Second Annual
Progressive Dinner
Saturday, March 31, 2012

Tuscan Spring Gala in the Park

by Stephanie Berv

Perhaps when you read this we will still be in the holidays, with a possibility of future glistening snow covering our beautiful Ginter Park. But by March the mid-winter blues will have passed and we’ll be ready for some fun.

What better way to welcome spring, than to gather with your fellow residents and meander through the “Park”, sipping fine Italian wine and savoring a delectable Italian dinner in the comforts of your neighbor’s home.

Our second annual progressive dinner is scheduled for March 31, 2012 and will be the perfect time for some wining and dining and catching up with your old friends and making new ones.

For those of you who don’t know what a progressive dinner is, a quick explanation. The evening starts around 6pm at one lovely home in our Ginter Park neighborhood where all 100 of us can gather for cocktails and scrumptious appetizers. We then disperse into smaller groups of eight or ten and move to an assigned home for salad and then move again for our entrée.

At each home, you will be with a different set of neighbors than the previous course. What a wonderful way to spend an evening meeting new friends and being treated by the culinary delights of our elegant hosts in the privacy of their homes. We all end the evening gathering again together at a dessert home sharing stories and laughter.

This year’s theme will be Tuscan fare, so, if you love Italian food, and more importantly love to cook and entertain, then you don’t want to miss this event. For those of you
It’s Worth a Look
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Have you ever been inside Thomas Henderson Middle School?
Maybe you haven’t been back since you finished 8th grade so many years ago. Or perhaps you are one of the AMP Mentors that visits every Friday for lunch with a student. No matter which of these categories might apply, you are invited to attend Henderson’s Open House on Tuesday, January 24, an event made possible in large part through a grant from GPRA.

The evening will begin at 6:00 pm in the auditorium and include a program that includes an opportunity to move throughout the school. You’ll be able to meet the administration, hear from teachers, and otherwise check out the public school that serves the 6th – 8th grade zone which includes Ginter Park. Feel free to bring your 4th or 5th grade students with you to take a look.

Henderson is located at 4319 Old Brook Road, just north of John Marshall High School. The parking/driveway entrance (located on the north side of Henderson) can be accessed via Westbrook Avenue, which leads directly into it. Follow the signs and park in the rear of the lot to find easy entrance into the auditorium.

For more details, contact the school at 780-8288 or Tim Holtz, PTA President, at HendersonMiddlePTA@gmail.com.
who want to show off your culinary talents, this is the dinner to do so. Several Ginter Park residents have already volunteered to host a salad or an entree in their lovely homes and spoil us with their scrumptious meals.

However, we are in need of many other residents to host a salad or an entree, so if you would like to participate, please contact me at SBerv@aol.com or 387-4383.

I am scheduling our first meeting at the end of January, so if you are interested in volunteering, come join the fun. You will not regret it. The planning takes time, so please don’t wait.

A special thank-you already goes to Rebecca Wright/Kevin Dodson and Vicki and Richard Wells for graciously agreeing to host the appetizer and dessert portions of the dinner for this year’s gala. For those of you who attended last year, you know what grandeur we all experienced in their lovely estates ...what a treat!

Contact: Stephanie Berv
387-4383 or SBerv@aol.com

Progressive Dinner

Continued from Page 1

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A Cleaner Chamberlayne

By Kristen Allegood

It was a busy day on Chamberlayne November 12, 2011. The clean-up was a huge success with 28 volunteers filling trash bags.

Age was not a limitation in community service. Volunteers ranged from second grade up to 88 years old. Twenty of the volunteers were students and staff from Henderson Middle School’s community service club. The kids were wonderful and full of energy in cleaning the neighborhood.

Thanks go out to Ms. Wiegandt and Ms. Johnson (a Bellevue resident) for organizing and participating in this event. As usual, the young men from Elk Hill did a great job picking up trash from Brookland Parkway up to Laburnum. Ginter Park residents filled out the remainder of our volunteer activity.

Everyone did a great job. Some of the unusual items found among the trash included a working cell phone, butter knives, and hair weave. A brief stop for coffee and cocoa at Kristen’s house along the way gave an opportunity to share stories.

Entertainment also was provided by the John Marshall High School step team, marching band, cheerleaders, and homecoming court, as the homecoming parade made its way down Chamberlayne Avenue. The clean-up ended with pizza and fellowship at Ginter Park United Methodist Church.

Just two blocks west, the Richmond Marathon was underway. It is great to see the neighborhood so vibrant with activity.
FUTURE OF THE BOULEVARD?

Will there be a new ballpark on the Boulevard? What else might developers propose for this site? How long will it take for the city to remediate the soil at the city garage after the vehicles are moved out?

The media periodically raises these questions, but Second District Councilman Charles Samuels has been thinking in a different direction. He held a series of charrettes to determine what nearby residents and businesses in the North Boulevard/Scott’s Addition area would like to see along this gateway into the city. Over 30 people met from January to March 2011 to discuss what they would like and what they wouldn’t like to see along this artery.

On their “would like” list were:
1. an urban-model retailer like Target or an electronic store built on a scale appropriate to the area
2. a specialty grocer
3. connected activities, such as a coffee shop or bookstore to visit while getting car repaired
4. mixed use of office, professional and service
5. Myers Street pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks
6. greenway from the Diamond to the Science Museum with bike and walking paths
7. skatepark
8. the Interbake building used as a VCU West End campus or senior housing
9. bike paths
10. increased walking opportunities through crosswalks, shade, public seating and sense of personal safety

On their “would NOT like” list were:
1. antiseptic suburbanized and “Newtown Center” design style
2. Walmart
3. continuation of numerous one-way streets in Scott’s Addition

Councilman Samuels later said these suggestions should be a starting point of any conversation before developers present any plans for the area.

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2011 Holiday Gala
by Wendy Kleinfield, Chairman

The night was crisp and clear. Twinkling Christmas tree lights greeted the revelers as they arrived at the Ginter Park Women’s Club to launch the holiday season.

Men who had previously been seen only in the most casual attire looked handsome and dashing in their tuxes, and their ladies were equally festive in their gowns.

The Ginter Park Women’s club provided an historic and quiet area of the house for dining and visiting with friends and neighbors, and the other side of the foyer, the auditorium, was a great space to hear the Flashback band and dance the night away!

A big thanks to our Gala Greeters, Lois and Jack Sisk, Meg and Dan Lawrence, Stephanie Berv and Debbie Welch, Chris Gauldin and Doug James, Tom Poe and Judith Anderson, and Will and Patty Angus, who kept things moving beautifully at the door. Several residents decided to pay their dues, which removed “Resident” from their newsletter address the last month of the year! Many even took the opportunity to remove it from the coming year as well.

A red and gold decorating theme was heartily assisted by our behind-the-scenes elves, Steven Skinner, Kevin Dodson, Richard Minter, and Bob Ulrich, and a big thanks to them for helping to move wreaths and trees to the site, as well as to The Dodsons for the loan of trees and wreaths.

Richard Minter got us better cocktails, and found and negotiated a real non-profit rate with the Band! Flashback was just great with really danceable music!

For the “Dancing With the Stars” fans, a special treat were the dance demonstrations by our friends at Dance Masters: Katherine Lewis, Rock Foster, Jacob Faulkner, and Matt Charlesworth. We got to see the Rumba, Cha-Cha, Swing, and Viennese Waltz, which elicited applause from the audience.

Many thanks to our resident friends at Cateraide for again helping to make this a very special night! We all left with the Christmas Spirit revived!
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2012 OFFICERS’ BIOS

The following officers for 2012 were elected at the general meeting on November 17. Several vacancies still existed at press time. If you are interested in serving, contact Meg Lawrence at 266-2794 or PastPresident@historicginterpark.org.

PRESIDENT / Rebecca Dodson
Rebecca and Kevin Dodson have hosted numerous house tours over the years plus the cocktails for the 2010 Progressive Dinner. Both Dodsons are in the information technology field. Rounding out the family are sons Charleston and Garrett.

In the nine years she has been in Ginter Park, Rebecca has served as district rep, secretary, vice president, one year as president, and has organized the Special Initiatives (Chamberlayne Ave, Education, and Communication) starting in 2010

VICE PRESIDENT / Will Angus
The Angus family moved into Ginter Park in October 2007. Though relatively new to the neighborhood, Will was born just a few blocks from his current address on Hawthorne, where he lives with wife Patti, son Bo and baby Sebastian.

Will works for Owens & Minor as the Director of HR Services. Patti runs a tailoring shop located in the Lexington Commons Shopping Center.

Will is often “messing around in boats”. With a year’s experience as Vice President, he is now ready to tackle further communication possibilities for the Yahoo group.

SECRETARY / Sheila Weisensale
Sheila describes herself as an Air Force brat who moved around when she was young. However, her husband Stephen lived in Bellevue when he was born and on Seminary when he was a child. They have lived in Ginter Park since 1999, with their beloved 5 year old Flat Coat Retriever Odin. He came from the SPCA, where Sheila volunteers.

Educated as a mechanical engineer, Sheila is self-employed as a computer software trainer. Stephen is an architect

Sheila has an extensive flower garden and loves to make pressed flower items using plant material from her garden. She has begun to exhibit her work at the Northside Artists open studio event.

TREASURER / Andrew Salp
A relative newcomer to Ginter Park, Andrew Salp has agreed to take over the job of treasurer from Carolyn Winks. Andrew has lived in our area for 3 years but in Bellevue for 5 years before that. The household includes wife Jill, a partner at Capital One, Evan (11) in fifth grade at St. Bridget and Benjamin (8) in second grade at Holton.

Andrew is in Radiology sales for MEDRAD but in his spare time is involved in fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphona Society, skiing, running and his vegetable garden.

PAST PRESIDENT / Meg Lawrence
Meg describes herself as “born in Michigan, moved to Arizona when I was 15, met Dan Lawrence at the University of Arizona, moved to Richmond for Dan to go to MCV, lived in Church Hill, Alexandria, 10 years in Bellevue before 18 years in Ginter Park.”

She and family physician husband Dan have two grown sons Michael and Robert. The household also includes Pete the cat.

Meg brings years of GPRA experience to each board meeting, having headed the car patrol, the planning and zoning committee, and served as vice president and president.

She teaches part time at St. Bridget School. She loves to read, having been in the same book group for 26 years, and also enjoys gardening

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

District A-1 / Christina Shelor
(Westminster to Azalea, Brook to Chamberlayne)
Christina has made a rather wide circle around the Northside, starting in Bellevue for 3 years, from there to Orlando for 4, then Europe for 2, and now to Ginter Park for the past 6 years.

She is an Operational Risk and Compliance manager in Commercial Real Estate for Sun Trust Bank. She recently obtained her certification in Risk Management. Her husband, Forrest Shelor, is a photojournalist. Yorkshire terriers Jackson and Henry round out the household. For relaxation Christina turns to gardening, yoga and hip-hop dance class.

District A-2 / Richard Minter
(triangle of Chamberlayne, North and Laburnum)
The Board calls Richard “The Tree Man”, the man who has doggedly waged a campaign in the last three years to plant hundreds of trees in Ginter Park. He is also a certified Tree Steward, treasurer of the Richmond Tree Stewards, and he volunteers with the Urban Forestry Commission in maintaining the city’s street trees.

Richard has lived in Ginter Park 10 years. His wife, Victoria Virvos, is a special education teacher at a correctional facility in Powhatan.

Richard is a partner in Potts, Minter & Associates, P.C., which performs surveying and civil engineering services in Richmond and surrounding counties. He is also a part time chauffeur for James Limousine. He must like to drive, because he also delivers Meals on Wheels once a week. His hobbies include golf, shooting pool and gardening.
DISTRICT A-3 / Neil Ohlsson  
(Westminster to Laburnum, Brook to Chamberlayne)

Neil hails from Arlington County originally but has lived in Ginter Park 18 years. He and his wife, Margaret Buchanan, have a daughter, Emma, currently a 9th grader at Maggie Walker Governor’s School.

Neil is a Project Manager and Estimator with Premier Store Fixtures, Inc. Margaret is an independent graphic designer and artist and has applied her graphic design talents to the GPRA Garden Tour programs.

Among Neil’s pastimes are gardening, bicycling and backpacking.

DISTRICT B-1 / Kirk Candler  
(Laburnum to Westwood, Chamberlayne to Moss Side)

Born and educated in Southwest Virginia (Emory & Henry), Kirk sampled different neighborhoods before settling in Ginter Park 10 years ago. He has already made his mark on his street by negotiating with the City for speed humps on Noble Avenue.

Kirk is a U.S. History teacher at Seven Hills School. His wife Maria has her own business. Children Sophia (7) and Aidan (5) attend Holton Elementary.

In Kirk’s spare time he likes to run and go kayaking.

DISTRICT B-2 / (vacant at press time)  
(Moss Side to Edgewood, Laburnum to Ladies Mile)

DISTRICT C-1 / Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt  
(Laburnum to Brookland Park Blvd, Brook to Chamberlayne)

Norma and Jonathan have lived in Ginter Park for 35 years, 26 years on Seminary Avenue and 9 years before on Moss Side Avenue. Norma is a clinical psychologist in private practice for the past 39 years. She currently serves as the Third District Representative to the Richmond School Board.

The Murdoch-Kitts have 4 children: Kelly, a graphic designer and college professor in San Francisco, Mark, an electrical engineer for the Navy, Sabrina, a paralegal and recent graduate student in public administration from VCU, and Laura, a graphic designer for the Signature Theater in Arlington, Virginia.

Jonathan is a trial lawyer representing people injured in car crashes and crashed marriages. He has been in law practice for 38 years, and for 29 of these Norma and he have had their offices on Chamberlayne Avenue in a house they restored. His hobbies include riding his bicycle and walking their dog, President, through the wonderful and beautiful streets of Ginter Park. He also enjoys photographing his family and scenes from their travels. Both Jonathan and Norma sing in the choir at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church.

DISTRICT C-2 / (vacant at press time)  
(Westwood to Ladies Mile, Chamberlayne to Moss Side)

DISTRICT D-1 / Sidney Bland  
(Laburnum to Westwood, Hermitage to Gloucester)

Originally from Hampton, Sidney met her husband Dicky Bland at University of Richmond. Ginter Parkers for 24 years, their family includes Wesley (19) at Clemson University and Anne Carter (15) at Maggie Walker Governor’s School. Cats Molly and Margaret complete the household.

Husband Dicky is an attorney at Bland & Sorkin. While Sidney is not doing paid work at present, she enjoys volunteering in various organizations, aerobics and taking long walks around the lovely neighborhood.

When the family gets together, they enjoy traveling, “as often as possible!”

DISTRICT D-2 / (vacant at press time)  
(Laburnum to Westwood, Gloucester to Brook)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE / Kristen Allegood

Kristen is a candidate for a Doctorate in Music Education from Indiana University. She teaches orchestra and chorus at Salem Church MS and Meadowbrook HS and private piano from home, and sings in the Richmond Choral Society and Ginter Park United Methodist Church chancel choir. Her husband, Jeremy, is Director of the Lipidomics facility at VCU. Rounding out the household are cats Coda and Meadow.

A four-year home owner in Ginter Park, Kristen has organized the cleanups of Chamberlayne Avenue as part of the Chamberlayne Initiative. Her hobbies include gardening, biking, cooking, rock climbing, and hiking.

(second At-Large member seat vacant at press time)
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☐ Household member  ☐ Other (e.g. church, business, etc.)

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Dues for the 2012 calendar year are $25 per household. Checks should be written to the Ginter Park Residents Association and mailed with this form to the above address. Thank you very much.

Volunteers to help unload the back of the council’s truck are welcome and will be greatly appreciated.

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