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[www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org)**

**Vote for Your Board of Directors on September 3**

Help shape the future of your community. The Virginia-Highland Civic Association's current Board of Directors terms will be expiring this September and elections for the 2003-2004 term will be held during the upcoming annual meeting. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend that meeting, which will be held on September 3 at 7:30 pm at Inman Middle School.

Anyone interested in running can contact Steve Kushner either by e-mail or phone. An announcement about those who have declared to run for a position on the Board of Directors will be sent via email and will be posted on the website prior to the election. Nominations from the floor at the meeting will also be accepted.

Become involved in your neighborhood! You can make a difference by running for a position on the Civic Association's Board of Directors, by showing up with your neighbors to vote on September 3, by attending regular meetings of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association, by joining a committee and by writing an article or voicing an opinion through your community newsletter, *The Voice*.

- Nonie Daniel

**President's Address**

*By Steven Kushner*

Thank you all for attending Summerfest 2003. We had another successful event, which will allow us to donate plenty of money to the worthy causes in the neighborhood. A special thanks is owed to all Summerfest volunteers. The event could not happen without the hundreds of people who donate your time. It is because of you that the Civic Association can give back to the neighborhood. If you know of an especially worthy cause deserving of a donation, please contact us.

Once again, I thankfully have very little to inform you about (some of you may say that is always the case), but there are a couple of things you should be aware of and note on your calendars. First, the Annual Meeting this year will be on September 3. I believe that a few of the current Board Members, myself included, will not be running again. Your participation on the Board and the Civic Association's various committees is always needed. There will be information on the committees at the meeting, along with sign-up sheets.

Two amendments to the Bylaws will be addressed at the Annual Meeting. The first amendment seeks to remove from the Board the seat set aside for the St. Charles/Greenwood Neighborhood Association. This Association exists in name only. To our knowledge, no meetings have occurred in several years, and the neighborhood as a group has not appointed anyone to the Board in several years and the designated seat on this year's Board has not been filled. The second amendment seeks to prohibit proxy voting and replace it with absentee ballots. The texts of both amendments are included on page 3 of this issue of *The Voice*.

For those of you who will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting, but still wish to vote in the election and on the amendments, there will be an official proxy form on the website and in the hands of the current Board. Note that only proxies with valid proof of residency in the neighborhood, such as a current driver's license, voter registration card or recent utility bill, will be accepted.

For those of you who frequent the commercial establishments between Drewry and Ponce, put on your walking shoes because you won't be driving there anymore very soon. The Atkins Park Neighborhood Association applied for resident-only parking permits. The City has determined that two streets - St. Charles Place and St. Louis Place - are eligible for resident-only parking permits. Those two blocks will be asking that parking on their blocks be restricted to residents only from 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays to 6:30 a.m. on Sundays. The next step is consideration by the City Council's Transportation Committee, and then proposed legislation to amend the resident-only permit parking statute to include St. Charles Place and St. Louis Place. It is unclear whether Councilmember Anne Fauver will propose such legislation. While she did assist The Atkins Park Neighborhood Association in getting City officials to complete the necessary studies, she has not definitively indicated whether she would propose legislation on their behalf. Councilmember Fauver has stated to the neighborhood that she will hold the issue in committee for three months to allow the neighborhood to come up with a solution satisfactory to the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association: relief from the burden we all share - cars parked in front of our houses that don't belong to us.

While meetings have occurred to address the situation, we all know that parking is a problem and there simply isn't any more space than we already have. The removal of the spaces on St. Charles and St. Louis from the pool of available spaces will only make the situation worse for the rest of us. Some have suggested that parking decks be built. This would be nice, but nobody so far has offered to build one. Moreover, the only likely spots - the corner of N. Highland and Briarcliff Place and behind the American Roadhouse, would surely be objected

to by the neighboring residents - who no doubt would prefer people parking in front of the homes rather than spinning around a parking deck next to their homes in the middle of the night.

This issue creates a crossroads for the neighborhood. If these streets ultimately get resident-only parking, other streets surely will not be far behind. What will be the impact on the businesses in our neighborhood? Will they survive if no one can park to patronize them? They surely couldn't survive on neighborhood walking traffic alone. Do we want to continue to be a neighborhood with businesses (including restaurants and bars)? Let us hear from you. Contact the Civic Association with your opinion - feedback@vahi.org and let Councilmember Fauver's office know how you feel as well - afauver@atlantaga.gov.

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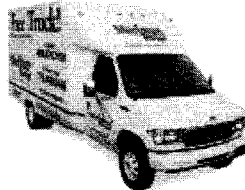


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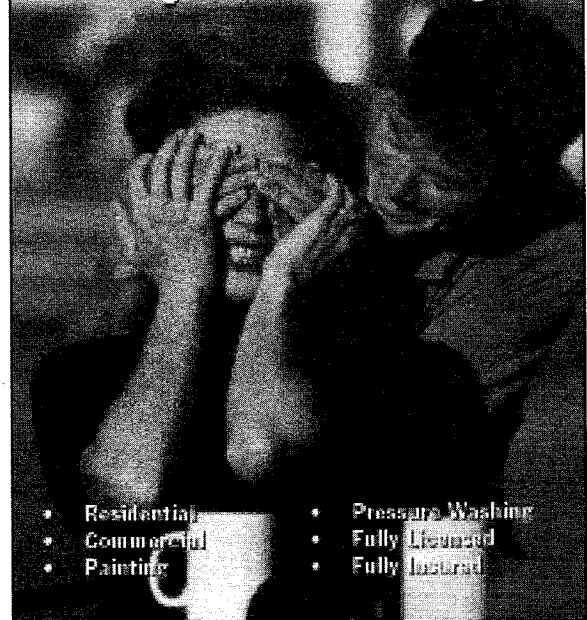
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## Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association, Inc.

### ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS; NUMBER, POWERS, MEETINGS COMPOSITION AND SELECTION

Replace the following language in Section 2. Number of Directors.

"The Board of Directors shall be comprised of eleven (11) members. Nine (9) of the directors shall be elected by the members and two (2) of the directors shall be appointed - one (1) by the St. Charles/Greenwood Association and one (1) by the Atkins Park Homeowners Association. In addition to the eleven directors, one alternate director shall be designated by vote."

With This Proposed Language:

"The Board of Directors shall be comprised of eleven (11) members. Ten (10) of the directors shall be elected by the members and one (1) of the directors shall be appointed by the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association. In addition to the eleven directors, one alternate director shall be designated by vote."

Replace the following language in Paragraph 3 of Section 4. Election and Term of Office.

"The directors appointed by the St. Charles/Greenwood Association and the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association shall be appointed prior to the annual meeting of the Association and shall be announced at the annual meeting."

With This Proposed Language:

"The director appointed by the Atkins Park Neighborhood

Association shall be appointed prior to the annual meeting of the Association and shall be announced at the annual meeting."

Replace the following language in Section 6. Vacancies:

"In the event of the death, disability, removal, or resignation of a director or if a director moves from Virginia-Highland, a vacancy shall be declared by the Board of Directors, and it shall appoint the alternate director as the successor.

Except as provided in this section, vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any reason shall be filled by a vote at a Special Association Meeting. Each director so selected shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of his predecessor. However, if a vacancy occurs in the position appointed by either the St. Charles/Greenwood Association or the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association, the appropriate association shall appoint a replacement. Each director so appointed shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of his predecessor."

With This Proposed Language:

In the event of the death, disability, removal, or resignation of a director or if a director moves from Virginia-Highland, a vacancy shall be declared by the Board of Directors, and it shall appoint the alternate director as the successor.

Except as provided in this section, vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any reason shall be filled by a vote at a Special Association Meeting. Each director so selected shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of his predecessor. However, if a vacancy occurs in the position appointed by the Atkins Park Neighborhood Association, the appropriate association shall appoint a replacement. Each director so appointed shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of his predecessor."



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## Virginia-Highland Security Patrol Update

*Officer B. Miller, Jr.*

Parking problems have been fewer this year than in previous years. We are still ticketing and towing illegally parked vehicles mostly from the south end of N. Highland. Zone 6 officers have been doing a pedestrian detail on N. Highland targeting vehicles that refuse to stop for pedestrians who are crossing the street in the crosswalk.

Vehicle break-ins are always a problem in the neighborhood. Since they happen so quickly, these criminals are some of the hardest to catch. One way to avoid becoming a victim of break-ins is to remove all valuables from your vehicle. Also, if a street-light is out on your street, please call Georgia Power at 1-888-660-5890. I have found that the darker the lighting is on a street, the more likely that street will have vehicle break-ins and vandalism.

# Virginia-Highland By the Numbers

By Chip Gallagher

In the last issue of *The Voice* I presented a false set of statistics on the neighborhood, datelined April 1 (April Fool's). A few readers did not realize the piece was meant to be humorous and proceeded to attack my data sources. Inspired by Wall Street and the White House I too made up my data. Another group of readers that e-mailed me was relieved to know that their alcohol consumption was pretty much in line with the outrageous, factious neighborhood averages I cited based on these invented statistics. I encourage those heavy imbibers to seek professional medical attention immediately.

In this issue I have the real skinny on neighborhood social characteristics. Virginia-Highland's own Moshe Haspel at Emory's Office of University Community Partnerships and the department of political science was able to tease out track level census data for the geographic parameters that make up Virginia-Highland. Thank you, Moshe. Rather than just present some interesting aspects of our neighborhood, I am going to put them to you as questions. The answers appear on page 6.

## Meet Congressman John Lewis

You are invited to join Congressman John Lewis on Saturday, September 6 at Inman Middle School for a Meet and Greet. Between 10 am and noon, you will have the opportunity to meet the person who represents you in the United States Congress. While Lewis will briefly speak, the event is designed to give you an opportunity to meet Congressman Lewis and talk to him in an informal setting.

If you are interested in attending the Meet and Greet, please contact his District Office at 404-659-0116 to RSVP. Light refreshments will be served.

Please keep your eyes on your own paper and if you don't know the answer, guess.

1. The total population of Virginia-Highland is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What percent of our neighborhood is white \_\_\_\_\_%, black \_\_\_\_\_%, Asian \_\_\_\_\_% Native Hawaiian \_\_\_\_\_% American Indian \_\_\_\_\_%.
3. What percent of those who worked outside the house drove alone to work \_\_\_\_\_%, carpoled \_\_\_\_\_%, used MARTA% \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What is the median household income \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is the median family income \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What percent of households make \$200,000 or more? \_\_\_\_\_%.

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*The Virginia-Highland  
community hosted nearly 50,000  
people for two days in June during  
Summerfest 2003. Over 300 volunteers  
assisted visitors to enjoy a diverse selection  
of arts, live music and food. Proceeds from  
the festival will go toward grants for neigh-  
borhood parks improvements, public  
libraries, schools and funding for children's  
organizations.*



Answers to the questions from  
**Virginia-Highland By the Numbers:**

1. The total population of Virginia-Highland in 2000 was 8,478. Virginia-Highland is 89% white, 6% black, 0.2% American Indian, 1.9% Asian and 0% Native Hawaiian.
2. In 2000 the City of Atlanta was 33% white, 65% black, 0.5% American Indian, 2% Asian, and 0.5% Native Hawaiian.
3. As most of you no doubt guessed, a majority of workers, 80.4%, drove alone to work, while only 6% carpoled and a mere 4.3% took MARTA.
4. Median household income in 2000 was \$53,883. The term household includes both families and those individuals living alone as renter, home or condo owner.
5. Median family income was \$102,877 (family could include two-income earners).
6. If you made over \$200,000 you share the company of only 6.7% of other households in VH.

*Chip Gallagher lives on Drewry St. with his wife and daughters Sophia and Talia. He can be reached at [cgallagher@gsu.edu](mailto:cgallagher@gsu.edu).*



**VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND  
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**Virginia-Highland Civic Association  
 Board of Directors**

Steven Kushner, President	404-892-6945
Kevin Cronin, Vice President	404-872-5995
Wiley Sommerville, Treasurer	404-881-1003
Bob Coomes, Secretary	404-876-1041
John Craft, Planning Committee	404-815-0977
Steve Luben, Public Safety Committee	404-724-0730
Chip Gallagher, Membership/ Community Outreach Committee	404-249-6390
Jean Jordan, Membership/ Community Outreach Committee	404-724-4938
Rob Glancy, Parks Committee	404-875-2107
Bob Coomes, Parks Committee	404-876-1041
Bob Coomes, Website	404-876-1041
Linda Guthrie, Atkins Park Representative	404-875-6563

**Virginia-Highland Voice:**

Nonie Daniel, Editor	404-876-5964
Kevin Grebe, Business Manager	404-876-3511
Bob Coomes, Committee Chair	404-876-1041

**Summerfest Oversight Committee:**

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# Late Summer Gardening

By John Wolfinger

In spite of all the problems it has caused, this spring's bountiful rainfall has fostered the best plant growth we've had in years. It has also enabled every long-dormant weed seed to sprout in our gardens. Because of this, mulching is just as important this year as ever. The past few drought years, we needed to mulch heavily to conserve soil moisture; this year, mulching is needed to help keep down weed growth. The abundant rainfall has made this a wonderful hydrangea season. The hydrangea bed along Los Angeles Avenue at Vance Avenue was spectacular this year. They're fading now, but take a look if you haven't seen them. They were planted back in the 1940's and are still going strong. We have ideal growing conditions for hydrangeas and they are perfect for brightening up shaded areas. There are varieties for full sun too. Click on [www.hydrangea.com](http://www.hydrangea.com), the Wilkerson Mill Nursery website, to get an idea of how many varieties are available. Their nursery in the Chattahoochee Hill Country of South Fulton County is well worth a trip. They're closed for the summer, but see their hours on their website. Another good intown source for these long lasting bloomers is Habersham Gardens.

John Howell Park keeps looking better all the time, thanks to Mike Ferreira's Dreamscape Designs crew and the watchful eye of Stephanie Coffin. We are lucky to have this beautiful greenspace in our midst. Jerry Bright's hard work has given us a park space unlike any other in the city. Enjoy it respectfully. Another gem of a greenspace, in Morningside, is Smith Park at Monroe Drive and Piedmont. It was planted by David McMullin's New Moon Gardens. The next time

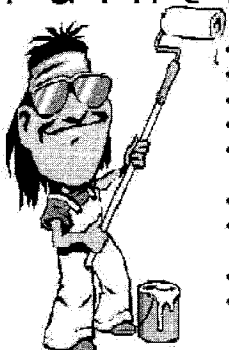
you're on the way to Ansley Mall, pull over on a side street, stop and walk among the plantings. It is a wonderful orchestration of textures, plant heights, and colors, both from blooms and from foliage, using a medley of annuals and perennials. Let David's creativity give you ideas for your own gardens.

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful urban neighborhood, and as I travel through our streets, I see so many clever and well-executed garden ideas. Some of the following sites may give you ideas for your garden site. The serene Asian front garden at 769 Ponce de Leon Place (near St. Charles Avenue) is enclosed by a handsome stone wall inset with beautiful hand-lashed bamboo fencing. Across the street from this garden, the Highland View apartments have a well-maintained streetside landscape. This is in marked contrast to the abandoned warehouses that were there before. In Atkins Park, 1153 St. Charles Place has a streetside bank anchored by a stacked stone wall and planted with a well-chosen assortment of contrasting foliage textures and colors, including some cactus. The ever-changing bathtub planter in front of Key Lime Pie is cleverly planted for the season. At 855 Virginia Avenue (near Barnett Street), a beautiful new stone wall and steps have been well-planned and executed. Well-done stone walls really give a streetside look of stability and permanence to our handsome old houses. The stone walls, in turn, give rise to a variety of landscaping and planting options.

If you haven't seen or tried the new perilla variety, "Magilla", try to find some. It's still not too late to play with this newly-introduced annual. The coleus-type foliage combining green, ivory, burgundy and magenta is spectacular and will vary in colorations in either sun or shade. I first saw it at the Botanical Garden in the Parterre Annual Bed. I found some at Habersham and the Poncey Home Depot. I'm waiting for mine to bloom to see if it will self-seed as profusely as does the common purple variety. Although a colorfully handsome plant (and good basil substitute for eating), my gardens would be overtaken by the purple type if I didn't pull them up by the thousands. If you don't have any of the purple variety, I'll be happy to dig up some for you. Call me at 404-876-5023.

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## Barrel of Fun

By Robert Ramsay

It started innocently enough, as a way to cope with the drought we were experiencing during 2002. I remember sitting in my hammock wanting to water my garden, prevented by the city's conservation restrictions. I wanted a rain barrel. The concept is simple. When it rains, your roof catches thousands of gallons of water that run into the yard. To capture and store a small fraction of this liquid running down the gutters would be quite handy during a drought. I had seen this in rural areas from southern Indiana to western Ireland and figured "why not in Virginia-Highland?"

As I researched my options I learned of many innovative ways to make this happen. I spoke with people using recycled dairy farm containers (Oakhurst Community Gardens). I spoke with people capturing and recycling all of the water from their house (Southface Energy Institute). I even met a guy with a cistern buried underneath his back yard complete with a several thousand gallon tank and a self-contained water pumping system (crazy guy).

After months of researching the appropriate source for a recycled (read inexpensive) option, my birthday came and my cautiously optimistic in-laws surprised me with a nifty rain barrel purchased off the Internet (shipped empty). It is a residential model of 55 gallons. It is an appropriate dark green that doesn't offend the neighbors. It is complete with a simple collection system (screen-covered top that bars mosquitoes) that does not require adapting (unlike an industrial recycled model). And it includes a zippy flexible spigot at the bottom that connects nicely to a standard garden hose.

Sure there were obstacles. Okay, one obstacle. My wife thinks it's ugly. I had visions of using it strategically at a front corner of the house to water flowers and redirect water that appears to run towards the basement. ("Not in the front yard.") I had plans for collecting water at a high point so that gravity would provide the pressure to distribute it (via hose) anywhere in the yard, even though it was an awkward spot and would need to be on stilts. ("It is not an addition to the house.")

So finally, after several hot months of pathetically catching only what was sent straight at it (like Chipper's first year in left field), my sympathetic father-in-law and I connected it to the least useful (and least conspicuous) corner of the house. At least now it would do something, although the location meant

that we would only be able to water about 5% of the yard with the hose. The rest would go thirsty or require hundreds of journeys with the watering can.

There it sat. As this was the summer of 2002, I waited and waited for rain. It sprinkled once and an inch of water was added. But a few weeks later a downpour hit and the barrel was overflowing with water within 15 minutes. Now we could water. It was the middle of the week and I figured the accessible 5% of the yard would be in for a real treat on the weekend. However, I was in for a big surprise upon returning home from work the next day. Apparently the play-group for my daughter's 3-year-old crowd had met at our house that day. They played in the sand box. Of course someone needed to wash up. My wife suggested the rain barrel as an alternative to sending the sandy kids marching through our house. Suddenly every kid wanted to wash up. Immediately they all volunteered to water the yard. Next the water was required to wet the sand. The kids had a lot of ideas. Water was needed to nourish the driveway. Water was fun for dousing a sibling. Every kid wanted some water in some container. The rain barrel had become the biggest toy in our yard! Now we use it every day for something. The girls clean every toy and every garden tool. They carry their watering cans to every corner of the yard. They have fun, the plants are watered, the city saves water and I spend more time in the hammock.

*(If you have a question about rain barrels, feel free to call Robert at (404) 892-8345 or visit The Southface Energy Institute or Oakhurst Community Gardens. Very detailed information is abundant on the Internet.)*

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*The Virginia-Highland community responds to the tragic loss of three of their own by establishing a sidewalk memorial at the site of an accident on July 10 which took the lives of three members of the Cunard family.*

*Donations in memory of Lisa, Max and Owen Cunard can be made to Childrens' Healthcare of Atlanta.*

## **City Arborist Suggests Ways to Check on Your Trees' Health**

In light of the number of trees that have been uprooted in our community in recent storms, city arborist Frank Moblely advises several things that you can do to check on the health of a tree in your yard.

1. Visually, you can look for tip die-back of the green leaves on the branches and limbs of your tree. If it appears that the foliage at the tips of the branches or limbs are dead it may be a sign of root problems.
2. If your tree shows weak crown growth or foliage that is yellow or sparse, there may be root problems.
3. Look for rot or decay on the trunk and/or visual roots of the tree.

4. Look to see if there is visual root severance, and/or consider if roots might have been severed or damaged by recent construction or digging within the root area of the tree.

If any of these factors are present, you should call an ISA certified arborist or registered tree forester to have them use a "resistograph" to determine whether the buttress roots of the tree suffer rot or decay. This is the **ONLY** way to tell for sure on many trees whether the tree is healthy.

As your trees mature and reach the end of their average life spans, you may want to have an ISA certified arborist or registered forester run resistograph tests on your trees on a routine basis to determine the tree's continued health.



# VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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## VHCA Calendar:

**Annual Meeting:**  
September 3, 7:30 pm  
at Inman Middle  
School

**Board Meetings:**  
August 27, 7 pm  
September 29, 7pm  
All held at the  
N. Highland YWCA

**Planning Committee  
Meetings:**  
August 22, 7:30 pm  
Sept. 24, 7:30pm  
All held at the Ponce  
de Leon Library

Locations of meetings  
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