

The Virginia·Highland Voice



Newsletter of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association

P.O. Box 8401, Station F / Atlanta, Georgia 30306

April, 1980

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

MARCH PROJECTS

The Civic Association started Spring off with a flourish in March by sponsoring three projects.

Over 900 people toured 14 Virginia-Highland houses, several of them former I-485 right-of-way properties, during our Ninth Annual Bungalow Tour of Homes. David Cox coordinated this largest-ever event.

Rick Anderson organized a group of folks to plant liriope and day lilies in the traffic island at the Virginia & Highland intersection. He promises the trees will be added as soon as the weather dries up a bit.

We also had a successful week-end paper drive and clean-up day, both coordinated by Ken Connors. He's finalizing arrangements to install a permanent newspaper dumpster in the Fulton Federal parking lot. Proceeds will benefit the civic association, so watch for it.

APRIL SPEAKER

Our April General Meeting will be held at 8pm, Wednesday, April 23, at the Highland Branch Library. Our speaker will be W.A. (Bill) Morgan,

who is currently Supervisor of Veteran Services for the Georgia Dept. of Labor. Bill grew up on Greenwood Ave. during the 1920's and loves to reminisce about the families who lived here and the events that happened during Virginia-Highland's early days. I haven't heard him talk, but those who have give him rave reviews.

Come join us for an entertaining evening.

--Susan Walker, Chr.
Civic Association

"TACKY LADY"

Who will be MS. TASTEFULLY TACKY 1980? "There she is...." a woman who lives in Virginia-Highland and has volunteered her time and service to the community.

The nomination ballot for MS. TASTEFULLY TACKY will be in the May issue of the VOICE. A nomination ballot box will be set up the day of the Virginia-Highland Flea Market (see announcement this issue) on Sunday, May 25. From the nominations, five finalists will be selected by the IN TOWN CELEBRATION Planning Committee to be in the pageant on June 26. Nominate your favorite "tacky lady."

-- Ann Boutwell
(Ms. T.T. 1978)

ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER PLACE

VIRGINIA - HIGHLAND HOMES: CHARACTER

As mentioned in previous articles of this series, the majority of our houses are built in the Craftsman style or influenced by it. Among its more important elements was a moralistic attitude toward the use of materials. Brick should be brick; wood should look like wood, simple white or natural; stucco or plaster should be white or a natural yellow or cream; tile should be the natural color of its clay or the green of iron or chrome impurities.

There has been a recent trend for many people to paint the brick on their house. I would like to urge everyone to think carefully before taking this step. First it is usually out of character. Few bricks are naturally blue, poster board yellow, or green. The brick was used to give a character of massive stability.

If your house still seems too dark or heavy, consider painting the woodwork of the windows or the details of the roof gables in light, cheerful colors, perhaps with some white for contrast. Remember, some pure primary colors that look bright in a catalog become much darker or brooding when used on large areas.

Also, the main advantage of brick is its near freedom from maintenance. The same is not true of paint. Painted brick often needs repainting in 4 to 6 years. Paint peeling from brick may be worse than the problem it was intended to correct. If you are having problems with small leaks or simply too much humidity coming through a brick wall consider repointing. Our houses are not so old or usually made

with such cheap brick that paint is needed just to seal it up. Repointing is the removal of any crumbling or damaged mortar and its replacement with new mortar. If some care is taken to match the aged, original mortar color and tool it to similar details, the results are good, and will last another 50 years. If you can't do this yourself, it can be expensive, but damage is usually limited to small areas, such as an old roof or gutter leak. Be sure not to use cement mortar where lime mortar was the original, or vice versa.

If you are still determined to paint, consider colors which are natural or muted. Again, a brick house was meant to seem solid and permanent.

-- Charles Longley

(Ed. Note) Charles will repeat his slide show and lecture on the development of architectural styles in our neighborhood for those who could not attend the March general meeting. This will be at the Highland Branch Library on Thursday, May 1, at 7:30.

CALENDAR

APRIL

MAIL IN YOUR CENSUS FORM!!

ALL MONTH: Callanwolde membership drive. Call 874-1039 or 939-2024 (evenings)

22 (Tues.) Clean City Commission Conference (G.S.U.) 9am-4pm. Free.

23 (Wed.) Civic Assoc. General Meeting 8pm. Highland Branch Library

26 (Sat.) Clean City Parade. 11:30 am.

26-27 Inman Park Spring Festival. Call 577-5423 for info.

MAY

1 (Thurs.) Architecture Slide Show, 7:30pm (See p.2)

1 (Thurs.) VOICE deadline.

2 (Fri.) First performance of *Richard III* at Academy Theater. Runs through May 31. 892-0880.

25 (Sun.) The Stars of American Dance at Alliance Theater. 8pm. 681-2100

PROPERTY TAX REASSESSMENT

As most of you know, Virginia-Highland has undergone another property tax reassessment. These increases have averaged from 40-60%. This is certainly going to be painful, however, in stark contrast to the previous assessment three years ago, this one seems to be the product of a genuine attempt by Fulton County to do a careful, fair and evenhanded job, all across the county.

The tax assessor's office is now using a computer-assisted system that is based on a fact sheet about each property. They are placing this data along with information on recent real estate sales into their computer and then reviewing the computer's decision in each case.

So far, there seem to have been surprisingly few errors. If you feel there has been substantial error, contact your personal attorney. The tax assessor's office will allow individuals to check their fact sheet.

The new assessments reveal some interesting trends. The Virginia-Highland and Morningside areas have experienced the greatest increases in value anywhere in Fulton County. Also, for the first time in several decades residential values had stronger growth than commercial values. These two trends indicate the success of neighborhood awareness and the assurance that our future as a stable residential community is assured.

This November's ballot will include a constitutional amendment to raise the state-wide homestead exemption from \$2000 to \$500, the equivalent of removing \$7500 from this new assessment.

--Charles Longley

CRIME ALERT TIPS

-- When you move into a new home or apartment, you can't be sure who has a key to your place. New locks are not necessarily in order -- a locksmith can rekey all exterior door locks.

--Burglars often seek doors and windows that have been left unlocked, so when leaving the house, make sure all outside entrances are secured. When working outside in the yard, do not leave doors on the opposite side unlocked. Don't leave fans in an unprotected, raised window during the night or while away.

--At night, a dark, unoccupied home may attract a burglar. Exterior lights will expose the burglar and interior lights and radios left on can create the illusion that someone is home. Inexpensive timers connected to lamps and radios can be set to go on and off at different times.

--Some criminals pose as repairmen, salesmen, or such in order to gain entry into a home. Require ID or call the company the person is supposed to represent BEFORE allowing the person into your home.

--Don't open a door blindly to someone who is knocking. Use door viewer or window to determine if it is safe to face the person outside.

--Keep keys from falling into the wrong hands. When parking at a parking lot or when having vehicle serviced, separate that key from the others before handing it over to the attendant. "Secret" hiding places for keys around the home (under mats, etc.) are NOT a good idea. Burglars know these spots!!

--Karen Christensen Cox



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Emory-Decatur... 1799 Clairmont Rd. ... 321-5158

Grant Park... 484 Boulevard S.E. ... 624-1331

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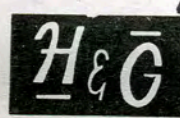
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Call Diane Grimes at 872-2001.

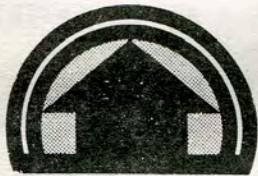
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26 from 10am-6pm. 1070 Briarcliff Rd. at Stillwood.
Contact Flo Patterson at 892-4115.

URGENT!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO REPRESENT VIRGINIA-
HIGHLAND in the Clean City Parade on Sat. April 26 at
11:30 am. Contact Suzanne Hugueley at 872-4096.

HELP WANTED: Talented? Enjoy exciting and funfilled
events? Willing to donate time to your neighborhood?
If your answer is yes to any of the above questions,
contact Suzanne Hugueley (872-4096) or write to the
Civic Assoc. at P.O. Box 8401, Sta.F, Atlanta 30306
and we'll put you to work on the INTOWN CELEBRATION
PARADE. We need you and your talents.

NON-COMMERCIAL PERSONALS ACCEPTED FREE from Virginia-
Highland residents. Deadline for the next issue is
May 1. Send your items, with name and phone number, to
Virginia-Highland VOICE, P.O. Box 8401, Sta.F, Atlanta
30306. Or call Diane Grimes at 872-2001.



STEERING COMMITTEE

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COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION/Bob Hugueley.....872-4096
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Don Gittings
PARKS & RECREATION/Jerry Bright.....873-2950
SECRETARY/Claudia Regan.....875-6246
STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN/Susan Walker.....875-7804
TREASURER/Rita Tekippe.....874-9564
ZONING/Gail Novak.....875-3126
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MEMBER/Effie Taylor.....875-6720
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4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	Sun
5:40	5:40	5:40	5:40	5:40	1:00
6:45	6:45	6:45	6:45		

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MOTHER'S CIRCLES

Several support groups for mothers of infants have recently become active in Virginia-Highland and other in-town neighborhoods. Called Mothers' Circles, the groups usually consist of six to eight mothers of infants of similar age, and meet on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to share information and experiences regarding parenthood.

The groups are sponsored by the Childbirth Education Assoc. and were established to offer support to mothers in coping with the tasks of parenting. The meetings are loosely structured with a mixture of formal discussion and informal socializing.

Recent topics of discussion have included: nutrition for nursing mothers and infants; sleeping patterns of infants; how parenting affects the marriage relationship; resources for parents; how to deal with sibling rivalry; and the identity crisis of the new mother.

Three groups are currently active in this area. They were organized for mothers with two children, those with children more than eight months of age, and those with children newborn to eight months.

There are no fees and any expectant or new mothers who would like to participate in a group are invited to contact Joan Walters (872-5649) for further information.

-- Linda Hoddy & Harriet Smith

FLEA MARKET SPECIAL

Spring house cleaning is done and the question arises, "What can I do with my ticky-tacky tasteful junk?"

Put a price tag on it, pack it up and bring it to the Virginia-Highland Flea Market Special on Sunday, May 25 from noon - 6pm. De Leon Street, right next to the I-485 parkland on Virginia Ave. will be blocked off for the afternoon. Bring your own table, chairs...whatever you need to market your items. Set up will be on a first come basis.

Also pack your picnic basket full of gourmet delights or just plain ole hot dogs and beans and we'll all eat supper together after the sale. The Civic Association will round up some grills for the roasting and sit around and chat about the INTOWN CELEBRATION (June 26-29).

WHO IS SPIKE O'KEEFE ?

If Spike O'Keefe, a young man who is featured on page 160 of the April issue of Southern Living, looks familiar, his real name is Taylor Boutwell -- one of Virginia-Highland's more notable citizens.

Highland Hardware Store has a rotating file of contractors, repairmen, etc. Help us keep it current.

MARK YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR

We're gearing up for the IN TOWN CELEBRATION 1980. This is the time of year in Virginia-Highland that we make an extra special effort to get out and meet our neighbors and work together to celebrate ourselves.

This is not a "fund" but a "fun" raising event. Put the dates on your calendar now.

We would like to have more decorated Herbie the Curbie's in the parade this year. How about getting together with your neighbors and decorating a Herbie the Curbie for your street? If you have a sick Herbie, now is the time to call the city for repairs.

And (very important!!) if you would like to serve on one of the twenty-two committees needed to make the CELEBRATION a success, please call John Howell (872-8777) or Ann Boutwell (876-0998).

The IN TOWN CELEBRATION begins with the MS. TASTEFULLY TACKY PARTY on Thursday, June 26 -- "The Meet Your Neighbor" PARADE & PICNIC is on Sunday, June 29th. (see other items this issue of the VOICE)

CLEAN CITY

"Pickup, Progress & People" is the title of the FREE one-day, city-wide ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT conference at Georgia State University on Tues., April 22, 1980, 9am-4pm. For info call 658-6389, The Clean City Commission.



Meet Ann Boutwell and John Howell, co-chairmen of the 1980 IN TOWN CELEBRATION. Ann and John were the co-chairmen of this event in 1979 and are both active in the Civic Association. (photo by Orin Kell)

FREE SERVICES

The Atlanta Multi-Purpose Senior Center offers a variety of programs and services to older and handi-capped persons. For a monthly calendar of Center activities, call 881-5977. FREE

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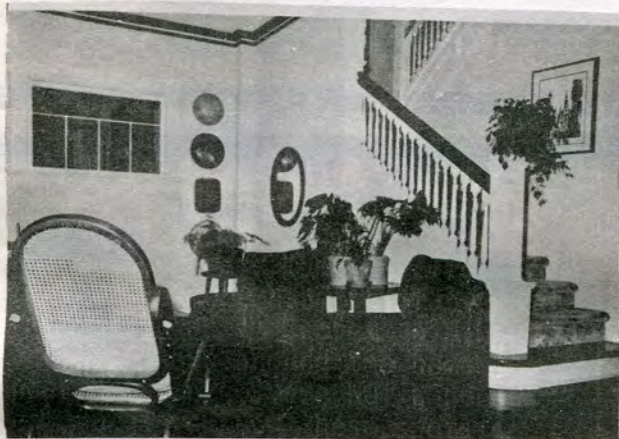
BUNGALOW TOUR OF HOMES REVISITED



854 Highland Terrace



654 Coledge Ave.



881 Virginia Ave.



1267 Stillwood

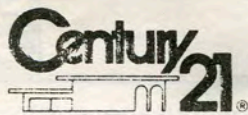


1075 Bellvue (Characteristic Virginia-Highland porch)



836 Highland Terrace

(Tour photos by Orin Kell)



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SUNDAY

9:30 am Church School

10:55 am Morning Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:15 pm Fellowship Supper

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Day Care Center

Ponce de Leon Ave. at Highland
 875-7591



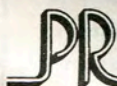
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LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

It is my desire to thank all of the fine people who worked to make Inman Elementary the fine school it was during the two years I had the pleasure to serve as principal. All of us were saddened by the closing of a fine school. The various communities served by the school can take the pride in the fact that the achievement level of Inman Elementary School students was above the national norm both years.

The thing that made Inman unique was the support of the community. We had many fine examples of school community cooperation and this paid off in an exciting, productive, environment for our students. I felt fortunate to have the full backing of the community in trying to develop a program that served the needs of all students.

Again, let me say thanks to all who helped make Inman Elementary the school it was. If I can be of service to any of you, contact me at Home Park Elementary.

-- Sid Blackstone
 Former Principal,
 Inman Elementary School

THE HIGHLAND GALLERY

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COMMITTEE NEWS


PARKS & RECREATION

On the south side of Ponce de Leon Terrace there is a wooded lot which contains the graves of Martha and Richard Todd who were the first white settlers in the city of Atlanta. Their grave is marked by an inscribed granite log. This significantly historic site has long been ignored and deserves to be more than a collecting area for refuse. The Civic Association would like to encourage the community to act on this matter. We need willing hands to achieve results.

* * * * *

City Council member Mary Davis, with the support of Rob Rivers of the Parks and Recreation Dept., has introduced a resolution requesting the mayor not to implement any changes in Piedmont Park until a master plan has been completed. Because of the growth of the inner city, the demands made upon the park are exceeding its capacity to ab-

sorb them. I would encourage everyone to be aware of this significant problem and develop a spirit of cooperation for the betterment of the community.

--Parks & Recreation Chr.
Jerry Bright (873-2950)

CRIME SURVEY

Have you sent in the crime survey that was included in last month's issue of the VOICE? The Police Assistance Committee would like to thank all of those neighbors who took the time to send in the questionnaire to the Civic Association. We would also like to remind those who have not done so yet to please have it in the mail to us by April 21st, if you want your views included.

The committee would like to be able to compile the information as soon as possible for future publication in the VOICE.

-- Police Assistance Committee

— We Need You —

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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- 1980 Dues: \$10
 I prefer not to give but would like to be a member.

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