



Southampton Citizens Association
P.O. Box 11347
Richmond, VA 23230

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SCA Membership Registration

Membership in the Southampton Citizens Association is only \$15 per year. Please join today!

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____
E-mail Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> If you're interested in getting more involved with your neighborhood citizens association, please check this box and someone will contact you.

Make checks payable to Southampton Citizens Association.
Mail to SCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 11347, Richmond, VA 23230 (please note new address).



Over the Fence

The Newsletter of the Southampton Citizens Association Spring 2006

President's Message

Dear Neighbor,

It's time, once again, for us to ask you to help your association keep working for our community. Just by living in Southampton and Stratford Hills, you benefit from our efforts to preserve and improve the livability, economic value and welfare of our neighborhoods. By sending your \$15 annual dues, you help us communicate with over 2,600 households we represent, and to do a variety of other things, such as Riverfest, our annual family event. Your contribution also enables you to receive our new broadcast e-mails for SCA meeting reminders and other timely SCA information.

To help us support our neighborhoods, please send your annual dues today – only \$15 per household per calendar year.

Thank you,

Frank Dorman, SCA President

Summary of SCA's Annual Report Year 2004-2005

Transportation Safety

Having led the effort to prevent a traffic signal from being installed at Huguenot and Cherokee roads, the SCA supported Councilwoman Graziano's work to make the intersection safer with concrete islands that made stop signs more visible and less vulnerable to being knocked over.

We worked with Ms. Graziano and the city to synchronize Forest Hill Avenue's traffic signals in order to improve traffic flow and reduce the cut-through traffic that had resulted from traffic back-ups.

While pressing the need for various drainage improvements, and the need to pursue funding for Forest Hill Avenue streetscape improvements, the SCA advised police where to monitor for speeding, where to deploy signs that display an approaching vehicle's speed, and where vegetation obscured signs and intersections.

Thanks to former board member Urchie Ellis's persistence, the Huguenot Bridge was re-painted and its worst potholes patched. He continued advising the Commonwealth Transportation Board, VDOT and the General Assembly of the need to replace the bridge, which is scheduled for 2011.

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Mark Your Calendars!

Riverfest - Saturday, June 3rd starting at 8:30 am, The Meadow & Pony Pasture

James River Regional Cleanup
Saturday, June 10, 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Pony Pasture Rapids is a designated registration site. To register call (804) 717-6688 or visit jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com.

Upcoming SCA Meetings

Held at SRA, 3201 Chellowe Rd.
Meetings begin at 7:15 p.m.

- **Tuesday, June 20**
- **Tuesday, August 15**
- **Tuesday, September 19**

Traffic Safety Input Sought

Based upon neighbors' requests, the SCA is circulating petitions asking whether people support or oppose:

- Closing Riverside Drive to motorized traffic from dawn 'til dusk on weekends year-round
- Increasing by \$200 the fine for speeding on Cherokee Road
- Having 4-way stop signs at Prairie & Cheverly roads (by Southampton Elementary School)

In each case, a favorable response will trigger submission to city council for consideration.

Lock Your Cars!

Police have reported a growing problem with thefts from automobiles in Southampton, Willow Oaks and Oxford. Make certain yours are secured.

New Appointee Named

Councilwoman Kathy Graziano appointed George Hastings to a two-year term on the Richmond Recreation and Parks and Advisory Board, whose 23 members meet twice a month to discuss program and facility needs. He can be reached at 330-7423, 218-4893, gwhastings@comcast.net.



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Parks and Recreation

When the city began locking park gates at night due to undesirable conduct, some neighbors were locked inside at dusk, and others were locked out long past dawn. The SCA advised the city that if the Pony Pasture and Huguenot Woods gates have to be locked, it should be done during warm-weather months when misconduct is more likely, closings should adhere to posted times, and allowances should be made for neighbors who visit at dusk and dawn. Responding to parks manager Ralph White's suspension for unlocking gates, we told the mayor we supported Mr. White.

Zoning

In supporting a developer's plan to build 15 homes on Cherokee Road, rather than up to 45 as the city council had approved, we advised the Planning Commission of our preferences regarding tree protection, lot size and construction quality, and our continued opposition to Cherokee access, which the Commission found unpersuasive.

Neighborhood Beautification

The SCA paid for and helped Mr. White erect a sign at Norma Blalock Tot-Lot noting her contributions to the community. Through our persistence in the wake of vandalism, fence repairs were made at the adjacent baseball field. We provided funds for Mr. White to buy daffodil bulbs for James River Park.

Communications

We enhanced our Web site, scarichmond.com, and added a broadcast e-mail capability for meeting reminders and special alerts for dues-paying SCA members.

Riverfest

We hosted Riverfest and our first annual 5K "Wicked River Run."

Area's Newest Nature Park

Friends of Larus aims to put park on map

With approximately 100 acres of dense green forest, bubbling pristine creeks and flower blanketed rolling hills, the Lewis G. Larus Nature Park is a tranquil oasis located within the hustle and bustle of city living. Until recently however, few of our neighbors knew Larus existed much less had access to the park located at the intersection of Huguenot and Stony Point Roads.

Now, a newly constituted Friends of Larus Park is doing something to change that. Comprised of representatives from several neighborhoods including Southampton; Friends of Larus Park is working with the City and with other volunteer groups to publicize the park, develop eco-friendly hiking and biking trails, and to provide for parking.

Most recently, a wilderness trail has been constructed leading from behind the Fire Station on Huguenot to Dancing Creek where a bridge will soon be erected to cross the rustling body of water and continue on for a stretch of no less than 5 miles. The Friends group has decided on

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RIVERFEST!



Plan to spend Saturday, June 3rd, down by the beautiful James River.

Riverside Drive will be closed between Rockfalls and the Pony Pasture parking lot from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The day starts with the 5K Wicked River Run/Walk. Walkers can now participate in this fun event. At 10:30, the parade of decorated bicycles, wagons, tricycles, and scooters begins. Let the James River inspire your creations.

Get to know the park animals with bird watching at 9:00 a.m. and River Critters at 11:00. A guided walk of the Louise Burke Nature Trail will provide an area history and a look at our native trees.

Meadow activities begin at 10:00 a.m. and include the 30-foot Rockwall, face painting, and bubble blowing. Riverside Outfitters will be back offering a unique tree climbing experience. Kayak demonstrations, music, and food top off this fun-filled day. Transportation provided by Rickshaw and hay wagon rides.

For more information go to www.scarichmond.com. If you would like to volunteer contact Mary Blanchard at 272-5959, e-mail, blake8@ix.netcom.com.

We greatly appreciate each of our sponsors for Riverfest 2006. Their generous contributions make it possible for us to have such a nice annual event.

Positive Vibe Cafe BB&T Bank Harper Associates, LLC

- Ukrop's at Stratford Hills
- Phoenix Massage Therapy, LLC
- Riverside Outfitters
- Blue Line Highway
- Appomattox River Company & WAVESPORT
- Five Guys Burgers & Fries
- O'Charley's
- Rockfalls Tavern
- Southampton Recreation Association
- Print Shack
- Southampton Baptist Church
- Richmond Fire Department
- Richmond Police Department
- Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities
- Richmond Audubon Society



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the Fire Station trail head for the informal gateway to the park with efforts under way to construct several parking spaces. From there, a person could hike or bike all the way to Cherokee Road on the opposite side of Chippenham Parkway by accessing a large culvert running underneath Rt.150.

With a little hard work and a lot support, Friends of Larus strives to put the park on the map as yet another reason to live, work and play in Southampton. If you are interested in either knowing more and or lending a hand, please contact Southampton neighbor Jonathan Young at 320-4251.

Richmond Public Schools

Our Neighborhood Middle School - Thompson

This year Dr. Beatty was one of the four metro-area principals to receive an REB Award. This award recognizes those principals who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their jobs to create an exceptional educational environment. It is clear in his three years at Thompson that he has achieved this goal.

Last year Thompson received full accreditation on Virginia's Standards of Learning as well as met National Annual Yearly Progress requirements. Dr. Beatty is proud of these achievements but is quick to point out that these are minimum competencies. Thompson is working to go beyond these standards.

The school's core curriculum was enhanced two years ago when Thompson and two other middle schools were selected to house a Discovery Academy. Superintendent Dr. Jewel-Sherman initiated this program to raise the achievement standards of middle schools. Dr. Beatty describes the program as one that gives students the opportunity to think about life beyond high school. The Discovery Academy offers "houses" of learning. These include Mathematics, Science and Technology; Foreign Language and Global Studies; Professional, Career and Technical Training; Community Service; and Arts and Humanities. The students choose their "house" of interest and choose electives related to that specialty.

You can meet Dr. Beatty and get to know Thompson at "Coffee with the Principal," which Dr. Beatty holds the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Thompson welcomes volunteers and would love to have help with the Virginia Young Readers program, which is designed to encourage the love of reading. To contact the school, please call 272-7554.

As part of the REB award, Dr Beatty receives a cash grant for \$7,500 to be used towards a project of his choice. He has chosen to use the money to take students to Harlem. According to Dr. Beatty this trip not only will reinforce what they have learned about the Harlem Renaissance in school but also, for many students, provide students their first trip out of Richmond.

The SCA Board

President

Frank Dorman, (804) 267-5685
8721 Rivercrest Rd.

Vice President

Caitlin Zettl, (804) 513-3826
7418 Cherokee Rd.

Treasurer

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Mary St. Louis, 272-6087
7423 Cherokee Rd.

Jonathan Young, 320-4251
8511 Waxford Rd.



TRY SOUTHAMPTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION For A Day!

Free Family Day Pass Good Any Day Through June

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

One pass per family per season. Call ahead for a tour of our facilities- 272-7401.