The VA Hornets: Richmond's "best kept secret"

By Tiffany Satchell
Staff Writer

The Virginia Hornets Minor League Football team, a non-profit that has been in existence for 13 years, is searching for a home and they have their eyes on the City Stadium that will soon be vacant.

Darryl Bradley, the team’s general manager, spoke before Richmond City Council recently in hopes of gaining their support for this effort.

“That venue (City Stadium) has been used for 80 years for playing football and it is our desire to continue that tradition,” he said.

Bradley went on to explain that the city “has lost a baseball team, a hockey team, and two arena football teams, but we are still here,” he said.

The team considers itself to be the city’s best-kept secret because not many Richmonders know of the national champions. Aside from playing professional football, the Hornets have helped in the community by volunteering with area causes and with the Virginia Special Olympics. The team has also sponsored food drives taking in donations for the Central Virginia Food Bank.

The Virginia Hornets, Bradley says, is designed as a “Second Chance” program for the players. It offers youth mentoring, job placement, assistance with completing resumes and with completing financial aid application for college.

Hornet players are taught strong family values, the importance of education, self-discipline, sportsmanship, teamwork, and responsibility for one’s own action.

After completing the program some have continued a successful path. Thirteen players were placed in the Arena Football League and seven went on to play football on college teams.

For more information on the Virginia Hornets, visit www.virginiahornets.com.

Richmond teens to take hammers to the proverbial glass ceiling

Across Richmond, teen girls working in conjunction with Partnership for the Future (PFF) will be taking hammers to the glass ceiling in commercial real estate by participating in an all-day workshop and training session on July 31 in the newly restored mixed use Miller and Rhoads development in downtown Richmond. Planners say that the all day program is designed to introduce these young high school girls to the many careers available to women in commercial real estate.

CREW Careers: Building Opportunities® was developed by CREW Foundation, the philanthropic arm of CREW Network, and is designed to encourage more women to pursue careers in commercial real estate, which traditionally has been a male-oriented profession.

“Our goal is to have these exceptional young ladies, who will be matriculating to college in the fall, consider the broad spectrum of professions that make up the industry. The industry will need a pipeline of diverse, innovative and resourceful professionals to help identify opportunities that will be inherent in the challenges that the industry will face,” said 2009 CREW Careers Chair Monique Johnson, who is Community Housing Officer with VHDA.

In Richmond, approximately 22 girls from PFF will be introduced to the many professions in commercial real estate by a panel of senior level commercial real estate women active in such disciplines as real estate law, financing, construction, title insurance, commercial leasing, interior design, engineering and architecture discussing their various roles in successful real estate development.

“Education and exposure are the best hammers to shatter the myth that commercial real estate is an industry best suited for men,” said Johnson, joined in that statement by Charleita Richardson, president and CEO of PFF.

** Citizen Spotlight **

Lillian Burney-Mason

Lillian Burney-Mason graduated with the distinguished honors of Summa Cum Laude and President’s Honor Roll from Freedom Bible College and Seminary. Graduation exercises were held in Rogers, Arkansas, on June 12, 2009.

Dr. Burney-Mason received her doctorate degree in Biblical Counseling/ Psychology. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled Genetic Engineering Technology: The Moral, Ethical and Legal Impact in a Contemporary Society, for which she is seeking publication.

Both she and her husband, Wayne are members of Centralia Presbyterian Church (PCA), located in Chester, where Rev. Dan Lipford serves as pastor.

The Masons are directors of the young adult ministry. Their focus is on preserving the legacy and future of positive, practical, and plain doctrinal teaching, apologetics, and evangelism.

Dr. Burney-Mason’s future plans involve post-doctoral work in the area of Christian Apologetics and Religious Research. She is employed with the Chesterfield County Public School System, and the couple resides in Jarratt, Va.