

WEST AVENUE GAZETTE

VOLUME 69, TWO

APRIL 5, 2010

www.westave.org

Mayor: Alan "Marty" Martin
Vice-Mayor: Robert Smith

Secretary: Tim Feehan
Treasurer: Earle Morrison

CALENDAR

West Avenue Yard Sale – Saturday, April 10th 8:00am-12:00pm
Spring Membership Meeting – Monday, April 12th 7:30pm-9:00pm St. James Valentine Hall
Spring Alley Clean-Up – Saturday, April 17th 8:00am-12:00pm
Hot Dog Party – Saturday, April 17th 5:00pm-8:00pm
Spring Cocktail Party – Saturday, April 24th 6:00pm-8:00pm (place TBA)
70th Annual Garden Tour – Sunday, April 25th 1:00pm-5:00pm

Mayor's Message

Spring has truly sprung and the sounds of gardens getting ready for garden tour abound everywhere. I know all of you are busily preparing to open your gardens for the 70th Annual Garden Tour. I encourage all residents to also attend this year's spring meeting to be held at St. James' Valentine Hall Monday the 12th of April. A new slate of officers will be chosen along with a report from our treasurer Earle Morrison. I've heard that some residents don't understand where the dues and other funds gathered throughout the year by the association go toward. Come to the meeting and find out the details. We also get a report from Scott McLaughlin on the progress of this year's garden tour.

I want to extend a big thank you to Jimmy Keith of KeithFabry Reprographic Solutions on Grace Street for providing all the printing services for this year's garden tour posters, invitations, and garden open signs. This is typically a huge cost for the garden tour and I also want to thank Robert Smith for making this arrangement.

This is my last Gazette as your mayor and, once again, it has been a pleasure serving the neighborhood. I will remain on in the capacity of webmaster and as a liaison to the Fan District Association in our continued negotiations with VCU concerning future expansion. However, after five years of setting up and coordinating the Halloween activities, I think it is time to let someone else get involved in this neighborhood activity. If you are interested in taking on our second largest event, please contact me at martymartin@comcast.net.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me throughout my term but I would especially like to thank my beautiful wife, Dorothea. This past year has truly been a team effort and she has definitely been my right hand.

AJM

Yard Sale

The neighborhood yard sale will be this Saturday, April 10th from 8am to 12pm. Signs will be posted directing people to the neighborhood and advertising will also be posted. A contribution of \$5 or 10% of your proceeds will be collected from each participating household. Dorothea Martin will be this year's tax collector, so watch for her, and please don't run. So clean out those basements and attics. Remember, one's man's junk is another man's treasure.

Alley Cleanup

D. Walton (1507 West Avenue) is, once again, coordinating the spring alley cleanup. Everyone please meet in D's back yard at 8am, Saturday, April 17th for coffee and donuts. Bring your brooms, rakes, etc. and help us tidy up the alley before the tour. D has arranged with the city for a garbage truck to escort the cleanup crew. This is the one time you can get them to take just about anything. Earle Morrison will be distributing water and other thirst quenchers to the cleanup participants. We have always had great participation by the neighborhood

children and this year D will be awarding one child a special golden broom award. The award will be announced and presented at that evening's hot dog party. The accounting firm of Dewey, Cheatum, and Howe will carefully tally the selection votes.

Hot Dog Party

The post alley cleanup hot dog party will be held behind Earle Morrison's house at 1302 Park Avenue from 5 to 8pm, Saturday, April 17th. Everyone is invited to attend this association funded event. And don't forget that the inaugural award of the children's golden broom award will be happening.

Spring Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

This year's spring cocktail party is being held at the home of Sarah and Chairs Porter. Please extend your thanks to both of them for opening their lovely home for this event. Elizabeth McLaughlin and Lili O'Brien will be this year's hostesses. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and your libation of choice; a bartender will be provided. Winners of the garden tour will be announced and receive their awards. There will also be the annual silent auction where you can bid a plethora of coveted items. This year Andrea Erda and Suzanne Carley are chairing the committee to get together items and organize the auction. If you have items to donate or can help solicit items for the auction, please contact them. Andrea can be contacted at afishindc@aol.com and Suzanne at suzecarley@gmail.com. In the past, neighbors have donated bike tours, horseback riding, clothing, jewelry, and other items. Also, neighbors have secured certificates from their favorite restaurants. So please consider how you can help make this a success. This is the number one fund raiser for the association that helps pay for all the events you enjoy on the street.

Garden Tour Signup



The 70th tour is just around the corner; please open your garden for judging on Saturday, April 24th and for the tour Sunday, April 25th. A garden tour sign-up sheet is attached this gazette and is also available for download on the website in the members area. Turn your completed signup sheet into Scott McLaughlin at 1124 West Avenue. If you have the means to do so, you may also send it to him electronically at scottmcsemail@gmail.com.

Garden Judging

This year's judging of gardens will be Saturday, April 24th starting at 8am. I encourage you all to have your gardens judged. Our judges come from varying backgrounds and offer helpful tips on improving your garden – for free! The Gillette criterion, developed for the WAIA by renowned Virginia landscape architect Charles Gillette, is used for the judging guideline. The criterion can be downloaded from the WAIA website in the members section.

The Garden Tour

The garden tour events open with the children's parade beginning at noon on Sunday, April 25th. Allison Kent and Christine Levy is coordinating the children's activities. They will be putting out a flyer prior to the tour announcing what activities will be available directly following the parade. The tour officially begins at 1pm. Please open your gardens for all to enjoy even if you choose not to have them judged. Remember this is the 70th annual tour so, please help make this year's one of the best!

VCU Intercultural Festival

VCU has requested that the surrounding neighborhoods participate in this festival as part of the community village. The event is Sunday April 10th from 2 to 6pm in Monroe Park. Robert and Heather Smith are in charge of setting up the WAIA booth but are in need of volunteers to assist. If you are willing to help man the booth and help promote our neighborhood please contact Robert or Heather. Robert can be contacted at rsmith@investdavenport.com and Heather at hsmith@investdavenport.com.

E-Cycling Event

The City of Richmond is holding an e-cycling event Saturday, April 17th from 9am to 2pm. Most anything with a plug is accepted at no charge, but a \$7 Charge will be collected for televisions. Televisions require special handling due to the leaded glass and mercury they contain.

1710 Robin Hood Road (The Diamond baseball field, at the Boulevard across from Bill's BBQ)

Visit www.cvwma.com often to check for updates on other e-cycling dates.

New Neighbors

Please welcome our new neighbors:

Scott and Anna Reed and their son Freddy who just turned 1 on March 1140 West Avenue

Membership Form

Yes, I want to support and be a member of the WAIA. Enclosed is cash or a check (made payable to WAIA) for annual dues in the amount of \$20.00.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone/E-Mail: _____

Please mail or hand deliver to:
Earle Morrison
1302 Park Avenue

GARDEN TOUR SIGN-UP SHEET

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____

Please check all that apply:

Please judge my:

_____ Front yard _____ Backyard _____ Treebox

During the past, year improvements have been made to my:

_____ Front yard _____ Backyard _____ Treebox

Please describe improvements:

_____ My garden will be open, but do not judge it

Please return your completed form to 1135 West Avenue.

Note: In order for your garden to appear in the tour brochure, please return this form no later than Thursday, April 24th. Thank you for participating in this year's tour.