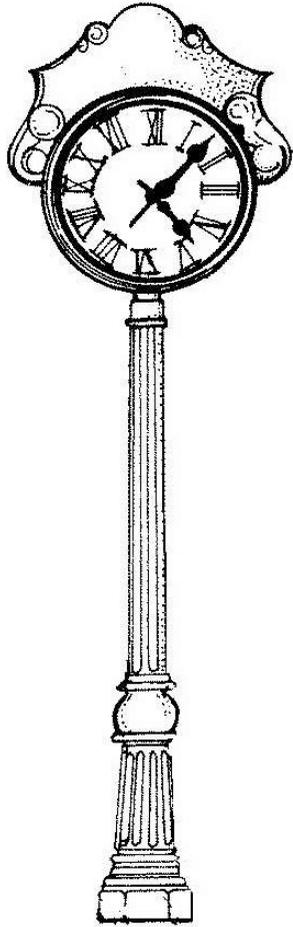


THE NEHHPA NEWSLETTER



Breathing Life Back Into Our Neighborhood



Original Riverside Hospital, Corner 50th and Huntington, 1916

Over the past year, we have tried to set forth the many benefits to having a historic district. For example, a historic district that is aesthetically cohesive and well promoted can be a community's most important attraction. The protection of local historic districts can also enhance business recruitment potential. Companies continually relocate to communities that offer their workers a higher quality of life, which is greatly enhanced by successful local preservation programs and stable historic districts.

We have also noted that public policy has not always served older and historic neighborhoods well. In the days of "urban renewal, many times it was said that,"we have to destroy this neighborhood in order to save it." The destruction of the old downtown and its bordering neighborhoods is an example of what happens when neglect, poor planning, and lack of follow through come together. A quick search on the internet will show a number of studies of what happens to property values when they border on neglected and abandoned properties. They tend to go down which means we are literally stealing housing equity from each of those homeowners through our own inaction.

(See Life, Page 3)

Calendar

May 12, 2009

NEHHPA Board Meeting

May 14, 2009

NEHHPA Membership Meeting

(See Page 7)

June 9, 2009

NEHHPA Board Meeting

July 14, 2009

NEHHPA Board Meeting

August 11, 2009

NEHHPA Board Meeting

North End Huntington Heights Preservation Association

Officers

President:

Kathy Whittaker

Vice President:

Michelle Carpenter

Treasurer:

Ed Matz

Historian:

John Runner

Secretary:

Stephanie Shanks

Directors

Billie Leggette

NEHHPA Website

The NEHHPA website, nehhpa.org, has been up and running for several months. Hopefully, many of you have checked it out. Having this website offers our preservation association many exciting new capabilities such as featuring tips, advice, general interest content and links to other sources which are related to our organization. The Internet is extremely different from print in that space is cheaper, the content is accessible for a longer time, can be updated easily and can potentially reach a wider audience.

The website gives us the opportunity to tell potential residents what we are about and why they should become members. In fact, many people use the internet for pre-purchase research so that they can determine for themselves whether a particular neighborhood may be a good fit. Recognizing that there is a preservation association in place can be an important selling point to buyers who appreciate an older neighborhood, but need some assurance of stability. The website serves as a great place to refer potential members to, to show them what our preservation association is about, what it has achieved and what it can achieve in future. By offering convenience, a point of reference and being of service, we can build a strong foundation of members for our organization.

Having a website enables our organization to receive valuable feedback. Website statistics will show us how much traffic the website receives, how the visitor got to the website and where, geographically, the visitor is from. In the future, we would like to create things such as visitor polls and online surveys to find out what are the concerns and interests of the membership such as what they like more and how they feel about certain aspects of organization and help determine how we can improve our preservation association.

The website is going to become the central means of communicating with our members as well as potential members and other interested parties. We encourage you to become familiar with the website. If you, as a member, are interested in helping to build the website, you can contact us through the website, nehhpa.org and using the highlighted contact at the bottom of the homepage. See you there!

THE NORTH END HUNTINGTON HEIGHTS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The mission statement for the North End Huntington Heights Preservation Association is to preserve the historic residential character of North End Huntington Heights through advocacy, communication, and education.

LIFE *(Cont. from page 1)*

Recent studies in Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana, and Kentucky all looked at the effects of historic preservation and historic districts on their states' economies. They looked at historic districts and job creation; decent, safe and affordable housing; diversified economic development; maximizing returns on public investment; infrastructure and quality of life; and tourism, among other things. The findings were proven in each state: HISTORIC DISTRICTS ARE ECONOMIC GROWTH. Key parts of their findings show that Historic Districts:

- Provide decent, safe, and affordable housing.
- Promote diversified economic development.
- Maximize public investments.
- Can be stewards of scarce resources.
- Are more environmentally aware.
- Enhance property values.

To summarize: creating and expanding historic districts increase property values, strengthen neighborhoods, provide an incentive for rehabilitating historic buildings, and promote a sense of neighborhood and community pride. There are also a number of studies which ask, "Why do residents of older and historic neighborhoods choose the neighborhood?" One study found that they choose these neighborhoods for the best of reasons: convenient to job (22.8%), the house was an important consideration (20.7%), the looks and design of the neighborhood (14.4%) and convenient to friends and family (14%).

Historic districts are for everyone. People of all income brackets are attracted to historic neighborhoods because of the quality of the housing, because of the investment protection that a local historic district often provides, because there is usually a wide range of housing

styles and sizes available, because typically there are citizen activists committed to advocating for the neighborhood, and because there are few tools other than local historic districts that can defend a neighborhood against inappropriate uses, out-of-scale development, low quality construction, and the encroachment of objectionable uses. Because the number of households looking for neighborhoods with those characteristics exceeds the supply, historic neighborhoods are in high demand. The answer is not to have fewer historic districts – the answer is to provide historic district protections to more neighborhoods.

NEHHPA is what breathes life into our own historic district. Without NEHHPA, the sign at the entry to our neighborhood would be nothing more than a marker. Any organization needs an active membership to sustain it and while there have been good intentions, NEHHPA has not always had such support. During the 2008-2009 year our goal was to put the NEHHPA Board in order. Some areas were not well defined or not functioning at all. In order to build a strong foundation to work from, the NEHHPA Board chose to focus on the following:

Administration:

Orient board to job function.

Directors now keep permanent binders to be passed on to their replacements.

Structure meetings in accordance with the By-laws.

Restore financial stability.

Organize financial records and follow By-law requirements on spending.

Reduce insurance from \$737.00 to \$450.00 per year.

Establish a membership card and payment receipt.

(See Title, Page 4)

LIFE (Cont. from page 3)

Policy:

Review By-Laws and propose changes.
Re-establish the conformity of the By-Laws.
Encourage neighborhood participation in NEHHPA.

Social:

Reestablish NEHHPA Holiday Covered Dish Party.

In this term we will direct our efforts to the organization of the historic records of the North End and NEHHPA. In the past this has been neglected and the result was the scattering of important papers and documents. If anyone has old papers or documents for the North End please call us and we will make copies and return the originals.

We want to improve the relationship with the City of Newport News, its Departments and the Shipyard. Finally, increase membership and participation.

Apology to Yard Sale Participants:

Due to administrative errors at the Daily Press, the yard sale advertisement requested for May 2 was not printed.



Dawn Stahmer
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HOUSE PLAQUES

Give your historic home the recognition it deserves. Through NEHHPA, you can purchase a bronze plaque featuring the year your home was built and the original homeowner's name. The plaque will include the inscription "Historic North End Huntington Heights".

The cost is \$195, due when you place your order. In your order, include the original homeowner's name and year of construction to:

NEHHPA, P. O. Box 75
Newport News, VA 23607

If you don't know when your house was built or who the original owner was, NEHHPA can assist you in researching this information at the Newport News Clerk of the Courts, Deed Office.

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1 PM to 8 PM
Sunday

Over the Back Fence - The Gardening Bug

I love to be outside this time of year and if I could, I'd live outdoors from sunup to sundown on the weekends! Our new yard has just been begging for attention and it seems I have gotten a bad case of the gardening bug – in the past two weeks we've planted a vegetable garden, a small strawberry garden, an herb garden, and bought raspberry bushes and blueberry trees in addition to starting an array of perennial and annual flowers from seed.

I think there is nothing more wonderful than sharing the experience of gardening with small children. They just seem to delight in the experience of putting seeds into the ground and watching those magical seeds come to life. My daughter, Lois Jean and I, have been racing out to the vegetable garden each morning looking to see which new seeds are coming up!

The gardening bug runs in my family: my mother had her own greenhouse, one of my sisters runs her own landscaping business and my uncles are into farming and lawn-care. So, I know enough to be dangerous, but I realize that if you really want your landscaping, flowers and gardens to take off, you need to seek out knowledgeable experts. We just happen to have several master gardeners and garden pros in our neighborhood.

One of the yards I have admired since my husband and I moved into the neighborhood nine years ago is the Michalos family – who just happen to be a block away from me now at 5700 Huntington Avenue. Alex and Joanie were gracious enough to take me on a walk through their gardens this past month, a social event that they said was not all that uncommon on Sunday afternoons when neighbors would gather by the dozens as Mrs. Ferguson, the wife of the 1st Shipyard President Homer Ferguson, entertained residents.

The Michalos will be celebrating their thirtieth anniversary this month and the care and love that they have for their gardens is well apparent from the river rocks that so eloquently list the names of the perennial shrubs, flowers and trees throughout each garden to a detailed map of the plants inside their home. Alex begins the tour by telling me the shrub on the left hand side of his house is a *Chamaecypares* – and smiling turns over the rock in front of the shrub, which displays the phonetic spelling on the underside!



I stop to admire his Japanese red maple and he shares with me that the pansies that are currently in bloom in front of his house were planted in the winter and he has



deadheaded them to keep them fresh and in bloom. He says he'll be putting in begonias or geraniums shortly.

We approach garden #2. At the entrance is a beautiful butterfly maple tree, oncore azaleas (these types of azaleas bloom two to three times a year in the spring, fall and winter!), american boxwood (there are actually two types – Japanese and American – the Japanese boxwood is more common), a prize oak leaf hydrangea and a verigated hydrangea.



(See The Gardening Bug, Page 6)

The Gardening Bug (Cont. from Page 5)

We walk around the right side of the house where garden #3 begins. Alex says this plot was all grass two years ago. Alex points out an array of plants a Vitex tree, a grassy plant called Miscanthus, a low maintenance plant Nandina which is tolerant to all conditions, a flower shrub called Raphiolepis, and Liriope, a shrub like plant which he says you have to cut down each winter in order to refresh the plan. This garden is extra special to Alex because it is dedicated to his children and granddaughter – two larger etched stones fill out the gardens with their names, the one reads The Gardens of Alexander and Alexis circa 1974. Other shrubs and trees fill this garden including a Yopon Holly (which is tolerant of sun and shade), Laurel (a shrub which is prone to disease but has beautiful white and yellow shaped flowers, Lantana (Alexis' champion bush which he highly recommends), a Yashino Cherry tree (the famous cherry blossom trees in Washington, D.C., hostas, and ten crepe myrtle trees which line the side of the street.

We move onto garden #4, which includes a green tower boxwood, lilacs, gardenia and a dwarf Alberta spruce. In garden #5 there is a wedding bush featuring beautiful white flowers that cascade down from the plant, jasmine, large trees in back of the lot called Phytinias, Pachysandra (low lying shade ground cover), Winter Daphne (a gorgeous fragrance and shade loving shrub), and Solomon's Seal (a plant with variegated leaves and small drooping white flowers).

Additional Tips For Nature & Plant Lovers

- Be mindful of spraying insecticides and pesticides on your plants. Hummingbirds eat nectar to survive and these chemicals can cause harm to young birds. An oil spray is a good alternative.
- Recycle and compost all table scraps such as banana peels, egg shells, lettuce and tomatoes. These items can be put into a compost pile for richer soil.
- By planting herbs like dill, parsley and fennel – you will help butterflies lay their eggs and children will delight in the transformation that takes place.
- Black-Eyed Susans are a great butterfly and bird food.

The preceding tips were provided by master gardener and master naturalist Sheila Jones, a past member of the board and resident of Huntington Heights.

Article submitted by Michelle Carpenter

The Over the Back Fence section is reserved for news and submissions from the neighborhood.

Block Captains

50th - Vacant
 51st - Thom Matheson - 346 51st
 52nd - Vacant
 53rd - Lynn Ritger 349 53rd
 West Hunt 51-54 Linda Bordeaux 226 52nd
 54th - Bonnie Snead - 342 54th
 55th - Phil Shook 310 55th
 56th - Betty Zattiero 5601 Huntington
 57th - Virginia Gall 338 57th
 58th - Pat Ward 315 58th
 59th - Karen Velkey 5812 Huntington
 60th - John Hughes 335 60th
 61st - Glenn Norcutt 340 61st
 62nd - Brenda Robbins 330 62nd
 63rd - Matt Gardner 6300 Huntington
 64th - Bea Dahlen 6306 Huntington
 65th - Billie Leggette 6408 Huntington
 66th - George Silk 6512 Huntington
 67th - Agnes Kump 314 67th
 68th - James Wells - 6702 Huntington
 69th, Warwick - Vacant
 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, Belvedere and River Rd - Steve Hudak 319 71st

Attention!

In order to reduce printing costs, after the May NEHHPA Newsletter, printed copies will be limited to NEHHPA members only.

If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the NEHHPA Newsletter, contact us at info@NEHHPA.org

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING WITH CITY AND SHIPYARD

Many of you may already be aware that the City of Newport News has presented multiple and multifaceted plans concerning beautification of the so called Warwick corridor. At the General Membership meeting in February, one of our guest speakers, Mike Popalowski, engaged the membership in a lively question and answer session concerning the City's plans.

While it is not a direct part of any of the aforementioned plans, recent developments at the Shipyard will have some impact on those plans. With the new construction within the Shipyard, they have eliminated some parking areas and thus have decided to consolidate parking by expanding the Shipyard parking lot for Navy personnel at 51st Street northward to 56th Street on the east side of Warwick Boulevard. The Shipyard presented their plan, which has the support of the City, to the Board on April 14, 2009. The Board proposed that they present their plans to the membership as well. The meeting will be informational in nature and available to the entire membership.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at Noland Memorial United Methodist Church. Representatives from the Shipyard and the City of Newport News will be presenting the plan.

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North End-Huntington Heights Preservation Association

NEHHPA, P.O. Box 75, Newport News, VA 23607

Application for membership

Please complete this form and mail with your check (payable to NEHHPA) to the address listed above.

Please circle the category of membership below for which you are applying.

Resident Member: To be eligible, you must reside in the area from 50th Street to 70th, bounded by Huntington and Warwick, and 70th to 73rd, from Warwick to the James River.

Associate Member: This category applies to all who live outside the area described above. Associates have all rights of membership excluding the right to vote and hold office.

The cost is **\$10 per year** per household and is good February of the current year until February of the following year. Lifetime membership is also available for \$100 per household.

Number of years ____ X \$10 = Total \$_____ or purchase a Lifetime Membership for \$100

Member #1: _____ Date: _____

Member #2: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address _____

Emergency contact _____ (in case something happens while you're out of town)

Please circle below any committees with which you might be willing to assist.

Block Captain	Membership	Homes Tour	Newsletter
Preservation Forum	Web Site	Beautification	City/Shipyard Liaison
Codes & Zoning	Welcoming	Advertising Sales	Merchandise Sales
Yard Sale	Special Events	Safety	Historical

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