

# 4<sup>th</sup> District Update



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September 2009

Councilwoman Graziano

Dear Neighbors,

Now that the summer is behind us, we are back to our regular schedule of district meetings, the next to be September 9 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Parkway, at 7 pm.

We are honored to be able to have Mayor Dwight C. Jones and Dr. Yvonne Brandon, Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools, in a joint presentation. Mr. Jones and Dr. Brandon will be discussing the school Choice program, the achievements and benefits of Richmond public schools, generally, and the six public schools in the Fourth District.

There are certainly many accomplishments to acknowledge. The Fisher Elementary School Mind Games teams won both first places in the spring competition, an outstanding achievement for our children and for the coaches, Mark and Shelli Brady.

The Spanish language immersion program at Southampton is starting its second year, and to see those tiny children demonstrate proficiency in both Spanish and English is very impressive.

The International Baccalaureate program at Lucille Brown is drawing recognition from all around the area.

Richmond has just become one of six systems in Virginia to win a million dollar grant for the teaching of history. Working with the University of Richmond, the three year program will provide even greater opportunities for success for our teachers and students.

Richmond is also kicking off a new science and technology track at the Richmond Technical Center. The Governor's Career and Technical Academy for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math will start with 45 students the first year and grow eventually to 180 students. The curriculum will incorporate learning specific job related skills in addition to a demanding academic course load. The focus will be on two career paths: Engineering and Technology, and Therapeutic Services, including sports medicine. Successful students will also be able to earn college credits in the latter stages of the program.

I agree with Mayor Jones that our schools are deserving of positive recognition, and I appreciate that he and Dr. Brandon are coming to our Fourth District meeting to launch the Choice campaign south of the river. In these difficult economic times, it just makes sense to check out our public schools.

In other news, our fifth annual Sunday in the Park was our most successful with more than 1,500 people enjoying music, food, children's activities and environmental displays. The event is the third Sunday in July every year and is cosponsored by my office and the Friends of Forest Hill Park.

The lake restoration project for Forest Hill Park is well on its way to completion. When the \$1.7 million project is complete, the lake will have been restored to its historic shape and depth with repaired stone walls and gazebos and replica gas lights around the edge. Thanks to the Parks Department for their work on the project.

*Kathy*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NEXT DISTRICT MEETING

**September 9, 7:00 pm**  
**St Luke Lutheran Church**  
**7757 Chippenham Pkwy.**

*Please see back cover for more information.*

**Call 311** For all requests for city services such as yard debris, leaf and solid waste pickup, and questions about real estate, personal property taxes and other city services.

**Call 911** For police, fire or emergency/medical needs and speak to an emergency dispatcher.

## Map of Fourth District



## THE SCOTT RPS REPORT

Greetings Fourth District,

With summer officially behind us, it has been a very busy season for Richmond Public Schools.

RPS held its second Choice Campaign event in the 4th District on August 1st to reach out and market RPS to over 1000 homes. First Lady Anne Holton and Mayor Dwight Jones joined our Superintendent, Board Members, Principals, and Administrative Staff to launch the event attended by over 100 volunteers and participants. The Choice Campaign is a RPS initiative that seeks to inform our residents about the unheralded accomplishments that occur in our schools throughout the city.

The success of the 4th District leg of this campaign was also attributed to strong support from Council President Kathy Graziano and Council Liaison, David Hathcock, along with the efforts of our neighborhood community and 4th District PTA leaders. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this effort, especially Jean Marie Hayes and Mary Blanchard who provided valuable program and physical input, which included walking RPS staff members throughout our community in preparation for the event!

In his comments, Mayor Jones spoke about seizing the moment to applaud our triumphs - even when everything isn't perfect - yet. We are on the move towards excellence, and our children demonstrate that every day. Huguenot High graduated over 284 students in the Class of 2009 (the second largest graduating class in the city).

A quick update on the infrastructure improvement plan: The City Infrastructure Improvement Program (previously known as the City of the Future Program) is a comprehensive \$300 million plan focused on city-wide infrastructure improvements and major new school construction and renovation. With City Council approval in February 2008, Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan Update was immediately initiated. Eleven school projects were identified as part of Phase I, with the new construction design for Huguenot at the top of the list.

RPS is close to awarding the project design for Huguenot High. When this award is finalized, there will be several opportunities for community input, and I will keep you informed about those opportunities as they are scheduled. I will also provide additional updates to you as they become available. In addition, much needed repair and maintenance work was conducted at Huguenot High over the summer months.

I always look forward to hearing from you, and I can be contacted best by email at: [agrahamscott@aol.com](mailto:agrahamscott@aol.com).

Adria Graham Scott

## THE INTERNET

Do you use the Internet to visit websites? Here are two we recommend:

The city website at [www.richmondgov.com](http://www.richmondgov.com), is the primary method of communicating with city government and has links to virtually every service and every employee of the city.

Our website, [www.kathygraziano.com](http://www.kathygraziano.com), has links to city services, information on coming events, links to all our past and present newsletters, pictures, and content about activities in the district including the South of the James Market, the Forest Hill Lake restoration and others.

Our website also has the coming agendas for city council and the council committees as well as summaries of council meetings.

## FOREST HILL HOUSE TOUR

The famous Forest Hill House Tour is scheduled for September 20th this year.

Nine houses are on the tour, giving visitors a good look at what Forest Hill was, what it is, and what it will be.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour, and are available at South of the James Market, the 43rd Street Gallery, Ruth and Ollies, Crossroads, Mongrel's and Williams and Sherrill.

The house tour brochures are available the day of the tour at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.  
[www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com).

## MARKET TO CONTINUE THROUGH FALL

The South of the James Market at Forest Hill Park will continue through the first Saturday in December this year.

The second year of the market has been as successful as the first, with more than 60 vendors selling goods and services ranging from organic fruits and vegetables to meats, dairy products, eggs, bakery goods and prepared foods. Several CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) operations also make deliveries to patrons at the market.

The market is located at the corner of 42nd and New Kent Avenue and is managed by The Market Umbrella.

## FOREST HILL LAKE RESTORATION

The restoration work at Forest Hill Park is well under way. The contractors will move more than 40,000 cubic yards of material from the old lake site, and will restore the lake to its historic contours.

Parks Director J. R. Pope also has ambitious plans for an interpretative center in one of the gazebos alongside the lake. The lake is currently closed to visitors because it is a construction site.

Pictures of the progress of the project are regularly posted on Kathy's website at [www.kathygraziano.com](http://www.kathygraziano.com).



Forest Hill Lake on August 11, 2009

## JAMES RIVER PARK PROTECTED

The long-awaited conservation easement on James River Park was signed May 29th, and the deed has been recorded. Now the park system will be protected from commercial, residential and industrial development forever, leaving a priceless natural gem in the heart of the city. The easement is the first of its kind in the United States for an urban park system. Already other groups are at work to protect other pieces of the Richmond park system with similar easements.

The James River Advisory Council presented Kathy its 2009 Guardian of the River award for successfully spearheading efforts over several years to place the James River Park System in a conservation easement and for initiating Riverside Drive being listed as a Scenic By-Way.

**MAYOR DWIGHT JONES AND SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT YVONNE BRANDON  
TO SPEAK AT DISTRICT MEETING**

Mayor Dwight Jones and Superintendent Yvonne Brandon  
will discuss the Richmond Public Schools.

All parents interested in Richmond schools are encouraged to attend  
and ask questions of the leadership.

The meeting is scheduled for  
Wednesday, September 9, 2009  
7:00 pm  
St. Luke Lutheran Church,  
7757 Chippenham Parkway

For information please call the office of Kathy Graziano at 320-2454.

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