

The Virginia-Highland

VOICE

Summer 2010

Summerfest



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND

Festival Times:

Friday, June 4, 2010 - 7:00 PM: Community Dinner and Movie

Saturday, June 5, 2010 - 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Artist Market closes at 6:30pm on Saturday

Sunday, June 6, 2010 - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Artist Market opens one hour earlier on Sunday this year

It's Festival Time!

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association (VHCA) and its media partner, DaveFM (92.9) Radio, are proud to present the 27th annual Virginia-Highland Summerfest. We hope you and your family will participate!

Regularly recognized by local media as one of Atlanta's best neighborhood festivals and consistently revered by art professionals as one of the best artist markets in the southeast, Summerfest also features exceptional food and music, a 5K race and an activity-packed Kidsfest. Summerfest is a fantastic event for the entire family!!!

Summerfest will take place in the heart of our neighborhood along tree-lined Virginia Avenue, between North Highland Avenue and Park Drive. Admission is FREE; however donations to the VHCA are greatly appreciated.

Proceeds from Summerfest go to the VHCA, a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that helps maintain Virginia-Highland as one of the most livable urban communities in America.

Special Events

Community Dinner and Movie: The community dinner and outdoor movie will begin at 7:00pm and will be held at the Inman Middle School field at Virginia and Greencove avenues. Please bring your ID to verify Va-Hi residency. This year's movie, "*The Tale of Despereaux*" will begin at dusk.





Nights of Summerfest

After the community dinner Friday night and following the last band on Saturday, be sure to join us for an evening of drinks and acoustic music at the newly renovated Virginia-Highland triangle. Tables and trees adorned with sparkling lights will provide a lovely atmosphere in which to enjoy the "Nights of Summerfest".

Neighborhood Parade

This year's theme is "Movie Madness." Go crazy dressing up like your favorite movie character and walk the parade route, down Drewry and onto Barnett (about 0.6 miles). Meet at Intown Ace Hardware (corner of Drewry and N. Highland) on Friday at 6pm. The parade will start at 6:30pm and end up at the neighborhood dinner at the Inman School field, where prizes will be awarded. Register online at vahi.org/parade.html.

The Artist Market

The juried artist market features work and exhibits from more than 220 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. Many artists applied to be a part of the event this year, so the quality of art available should be better than ever!

5K Road Race

The Summerfest 5K will be held at 8am on Saturday June 5th and features 1,000 runners winding through the streets of Virginia-Highland. Following the 5K Race, children 5 and under will run, waddle or crawl to the finish line of the Tot Trot, this year being held in the Inman Middle School field at Virginia and Greencove at 8:45am. Registration for the 5K and Tot Trot must be made in advance. See www.active.com to register with a credit card or running4fitness.com for details.

Food and Music

Summerfest always features a range of delicious food, including items from local restaurants. A variety of non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks are available throughout the event site.

This year's music will be presented by radio station partner DaveFM (92.9), and the artist line-up is one of the best ever! The music stage will be located on the Inman Middle School field at Virginia & Greencove and will feature a variety of renowned local musicians, along with nationally acclaimed singer/songwriters.

Local favorite "Lindsay Rakers Band" is band #2, playing at 1:30pm Saturday. Headliners that day are Bob Schneider and Tonic, with Michael Tolcher and Mike Doughty performing as headliners on Sunday. For the complete line-up, see: vahi.org/summerfest.html

KidsFest

This year's Kidsfest will take place in John Howell Park (near Arcadia) on Saturday (10am to 6pm) and Sunday (Noon to 5pm). Kidsfest features unique games, crafts and activities for children of all ages. Most games, crafts and activities are free.

Parking

There is a limited mix of free parking lots, paid parking lots, and designated on-street parking. This year festival attendees can park for \$10 (up to 4 hours, \$2/hr. after that, up to \$15 daily maximum) at Grace Lutheran Church, 1155 N. Highland during festival hours on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Grace Lutheran is within easy walking distance of the festival.

Summerfest Committee and Volunteers:

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association sincerely thanks all its Summerfest volunteers and sponsors. In particular, we thank DaveFM Radio, which is providing advertising and music to make our event successful.

Committee members who have invested many hours of their time to bring you this event include:

Director: Pamela Papner
Co-Chairs: Ann Guy and Charlie Lefort

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2009-2010 Board of Directors

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The Virginia-Highland Voice

Published quarterly, by and for the residents
of Virginia-Highland

Editor: John Becker

Design: Preeti Ayyangar

Business Manager: Nita Luce

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 pm

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

Please visit our web site for calendar updates, additional
information on VHCA or to join: www.vahi.org

DaveFM: Will Davis, Marketing &
Promotions Director,
DaveFM 92.9 Radio

Logistics: Rob Frazer, Premier Events

Artist Market: Julie Tepp and Nancy Musser

Volunteers: Allie Coker

KidsFest: Jenny Thomas-Warner and Kendall Elliott

Graphic Design: Cornelia ("Neil") Bowen

Parade: Doris Betz

Road Race: Ed Williams

Safety/Parking: John Wolfinger

Community Dinner: John Peter Casey

For more information or to volunteer, please visit
www.vahi.org/summerfest.html or www.929dave.fm

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President's Corner

Pamela Papner
Board President, Virginia-Highland Civic Association

Volunteerism is certainly alive and well in our neighborhood! The past three months have been especially productive, and a huge thank you goes out to everyone who recently volunteered his or her time and energies into giving back. Here are highlights:

Edible Plant Sale Raises \$3,060 for New Highland Park! This March 13 fundraiser was led by Conne Ward Cameron, John Wolfinger, Max Alligood and Pat Penn. A fantastic plant sale with excellent prices on hard-to-find varieties was flawlessly executed. 383 fruit trees and berry bushes found homes in Virginia-Highland and surrounding neighborhoods, and 925 strawberry plants will be bearing fruit later this spring! Special thanks go to Pat Penn for the many hours she spent promoting the event; to John Wolfinger for organizing volunteers; and to both of them for slogging through the rain/mud on Friday to organize pre-sale pick-ups. Special thanks also go to Conne Ward Cameron for coming up with this great idea and finding the perfect supplier – and, of course, to all the sales volunteers: Max Alligood, Karen & Joe Page, Anne Sheldon, Diana Mendes, Victoria Talley, Victoria Hathcox, David Cameron, Michael Nunally, Joy Rousso and Anne Sheldon, (forgive us if we missed anyone). The money raised will be used to either fund construction of New Highland Park or pay down the principle on the debt.

\$50,000 Orme Park Grant and City Funding: A special thank you goes to Ryan Healan who, with support from Victoria Talley, submitted a grant request to Park Pride that resulted in the maximum award of \$50,000! These funds were needed to enable Phase One improvements to Orme Park (see p.11). Following on the heels of that award – and after many meetings and reviews of plans with Ryan and Victoria – Atlanta's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs budgeted an additional \$38,000 toward this project. These are amazing achievements for which the neighborhood owes Ryan and Victoria a huge thank you!

Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day Earns a Record \$1,300!
A special thank you goes to Friends of Orme Park, including Alice Gepp, who organized this event held March 23rd. If you don't know "the scoop," Ben & Jerry's shops around the country close their doors in honor of Earth Day (although Free Cone Day was a month early this year) and lets the conservation charity of its choice collect donations for free ice cream cones. Orme Park

has been the lucky recipient of this fund-raising opportunity for eleven years now. Friends of Orme Park, along with the entire community, would like to thank Frank & Kim Lee, owners of the Va-Hi Ben & Jerry's store, for their generosity in participating in Free Cone Day. Please stop by the Va-Hi Ben & Jerry's soon to purchase a cone or shake, and let the Lees know how much we appreciate their commitment to our community.

If anyone else has a wonderful idea for an event or project that could raise funds for Orme or New Highland Park, we would certainly love to hear from you!

Why Sell Your Home In This Market?

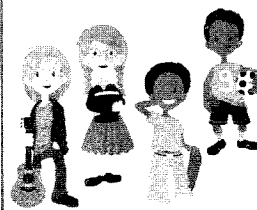
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- * Low student:staff ratio
- * Homework help
- * Certified teachers
- * Roots & Shoots club
- * Arts, crafts, books & software
- * Social space
- * Open until 6:30 PM

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www.garrisonafterschool.org

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Spotlight on Grady High School

Vernell Stewart Britton
PTSA President

As the 2010 school year draws to a close, Grady High is excited about the tremendous achievements of our students and faculty and the support we receive from our community partners. We know that when parents, the school, and the community work together for the success of every child, great accomplishments are achieved. Thanks to everyone for your support of Grady High School.

On May 27, 319 Grady seniors will graduate. We're proud of all the graduates and extend special congratulations to class Valedictorian Rachel Feinberg, Salutatorian Madeline Roorbach, and Star Student Laura Alexander. 108 members of the senior class received a score of 1500 or higher on the SAT and 21 plus on the ACT. The Star Teacher, selected by the Star Student, is Latin teacher Amy Leonard.

Here are highlights of other Grady High student accomplishments:

11th grader Michael Barlow was selected from among all Atlanta Public School JROTC Cadets to be promoted to the position of Brigade Commander. This is the first time an 11th grader has received this honor and the first brigade commander from Grady.

The Grady Gearbox Gangstaz participated in the 2010 First Peachtree Regional Robotics Competition and advanced to the semifinal round in the elimination tournament, the school's best showing since 2004.

Grady's Mock Trial Team won the Georgia State championship and represented our school and the State of Georgia at the national Mock Trial competition this month in Philadelphia.

The Speech and Debate team, The Jesters, was named Georgia Forensic Coaches Association (GFCA) State Speech and Debate Champions. In addition, 19 students qualified for the Grand National speech and debate tournament to be held in Omaha Memorial Day weekend.

The National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) has named Grady's News Network (GNN) a Pacemaker Finalist. The winners of this prestigious award will be announced as the NSPA fall convention in Washington, DC.

To learn more about goings-on at Grady, please visit us on the web at www.gradyhighschool.org

Garrison Afterschool Plans Expansion

- Susan Longley, School Director

The Garrison Afterschool Program (GAP) at the Church of Our Saviour had an exciting first year. Starting with fourteen children in August, enrollment grew to capacity of twenty-one children over the course of the year. When Georgia Organics relocated to more spacious quarters, the school started renovating their space for a second classroom to open for the 2010-11 school year.

GAP is a small program serving parents interested in a well-rounded afterschool program for their children. This year the school served all ages, K through 5th grade, in one classroom. Next year, younger children will be in the new classroom, which features an indoor playground with a rock-climbing wall, slide, swing, and climbing net. The older children's classroom will have more sophisticated art supplies, including a light table, educational computer software, and a jewelry-making table. Students will have access to the indoor playground as well.

GAP provides bus transportation from Morningside Elementary and serves several children from Springdale Park Elementary who live close by. Next year we will be partnering with Montessori In Town, sending a bus there to pick up kindergarten children.

GAP will offer a series of open houses in July for prospective parents—for dates and times please call 404-254-1734 or visit the GAP website at www.garrisonafterschool.org.



Dr. William Carlson
404.881.1805

1402-2 N. Highland Ave.
Atlanta, Georgia 30306
Fax: 404.881.6220

Parking in Virginia-Highland

City Moves to Redeploy Paid Street Parking; Considers Changes to Permit Parking Ordinance

It appears parking meters - in the form of newer multi-space parking pay stations that take credit/debit cards - will again become a fact of life in Virginia-Highland. In mid-April, residents and business owners saw No Parking signs go up along N. Highland Ave. in preparation for installation of new paid parking stations by the city.

District 6 City Council Member Alex Wan confirmed the parking stations are going in as part of a larger plan to deploy them city-wide.

"New parking pay stations are going up all over the city in places where meters were before or where new ones have been authorized," Wan said.

Wan indicated he was investigating how the neighborhood might temporarily or permanently halt deployment of the new stations, but said he wasn't optimistic about the outcome.

Meters haven't been seen on VaHi streets since they were temporarily removed in late 2006 prior to the start of the two-phase streetscape improvement project. VHCA board president Pamela Papner says at the time the board was told pay stations would likely be the wave of the future, but she says she has not received any specific information from the city about the new program.

There are business concerns about re-implementing metered parking in Virginia-Highland. Knitch owner Kim Nickels says the meters could be detrimental to business.

"If the meters must go in, I hope they're at least affordable," Nickels said. "These are tough economic times and we don't need another reason for potential customers not to frequent our neighborhood businesses."

There's no word yet on what parking will cost. Papner says she's working to get that information and will communicate details as they are provided.

On a related note, Atlanta's Department of Public Works hopes to "alleviate confusion" by revising city code as it relates to residential permit parking. These changes could potentially impact residents who live on St. Charles, St. Louis or St. Augustine places. If approved, the new code will:

- Clarify and consolidate the petition process.
- Delete the "area of influence" concept and replace it with a better defined petition area which is the same as "permit parking area."

- Better define "permit parking area" (currently defined as an area where there are at least two contiguous residential blocks within 1500 feet of a traffic generator).
- Add definition of "corner lot," making it clear that residences on corner lots where one lot side is on a street segment to be included in the permit area will be included for purposes of the petitioning process and, ultimately, as part of the program. Multi-family residences are included in the program if their only access is located on a street proposed for the residential permit program.
- Clarify that non-permitted vehicles may park for no more than a two hour period during the time when program rules are in effect.
- Change the number of permits issued for single and multi-family dwellings. Current code allows two permits for single family homes and one permit for multi-family dwelling units. The proposed code limits one permit for both types of dwellings if they have off-street parking or a driveway; otherwise, two permits for both types of dwellings will be allowed.
- Clarify that no program may be in place for more than twelve hours per day.

The proposed ordinance changes were being circulated for discussion at NPU meetings during April and May, and will be discussed at a public hearing to be held by the council's Transportation Committee at City Hall on May 26. Interested residents are encouraged to attend.

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Virginia-Highland's "Green Dream" New Highland Park Fundraising Updates

Pamela Papner

Recent Donations:

As noted in President's Corner, \$3,060 was raised through the recent edible plants sale! Atkins Park Neighborhood Association recently contributed an additional \$650. Thank you APNA!

These neighbors purchased bricks since the last Voice issue –

Whitney & David Dziuma
Kathryn & Steven Fazenbaker
Kelly & Douglas Gilfillan
Dawn Gordon
Jen & Bill Graves
Amy & Michael Hayes
Debbie Skopczynski
Sarah Taub
Linda & Don Rubright
Kathy Woirol

You Can Now Donate or Buy A Brick Online.

Go to www.vahi.org and, from the link embedded in the copy about New Highland Park, you can donate or order a brick online using a credit card via Paypal.

Hold the date and participate!

Come review the design for New Highland Park that was presented to residents at a meeting several months ago (posted at vahi.org). Bring a folding chair or blanket to sit on. We'll walk the grounds and gather more input about desired amenities like seating, fencing, lighting, plants, etc.

Date: Saturday, September 11, 2010
Rain Date: Sunday, September 12, 2010
Time: 11am – 1pm
Location: New Highland Park, across from Belly

Next New Highland Park Fundraiser!

Bark in the Park Movies at Dark

Glamour Paws (776 N.Highland Ave), that fabulously chic neighborhood pet boutique offering luxury products and grooming for your pampered dog or cat, is sponsoring outdoor movies in June, with a portion of the proceeds being donated to New Highland Park!

When: June 19, 2010 "Beverly Hills Chihuahua"
When: June 26, 2010 "BOLT"
Where: New Highland Park, across from Belly
Time: Dusk (8:00-8:30 pm)

Bring a folding chair or blanket to sit on. Snacks and drinks will be sold. No alcohol permitted.

Buy a Brick in the New Va-Hi Park!

We've raised almost \$30,000 from the "Buy A Brick" campaign to-date, but we still must raise more than \$700,000 to pay off the debt for the two lots. If every family in the neighborhood contributed \$100, we would be near our final goal. If you have not already done so, please contribute TODAY! Here's the offer:

Contribute \$100 and receive an engraved brick. Your donation is tax-deductible. The brick can be engraved with your family name(s), in honor of someone special, or you may simply wish to create something whimsical. You'll receive a certificate, suitable for gift-giving.

ORDER NOW! See details below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Gift is for: _____

(Name desired on personalized certificate)

Provide Specific Engraving Desired:

(Up to 3 lines of text, with no more than 14 characters -including spaces- per line).

Checks Payable To: Virginia-Highland Conservation League
Mail To: Pamela Papner, VHCA President, 854 Highland Terrace, Atlanta 30306
Questions? E-mail: brickinfo@vahi.org

Giving Levels & Benefits

Buy A Brick: (Brick + Certificate)	\$100
Park Patron: (Brick + Special blue "Park Patron" T-Shirt)	\$250
Park Angel: (Brick + Special green "Park Angel" T-Shirt)	\$500
Park Founder: (Brick + Special "Park Angel" T-shirt and Donor Name on Park Plaque)	\$1000

Restaurant Review

A Taste of Murphy's!

Kate Powers

Location, location, location! Those aren't the only things that make Murphy's a cornerstone of the Virginia-Highland community, though. This casual eatery offers a light, airy feel especially on Atlanta's beautiful spring days. The French doors are opened allowing diners to enjoy a delicious meal and the wonderful weather all at the same time.

It was on one of those beautiful spring days recently that I stopped at Murphy's for lunch. My companion and I chose to sit on the outdoor patio where we dined on one of my lunchtime favorites, the Fried Green Tomato Sandwich. Murphy's version is a contemporary twist on a lunchtime favorite, the grilled cheese sandwich. Combined with a mixed green salad, the meal doesn't feel as decadent as it tastes.

Murphy's menu is described as contemporary comfort food, but it's anything but ordinary. My out-of-town guests rave about the Murphy's burger, which I have yet to try. There are too many other favorites on the menu for me!

Murphy's attention to customer service and care is exceptional. In addition to attentive wait-staff, Friends of Murphy's is a worthwhile rewards program. Points are earned both on dining and purchases made in the extensively-stocked wine shop. Earned points can be converted into dollar rewards for future dining. Also, Friends of Murphy's members receive a periodic

email newsletter advising of upcoming events and specials. If a rewards program isn't your thing, Murphy's website is user-friendly and provides useful information.

Murphy's has a fiercely loyal following in the Atlanta area. While reservations aren't always necessary, my personal experience is that they're helpful on busy weekend nights. Reservations can be made online (open table) or via phone.

Murphy's

997 Virginia Avenue

404-872-0904

www.murphysvh.com

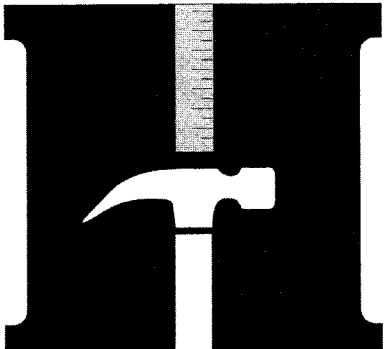
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New Businesses in the Neighborhood

Goin' Coastal Seafood Comes to Va-Hi

1021 Virginia Avenue
www.goingcoastalseafood.com

Neighborhood seafood lovers will have a new convenient option when Goin' Coastal Seafood opens this spring in the Virginia Avenue space formerly home to Figo Pasta.

A self-described 'sustainable seafood joint,' Goin' Coastal features only high quality seafood from sources - either fished or farmed - that can exist over the long term without compromising species' survival or the health of the ecosystem. With nearly 75% of the world's fisheries either fully fished or overfished, the restaurant's owners believe the choices they make will enhance the seafood marketplace for all consumers.

Goin' Coastal's seafood is sourced from around the country, often flown in within hours of capture. Food is prepared using the freshest possible ingredients - all made from scratch daily. Goin' Coastal's menu provides a wide variety of fare to please even the most discriminating palate.

With one location already in historic downtown Canton, Goin' Coastal's owner Zach Kell says he's thrilled to be opening a Virginia-Highland location.

"After a lengthy search for the right second location," Kell said, "we feel like we've found a community that shares our values and love of food. Simple preparation of beautifully fresh ingredients is what we hold close to our hearts and we'll work tirelessly to bring this passion to Virginia-Highland diners."

'YEAH! BURGER to Open This Fall

Va-Hi resident Lynn DeWitt tells Voice that a new restaurant, YEAH! BURGER, will open this fall at the property she owns at the corner of Virginia and N. Highland avenues where the California AutoBuffs car detail shop currently sits.

The Va-Hi location of YEAH! BURGER will be the second in Atlanta - the first was scheduled to open in West Midtown in mid-May.

YEAH! BURGER is owned by Erik Maier of Better Brands and chef Shaun Doty and is being promoted as "a place where guests can feel good about dining thanks to the restaurant's eco-friendly nature and use of organic and all-natural ingredients."

It wasn't up when this issue of Voice went to press but more information should soon be available at www.yeahburger.com.

In an area where it's not tough to find a tasty burger, Voice wishes YEAH! BURGER much success.

Neighborhood Safety Update

John Wolfinger, VCHA Safety Chair

January 12, 2010 was a date to remember in the annals of the Atlanta Police Department, in that our new interim Police Chief George Turner called a meeting of NPU officers and public safety chairs to openly discuss his plans for fighting crime and to publicly introduce his new command staff. This is in direct contrast to the closed-door policy of the previous administration and marks the beginning of direct community involvement relating to public safety in our city.

Mayor Kasim Reed was present at the gathering and did make remarks several times, but Chief Turner was clearly in charge - both of the meeting and of his department. It was also refreshing to see the Mayor sitting with several city council members - including our newly elected Alex Wan - and discussing issues openly as they arose, working as a team and not as adversaries.

The 911 call center, which we all know was broken, is currently headed by a police lieutenant on an interim basis until an on-going national search yields a new director. Thirty new operators are now in training and should bring staffing back to proper levels, and APD is working with AT&T to clear up technical and operational problems in our new system that was installed when the call center moved to its new facility downtown.

The Mayor and his Chief Operating Officer are reviewing the current city budget to identify funds that may be redistributed to increase pay levels, benefits and the size of our police force. Other items discussed were the reconfiguration of our current zone system, partnering the police and code enforcement departments to work more closely together, the reopening of closed recreation centers and a reworking of the APD website to a more user friendly tool.

Chief Turner made numerous personnel changes, with our Zone 6 commander Maj. Renee Propes going to the airport to assume command there and being replaced by Maj. John Dalton, previously of the major crimes unit. Maj. Dalton will have Lt. Rodney Bryant as his second in command. Bryant comes to us from the same position in Zone 3. Returning to Zone 6 after a short stint in Zone 5 is newly promoted Lt. Brent Schierbaum. Lt. Schierbaum is evening watch commander, which is prime time for crime, and he's well suited to handle this important watch position. Maj. Dalton has been making the rounds of neighborhood civic associations and NPU meetings to introduce himself - he tells me he has been going to at least two meetings each weekday night to get around to all the groups in our large zone.

These changes show that Mayor Reed's administration is serious about taking responsibility for crime fighting. As Reed stated that evening, "Not having dollars is not an acceptable excuse" as related to public safety. We will all miss Major Propes at the helm of Zone 6, but wish her well in her new command at the airport. We also welcome Major Dalton and his team to our area and pledge our assistance, as he needs it.

History of Virginia-Highland

{Part VII}

Linda Merrill

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS IS THE SEVENTH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND, EXCERPTED FROM A LONGER WORK-IN-PROGRESS BEING RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY 10-YEAR VA-HI RESIDENT LINDA MERRILL. AN ART HISTORIAN BY TRAINING, LINDA WORKED AS A CURATOR AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR THIRTEEN YEARS, AT THE HIGH MUSEUM FOR TWO, AND NOW – AFTER A HIATUS TO STAY HOME WITH HER TWO CHILDREN – SHE TEACHES AT EMORY. LINDA WELCOMES COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON HER WORK. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT MAGDALIN@MINDSPRING.COM.

Orme Park

North Boulevard Park, “one of Atlanta’s choice home sections,” proved so popular that in 1922 its boundaries were expanded to fill the remaining gap between Piedmont Park and Highland Avenue. Extending north from Park Drive to Amsterdam and encompassing Glen Arden and Elkmont, Crestridge, and Brookridge drives, the additional property increased the number of lots by fifty percent, making Boulevard Park the single largest real-estate development in the district.

This development depended upon the completion, in 1925, of a concrete-and-stucco bridge to connect the new section of the subdivision with the original lots. Spanning a spring-water stream called Meadow Brook, the bridge stood at the western end of a deep, wooded ravine. It was designed in an Italianate style, with rusticated pillars and decorative cartouches, by C. E. Kauffmann, the same city engineer who designed the Park Drive bridge. (Kauffmann is also responsible for Fire Station No. 19 in the heart of Virginia-Highland.) The picturesque eight-acre park surrounding the stream was donated to the city by the North Boulevard Park Corporation and was eventually named Orme Park after the company’s president, A. J. Orme.

In those early years, the neighborhood grew so fast that it might have spun into a state of confused alienation had it not been for the North Boulevard Park Auxiliary. This was the “woman’s branch” of the Civic League, “an effective organization of men living in this progressive section of Atlanta” that, in practice, played a relatively minor role in making a neighborhood of Boulevard Park. The Auxiliary was founded in 1922 by fifteen women who met at the home of the club’s first president, Florence Dreyfus of 39 (now 559) Elmwood Drive; their stated purpose was to encourage “a feeling of friendly neighborliness and mutual interest in community improvement.” As additional lots were sold and settled, the ladies made a point of meeting each new neighbor, the Atlanta Constitution reported, “so that interest in his new surroundings would be established, the committee assuring the family a cordial welcome into the neighborhood.”

Throughout its early decades, Boulevard Park remained a solid, stable place that was widely regarded as “one of Atlanta’s hand-

somest subdivisions.” The women’s Auxiliary made sure that property owners kept the alleys clear of rubbish, “which breeds disease and is naturally unsightly,” and organized periodic “clean-up” and “keep clean” campaigns since some residents were less than conscientious about gathering up their grass clippings. The ladies befriended the garbage collector, “a human being after all,” who they found would gladly keep their backyards tidy in exchange for some small reward (“an occasional red apple or a slice of cake”). Their dedication to neighborhood beautification was in keeping with the prevailing spirit of ‘boosterism’ in the 1920s: “In advertising Atlanta this little club feels that one of the best ways to do so is to make and keep the city clean and attractive, so they begin ‘at home’ to clean their special corner.”

The ladies of the Boulevard Park Auxiliary also raised the momentum, and the money, to build a Boy Scout lodge, or “hut,” near the park, “in a grove on the hillside overlooking Elkmont drive,” as well as a clubhouse of their own. And in 1926, they supported improvements to Piedmont Park that directly benefited the adjacent neighborhood—construction of the swimming pool and a nine-hole golf course (in what is now the Meadow), along with several new buildings and facilities. The Piedmont Park Clubhouse at the corner of Boulevard and Tenth (now Park



Historic Orme Park Bridge

Tavern) was constructed in 1928, and for many years provided a convenient and congenial venue for neighborhood gatherings.

Sources: The Historical Atlanta Journal and Atlanta Constitution; Timothy J. Crimmins, "Bungalow Suburbs: East and West," The Atlanta Historical Journal 26 (Summer/Fall 1982): 83-94; Franklin M. Garrett, Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of Its People and Events (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1954), vol. 2; C. E. Kauffmann Personality File, Atlanta History Center; Atlanta Federation of Women's Clubs Year Book, May 1927-29, quoted in "Virginia-Highland Historic District," nomination for National Register of Historic Places, March 24, 2005, section 8.

Next issue: The Better Homes Movement

Orme Park Renovation Planned

Pamela Papner

Orme Park is a lovely 6.6-acre park tucked in between Elkmont and Brookridge drives. Like most parks maintained by the city of Atlanta, Orme suffers from overuse and lack of funding to pay for improvements. That's why Friends of Orme Park and the Virginia-Highland Conservation League (a 501(c)(3) subsidiary of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association) have stepped up to improve this important community park. The following improvements were endorsed by the community's 2007 Visioning Plan, are in line with the overall goal to retain Orme's "woody" look/feel, and are being performed under the auspices of the City of Atlanta Parks Department. Details and a copy of the planned Phase I improvements are posted online at vahi.org.

Summary of Phase I Improvements

The main entrance to Orme Park (at the existing playground) is in a general state of disrepair. The new design includes an entrance plaza, stairway, and gently sloping sidewalks that provide wheelchair accessibility into the site. This end of the park will be reconfigured so that the entrance overlooks a central lawn area, rather than the back of a playground. A new plaza space will improve safety conditions by creating a larger landing area between

the road and stairway, providing a safe transitional space between the park and the roadway (currently there is no landing/separation between the top of the existing steps and the roadway). Looking from Brookridge, the playground will be moved a bit to the right to a shadier area. Estimated cost of Phase One improvements is \$220,000.

Funds Raised To-Date

In addition to almost \$97,000 obtained from former city councilwoman Anne Fauver's discretionary funds, a VHCA grant and fundraisers, we were just told that we received a \$50,000 grant from Park Pride and a \$38,000 allocation from the City of Atlanta's Parks Department. That gets us to a total of \$185,000, much closer to our \$220,000 goal.

Project Construction Timeline

- Permitting is expected to be complete by July. We have already received approval from the City of Atlanta's Urban Design Council as well as Park Design.
- A City of Atlanta Stream Buffer Variance should be approved by June.
- Construction bids should be received in July.
- Construction is expected to begin late summer/fall.

These Phase One improvements are just one (albeit large) component of the overall Orme Park Master Visioning Plan adopted in November 2007. Renovation of the stream bank, entry stairs near the bridge and restoration of the historic bridge are two projects that can hopefully be accomplished in the future as additional funds are raised.


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DeKalb County Proposes New Solution for Callanwolde Drainage Problem

Tom Spach

A meeting was held in late March to discuss the status of resolving drainage problems related to the recent renovations at Callanwolde that have adversely impacted residents living on the eastern side of Rosedale Road. Representing Virginia-Highland were Jack White, David Brandenberger and myself. DeKalb County was represented by project manager Bob Sims and his project team and Callanwolde by executive director Sam Goldman.

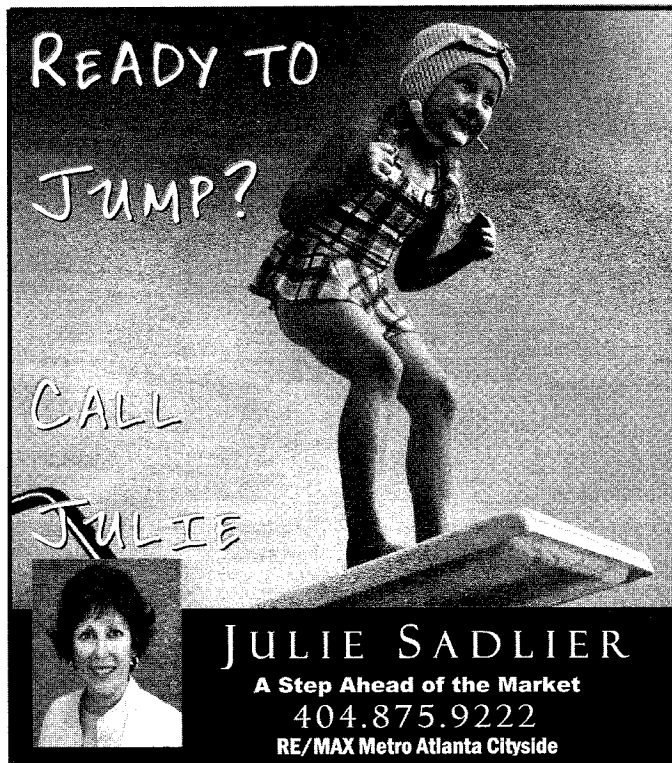
Specifically, the VaHi representatives wanted to know what progress had been made by the county since early last fall when a retention pond was proposed as a possible solution. Mr. Sims and his team advised that the retention pond idea had been scrapped for a variety of reasons, and they have now proposed using a variety of natural materials on the western slope behind Callanwolde to disperse water, maximize absorption and reduce flow velocity. A central component of the design is an existing stone wall on the slope, a remnant of a structure originally installed long ago. The wall will be modified to help create a buffer pool that will release water more slowly during rainstorms, providing functionality similar to the previously proposed retention pond. Additional devices such as logs, boulders and stone will also be placed on the

slope. In addition, a variety of carefully selected plantings will be installed including large and small plants and ground cover.

In addition to these treatments, some of the drainage burden on the slope will be eliminated. Runoff from the gardens between the Sam Goldman Conference Center (formerly the "bath house") and the main house that currently drains to the western slope will be diverted to a separate, larger drainage field farther upstream close to Laurel Heights.

A critical component to the project's success will be the selection and precise physical placement of various large obstructive devices on the slope. This will require the use of heavy equipment as well as the expertise of Jack White and Sue Pickens, the county's landscape architect, both of whom we are fortunate to have involved.

Mr. Sims said the county hopes to begin construction in September. No ETA was given for project completion. Further updates will be provided as developments warrant.



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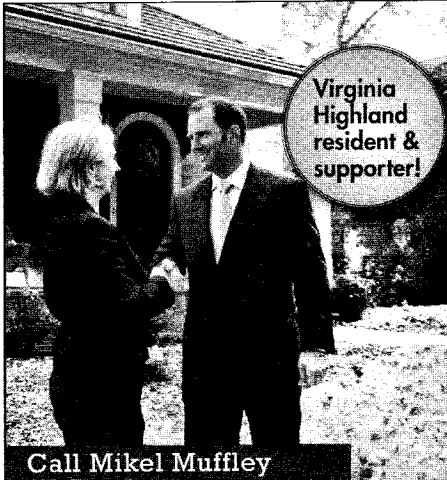
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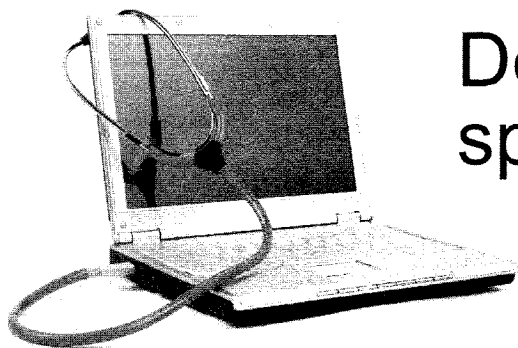
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