

Annual Meeting Brings BIG Crowd

Despite rainy weather, the auditorium at Inman School was completely filled for the annual meeting of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association on June 3rd. Nyna Gentry, President of the Association, welcomed everyone and introduced a number of local elected officials present in the audience. Senator David Scott and Representative Jim Martin spoke concerning the past session of the Georgia Assembly, and commented on their success in getting the homestead exemption increased.

See ANNUAL, Page 2



New Yorkers, Peter and Thomas Winter, enjoy SummerFest's KidsFest.
See Story on page 6.

The PATHway for Bicycling

By Michael Goodman

This is the first in a series of articles in The VOICE related to bicycling. Future topics will include safe riding, maintenance, where to ride, commuting tips and more.

Would you ride your bicycle to the store if you could take a safe route and had a good place to park when you got there? Sure you would and so would most folks.

Bicycling is a wonderful thing. It provokes feelings of nostalgia and it's fun and good exercise. But more than that, cycling is an excellent alternative form of transportation. Bicycles are very economical to buy and maintain compared

to cars. They allow more freedom and flexibility than the bus, are easy to park, help reduce traffic congestion and don't burn fuel to pollute the air.

With all of the benefits of cycling, it's no wonder we see more bikes on the road than

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New members fill Board seats

By Allison Nelson

Nine members were elected to the Board of Trustees at the June annual meeting of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association. Four members from last term—Nyna Gentry, Joyce Gross, and Beth and Jett Marks—were elected to continue as Board members. Also, Tinka Green and Ed Neal will continue as the representatives from Atkins Park and St. Charles/Greenwood, respectively. I spoke to each of the Board members and asked why he or she had run.

Nyna Gentry

Nyna grew up in Lithonia, and after living in New York for three years, moved to Barnett Street in Virginia-Highland in 1982.

She became involved in the Civic Association that year because of a zoning issue on St. Charles Avenue and has remained active ever since. Nyna was first appointed to the Board in 1987, representing the St. Charles/Greenwood Association as its co-president and was then elected to the Board in 1988. She became President in December 1991 and was elected to a full term this year. Nyna believes there is a delicate balance between the commercial and residential interests in our neighborhood and continues working to ensure the balance as it exists today.

Nyna was a founding member of R.I.O.T. (Rollback Increase Of Taxes), the organization instrumental in increasing the

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Next, Nyna explained that the VHCA Board currently consists of eleven members, nine elected by the residents of Virginia-Highland and one representative each appointed by the Atkins Park and St. Charles/Greenwood associations. However, a recent reading of the Bylaws indicates that there should only be seven elected members. Following a discussion, the membership voted to change the Bylaws to allow nine elected members instead of only seven. The vote was 110 for the change and 51 against.

The next order of business was the election of nine Board members. Each candidate spoke briefly, described why he or she wanted to become a Board member and answered questions posed by the membership.

The following residents were elected to serve for twelve months or until the next general election of the Board:

VHCA CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 5 VHCA General Meeting
- 17 NPU-F Meeting
- 26 Zoning Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 2 VHCA General Meeting
- 21 NPU-F Meeting
- 30 Zoning Meeting

OCTOBER

- 7 VHCA General Meeting
- 19 NPU-F Meeting
- 28 Zoning Meeting

All meetings are open to the public. Anyone who wishes to discuss a topic of interest to the neighborhood should contact the Board to get on the agenda, otherwise your concerns may not get the attention which it deserves. Please Call 222-VAHI (8244).

The VHCA General Meetings and Zoning Meetings are held at the Ponce de Leon Branch Library at 7:30 P.M. The NPU-F Meetings are held at the Monticello Presbyterian Church at 7:30 P.M.

J.D. Christy; Kathy Couch; Nyna Gentry; Joyce Gross; John Jugovic; Doug Landau; Beth Marks; Jett Marks; Swan McKnight.

Tinka Green and Ed Neal will continue to serve as the appointed representatives of Atkins Park and St. Charles/Greenwood, respectively.

If you would like to get more involved with your neighborhood, attend the VHCA meetings. They are on the first Wednesday of each month. If you can not attend, please call the new VHCA Hotline at 222-VHCA.

THE ORIGINAL
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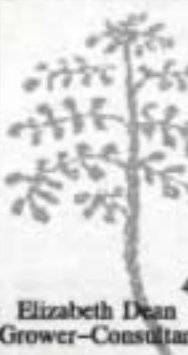
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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our neighborhood association is known as one of the more active in Atlanta. This activism was certainly visible at our Annual Meeting on June 3, which was attended by well over 200 people. (By contrast, the July 1 meeting was attended by 32 people). During the coming year, I hope to see more faces from the Annual Meeting attend the Civic Association's general meetings, the first Wednesday of each month at the Ponce de Leon Library.

The Board of Trustees needs YOUR input on issues that come before it. We need your participation, whether the issue is a resident requesting approval of a higher fence than is allowed or a business owner requesting a change in required parking. Other areas of interest to the Virginia-Highland neighborhood are also discussed during general meetings.

The Board has begun reviewing and updating the VHCA current Bylaws. Open discussion of the Bylaws will be held during the September and October general meetings, with a vote taken at the October general meeting. Even if you are unable to attend any other meetings during the year, please come during these two months so that the Board may hear your opinion of the Bylaws.

In the near future, the Board hopes to announce incentives for being a dues-paying member of the Civic Association. If you have suggestions for incentives such as discounts on Summerfest T-shirts, receiving your copy of *The VOICE* by mail, discounts with local merchants, etc. please call 222-VAHI and leave your message with the membership and fund-raising committee. Our dues are only \$10.00 annually per person. This year, we hope to increase the number of dues-paying members. If you check with other Atlanta neighborhood organizations, you may find VHCA dues are among the lowest.

The coming year should be exciting for all of us as we look forward to the general election in November and the election of City Council representatives in 1993. Along with the other Board members, I look forward to increased participation from the residents of Virginia-Highland and hope to meet many more of you during the coming months. Remember, you get as much out of your community as you put into it.

Nyna Gentry, President



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Ponce Task Force has new Plan

By Jeff Marks

Two years ago, the Ponce Task Force (PTF) set out to create a long range plan for the Ponce de Leon Corridor. After involving many neighborhoods, business associations, social service providers, churches, police, and city and county officials, the PTF has completed a comprehensive plan. This article highlights the important points of this plan and lists some of the PTF's projects for implementing it.

Plan Highlights

The plan starts with a review of Ponce de Leon's past. This brief history reminds us that Ponce was once the jewel of Atlanta—the springs, the street-car line, and the prestigious homes. Next is a broad survey of existing conditions, covering demographics, physical characteristics, a visual survey and economic development. The intent is to present both the assets and the liabilities. These are summarized in an Issues section below:

The principal issue in this plan is to suggest ways in which the community can take "advantage of the current changes by capitalizing on the under-utilization of activity in sections of the corridor. Related issues include how the redevelopment of this area fits into the context of the city; the increased demand for in-town housing and supportive retail trade; the impact of additional traffic on the transportation system; the desire to maintain the character of the neighborhoods; and the type, location and scale of new development"

These are some specific issues that the plan raises:

- Continuation of the revitalization of surrounding neighborhoods.
- The need to enhance urban design aspects of the corridor.
- Improvements in the economic viability and function of the corridor.
- Overcoming the perceived negative image and building a program based on image strengths.
- Opportunities to take advantage of the development potential of vacant parcels of land.

• The need to establish a healthy balance of residential, business and social service land uses.

To address these issues, the plan then states its three main goals:

1. Improve the overall visual appearance of the Ponce Corridor to create a beautiful, safe and pleasant urban environment.
2. Promote the implementation of appropriate land uses that visually and functionally enhance the corridor's impact area.
3. Promote, guide and support revival efforts that will induce economic growth and stability within the Ponce Corridor.

For each of these three goals, the plan lists six or seven general objectives. These objectives are bite-size chunks which are more manageable. For example, under the broad topic of Improve Visual Appearance, the plan lists the following objectives:

- Improve or re-design the Southern Railway Bridge and adjacent areas, to incorporate aspects of the Railroad Corridor Concept Plan, a future commuter rail station and the relocation of city departments to the old Sears building.
- Design the gateway to the Freedom Parkway to incorporate unique urban design elements and create a distinctive community entrance.

The plan then makes more specific recommendations and suggests ways to implement the plan. Implementing the plan is the first of the PTF's current projects.

Current PTF Projects

The first project is to make the plan visible to those who can shape Ponce de Leon's future. The PTF will be making formal presentations to neighborhoods, businesses, local government, social services and developers. At these presentations, the PTF will solicit project ideas as well as present its own ideas. Another purpose is to gauge the need for a proposed project as well as available resources. The PTF can serve to coordinate, guide and promote the efforts of the various organizations.

The PTF is also promoting the corridor as well as its plan. Festivals and parades along with a theme that would unite the diverse

See PLAN, Page 15

The Virginia - Highland VOICE is published by the Newsletter Committee of the Virginia - Highland Civic Association. Newsletter Committee offices are located at 805 Ashby Avenue NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30306, (404) 223-VAHI (8244). Please send information of community interest, including articles, news, sporting events, and letters to the editors to the above address. Only letters that have been signed will be considered for publication. Deadline dates for articles and advertising are January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

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Officially Speaking

School Report

By Joe Martin

Atlanta School Board

As the new school year approaches, we can celebrate recent accomplishments and look forward to continuing improvements in the schools which serve Virginia-Highland.

For two of the last three years, Grady High School has received the All-Georgia Trophy from the Georgia Scholastic Press Association for having the best student publications of ANY high school in Georgia, public or private, big or small. The newspaper, literary magazine and yearbook at Grady are superb. Grady sent 11 students (out of 30 in the entire school system) to the Governor's Honors Program this summer. It is also remarkable that the 108 graduating seniors earned over \$1.8 million in scholarships.

Under the leadership of Dr. Vincent Murray, Grady is pioneering the concept of site-based management, which is intended to move decision-making to the school level.

At Inman Middle School, several task forces have been working to improve various aspects of the overall program. Some changes are also being made in the staff under the leadership of Dr. Barbara Naylor. Five of Inman's seventh graders were recognized as finalists in the national program by Duke University to identify exceptionally talented students.

A substantial addition is being designed for Morningside Elementary School, with construction scheduled to begin later this year. The existing building is also being rewired to permit air conditioning throughout the school. The pilot program to introduce foreign language study to kindergarten students was extremely successful and will be extended into the first grade next year. Elaine Dowis is beginning her second year as principal.

On September 15th, the citizens of Atlanta will be asked to approve a bond referendum for school improvements. When combined with funds from the State and other sources, the bond issue will be used to bring all of our school buildings to the basic level which is necessary for a good program. Grady and Inman have already been renovated, but this is our chance to renovate Morningside as well. Most of all, it is an opportunity to help many students throughout Atlanta who are attending school in buildings that are in very poor condition. Please vote "Yes" in this special election.

Anonymous Letters go Unpublished

Over the past several months, the VHCA and The VOICE have received a number of anonymous letters. It is the policy of The VOICE not to publish unsigned letters because we are unable to verify their source or contents. This is unfortunate because the letters often express points of view that the neighborhood should hear. The latest letter dated July 3rd concerned some difficulties in providing low-cost housing to senior citizens and other people with fixed incomes.

The VOICE publishes letters that are signed and have a valid address. It is our service to the community to provide this communications channel.

RECYCLE T O D A Y

You can make the difference

By Nan Hunter

Until our government tackles our mounting environmental problems, we as citizens must do as much as possible to initiate solutions on a local basis. We in Virginia-Highland must all recycle as much as we can. We should not use laziness or busy schedules as excuses for not recycling. It's the LEAST we can do for our environment. So our kitchens or basements are a bit cramped and messy. So what! Either use our curbside program or load up your trunk and recycle on your own. Just do it! Your planet thanks you.

Other neighborhoods have been recycling at curbside as we have been. Ansley Park, Morningside, Sherwood Forest, Garden Hills and North Buckhead all do. To participate, please send \$4.00 to Nan Hunter, 785 Adair Ave. and get your name on the route. Questions? Call 875-1630.

The pick-up schedule for the rest of the year is:

Sept. 14
Oct. 12
Nov. 9
Dec. 7

The Compost Man, Dr. Clark Gregory of Elkmont Drive, is pleased with the response to his sale of compost bins. If you'd like to purchase one for a small fee and get an explanation of how to use it, call him at 876-2943. Help reduce your garbage by eliminating non-garbage items such as lawn trimmings and turned them into rich garden soil.

Don't forget, Graham Groves of Greenwood Avenue will gladly pick up metal, sinks, toilets, old building materials, water heaters and furnaces. Call 876-4729.

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Learning about the VHCA Committees

The Public Safety Committee, with a current membership of approximately 60 people, is headed by Chairperson Joyce Gross and Vice Chairpersons Ken Lavine and Ray Couch. The level of participation of committee members ranges from being updated by our public safety newsletters to acting as Block Watch Coordinators. The Block Watch Program is our way of keeping informed of criminal activity on each street or block. Our telephone tree program enables us to disseminate information throughout the neighborhood in several hours. Our main goal is to heighten crime awareness and promote safety by getting neighbors to watch out for each other.

The Newsletter Committee publishes the Virginia-Highland VOICE, a quarterly newsletter written to inform, entertain and convey the character of the neighborhood, including both its residential and commercial aspects. The publication, which is staffed by neighborhood volunteers, is solely funded by advertising.

The Zoning and Planning Committee hears all requests for zoning variances concerning property in Virginia-Highland. After studying a variance request, the committee makes a recommendation to the VHCA Board, which votes on the issue. The Board's decision is then filed with the Atlanta Bureau of Zoning Adjustment, for consideration during its review process.

The Preservation Committee was formed in response to the enactment of Atlanta's Preservation Ordinance in June 1989. Under the previous ordinance, Virginia-Highland was designated an Urban Conservation District and Development Area. This designation expired in June 1991. The Committee is responsible for investigating whether the neighborhood should apply for any of three designations under the new ordinance, which helps to insure that the present character of the residential and commercial districts remain intact.

The Ponce Task Force (PTF) is a coalition

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Summerfest '92 a Success!

By Beth Marks

Virginia-Highland had another sunny weekend for Summerfest. And another good turnout. Among the reasons for our success is the growing array of activities for the weekend event. These include the Kidsfest, 5K Road Race, Family Fun Run, Tot Trot, Arts Festival, Taste of Virginia-Highland and the music.

This was the first year the Civic Association took the main role in organizing the event. It was a scary adventure since we had to work with no money.

However, we're happy to report that we made over \$7500. A portion of the proceeds be will used to beautify traffic islands, add a community bulletin board and bicycle racks and make a donation to Inman Middle School for its assistance with the festival.

Many thanks go to those who helped organize the festival: Kimberly Krautter, Swan McKnight, Nyna Gentry, Sam Benedict, Chris Clark, Ed Thomas, Todd Taylor, Beth Marks, Porter Watkins, Jerry Dubner, Joan Ashley, Tim Shirley, Amy Waterman, Betsy Carson, Mary Chesin, Joyce Gross, Richard Bailey, Nan Hunter, Carrie Pomarantz, Ruth Wisecarver, Ann Mead, Elizabeth Couch, Ray Couch, Andrea Alexander, Ed Neal, and all the volunteers who worked at the festival. We also want to thank all of the sponsors who donated goods and services.

It's already time to start preparations for Summerfest '93. Our

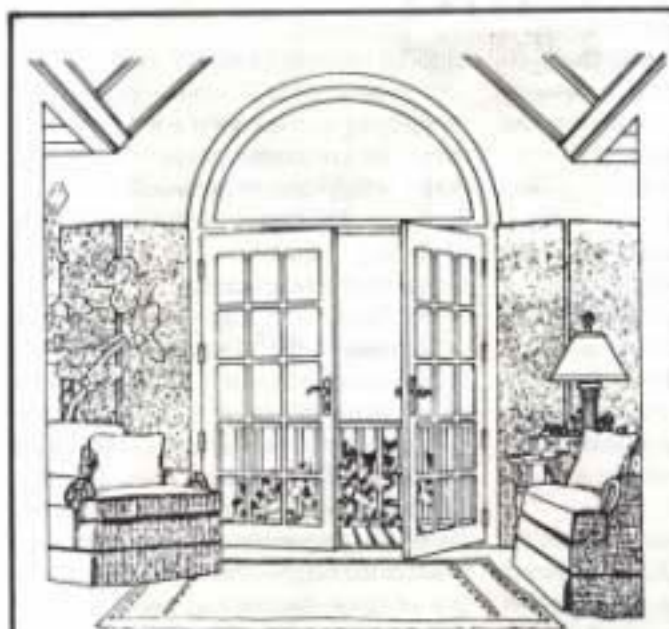
first meeting is set for September. We're considering creating a special "board" to organize the committees within Summerfest. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to head a committee, please call 222-VAHI and leave a message.



Runners waiting for the 5K road race to begin.



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PATH, From page 1

ever before. Of course, intown living is very conducive to bicycle transportation. Travel distances are usually short and with the amount of traffic and limited parking space available, it's easier to pedal than to drive. However, bicycling in our city is not without its obstacles.

First of all, few facilities exist to accommodate bike riders. There are no bike lanes for riding separately from cars and not much secure, convenient parking. Secondly, most drivers (and bikers) lack adequate information on how to share the road. Fortunately, both of these problems are being addressed.

The PATH Foundation (People of Atlanta for Trails Here) formed last year to build bike/pedestrian trails in Atlanta. The project will be funded privately and staffed largely on a volunteer basis. The City has recognized PATH as the umbrella organization for developing a trail system and has lent its support with planning and political clout. It will also help with lane striping and signage.

Presently, PATH is developing five related to pedestrian/development. They

"Bicycles

PATH is developing five related to pedestrian/development. They

Hightower Marta station.

The Atlanta Bicycle Campaign, a separate organization, was also formed last year. It will focus on the legislative, educational and advocacy aspects of bicycle transportation. It will also help make parking and other bicycle facilities available, repair dangerous sewer grates and assure that the design of the trail system facilitates transportation goals.

Here in Virginia-Highland—an area ideal for bicycles—merchants are working with the VHCA to install parking racks. These facilities should encourage more bicycle use in the neighborhood. Racks are already planned for the Neighbors' Pub parking lot on St. Charles, the Dark Horse Tavern and Murphy's, thanks to Doug Landau and Tom Murphy. Other sites are being researched by the VHCA Parking Committee Bicycle Task Force.

Cyclists, remember to follow traffic regulations (lights, signals). And motorists, be considerate of your two-wheeled neighbors! Atlanta will have bike/pedestrian trails in the near future. The time is right, the project has a great momentum and all of the behind-the-scenes work is well underway. It's happening, ya'll!

More help is needed, though. Join the PATH Foundation. Join the ABC. And most importantly, ride your bike to that store! The more we ride and become more visible, the more we increase bicycle awareness and promote their use.

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What are we doing to our Parks?

By David Robertson

As Parks Chairman for the Morningside/Lenox Park Association, I have witnessed with interest, the way the City of Atlanta has let everyone who wants to, abuse Piedmont Park. Anyone who has been to the park can easily see that the Park is in terrible shape from overuse. Increased maintenance will not make the trampled grass grow or bring back the trees killed by soil compaction. The key word for any properly managed park is "live load." Maintenance is of no consequence to the health of a park if the "live load" continues out of control.

Piedmont Park is nearly dead and arid. The misuse of the Park cannot continue. Residents can no longer tolerate the manag-

ing of the Park ad hoc. Like most of the general public, I enjoy the Arts Festival, the Dogwood Festival, and the Peachtree Road Race. These events are a draw for thousands of people each year. These events were at one time, many years ago, very small, local festivals. As metro Atlanta has grown, so have these festivals. They are now nothing more than large commercial street parties that drain our Parks' budget. These events have outgrown the Park and cause tremendous damage and trauma to the feeder roots of the remaining trees. The chairpersons of these events need to be asked the sobering question, what are they doing? These people need to realize they are the ones that need to accept responsibility for the group's actions.

See HELP, Page 9

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COLONEL MUSTARD WITH A KNIFE IN THE KITCHEN

FOOD REVIEW

A friend visited recently from out-of-state armed with a list of what's-not-to-be-missed in Atlanta—places someone she knew had recommended, such as Lenox Shopping Center, the Driving Miss Daisy house and Everybody's Pizza. Bowing to national renown, we hurried off to eat at Everybody's on a Friday night. New Jersey had gotten the word too, so we had to wait 20 minutes.

We decided to bypass the popular regular pizzas and instead ordered two pizza crisps with one-third fewer calories. The cheese crisp with sun-dried tomatoes was tasty if a little salty. Garlic sesame chicken was soggy than the name crisp suggested. The red lasagne was mediocre but Everybody's sandwich was very good, filled to overflowing with pastrami, roast beef, provolone, lettuce and tomato in a good roll. It's for hearty appetites. Don't order this on a first date. Getting your mouth around it with a two-fisted grip requires comfortable friendships and old clothes.

A Greek salad and a small dinner salad could have been just right if the herb dressing had had less vinegar. They were served with crackers which seemed a strange accompaniment in a restaurant with so much dough. We also ordered fettuccine with broccoli and mushrooms to sample a good cross-section. Our waitress tried to discourage us. Too much food, she said. She was right. We had to take some of it home.

The service was competent, although our request to "hold the green pepper" from the Greek salad was overlooked. That could have been a kitchen problem. Our waitress also advised us that fettuccine with nuts and seeds was just too bland so we avoided it.

Everybody's has the most complete cash register slip going, with the wait person's name, the date and time and exactly what was ordered. The leftover fettuccine had a 30¢ to-go charge, which is an interesting concept.

It was lively and crowded that night. The food was average and moderately priced for big helpings. Colonel Mustard gives it three hot dogs on a scale of five. Out-of-towners sure like it. Everybody's Restaurant, 1040 H. Highland Ave., 873-4545. Open daily at 11:30 A.M. Entrees \$5 - \$15.

HELP, From page 8

I can think of two regional events that were discontinued because they grew out of control, the Chattahoochee River Raft Race and Light Up Atlanta.

Public forums need to be held to ask residents of Atlanta what kind of park they want. Do we want a passive green park, a parking lot, or something in between? If the City of Atlanta did this, perhaps the runners and megafestival events' attendees would respond that they do not want to damage the Park by their sheer numbers. I believe when people realize that these megaevents have dire consequences for the health of Piedmont Park, the majority of the environmentally concerned public will agree that these events are better suited for other larger locations such as the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, the Georgia Dome, Lakewood Fairgrounds, the huge Stone Mountain Park, or a new, large festival park located in the suburbs. Does freedom of assembly mean destruction of the environment and our parks? Civilization is very complex and the more populated metro Atlanta becomes, the more challenging the solutions will be. City codes and the city's resident taxpayers' rights must be addressed first.

The Peachtree Road Race continues to

grow to behemoth numbers every year. Tens of thousands of runners stampede into the Park, compacting the soil and causing the trees and grass to suffocate. Now that the Georgia Dome is near completion, the huge expanses of parking could be used for the finish line.

The Pot Festival was especially damaging to the Park because of the number of people in attendance from across the state. (I counted very few Fulton County license plates parked in the streets and on the grass.) As true urban Atlantans, it is time we stopped allowing "out of city" groups to dump on us for their "right of assembly" and street parades. This was an unpermitted assembly and they pay for none of the city services provided. We are tired of our park tax dollars being used inappropriately when the money could be used for capital improvements. These events need to rotate out of the city to other surrounding cities, or the state needs to do what is equitable and pick up the tab. These should not expect the residents of Atlanta to foot the bill every year for their party. Stone Mountain park would make a better stage for events. Ample room for assembly and parking are available. This group would do a better job of reaching the state lawmakers by abusing a state park rather than a city park.

All of these megaevents trash the surrounding neighborhoods, block the streets with cars, and attendees trespass on private property. Unpermitted events, i.e. NORML and FreakNick, need to have police presence to maintain peace and to protect the surrounding neighborhoods. These groups need to take responsibility for their actions. Are we not stewards of this planet? Are we going to continue to trample to death

See PARK, Page 13



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Ponce Property is under Discussion

By Jerry Bright

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in the process of disposing of six lots fronting Ponce de Leon Avenue and five lots fronting St Charles Avenue lying between Barnett Street and Bonaventure Avenue. A public meeting concerning potential land use was held in May, attended by Civic Association Board members, adjacent property owners, realtors, home builders and representatives of other neighboring organizations.

The overall consensus was that the existing residential zoning should be maintained. A Ponce de Leon Corridor Association study supports the need for housing, indicating a 39.8% population decline in our neighborhood from 1940 through 1990. Further discussion focused on the contrasting objectives of home builders who want the land at a price that is economically feasible for residential development vs. DOT's requirement to sell the land at current market value. Other discussion centered around the negative influences of Ponce de Leon Avenue, acceptable residential density levels and the status of Maiden Lane.

Subsequent discussions with Charles Mallard at the DOT indicated that bid packages for the property will most likely be available this summer. For additional information concerning the bid process, contact him in the Right-of-Way section at the DOT (656-3646).

Neighborhood Profile

By Mary Jo Peed

In the past, The VOICE has reported on events at Morningside School, Inman Middle School and Grady High. In this issue, I would like to introduce you to one of the people who makes Morningside the great school that it is.

She is Elaine Dowis, the principal of Morningside for the past year. Previously, she was assistant principal at Inman Middle School. Ms. Dowis has been with the Atlanta school system since 1972, beginning her career as a school secretary. She received her degrees from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia State University and West Georgia College.

Ms. Dowis feels that Morningside's strength is its parental involvement. The PTA is a vital and indispensable part of the school. "Parents must preach that education is the single most important aspect of their children's lives." The PTA sponsors a wide variety of before-and-after-school activities, such as Spanish club, science club, journalism club and chess club. Sponsorship means a turn key operation in which the school supplies only the space for the activities, and the parents do all the rest.

Ms. Dowis also spoke very highly of Morningside's business partners. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Georgia has been Morningside's partner for a number of years, joined this year by the Kroger at Ansley Mall. Blue Cross/Blue Shield sponsored the publishing of a very professional monthly newsletter for Morningside parents and an annual anthology of children's writing. The Kroger register receipts program has enabled Morningside to purchase a number of computers for student use. Both businesses provide financial assistance to the school as well as employee volunteers. An art gallery at the Ansley Mall Kroger, filled with Morningside work, will be appearing in the future.

According to Ms. Dowis, Morningside's weakness lies in its physical plant. Even though next winter marks the groundbreaking for a new kindergarten and first grade wing with new art, media and music centers, the school itself is old and declining. If the City of Atlanta bond referendum passes in September, Morningside is near the top of the list for renovation. When asked what our neighborhood can do for Morningside

See DOWIS, Page 16



Sandy D'Aprile

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Parks Committee needs Flower Power

By Kathy Couch

If you love flowers or just like to play around in the dirt, the Parks Committee needs you. We're about to begin a new beautification program to spruce up traffic islands and other public places throughout Virginia-Highland. A community bulletin board has also been proposed.

Some of the proceeds from Summerfest have been budgeted for plant materials, fertilizer and other landscaping costs.

We've taken an informal survey of potential sites and now we need your input to create an is to set up an adopt-an-which nearby residents planting and maintain-

We're fortunate to Schild Grand of New has generously volunteered plantings. He has begun implementing weather conditions are more conducive to new plantings.

How much we can do depends in large part on how many people want to participate. If you have a few hours to plant flowers or pull weeds once in a while, let us hear from you. And if you want to do more, there's more to do. No gardening experience required. Just call me at 874-4011 to join the committee or our roster of garden volunteers.

overall plan. One idea island program, in would take part in ing "their" little garden. have the expertise of Leaf Landscaping, who teered his time to design recommended that we our plan in the fall when



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VHCA gets new phone service

By Nyna Gentry

The Civic Association switched to a new phone service in June. You can now leave a message for most individual committees by calling 222-VAHI (8244). By choosing the appropriate number, a message can be left for any one of eight committees or for general information. Each committee chair is responsible for retrieving his or her own messages and the President is responsible for the general information line.

This new phone system should ensure that neighbors with questions or concerns receive responses in a more timely fashion. Keep the following list handy and need to call 222-8244:

- 1 Zoning and
- 2 Parking
- 3 Newslette
- 4 Public Saf
- 5 Preservati
- 6 General In
- 7 Recycling
- 8 Membership and Fund-raising
- 9 Summerfest

Murphy's Restaurant Update

Two actions have been filed in the Superior Court of Fulton County appealing the decision of the Atlanta Board of Zoning Adjustment concerning V-91-110, the application of Thomas L. Murphy for a variance and special exception.

Both are private actions by individuals and do not involve the Virginia-Highland Civic Association.

The Thomas L. Murphy appeal is asking the court to:

1. Modify the exception granted by the BZA to:
 - a. Require that the number of spaces to be provided after 6 pm be 27 rather than 42
 - b. Delete the requirement to provide an attendant
2. Cast costs upon the defendant
3. Grant the plaintiff such further and additional relief as is appropriate.

The Joseph D. Christy appeal is asking the court to:

1. Set aside the special exception that reduces the daytime required parking from 42 spaces down to 20.

CRIME WATCH

Below is a listing of the crimes reported to police in May and June for the Virginia - Highland neighborhood (beat 610):

	May	June
Assault	11	15
Auto Theft	19	12
Commercial Burglary	3	4
General Larceny	21	19
Homicide	1	0
Rape	1	1
Residential Burglary	19	22
Robbery	3	8
Vehicular Larceny	27	77

BOARD, From page 1

homestead exemption in Fulton County. Most recently she chaired the Citizens Advisory Committee on the proposed sewage treatment plant that was planned for Piedmont Park.

John Jugovic

A transplant from Marietta, John Jugovic has lived at his North Highland Avenue address for five years. John felt there was insufficient communication throughout the neighborhood on the issue of Murphy's relocation, and wants to put his own communication skills to good use on the Board. He considers himself "a middle of the roader" with both residential and business interests (he does not own a business, but lives near the shops on North Highland). John hopes to make neighborhood issues more visible to all everyone.

Doug Landau

Doug Landau has lived in Virginia-Highland on and off since 1979 and is the President of Intown Restaurant Corporation, which operates Dark Horse Tavern and Neighbors Pub. He felt the VHCA should be more pro-active in coping with neighborhood issues, so he ran for a spot on the Board to see if he could help change that. As a local businessman, he feels strongly about the parking issue and invites residents to call him at work (873-3607) to discuss anything they see as a problem in the neighborhood.

Tinka Green

Tinka Green moved to Virginia-Highland four years ago from San Francisco, where she also lived in an intown neighborhood. An artist who works out of her St. Louis Avenue home, she is currently Vice President of the

See MEMBERS, Page 14

COMMITTEE, From page 5

tion of the neighborhoods, businesses and other institutions along Ponce de Leon Avenue from the Fox Theatre to Briarcliff Road. The PTF took its present form in July 1990 and set out to create a plan for the Ponce Corridor. After two years of surveying and consensus building, the PTF has completed a general plan for the corridor. The PTF will now guide efforts to 1) improve visual quality, 2) make specific land use recommendations and 3) foster economic development. Contact Jett Marks at 874-7114 for more information.

The Membership Committee plans to form this year. Its goals will be to increase membership, keep track of members, keep members informed of neighborhood issues and offer benefits to members.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has for the past few years been heavily involved in developing a plan for John Howell Park, which is now in the final review process by the City and the Urban Design Commission. The Parks Committee is getting organized to begin some other neighborhood beautification projects and needs your input. Call Kathy Couch, 874-4011, if you'd like to get involved.

The Parking Committee recently formed to address more closely our parking problems. The committee is in the process of developing a "working plan" to define its goal and to provide a guideline for addressing the critical issue of parking in our neighborhood. Call 222-VAHI for additional information.

The Recycling Committee has administered for more than two years, curbside pickup once a month for newspaper, aluminum and glass. Over 150 homes in Virginia-Highland now participate. This committee also provides recycling tips and suggestions in each edition of the VOICE.

For more information about each committee or to volunteer your service, please call 22-VAHI and leave a message.

PARK, From page 9

every precious bit of green left in the city and expect the Parks Department to maintain it and put it back together?

We have to ask ourselves what is best for Piedmont Park. It is a living thing and has to be nurtured and protected. This is what the city residents want. We absolutely do not want dead parks. Truly we are guilty of mismanagement of Piedmont Park, myself included. By not recognizing the problem earlier, we've allowed it to perpetuate itself.

I am very encouraged to see the Piedmont Park Conservancy and the City of Atlanta working together to save Piedmont Park. Councilmember Mary Davis has proposed several new ordinances which would help save the Park. I applaud her aggressive efforts and hope the City Council will support these ordinances.

We all need to be good stewards of all public parks, and take personal responsibility for them. You can make a difference by joining Park Pride (653-7242 or the Piedmont Park Conservancy (872-7355). A letter to the mayor and City Council also works.

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It is with the utmost sadness that we report the sudden passing of Kay Paradise, the Zone 6 Office Administrator. Kay was the recipient of the 1991 Virginia-Highland Civil Servant Award. She served the Atlanta Police Department for over 20 years and had been instrumental in maintaining the lines of communication between neighborhoods and the Zone. Words cannot express how much you will be missed, Kay.

MEMBERS, From page13

Atkins Park Civic Association, which makes her an automatic designee to the VHCA Board. Tinka is co-chairperson of the Zoning and Planning Committee and also writes for *The VOICE*.

Swan McKnight

An Atlantan almost from birth, Swan McKnight has lived in the neighborhood with her husband "Chipley" for six years, though she grew up in Dunwoody. Says Swan, "I love where I live! This is such a diverse neighborhood." After attending VHCA meetings for three or four years, she got involved with Summerfest last year and this year chaired the Kidsfest segment of the festival. The issue of

Murphy's relocation bothered Swan, as it did others, and she decided to get involved. Her main objective is to fight apathy in the neighborhood and encourage other residents to "feel strongly about something."

J.D. Christy

A Rupley Avenue resident for nine years, J.D. Christy had wanted to live intown for a long time. When his kids grew up and left the nest, J.D. finally made the leap from Chamblee to Virginia-Highland. A retiree from the General Motors plant in Doraville, J.D. hopes to be a "unifying voice" between the residents and business owners. J.D. also notes that, although some people don't feel this is a good neighborhood in which to raise children, he personally disagrees and would like to help make that stigma disappear.

Kathy Couch

Kathy Couch, a resident of Virginia-Highland for nearly 20 years, was a member of the VHCA Board in the mid-70's when the neighborhood helped defeat I-485, the proposed highway that would have divided our community in half. Kathy has seen the neighborhood go through many changes and is interested in helping to resolve today's very different problems. She got involved again three years ago as copy editor of *The VOICE* and is currently chairperson of the Parks Committee.

Ed Neal

Ed Neal moved here in 1981 from San Francisco and settled in Virginia-Highland because of its unique village setting. He has been a Board member since 1988. In addition to co-chairing the Zoning and Planning Committee, Ed is the current President of the St. Charles/Greenwood Civic Association, and as such, is its representative to the VHCA Board. His concerns include the DOT property and the railroad corridor. He also had a hand in helping to preserve the attractive main structure of the Highland YWCA during its renovation. A Fulton County high school teacher, Ed works toward keeping a good healthy business and residential mix in the neighborhood.

Jett Marks

Jett Marks has been a resident of Virginia-Highland since 1981 and a home owner since 1984. He has maintained a house on Greenwood as rental property since 1987. Jett's goal has been to involve others and to make the Civic Association more accessible to both neighbors and businesses. He has reduced his responsibilities to *The VOICE* and increased his involvement with the Ponce Task Force and the Parking Committee.

Beth Marks

Beth Marks has been a resident and home owner since 1986. She has served on the Board for three years, was the past co-managing editor of *The VOICE* and will now help with distribution of the newsletter. This past year she was very active in preparations for Summerfest '92, taking major responsibility for the road races. This year she plans to concentrate her efforts on her work with the Parking Committee.

Joyce Gross

Joyce, a Philadelphia native, has been a St. Charles Avenue resident for five years. She admits to two obsessions, the vacant DOT property and the crime in the neighborhood. She chairs the VHCA Public Safety Committee and says, "neighborhood awareness, people looking out for each other, that's my biggest hope. It's the apathy I hope to overcome."

The VHCA has a diverse Board. Keep your eye on its members to see what things they can accomplish with our community!

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PLAN, From page 3

groups that Ponce represents are in the works. You will hear more about this.

The PTF is seeking and recommending alternative sites for the location of Grady Hospital's Infectious Disease Clinic. This much-needed clinic would serve AIDS outpatients and hopefully tuberculosis patients as well. However, the PTF opposes Grady's purchase of the former Presbyterian Center because there are better uses for that property and better locations for the Infectious Disease Clinic.

There are many other exciting projects

being discussed up and down Ponce as well as others that haven't gotten out of the dream stage yet. Contact Jett Marks at 874-7114 if you would like to know how you can get involved or just get on the mailing list. You can also call to order a full copy of the 90-page plan.

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DOWIS, From page 13

School, Ms. Dowis replied, "Work toward getting the bond referendum passed. It will directly affect our school in a very positive way."

Ms. Dowis is the kind of principal we all hope our children will have the benefit of knowing. She believes in children and most importantly, she believes that she can make a difference in their lives. She is the first person Morningside students see everyday as they enter the school. Her goal is to know by name all of the 640 children who attend the school.

Regarding discipline, Ms. Dowis believes a child must know exactly why he or she has been sent to the principal's office and be able to articulate the problem to her. From there, student and principal discuss how the problem can be avoided in the future. Instead of learning to fear her, students discover that she cares about them and wants to help them succeed in school.

Ms. Dowis encourages her students to come to her before conflicts or problems arise so that, together, they can figure out a solution. Ms. Dowis begins teaching children problem-solving and conflict resolution at an early age. As she was speaking about discipline, I thought, "Remember what she is saying. It could work at home!"

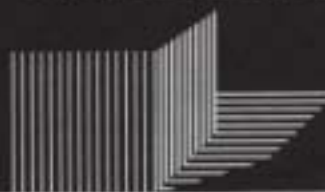
The Morningside PTA Welcomes New Parents

The Morningside School PTA will host a coffee for parents of kindergartners and other students new to Morningside. Light refreshments will be served at 8:00 am in the gym on the first day of school, Monday, August 24th.

New parents are encouraged to come by after dropping off their children in class. PTA representatives will be on hand to introduce themselves and answer questions about the school.

Thanks to **Kathy Couch, Terry Tulley and Sarah Tomaka** for their expert help in producing **The VOICE**. Good luck with your new endeavors.

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