

Ginter Park

The Queen Of Suburbs Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



Memories

of Spring Grange

Dates to remember...

Board Meeting

Tues. Sept. 7
7:00 p.m.
St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

Candidates Forum

Thursday, Sept. 23
7:00 p.m.
St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

The oldest house in Ginter Park was featured in a July 4 Times-Dispatch article when it was up for sale. Spring Grange is an 18th century farmhouse which sits in the middle of the 3200 block of Seminary Ave., the lot extending from Seminary through to Chamberlayne. The ancestors of Wayland Rennie owned the property in the 19th century, and the article stirred special memories for three women—Mrs. Esther Curry Worsham, Ms. Betsy Rice and Mrs. Betsy Bethune Langhorne.

The earliest memories probably belong to Esther Curry Worsham, whose father, Lucien Curry, built the house next door at 3205 in 1905, the second house on the block. Curry family members remained there until the early 1990's.

Mrs. Worsham was born next to Spring Grange, and recalls, as a child, having a rotten egg fight in the basement with the Sampson boy who lived there. In the late teens/early twenties the General Assembly Training School (PSCE) owned the property

See Grange, Page 3

The Correct Thing To Do *with Your Yard Waste*

Thanks to Councilman Bill Pantele for this message from his website.

One of the great things about living in the northside is that we have big, pretty lots. Now, those big, pretty lots need some cutting and pruning from time to time, so I thought that I ought to remind everybody about the "do's and don'ts."

The correct thing to do with yard waste is to put it next to your supercans,

usually in the rear alley. If it is more than can be quickly picked up by the DPW crew, you need to call 646-0999 and a pickup will be made within 2-4 weeks (this schedule is being reviewed). There is no charge, so just call 646-0999. Appliances do carry a charge, fyi.

The thing NOT to do is carry the brush out to the median and dump it. This
See Yard, Page 4

TRADESMEN

Continuing the list of tradesmen who have provided good service for Ginter Parkers which the newsletter has published periodically, we add

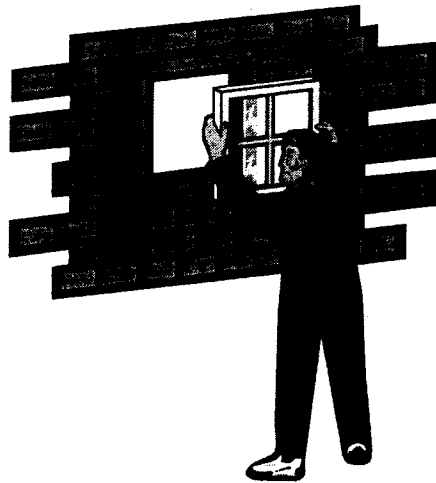
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Renown Window and Remodeling
Contact: Robbie Barbuto & Jeff Warren
Phone: 247-3936 or 264-3900

Recommended by:

Colleen Renaye
5004 E. Seminary
264-2833

If you have employed architects, contractors, roofers, plumbers, electricians, etc. whom you would like to recommend, call Anne Thorn (353-9363) for inclusion in the list.



G P R A

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

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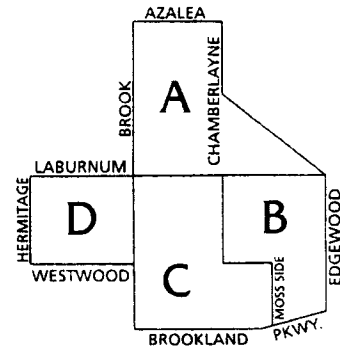
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Advertising and copy deadline is the first weekend of each month. Send comments, corrections and articles to: Editorial Committee, P.O. Box 25374, Richmond VA 23260

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Grange

Continued from Page 1

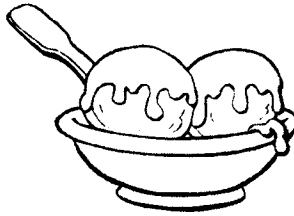
and used it to house female students, and according to Mrs. Worsham, early female Seminary students. Mrs. Worsham recalls her friendship with the three White sisters, who were studying at the Seminary. After her father's death in the 1950's, Mrs. Worsham returned to 3205 with her husband and two sons. During their years as Spring Grange neighbors, she remembers the lawn parties held there by the Ginter Park Women's Club, including the club's 50th anniversary.

The Rice family lived in Spring Grange from 1923 to 1943. Mrs. Theron (Bessie) Rice was a widow with four young children. In addition to raising a family, she rented rooms to boarders and ran the "Garden Tea Room" from '26 to '43. Flower gardening was her relaxation.

During this period Chamberlayne Avenue homeowners requested that the designation of U.S. Route 1 be moved over from Brook Road at Azalea southward onto Chamberlayne. In a time of economic transition, they saw the potential of increased motor traffic and opened their large houses as overnight "tourist homes." They often referred their patrons to the Garden Tea Room, the porch area of Spring Grange accessible from Chamberlayne. An advertising postcard described it as "The House Back in the Trees."

Mrs. Rice also fed her 14 "regulars," neighbors and Seminary faculty and students, at the dining room table for breakfast and dinner. The 50 cent plate for the tea room

patrons included meat, two vegetables, bread and dessert while the "regulars'" meal was more elaborate and cost 75 cents. They had a hired cook but the children carried trays and one brother made salads. A Virginia Union student was also hired to help with serving or to crank the freezer for ice cream, which was served on Wednesdays and Sundays.



Mrs. Rice also tended a vegetable, herb and flower garden (hence the Garden Tea Room title) with some hired help. Her daughter remembers deliveries from the ice man, the milkman, the watermelon man, and the knife sharpener man. Since they had no car, her mother often went by bus to the 17th Street market and elsewhere downtown for meat and other heavy groceries.

The four children "had a wonderful playtime" in the circle of the yard facing Seminary Ave. They climbed the four magnolia trees, whose cones their grandfather would collect and burn. They batted tennis balls against the chimney, and the boys had a pole vault pit in the back yard. Once bees got into the attic and honey began to drip into the boys' room.

Betsy Bethune Langhorne's parents bought Spring Grange in 1960 and lived there about 20 years. Thomas Crowell ("T.C.") Bethune, president of a road building company, and his wife had admired the house for years, vowing to buy it whenever

it came on the market. They felt it looked like a country house, rather than one in the city or a suburb.

They made a few changes to the inside, taking out a wall that had not been there originally and adding a first floor bath. This was a major improvement, as Betsy Rice recalls that a boarder had to walk through all the bedrooms or go around via the porch to get to the bathroom.

The Bethunes also paved the driveway, put up the sign "Spring Grange," and paved the area in the rear for family parking. They added a covered patio plus many boxwood. Mrs. Langhorne's son also enjoyed the "circle," driving his go-kart with a lawn mower engine around it. The house was perfect for entertaining, and the Bethune's hosted up to 100 people at Christmas parties.

We hope the new 21st century owners develop as picturesque memories as the 20th century residents have.

A real good place to be

**DOTS
BACK**



4030 MacArthur Avenue

266-3167

Monday thru Saturday

9 am to Midnight

Tutoring Program

at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church

By Betsy Rice

Thanks to the hard work of Chuck and Mary Mohr during the past ten years, Ginter Park Presbyterian Church will again conduct a tutoring program for students, grades 2 through 5, from Linwood Holton and Ginter Park elementary schools. Students come to the church for one hour each week,

October through April. Each tutor is assigned a student and works one-on-one with him or her, strengthening basic skills in ways suggested weekly by the teacher. An orientation/training session for tutors will be held in September.

There are four times from which to choose: Wednesday or

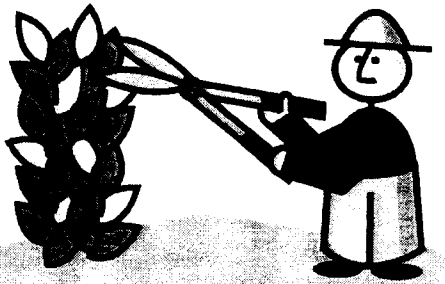
Thursday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. or 7:30-8:30 p.m. Please consider giving one hour a week to this program. We can assure you that you will be rewarded with smiles and probably hugs! Call Betsy Rice (264-6728) for further information or for the names of those who have tutored, in case you wish to talk with them. Thank you!

Yard

Continued from Page 1

is no different than dumping refuse in any other City right of way, which means that it is illegal. Beyond that, we don't schedule garbage trucks to routinely run down the main roads looking for trash in the medians (and I don't think you'd want that anyway), so putting the rubbish there means that it will sit there, most likely until someone complains to the City, or several persons complain. Finally, given the beauty of Laburnum Park and the soon-to-come improvements to the median fences at a cost of around \$150,000, it is a shame to make it look like ... a dump! Let's plant some flowers instead!

Debris in the back. Call 646-0999. Let's keep our police chasing bad guys and not having to stake out tree pruners, ok?



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Ginter Park

Garden Walk 2005

By Leighann Boland

Calling All Gardens! Planning for Ginter Park's Garden Walk 2005 is underway.

For years Ginter Park residents have looked forward to the "Scene from the Street" award in the Spring. This award goes to the gardener whose front lawn is selected by a committee as the most attractive as viewed from the street. Now here is a chance to see what's out back!

The Ginter Park Residents' Association is organizing its first ever tour of private gardens for 2005. If

you have attended the Bellevue Garden Walk, you know how much fun an afternoon of visiting gardens and chatting with fellow plant-lovers can be. This free event would provide inspiration to fellow-gardeners as well as a chance to meet new neighbors and catch up with old friends.

Several gardeners have already signed on as hosts but more are needed. Gardens can be as varied as a traditional perennial English Garden to an on-going experiment with palm trees and subtropical

plantings. We are looking for everything from downright gorgeous to fun and funky. If you have a garden that you would like to share with your neighbors for an afternoon or know of someone with a garden that you would like to see on tour, please let us know. We want your ideas!

Leighann Boland has agreed to act as chair for the Garden Walk Committee. If you are interested in helping out with the Committee or would like to know more about acting as a host, please email her at timetravelers@vamuseums.org.

To order a Ginter Park plaque, supply the following:

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone number _____

Year house was built _____
(may be obtained through tax records at Virginia State Library)

Check one _____ black marble, or _____ brass

Enclose a check for \$75 payable to the Ginter Park Residents Association and send to:

Leighann Boland
1208 Palmyra Ave.
Richmond, Virginia 23227

Turn around time approximately 30 days.



Laburnum Park plaques are still available from Louie Pettinato, still at the bargain price of \$60!

LABURNUM PARK HISTORIC PLAQUE

In 2001, the Laburnum Park neighborhood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Join your neighbors by proudly displaying this distinction on your home. Purchase a brass plaque, which states your home's historic status and the year it was built.

TO ORDER A PLAQUE • PLEASE SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING:

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Year house was built (if known)* _____

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House Tour

in Ginter Park

By Leighann Boland

How many times have you walked down the street in Ginter Park and thought, "I wonder what the inside of that house looks like? Has the kitchen been remodeled? What does the woodwork look like? How is it decorated?"

Unless you know the owner, you usually have to wait for the house to go on the market before you can peek inside. Attending realtors' open houses in our neighborhood is something of a sport. As you sign in on the realtor's sheet don't you recognize the names of your neighbors, friends from the pool, and parents of your children's classmates? Here is a chance to see some of the exceptional homes in our neighborhood without having to scan the Sunday classifieds!

The Ginter Park Residents' Association is planning to revive the tradition of the Ginter Park House

Tour for 2005. Groups such as St. Gertrude's High School and Historic Richmond Foundation have staged tours in our neighborhood in recent years, but it has been over 10 years since our neighborhood association has organized a tour.

The last tour generated enough money to purchase the Ginter Park Historic District markers along Chamberlayne Avenue. Proceeds from this tour would also go towards a project that would benefit the neighborhood. If you are interested in serving on the Committee or would like to offer your home as a candidate for the tour, please let Leighann Boland at timetravelers@vamuseums.org know. The Committee will begin meeting in late September. Bring your ideas!

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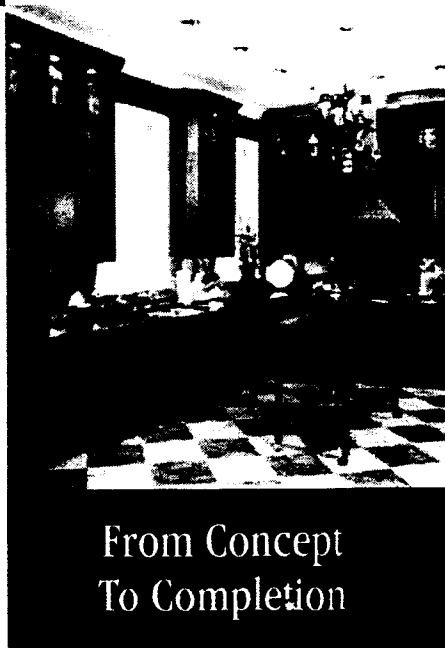
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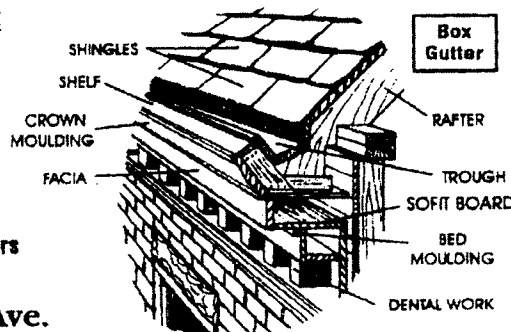
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266-2021



"Ginter Park's Resident Slater"

Linda's Real Estate Tips

CHECK IT OUT!

You have finally found the home in the Richmond area that is right for you, but you have some questions about the structure and condition of the home. A home inspection is the best place to get answers to your questions. There are companies that specialize in inspecting new and used homes. Most sellers allow a reasonable amount of time to have the property inspected after the purchase agreement is agreed upon and prior to closing. It is wise to have a home inspection, even if the house is new or everything appears to be in perfect condition.

The inspector can provide important information about the house. Where are the gas and water shut off valves? How do the circuit breakers operate? What type of routine maintenance should be done for each system? The inspector's fee is an investment that can save you money later!

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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Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

My How You've Grown!

By Leighann Boland

When trying to explain where I live I sometimes find myself answering the question, "Is it near the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden?" My answer is usually, "Well, not really". In early August I decided to get past the fact that Lakeside separates us from our founder's namesake garden, and took the quick trip down Hermitage to the botanical gardens with my mother. What a treat!

The last time I had visited the gardens was before my son was born seven years ago. Of course, plants grow and landscapes change, but the changes at Lewis Ginter go beyond that. As I walked through the impressive brick E. Claiborne Robins Visitor Center, I thought of the line in Dr. Seuss' The Lorax, "I plan to keep biggering and biggering". Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden has biggered itself into a lively complex of gardens, exhibits, educational workshops, restaurants, library, and gift shop that is set to expand in 2005. Our original purpose was to visit the "Butterflies LIVE!" exhibit in the new conservatory. As we walked into the gardens we were immediately drawn down the brick-lined paths to the blooming perennials. We decided the butterflies could wait while we explored the rainbow of

plantings along the walk. Baboon flower, Joe Pye Weed, Daylilies, Black-eyed Susan - the flowerbeds were full of blooming plants and contrasting groundcovers.

After an hour in the gardens we entered the conservatory and stepped into the butterfly exhibit. At first I was somewhat disappointed, thinking to myself, "Where are the butterflies?" Then I realized, they were all around us. Fluttering in front as we walked, drinking from flowers, resting on the plantings. A volunteer was there with live specimens to show how butterflies used camouflage and scents to deter predators. We sat on a bench and watched the butterflies around us. It was magical, exciting, and soothing all at once. We ended our visit with lunch at the Lora & Claiborne Robins Tea House and, of course, a trip to the gift shop. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a treasure that I had overlooked for too long.

Butterflies LIVE! is open through October 31st. A children's Back to School Butterfly Bash is set for Saturday, August 21st, with games, activities, and Radio Disney. The Fall Plant Sale is September 16-18. For more information, visit www.lewisginter.org.

Tree Planting Initiative

Sponsored by Tree Richmond, The City of Richmond and The Ginter Park Residents Association Tree Committee

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Amount of Donation (\$85 each but any amount appreciated): _____ Thank you!

Make check payable to "Tree Richmond" and mail to: Ginter Park Residents Association, P.O. Box 25374, Richmond, VA 23260-5374. "Tree Richmond" is a not-for-profit organization with an IRS Code 501(c)(3) designation.

Your contribution is tax-deductible.

GPRRA Newsletter

Advertising Manager Needed

A volunteer is needed to assume the duties of Ginter Park Residents Association Newsletter Advertising Manager.

The advertising manager is responsible for the following:

- Maintaining the list of advertisers
- Collecting ads and payments and delivering the ads to the newsletter editor and the payments to the treasurer
- Sending out renewal notices once a year
- Distributing advertising information upon request
- Soliciting ads based on leads provided by the GPRRA Board

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Louie Pettinato by phone at 355-3457 or by e-mail at Pettinato@comcast.net. The position is open immediately.

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Ginter Park Residents Association

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Dues for the 2004 calendar year are \$20 per household. Checks should be written to the Ginter Park Residents Association and mailed to the above address. Thank you very much.

Alternative Health and Healing

Helps Welcome New Neighbors

Remember the stress of moving into a new house? Louise Thayer-Lee, Ginter Park resident and owner of Alternative Health and Healing, sure does!

Louise, who lives in the 5000 block of West Seminary, contacted the Welcome Committee with an offer that could not be refused! During the month of August, new residents will receive a certificate for a thirty minute massage at her Lakeside shop. (This certificate is included in the new welcome to the neighborhood goodie bag from the Welcome Committee.)

Louise's current career evolved from her work as a dental hygienist which left her with pain in her neck and shoulders. After visiting chiropractors and massage therapists, she realized that she wanted others to benefit from the treatments that she had received. For five years she practiced massage therapy part time, while still working in Richmond dental offices. She even incorporated

her new career into her work as a hygienist by offering massages to patients with temporomandibular dysfunction (TMJ).

Louise has been practicing massage therapy for 9 1/2 years and has been certified in hypnotherapy for 2 years. She has found that her new career has allowed her to stay in the health care field and help others while learning more and growing professionally. Louise says that what she really enjoys about her job is helping others solve their problems, whether it's pain, stress, smoking, weight or phobias. According to

Louise, massage therapy "can be a luxury, but it can also be healing."

Alternative Health and Healing has a new location at 2301 Hilliard Road in the Lakeside Medical Center. Call 921-5182 to set up an appointment. Even if you're not one of the lucky new neighbors to receive a goodie bag, you can still treat yourself to a relaxing massage or purchase a gift certificate for someone special. (If there is a new neighbor on your block or you would like to contribute something from your business, please email Leighann Boland at rileyrol@aol.com)

Mark your calendars!

Hear candidates for Council & School Board

GPRA Candidates Forum

Thursday, Sept. 23

St. Thomas' Church, 7:00

100 East Main Street
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H

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