



HAPPY HOUR ON JUNE 2nd— Save the Date!

VVNA is sponsoring another Happy Hour on Friday, June 2nd and warmer weather will enable outdoor and indoor socializing. It's free to all VVNA members, adult residents only, please. Details will be sent, including via an Evite. Light food, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. If you haven't yet paid dues, you may pay via PayPal on our website or at the door.

CLEAN STREETS

There has been a rash of dog poop and bags left on street curbs. Please take away your pooch's poop and kindly ask neglectful others you may see to extend a similar courtesy. Similarly, please check and clean storm drains at your home's curb to enhance property appearance and help prevent flooding and topsoil erosion.



Emmy: "It wasn't me!"

DUMPSTER EVENT

VVNA will have another Dumpster Day, free for resident members. We'll email everyone about this useful and fun event once details are worked out. If we don't have your email address, let us know it.



Dumpster Day >



< Stony Run Path

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

The VVNA's Children's Committee, led by **Katie Miller** and **Julie Tasher**, has contacted our community families with young children to identify needs and wants. An email survey was sent to parents for suggestions of great resources (list is available for more contributions and viewing), and a Listserv has been set up for parents to safely communicate. If you're a parent of young kids, **please** contribute your recommendations, and contact us for more info at Velvet.na@gmail.com . It's another benefit for family members!

FOSTER GOOD NEIGHBORS

When an issue arises with a neighbor, VVNA greatly encourages direct, positive dialog to sensitize and resolve problems and establish constructive communication that endures. VVNA does not serve as neighborhood policeman. And neighbors, *please* be sensitive and mindful of your home's maintenance and appearance on the whole neighborhood. Debris, overgrown weeds, accumulated tree limbs, and trash negatively impact our beautiful community. Thank you!

UPDATE and CONTACT US! Contact us at Velvet.NA@gmail.com to correct, add a spouse's email, let us know about new folks moving in near you so we can welcome them to our neighborhood, or for any reason. And see our website www.VelvetValley.org Thanks!

Thanks to all newsletter contributors and especially Kate Eglseder for content layout editing!

MINI BOOK LIBRARY ON BARONET RD.

A reminder ... Marina and Jennifer's **Little Red Library** book cabinet in front of **10807 Baronet** is getting great use! They encourage all to please come by to take or leave a book or two.



HIKE STONY RUN PATH

Stony Run Path in Roland Park is a relatively flat and scenic 3-mile path, winding passed scenic homes and streets, with easy turn-arounds. Park at the shops (312 Wyndhurst Ave), east of Roland Ave. Consider lunch after at Garden & Grounds Bistro or Earth Wood & Fire.

ENHANCED CORNER BEAUTIFICATION

You've noticed improved landscaping at each of the Park Heights Ave. corners, Velvet Valley and Velvet Ridge. VVNA's committee (your neighbor volunteers) has been planting perennials and annuals. Hard-wired lighting is now installed at the Velvet Valley community sign and being worked on at the Velvet Ridge corner. During the warmer growth months, VVNA pays a landscaping company to maintain and mow the corners and speed islands.

**ASSOCIATION BOARD
DIRECTORS
SEPT. '22 - AUG. '23**

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RESIDENTS' RECO's and REVIEWS We invite residents to review and recommend new experiences: restaurants, museums, hikes, daytrips, etc.

Book Review: MILO'S EYES review by Leslie Walker

"Milo's Eyes" is an autobiographical story written by Lissa Bachner (daughter of neighbor Marcia Castleman). The story will take you on her journey when she was struck with blindness in her teens and had to navigate her life and her passion for horseback riding. Lissa's incredible inner and physical strength is uncompromising. She won her first blue ribbon at age five and her thirst for competition continues to this day. Lissa's life and her horse, Milo's changed forever when they met each other. Her love for Milo and their bond will touch your heart. Lissa's mom Marcia's support and ability to recognize that there were no limits to what her daughter could accomplish were essential ingredients to this remarkable and inspiring story. The book brought me to tears, taught me a few lessons in life and left me feeling in awe of Lissa.

Leslie: I will put my copy in the neighborhood library box at 10807 Baronet Road for everyone to enjoy.

P.S.- Lissa Bachner's story was featured on CBS TV News; videos are on YouTube. Amazon's description: *The extraordinary bond between Lissa Bachner, a young blind woman and Milo, a neglected, frightened horse, helped them overcome staggering odds to become one of America's most inspiring, successful riding teams in the world of show jumping.*

**TREE-CUTTING
SERVICE DISCOUNTS**

VVNA has two reliable tree cutting services well-recommended by neighbors and very fair-priced for member residents. They are responsive, and it's better to call them during quiet, non-urgent times. To be comparative, they have quoted half- and full-day rates. If interested, contact Velvet.na@gmail.com for details.

Restaurants:

The Oregon Grille, on Shawan Rd. at Oregon Ridge, has just undergone a luxurious renovation in its 19th-century stone farmhouse, now managed by the Atlas Restaurant Group. It's worth a visit, especially for a special occasion. theoregongrille.com/

Maria's Restaurant of Reisterstown, on Main St., is a reliable, broad-menu, long-time favorite with easy prices, pleasant ambiance, friendly service, and a popular happy hour bar. mariasreisterstown.com/

FUN FOOD FORAGING & EATING by Vivian M.

Velvet Valley Way's own creative, outdoor, 9-year-old Vivian is learning a lot about foods that can be foraged and has contributed the following.

There are a lot of things popping up in our yards around this time that we think are weeds, but are really edible! One of them is onion grass (aka scallions, aka Allium vineale). Usually, onion grass grows in groups and looks like tall, skinny grass. If you break one open, it is round and hollow. If you smell it, it will smell like onion. The whole plant is edible. You can eat the grass part raw or sauteed in butter. You can cook or pickle the bulbs. The wild version is the same as the version at the grocery store, only more nutrient dense and flavorful. The upper green parts are more nutrient dense than the lower white parts. Do not eat it from your yard if you spray your yard. I love eating onion grass and I hope you do too.



**COVID TEST KITS &
FACE MASKS**

A good inventory from Baltimore County of Covid test kits and KN95 face masks is still available. These are free to all VVNA members. Protect your family and keep some on hand. Contact Paul if interested. Velvet.na@gmail.com

OUR WEBSITE

Check out past event photos, prior newsletters, govt. resources, and more at www.VelvetValley.org

FARMERS MARKETS

Pikesville Farmers Market starts May 18th, every Tuesday, 2-6 PM at Pomona Square.

Reisterstown Farmers Market kicks off on May 30th, held on Sundays 9 AM – 1PM at Franklin Middle School.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

• Balt. County's website features wonderful assortment of fun events, places to visit, and food ideas. See: EnjoyBaltimoreCounty.com

• **Balt. Cnty Codes & Zoning:** search codes and zone reg's you're interested about at baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/law/county-code

• Check out past VVNA event photos, prior newsletters, govt. resources, and more at www.VelvetValley.org

STREET SAFETY & SPEEDING

VVNA is working with Balt. County to define options to slow down drivers on our residential streets, and several board members are looking at alternatives. These include speed-reading radar boards and gentle speed humps. We'll keep you posted on developments and rely on your support to keep our families safe. Meanwhile, walking will increase now that warmer weather is here. If you're one of many walkers, please make sure you wear colors that are easy to see, and use a flashlight if you're out at dusk.

RESIDENT NEWS & RESOURCES:

Edee & Joe Schnitzer proudly note: Our younger daughter, Haley graduated from Univ. of Mary Washington with her bachelors in English in December and is enrolling in law school starting this fall.

BABYSITTING, PET & PLANT CARE:

- Grant Cleverley's daughter Eliza (18), contact Grant, cell: 410-532-8847
- Millie Brigman (14) on Velvet Valley Way, 443-635-8438
- Mollie Caplis' son Samuel (10) after school & weekends, is available for dog walking, and mail and trashcan pickups; text Mollie at 410.292.0449.

CAKES & MONDEL BREAD: Celadon's Suzanne Kassel *is...* The Mondel Broad. Trays available for delivery. Call 443-280-0378 or email themondelbroad@gmail.com
PUBLIC NOTARY: Ester Klug from her Velvet Valley Way home; contact: esterklug@gmail.com

LOST or FOUND PETS: Text or call Paul for a lost or found untagged pet (410) 598-6036; he'll email neighbors with pet description and your photo. Make sure your pet wears a tag with your name & cell.

SERVICE RECO'S: we have a list of services that residents have reco'd, such as tree cutting, landscape & lawn mowing, snowplowing, electricians, plumbers, painters, and more for members.

TREES FALLEN ACROSS ROAD: 410-887-2222, or 410-887-3560 or 410-887-2961
COUNTY CODES & ZONING: search codes and zone reg's at baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/law/county-code Search this website for other County services such as trash collection, property tax, senior care, etc.

RESIDENT BAND'S SWEET, HAPPY MUSIC

Velvet Ridge resident Tzuriel Fenigstein's semi-pro band can enliven your event with a range of music styles. They've played mellow music at house parties, including a VVNA happy hour, a large synagogue's fundraiser, a Purim party (5 years running!) and other events. Contact Tzuriel at cell: 615-424-5625

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
Active	2411 Velvet Ridge Dr.	\$ 899,000	4,675	5	4/1	1.00
Active	19 Bucksway Rd	\$ 649,000	3,033	4	2/1	1.20
Active/Contract	2503 Velvet Valley Way	\$ 1,100,000	3,270	6	4/1	1.88
Active	2415 Velvet Valley Way	\$ 1,450,000	6,273	6	4/2	3.90
Active	10600 Park Heights Ave.	\$3,850,000	7,662	6	5/2	15.95
Active/Contract	10810 Baronet Rd	\$ 1,150,000	7,142	7	7/1	2.08
Pending	2325 Velvet Ridge Dr.	\$ 524,000	2,989	3	3/0	0.91
Active/Contract	10910 Park Heights Ave	\$ 649,900	Land	-	-	10.0
Coming Soon	11210 Park Heights Ave	\$ 750,000	3,864	3	3/1	4.1
Closed	10603 Park Heights Ave	\$ 390,000	2,852	4	2/0	0.92
Closed	11016 Park Heights Ave	\$ 724,900	4,809	4	4/1	1.01

STAGING YOUR HOME FOR SALE by neighbor Marcia Castleman, professional interior designer & stager

Selling your home can be an incredibly stressful time in your life. Here are 8 things you should do before listing your home that require little effort and hardly any budget to have your home ready to show and sell:

- 1. DECLUTTER:** At the top of my list. We all have too much stuff. Organize your closets and pantries. Go through everything. Donate or pack away things you don't need. Put away any personal items such as photos, heirlooms, or memorabilia. You want your prospective buyers to think of this as *their* home, not yours. If a room looks too crowded remove a few pieces of furniture to make the room look larger. Remove furniture that looks old or beaten up. Consider renting a storage unit to store items you want to take to your new home.
 - 2. CLEANING - BANISH THE DUST:** Hire a professional crew to give your house a thorough cleaning. Pay attention to cobwebs, ceiling fans, and baseboards. Wash fingerprints off of light switches and doors. Wash all your windows. Clean your ovens, kitchen drawers and refrigerator. Check your carpets. If professional cleaning won't remove stains, replace the carpets. Paint rooms that need freshening or have a paint color that might turn off prospective buyers. Keep everything as neutral as possible.
 - 3. REPLACE ANY BURNED OUT LIGHTBULBS.** Make sure you have all your lights turned on for showings.
 - 4. BEFORE EACH SHOWING:** Check every bathroom, empty hampers of dirty clothes, empty the dishwasher, and all trashcans. Make the kitchen sink sparkle. Clear the kitchen countertops of as much as possible. Less is better. If you have a good sound system, put on some quiet background music.
 - 5. PETS:** Minimize pet paraphernalia. Remove pet beds, litter boxes and pet toys lying around. Take your pets with you while your house is being shown. It's safer for them to be with you.
 - 6. ADD FRESH FLOWERS OR ORCHIDS:** Flowers not only make your house smell amazing, but make it look more elegant and beautiful.
 - 7. DO YOUR OWN HOME INSPECTION:** The fewer things the buyer's inspector finds wrong, the better your customers will feel about buying your home. Make sure all appliances are in good working order. Check the house for insects, leaks, water marks on the ceilings or floors, damp, moldy smell in the basement, AC and fans in working condition, and have your roof checked for loose tiles or shingles. Be a step ahead of the inspector.
 - 8. CURB APPEAL** is so important. It's the first impression prospective buyers will have of your home. Take a close look at your landscaping. Replace any dead bushes or trees, plant flowers, reseed the lawn. Place a couple of planters near the front door if there is room and fill them with flowers. Make sure the walkway is even, with no cracks in the sidewalks. Mow the lawn.
- If you have moved out of your home and it is empty, consider hiring a staging company to make your home more attractive to potential buyers. Staged homes sell faster and at a higher price, so it's likely you will recoup the cost of staging.

Chestnut Ridge Fire Co. Support Needed: With 5 medical calls a day (1,800 a year), our Chestnut Ridge Volunteer Fire Co. sends its EMTs and ambulance out more than all fire equipment, including to Velvet Valley. Chestnut Ridge is in need of replacement vehicles. Fundraising for \$565K is helped by matching from Heritage/MileOne Auto. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Chestnut Ridge relies on contributions. For info and donations, see www.chestnutridgefire.com

JEMICY SCHOOL REPORTS – SPRING 2023

Jemicy's year-long commemoration of its **50th anniversary** reached its crescendo on April 15, when approximately 700 members of the Jemicy community came together to celebrate this remarkable milestone at the *Jubilee*, held on the Upper School Campus. Current and past heads of school, administrators, faculty and staff, board chairs and members, parents and grandparents, alumni, and friends of the school attended the event.

Highlights of the evening included:

- The Vision for the Future of Jemicy School
- Acknowledgment of the retirement of Mark Westervelt - assistant head of school, director of alumni relations (emeritus), teacher, coach, mentor, and friend. Mark, a member of Jemicy's founding faculty, has served Jemicy for its entire 50 years.
- The presentation of the Westy Award to the nine individuals who have served as Jemicy Board of Trustee chairs. The award, presented each year by the Jemicy School Alumni Association, acknowledges and thanks each recipient for the difference they have made in the lives of Jemicy students and their families.

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