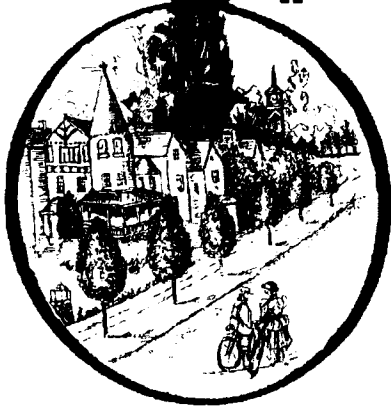


Ginter Park

The Queen Of Suburbs Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



February 5th

Election and Meeting

Dates to remember...

Board Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 3

9 p.m.

St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

General Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, Feb. 5

6:30 p.m.

St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

Seasoned veterans, including three who have been president of GPR, are among the nominees for the 2004 officers of the Residents Association. Officers and District Representatives (to be announced) will be voted upon at the Thursday, Feb. 5 general meeting and dinner at St. Thomas' Church, Hawthorne & Walton. As usual, the association will provide an entrée and you are asked to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert. Child care will be provided. The dinner will begin at 6:30, with the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the election of officers, the meeting will hear from Delegate

Viola Baskerville on the progress of the General Assembly, and from our City Councilmen and School Board members.

The nominating committee, which will also accept nominations from the floor, will present the following slate of officers:

President: Norma Murdoch-Kitt
First Vice President: Meg Lawrence
Second Vice President: Tim Holtz
Secretary: Louise Brierre
Treasurer: Ed Ernouf

The position of Membership Chairman was unfilled as of mid-January.

Car Patrol

Up and Running Again!

by Kim Lavach

As of January 4, 2004 the Ginter Park Car Patrol is up and running again! With the exception of the third and fourth Saturdays, every day of the month has at least one team patrolling at some time during the day. However, because Car Patrol always has room for more volunteers, I would like to explain its operation.

What is the purpose of Car Patrol?

The car Patrol attempts to reduce the incidence of crime by making Ginter Park less attractive to criminals. This is done in two ways:

1. By getting the flashing patrol light out on the street as often as possible, day and night.

See **Patrol**, Page 3

President's Message

by Norma Murdoch-Kitt
(e-mail: shrinkrapper@juno.com)

Each year I encourage each of you to pick a project, or committee or activity to work on which will make Ginter Park even better. For the last several years, we have put a volunteer coupon in the newsletter. However, the process of getting your name to the committee chair sometimes led to volunteers falling through the cracks and never getting called on to participate.

This year we will cut out the middle step. We will list each committee chair, along with phone number and ask each of you to call the chair directly to indicate your interest and learn the time and place of the next committee meeting.

If you have a concern or an idea for an improvement that does not neatly fit into an existing committee, I invite you to come to our monthly board meeting (First Tuesday, 7:00 at St. Thomas').

Newsletter	Anne Thorn	353-9363
Tutoring Holton students	Laura Murdoch-Kitt	353-8500
New street trees/Beautification	Cathy Kavanaugh	228-1718
New neighbor welcoming	Tracy Schneider	278-9119
Neighborhood Watch/Block captains	Paige Goodpasture	355-1351
Car Patrol	Kim Lavach	262-9689
Housing	Tim Holtz	321-7642
Planning, zoning & ABC	Meg Lawrence	266-2794
Hospitality	Cathy Yohai	321-7155
Clean-up Day	Chris Saneda	355-9554
Yard Sale	Cathy Yohai	321-7155
Web page	David Knuth	321-8517
CAPS Court Watch	Meg Lawrence	266-2794
Drugs/prostitution Court Watch	Lois Sisk	264-0558
Laburnum Park medians	Dennis Garza	355-1841
Tutoring teens	Beverly Britt	786-6052(Day)

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STEVE PERKINS

709 N 27TH STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23223
MOBILE: 690-0380
STEVENWAYNE@AOL.COM

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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Norma Murdoch-Kitt 321-5400

Vice President

Meg Lawrence 266-2794

Second Vice President

Louise Brierre 358-3209

Secretary

Leighann Boland 257-9823

Treasurer

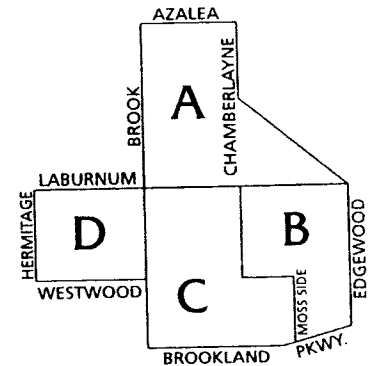
EdErnouf 359-3174

Membership

Mitzi Golod 329-7364

District Representatives

A	Lois Sisk	264-0558
	David Knuth	321-8517
	Neil Ohlsson	266-3446
B	Cathy Yohai	321-7155
	Tim Holtz	321-7642
C	Linda Greenlaw	355-8
	Ed Baldwin	329-74
D	Tracy Schneider	278-9119
	Carroll Jamison	355-7777



Newsletter Editor

Anne Thorn 353-9363

Advertising

Louie Pettinato 355-3457

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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Patrol

2. By looking for and reporting suspicious individuals and vehicles, or situations that make us vulnerable to crime.

The chance of a patrol observing a crime being committed is slim. But, if our neighborhood is well patrolled, outsiders will think twice about coming here to commit a crime.

What is my patrol area?

There are two patrol routes: 1.north/south streets and alleys of Ginter Park, and 2.east/west streets and alleys of Ginter Park.

We have two patrol teams, each working out of a separate equipment box. The patrol routes alternate between the two boxes on a monthly basis. For example, in January '04 the North Team Box (volunteers living north of Laburnum) will patrol the north/south route and the South Team Box (volunteers living south of Laburnum) will patrol the east/west route. In February the routes will be switched.

The patrols last about one and a half hours. During this time, the patrollers cover the areas of the neighborhood that are on the route. Patrollers always patrol their own street. All patrols cover

Chamberlayne Avenue and the "triangle" behind Ginter Park School.

What equipment do we use?

Each box contains a Car Patrol Logbook(containing all information needed), a magnetic GPRA sign, flashlights, a flashing amber light and a cellular phone. The phone and the flashing light plug into an adapter that allows both to be plugged into a car cigarette lighter. The North Team box is located in the 3900 block of Seminary and the South Team box in the 3200 block of Seminary.

Is it necessary to get the equipment each time we patrol?

Yes! Without the flashing light and signs, others will not know you are patrolling. This defeats the purpose of the Car Patrol.

What is my patrol schedule?

Each patrol is scheduled for once every four weeks. There are three shifts: A (7a.m.-12noon), B (noon-5 p.m.), and C (5 -10 p.m.). Although the shift is five hours, each patrol only takes about 1 and 1/2 hours, with the patrol team choosing a time within the 5 hours to patrol. The patroller first picks a week within the month, then picks a day and finally chooses a shift.

Who is my partner?

It is best if you can find your own partner, but I can assign one to you if needed.

How am I trained?

Each patroller should attend a police training session—these are scheduled twice a year. However, a volunteer may begin patrolling be-

fore the police session. I have put together and will bring to you a Car Patrol Volunteer Packet to answer questions that may arise for new volunteers

Finally, I would like to thank the Roane/ Turner team, who just stopped patrolling after ten years!

What if I need to reschedule my shift?

Understandably, situations may arise preventing you from patrolling at your scheduled time. However, you are asked to reschedule your patrol to another open shift on the calendar you will receive and call me about the change. I realize that there may be times when it is impossible to reschedule, but I am asking for a good faith effort on your part. If patrols don't go out, the neighborhood is unprotected.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who are already on the calendar. Thanks also to Betty Rainard for housing the South Team box and Amanda and Ed Riley for being the new home for the North Team box. Finally, I would like to thank the Roane/Turner team, who just stopped patrolling after ten years!

We are in great need of more patrols. Please consider donating an hour and a half of your time every four weeks (roughly once a month) to make your neighborhood safer. Please call me at 262-1432 or email at klavach@excite.com for more information or to sign up

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Housing Committee

Cleaning Up Code Violators

The Housing Committee, under chairman Tim Holtz, has begun the process of identifying and remedying those Ginter Park properties which have fallen in disrepair or are in violation of city housing or environmental codes.

The first round of letters have been sent to three property owners, making them aware of GPRA concerns and asking them to open a dialog with the committee about the problem and discuss suggested resources which can help in the particular situation. If there is no response, a second letter will again ask for correction within a time limit, after which the GPRA intends to refer the matter to the City for enforcement.

Seven additional properties have been identified as needing at-

tention. Problem properties devalue the entire neighborhood, and Ginter Park is fortunate that there are so few needing improvement.

House Numbers

To enable visitors, deliverymen, and emergency services to find your address faster, the Housing Committee is surveying street numbers on Ginter Park houses. Already they have found



many which don't follow standards set in the city code, which can't be seen from the street or in the dark (they should be near a light source), or are missing altogether. Postcards will be sent to properties where numbers need to be upgraded.

Don't forget numbering your property from the alley side. Police and Fire departments often need to locate your house from the rear.

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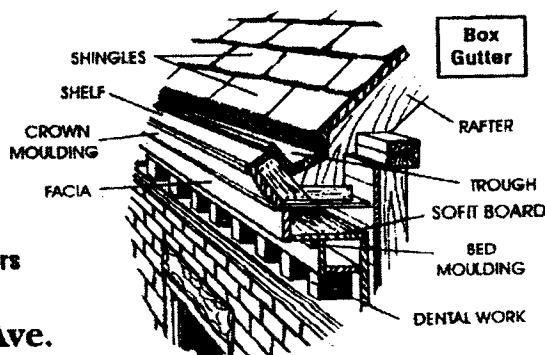
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Public Safety Meeting

Captain Martin Commends Neighbors!

Captain David L. Martin, commander of the Third Precinct of the Richmond Police Department, gave some straightforward information to over 50 homeowners from the upper Seminary area on November 18 at Battery Park Christian Church. Added to the concern about prostitution and drug-dealing was the incident just 2 days before of a resident in the 4800 block of West Seminary who was pistol whipped by a black man and a black woman demanding money.

Capt. Martin asked specifically that any time you see a car that doesn't belong in the area, you call 911 or the police non-emergency number of 646-5100. The more details on the car (description or license plates) or physical description of the suspect you can provide, the better. Also, give the police enough advance notice so they will have time to get there.

Residents should also call the above numbers if they see people riding around aimlessly on bicycles, who may be casing garages. When you call 911, Capt. Martin suggested you say you "have a suspicious person and need the police to check him out."

Focusing on the problem of prostitutes, the captain commended neighbors on their appearance at a recent court case, where the judge imposed a sentence of two months in jail and an additional 10 months suspended with specific warning to stay

out of the Ginter Park area. The captain explained that if the accused returns to Ginter Park, residents should call if she is sighted and then she will have to serve the remainder of her sentence.

Other suggestions came from the audience. When asked if the bus stop at Watkins and Chamberlayne could be moved, Captain Martin suggested residents take this matter to their City Councilman. There was also a proposal to have stickers to identify which are neighborhood cars or their guests.

GPRC president Norma Murdoch-Kitt summarized the measures neighbors could take immediately to work against criminal activity:

1. Improve lighting. Pressure Director of Public Utilities Ken Chandler to repair street lights. In the meantime, turn on outdoor house

lights or install motion detector lights around your house.

2. Do not keep valuables (even loose change) visible in car to tempt break-ins.

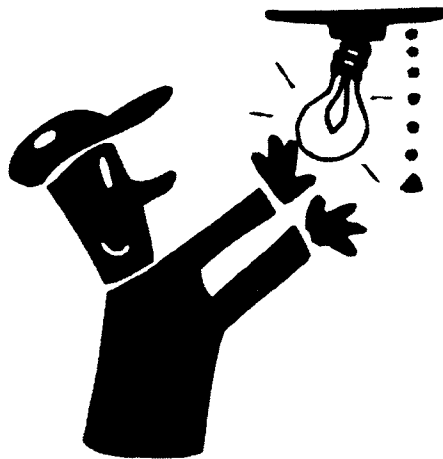
3. Volunteer for Court Watch.

4. Set up an e-mail tree within each block to improve communications.

5. Volunteer for the reactivated car patrol. Since prostitution has been seen in both day and night-time hours, the patrol needs volunteers for both periods.

In a related public safety matter, President Murdoch-Kitt reported to the November GPRC Board meeting about the Fasmart at the corner of Chamberlayne and Azalea. The Fasmart chain has been sold, meaning it must go through the ABC licensing process again.

She felt the new manager of this store is very interested in being a good neighbor and concerned about the criminal activity nearby. To help combat crime, he will take out the outdoor pay phone and stop selling singles of beer at 10 p.m. and all alcohol at midnight. He is considering a fence between his property and the check cashing establishment. There are also plans to install additional cameras both inside and outside of the store. The GPRC hopes these steps will be positive contributions to the measures taken by area homeowners.



Hurricane Isabel

the Aftermath in Ginter Park

by Norma Murdoch-Kitt

A great deal of positive activity occurred in Ginter Park after Hurricane Isabel—the group effort to clear streets, help from neighbors with chain saws, block party cookouts to “clear out the freezer”, visiting and walking and chatting, and finally, when some of us began to get power back, extension cords run across streets or down the block.

Four months after the storm, many of us are still coping with repairs to homes. Miraculously, there were no deaths or injuries in our neighborhood from the storm. However, much damage to the infrastructure remains.

I have been able to gather some information from the city administration about the remaining problems:

1) Sidewalks—The city is due to get FEMA money for sidewalks. However, all the initial bids were times higher than they should be. Therefore, all were re-

jected and the bidding process started over. Hopefully, a contractor will be found who doesn't want to gouge the city.

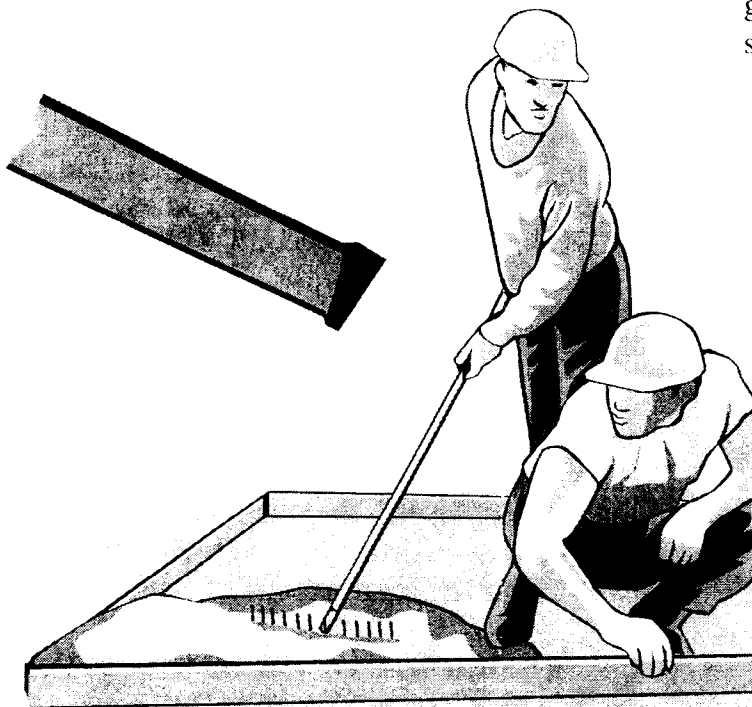
2) Debris removal—This seemed to go well. I am unaware of problems remaining in Ginter Park. You should call 646-0999 for brush piles created since the hurricane.

3) Stump removal—This is a puzzle. As of mid-January, I am still waiting for an answer. The company hired by the city began work in our area and then stopped. I have made several inquiries and will continue until we get an appropriate response.

4) Lights—Immediately following the storm, the city had 16 repairmen to fix the city street

lights. After nearly all the city had service, many of Ginter Park's lights were still out. The Public Utilities department blamed Dominion Power; Dominion Power blamed the city. Eventually we have gotten more repaired, but some are still out on Melrose, Walton and Chamberlayne after 4 months. If there is a light out on your street related to Isabel, please call me (321-5400) so that I can have a comprehensive list as I continue to deal with the city administration.

Sidewalks—The city is due to get FEMA money for sidewalks. However, all the initial bids were 4 times higher than they should be. Therefore, all were rejected and the bidding process started over. Hopefully, a contractor will be found who doesn't want to gouge the city.



Laburnum Park Historic District

Plaques Still Available

Give your Laburnum Park house a gift for '04—a Laburnum Park Historic District plaque! Now that you've seen your neighbors' plaque, you'll want to show your pride in your home (and all the work you've put into it).

Louie Pettinato is currently taking orders. Contact him at 355-3457 or pettinato@comcast.net. The plaques are still \$60.

Volunteer Needed

to Coordinate Ginter Park Plaques

The creation of Ginter Park Historic District plaques can finally move ahead! Many thanks to Leighann Boland (257-9823), out-

Leighann
now needs you to come forward with ideas about the design of the plaque.

going secretary of the GPRA, for volunteering to head this committee, despite the fact that she lives in the Laburnum Park,

not Ginter Park district.

Leighann now needs you to come forward with ideas about the design of the plaque. You don't have to be artistic, though it might help. Leighann needs a committee to get a consensus on the design chosen. So those of you who have inquired about a Ginter Park plaque, give her a call.

Remember the area that is eligible has an irregular boundary

that is not the same as our current membership area. You are within the historic district and can display a plaque if you live within the area south of Claremont and North Avenue, on the east side of Brook Road to Brookland Park Boulevard, north of Brookland Park Boulevard to Chamberlayne, the west side of Chamberlayne to Rennie, north of Rennie to Hawthorne, the west side

of Hawthorne to Westwood, the north side of Westwood to Noble, the west side of Noble to Walton, the north side of Walton to Moss Side and the west side of Moss Side to North Avenue. This shape was passed to others who owned land adjacent to Lewis Ginter's property, such as Hammond Nursery, W.T. Hood and Luther Wright.

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Lobbying General Assembly

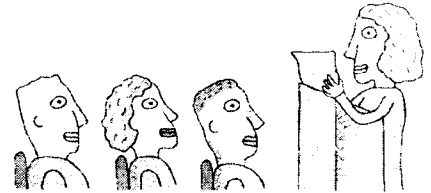
You Can Make a Difference!

A number of bills important to public safety and public education are being proposed in the General Assembly this year.

If you can be free during the day or evening to wear a large button at a committee hearing, please call Ann Frances Lambert (646-

3653), who is heading up the city lobbying effort. Give her your cell phone, e-mail and land line numbers so she can contact you because things move very quickly at the General Assembly. You don't have to testify or lobby unless you want to, but the

physical presence of many diverse voters makes a huge difference.



Tree Donations

Give an \$85 Tax Deductible Contribution

Carroll Jamison reported to the Jan. 6 Board meeting that several contributions had been received for trees to replace those on city property lost to Hurricane Isabel or to fill long-vacant spaces. Now that the stumps are gradually being removed, more trees can be planted by Tree Richmond, which obtains additional contributions to buy large caliper trees. An \$85 tax-deductible contribution to Tree Richmond will purchase a \$300 tree. Use the coupon below.

You have noticed the changes on the Brook Rd. over the winter. The aging and fragile Bradford pears have been removed and replaced by willow oaks, ash and crape myrtle. While the latter will add color to the landscape, crape myrtle will also need yearly trimming at the base. If the city does not have manpower for this job, be prepared to do some clipping on a neighborhood Trimming Day.

What You Get for \$20

Ginter Park Dues

by Norma Murdoch-Kitt



It's time to pay your 2004 dues to the Ginter Park Residents Association—only \$20 per household. It's one of the best investments you'll ever make!

Your dues pays for:

1) **Information**—Ginter Park is one of the best-informed neighborhoods in the metro area, with 10 issues of the newsletter, current news available on the web page, and urgent news circulated through the e-mail network.

2) **Safety**—Because of our volunteer citizen car patrol, block captains and e-mail network, criminals dumb enough to commit a crime here are usually caught before they can repeat. Even lost dogs usually get found quickly.

3) **High property values**—Active committees work to protect you from blighted housing, illegal zon-

ing or inappropriate development. Hundreds of hours were devoted to ensuring that the new development at the old Richmond Memorial Hospital property (now Ginter Place) will be an asset to the neighborhood.

4) **Beautification**—GPRA members work together to plant trees, landscape medians and clean up alleys. The association supports private beautification through our "Seen from the Street" garden contests.

5) **Fellowship**—The association provides opportunities to meet neighbors and make new friends. Have you come to the potluck suppers that precede the general meetings (main course provided by the GPRA) and the members-only catered fancy dress holiday party?

Your dues pays for the newsletter, the parties, the website, the car patrol signs and blinkers, the mailings, etc. Clip the coupon and mail your dues before you forget.

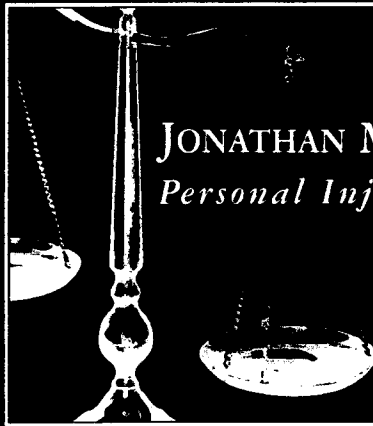
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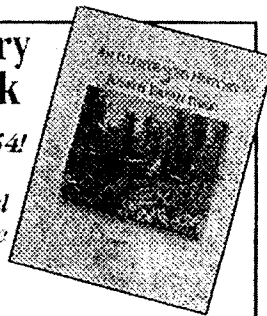
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