once again on our Upper School Campus (Garrison Forest Road)

June 4 is the last day of class for students. All in all, despite all of the pandemic-related challenges, Jemicy succeeded in its mission to deliver an outstanding education program to our bright, talented students who learn differently. We further solidified as a community with common goals, intensified our strengths, and discovered silver linings along the way. We plan to reopen with full, in-person learning in the fall and look forward to a normal school year. Jemicy School wishes all of you a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer.