



Southampton Citizens Association

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Save the Date! Saturday, June 6th

Southampton Citizens Associations 5K River Run/Walk!

More information to come
scarichmond.com

Over the Fence is now accepting advertising.

The Southampton Citizens Association's newsletter mails to over 2,400 houses. It is mailed four times a year.

To inquire about advertising call Mary Blanchard at 272-5959 or mblanchard8@verizon.net.

Add rates can be found on our website,
www.scarichmond.com

Mark Your Calendars!

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

April 21
May 19
June 16

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

April 18 Earth Day, 10 p.m. - 4 p.m., Manchester neighborhood, Hull St. south end of Mayo Bridge to Art Works on

May 2 Flamingo 5K and Spring Fling, J.B. Fisher Elementary.

May 2 South of the James Farmers Market opens, hours 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Forest Hill Park

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

Over the Fence



The Newsletter of the Southampton Citizens Association

SCA Membership Drive Underway

HELP SCA REACH ITS GOAL OF 500

Last year SCA renewed its effort to build membership. Southampton residents responded to the call, and we are now over 400 households strong! During SCA's long history, the membership rolls topped out at 500 households. We want to surpass that number this year! If you are not a member of SCA, please consider joining today to help maintain SCA as a vital force in protecting and enhancing our community. If you've been a member in the past, please renew to continue your support of SCA.

Strong membership helps SCA provide a strong voice for the neighborhood regarding city services that may be threatened due to budget shortfalls, issues affecting the commercial districts that surround our neighborhood in this tough economy, the planning and construction of the new Huguenot Bridge, and residential and commercial development within our area and in Chesterfield County.

During this membership drive,

you can join SCA or renew your membership for two years at a rate of \$25. Dues for one year are \$15.

Please complete the registration form below and mail it with your check in the enclosed envelope. You can check your membership status by looking at the mailing label on the back side of this newsletter. Your membership status will be printed above your name. If there is no status, it means that you are not a member and we hope you will join SCA.

If you have questions about membership, please call SCA membership coordinator, Jeanne Dorman at 267-5685.

*****AUTOCR**C006
Peter Blake & Mary Blanchard
Dues Paid Thru 2009
8847 River Road
Richmond VA 23235-1573



Dear Neighbors,

Early spring greetings. The newsletter is finally here. Along with electing new officers, the SCA board continues to work on neighborhood issues from leaf pickup, to road safety, area development, and following the Huguenot Bridge project.

Thank you to those who have supported the SCA. To those who have yet to get involved we invite you to join, attend monthly meetings, and get involved with our various committees. Your membership and participation are what makes this organization strong.

The Southampton Association is like a large umbrella, covering many individual neighborhoods, with approximate boundaries along the Virginia Power power lines to the west, Forest Hill Avenue to the south, Blithewood Road to the east, and the river to the north. Approximately 2,400 households are in this area. We want to know what you are thinking. We have created a survey to get your opinions on area issues. The survey link will automatically go to the email alert group. Others may go to our website www.scarichmond.com to find the survey. We look forward to your responses.

Two items of note are the change in the SCA business address (upper left hand corner of mailer) and the cancelation of RiverFest this year. We will continue with the very successful 5k Run/Walk on June 6th.

Sincerely,
Mary Blanchard, President



2009 Southampton Citizens Association Membership Form

Membership \$15 per year. Take advantage of the two years for \$25 offer. This offer ends June 30.

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. Please

Mail to SCA Treasurer, 7424 Tanglewood Rd., Richmond, VA 23225. **(NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE)**

A Year in Review

October's Annual Meeting marked the end of the Southampton Citizens Association's business year. Guest speaker, Lucy Meade from Venture Richmond, provided the audience with a virtual tour of a variety of development taking place downtown, midtown and in Old Manchester.

Summary of Activity

- D Held RiverFest and 5K Wicked River Run/Walk Saturday, June 7. The 5k saw an increase in registration. Approximately 140 participants signed up. New payment methods made registering on line available.
- D Renewed focus on increasing membership. The membership committee set a goal of receiving 500 memberships. 412 households joined. They also implemented the two year membership for the price of \$25 for a limited time. This proved very popular.
- D Voted not to support the request for a special use permit by Ntelos to place a cell tower on the property of Southampton Baptist Church at Cherokee and Comanche Roads.
- D Communicated to 2,435 households through the newsletter, Over the Fence. Broadcast e-mails to those who have opted into the e-alert program. A Lost Pets location was added to the SCA website to help neighbors find pets as well as pet owners.
- D Stayed in close contact with Steve McNeeley project manager from VDOT in regards to the progress of the Huguenot Bridge replacement.
- D Sponsored along with other neighborhoods the Mayoral debates held at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church.
- D Joined other neighborhood associations along the river in support of designating Riverside Drive an Urban Scenic Byway.
- D New officers were elected. Mary Blanchard president, Jeanne Dorman vice president, John Cardwell treasurer, Bert Waters secretary.



Councilwoman Graziano and assistant David Hathcock.

A Visit to Councilwoman Graziano's Office

The new year and the new mayor create the opportunity for a fresh start for the city of Richmond. This is a perfect time to check in with Councilwoman Kathy Graziano and see what her thoughts are on the coming year.

Councilwoman Graziano's office attests to her busy schedule. The top of a large conference table peeks out from beneath papers and note pads. There are invitations, pads and schedules in stacks. Maps showing various views of Richmond's nine districts decorate the walls. Her assistant, David Hathcock, acts as a traffic control worker. One can sense the dedication of this team to doing work for the city and our neighborhood.

Despite the controlled chaos, Councilwoman Graziano's vision for Richmond and the fourth district is clear. This vision is built on two words: efficiency and collaboration.

Councilwoman Graziano has served two two-year terms. She now enters her first four-year term as president of City Council with the newly elected mayor, Dwight Jones.

What is her priority going in to 2009? Graziano is quick to say that she wants to establish a working relationship with the administration. She also is prepared to face an estimated \$6 million budget

shortfall, which results from decreased revenue from the state and federal governments and taxes the city collects.

Graziano's term as City Council president comes on the heels of a mayoral term peppered with turf wars. Graziano believes City Council, citizens and the mayor all want the system to work. "While everyone may not be on the same page, it is imperative that everyone work together to move the city forward and provide services. The mayor has said he is dedicated to making it work and on behalf of the council, they are very dedicated. So far everyone is making a positive effort to collaborate and work together and share information."

It is still too early to get an accurate feel from Graziano on her role as president of council, but she did say that she was not used to having the camera on her so much during council sessions. On a serious note, she sees this as an opportunity to establish a protocol for council and the mayor. "In the past four years council wasted energy dealing with a fractious system and didn't have the energy to identify its role in this new elected mayor system."

Budget challenges

We all know that this is going to be tough budget year. Graziano is determined to find a way to provide services the city needs. "I hope we don't have to cut out services. We have had two or three audits that have suggested that there are millions of dollars we can save by applying the auditor's findings."

Area Activity

Information in this column is subject to change.

- Retail stores continue to come and go along Forest Hill. The Richmond Bag Company opened at Stratford Hills Shopping Center. The Shoppes at Stratford Hills lost Moe's and 5 Below. Up the road at Chippenham Forest Square Burger King will be moving in to replace Chubby's. Colortyme Rental has filled the hole next to Puritan cleaners.
- Stony Point Fashion Park lost the Cheesecake Bistro. New stores coming in are, Peyton Hall seller of women's clothes, IF a women and men's clothing shop, Envy Spa, and Wolfgang Jasper photography.
- The Huguenot Bridge continues to hold its place among the list of future VDOT projects. It made the cut at the Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting in December. At this time revisions were made to the 2009-2014 Six-Year Improvement Program in response to a \$2.6 billion reduction in overall state and federal transportation revenue. Mr. McNeely reported to the SCA in early December that they were continuing to work on the final design and preparing the plans for the right of way phase of the project. VDOT still plans to advertise in the Spring of 2010.
- A 65 townhouse development at Bliley and Forest Hill has been voted down by City Council. A plan for a 15 single family subdivision adjacent to this is planned.
- Survey crews were out in January marking the start of the Forest Hill road project between Hathaway and the Powhite. The total project cost, which would be financed by federal funds, is \$12 million. More information about the project can be obtained from Jim Leadbetter, engineer, at 646-3704 or leadbjl@ci.richmond.va.us.
- City Council grants a conservation and open-space easement on the James River Park System to the Capital Region Land Conservancy, the Richmond Recreation and Parks

Foundation and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Richmond remains the owner of the James River Park System. This easement will ensure that the James River Park System stays in its current natural state for future generations to enjoy.



A sample of Property Transfers that have taken place over the past four months Southampton area.

7932 Cherokee Rd	\$290,000
4300 Cheyenne Rd	\$316,667
4287 Cheyenne Rd	\$299,000
3316 Cheverly Rd	\$200,000
7649 Granite Hall Rd	\$245,000
3032 Cottingham Rd	\$205,555
3521 Grandview Dr	\$239,950
3437 Grandview Dr	\$286,000
9110 James Riverwatch Dr	\$450,000
9161 James Riverwatch Dr	\$325,000
2601 Kenmore Rd	\$300,000
4600 Oxford Prkwy	\$297,000
6840 Shawnee Rd	\$178,000
2220 Stratford Rd	\$132,000
4107 Stratford Rd	\$60,000
4319 Stratford Rd	\$387,900
4400 Waumsetta Rd	\$175,000
8705 Waxford Rd	\$209,000



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272-7461



Councilwoman Graziano and assistant David Hathcock sample the food at the South of the James Farmers Market at Forest Hill Park.

Before making cuts she would prefer to explore these savings. "We run a pretty bare bones city," she says.

Do we get our money's worth from the city? "Obviously we don't," interjects Hathcock. This is revealed by the audits. One example Graziano gives is the abuse of gas in city cars.

"We could have better roads, infrastructure, etc. [in the fourth district], but this is true of the entire city."

A few employees were filling up more than just their city car. Today, a special gas cap has been created for the city fleet to work with city pumps. "We didn't even know how many cars there were in the city fleet," Graziano says. "Once we realize these savings we can deliver more efficient ways of doing business."

Other areas of the city's budget also require attention. "We could have better roads, infrastructure, etc. [in the fourth district], but this is true of the entire city." Finding the balance of services across the city is the challenge she and her fellow council members face. "It is difficult, but it is our responsibility to provide all services needed," Graziano says. "There are many programs that are nice to have across the board, but we can't afford them. Everyone needs to tighten their belt."

What lies ahead

In addition to addressing current challenges, Graziano always likes to look to the future. Graziano believes the city has many strengths, from being the state capital to having good neighborhoods, a strong economy, a rejuvenated downtown, the river, and a great quality of life. The one weakness she feels is that Richmond doesn't have a strong identity. She asks, "I go to Richmond because...?"

What could we change? "Get more things downtown to

attract people like the National Theater, First Fridays, great restaurants. As the population shifts more people are desirous of an urban setting. People go to the suburbs to get away from the city and then tire of the commute and isolation and come back."

One of Richmond's greatest assets, she says, is its system of parks. Her love of parks goes back to her time in New York, where she and her children regularly visited the parks. She consistently has supported parks in the fourth district, including the James River Park, Larus Park, and Forest Hill Park.

On the issue of cooperation with surrounding localities, Graziano says that until localities admit that there are regional needs we cannot be competitive with other areas in the southeast and statewide. These economic times are an excellent opportunity to work together, she says. "Our surrounding supervisors are new and more forward looking."

Graziano was quick to say that many things that have occurred in the fourth district are citizen initiated. "I have been surprised by the people in the fourth district who are concerned not only with their own needs but are concerned with the progress of the city." During Graziano's time in office, the district and the city have seen many improvements, including the establishment of a Household Hazardous Waste Site, a push for the conservation easement for James River Parks, the designation of Riverside Drive as Scenic Byway, revitalization for Forest Hill Park, and the establishment of a Farmers Market at the park.

The year 2009 holds promise and excitement for Graziano. Through it all, she says, the best part of being a City Council member "is getting to meet great people."

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Around Richmond

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Needs You

As city residents, we can be proud of Richmond's rich history, architecture, varied neighborhoods and natural beauty. Another jewel within the city limits is the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). Once the 165,000 square foot expansion is completed in 2009 the transformed VMFA will be among the top ten comprehensive art museums in the nation!

The VMFA organizes many of its volunteers through its Volunteer Council. Most of the volunteers come from areas west of the city, but the museum wants to increase the number of volunteers from our neighborhood and others south of the James.

By getting involved with VMFA you will be associated with one of the country's finest art museums and help to make its treasures accessible to Richmonders and tourists alike.

Facts about VMFA:

- VMFA owns the largest public collection of Faberge in the world; the finest collection of Art Nouveau and Art Deco outside of Paris; and one of the top collections of South Asian art in the Eastern Hemisphere among many other collections of art that span the globe and more than 6000 years.
- The museum's 150,000 volume library is the largest art library in the Southeast.
- The expansion will increase the museum's total gallery space by nearly 50 percent.
- The new James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Wing will include about 12,000 square feet in special exhibition space – enough to accommodate any traveling show.
- About 5,000 works of art will be displayed – more than twice the number on view before the expansion.
- Both the casual arts café and the upper level fine dining room will overlook a four acre E. Claiborne and Lora Robins sculpture garden filled with art, water features and a lively variety of performing arts.

The Council wants to add 100 volunteers to its existing volunteer base. You can volunteer to:

- Welcome, assist and guide visitors through the museum;
- Staff the new 3,600 square foot museum shop;
- Welcome and assist patrons of the library;
- Staff visitor services and handle phone inquiries; and/or
- Assist with fund raising events sponsored by the Council.

To join the volunteer Council or get more information about this opportunity, contact Mary Ann Peppiat at 741-3739 or The_Council@vmfa.museum.

New Direction Starts at Fisher

Fall 2008, J.B. Fisher Elementary School became one of two Richmond Public Schools to pilot the Core Knowledge Program. Professor E. D. Hirsch, Jr., the author of "Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know" and "The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them," is the creator of the Core Knowledge Movement. Hirsch believes that schools need to provide pre-k to eighth grade students with a specific and shared core curriculum to help them establish strong foundations of knowledge.

The ability to tailor implementation to each school makes it an easy program to adopt. Fisher chose to start with the language arts curriculum. For Fisher's principal, Charlene Brooks, Core Knowledge made sense. "This program seemed to be a good fit for Fisher," stated Mrs. Brooks. "It is a program that tells you how to teach, not what to teach, and involves many hands-on projects which fit in with Fisher's Talented Unlimited focus." Talents Unlimited promotes creative and critical thinking. "Much of the language arts program is what we grew up with. The curriculum is very enriched with art which is something RPS does not have." Looking at the Core Knowledge material, one finds the language arts curriculum augmented with poetry, stories, sayings and rhymes like Three Blind Mice and Mary Had a Little Lamb. "The program has re-energized the teachers, and the parents are excited."

To learn more about core knowledge go to www.core-knowledge.org to learn about J.B. Fisher Elementary go to www.richmond.k12.va.us/schools/fisher/.

"RAS Kids" Brings Nature to Students

This summer and fall, neighbor and "RAS kids" volunteer, Mary Arginteanu worked with Southampton Elementary School to develop activities modeled on the "RAS kids" program at Swansboro Elementary School. Arginteanu brought formulating and testing hypotheses to life for the third graders with a bulb planting activity. Students also learned about plant propagation and plant needs. Several small activities are planned for Southampton in 2009.

"RAS kids" is a volunteer coalition of the Richmond Audubon Society, Master Naturalists from the Riverine Chapter and Henrico and Chesterfield County Master Gardeners. Its mission is to stimulate love and curiosity for nature among inner city youth and to provide zest for outdoor adventures. Equally important is promoting enthusiasm for the natural world among teachers and others who regularly work with young people.

"RAS Kids" programs have been designed primarily for two groups, Charity Family Life and Swansboro Elementary School. The Swansboro program includes Arbor Day tree planting, garden planting and monitoring and a nature scavenger hunt.