

February 2007 Events

Engineers and architects from Odell were on campus in February as the first step in developing an **infrastructure assessment and master plan** for the Villa's 82-acre campus. Practically all buildings on campus were constructed in the late 1920s and early 1930s, and Odell's work will provide a roadmap for making sure that the Villa's facilities remain in such good condition.

Top: Odell Associate Sandy Shield makes a point at the **kickoff meeting**, as Villa CEO Kathleen Barrett (in red) and Villa COO Cindy Faison (right) listen. Odell met with a Villa team comprised of senior staff and Trustees.



Bottom: The Odell team led a discussion in the **Dooley School auditorium** on how that space could be restored and used by Villa services as a community resource.



The Playroom, a new indoor amusement park for children, opened its new location on February 1 and offered half-price admission for people bringing in a new school supply to benefit the Villa's Lewis Children's Center. The drive lasted from February 1st through February 12th and yielded (among other things) 84 boxes of Crayons, 79 glue sticks, 27 bottles of glue, 56 boxes of pencils and 60 notebooks or reams of paper. The Playroom is located at 9544 Woodman Road. Please stop by and let them know how much you appreciate their helping St. Joseph's Villa!

The Richmond Academy of Medicine Alliance Foundation held a gala preview of its Art and Antiques Show on February 8. The Villa's Day Support and Respite Services' summer camp is one of the beneficiaries of the weekend show, and each year R.A.M.A. donates thousands of dollars to provide a summer camp experience to children challenged by autism, mental retardation and other leading and developmental disabilities.

Thank you, R.A.M.A., for your continuing support of this important program!



At its February 8 dinner meeting, the **West Richmond Businessmen's Association** presented St. Joseph's Villa with a check for \$5,000 to support the Villa's programs. The funds will be used to provide after-school programs to children from low-income families.

Pictured: Earl Morris, WRBA President, and Bruce Cauthen.

As part of its celebration of Black History Month, St. Joseph's Villa invited the **Debate Team from Community High School** to hold a debate at the Villa on February 14. The debate question? Whether or not Virginia's General Assembly should issue an apology for slavery. Students from several schools on campus packed the staff dining room to hear both sides of the issue.



A benefit for St. Joseph's Villa was held at the **Crossroads Art Gallery** on Friday, February 16. The event was a huge success, raising several hundred dollars for the Villa and giving us the opportunity to tell hundreds of new friends about what we do.

If you would like someone from St. Joseph's Villa to come and speak to your group, please call Bruce Cauthen at 553-3318.



Another wonderful Black History Month event took place when the **Huguenot High Jazz Band** visited the Villa on February 21. The band played for more than a half hour and gave Villa students (and staff!) a wonderful introduction to many jazz styles.

Thanks for visiting us! Come back any time!



The Villa's "**Love Affair With Jazz**" was held on February 22 and raised more than \$1,500 to support the music program at the Dooley School. Funds will be used to rent guitars and to provide lessons to interested students.

A couple of years ago, the Villa's Board of Trustees identified a need for increased arts programming in Villa schools. The Villa now provides performing arts education through SPARC and visual arts with interns from VCU.



Dooley School at Cherokee, the Villa's elementary school for children with a variety of learning disabilities, held a **9-Week Celebration** on Friday, February 23. Students, staff and family members enjoyed ice cream and treats in honor of the students' accomplishments.

Dooley School at Cherokee provides educational services to higher functioning students with autism, emotional disorders, learning disabilities and other disabilities who are working toward transitioning back to a lesser restrictive environment

Upcoming Events at the Villa

March 8 – Asperger's Syndrome Support Group. Meets from 4:00 to 5:00 at Brook Road Academy on the main Villa campus (8000 Brook Road). This month, group members will share their favorite AS-focused resource (book, web site, etc.). For more information, please contact Nancy Toscano at 553-3267.

March 21 – Open House at Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. Come see the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism and learn about the program that combines vocational and life skills education with academic programs. 3 pm and 7 pm at the Sarah Dooley Center on the main Villa campus (8000 Brook Road). Space limited; please call Tameka Henderson at 200-1601 to make a reservation.

April 3 and 17 – Applebee's Night to Benefit Commonwealth Autism Service. Dine at Applebee's on April 3 and 17, and 15% of your bill will go to Commonwealth Autism Service, the Villa's partner in the new Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. Contact Commonwealth Autism Service at 355-0300 or visit www.autismva.org for more information.

April 12 – Nonprofit Job Fair. St. Joseph's Villa hosts a job fair featuring more than a dozen nonprofit organizations from 10 am until 4 pm on Thursday, April 12. For more information, please contact Michelle Eichorn at meichorn@sjvmail.net.

May 11 – Thirteenth Annual Hoedown. Join the Lonesome River Band for an evening of food, fun and music. Benefits Flagler Home. Call Katie Chandler at 261-6142 or email kchandler@sjvmail.net for ticket information.

May 14 – Genworth Foundation Golf Tournament. PGA professional John Rollins, his friends from the Tour and a special guest, LPGA legend Juli Inkster, spend a day playing golf with area teams to raise money for St. Joseph's Villa. At the Country Club of Virginia's River and Creek Courses. Note: All teams have been sold, but there are a couple of sponsorships still available, and each sponsorship includes a team. Call Katie Chandler at 261-6142 or email kchandler@sjvmail.net for more information.