



Virginia-Highland VOICE

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A publication of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association

January, 1997

VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Don't procrastinate! Join the Virginia-Highland Civic Association (VHCA) today. But you may ask, "What is the Association and why should I join?" Read on.

VHCA is made up of residents like you who have an interest in preserving and improving the neighborhood in which we live. You made a decision to live here so why not take this very simple, no-strings attached step to get involved. Contrary to popular opinion, the Association does much, much more than handle zoning matters. Bet you didn't know the Association

- Publishes the all new neighborhood newsletter, "The Voice", which will be mailed to you if you become a dues paying member
- Raises lots of money — over \$120,000 in the last 3 years from Summerfest, the ever-popular neighborhood festival held in June
- Gives away lots of money to community organizations and causes you may very well have an interest in. Some examples:

- John Howell Park and Playscape (\$50,000)
- Inman Middle School - field of dreams fence and teacher grants (\$26,000)
- YMCA Camp
- Project Open Hand
- Atlanta-Fulton County Library
- Salvation Army Christmas Stockings
- PATH Foundation
- Morningside PTA - Antique painting restoration
- Moreland Avenue Shelter
- Trees Atlanta
- Habitat for Humanity
- Ed Neal Scholarship Fund for disabled children
- And the list goes on —

- Subsidizes replacement of residential sidewalks, which means your sidewalks in front of your house
- Has a liaison with the Business Association to promote community planning with the mutual interests of both businesses and residents in mind
- Beautifies the neighborhood with tree and flower

TOWN HALL MEETING

COME GIVE YOUR VIEWS

**on the direction the neighborhood should be heading.
Civic Association and Business Association Members
will be there to listen!**

Date: FEBRUARY 6th

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: INMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

plantings (over 175 trees last year!)

- And yes, fights illegal zoning requests that adversely impact the neighborhood

So how does this Association operate and how can you become involved? Essentially, it has an elected Board of Trustees and a number of standing committees. The Trustees vote on all Association business with input from residents at the monthly Association meetings open to all on the first Wednesday of every month at the Library on Ponce de Leon Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

To better get a feel for what sort of things the Association does, here's a list and description of the standing committees, with what they accomplished in 1996, and what they plan to accomplish in 1997.

PARKS: The purpose is to maintain the flower plantings in the neighborhood islands, preserve the existing trees and natural spaces, and plant trees in the borders and corridors of the neighborhood. In 1996, 25 myrtle trees were replaced along Highland Avenue, red maples were planted along Ponce de Leon, 52 oaks donated by Trees Atlanta were planted, along with 100 other trees, throughout the neighborhood. In 1997, plans include additional islands with increased flower plantings, more myrtles along Highland from Virginia to Amsterdam, and more trees everywhere. In fact, if you would like a tree in the green strip in front of your house, just clip and send the enclosed coupon. IT'S FREE and just another reason to join the Association!

PUBLIC SAFETY: The purpose is to keep an eye on safety issues in the neighborhood; gather information about what crimes are occurring where and when; and maintain ongoing communication with the police precinct that is responsible for the neighborhood. Dissemination of information about safety issues and a strong liaison with the police department are the priorities and goals of the committee for 1997. This committee can provide you with information about safety matters including the neighborhood watch groups that have privately formed to provide increased patrols of the streets that make up these groups. Want information? Then tap this available source.

MEMBERSHIP: The purpose is self-explanatory, and the membership drive you are reading about in this newsletter is the major initiative for 1997. Right now there are fewer than 100 members of the Association with a potential for 4,000 households within the boundaries of Virginia-Highland! Join now!

THE VOICE: The purpose is to publish and disseminate a timely and informative newsletter to the members of VHCA. The Voice faded into the sunset in 1996, but it is back in a revised new form for 1997. By including a subscription with membership and by mailing the newsletter rather than relying on volunteers to distribute it, we plan to keep you informed and up to date about what is going on in the neighborhood. Op-

portunities will abound for you to get involved in the neighborhood in whatever way best suits you.

PLANNING: The purpose is to review all zoning matters in the neighborhood for compliance with the zoning laws and recommend for or against all zoning requests. The requests are then voted on by the Board of Trustees and the Board's recommendation goes to the Board of Zoning Appeals as the position of the VHCA. In 1996, there were two major victories: the defeat of a mega-entertainment complex at the old Colgate Mattress Factory location, and the denial of an alcohol license for a brew pub trying to locate at 800 North Highland without the requisite parking spaces. These two cases prove the residents can be heard, but it takes a neighborhood! In 1997, the committee will continue to try and get the best possible deals for the neighborhood within the law. In fact, on one of the properties just mentioned, there is an exciting prospect waiting in the wings. Stay tuned!

BUSINESS-CIVIC LIAISON: The purpose is to provide a forum for businesses and residents to identify, discuss, and address issues of common interest within this unique Atlanta neighborhood, where residents can walk to local shops and restaurants. The committee came into being in 1996, which was its major accomplishment. Now, in 1997, it hopes to consider the possible creation of a long-term master plan or at least arrive at a consensus on where the neighborhood as a whole should be going. To that end, its first major initiative is the TOWN HALL MEETING that will occur on February 6, 1997, at the Inman School Auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend and give their views and vision for the future of the neighborhood. Don't miss this opportunity.

SUMMERFEST: The purpose is to plan, organize and put on Summerfest—the neighborhood street festival with fun run, arts, crafts, food, children's fest, and entertainment. Summerfest is the major fundraising event of the neighborhood netting \$42,000 in 1996. It is the first weekend in June, and it relies in large part on the volunteer services of residents so mark it on your calendar and plan to donate a couple hours of your time.

So, do you need any more convincing to join this Association? A better bargain would be hard to find. Just \$10 for a family or individual membership, and it is the only way you will get on the mailing list for the all new "Voice" — a quarterly newsletter that will let you know in a timely way what's going on in the 'hood. It will bring you up to date on the Association's activities with committee reports, neighborhood news, upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer in whatever large or small way you choose. All you have to do is complete the enclosed form and return it with your check in the envelope that is oh-so conveniently enclosed. Then, drop in at a meeting the first Wednesday of any month and pick up your membership card and neighborhood bumper sticker! Don't delay, join today! ❖

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that the holidays are over, we can hopefully all get back to our normal lives. For those of us on the Executive Committee of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association, that means working to help keep this the great neighborhood it is. In order for us to do this, we need the help of the community. We need you to become an active member of the civic association, to attend monthly meetings, and to participate in sponsored community activities.

We all lead very busy lives. Coming to one association meeting a month can actually impact your life. Some very important issues are decided at these meetings - issues that affect your neighborhood, therefore affect you. We discuss everything from current happenings in public safety to zoning issues. Get involved - join a committee. You could help on anything from planting spring flowers in the islands to helping put out the next issue of the Voice. If you can't afford the time for an ongoing committee, there is always the opportunity to volunteer during the two days of Summerfest.

We have all made resolutions this New Year - most impossible to keep. There is one more to make and a fairly easy one to accomplish - join the Virginia-Highland Civic Association. Become involved in your community!

Amy S. Waterman
President, VHCA

To join the Virginia-Highland Civic Association, please send \$10 dues payment along with your name and address to:

Virginia-Highland Civic Association
PO Box 8401
Station F
Atlanta, GA 30306

For information, call
(404) 222-VAHI (8244)

As you choose to become a member of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association, please consider contributing \$5.00 to the fund for beautification of JOHN HOWELL & ORME PARKS.

!!!NEWS FLASH!!!
VHCA has just contributed \$1000.00 to fund a Teacher Grant and \$1500.00 for the "FILL THE SHELVES" CAMPAIGN at Inman Middle School

CLIP AND SEND

Plant a Tree for NOW and the FUTURE: Trees still available for green strip/front yard.
100 red maples • 15 red buds • 10 white oaks • 5 sawtooth oaks

Name: _____ Type of tree desired: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

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