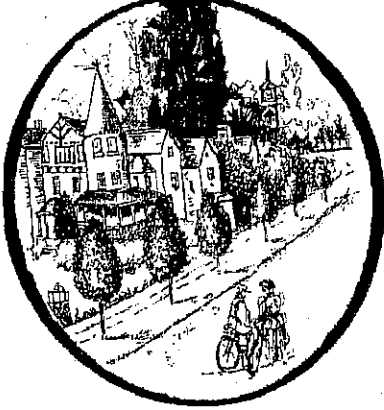


Ginter Park

The Queen Of Suburbs Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



Officers

2006

Dates to remember...

Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 10

7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas' Church

Hawthorne & Walton

(Note: Board meetings have been moved to the second Tuesdays)

historicginterpark.org



The adoption of new association by-laws in September have brought some changes in the structure of the Board of Directors. It now includes the five officers, representatives from each district, chairs of standing committees, the newsletter editor and two at-large members.

This brings the voting positions to 21, of which 11 constitute a quorum required for Board action. The following were elected at the general meeting on November 10 and will assume their duties on January 1, 2006:

President

Tim Holtz

3225 Edgewood

As the Community Relations Leader for Genworth Financial's Long Term Care division, Tim manages a national partnership with the Alzheimer's Association and guides the company's other philanthropic efforts that support aging and senior issues. A Ginter Park resident for 12 years, he previously served as District Rep for the eastern edge of the neighborhood and chair of the Housing Committee, which identified and tried to address problem properties. This year, as First Vice President, he led the revision of the GPRA By-Laws, bringing a more business-like structure to the association. Family activities with wife Amy, son Stephen (7) and daughter Rachel (4) occupy his leisure time.

Vice President

Rebecca Dodson

3501 Seminary

In her role as secretary of GPRA, Rebecca added laptop's capabilities to Board meetings.

A relative newcomer to Ginter Park, she has plunged into committee work for both the Garden Walk and 2005 House Tour. She and husband Kevin, who works in information technology, formerly owned an antique store on Solomon's Island. Their knowledge and love of antiques was one of the factors which led to their purchase of the Seminary's Neil Ray House.

In addition to caring for sons Charleston (5) and Garrett (3), Rebecca has a job in technology and security risk services at Ernst & Young.

Secretary

Jean McCarthy

3504 Seminary

A native of Hampton, Jean lived first in the Fan, then has spent 30 years in Ginter Park, although with intervals in Maryland and Washington. She retired from work in strategic planning for the Commonwealth and now spends her time "on fun things." These include her grandson, reading, gardening, and collecting

See Officers, Page 3

PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

By Norma Murdoch-Kitt

Year in Review

Every year, for the last 8 years, I have written a brief year in review in this column. This year, we added to our traditional activities an ice cream social, organized by Cathy Yohai, and a highly successful and profitable garden tour and house tour, under the direction of Leighann Boland and Holly Ulrich and made possible by nearly 100 volunteer, and Ginter Park helped elect its fourth governor!

Impact over Time

This year I'd like to do something a little different. Like time lapse photography, change is sometimes seen more clearly over time. Although Ginter Park is much more stable than many neighborhoods with many residents who have been here for decades, nearly half of the residents in Ginter Park have moved here since I became president and may be unaware of the history of what your civic association has accomplished.

1. Tangible impact—clean, well-maintained and beautiful

Alone, or in concert with neighborhood civic associations, the GPRA has had a major impact on every major street in Ginter Park and the surrounding area. Not long ago Chamberlayne Avenue had deteriorating concrete power poles running down the median. With no warning, all of the trees in front of the elementary school were cut down in a preliminary plan to widen the street.

The GPRA fiercely objected, with the result that the widening was scrapped, trees were planted in the median, and the tree boxes and curbs and turning lanes were added.

A few years later we discovered a plan to widen Laburnum to 6 lanes to better accommodate race traffic. We successfully blocked that plan. Now the bulk of race parking is north of the raceway and fans are directed to I-295.

The GPRA took the lead in blocking the proposed closing of Lombardy Street and suggested the compromise of narrowing the street to two lanes and adding a tree lined median.

Our initiative led to the landscaping of the Azalea Avenue median, new landscaping of the Brook Road median, the re-landscaping and new lighting of the Bellevue shopping district, and the addition of a landscaped median and trees to the Boulevard.

Committee work led to the replacement of all the median fences in Laburnum Park. Our "Seen-from-the-Street" garden contests have recognized and rewarded our neighbors who add to our collective beauty and, hopefully, have inspired others to follow suit.

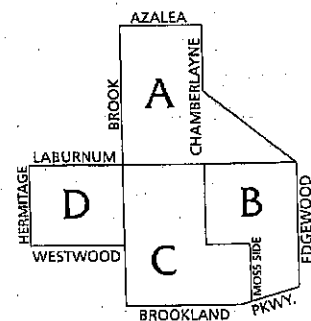
Through your donations to the tree fund we have been able to plant dozens of trees to fill gaps in the medians and tree boxes. Your efforts with our tours this year will make possible the addition of many more trees.

See President, Page 4

GPRA

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

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Neil Ohlsson 266-3446
- B Chris Gauldin 321-8575
Charles Howell 321-1832
- C Linda Greenlaw 355-8855
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- D Arlen Bolstad 353-2848
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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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Officers

Continued from Page 1

dolls and bears. She shares her house with three cats and a dog.

Treasurer

Dr. Arden Sterling
3606 Seminary

Arden is a dentist in family practice. He was raised in New York, educated at Chapel Hill and then at MCV for his dental training. He planted roots in Northside early, deciding to buy rather than rent as a beginning dental student. Between his first home in Bellevue and his current address, the Sterlings have lived in our area 30 years.

Wife Melanie is on the adjunct faculty at VCU in the partnership for disabilities. The Sterlings have two grown daughters out of town. For recreation Arden likes to be outdoors. He plays softball, soccer and enjoys a cabin in the mountains.

Immediate Past President

Dr. Norma Murdoch-Kitt
3503 Seminary

"Clinical psychologist, mother of four and civic activist" barely touches the many activities on Norma's day. She has resided in Ginter Park for 28 years and was President of the GPRA for 9 different terms. As Past President she will serve as the Board's representative to the North District

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Teams (leaders of the civic associations north of the James), which she has chaired. She also chairs the Richmond Community Criminal Justice Board and is president of the Richmond Academy of Clinical Psychologists.

Norma shares her Chamberlayne Avenue office building with attorney husband Jonathan and in her spare time enjoys travel, gardening and walking.

District Representatives

District A-1

Lois Sisk
4524 E. Seminary

Criminal activity in the northernmost part of Ginter Park is a major concern of Lois Sisk, a 20-plus year resident of our area. She hails from northern Virginia, having grown up in Manassas. She has been a real estate paralegal with McGuire Woods for 30 years.


Her hobbies include scuba diving, gardening and fishing with retired husband Jack at the Outer Banks. Lois has been the hard-working chair of the Seen-from-the-Street garden contest for several years and needs fellow judges for the 2006 spring.

District A-2

David Knuth
3805 Hawthorne

The Board welcomes David back after a short recess. After 14 years of working in software, David is director of engineering for Intellibot Robotics, which makes mobile robots for cleaning floors of schools and hospitals. While previously on the Board, David put our original website into operation.

See Officers, Page 5



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President

Continued from Page 2

In supporting the purchase and redevelopment of surplus buildings owned by the Presbyterian School of Christian Education by the Baptist Seminary, the GPRA helped to avoid the possibility of vacant buildings.

We blocked the Seminary's plan to bulldoze the house at Westwood and Chamberlayne, which was the original site of PSCE. Instead, we persuaded them to renovate and expand the building as the headquarters of the Presbyterian Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. We also blocked the Richmond Public School's plan to bulldoze the historic 13 Acres building.

Together with Sherwood Park, GPRA volunteers have spent thousands of hours over several years working with three owners of the former Richmond Memorial Hospital property—and possibly soon a fourth—to ensure that whatever is developed there is a plus for the neighborhood.

It's also important to be aware of what you **don't** see, due to the efforts of your civic association. You don't see a lot of non-conforming intrusive uses, you don't see illegal rooming houses, you don't see graffiti, and you see far fewer blighted properties, both in Ginter Park and throughout the city. Thanks to Meg Lawrence, North Richmond was the pilot area that eventually led to the CAPS anti-blight program being spread throughout the city. We successfully lobbied the General Assembly for stiffer penalties for the owners of blighted property and established a Court Watch program to persuade Richmond judges to take the problem much more seriously.

Hundreds of volunteer hours led to the original Ginter Park and Laburnum Park being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2. Education

With other leaders throughout Northside, GPRA played a major role in the planning of Holton Elementary School from its architecture and site plan to its attendance zone. Many Ginter Park families have actively supported Holton with children in attendance, tutoring, volunteering and working in the PTA. GPRA members have participated in the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church program of tutoring students from Ginter Park Elementary and Holton.

See President, Page 7



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Officers

Continued from Page 3

Both David and wife Wendy came from the Midwest and lived in the Fan before moving to Ginter Park. Wendy, formerly a court reporter, now stays at home with Josiah (8), Ben (7), Ava (5), and is expecting another Knuth in December. The family is very much involved with their church and David lists under "hobbies"—"time with the family."

District A-3
Neil Ohlsson
4231 Seminary

Neil came to Ginter Park 13 years ago when he married Margaræt Buchanan, graphic designer, who had settled on Seminary Avenue in '86. Their daughter Emma, age 8, attends the Waldorf School. Neil is project engineer for a company that manufactures store fixtures. In addition to his family, his major hobby is gardening.

District B-1
Chris Gauldin
3600 Moss Side

Chris has been very active in the GPRAs, having chaired the Holiday Party, revived our web site, worked on the Garden Walk and Crime Watch and opened his house for the 2005 Harvest Tour. In addition to representing his district, as new chair of Public Safety, he will have the chairs of Car Patrol, Crime Watch, Court Watch and CAPS functions under his committee.

Chris is information systems and facilities manager for The Barnes Law Firm. His household includes his partner, Doug James, daughters Emily (18) and Mary (16) and two dogs. Among his

hobbies are landscaping and decorating.

District B-2
Charles Howell
3521 Montrose

Although Charles Howell is retired from city employment, he has had a long career in public service. When living in New York City, he served as chairman of the Queens School Board. In Richmond he served as host and producer of the "Community Profile" aired by Channel 6. He has been Model Cities director, chairman of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority and currently is with the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition, which works closely with the Internal Revenue Service.

Charles is a widower, having been married 53 years, and has grown children. Among his hobbies he lists reading and doing research on public policy.

District C-1
Linda Greenlaw
3204 Seminary

In 2005 Linda took on the time-consuming role of Membership

Chairman in addition to representing part of the southern section of Ginter Park. Formerly an account executive for Levi Strauss, she moved to Richmond to be near family. Linda is now a realtor for Re/Max Commonwealth, and you read her tips on buying, selling or just maintaining your house in the newsletter.

Linda considers her house her hobby, and she shares the space with two standard poodles.

District C-2
Ben Lambert IV
3104 Noble

Ben's family lived in Battery Park until moving to Ginter Park over 20 years ago. Ben knows our neighborhood well, having completed his elementary education at All Saints School on Noble Avenue. Inheriting a family bent toward politics, he is very interested in civic issues. He is particularly aware of problems in his former neighborhood and any potential impact north of Ladies Mile Road.

Ben is a financial advisor with Banc of America Investment Services. His wife Mary is a registered nurse, and

See Officers, Page 6

*Calling all Ginter Park Neighbors to the Annual
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Winter Street Festival December 18th
3602 Hawthorne Avenue*

*Nine Lessons & Carols 5:30-6:30pm
Festival 6:30-8:30pm*

Get into the holiday spirit with a FREE evening of fun activities for all ages. Enjoy the live Nativity scene, a petting zoo, craft projects, a bonfire, Christmas caroling, Jonathon the Juggler and lots of yummy treats.

Please bring chairs so you can sit and enjoy all the fun.

NOTE: We welcome all neighbors. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend.

Officers

Continued from Page 5

they have a Doberman. Running, working out and travel are among Ben's hobbies.

District D-1
Honor Carver
1500 Westwood

Honor and her husband Hampton have lived in Ginter Park for over four years. Hampton, who works in development, was a major asset to the association in negotiations over the hospital property, his neighbor.

Honor was an IT & Marketing Manager for Porter Realty until the birth of their first child this summer. Her other interests include working out, playing tennis, gardening and spending time with their two cats, Pooh and Peanut.

District D-2
Anna Halverson
1411 Wilmington

Anna originally hails from Manhattan and her husband Ryan from Minnesota so they are happy with the warmer Virginia climate. They moved to Richmond at the end of June from Ithaca, New York, where they were in graduate school at Cornell (horticulture for her, business for Ryan). She works at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Children's Education. Ryan is at Genworth Financial.

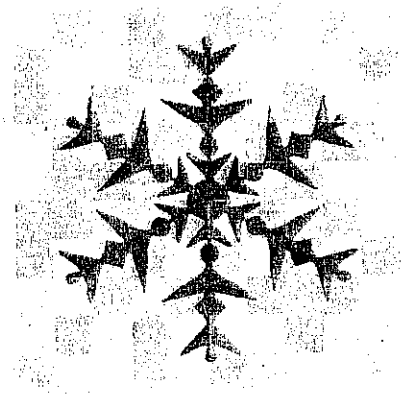
The Halversons are expecting a baby boy in February, after which Anna may get back to her hobby of running.

Committee Chairs

Finance—Arden Sterling
Planning & Zoning—Meg Lawrence
Program—Beth Voelkel
Public Safety—Chris Gauldin

Others

Newsletter—Anne Thorn
At-Large Member #1—Viola Baskerville
At-Large Member #2—To be appointed



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President

Continued from Page 4

At the middle school level, Ginter Park took the lead in lobbying the School Board to begin an International Baccalaureate program at the 8th grade level, now available at Brown Middle and Thomas Jefferson High School. We are continuing to press for the program at Henderson Middle School.

Through our role in the North Richmond Team of civic association presidents, we have put the spotlight on the major problem of truancy, out of school suspensions, and dropouts. We have also supported the expansion at the Richmond Technical Center so that more students can graduate with a marketable skill.

3. Safety

Twenty years ago Ginter Park was experiencing one or two residential burglaries every day—but neither we nor the police realized the problem was so bad because neither could track or disperse the information. Once we convinced the police to start tracking crimes and giving us information, we began recruiting block captains to mail or hand carry information monthly. Now we have evolved to obtaining information from each other and the police via the internet. Our system also shares information with adjacent neighborhoods, institutions, and even mail carriers. The system is supplemented by the Car Patrol.


At both ends of Chamberlayne Avenue our efforts to obtain more police action against prostitution have paid off.

Our network has also been used to return pets to their owners and to successfully prosecute owners who intentionally let their pets run wild and attack people and other animals.

4. Accountability

We have established a tradition of holding candidate forums whenever people who would like to represent us are in contested races. Candidates consistently respond that ours is very fair and the most substantive of any they attend.

Once elected, we offer regular opportunities for office holders to address us and for us to question them. We



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also hold issue-driven discussions with officials from various city departments, from public works to the police.

5. Community

GPRA is dedicated to being more than just a collection of pretty houses, of being a real neighborhood where people know and help one another. Thus we have improved the ability to communicate with each other through the frequent newsletters and a website.

We have worked together on joint projects, from the annual clean up day, which has removed tons of old appliances and bulk trash, to house and garden tours, to raising funds for the historic district markers.

We have established a welcoming committee to bring information and small gifts to new neighbors.

We have also partied together at regular potluck dinners before our business meetings, our December holiday reception, and our August “night out against crime” block parties. The strength of our community was obvious after Hurricane Isabel and the Gaston flood with spontaneous “grill everything in the freezer” block parties and extension cords laid from one house to another.

We have much to be proud of as a neighborhood and many great traditions to continue. Please take part in them. The more you invest of yourself in Ginter Park, the more you’ll enjoy your years or decades here.

It has been a great joy to get to know and work with so many intelligent, talented and dedicated neighbors. It has been a tremendous pleasure to serve as your president the last eight years.



Annual Meeting

A Review

The November 10 meeting drew a large crowd to a delicious meal, featuring Hospitality Chairman Cathy Yohai's salmon and pork tenderloin. The meeting agenda moved rapidly, interrupted only by drawings for door prizes which added to the festive occasion. Norma Murdoch-Kitt gave a review of the changes during her presidential years (see article), followed by presentation of gifts to her and to Delegate Viola Baskerville, who began her political career on the Board of the GPRA. Reports from School Board member Lisa Dawson, and Councilmen Chris Hilbert and Bill Pantele covered current and upcoming issues. The 2006 slate of GPRA officers was approved.

The highlight of the evening was the display of Chambelayne Avenue and related photographs, a mini-museum exhibit of the places and people who had influenced Ginter Park during the last century.

Charlie Brock embarked on the project as a pleasurable hobby, stimulated by Wayland Rennie's book

on Lewis Ginter, which he felt, "did not give enough coverage" to the growth of historic Ginter Park. "It gave just enough to tingle the imagination." With the aid of the Chamberlayne Avenue postcard collections of Meg Lawrence and Holly Ulrich, articles from the Times Dispatch, the Valentine Museum and Virginia Historical Society, Charlie has compiled, mounted and labeled an extensive display of the houses on the avenue, along with a time line of those who influenced the growth of Ginter Park.

His talk made valuable generalizations. The crucial year was 1908, when the Lewis Ginter Land and Improvement Company, led by Grace Arents, her sisters and the executor of her uncle's estate, began to advertise the surveyed lots. Prior to 1908 there were only 31 buildings in all of Ginter Park, primarily those at the Seminary and the two sets of workman's cottages on Hawthorne and Chamberlayne at Laburnum. A special advertising section in the newspaper,

See Review, Page 9

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.

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Review

Continued from Page 8

paid for by the development company, offered lots for \$1000. As a result, by the end of that year 35% of the lots were sold, with 50 of them on Chamberlayne Avenue.

Charlie noted that there was a great deal of buying by members of the same families. There was also a lot of speculation, with early homeowners buying additional lots on either side. What started as a \$1000 lot was soon sold for \$3000, then later for \$8000, etc. Some lots were never developed.

Architectural elements also changed. Before World War I houses featured large porches, but in the 1920's there were almost no porches, as life moved inside with the popularity of electricity.

During the construction decades, Chamberlayne Avenue was the focal point of the community. Brook Road "was the main drag" into the city, the old turnpike where turkeys and cattle were herded into town toward the slaughterhouses (south of today's Virginia Union campus). On the other hand, Chamberlayne was the showcase, where friends of Ginter bought lots. [Ed. note: 1940's tourists still called it "Champagne Avenue".] From Chamberlayne development of the neighborhood spread to Hawthorne and Seminary.


Because of the curiosity and enthusiasm sparked by Charlie's work, the newsletter has asked him to write future articles on individual places or people which his research has uncovered.

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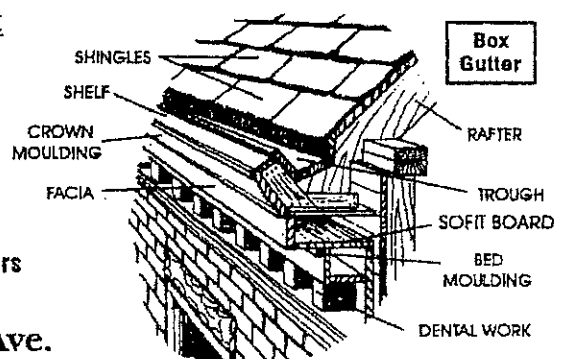
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Linda's Real Estate Tips

RENOVATIONS

There are many factors to consider when preparing your home for sale. Renovations may be necessary, but before you attempt any major projects, let's talk about what kind of changes may be appropriate.

It is not a good idea to remodel your kitchen or bathroom just before selling your home. These renovations are usually expensive and time-consuming.

The most relevant interior renovations include repainting and repairing anything in your home that is not in good working condition. Exterior renovations could include replacing the roof, fixing gutters, painting or repairing broken steps, windows and doors.

If you are thinking of selling your home give me a call and I will give you professional advice on what to do before you sell!

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Membership

Has Privileges

New privileges of membership will go into effect with the 2006 dues payment. Under the newly adopted by-laws, there are 2 classes of membership,

voting and non-voting. Non-voting membership is free and includes receipt of the newsletter, attendance at some meetings and Car Patrol coverage.

Privileges bestowed when you pay your \$20 dues include all those of non-voting members but in addition:

- Vote on GPRA business
- Free, delicious meals at general meetings (non-members pay)
- Holiday Party
- Discounts on GPRA events and services to be set by the Board (e.g. Garden Walk, House Tour, plaques)
- Eligibility for competitions (Seen-from-Street, door prizes)
- Participation in yard sale
- Eligibility to hold committee chair or Board positions

Make GPRA membership a Christmas present to yourself! Have a clear conscience going into the New Year!

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