

*Since 1919 Dedicated to Responsible Citizenship and the Improvement of Local Government*

## BULLETIN



### Next Meeting

**12 noon – Thursday  
May 7, 2009  
SunTrust Building  
Executive Dining Room  
24th Floor  
929 East Main Street  
Downtown Richmond**

Lunch is \$18 for members and \$20 for nonmembers.

Please call (545-6656) to make your reservation.

You can park in the SunTrust parking lot. (Heading East on Cary Street turn left into the deck just after you cross over 9th Street.) Have your parking ticket validated in the bank — to offset the parking cost. We appreciate the support of SunTrust by giving us an hour of parking each month!

**Our speaker on May 7, will be Brian Ford** of RBC Wealth Management.



*Brian Ford*

### **Where is the Richmond Regional Economy Going?**

If the current national recession has any redeeming value, it has inflicted a certain degree of economic literacy on most adult brains.

We now know that TARP means something more than a large waterproof cover. The Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP), popularly known as “Bailout,” entered the common lexicon in October 2008, giving then U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulsen unprecedented authority to purchase troubled assets from financial institutions in order to restore liquidity and stability to the system.

In the face of rising joblessness and housing foreclosures our new president, Mr. Obama, persuaded Congress to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in February. Two words, “Stimulus Package,” became current jargon to describe this \$800 billion boost to the national economy, to flow thorough state and local governments for Medicaid, public education, infrastructure, tax cuts, and “shovel-ready projects.”

Closer to home, 300,000 Virginians are jobless, with the rate of unemployment approaching 7 percent. Bankrupt giants such as Circuit City, Land America, and Quimonda dot the local landscape. We all have neighbors and friends who have lost jobs, who bombard prospective employers with résumés, and who face foreclosed homes.

In early April 2009, Virginia’s House of Delegates narrowly defeated a \$125.5 million proposal by Governor Kaine to extend benefits to unemployed

*ECONOMY continued on page 2 . . .*

**Reminder: To help us coordinate our planning with the SunTrust dining staff —**

***Please RSVP for the monthly meeting  
in a timely manner!***

**Pat Ryan — 545-6656 — or email: patryan@kw.com**

## *ECONOMY continued from page 1 . . .*

part-time workers and those not working but training for other positions. Virginia is one of the first states to reject jobless benefits from the economic stimulus package – yet the resolution to this political hot potato remains questionable.

Current volatility in the regional economic scene prevents this writer from venturing to put words on paper, for today's perceptions may prove untrue tomorrow. However, the Richmond First Club will be treated to a more sophisticated prognosis about the regional economic outlook when **Mr. Brian Ford** speaks to us May 7th on "*Current Events in the Financial Markets: Trends Affecting the Local Scene.*"

Mr. Ford is Senior Vice President, Financial Consultant, and an Accredited Wealth Manager with RBC Wealth Management's Ford Group. He is a certified financial planner whose advice and guidance is widely respected.

The Richmond First Club welcomes Mr. Ford, hoping to hear positive forecasts about our regional economy on May 7. We will keep our fingers crossed!

(View their new website: <http://rbfc.com/fordgroup> for more about the company.)

By Jane Koontz, Vice President and Program Chair



## *A Fond Farewell —*

Former president and long term member Chuck Ylonen passed away recently. He ran Chuck's grocery markets. Several Richmond First Club members visited with family. We valued his good cheer and continued membership in the Richmond First Club for many years.

*Jim Doherty*



## **Welcome New Members!**

Recently approved by the RFC Board of Directors — please welcome **Antionette V. Irving** (sponsored by Rayford Harris); **Mary Ashburn Darby** (sponsored by Sheila Sheppard); **Rayford L. Harris, Jr.** (sponsored by Rayford Harris). **Sheila Sheppard** joined Richmond First Club the end of 2008 (sponsored by Jane Koontz).

We are very glad to have these folks as members of the Richmond First Club and are looking forward to getting to know them better and to their involvement in RFC!

Additional applications have been received for review at the next meeting of the Board of Directors in May.



## **Call for Committee Involvement**

Want in on the inside track? Contact any member of the Board of Directors (back page) and volunteer for a committee for the next fiscal year. We welcome your input and involvement as we go forward!

## **RFC Elections at the June Meeting**

The Richmond First Club Nominations Committee has been talking with members and recruiting new leadership for the August 1 2009 — July 31 2010 fiscal year. Elections will take place on June 4, 2009 at the annual luncheon meeting of the membership. As of this date the following have agreed to serve:

PRESIDENT: tba

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Nancy Finch

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Brooks

SECRETARY: Jonathan MacDonald

TREASURER: Lewis Matherne

AT-LARGE: Len Morrow

AT-LARGE: Pat Ryan

AT-LARGE: Rayford Harris

Other: Pat Ryan has agreed to continue as Membership chair; Len Morrow has agreed to continue as PR committee chair; Rayford Harris will chair a committee (tba). Brenda Finley has said she will retire as newsletter chair — so we are looking for an individual to fill that position as well as that of Education chair.



## **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**

Bus Rapid Transit is an innovative, high capacity, lower cost public transit solution that can significantly improve urban mobility. This permanent, integrated system uses buses or specialized vehicles on roadways or dedicated lanes to quickly and efficiently transport passengers to their destinations, while offering flexibility to meet transit demand. BRT systems can easily be customized to community needs and incorporate state-of-the-art, low-cost technologies that result in more passengers and less congestion. To meet these needs, a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) concept, was recommended in the recently completed GRTC Transit System Comprehensive Operations Analysis report (2008). Rapid Transit is just down the road. Initial hub will be at the Main Street rail station. John Lewis was our speaker earlier this year and will gladly answer questions about the "2015 and Beyond" plan (358-3871 — [jlewis@ridegrtc.com](mailto:jlewis@ridegrtc.com) or you can contact Kathy Shaw at the same phone number — [kshaw@ridegrtc.com](mailto:kshaw@ridegrtc.com)).



## **Partnership for Greater Growth**

The Partnership for Greater Growth has a great website resource for events and activities connected to the Richmond Metropolitan Region and cooperative efforts. Mark your calendars.

- June 25th Bus Tour — *Designed for elected officials and media illustrating the need for and benefits of linking land use and transportation.*
- September 2009 Saunter — *Annual citizen based event to raise awareness of PSG and **Voices for Mobility Choices***
- *Look for information for the next Capital Region Greenway Forum meeting. — and more! — [psg@psgrichmond.org](mailto:psg@psgrichmond.org) or Sheila Sheppard at 804-225-1902.*

### Membership Recruitment Contest

As stated in earlier editions of the *Bulletin*, one of the results of the "Leadership Surge" (a long night retreat last October by the board) was a recommendation for increasing membership and recruiting new and young members to take on leadership roles in the Richmond First Club.

In order to preserve the rich heritage and mission of the Richmond First Club, and to ensure future growth while attracting potential new leadership to our ranks, the Board of Directors recently approved a recruitment incentive for current members to recruit new members to Richmond First Club. Again, this incentive is for current members of the Richmond First Club — The member who recruits the highest number of new members by the June meeting (that is the end of this fiscal year) will be designated as this year's contest winner and will receive the following:

- an \$85 credit for one year of free membership! The dues will be applied to the next fiscal year (August 2009 - June 2010).
- a gift certificate for two people for a 2-hour Richmond Landmark tour from Segway of Richmond. What fun that will be!
- an afternoon of kayaking on Winter Harbor — on the Chesapeake Bay (when the weather is warmer).

To be eligible for the incentive prizes: you, as a current member of the Richmond First Club, will need to recruit a minimum of two (2) new members (who are not previous members) who apply, are approved, and pay their dues to RFC this spring. The individual who recruits the greatest number of new members (must be a minimum of 2) will be the winner! You should start now!

Better get busy! At least one person has recruited two new members! The contest ends with the June meeting!

*WIN — Dues dollars, Segway tour AND a kayak tour in Mathews, VA!*



#### Application for Richmond First Club Membership (or Annual Renewal)

*I am familiar with and will subscribe to the purposes of the Richmond First Club. I understand that members are expected to participate actively on a club committee and are encouraged to attend the club meetings as often as possible. I certify that I am a registered voter in the Richmond metropolitan area (Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico and Hanover) and by signing this application, and upon being accepted for membership by the Board, I agree to fulfill the membership obligations set forth above.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Name or Nickname used) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_ (Position or Title) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

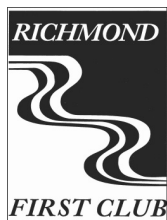
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred mailing address (please check one):  Home  Business

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Dues \$85 (plus paying separately for each of 10 monthly luncheons attended.) — OR select the "Gold Star" membership with dues of \$210 annually (\$210 includes the fee for 10 monthly luncheon meetings as well as your dues). — If you attend all meetings you realize a savings of at least \$55 per year and don't need to remember to bring a check each month for your lunch! Look for the members with a gold star on their badge — they took advantage of the new "Gold Star" membership benefit! Please mail to Richmond First Club — PO Box 344 — Richmond, VA 23218-0344.**

The Bulletin is published monthly by the  
**Richmond First Club**  
PO Box 344  
Richmond, VA 23218-0344  
<http://richmondfirstclub.org/index.htm>



**Board of Directors**

Acting  
President: Board members or past presidents preside  
1st VP: **Jane Koontz** 795-2117, [jekoontz@juno.com](mailto:jekoontz@juno.com)  
2nd VP: *vacant*  
Secretary: **Jonathan Macdonald** 804-272-1442  
[jbmacdon@hotmail.com](mailto:jbmacdon@hotmail.com)  
Treasurer: **Jim Doherty** 353-2000 [mldoherty@aol.com](mailto:mldoherty@aol.com)  
At large: **Rayford Harris** 321-7944, [vsuteach@verizon.net](mailto:vsuteach@verizon.net)  
At Large: **Len Morrow** 358-7355 [lmorrow3@verizon.net](mailto:lmorrow3@verizon.net)  
At Large: **Charlie Finley** 648-0357 [charfinley@mindspring.com](mailto:charfinley@mindspring.com)  
Past President: **Allan Troclair**

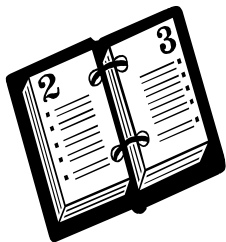
Education Committee:  
*Need new chairperson*

Membership Committee:  
**Pat Ryan** 545-6656, [patryan@kw.com](mailto:patryan@kw.com)

Newsletter: **Brenda Finley** 272-9004, [brenden.associates1@juno.com](mailto:brenden.associates1@juno.com)

The public is welcome to attend meetings, which are generally held on the first Thursday of each month. Please call or email Pat Ryan to make a reservation — 545-6656, [patryan@kw.com](mailto:patryan@kw.com).

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



**Mark your calendar now  
for these meetings for the  
remainder of the RFC  
2008-2009 fiscal year.**

The Club meets on the first Thursday of the month. We will continue to meet at SunTrust Bank at 10th & East Main Streets.

- **May 7, 2009—Brian Ford**, RBC Wealth Management, speaking on the regional economic outlook
- **June 4, 2009 — Senator Donald McEachin**
- **June 4, 2009 — Annual Meeting— Election of Board**

Members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors — usually held on the Monday evening following the Thursday membership meeting.

If you come, you will be provided with an opportunity to offer your ideas, concerns, and/or other areas of interest. You may be looking for a way to become more involved in the club, or head up a committee.

Please call or send an email message to any officer (above) for directions and to be included on the agenda. (804)272-9004

**Richmond First Club**

*Our Mission*

The club's founders shared a common vision of a permanent organization that would inform the public and political leaders about a broad range of civic issues, policies and solutions.

The spirit of enlightened activism that initially inspired the formation of the Richmond First Club in 1919 carries on today in its active study of and involvement in issues currently affecting the Richmond metropolitan area.

During its 80-plus year history, the club has provided leadership on a number of issues critical to the quality of governance in the metropolitan areas. All the region's citizens have benefited from the club's energy and diligence.

The club pioneered the idea of cooperation among the political jurisdictions in the metropolitan areas. The club completed comprehensive studies advocating regional cooperation as early as 1981.

The lifeblood of the club is its committee structure, where members focus on and research civic issues vital to continued development in the region. Thorough and nonpartisan studies have been published by these committees, assisting in many high-profile accomplishments over the years.

**Be advised that our mailing address is:  
Richmond First Club  
P.O. Box 344 – Richmond, VA 23218-0344**

***Changes of name, address, telephone number or email address go to Pat Ryan [patryan@kw.com](mailto:patryan@kw.com) who is charged with producing the membership directory.***

*Thank you!*