

Ginter Park

The Queen Of Suburbs Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



What's Happening at Holton Elementary

by Sarah Farrow

Dates to remember...

Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 7
7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

General Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, January 27
6:30 p.m.

St. Thomas' Church
Hawthorne & Walton

Your neighborhood school, Linwood Holton Elementary, is proud and excited to report that it is now a fully accredited school, by state standards. Holton passed its 2003-04 SOLs with flying colors. In fact, Holton's scores are the *highest* of all elementary schools in the city! Congratulations to Holton's very hard-working students, teachers, and administrators who made this possible!

Under the leadership of its vibrant new principal, Mr. David Hudson, and

thanks to the energy and effort of the previous principal, Dr. Darlene Currie, Holton offers many new programs and resources for students, parents and teachers.

First, Holton has received an Accelerated Schools project grant. The premise of AS is that every child is gifted in some way, and therefore deserves the same challenging activities traditionally reserved for children identified as "gifted." Teachers have been attending workshops and an AS

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Truck Ordinance

New Regulation

For some time certain sections of our area have been bothered by large commercial vehicles being used as private transportation by residents and therefore parked round the clock on residential streets.

While this was a violation of city regulations, neighbor complaints did not produce results until a petition signed by 75 neighbors was presented to City Hall. A stricter ordinance was drafted by the City

Attorney and accepted by City Council on November 8. The new regulation states that no commercial vehicle weighing over 6500 lbs. can park on a neighborhood street or on the owner's property at any time of the day or night unless they are actively doing a job.

The GPRA thanks those neighbors who persevered on this issue. If such a nuisance or parking problem exists on your

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Holton

Continued from Page 1

conference for training on transforming Holton into an Accelerated School.

Another new program at Holton is foreign language instruction. Holton provides foreign language instruction to all of its kindergarten and 1st graders during the school day. Each class has 30 minutes of Spanish once a week, where for that half hour, only Spanish is spoken. The kids love it! The administration hopes to expand this to upper grades as well.

Holton boasts a variety of after-school programs. Thanks to the PTA, along with the total support and encouragement of the school administration, the Neighborhood School of the Arts, SPARC, and other community members, students are able to take part in art, movement, martial arts, knitting and acting classes. These programs have been extremely popular!

In an effort to get the word out about Holton Elementary to the community, Richmond Public Schools has produced a short video about the school. It gives a nice overview of everything going on at Holton. This video is available to preschools, daycare centers and civic associations – anyone interested in elementary school options. Just call the school at 228-5310 to request a copy for viewing.

Holton also has a new website which is updated regularly by the Mr. Hudson. Check in frequently at <http://richmond.k12.va.us/schools/holton> for updates on what's happening at Holton!

Truck

Continued from Page 1

street, be aware of the new ammunition the police have for enforcement. However, you may have to take the first step.

WELCOMING CHAIR

Julie Tea has taken over as chair of the Welcoming Committee from Leighann Boland. Julie lives on Westwood Avenue, works in the President's Office at the University of Richmond, and has served on the Welcoming Committee for almost a year. If you have a new neighbor who should receive a visit and welcoming basket from the committee, contact Julie at jtea@richmond.edu.



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GPRA

This newsletter is produced by:
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www.ginterpark.org

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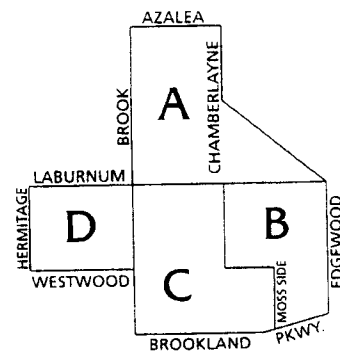
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Advertising and copy deadline is the first weekend of each month. Send comments, corrections and articles to: Editorial Committee, P.O. Box 25374, Richmond VA 23260

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Wanted: Ad Manager

You don't need experience in advertising. In fact, you don't need to know anything about advertising. You don't need to beat the bushes for new advertisers. All you need to become advertising manager of the newsletter is a telephone to receive inquiries, a little time each month and a bit more in January, and some organizational skill. Some computer capability is helpful but not mandatory.

You would keep records of who has paid, who needs to pay, and when they pay, forward the checks to the treasurer.

You would inform the editor each month of new ads to include or those to drop.

You would explain and send out the advertising price list when requested.

You would send out renewal notices in January.

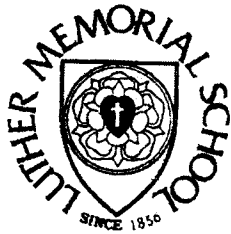
PLEASE think about helping out the GPRA in this vital area. Louie Pettinato (355-3457) will give you all the details and walk you through the first month or two.

Without an advertising manager, the newsletter will cease to exist, because ads help to defray the costs of printing and mailing. Sorry, but the editor can't and won't deal with the financial side of production too.

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Ginter Park

Airport

By Anne Thorn

“Look! Up in the sky! It’s a bird! It’s a plane—” And it WAS a plane, for 25 years, taking off or landing on the fringe of Ginter Park.

Excited by the romantic stories of World War I flying aces and eager to cash in on the new aeronautical industry, young entrepreneurs carved out several private airfields on the edges of Richmond in the early 1920’s. One of these was Charles Field, later known as Hermitage Airport, and one of the oldest flying fields in Virginia.



On the northwest corner of Laburnum and Hermitage, it included part of the property formerly owned by the Deep Run Hunt Club (whose roof and chimneys can still be seen as you go up the entrance ramp to I-64 West). Specifically, the airfield occupied the site of a dog racing track owned by the club at the turn of the century. The 110 acres of the field were bounded by the 3 rows of trees on Laburnum to the south, trees to the north, and the switching yard of the RF&P and a forest of telegraph and phone lines to the west. The two runways were sod and the rest of the field covered by low weeds and grass.

Charles Field, or Eaglerock Airport, as the Dept. of Commerce termed it, was opened on October 23, 1923 by J. Shelly Charles, originally of Gettysburg. Charles was a distributor of the Eaglerock plane, a 3-place, open cockpit biplane built

in Colorado. Its light weight and steep climbing ability suited mountainous terrain and was thus adapted to the hazardous surroundings of Charles Field. The airfield was one of the few Eaglerock service stations along the Eastern seaboard and became very popular with long distance pilots.

Despite trees, wires and freight cars, only one death resulted from a crash in the field’s 25 year existence. However, as Lou Woody Williamson recalled, “We would have to retrieve some poor soul and his flimsy airplane from the trees at least once a month.”

Operations at the field included local passenger hops, charter flights and barnstorming. On weekends pilots would fly to some rural community and sell rides at the rate of a penny for each pound of the passenger’s weight.

Operators after Charles included the Old Dominion Flying Service and the Cavalier Flying Service. Then shortly before World War II the field was purchased by John A. Currie, a lawyer with a fulltime private practice. Currie renamed the property Hermitage Airport and was a dealer for Piper Cubs. Currie established the Richmond School of Aviation and conducted a Navy flight school during the war.

Through both the Charles and Currie years, many Richmonders

learned to fly by bartering their services at the field. They would do maintenance, clean-up, grass-cutting and other chores in exchange for lessons. Genevieve Orange, Richmond’s first female flight instructor, started flying in 1941 in exchange for working in the office on weekends and holidays.

Hermitage Airport closed in 1948. As one article described the demise, “After World War II land speculators were scouring the country looking for large acreage for housing developments.” Part of Charles Field’s land was absorbed by a section of Rosedale and later Imperial Plaza but the larger segment went into highways. The location seemed destined always for speed—whether animal racing, airplane or automobile.

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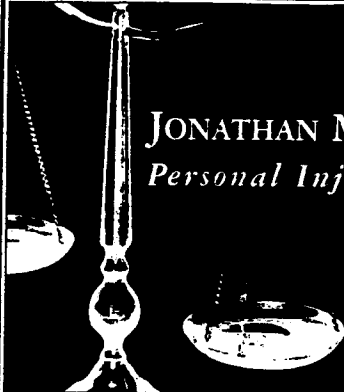
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Tours

Ginter Park's Garden Walk committee of eleven is moving along rapidly. Chairman Leighann Boland reports that the event has been scheduled for Sunday, May 22 from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. A number of gardens have been proposed or volunteered. While no fee will be charged for the tour, a suggested donation will be appreciated. A local humane group, CARE, will provide volunteers to help on the day of the walk in return for part of the proceeds.

Another committee has been working on the 2005 Ginter Park House Tour, to be held in October. At present the committee is selecting houses and working on transportation for tour goers.

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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.

January Meeting

In January the newly elected are sworn into office. While they haven't gotten their feet wet yet, this is a good time to become closer acquainted and learn of their aspirations for the new position.

Therefore our January general meeting and pot luck supper will feature new Third District Councilman Chris Hilbert and Second District School Board member Lisa Dawson. January is always a good time to gather together for a good entrée provided by Cathy Yohai and delicious vegetable, salad or dessert provided by You, the members. It is also a great time to pay your dues for 2005 and vote on the new officers of the GPRA.

So mark your new 2005 calendar for Thursday, January 27 at St. Thomas' Church with dinner starting at 6:30. Child care will be provided.

*Calling all Ginter Park Neighbors to the Annual
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Winter Street Festival*

December 19th, 6:30-8:30pm
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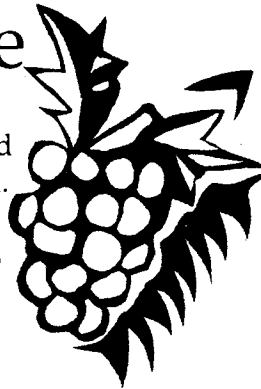


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Linda's Real Estate Tips

'TIS THE SEASON...

Once again the holiday season is upon us. Everywhere you look you see holiday lights, decorations and people busy trying to find the perfect gifts for their loved ones. This is the time of year, when you feel the appropriateness of stepping aside from the world of business and relaxing into the joy of the season.

However, the reality of life for many people is one in which business and pleasure become a cooperative venture. At this time of year, we are often amazed at the warmth and generosity we find in our professional and personal lives. If you are currently selling your home, we encourage you to participate as fully as possible in the "spirit" of the season. Take the time to bake cookies and entertain friends or visit family. And if you are looking to buy a home you may be happily surprised when you view homes that are beautifully decorated and full with festivity.

Regardless of whether you are buying or selling a home this winter season, let the holidays be with you. 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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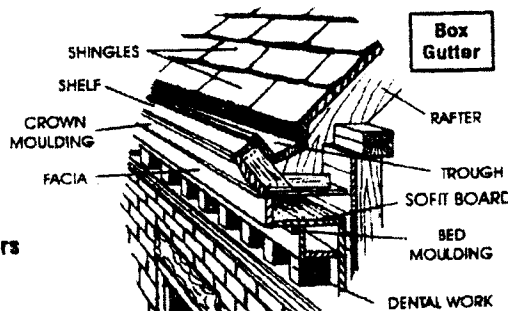
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