



Also in this Issue:

- **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws (Revisited)**
- **US Census Highlights for Virginia-Highland**
- **Did You Know... (some info about Summerfest 2003)**
- **Community Farmers' Market Begins 8th Season**
- **Notice of Special Meeting**
- **Ahhh...Sweet Relief for the Feet**
- **Old Time Baseball in the Park**
- **The Highland Hoer**

Become a member of the Virginia-Highland Civic Assoc. at: www.vahi.org

President's Address

By Steven Kushner

Mark your calendars – two important dates in the neighborhood are coming up. First, and most important, Summerfest is June 7 and 8. As usual, Summerfest will be kicked off with the annual Summerfest 5K, followed by the Tot Trot in John Howell Park. The artists' booths, the food vendors, the music stage and the beer taps will all open soon thereafter. For all you volunteers (who actually make Summerfest possible), the sign-up form is on the website (www.vahi.org). For all you runners, you can sign up for the Summerfest 5K at www.active.com.

The second important date is the Special Meeting on June 4 to amend the Civic Association's By-Laws. A special notice was included in the last issue of *The Voice*, but the meeting was cancelled. Our By-Laws, and the Georgia Non-Profit Corporations Code, require that such notices be sent not less than ten days and not more than 60 days before the meeting. Unfortunately, *The Voice* was delivered within ten days of the scheduled meeting. So, we're going to try this again. A new Notice of Special Meeting is included with this issue. We will have the Special Meeting right before the June Civic Association meeting on June 4, beginning at 7:30pm at the Ponce de Leon Branch of the Public Library.

The Board announced at the Annual Meeting last September that we have set aside \$10,000 for sidewalk improvements in the neighborhood. The details of the program are on the website. In the seven months since we announced this program, we have had only a handful of requests for money, and have spent approximately \$300. We are eager to spend this money and improve our sidewalks. We have therefore decided to begin with North Highland Avenue and will identify the sidewalks that need to be repaired. We will then contact the City, arrange for the repair, and the Civic Association will pay the full amount.

As some of you may know, the Blue Patrol, sponsored by the Midtown Alliance, purchased a Mini Cooper for neighborhood patrols. We believe this to be a worthy purchase, and depending on the success of Summerfest, will look into doing the same for the neighborhood patrol sponsored by the Civic Association. We also may look into purchasing a few bicycles for our patrol as well so that they can cover a greater area and respond even faster than they normally do.

Enjoy Summerfest. I hope to see you there, and at the June 4 Special Meeting.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws

By Steven Kushner

As most of you (hopefully) know, The Virginia-Highland Civic Association's Bylaws identify the boundaries of our neighborhood as Ponce de Leon Avenue on the South, Amsterdam Avenue and its extension on the North, Briarcliff Road on the East and the railroad tracks on the West. While the neighborhood is defined as one cohesive area, the Bylaws actually divide the neighborhood into three geographic sections for the purpose of representation on the Civic Association's Board of Directors – Atkins Park, St. Charles/Greenwood and everywhere else.

The Bylaws provide for the general election of nine Directors and one alternate. However, the Board consists of 11 Directors and one alternate. While the entire neighborhood, including Atkins Park and St. Charles/Greenwood vote for these nine Directors and the alternate at the General Meeting in September, the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association and the St. Charles/Greenwood Neighborhood Association are also each entitled to appoint their own Director.

The proposed Amendment (which is set forth in the Notice of Special Meeting, page 5) eliminates these set asides for Atkins Park and St. Charles/Greenwood and allows the entire neighborhood to elect all 11 Directors and the alternate. This approach is fair to the entire neighborhood, as it does not reward (or penalize) any particular area of the neighborhood. It would also provide for 11 Directors whose primary mission is to act in the best interests of the entire neighborhood, and not feel conflicted by loyalties to the other neighborhood associations that may have appointed them.

Perhaps there were historical reasons for the current provision in the Bylaws. Whatever those reasons are, they no longer appear to be applicable. The St.

Charles/Greenwood Neighborhood Association does not even exist anymore. In addition, the Board (with nine generally elected Directors) has always acted in (what it perceived to be) the best interests of the neighborhood and takes into account how its decisions may disproportionately impact particular areas of the neighborhood. There is no reason to believe that this would not continue with 11 generally elected Directors.

The current arrangement, with these two set asides, seems unfair to the rest of the neighborhood and has the potential to balkanize it. Why should these areas have extra representatives, while others don't? Why shouldn't the Orme Park area or the area around the Virginia Avenue/North Highland intersection, or around John Howell Park form their own neighborhood associations and be allowed to appoint directors? What about the Virginia-Highland Business Association, or the Fight Back Against Crime members?

The Amendment that I propose eliminates the set asides and puts everyone in the neighborhood and every area of the neighborhood on equal footing. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.



Year Round Repairs
CALL (404)373-4258 FAX (404)627-0811 NIGHT (404)622-6638
I.G. CHRISTMAS
ALL TYPES ROOFS INSTALLED & REPAIRED
GUTTERS INSTALLED & REPAIRED
GUTTERS CLEANED
GENERAL HOME REPAIRS



Your Free Truck

Our Free Truck

Lease a storage unit with us...
and use our truck to move in.
Need it for something else?
Rent it for a low fee.
Meridian Storage
Midtown
600 Virginia Ave. Anticipating Your Next Move. 404.874.7410

It's a Fact: US Census Highlights for Virginia-Highland

By Chip Gallagher

April 1, 2003 – The U.S. Census released track level data for Virginia Highland on April 1, 2003. Many of factoids concerning the social and behavioral characteristics of our neighborhood are rather mundane while other patterns may come as a surprise to those who think they know their neighbors.

The average household size in Virginia-Highland is 2.6 persons. Each household owns on average 1.9 automobiles. SUVs and minivans account for 30% of all cars in our community. The average house size is 2400 square feet. Almost every household (99.9%) own a television and 87.6% of households have cable television service. The television is being used an average of 6.8 hours every day. Over 90% of households own a computer and 75% of households are linked to the internet.

The average household consumes (in one year) 32 gallons of ice cream, 79 hot dogs, 29 pounds of coffee, 624

cans of soda, 3789 cans/bottles beer, 4897 bottles of wine, 189 bottles of booze and 456 bottles of aspirin. Among the male population over 45 years of age 92% take Viagra, 67% have purchased hair weaves or toupees, 89% have a shot and a beer before going to work, 98% cheat on their golf scores, 91% fantasize playing for the Braves or Hawks, 79% have purchased electric shock stomach exercisers and 87% have seriously pondered the question "Man, is this as good as it gets?"

Different patterns of concern emerged among women in the same age category. Almost all married women (99%) felt their husbands spent too much time playing golf or tennis, watching TV, drinking with friends or taking naps. An overwhelming 2.8% of married women felt their husbands shared equally in the daily household chores. Close to 90% of this female population said their lives would be better if they had an additional 4 hours in each day and additional \$17,567.45 in family income. The Census found that mothers say their children are an absolute source of joy but 91% of this population also admitted that at times they thought their kids were going to drive them to an early grave or have caused them to start screaming like a lunatic in the cookie aisle at Publix.

A large majority (94%) said they would like to take a vacation to a warm, sunny, non-humid island without their partners, parents or in-laws. Almost everyone in the census sample (98.6%) said they had a very, dark, dirty secret they were keeping from the person they love and would only fess up on their death bed or if they were given a really nice champagne breakfast in bed.

Chip Gallagher is a VHCA board member and a professor of sociology at GSU. He can be reached at cgallagher@gsu.edu.

NEW ORLEANS BRUNCH BUFFET
SATURDAY 11AM-4PM, SUNDAY 10AM-4PM
VOTED ATLANTA'S BEST PATIO DINING

FRONT PAGE NEWS
A CRESCENT CITY GRILL

LITTLE 5 POINTS • 351 MORELAND AVE • 404-475-7777
MIDTOWN • 1104 CRESCENT AVENUE 404-897-3500

DREAMSCAPE DESIGNS

Landscape Design and Installation
Specializing in low maintenance landscapes, paths, stonework, and water gardens.
Neighborhood References Available.

404.636.3090

Proud Sponsor of John Howell Park

Summerfest 2003

Did you know...

Did you know that the Virginia Highland Summerfest was recently voted "Best Neighborhood Festival" in *Creative Loafing*? Here are some other things that you might want to know about the festival:

-When is the festival?

Summerfest will be held on June 7 and 8.

-What can I expect to see?

Artists booths, live music, great food and many of your neighbors and friends.

-How many artists' booths will there be?

There will be over 200 artists' booths.

-What are the hours of the festival?

Saturday from 10am to 8pm (with a continuation of the festival at the Virginia/North Highland Triangle, run by some local businesses); Sunday from 12 noon to 6pm (with the same continuation).

-When does the live music start?

When the festival opens.

-What streets will be closed?

Virginia Ave. between N. Highland and Ponce Place; part of Todd Ave.; Maryland Ave.; Vance St.; Barnette between Virginia Circle and Virginia; Arcadia; a portion of Bonaventure (where it intersects with Virginia Ave); Ruple sometimes gets blocked except for residents.

The race route will also be closed from about 6am to 9am on Saturday (see website for map).

-How can I volunteer to work at the festival?

There is still time to volunteer for Summerfest. Go to www.vahi.org and click on the Summerfest page. From there, go to the volunteer page, which will list the volunteers opportunities and how to volunteer.

-What should I NOT bring to the festival?

Bottles, cans or coolers, pets, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, segways, oversize backpacks.

-Where can I find more information?

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association's website, www.vahi.org has everything you need to know.

Community Farmers' Market Begins 8th Season

The Morningside Farmers' Market has begun its eighth season of providing fresh organic produce to intown residents at 1393 N Highland Ave NE, the parking lot near Indigo Restaurant and Alon's Bakery. Hours are 8:00am to 11:30am each Saturday, rain or shine, and the market will continue through Christmas, weather permitting.

In addition to selecting from a wide variety of the season's best locally grown organic fruits and vegetables, shop here for garden transplants, cut flowers, herbs, hand-crafted soaps and herbal products, as well as pottery and furniture.

Weekly cooking demonstrations starting at 9:30am will feature seasonal market produce prepared by chefs from Atlanta's premier restaurants. Some of this year's festivals, highlighting seasonal favorites, are: May 10, Mother's Day Celebration; June 28, Blueberry Festival; July 26, Tomato Festival; and October 11, Fall Harvest Festival.

For more information, contact Howison Hollenberg, Market Manager at 404-444-9902.

Virginia Highland Hacker



He read your e-mail,
has your credit card
numbers and stole
your identity. He is
eleven years old.

We specialize in safeguarding and installing secure wireless computer networks for Virginia Highland homes and businesses.



www.airspy.com

(770) 309-1765

Notice Of Special Meeting

Pursuant to the Civic Association's Bylaws (which may be found at the website, www.vahi.org) and the Georgia Corporations Code, the President hereby declares that a Special Meeting of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association will take place on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ponce de Leon branch of the Fulton County Library system.

The following business shall be transacted at this Special Meeting:

1. Whether to amend the Bylaws to (a) provide that all twelve (12) seats (including the alternate) on the Board of Directors are to be elected by the entire Virginia-Highland Civic Association and eliminate seats specifically set aside for certain geographical areas of Virginia-Highland and (b) to remove all references to such designated seats in the Bylaws.

(a) To replace Article IV, Section 2, which currently reads:

Number of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of eleven (11) members. Nine (9) of the directors shall be elected by the members and two (2) of the directors shall be appointed - one (1) by the St. Charles/Greenwood Association and one (1) by the Atkins Park Homeowners Association. In addition to the eleven directors, one alternate director shall be designated by vote.

With the following:

Number of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of eleven (11) members. In addition to the eleven directors, one alternate director shall be designated by vote.

(b) To remove the following references to the set-aside seats as follows:

i. To change paragraph two of Article IV, Section 4 to provide as follows:

"The twelve candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected. The eleven candidates shall be elected as board members and the candidate with the 12th highest number of votes shall be designated as an alternate director . . ."

ii. To remove the following paragraph in Article IV, Section 4:

"The directors appointed by the St. Charles/Greenwood Association and the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association shall be appointed prior to the annual meeting of the Association and shall be announced at the annual meeting."

iii. The removal of the following sentence in Article IV, Section 6

"However, if a vacancy occurs in the position appointed by either the St. Charles/Greenwood Association or the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association, the appropriate association shall appoint a replacement."

2. The regular monthly meeting of the Civic Association will follow the vote on the above-proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

Ahhh...Sweet Relief for Feet

Tinka and Raymond Green have been residents of the Virginia-Highland community for over 15 years. He has been a business consultant and she is an artist. Neither had the desire to be in the retail business.

All that changed last spring when the couple went to visit family in New Mexico. While there, they encountered an old friend who told of having quit a job because of back problems. That friend then began wearing a new brand of shoe, was relieved of the back problems and able to return to work. "I had a foot problem, so I had to see what these shoes were about and if they could help me", said Tinka.

"They were the funniest looking things... in place of heels were a pair of springs," she said. "They made me feel silly, and I like that, so I purchased a pair of these shoes." Within about two weeks, her foot problems were gone. "I was sold on these shoes." The shoes were called ZCoils.

The Greens developed a relationship with the inventor, who lived in New Mexico, his family and the rest of the staff. "The more we got to know them, the more we liked them. They seemed genuinely interested in helping people with foot, ankle, leg, knee and back pain."

Thus developed a retail business when Tinka and her husband decided to establish Sweet Feet to sell the ZCoil shoes. People who are on their feet for long periods of time, such as nurses, wait persons, and grocery store employees, as well as athletes who want to minimize running injuries, would benefit from wearing these shoes, according to the Greens. Tinka's doctor and hair dresser wear them. "Friends have walked all over Wales and Paris in them," she said.

Sweet Feet, which opened in February, is located in the shopping area behind the American Roadhouse restaurant. "Come in, try our ZCoils, and have a cup of tea with us", says Tinka. Also visit the website at www.Z-sweet-feet.com.



**Virginia Highland Civic Association
Board of Directors**

Steven Kushner, President
Kevin Cronin, Vice President
Wiley Sommerville, Treasurer
Robert Ramsey, Secretary
John Craft, Planning Committee
Steve Luben, Public Safety Committee
Chip Gallagher, Membership/
Community Outreach Committee
Jean Jordan, Membership/
Community Outreach Committee
Rob Glancy, Parks Committee
Bob Coomes, Parks Committee
Robert Ramsey, Website

Virginia-Highland Voice:

Nonie Daniel, Editor
Kevin Grebe, Business Manager
Bob Coomes, Committee Chair

Summerfest Oversight Committee:

Steven Kushner
Wiley Sommerville
Kris Reinhard

Old Time Baseball In the Park

Piedmont Park's year-long Centennial Celebration officially kicks off Saturday, June 14, 2003 with a one-of-kind event—a vintage 1903 baseball game in Piedmont Park, complete with replica uniforms, scoreboard and game rules. The game will feature an exciting player roster comprised of area business, civic and sports leaders along with Atlanta's most famous ball player, Hank Aaron, as host committee chairman. There will be vintage food, fun and games for fans of all ages. Festivities begin at noon with game time set for 2 p.m.

The event also will honor former members of the Atlanta Crackers, the city's original baseball team who played in Piedmont Park until 1904. Event proceeds will help fund continued restoration of our beloved Piedmont Park.

For more information, please contact Piedmont Park Conservancy at 404-875-PARK.

Don't Sell Your Home!

Why dispose of an excellent investment?

We make property management painless and profitable by supervising all details professionally and responsively.



Your Real Estate Investment can be:
Protected Profitable Problem Free

Gary S. Chad (404) 874-6357
www.property-consultants.com



The Highland Hoer

Most all of us garden under very similar conditions and very similar lot sizes. Yet I am constantly amazed at how clever gardeners can work so many plants into our relatively small lots and come up with so many wonderful ideas for gardenscaping. Take along your camera as you walk or drive around and take pictures of ideas you can use in your own garden. Taking lots of shots of your own lot from different angles allows you to see possibilities you may not notice when just looking with the usual distractions around you. You're bound to see places where you can try out new plants.

Fortunately for us, there is no zoning ordinance that says the area in front of your house has to be all lawn. A sidewalk border really helps to visually anchor your front garden as well as provide interest for your walking neighbors. Fences, gates and arbors let you have places for vines and climbers and let you visually expand your garden by adding a vertical dimension to your landscape. Containers allow you to have plants in areas where you

can't plant directly in the ground. There are myriads of shrubs and woody plants that have been bred into dwarf varieties that allow us to enjoy the architectural features of these perennials that can become year-round focal points.

The June 2003 issue of *Country Living Gardener* has a great article about garden designer Brooks Garcia's personal garden in East Atlanta. He has created a garden wonderland on a lot that is typical of our neighborhood. The photos will give you some ideas you can copy for your garden.

The new magazine, *Georgia Gardening* looks like it is going to be a valuable resource for us. I've gotten two issues so far, both full of well-written articles that really relate to our local growing conditions. Contact them at www.georgiagardening.com or at 1-888-265-3600.

★★★ Stop by for ★★★
delicious
MEXICAN CUISINE
and
MARGARITAS

Wednesday **TRIVIA** Fabulous **PRIZES**

MEXICAN KITCHEN
AND CANTINA
TIJUANA GARAGE

ENJOY OUR PATIO

LITTLE 5 POINTS • 351 MORELAND AVE.
OPEN DAILY FOR DINNER, WEEKENDS FOR LUNCH
CLOSED MONDAY 404-475-8888
EVERCHANGING BRUNCH BUFFET
SATURDAY 11AM-4PM, SUNDAY 10AM-4PM