



Annual Family Picnic – Saturday, Sept. 9!

The biggest event each year is VVNA’s annual community picnic and member meeting, held at Jemicy’s Lower School campus. It’s filled with fun and wonderful food, FREE for all members. Last year’s popular food trucks will be returning: Hasta La Pizza and The Cow ice cream. It’s a great time to meet neighbors and new friends.



Hooray for VVNA and Our Community!

VVNA’s membership continues to grow, now higher than ever! Of 190 homes encompassed by Park Heights Ave., Velvet Valley, Baronet and Velvet Ridge, and the three Courts, we are proud to now have 130 homes as members. So, 70% of all homes in our community support and appreciate what our VVNA is doing—and they’re enjoying the benefits: social engagements, fun, pride, and savings programs in the neighborhood. If you’re not yet a member, **please join**, and support our community. Contact us at Velvet.NA@gmail.com

Good Times at June 2 Happy Hour

Over 70 neighbors had a great time and wonderful food, beverages, and music at Joe & Edee’s very comfortable home and back yard. Many residents met neighbors they’ve never had a chance to see. Thanks to David C. and his Royal Iberian winery for donating great wine! We’re planning another happy hour in the fall and seeking a volunteer host.



Kids’ Ice Cream Social on July 27

Another happy kids’ event was held at Jemicy with the Kona truck serving ice cream and shaved ice. For all neighborhood families, both kids and parents had fun and made new friends. Thanks to Julie and Christan, our VVNA volunteer co-chairs, who made it happen!

Heating Fuel Discounts for 2023 – 2024

VVNA has negotiated great group discount prices for oil and propane for VVNA members. We surveyed heating fuel suppliers to find the best prices. For the Aug. 2023 - April 2024 contract period, because of market price volatility, low-price suppliers can’t provide a single maximum price cap long enough to enable **all** residents to sign-up. However, our new partner promises great, low prices each day, as well as reliable, discounted service plans for VVNA. For example, early August **OIL** price is **\$3.40/gal** and **PROPANE** is **\$1.95/gal**; deduct 10-cents/gal from oil and propane if you prepay the total upfront. After paying membership dues, let us know if you’re interested in the program, and we’ll send you details. Email: Velvet.na@gmail.com

A friendly reminder to slow down for pedestrians (your neighbors)!



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



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SEPT. 2022 - AUG. '23**

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Our Special Jemicy Relationship

The Jemicy School is a very important resource, supporter and sponsor of our community. They host most of our social events (annual picnic, Halloween Trunk or Treat, Kids' Ice Cream Social), warmly welcome our residents to use their playground and sports field when school is not in session and no school activities are ongoing, and have sponsored and installed the "Slow Down" signs on our streets. Jemicy has had recent problems with people entering campus while school is in session, even walking/running through classes being held on the field. Jemicy's management cannot tolerate incursions on campus while in school is in session, especially in these sad days of school security concerns. Future violations may result in the school being forced to prohibit use of its campus all the time for everyone. Please help support and respect use of the school campus only during allowed times, and if with a dog, make sure you clean up.

Membership Drive for 2023 – 2024—and Benefits!

Our annual membership drive for the Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2024 year has started. YOUR support is important and helps VVNA do all the activities and programs that make our community a great, safe, fun, attractive place to live. A Membership Dues Form accompanies this newsletter in your mailbox.

Over the past year, just some of our programs have included:

- Social events: annual picnic, two happy hours, kids' ice cream social and Halloween Trunk or Treat costume event, and a Kids Social Committee with a listserv to share resources, play dates and conversations.
- Community Safety: free Covid tests and masks, lost pet alerts, advice on solicitors, "Slow Down" signs, police advice from our participation in Precinct 3 monthly meetings—and of course, the camera surveillance system at entrances.
- Home Maintenance Benefits: lower prices for heating fuel, free dumpster event, discounts for tree-cutting and yard maintenance services, and referrals of contractor resources from satisfied neighbors; liaison help with neighbors.
- Community Appearance & Camaraderie: entry sign installation and electric lighting, new corner plantings and monthly landscaping maintenance, street and storm drain volunteer clean-ups, and dialogs with residents to better maintain home exteriors; a great website with photos, events and resources.

WEB RESOURCES

• **Enjoy Balt. County** features a wonderful assortment of fun events, places to visit, and food ideas. See:

EnjoyBaltimoreCounty.com

• **County Services**: search for County codes, zoning reg's, trash collection schedules, property tax, senior care, and other services at: baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/law/county-code

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

Unwanted Solicitors

There have been two episodes of unlicensed, segway-mounted solicitors in recent months, frequently being persistent at doors, coming after the sunset or 7:00PM deadline, and ignoring "no solicitors" signs at homes. Many residents feel anxious and have complained. Our board has pursued the issue with the County Clerk's Licensing office, County Code Enforcement, and our local police Precinct 3. Advice is pending from Police Precinct 3 on protective actions residents can take; it will be shared with all residents who have provided their email address and will be posted on our website.

Reisterstown Dog Park – A Local Gem

Reisterstown Recreational Council has a wonderful dog park behind the old Hannah Moore School, with separate areas for small and large dogs. A small annual fee (\$30) plus a dog license and rabies certificate are required. Check out details at **reisterstownrec.com**

Farmers Markets

Pikesville Farmers Market,
Tuesdays, 2 - 6 PM at Pomona Square.

Reisterstown Farmers Market,
Sundays 9 AM – 1PM at Franklin Middle School.

OUR WEBSITE

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

Welcome New Residents!

We send a warm welcome to new residents within our community. Please share in welcoming them:

- **2503 Velvet Valley, Melissa Miles and Rob Watkins**
- **2335 Velvet Ridge, Leslie & Paul Herbert and children**
- **2411 Velvet Ridge, Darryl Strange & Brandi and kids**
- **10810 Baronet Rd., George & Christina Donelson**
- **11034 Park Heights Ave., Courtney Bondroff & kids**

Velu Brigman



Dandelions Are Good! - Vivian Miller, 10 years old

Most kids like to blow a dandelion puff and make a wish, but surprisingly, dandelions can be used for much more than that. They are full of a bunch of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Along with that, every part of the dandelion is edible! Dandelion root is bitter with a taste similar to a turnip when you cook it. They can be dried and roasted to be made into tea, and as a coffee substitute. You can eat the yellow flowers, leaves and stems raw. Here are some suggestions on how to eat them:

1. The flower can be used in salads or as a garnish. They can also be fermented to make dandelion wine.
2. The young leaves are best for greens in salads and sauteing. They get bitter as they age.

The next time you make a salad, I suggest you mix some dandelion leaves in, and that you use some yellow flowers as garnish on top! That's one of my favorites, and I hope it becomes yours.

RESIDENT NEWS & RESOURCES:

Christan McNulty, on Velvet Ridge Dr., started a new job in July with University of Maryland Medical Center as the manager of utilization review for the downtown and midtown campuses. Congratulations!

BABYSITTING, PET & PLANT CARE:

- Eliza Cleverley (18), animal care & walking, plants, etc; contact dad Grant, 410-532-8847
- Millie Brigman (14) on Velvet Valley Way, 443-635-8438
- Samuel Caplis (11) does dog walking, and mail and trashcan pickups; text mom Mollie at 410.292.0449.
- Astrid Stein (12, in 7th grade) does pet sitting; text mom Dana Stein, 443-468-4465. Experience with dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and reptiles.

PUBLIC NOTARY: 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: VVNA has a list of services that residents have reco'd, such as tree cutting (discounts for members), 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

NEW PUPPY: Fin Brigman announces the newest member of the family at 2410 Velvet Valley Way, **Velu**, a Beauceron. She's in training and socializing & if interested in puppy kisses (35 lbs at 20 weeks), reach Fin at finbrigman@gmail.com

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	2505 Velvet Valley Way	\$ 869,000	3,246	4	2/1	2.73
Active	2502 Velvet Valley Way	\$ 1,250,000	3,847	5	5	2.08
Active	2415 Velvet Valley Way	\$ 1,199,000	6,273	5	4/2	3.90
Active	10600 Park Heights Ave.	\$ 3,650,000	7,439	6	5/2	15.95
Closed	10810 Baronet Rd	\$ 1,040,000	7,142	7	7/1	2.08
Closed	2325 Velvet Ridge Dr.	\$ 524,950	2,989	3	3/0	0.91
Closed	11034 Park Heights Ave	\$ 600,000	1,840	4	3	1.48
Closed	19 Bucksway Rd	\$ 633,000	3,033	4	2/1	1.20
Closed	2503 Velvet Valley Way	\$ 1,100,000	3,270	6	4/1	1.88
Closed	2411 Velvet Ridge Dr.	\$ 840,000	4,675	5	4/1	1.00
Closed	2503 Velvet Valley	\$ 1,100,000	3,270	6	4/1	1.88
Closed	11016 Park Heights Ave.	\$ 724,900	4,809	4	4/1	1.01

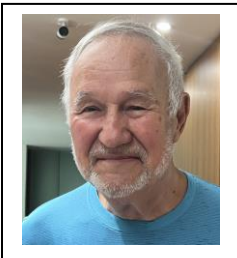
Irvine Nature Center, Thanks to Katie Miller (Learn more at www.explorenature.org)

The Irvine Nature Center is a 211-acre property with over 8 miles of trails through forests, meadows, and wetlands, an aviary, outdoor playspace, and exhibit hall. It's 2 miles from our neighborhood and full of wonderful things to explore. Every Friday is free admission, and there are some great programs for all ages in August.

- All Friday mornings: Tails & Tales - Hear a story and meet an animal (best for ages 5 & under, with a parent)
- All Sunday mornings: Qigong & Tai Chi (ages 18+)
- Aug 5: Celebrating Owls - Learn about MD owls, meet one living at Irvine, and dissect owl pellets (ages 5+)
- Aug 20: Animal Art - Learn observational drawing and painting techniques of live birds with environmental educator and MICA-trained artist (ages 14+)
- Aug 25: Family Movie Night - Watch Over The Hedge on the amphitheater lawn (all ages)

Community Safety, Trees & Erosion A number of homes and cars were severely damaged in recent storms. Many large trees and limbs threaten when near or overhanging our homes and roads, whether dying or not—and **proactive tree trimming** may prevent serious home and auto damage. To help you keep your home and street safe, VVNA has negotiated discounts with two reliable, proven tree-cutting services recommended by residents. For info contact Velvet.na@gmail.com

Also, help prevent topsoil erosion and flooding by **clearing storm drains** in front of your home. Thanks!

**Octavio**

Interview by Marcia Castleman

Meet a Very Interesting Resident His effervescent and joy for life itself lights up the room. Octavio Delasuarree, our newest Board member, has a fascinating past. He's traveled the world, speaks at least three languages fluently, published books and papers in English and Spanish, and earned a PhD and a Professorship. Born in Havana, Cuba in 1943, he attended the Havana Military Academy, traveled to Paris every year with his parents from the time he was 10 until 17, and discovered he had a wonderful ear for languages. His father was a journalist and a Dean at the University of Havana College of Journalism. When he was 17, the Cuban government under Batista was under siege, his father's Deanship was revoked, and his parents wisely left Cuba and flew to Miami. Octavio and his mother went first, followed a year later by his father and grandmother. Once in Miami, he enrolled at Miami Dade Junior College, earning an A.A., then a B.A. from Univ. of Miami, and later an M.A. in Spanish from the City College of New York, and finally a PhD in Spanish from City Univ. of New York. During this time in New York Octavio met and married Alicia, and became a father to his beautiful daughter, Cristina. His passion is literature, writing and poetry. Although he says he doesn't write poetry, he writes about poetry. In 1973 he became a Professor of Languages and Cultures at The William Patterson University in New Jersey, where he and Alicia remained until three years ago, raising their family –daughter Cristina and son, Octavio. He was President for four years of the Cuban Academy of History in Exile. His father had written a number of books, *La Familia Borrero*, a history of the literary accomplishments of the prolific Borrero family, and *Mujeres Sin Senos*. Octavio published both books in his father's honor in Spanish and did a book tour in Miami. In 2020 over Spring Break, he and Alicia drove down to Baltimore to visit their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. It was the height of Covid, and Octavio, who had no plans to retire, was told the campus of his university was closed and he couldn't return. Fate! Octavio and Alicia decided to sell their house in New Jersey and settle here in Velvet Valley. We are the very fortunate beneficiaries of that decision. When I asked Octavio if he had ever returned to Cuba he answered with a smile, " I have everything here that makes me happy."

THANK YOU...

to all who contributed & interviewed, and to Kate Eglseder, who laid out this newsletter!

JEMICY SCHOOL REPORT - SUMMER 2023, Thanks Bonnie Wasserman, M.Ed., Dir, Publications & Comm.

As always, summer is a busy time at Jemicy School. Both campuses were utilized for our **"new and reimagined" Summer at Jemicy**, which offered *"something for everyone from first grade to twelfth."* Lower school-aged children experienced a mixture of reinforcing academic skills and fun-filled activities. A medley of options that included reading, writing, math, engineering, science, visual arts, and more kept middle schoolers constructively interested, excited, and engaged. And, masterclasses for upper school students were geared to prepare them for college and life!

Of course, planning and preparing for the school year ahead is a priority and major focus during the summer months. A group of talented new teachers will become great additions to our faculty, new and enriched courses will further enhance our curriculum, and reconfigured spaces will support instructional needs. We look forward to welcoming our students back to campus for orientation on **August 28 and 29** and for the **first day of school on Wednesday, August 30**.

On behalf of Jemicy School, enjoy the remainder of the summer. We look forward to greeting you in the neighborhood!