



Virginia-Highland VOICE

Vol. 1, Number 2

A publication of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association

May, 1997

SUMMERFEST '97

Expectations are high as Summerfest '97 draws near. One of Atlanta's most popular events is right here in Virginia-Highland at John Howell Park on June 7th and 8th. Look for posters for more information.

All the various committees are busy putting together what is sure to be another successful neighborhood festival. Under the new leadership of Nina Peltin, the **KidsFest** is shaping up with a lot of new activities that will capture the attention of young and younger alike.

One activity that's certain to delight everyone is the **Dunk Tank** to be "occupied" by a number of prominent community members who will be cooled off by those who buy tickets. Save your money for this event — it promises to be a hit.

The **Arts and Crafts booths** area is already half full — well ahead of last year's standing at this time. Kathy Barclay and her loyal assistants are assembling another wonderful juried show that's sure to present more objets d'art for your pleasure and purchase.

Jerry Dubner is covering the running stores, clubs, and magazines to get a maximum turnout for the **5K Fun Run**. Not to be missed is the **Tot Trot** that follows the 5K. For the photo/video opportunity of the year, the Tot Trot is the place to be.

David Bass is listening to many demo tapes as he prepares the lineup for the **Live Music Stage**. Having worked with former neighbor, Nina Gentry, the creator of this venue, David has plans for a presentation of musicians to please all. The upper meadow will be filled with good music and lots of people sunning themselves (we hope) to the sounds of local musicians—many of notable fame and popularity.

Once again the Civic Association booths will be filled with the **Taste of Virginia Highland** as Everybody's Pizza, Harvest Restaurant, Atkins Park Restaurant, The Highland Bagel and Caribou Coffee offer their unique tempting menus. Other food vendors (from last year) will supplement the food and drink area for a wide variety of offerings.

In addition to last year's repeat sponsors, Coca-Cola and Redhook Beer, we are happy to have a new media sponsor, 99X Radio, which is making a great effort to develop additional sponsors and to publicize Summerfest '97 through its magazine, web site, and on-air spots.

Special recognition needs to be made of our first neighborhood major sponsor, The Harvest Restaurant, an organization that has looked forward to "putting something back into the neighborhood." When you go to Harvest, please thank Bryan Wilson and his partner, Justin Ward, for their support.

The John Howell Park's adjacent neighbors once again look forward to the crowds, the excitement, and the sounds of Summerfest '97 as they welcome guests to the neighborhood. All of this will be carefully observed for proper behavior by Detective Chris Clarke and his fellow off-duty APD officers. Under his supervision, we have had no incidents to spoil our festival.

Must not overlook the newly designed festival T-shirts that Randie Siegel is presently producing for sale in the neighborhood. Look for them in May in our local shops and restaurants.

Last, but not least, **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to support the various activities and assure a successful event. People are needed to pour beverages, help in KidsFest, assist in the 5K run and Tot Trot, and help set up and take down tables and chairs. A free festival T-shirt goes to each volunteer who donates at least 3 hours during the festival. And when your shift is over, you can stick around and continue to enjoy all the activities. What a great way to spend a weekend in our park. So call 404-222-VAHI (8244) now, and listen for the voice prompt for Summerfest volunteers. Slowly give your name and phone number. You will be contacted.

Tell your neighbors, friends, and relatives about Summerfest. It is the only Atlanta neighborhood festival of its kind. Weather permitting, everyone will have a wonderful time.

Attention! Due to the heat, crowds, and health considerations, no dogs will be allowed into the festival area between Barnett Street and Ponce de Leon Place. Bicycle owners will only be allowed to walk their bikes through the area. The safety of our guests will not be compromised, so please follow the instructions of festival officials and security personnel.

See you there!

Arnold Gross
Festival Chair

SUMMERFEST TABOO

No dogs please!

PARKS COMMITTEE

Flower News

The neighborhood spring planting date is set for May 10th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Spring planting means pulling up the winter annuals and putting in spring ones. Volunteers should meet at the corner of Virginia Avenue and North Highland for coffee and treats from Murphy's before digging in. Bring gloves, a shovel, or a trowel. We are always looking for more, enthusiastic gardeners. No plant knowledge is necessary.

Many local businesses and neighbors contribute to this beautification effort. Phil Colsen at Highland Hardware has been a long time supporter by providing plants for the Virginia Highland triangle as well as the bed near the YMCA. Murphy's supplies the coffee and rolls. Ed Norman, a master gardener in our neighborhood, shares his vast knowledge of plants and helps plan the flower arrangements. Charna Perlow supplies the water for the YMCA bed. Recently, Susan Campis and her neighbors have adopted the Virginia Avenue circle. The Atkins Park gates are being replanted thanks to Dave Bedell, Liz Coyle, Melinda Polities, Bob and Donna Jaric, and Susan and Paul Concannon, among others. Applesed Tree Company supplies mulch. Greg Levine from Trees Atlanta has donated new perennials for the beds this year. Finally, the Civic Association provides the funds for soil additives and plants.

On May 10th, the Todd Road/Adair Avenue public island will be transformed from a composting project to a flower bed. The Morningside Brownie Scout Troop #3492 has been bringing bags of organic matter to the triangle during the fall and winter. These first graders have learned how organic matter creates compost. With the addition of good topsoil this spring, the area will become a new bed for annuals and perennials. The troop is working toward a badge for this project under the guidance of Brownie parent and Parks Committee member, Noni Daniel.

To donate plants from your own garden, please call 875-0127.

Michelle Griffin and Nonie Daniel

Tree News

Many new trees have been planted during the winter and early spring. If you want to see some of the new plantings, walk down Greenwood Avenue from Highland to Frederica Street. Also notice the new Redbud trees along North Highland and Virginia Avenue. The crepe myrtle planting is now complete with more than 70 trees planted from Ponce de Leon to Amsterdam along North Highland Avenue.

For interesting new trees, look at the Goldenrain and American Smoketrees along St. Charles just below Neighbors Pub. Ginkgo trees and Dawn Redwoods have been planted in the strip along Kanuga and Monroe. The City of Atlanta donated over 25 dogwoods for one block of Adair Avenue. Thanks to the Civic Association for continued monetary support, to volunteers for labor, and to Greg Levine from Trees Atlanta for the generous donations of trees. If you want a tree planted in the green space in front of your house, look for the coupon in the fall edition of the The Voice.

Stephanie Coffin, Parks Chair

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

These past few months have brought some progress on the public safety front. Scott Reilly reports good progress toward getting the Business Crime Watch up and running. With help from the Atlanta Police, this will add more eyes and ears to crime watch.

The Atlanta Police Department is still undermanned; therefore, neighborhood off-duty patrols are still needed. There are three

groups operating south of Virginia Avenue, but unfortunately the only one north of Virginia Avenue, Fight Back Against Crime (FBAC), is no longer operating. After lots of hard work by Beth Marks, this was a really successful watch, but as crime fell off so did membership and FBAC is defunct. Beth is still willing to manage the watch if some of you will market it and get it going again. At the Town Hall Meeting lots of interest was shown, but as of yet, no one has stepped forward to help. Beth has put in her time, and now some one else needs to jump in there. If you are so inclined, call Beth Marks at 874-7114.

Illegal parkers are now being towed! As folks started parking on the sidewalks some steps had to be taken. One visitor watching her car being towed away was heard to say, "I don't get it. I always park there!"

Finally, Clty Council passed the ordinance that prohibits solicitation at your door after 8:00 p.m. On a related note, the noise ordinance protects you from the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. weekdays and 11:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. on weekends. This includes noise from dumpster trucks!

J.D. Christy and Arnold Gross, Cochairs

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The response to the membership drive has been terrific. We have had a tenfold increase in membership from approximately 35 members to 350! With 4,000 households in the neighborhood, we still have a way to go, so please mention membership to your neighbors and urge them to join.

Along with the new memberships, we have received over \$800 in contributions for parks and beautification. Many thanks to all those who contributed!

Kathy McGraw, Chair

PLANNING COMMITTEE

There are no pressing issues at this time. Look for news of the Planetarian Cafe situation in the next edition of the Voice.

Winnie Currie, Chair

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO

ADVERTISE

IN THIS SPACE

contact

Kathy McGraw

404-876-3072

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are thrilled with the response from our recent membership drive. We have the largest number of members ever. Thank you all for your support. The easy part was filling out the form and writing the check. The harder part is really participating in your neighborhood. There are so many different ways to be an active part of what is going on where you live. An easy place to start would be to attend the monthly Civic Association Meeting. They are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Ponce de Leon Library at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see you there soon.

Another way to really help the neighborhood through fundraising is to work a shift at Summerfest. You get a T-shirt, hours of fun, a chance to see your friends and neighbors, all the while knowing the money you are helping to raise will go directly back into the neighborhood where you live. It really is a fun weekend. Choose to be a part of it.

If you have concerns or questions of your association, want to volunteer at Summerfest, or just want some general information, give us a call at 222-VAHI (222-8244). Someone will get back to you.

Amy S. Waterman
President VHCA

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.

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)**

!NEWS FLASH!

If you would like to contribute a news item for the Virginia Highland Voice, please contact Kathy McGraw at 404-876-3072.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**You say you want to get involved—
Here are two easy ways to do so!**

SUMMERFEST

Take a 3 hour shift on June 7th or 8th. Call 222-VAHI. Leave your name and number. Someone will contact you.

SPRING PLANTING

Join the flower planting on May 10th. 9:00 am at Virginia and Highland. Bring gloves, trowel or shovel. That's it! Free coffee and goodies.

COMPUTER EXPERTISE?

If you have computer expertise and can help set up a database for a membership list, please contact Kathy McGraw at 404-876-3072.

COMING SOON!!

A telephone bulletin board for reporting and monitoring crime and public safety issues. Details in the next Voice.

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



Call Ruthie the Realtor
for Residential Real Estate Sales
Ruthie Penn-David



(404) 875-2942
home office
(404) 233-5347 Box 400
voice mail
RE/MAX of Buckhead

Each office independently owned & operated



and Garden Center

True Value
HARDWARE

for over 15 years

VIRGINIA HIGHLAND'S
MOST COMPLETE
HARDWARE STORE
AND GARDEN CENTER

854 Highland Avenue • 874-5619
Mon.-Fri. 8-8, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 11-6

PROPERTY LEASING & MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PROTECTED, PROFITABLE, PROBLEM-FREE!

Careful Tenant Screening & Selection
Complete Security Deposit Handling
Comprehensive Accounting Services
Exclusively Intown Properties
Rent Collection Services
Repairs & Maintenance

14 West Realtors
GARY S. CHAD
404-874-6357



ATKINS PARK

Check out our **NEW MENU!**

784 North Highland Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30306 • 404-873-2597