

The Virginia-Highland

VOICE

Fall 2009

How Can You Make a Difference? Get Involved in Your Civic Association!

What Virginia-Highland Civic Association Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

When Monday September 22, 2009 at 7 PM

Where Cafeteria of Inman Middle School located at the corner of Virginia Ave. and Park Ave.

Consider Running for the VHCA Board

We are actively seeking community residents who wish to run for the VHCA Board for the upcoming year.

This is an excellent way to contribute more to your community, so please consider running!

To get on the ballot, simply e-mail your name and a short bio to president@vahi.org, no later than September 19, 2009.

Summerfest Success!

by: Pamela Papner (Director); Kim Nickels & Charlie Lefort (Co-Chairs)



Residents from throughout Atlanta and the southeast enjoyed this year's Summerfest, held in early June. Not only was this our most successful year financially, we introduced several event enhancements this year that were very popular. We're still finalizing the profit and loss, but there's no doubt we made the most money ever – an estimated \$20,000 more than last year!

Highlights of this year's event included:

- **Community Dinner and Movie:** More people attended the free community dinner than ever before. Even while waiting in line for food, people had smiles on their faces, happy to catch up with neighbors they don't often see. Special thanks to John Peter Casey for chairing the dinner; to Atkins Park Restaurant for providing the delicious meal; and to The Original El Taco and La Tavola restaurants for donating the delicious and plentiful desserts.

- **KidsFest:** Thanks to incredible vision, legwork and execution by



Kidsfest leaders Ann Guy and Jenny Thomas, they turned what had previously been a \$6,000 cost for the community into a \$1,500 profit this year! Kidsfest had an international theme and offered crafts reflecting countries like China, Mexico, USA and Japan, all sponsored by local restaurants (Doc Chey's, George's, Pozole); local businesses (Enyiaanse Beauty Bar, Eclectic Music, Richard's Variety, Sandy d'Aprile); and other contributors of art supplies and volunteers (Plaid Enterprises, Fibre Craft Material Corp. and Callanwolde Fine Arts Center). Face & nail painting, funky hair, and temporary tattoos were offered, along with music, mural painting and organized activities for kids, such as a hula hoop contest, dress up relay, and dancing to music. Kidsfest 2009 was the best ever!

• **Neighborhood Parade:** Thanks to Doris Betz, the "Wacky Hats" parade more than doubled last year's participation, and we're sure it will become a neighborhood tradition!

• **Volunteers:** Over 300 volunteers pitched in to support Summerfest, and we thank them all! Volunteer organizers were Allie Coker and Pam Ahern. This year, Allie revolutionized volunteer recruitment by using the *Volunteer Spot* website, which automated much of the administrative work previously done manually.



Special thanks also go to the many businesses that donated parade prizes (Intown Hardware, Ben & Jerry's, CVS Pharmacy, Paper Source, Glamour Paws, Key Lime Pie, Belly and Georgia Aquarium); to Kroger for providing lunch and water to the artists; and to the following additional individuals who contributed significantly to the success of this year's event:

- Neil Bowen (Graphics – T-Shirts, Postcard, Posters)
- Shawna Mahony and Doris Betz (New Park VIP Area)
- John Wolfinger (Parking Program)
- Karen Page (Treasurer and Financial Analysis)
- Phuong Nguyen (Premiums)
- Julie Tepp and Nancy Musser (Artist Market)
- Ed Williams (Road Race Director)
- Rob Frazer (Operations from Premier Events Management)
- Will Davis (Marketing Director, DaveFM Radio)

Thanks to everyone involved and we look forward to seeing you at Summerfest 2010!

Safety Update

Our Neighborhood Connection

by: John Wolfinger

We are fortunate to have a neighborhood tool available to anyone with an Internet connection (which is the vast majority of us, I'm sure), yet so few of us take advantage of it. This tool is our vhlst group on Yahoo Groups. As of this writing there are 331 members – not bad but a very small percentage of our Internet connected neighborhood population. Signing up is very easy – just go to www.vhlst@yahoogroups.com. If you're worried about getting a lot of messages every day, you can opt for a daily digest so you can read that day's messages in one sitting. Messages run the gamut of subjects that are of interest to an urban area but, as your public safety person, I am most interested in the many alerts that are posted about suspicious individuals and related events that affect our safety. We've had many instances where postings have detailed the path of a suspicious person through our area, block by block. Since you are already paying for your Internet connection, this is a free way to stay locally connected.

Vhlst founder and moderator Stephen Cohen has nixed the discussion of national politics and affairs, but local politics, issues and problems are fair game. Vhlst is also a good way to get references on plumbers, electricians, auto mechanics, etc. from people's personal experiences – good and bad. This is all part of neighbors looking out for each other which is my basic premise of crime prevention. I'd like to see 1000 or more vhlst members, all sharing and learning from each other, and I hope that many of you reading this article will join and become part of the group.



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President's Corner

by: Pamela Papner

Board President, Virginia-Highland Civic Association

As the VHCA year draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the significant achievements of the past year. The community owes a huge thank you to all Board members and neighbors who contributed their time to improve our community.

We had two very significant achievements this past year: Neighborhood Commercial Zoning, signed into law in December 2008 and the purchase of two lots at St. Charles and North Highland avenues for our New Highland Park, which closed December 4, 2008. Fundraising is underway to pay off the debt for this land acquisition, and we have a lot of fundraising work ahead of us. Both these initiatives will increase all our property values, and the community owes a significant thank you to the many individuals who brought them to fruition as reported in previous issues of Voice. We also thank our Atkins Park neighbors for their regular support with fundraising and to the following families who have donated their time and efforts to cut the grass and perform other on-going maintenance at the new park: Jimmy Lee, Malcolm & Brenda Miller, Bob & Linda Chafin, and Shawna & Brian Mahony. THANK YOU!

Below is a brief recap of other major achievements and contributions this past year:

Planning: The review, investigation (including meeting with property owners), and analysis of variance requests takes significant time and expertise. Thanks go to Joe Krebs and Frazier Dworet (co-chairs) and members of the Planning Committee who spend many hours of their valuable personal time making this process work. Special thanks also to Jack White and Tom Spach, who are leading the effort to work with Callanwolde and DeKalb County to address some significant construction-related erosion and drainage issues impacting residents on Rosedale Road (see p. 14).

Residential Preservation: Led by Lola Carlisle, this committee completed significant legwork and is in the process of proposing/ conducting a survey to garner community feedback.

Safety: Thanks to John Wolfinger for his many efforts to promote safety in our neighborhood, including oversight of the Safety Patrol; development of the street captain program; regular safety updates via email; improved relationships with local police, fire and administration; and our second annual "National Night Out."

Communications: Many thanks go to our Voice newsletter staff of John Becker (Editor), Preeti Ayyangar (Designer) and Nita Luce (Business Manager). This team spends many hours each quarter producing our informative, well-designed and fun to read newsletter.

Fundraising: Tour of Homes brought in a net of \$16,000 this year, and Summerfest brought in a record \$150,000 (estimated at press date). This money goes directly back to the community to support initiatives such as servicing the loan on the New Highland Park; maintenance and repair of John Howell and Orme parks; printing/ mailing of the Voice newsletter; Va-Hi Safety Patrol; and neighborhood grants. Special thanks this year go to our Home Tour leaders (Charlie Lefort, Allie Coker, John Peter Casey, and Rob Glancy) and to our Summerfest leaders: Pamela Papner, Kim Nickels & Charlie Lefort.

We Need Your Involvement: If the contributors above look familiar, it's because the same people tend to role up their sleeves and get involved, year after year. We need more of you to follow their lead. There are numerous ways to get involved. If you are interested in "giving back" by doing more for your neighborhood and civic association, please e-mail president@vahi.org.



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SILENT AUCTION to SUPPORT NEW PARK

The Virginia-Highland Conservation League will sponsor a Gala Silent Auction at Callanwolde in late January/early February 2010. Funds raised will go directly toward paying off our new park and for improvements to Orme Park. If you're interested in volunteering, e-mail president@vahi.org. Watch for more details in the next Voice!

The Virginia-Highland *Voice*

Published quarterly, by and for the residents
of Virginia-Highland

Editor: John Becker

Design: Preeti Ayyangar

Business Manager: Nita Luce

We welcome your feedback on *The Virginia-Highland Voice*.
Please send your comments to editor@vahi.org.

VHCA *Calendar*

Virginia-Highland Civic Association**Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**

When: Monday September 21, 2009 at 7 p.m

Where: Cafeteria of Inman Middle School located at the
corner of Virginia Ave. and Park Ave.

Monthly Board Meetings

When: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m

Where: Public Library on Ponce de Leon Ave.

Planning Committee Meetings

When: Last Wednesday of each month

Where: Public Library on Ponce de Leon Ave.

Meeting locations subject to change

Please visit our web site for calendar updates, additional
information on VHCA or to join: www.vahi.org



Raise a glass and enjoy an evening of food, wine, flowers and song as Callanwolde hosts a lawn party in its beautifully restored gardens and grounds. Learn about wines and listen to popular Atlanta singer/songwriter Elise Witt entertain in Callanwolde's new outdoor amphitheatre and terraced lawns. Exquisite wine and food pairings by Bold American Catering.

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Proceeds to benefit Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, serving the community as an educational center for the visual, literary and performing arts.

Update: Streetscape Phase II

Va-Hi residents happy with most improvements; Some resident concerns currently being evaluated by the city

by: John Becker and Pamela Papner

When the first phase of the Virginia and N. Highland avenue streetscape improvement project was completed in early 2007, resident reaction to the new concrete and brick paver sidewalks, granite curbing, wheelchair-accessible ramps and driveways, and historic-looking pedestrian lighting and street furniture was largely very favorable.

In late July, workers for Atlanta's Department of Public Works began putting the finishing touches on the project's second phase areas, which provided the same new amenities to the intersection's southern half that were made to the northern half three years ago. Also included was a redesign of the Va-Hi triangle island and a conversion of what was a full right-turn traffic lane in front of Taco Mac and Murphy's into a traffic calming slip lane with new, exaggerated curb cuts. Now that the dust has settled on Phase II, residents have noticed that changes to the island and slip lane have resulted in some unforeseen and/or exacerbated traffic issues, which the neighborhood intends to address.

The issues brought to the attention of the VHCA by commercial property owners, local businesses and residents have included both construction and traffic issues:

Construction Issues:

- Pavers used in the project's first phase were primarily a rich orange/terra cotta color, with accents of purple, gold and brown. The company that manufactured those pavers no longer makes bricks of that color, so a new color (match was intended) was chosen. The new paver color from the bank near Todd to Taco Mac is a fairly good match; however, as one proceeds from Taco Mac to Aurora, the color changes noticeably to a tan/grey, ending in a primarily grey color. This same problem exists in the Mooncake/Figo/Paolo's area.
- Easement was granted for sidewalk replacement in front of Figo Pasta, Paolo's and Mooncake, but it was left with original concrete.
- A section of granite curb in front of Mooncake has proven to be sharp and potentially tire-damaging. It was fully disclosed on plans, but it was not until the project was implemented that the proprietor of Mooncake began receiving customer concerns about parking in this location.

Traffic Issues:

- Most traffic concerns relate to the loss of the right-turn lane, which is now a traffic-calming slip lane from eastbound Virginia to southbound N. Highland. The conversion of this lane – done to increase pedestrian safety – appears to contribute to traffic back-ups from 4:30-7:00 pm each day for eastbound Virginia Avenue motorists approaching N. Highland. The back-up can extend to Vance/Maryland. When this happens, many motorists choose to cut through on residential side streets, causing concern to residents, particularly those with small children.
- Converting to the slip lane has also made it problematic for delivery trucks to access Murphy's, creating even more side-street congestion. Taco Mac receives deliveries on select days, and trucks typically park right in front of their location. The problem is primarily with trucks for Murphy's.
- The use of the "slip lane" for Murphy's valet parking has also been an issue.
- The exaggerated curb cuts near the bank and the problematic location of crosswalks were also issues brought to light by residents.

"Streetscape has been a wonderful project," commented Pamela Papner, president of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association, "and the city has done so many things right. The Phase II improvements have some quality assurance issues that are being addressed between the commercial owners and retail merchants along the Mooncake/Figo/Paolo's area."

"With regard to traffic and safety issues," Papner continued, "the city met with concerned residents and business owners, and is in the process of defining a plan to address the issues. The traffic issues articulated by residents were heard at a recent community meeting attended by Joe Basista, the city's Commissioner of Public Works. He and his team have been extremely responsive."

The neighborhood meeting Papner refers to was held on July 30. Meeting planners sought to create a list of all known issues – as well as options for resolving them – and develop an action plan for presenting the issues and potential solutions to the city. Those issues will be studied by the city, and a follow-up meeting held with interested parties to review their recommendations. The meeting notes and city recommendations, along with notice of the next meeting, will be published at www.vahi.org.

Kathryn King-Metters, a resident in attendance at the meeting commented, "The neighborhood meeting was very helpful. We appreciate that Joe Basista and his staff took time from their busy schedules to attend the meeting of impacted residents."

"Basista explained that the slip lane in front of Taco Mac and Murphy's had not been removed," King-Metters continued. "Instead, traffic-calming measures such as the apron were implemented. We are hopeful that most of our side-street traffic problems will be addressed when better signage and additional improvements now being discussed are completed."

We'll have an update on the situation in the next issue of Voice.

Neighborhood Arboretum Coming to Va-Hi

by: John Becker

Trees beautify our community, clean our air and water, provide habitat for wildlife and create a sense of wonder. Now, Virginia-Highland – in partnership with Trees Atlanta – will join other Atlanta communities like Cabbagetown, Inman Park and Oakhurst in celebrating our majestic hardwoods by launching a neighborhood arboretum.

Trees Atlanta is a non-profit dedicated to protecting and improving our urban environment by planting, conserving, and educating. The group's latest initiative is to develop neighborhood arboreta throughout our city. An arboretum (pl: arboreta) is a collection of trees and other mostly woody plants that are cultivated for educational and even scientific purposes. Typically, an arboretum is located in a garden or park-like setting. The neighborhood arboretum is different in that it will include trees growing throughout our community – in yards, in sidewalk planting strips, and in parks. As in all arboreta, attractive markers will identify the trees, but instead of simply following a well-marked path, visitors will rely on a brochure to locate and learn more about the arboretum trees.

"The great trees of Virginia-Highland reflect the longstanding activism and stewardship of its residents, who have long recognized that trees are crucial to maintaining a high quality of life," said Trees Atlanta urban planting designer Eric Childs. "Our organization is thrilled to launch this arboretum with the neighborhood's support, and we hope this initiative will help create even more citizen advocates for trees."

An initial draft of the Va-Hi brochure has been designed and includes four walks: Orme Park Loop, Beltline Loop, Lanier Boulevard Loop and St. Charles/Atkins Park Loop. Trees Atlanta is currently working through the VHCA to gain neighborhood support and approval for marker placement, as well as to gather input on any great trees that should be included. A 'Learning Loop' concept is envisioned as part of the Orme Park Loop that will help tree 'beginners' of all ages identify 15-20 of the most common trees.

"Trees Atlanta and the Virginia-Highland Civic Association have had a long term partnership focused on re-foresting the neighborhood's previously barren sidewalk strips with wonderful native species," said Rob Glancy, parks committee chair for the VHCA and NPU-F. "As they have matured, these trees cool and shade us. The Arboretum is a celebration of the neighborhood's tree canopy, which contributes to the desirability of Virginia-Highland as a place to call home."

"I would like to extend a special thanks to Stephanie Coffin for her commitment and support of this project," Glancy continued.

Plans call for markers, monuments, and brochures to be finalized by end of summer after public input is gathered. An official launch date for the arboretum will be announced soon on both the Trees Atlanta and VHCA websites.

For more information, contact Trees Atlanta at 404-522-4097 or www.treesatlanta.org or Rob Glancy at 404-661-8719.



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by: Linda Merrill

History of Virginia-Highland

{Part IV}

EDITOR’S NOTE: THIS IS THE FOURTH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND, EXCERPTED FROM A LONGER WORK-IN-PROGRESS BEING RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY 9-YEAR VA-HI RESIDENT LINDA MERRILL. AN ART HISTORIAN BY TRAINING, LINDA WORKED AS A CURATOR AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR THIRTEEN YEARS, AT THE HIGH MUSEUM FOR TWO, AND NOW – AFTER A HIATUS TO STAY HOME WITH HER TWO CHILDREN – SHE TEACHES AT EMORY. LINDA WELCOMES COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON HER WORK. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT MAGDALIN@MINDSPRING.COM.

By 1903, so many families had been drawn to the scenic and increasingly convenient area between Ponce de Leon Place and Highland Avenue that a neighborhood school had to be constructed on Frederika, between Greenwood and St. Charles. The new Highland Park School (which became crowded as soon as it opened its doors and was turning children away within six years) was among the neighborhood assets pictured in a real-estate advertisement for the second subdivision to be developed in the district: Highland View. Just north of the now well-established Highland Park and southwest of the main Virginia-Highland crossing, the property—in the name of Adelaide L. Adair—was prepared for sale by the Atlanta Development Company. By mid-1913, forty residence lots - each 50 by 250 feet - were ready to sell for \$1,400 to \$1,700 each. “Situated in the very best residential section of Atlanta, . . . with Ansley Park on its left and Druid Hills on its right,” Highland View was served by two street-car lines and liberally enhanced with “city improvements.” Moreover, all lots were sold “with restrictions,” which confirmed the subdivision’s status as a “‘High-Class’ residence section of Atlanta.”

With this development, suburban growth began to encompass the jewel of the neighborhood (once a country estate), the Adair mansion at 1000 Highland. Green B. Adair died in April 1914; the funeral was held at home and attended by “an escort of prominent citizens and confederate veterans.” Afterward, Adair’s widow, Adelaide, moved to the family’s country home in Wilkes County, and the Atlanta “home place” was taken over by the newly formed Adair Park Company, which immediately began “extensive improvements” to the roughly triangular plot of land surrounding the house: “Among the larger improvements will be the cutting of a splendid drive through the property and the erection of some twenty houses.” The drive, which bisected the property, was named for E. C. Rupley, the company’s newly elected secretary and treasurer.

It was proposed that the Adair house itself become the clubhouse of an exclusive “Town and Country Club,” which “bids

fair to become one of the most popular of Atlanta’s several high class social clubs.” The club would meet a distinct demand, its promoters believed, “as it is close enough in to be easily reached during business hours, and far enough out to be away from the rush and noise of the city.” The mansion could easily accommodate large parties, but it also had plenty of small reception rooms for more intimate gatherings and space in the basement for a bar; “thoroughly modern in every way,” it even boasted an elevator. There was room on the grounds for automobile parking and tennis courts, and “adjacent territory might easily be obtained for a golf course.” The proposition was of course strategic: much undeveloped land remained in the vicinity, and experience had shown that property surrounding a country club inevitably escalated in value. Accordingly, a charter was applied for in July, but it may have been denied; in any event, for better or worse, no further mention is made of a Town and Country Club in Virginia-Highland.

Just as houses had sprung up along Highland during the first decade of the twentieth century, during the second they were built in rapid succession all along Virginia Avenue. In 1914 a realtor announced that four new homes were under construction, with two more to follow the next week: “Join us,” the advertisement reads: “Live in the new section where everybody’s house is new. Get in on the ground floor.” And for the first time, the neighborhood’s proximity to the newly developed Piedmont Park was touted as an asset of the area: “Be near the beautiful Piedmont lake”—Clara Meer—“where you can get your morning dip, your evening dip and your night dip.” “Get near Piedmont park,” another ad urges, adding a more practical consideration: “Property will always be valuable around Piedmont park.”

Next issue: Boulevard Park

Sources: Atlanta Journal and Atlanta Constitution, 1924–32; Neighborhood plats, district 14, and Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, vol. 2 (1911), Atlanta History Center.

School News

Morningside Elementary School

Christa Martin & Craig Pigg
MES PTA Co-Presidents

Happy 80th Birthday, Morningside Elementary!

MES opened its doors in 1929, making it 80 years old this year. Did you know that originally the school had only six classrooms on the lower floor? By 1935, a new building was commissioned and built for the growing enrollment and to provide work for the unemployed during the Depression. We are excited to celebrate our birthday this year with our students and the community!

MES is pleased to announce that, through the combined efforts of its PTA and the City of Atlanta, our school is one of just a handful in the state to receive a federally-funded Safe Routes to School grant. Safe Routes to School is a new program created to increase the number of children in grades K-8 who bicycle and walk to school. The grant will fund a number of projects designed to create a safer walking and cycling environment near the school.

We're proud to report that Morningside met 89 percent of our Atlanta Public School System targets for the 2008-09 school year. We also had record success with our CRCT (Criterion-Referenced Competency Test) assessment, with double digit percentage gains in many grade levels. Our fifth grade students also made phenomenal gains this year on the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basis Skills), a norm-referenced test that compares each student to grade-level peers across the nation. Additionally, our fifth graders outperformed all other fifth grade students in the Atlanta Public School System on the State Writing Tests!

Congratulations to all Morningside students and faculty on these wonderful academic achievements.

Inman Middle School

Betsy Bockman, Ph.D.
Principal, Inman Middle School

Greetings from Inman Middle School!

Inman had an outstanding 2008-09 school year with the school achieving almost 90% of targets, earning Annual Yearly Progress status for the 7th consecutive year, eight teachers earning Georgia Department of Education Master Teacher honors, and continued measured progress toward closing the achievement gap that exists amongst the diverse groups of students we serve.

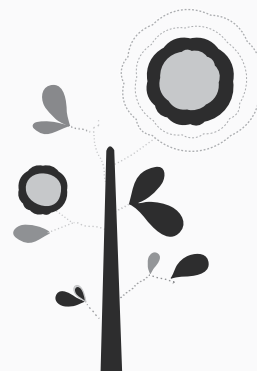
Inman serves students from 3 main feeder elementary schools — Morningside, Centennial Place, and Mary Lin — as well as many other students who have moved into the Inman district as a result

of our reputation. Inman's student population is diverse and looks a lot like the general population of Atlanta: 48% African American, 40% Caucasian, 4% Hispanic, 4% Multiracial, and 3% Asian. Demographics for our faculty and staff are similar.

Our teachers are highly skilled in meeting the diverse academic strengths and needs of the students, a complicated process given that we are working with almost eight hundred 11-14 year olds on a daily basis. Inman receives local, state, and national recognition and praise for increasing achievement particularly for black students, students in the special education program, and students living in economically disadvantaged households. Very few schools have made the gains Inman has in such a short time, especially given the difficulty of the Georgia Performance Standards.

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association has been a terrific supporter of Inman Middle School over the years. Two significant monetary donations were instrumental in launching and sustaining the efforts of the Inman Technology Foundation. This Foundation has gone to great lengths to raise money to support technology-based teaching and learning. Our technology is one of the many reasons families choose to send their children to Inman rather than to a private school.

I thank everyone in the neighborhood and community for their patience with the morning and afternoon traffic and for their support in making Inman such a high achieving school. We couldn't do it without your support.



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New Highland Park Fundraising Campaign Update

The New Highland Park fundraising campaign has raised almost \$25,000 to date by selling bricks and through fundraising activities sponsored by Atkins Park neighbors. At this year's Summerfest, the VIP area set up for park donors garnered incremental donations, plus \$2,000 in sponsorship dollars from the focal businesses listed below. We sincerely thank them for their support.

EAT at ATKINS PARK RESTAURANT: Starting Tuesday, Aug. 4, and continuing the first Tuesday of every month through the end of 2009, Atkins Park Restaurant will donate 20% of food sales for the evening from 5pm to 10pm to our new park on Highland and St. Charles Place. This is an extremely generous offer, so plan on bringing the whole family and treat yourselves to the wonderful culinary creations of Chef Andrew.

Neighbors Who Purchased a Brick in New Highland Park

Below is the list of neighbors who, since the last Voice listing of donors, purchased a brick to support our new park. Thank you! If you have not already done so, please "Buy a Brick" or otherwise donate! For details, visit: vahi.org/newpark.html.

C. Michael Abbott	Rick Bennett & Meg Flemming	Joshua Millican
Atkins Park Garden Club	Taylor & Kelsey Greene	Ellen Morgan
AT&T Int'l Services Marketing Team	Melanie Hill	Hilary & Stuart Nelson
David & Jeanne Bedell	James Paul & Associates	Gary & Anne Pheasant
Peggy Berg	Shannon & Alex Johnston	Alicia Reuter*
Dan Bloom & Barry Golivesky*	David & Susanne Kupiec	Margaret Ross*
Kathy Briggs	Joe Laster	Beth Schapiro & Janet Womack
Ellen Brown*	Charlie Lefort	Denise Schlitt
David & Susan Chaiken	Bob Licata	Ruth & Wiley Sommerville
Tom & Lee Coggin	Rebecca & Kevin Maher	Michael Trettel
Wanda Dunaway and Derek Murphy	Thomas Manning	Anita Wallace
Fales Family	Amanda and George Mattingly	Laurie Wilcox
Wilbur Fitzgerald	Richard & Kathryn Metters	Nancy Wolk and Friends

* Denotes gift of \$250 or purchase of more than one brick.

Sponsors:

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Join the New Highland Park Conservancy



"New Highland Park" is the temporary name of a wonderful new park being created in the heart of Virginia-Highland.

History: On December 4, 2008, the Virginia-Highland Civic Association, Inc. ("VHCA") closed on the purchase of two lots at 1076 and 1082 St. Charles Place, across from Belly on N. Highland Avenue. Formerly the site of a public library, the two lots will be developed as an environmentally-friendly passive park and rain garden to support recreation, walking, community gathering and educational programs for neighborhood residents and visitors to Virginia-Highland.

Financing for the acquisition came through the Georgia Land Conservation Program. The VHCA is the first non-profit in the state to be approved for funding under this program.

These lots are literally the only potential green space still available in our neighborhood. The future park will provide not only a respite from asphalt and noise, but it will serve as a citywide "bioretention demonstration" project for storm water management. Storm water will be captured on-site, preventing it from reaching storm drains, and native Georgia plants will be installed. Soil and plants will naturally remove pollutants from storm water.

Details: vahi.org/newpark.html

Our Mission:

To develop and maintain the new park for the benefit of the Virginia-Highland residents, the City of Atlanta, and its many visitors.

Please Join/Contribute Today!

The VHCA is funding the debt through proceeds raised by Summerfest and other events. But we want to pay off the mortgage on the property as soon as possible, to ensure the new park remains ours forever! The new park will contribute to **all** our property values. So, please give generously.

Membership Levels & Benefits:

	Donation:
Buy A Brick:	\$100
(Brick + Certificate. Form Below)	
Friend of Park:	\$250
(Brick + Va-Hi Bella T-Shirt)	
Park Patron:	\$500
(Brick + Special "Park Patron" T-Shirt)	
Park Angel:	\$1,000
(Brick + Special "Park Angel" T-Shirt and Donor Name on Park Plaque)	

Member Information – or – Buy A Brick Order:

Name

Mailing Address

Email/Phone Number

Please make checks payable to:
Virginia-Highland Conservation League, Inc.
c/o: Pamela Papner, VHCA President
854 Highland Terrace, Atlanta, GA 30306

If you are ordering a brick, please specify engraving.
Maximum is 3 lines, 14 characters per line, including spaces.

Neighborhood Feels Impact from Callanwolde Construction

by: Jack White



During a recent heavy rain, overflow from the newly constructed Callanwolde storm drain release combines with hillside run-off, breaches a rock wall, then returns to a badly swollen Rock Creek.

Editor's Note: Jack White is a neighborhood resident and former VHCA board member serving in an advisory capacity regarding the Callanwolde drainage issue.

Over the past year the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center has been constructing a new outdoor amphitheater in the rear of its property on Briarcliff Road. The new amphitheater features seating that looks downhill to the west across the headwaters of Rock Creek toward houses fronting on Rosedale Road in. For reasons somewhat unclear but probably related to the fact that DeKalb County owns the site, the Druid Hills Civic Association was included in the planning process, but the Virginia-Highland Civic Association was not.

Rosedale Road residents became involved as the scope of the project became apparent. Their initial and on-going concerns

include the negative impact into their backyards and windows from excessive sound and outdoor lighting, particularly in the fall and winter. With Callanwolde's cooperation - their Executive Director Sam Goldman has been extremely cooperative - both issues are still being examined, and adjustments may be needed as the facility comes on-line. Goldman has pledged his continuing sensitivity to the neighborhood's concerns.

The project's design and construction spanned the (apparent) end of our recent 3+ year drought and the return to more historically normal rainfall patterns, and storm water runoff rapidly joined the list of community concerns. This spring's heavy rains made it apparent that either there was more runoff than was anticipated by the designers, or the onsite storage capacity was inadequate or dysfunctional, or some combination thereof. The erosion and sediment control devices installed by the county were overwhelmed several times within a few weeks. Both sides of the creek that flows between Callanwolde and the property of Rosedale Road residents were visibly eroded by poorly-checked flows of water down the rear of the site.

After a series of meetings with neighborhood representatives, the County has pledged to provide additional on-site storm water retention capacity. Still being reviewed is what measures may be taken to appropriately re-stabilize the hillside. Even adequate retention - apparently miscalculated the first time - will result in flows down the hillside in unusual events, like the one of Sunday July 12th. A properly vegetated and stabilized hill should be able to accommodate such flows with minimal erosion and damage under most conditions.

The County has verbally pledged to take corrective action during the upcoming dormant season. The VHCA Board has hired a consultant to review the County's plans and will continue to advocate on behalf of Rosedale Road residents as dialogue with Callanwolde and the County moves forward.



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New Afterschool Program Starts In Virginia-Highland

Garrison Afterschool Program, located in the Church of Our Saviour on N.Highland, opened its doors August 10th. Serving ages 4 to 14, the program offers outdoor play, help with homework, and a Montessori-style activity room with toys, games, and crafts for the children to enjoy.

Garrison Afterschool offers special classes (such as French, Spanish, entrepreneurship and dance), clubs (such as Roots & Shoots), and a Fun Friday assembly program with special presentations like papermaking and robotics.

In addition to a homework room staffed by Morningside elementary school teacher Leigh Ann Bliss, Garrison Afterschool provides a separate space for private tutors to work individually with children. The program's staff works with parents to ensure that children's academic afterschool needs are met before they return home.

Another unique aspect of the Garrison Afterschool Program is its inclusion of children with special needs. All children, regardless of ability level, are welcome at Garrison, which can accommodate children in wheelchairs and children who need to be accompanied by a paraprofessional.

The program is directed by Susan Longley, M.Ed., a former Virginia-Highland resident. Susan is a reading specialist with experience in teaching reading and writing, and has extensive intercultural experience. Garrison's advisory board is made up of teachers, therapists, and counselors as well as local business owners and residents.

Children arrive at Garrison via school buses from Morningside Elementary School and Springdale Park. Inman Middle School is too close to the center for a bus stop, but the program provides an escort to walk Inman students from school to Garrison.

Garrison provides care every day of the Atlanta Public School calendar and is open on teacher workdays for students as well. They will also offer holiday camps the second week of winter break and the week of spring break.

For more information or to enroll your child, visit www.garrisonafterschool.org or contact Susan Longley at 404-254-1734.

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Colonel Mustard in the Kitchen with a Knife

Colonel Mustard – referring to the character from the board game Clue – is a pseudonym for a Virginia-Highland resident who enjoys dining at the many wonderful restaurants in our neighborhood and sharing thoughts on the dining experience with others. In this issue the Colonel visits neighborhood newcomer D.B.A. Barbecue.

D.B.A. Barbecue
1190 N. Highland, Suite B (behind the Post Office)
404 249-5000 www.dbabarbecue.com

My husband and I visited this new restaurant located where Vine used to be with, I guess, a huge appetite because we ordered enough food for Cox's Army. We ended up taking food home for the next couple of days and, fortunately, it was very good!

The wait staff is also new, of course, and we watched as eight of them stood in the back talking and not busying themselves with duties that needed to be tended to. But the individual service we had was fine and friendly. One of the owners walked by and removed a used sugar packet - a little nervous but I don't think he needs to be. There were even people sitting outside on the covered porch on a HOT day. It was early evening and there was a good crowd eating and sitting at the bar. This place has something I've never seen before: the tables were stationary and the booths could be moved. We were told Demi Moore and a friend had been there for lunch that day and my husband was right in her seat - such a thrill for him.

We ordered smoked rib tips (we went back for more of these for takeout a few days later), sweet potato french fries, St. Louis style spareribs (I know, a little redundant), Virginia-Highland pulled pork – a nice tip of the hat to our neighborhood, smoked chicken, country fried steak, braised collard greens, mashed potatoes, MJ's Abita beer braised cabbage, deep fried corn on the cob, and Key lime pie (the latter dish had to go home untouched for another day). Can you believe all that? Remember only two of us were in those moveable booths – 'moveable' being the operative word since we kept needing more space as we ate and ate and ate. From where we sat we saw Gerry's warm white cheese muffins coming out of the oven. They were steaming and appealing and looked delicious but we were out of room, which left us something to look forward to on the next trip!

D.B.A. Barbecue offers the following convenient operating hours: 11:30am - 10:00pm weekdays;
11:30am - 11:00pm Friday;
11:00am - 11:00pm Saturday;
and 11:00am - 10:00pm Sunday.

D.B.A. is a good addition to our neighborhood for big groups, families, singles, and two adults with big eyes. Colonel Mustard gives it 5 hotdogs.



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