



Over the Fence

The Newsletter of the Southampton Citizens Association

WINTER 2007

President's Message

As we begin a new year, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Our Southampton Citizens Association Board of Directors is excited about 2007 and the issues that we will be dealing with in our neighborhood and our great city.

I would like to encourage everyone to kick off the New Year by sending in your dues for 2007. One of the Board of Directors first goal this year is to expand our membership base for our Southampton Citizens Association. The dues are our source of funds to help promote our neighborhood activities, provide information to our membership through the newsletter and help fund special projects that benefit everyone in the Southampton neighborhood. It would be great to have everyone talk to a neighbor or two and help us by getting everyone to send in their dues for the year and to get out to our monthly meetings at the Southampton Recreation Association club house at 7:15 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. This is everyone's opportunity to voice your concerns, opinions and ideas that will make our neighborhood only better.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Donahue

President Southampton Citizens Association
Home: 272-0978

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming SCA Meetings

Held at Southampton Recreation Association, 3201 Chellowe Rd. Meetings begin at 7:15 p.m.

- **Tuesday, February 20**
- **Tuesday, March 20**
- **Tuesday, April 17**

Leaf Collection Schedule - Round Two
Southampton between Huguenot and Powhite - February 12-23. Southampton west of Huguenot - February 12-23.

Friends of the Fourth District Schools
Meets at SRA. For meeting times go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/districtfourschools/> or call (804) 377-6906.

Huguenot Neighborhood Team

Meets first Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m., Bon Air Library on Rattlesnake Rd.

Narnia Book Fair at Fisher Elementary School, 3701 Garden Road

Scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. - Noon.

Stratford Hills Shopping Center

Everything Old Is New Again

The Southampton Area has seen a retail explosion with the Shops at Stratford Hills. But the well worn-strip center at Hathaway and Forest Hill has seen its own rebirth of locally owned shops and restaurants. What follows are profiles of some of our new neighbors.

PARADISE DINER

Paradise Diner opened officially the day after Christmas, filling the hole left by the move of Mexico Restaurant with bright bright walls and turquoise cushioned booths. The restaurant may seem new and shiny but food

service is old hat to Karen and J.R. Joseph, who owned Karen's City Diner on Broad Street. Nor are they new to this area, having lived here for 11 years.

They had been watching this area for awhile and the boom of restaurants and businesses indicated a market worth tapping into. That and the convenience to home made it an easy decision. Karen believes their comfort-style food sets them apart from the competition in the area. Breakfast specials include salmon cakes and eggs to a good old country breakfast of two eggs, country ham, served with home fries, apples or grits and choice of toast, biscuit, short stack or french toast. Lunch can be as simple as a grilled cheese or a little heartier country fried steak with sausage gravy and two vegetables. Their hours also make them unique, serving from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days a week. Karen said that the morning was the busiest time when she was on Broad Street.

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City Council Report

Richmond City Council either has passed or is considering several items that will have an impact on quality of life in the district.

A proposed paper allowing speed bumps, speed cushions or the like on Riverside Drive at Pony Pasture has been withdrawn based on concerns of the Richmond Fire Department. The Department of Public Works currently is experimenting with painting lines on the road as a traffic control measure.

Councilwoman Kathy Graziano is preparing another approach to help solve some of the Riverside Drive issues, with an ordinance to create "Scenic Byways." If enacted, there would be additional authority for protection of the designated roadways, and for additional traffic calming measures.

On January 8, Council approved an ordinance further limiting pan-handling throughout the city. The new language bans panhandling within 20 feet of a bank, an ATM, an outdoor restaurant or any business that sells alcohol in any form. The ordinance applies to any business that has an ATM or any convenience store that sells beer or wine.

Council has also amended the real estate tax relief program for seniors and the disabled on fixed incomes. The focus of the program is shifting more to those at the lowest end of the economic scale. Full relief from real estate taxes is now available to any senior or disabled person with an income of less than \$20,000 and assets of less than \$37,000. A lower level of relief is available for those making less than \$52,000 with assets of less than \$250,000.

Councilwoman Graziano's office has announced that a four-way stop will be installed within the next couple of weeks at Chellowe and Prairie Roads near Southampton Elementary School. Council passed an ordinance in September 2006 calling for the signs, which were part of the SCA traffic management package.

Council also passed on January 22 the enhanced fines plan for Cherokee Road. Under this ordinance, sponsored by Mrs. Graziano and supported by 76% of the residents of Southampton, Stratford Hills and the surrounding neighborhoods, drivers who speed more than 10 miles over the 25MPH speed limit may be fined the regular fine, and an enhanced fine of as much as \$200. The program also will include new signs on Cherokee warning of the enhanced enforcement.

January SCA Meeting

Cell Tower Proposal

At the January meeting, wireless company, NTELOS presented information regarding a proposed cell tower in Southampton. The tower would provide NTELOS with wireless penetration into this area of the neighborhood, which it currently does not have.

Erected on the corner of Bon Air Baptist Church's lot at Commanche and Cherokee roads among the trees, the tower would be a monopole with the antennae housed inside. Its base would be three feet wide, and it would be approximately 100 feet tall, extending 20 feet above the stand of trees on the suggested site. Ground equipment would be fenced in adjacent to the pole on a site approximately 10 feet by 20 feet. Should another carrier rent space in this pole, the footprint of the ground equipment could more than double the current proposed size, depending on what that carrier requires.

This land is zoned residential requiring a special use permit (SUP) be filed. Applicants for any kind of significant land use are strongly encouraged to meet with neighbors early in the process. These meetings are not a part of the official process, however, they get issues aired and sometimes solved.

Once filed, the SUP is routed to a number of different city agencies for comment. Some of the comments may require adjustments, others may be simply commentary. After the applicant has a chance to address all the agency comments, the application goes to the Planning Commission with a staff recommendation.

When it is scheduled for a decision, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing. Usually the commission will make a decision at that time and forward a recommendation to city council. It is then scheduled for another public hearing before council. Council could delay the decision, or refer it to the Land Use Committee for further review and recommendation. Council must make a decision within a specific period of time.

For updates on the proposed NTELOS tower or other issues before the SCA board, go to www.scarichmond.com.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR SERVICE (CRS)

To request service ranging from drainage ditch issues to streetlights, call CRS at 646-0999, or go to www.richmondgov.com then select Citizen Request

The mayor's administration wants all requests for service to go through the Citizen's Request for Service system rather than directly to a council member's office. Councilwoman Graziano recommends keeping all paperwork and the name of the person to whom you spoke (if called in the request). Also, save the 11-digit reference number. You will need this number.



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They have been pleased with their new location and the process of starting fresh on this side of the river. The Diner's staff all worked hard to renovate the space. The graciousness of Mexico before its move and working with the city all made it a good experience.

MISS HATHAWAY'S CAFE

Miss Hathaway's Cafe, located in the shopping center with CVS and Food Lion, is celebrating 18 months of operation. Owner Laurie Null's vision was to provide this area with a little neighborhood coffee shop serving homemade muffins, bread, sandwiches, soups and desserts. Neighbors finally are discovering Miss Hathaway's, tucked away behind the McDonald's. Laurie wants to continue to create unique experiences and make this a true neighborhood spot. She has started showing local artists' work. She had her first art opening in November showcasing neighbor and renowned wildlife photographer Lynda Richardson. Laurie has been having private tea parties at the shop and is looking into the idea of having high tea once a week. She also caters to area businesses and will provide her space and food for their meetings

THE CLOTHES RACK

When The Clothes Rack went looking for a Southside location, a site in the Stratford Hills Shopping center seemed a natural. The space looked nice and has high amount of natural traffic. The Clothes Rack is operated by the Junior League of Richmond. The thrift store is full of donated clothes, accessories, books, housewares, curtains, and more. All proceeds go towards programs that serve Richmond children and their families. There is no shortage of donations, but The Clothes Rack would love to get more donations from this area. Not only is this a good place to donate items but it also is a good place to find gently worn clothes and assorted treasures. The Clothes Rack also offers a personal shopper service for those looking for special items. Just let the proprietors know what items you might like and they will let you know if they have them or can get them.

DILLIGAF TATTOOS, PIERCING & TANNING

The opening of Dilligaf Tattoos, Piercing and Tanning on December 5 brought a new service to this area. That and the visibility helped owner Melinda Rolfe make her decision to open at Stratford Hills. Tattooing and piercing seem to have gone more mainstream in the past 10 years. Her store reflects this change. Her bright, clean facility

intentionally tries to break the old stereotype of tattooing and piercing. Artists from the former well-known tattoo parlor, Thunder Arrow, joined her at this location. They have brought their loyal customers, but many new customers have found the shop as well. She has had 18-year-olds as well as 60-year-olds coming in for their first tattoos.

THE POSITIVE VIBE CAFE

The oldest newcomer, The Positive Vibe Cafe, celebrated its second year of operation in January. Garth Larcen opened the restaurant with the mission to promote employment and self-confidence to people with disabilities by providing jobs and excellent training in basic foodservice skills. As of November 2006, 96 students had gone through the training, with 50% being employed. The collaboration with the foodservice community has been outstanding, with chefs from Jefferson Hotel, Salisbury, and Willow Oaks all offering their services.

But training is not the only goal of the Positive Vibe, and while it successfully is meeting its mission, the restaurant still seeks to grow. Garth says there has been a slowdown of customers due to the influx of new restaurants and the fact that people don't think beyond the training. Serving good, healthy food is the Positive Vibe's number one focus. Buffalo, which is leaner than beef, can be found in many dishes, such as meatloaf sandwiches. The restaurant also serves seafood and vegetarian dishes.

Heading into its third year, the Positive Vibe hopes to improve its visibility in the community by expanding into an empty space, formerly occupied by a bank. This will allow for a private party room, a larger entrance, more sunlight and greater visibility.

From guest chefs to live music, check out all their activities at www.positivevibecafe.com.

Get Connected to Your Community

visit www.scarichmond.com
your link to what's going on in the Southampton area

Catch up on SCA business

Find back issues of Over the Fence

Follow the issues that affect our area

Link to Rimond City Council, Richmond Public Schools,
Parks and Recreation, and more!

Sign-up for area alerts and notices through our e-mail distribution system.

Send your e-mail to Southamptonneighbors@yahoo.com

or go to www.scarichmond.com and sign-up



Aging in Place in Stratford Hills

Bert Waters, Virginia Center on Aging

When my family first moved to the Cherokee Hills section of Stratford Hills in 1995, three of the ten brick ranch homes built in the mid 60's on our cul-de-sac had original homeowners. We were in our mid 30's with two young children and one more to come. Having neighbors who had raised children now our age on this block provided an air of stability for us. Recently, after living over 40 years in the same home, the last of these homeowners, a couple, transitioned to assisted living.

Ten years later we bought another home in Stratford Hills from a couple who had purchased the house in 1964, two years after it had been built. This couple moved to their vacation home at the beach but plan on returning to Richmond in several years and move to a continuing care retirement community. Many of our new neighbors are empty-nesters, which we will become in the next ten years. What are our neighborhood's demographics and how are they going to change in the next ten to twenty years? How can we best help ourselves and our neighbors to age in place?

The most detailed demographic data is from the 2000 census. Stratford Hills straddles several census tracts, including all of 704 and small parts of 701 and 703. The 2000 median age in tract 704 was 46 years of age, and 946 of the 3,848 residents in this tract (about 25%) were 65 or

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older. Data from a Council District 4 Market Profile Report, using the 2000 census with forecasts for 2003 and 2008, provide a few more clues as to the aging population in our neighborhood. The forecast for District 4 shows a slight decline in the population 65 and over from 19.8% in 2000 to 18.5% in 2008. The District 4 forecast for the population 85 and over increases from 2.7% to 3.5%. Then the wave (or tsunami) of Baby Boomers will start to retire. Population projections for Richmond's older population (65 and over) will increase from 14% in 2010 to 19% of total population in 2020. By 2030, it is estimated that almost 25% of the city's population will be 65 and older.

The city as a whole saw a decline in adults over the age of 65 by over 5,000 between 1990 and 2000. However, the oldest segment of our population, those over 85, slightly increased over the decade. Virginia's older population tends to be homeowners. In terms of age, home ownership peaks at 83% among households with a head ages 60 to 64. After age 64, home ownership declines slightly. About 70% of our population 85 and older lives in an owner-occupied home. This is the fastest growing segment of our population, both locally and nationally.

What can we do to help both ourselves and our neighbors to age in place? For many older adults, neighbors are a valuable source of help. Neighbors can start or join a telephone tree and have conversations about how we can support each other as we age in place. There are many services available in our community to help older adults stay in their home. Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging (343-3000), provides information on many of these local services for older adults. We shouldn't wait for a crisis before we find out about these services. Planning ahead includes conversations with a home care agency or specially trained geriatric care manager, especially if your family members live far away. The National Institute on Aging has published a free tip sheet on aging in place called "There's No Place Like Home – For Growing Old," which can be ordered at 1-800-222-2225 or downloaded online at:
<http://www.niapublications.org/tipsheets/home.asp>.

OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST:

Senior Connections: <http://www.seniorconnections-va.org/>

Senior Navigator:
<http://www.seniornavigator.com/default.asp>

City of Richmond Census Information: <http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/forms/Census.aspx>

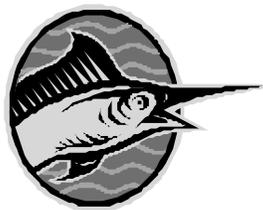
Virginia's Older Population:
http://www3.ccps.virginia.edu/demographics/magazine/DW%20pages/5_OlderPopPagesDW/02_MainContents.html



GET INVOLVED!

**Become a member
of the Southampton Citizens
Association for \$15.00 a year.**

Join us as we continue our mission to maintain and improve the livability, value, and welfare of our community.



It's New, Yellow, and Blue

Building towards the Future

A big yellow slide is coming to Southampton Recreation Association this summer. Starting this spring, construction will begin on the 13-foot blue platform and 70-foot yellow tube. This colorful slide is not only for children and teenagers but for the young at heart as well as.

Several years ago SRA conducted a capital improvement and assessment campaign and got down to business to ensure the club's successful future. The pools have been relined. The two upper tennis courts have been resurfaced. An energetic ice rink committee has formed to get the ice building renovated. Last summer there was a big effort to recharge the summer programs for the youngest neighbors. And its efforts are paying off - membership is up this year.

While renovating existing SRA staples was absolutely necessary, bringing something new to the pool seemed to be the shot in the arm the pool might need to stay current. Al Yancey and his wife, Sue, life-long members of the pool, led the campaign to buy the yellow slide. Now for the first time in 40 years there will be a new attraction, a big slide. If you are new to the neighborhood check out the SRA. The board is constantly working hard to make this a safe, fun environment for everyone. For more information call 272-7401.

Southampton Riverfest 2007

Planning Kicks into Gear

Southampton Riverfest will be held Saturday, June 2, and the planning has begun. The day will start with the third running of the Wicked River Run, open to runners and walkers. If you are looking for a more serene way to start the festivities, birdwatching is for you. The Meadow will be the site of the climbing wall, face painting, music and more. Also, start thinking about the bicycle, tricycle, scooter parade; this year's theme is water critters. This is a great day to get together with neighbors and enjoy music, food and the beauty of our park. The Committee will meet the second Wednesday in March, April, and May. To get involved, call Elizabeth Bolin at 560-5408 or mark Riverfest on the newsletter form.

We greatly appreciate the help of those businesses that have helped sponsor this event with Southampton Citizens Association. If you have a business or know of a business that would like to help, please call Elizabeth Bolin.



The SCA Board

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Southampton
RIVERFEST



June 2nd
8:30 a.m.
to
2:00 p.m.