

The Virginia-Highland

VOICE

Spring 2007

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Community Dinner and Movie Friday, June 1st

Summerfest always begins with a community dinner and movie – held especially for Va-Hi residents (bring IDs) and Summerfest volunteers. The dinner will be held on Friday, June 1st starting at 6:30pm in John Howell Park. Food will be donated by our neighborhood restaurant, Atkins Park. The movie had not been determined at press time but will begin at dusk. Be sure to bring the entire family and get the weekend off to a great start!



Summerfest



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND

It's Festival Time!

by: Pamela Papner

Celebrate the Beginning of Summer with Art and Music

It's almost that time of year again! The Virginia-Highland Civic Association is proud to present the 24th annual Virginia-Highland Summerfest, Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3, 2007.

Times: Saturday, June 2, 2007 - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 3, 2007 - 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Where: Virginia Avenue between North Highland Avenue
and Park Drive

Tickets: FREE ADMISSION / Donations to the Virginia-Highland
Civic Association greatly appreciated

Regularly recognized by local media as one of Atlanta's best neighborhood festivals and consistently revered by art professionals as one of the best

artists' markets in the southeast, Summerfest also features exceptional food and music, plus a 5K race and activity-packed KidsFest. It's a great event for the entire family!

The Artist Market

As most residents know, Summerfest takes place along tree-lined Virginia Avenue in the heart of the historic and charming Virginia-Highland neighborhood. The event attracts visitors from all over the city, who come to celebrate the beginning of summer by shopping for original art in a variety of media. The juried artist market features work and exhibits from more than 200 of the best artists in the southeast and beyond, in a variety of media including painting, clay, glass, jewelry, photography, printmaking, fiber, wood, metal and mixed media.

The Food and Music

Festival goers also enjoy great food and an exceptional array of live music. This year's music will be presented by radio station partner, davefm (92.9), and the artist lineup promises to be the best ever. The 92.9 davefm music stage will be located in the field next to Inman Middle School and will feature a variety of renowned local musicians such as Tim Brantley, along with nationally-acclaimed singer songwriters including Marc Broussard and Tyrone Wells.

5K Road Race

The Summerfest 5K is held at 8am on Saturday and features 1,000 runners winding through the streets of Virginia-Highland. Following the 5K Race, children aged 5 and under will run, waddle or crawl to the finish line of the Tot Trot held in

John Howell Park. Registration for the 5K and Tot Trot must be made in advance. See www.active.com and americans4fitness.com for details and race entry forms. The registration deadline is June 1st.

KidsFest

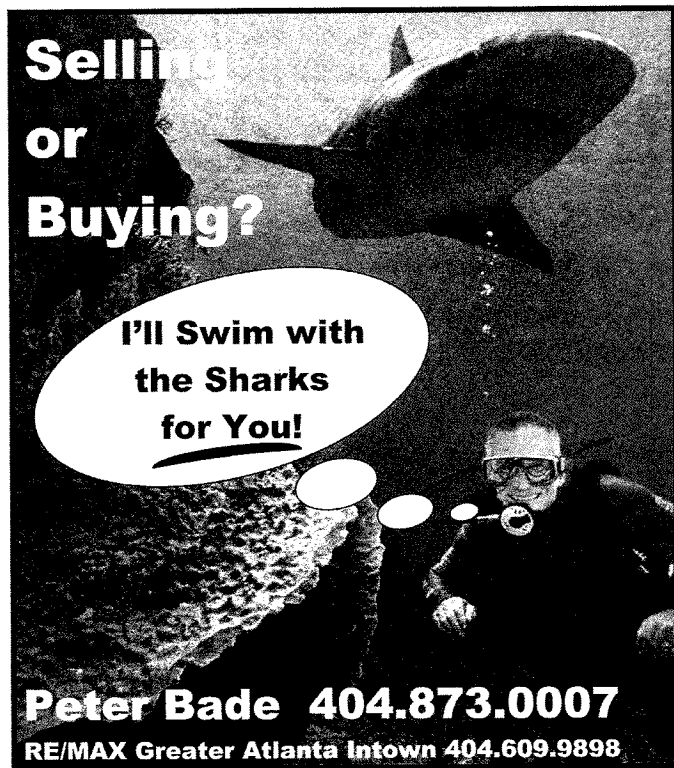
This year's Kidsfest takes place in John Howell Park (middle area off Virginia/near Arcadia) on Saturday (10am to 6pm) and Sunday (Noon to 5pm). A variety of artistic activities, clowns with balloon animals, music and many other activities will be offered for children.

Parking

This year, we are pleased to offer a shuttle bus service to/from designated festival parking lots. Parking will cost just \$5, and an Emory Cliff shuttle bus will run in both directions between the parking lots and Festival approximately every 20 minutes. Parking lot locations will be published at www.vahi.org/summerfest.html no later than May 15th.

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association, Inc., along with Summerfest Co-Chairs Kim Nickels and Pamela Papner, sincerely thank Atkins Park Restaurant for the Friday night community dinner; all its Summerfest volunteers; festival partners and organizers davefm radio (including Will Davis and Lisa George), Premier Events Management and Rob Frazer, Julie Tepp, Ed Williams, Pam Ahern, Allie Coker, Georgia McFarland, Jean Jordan, Kevin Cronin; and all its corporate sponsors.

For more information or to volunteer, please visit www.vahi.org/summerfest.html



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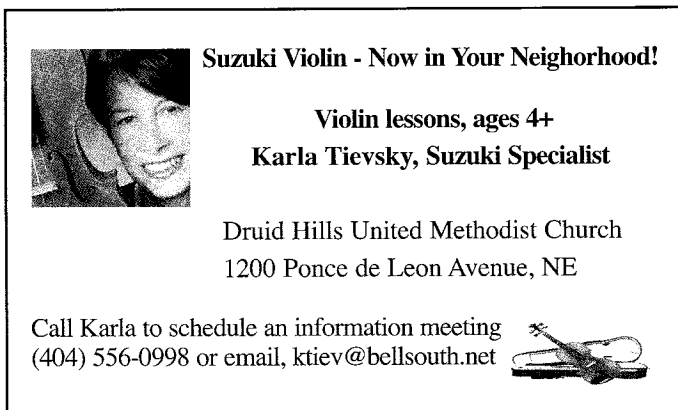
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The Virginia-Highland Voice

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We welcome your feedback on *The Virginia-Highland Voice*.
Please send your comments to editor@vahi.org.

VHCA Calendar

Monthly Board Meetings

When: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

Where: Public Library on Ponce de Leon Ave.

Planning Committee Meetings

When: Last Wednesday of each month

Where: Public Library on Ponce de Leon Ave.

Meeting locations subject to change



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President's Corner

Pamela Papner

President, Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board

There's certainly been a lot of important news since the last Voice issue. Georgia Power's announcement of plans to build a substation in the neighborhood is the most disappointing news we've had for years. Upon being advised of this development, representatives from the Virginia-Highland Civic Association (VHCA), NPU-F Chair Dianne Olansky and Vice-Chair Liz Coyle, along with City Council Member Anne Fauver and State Representative Pat Gardner, have had several initial discussions with Georgia Power, including site visits, to understand specific plans. Georgia Power held an "Open House" to inform residents about the substation to be located on property the company already owns located on Ponce de Leon Place. The company sent letters to area residents, and the VHCA Board hand-delivered 150 information letters to residents near the site, encouraging them to attend the Open House and get involved. Since then, over 50 nearby homeowners have formed a coalition to work with the VHCA to address the impacts to their property and the community at-large. The neighborhood coalition is being led by Richard Cunningham, along with Suzanne Williams, Todd Vermeer, and other nearby homeowners. As I write this, we continue to investigate options and are working on a detailed plan for response. Please stay tuned and for details about the proposed substation please read John Becker's article on the proposed substation also in this issue of the Voice. Please also be assured that the VHCA and nearby homeowners are committed to working toward the best possible solution.

On a much lighter note, plans for Summerfest continue, and this year promises to be the best ever. The event will take place June 2-3. Co-Chairs Kim Nickels and I, along with the entire VHCA Board, radio station davefm (92.9) and many others are working around the clock to deliver Summerfest 2007. This year's event will address many suggestions from the VHCA community survey, including:

- **SPREADING OUT THE FESTIVAL TO RELIEVE CONGESTION:** This year the primary music will be staged on the Inman baseball field; the artist booths will be more spread out; and there will be seating for food consumption in John Howell Park.
- **PARKING PROGRAM:** This year we will have designated off-site parking and shuttles to/from the festival to relieve parking congestion.
- **INTEGRATION WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES:** We are offering several promotional opportunities to Virginia-Highland businesses, including a discount coupon booklet for shopping at local retail stores and dining at local restaurants. We want Summerfest to be a positive opportunity for both the VHCA and local businesses. Be sure to get this coupon booklet at the festival entrance and support our local retail establishments!
- **FESTIVAL STORE:** This year, we will offer unique and attractive

festival souvenirs reflective of the Virginia-Highland lifestyle. When you see not only the quality artwork at the festival, but the Festival Store items for sale.... you won't be able to resist!

- **HEALTHY FOOD:** This was an area mentioned by many on the community survey. Please be assured we are trying, but this task is proving difficult. Any ideas would be appreciated, as our leads so far are not working out! We may have to eat funnel cakes (but then again, how often do you get to enjoy a funnel cake? - a rare treat)! Truly, the festival food is great, always has been.... Indulge for a day!

We are planning not only a wonderful artist market and music event, but we will offer a fantastic Kids Fest and 5K race event as well! In addition, we will offer a FREE community dinner and movie Friday night in John Howell Park, so bring the family and enjoy a fun-filled weekend! Our sincere thanks go out to all our volunteers; Atkins Park Restaurant for donating the Friday night community dinner; davefm radio; our wonderful festival sponsors; and all our major event coordinators, including Pam Ahern (volunteers), Allie Coker and Georgia McFarlin (Kids Fest), Ed Williams (Race Coordinator), Rob Frazer (PEM operations), Julie Tepp (artist market), and many others.

Please make sure you attend Summerfest, as it promises to be wonderful this year - as always in years past! For details, go to www.vahi.org and select the "Summerfest" link. See you there!



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Join the Virginia-Highland Civic Association

by: Hannah Coker

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association is conducting a membership drive to solicit financial support from the community. Please take a minute to review the membership benefits listed below and consider joining the VHCA. And while your financial support is certainly needed to

support the association's activities, please consider also making the valuable contribution of time as a neighborhood volunteer. There is no greater way to contribute to the improvement of our neighborhood than to volunteer your time.

Want some additional incentive to join? Any new member from whom dues are received prior to June 3 will be entered into a drawing to win promotional prizes including 4 tickets to the Georgia Aquarium!

Membership Benefits from Financial Support and Participation

- Social opportunities - meeting lots of new and longtime Va-Hi residents and business owners at meetings, socials, and community service events.
- Notification about local events, meetings, crime alerts and other important topics.
- Supporting activities and committees that help keep the neighborhood stable and desirable.
- Voting in regular and special meetings about issues that affect you and control the destiny of Va-Hi. Your dues support efforts to resolve issues such as:
 - Neighborhood improvements (street signs, lighting, roads, sidewalks, parking)
 - Land use issues (future residential, commercial, industrial development)
 - Urban design issues (historic preservation, pedestrian friendliness, parks)
 - Crime and other disturbances
- Discounts at local businesses and VHCA events:
 - Free entry to Fall movie in John Howell Park (September movie TBA)
 - Membership committee will work with local businesses to make discounts available to residents who show their VHCA membership card

Virginia-Highland Civic Association Membership Form

Membership Year: Sept. 2007 - Sept. 2008

Name(s):

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Membership Levels:

I would like to support the VHCA with a membership at the following level:

- Individual: \$20.00 Senior (65 & over): \$15.00
 Family: \$30.00 Additional Donation: \$

Community Emails:

- Please add me to the Community email list
 I am already on the Community email list
 Thank you, but I do not wish to be added to the Community email list

VHCA Committee Interest:

I/we have interest in volunteering to help the following committee(s):

- Communications Committee Parks Committee
 Fundraising - Summerfest Planning Committee
 Fundraising - Tour of Homes Safety & Sidewalks Committee
 Membership Committee Other:

Please make checks payable to:

Virginia-Highland Civic Association

Mail to: VHCA Membership Committee,

794 Adair Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30306

Georgia Power Proposes Substation for Va-Hi

by John Becker

GEORGIA POWER PLANS TO BUILD A SUBSTATION IN VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND ON LAND IT ALREADY OWNS NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF VIRGINIA AVE. AND PONCE DE LEON PLACE. THE COMPANY CITES “DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY IN THE VIRGINIA AVE. AND MIDTOWN AREAS” AS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE NEW SUBSTATION AND STATES “THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM MUST BE UPGRADED TO SUPPORT (THE) GROWING ENERGY NEEDS OF NEW AND EXISTING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES.”



Taken through the fence of the Georgia Power property directly across from 925 Ponce Place, this photo shows the site where the company plans to build a new substation.

Following a public input period scheduled to run through early June, preliminary site work (grading, distribution, and line construction) will take place, according to information distributed by Georgia Power. Construction of the substation will begin in January 2008 with work scheduled for completion in May 2008. Site beautification including screening, landscaping and other work will continue through the end of the year, also according to the company.

According to information distributed by the company, the substation will measure 220' x 220' (approx. one acre; two acres including screening) and will be built on land to the rear of Georgia Power's existing maintenance facility on Virginia Ave. between Ponce de Leon Place and the Archstone Virginia Highland Apartments (see photo). The substation will sit approximately 300' back from Ponce de Leon Place on land that lies well below street level, minimizing the view of the substation's 60' tall "banks". Transmission lines will also be brought into and out of the substation. One double circuit pole and two additional poles for incoming lines will be 120' tall and sit on land near the existing railway bed behind the site (area proposed for Beltline usage). Georgia Power has indicated they will bury the outgoing transmission lines that will connect to existing poles on Virginia Ave.

Visit www.georgiapower.com/transmission/va_project.asp for more information on the proposed Va-Hi substation including exact location, diagrams and FAQs.

Georgia Power hosted an open house on Monday April 9 to review plans and answer questions from concerned residents about the project. The meeting format did not include a formal presentation to attendees – or opportunity for open Q/A; however, company representatives manned tables where residents could get answers to questions on specific topics (planning, site selection, aesthetics, safety/health issues, etc.).

When asked why this site was selected for the new substation, the company said several sites were evaluated, but the Virginia Ave. site was chosen because it met all the standard selection criteria – including community impact, safety, aesthetics and environmental issues among others – plus, the company already owned the property making it the most cost-effective solution.

Among the concerns expressed by area residents regarding the new substation were reduced property values, aesthetics (including appearance and sound), health and safety issues (electromagnetic fields or EMFs), and construction disruptions.

Georgia Power says it will use screening (walls and/or

vegetation) to reduce the visual and audible impact on surrounding properties. Further, it says the amount of noise generated by the "banks" and the fans that cool them should be between 60-80 db (comparable to a garbage disposal or small lawn mower) and that the sound quickly dissipates the further away you go from the substation.

When asked about EMFs, the company offered the following: "Research by the scientific community over several decades has found no conclusive evidence to indicate the fields from transmission lines or substations, such as these, cause or contribute to adverse health effects. Georgia Power continues to monitor research in this area. If you would like more information, please contact us or review reports from a number of organizations on-line:

- World Health Organization EMF Fact Sheets
- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- NIEHS Press Release RAPID Director's Report to Congress"

The company believes construction disruptions will be minimized because it already owns the land on which the substation will sit. Land and/or rights of way will need to be obtained only for the lines into and out of the station. The company says it will address removal or relocation of fences and other structures on a case by case basis.

According to the Georgia Power Web site the company "will accept responsibility for any property damage and will repair, restore or replace any structures or landscaping damaged or disrupted during the construction process." However, when specifically asked whether the company would compensate property owners within sight of the new substation for any diminution of property value, they responded, "No, we feel the impact is minimal."

According to Virginia-Highland Civic Association President Pamela Papner, "Since being notified by Georgia Power of their decision to build this substation, we have conducted research; met with our City Council Member Anne Fauver and State Representative Pat Gardner; and discussed with NPU-F leadership learnings from a similar situation in Morningside (this substation is to be located on Lenox Road in the middle of a Morningside residential area). Unfortunately, due to its powerful lobby, we have little to no recourse or protection under current state or zoning laws." The Virginia-Highland Civic Association (VHCA) remains very concerned and at press, is still exploring options. As updates become available, they will be published on www.vahi.org

The VHCA is also working closely with a newly-formed coalition of approximately 50 neighbors that own property near the proposed site. That group and the VHCA are closely coordinating the specific response to Georgia Power's proposed substation plans. The VHCA also wants to ensure that any concessions or plans for ameliorating adverse impacts reflect the priorities of the residents most impacted due to their geographic proximity.

Ponce Place resident Richard Cunningham has volunteered to serve as liaison between that group of concerned residents and the VHCA. Please forward any concerns, questions or suggestions to him at cunningham.richard@comcast.net and he will add you to his email update list.

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Community Safety Update

by: John Wolfinger

This month I'll be focusing my column on a local organization that many of you may not be familiar with, but should be. The Atlanta Police Foundation was established in 2003 with the primary mission of providing resources that will assist the Atlanta Police Department in their efforts to make Atlanta the safest large city in the nation. By focusing its efforts on six specific programs, the Foundation has made significant contributions toward providing our men and women in blue with the tools they need to make Atlanta a safer place to live, work and play. Here is an overview of the six programs:

Recruitment- *to create a safer city through increased police visibility*

With the Foundation's help, the APD hired 204 officers in 2006, or 32% more than were hired in 2005. The goal for 2007 is to hire 250 officers toward a goal of having 2000 total officers by the end of 2009.

Training- *to build a more effective, sustainable and professional police department*

Specialized investigation, leadership and management training has been made available to officers and the Foundation will enable more officers to take advantage of these opportunities by bringing trainers to Atlanta.

Scholarship- *to improve job performance, retain officers and increase skills*

The Foundation provided more than \$27,000 in tuition reimbursement to sworn and non-sworn employees of the APD this past semester.

Mounted Patrol- *to provide an effective means of crowd control and police visibility*

A mounted patrol unit regularly patrolling the streets and monitoring special events can play a major role in the city's ability to attract major sporting events, conferences, conventions and tourists. The Foundation has provided funds for an outdoor training arena at the stables, has provided resources for the purchase of thirteen horses and will continue to provide resources to expand the unit. Individual donors have sponsored ten of the horses. More information on sponsorships is available at www.atlantapolicfoundation.org/programs/themountedpatrol.aspx.

Crime Stoppers- *to provide an avenue for citizens to anonymously report information on criminal activity to local law enforcement.*

Since its launch on January 29th, Crime Stoppers Atlanta has taken 113 tips leading to 3 arrests.

Housing- *to provide opportunities for officers to live within the city, which not only increases police visibility, but aids in retention of officers as they shorten their daily commute to work and*

become community stakeholders.

The Foundation works with developers and mortgage lenders to find housing that is affordable. In 2007, two officers moved into homes inside the city and the Foundation is in the process of helping 60 additional officers.

You can help Atlanta become our nation's most livable major city. Through membership in the the Atlanta Police Foundation you can provide critical resources for the APF and provide immeasurable moral support for the men and women who risk their lives to keep us safe. Membership levels begin at \$25 and your support is important. To learn more about the benefits of membership in the APF, visit their website at www.atlantapolicfoundation.org and click on "Become a Member of the Force Behind the Force", or contact Janie Foy at 404.586.0180 or jfoy@atlantapolicfoundation.org for further information.

Neighborhood Commercial Update

by: John Peak

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association is currently assessing the feasibility of adopting Neighborhood Commercial ("NC") zoning for several commercial nodes along North Highland Avenue. This zoning category was specifically created by the City of Atlanta for areas like Virginia-Highland. In fact, many aspects of the ordinance are based on research conducted in our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Commercial provides some limits on height and usage, while offering benefits to commercial property owners that offset these restrictions. It is a pragmatic approach that allows for sustainable development while preserving much of the scale and character that makes Virginia-Highland one of Atlanta's most desirable neighborhoods. For example, it allows for commercial uses with residential above - all at an intimate scale appropriate for a Neighborhood Commercial district. The NC district also requires sidewalks, street trees and hidden parking areas - all of which are fundamental to preserving and enhancing these valuable districts.

We have formed a steering committee of single-family homeowners, commercial property owners, and professional planners to perform a feasibility study on the adoption of NC. This committee has had several preliminary meetings to devise a working framework and is actively pursuing a dialogue with commercial property owners.

We want to stress that NC is not a zoning classification that provides historic preservation, nor is this a broad-based effort that includes things such as affordable housing or transfer of development rights. This is a targeted effort that we believe, if implemented properly, will benefit all stakeholders in our community.

by: Victoria Talley & Friends of Orme Park

The Future of Orme Park



Virginia-Highland's Original Park Established in 1926

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE VOICE, JONATHAN WEXLER INTRODUCED YOU TO ORME PARK. WE HOPE SOME OF YOU HAVE TAKEN TIME TO VISIT ORME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT A NEIGHBORHOOD TREASURE IT TRULY IS. FRIENDS OF ORME PARK HAS BEEN WORKING RECENTLY ON A MAJOR PROJECT THAT WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN MOVING THE RESTORATION OF ORME PARK FORWARD.

Park Pride, Atlanta's park advocacy group, offers a grant program called Park Visioning. Park Visioning is a community engagement and design process that empowers communities to envision their ideal park and provides guidance on the feasibility of making capital improvements. To qualify for Park Visioning the park must be between 5 and 15 acres in size, there must be an established 'Friends of the Park' group, and community members must be participating in Park Pride's Park Inspection Program. Orme Park meets the criteria: it is 6.6 acres in size, has a Friends group and participates in the park inspection program. Park Pride only grants 3 to 4 Park Visioning grants per year, and there are over 250 city-owned parks in Atlanta. This spring Friends of Orme Park applied for and received a Park Visioning grant.

What this means for Orme Park and Virginia-Highland

In a sense, Orme Park is being 'loved to death'; its growing popularity poses some real challenges for its future. Twenty years ago the area on the south side of the stream was thickly grown (albeit with invasive plants) and little runoff reached the creek from that side. Expanded use has greatly reduced the plant invasives, but the resulting hard-packed soil in the open spaces has contributed to the erosion of the creek banks. The north side of the creek (the playground side) is open and inviting, but the delicate areas along the street are suffering vegetatively from access being available

at all points. The riparian corridor on this side also reflects its expanded use, and some large trees have been lost; the age of the trees along with erosion and soil compaction contributed to this loss. Friends of Orme Park has held four workdays over the past few years (with 40 to 50 volunteers attending each time) that have focused on the health of the riparian corridor. Some sections have been fenced off to allow the reestablishment of plants to protect the creek from further runoff.

We have achieved a lot with the workdays, and we are looking forward to working on the next stage with Park Pride. Their landscape architect will document the park's amenities and features, describing the layout, evaluating uses and surveying users. Public meetings will focus on the development of a shared vision for Orme Park, and from that a master plan will be created that will define our fundraising strategies and guide us as we begin the restoration process for the Park, one that will preserve this wonderful space for future generations.

And the best thing of all...Park Visioning is free.

Watch for notices of public meetings on Orme Park and please make your voice heard. If you would like to be placed on the "Friends of Orme Park" e-mail list, please contact Alice Gepp at alicegepp@bellsouth.net or Peter Bade at peterbade@comcast.net.

VHCA Files Motion to Intervene in Hilan Theatre Liquor License Dispute

by: Elizabeth **Nicholas**

The large space at 800 North Highland Avenue known as the Hilan Theatre has been the subject of much controversy over the past few years. The original theatre, dating back to the 1930's, closed in 1972. The Metro Community Church then occupied the space until 1992.

Parts of the theatre, including the former lobby space, have been leased to and continue to be occupied by Ben & Jerry's and Starbucks Coffee. Remaining portions of the old theater are currently unoccupied, although attempts to establish commercial uses that many residents considered incompatible with the neighborhood (such as a nightclub) were made over the years. All such attempts were either defeated or abandoned.

On May 25, 2005, the current owner of the Hilan Theatre building submitted applications for three (3) liquor licenses for the theatre. The stated purpose for the licenses was to operate a "Convention Center with beer, wine and liquor consumed on premises, (and with) customer dancing and live entertainment."

The VHCA opposed these applications for several reasons, including proximity to single family homes and a failure to supply sufficient parking. The Atlanta Police Department determined the building does not meet the City's distance requirement which prohibits an alcohol-licensed establishment within 300 feet of residential property. The City's License Review Board heard the applications and recommended denial to the Mayor, who formally denied the applications on November 30, 2006.

The owner/applicant has filed an appeal in Superior Court seeking to overturn the Mayor's decision. As the outcome of this appeal has a direct impact on the Virginia-Highland community, the VHCA has hired an attorney to represent the neighborhood in this matter. In early March, the attorney filed a motion to intervene on behalf of the neighborhood, to allow us a seat at the table in any court proceedings or settlement discussions. The court has yet to rule on this motion. We will continue to keep the neighborhood updated on this issue.

Va-Hi Discussion Group Hosted on Yahoo

by: John **Becker**

Need to find a reliable, reasonably-priced plumber? Looking to sell that '74 Vega sitting in the driveway? Or has Fluffy wandered off and not found her way home? If so, you might want to check out VHLIST, the Virginia-Highland discussion group hosted on Yahoo by neighborhood resident Stephen Cohen.

VHLIST, which has no formal affiliation with the VHCA, is an on-line forum where members can post information on topics of community interest such as:

- Referral requests for electricians, plumbers, automobile repair shops, etc.
- Reviews of services received from area businesses
- Information and discussion on community events and topics (i.e., the ING Marathon, proposed Georgia Power substation, etc.)
- Updates from VHCA safety committee chairman and other safety related information
- Announcement of lost pets or pets needing a new home
- Formation of children's playgroups

To join, go to Yahoo groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and enter VHLIST for your search. Just like any community, there are a few guidelines to follow: all postings should be in the positive spirit of a community self-help group; no discussions of national politics are permitted (discussion of local politics is, however, fair game); and advertising by commercial businesses is not allowed.

According to group moderator Cohen, VHLIST has over 100 members after only two months of service and he says there's plenty of room for more. "The more members we have participating, the more valuable the information and dialogue will be to those who visit the site," he says. "We welcome any and all Va-Hi residents to VHLIST."

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Colonel Mustard in the Kitchen With a Knife

Colonel Mustard – referring to the character from the board game Clue – is a pseudonym for a Virginia-Highland resident who enjoys dining at the many wonderful restaurants in our neighborhood and sharing thoughts on the dining experience with others. In this issue the Colonel takes a look at two of the neighborhood's oldest and most treasured establishments:

Murphy's and Moe's and Joe's.

In 2005 Murphy's celebrated with the publishing of Murphy's 25 Years of Recipes and Memories, a charming reminiscence of Tom Murphy's days in the neighborhood before it had attracted a clientele of discerning 'foodies' and those seeking fun. In 1980 the houses weren't so upscale, John Howell Park didn't exist, and the whole area wasn't jumping the way it does now on weekends. There are those who long for the days when we could have parades with neighbors pushing their Herbie Curbies or could stop at welcoming porches for a little vino, but we've been blessed with the good menu and success of Murphy's. Sitting inside on a recent spring day, the windows were open to a little breeze and people were ordering fluffy omelets and an overstuffed chicken salad sandwich. It's a good place to talk and relax and sample raspberry and mango sorbet. You aren't ever going to have a bad meal - Murphy's is dependable that way. If you want something daring, you'll have to look elsewhere but your visiting aunt from Des Moines will feel she's been treated to a first-class meal. Being able to walk there only makes it that much more special. There's a good selection of wine and, late at night, the richness of the desserts can cushion that partying you've indulged in.

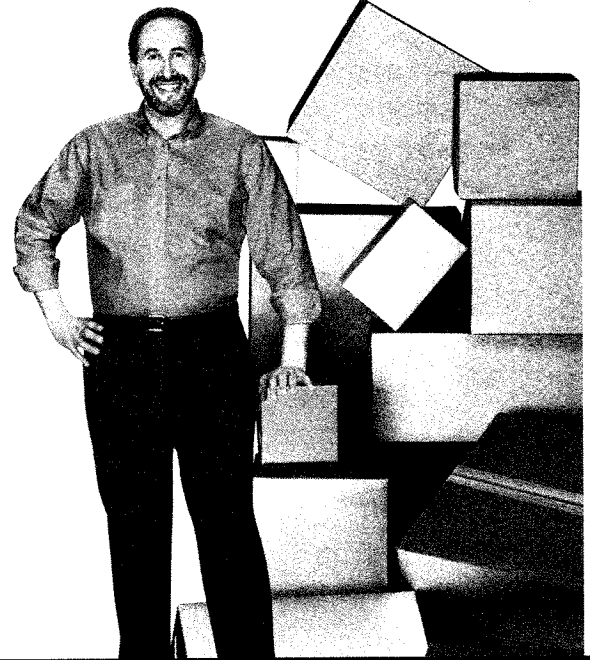
Across the intersection is an older, more comfortable bar and grill. Moe's and Joe's got its start in 1947 and it looks pretty much the same now. There are vintage booths for seating and old liquor signs on the walls and a restroom that does its duty with absolutely no frills. But if you have a mom like mine, she won't let a trip to Atlanta go by without a stop at Moe's and Joe's. You just can't beat them for a beer and hot-dog and the atmosphere - meaning the regulars. At Moe's and Joe's you can sit outside on their patio and literally watch the world pass by. In no time at all you'll experience peace of mind, optimism, and good scents in the air (OK, maybe some pollen, too) as you watch your neighbors stroll by with their baby strollers and dogs. Who could ask for anything more?

Make sure you visit both of these places this summer. Colonel Mustard gives them both 4 1/2 hot-dogs.

**Murphy's: 997 Virginia Ave.: (404) 872-0904;
www.murphysvh.com**

**Moe's and Joe's: 1033 North Highland Ave.:
(404) 873-6090**

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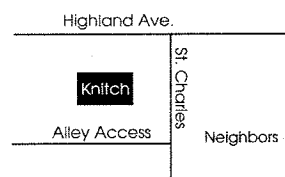
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