

Ginter Park

The Queen Of Suburbs Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



Dates to Remember...

Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 14
7:30 p.m.

St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

Dinner & General Meeting

Tuesday, April 28
6:30 p.m.

St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 28 will be our next general meeting. Returning to our usual format, we will meet at St. Thomas' Church at 6:30 for dinner, with entrée provided by the GPRA and side dishes and desserts by you.

Mayor Dwight Jones has confirmed our invitation to appear as our speaker. We have requested that he will speak briefly on the subjects of urban development, and

the baseball stadium feasibility study. As usual you will have an opportunity to pose questions on additional concerns.

Note that the 28 is a Tuesday meeting, scheduled so that those members and residents who have "standing" meetings on Thursdays will have a chance to attend.

Don't miss this one!

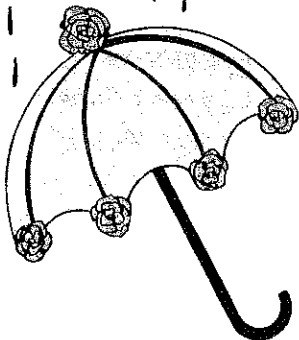
GLORIOUS HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

THE FIFTH ANNUAL GINTER PARK GLORIOUS HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR IS MAY 16TH, 2009.

En Plein Air Perennials is the theme of this years' house and garden tour, to benefit the Richmond Food Bank and Meals On Wheels!

We are so excited about the direction of the 2009 Tour, featuring interesting decor and architecture of some of the best residences of Ginter Park, as well as local artists, who will be painting our wonderful gardens during the tour!

See Garden Tour, Page 3



April showers...

www.historicginterpark.org



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GPRA

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

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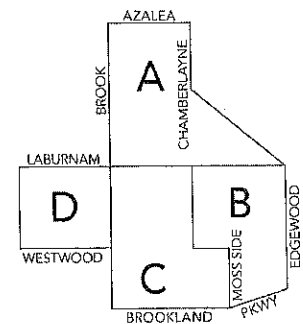
Jonathan Gilmore 515-0959

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- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| A | Lois Sisk | 264-0558 |
| | Richard Minter | 839-4696 |
| | Neil Ohlsson | 266-3446 |
| B | Dick Stone | 329-6924 |
| | Annette Foster | 274-0175 |
| C | Rebecca Dodson | 213-0325 |
| | Ellen Canestrano | 228-2286 |
| D | Honor Carver | 358-2690 |
| | Meredith Strange Boston | 355-0376 |

Member-at large

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| Abena Oporebea | 262-0421 |
| John King | 321-4421 |



Newsletter Editor

Anne Thorn 353-9363

Advertising

Mitzi Golod 329-7364

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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Garden Tour continued from Page 1

If you know of an interesting home or garden that we should include in the tour, or if you would like to include your home or garden, or both, please contact **Wendy Kleinfield**, 321-0800, or by email: clmlc@comcast.net.

There are many opportunities to volunteer for this event, both in advance of the event, as well as on the day of the event, ranging from running errands to correspondance, to being a docent in a home or garden. All volunteers get to see the gardens the night before the event, and are invited to the party on Saturday night. **Come, join in the fun!** If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Mary Elfner** at MaryGoeff@comcast.net.



CONTACTS

Homes or Gardens: Wendy Kleinfield - 321-0800 or clmlc@comcast.net

Volunteers: Mary Elfner - MaryGoeff@comcast.net

We would love to have you as a member!

- Pools: main pool with diving board, adult lap pool and children's wading pool

- Kids movie night and other family oriented indoor activities

- Indoor Activities: Aerobics classes, River City AIKIDO classes, OmMama Yoga for the Childbearing Years



- Community House: indoor basketball court, auditorium, banquet rooms with full service kitchen available for you to rent

- Pool Activities: JRAC Swim Team; Holiday Parties including Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day; plus other organized child and adult festivities like our annual July 4th Parade



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FAMILY FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD FUN

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

2008 SCENE FROM THE STREET CONTEST

by Lois Sisk

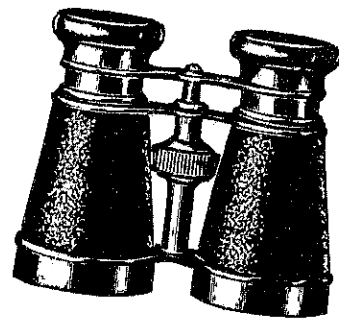
Spring is finally here and so is the time to organize this year's *Scene From the Street Contest*. Scene From the Street was originally created to get neighbors to spruce up their front yards, which many of us do now.

Last year's winners were Allen and Sophia Roots at 3600 Montrose, Chris Craft and Robert Butsavage of 3915 Seminary Avenue and Jay and Nan Johnson at 3415 Gloucester. Richard Fox and Owen Sharman won the "Up and Coming" garden award. Each of the winners received a gift certificate to the Azalea Garden Center.

There is one tiny catch to winning this contest – YOU MUST BE A DUES PAYING MEMBER OF GPRA. Last year's judges were disappointed not to be able to give awards to several top contenders on our list who were not dues paying members. There is still time before the contest to get those dues in. Each newsletter has a form to complete along with the Association mailing address and the past few issues have contained pre-addressed envelopes. If you're

not certain whether or not your dues are up to date, contact me and I'll let you know.

This year's contest will be held over a period of a few weeks in May, weather permitting judges to get out and about. But....WE NEED JUDGES. We need 4 or more folks who can spare part of their weekend, or if you are a 'stay at home' person, judging can be done during the weekdays. Judges will drive, bike or walk the neighborhood which is a great way to see Ginter Park in the spring.



Please contact me if you would like to volunteer so I don't have to start the draft.

Lois Sisk - Districtal@historicginterpark.org,
daytime 775-7762, or at home 264-0558.

Household member

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

Ginter Park Residents Association

P.O. Box 25374

Richmond, Virginia 23260

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____

Check# _____ Date _____

Dues for the 2009 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.

DO YOUR STREET TREES NEED SOME CARE?

by Richard Minter

The City of Richmond Urban Forestry Division began a program in 2004 of citizen volunteers for the purpose of promoting and protecting the health of Richmond's urban forest. This group, known as **Richmond Tree Stewards**, complete training in classes taught by professionals from the tree care industry and related professions. These graduates contribute service working on projects that promote Richmond's urban forest. The projects include assisting neighborhoods in tree plantings and mulching, small tree pruning, street tree inventory and opening tree wells on City streets.

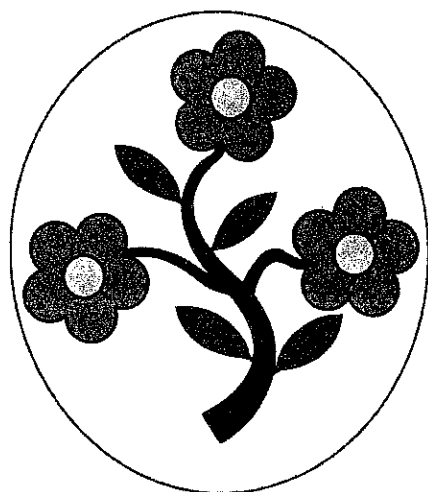
If you have trees in the right of way within your neighborhood that are obstructing the sidewalks or parking, you can contact the Richmond Tree Stewards about assisting the neighborhood with the pruning of these trees. They will contact the Richmond Urban Forestry Division with your request to get authorization for this project. The City will send a representative of the department to review your request and authorize the required work. Once authorization has been given, the Richmond Tree Stewards will schedule a work day for volunteers to assist in completing the project. Also, if you are involved in a project for tree planting or mulching within a City park or City

property, you can request the assistance of the Richmond Tree Stewards.

Are there missing trees along your neighborhood streets? The Richmond Tree Stewards will help the neighborhood inventory locations of missing trees. By taking this inventory, the City will have a record where new trees

need to be planted in the event funds are available for replacing trees or someone participates in the Adopt-a-Tree program. This is another type of project that the tree stewards could assist your neighborhood.

The Richmond Tree Stewards will actively participate in any project that benefits the maintenance or care the City's urban forest. If your neighborhood needs their assistance on maintaining street trees, email your request to districta2@historicginterpark.org or richmond_treesap@yahoo.com. Someone will contact you to discuss getting your project on the volunteer work schedule.



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Fifteen years later, we're still waiting for that apology

Randy Fitzgerald

There was a time 15 years back when for a season the usual peace and calm of our neighborhood was disturbed. That year, a gang of young boys ranging from 11 to 15 years old kept Laburnum Park very nervous over the course of one long, hot summer. We'd see them occasionally in twos and threes riding through the streets on their bikes, catching the eye because they all would be wearing yellow or gold t-shirts or tops, smiling when they passed you, sometimes saying hello. So when the burglaries started, the clues immediately led some of us to make a connection.

First off, whoever was breaking into homes across the neighborhood was obviously young. When our home was burglarized early one evening while we were at our kids' Little League game, the burglar took baseball cards, video games, movies, the kids' cameras and radios, and a bunch of toys—along with my UR class ring, some other jewelry and small electronics. The china and silver they ignored.

I can't remember how many homes fell victim to these little Oliver Twists that summer, but there were a good many, and the neighbors were not a happy lot. One beautiful day when many of us were out in our yards, the cry went up that a burglary had been interrupted at a house around the block. The young would-be burglar had run and quickly disappeared—so quickly that clearly he was still in the neighborhood, hiding. Neighbors

came together from streets all around and started to search, looking behind boxwoods and vehicles, under porches and in trees—and finally he was found hiding behind a garage. He was surrounded and kept there, properly frightened, until police arrived.

One down, and the robberies continued

A week or so later, a lady from a nearby street (who coincidentally happened to work with troubled youth) was driving down her alley when she saw a young man passing by wearing her distinctive red satin soccer shorts—the ones that had been stolen when her house was robbed a few days previously. So she got out of her car, tripped him up, and sat on him until police arrived. We heard later from her that he had named the other gang members, and that at least some of them were young men from good families. They had been divvying up the loot and dropping off the jewelry and small electronics with a fence in their own neighborhood ... and then that was the end of it.

Literally, the end of it, for after that, we never heard another word, not from the police or from anyone else in authority. If there had been a hearing or a trial, we never learned of it. If they were punished, we were never told what the punishment was. If anything was recovered, we never knew it. Because the young men were juveniles, all action and records were closed.

continued next page



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Where are the young men now who broke into all those homes all those years ago? Over the years, I have thought about those kids many times, always with sadness. I hoped they had stayed in school and straightened themselves out, I wished a decent life for them, I wondered what had led them off to such a bad start.

I always hoped that one day I'd get a note in the mail or a young man would turn up at my door with an apology. He would write or say, "I'm sorry I stole so many of the things your kids had worked hard to earn. I'm sorry I took the irreplaceable video of your daughter coming home from the hospital as an infant—I mistook it for a movie. I'm sorry I stole the UR ring that you would have passed on to your son when he went to Richmond. I apologize for the destruction in your home, for pouring orange Gatorade on your living room carpet, for pulling all your books off the shelves and upending your mattresses and making a general mess of your house. I regret invading your home and frightening your wife and children.

What can I do now, all these years later, as an upstanding citizen, an adult in my thirties, to make it up to you?"

But, of course, none of that ever happened, none of that was ever said. Did any of the boys in that group indeed grow up to be responsible citizens? Are they out there working in banks or offices? Are some or all of them in jail? Surely at least one or two of them must have—as my mother would have said—turned out all right.

If so, that one should have written me and others in the neighborhood or had the courage to come back to our door and say he was sorry.

And if he's not sorry, I hope that long ago he's managed to forget our address.

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Randy Fitzgerald is chairman of English and Journalism at Virginia Union University and a regular columnist for "Fifty Plus" and "Boomer Life" magazine. He is also a two-time Richmond City amateur Putt-Putt champion.

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Saving Time with the Yahoo Group

New Board member Annette Foster suggests a way to alleviate the frustration that some Yahoo members have expressed about the vast number of individual e-mails collecting on their computer from the Ginter Park Yahoo group. Annette says you can sign up for a "daily digest"; which is a compilation of messages e-mailed to you daily.

Please find the following (hopefully) helpful steps for making changes to your membership in the Ginter Park group:

To get to the Historic Ginter Park Yahoo! Group

From the internet, go to the website, groups.yahoo.com.

Click on "Sign In" at the top right of the page.

Sign in to your Yahoo! account. If you have forgotten your username and/or password, you can retrieve them by clicking on the link just below where you sign in.

Once signed in, click on Historic Ginter Park under your list of groups.

To change e-mail options and/or account settings:

On the Historic Ginter Park group page, click on "Edit Membership". It's written in small type just above the blue bar with the group's name.

If you scroll down, Step 2 of the "Edit Membership" page allows you to choose your method of receiving group messages. Just click on the circle next to the method you prefer.

When you have finished, click "Save Changes" at the bottom right of the page.

Here's a shortcut to changing the way you receive messages:

Go to your email account (the one where you receive the Historic Ginter Park messages).

If you are currently receiving individual emails for each post and would like to receive a daily digest, send a blank email (*no subject, no message*) to historicginterpark-digest@yahoogroups.com. If you are currently receiving a daily digest and would like to receive individual emails for each post, send a blank email to historicginterpark-normal@yahoogroups.com.

You will receive an email in return from Yahoo! groups confirming that you would like to change your settings. Click "Reply" and then "Send" to send a blank reply email confirming your request.

Your email settings will automatically be changed as you requested.

Linda's Real Estate Tips

IT'S A PAIN IN THE NECK!

We want the properties we market to look spotless and wonderful, but even the impeccable housekeepers find keeping their house in prime showing condition begins to wear thin after a few weeks.

It is a lot of work to keep the beds perpetually made, the kitchen and bathrooms spotless and closets neat. Is it worth it? It is—if you want to sell your house for the top dollar in a reasonable amount of time. Buyers often see normal clutter, and what registers is "this house hasn't been maintained." They see bathtub rings and think "plumber's bills." Dirt under the radiators causes them to imagine having to replace the entire heating and air conditioning system. People are often functioning more on emotion than logic when selecting a house. You can help your REALTOR® by minimizing the amount of imagination that buyers will need in order to fall in love with your home.

If you are considering a move, I would like the opportunity to work with you to negotiate the best terms. Whether you are selling or buying your home, I will give you professional and personal attention in your endeavor.

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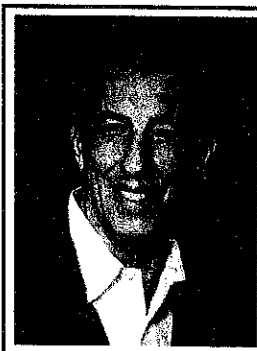
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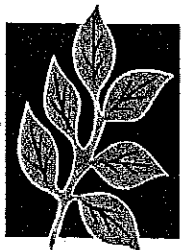
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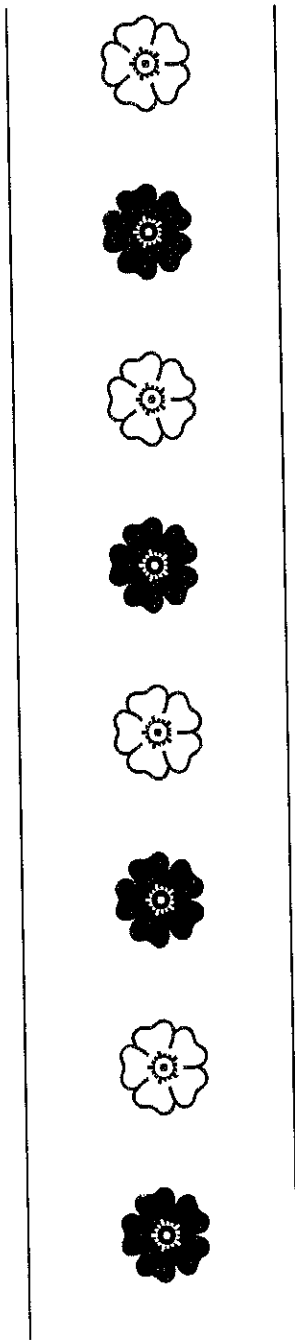
Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. every Sunday

Ministers: The Reverend Susan N. Eaves, Rector
June Hardy Dorsey, Lay Associate for Ministry

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

Director: Mrs. Kelly Kane, phone 329-1117

St. Thomas' is a home for worship, service, and fellowship in Ginter Park. A place of simple hospitality, we seek to share our communal life with our church, our community, and those in need. Worship is never canceled due to weather. Everyone is welcome.



It Takes a Village...

By Niki Peasley

In March of 2007, the first annual North Side Mamas' Kid Stuff Sale was held. The "stuff" included gently used children's clothes, shoes, toys, books, DVD's, baby gear, pregnancy and parenting books, and maternity clothes. We cleared \$900 and wrote three \$300 checks to the Holton Elementary School PTA, the Ginter Park Library, and the St. Thomas' Day School. We "did good," but knew we could do better.

St. Thomas' Church graciously offered us space to organize and hold our Second Annual Kid Stuff Sale. We cleared \$2000, which was divided, between local and global beneficiaries — the children of St. Thomas' church, Holton Elementary School, and Southern Sudan.

The Third Annual Kid Stuff Sale is set for April 18th at St. Thomas' Church, Hawthorne & Walton. Proceeds will benefit Holton Elementary School, Ginter Park Library, St. Thomas's Church and Day School, and Childsavers.

Third Annual Kid Stuff Sale

April 18th

St. Thomas' Church



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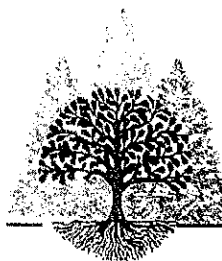
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