

GATE CITY ON-LINE

Have you checked out www.gatecity2.com? It's the newest and hottest Masonic website on the 'net! Your Editor is not qualified to give a thorough and meaningful review of the site, but it is quite impressive. From the home page one can go to a gallery of photographs (we need some Gate City pictures), the store (Gate City t-shirts, and more coming), a page for donations to causes in which we have an interest, a calendar, the 1980 History of Gate City, a link to issues of *The Trestle Board* (we especially liked that one, but the link to the July issue didn't work), a forum for discussion of Gate City and other Masonic matters ... and probably more I haven't yet found!

Our Lodge's latest point of pride was developed by Brit and Richard Turner. They have produced a stunningly beautiful and useful website. Gate City Lodge No. 2 is fortunate to have such talented designers and dedicated workers in our ranks. Well done, Bros. Brit and Richard! (And we thought their talents were limited to music!)

[For the September issue we solicit someone better able than we to do a review and describe the site and its features. – Ed.]

GATE CITY TO INSTALL MARBLE FLOOR

A major renovation of the south Lodge room is about to take place at the initiative of Gate City Lodge. It looks as though a new tessellated marble and granite floor will be installed by about mid-August, according to Bro. SW **Beaux Pettys**, who has taken the lead in getting the work done. Last Spring, after extensive discussion, it was concluded that the current shag carpet is not conducive to conveying the solemn and impressive message of Freemasonry, and that it should be replaced. A verbal "go-ahead" was received from the Temple Company.

Other changes planned to complement the new floor will involve changing the color of the walls and installation of a new carpet for the risers. WB **John Guest**, who has a design firm, is developing a plan for the color scheme. If the Temple Company approves the plans, as expected, work will begin soon.

WB John has also volunteered to follow through on a previously recognized need, a new State flag for the Lodge room.

LODGE LOOKING AT GROUNDS, TOO

Another item the Lodge is committed to doing is the planting around the Masonic center. This topic came up at the time of discussing the floor, because, as one member so-delicately put it, "the grounds looked so ratty!" Later in the Spring, however, the building manager got the yard done, so Gate City did not do the planting. Still, it is felt that we need to follow through on planting the pots and urns and filling beds that should have flowers. Bro. SS **Walter Bishop** has been appointed to chair the follow-through. Bro. Walter claims he's "not a plant guy", but we all know he is "an action guy", and we are looking forward to helping make our meeting place even more of a beautiful place.

Meeting Notice

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on August 9, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on September 13, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

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OFFICERS TO GET NEW JEWELS

Bro. JS **Matt Paller** says he couldn't help but notice that while the officers are attired in new aprons, some of the their jewels do not complement the white aprons – some are bent or broken, while others are held on their suspension ropes with safety pins. That observation has motivated the Lodge to order new jewels. WB **Tom Lawrence**, our Secretary, is in the process of obtaining new jewels for the officers.

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DDGM HOLT SPEAKS OF DECORUM

WB **John Holt**, DDGM, always a welcome guest at Gate City, brought a message from the Grand Lodge on July 26, admonishing Lodges that comments, catcalls and confusion from the sidelines is not appropriate in the conferral of degrees. He noted that Gate City has not been guilty of such, but that some Lodges about the state have been.

As far as is known, the atmosphere in our Lodge during the conferral of degrees has always been one of solemnity and dignity. WB Holt's comments were well put and we think Gate City can stand on our time-honored practices.

TURNER DONATES BARTER CREDITS

Bro. **Brit Turner** has given the Lodge approximately \$8,000 worth of credits in a barter organization. It has been noted that the offerings up for barter include a couple of tuxedo companies, so it is thought that we might use some of the credits to obtain tuxedos for incoming officers or for others who want to dress for degrees in the traditional Gate City manner. Many thanks, Bro. Turner!

INVESTIGATIONS TO BE QUICKER

A copier has been donated to Gate City, to be used to make copies of petitions to be given to appointed investigation committees immediately after the meeting in which they are appointed. This will speed up investigations, not to mention making them more thorough, as committee members will be able to start right away, rather than waiting for the Secretary to make and mail copies of the petitions.

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DONATIONS FOR OFFICER'S FAMILY

Bro. **Mike Bjelagac** feels that donors may still want to give money to the family of Officer Mark Cross. We would like to facilitate that, channeling the donation through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, a 501-C3 corporation.

Young Men, Fresh Ideas, New Leaders

Gate City Lodge in 2005!

TWO ENTER S.R. TOURNAMENT

Two of our members, Bro. SW **Beaux Pettys** and WB **David Johnston**, will be competing in the Scottish Rite sponsored Tournament of Champions this year. The Lodge will not field a team to compete in the opening and closing rituals this year.

GATE CITY E-MAIL

Richard Turner, co-Webmaster of our new site, advises that our members are eligible to sign up to receive a personal "yourname@gatecity2.com" email address! These addresses can be checked from the web at <http://www.gatecity2.com/mail> from any computer, anywhere! Likewise they can be checked through the site at the left-hand side of most any of the webpages. To get your own custom email name, submit the name to Richard at richt@one3.com, and he will set it up.

LODGE CONSIDERING XMAS TREE LOT

WM **Joe Brooks** is looking for a chairman and a committee to plan a Lodge Christmas tree lot. He notes there is a lot to be done to bring the idea to fruition. A written plan has to be prepared, covering approvals for using the parking lot, funding of inventory, commitment of workers, signage and advertising, necessary permits, clearance for a purely charitable venture (though in a commercial setting), and a plan for dealing with complaints, (for example, from competitors). A projection of the income and a plan for its use has already been requested.

LODGE DATABASE IN USE

WM **Joe Brooks** has undertaken a big task, preparation of a database of the members of Gate City, from data provided by the Grand Lodge. It is now ready for additional info from individuals, and at the July 26 meeting each member present was given an Individual Data Sheet, with the information provided added to the system.

WB Joe notes that there is a lot of potential for the database, such as phone lists for committees and volunteer lists to help brethren get to Lodge. Bro. Brit Turner thinks he can enable access to the data through the website, and how to accomplish that securely is now being worked on. .