



#### **UPDATE and CONTACT US!**

Please email us at [Velvet.NA@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.VelvetValley.org) --Thanks!

#### **NEW HAPPY HOUR ON JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> — Save the Date!**

Now with easier social safety and warmer weather for outdoor socializing, the VVNA is sponsoring another Happy Hour on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. It's free to all paid members of the Neighborhood Association, adults only please. Details will be sent separately, including via an Evite. Please respond to the Evite, whether "yes" or "no" and be sure to let us know if your status changes so we can adjust refreshments. Light food, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages will be served, serenaded by live music. If you haven't yet paid dues, you may pay via PayPal on our website or at the door.

#### **DUMPSTER DAY EVENT – MAY 14-15 (9:00AM-1:00PM)**

Once again, VVNA is sponsoring rental of a dumpster for FREE use by all paid members of the Neighborhood Association. If you're interested in using the dumpster, contact us at our email, [Velvet.NA@gmail.com](mailto:Velvet.NA@gmail.com) or call or text us at **410-598-6036**, and we'll tell you the location.

***VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED*** to staff a shift to help guide users. So, please contact us to volunteer. A separate flyer will note details of items allowed in the dumpster. Co-chairs Leslie Walker and Erin Sher Smyth are leading this program.

#### **SAFE MAILBOX USE**

Two important concerns in safely using your home's mailbox. First, our long-term mail delivery lady, Stacey Brown, asked that we let you know about preventing insects from invading mailboxes, such as ants and spiders. She urged that we ***DO NOT*** spray insecticide in the mailbox; this can transfer to the hands of the delivery person as well as onto the mail you bring into your home. Instead, Stacey encourages us to leave a **sheet of fabric softener** inside the mailbox, which will deter most insects. Let's try it!

Also, there's a widespread national problem of mail being stolen from mailboxes, both waiting for pick-up and mail already delivered. Checks are stolen and used to print additional fraudulent ones. It is safer to bring your outgoing mail to a USPS mailbox or post office (like nearby Stevenson Village), and to bring in your mail quickly—and stop delivery if you're going away for a few days.

**SEE MORE** info and photos at our website: [www.VelvetValley.org](http://www.VelvetValley.org)

#### **RECIPE: Giant Chocolate**

**Chip Cookie** Great for decoration! Thanks to Jane Brickman

Ingredients:

- 1 stick + 2/3 TBSP unsalted butter
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 Tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg

Cream together.

Add 1-1/2 cups flour until mixed and about 3/4 bag of semi-sweet choc. chips. Nuts are optional.

Grease 12-inch pizza pan and spread mixture evenly. Bake for 28 minutes at 325. Cool and decorate.



#### **WEBSITE RESOURCES**

- Check out past event photos, prior newsletters, govt. resources, and more at [www.VelvetValley.org](http://www.VelvetValley.org)
- **B. County Codes & Zoning:** search codes and zone reg's you're interested about at [baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/law/county-code](http://baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/law/county-code)

## ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Sept. 2021- Aug. 2022

### Officers

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

### Other Directors

Eric Benzer  
Mollie Caplis  
Marcia Castleman  
Angela Daniller  
Ina Dreiband  
Kate Eglseder  
Cheree Johnson  
Claudio Levin  
Lisa Levin  
Patti Medinger  
Katie Miller  
Randy Morrison  
Barbara Orman  
Erin Sher Smyth  
Julie Tasher  
Leslie Walker

## CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

The VVNA board's Children's Committee is led by co-chairs **Katie Miller** and **Julie Tasher**, to identify needs and wants of community families with young children. Survey results from many parents have been received, and a follow-up survey will be emailed to parents for suggestions of great resources, play dates, and communications. If you're a parent, please reply with your thoughtful ideas. Resources will be available to VVNA member families.

Make sure we have your email address. If not already done, take the survey at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D2fIL6wOggr2nwRtvUIQ39B60USIPxiZQLf56G1\\_M0k/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D2fIL6wOggr2nwRtvUIQ39B60USIPxiZQLf56G1_M0k/edit)

## PRETTIER NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS

VVNA has various programs and efforts to enhance the appearance of our community. We welcome your participation and volunteering where possible. Here are some of the things being done:

- **HELP! - Neighborhood Clean-up, Saturday, APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**

VVNA's board members are coordinating efforts to help pick up street debris and clear storm drains clogged with leaves, targeted for Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**, and you can help even if you can do a part of an assigned street on a different day. VVNA will provide trash bags if needed. Contact the following people if you can help at **any part** of the following areas:

- **Velvet Ridge, Bucksway, & Verdant**, Erin Sher Smyth at ErinSherSmyth@gmail.com
- **Celadon and Lower Velvet Valley Way**, Lisa Levin at LKLevin3@gmail.com
- **Upper Velvet Valley Way, Melissa, Rainbow and Susan Cts.**, Paul Brickman at Velvet.NA@gmail.com
- Baronet is being done by Grant Cleverley

- **Velvet Valley at Park Heights Ave. Corner Clean-Up**

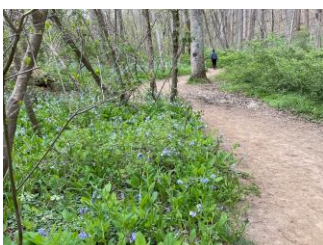
After a couple of years of dogged pursuit, the Owings Mills branch of the MD State Highway Administration did a wonderful clean-up of this corner lot, removing fallen and cut tree debris and weeds from this state-owned property. We are hopeful that they may find landscaping remnants from another project to plant here, but not optimistic—or that anything may survive due to constant flooding and brine run-off from pre-snow treated road.

- **Velvet Ridge at Park Heights Corner Landscaping**

VVNA is in final stages of selecting plants and a service to install shrubs, flowers and a tree at this corner "Velvet Valley" sign. We also are adding solar-powered lights to illuminate the sign.

## HIKING: Gunpowder Falls State Park

**Central Area**, 11100 Belair Rd. (Rte.1) in Kingsville, MD, across from Gunpowder Lodge, has several wonderful, scenic trails which can be found online; wear hiking shoes and bring a pole and dog. Reward yourself with a fun lunch at either Gunpowder Lodge or Desantis Pizza on Belair Rd, one of the BEST pizza places in the entire region, run by Matthew's Pizza owner's son.



- **Speed-Control Island Beautification**

The pachysandra recently died in the three speed-control islands on Velvet Valley Way and Baronet. VVNA is reviewing options that will look nice and endure, likely with river stones.

- **Verdant Rd. Lot Clean-up**

VVNA hired a service to clean up much of this debris-strewn empty lot after the owner's trust attorney agreed to reimburse us and commit to prevent further dumping.

### **Construction at Greenspring Valley Rd & Park Heights Ave**

As reported earlier, the large-scale work at this southeast corner is a water flow mediation project, led by the Army Corps of Engineers. Nothing is being built above ground; the project is estimated to take about a year.

### **REAL ESTATE REPORT** (MLS data provided by Board director Angela Daniller. **Note:** The Association's "**Velvet Valley Features & Benefits**" flyer helps home sellers and their agents with visiting prospects; contact us for a copy.)

STATUS	Address	PRICE	SQFT	BR	BA	ACRES	Sold Date
Active	11111 Verdant Rd	\$2,250,000	7,925	6	7 /1	6.01	
Contract	11105 Verdant Rd	\$899,000	4,304	5	4 1	2.07	
PNDG	10901 Park Heights Ave (betw. VV Way & Melissa Ct)	\$649,900	Lot			10	
CLSD	2410 Velvet Valley Way	\$615,000	2,547	4	3 /1	1.94	10/29/2021
CLSD	2408 Velvet Valley Way	\$515,000	2,394	4	3 /0	1.95	11/18/2021
CLSD	2402 Velvet Ridge Dr	\$480,000	2,631	4	2 0	0.8	10/6/2021

**COUNTY EVENTS WEBSITE** Remember the Balt. County website a wonderful assortment of current events, places to visit, and fun and food ideas. See: [www.EnjoyBaltimoreCounty.com](http://www.EnjoyBaltimoreCounty.com)

### **COUNTY & STATE GOVT. REP CONTACTS**

Our elected County and State officials are **very supportive** advocates to help solve issues and identify resources, especially Izzy Patoka, Dana Stein and Lisa Belcastro. Below is contact info for them:

- **Izzy Patoka**, B.C. Councilman: District 2, 410-887-3385, council2@baltimorecountymd.gov, Justin Silberman, Chief of staff
- **Dana M Stein**, State Delegate, District 11, (410) 841-3527, dana.stein@house.state.md.us
- **Lisa M. Belcastro**, State Delegate District 11, (410) 841-3833, Lisa.Belcastro@house.state.md.us, Tyler Hagen, Chief of Staff
- **Michelle Bernstein**, District 2 Outreach Coordinator, for **John Olszewski, Jr.**, County Exec., O: 410.887.5652; C: 443.991.928; mbernstein@baltimorecountymd.gov
- **Jon S. Cardin**, State Delegate, District 11, (410) 841-3054, jon.cardin@house.state.md.us
- **Shelly L. Hettleman**, State Senator, District 11, (410) 841-3131, shelly.hettleman@senate.state.md.us



Gunpowder State Park  
Bluebells



Hiking Gunpowder  
among Bluebells;  
many trails to choose  
from!

**NEIGHBOR NEWS & RESOURCES**

- **WELCOME New Neighbors!** (Please let us know when a new resident moves in near you!)
  - **Ms. Shawn and Mr. Mike Davis** and their two children, at 2408 Velvet Valley
  - **Allen “AJ” Bolyard**, at 2401 Velvet Ridge
- **Ellen and Tony Glasser**, on Velvet Valley, are happy to announce the engagement of their son Jacob to Samantha Zimmer. “We are thrilled to welcome her into our family along with her amazing family Judy and Fred Zimmer!”
- **Irv and Leslie Walker**, Grenadier, have two new grandchildren, Ezra and Sophia.
- **Lisa & Claudio Levin**, Celadon, crow, “We are finally Grandparents!! We have 2 new grandsons, Charlie in NJ and Camden in TX.”
- **Edee & Joe Schnitzer’s** daughter, Blair, is graduating from Univ. of Delaware with a BA in Human Services. She’ll continue at UD for a Master’s in Education and an Education Specialist degree to become a School Psychologist.
- **Ester Klug offers public notary services** from her Velvet Valley Way home; contact her at esterklug@gmail.com.
- **Babysitting, Pet & Plant Care:**
  - Grant Cleverley’s daughters **Eliza (17)** and **Payton (20)**, contact Grant, cell: **410-532-8847**
  - **Millicent Brigman**, (13) on Velvet Valley Way, **443-635-8438**
  - **Joe & Edee Schnitzer’s** daughters **Blair 410-804-1837** (college grad) and **Haley 443-805-4683** (a senior at Univ. of Mary Washington)
- **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 and cell.

**JEMICY SCHOOL REPORTS:**

Thanks to Bonnie Wasserman, Dir, Publications and Communications

Spring is in the air, and with it, Jemicy campus life feels more normal than it has for a long time. Masks are now optional at school, but we continue to strive to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. Traditional activities and events are back, in person, giving an exciting boost to school spirit and a sense of community.

The past few months have been busy and productive.

- Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade performed *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and we look forward to the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade production of *Seussical the Musical* and the US concert version of *Matilda*.
- The recent Evening of the Arts showcased the creative talents of our upper school students.
- Jemicy’s annual Visiting Artist *Program* introduces our students to professional artists representing a wide variety of media; this year, we welcomed filmmaker Christoph Green.
- Our National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held in March, as was the annual Oratorical Competition.
- On Career Day, 22 professionals, representing a vast variety of fields, spoke to students about their occupations.
- Grades 4 and 5 are participating in a research study with Kennedy Krieger Institute to explore the impact of executive functions on reading.
- A new season of athletics finds our students competing in baseball, lacrosse, track and field, golf, and rock climbing.
- Our seniors’ college acceptances and the record number of scholarships being offered have us very excited. Relatedly, Jemicy hosted admission reps from various schools who spoke to our sophomores and juniors about the college application and admission process.

Looking ahead, as the school year comes to a close...

- We are organizing our end of year trips, awards assemblies, prom, graduation, and more.
- Planning has already begun for next year, when we anticipate a record enrollment.
- Camp Jemicy (June 27-July 29) will return to the Lower and Middle School Campus on Celadon Road.

Jemicy sends sincerest wishes to our Velvet Valley neighbors for healthy, safe, and enjoyable months ahead.

