



## NOTICE

### Virginia-Highland Civic Association Annual Meeting and Election of Board Officers

When: Monday, September 12, 2011 Where: Inman Middle School Cafeteria Time: 7:00 pm

*Deadline for getting your name on the ballot is September 10, 2011.*

## Summerfest Success!



A successful Summerfest 2011 was marked by innovation, expansion and generation of much needed revenue for neighborhood projects. An unusually hot weekend made it difficult to reach last year's attendance numbers, but a strong musical lineup on both days encouraged the crowds to spend much of their day in Virginia-Highland eating, drinking and buying art. Final numbers aren't in yet as we are still calculating final costs and net revenue will be announced at the September meeting.

Noteworthy highlights and major volunteer contributors include:

**Neighbors Parade:** The parade has really taken off, doubling in size for the second year in a row. Neighbors embraced the circus theme and had lots of fun dressing up in creative homemade costumes. For the first time we had musical accompaniment from the Georgia State marching band. Thanks to Doris Betz and Cindy Kaufman for this successful kickoff event. This is Doris' last year with the parade, an event she's been helping with since the beginning. We'll miss you, Doris!

# Summerfest



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND

**Community Dinner and Movie:** Like the parade, this event keeps growing each year. We had a record crowd with an estimated 1,200 people in attendance. Atkins Park provided a tasty dinner and speedy service to keep the line moving and the locals happy. Delicious desserts from El Taco and La Tavola were melting in the mouths of neighbors as they sat in the grass to enjoy the evening's film, Megamind. John Peter Casey was the volunteer megamind behind this event's success.

**Tot Trot:** The tots ran their hearts out and Nancy and Bob Coombs ran an efficient event while turning in a tidy profit.

**Kidsfest:** This year's space theme along with an expanded music program proved to be a hit with the kids and kept the event profitable. Telescopes for sun viewing attracted more older kids than we've had in the past as well as giving parents something really cool to do. More student performers this year drew larger crowds to rock out in the sandbox. Thanks to Jenny Warner and Kathy Platt for all their hard work. This is Jenny's last year with Kidsfest. Special thanks go to her for helping to turn Kidsfest into a festival profit center. With Jenny's departure we have an opening for someone with imagination and a love for children to lead this event and keep building on the momentum.

**Va-Hi Recycle Shop:** Summerfest co-chair Ann Guy took last year's leftover Summerfest merchandise and turned it into this year's Virginia-Highland recycle shop and t-shirt boutique. Souvenir t-shirts from previous Summerfests found new value in the eyes of festival goers who snatched up little girl dresses, tote's and purses. The sewing was done by a talented group of volunteers who crafted each unique item by hand, using donated fabrics and trims. A vibrant new design for this year's t-shirt resulted in strong sales and enhanced the overall



*Artist market*



*Face painting at the Kidsfest*

## Virginia-Highland Civic Association

### 2010-2011 Board of Directors

Board members are volunteers with jobs and/or family, so please email rather than call, unless it's an emergency. Through email a mutually convenient time to discuss can be arranged, if necessary.

#### Allie Coker

Summerfest, Fundraising  
alliecoker@bellsouth.net 404-281-5303 (M)

#### Frazier Dworet

Planning (Co-Chair), Atlanta Projects Liaison  
frazier953@mindspring.com 404-875-9647 (H)

#### Rob Glancy

Parks (Co-Chair)  
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#### Ann Guy

Vice-President, Summerfest (Co-Chair), Tour of Homes  
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#### Jennifer Hansen

Treasurer  
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#### Cindy Kaufman

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#### Holly Kilgore

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#### Kathryn King-Metters

Traffic & Sidewalks (Chair), Safety  
kkingmetters@gmail.com 404-874-0763 (H) 404-202-1676 (M)

#### Charlie Lefort

Home Tour (Co-Chair), Summerfest (Co-Chair)  
charlielefort@greenwaymedical.com 404-874-2084 (H)

#### Pamela Papner

President, Summerfest (Director), Fundraising  
ppapner@earthlink.net 404-873-2132 (H) 404-797-7061 (M)

#### John Wolfinger

Public Safety (Chair), Transportation, Sidewalks  
jjonww2@earthlink.net 404-876-5023 (H)

#### Anne Woodward

Secretary, Membership (Chair)  
anne.m.woodward@comast.net 404-827-5593

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## The Virginia-Highland Voice

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

**Editor:** John Becker

**Design:** Preeti Ayyangar

**Business Manager:** Christopher Fling

We welcome your feedback on *The Virginia-Highland Voice*. Please send your comments to [editor@vahi.org](mailto:editor@vahi.org).

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## VHCA Calendar

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### Monthly Board Meetings

When: Second Monday of each month, 7 pm.

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

**Keep up with community news and events on [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org).**

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success of the booth. This eye-catching booth served as the “anchor” store for the VHCA giving them an upgraded presence for the event.

**Volunteers:** More than 300 volunteers were needed to support Summerfest and we thank them all. Volunteer organization and on-site management was done by Allie Coker and Kathryn King-Metters.

Special thanks goes to the many businesses that sponsored Kidsfest (Primrose School, Enyaianise, American Roadhouse, Atlanta Midtown Gynecology, Chinese Shaolin Center, Garrison Afterschool Program and The Intowners-Peter Bade, Sandy D'Aprile and Julie Sadlier), donated parade prizes (Georgia Aquarium) and to the following individuals who significantly contributed to the success of this event:

John Wolfinger: Parking

Frazier Dworet: Treasurer and Financial Analysis

Julie Tepp and Nancy Musser: Artist Market

Ed Williams: Road Race

Rob Frazer: Operations from Premiere Events Management

Will Davis: Marketing Director, DaveFM radio

Penny Cannon: T-shirt design (Production-Porchlight Studio)

Neil Bowen: Posters and Advertising



# President's Corner

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Pamela Papner Board President, Virginia-Highland Civic Association

It's that time of year – we need volunteers to step up to run for the Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board. It's a great way to give back to the neighborhood and really make a difference. We welcome new faces and new energy, and indeed, there is plenty to do! I often get the question, "What is the time commitment and in what areas is work needed?" Below is my best effort to provide that information:

## VHCA Board Commitment:

- Attendance is required at monthly meetings, held on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7:00pm. We acknowledge that work commitments may arise, but you should commit to attend 75% of meetings.
- Fundraising: Significant participation in our annual fundraisers (Summerfest and Home Tour) is expected. You should expect to be in charge of some aspect of Summerfest as well as volunteer to be a House Captain for Home Tour. Next year, Summerfest needs new leaders for volunteers, Kidsfest, and the parade. You should also support fundraisers for our parks projects as we work to pay off the debt on the land for New Highland Park. There is no shortage of areas to lead or fundraising projects to support.
- Committee Work: There are many committees to choose from, but each Board member is expected to devote time to at least one of the following areas: planning, fundraising (includes Home Tour and Summerfest), parks, safety/traffic/sidewalks, membership, and communications. Roles range from participation to leadership of the committee. Many Board members spend a minimum of ten hours a week on VHCA. You should be willing to spend 10 hours minimum each month on committee work and achieve the goals set for each committee at the beginning of each year.

We want to recruit people who have the time and energy to roll up their sleeves and take ownership of the areas they adopt. It does require an investment of time; however, results are tangible, and the positive impact to our community's quality of life can be significant. Please consider running! If you wish to run or have any questions, email me at [president@vahi.org](mailto:president@vahi.org). I'd be more than happy to answer any questions or call you back to discuss. Remember, the deadline for getting your name on the ballot is September 10, 2011. Thank you!

## Van Michael Cut-A-Thon Raises \$1,167 for New Highland Park

Employees at Van Michael Salon came up with the idea to hold a "Cut-A-Thon" to raise money for New Highland Park. It was held on Sunday, June 26th from 10:00am to 2:00pm, and the event attracted many customers. With a minimum donation of \$20, stylists managed to raise \$1,167 – a significant achievement! Many thanks to Lindsey Coleman, who organized the event, and to participating stylists Rob Cook, O'Neil Gurley, Joey Hooten, Christa Norris, Tami Le, Mark Riley, Jyll Thomas, Sharlene Walker and Chanda Warren.

Thank you Van Michael Salon!



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\*Simply use Michael Gaddy, recipient of the 2009 Fourteen West Integrity Award, as your REALTOR on your next home purchase or sale. The donation will be paid to the club or group of your choice within 2 weeks of a successful close on your home.

# Safety Update:

John Wolfinger

Six years ago when you first allowed me to serve on the VHCA board, I blindly and naively stated I would create a neighborhood watch program without having any earthly idea as to how. Six years later, I'm thrilled at what we, as a community, have created.

There are now well over one hundred volunteer street captains who not only distribute safety team reports to residents in their area and encourage neighbors to get to know and trust each other, but who also continuously feed me news from their watch area, helping me to solve problems. You need only read the VHLIST message board on Yahoo to see numerous examples of this.

In fact, many street captains had already been functioning in their roles long before I began my program, but binding these separate programs together has been key. Many watch areas now have their own resident directories and hold social gatherings that allow neighbors to get to know each other better. Our community is much richer and more connected thanks to the efforts of these volunteers, and I extend a hearty thanks to all of you. I owe special thanks to Eleanor Barrineau (one of our original street captains) for taking on the task of street captain coordinator. Eleanor's been a strong supporter from the beginning.

With approximately eighty percent of our community now being watched over by street captains, I'm looking to get the remaining twenty percent covered. The following street areas still need captains, and I hope the right folks will see this list and step forward to fill these needs: St. Charles Place, St. Louis Place, Bonaventure Avenue, Briarcliff Terrace, Briarcliff Court, Virginia Avenue (east of North Highland), Monroe Drive, Briarcliff Road, Cresthill Avenue (west of Monroe) Elmwood Drive (west of Monroe), Amsterdam Avenue (west of Monroe) and Ponce de Leon Place.

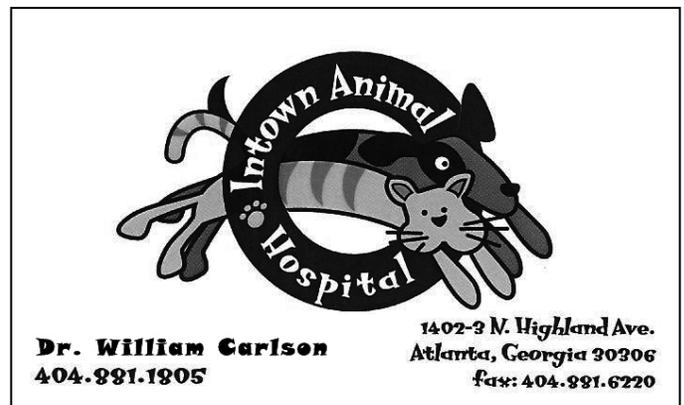
There are also some long streets that should have more than one person, such as Rosedale Road, Lanier Boulevard, Brookridge Drive, and Virginia Circle. These streets should be subdivided into two or three sections in order to provide better coverage.

I'm proud to say our VaHi Safety Team is one of Atlanta's largest and most active neighborhood watch groups, and I believe this has created a sense of unity in our community that did not exist before. My basic premise of public safety is that people who know each other tend to look out for each other, and this is very much exemplified every day here in VaHi. We are a very important third tier of protection, along with APD Zone 6 and our own patrol system, the FBAC.

Switching topics for a second, graffiti removal continues in our neighborhood 'behind the scenes' and on many fronts thanks to the dedicated efforts of neighborhood volunteers, walkers and business owners. Special thanks goes to:

- Josh Bartel and Tom Manning for adopting and cleaning signs and swings in Orme Park prior to the ribbon cutting and picnic
- Sue Book Gustke and Jerry Bright for ongoing signage cleanup throughout all of VaHi
- Suzanne Pichulik Eisenberg of Blind Willie's for painting over a large 15' rendering on the side of their establishment
- Belly General Store for covering long standing tags on their building
- Jean Ellen Jones for working with Art on the Beltline to cleanup the beautiful mural under the Virginia Ave. bridge

Stickers continue to be an ongoing nuisance, so everyone is encouraged to peel new ones off or moisten and scrub older ones if you find them. Report troublesome, spray painted graffiti tags to [graffiti@vahi.org](mailto:graffiti@vahi.org).



# New Highland Park Bricks

The following generous neighbors purchased bricks for New Highland Park since the last issue of Voice:



Lynn & Don Adams

Laura Beaty

Sharon Bloom

Joseph Brown

Ashley Bynum

Ida & John Centner

Jennifer Chambers

Richard Cunningham

Dorothy Dawson

Tanya Farshy

Cherry Frederick

Kelly & Douglas Gilfillan

Green's Package Store

Mrs. Nathan V. Hendricks III

Kathleen Hutchins

Melissa Yost & Roger Krause

Phil & Zoe Lancaster

Nita & Stephen Luce

Maryn McKenna

Kristan Miller

Walter Murphy

D. Benjamin Redwine

Ron Richard & Dale Stafford

Nancy & Mike Reynolds

Ashley Sams

Maurice Scheidler

Philip Tardiff

John Wolfinger

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## 2011 Gold List

### Support Neighborhood Businesses that Support the Neighborhood

Do you need an accountant to help you with your tax return? A haircut? A realtor? Storage space? Are you going out to eat tonight? The Va-Hi neighborhood is fortunate to have so many businesses that not only advertise with us, but “give back” above and beyond to our neighborhood. So when you need a particular service, please choose a “Voice” advertiser or one of these businesses that made our **2011 Va-Hi Gold List**”:

#### Realtors:

**The RE/MAX Intowners:** Peter Bade, Sandy D'Aprile and Julie Sadlier.

- Regular sponsors of Kidsfest at Summerfest.
- Sandy was VHCA agent for purchase of New Highland Park and donated her commission.
- Peter has for years worked on Orme Park vision plan and has personally donated more than \$2K.

Nita Luce (Keller Williams, Atlanta Midtown)

- Nita worked as the Voice business manager for more than 4 years, earning significant ad revenue for the Va-Hi Civic Association.

Christopher Fling (Keller Williams, Atlanta Midtown)

- Christopher has recently take over the role of Business Manager for the Voice.

#### Restaurants:

##### Atkins Park Restaurant .

- Has for years provided community dinner at Summerfest.
- Has offered dine-outs and other promotions to support New Highland Park.

##### La Tavola and El Taco

- These Fifth Group Restaurants provided dessert for Summerfest dinner the last several years.
- Regular food tasting participants for Home Tour.

##### Osteria & Doc Chey's Noodle House

- Offered dine-out and donated anniversary party proceeds to New Highland Park.

#### 2011 Summerfest / Home Tour Sponsors

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| • <b>Atkins Park</b>        | • <b>YEAH! Burger</b>  |
| • <b>Metrofresh</b>         | • <b>Murphy's</b>      |
| • <b>La Tavola</b>          | • <b>Goin' Coastal</b> |
| • <b>El Taco</b>            | • <b>DBA BBQ</b>       |
| • <b>Piedmont Dog Bark</b>  | • <b>Shorty's</b>      |
| • <b>Urban Body Fitness</b> | • <b>City Storage</b>  |

#### Retail and Professional Services:

##### Frawley Associates Landscape Architects

- Peter Frawley donated his expertise and donated his services to design the landscape plans for New Highland Park.
- Peter Hughes also donated the civil engineer drawings for this project.

##### Ryan Healan, HDR Landscape Architect

- Ryan donated countless hours to oversight/project management of the Orme Park renovations.

##### Evergreen Landscape Management

- Anthony DeVingo cuts the grass at New Highland Park for a nominal fee.
- He also donates his time to maintain the plantings at Va-Hi island.

##### Cindy Cline CPA MBA, Accounting/Tax Preparation

- Cindy is a local CPA who has donated her services to file tax returns for the Va-Hi Civic Association and Conservation League.

##### Mario Tantillo, Graphics and Signs from “Graphic Solutions of Atlanta”

- Mario generously designed and donated several fundraising banners as well as the beautiful sign displaying Orme Park design plans and New Highland Park thermometer.

##### Preeti Ayyangar, Graphic Designer

- Preeti is a local artist/designer who has created the design of the Voice for 5+ years!
- She is also part owner of “the beehive”.

##### City Storage

- From providing storage to the Civic Assn. to sponsoring Home Tour and lending a truck to move granite, City Storage gives back.

**Regular Supporters:** These local businesses contributed to and/or supported civic association fundraisers during 2011:

- Chinese Shaolin Center
- enya anise beautybar
- Catalyst Fitness

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

# Street Tree Do's and Don't's FBAC Update

- Kay Stephenson

The neighborhood lost four mature maple trees recently from the area in front of the commercial node at the intersection of Rosedale Drive and Virginia Avenue. These trees were removed by the City of Atlanta because they were found to be dead, dying, diseased or hazardous. According to Jasen Johns, an arborist with the City Office of Parks, "the three causes of these trees' terminal decline were mulching over the root collar (piling organic matter or soils above a certain point facilitates decay in non-root tissues and these trees were buried under mounds of mulch), drought stress over successive seasons, and heat stress from record and protracted high temperatures over successive seasons."

The Office of Parks is responsible for the planting, care and removal of all trees growing on city property or right of way. However, due to budget limits in recent years, they just don't have the resources to handle routine tasks such as watering and mulching. That's where we come in. Following proper mulching and watering guidelines for the street trees in front of our home or business is not a huge task, but it can have a tremendous impact on the survival of our urban forest.

## Here are a few Do's and Don't's:

- Water newly planted trees during hot and dry periods for the first 2-3 years until they are well established.
- Provide roughly 5 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter per week. If desired, Treegators can be purchased for \$20 - \$25 and allow for slow release of water for deep irrigation
- Ensure that mulch is maintained at a height of no more than 2-4 inches around the base of trees.
- Only replenish mulch when the existing layer has decayed to ensure that mulch volcanoes do not build up over the root collar (the point at which the roots flair out from the base of the tree trunk)
- If you see a street tree that appears to be unhealthy, contact the Office of Parks to have it inspected.



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## Patrols expand in Virginia-Highland and Old Fourth Ward

- Brian Gross

FBAC (Fight Back Against Crime) is Virginia-Highland's member-supported security patrol, providing an extra layer of protection for our neighborhood. FBAC is run by volunteers and manned by a team of five off-duty Atlanta police officers, led by Sergeant Chris Clark. Every member's support counts, and we invite you to join at [www.fbacvahi.com](http://www.fbacvahi.com).

Until last year FBAC patrolled only the streets north of Greenwood and Hudson (roughly). After a series of incidents south of that area, and a resulting wave of resident interest, FBAC successfully organized enough new members to fund the expansion of coverage. In November 2010, FBAC started patrolling virtually every street in Virginia-Highland.

Earlier this year, our neighbors in the Old Fourth Ward (O4W) also took interest in setting up a patrol and sought volunteers to help. FBAC responded, since a safer O4W provides in many ways a buffer for Virginia-Highland.

We "copied and pasted" the FBAC website and edited it to the needs of O4W. We also shared the tools we used in our recent expansion drive - door to door campaigns, flyers, obtaining business membership and sponsorship, etc.

O4W's patrol area covers the eastern half of O4W, bordered by Ponce, the BeltLine, Auburn, and Boulevard. This is the area nearest Virginia-Highland, to the west and south of City Hall East (the future Ponce City Market). Other areas of O4W west of Boulevard are less suited to supporting a patrol, as they either consist of mostly large apartment complexes or are less gentrified.

As a result of hundreds of volunteer hours, the O4W patrol started up on May 2, headed up by Lt. Isom. It's now about 120 members strong. As more members join, patrol hours are expanded. Crime stats have gone down, and though it's recognized that statistics can go down for a variety of reasons, residents are encouraged by the trend.



## Neighborhood Residents Publish Book on Va-Hi

Karri Hobson-Pape and Lola Carlisle have written a book on the history of Virginia-Highland. The book is titled *Images of America: Virginia-Highland* and is in the process of being published by Arcadia Publishing. Pick up a copy at local book stores and some retailers in the area, as well as online at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com). The release date is September 5. You can also see the authors and hear more about the book at the Decatur Book Festival this Labor Day weekend. For more information visit: [www.decaturbookfestival.com](http://www.decaturbookfestival.com)

The authors report that they interviewed about 150 people and collected about 2,500 historic photographs, letters, and documents. They are planning to start historic meetings, inviting the people they interviewed to share more of their stories. If you have historic images, stories, or items to add to this collection, please reach out to the authors directly: [lola@tailfin.com](mailto:lola@tailfin.com) and [karrihp@gmail.com](mailto:karrihp@gmail.com)

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\*Borrowers should note that 100% mortgage financing will result in no property equity until such time as the loan principal is paid down through regular mortgage payments and/or the property value appreciates. Additionally, if property values decline you could owe more than your property's value.

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# Parks Update

Pamela Papner

## Orme Park

A ribbon cutting to celebrate the significant improvements being made to Orme Park was held Saturday, June 11th. An estimated two hundred neighbors, including many families, attended the celebration that included a potluck picnic, music and activities organized by Alice Gepp and Clare Richie.

Attendees were honored to have as speakers Atlanta's Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, George Dusenbury; Park Pride's Associate Director of Programs, Allison Barnett; and Anne Fauver, our former District 6 Council Member whose donation to this project provided such a catalyst to fundraising. Current District 6 Council Member Alex Wan was also in attendance.

The message delivered by Allison Barnett was "spot on." She reminded us how difficult it would be for just one entity to achieve the results we see today at Orme; however, when we all come together – the city, Park Pride, residents, Friends of Orme Park and the Virginia-Highland Civic Association – much can be done! Indeed, working together, Friends of Orme Park and the Virginia-Highland Conservation League raised more than \$250,000, and we are close to completing not only a beautiful renovation, but a significant one that will be enjoyed by many residents and visitors to the park for years to come.

Some have asked when the entranceway to the park is going to be finished. The contractor is due to start work again by the second week in August. Items that must be finished include installation of entry signage, plantings, and completion of the entry plaza.

Many may not remember the heavy storm we had at the end of June. That storm generated a large amount of storm water run-off that helped us identify improvements needed to the new drainage structure at the park's entranceway. This additional work is being funded by a contingency grant from Park Pride. We cannot thank Park Pride enough for their generous support. With this additional funding, Park Pride will have donated \$100,000 to our park!

In addition, the city's parks department is paying to have the interior wood pedestrian bridge at the eastern end of the park rebuilt. This bridge is in very poor condition and is a safety



*Orme Park ribbon cutting*

concern. The same contractor doing all the playground and entranceway work at Orme Park will rebuild the bridge and this work will take approximately two weeks.

This fall nine trees will be planted in the playground area. Species will include Blackgum, Dogwood, Oak and Sweetbay Magnolia.

The sod looks fantastic and we thank everyone for staying off of it to give it a chance to get established. If you see Alice Gepp in the park, be sure to thank her for watering the sod during the hot, dry days of summer!

## New Highland Park

The UDC (Urban Design Commission) approved our design on June 22nd, so we are now able to proceed with finalizing a construction contract from one of the four competitive bids received, and start the permitting process. It is hoped that construction will begin in late summer.

Although we have raised the funds needed to construct, much fundraising remains to pay off the debt on the land, so we do hope residents will continue to support our various fundraising efforts over the next few years, and even better, volunteer to spearhead one!

A special thank you this past month goes to Van Michael Salon, which held a "Cut-A-Thon" on June 26th that raised \$1,167! Also, Doug Landau, the owner of Neighbors Pub and Dark Horse Tavern donated proceeds totaling \$1,221 from a United Distributors promotion to the park. We thank these businesses sincerely for their support and also thank the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association for their third annual donation in the amount of \$650.

For more updates about parks as they happen, please continue to check [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org).

## Focus on Businesses in the Neighborhood

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**PORTA VIA**  
BELLA CUCINA

### Bella Cucina

Neighborhood Favorite Bella Cucina Expands Offerings, Relocates and Changes Name



Atlanta-based artisan food company Bella Cucina, known best for its signature artichoke lemon pesto, announces its expansion into fresh to-go (Porta Via) foods. Building on the success of its specialty Virginia-Highland food store, Bella Cucina recently moved a few doors south from its original location and the store has been renamed, Porta Via Bella Cucina. They offer a curated selection of healthy and flavorful California and Italian inspired sandwiches, salads, and foods for entertaining and desserts. Offerings range from sun dried tomato meatloaf with organic tomato jam to a classic roasted eggplant sandwich, layered vegetable torta rustica, classic tiramisu and the popular Death by Chocolate cookies. To kick off the new menu, Bella Cucina is also offering artisanal Creminelli meats, La Quercia prosciutto and Speck, as well as select cheeses from local dairy Sweetgrass.

As much as possible, they will be using ingredients from organic gardens in East Point and Midtown, local farmers' produce and ingredients from fellow artisanal producers like Savannah Bee Company, Johnson Family Farms dairy and Crystal Farms Organic Produce.

"We wanted to bring the flavors that launched the Bella Cucina artful food boutique product line back to our store so the neighborhood could enjoy the way the products are meant to be tasted and used in cooking," said Alisa Barry, founder and president of Bella Cucina. "We are working with the best small producers and farmers to bring the best casual food to our customers."

Barry is an alumna of the Tante Marie cooking school in San Francisco and worked with Alice Water's cafes, Chez Panisse and Café Fanny in Berkeley, California. After spending time in the Sonoma wine country, Barry came to Atlanta fifteen years ago where she developed the artisanal product line, Bella Cucina artful food.

Porta Via Bella Cucina will introduce a pour-over coffee stand featuring RITUAL coffee later in the fall, serving breakfast pastries and savory crostata in the morning. Bella Cucina has a communal table and WiFi for those who like to rest their feet and check e-mail.

Porta Via Bella Cucina is located at 1044 N. Highland Ave. Contact them at 404 347 6476 or visit [www.bellacucina.com](http://www.bellacucina.com).



# Repairs Coming to Streetscape Area by Chevron & The Cavern

- Pamela Papner

*Finally....* that old, abandoned utility pole in front of the Chevron station was removed, and the city is now working to fix some streetscape problems I asked about. After no fewer than 30 emails and 15 phone calls (I'm not kidding), and after enlisting the help of Alex Wan's office, progress is being made:

- AT&T relocated to the new pole the remaining utility lines, and Georgia Power removed the old utility pole.
- Watershed has re-checked and verified that the leak they fixed months ago in front of "The Cavern" was indeed fixed. The sunken pavers that occurred over time as a result of that old leak, including one that sunk about 6 inches (a cone is in place now), must now be removed, the ground filled/leveled, and the pavers replaced.
- This repair work effort will also include chipping away at and cleaning up the sloppy cement placed around two water covers – one near the removed pole and one in front of The Cavern.
- Greg Holder from the city has been very helpful. He put me in touch with the mason who did the original brick work for streetscape. We obtained an estimate from him to repair & replace the pavers in the area of the removed utility pole as well as the sunken pavers in front of The Cavern. Greg was also kind enough to bring by some pavers leftover from the original Streetscape work. I picked through them and now have some extra matching pavers to use.

At press, I have been talking with various watershed department supervisors, hoping to get their agreement to use the mason that did the original streetscape paver work to ensure the work is done "right." The department is also helping with the possible removal of one water line cover in front of The Cavern, which is inactive.

We'll see.... Keep your fingers crossed this work will be completed by end of the summer!



*Repairs to the streetscape area are now underway.*



*In this area today are sunken pavers around these water lids, as well as sloppy cement.*



*The utility pole on the right is the one now removed. The cement work needs repair.*

## Garrison Afterschool Expands Care to Preschoolers

Garrison Afterschool Program, located in the Church of Our Saviour, is offering an afterschool program for preschool students from 12 to 3 PM every day this school year. They offer transportation from Montessori In Town, but the program is open to other 3- and 4- year olds who can provide their own transportation to GAP. The program offers a balanced schedule of activities for this age group, including lunch, rest, indoor and outdoor play, and small group activities.

The inclusionary afterschool program (2:30 – 6:30 PM) serves elementary students at Morningside, Springdale Park, Mary Lin and Montessori In Town. The program features low student/teacher ratios (10:1), real academic help with homework from certified teachers, great snacks, indoor and outdoor playtime, and community-service initiatives led by the students.

Both programs now offer partial-week enrollments. For information, please visit their website at [www.garrisonafterschool.org](http://www.garrisonafterschool.org) or call 404-254-1734.

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# VHCA Membership – Join Now!

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that helps maintain Virginia-Highland as one of the most livable urban communities in America, but why should you join? Here's some information to help you make an informed decision:

**What does the VHCA do?** We support the community by funding things like maintenance of John Howell Park; improvements to Orme Park; the Neighborhood Commercial zoning initiative; legal support for the community (when needed); and annual grants to local organizations that improve our quality of life, such as the Fire and Police stations, local schools and the public library. Additionally, in December 2008 we purchased the lots located at St. Charles Place and N. Highland for the purpose of creating a new park.

**How does the VHCA do it?** The association is primarily funded through revenues from Summerfest and the Tour of Homes and through your contributions. In 2011 we would like to do even more for the neighborhood - but all of this takes time, money, and volunteers. We encourage all VaHi residents to become dues paying members of the civic association, as well as to actively participate in committees and community events and activities.

**What are the benefits of membership?** Through active participation in the VHCA, you will:

- enjoy opportunities to meet new and longtime residents at meetings, socials, and community service events;
- receive notifications about local events and important topics; support activities and committees that help keep the neighborhood desirable and stable;
- have opportunities to vote in regular and special meetings about issues that affect you and control the destiny of Virginia-Highland.



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Go to [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org).

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We look forward to working with you.

**Virginia – Highland Civic Association  
Membership Form Membership Year 2011**

Name(s): .....

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**Membership Levels:**

I would like to support the VHCA with a membership at the following level:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 and older): \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$30     | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation: \$     |

**VHCA Committee Interest:**

- Communications
- Fundraising – Summerfest
- Fundraising – Tour of Homes
- Membership Committee
- Parks Committee
- Planning Committee
- Safety and Sidewalks
- Other

**Please make checks payable to:**

Virginia-Highland Civic Association  
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