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President's Address

By Kevin Cronin

Summerfest 2005 is right around the corner and I hope that the whole neighborhood plans on attending our twenty-third festival commemorating the start of summer in Virginia-Highland.

Once again, the festival will feature more than 200 quality artists who signify our neighborhood's love for art. We look forward to celebrating Virginia-Highland as the best of Intown living.

This year, the festival will be held on June 4 and 5. We need you to volunteer! And it couldn't be easier to do so. Visit vahi.org and sign up to volunteer. Encourage your neighbors and friends as well. You do not have to be a Virginia-Highland resident to help out. And you will receive a free coveted tee shirt with a very cool, unique design.

This year we will continue our new tradition - a Friday Night Before Summerfest Party for Virginia-Highland neighbors only. Starting at 5:30 p.m., we will gather in John Howell Park for a TGIF celebration. Join us for food, drinks and music from the Black Sheep. Some Summerfest artists may even set up their booths for previews and early shopping -- just for the neighbors. All families and residents are welcome. Please bring your blankets or chairs, driver's license to show that you live in Virginia-Highland and come meet your neighbors.

Summerfest's Kidsfest will be bigger this year, so please make sure your children come join in the fun on both Saturday and Sunday. We have many new attractions and the Kidsfest Committee has spent much time preparing for this event for our children.

Summerfest is an important event for our neighborhood. It enables us to share the monies with many local groups. Last year we gave grants to Fire Station #19, Ponce de Leon Library, Zone #6 Police, and funded the maintenance of many of our green spaces. All our community public schools received money from us as well. In addition, \$17,500 was given as matching grants to launch the Cunard Memorial Playground initiative. So come participate in our neighborhood's largest community event of the year, help us raise money to enhance our neighborhood quality of life and volunteer. During the weekend I hope you buy some art, play in Kidsfest, listen to some good music and enjoy a cold beer! I hope to see you there!

Did you know that the Virginia- Highland Summerfest has been voted "Best Neighborhood Festival" in *Creative Loafing*? Here are some other things that you might want to know about the festival:

What you can expect to see:
Artists booths, live music, great food and many of your neighbors and friends.

How many artists' booths will there be?
There will be over 200 artists' booths.

The festival hours are:
Saturday from 10am to 8pm (with a continuation of the festival at the Virginia/North Highland Triangle, run by some local businesses); Sunday from 12 noon to 6pm (with the same continuation).

The music starts:
When the festival opens.

These streets will be closed:
Virginia Ave. between N. Highland and Ponce Place; part of Todd Ave.; Maryland Ave.; Vance St.; Barnett between Virginia Circle and Virginia; Arcadia; a portion of Bonaventure (where it intersects with Virginia Ave.); Rupley sometimes gets blocked except for residents.

The race route will also be closed from about 6am to 9am on Saturday.

continued on next page

Remember to:

Bring your family and enjoy yourself. Take your children to Kidsfest. Come hungry! Be prepared to see and purchase some great art! Pick up your own trash and help us keep Summerfest clean.

Please don't:

Bring bottles, cans, coolers, dogs or pets of any kind, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, Segways, oversize backpacks or weapons. Don't park in unauthorized spaces - watch for signs. And don't try to sell your own art or merchandise unless you are a Summerfest artist.

Where can I find more information?

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association's website, www.vahi.org has everything you need to know.

Summerfest 2005 Needs You!

It's that time of the year again when we begin to move into high gear with our preparations for Summerfest. Part of that preparation is securing volunteers to help staff the event. Many of you have volunteered in the past and we hope that you will be able to help us out again. For those of you who are new to our community, we hope you'll come out and get involved in this fun-filled community event.

Summerfest takes place on June 3, 4 and 5 along several blocks of Virginia Avenue (west of North Highland Avenue and east of Park Drive/Ponce de Leon Place). It features such attractions as live music, fabulous local food, Kidsfest with plenty of kid-specific activities, artist market, 5K race and Tot Trot. You'll notice that another day has been added to the event. This is a practice we started last year to open up the festivities a little early with a neighborhood-only party that will include food, beverages, live music and a special opportunity to view and purchase items from some of the artists who will be coming in early - over 80, so far!

Summerfest is not only a wonderful community event, but it is also the principle fundraiser for the Virginia Highland Civic Association. The money raised from this event allows the Association to sponsor numerous community activities, causes and neighborhood beautification projects. This would all be impossible without YOU!

As a volunteer, we ask that you donate between three and four hours of your time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, or any combination of days. In return, you will receive a Summerfest tee shirt for your participation and the opportunity to join friends and family for a wonderful weekend in Virginia-Highland!

You will find a volunteer application on our website (www.vahi.org/summerfest/volunteers.html) which lists the areas and times where your help is needed. If you don't have access to a computer, please contact either of the volunteer co-chairs: Jill Gossett, at 404-892-3222 (evening) or Jean Jordan at 404-727-0175 (day) and 404-724-4938 (evening). Volunteer assignments will not be made until mid-May and will continue until all spots are filled. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Volunteer in our Green Spaces

By John Wolfinger

On the morning of this writing, I have just retired to my front porch after a serious session of "front 40" weeding, and I realized how lucky I am to have my own dirt to play in. If you are a condo or apartment dweller, you too can have a plot of dirt to dig in, as there are many community gardens in this part of town. Contact the Atlanta Community Gardens Coalition at www.atlantacommunitygardens.org to find out where you can reap a harvest of veggies and flowers this summer.

I had no idea there was such a flourishing group of community gardens here in the city until I was introduced to them this spring while working on a garden project for Keep Atlanta Beautiful. These garden areas foster a wonderful atmosphere of sharing garden knowledge among the members. If you don't want to tend a plot, yet get your hands in the dirt, join the fun group of volunteers that works with Trees Atlanta as they plant new trees and tend to previously planted trees most every Saturday morning. They have a good time while providing a valuable service to all of us in the city. Contact them at www.treesatlanta.org or Park Pride at www.parkpride.org. The Atlanta Community Food Bank's Community Garden Project at www.acfb.org can always use volunteer help in their quest to improve green space in the city. Or, right here in this neighborhood, get involved in the parks committee activities to help maintain our own green spaces. Paula Hyman has done a spectacular job in organizing preservation activities for the protection and enhancement of Orme Park, and Rob Glancy has done a great job in planning the plantings in the traffic triangle at Virginia and North Highland in the heart of our business district.

Volunteerism is one of the things that makes our country great, and we all can, as individuals, really do something to make a difference for our community and city at large. Our responsibility for stewardship of the land we live on is very real and very important. Even just the simple matter of bending down and picking up trash is meaningful, and if we all did just that every time we walk around the neighborhood - this would be a sparkling clean area. We just can't always assume that "they" (meaning government services) will take care of everything for us. So, take pride in your ownership of Virginia-Highland, and volunteer to make a difference.



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Our Survey Says

By Chip Gallagher

Thank you to those who took the time to respond to the December survey in the *Voice*. What did we learn about Virginia-Highland (VH)? It should also be noted that the 53 responses in the *Voice* survey may not reflect the total VH population of 8,478.

Years in the 'Hood

Of respondents who replied to the survey, 43% have lived in VH for one to five years, followed by 30% who have lived here for six to 11 years and 17% who have resided here for 25+ years. The 2000 U.S. Census found that 69% of householders moved into the VH community after 1995. Only 4.4% of householders moved in before 1969. It should be noted that many of those who fell in the category of living in VH for 30 years or more purchased their house for price of a 2005 mini-van.

Rent v. Own

In our *Voice* survey, owners trumped renters by four to one (43 owners to 10 renters). But according to the 2000 Census, VH had 5,044 total occupied units of which 41% were owner-occupied and 59%

were renter-occupied housing units. My guess however is that the owner-occupied rates have increased and the renter-occupied rates have decreased since the 2000 Census because of the condo-fication (this really is a word!) of the neighborhood that has taken place in the last six years. Just as a point of comparison, 66% of households nationwide owned their own homes in 2000.

Eating in v. Dining Out

A whopping 26% of our respondents eat out at least three times a week of which 4% eat out five times a week or more, and 12% of the VH population never eat out, although the *Voice* survey question asked, "how many times do you eat out in OUR neighborhood?" It may be the people in this category eat out EVERY night but not in VH. It may also be some respondents say they don't eat out hoping someone will ask them to go out because they are shut-ins, social misfits or lack close friends.

Community Information and the Voice

The question "Does the *Voice* provide you with relevant or useful information about our neighborhood?" was asked. An amazing 92% said that the *Voice* does, it seems quite likely that the *Voice* will receive a Pulitzer Prize for community journalism.

Topics of Interest

There were 51 "topics or concerns" respondents said they would like the *Voice* to cover. Here is a small sample of some of the themes: fix sidewalks; make the neighborhood more pedestrian friendly; monitor new housing construction; street planning; limit liquor licenses; maintain police patrols.

If you would like to write on any of these topics for the Voice, please contact us at P.O. Box 8401, Atlanta, 31106 or editor@vahi.org.

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Summer Sizzles at Zoo Atlanta

By Helen Grebe

Summer seems to be synonymous with outdoor fun. When blue skies glimmer and temperatures hit 70 degrees, I start dreaming of women in tangerine-colored sundresses, picnics with family and stopping on an afternoon stroll to buy lemonade at a neighborhood stand. I also think of afternoons at the Zoo.

Atlanta is a lucky city because we have a world-class Zoo in our own backyard. Visitors from neighboring southeastern cities drive miles to catch a glimpse of a giant panda munching on bamboo or to hear a lion roaring proudly through the Zoo. As an Atlantan for the past ten years, the Zoo has often been left off my radar until I got a closer look- from the inside as an employee- at all the surprises Zoo Atlanta offers. The Zoo has one mission in mind: family fun. If that's your mission this summer, it's best to be acquainted with all the activities available. Consider this article an insider's guide:

Day-Tripping

Kids take pleasure in exploring their world through programs that get them outdoors. Zoo Atlanta's *Mommy and Me* program introduces toddlers to the fantastic animals that inhabit our Earth. Parent and child will enjoy making crafts, singing songs and experiencing exciting encounters with small animals that one can touch and feel. Topics for the program vary, so you can attend up to three classes per month without sparing variety! If you're a working mother, fear not- kids can bring their favorite adult. Panda Bear Picnic programs also deliver a day of learning to children ages four and five and feature a story, craft activity and animal encounter.

Gather your family, friends or a date to experience culture from different continents. Choose from themed Saturdays that highlight Africa, Asia, Australia or the Americas. With hands-on encounters, native music and dance, crafts and great food available, this night out is more than just a movie and popcorn.

Make Summer Nights a Family Affair!

Treat the whole family to an evening out together. Zoo Atlanta created the city's premier summer evening event: *Sunset Safaris!* As the summer sun sets and temperatures begin to cool, the wild animals of Zoo Atlanta stay up late. Gather your family, friends or a date to experience culture from different continents. Choose from themed Saturdays that highlight Africa, Asia, Australia or the Americas. With hands-on encounters, native music and dance, crafts and great food available, this night out is more than just a movie and popcorn. The cost is family friendly: \$10 for non-member adults, \$5 for non-member children. The evening winds down by 9 p.m., just in time to get the kids in bed or take your date out for après-dinner drinks.

Celebrate Dear Old Dad

Spend the night at the Zoo and celebrate dad! *Father's Day After Dark* on June 18 designates special time to spend the night at the Zoo exclusively with dad. Father and child will have the opportuni-

ty to interact with some of the Zoo's unique animals, visit the Animal Nutrition Kitchen and take a grand tour of Zoo Atlanta in the morning that concludes with a train ride. The next morning *My Dad and Me* provides a day of fun for the entire family, including mom. With games, contests, great music and tons of prizes this event promises memories that dear old dad will cherish for years.

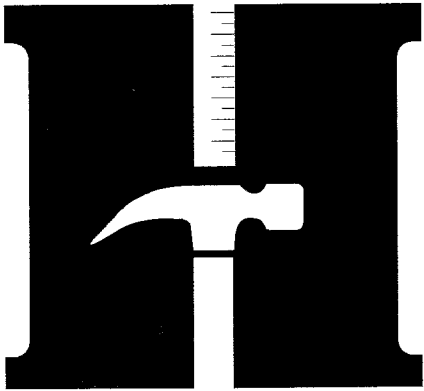
Hot Dog, it's Summer!

Oh, the movies! Can't you recall a favorite summer scene that includes strolling the boardwalk with a warm dog and icy drink in hand? We may not be on the coast, but you can experience the next best thing at Zoo Atlanta's annual hot dog eating contest. As the last stop before the final competition in the Nathan's World Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island, Zoo Atlanta's qualifying event draws voracious hot dog eaters from around the country. Adults and children alike compete for grand prizes while the competition heats up.

Cheer on the Dirty Birds (and no, we don't mean Zoo Atlanta's bird collection)

Atlanta Falcons Day on September 10 calls all local football fans to cheer on the Falcons at Zoo Atlanta! Wear your Falcons attire to show your spirit as the dirty birds take on the Eagles for Monday Night Football. Meet Savannah, Zoo Atlanta's Lanner Falcon that flies at the Atlanta Falcons' home games and the Atlanta Falcon Junior Cheerleaders. Celebrate and catch the spirit!

For more information on these events and more, visit zooatlanta.org. Zoo Atlanta is located in the historic Grant Park district at 800 Cherokee Ave. and is open every day of the year except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.



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Summerfest Twenty Years Ago

By Tinka Green

In approximately 1985, restaurateur Warren Bruno came up with an idea to give something back to the neighborhood. Wouldn't a neighborhood festival be fun for everyone? Well, it turned out that not everyone in the neighborhood was keen on the idea of a festival. But one was started. In those early years, the festival featured music and St. Charles Avenue was closed off for half a block and the residents were bothered. Sound familiar?

Warren owned Atkins Park restaurant and he had a band on the closed street, with his hot air balloon tethered in front of the restaurant on Highland. There was a blown-up castle for the kids to play on in the Plaza parking lot and some of the retail stores had sidewalk sales. At first, Warren ordered a couple dozen tee shirts to sell at the festival. By 1987, the number had risen to 374, then 584 in 1988, 503 in 1989, and 600 in 1990. Nobody can remember why the numbers were so exact and so odd except for the 600, which is 50 dozen.

By 1988 and 1989, Warren had hired Cheese Voith to run the festival for him. He was the perfect person for the job. Cheese collected \$10,000 from the merchants for their participation and the festival was on its way. Bands started cropping up in other parking lots and there was a small art show on Virginia. The Indigo Girls played in front of Taco Mac.

Those early years didn't make any profit. In fact, Warren and the others who participated were just out of pocket but it still seemed like a good idea. Finally in 1988 or 1989, with Cheese running things, some profits were realized and they were given to John Howell Park, this was in its early stages, too. Radio station 94Q sponsored the event and that helped money wise.

By 1993, it seemed appropriate to turn the festival over to the Virginia-Highland Civic Association. This was the first year it was held in John Howell Park. It was a big deal, especially since none of us had any experience putting on such an event. It had taken on the Summerfest name at some point during this time. History is a little murky on how the name emerged.

During that time, John Jugovic headed up the all volunteer group of neophytes. Nyna Gentry arranged for the music without any money, just a promise of great exposure. An interesting group of bands was persuaded to perform. I headed up the artist show and settled on 125 juried booths.

Susan Kraham and Aaron Gross went out on a limb and ordered 2,160 tee shirts and sold them for \$10. That was sorta a funny number, too - 180 dozen. I'm sure some real arithmetic went into deciding that figure. The shirts had sponsors printed on the back: Virginia-Highland Chiropractic, Lite Beer, Taco Mac, Atkins Park, Murphy's, Virginia-Highland Baptist Church, Căpos, RJs, Uptown Kitchen, Julie and Zac of ReMax, and Creative Loafing.

Amy Waterman put on the Kidsfest. She remembers it not unfondly, but recalls how hard it was to find people to help. We didn't have a volunteer committee that first year. She was grabbing daddies, giving them a two-minute lesson in face painting, etc. and setting them loose for a four-hour shift.

We did pay one guy, Kyle Luchey, to handle the food and beverage because he was very experienced and pretty much set it up the way it is still done. Chris Clark headed up security and is still in charge now.

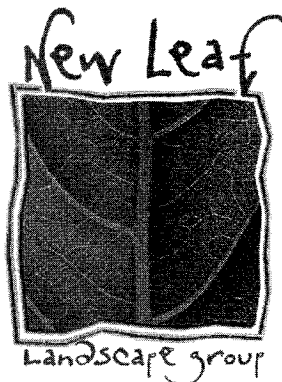
Jonathan Lathbury wired us up for all the music, food, booths and lighting. He is still doing that, too. John Askew and Jeff Whitney ran the beer sales; that has always been the big money maker. Nan Hunter handled communications and Jerry Dubner ran, literally, the race. Approximately 900 people ran this year. The figures for 1993 weren't available but it has grown as all other areas have. Tim Shirley, minister of the Virginia-Highland Baptist Church, made sure we had a place for meetings, storage, and collapsing. The ladies of the church had a bake sale in the front yard. Tim and the church are still very active in neighborhood activities. When I look back, I realize how many of those people from 1993 have continued to volunteer over the years. That is really the heart of Summerfest. Brian Hendrix did the tee shirt design and we were all so proud of ourselves that Aaron Gross had the design framed for each of the heads of committees. It is very special for all of us.

Aaron Gross went on to run Summerfest for many years. We had pretty much figured out that it was too big of a job to expect a volunteer to do it so he became a paid manager. Aaron passed away last year, and we all miss him. The neighborhood suffers his loss. He always pitched in no matter what had to be done.

In 1993, the profit from our endeavors was \$47,000. This year, a bigger, fancier Summerfest netted \$114,000. When the gifts to various organizations were being given out at the VHCA meeting in September, I felt such pride in our neighborhood and how much has been accomplished over the years.

Thanks to Susan Kraham for her help with this article. When I called her to pick her brain, she went straight to her files and gave me all kinds of facts, figures and names. Something I couldn't have done!

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Strong Academics and Achievements at Inman Middle School

By Melissa Klein
Inman Middle School PTA President

It is hard to believe that another school year is drawing to a close. Every Inman Middle School family thanks you for the support you have shown to our learning community both through your neighborhood association's financial support and through your commitment to public education. I want to share with you some highlights of the year.

Academically, Inman is very strong. We received accolades for academic achievement in the September 2004 issue of the *Middle School Journal* published by the National Association of Middle Schools. The Inman staff has worked hard to make annual yearly targets for the last three years and has every intention of continuing this trend! Over 95 percent of our students exceed the State standards for the Georgia Writing Test. Our standardized test results continue to score at or above the national average. Some of our seventh grade students equaled the national average SAT scores for seniors!

Several of our teachers received recognition this year. Tim Hicks, sixth grade teacher, received National Board Certification and was named Georgia's Supervising Teacher of the Year by the Georgia Teacher Association. Clori Rose, seventh grade teacher, was a semi-finalist for Atlanta Public School (APS) Teacher of the Year. In addition, Dana Evans, counselor, was named APS Middle School Counselor of the Year.

What an incredible list of accomplishments I could write about our students. Our team events, both academic and extracurricular, excelled. Whether it is in the novice or varsity division, individual speaker or team, our debate team continues the Inman tradition of cleaning up the medals at all local and regional debate tournaments (public and private schools). Inman received the 2nd place trophy from the Andover-Dartmouth Math Competition. One of our eighth grade students made it all the way to the state level championship of the National Geographic Bee held on April 1.

Our music programs competed at festival this year and received all excellent and superior ratings. Our sports teams (particularly soccer) were hard to beat and the cheerleaders lost the title of City Champs by only a few points. The after-school clubs offer a wide variety of interests to the students and our photography and art clubs are quite impressive. The next time you drive by the building, look at the inscription on the tower chosen by our Latin students.

There have been other very exciting events that have thrown Inman into the national spotlight. Mrs. Coretta Scott King chose Inman to pilot a program focused on teaching students "Kingian"

Mrs. Coretta Scott King chose Inman to pilot a program focused on teaching students "Kingian" principles of conflict resolution. She was filmed meeting with students and discussing her life as well as Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of peace and freedom.

principles of conflict resolution. She was filmed meeting with students and discussing her life as well as Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of peace and freedom. Also, the Alvin Ailey Dance Company continues its tradition of working with our eighth graders. The dancers helped students examine the historical content of Ailey's most famous ballet, "Revelations," and incorporated writing and movement into the student's own interpretive expressions. The workshop culminated with the students attending the Alvin Ailey Dance Company performance at the Fox Theater.

Inman will also be highlighted in upcoming award-winning producer Tracy Sereteau's documentary, "The Third Monday in October". The film will feature many of our students involved in the student council election process.

Two of our seventh grade students have been accepted into the People to People Program, an educational travel and academic program founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. One student is exploring China as a member of the Atlanta delegation. The other student will be going to Washington, D.C. as a participant in the World Leadership Forum. In addition, an Inman eighth grader was selected as U.S. Achievement Academy All-American Scholar Award winner and will be traveling to Australia and New Zealand for the People to People Program. Last but not least, two of our very talented students have been recognized as 2005 Carson Scholars and received scholarships for their academic excellence, civic accomplishments and special talents.

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2005 Legislative Actions

HB 218 - Would have closed an existing open records act and allowed government development agencies to recruit business interest to Georgia without public knowledge. This bill was tabled on the Senate floor.

SB 5 - Would have allowed private companies to submit unsolicited bids for public works projects, eliminated competition for these bids and allowed private companies to lobby government for eminent domain use in these projects. This bill failed to pass Senate Economic Development Committee.

HB 340 - Closes open records law that allows public access to university donor records. The bill passed the Senate 30-21.

HB 499 - Congressional Redistricting Bill, which is typically passed after the U.S. Census every 10 years. The bill passed.

HB 197 - The "Woman's Right to Know" Act, which requires a 24-hour waiting period for any abortion. Also requires parental accompaniment for minors seeking an abortion. Passed the General Assembly and sent to the Governor for his signature.

SB 25 - This bill would have increased the waiting period for uncontested divorce for couples with children from 30 to 180 days. The bill passed the Senate but did not come before the House for a vote.

HB 67 - This bill would have overturned the City of Atlanta's equal marriage benefits law by making it illegal for cities to require public organizations provide equal marriage benefits. Passed the General Assembly and sent to the Governor for his signature.

HB 244 - This bill requires registered voters show photo ID on election day in order to vote. The bill passed the House and Senate.

SB 174 - This bill allows employers to eliminate certain mandated coverages from their group insurance policies. The bill passed the General Assembly.

SB 3 - The "Tort Reform" Bill, which includes caps on non-economic damages from medical malpractice cases at \$250,000. This bill passed the General Assembly.

SB 90 - The Georgia Smoke Free Air Act bans smoking in most public places, except in restaurants that serve only to adults. The bill passed the General Assembly.

HB 59 - This bill intended to circumvent the city of Atlanta's existing law to encourage companies that do business with the city to pay living wages. The bill passed the General Assembly.

SB 4 - Congressional Re-balancing, this bill exempts federal highway funds from the formula the Department of Transportation uses to distribute transportation funding equally to all Congressional districts. The bill passed the House and the Senate.

HB 273 - Flex Lanes Bill, which will allow the Department of Transportation to designate some highway emergency lanes as "flex" lanes for people to use during rush hour. The bill passed the House and the Senate.

SR 49 - The Governor's Faith-Based Initiative was defeated repeatedly on the Senate floor.

SB 190 - Current law requires that a stay be issued when a lawsuit is brought against construction projects that could have an environmental impact. This is a good environmental protection law, and SB 190 limits its effectiveness. The bill passed the General Assembly.

SB 122 - This bill limits the number of landfill constructions allowed near neighborhoods. Passed the General Assembly.

HB 37 - Sandy Springs legislation, which would incorporate Sandy Springs as an independent municipality. Passed the General Assembly.

Supplied by Senator Sam Zamarripa's office.

Visit Piedmont Park for Two New Activities

Piedmont Park Conservancy kicked off park season in April with two Saturday morning programs that run through the summer -- Saturday Safari for Kids and Historic Tours.

Saturday Safari for Kids

This exciting park adventure features themed activities (like fishing and scavenger hunts!) led by a naturalist. Saturday Safari is offered the first and third Saturday of each month through September 17. Participants meet at 11am at the park's 12th Street gate. Free for Piedmont Park Conservancy members, \$3 for non-members. Email naturalist@piedmontpark.org for more information or call 404-876-4024 to register. Not a member yet? Visit www.piedmontpark.org to join the Conservancy.

Historic Tours

Explore the fascinating legacy of Atlanta's Common Ground. Free, guided walking tours depart from the Piedmont Park Visitor Center every Saturday at 11am. For group reservations or information, email tours@piedmontpark.org or call 404-876-4024. Guided tours are also available on weekdays upon request.

Come out to the park for some good green fun this spring, and remember to visit www.piedmontpark.org for all things Piedmont Park!

Gear Up for Natl. Bike Month

By Mike Goodman,
Owner, Intown Bicycles

As many of you know, May has been designated National Bicycle Month. This time presents us with the perfect opportunity to focus public attention on the untapped benefits of bicycling.

We all know that cycling offers sport, recreation, and fitness, but few of us take advantage of the bicycle as a means of transportation. As the monetary and environmental cost increase to operate our cars, the bicycle becomes a more attractive alternate means of transportation, hugely benefiting both our health and our environment. But how do we emphasize to the public the positive impact that biking can make on all of us? By our example!

By simply riding our bicycles and simply being visible, we remind people that bikes are fun and practical. The more of us who ride, the more powerful a statement we make. National Bicycle Month and Bike to Work Day give us excellent opportunities to create bicycle awareness.

We encourage you to ride often this month and to participate in the Bike to Work Day events. Who knows, maybe the fun will inspire you to bike commute every day. Happy Trails.

The Green Market Returns!

Another Piedmont Park Conservancy program, The Green Market at Piedmont Park, opened again this year in early May. The open-air market features Georgia-grown produce, fresh flowers, baked goods, chef demonstrations, and entertainment. The Green Market runs weekly from May through August between 9am and 1pm at the 12th Street Gate Entrance.

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The first Annual Tour of Homes in over 20 years was a smashing success, raising over \$20,000 for the neighborhood. More than 1,500 people turned out

over the two-day event to tour the homes and sample the spectacular food provided by local restaurants. Thanks again to all of the sponsors, home owners and volunteers!

Returning Tour Chair Sheila Gray and the Steering Committee is already in full gear planning for the 2005 Tour. Please email tour@vahi.org or call 404-931-6313 if you would like to become involved or to learn more. And don't forget to stop by the Home Tour booth at Summerfest to hear about and enter into our exclusive weekend drawing.

Spring
has
Sprung!

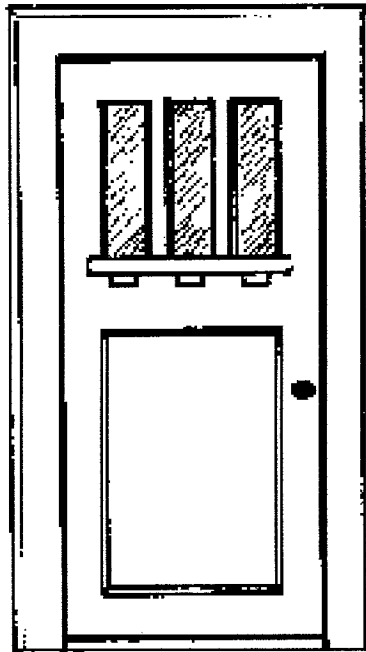
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Example: 1920's Craftsman Style Entry

School Rezoning in Our Future?

By Chip Gallagher

On March 30, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) officials held a community meeting at Morningside Elementary School (MES) to discuss the increased enrollment at that school and possible rezoning in the future, as early as the 2006-2007 school year. APS is in the process of collecting demographic information to determine which areas have increased growth and whether the growth trends will continue to occur. MES currently draws from Morningside-Lenox Park, Virginia-Highland, Midtown and Ansley Park. APS has identified four elementary schools in the immediate adjacent zones as potential re-zoning sites: Centennial Place, Mary Lin, C.W. Hill and E. Rivers.

As of now, APS officials are not indicating which area or areas might be rezoned or where the students will go. They have indicated that current students in the rezoned area will be allowed to request an administrative transfer to remain at MES. If you are concerned about this and would like to voice your opinion please contact the following officials:

Valerie Thomas - APS Facilities Director 404-827-8402

Sharon Pitts - APS Chief of Staff 404-802-2826

Catalina Pescatore - MES Principal 404-853-4024 or

cpescatore@atlanta.k12.ga.us

APS - School Board

It is important that our community's opinion is heard on this very important decision.

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If You Love 'em, Leash 'em

By Officer W.J. Butcher
Zone Six Community Liaison Officer

The dog -- man's best friend. A dog lover would say, "What would we do without them?" A companion, an entertainer, a defender, a protector and something you can talk to that won't talk back! A dog is truly man's best friend - but not to everyone. Do you believe that there are people in this world who don't like dogs? Heaven forbid!

Living in Atlanta tends to compress our lives together. More cars on the street, more people on foot, houses built close together, lots of people walking dogs and don't forget the sounds of the city. Honking horns, emergency sirens, road construction and yes, the occasional barking dog. And the stress of living so close together sometimes makes the smallest annoyance magnified ten-fold.

One of the issues of living in the city that has become aggravating for some residents are "dog-related ordinance violations." Just as there are rules and regulations for residents, the following city, county and state laws apply to our furry friends.

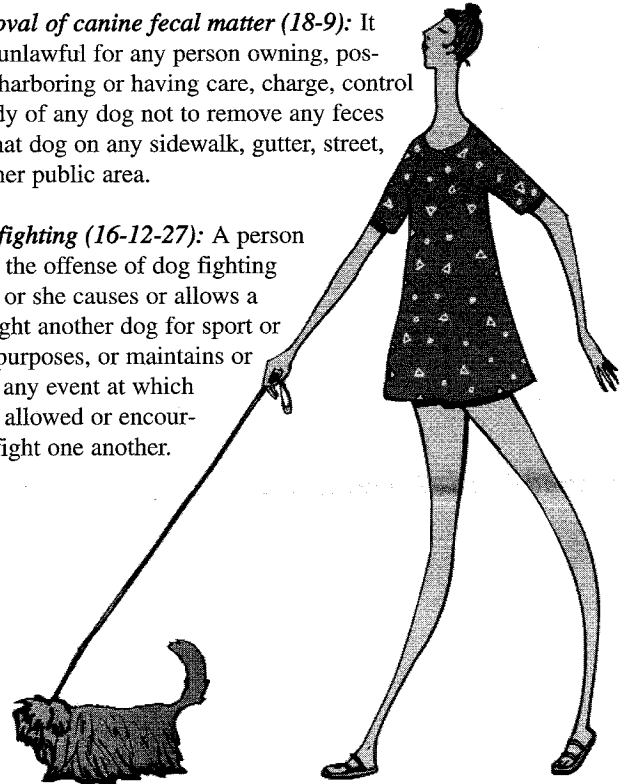
Leash Law - City of Atlanta Parks (110-70): No person shall walk any pet in any public park except on a leash. The only "off-leash" area in a city of Atlanta park is in the designated "dog park" area of Piedmont Park below the Park Drive bridge.

Leash Law - Fulton County (34-205)(b)(1): It shall be unlawful for the owner, custodian or harbinger of any dog to allow or permit such dog to leave the premises of the owner or other person having custody of the dog unless such dog is securely under leash; said leash being not more than six feet long and under the control of a competent person.

Leash Law -- DeKalb County (18-61): It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog, or for any person having a dog in such person's possession and control, to permit the dog to be out of control and unattended off the premises of the owner in that part of the city within DeKalb County or upon the property of another person, without permission of the owner or person in possession thereof. A dog is under control if the dog is controlled by a leash, is at heel or is beside a competent person and obedient to that person's commands.

Removal of canine fecal matter (18-9): It shall be unlawful for any person owning, possessing, harboring or having care, charge, control or custody of any dog not to remove any feces left by that dog on any sidewalk, gutter, street, lot or other public area.

Dog fighting (16-12-27): A person commits the offense of dog fighting when he or she causes or allows a dog to fight another dog for sport or gaming purposes, or maintains or operates any event at which dogs are allowed or encouraged to fight one another.



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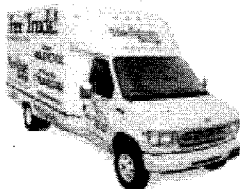
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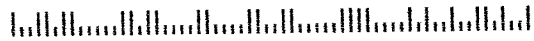


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VHCA Calendar:

Board and Monthly Meetings:

Held the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

All held at the
Ponce de Leon Library

Planning Committee Meetings:

Held the last Wednesday of each month
at 7:30pm

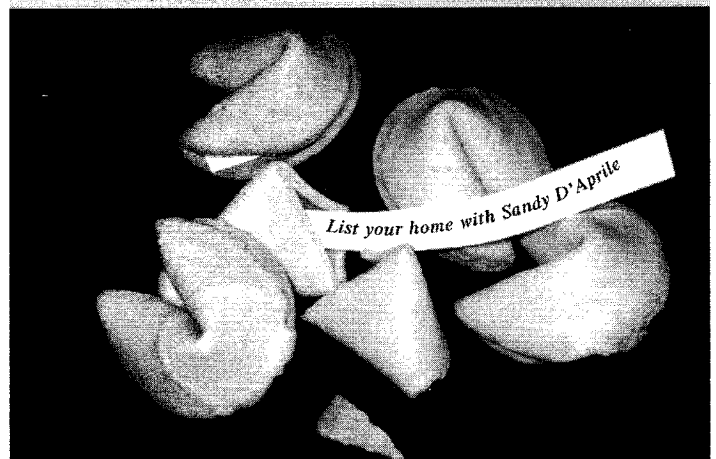
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Locations of meetings
subject to change.

Check our web site
for calendar of events
or to become a member:

www.vahi.org

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