

BYRD PARK

*Our Next Neighborhood Meeting is at the Byrd Park Roundhouse Sat., April 11th, 10:00 am – Noon

A Bimonthly Newsletter from the Byrd Park Civic League

April 2009

Neighborhood Beautification for One and All

In honor of "Keep America Beautiful Month," the Byrd Park Civic League continues to pursue options to improve our parks.

We will be exploring some short term and long term projects/ideas to help improve and maintain the appearance of green spaces in our beautiful neighborhood. Topics will include:

1. Planning details and locations for an important continuation of our neighborhood tree planting efforts, which started in 2002. To date we've planted over 200 trees in our greater neighborhood and need about 250 more. We hope to plant a significant number of trees in the Fall of 2010, which will include spaces on our medians, and individual "Adopt-a-Tree" plantings between the sidewalk and curb in front of your homes.

Come learn more about this project and sign up if you'd like to be on the Adopt-a-Tree list.

Additionally, City Arborist, Luke McCall has agreed to attend our meeting on April 11th to share his green ideas. Prior to the meeting, Mr. McCall will be touring our

neighborhood in order to have a clear perspective on:

- Where new trees could be planted,
- Which trees could be candidates for Adopt-A-Tree plantings, enabling residents to pay a modest fee and committing to water them, and
- Where trees would be totally paid for by the city.

2. Ecologically friendly yard care. We hope to have suggestions on ways to maintain and improve the appearance of our small neighborhood yards, which can help reduce maintenance work and also conserve water.

3. Creation and maintenance of small neighborhood volunteer teams to help keep our blocks clean and trash free. Our unique neighborhood is really beautiful when streets, sidewalks, and yards are kept free of trash and litter.

A special thanks to Martha Erwin for organizing the Neighborhood Clean-up initiative on March 28th, as well as all of the volunteers for their participation.

4. We are certain that many of you will have additional suggestions for easy ways that everyone can help keep our neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and yards clean and attractive, and we hope you'll attend our meeting and present them.

Just imagine if the lakes were clean enough to swim in again!



No Butts About It

Our Neighborhood Clean-up Initiative on March 28th was a great success and disappointment at the same time. Volunteers did a great job getting the trash off the streets. However, so much of the trash could easily be avoided if residents just took the time and paid more attention to the cleanliness of our neighborhood.

For example, the abundance of cigarette butts in the neighborhood was truly upsetting. Cigarettes do not break down. Instead, they are washed away by rain into our gutters and straight into our rivers. If you are smoking outdoors, or have guests that are smoking, please provide an ashtray and keep the litter off our sidewalks and streets.

Advertise in this Newsletter and reach over 400 households in this area. Contact Dennis Danvers for more information at 355-2639.

Keeping Our Park Under Control

With warm weather comes crowds in the Park. And with crowds come increased incidences of crime. It is important that the police are aware of the issues our park is facing on these unruly days.

Although the gates are supposed to be closed by 2 p.m. on Sundays, this rule is not being enforced, leading to increased pollution—both in the form of trash and noise.

If you notice the gates are not closed after hours, or there seems to be a situation of concern that requires police attention, please call 646-5100.

Spring Safety Advisory

Don't forget to clean your dryer vents!

With spring cleaning comes the time to check for lint build-up in your clothes dryer vents and in the exhaust ducts. Lint build-up can block the flow of air, eventually resulting in fires. To prevent dryer fires from occurring, follow these safety tips.

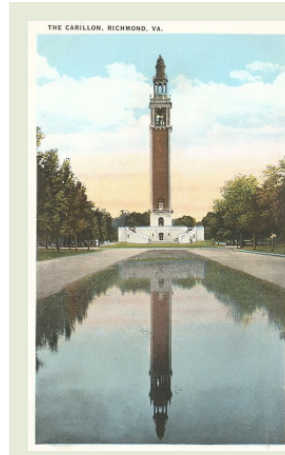
- Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes.
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically.
- Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up.
- Ensure the duct is not kinked or crushed.

If you are in need of a smoke detector or home fire safety survey, call the Metro Richmond Fire Safety Hotline at (888) 537-5967.

Tree Planting in the Vita Course

Friends of William Byrd Park (FWBP) has begun to work with the Department of Parks and Recreation to plan for a fall/winter planting of trees in the area of the Vita Course known as the "track" just south of the reservoir. Due to the loss of many trees over the years, the area near the 1-mile exercise walking and jogging course is quickly losing its valuable shade.

FWBP will dedicate funds and solicit additional donations from interested individuals and groups to begin replanting the area. Are you interested in helping with this effort? Please attend an FWBP meeting at the Round House at 7 pm on the first Thursday of every month (5/7, 6/4, 7/2, etc.) or contact Sarah Weisiger at 355-2639 or Rob Welch at 342-9005.



The Friends of William Byrd Park meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:00-8:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

(Contact Judy Howlett for info at 358-1797)

Gator Bag Reminder

If you're responsible for a gator bag, now is the time to bring them back out. And don't forget, they'll need to be maintained through the summer.

Mark Your Calendars!

2009 Upcoming Events:

- Neighborhood Beautification, **April 11th**, 10 am to noon
- Byrd Park Open House, **June 9th**, 6 pm to 9 pm, we will invite other associations and area groups
- National Night Out, **August 4th**, rain date scheduled for August 8th
- BPCL and city elections, **October 10th**, 10 am to noon
- Holiday Pot Luck at the Roundhouse, **December 12th**, 10 am to noon. Share your holiday wishes and favorite dish with friends and neighbors



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**Printing done by Uptown Color
1205 West Main St. 353-2679**