



Southampton Citizens Association

P.O. Box 11347
Richmond, VA 23230

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Mark Your Calendars!

Southampton Citizens Association

Meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7:15 p.m., at Southampton Recreation Association, 3201 Chellowe Rd.

- **Tuesday, February 19** - Urchie Ellis, History of SCA and Southampton area
- **Tuesday, March 18** - Ms. Bennett, Southampton School
- **Tuesday, April 15**

Huguenot Neighborhood Team

Meets the first Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m., Bon Air Library, Rattlesnake Rd.

4th District Update

February 13th, 7 p.m., Southampton Baptist Church
Cherokee and Chellowe
Blight prevention, property maintenance, code enforcement,
and the CAPS program.

**For updated listings go
to www.scarichmond.com.**



Over The Fence

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 19

Long time neighbor Urchie Ellis will share the history of the Southampton Citizens Association and Southampton Area. 7:15 p.m., at Southampton Recreation Assoc., 3201 Chellowe Rd.

Membership Drive Underway

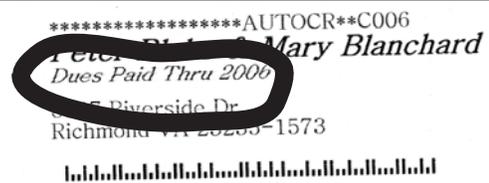
It is membership renewal time. If you haven't joined or renewed your membership, now is a good time to join. We hope you'll consider the value of your membership and join us in 2008 to accomplish important work for our neighborhood. Please consider the following.

- One of the biggest issues facing our neighborhood is the construction of the new Huguenot Bridge. SCA has been working hard with VDOT and elected officials, with good results, to advocate for a bridge that does the job while maintaining the beauty and serenity of our neighborhood. Important, too, is to make sure that our interests are served during the long and disruptive building process. *Your membership can help us do that!*
- *Your membership makes our voice stronger!* We communicate regularly with our elected officials and city and state agencies on proposed development, roadwork, crime, and issues affecting the ambiance and character of our neighborhood.
- *Your membership helps us to address area issues!* We've worked hard to reduce speeds in our neighborhood, improve police presence and keep big trucks off Cherokee Road. As the Shops at Stratford Hills were developed, we were a strong voice for sensible development so we have an attractive development in our neighborhood.
- *We are keeping the neighborhood alerted to new developments, city services and activities.* Through our newsletter, e-group, and website, scarichmond.com, we are keeping the neighborhood alerted to new developments, city services and activities.
- Membership is only \$15 a year for the whole family. For a limited time pay \$25 and your dues are covered for 2008 and 2009.

If you have any membership questions, please call Jeanne Dorman at 267-5685. We look forward to your membership. You won't regret this investment in our neighborhood.

Take Another Look

Your address label indicates the year of paid membership. This information is located below your name.



2008 Southampton Citizens Association Membership Form

Membership \$15 per year. For a limited time pay \$25 and your dues are covered for 2008 and 2009.

Your dues secure membership for the calendar year in which you paid. Your address label will indicate this.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____ E-Mail (for alerts) _____

Make checks payable to Southampton Citizens Association.

Mail to SCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 11347, Richmond, VA 23230.

November 16, 2007

Mr. Steve McNeely, Project Manager
VDOT Richmond District
2430 Pine Forest Drive
Colonial Heights, VA 23834-9002

Dear Mr. McNeely:

On behalf of the Southampton Citizens Association, we would like to thank VDOT for their informative presentation at the Bon Air Elementary School for replacement of the Huguenot Bridge this week. The VDOT staff was extremely helpful in providing our association with the necessary information on the bridge replacement in order for our board to submit recommendations to your office.

The Board of Directors of the Southampton Citizens Association respectfully would ask that you consider the following recommendations for review.

1. The overall design elements of the new bridge are acceptable and attractive. We urge VDOT to recognize the sensitive and natural ambiance of the James River and the southern approach that is connected to the James River Park System along Riverside Drive. We would like for you to consider limiting the height of the concrete knee wall that the railings sit on to ensure that the natural elements of the river are not overly obstructed. We would also encourage the design element of the concrete piers include a brick relief implant that would be similar to the recently constructed bridges in Occoquan and West Point. We would hope that any design elements such as lighting, paint, structural materials and railings, be incorporated so as not to detract from the natural surroundings. We would also request that the center lines of the bridge include some type of grooving or rumble strip to make motorists more aware if they are crossing the line into oncoming traffic. To any extent that we could have further input into the aesthetic design elements as the project moves forward, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity.
2. One of our greatest concerns is that VDOT will fail to recognize the importance of the southern end of the Huguenot Bridge. The exit and entry ramps are gateways to one of the City's most diverse and attractive public areas – the James River Park System. We want to be assured that the areas along the entry ramps are landscaped to enhance this natural beauty. We would strongly object to any type of fencing that would surround the retention basin as shown to the west of the bridge. We would look to you to explore native plantings that would more reflect the natural wetland feel and look. We would also expect that any temporary construction staging areas be restored to a natural state with native plantings and trees.
3. We understand that there will be minimal closing of traffic during the construction of the new bridge and recognize that there will be disruptions to the traffic patterns and traffic flow. We would expect that VDOT would be proactive in providing the affected neighborhoods and major thoroughfares with adequate notice through signage that provides us with information on upcoming closures and changes in traffic patterns.
4. We fully expect VDOT to be aggressive on maintaining controls on trucks and construction traffic to ensure that truck wash stations are maintained and enforced so as not to create a mud slick on our roads during wet periods. We would also expect controls for dust during the dry periods. This area along Riverside Drive is very popular for walking, running, biking and leisure activities and we would ask that VDOT be sensitive to those needs and activities during the construction period.

In closing, we are very excited about the project that we have been awaiting for many years. We would hope that VDOT could move aggressively with the final design, bidding and construction so as to ensure the reality of the project. We would like to see the timetable moved up if at all possible, now that funding is in place. We would like to thank you again for allowing us to be involved in this very important project and we look forward to continuing our discussions and working with VDOT towards a successful completion of the project.

Sincerely:

Jeffrey W. Donahue
President
Southampton Citizens Association

Dear Neighbor,

Southampton Recreation Association is a fun and vital part of your community, and we want you to join! In many ways a hidden gem, the SRA provides one of the best values in family recreation to be found in the Richmond area, and it is just minutes from your home.

We have two full size pools and two wading pools which are open from Memorial to Labor Day. We also have adult socials during the summer and a great July 4th Party that's fun for all ages. In 2007, we added a water slide to the lower pool and there's plenty of pool deck for getting a good tan, as well as a snack bar and family nights with good food.

If you have children (or even grandchildren!) ages 5 to 17, we have one of the best swimming programs in the Richmond area. It's the perfect place to learn to swim, to compete and also to have a great time. We have one the James River Aquatics Club championship many times and we area still a growing program - and we want you!

We have six very nice outdoor tennis courts. Our adult tennis program is going strong and we will be offering children's lessons this summer.

SRA also has an indoor ice rink which is open from December 1 to early March. This is a unique and growing offering no other club in our area can match. Ice time is readily available free of charge to members and we offer children and adult lessons as well as an up and coming kids hockey program. We end the season with our own Ice Revue.

During the summer, we also offer a variety of short term kids programs to members depending on their interests - including soccer, tennis, and basketball camps as well as other indoor activities.

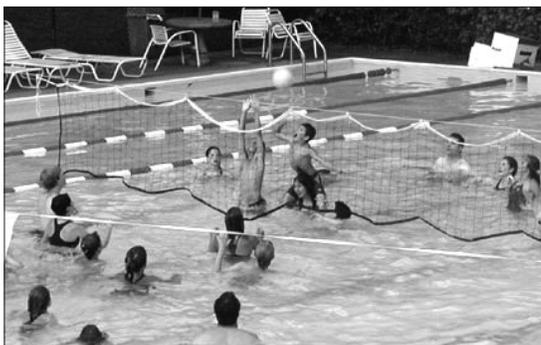
However, perhaps the best thing about the SRA is that while it has been a club for over 50 years, it is still both a family atmosphere as well as a group that welcomes new members. It has a very easy going atmosphere and with several acres, it has a nice open space to relax and enjoy. We are here for YOU.

Our membership has been growing the last few years and at this point there is no waiting list. We encourage you to consider joining now while that is still the case. If you want to come and check out the club, give us a call at 272-7401 to set up a tour.

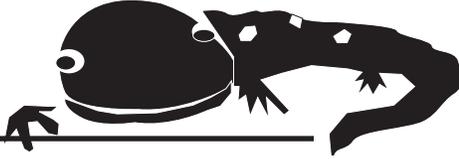
For details about membership, please call or visit our web site at www.sra-fun.org.

Best regards,

Al Yancey
President



Salamander Love



On a cold rainy February night driving down Riverside Drive, you might find that you can not drive between Rockfalls Drive and the Pony Pasture. February is the month Park Naturalist Ralph White starts nightly closings of this part of Riverside to allow spotted salamanders to mate without the risk of being run over. If everything goes right the spotted salamander will emerge, mate, and lay eggs.

Warming temperatures and heavy rains during late winter call the salamanders to their breeding grounds, ephemeral ponds, floodplain swamps, marshes and bogs. The male usually appears several days ahead depositing a sperm capsule which the female must pick up. She will then lay her eggs soon after.

This year Joy Ware, a professor at VCU, is working with a student whose thesis involves studying disease and impotence in urban salamanders versus rural salamanders. Salamanders in our wetlands and Bryan Park will make up the urban population, and those found at the Rice Center, Chicahominy Park and Harrison Lake Fish Hatchery will make up the rural population. They hope to retrieve DNA material using a swab run over the salamander's body to look for disease. They will reveal the study's findings at a later date. Stay tuned.

Friends of Fourth District School Update

In December the Friends of Fourth District Schools held their annual fundraiser. The group raised over \$1,200 towards fourth district's teacher wish lists. This includes Westover Hills, Southampton and Fisher Elementary, Thompson and Lucille Brown Middle and Huguenot High School.

Zoning in the fourth district will be a key focus in 2008. They are working on forming informational and fun parents groups for children under 5. They also plan on establishing parents guides for school related information like SOLs, Open Enrollment, transportation, and other education-related topics to help parents navigate through Richmond Public Schools.

They are looking for volunteers to help with these initiatives. Contact Friends of Fourth District Schools at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/districtfourschools>.



Open Enrollment February 8th

The deadline for open enrollment for Richmond Public Schools has passed. This applies to those applying to schools out of their zone. Neighborhood students do not need to *apply* to their neighborhood schools. Those who applied to Open Enrollment schools will be notified April 4th.

Pre-k registration begins March 20th. Both Fisher and Southampton have pre-k programs.



Uniquely Southampton Nokomis Shed

Walking or driving down Nokomis Road you might have spotted a unique little house set in the backyard of a brick rancher in the middle of the block.

When the rancher was on the market the broker's information sheet described the out-building as an example of a (pre-fab) Czechoslovakian 4 person home from the 1964 World's Fair that had been won by a past owner. Judging from its size, this is probably a scaled down version.

The current owner, Diane, bought the house four years ago. She has done some work to the shed, including adding a new door and painting the interior and exterior. It has 3 rooms and a crawl space, and currently is used as a craft and storage area.

Possibly because Czechoslovakia was still an occupied country in 1964, our attempts to verify or find any other information on it came up blank.

If anyone in the neighborhood knows anything about it, please send an email to southampton_neighbors@yahoo.com and let us know. (An e-mail link can also be found on the SCA website)

Mark Your Calendars

Southampton
Riverfest 2008
Wicked River
Run/Walk 5K
is June 7th.



Want to help this year?
Contact Mary Blanchard
272-5959
or 1mblanchard@comcast.net

Area Activity

information provided by Huguenot Team

1. The Stony Point Shopping Center (Huguenot Rd. and Forest Hill Ave.) has requested permission to erect a sign on Huguenot Road to allow great visibility for the shops in the center. The request will be discussed at the next Huguenot Team Meeting. Other news at the center...recently a work-out facility (gym) opened. At this point, most of the space at the center is leased.
2. CVS (on Forest Hill Ave.—next to Food-Lion) is in discussions to build a free-standing unit at Hathaway and Forest Hill (where Flowerama currently is situated). Look for movement on this in the next couple of months.
3. Rite Aid pharmacy is under contract (but has yet to approve the purchase) to build a free-standing unit at the intersection of Cherokee Rd. and Forest Hill Ave. In addition to the old Citgo site, the developer is also under contract for the land behind the service station. They are tentatively proposing (if approved by Rite Aid) to build the pharmacy and several dozen units of “affordable” housing. A Community Unit Plan will be needed to proceed with this development.
4. DILLIGAF Tattoo Shop has purchased the old cleaners at the intersection of Cherokee Rd. and Forest Hill Ave. They plan to move the tattoo shop to this more visible location. The shop is currently in the Stratford Hills shopping center—in a less visible location.
5. Tropical Smoothie Cafe is currently in contract discussions with the center near the Wawa (Forest Hill—where AT&T and Little Caesar’s is located) to open a cafe in the center.
6. The Wendy’s (in front of the Wal-mart/Lowes Center) abruptly closed for business a week or so ago.

And if you have not heard there is a new wine shop in the Stratford Hills Shopping Center, Once Upon a Vine South.

Huguenot Neighborhood Team

Meets the first Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m., Bon Air Library, Rattlesnake Rd.



New on the Website

In order to serve our community of animal owners, we have added a lost/found pet site. Send lost or found pet information to southhampton_neighbors@yahoo. A low resolution .jpg can be sent as well.

A soon to come addition is the Help Out link. Neighbors and students can soon check out this sight to find volunteer opportunities in the community. If you have information to post send it to southhampton_neighbors@yahoo. We are looking for park clean up, library volunteer opportunities, or schools needing help to post on this site.

Richmond Police Need Our Help!

Richmond Police report a series of car break-ins around the city over the past several months. Several took place in and around Riverside Drive and James River Park.

Police and Park officials emphasize that the parks are safe, and that only one break-in has occurred since the first of the year, but they also realize that many offenses are not reported.

The Police ask that all break-ins and robberies be reported, no matter how small the loss. They also ask that we call the dispatcher at 646-5100 if we see anything suspicious.

What’s suspicious?

- Someone walking along and looking into each car he passes.
- Someone entering several cars, locked or unlocked.
- (Obviously) Someone breaking into a car.

Don’t confront an offender. Call the police!

We can also contact Sector Lieutenant Sybil El-Amin at 646-1944 (for the western part of the Fourth District) Sybil.El-Amin@richmondgov. or Lieutenant Scott Booth at 646-1945, Scott.Booth@richmondgov.com

The SCA Board

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Jeff Donahue, 272-0978
7615 Piney Branch Rd.

Vice President

Mary Blanchard, 272-5959
8847 Riverside Dr.

Treasurer

Sue Stewart, 272-2175
8143 Riverside Dr.

Secretary

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8954 Cherokee Rd.

Elizabeth Bolin, 560-5408
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John Cardwell, 330-3675
7424 Tanglewood Rd.

Jeanne Dorman 267-5685
Rivercrest Rd.

Gregory Garrison 347-2905
7126 Shawnee Rd.

Dick Grinnan, 320-6434
8811 Riverside Drive

Jean Marie Hay, 272-7031
3450 Custis Rd.

Wendy Inge, 560-0016
4317 Wakefield Rd.

Bob Scott, 320-0007
3838 Cheverly Rd.

Jonathan Young, 320-4251
8511 Waxford Rd.

Bert Waters, 323-0618
7751 Rockfalls Dr.

Located above the John Smith Trail sign, as you leave



the southend of the Huguenot Bridge is Richmond’s 2007 storm ready sign. Richmond achieved this designation in August. Sponsored by the National Weather Service this sign indicates Richmond will be better prepared when severe weather strikes.