



CHURCH HILL NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO INFORMING THE RESIDENTS OF CHURCH HILL
APRIL 2009

ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATUE AT TREDEGAR IRON WORKS FEATURED ON NATIONAL PARK PASSPORT STAMP

The statue of President Lincoln and his son Tad, located at Richmond National Battlefield Park's main visitor center at Tredegar Iron Works, has been selected to represent the Mid-Atlantic Region in the 2009 "Passport to Your National Parks" stamp set.

Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday is being commemorated in 2009. The 2009 stamp set is now available, and can be purchased at any Richmond National Battlefield Park or Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site visitor center. The cost for the stamp set is \$3.95. The extremely popular Passport program, first established in 1986, allows national park visitors to collect rubber-stamp ink cancellations when they visit national parks, as well as the annual full-color commemorative stamps, and place them inside a Passport book as a record of their travels. For more information about the "Passport to Your National Parks" program, go to Eastern National's web site at www.easternnational.org.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION OF THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH - LINCOLN WALK, SELF-GUIDED

Begins at 17th & Dock Streets in Shockoe Bottom, Free admission, 2pm-5pm

This self-guided walk follows the route traveled by Abraham Lincoln and his son, Tad, on their visit to Richmond on April 4, 1865, following the evacuation of Richmond by the Confederate government. Guides will be stationed along the route. The walk begins where Lincoln disembarked from his boat and continues north up 14th St. to Court End to the White House of the Confederacy. Participants will then circle back toward 17th & Dock or may opt to retrace Lincoln and Tad's steps to Rockett's Landing, the actual site of their departure. Along the way, guides will offer verbal and visual perspective. The walk should take approx. 90 minutes. Participants may begin at 17th & Dock and follow the route, or they may join the walk at any point along the way. Maps will be provided or participants may download the map directly at www.lincolnwalkrichmond.com. For more information call 804-649-0711 ext. 301.

WEBSITE: www.churchhillrichmond.com

E-MAIL: newsletter@churchhillrichmond.com

Next General Membership Meeting

7:00pm Tuesday, April 21, 2009

NEW LOCATION FOR APRIL ONLY: Ashbury United Methodist Church, 29th & Marshall Streets

Speaker: Jennifer McClellan, State Delegate
Members and Non-members Welcome

Under our umbrella....

Has the flu bug
got you
under the weather?

That nagging
toothache keeping
you up at night?

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in need of
a physical?

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Vernon J. Harris Medical Center

719 N. 25th Street
Richmond, VA 23223
T. (804) 780-0840 • F. (804) 780-0862

Glenwood Medical Center

2709 Byron Street
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T. (804) 525-1818 • F. (804) 525-1820

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VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

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Membership Coordinator:

Benedicte Whitworth 644-6559

Church Hill Planters:

Marion Macdonald 644-1347

Newsletter Distribution:

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Katie & Tom Widmer 771-5818 (north)

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Zoning Committee:

Beth Sarrett 690-8703

Summer Picnics:

Need a Volunteer Right Away!

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

HALF PAGE \$40

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

St. John's Church

2401 E. BROAD ST.

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER IS LOCATED AT 2319 E. BROAD ST., 649-7938

Come Share Our FELLOWSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

THE NURSERY IS OPEN FOR THE 11:00 a.m. SERVICE

Sunday School for Preschool, Primary, Intermediate, and Youth & Adult Forums

COME JOIN US 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Center

TUESDAY MORNING-KNITTING CIRCLE, 10:00AM weekly
in the Parish Center. Join us for coffee, conversation and crafts.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT, March, 25TH April 1ST

POTLUCK SUPPER & SPEAKER SERIES- *"Lent in times of trial"*

In St. Johns Parish Hall for our Wednesday evening Lenten suppers, followed by a unique group of guest speakers.

April 1, Week 5: Brother Leo Campos will speak on
"Tough Times: What Can We Do Now?"

PALM SUNDAY

April 5, Holy Eucharist ,8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, Services 12:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10, Services 12:15 and 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, EASTER EVE EGG HUNT, 4:00 p.m. in the Churchyard

EASTER EVE EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, Holy Eucharist 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Brunch, 9:30 a.m. *All are welcome*

Patrick Henry Committee Events

For more information, please call our Visitor Center at 804-648-5015

Poe Graveyard Tours

Every Wednesday in 2009, 11:00am – 11:30am

The cemetery of St. John's Church is the final resting place for Elizabeth Arnold Poe, Edgar Allan Poe's birth mother, as well as Thomas W. White, the founder of the *Southern Literary Messenger* and Edgar's employer between 1835 and 1837. St. John's Church also sits across the street from the home of Elmira Shelton, Edgar's childhood sweetheart and alleged fiancé at the time of his death. Visitors will learn of the lives of Elizabeth, Thomas, and Elmira, and how they moved in and out of Edgar's own life.

Reenactments begin the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend

The Patrick Henry Committee invites you to join us for historical reenactments of the Second Virginia Convention of March 1775. In the presence of Washington, Jefferson and other notable Virginians, Patrick Henry delivered his passionate call for liberty, uttering the immortal words *"give me liberty or give me death!"*

1:00 p.m. Free tickets are distributed at the front door.

1:30 p.m. Patriotic music program

2:00 p.m. Reenactment program begins.

Guided Tours: 10:00-4:00 Monday thru Saturday, 1:00-4:00 Sunday

www.historicstjohnschurch.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Church Hill Association (CHA) needs to better channel our public discourse, dialogue and comments at our Membership meetings – so as to become more hospitable and civil. There is a growing realization, (from members and visitors alike), that our inability to deal with a broad range of issues and problems – sometimes important, sometimes emotional - in positive ways is becoming unhealthy to the organization. So, we might ask ourselves what exactly do we mean by "civility" and what can we do to be more civil?

Civility means something more than politeness and at the same time doesn't mean "to roll over and play dead." People need to be able to raise tough questions and present their cases but not through unpleasant, pedantic and inappropriate discourse. This happens when folks adopt a win-lose or "my way or the high-way" character to circumstances or issues. This philosophy is not only true of formal comments made while speaking on the floor but true also of other off-handed comments made to one another (while seated among other members and guests). To illustrate such a point I am attaching a copy of an e-mail sent to me from two new members of CHA that attended one of our last meetings:

I became too angry and left the meeting early... I believe my husband and I have joined the wrong organization. It is clear that many CHA members ...do not wish to be associated with people who want to live in a vibrant urban community but choose not to own property. I was personally insulted by many of the comments made about multi-family housing, some of which had a whiff of bigotry. To me, CHA came off as just another suburban-style NIMBY homeowners association.

*We actually do own property, but...not in Richmond. That choice does not make us less interested in being a part of the community or less worthy of having a say in the community. From what I heard last night, CHA is a long way from welcoming people like us as new residents. I am sure there are nice people in the neighborhood who share our interests and could become friends. For now, though, I think it's best if I withdraw my offers to assist CHA with newsletter distribution and picnic planning.
(Printed with the permission of author with name removed for privacy).*

To be a more inclusive and civil organization in the future, I propose that we do the following:

1. Recognize that other thoughtful and caring people may have very different views, lifestyles and opinions on how best to address their community's complex problems. Constructive debate needs to focus on solutions not upon adversaries or "us vs. them". Let us walk on common ground and not a battle ground.
2. Disputes often involve factual disagreements which are amenable to some type of fact-finding process. Constructive civil debate requires that the parties work together to resolve factual disagreements and contending parties need to calmly explain the reasoning behind their differing interpretations.
3. Civility requires that contending parties make an honest and continuing effort to understand the views and reasoning of their opponents. Don't run roughshod, over-talk, interrupt or scoff at other's opinions.
4. We need to be both fair in appearance and fact. Example: using Roberts Rules of Order to beat your opponents on a technicality or "Ace Em-Out" of equal time or discussion - is not civil.
5. Destructive confrontation processes, escalation, begets greater counter-provocations in an intensifying cycle. CHA needs to practice de-escalation - non escalation. Wherever possible we should reframe the conflict in ways which transform win-lose confrontations into win-win opportunities.
6. Civility recognizes that there is the possibility that at some time we might be wrong and that the policies advocated by opponents may actually be better. This entails being open to explaining, listening and respecting other's opinions enough to really hear them.

Finally, the best ways to produce stable, long-term policy change is through persuasion in which parties are converted to their opponent's point of view, or through exchange in which the parties negotiate mutually beneficial win-win trade-offs. In the future, let us all try to adhere and practice these principles for the positive growth of our organization and for the best of our neighborhood.

John Johnson, President, Church Hill Association

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TIMELY & NOTEWORTHY



CHA MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

A notice per the CHA Bylaws announcing to membership that a vote on funding for more than \$1,000 will occur at the next meeting:

- \$5,000 grant funding request from the Friends of Chimborazo for equipment for Chimborazo Park playground;
- \$1,000 for new historic signage at the Overlook on Grace Street;
- \$2,000 to support the publishing of the new Church Hill Book;
- \$1,000 to support the Commission of Architectural Review's appeal of the overruling by City Council.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:00pm Tuesday, April 21, 2009

NEW LOCATION FOR APRIL ONLY:

Ashbury United Methodist Church, 29th & Marshall Streets
Members and Non-members Welcome!

NEIGHBORHOOD SELL-A-BRATION!

The Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods (A.C.O.R.N.) will hold its spring Sell-a-Bration in the historic Highland Park/Barton Heights neighborhood on Saturday, May 2 from 10am-2pm at Chandler Middle School, 201 East Brookland Park Boulevard. This spring event is a wonderful opportunity to share expertise and get your name and services known by owners and prospective owners of houses and other properties in the city's oldest, most historic neighborhoods. Realtors, lenders, crafts people, contractors, landscape and garden experts, architectural historians, consultants, businesses, and other organizations take part in our Sell-a-Brations. For more information, call 644-5040 or email info@richmondneighborhoods.org.

YARD SALE SUPPORTS PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

On Saturday, April 25, find a bargain at the annual NRC Yard Sale. Clothes, books, furniture, kitchen goods, toys, baby items, art and much more. All proceeds benefit the Neighborhood Resource Center Montessori Preschool. Doing some spring cleaning and have items to donate? Contact us at yardsale@nrccafe.org or 804-864-5797 and we'll come and pick your items up! The Neighborhood Resource Center is located at 1519 Williamsburg Road in Fulton Hill.

Landscape Design & Installation

Big Plans for Your Small Yard?

For more information - Please visit our web page:
www.richmondcityscapes.com

Richmond Cityscapes
John Anderson
382-2276

NOTICE: Don't miss a great opportunity to showcase your home on the 2009 Church Hill Association Holiday House Tour, Sunday, December 13th from 12:00pm - 5:00pm. Please take advantage of many other volunteer opportunities too: serve as a chair or co-chair of the Holiday House Tour, docent, etc. Contact Beth Sarrett at 690-8703 or bsarrett@comcast.net to volunteer or for additional information.

Tricycle Gardens Volunteer Spruce-Up

Saturday, April 11th
10am - 3pm
Jefferson Ave between 23rd and 24th St

Wear sturdy shoes, gloves & hat
Bring gardening tools & wheelbarrows

Contact: Stacey Moulds semoulds@gmail.com (804) 241-6242

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- CLEAN BATHROOM MIRRORS, COUNTERS & CABINETS • MOP, WAX AND OR VACUUM BATHROOM FLOORS
- CLEAN LIGHTS, CEILING FANS & BLINDS • DUST FURNITURE, WOODWORK, WINDOW SILLS & REMOVE COBBERS • VACUUM FLOORS, FIREPLACE & FRONT GLASS DOOR
- CHANGE LINENS & TOWELS
- SPOT CLEAN DOORS, DOOR FRAMES & LIGHT SWITCHES

ENJOY YOUR CAPITOL CITY



River District Schedule of Events 2009

Brought to you by Venture Richmond

Continuing Events in April

Wednesday Growers' Market (April 22-December 2)

17th Street Farmers' Market, Free admission, 3pm-7pm
What's better than fresh produce? Locally-grown fresh produce! The market features locally grown and organically grown produce, flowers, plants, meats, eggs, cheeses, baked goods, breads, jams, honey, peanuts, fine crafts, jewelry, ceramics, handbags, handmade & hand-knit clothing, herbal body products, soaps and more! FREE PARKING. For more information, call 804-646-0477 or visit us online at www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com

Thursday Growers' Market (April 23-December 3)

17th Street Farmers' Market, Free admission, 10am-7pm
What's better than fresh produce? Locally-grown fresh produce! The market features locally grown and organically grown produce, flowers, plants, meats, eggs, cheeses, baked goods, breads, jams, honey, peanuts, fine crafts, jewelry, ceramics, handbags, handmade & hand-knit clothing, herbal body products, soaps and more! FREE PARKING. For more information, call 804-646-0477 or visit us online at www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com.

Saturday Mercado Market (April 25-December 5)

17th Street Farmers' Market, Free admission, 10am-4pm
An eclectic mix of fresh homegrown produce, flowers, plants, baked goods, handmade & homemade products, vintage antiques, collectibles, jewelry, fine crafts and specialty vendors with cultural items for sale. FREE PARKING. For more information call 804-646-0477 or visit us online at www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com.

Fridays-Sundays, April 3-June 7 (spring hours of operation)

River District Canal Cruises

Canal Turning Basin - Dock and 14th Streets, \$5 adults, \$4 seniors & children 5-12, age 4 and under free with adult, Friday & Saturday Noon-7pm, Sunday Noon-5pm
Enjoy 40-minute historically narrated tours of the James River & Kanawha Canal along the historic Canal Walk in one of our covered boats, which accommodates up to 35 passengers and departs on the hour from the Turning Basin, between 14th and Dock Streets in downtown Richmond's River District. For more information call 804-788-6466 or 804-649-2800 or visit www.venturerichmond.com.

Special Events in April

Sunday, April 5th

Lincoln Walk, Self-Guided Walk

Begins at 17th & Dock Streets in Shockoe Bottom, Free admission, 2pm-5pm
This self-guided walk follows the route traveled by Abraham Lincoln and his son, Tad, on their visit to Richmond on April 4,

1865, following the evacuation of Richmond by the Confederate government. Historic Richmond Tour guides provided by the Valentine Richmond History Center, as well as National Park Service rangers, will be stationed along the route. The walk begins where Lincoln disembarked from his boat and continues north up 14th Street to Court End to the White House of the Confederacy. Participants will then circle back toward 17th and Dock or may opt to retrace Lincoln and Tad's steps to Rockett's Landing, the actual site of their departure. Along the way, guides will offer verbal and visual perspective on how the city appeared to Lincoln that day in 1865. The walk should take approximately 90 minutes. Participants may begin at 17th and Dock and follow the route, or they may join the walk at any point along the way. Maps will be provided for all walkers on the day of the tour, or participants may download the map directly at www.lincolnwalkrichmond.com. For more information call 804-649-0711 ext. 301.

Sunday, April 12th

Easter on Parade

Monument Avenue between Allen & Davis, Free admission, 1-5pm
Easter on Parade, the beloved Richmond tradition of "parading" down scenic Monument Avenue continues this year! Join tens of thousands of people as they converge upon the four-block site to celebrate the arrival of spring. Music fills the air with art and jewelry vendors, fun for children, food vendors, people and dog watching, all a part of the holiday celebration. Produced by Venture Richmond. For more information call 804-788-6466 or visit www.venturerichmond.com.

Saturday, April 18th

Earth Day Richmond and Fish Festival

South side of the Mayo Bridge (14th Street) at the James River and Flood Wall, Free admission, 10am-4pm
Peace, Love and Planet Earth - this event encourages Richmonders to make every day Earth Day. Enjoy food, art, dance, environmental exhibits, earth-friendly goods, plenty of kid's activities and live music! The health of the Earth is within everyone's mission! Free parking at Plant Zero and Art Works (4th and Hull St.). For more information call 804-291-1400 or visit www.earthdayrichmond.org.

Saturday-Sunday, April 25th-26th

National Duathlon Festival

2nd and Byrd Streets, Downtown, Fee for participants, Free for spectators, Saturday 9am-2pm, Sunday 7:30am-2pm
Whether you're a first-time duathlete or a hard-core competitor, there is something for everyone at the National Duathlon Festival. New on-road and off-road courses will enhance the competitors experience. www.sportsbackers.org



OPEN STUDIO

CLEARANCE ❁ MOVING SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH

Anne Sylvest

OILS • ACRYLICS • MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER

WHERE: INK BUILDING ACROSS PLANT ZERO PARKING LOT @ CORNER
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HOURS: 6 – 10 P.M.

OR BY APPOINTMENT DURING WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, APRIL 20TH

649.1399 / 370.9348

Rejuvenation Weekend

MAKE IT A HEALTHY HOLIDAY AT HEALING WATERS LODGE –
A RETREAT FOR HEALTHY LIVING, MAY 22-25, 2009

Spend Memorial Day weekend in the rustic setting of Healing Waters Lodge in the heart of the Allegheny Mountains about 70 miles west of Charlottesville. The health retreat is an ideal starting point for those who want to adopt a healthy mind, body and spirit and bring themselves into balance.

You'll spend a weekend with noted author and holistic physician, Dr. Vernon Sylvest. Dr. Sylvest will give you tools to transform your life, helping you turn good intentions into wise choices and positive results. You will receive a



copy of his book, *The Formula: Who Gets Sick, Who Gets Well, Who is Unhappy, Who is Happy and Why.*

The weekend includes:

- ◆ Hiking ◆ Yoga and massage
- ◆ Meditation instruction
- ◆ Healthy, gourmet meals
- ◆ Engaging group discussions and sharings

Cost: \$780. Includes all of the above and meals and lodging from Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon.

Reserve Now! Information and reservations 540-396-3466 or email office@healingwaterslodgevirginia.com

Note: Vernon and Anne Sylvest, founders of Healing Waters Lodge, are residents of Church Hill.

HEALING WATERS LODGE

714 Healing Waters Drive, Headwaters, Virginia 24442 70 miles west of Charlottesville www.healingwaterslodgevirginia.com
Information and reservations 540-396-3466 or email office@healingwaterslodgevirginia.com

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CHA BOARD MEETING



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2009

BOARD MEETING

By CHA Secretary, Pam Prescott

President John Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm at ChildSavers

The attendees were:

PRESIDENT, John Johnson

VICE PRESIDENT, Beth Sarrett

SECRETARY, Pam Prescott

TREASURER, John Whitworth

ASSISTANT TREASURER, Susan White

DIR. AT LARGE, Tony Monteleone

DIR. AT LARGE, Susan Nolan

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Erika Gay

Announcements

The proposed minutes were approved as written by the Board.

John Johnson advised the Board that letters of support had been mailed to both Kori Mosely for her property at 3103 E Broad Street and the Richmond Development for the 2102/2104 E Broad Street project. Both of these items had previously been presented to the membership and approved at last month's meeting.

Presentations

VCU Library supporters Barb Mungie and Alex Lorsche advised the Board that the Library is in the process of collecting historical data and papers on Church Hill. Our neighborhood is the first Richmond community they are soliciting participation of its residents for the Special Collections and Archives at the James Branch Cabell Library on VCU's Monroe Park Campus.

Special Collections and Archives houses the papers of numerous Virginia writers, artists and social activists, as well as the records from local nonprofit organizations, civic associations and other groups that have shaped the history of central Virginia in the Post-World War II period. A new initiative, the Archives of the New Dominions, includes historical materials from Virginia's under documented communities. To discuss donation of personal papers to Special Collections and Archives, please contact them at libjbesca@vcu.edu or (804) 828-1108.

Old Business

Oakwood Heights Project: The decision of CAR (Commission of Architectural Review) on the Oakwood Heights Development was recently overturned by the City Council of a vote 8-0. CAR's decision is that the project is not in keeping with the Old & Historical Guidelines. The neighboring residents and many residents throughout the community remain upset that the proposed housing project still does not meet the guidelines of an Old and Historic District and that CAR's decision was dismissed. Our former City Council 7th District Representative Ms. Delores McQuinn has expressed her support of the Oakwood Heights.

Concerned citizens in the immediate area have spent \$10,358.10 of their personal funds not counting the numerous hours spent opposing this project. The group inquired whether or not CHA could help support monetarily their ongoing opposition of the project. They also requested the possibility of CHA, HRF and ACORN to be parties on Appeals. The Board later determined that any decisions would need membership approval. This will be presented and voted upon at next month's membership meeting.

In the light of this decision of City Council, let's review CAR's guidelines and wonder why its decision was not upheld.

What is the Commission of Architectural Review? The Commission of Architectural Review helps to preserve the unique qualities of historic neighborhoods and sites by reviewing any proposed alternation, repainting, construction, or demolition within a designated Old and Historic District. The Commission is composed of nine members: one representative each from the James River Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Richmond Association of Realtors, Historic Richmond Foundation and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (William Byrd Branch), and five from the citizenry at large. The Commission makes every effort to approve proposals that serve to maintain or restore the significant features of a given structure or site.

What is CAR's purpose and duties? The Richmond Commission of Architectural Review was established by City Council in 1957. The CAR is the City's official Historic Preservation Body and is charged with reviewing all exterior changes to structures within the City's Old and Historic Districts and issuing Certificates of Appropriate-

CHA BOARD MEETING



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2009 BOARD MEETING CONT...

ness for those projects that it deems to be appropriate. The CAR bases all its decisions generally on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the New Construction; and specifically on the Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines, adopted in 1999. When a neighborhood organization or other applicable entity submits a nomination request, the CAR oversees the process for designation of Old and Historic and makes a final recommendation for designation to City Council. The Commission also assists and advises City Council, all City Boards and Department, and property owners in matters involving historic resources relating to appropriate land use, zoning, and other issues.

The CAR holds monthly meetings in the 5th Floor Conference room of City Hall on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3:30pm.

Progress is being made on the process of manufacturing **Historic** Plaques for our homes. Waite Rawls is handling this and the plaques will be made during a VCU Summer Project. The VCU students can research your home for historic information to be displayed on the plaque if you prefer, and all will be uniform in size. The approximate cost for each plaque is \$125 and they are required to be approved by CAR. Anyone interested, please see any Board member.

Treasurer's Report John Whitworth presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2009. On February 28, the CHA had \$41,292 cash in the bank. Cash Receipts for the month were \$1,964; expenditures were \$1,242 for an increase in cash of \$722.

Committee Reports

Zoning: No Report

Newsletter: No Report.

Membership: In addition to being gifts for new CHA members, extra green Church Hill totes are available for sale by the membership committee for \$4 each.

Clean and Safe: No Report

Holiday: Liz Steen brought up several locations discussed during last month's committee meeting. The locations include Main St. Station, Patrick Henry's Restaurant and

the Virginia Holocaust Museum. Liz also expressed a desire to be active at the CHA Booth at the upcoming Irish Festival to have a survey available for residents to express their views. Some of the topics included in the survey are preference of music—live band or DJ, price point for Ball ticket, interested in attending Ball, and future locations for the Ball. The Board requested to review the survey before it was disbursed at the festival.

New Business

CHA president, John Johnson, advised the Board that the Ashbury United Methodist Church had volunteered to host the April Membership meeting. The Church is located on 29th and Marshall Streets. This will be announced at the March 17th membership meeting.

Mulch Day in Libby Hill Park was a big success! Many trees were planted and the Park looks great. Thanks to all who participated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm and the Board members were invited to a reception at ChildSavers to learn more about their mission and commitment to children. ChildSavers is a wonderful resource for children in our area and we all enjoyed learning more about you. Thank you for your hospitality!

Since the Board was unable to cover all the topics we needed to cover, another Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 16th.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2009 AD HOC BOARD MEETING

By CHA Secretary, Pam Prescott

President John Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:06 at St. John's Parish House.

The attendees were:

PRESIDENT, John Johnson

VICE PRESIDENT, Beth Sarrett

SECRETARY, Pam Prescott

TREASURER, John Whitworth

ASSISTANT TREASURER, Susan White

DIR. AT LARGE, Tony Monteleone

DIR. AT LARGE, Susan Nolan

DIR. AT LARGE, Matt Conrad

DIR. AT LARGE, Aimee Perron Seibert

Old Business

Capital Expenditures Requests: The Friends of Chimborazo Playground are requesting funds of \$5,400 for

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CHURCH HILL HOLIDAY BALL QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

Do you live in Church Hill? Y N

How long have you lived in Church Hill? <12 months 1-5 yrs 6-10 yrs 10-15 yrs >16 yrs

Age under 29 30 – 39 40 – 59 60+

Have you attended the Holiday Ball in the past? Y N

Would you consider attending the Holiday Ball in the future? Y N

What location would you like the event to be held at?

Masonic Hall 25th St. _____ 2300 Club _____ Mr. Patrick Henry's _____

Main St. Station _____ Va Holocaust Museum _____ 2200 East Cary Street _____

Other _____

What price point would be fair for a four hour event, with music and 2 drink tickets? Per person

\$30 \$35 \$40 \$45 \$50 \$55 \$60 \$65 \$70 \$75

What type of music? _____ Live or DJ

Interested in volunteering for the weekend? Y N

Name _____ Phone _____

Please mail all responses to CHA, P.O. Box 8031, Richmond, VA 23223. Or bring to the next meeting.

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CHA BOARD MEETING



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16 AD HOC BOARD MEETING CONT...

improvements to the playground. This money would be used for picnic tables (adult and child), BBQ stands, garden shed, bird house and a bat house. CHAT would partner with them to build the items. Also included, are colorful shade sails that are 15' in height and would be used for three seasons of the year.

Another capital expenditure request is for a replacement sign at the Overlook on Grace Street for \$1,000 as the present sign is in disrepair. The City has said that it would match any funds given to the project.

The Board voted and is recommending to the membership both these capital expenditures be funded. The membership will vote on these requests April 21st.

The **Church Hill Book** is being republished and projected to be available in early 2010. Historic Richmond Foundation is requesting a \$2,000 contribution to help defray costs. The Board voted and is recommending the contribution be made. The membership will vote on this proposal at the April 21st meeting.

The continuing issue of the zoning regarding R-63 was discussed at the Board meeting. The subcommittee recommended its approval and the issue will be voted on at the Membership meeting this month.

President John Johnson received the answered questions the subcommittee compiled regarding Shockoe Center in Shockoe Bottom. Both Q & A from Highwood Properties and the City of Richmond are included in this newsletter for your review following the Minutes.

Echo Harbor remains a hot topic in Church Hill. A request for funds in support of the opposition against Echo Harbor was received by the Board. We discussed and decided the Board needs to more completely understand how the proposed funds are to be used by seeing the opposition's larger comprehensive plan. The Board further discussed the focus should be on the City Council's overturn of the CAR decision on Oakwood Heights as this may reoccur with Echo Harbor. Several members discussed the possibility of meeting with representatives from the Fan, Northside, Union Hill and the Museum District to unite in support of CAR and the O&HD. Therefore, it the need for legal counsel, the costs would be defrayed.

New Business

Please join the Better Housing Coalition at the Beckstoffer's Mill, 1209 N 28th Street as we celebrate 20 years of changing lives and transforming communities at our inaugural Leadership Awards honoring those who have inspired positive change in the Greater Richmond housing community through active leadership, environmental stewardship and philanthropic contributions.

The celebration will be held on April 2nd from 6pm – 8pm and cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please visit www.betterhousingcoalition.org/20 to purchase tickets online.

The Historic Richmond Foundation in partnership with the Valentine Museum and Sports Backers is planning a 10k (6.2 miles) in downtown Richmond exclusively for walkers. Called **the Anthem Stride Through Time**, the route of the walk is scheduled to take place through Church Hill on Saturday, May 30th, 2009. This family-friendly walk will begin and end at Brown's Island. Church Hill is at the end of the second mile along the route and we expect to see walkers around 9:30 am. The walkers will come up Cary Street to 25th Street as far as E Broad. Walking by St. John's Church, the route then extends to 23rd Street to E. Main Street.

The Historic Richmond Foundation is encouraging block parties to have live music, complimentary refreshments, resident in costumes, signage, etc. Please also keep in mind that many of the historic sites located along the route will be open during the race and participating with costumed interpreters. If anyone is interested in participating with a block party, please contact Katie Kelley at kkelley@historichrichmond.com or by telephone a (804) 643-7407.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.



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QUESTIONS WITH RESPONSE FROM THE CHURCH HILL ASSOCIATION TO THE CITY OF RICHMOND REGARDING THE SHOCKOE CENTER PROPOSAL IN SHOCKOE BOTTOM

From: Flynn, Rachel O'Dwyer - DCD [<mailto:Rachel.Flynn@Richmondgov.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 12:30 PM
To: Squire, Betty L. - Council Member
Cc: Denslow, Suzette - CMO; Khara, M S. - DPW; Johnson, John R (Contractor) (DSCR)
Subject: Church Hill Questions on the stadium

Betty and John, My answers are in RED below. As a general note, the City has contracted with Davenport Consulting for their independent financial and economic assessment of the Ballpark proposal. No further review is being undertaken until that assessment is complete - which is due in about sixty (60) days. Let me know if you have further questions. Thanks, Rachel

From: Squire, Betty L. - Council Member
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 1:27 PM
To: Flynn, Rachel O'Dwyer - DCD
Cc: Khara, M S. - DPW; 'John.Johnson.ctr@dla.mil'

Mr. Johnson, your email has been forwarded to community Development and Public Works for answers to your questions. This email is being forwarded for any input regarding these questions. Please let me know as soon as you can so that I can get back to Mr. Johnson. Thank you.

From: Johnson, John R (Contractor) (DSCR) [<mailto:John.Johnson.ctr@dla.mil>]
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 12:38 PM
To: Squire, Betty L. - Council Member
Ms. Squire,

This is John Johnson, President of The Church Hill Association. The membership has asked me to send you the following questions to be answer by the City. CHA would like to know more about the plans and financing etc., for the proposed stadium in the Bottom.

1) Has the Virginia Department of Historic Resources been asked their opinion on the use of historic tax credits for the development as presented?

I would recommend that you contact Kathleen Kilpatrick directly about this issue. She is the Executive Director at DHR @ 367-2323.

What is the effect on the St. John's Church Historic District of the development?

The structures are not in the St. John's Church Historic District - so the City could not require any CAR action on this development. During staff review of the final design, we would keep in mind the fact that the development borders the O&HD on 18th Street.

2) Broad Street between Church Hill and Shockoe Hill is the principal route taken by ambulances to and from MCV and fire engines to and from Engine 1 at 24th and Broad. Have the appropriate EMT's been consulted about the impact of this development on their mobility?

It is my understanding that the Fire Department is reviewing the proposal, but to confirm this I would contact Chief Robert Creecy at 646-5451.

3) As with the development of the Downtown Master Plan, will the City hold a series of meetings with local parties to disseminate information and respond to local questions?

My understanding is that the developer is currently going to as many community meetings as possible, as a starting point. Assuming that the proposal moves forward, I am sure that the Mayor and City Council will want to seek public input.

4) By what criteria will the City judge noise and noise abatement issues?

The City Code addresses noise control - in Sections 38.31 to 38.60. The Police Department enforces it. This is an issue that the developer would have to address in their SUP application - and that staff would review before making any recommendations about the development.

5) What hydro-engineering studies will the City independently undertake to assess flood-plain concerns?

Hydro-engineering is handled by the Department of Public Utilities and Bob Steidel is the contact at DPU. His number is 646-8311.

Have you considered alternative plans?

Bob Steidel is the contact for this question.

6) What environmental impact study does the City plan to address the proposed GRTC bus terminal?

Both DPU and DCD would review the plans for any new structures in the 100 year and 500 year flood plains to ensure that GRTC complies with all local, state, and federal codes.

7) What additional infrastructure costs will be incurred to accommodate the increase in traffic flows? How much will it cost the City, the state, and the federal government?

M. Khara with DPW is the contact for this question. I've copied him on this e-mail - and his # is 646-5413.

8) What long term impact studies on the existing local road network has the City undertaken?

M. Khara with DPW is the contact for this question.

9) What public land is being donated to the developers and what is its fair market value?

The City owns the following properties on the site of the proposed Ballpark: 1) 1615 E. Broad at \$473,000, 2) 1621-1627 E. Broad at \$104,000, 3) 212 N. 18th at \$874,000, 1614 E. Franklin at \$298,000. These total \$1,749,000. In addition, the City owns a parcel of which it appears the Ballpark development (including a surface parking lot) would occupy approximately half the parcel. That parcel is identified as 500 E. Main (but it spans from Main Street to Broad Street) at \$1,933,000. If they used half, that would equal \$966,500. The City is no where near the negotiations of land donations - so we don't know right now what, if any, land would be donated for the project.

Thank you for answering these questions or sending them to the appropriate people within the City that may have the answers.

Mr. John R. Johnson

QUESTIONS WITH RESPONSE FROM THE CHURCH HILL ASSOCIATION TO HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES (DEVELOPER) REGARDING THE SHOCKOE CENTER PROPOSAL IN SHOCKOE BOTTOM

1) *Please respond to the following:*

- *Paul Goldman's editorial in Style Weekly 1/28/09*—Mr. Goldman is entitled to his opinions. His editorial was written before we had the opportunity to review our financing plan with him.
- *Tony Pelling's Letter to the Editor of the Times-Dispatch, 1/30/09*—Mr. Pelling is also entitled to his opinion. One man's "subsidy" is another man's shrewd investment in economic development that will benefit the entire City both economically and fiscally.
- *An article by Paul Martin on the need for the ballpark to be included in the development from an average density point of view.* We are unaware of any such article and, as a result do not understand the question. The ballpark is included in the project because it provides the physical means—with its concourse constructed above the flood plain—to make the surrounding private investment possible. The new private investment generates the new incremental taxes that pay off the bonds on the ballpark without using any City (or state) bonding capacity or obligation and without using any existing tax revenues. To our knowledge, the ballpark has nothing to do with the allowable density of the project, which is compatible with the new Downtown Master Plan in that regard. Indeed, the ballpark provides the physical solution to achieve the DMP's vision for a pedestrian-friendly streetscape of ground level retail shops in Shockoe Bottom.

2) *What minimum bond rating is required? What is the maximum interest rate that the project (will) support?*

No one can answer these questions until the financing structure is completed and an investment grade analysis of the proposed bonds is completed, which will likely be in early 2010.

3) *Your proposal requires that the Richmond Sports Facilit(ies) Authority pays all operational costs, including maintenance. If it fails—who will pick up the bill?*

Our proposal specifically says the baseball *TEAM* would be responsible for operating and maintaining the ballpark and paying those expenses. We have reiterated this consistently in every piece of information we have distributed on Shockoe Center—including the PowerPoint presentation to the CHA, and in the 40 Frequently Asked Questions and the Financing Plan, both of which were available to the committee.

In your response to ACORN, you note that failure of the bonds could resulting a foreclosure on the property. What is the likelihood that anyone, other than the City, would step forward to buy the property.

First, of course, we do not anticipate that the bonds will fail. If they pass an investment grade analysis of their soundness to be sold we expect that they will be successful.

Second, if revenues do not fully meet projections, it does not necessarily follow that there will be a total default. More than likely, terms would be re-negotiated before that to satisfy the bondholders. About 75% of the anticipated new revenue stream dedicated to debt service payments is expected to come from non-baseball sources. At a minimum anticipated debt coverage ratio of 150%, the non-baseball new revenue will cover the debt service payments, with excess revenue left over.

Third, in the unlikely event of foreclosure, the bondholders would be the ones to step forward and buy the property, unless some other party out-bid them at the foreclosure. In neither scenario is the City required, either generally or morally, to step in and acquire the property.

4) *What evidence do you have to support your current optimistic economic forecast?*

The reason for our belief in the future of Richmond is simply optimism from having been through recessions before and always coming out of them with greater growth and prosperity. The current recession started in economists' terms in December 2007. We hope that it will be possible to sell the bonds in the first quarter of 2010, more than two years later. But, if not, the bonds won't get sold and the project won't get built and our investors will put their \$100 million in capital investment to work elsewhere. And, those who oppose the ballpark will not have to worry about it. They will continue to have Shockoe Bottom and its flood plain looking much like it does today – if not worse.

5) *What acoustical and lighting studies support your contention that lighting and noise from concerts and events in addition to ballgames will have minimal impact on Church Hill? Where are their successful applications of your suggested technologies?*

The issues of noise and lighting are of the greatest importance to the developers of Shockoe Center because their residential, hotel and office patrons will be the most directly affected. Indeed, it is crucial to the developers that neither noise nor lighting be a problem – and in solving those issues for their tenants, they will also solve it for every surrounding neighborhood as well.

This ballpark will encapsulate most of the noise it will generate. No, it will not have a roof, but it will have 60-foot high surrounding walls of commercial and residential buildings to minimize the impact of noise outside the ballpark. The digital age has improved the way sound is distributed in public venues. The old method of a few big blasting speakers has been replaced with the new technology of many smaller speakers focused on concentrated areas of the audience. Similarly, directional lighting technology has greatly improved to avoid the waste of light spill-out.

Much like tuning a piano after delivery, meaningful lighting and acoustical tests can only be conducted after construction for any specific site—and they will be in this case.

6) *What has been the history of ballpark developments in residential, historic downtown areas where AA teams play – both from a commercial viability perspective and the impact on local environment?*

Thank you for this “softball” question. That is why we proposed Shockoe Center as we have. And it is why we are able to attract developers willing to make the “up-front” commitments to create the economic development surrounding the ballpark.

Commercial viability: Of baseball—Minor league baseball has set new attendance records in each of the past six consecutive years. Most cities and Minor League Baseball attribute that surge in attendance to a boom in new, fan-friendly ballparks located in or near downtown areas not unlike Shockoe Bottom. Our analysis indicates 80% of the last 60 new ballparks fit this criteria and have been successful for their communities as well.

Of the downtown area—In most cases, new development has occurred around these new ballparks in an effort to capture a bigger share consumer spending from the thousands of fans before and/or after a game. In Shockoe Center, most people would regard \$100 million in new private investment in the Bottom as solid economic development. That scale of investment must happen simultaneously with the opening of the new ballpark to generate the new revenues that make it financially possible to pay off its bonds. Obviously that is development generated by the ballpark. But, and this is what some fail to understand: The ballpark solves the issue of how to build profitably above the flood plain, which makes the private investment physically possible. Shockoe Bottom is an extremely attractive commercial/residential location--once the flood plain problem is solved.

Impact on local environment—Baseball and related development are positive for historic areas. They bring people and vitality to these areas and make more people aware of their heritage even if it only through brief passing encounters with it.

- 7) *Why is it preferable to create a new ballpark next to historical residential areas when the current Boulevard site avoids this conflict and offers significantly better transportation and parking access?*

First, we strongly disagree with the premise at the heart of this question. Shockoe Center will be at the intersections of Interstates 95 and 64 and the Downtown Expressway, putting all parts of the region within minutes. It is also within walking distance for much of downtown. And this point has been critically important to the success of most recent ballparks developed in downtown areas. Shockoe Center's access and parking is superior to The Diamond. Fans traveling south from I-64 and on I-95 will be able to take the Franklin Street exit, which will put them off right at the large state parking deck. Fans traveling north from the Expressway and I-95 will take the Broad Street exit, which will put them off beside a new parking deck to be built just north of Broad. Fans from the downtown area will simply walk. The Diamond is a commuter ballpark with large surface parking lots. The few businesses there see very little business from The Diamond because of this commuter design. People drive to the games and afterwards get in their cars and go home. At Shockoe Center we will create synergy with our environment that helps the neighborhood with economic development, flood management and new customers for area businesses and the neighborhood helps us with convenience of location, interstate access, existing deck parking and an attractive historic environment.

Also you have very recently disclosed that the Boulevard site will now include a sports center for VCU, VU and J. Sargeant Reynolds. Why wouldn't the ballpark fit into that complex as it could also be used by the local universities for both training and championship games?

To concentrate all sports venues at the Boulevard would clearly require City taxpayers, and potentially County taxpayers if they are willing, to fund a new ballpark using their debt capacity through a general obligation bond issue. This puts the debt service liability squarely on the backs of the taxpayers and limits our ability to construct new schools and other vitally needed infrastructure. Why should we, as taxpayers, ignore the opportunity to use non-taxpayer capital for a new ballpark in Shockoe Bottom and prefer instead putting the City on the hook for a new ballpark to replace The Diamond?

As we have discussed, the ballpark we propose will be used by VCU for its home games and for a few high school playoff games. Combining professional baseball and amateur sports complex does not make as much sense as it might sound. The short answer is that building a new ballpark on the Boulevard would not leave enough room for significant economic development there. Further, that site does not offer the benefits that minor league baseball has found to be important to its success—a downtown walkable location in or near an area of historical interest and an entertainment district. Shockoe location offers the potential of a multi-modal transit hub.

- 8) *What do you envisage will be the impact on local residential and commercial property values in Shockoe Bottom, Union Hill and all of Church Hill?*

We expect property values in Shockoe Bottom to increase. Property values in Church Hill and Union Hill have been increasing for many years, at least prior to the current housing recession. Frankly, we expect that trend to resume, but we do not believe that Shockoe Center is close enough to either to have much impact.

Would you be prepared to fund an impact study on local housing values?

No.

9) *Do you require the purchase under “Eminent Domain” rules of any buildings or land currently owned by the private sector?*

No.

10) *You have stated that the tax revenues to be used will be “new.” Will you, therefore, not include any revenues derived from businesses that relocate from other areas of the City?*

No. There would be no way to administer it. That is certainly a possible scenario, but more likely scenarios are new businesses and expansions of existing local businesses elsewhere into an additional location in Shockoe Center. Net new growth, in other words.

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ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23 CHURCH HILL ASSOCIATION ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING

The following members were present: Ruth Deboer, Bill Hartsock, Michael McPeak, Charlotte Kerr and Martha Broughton. Members not in attendance: Beth Sarrett, John Sydnor and Diane Worthington. In the absence of the Chair person, Michael McPeak, acting as Chair person, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

26 January Meeting Minutes: Any further comments on draft minutes to be sent to Beth Sarrett for incorporation into final version.

Presentations: No formal presentations were scheduled. The Committee briefly discussed today's City Council Meeting which was to decide on Oakwood Heights; some clarifications were offered on Tarisa Griffith's presentation to the last Zoning Committee meeting.

Liaison Updates: Board of Zoning Appeals - No relevant items on February docket; **Committee for Architectural**

Review - No relevant items on February docket; **Planning Commission** - No relevant items on February docket.

The Zoning Committee had a general discussion on ongoing problems with parking in parts of Church Hill. Mindful that the process of obtaining Parking Medallions in the Fan district took about ten years, the Committee felt that a serious discussion on permit parking in Church Hill should begin now.

Old Business: The Committee briefly discussed proposed zoning changes on the Hill; and, there have been no volunteers to date for a new Chair person for the Committee;

New Business: there will be a need to replace Charlotte Kerr as Secretary as of the next meeting. Members present thanked her for her efforts on behalf of the Committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 PM

**Next Zoning Committee Meeting – 23 March 2009, 7PM @
Nolde Bakery**

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CHA MEMBERSHIP



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CHA MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

All new and renewing members receive a membership card which gives you discounts at some local restaurants. A special gift from the Association is also part of your 2009 membership – a green tote bag with the Church Hill Association logo. The bags are great for groceries or almost anything else; they are green with a white logo, made from some recycled material and can save lots of those plastic grocery bags! In addition to a free bag with your membership, you can purchase additional bags for \$4.00 each

Bénédicte Whitworth (644-6559)
CHAbene@comcast.net

We would like to welcome the following new or renewing members who have joined since February 25, 2009. We currently have 294 members.

New members since February 25, 2009!

Susan Albert
Karen Cary
Sheryl DeLeo
Mickey Denton
Thomas Harley
Cathy Hayden
Sam Kelly
Deanna Lewis
Patricia Lucas
Virginia McDonald
McAlister Marshall
Olivia Moseley
David O'Kelly
Ken & Brian Robertson
Karen Remley

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MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE OR BRING TO THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Neighbors;

With the support of my husband, I have served almost 7 years on the City's Commission of Architectural Review, and most recently on the Urban Design Committee.

I came to this neighborhood from a residence and legal practice in California, to marry the best of men, Jonathan Wight. We bought the Ann Carrington House, just as your former Mayor was going to jail. Within weeks of our purchase, the Church Hill community took us into their fold, and involved us not only in advice for a complete restoration, but also engaged us in community involvement.

We have lived many places, but it is the people of Church Hill that have helped us so very much to find our scrap of land in your community our home.

It would be easy to leave it at that, and just sweep at our own door- but that is not what this community is about. What I love best about Church Hill, and all the environs, is the great promise this urban landscape provides for knowing your neighbor as your own family, and for going beyond ones own interests for the greater good of the community. That is what makes Church Hill special: so many finding that it isn't about their own turf, but about being a community. We are not sprawl, we are interconnected every day. The schools we have are located for our children, and we must do all we can to keep them supported and strong.

At present, this community does not have any elected leader to represent their interests at City Council. This is not good for our community. There are many proposals coming out that could greatly impact what could happen to our neighborhood. Please try to think about supporting local schools for our children, and start thinking now about a list of concerns you would want any candidate from our district for Council to answer to. In my own experience, there is less a difference on race or economic circumstances in our district than a true concern about credibility and having a voice. That "voice" was cut off by a "suspension of the rules" by City Council on the "Oakwood Heights" project, which I found shameful. Residents of our district were barred from airing their concerns to City Council, without any representative to make any protest about their exclusion from a potential record on appeal.

What impacts any one of us, is a threat to us all. In short, know and help your neighbor. In the long term, protect your neighbors with what ever talents you have.

It has been an honor to serve this community that I care about so deeply. I hope for a true representative to City Council that could give this community the compassion and dedication it so desperately needs. Thank you for (even if you did not always agree with me) suffering my service as a City Council appointee. I have resigned all appointments, hoping you will know I tried my best.

Jean Wight
Former C.A.R. and U.D.C. Appointee
2306 E. Grace Street

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear fellow members of the Church Hill Association,

I feel it is important to explain our request for financial assistance in the amount of \$2,500 from CHA regarding the challenge of City Council's decision to overturn CAR's ruling on the Oakwood Heights project.

This case, in essence, is not about this neighborhood. It is a case in defense of ALL of the Old & Historic Districts of Richmond.

By City Council ruling as they did, granting a "Certificate of Appropriateness" on DGM Properties "conceptual" plan for Oakwood Height with no final design elements, no set building heights, widths or lengths, no set list of building materials, no set list of colors, window sizes, etc., the developer (or another developer if DGM chooses to sell the land) has now been granted a blank check to build what ever they see fit with no regard to the historic nature of the area, the historic character of the surrounding homes or the codes in force that overlay the entire historic district.

City Council's ruling has, in effect, removed more than a third of the 36th block of E. Broad and E. Marshall off the historic map of Richmond and out of the historic district altogether.

If this can happen on the 36th block of East Broad Street, it can happen anywhere in Richmond's Old & Historic Districts. We believe City Council's ruling sets a dangerous precedence for further development in our city and took a stand against it. The Commission for Architectural Review was set up as the guardian of these Old & Historic Districts. How are we, the citizens of the city of Richmond, supposed to rely on the protection of the Historic Guidelines, that the members of CAR swore an oath to uphold, if they can be arbitrarily overturned by a political body.

The Historic Richmond Foundation and ACORN have stepped up to assist us financially to uphold the Historic Guidelines that were challenged by City Council's ruling. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has also joined us and will be working with our attorney in an advisory capacity throughout this process.

The Church Hill Association has a long history of making Church Hill a better place to live, a better neighborhood and those efforts have fostered a better community as a whole. All said, we respectfully ask that the CHA join us. We need your help.

Respectfully yours, on behalf of the citizens of the 36th block of East Broad and East Marshall Streets,
Deanna Lewis
314 N. 36th Street



Since 1994, BHC has built over 100 homes, both new construction and rehabilitations, in Church Hill and has paved the way for its revitalization.

Better Housing Coalition is committed to providing opportunities for individuals to purchase their first home—one that is not only **affordable** but also **energy efficient** and **built to last** a lifetime. Homeownership opportunities, down payment assistance and affordable



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



We who live opposite Libby Hill Park enjoy a wonderful view as well as incredible Church Hill pioneers for neighbors. Sadly, one of those pioneers who had lived for more than 30 years on East Franklin Street, Clyde Galloway, died March 12th, leaving his wife Marguerite after more than 60 years of marriage.

At the memorial service at Forest Lawn Cemetery, we were told that Clyde and Marguerite had been married in 1941, had three daughters, and several grandchildren as well as great-grandchildren.

I personally will miss seeing the Galloway's sitting on a park bench in Libby Hill Park overlooking the valley and I-95. On warm evenings they were always there. My cat, Blue, enjoyed their company in their moments of warmth and peace.

Now when I look out one of my front windows I see them both sitting there. Perhaps this is a way of holding onto the old, and not wanting to let go of precious people who have graced a neighborhood for so long. Clyde Galloway was 89 years old and had for almost one-third of that time had been one of the first to see the potential of living in Church Hill. I for one gained much from knowing him and his old fashioned philosophy. He gave this community much and will be sadly missed.

Lu Motley
2718 E. Franklin Street



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