



Southampton Citizens Association

P.O. Box 11347

Richmond, VA 23230

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Become A Member or Renew in 2012

The SCA was founded to promote initiatives that preserve and improve the livability, economic value, and welfare of the Southampton Community. We encourage you not only to join financially but to come to a meeting and get involved. We meet the third Tuesday of every month except August at the Southampton Recreation Association clubhouse, 3201 Chellowe Road at 7:15 pm.

Think you might already be a member of the SCA? Your address label indicates the status of your membership. Dues secure membership for the calendar year in which you paid. If not, simply fill out the form below, clip it out, and send it along with your membership check payable to Southampton Citizens Association. If you have questions about membership, please call SCA membership coordinator, Jean-Marie Hay, 272-7031.

2012 Southampton Citizens Association Membership Form

Membership \$15 for one year or \$25 for two years.

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

Member Name/Address (if different from the mail label on the reverse side of this form):

Phone _____

Email address (used for neighborhood communications from SCA) _____

Please Print Clearly, Thank You!

Make checks payable to Southampton Citizens Association and mail to SCA Treasurer, PO Box 11347, Richmond, VA 23230.

Over the Fence



The Newsletter of the Southampton Citizens Association



Trees and Wind

Scott Turner, neighbor and owner of True Timber

I couldn't believe it had happened to us again. The last major wind event in Richmond occurred in 2003 when Hurricane Isabel brushed passed our neighborhoods preaching its terrible gospel in torrents of rain and bellowing wind. We hunkered down in our houses, most of us without power, through a long nervous night of howling winds, creaking trees, and worst of all, the cracking and crashing of slates and timbers.

I have no clear recollection of the three months following that storm. I remember the noise, the whining of chainsaws, the groaning of cranes and aerial lifts, and the howling and grinding of wood chippers. I remember the tired faces of my men and the dismayed faces of Richmonders whose houses had been partly or totally crushed. I don't remember eating, or sleeping, or playing with my children, or being with my wife. I do know that my men removed countless trees as a result of this storm.

I do remember that as the sawdust settled, and we began to get our lives back to normal, many Richmonders began looking at the trees around their houses with an altered perspective. They had suddenly forgotten how much they enjoyed the shade of green canopies, the abundant wildlife habitat, the serene colors of fall and the intricate wooden skeletons silhouetted against the cold winter sky. Many of my friends and neighbors remembered only that just recently their lives and properties had been threatened. They felt vulnerable, and wanted to do something about it.

It is a simple fact really, that if we decide to live in a forest, or with trees, then every time the wind blows above 50 miles per hour our properties are at risk. As I began to

(continued page 2)

And Then There Was One

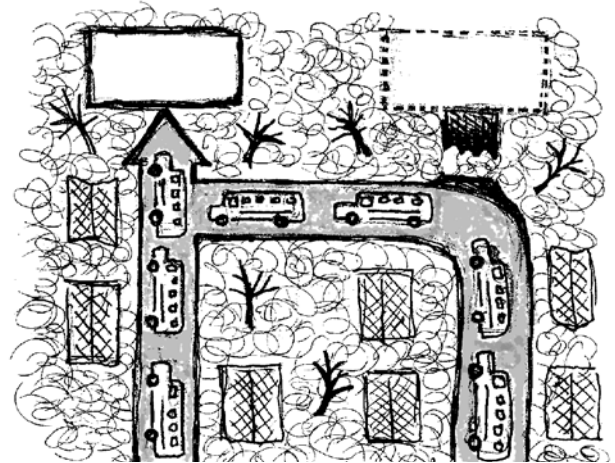
Rezoning Richmond Public Schools

The Richmond Public Schools Rezoning Committee is prepared to share a variety of options at the 1st round of community forums to be held February 15 at Thompson Middle School. The meeting will run from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Among the options, three change the school landscape as we know it. They close Fisher Elementary School, leaving Southampton as our area's public elementary school option.

The Committee, guided by Cropper GIS Consulting, used enrollment capacity vs. utilization numbers to start the discussion on new boundaries and recommended closings. The utilization number was defined by how many students from the school's zone attended their zoned school.

Currently Fisher has 322 students enrolled with only 99 students of that 322 who live and attend in the zone. Southampton has an enrollment of 512 students with 373 of



those living in its zone. Shut down Fisher and the consultants project a 61.19% utilization at Southampton.

One option keeps Fisher open, extending its boundary into Southampton's current zone to pick up more students. Southampton's zone moves further east. In this scenario, Southampton picks up students in a more heavily attended area, relieving schools east of the Powhite Parkway.

Any changes to school attendance boundaries will take effect beginning in the fall of 2013.

For more details, contact P. Andy Hawkins, Chief Operating Officer for Richmond Public Schools, at 780-7707.

All Rezoning information can be found on the RPS website under web.richmond.k12.va.us/AboutRPS/Rezoning.

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(from cover)

counsel those who thought their only recourse was to remove their trees, I didn't deny this truth. I reminded them how rare these extreme wind events are, and to weigh carefully what they would be sacrificing if they removed their trees for a stronger sense of security. I made sure they understood the full implications of the trade-off.

After Irene, True Timber removed 70-80 trees from the roofs of houses on the southside of the river, and many more leaning trees.

And here we are again, in 2011, recovering from Hurricane Irene and the anomalous storm of December 14. There is another three-month period missing in my memory, a ringing in my ears, another hundreds of storm-damaged trees removed and a slew of requests for tree exterminations. The barrage of familiar questions begins anew; especially this one: Is there any way to live safely amongst trees?

Here's the good news. In between Hurricane Isabel and Hurricane Irene we lived roughly 70,000 hours with no major threat of widespread wind damage. That's 2,900 days tree-enriched days.

The storms are over for now Richmond, and its time to enjoy our time with our trees again. While Southampton didn't get 2900 days between blows this winter, history shows that we should not expect to be terrorized this way too frequently. Be smart about your physical security when the wind blows, and be proactive about tree care on your property. Most importantly, enjoy the positive role trees play in your daily life.

After the December storm, True Timber had over 100 new tree distress calls and removed another 10 to 15 trees from houses.

How to enjoy your trees and feel more in control when Nature is delivering one of her violent messages.

1. Have your trees inspected at least annually, and remove hazardous trees. In many cases, the trees that have fallen in wind events had defects or weaknesses that could have been detected by an observant arborist.
 2. Maintain your trees. Healthy trees have a firmer grip on the earth.
 3. Thin tree canopies on the trees that you or your arborist are especially worried about. A good 25% thinning can reduce the weight loading and wind sail effect dramatically.
 4. Ask your arborist which of the trees around your house could cause the most damage if they fell, and determine where in your house you would be safe from the impact.
 5. Leave! Usually the high wind part of a storm is only a 3-4 hour period.
- Oh yeah, I almost forgot,
6. Move to a neighborhood that isn't characterized by mature, native trees, which is a viable option for someone who will not be made comfortable or feel secure amongst our mature trees, a better option than altering the character of a wooded neighborhood by introducing a clear-cut lot.



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Area Activity

Next Door and Beyond

Ground breaking for the new **Huguenot High School** was Thursday, January 26. Huguenot will be the first high school constructed in the City in more than 40 years and will open fall 2015.

To prepare for the **Forest Hill Avenue Improvement Project**, the City has begun marking both sides of Forest Hill based on preliminary design plans approved by the City's Planning Commission, Dec. 5. Trees slated for removal are marked with red flags. Blue flags mark the existing right of way. The back of the proposed sidewalk has white flags. There will be another opportunity to review plans in late summer 2012.

Delegate **Manoli Loupassi** has introduced House Bill 107 (HB 107) to change the composition of the **Richmond Metropolitan Authority (RMA) Board**, by reducing the City's representation from six to three members, and increasing Chesterfield and Henrico counties' representation each from two to three members. Richmond would lose its majority representation on the RMA Board.

The concentration of work on the **Huguenot Bridge** has moved to the north side of the river. At this date, the contractor has installed 14 of 17 footings, piers and pier caps for the

new bridge. They will pour the concrete for the remaining three piers this winter. Approximately 1/3 of the new bridge deck has been poured. The contractor currently is pouring the sidewalk and parapet wall for the west side of the bridge.

Phase 1 of the **Leaf Program** has come and gone. Phase 2 of the leaf schedule has been posted. Remember to rake when you see the RAKE NOW signs. This will help keep our roads and ditches clear of debris. Don't forget you can bag your leaves and put them out with your supercan, up to 25 every day, unlimited during your leaf collection period.

Southampton, west of Huguenot - Feb. 27 to March 9.
Stratford Hills - March 12 to March 16.



Susan Palmer

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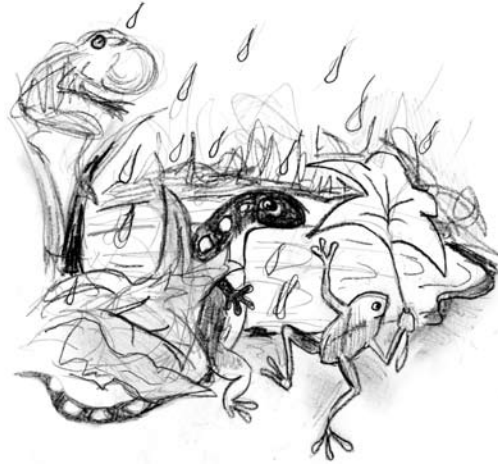
Stratford Hills Resident
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Richmond, VA 23225
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Birdies Build Your Nest

It won't be long before area creatures give the sign that spring is on its way, providing you with the opportunity to catch their unique rituals. On a rainy night in mid-February, at the vernal pond along Riverside Drive, west of the Pony Pasture, the spring peeper and the spotted salamander come out to mate. The tiny male peeper clings to sticks and brush along the edge of the pond and calls loudly for his mate using the vocal sac under its chin. Inversely, the large spotted salamanders swim around each other and among the leaves in a silent underwater dance.

It doesn't have to be dark and damp to catch the arrival of the great blue herons in late January and early February, but it does require a little work. The Pipeline Walkway downtown provides front row seats to the birds' return. Here on their island rookery in the James River, they will mate, build nests and raise their young. It is prime real estate when it comes to food. Parent birds have been shown to eat to four times more food when they are feeding their young.

Warmer waters in March bring the American shad and other anadromous fish up the James River. These fish are



born in fresh water, live in the ocean, and return to fresh water to spawn. The American shad is the largest and most well-known of the Chesapeake Bay's shad and river herring. Native Americans and early settlers counted on their spring arrival for food. After spawning, the adult shad return to the ocean followed by their young in early fall. This is a spring event you can watch from your computer at home. The Shad Cam, on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' website, reveals the shad as they move up river at Boshers' Dam. According to DGIF, the

American shad swim up the fish ladder during the day.



Susan Palmer

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Hard Work and Innovative Policing Pays Off

Repeatedly victimized by serial burglars, the Southampton community was rightfully alarmed this fall after multiple residences had been broken into and property stolen. Thieves were smashing doors and hauling off valuables. The neighborhood was on edge, and the Richmond Police Department was concerned.



In a meeting with police detectives at the Southampton Citizens Association's November meeting, neighbors learned that the Police department was saturating the neighborhood with resources. Efforts included more police cars and other visible deterrents, though much of the police department's plan regarded clandestine operations. Plain clothes officers in unmarked vehicles worked our streets with a concerted zeal. Then, all of the hard work and a little bit of good fortune began to pay off.

As luck would have it, the Richmond Police Department got a couple of assists first from another police department and second from a bungling thief. The Chesterfield County Police Department identified a suspect in home invasions in the county, and it just so happened that the M.O. was the same. A suspect was arrested and additional clues began to materialize. Then, after a neighbor's stolen credit card was used, the police began to zero in on additional suspects. As it turns out, Southampton was being burglarized by not one but two serial thieves working completely independently of one another. Now, with the thieves arrested, the home invasions have stopped and neighbors' nerves are at ease. Big thanks for the hard work by the Richmond Police Department!

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If It Goes on The Ground, It Goes in The Water

The Department of Public Utilities would like to eliminate the source of pollutants impacting our waterways. The storm drains and ditches in Southampton are part of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4 for short. This system collects water that runs off our property as well as commercial property like those along Forest Hill Avenue and sends it directly into the James River untreated. One way that DPU is working toward its goal of cleaner water is through the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program.

An illicit discharge is defined as any discharge into a storm drain system that is not composed entirely of storm water or uncontaminated groundwater. Water from private residential car washing, lawn watering or air conditioning condensation drains is not generally a concern and is not considered illicit discharges. Illicit discharges come from spills or dumping of lawn or garden chemicals, pet waste, vehicle fluids, leaky vehicles or machinery, leaking gas and oil tanks, leaking sanitary sewer lines, failing septic systems, floor drains and basement sumps. Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system without being treated and results in high levels of pollutants that go directly into local waterways. These pollutants can cause unpleasant odors and public health concerns and harm aquatic life.

You can help by properly disposing of household hazardous waste, store chemicals and petroleum-containing products so that they are not exposed to rainfall and pick up after pets. Remember, if it goes on the ground, it goes in the water.

If you have any information about an incident which you believe may be an illicit discharge you may contact DPU by calling 311 or by sending an email to RID@Richmondgov.com.

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