

The Virginia-Highland

# VOICE

Winter 2008

## Inside:

Zipcar Comes to Va-Hi

Orme Park:  
Master Plan Takes Shape

Neighborhood Preservation  
Initiative Gains Steam

## Phase II Streetscape Plans Finalized Project Set to Start After Summerfest

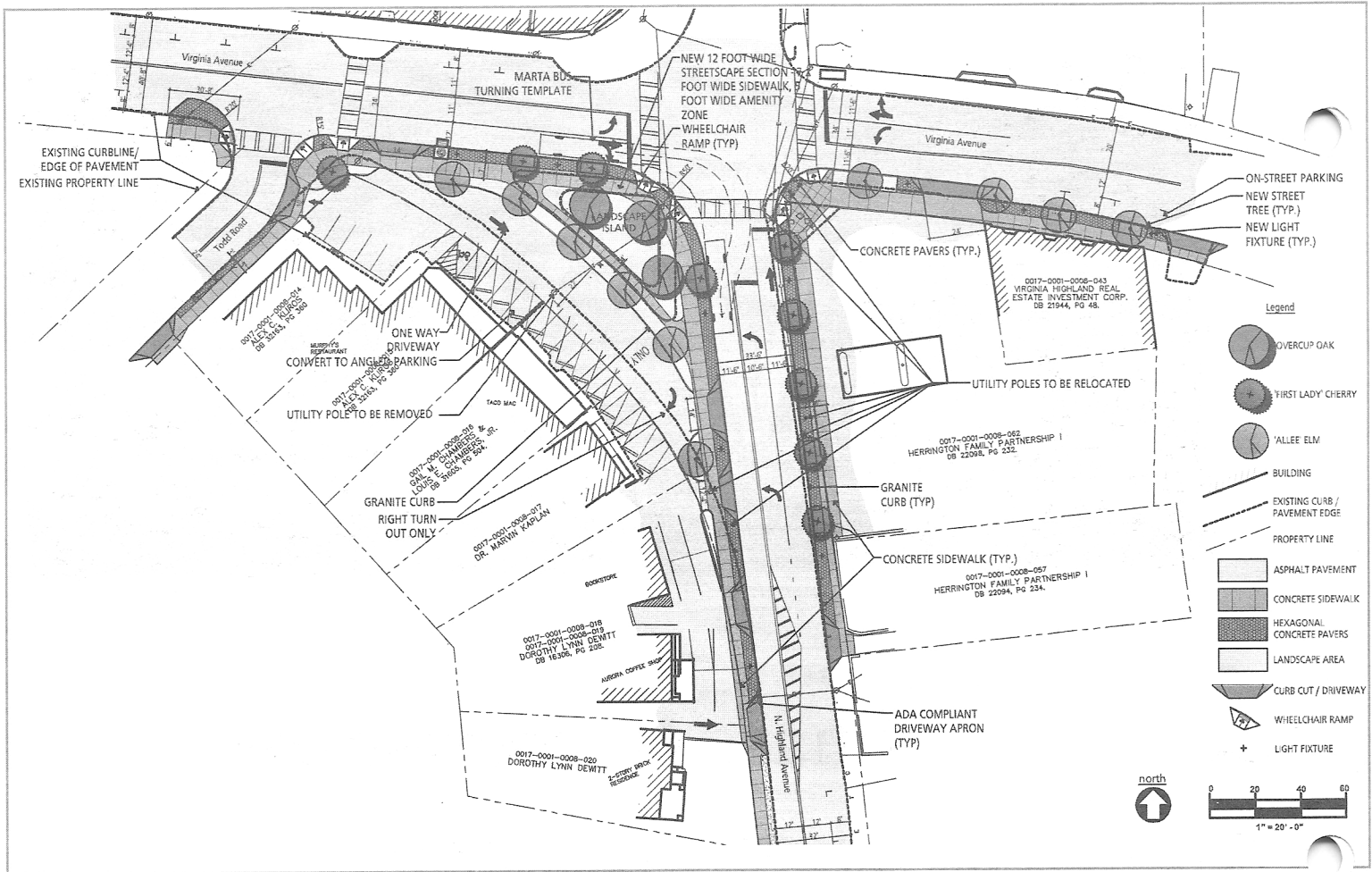
by: Pamela Papner

Phase II of the project to improve the streetscape at the intersection of Virginia Ave. and N. Highland Ave. will begin just after Summerfest (early June). The goal is to complete most work – short of “finishing touches” - before Thanksgiving, so retailers are not adversely impacted during the holiday shopping period. Total cost for both Phase I and II \$550,000, with \$450,000 from federal funds and the remainder coming from local Quality of Life funds.

Phase I, completed last year, involved installation of approximately 400 feet of new sidewalk on both sides of N. Highland (from Virginia Ave. to Todd Rd.) and approximately 330 feet of new sidewalk on the north side of Virginia Ave. The sidewalk was widened to 8 or 12ft., using attractive hexagonal concrete pavers and granite curbs. Historically appropriate pedestrian lighting was added, along with new garbage receptacles, signage, benches, bike racks, curb cuts and turn lane improvements. The Bradford pear trees that previously existed were replaced with Chinese Elms.

Phase II will provide similar improvements to the south side of Virginia Ave. and on both sides of N. Highland Ave. south from Virginia to approximately the Aurora Coffee Shop. Phase II features an expanded and improved “island” in front of Taco Mac/Murphy’s, and also includes:

- 7 foot wide sidewalks and 5 foot amenity zone for trees and furniture, for a total of 12 feet. In some areas, this is narrowed to fit existing conditions;
- Landscaped area in island will be increased by over 1,000 square feet;
- The dedicated right (southbound) turn lane off eastbound Virginia Avenue will become a one-way drive only from Virginia toward N. Highland Ave. A sharp right (w/ curb cut) will require drivers to slow considerably when turning from Virginia Ave. into the parking area. Existing parking in front of Murphy’s, Taco Mac, Dr. Kaplan, Urban Cottage, and Aurora Coffee Shop will be preserved. Exiting onto N. Highland Ave. from this lane will be a right turn only.



### Artists Rendering of Phase II Virginia-Highland Streetscape Plan

- The expanded island adjacent to the dedicated right turn lane will include better defined curb lines, pedestrian scale lighting, street trees and added landscape space.
- If impacted commercial property owners agree to angled parking, the City will repave that area, with owner permission. Property owners (Murphy's/Taco Mac) will lose one parking space if parking is angled.
- Eastbound Virginia Ave. will remain two lanes, and the right turn onto N. Highland Ave. at the traffic light will accommodate bus turning with a 50 foot curb radius.
- While some utility poles will be relocated or removed, utilities will generally remain in place and not be placed underground due to high cost.
- Trees Atlanta will be charged with planting trees in the landscaped area, and will be funded with part of the project budget to do so. The VHCA Parks Committee will work closely with Trees Atlanta to finalize landscaping design for the new island. The proposed tree palette for Phase II includes Allee Elms, First Lady Cherry (flowering tree) and Overcup Oak.

In the past few months, two meetings were held to gather resident input to proposed plans. The final plan reflects modifications to

the original draft, in response to residents' input. Plans and project timelines will be displayed at the island prior to demolition. A copy of the plan can be seen above and is also viewable in PDF format at [vahi.org](http://vahi.org).

We are very excited about this project. This facelift will not only be aesthetically pleasing, it will make our neighborhood safer, incent more pedestrian traffic, and improve our commercial and residential property values.



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## President's Corner

by: Pamela Papner

President, Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board

THE VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION IS OFF TO ANOTHER FAST START IN 2008! THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN BUSY AT WORK ON A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU. HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Summerfest 2008** will be June 6, 7 & 8: 2008 marks the 25th anniversary of Summerfest – can you believe it? To celebrate, we will be doing some special things this year. This year's theme is Vintage Summerfest, and we'll bring back some of the neighborhood activities that used to take place in years past. More details later, but some of the ideas include a "herbie curby" trash can decorating contest – or a neighborhood parade with an "official" King & Queen of Virginia-Highland. In addition to our community dinner and movie, we plan to hold a few key events to bring our neighborhood together for some good old-fashioned FUN! If you have ideas to share, please e-mail me at [president@vahi.org](mailto:president@vahi.org). And it's never too early to volunteer for this year's event. If you're interested, send your name and e-mail address to [volunteers@vahi.org](mailto:volunteers@vahi.org).

- **Neighborhood Commercial Initiative:** The VHCA Neighborhood Commercial Steering Committee is continuing a series of meetings to gather input from both residents and commercial property owners, and we are making progress toward drafting proposed legislation for Neighborhood Commercial zoning. You are encouraged to attend the final public meeting on Thursday March 20th at 7 PM at Inman Middle School at which residents can review and comment on the draft proposal. This is one of the most important initiatives undertaken by our community in the past ten years and this is a key opportunity for your voice to be heard.

- **VHCA Meetings and Emails:** Don't forget, the Virginia-Highland Civic Association meets monthly, typically on the first Monday of each month, at 7pm in the public meeting room of the Ponce de Leon Public Library. The next meetings are March 3rd and April 7th. We encourage you to attend, voice your opinions, and become involved in the many civic initiatives going on to improve our community! The schedule is posted at [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org). If you go to our Web site and click "join", you can sign up for community emails to stay on top of community news and events. *Sign up today!*

## 2007 Home Tour Recap

by: Rob Glancy

The 2007 Virginia-Highland Tour of Homes was held December 8th and 9th. Thanks to increased publicity, citywide exposure, and newly designed light post banners, gross ticket sales surged to over \$28,000, after not exceeding \$19,000 in any year since the event was resumed in 2004. Final net income figures will be available after trailing expenses and sponsorships are accounted for. Overall, in four years the tour has raised over \$80,000 to fund park improvements, donations to neighborhood schools, zoning projects and the neighborhood sidewalk initiative.

This year's tour featured eight fascinating homes and was capped by another festive after celebration at Dish Restaurant. Special thanks goes to Sheri Davis, who has supported the tour with her culinary abilities the past four years.

We sincerely thank the gracious homeowners as well as our sponsors, including Susanne Kupiec of Jenny Pruitt and Associates, Home Rebuilders, Whole Foods, and Atlanta INtown. We also appreciate the fine neighborhood restaurants – Dish, Sala, Vine, LaTavola, Murphys, Noche, Shorty's, Atkins Park and Food 101 – that provided food tastings at tour homes. Thanks also to the house captains, volunteers and committee chairs – and a huge thank you to Allie Coker and Charlie LeFort.

The Tour Steering Committee has begun pre-planning for the 2008 tour which will be held on December 6th and 7th. If you're interested in taking a leadership role in this year's tour, have a prospective home you'd like to show, or would like to help sponsor the event, please contact Rob Glancy at 404-467-9922 or email [tour@vahi.org](mailto:tour@vahi.org). Additional information is available at [www.vahihometour.org](http://www.vahihometour.org).

## Area Homes Included on Tour of Kitchens

by: John Becker

Looking to renovate the kitchen of your quaint 1920's bungalow? Or just like to dream about it? You can check out kitchens created by Atlanta's most renowned and celebrated designers at the Junior League of Atlanta's 2008 Tour of Kitchens.

The tour will take place Saturday, March 29 from 10 AM – 4 PM and Sunday March 30 from 11 AM – 5 PM and will feature several homes from the Va-Hi/Morningside area.

The kitchen of Dawn and Bill Bell who live on Virginia Ave. will be on display, as will that of Richard and Cindy Wallace who live on Pine Ridge Dr. in Morningside. The kitchen of another Morningside home on Berkshire Rd. will also be on display.

The self-guided tour also features kitchens in Buckhead, Ansley Park, Midtown, Vinings, Sandy Springs and Dunwoody. A total of 14 kitchens will be on display.

Special demonstrations will be given by some of the city's most renowned chefs, including Ron Eyester of Food 101, Shaun Doty of Shaun's and Darryl Gassmann of Chops.

The public is also invited to attend Toast of the Tour, an annual kick-off party to be held Thursday, March 13 at Residential Construction Specialties on Miami Circle. The event features food, cocktails, live music and a silent auction.

Advance purchase tickets for the tour are \$25 per person, good for both days of the tour. A limited number of \$35 day-of-the-tour tickets will be available. Tickets to the Toast party are \$45 and can only be purchased in advance.

For tickets or additional information visit [www.jlatlanta.org/tok](http://www.jlatlanta.org/tok) or call 678-916-3100.

## Zipcar Comes to Va-Hi

by: John Becker

Tired of the significant expense that comes with car ownership? Feel like you could take at least one car off the road in these 'green' times if only you had access to a vehicle once in a while? Car sharing might be the ticket for you.

Flexcar – now Zipcar after a merger of the two companies late last year – opened a location in Virginia-Highland recently. The combined company is the world's largest provider of car-sharing services, offering self-service, on-demand cars by the hour or day.

With Zipcar's technology, reserving, accessing and using a Zipcar is as easy as getting cash from an ATM. In just minutes and up to a year in advance, members can reserve zip cars on-line or by phone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Zipcar members have automated access to Zipcars using a 'Zipcard' to simply unlock the door and drive away. Rates are as low as \$7.50 per hour or \$56 per day with gas, parking, insurance and maintenance included.

In Va-Hi, Zipcars can be found at the Lot 21 parking lot at the corner of N. Highland Ave. and Briarcliff Place, across from American Roadhouse. The two cars assigned to our neighborhood are a 2007 White Toyota Prius and a 2007 white Mini Cooper (for what it's worth, Zipcar says the Prius has been more popular than the Mini Cooper). The company says more cars will be added as area demand increases.

For more information visit [www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com) or call 1-866-4ZIPCAR



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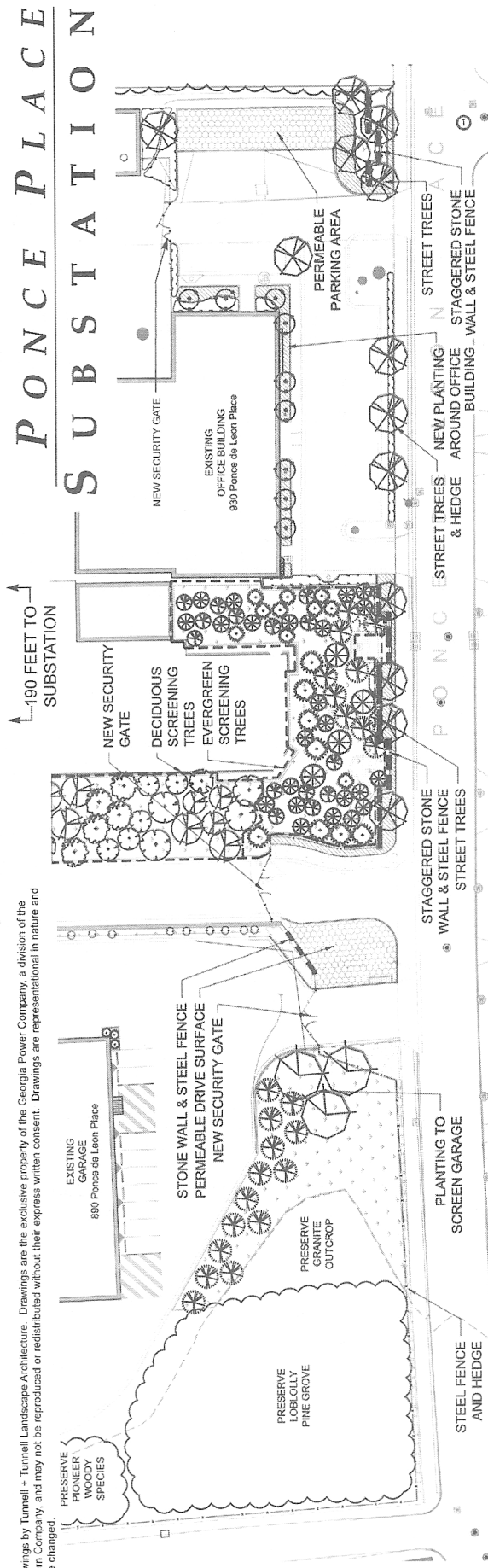
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SERVING THE VIRGINIA HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD

# LANDSCAPE DIAGRAM FOR GP SUBSTATION FINALIZED

Working in conjunction with Georgia Power and neighborhood representatives, landscape architects recently completed a plan for landscaping around the substation under construction near the corner of Virginia Ave. and Ponce Place. Weather permitting, the substation itself and surrounding fence and walls will be completed during the spring and summer of 2008. Remaining landscaping will be completed late this year and during the first part of 2009.

All drawings by Tunnell + Tunnell Landscape Architecture. Drawings are the exclusive property of the Georgia Power Company, a division of the Southern Company, and may not be reproduced or redistributed without their express written consent. Drawings are representational in nature and may be changed.

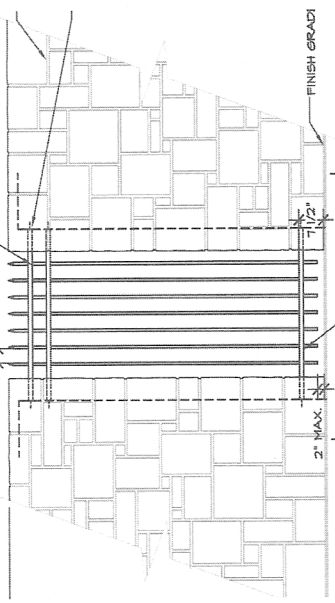


A SITE PLAN  
SCALE: 1"=20'

## DESIGN GOALS

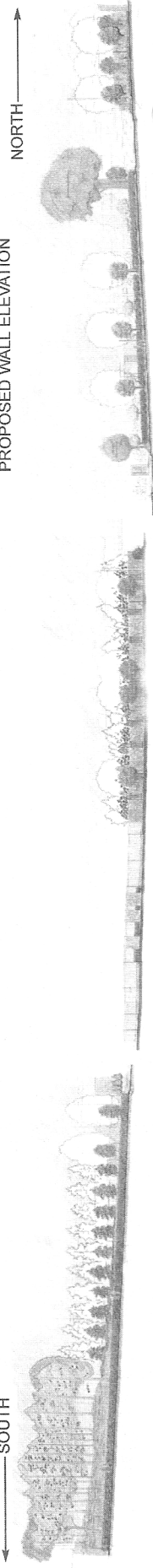
1. Minimize views of buildings and substation; shift focus to streetscape and plant material.
2. Create a unified design along the street front.
3. Integrate street front into neighborhood fabric with stone walls, metal fence, and street trees.
4. Redefine and formalize on-site parking to improve efficiency and safety.
5. Reduce impervious surfaces in design areas.
6. Use native plants as much as possible throughout the design.
7. Plant detention ponds (not shown) and open areas with native grasses and wildflowers.
8. Preserve view of granite outcrop and loblolly pine grove.
9. Accommodate Georgia Power's need for wide truckentrances.

0' 20' 40' NORTH



← SOUTH

PROPOSED WALL ELEVATION



Elevation of Ponce de Leon Place looking west depicting improvements and projected 15-year plant growth.

# Va-Hi Safety Team Report

by: John Wolfinger

Having reached the one-year milestone of our public safety initiative, I want to thank all those involved in keeping our neighborhood alert, aware, and, consequently, safer. But for every resident now receiving my electronic reports, I'm sure there are many more who are not receiving them who would like to. With a goal of increasing participation – which benefits us all – let me explain how the safety team functions.

My basic theory of crime prevention is that people who know each other tend to look out for each other. As street captains step forward to organize their street, block, apartment/condo building or work place, they first reach out to their neighbors and co-workers to gather a list of names and e-mail addresses. This helps increase the distribution list for the electronic reports, raising more awareness.

A great next step is to have an informal social gathering so neighbors can meet and become familiar with one another. Many streets captains have gone even further by setting up meetings with our APD Zone 6 Crime Prevention Officer, Inspector Ruby Naylor, at which additional ways to keep safe are discussed. Resident directories have been compiled for some streets, so neighbors can quickly get in touch with each other when leaving town, having work done on their house, etc.

Realizing that every street is composed of unique individuals, what works in one place, may not work in another. But the underlying concept and end result is much the same: awareness of what is happening in our area is increased. So, if you live in a part of Va-Hi that doesn't receive the Safety Team Reports, please e-mail me at [safety@vahi.org](mailto:safety@vahi.org), and I'll be glad to work with you to organize your own little part of our world.

Even with these efforts we can't expect crime to completely disappear from Va-Hi. We have to realize we live in the middle of a large city – but we can learn to plan our everyday activities to avoid situations where we may encounter danger. I worry sometimes that the electronic reports may unnerve or scare some folks, but please don't take them this way. Look at the reports as a way to keep yourself aware and alert. Things – sometimes bad things – are going to happen around us, so it's far better to be aware and knowledgeable, than to live with your head buried in the sand.

Another benefit of the Safety Team initiative is making more eyes and ears available to Zone 6 to let them know – via your 911 calls – of situations where “something is just not right”. Follow your instincts when you see or hear something that you think the police should know about. It's far better to call about something unnecessarily than to not call and hear later you could have prevented something bad from happening. We are getting much better at using 911 and, since we all know there are not enough police on our streets, we all have an obligation to ourselves and our fellow citizens to help APD do their jobs.

We're all in this together – our unity and awareness can make the difference between whether we collectively sink or swim.

# Update on Historic Designation Efforts Neighborhood Preservation Initiative Gains Steam

by: Doris Betz

In the last issue of VOICE you read John Becker's article on the possibility of gaining historic preservation status for Virginia-Highland. Since then the Neighborhood Preservation Committee has definitely been moving ahead.

Volunteers will soon be going out into the community to educate residents on the effort and to gather feedback. This is a critical part of the process – finding out your opinions and what it is you value concerning your neighborhood.

Everyone in the community has chosen to live here because we treasure the look and feel of Virginia-Highland. The committee is dedicated to representing everyone in this process and getting this thing right so that the final results are what is best for the neighborhood.

It may not be obvious, but just getting to this point has required considerable work, especially by NPC chair Lola Carlisle. With enthusiasm and vision, Lola has already engaged the help of 21 people in lead and supporting roles. The common goal among each committee member is to preserve the charming and desirable aspects of our beloved Virginia-Highland and to explore the aspects of historic designation that can help us accomplish this. But there's much work to be done and the need for volunteers is right up there with the need for more rain.

If you'd like to get involved, please email us at [npc@vahi.org](mailto:npc@vahi.org), or go to [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org), click on “Planning,” then on “Historic” to find out more about the historic designation effort.

# Trees Atlanta Visits Va-Hi Neighborhood Arboretum Also in the Works

by: Rob Glancy

A hearty group of over 25 volunteers from Virginia-Highland, Georgia Tech, Trees Atlanta and a Norcross high school planted more than 50 trees in our neighborhood on Saturday, January 26th. Most of the trees were planted in the sidewalk strip along Drewry St., but trees were also added along Virginia Ave., Highland View, Hudson Drive and Rosedale Drive. Special thanks to Stephanie Coffin for identifying many of the locations for this year's tree planting. The planting is an annual event, resulting from the VHCA's grant distributions to Trees Atlanta.

The VHCA and Trees Atlanta are also in the planning stages to establish a neighborhood arboretum, which will be a walking tour of important specimens and native trees. Similar arboretums have been created in Inman Park, Oakhurst and Cabbagetown. For more information on neighborhood arboretums, visit [www.treesatlanta.org](http://www.treesatlanta.org).

Please email Rob Glancy at [parks@vahi.org](mailto:parks@vahi.org), if you would like to participate in the arboretum planning effort.

# The Bus Stop

## News of interest from Morningside Elementary and Inman Middle Schools

### Morningside Elementary School

Susie Lazega & Blaine Schreiner  
MES PTA Co-Presidents

MES kicked-off 2008 with some great programming for our school community. Our scholastic book fair "Blizzard", coordinated by parent volunteer Marie Cumbest at the main campus and Lynne Kushner at the kindergarten campus, was held the last week in January. The book fair encourages children to become lifelong, enthusiastic readers and proceeds go toward the purchase of books and other literacy needs for the school.

The first week in February was our annual Teacher Appreciation Week. The event was spearheaded by Celeste Smith and Karen Nagler at the main campus and Tara Parrish and Lisa McFarland at the kindergarten campus. MES is fortunate to have some amazing teachers and everyone got involved to make sure our honorees were pampered and acknowledged.

Morningside's Family Science Night took place February 20-21. Alexia Chororos headed up the effort to bring a variety of wonderful speakers to our campus at no cost so our children could learn about many different areas of science. It was an exciting evening for the whole family.

Be sure to join us on March 28th at Park Tavern overlooking Piedmont Park when MES holds its biennial auction. This year's auction is being coordinated by Cathy Tilman and there will be great items to bid on from classroom art projects to activities with a teacher – even lunch with Morningside's favorite neighbor, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Joey Harrington! This year's proceeds will benefit the school's long term technology plan.

If your business would like to become an auction sponsor, contact Mary Stouffer at [mrs30306@bellsouth.net](mailto:mrs30306@bellsouth.net). If you have something you'd like to donate, contact Leigh Juliano at [leighjuliano@bellsouth.net](mailto:leighjuliano@bellsouth.net). To purchase a ticket or find out more about the auction visit the school website at [www.morningsideschool.org/auction](http://www.morningsideschool.org/auction) or contact Cathy Tilman at [cathytilman@comcast.net](mailto:cathytilman@comcast.net).

Morningside's Local School Council has initiated a Collaborative Planning Committee to facilitate communication with Atlanta Public Schools regarding the opening of a new school at the Ponce de Leon site – next door to the Kindergarten Campus – expected in August 2009. The committee's primary goal is to establish ongoing dialogue with APS about the process of

building and opening the new elementary school. Another committee goal is to keep the Morningside community informed as this important process begins. Representatives from the Local School Council, PTA and Morningside administration will meet regularly to see that interests and concerns from all stakeholders are communicated in a timely manner. Watch your Morningside Memo newsletter for more information about the important work of this committee.

### Inman Middle School

Denise Romeo  
VP Communications, Inman PTA

This year's first semester ended with several wonderful programs starting with the Technology Showcase where teachers and students showed parents and stakeholders how the Promethean boards harness the power of the Internet to create interactive classroom environments. Also, more than fifty local authors, journalists and other writing-related professionals helped present the 17th Annual Inman Writers' Workshop. Through the workshop members of the community donated their time and talents to work with students in language arts and social studies classes over three days. Mini-workshops were presented on a variety of topics with the goal being to foster students' awareness of and interest in writing. Lastly, the Inman PTA hosted an Open House for parents and friends to view the remarkable 6th grade Social Studies Fair projects, 7th grade Math Fair projects, and 8th grade Science Fair projects.

The second semester began with quiet halls as teachers and students prepared for the Georgia CRCT. Seventh graders got a break in their schedules with a three-day trip to Jekyll Island's 4-H Center to study marine ecology. Our students were fortunate to be able to participate in this amazing program.

Inman Middle School was recently selected to participate in the national Alliance for Healthier Schools Program, a joint initiative of the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation. In partnership with APS, the Healthy Schools Program will work with Inman over the next 4 years to create a healthier school environment.

Lastly, ING is giving students from all sixteen APS middle schools the opportunity to participate in the 2nd annual ING Marathon & Half-Marathon by sponsoring the "Run for Something Better" program. Students began training in February, running one to two miles a week during PE and after school, and will log all the miles they run prior to the race. Any student completing twelve miles before the March 30th race will have the opportunity to run the last 1.1 miles of the half-marathon on race day. All students completing the free program will receive a race medal, T-shirt, and the thrill of having run sort of a half marathon with people from all over the world.

For more information on how you can volunteer or contribute, please visit [www.inggeorgiamarathon.com](http://www.inggeorgiamarathon.com).



## 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 a mainstay of the neighborhood: La Tavola Trattoria.*

Saturday night is busy, busy at La Tavola. Fortunately, our group of four ready-to-be-fed Italian food lovers had made a reservation. It's fair to say the place is more popular than it really has room for. Customers and servers jockey for position around the tables. The servers are adroit at weaving through with trays and going to the restroom is a 'getting-to-know-your-neighbor' experience as you wind and bump your way to the back of the restaurant. Nobody minds and everyone smiles. These are robust and discerning customers and workers.

On this night we had out-of-town visitors with us who have dined all over the country as well as internationally, including in Italy. The first thing they ordered was a negroni cocktail. Their faces couldn't hide their amazement – first, that the waitress knew what they were ordering and second, that the cocktail was very well made with gin, Campari and sweet vermouth. I let out a sigh of relief since our friends are considered gourmets. The relief, though, would be short-lived.

First, we shared the seared sea scallops appetizer with polenta, spinach and tomatoes. The dish comes with three scallops and the waitress added a fourth so we could easily share. This was an outstanding dish that I will have all to myself next time. As an entrée, I had spaghetti with tomatoes, basil and veal meatballs - I love meatballs and these were very good. My husband ordered the grilled sword fish with capers. He thought the portion was a little small but was able to fill up on the sides of roasted sweet potatoes and spinach, all good. One of our guests had baked manicotti made with beef, veal, pancetta, spinach and mozzarella. She said this dish is always a good test for an Italian restaurant. There was a little hesitation but she ended up enjoying it.

But here was the kicker: our other gourmet ordered the veal scallopine. It arrived quite dry from over cooking. Our friend the raconteur - a famously charming man with a Puerto Rican accent - had already entertained our server with his expertise and he took this opportunity to inform her exactly how scallopine should be prepared. She took the dish off and the manager returned with a new plate and stayed to see how it was received. Ah - good at last! The waitress and manager couldn't have been more gracious and the relief again was sweet. Bottom line, the evening was a success!

Colonel Mustard gives La Tavola 5 hot dogs on a scale of 1 to 5

**La Tavola Trattoria:** 992 Virginia Avenue  
404 873-5430 [www.latavolatrattoria.com](http://www.latavolatrattoria.com)

644 North Highland Ave, Ste 127  
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# In-town Cycling: Family Style

by: Cycle Man

For the Macketts, bicycling means seeing more of the world around them. Father Brad says: "Cycling allows us to venture out to places and events around the city that we probably wouldn't go to if we had to drive or walk".

Today I'm joining in on one of their family cycling outings that includes stops at Grant Park and Oakland Cemetery. Neighborhood festivals are also favorite stops for the Macketts. Mother Eileen says cycling works better for visiting festivals, "because we can actually get there quicker and don't have to hassle with parking the car."

There's no festival today, but we'll hit some of the many parks and other destinations within cycling distance of Virginia-Highland.

Twelve year old Sarah mentions a couple of stops popular with motorists – only she doesn't take up a parking space! Sarah explains: "You'll find that bike riding gives you a good chance to really look at houses you like or stores you adore." It's a positive sign of our times that a 12-year-old already understands the importance of slowing down and enjoying life.

And if the mood strikes you, it's easy to hop off your bike to get a smoothie or join a pickup ball game. Ten year old Bradley understands the fun factor of riding bikes. "Always go someplace fun. If you love baseball, go to the baseball field. If soccer's your thing, go someplace and kick a soccer ball."

How do the Macketts cycle Atlanta's streets safely with kids? Eileen says: "I wish there were more bike paths, but we seem to handle the streets and sidewalks just fine."

As a child, the bicycle was Eileen's primary way to visit friends. "I'd love to be able to let my children 'go' like I was able to, but in the city with all the traffic, that's not possible. That means if I have to be a child again and go with them – so be it!"

Group rides on streets alongside traffic are also a treat. Riding in traffic is much less intimidating for new riders when it's done with a group. An experienced group provides ample opportunity to observe and practice the skills required to safely and courteously share the road with motorists.

And then there are the places closed to traffic. There's much debate about "segregating" bikes from motorists, but as Brad puts it: "We all need a place to lose our training wheels!"

Piedmont Park, the PATH trails, and even April's Tour de Georgia Circuit Race provide great opportunities to ride without traffic. The professional cycling race was everyone's favorite cycling event and Eileen sums up the family's sentiment by saying "It was great to see the riders, but it was a blast to be able to ride on the streets while they were blocked off for the race."



The Macketts have some tips for less experienced cyclists:

**Sarah on helmets:** "Once I was riding and didn't have the proper shoes on. My shoe got caught and I fell over and so did my bike – on me! Luckily, I had my helmet on. Because I did, I didn't break my neck."

**Bradley on shoes:** "Never wear Birkenstocks, always running or tennis shoes."

**Brad:** "Piedmont Park is a wonderful place to start. There are plenty of challenges for the whole family, but no cars to worry about".

**Eileen:** "Just get out and do it! You never know where you might end up or what you might discover!"

**Here are a few upcoming family-oriented cycling events including their web sites for more information:**

Sunday April 20 1pm Atlanta Bicycle Campaign (ABC) Beltline Bike Ride <http://www.atlantabike.org/>

Sunday April 27 Final Stage of Tour de Georgia professional bicycle race <http://www.tourdegeorgia.com/>

June 7 - 14 Bicycle Ride Across Georgia – Oxford to St. Simons <http://www.brag.org/brag.html>

**Want to Learn More?**

**What:** A Presentation and Discussion of In-Town Cycling How Cycling Can Make Our Neighborhood a Better Place to Live, Work and Play

**Who:** Rebecca Serna, Executive Director of the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign

**When:** Virginia-Highland Civic Association Monthly Meeting; April 7, 2008 7:30 pm

**Where:** Atlanta Public Library on Ponce de Leon Ave.





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