

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



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September 2008

Councilwoman Graziano

Dear Neighbors,

There's good news! It's less than two months until the elections and all the advertisements will be behind us.

In addition to the the national and statewide campaigns, we have the mayor's race in Richmond and a spirited four-way campaign for the School Board in our Fourth District.

In order to increase resident's knowledge of the candidates, our September District Meeting will be devoted to a forum for all School Board candidates to present their views and talk with residents. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information on the meeting.

We are continuing our work with the Parks Department and police to provide better parking control at our parks; they are great facilities, but we need to make sure that we are not loving them to death.

I expect that much of the fall will be taken up with the Council consideration of the Downtown Master Plan. The Department of Community Development and the Planning Commission have worked for a year holding meetings, hearings, discussions, and occasionally arguments. The final result is a document recommended to City Council that provides a valuable blueprint for the development and preservation of Downtown Richmond, both north and south of the river. The plan clearly continues our focus of protecting the river while providing for the vitality and economic health of the downtown area. We still have much to do, but we have come a long way with the plan to this point. Thanks to all the city staff, residents and interested parties who have helped so much.

Finally, I have to report that our South of the James Market at Forest Hill Park has been a huge success. We have been averaging more than 45 vendors each Saturday with literally hundreds of shoppers buying fresh produce, farm-raised meats and eggs, and many, many other items. This first year has been great fun, and our success has spurred other neighborhoods to work with their local parks to develop weekly markets. Thanks to all who have made this event such a success. The market has been extended through the end of November, and we are hoping to have at least one holiday market in December.

See you September 10th at our District meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Kathy".

*Paid for by Kathy Graziano for City Council*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NEXT DISTRICT MEETING

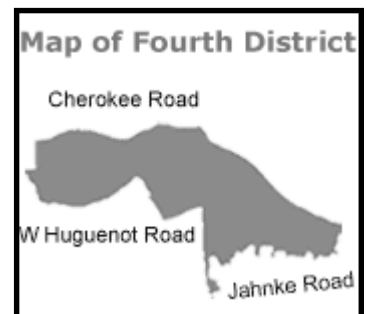
### Fourth District School Board Candidates

**September 10, 7:00 pm**  
**St Luke Lutheran Church**  
**7757 Chippenham Pkwy.**

*Please see back cover for  
more information.*

### Also Fourth District Mayoral Forum

**September 17, 7:00 pm**  
**Forest Hill Presbyterian  
Church**



## CONTRACTOR' SOLICITATION AND LICENSES

Recently on local news and in our neighborhood, we have been warned to avoid certain people who have done unsatisfactory work or asked for "deposit" money and then left without completing the promised work. All of us want to be smart consumers by getting the best work for the best price.

Most of us have responded to a knock on the door to find a solicitor who offers to clean gutters, cut hedges, rake leaves, or do other odd jobs. At times, we have negotiated a price, hired the individual and the project has been completed without incident. I recently hired a man who was working in the neighborhood to clean my gutters. When he arrived to do the work, I asked if he had a contractor's license. He stated that he was licensed and when I asked to see it, the man told me the license was in his truck. I watched as he walked to his truck, got in and drove away.

Contractors are licensed in Virginia through the Department of Professional and Occupation Regulation. It is a criminal offense to contract for work at or over \$1000.00 without a contractor's license. So, if someone offers to clean your gutters for \$60.00, no contractor's license is required. However, to avoid contractor scams and discourage unwanted solicitation in our neighborhood, here are some guidelines:

- Avoid hiring anyone who is soliciting door to door for repair work.
- Avoid hiring anyone who asks you for a cash deposit and promises to return later to complete the work.
- Even for those "small" jobs under the \$1000.00 license requirement, it is probably a good idea to hire a contractor licensed by the state of Virginia.
- Ask to see the contractor's license. Licensed contractors usually carry a small credit card size COPY of their license and are willing to show it to you. The actual contractor's license is roughly the size of a business sized envelope.

Contractors' licenses are issued through the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation , Commonwealth of Virginia. Information about licensure, their regulations and instructions for filing a complaint can be found on their website [www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/dpormainwelcome.cfm](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/dpormainwelcome.cfm).

Current or revoked Contractors' licenses can be checked by clicking on the "License Lookup" section of the website. Complaints must be made in writing and within three years of the incident. Reasons to file a complaint include attempts to contract without a license or suspected scams. Also, a contractor who fails to build according to Building Code, abandons the job or retains funds but does not complete the work can have his license revoked.

*(This article courtesy of Linda Armstrong and the Westover Hills RAG)*



Kathy and Wayland resident, Anthony Scott, enjoy the activities at Sunday in the Park with Friends.

*Paid for by Kathy Graziano for City Council*

**CHEFS WAIT AS JUDGES TASTE  
POSITIVE VIBES TEAM DECLARED BEST  
AT FIRST ANNUAL MARKET COOKOFF**



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**October 6, 7:00 pm  
Author's Night  
Westover Hills Branch Library**

Join us in welcoming the nationally acclaimed author, speaker, and freelance journalist Stacy Hawkins Adams. Books may be purchased and signed at this event.

**October 18, 10:00 am until 2:00 pm  
Fall Festival '08**

**Good Shepherd Episcopal School  
Corner of Forest Hill Avenue and 43rd Street**  
Please come out for family fun, music and food. Purchase lunch from Cielito Lindo, Seven Hills Catering and other local vendors. Admission is free and tickets for the activities can be purchased at the event. Questions? Call 231-1452 for more information.

**Through November  
South of the James Market at Forest Hill Park**  
Originally scheduled to end in October, the market has been extended for an additional month through an agreement with the market manager and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities.

Planning is underway for a special one-day holiday market in December.

**News from the  
Westover Hills Library Advisory Group**

**December 13, Noon  
Wreaths Across America**

Please consider purchasing a \$15.00 wreath at the Westover Hills Library to be placed on a Veteran's Grave in Richmond National Cemetery on December 13th at noon.

For every 20 wreaths sold at the Westover Hill Library, the library will receive \$100.00 from Wreaths Across America to benefit our local branch. For more information, go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).

**Something for Everyone  
Westover Hills Library**

Stop by the library and pick up a schedule of events including Wednesday Night Movies, Children's Story Times and Computer Help for Seniors, or call 646-8833 and ask for information about these and other programs.

**First Saturday of the Month, 9:00 am  
Westover Hills Library Advisory Group**

To find out more about the Westover Hills Library Advisory Group, join us on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the library!

## **DISTRICT MEETING TO HOST SCHOOL BOARD FORUM**

The September 10th Fourth District Meeting will be devoted this year to a forum for School Board candidates from the district.

Four candidates are running to replace George Braxton, who is not running for a third term. Bert Berlin and Jonathan Mallard are from the eastern end of the district, both residing in Westover Hills. John Lloyd lives on Traylor Drive in Traylor Estates, and Adria Graham Scott lives in the Wayland subdivision off Huguenot Road.

Our forum will provide an opportunity to hear from the candidates, to ask questions, and to share your ideas with them.

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
7757 Chippenham Parkway  
September 10, 2008  
7:00 pm

*Paid for by Kathy Graziano for City Council*

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