



Southampton Citizens Association

P.O. Box 11347
Richmond, VA 23230



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SCA Membership Registration for 2007

Membership in the Southampton Citizens Association is only \$15 per year. Please join today! Your \$15 fee secures 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) _____
<p>Make checks payable to Southampton Citizens Association. Mail to SCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 11347, Richmond, VA 23230 (please note new address).</p>		
<p>Get involved with your neighborhood! Check your area(s) of interest.</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/> RiverFest & Other events	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Area Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Beautification
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		



Over the Fence

The Newsletter of the Southampton Citizens Association

SPRING 2007

Down In the Ditches

Neighbors concerned about crumbling and crushed drainage ditches and pipes may get some relief under the new city budget. The capital budget proposes to establish a stormwater utility to help pay for drainage improvements around the city. The details of how the utility would work – including fees to support the utility – are not yet clear and will need to be worked out with City Council. Still, the proposed stormwater utility is a step towards improving the region's health and environment.

The city has both underground and open systems of stormwater management. The older parts of the city have an underground system, which is connected to its sewer system. Water in this system flows through the wastewater treatment center prior to discharging it in the river. In the majority of the Southampton area, storm water runs directly into the James River, carrying with it whatever pollutants it picks up along the way.

In the Southampton neighborhood, the advantages of the utility will be to provide a steady revenue source to make improvements to ditches, drainpipes, and other features of the stormwater system. Clogged catch basins full of trash and debris can attract rodents, create odors, and become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. They also can cause local flooding, which can damage property.

In addition to improving the drainage system, the city also is under environmental mandates to meet six stormwater control measures. These measures include public education and outreach; public participation; discharge detection and elimination; construction site runoff control; post-construction storm water management; and pollution prevention. A dedicated revenue stream will help the city meet these environmental mandates.

A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for May 1. By the end of May, City Council will adopt a budget for next year. With sufficient community support, a decision about the stormwater utility could be a part of the approved budget.

Improving Stormwater Quality

Stormwater runoff from driveways and yards often contains oil, household chemicals, fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, pet waste and dirt. All these pollutants, known as nonpoint source pollution, go directly into our streams and rivers. This is not just a major problem in the reduction of water quality in the James River and the Chesapeake Bay, this type of pollution is the nation's largest water quality problem.

Southampton neighbors can take the following actions to improve water quality:

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Mark Your Calendars!

Southampton Citizens Association

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

- **Tuesday, May 15**
- **Tuesday, June 19**
- **Tuesday, July 20**

Huguenot Neighborhood Team

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

Friends of Fourth District Schools

Meeting to be announced, at Southampton Recreation Association, 3201 Chellowe Rd.

Learn more about zoning in our district.

For more information go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/districtfourschools/> or call (804) 377-6906.

Flamingo 5K and Spring Fling

Saturday, May 5, at Fisher Elementary School, 3701 Garden Rd.

Race starts at 9:00 a.m., registration forms are available at

www.richmond.k12.va.us/schools/fisher/
Silent Auction and Used Book Fair

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

Board Actions

At the March meeting of the SCA Board, the group agreed to send a letter to Councilman Graziano in support of cameras at traffic lights for monitoring intersections (photo-red), specifically at Chippenham and Huguenot, Custis and Chippenham and Weyburn and Chippenham.

Ultimately this is a City Council decision (ordinance). The City is limited to a total of 19 cameras.



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◆ *Fertilize at the right time with the right amount.* Most grasses should be fertilized in the fall. Test your soil to determine how much your yard needs. Do not fertilize before a heavy rain. The overabundance of nitrogen and phosphorous in the fertilizer eventually creates dead zones in the Chesapeake Bay.

◆ *Read the label before applying pesticides and herbicides.* Use safer, non-toxic alternatives to controlling pests and weeds.

◆ *Clean up after you pets.* Animal waste is responsible for raised bacterial levels in the river.

◆ *Watch out for oil.* If you change your own oil, take the used oil to a recycling station. Check with your local service stations. Keep your yard equipment and vehicles in good shape so they don't leak chemicals or oil.

◆ *Watch for soil erosion around your home.* Plant bare areas. The roots from trees, shrubs, and ground covers hold the dirt as well as soak up nutrients.

◆ *Slow down the runoff by minimizing the non-porous surfaces. Direct roof runoff onto a grassed area.* Use porous surfaces such as flagstone, gravel, stone, and interlocking pavers rather than concrete and asphalt. This allows water to soak into the soil.

Remember the poor water quality in our creeks, the James River and the Chesapeake Bay are the result of individual, what you might think as non-significant, acts of pollution.

For more information on wastewater management visit www.richmondgov.com/departments/public-works and the Department of Conservation and Recreation at www.dcr.virginia.gov.

News from Delegate Waddell

House of Delegates Member Katherine B. Waddell reports the following activity from the recent General Assembly session:

- Introduced the "Chip Alert" bill. This measure honors the memory of Chip Ellis, the Midlothian teen who was abducted and brutally murdered. The "Chip Alert" will extend the protection of the Amber Alert system to all high school students regardless of age.
- Introduced a "Charitable Trust" bill. This bill resulted from the concerns raised over the sale of the Windsor House in Richmond. This bill provides sufficient notice be given to the public prior to a court proceeding to modify or terminate a charitable trust or to sell its real estate.
- Won passage of a bill that increases the amount of homeownership grants local governments may provide to their employees. This legislation gives localities a more powerful tool in their efforts to attract and retain highly prized members of their workforce.
- Submitted a budget amendment that would provide the funds needed for the replacement of the Huguenot Bridge. Currently, the estimated cost for the Huguenot Bridge replacement project is \$56.6 million, of which only \$33.5 million has been allocated. Delegate Waddell's budget amendment would provide the additional funding to ensure the project is returned to the original schedule in the 2006-2011 plan. However, with the current transportation situation, the amendment was left in the House Appropriations Committee. The Virginia Department of Transportation is planning to hold public meetings sometime in June or July concerning the design of the Huguenot Bridge. At this time, the meetings have not been scheduled. Once the public hearings have been held, VDOT will approve the design and move forward, however, \$23 million still remains unfunded. The VDOT Project Manager for this project is Rich Prezioso and he can be reached at 524-6148.
- Will meet with constituents at the West End Branch Library, 5420 Patterson Ave., May 21, at 5:30 p.m.; and at James River High School, 3700 James River Road, May 17, at 5:30 p.m. You also can reach Delegate Waddell at DelWaddell@house.state.va.us.

Come Join the Fun!



RiverFest 2007, brought to you by Southampton Citizens Association, has sent out its annual call for dedicated volunteers, whose enthusiasm, commitment and love for the environment are an integral part of the festival's success. The festival is being staged at Pony Pasture, the Meadow and Z-Dam, on the shores of the James River.

Every year, many volunteers answer the call, bringing energy and talent to the neighborhood celebration that is fun for all ages. In its eighth year, RiverFest will attract over 200 people to the beloved James River Park. It offers a 5K Run/Walk, live band, family fun and children's activities, and environmental education. Visit www.scarichmond.com for photos from past RiverFest days and for updates on this year's event.

People of all ages can volunteer, both before and during the event. Volunteer responsibilities include setting up the race course and finish lines; registering runners; signing up children for the bike parade; preparing and serving hot dogs; face painting; supervising children's activities; and working in the information booth or reception area.

For more information about volunteering at this year's RiverFest, contact Elizabeth Bolin at 560-5408. You can also email her at elizabeth.bolin@gmail.com.



Sharing the Road



It can be tough on the streets. With cars speeding, bikers coming out of nowhere, joggers running down the middle of the road, cars honking their horns at bikers, pedestrians yelling at cars, bikers yelling at pedestrians, these are our roads at their worst.

Without sidewalks, Southampton residents really do share the roads. The ability to walk, run, and bike in the neighborhood is good for us and good for the area. Studies suggest that people out and on the streets of their neighborhoods reduce crime and raise property values. Here are a few things to remember to be safe:

Pedestrians

- Walk on the side of the road, facing traffic.
- In high traffic situations, stay single file as not to impede oncoming traffic.
- Night time walkers and runners should wear bright colors or reflective clothing. Carry a flashlight. Remember, drivers need to see you to avoid you.

Vehicles - Bicycles and Cars

- Bikes are considered vehicles when they are on the road and basically have the same rights and duties as other motorists.
- Bicyclists ride with the direction of traffic. If traveling at a slower speed ride as close to the right as possible unless it is unsafe. Unsafe situations include parked cars, debris, and crumbling shoulders.
- Bikes take the lane to pass, to turn left, or when the road is too narrow to share with a motor vehicle.
- Motorists must approach and pass a bicycle at a reasonable speed at least two feet to the left of the bicyclist.
- Bicycles may ride no more than two abreast. When riding two abreast, bicyclists cannot impede the movement of traffic and need to move into single file when being overtaken from the rear.
- On shared-use paths, bicyclists must always yield the right of way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian.
- Use your signals. This allows those around to know your intentions.
- Follow the posted speed limit unless conditions require a slower speed.

Development Briefs

At the March 6 meeting of the Huguenot Team, president Jerry Miller updated the group on area developments including:

Harper and Associates is moving into Phase II at the Shops at Stratford Hills. Six stores are planned, including a PetCo. Phase II would be located east of the Cherokee Road extension. Liberty Valance on Forest Hill and the Citgo at Forest Hill and Cherokee are for sale. **Vacancies continue at the Walmart/Lowes Shopping Center as well as the new strip center across from this shopping center.** At Stony Point Fashion Park, the apartments project is doing well, but the condominiums are not doing as well. **The Fashion Park is looking at Barnes and Noble as a possible tenant.** James River Commons at Chippenham has sold five units with two contracts pending. Residents for these homes are people in their mid-forties to mid-sixties with no children. **The Arbors complex on Forest Hill Avenue is still rebuilding and hopes to be leasing this summer.** Land currently is being cleared for Riverwatch on the James, located on Cherokee Road.

The SCA Board

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time. [www.sra-
fun.org](http://www.sra-fun.org)

or
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