

# Ginter Park

The Queen Of Suburbs Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow

Ginter Park Residents Association News



## Dates to Remember...

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 12  
7:00 p.m.  
LGRA Building  
Hawthorne at Walton

### General Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, May 5  
6:30 p.m.  
St. Thomas' Church  
Hawthorne & Walton

## May General Meeting

Because of great demand for the facilities at St. Thomas' Church, our next general meeting will take place May 5th at 6:30pm.

We are continuing our attempt to rotate general meetings between Tuesdays and Thursdays, so those with "standing" meetings on either night can attend at least some of our dinners.

As usual, we will meet at St. Thomas' Church at 6:30 for dinner, with entrée provided by the Meredith Strange-Boston (did you miss the seafood in patty shells last time?) and side dishes and desserts provided by you. *Child care will be available during the business meeting.*

As of this writing in mid-March, the program was still congealing.

## Scene 2011

By Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt

Does your home have curb appeal? No, we are not talking about that new roof you installed or the new paint job. We are talking about landscaping, flowers and shrubs. The annual Scene from the Street competition means beautifying Ginter Park one lot at a time. It is part of what makes our neighborhood special and beautiful.

This year prizes will be awarded a little differently than before. There will be four prizes, one for each District in GPRA (see map p.2) and one of the four may be our Grand Prize winner. So grab that wheelbarrow and pick up that shovel and plant shrubs and flowers that can be seen from the street. You never know,

*See Scene 2011 Page 3*

[www.historicginterpark.org](http://www.historicginterpark.org)

**Ginter Park Elementary School PTA**

**CHUCK E CHEESE NIGHT**

**April 14th 4-9pm**

**The school will receive a percentage of all proceeds**



**The 2011 GPRA Board has moved its meeting time up to 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome.**

*Photo by Board member Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt*

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**GPRA**

This newsletter is produced by:  
Ginter Park Residents Association  
P.O. Box 25374  
Richmond, Virginia 23260-5374

Published monthly except January and August

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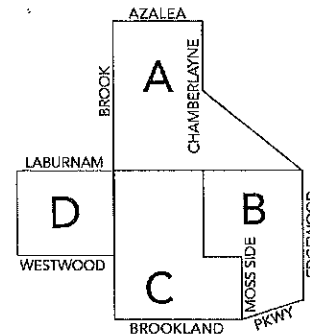
**Car Patrol**  
Jason Helmlinger 358-0188

**Yahoo Group**  
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**District Representatives**

- |          |                       |          |
|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>A</b> | Lois Sisk             | 264-0558 |
|          | Richard Minter        | 839-4696 |
|          | Neil Ohisson          | 266-3446 |
| <b>B</b> | Martin Erb            | 321-6372 |
| <b>C</b> | Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt | 353-8500 |
| <b>D</b> | Honor Carver          | 358-2690 |

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Advertising and copy deadline is the second weekend of each month. Send comments, corrections and articles to:  
**Editorial Committee, P.O. Box 25374  
Richmond, VA 23260**

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you could win a \$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100 gift certificate to our neighborhood's favorite lawn and garden store, Azalea Garden Center. There may be a Grand Prize as well, if someone knocks our socks off with greenery and floral beauty. All winners must be current dues-paid members of the GPRA.

Lois Sisk and Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt are co-chairing this year's competition. But they need volunteers to judge the competition, to be viewed the last week of April and the first week of May. Past judges have done their judging by foot, car or bicycle.



To volunteer to judge the competition call:  
 Lois Sisk at 775-7762 (w) or 264-0558 (h) or  
 Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt at 321-5100(w) or 353-8500 (h).

## Got Trees? Let Us Take Care Of Them.

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[dennis.garza@longandfoster.com](mailto:dennis.garza@longandfoster.com)



The **Ginter Park Welcome Committee** sends a HUGE Thank You to the following local merchants who have generously contributed to our new neighbor welcome baskets:



- **Murphies** - 3141 West Cary Street  
 359-4898 – [www.murphiesva.com](http://www.murphiesva.com)
- **Nicola Flora** - 1219 Bellevue Avenue  
 261-1060 – [www.nicolafloora.com](http://www.nicolafloora.com)
- **Once Upon A Vine** - 4009 MacArthur Avenue  
 726-9463 - [www.onceuponavine.us](http://www.onceuponavine.us)
- **Row House Soaps** - 121 East Main Street  
 717-7739 – [www.rowhousesoaps.com](http://www.rowhousesoaps.com)
- **ZouZou's Basement**  
 928-6130 – [www.zouzousbasement.com](http://www.zouzousbasement.com)

If you would like to contribute to our welcome baskets, please contact Ellen Canestrano at [canestrano@yahoo.com](mailto:canestrano@yahoo.com) or 228-2286.

\* \* \* \* \*

# May 14, 2011 Home and Garden Tour

## Celebrating 100 Years of Architecture and Gardens

*By Neal Tilghman*

This year's tour is thrilling in that we are approaching the centennial celebration of the 1912 incorporation of Ginter Park as a township. No doubt there have been significant changes during the past 100 years, but Ginter Park remains the "Queen of Suburbs". The homes and gardens featured as part of this year's tour are excellent examples of the diversity of architecture and garden styles that make our neighborhood one of the city's premier communities.

On Sunday May 3, 1908 in the Ginter Park supplement of the Times Dispatch the following was written about our community:

"And so Ginter Park has grown and rounded into an independent community. Within its limits there are residences of many divergent types, yet all harmonizing

with the surrounding landscape.... Naturally, the colonial style predominates, but there is a growing tendency to cut loose from that. There are Spanish, Elizabethan and old Dutch structures. The lots are of generous proportions, with ample opportunities for landscape gardening."

"It is the living-place for those who wish to get the best out of life. Across the great sweep of country the cool breezes surge in on summer days and nights. The song of the bird mingles with the soft laughter of children at play."

It is the hope and goal that the 2011 tour captures the essence and spirit of the Times Dispatch article published over a century ago. If you would like to volunteer to be a docent, help with marketing and sales, or nominate a garden/home, please contact **Neal Tilghman at nealtilghman62@me.com.**

\* \* \* \* \*

### RESIDENTS SHARE WHY THEY CHOSE *THE HERMITAGE...*

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*"You took care of my parents."*  
***"You took care of my grandmother."***  
*"You took care of my mother."*



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**Our Mission:** *The mission of Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. is to provide facilities, services and programs to enhance the quality of life for older persons.*



# GARDENING "FOOL"?

By Tim Rhea



*(Ed. Note: Tim is a certified Master Gardener and volunteer at the Botanical Garden)*

April is the month of fools. Well, the first day is identified as one for fools, and provides all of us the chance to play some kind of trick on any significant other in our lives. But the month certainly can be viewed by us gardeners as the premier month of the year for foolishness.

I write this in early March, when most days are still living up to the winter label, rather than spring. Of course, spring will officially arrive before April, and March and even February before it provide subtle signs of spring coming. In my yard, it's pushing up the earliest daffodils, blooming as soon as the weather strings together a few milder days. It may be the bloom of winter shrubs, like winter jasmine, daphne, mahonia and others, so welcome in the drab landscape. Buds start swelling on many shrubs and trees, which will explode in leaf and color in April or soon thereafter.

But these early signs are easily overlooked in this time of chilly winds and cold nights that keep us from doing very much outside comfortably. April is guaranteed to bring on the foolishness. Warmer days suddenly bring on a flood of color, often led by those azaleas that scream to be noticed. Redbud and dogwood trees display their delicate flowers overhead, and every flower, bulb, or yard weed rushes into bloom, so there is color everywhere (whether we want some of it or not). And suddenly, we gardeners, whether we have tried to get a head start during the chillier late winter days or not, feel tardy, running late to get done all of the tasks our yards cry out as needing attention NOW, NOW, NOW!

The worst foolishness you can do is to run out to a big box store, then swoon in front of all the colors spreading out on tables and benches in their garden areas, and grab things for which you haven't made a plan. In my previous article, I talked about using a cold winter day to look out a window and start making a plan, well before you put spade to earth. That remains as necessary in April as it is any other month of the year. ( 'Nough said, without preaching any more on the subject.)

What is not foolish is shopping carefully, along with at least a little planning. April provides some wonderful local opportunities to get out, enjoy, and buy plant material, since spring and its beauty demands that we possess some small pieces of that beauty.

Garden Week always falls in April, because all parts of Virginia show to their best sometime during the month. If you have never visited a designated neighborhood during Garden Week, do it this year! Sure, it costs some money and will turn you green with envy, but it will reward you and remind you of the lovely reality that the world can be such a beautiful place, and we must take care of it lovingly for future generations to enjoy many more awesome Aprils. Historic Garden Week in 2011 is April 16 to April 23 (this year is number 78!), but the Richmond area homes are open April 19 to 21. The Richmond neighborhoods this year include Monument Avenue and Windsor Farms. Visit the Garden Club website for details.

A very late Easter this year complicates visiting both great plant sales at either end of the Boulevard/Hermitage/Lakeside corridor. The Maymont Herb Sale (The 27th annual Herbs Galore and More is Saturday, April 30, bright and early at 8 am). It is so much more than just herbs, an absolutely breathtaking festival of terrific plants to see, smell, feel, and maybe take home. The event is also the best excuse for seeing the Maymont property at this wonderful time of year.

Also that weekend, but with a longer timeframe (beginning at 1 pm on Thursday, April 28, and lasting to Saturday, April 30) is the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden plant sale. Here are another large group of vendors who know their plant material and can help you choose what will work in almost any unique situation you have. (The plant sale is free to visit; access to the Garden has its regular admission fee.)

I also want to plug the Azalea Garden Center as a local source to satisfy some of our need to possess bits of this spring beauty we're all so foolish about. Mike and Mary have been holding forth in one corner of the ugliest piece of blacktop in the world, the old Azalea Mall parking lot at Brook Road and Westbrook Avenue. They are fine folks who deserve our support during the growing season. So, be an April Fool in 2011, but, as a gardener, do it with a pinch of planning and take your pleasure thoughtfully.



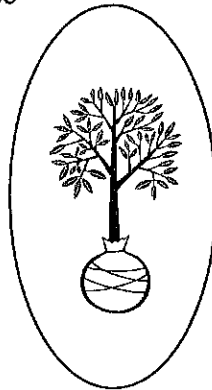
# HOW ARE WE LOOKING?

By Richard Minter

Have you noticed any changes in the landscaping along many of the streets in our neighborhood? If you haven't, take a closer look when you travel on Brook Road at the Ginter Park Library, Laburnum Avenue at several intersections and the street where you live. New trees are being planted by the city that our neighbors adopted through the Adopt-A-Tree Program. Also, if a tree is planted in front of your property and you did not adopt it, these are city departmental trees that are being planted at no cost to the citizens.

The success of the GPRA Home & Garden Tour and the generosity of the dues paying members of the GPRA made it possible to adopt 190 new trees to be planted throughout our neighborhood in the 2010-2011 planting season. For the last two years, we have adopted 324 trees. Counting the city departmental trees, there have been over 400 new trees planted within the boundaries of the Ginter Park neighborhood since the beginning of 2010.

To ensure the survival of these trees, residents need to water the tree/trees that have been planted in front of their homes. This needs to be done for the first two years to help the root systems become established. Also, we need to form a volunteer group to help water the trees in areas where water is not accessible. The GPRA purchased a 125-gallon watering tank that is available to anyone in the neighborhood willing to help with this watering.



The tank can be filled at the fire station on the corner of Chamberlayne and North Avenues. Contact me for the use of this tank and to form a volunteer group at [districta2@historicginterpark.org](mailto:districta2@historicginterpark.org).

For all of the adopted trees, the City will be installing a "gator bag" on each tree in the near future. The City will not be installing a "gator bag" on the departmental trees but the GPRA board has voted to purchase bags for all these trees. As soon as we purchase the bags, we will be installing them on the new trees.

Although we have planted a large number of trees over the past two years, there are over 400 locations within our neighborhood that still have missing trees. There has been no indication from the City that the Adopt-A-Tree Program will be offered this year but we would like to move forward as if the program exists. If anyone is interested in participating this year, you can make a donation to **Adopt-A-Tree, 3819 Hawthorne Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222**. Checks should be made to GPRA with Adopt-A-Tree in the memo.

Your neighbors, future Ginter Park homeowners, the City, and visitors passing through the neighborhood would like to thank each of you who have made these adoptions possible. Your efforts will be appreciated for generations as we appreciate those who had the vision of the magnificent trees we enjoy today.

**Richmond**  
Animal Care & Control

1600 Chamberlayne Ave. 🐾 646-5573  
[www.RichmondGov.com/departments](http://www.RichmondGov.com/departments)

**"Serving our community and protecting our four legged friends"**

Pets Available for Adoption	Pet Lost & Found Services
Animal Control Services	Pet Licensing Center
Pet Relinquishment	Humane Education

April 2011

# New Advertising Chair — Will Benton

*(Ed note: Finding a replacement for Nancy Hall as Advertising Chair took a little time, but we are happy and relieved to announce that Will Benton has accepted the job. Many thanks to Nancy for the organization, efficiency and many hours she put in.*

*As with this year's officers, it proved more enlightening for the person to describe himself. Will's words follow):*

We've been residents of Ginter Park for about 6 years now and were in the Museum District for several years prior to that.

We decided to renovate one of many "mature" – not old – homes along Seminary Avenue and although great strides were made, the long list of continual projects will likely keep us busy for years to come.

When my wife, Laurie, and I moved here we had only two dogs and plans for a renovated, charming, orderly house – that idea quickly went off the rails (in a good

way) with the arrival of two kids! Our daughter, Liza, recently started pre-kindergarten at Linwood Holton and our son, Kip, attends Westminster Canterbury.

As for the adults in the household, my wife is an occupational therapist working with multiple health systems in the area and I manage the marketing responsibilities for one of the divisions of Owens & Minor. When not busy with life in general, I enjoy sneaking in some nice long runs through the streets of Ginter Park – mainly in an effort to work off the last big meal.



## MORE STREET WORK

So you thought the construction on Brook Road was complete (or nearly so by the time you read this)? Not so, said Tom Flynn, Richmond's Transportation Engineer, who announced a new project for Ginter Park at the February general meeting.

"Later this year" the city will begin a \$613,000 re-working of the intersection at Brook, Laburnum and Fauquier. In three years there have been 15 collisions at the site. Also the current crosswalks are behind where cars actually stop, and there is a lack of pedestrian signals.

The project proposes lengthening the turn lanes from the median on Laburnum to accommodate more and longer vehicles for the left turns onto Brook. Cutting back the lanes will take down three of the median trees on the east leg of Laburnum. While the traffic engineers are required to replace these three trees, they will have to go somewhere else. The GPRA may have some input on where to plant the replacement trees.

Additional changes include mast arm streetlights and rounding off the corners with grass and landscaped areas.

Ninety percent of the funds for the project will come from the federal government, with ten percent from the Commonwealth.



### SAINT THOMAS' CHURCH

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

3602 Hawthorne Avenue (corner of Hawthorne and Walton Avenues)

Phone: 321-9548 | [www.stthomasrichmond.org](http://www.stthomasrichmond.org)

**Worship Services :** Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**Ministers:** The Reverend Susan N. Eaves, Rector  
The Reverend Susan Daughtry, Asst. Rector  
Mrs. June Hardy Dorsey, Lay Associate for Ministry  
Dr. David McCormick, Director of Music

**St. Thomas' Day School** offers a weekday morning program for children, ages 2 through pre-kindergarten, September through May

**Director:** Mrs. Kelly Kane, phone 329-1117

# Your *Un-Favorite* Intersections

## Bad Timing of Traffic Lights

While we had members of the city Traffic Department at our March general meeting, we introduced the issue of bad timing of lights for either car or foot traffic at several intersections in Ginter Park. Enrique Burgos of the department will be our contact person is alleviating some of the problems.

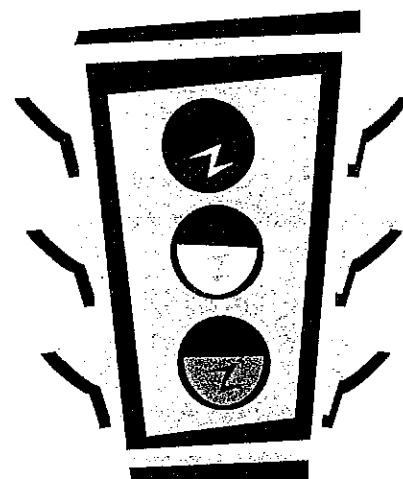
On our part, we need to detail the specific problem at the specific intersections. Scottie Ferras will lead this initiative and in turn contact Mr. Burgos.

### What Scottie needs from you are answers to the following questions:

- Intersection of which streets
- Block number
- Direction you are facing on which street
- Time of the day
- Concern: (Examples: green time is short, red time is too long, pedestrian green time short, no cars on main street but light on side doesn't change to green, etc.)
- Your name & contact info

To document our concerns and have more credibility with the Traffic Department, we need volunteers to time the offending traffic lights and count cars at several times throughout any given day(s). With this

information perhaps we can get the answer to why lights seem to be "capturing us in our neighborhood" and causing an increase in cut-through traffic.



RED LIGHT  
GREEN LIGHT

## To Volunteer

..... Please contact Scottie at [sferras@comcast.net](mailto:sferras@comcast.net) .....

Visit the Ginter Park booth  
Byrd Park on Arbor Day,  
April 16, from 10-2



# Chamberlayne

By Melinda Lewis

Chamberlayne Avenue is a part of Ginter Park. Our only neighborhood signs are on Chamberlayne. The elementary school on Chamberlayne is called Ginter Park Elementary School. Take a look at a map of the neighborhood, and you'll see that Chamberlayne is the spine of Ginter Park. Over time, though, Chamberlayne became just a technical part of Ginter Park, rather than a real part.

I don't live on Chamberlayne, but I care about it because I live in Ginter Park. During my four years here in Ginter Park, I have often turned off Chamberlayne onto Westbrook and thought I entered a different neighborhood. In some ways, that's a good thing. Traffic, trash and crime aren't characteristics of my part of the neighborhood. For the same reasons, it can be jarring. Traffic, trash and crime ARE characteristics of other parts of my neighborhood. During our Community Conversation last year, I found myself talking a lot about Chamberlayne and the differences between it and the rest of our neighborhood.

The Chamberlayne Avenue Initiative came out of that Community Conversation. Since then, a small, but steadfast, group of Ginter Park residents has met monthly

to make Chamberlayne a real part of Ginter Park, not just the place where our signs happen to be. Our goals include cleaning up Chamberlayne, improving landscaping, reaching out to apartment complexes and their tenants, supporting the schools on and just off Chamberlayne and working with our police to decrease crime and improve safety. We want to connect, beautify and secure. We have a lot to do, and we need a lot of help.

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*we can make it better*

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I hope you'll join us so that we'll be able to say that we are a LARGE and steadfast group that cares about Chamberlayne. We meet every month on the third Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Hawthorne Avenue. So much is said about what Chamberlayne used to be – I hope we can make it better than it used to be.

Meet every month on the third Tuesday,  
7:00 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church


## GPRA DUES - RETURN ENVELOPE


Most of you should receive this newsletter with the word "Resident" instead of your name above the address. This is our way of indicating that you have not yet paid your \$25 GPRA dues for the 2011 calendar year. When you pay and become a member, your name appears.

We need your dues to fund all the activities the association undertakes. We also exert a certain amount of clout at City

Hall when we can say we represent a specific number of members in the Second and Third Districts.

To make it easy for you, we have enclosed a return envelope. Or you can pay at the February 24 general meeting. Wasn't the Holiday Party alone worth \$25?

	<p><b>GINTER PARK HISTORIC PLAQUES</b></p> <p><b>\$75.00</b></p> <p>Download an order form at <a href="http://www.historicginterpark.org">www.historicginterpark.org</a> or contact Vicky Wells E-mail: <a href="mailto:pdfrog1@verizon.net">pdfrog1@verizon.net</a> Phone: 266-0234</p>
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	<p><b>LABURNUM PARK HISTORIC PLAQUES</b></p> <p><b>\$75</b></p> <p>Download an order form at <a href="http://www.historicginterpark.org">www.historicginterpark.org</a> or contact Louie Pettinato E-mail: <a href="mailto:psquared1506@mac.com">psquared1506@mac.com</a> Phone: 355-3457</p>
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# News from Ginter Park Library

Plans are moving forward for the renovation of the Ginter Park library. This will include a total interior renovation, with new shelving, carpeting, furniture, ADA compliant restrooms and a brand new meeting room. There will also be better interior and exterior lighting and landscaping. The library staff is very excited and working toward

getting the library ready to close sometime in the fall for the renovations.

In the meantime, Ms. Tori, our children's librarian, is still having story time twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

The library has scheduled free special events for adults through the spring. Space is limited so reserve your spot soon.

## FREE SPECIAL EVENTS

### HEALTH BENEFITS OF YOGA

Sat. April 9th 2-3pm

Join us for an informative session on why yoga can help your mind, body, and spirit. Participants will learn a few basic poses and review the health benefits of practicing yoga.

### CHOCOLATE CRAVINGS

Wed. April 13th @ 6:30pm

Cathy Churcher, local chocolatier, will be talking about the history of chocolate, uses, and providing free samples!

### MODERNJUNE

Wed. Apr. 27th @ 6:30pm

Come hear about a local "semi-desperate" housewife" who took her passion for sewing and has turned it into a successful business and a soon-to-be-published book.

### CHEF OF SALLYWOOD

Mon. May 16th @ 6:30pm

Chef Sally Schmidt will be visiting and sharing culinary secrets and tips for adults to use in the kitchen.

### BELLYDANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

Wed. May 18th @ 6:30pm

Join Khalima for a brief history of contemporary bellydance, with a demonstration and talk about the benefits of dance for people of all ages.

### CONTAINER GARDENING

Sat. May 21st @ 2-3:30pm

A local landscaper who spends time growing food will be sharing her enthusiasm for container gardening and how it can enhance your environment and your table without breaking your budget.



## GPRA 2011 Dues Coupon



Household member

Other (e.g. church, business, etc.)

Ginter Park Residents Association • P.O. Box 25374 • Richmond, VA 23260

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dues for the 2011 calendar year are \$25 per household. Checks should be written to the Ginter Park Residents Association and mailed with this form to the above address. Thank you very much.

A week in  
the Bahamas  
**\$5,500**



A week at a Florida  
Amusement Park  
**\$4,800**

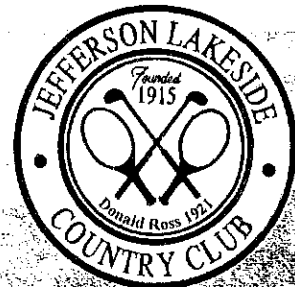
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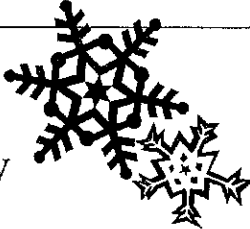
*No Initiation Fees. Social Membership Dues at \$100 per month.  
Surprisingly affordable dues for our other full memberships.*



Contact us at 266-2456 or Chuck Goodwin at  
[chuck.goodwin@jeffersonlakeside.com](mailto:chuck.goodwin@jeffersonlakeside.com) or  
Jody Godsey at [jody.godsey@jeffersonlakeside.com](mailto:jody.godsey@jeffersonlakeside.com)

# Ginter Park Residents Association 2011 Calendar of Events

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MONTH	Event
MARCH	26 <sup>th</sup> Chamberlayne Avenue Clean-Up 
APRIL	6 <sup>th</sup> Block Captain Party 16 <sup>th</sup> Arbor Day Festival Booth At The Carillon Byrd Park
MAY	5 <sup>th</sup> Dinner/General Meeting <b>14<sup>th</sup> House And Garden Tour</b> Scene From The Street Judging 
JUNE	
JULY	28 <sup>th</sup> Dinner/General Meeting- Ice Cream Social
AUGUST	2 <sup>nd</sup> National Night Out Against Crime
SEPTEMBER	Yard Sale 28 <sup>th</sup> Dinner General Meeting
OCTOBER	22 <sup>nd</sup> Progressive  Dinner
NOVEMBER	12 <sup>th</sup> Chamberlayne Avenue Clean-Up 17 <sup>th</sup> Dinner/Annual Meeting
DECEMBER	 <b>Holiday Party</b> 

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