



# Virginia-Highland VOICE

A publication of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association December 2001

## VHCA CALENDAR

### General Meetings:

December 5; 7:30pm

February 6; 7:30pm

Ponce de Leon Branch Library

### Board Meetings:

December 3; 7:00pm YWCA

January 9; 7:30pm Library

February 4; 7:00pm YWCA

### Planning Committee:

January 2; 7:30pm

January 30; 7:30pm

February 27; 7:30pm

Ponce de Leon Branch Library

### Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU-F):

December 17; 7:30pm

\*elections will be held

January 21; 7:30pm

February 18; 7:30pm

Morningside Presbyterian Church

### PEDS Walks:

December 10; 5:30pm

January 14; 5:30pm

February 11; 5:30pm

Highland CVS parking lot

Location of meetings is subject to change.

Visit our website at  
[www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org)

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## MAKE HOLIDAY SHOPPING FUN IN THE HIGHLANDS

*Jenn Ballentine*

The holidays are around the corner and you're looking for that special gift for those on your holiday list. You want to purchase things that your friends and family will like, that are meaningful to them and to you and that are unique. So what's the secret to making holiday shopping fun instead of a nightmare? This year, try shopping in your very own neighborhood, Virginia-Highland.

Shopping in the Highlands is great - a couple dozen unusual and cool shops, plus lots of fun distractions along the way including great restaurants, bars and coffee houses. Parking is easier than you think (there are many valet lots as well as on-street parking) or if you are close enough, you can walk! You'll love the chance to get outside as you move from shop-to-shop versus looking at the inside of a mall.

No matter who is on your shopping list, the shops of the Highlands won't disappoint you. Starting on N. Highland north of Virginia and venturing south, you'll find along the way a number of great clothing, art, and specialty shops. As you hit Virginia, you can turn either way to find even more unique gifts and treats for both yourself and those you love. Don't forget to notice the flowers on the corner of Virginia and Highland that your dedicated neighbors recently planted!

Further down N. Highland, you'll hit the next batch of great stores offering hip clothing for the generation X'er in your family, exotic home decorations for your worldly friends, and conventional, practical gifts for dear old Dad. Don't forget to check out the shops Up the Alley and on St. Charles St. where you'll find more fantastic bargains!

When you need to refuel, take a break at one of the neighborhood's many, great eateries. You're sure to find food to satisfy everyone's palate! And when you can't shop another minute and you need to reward yourself for a hard day's work, treat yourself to a facial or massage at one of the many great salons in the neighborhood. Treat your soul as well and catch a yoga class or listen to a local artist at one of the many music venues in the neighborhood. No matter what you decide, Virginia Highland promises a day of shopping and fun plus the great feeling of supporting your own neighborhood businesses.

## DEFINING VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND: Urban, Village or Urban Village

*Chip Gallagher, Chair, Membership and Community Outreach*

As a longtime resident of a large city and an urban sociologist I have been surprised by the comments many people make about our neighborhood. Folks say "Oh, I love Virginia-Highland, I feel like I'm in the city" or "it has such an urban feel." But these observations of Virginia-Highland do not square with the definition of the city used by planners and academics. A city is usually defined as having four characteristics; it is large, dense, has a heterogeneous population and land use is mixed. These characteristics only apply to us in part. We are not a particularly large community. There are about 7500 households within our borders. Given that most properties are single family, detached homes our community is not dense. We have mixed land use, but most retail exists only on two strips in our community and very few people in Virginia-Highland live above retail establishments. For a point of comparison imagine walking on the Upper West Side of New York City or Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia. Retail stores front the street and condos and apartments reach dozens of stories into the sky. Our population is occupationally differentiated with teachers, lawyers, tech-ies, artists, managers, doctors, researchers and service sector employees. We are, however, overwhelmingly white and middle to upper middle class. So if we are not like a "city" in a strict sense of the word what is it that everyone else loves about our neighborhood?

*Continued on Page 2*

## THINK GLOBALLY, SHOP LOCALLY

Conne Ward-Cameron

The UPS truck stops in the alley behind the shops of St. Charles Avenue, and out pours a mountain of boxes bearing shipping labels from Indonesia, Cameroon, and Peru. Sarongs in fabulous colors, children's puppets in festive Indian dress, teapots and planters decorated with the distinctive designs of their Vietnamese home all spill out of those boxes and onto the shelves of Ten Thousand Villages, one of the most unique stores in Virginia-Highland.

The store is constantly changing as handmade paper, clothes, jewelry, toys, musical instruments, and every decorative item imaginable arrive almost daily. Everything in the shop is well made, reasonably priced, and beautifully crafted. Each item bears the imprint of the hands that made it. As you walk through the store, you'll find handicrafts from over 30 countries.

But what is the most interesting thing about this global bounty? Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit international gift store that sells fairly traded handicrafts made by Third World artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. On average, each \$1200 in retail sales provides the equivalent of full-time work for one artisan for one year. There are 70 Ten Thousand Villages stores nation-wide, and our neighborhood shop has sold enough handicrafts to provide full-time employment for over 1300 artisans.

And if that weren't cool enough, the store is staffed by your friends and neighbors who volunteer their time so that the store can continue to turn its "profit" back into work for the world's craftspeople.

How lucky we are that Ten Thousand Villages chose to locate their Atlanta store in the "village" of Virginia-Highland. Stop in and say hello to the volunteers and check out the new arrivals. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm, and Sunday, 1 to 5pm. Ten Thousand Villages is at 1056 St. Charles Avenue, just 100 feet west of Highland.

### DEFINING VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND: Urban, Village or Urban Village (Continued)

Virginia-Highland is unique because it is an urban village that is totally self-contained. Historically the urban village was an ethnic neighborhood where immigrant groups settled through chain migration and built the institutions, which served the needs of their community. Neighborhoods like Little Italy, Germantown or Chinatown emerged as self-contained communities because (bilingual) bankers, grocers, doctors, lawyers, barbers, and merchants satisfied the unmet demands for goods and services of new immigrant groups. Our community may not be made up of recent immigrants, but like many ethnic urban villages our neighborhood is self-contained.

Supermarkets, pharmacies, a library, doctor's offices, a post office, a movie theater, houses of worship, schools, parks, hardware stores and restaurants in our community mean that our basic needs can be met without getting on the highway or driving across town. Rubbing elbows with our neighbors at CVS or Publix also means we create social capital, the web of friendships, sources of information and strong neighborhood identification, which flourishes when individuals have face-to-face interaction. Perhaps what folks mean when they say our neighborhood is "urban" or that it has a "city-like" feel to it is that Virginia-Highland reminds people of what they imagine the best parts of city life to be; the ability to walk, shop and play in your community and the web of social networks and trust which emerges from knowing your neighbors. I now take the comment that Virginia-Highland is urban as a wonderful compliment.

This is the Virginia-Highland Civic Association's membership drive month. As chair of the membership committee I ask you to do two things. Become a paying member of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association and ask two neighbors to join as well. You will be helping to maintain the stability, cohesiveness and quality of life of our community and you will be creating huge amounts of social capital as you interact and convince your neighbor to becoming a paid member. **Please use the envelope to mail in your \$25 membership check.** Some of the programs your membership dues go toward are: Park and green space upkeep, additional police patrols, maintenance of the website, traffic and safety awareness, schools and charitable organizations. Thank you and happy holidays.

## HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN

Kevin Cronin, Chair, Planning Committee

Due to tree loss, Atlanta has lost a significant amount of its green space over the last 20 years. To ensure that we reverse that trend, many local governments have established tree ordinances that will help preserve existing trees and require planting of new trees if removal is necessary. Trees provide many tangible benefits to our neighborhood. Not only do they reduce air and noise pollution, they lower power bills, provide habitat for wildlife, and help our neighborhood retain its unique feel.

Before you take any trees down, check your local county and city tree ordinances. The City of Atlanta requires preservation of 25 percent of the existing trees on a site and a permit to remove any tree greater than 6" in diameter. Any tree company that you hire will be able to help you obtain a permit. Please note fines are applicable to the tree company as well as the property owner if the tree ordinance(s) are not followed. If you live in Dekalb County and City of Atlanta then you must also meet the requirements of both ordinances.

One other aspect of the tree ordinance is to help protect trees during construction so they are not damaged. Usually the trees have an orange fence put around the perimeter of the trunk so that workers and equipment will not damage the tree trunk or its roots.

For more information visit the [www.treesatlanta.org](http://www.treesatlanta.org) website. At this site, you can check out local tree ordinances via links as well as find out whom to call for questions.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steven Kushner, President, VHCA

As I sit down to write this and momentarily ignore the obligations of my law practice, I can't help but be struck by the changes occurring in virtually all aspects of my life, and all of our lives. As a nation, we will forever be changed by the events of September 11. As a spouse, and a new parent, my world is upside down as my daughter Amelia continues to operate on my old college schedule (sleep all day, party all night).

More importantly to all of you, as the new President of the Civic Association, my activities in and responsibilities to our neighborhood have also changed. With a new Board taking office and my election as President, change is in the air for the neighborhood, the Civic Association's relationship to the neighborhood and its relationship to the businesses in the neighborhood as well as the Business Association.

As many of you probably know, at the Civic Association's September meeting, the neighborhood elected a new Board of Directors that includes seven newly elected Board members from a variety of backgrounds and occupations. In a reversal from recent neighborhood elections, only three incumbents were reelected. The neighborhood obviously wanted change. Well, here it comes. The new Board has committed itself to fulfilling the goals and objectives of the neighborhood, and we welcome input and participation in the Association from the neighborhood.

Along with the new Board, I hope to change some of the ways the Civic Association does business, and how the neighborhood and businesses perceive the Civic Association. As a start, the new Board is encouraging the participation of all residents of the neighborhood to participate in the Civic Association's various committees, and to be involved in the decisions that affect our neighborhood. Information on the committees and our meetings is available on the Civic Association's website, [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org).

Many changes are in store. One of my duties as President is to preside at the Association's meetings, and in doing so; I will endeavor to efficiently conduct our meetings. Under the watchful eye of the Board, I intend to run these meetings with respect for the attendees and the applicants, and with respect for the time being devoted by all who attend the meetings. Hopefully, no one will leave our meetings feeling as if hours of their time have been wasted.

As many of you know, our neighborhood has changed dramatically in the last few years. I still remember my first Halloween living in the neighborhood (9 years ago) and the bags and bags of candy I bought in anticipation of the hordes of children that would surely ring my doorbell. No children came trick or treating on my block back then, and I'm pretty sure it wasn't because of me. How times have changed. This year, I almost got annoyed at how often I had to answer the door (and was thankful I still had some of that old candy lying around – parents please check the "born-on" dating).

This Board hopes to encourage the desire of families to stay in the neighborhood, which can only serve to improve our schools, which will hopefully keep more families in the neighborhood. One way we hope to do this is to encourage renovation, within the reasonable confines of a zoning code that was adopted after the majority of our homes were built. While we won't be able to recommend approval of every variance request and special exception, we certainly won't tell our neighbors (and their architects) how they should plan their renovation projects and what expansion projects might serve them better.

The Board also wants to change the prior relationship with the business community. We recognize that the benefits and value of our neighborhood include our proximity to shops and restaurants (and even bars). While we do not necessarily want the commercial nodes to expand, we do want to see the businesses thrive. We also want to look them in the eye and not get suspicious looks back because the businesses think the Board only wants to sue them. We will of course take the necessary steps to protect the neighborhood, but I've found that most of the business owners' interests are actually aligned with the residents. They don't want us to be the next Buckhead, nor do they want a Cotton Club here.

While some things should be changed, others should remain the same. The Civic Association has a strong history of promoting and protecting the neighborhood through the many people who selflessly gave their time and energy for the benefit of all of us, including many of the outgoing Board members. With this history in mind and a bright future ahead of us, we look forward to another successful Summerfest (June 1-2, 2001) and to supporting our schools, the many organizations in the neighborhood and City, protecting and maintaining our parks and hopefully contributing in whatever small way we can to making Virginia-Highland a great place to live, shop and dine.

If you have any questions or comments for or about the Civic Association, there are e-mail links for the officers, the Board Members and the Committees on the website. We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you in the Association for the benefit and betterment of our neighborhood.

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## ASK OFFICER DAVE

Hello, my name is David Ferguson. I am an Atlanta Police Officer, on the V.H.C.A. Public Safety committee with Steve Luben, Aaron Gross and billie jo. I'm proud of being a resident of the Highlands and I would like to help keep crime in our neighborhood as low as possible. On occasion I am asked for advice on issues of law enforcement and crime. I thought it would be a good idea to reply to these questions in a VOICE column called "Ask Officer Dave" so others of you who may be wondering the same questions can benefit, too. At times the questions may require a little investigation and I will research to find the correct answer. However, these answers are only my interpretation and opinion, and should not be used as legal advice.

I have created an e-mail address, where everyone is welcome to send or ask questions [askofficerdave@mindspring.com](mailto:askofficerdave@mindspring.com). I look forward to serving you all, my neighbors, in the best way possible.

**Q:** Of the cars that are broken into in the Highlands, what percentage are residents and what are visitors to the area?

**A:** One of the most committed crimes in the Highlands is "Theft From Autos" and as it turns out, it is the one crime that is most preventable. Thieves that break into our cars are looking for items to sell for cash or drugs, i.e., cell phones, laptop computers, purses and briefcases. If these items were removed from sight we could put these opportunist thieves out of business.

I was able to research this question by going into the City's report database and removing data from the "Theft From Autos" reports. When I compared the victims' addresses to the address of the incident, I found that half the victims of this type of crime live in the area and half were visitors.

It's also important to have a police report made anytime your car has been broken into or an attempt has been made to steal something from your auto. The police officers refer to these reports to increase patrols in areas and to know what time the thefts are occurring.

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## PEDS – PEDESTRIANS EDUCATING DRIVERS ON SAFETY

billie jo

Please join us for a PEDS walk the second Monday of each month. We meet at 5:30 in the CVS parking lot to educate drivers and others about pedestrian's rights and advocate for pedestrian safety. Through our efforts, drivers are slowly learning that walkers and joggers have the right of way in crosswalks. These walks also offer you a chance to meet your neighbors, have fun, and wear glowing vests! Come help us in this effort and pick up your pledge card and bumper sticker. Free balloons for your children too!

Sally Flocks, president of PEDS, announced in November that our neighborhood sold more pledges to drive the posted speed, walk more, and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and displayed more bumper car stickers than any other Atlanta neighborhood. Yahoo for all of you dedicated neighbors!

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IS PLEASED TO ANOUNCE THAT

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**End-of-Season Clearance starts Dec. 26, 9:00 a.m.!**

## PARENTING AND EDUCATION

Louise Glancy, CoChair, Parenting & Education Committee

The Parenting and Education Committee is looking for participants! If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to submit suggestions and ideas please do so! We are hoping to become an active committee and need your help and support in doing so. We want the committee to be representative of our schools and the entire community. Please respond to either co-chair Louise Myslik Glancy at [louise.myslik@hies.org](mailto:louise.myslik@hies.org) or to co-chair Jean Jordan at [jjordan@emory.edu](mailto:jjordan@emory.edu).

# PUSHPUSH THEATER

Jenn Ballentine / Krista Miller

If someone told you that a world premiere by one of the nations hottest new playwrights was being produced in your own backyard, would you be surprised? Well, you shouldn't be! PushPush Theater, located off Briarcliff Rd. on Zonolite Rd., is a culturally diverse and well-respected player in Atlanta's theater offerings.

If you haven't heard of PushPush, don't worry. PushPush Theater's Managing Director and Atlanta actress Shelby Hofer says, "we don't have an advertising budget and it's just the four of us running the show, so little by little we let Virginia-Highlanders know that we are here." And if you have heard of PushPush, but haven't yet attended a show, it's about time! As Hofer remarks, "its not that we are still a well kept secret; people know about us but many have not gotten around to coming to a show."

PushPush, a non-profit, non-commercial theater, derived its' name from the idea of pushing the envelope, and as such, is dedicated to "pushing" artists and audiences into new territory, either through rare or new material or through alternative approaches. Despite its' youth, PushPush is widely acclaimed. In a review of the ongoing city-wide theater festival, the AJC recently said of PushPush's current production consisting of three plays, including a children's show, by nationally acclaimed Naomi Wallace, "it may be the best of the fest... the material is thoughtful and engaging." Last month, Creative Loafing said "PushPush's Peter Gynt proves a one of a kind production that puts a boldly idiosyncratic stamp on a wildly imaginative work."

This December will be PushPush's 5<sup>th</sup> year of offering a unique alternative to the typical holiday traditions. This holiday season, the theater will present a rare and imaginative telling of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Told with only four actors in the new PushPush space, featuring "lounge-around" seating, this production will present a telling of an age-old story that realizes the heart of the play, as audiences have never seen, a tale of power and defiant love in a world of negativity. This is a completely new production of Romeo and Juliet stripped to its essentials, reflecting the values of peace, tolerance and humility.

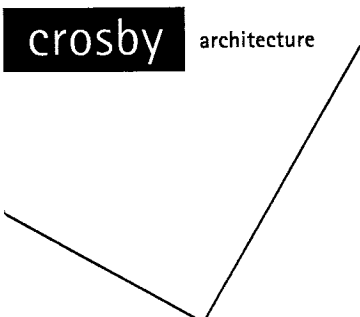
Come and experience the pathos of perfect love with a unique telling of a story for our times.... and a rare and exciting alternative to the traditional holiday fare!

#### Showtimes:

December 7- 31, Wed-Sat 8pm, Sun 7 pm (no show 12/24 or 12/25)  
Saturday matinees 2pm and Sunday 12/16 2pm (appropriate for youth and prearranged daytime school tours)

Tickets: \$15 (\$12 Students/Seniors) Matinees \$10 adults, \$5 under age 14

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# GREAT GARDENING TIPS AND IDEAS FROM: THE HIGHLAND HOE-ER

*John Wolfinger, the Highland Hoe-er*

Our neighborhood is full of plant lovers and gardeners, yet I don't think most of us know each other. What better way for us to get to meet and learn from each other than to swap plants? If you've been gardening for any time at all, you're bound to have plants that have multiplied beyond control, and you need to thin them out. Rather than just adding them to your compost heap, wouldn't it be great to know where to give them a new home and hopefully gain a new gardening friend as part of the deal? I'm volunteering to be the contact person to distribute plants over the neighborhood. Please contact me, John Wolfinger, at 404-876-5023, e-mail at [jjonww2@earthlink.net](mailto:jjonww2@earthlink.net), or at 1054 Vance Avenue to be on the giving and receiving lists. To kick things off, I'll have rooting cut stalks of brugmansia (trumpet tree) in white, yellow and pink to give away when I cut them down just before the first killing frost. You can see them growing now at my home. They are beautiful plants and very easy to grow. I'm looking forward to meeting all the gardeners in the neighborhood

One of the most wonderful gardens in the neighborhood belongs to David Ellis at 704 Cooledge Avenue. David is the owner of Ellis LanDesign and his gardens are a testament to his design skills. You can have a wonderful tour of his property in the current issue of Fine Gardening magazine. His lot is fairly typical of most of our in-town lots, so his ideas are also applicable to most all of us. David has graciously volunteered to give his neighbors private tours - just call him on his business line at 404-261-8488 to set up a time to meet him. You can find Fine Gardening Issues at Chapter 11 at Ansley Mall - get a copy and get inspired. You may already have seen his garden on Atlanta Botanical Garden's tour in 2000. By the way, Chapter 11 also carries "The Southern Living Garden Book", which I regard as the bible for Atlanta gardening. It would be a terrific gift for the gardener on your holiday shopping list.

We are very fortunate to have some terrific garden centers in our midst - Intown Hardware, Highland Hardware, Habersham Gardens, Forresters, and Atlanta Water Gardens. Your support of these stores helps to insure that when you need advice and help, someone will be there to assist you. Yes, I go to the big orange box store on Ponce sometimes too, but lets not let them run our smaller, equally great, stores out of business.

The Virginia/North Highland traffic island got a new look for fall and winter on November 3rd thanks to the V.H.C.A. Parks committee. The annual fall "Virginia-Highland" Triangle planting was also a huge success due to a large community turnout and a wonderful Indian summer day. Volunteers removed old plants and replaced them with a fresh assortment of fall flowers. Brad Balsis of Habersham Gardens and the Eifrid family on Intown Hardware provided the winter annuals and perennials at a very low cost. In addition to the V.H.C.A. Parks Committee chairman Rob Glancy, the following people gave their sweat and time to the project: Louise Glancy and David Ferguson (of the V.H.C.A. Parks Committee), Warren Bruno, Durrett Evans, Jennifer Gilbert, Megan Gronto, Judy McCabe-Smith, Josephine Nunez-Gross, Ruth Sommerville, John Wolfinger, and J.D. Please forgive me if I have left anyone's name off the list.

Are you tending to a public space or do you know of a public space that should be taken better care of? Let the Parks Committee know so we can include these spaces in our future projects.



*Volunteers at the annual fall Virginia-Highland Triangle planting.*

## TREES ATLANTA

*billie jo*

On October, 13th, Trees Atlanta held a very successful tree sale in Piedmont Park. Tree lovers had the opportunity to purchase rare and wonderful trees at a fraction of their retail costs. The proceeds from the sale will be used to buy trucks, shovels, mulch, trees, fertilizer, and other tree supplies for future Trees Atlanta events. Many Virginia-Highland residents volunteered at the sale - a big thanks goes to those who worked to make the sale a success!

On Nov. 3rd, Trees Atlanta enlisted many volunteers, including several Virginia-Highland tree lovers to plant 44 large trees around the neighborhood. This year, trees were planted on Highland View, Cresthill, Virginia Avenue, Drewry St., St. Charles, and Frederica. Trees Atlanta sponsors tree planting events around Atlanta several times throughout the year. For more information or to volunteer, contact Trees Atlanta at 404-522-4097.

## VHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# A NOSTALGIC HISTORY OF JOHN HOWELL PARK

Tinka Green

In the early 80's the powers that be decided to run Interstate 485 through Virginia Highland. The neighborhood was up in arms, of course, but needed a leader. John Howell, who lived on Adair, came to the rescue. He formed the Virginia Highland Civic Association and became its first president. Under his leadership, the highway was defeated. Before the official defeat, however, twelve homes on Virginia Avenue were torn down, leaving three acres of nothingness. After John's request, the City agreed to make the area a park. John Howell died of complications of AIDS in 1988 and in his honor, Mary Davis, our City Counsel delegate at the time, helped the neighborhood name the new park for him.

The neighborhood, under the auspices of Jerry Bright and Rick Porter, formed a partnership with the City. This partnership allowed the new John Howell Park Board to take on the responsibility of developing the park with private funds and the City to mow it and pick up the garbage - a real good deal for them. Peter Frawley's company was hired to design a landscape, which could be added to in increments as the money became available. One of the first things done was putting placards on the columns along Virginia Avenue honoring the houses that were torn down. Thus was started a job of the heart for the board that lasted from 1988 to 2001. By that time all the design had been completed and only maintenance was needed.

One of the ways developed to raise money was to sell imprinted pavers to make a sidewalk winding through the trees and grassy areas. Over the years many people have honored their loved ones, including pets, by buying a brick with a name. It seems so simple but it is very moving, as those of you who have donated know, to see your brick in the sidewalk, knowing that for generations to come that honor will always be there. For several years,

Summerfest has been held at the park and the Virginia Highland Civic Association has very generously donated a good part of the funds raised to use for the Park. They donated \$17,000.00 to get the playscape started and more monies came from grants and donations of private individuals. The children of our neighborhood and others have been able to enjoy a pretty play day ever since. We have had as partners the Lamp Organization and the Volley Ball Associating of Atlanta. Lamp worked for the park to become the first Living Aids Memorial Park in the nation. The Aids walk during Pride Weekend always passes the park in tribute. The Volley Ball group tends their part of the grounds, has tournaments, and provided a practice area for the Olympics.

Jerry Bright discovered that impact fees of commercial buildings could be earmarked for specific areas so we applied to have a substantial impact fee go to the park. The City hadn't realized that was possible so Jerry had to fight for the money. Finally the City agreed to give us \$150,000.00 if we could match it in a certain period of time. Everyone on the Board worked every possible idea for contributions and we made the deadline. That big hunk of funds really allowed us to get a lot of things we had planned to eventually have: beautiful trees and other plantings, an impressive lighting system, an underground sprinkler system, and general development. Also private donors gave us money toward trees, benches, a water fountain and attractive garbage cans. Then Ivan Bailey, a renowned ironwork artist gave a beautiful sculpture. We were so thrilled and had to plan an installation for it and we wanted a story-board to tell the story of the park - all of which cost a lot of money. But somehow, money was always found from all sorts of sources, including the Elton John Foundation. Jerry and Rick worked continuously to reach our goals and we of the Board felt so strongly about the park that when we finally were able to dedicate the sculpture and story board, we felt that it was a job well done.

Over the years we had many honors but our favorite was when Jerry Bright carried the Olympic Torch down Highland Avenue one morning about 3:00. A huge crowd came out and we were so proud of him. The John Howell Park history will continue and we look forward to it with pride and pleasure.

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We are accepting dues for the 2001 year. Your payment of \$25 helps to keep our neighborhood safe, clean, pedestrian-minded, beautiful, kid-friendly, green and immensely livable. Please pay your dues and consider volunteering for a VHCA Committee.

Yes, I want to be a dues-paying member of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association. Enclosed is my check for \$25. (Larger contributions are welcome.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments/Concerns/Committee Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Virginia-Highland Civic Association and mail to:

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If you have questions, contact Chip Gallagher, Membership Chair, 404-249-6390, [cgallagher@gsu.edu](mailto:cgallagher@gsu.edu).