



CHURCH HILL NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO INFORMING THE RESIDENTS OF CHURCH HILL
SEPTEMBER 2007



ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE MOST INSPIRED RED WHITE AND BLUE YARD AND MOST INSPIRED BLOCK CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH HILL ASSOCIATION AND
THE CHURCH HILL PLANTERS



Above: Alley between
600 block 23rd & 24th St.

Right: 3600 East Broad St.

Left: 505 North 28th St.

Full details of the contest
can be found on the
Timely & Noteworthy
page of the Newsletter.



Next General Membership Meeting

7:00pm Tuesday, September 18, 2007

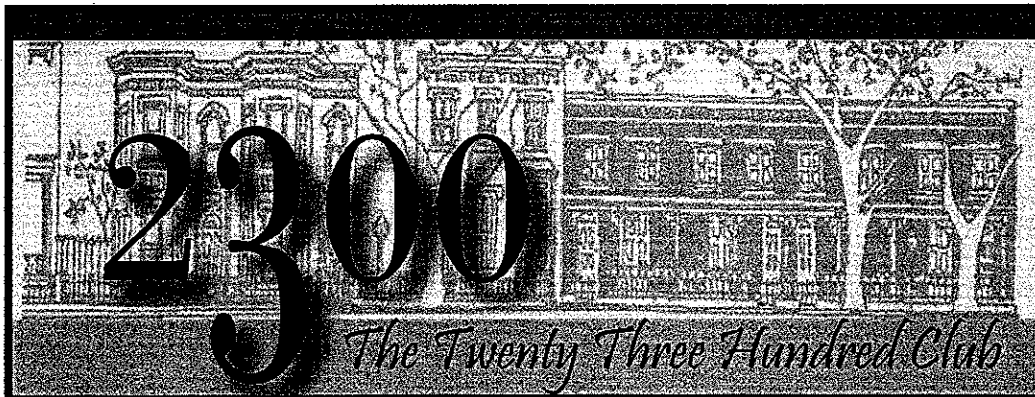
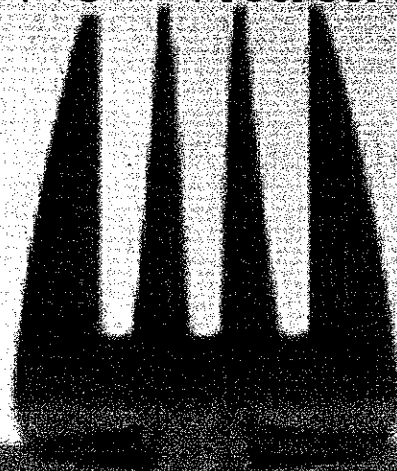
at St. John's Church Parish Hall

Presentations scheduled from Rocketts Landing and Que Pasa Restaurant

What's Old Will Be New Again...

Coming in Mid-September

A New Menu
A New Look
A New Attitude



In Historic Church Hill 23rd & East Grace Streets Richmond VA 23223 804.644.2300

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VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

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Newsletter Advertising Coordinator:

Trish Bernal 643-2420

Membership Coordinator:

Lee Ann & Bill Pickering 643-1025

Planters' Society:

Bette Dillehay 788-8157

Newsletter Distribution:

Tom & Eileen Sanders 343-7157 (south)

Bill Sullivan 644-8815 (north)

Church Hill Crime Watch:

Shelby Long 648-2710

Clean & Safe:

Chris Bergen 640-4084

Zoning Committee:

Beth Sarrett 690-8703

Summer Picnics:

Dick Carlton & Polly Cole 782-1708

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The deadline for submission of ad copy is the 25th of the month for ads to be included in the following month's newsletter. E-mail submission of ads is preferred. Ads are black and white and can be accepted in .pdf, .jpeg, .pub or Word .doc format via e-mail to:

newsletter@churchhillrichmond.com

Payment must accompany the copy/ad or be received prior to the publication date in order for the ad to be included in the newsletter.

NOTE: A discount of 10% is provided for pre-paid advertising for three or more months. Ad copy may be changed as long as it is received before the usual deadline.

Please submit ad copy electronically. Send payment to CHA Newsletter, P.O. Box 8031, Richmond, VA. 23223.

Questions? Please contact Trish Bernal at 643-2420 or at trishbernal@gmail.com.

FULL PAGE BACK COVER \$80

FULL PAGE INSIDE FRONT COVER \$75

FULL PAGE INSIDE \$70

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QUARTER PAGE \$30

CENTERFOLD (TWO FULL PAGE ADS) \$130

Full page is 8 ½ x 11 with at least a ½ border all around. A half page ad would be no more than 7 ½W x 5H (landscape), and a quarter page ad would be 3 ¾W x 5H (portrait).

The Church Hill Newsletter is distributed by volunteers throughout the Church Hill neighborhood (North and South of Broad Street) and to many of the apartments in the Shockoe Bottom area (including Tobacco Row, Superior Building, and the Poythress Apartments). We also distribute through several local restaurants and area merchants. A total of 1400 issues are distributed each month.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The newsletter is published monthly except for a combined November/December issue. All official opinions of the CHA are found in the minutes of the meetings. All other opinions expressed in the newsletter are the opinions of the individual author. All submissions are welcome. The editorial policy does not permit personal attacks, profanity or anonymous submissions. Submissions may be edited for space. Final approval rests with the Board of Directors. Please submit all articles/letters as e-mails to newsletter@churchhillrichmond.com



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Message from the President,

I am writing this on August 25th and it is HOT! One more typical Virginia summer almost is gone. But if you think the summer heat has instilled a certain laziness in your board, think again, my friends, think again. Your board, and volunteers have been quite busy. (OK, so I didn't write a message for the July and August newsletters. That just means I've been lazy. The rest of the folks have been pretty productive)

Dick Carlton and Polly Cole put together three great picnics, and only the last one got rained out. Well, actually, several brave souls owed up and had a great time at the CHAT. So great, that we may have a "rain-date" there in September. Watch the website, or come to the September membership meetings for details.

The planning for the Holiday Festival is in full swing. As of this writing, we still need houses for the house tour. If you want to show off your great Church Hill home, it's the perfect opportunity. Call Aimee Perron-Seibert or Dick Carlton for more information.

If you're reading this online, you can skip this next paragraph. The CHA Newsletter is now available at our website, churchhillrichmond.com. I want to thank John Johnson, Aimee Perron-Seibert, and Erika Gay for making that happen.

The September membership meeting should be interesting. We have presentations scheduled from Rocketts Landing, and Que Pasa. Both of these projects will have an effect on our neighborhood, so I encourage all of you to come and voice your opinions.

Jim Daab

Important Announcement!

**Make-Up Church Hill Association Picnic on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00pm
CHAT House (Church Hill Activities & Tutoring) - 601 N. 31st Street. Rain or Shine.**

Please bring a dish to share coinciding with the first letter of your last name:

Main Dish: J - M; Dessert: N - Z; Side Dish: A - I



It's that Time of the Year Again.... Time to be on the Church Hill Historic Holiday House Tour!

Time is running out and the spots are filling up quickly! You know you have a gorgeous house-- now's the time to show off all your hard work and put your historic home on the 2007 Holiday House Tour on December 9th!

Be a part of the annual weekend festivities and help show off the beauty and spirit of our neighborhood.

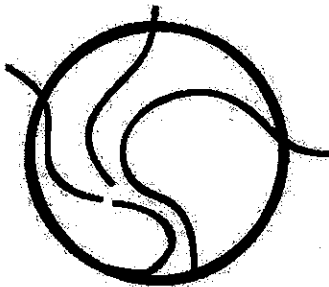
Email or call Aimee Perron Seibert to sign up today!
apseibert@gmail.com or 440.1175



Animal Hospital

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We live and work in historic Church Hill. References available.

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Derek Metzler, 644-1221

btrinc@verizon.net

SCHOOL BOARD REP'S MESSAGE



SCHOOL SYSTEM UPDATE KEITH WEST

The recent letter from 26 business leaders asking for an appointed school board has brought out a flood of opinions about what River City should do with its school board. My view appeared in the Times Dispatch- while I've not been much in agreement with the course of the current board, I'm not ready to throw democracy overboard.

At least with an elected board there is the possibility of accountability. Appointed boards are accountable to no one. Their performance in the past is hardly a recommendation for another try.

The discouraging part of the controversy is that it is not advancing the state of the school system. Even if we are given an appointed board, we will have to hope that the right people will be put in place to understand the problems and take appropriate actions.

Then comes Style Weekly and other experts in the paper saying that the real problem is that we need a regional school system. That's very much like saying if we had different children, we would have better results.

Maybe so, but the kids in the city would still be around, even if we mask their problems by averaging their outcomes with those of suburban children.

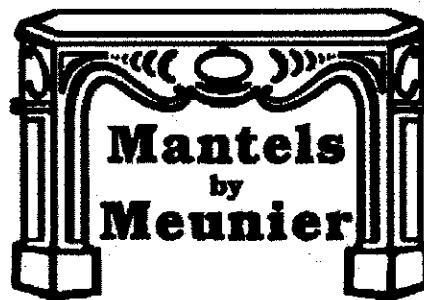
We need to address the city school system head on, accepting our challenges and working to solve them, not wishing things were different.

Perhaps though something good will come from the letter and surrounding controversy. I have some hope that the school board is now willing to move in a positive direction. Condemnation by the business community, with no one coming to our defense, has been a shock to some members. So much so that a special meeting has been scheduled to address the formulation of a strategic plan.

A strategic plan alone will not improve our situation. But the right one, thoroughly implemented, could. Any plan worth doing would involve significant, difficult change. I hope that is what the board will opt for, because the present situation is not acceptable.

On another note, if anyone knows of a babysitter for a 2 and 4 year available during the day about three times a month, please give me a call.

Thanks, Keith



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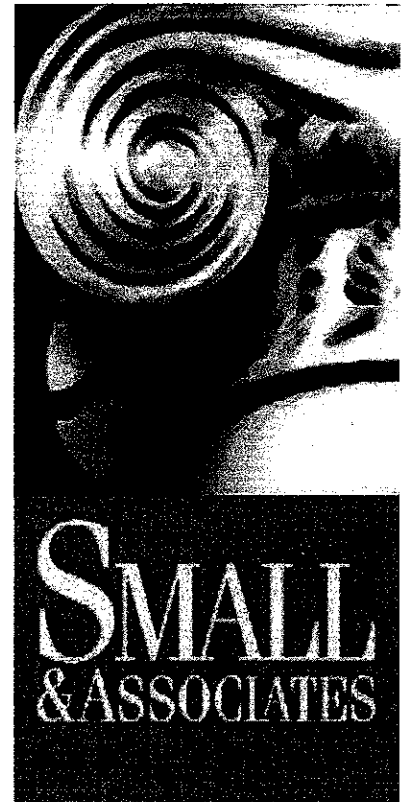
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TIMELY & NOTEWORTHY



ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE "MOST INSPIRED RED WHITE AND BLUE YARD AND BLOCK" CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH HILL ASSOCIATION AND THE CHURCH HILL PLANTERS

Judging was based on curb appeal, texture, design, fragrance, use of natural material to compliment the color and architecture of the house. The Golden Trowel is awarded to house with the most inspired use of natural materials.

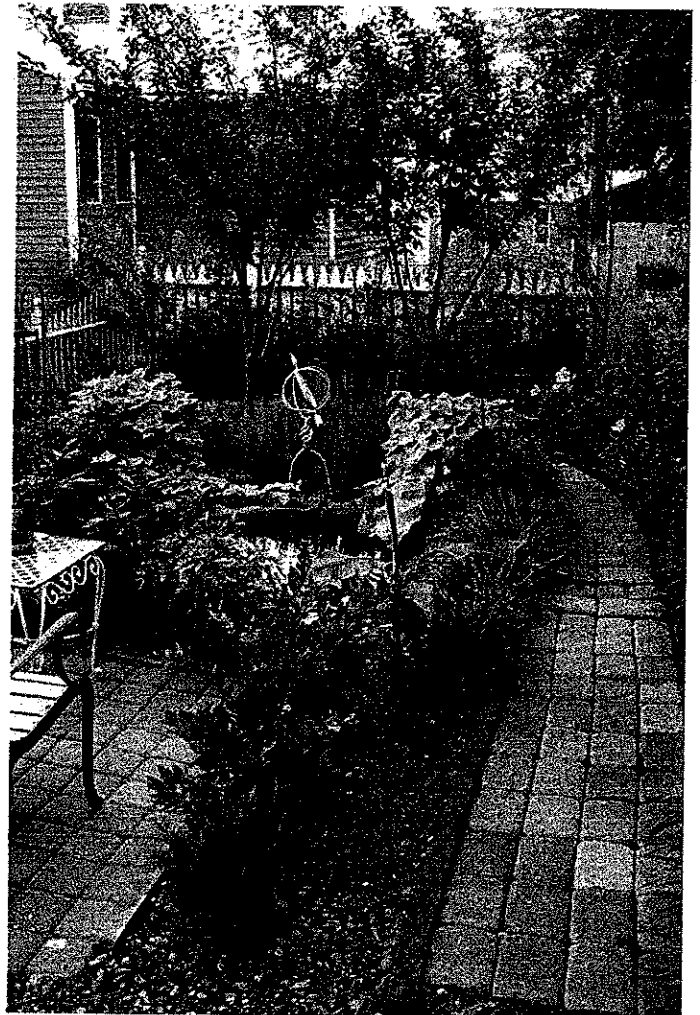
And the Winners are.....

- Most Inspired Garden - 505 North 28th St. - Daab Home - Beautiful garden flow and plan with graceful arched gate. Diversity of plantings, use of ornamental grasses. Plantings complimenting terrace. Overall peaceful feeling.
- Most Inspired Block - Alley between 600 block 23rd & 24th St.
(as seen from the Tricycle Garden) - Cobblestone edged bed. Handsome old trees. Planted with various old shrubs. Well maintained and tended.
- Golden Trowel - 3600 East Broad St. - Keevil Home - Brick terrace with raised back porch overlooking garden and nearby water feature. Wooded area with azaleas. The feeling of an English garden.

Honorable Mention

- 2200 East Grace St. - Steve Costa - Serene and orderly. A well maintained small formal garden.
- 2204 East Marshall St. - gardens of Bill Hartsock the picturesque vignettes of three houses flowing downhill - one into the other.
- 2800 Block of East Grace St. - the inspired use of red white and blue plantings celebrating our Nations quadrennial.

Thanks to our knowledgeable judge, Hester Bradshaw, neighbor and gardener extraordinaire.



2204 East Marshall Street

TIMELY & NOTEWORTHY



GOLDEN HAMMER AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods (A.C.O.R.N.) announced the recipients of its special historic preservation awards to be honored at the annual Golden Hammer Awards celebration on Thursday, October 4th at Orchard House School, 500 North Allen Avenue.

The following awards will be presented:

Neighborhood Conservator Award - *Rebuilding Together, Amy King*, Executive Director, is being honored for their citywide home repair program that makes it possible for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners to remain in their homes. Rebuilding Together's efforts preserve diverse neighborhoods.

Andrew Asch Historic Developer Award - *John T. West, IV* is being honored for sparking the rejuvenation of 2000 block of Idlewood Avenue. He started with a single neglected apartment building and has been the catalyst for revitalizing an entire block.

Marguerite Crumley Preservation Award - *James F. "Jimmy" Kastelberg, Caravati's Inc.* is being honored for his collaboration in A.C.O.R.N.'s Attic and continuing the family tradition of architectural salvage which makes priceless artifacts available for renovators.

Preservation Advocacy Award - *Jennie Dotts* is being honored for her unfailing dedication to historic preservation and her seven years of service as the Executive Director of A.C.O.R.N.

The Edmund A. Rennolds, Jr. Excellence in Architecture Award - *Dr. Charles Brownell, III*, Professor of Art History, Virginia Commonwealth University, is being honored for setting a high standard of academic achievement and educating the next generation of architectural historians.

Special Recognition - *Laura Daab*, Church Hill North Historic District Initiative, is being honored for her efforts to have the Church Hill North area designated as a City Old and Historic District. This designation adds a level of protection to a fragile and threatened neighborhood. Laura Daab, a resident of the Church Hill North community, had long been concerned over the number of demolitions and vacant buildings in her neighborhood and the recent spate of inappropriate infill construction. In the summer of 2006, she organized the Church Hill North Historic District Initiative to begin the process to have the area designated as a City Old and Historic District. Old and Historic designation would provide a level of protection and design review for the fragile neighborhood that contains buildings dating back to the early nineteenth century. These efforts culminated on May 29, 2007 when City Council voted 8 to 0 to designate the district.

Winners of Golden Hammers in the categories of Best Residential Renovation, Best Commercial Renovation and Best Infill will be chosen by an independent judging panel and named at the event on October 4th. Rachel Flynn, Director of the City of Richmond's Department of Community Development will be the featured speaker. Kimberly Chen, architectural historian, will emcee.

For tickets to the reception, reservations are required and may be obtained by contacting A.C.O.R.N. at (804) 422-2148 or info@richmondneighborhoods.org.

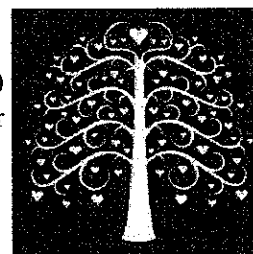
THANK YOU TREE LOVERS!

The Church Hill Planters appreciate the overwhelming response to the Adopt-A-Tree effort. The 30 plus responses, while exceeding the Church Hill budget allocation, shows us how committed our neighborhood is in enhancing green space in our very urban setting.

The next steps are to:

- Review the requests,
- Assess the tree well site, and
- Work with City staff to make final species selection

Actual tree planting is targeted for January and February 2008. All paperwork will be complete and into the City by October 1, 2007. If you have questions, contact Alli Alligood at allialligood@verizon.net.





In the mood for Indian food?

Make Indian dishes at home with the Authentic Indian Spice Blends available at our online store. These blends are available for chicken, fish, chick peas, greens, and more. Go to ChurchHillMarket.com to visit our online store!

Thanks for the support, Church Hill.

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ENJOY YOUR CAPITOL CITY



River District Schedule of Events 2007

Brought to you by Venture Richmond

Continuing Events in September

River District Canal Cruises (Late Summer Season September 1st-September 30th)

Canal Turning Basin - Dock and 14th Streets, Thursday-Saturday Noon-7pm, Sunday Noon-5pm, \$5 adults, \$4 seniors & children 5-12, age 4 and under free with adult 35-minute historically narrated tours of the James River & Kanawha Canal along the River District's Canal Walk. Tour begins every hour on the hour. Private charters also available. For more information call 804-788-6466 or visit www.venturerichmond.com.

Thursday Growers' Market (May 3rd-October 25th)

17th Street Farmers' Market, Free admission, 8:30am-2pm Farm fresh and homegrown straight from the region's farms to your home. Homemade and handcrafted right here by highly artistic Richmonders. For more information call 646-0310 or visit www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com.

Saturday Market (May 5th-October 27th)

17th Street Farmers' Market, Free admission, 8:30am-2pm Farm fresh and homegrown straight from the region's farms to your home. Homemade and handcrafted right here by highly artistic Richmonders. For more information call 804-646-0310 or visit www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com.

Sunday Open Heirloom Market (May 6th-October 28th)

17th Street Farmers' Market, Free admission, 8:30am-2pm Antiques, collectibles, jewelry and fine arts and crafts. For more information call 804-646-0310 or visit www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com.

Special Events in September

Saturday, September 15th 9th Annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party

Siné Irish Pub (1327 E. Cary Street), Free admission until 6pm, 11:30am-2am

An annual tradition for those who are or who want to be Irish. For one day, everyone can join in the fun and shake their shamrock to live music all day long. Performances by Ray Pittman Project, Broken Monday and more! For more information call 804-649-7767 or visit www.sineirishpub.com for updates.

Sunday, September 16th 23rd Classic on the James, Central Virginia British Car Show

Brown's Island, Admission \$5, 9am-4pm

Some three hundred cars and motorcycles will be on display at Brown's Island, overlooking the James River. Virtually every type of British automobile will be represented along with a full class of British motorcycles. Vendors will offer a wide variety of accessories. For more information visit www.classicsonthejames.com.

Saturday-Sunday, September 29th-30th VIVA! ITALIA Richmond's Original Italian Street Festival

25th & E. Broad Streets in Church Hill, Free admission, Saturday from 11am-9pm and Sunday from 11am-6pm Richmond's Italian-American community, in partnership with Historic St. John's Church, have organized two days to celebrate Italy! Cultural displays will be provided by local Italian organizations, live demonstrations, traditional Italian folk dancing, wine tasting, and live music are among the many things planned for the two day festival. Authentic Italian cuisine will be provided by local Italian restaurants; Calzones, pasta, pizza, cannolis, and gelato are only a few of delicacies that will be available. For more information call 804-897-3916 or visit www.richmonditalianfestival.com.

Saturday, September 29th Virginia Gay Pride Festival

17th Street Farmers' Market, Free admission, 12-6pm Sponsored by Gay Pride Virginia - striving to instill pride, celebrate unity and embrace diversity. Great food, art and entertainment. For more information visit www.gaypridevirginia.org.

* Schedule Subject to Change

**RIVER
DISTRICT**
Start Here

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



LET'S PLAY PETANQUE
ROAD TRIP TO FRANCE NOT NEEDED AS
GAMES PLAYED AT CHIMBORAZO
Friday, Aug 03, 2007
By FRED JETER
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Atop Church Hill, amid one of Richmond's most historic areas, is a little slice of the old country.

A rather Bohemian coed group named Les Boulefrogs have said "oui, oui" to the very French game of pétanque. Boule is the French word for ball. The sport is similar to the Italian's bocce, the English game of lawn bowling and the mostly American horseshoe pitching.

Getting the boule rolling was retired oceanographer Richard Taranto, who was introduced to pétanque on a U.S. Naval duty in Morocco.

"We're all red-blooded Americans," Taranto, 67, said of his cohorts, "but most of us have some kind of connection with Europe."

Noting that pétanque "was woefully missing" from the Richmond landscape, Taranto placed ads in various newsletters to solicit participants.

Benedicte Whitworth is the lone French-born player among the 30 or so who gather Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons at Chimborazo Playground, just a lob shot from famous St. John's Church.

"It's one of the most popular sports in France -- especially southern France," said Moody Middle School French teacher Mark Renkin, who has spent two years abroad. "Just about every village sets aside an area in its town square. In Paris, there are rows and rows of courts along the Jardin de Luxembourg."

THE OBJECT: On a gravelly court about 12-by-39 feet, the idea is to toss (backhanded, with palm downward) a baseball-sized metal boule toward a much-smaller "target" boule.

Whoever gets closest prevails. Calipers are used to measure close calls. The game is contested in singles, doublets and pairs and is very social in nature.

Pétanque is on a short list of sports in which you can play with a cigar clinched in your teeth and a lidded cup of java in your non-throwing hand.

SHOTS IN TWO FLAVORS: A "pointer" is an attempt to roll the boule close to the target. A "shooter" is trying to knock a previously-throw boule out of the way -- horseshoe style.

IN THE BEGINNING: In France, where the game is played professionally, pétanque courts are similar to American bowling alleys and are called Boulodromes.

In these parts, the action began a few years back in an alley behind Jumpin J's Java House.

"I was leaving Jumpin J's one day and saw them playing," said the dapper Gayle Turner, a local actor who boules in a fedora. "I drove around the block and asked to join them. Now, they can't get rid of me."

Aided by the Richmond Parks and Recreation Department, two unlit courts were built at Chimbarozo. There is one "lit" court in a nearby alley, though it must be said the illumination comes from a street light.

Not far away, a bouncing basketball reminds you this is Richmond, not the Riviera.

DISCOVERING THE GAME: Michael McPeak, who claimed first prize in a recent local contest, learned about pétanque while serving in the United Nations in Geneva.

"It requires a minimum of equipment," McPeak said, "and you can have a grand time."

Lee Ann Pickering was talked into playing by her neighbor, Whitworth.

"It's a way to get to know people," Pickering said.

In France, there are about 375,000 licensed pétanque players. Around Richmond, it's only a few dozen, but the welcome mat has been laid out.

Taranto says joining is easy. Just show up and toss a few boules. And save time for a social cup of coffee afterward -- flavored with French vanilla, of course.

Contact Fred Jeter at (804) 739-2219 or fjeter@timesdispatch.com.

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CHA BOARD MEETING



PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2007 BOARD MEETING

By CHA V.P., John Johnson

President Jim Daab called the meeting to order at 7:05pm at the 2300 Club.

The attendees were:

- √ PRESIDENT, Jim Daab
- √ VICE PRESIDENT, John Johnson
- √ TREASURER, Karen Flanders
- √ DIR. AT LARGE, Tony Monteleone
- √ DIR. AT LARGE, Beth Sarrett
- √ DIR. AT LARGE, Aimee Perron Seibert
- √ DIR. AT LARGE, Rob Pate

Treasurers Report: Karen Flanders discussed the proposed new budget for 2008 previously published in the August 2007 Newsletter. It was approved and will be submitted to the membership for approval at the next general meeting.

Committee Reports:

Zoning: Que-Pasa restaurant parking issue at 617 N 25th St., continues to be an issue between the City, citizens and the businesses. Mr. Wade Moss requested that street parking for residents be a priority or something worked out to accommodate home owners as parking on 25th St. or near business can be a problem especially during business hours. There was a lively discussion on this and the owner of Que-Pasa was invited to talk to the neighbors and come to the Board and present his plans.

Newsletter: No new updates but the Newsletter delivery still an issue in certain areas of the community. Looking for volunteers to help with this project.

Clean and Safe: New Chair is: Chris Bergen.

Holiday Festival:

Chairpersons are:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| The Ball | Carolyn Worssam |
| House Tours | Aimee Seibert. |
| Vespers | John Johnson pending a volunteer chair for this event. |

Membership: No new updates.

Old Business: Newsletter deliveries still an issue in

certain areas of the community. Looking for volunteers to help with this project.

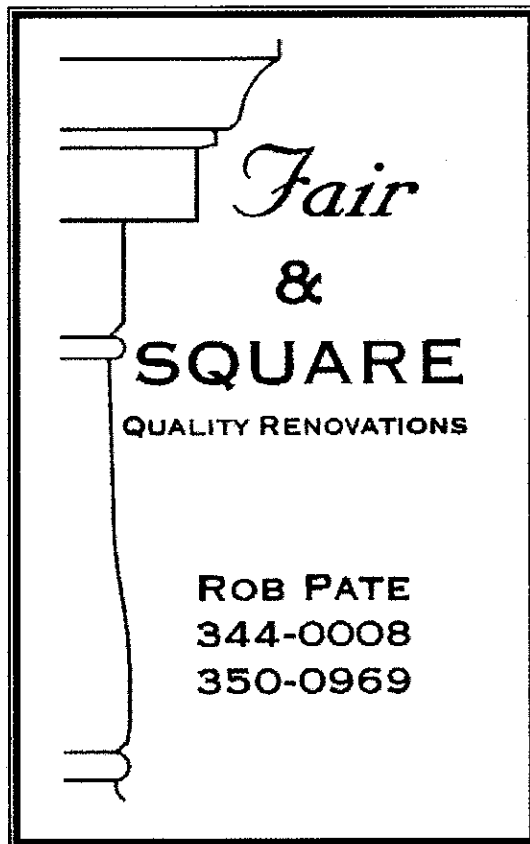
Erika Gay, Amiee Seibert and John Johnson are working on a plan to have the Newsletter published on the Church Hill Association Web-site later this month.

John Johnson proposed a template for a Church Hill Historic Plaque continues investigation and a presentation will be ready soon to the Membership.

New Business: Open House at CHAT at 601 North 31st St. is scheduled for Aug 7, 2007.

Welcome packets for new folks on the Hill are being chaired by Erika Gay and Aimee Seibert. They have proposed the welcome packets be called: "Hi on the Hill" and be ready for distribution as early as September 2007. Also that we have traveling welcome meetings at various local restaurants in the community on the 4th Tuesdays of the month. More information to come.

Having no further business the meeting was concluded at 8:35pm.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Letter to Director of Public Works from Neighbor Marion Macdonald:

August 15, 2007
Mr. Jeffrey Powell
Director, Public Works
City of Richmond

Dear Sir

I write on behalf of the Church Hill Association Planters, to register our concern regarding a city decision to **cut down a legacy tree in Taylor Park** below Richmond Hill. Apparently the power lines were being moved from the west side of 21st St. to the east side - into the park - and the breadth of the tree crown made running power lines difficult.

The Church Hill Planters is a group dedicated to enhancing the green spaces in this high-density urban and historic neighborhood. In the last five years, working with Urban Forestry we have planted nearly 100 trees.

The historic fabric of the St. Johns Old and Historic District is made up of late 18th, 19th and 20th century houses. Vital to this community of early houses is its setting of trees. With the loss of so many large trees in hurricane Isabel, protecting the remaining trees becomes very important.

Taylor Park had 6 old oak trees lining the brick walk that wrap down the hillside. The trees play a vital part in making this city neighborhood a pleasant place to live. They improve air quality, cool the street and walks, provide shade, filter dirt from city air, enhance property values with sheer beauty, and stabilize the hillside. The cut down tree anchored the end of the walk and provided shade for the whole intersection at 21st and East Franklin. The crown of the tree was over 100' wide and ring analysis indicates over 100 years old.

We request a meeting with Dept of Public Works and Urban Forestry to discuss this decision, the city tree policy, and to build understanding and avoid needless loss in the future.

Perhaps in the future there is a review process before a tree of this nature is cut down.

Sincerely

Marion Macdonald
Facilitator, Church Hill Planters
Church Hill Association
2718 E. Franklin St.
Richmond, VA 23223

P.S. I have not yet forwarded this to other stake holders, but wait for your response before raising the flag higher.

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