

September 2007

2007 Board

Stephanie Bolton
332 Parkway Street

Colette Hall (President)
101 Robertson Lane

Elvira Tate Hoskins
537 2nd Street N.E.

Mike Johnson
600 Northwood Avenue

Liz Jones
201 Hillcrest Road

Robert LeHeup (Treasurer)
806-D E. Jefferson Street

Ernie Reed
610 Farish Street

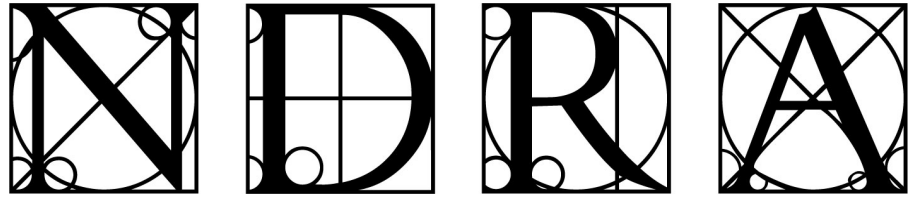
Ruth Stornetta (Vice President)
307-C 2nd Street N.W.

Debra Weiss
401 Hedge Street

Jill Williams (Secretary)
101 3rd Street S.E.

Diane Wilson
Wine Street

NDRA
PO Box 1739
Charlottesville, VA 22902
www.northdowntown.org



N E W S

The Newsletter of North Downtown



Celebrate another great year for North Downtown!

As summer turns to fall, NDRA starts planning for the annual North Downtown neighborhood picnic. This year's celebration will be **Sunday, September 16, from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. in Lee Park.** With the renovation of McGuffey Park well underway, we're meeting in a new location this year.

It's a time to celebrate the events of the past year, plan for the future, and enjoy the company of good friends and neighbors. For entertainment this year we have the **Concordia Quartet.**, a group of students from the Charlottesville High School Orchestra.

The treasury remains in good shape, so NDRA will provide lemonade, and pizza. Please bring a dessert or dish to share if you wish, and prepare to have a great time. Thanks to Hill & Wood's generous use of a tent, the event will go on rain or shine.

One official item of business is the **election for the NDRA board.** A nominations committee is currently assembling a slate of candidates, which will be formally presented for a vote at **3:00 P.M.**

Board members serve a two-year term, with half the board being elected each year. Current board members standing for re-election for another two-year term are Stephanie Bolton, Ernie Reed, and Ruth Stornetta. Nominees already identified for their first two-year term are Bernie Davis, of Wine Street, and Mark Kavitt of Altamont Street.

Fall is also **time to renew your membership** for the coming year. Check the mailing label on the back page—"October 2007" means your support is about to expire. Dues can be paid in person at the picnic, by mailing the form on page 4 with your payment, or on-line at our new web site. Your support is vitally important to the association, and ensures that this newsletter is distributed to the entire North Downtown.

Celebrate North Downtown with your neighbors on the 16th!



Pedestrian Access to McIntire Park in Jeopardy?

While the residents of North Downtown have been divided on the merits of the McIntire/250 Bypass Interchange, they've at least been encouraged by plans to provide pedestrian and bicycle access to McIntire Park. Two pedestrian bridges were proposed, one over 250 and one over the (future) Meadowcreek Parkway. Indeed, one of the "Purpose & Needs" of this project was pedestrian and bicycle access to the Park.

It now appears this goal may be in jeopardy. Because the 250 Bypass will be raised to cross over McIntire, due to the size and project costs the pedestrian bridge originally proposed to cross the Bypass west of McIntire has been removed from the project's "study area." Fortunately, plans still contain the second bridge, which would cross the future Parkway just north of the Bypass, but it will take citizen diligence to ensure that funding remains in place for that bridge if costs should escalate—as they inevitably seem to do for projects of this scale.

The proposed pedestrian and bicycle trail is designed to go under 250 but is long and winding, and once it enters the east section of the Park there is no connection over the railroad tracks to the west side of the Park.

For years, it appears the only use of the east end of the Park will be traffic on the Meadow Creek Parkway. Does that really meet the City's "Vision Statements"? Is the only use of the east end of the park destined to be traffic on the Meadowcreek Parkway?

More information on this project is available at www.250interchange.com.

Drought Conditions Persists

The City and County have recently declared a "Drought Warning" with mandatory water restriction. No lawn or shrub watering, no use of fountains or refilling pools, no home car washing or washing of sidewalks or pavement is allowed. There are monetary penalties for water misuse, and even the possibility of losing water service.

Yearly precipitation for this area is thirteen inches short of normal precipitation for the year. If we do not receive significant rainfall, an "Emergency Crisis" could be declared.

Let's work together to conserve this most vital and nonrenewable resource.

24-Hour Permit Parking Proposed

Currently, permit parking in North Downtown is in effect on weekdays only until 5:00 P.M., when residents are returning home and increasingly unable to find parking on their streets.

Due to the increase in parking on residential streets in the evening and weekends by patrons of entertainment venues and restaurants on and near the Mall, the City Traffic Engineer and NDRA are exploring a change on a few neighborhood streets to twenty-four hour permit parking, with an exemption on Sundays from 8:00 A.M.-NOON for churchgoers.

Streets being considered for 24-hour permit parking are 2nd Street N.E., 3rd Street N.E., Altamont Circle, Altamont Street, Hedge Street, North 1st Street, Park Plaza, Parkway Street, and Walker Lane. Residents on those streets are being asked whether they support 24-hour permit parking.

As part of its evaluation, the City will also conduct by the end of the year or in early 2008 an inventory of cars parked on these streets on a number of randomly days. For this effort, they need a listing of the residents' cars so as to distinguish between residents' cars and those of commuters and visitors.

This fall, NDRA board members and volunteers will deliver a permit parking form to each household on the impacted streets, gathering license plate numbers for the City and allowing residents to express their support or opposition to the initiative.

Take Back the Parks

While the renovation of McGuffey Park is well underway and due for completion this fall, some other parks have had their own ups and downs. Lee Park, in particular, saw a perceptible increase this year in vagrants and offensive behavior, prompting some residents to avoid the area. Other residents, however, vowed to actively "take back the park" by refusing to be intimidated by a few unpleasant characters.

The Charlottesville Police have done their part as well. A number of vagrants with repeated arrests for disorderly conduct in Lee Park have been banned from the Park by the District Court judge. Together, these efforts have paid off, and reports are that Lee Park is again a pleasant downtown oasis.

Director of the Year

The NDRA board made the first annual Director of the Year award at its August meeting, recognizing Robert LeHeup for his years on the board, service as treasurer, and as newsletter editor. In future years NDRA plans to also recognize a neighbor of the year for distinguished service to North Downtown.



On-line Dues Payment, New Web Site Debut

If you haven't looked at the NDRA web site in a while, take note of our new web address, www.northdowntown.org, and new look, which make their debut on September 16. The page has been completely redesigned to make it easier to update and to post more timely information. As part of the project, we are also allowing on-line renewal and dues payments via PayPal.

Downtown Calendar

Ongoing

Charlottesville City Council

First and Third Mondays of the month (Tuesday if the Monday is a holiday), 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall. Council meetings are also televised on cable Channel 10. Time is open at each meeting for speakers on subjects not listed on the agenda.

NDRA Monthly Meeting

Last Thursday of each Month (through 2007), 7:00 PM, Downtown Library. See schedule on page 4. **Note:** Meetings for 2008 are TBD.

Planning Commission

Second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall. The Planning Commission advises City Council on the City's comprehensive plan, including land use, transportation, community facilities and service, zoning, subdivision, capital programming, and other planning.

Board of Architectural Review

Third Tuesday of the month, 5:00 PM, Neighborhood Development Services Conference Room, City Hall. The BAR considers proposed construction in the Historic Preservation and Architectural Design Control District—which includes significant parts of North Downtown—to preserve and

protect old, historic or architecturally worthy structures, spaces and neighborhoods.

Charlottesville City Market

Saturdays through October, 7:00 AM-NOON, Water Street Parking Lot.

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Ongoing

NDRA Annual Picnic

September 16, 2:00-5:00 PM, Lee Park Neighbors, food, drink, and entertainment. Special performance by the Concordia Quartet, and elections for the NDRA board. Don't miss it!

13th Annual Spirit Walk

October TBA, Albemarle County Historical Society. Costumed guides lead downtown tours by lantern light on a seventy-five minute nighttime walking tour, encountering personalities from Charlottesville's past. Admission fee, reservations required. 296-1492, <http://albemarlehistory.org>

Kin Flicks: 20th Annual Virginia Film Festival

November 1-4, various venues. More than a hundred speakers and films will address popular and alternative images of family life, from classic film moms and dads to dysfunctional and alternative families. 924-FEST, www.vafilm.com

Jeffersonian Thanksgiving Festival

November 16-18, Jackson Park and Court Square. Multiple performances and activities offer up events as they were in Jefferson's day. 249-4032, www.jeffersonthanksgiving.org

First Night Virginia 2008

December 31, 2:30 PM-Midnight, various sites around the Mall. The nation's oldest first-night event celebrates its 25th anniversary with family oriented, alcohol-free community celebration of the arts. Offers 75 visual and musical performances in 24 different venues. Admission charge. 975-8269, www.firstnightva.org

Join the NDRA

From South Street and the Downtown Mall to the 250 Bypass, and from McIntire and Birdwood Roads in the east to Kelly Avenue in the west, North Downtown is the heart of Charlottesville. What voice do you have in its future?

The NDRA welcomes all residents of North Downtown as members. Annual dues are \$10 per household; make checks payable to NDRA. Please join us, either by submitting this form or on-line at www.northdowntown.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Check here if you prefer to be notified by e-mail when a newsletter is posted on-line **instead** of receiving a printed copy by mail.

Please mail to:
North Downtown Residents Association
PO Box 1739
Charlottesville VA 22902



CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

DO NOT FORWARD
CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

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We Need You to Renew Your Membership

This newsletter is sent to all the residents of North Downtown, making the support of those members who pay annual dues all the more important. Look at your address label below; if the date above your name is 2007—or if there’s no date at all—it’s time to show your support for the NDRA.

Only \$10 gets you the *NDRA News* and supports the association in its efforts to improve North Downtown. Dues are also used for supplies, postage, and the annual picnic. NDRA represents you before City Council, the Planning Commission, and other City committees. The Board President also sits on the Downtown Advisory Committee.

New this year is the ability to renew and pay dues on-line, though our new web site, www.northdowntown.org.

Newsletters Available On-Line

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter on-line? If so, you can help the NDRA save on printing and postage costs by letting us know, and we’ll send you an e-mail when each new edition of the *NDRA News* is posted to our web site, www.northdowntown.org. Our past newsletters are posted there as well. Check the box on the renewal form on Page 3, or note your preference when renewing on-line.

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2007-08 Meeting Schedule

NDRA meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. in one of the third-floor meeting rooms of the Downtown Library. All are welcome.

- September 16 - *Neighborhood Picnic*
- September 27
- October 25
- December 6
- 2008 meetings TBA; check web site for dates

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