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Subject: Fourth District Fridays 11.14.2025
Date: Nov 14, 2025 at 4:48:01 PM
To: danielapple@me.com



November 14, 2025 | Issue 38



Dear Fourth District Friends,

Last week we had the push-in ceremony for Station 25, and this week, we

continued to celebrate the great investment and progress being made within the Richmond Fire Department. It's been encouraging to see these projects move forward and to recognize the people who make this work possible.

On Monday, we marked the opening of the new Station 21 in the 8th District. I was grateful to my colleague, Councilmember Trammell, for the invitation and to witness her leadership and commitment to first responders. Although this station sits in another district, it serves families across South Richmond and replaces a facility that had been in service for more than 80 years. This new station represents a meaningful

In this issue:

- Jahnke Road Improvement Project (Slightly) Delayed
- Applications for "Healthy Homes" Home Rehabilitation Program
- Special Use Permit Process
- Upcoming Events
- Ways to Stay Engaged
- City Resources

Constituent Corner:

- Number of Constituent Emails Responded to Last Week: **74**
- Number of PUBLIC 311 tickets in the 4th District Last Week: **93**
- Top Issues from Constituents: **SUPs, infrastructure projects**

Quick Notes:

There will not be a newsletter on Friday, Nov. 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Lane Closures

Multiple streets throughout 4th District for Richmond Marathon (Sat., Nov. 15 AM)

Why and Details: Multiple 4th District streets will have traffic pattern changes tomorrow morning for the Richmond Marathon. You can find full details on the [Richmond Marathon website](#) or in last week's newsletter.

7100 Block of Cherokee Road from Monday, November 10 to Friday, December 5 (9 a.m.-4 p.m., weather permitting)

Why and Details: Starting Monday, November 10, crews will conduct roadway repairs and stormwater drainage improvements at the 7100 Block of

upgrade for our firefighters, the neighborhoods they protect, and it reflects our focused prioritization of modernizing critical public-safety infrastructure citywide.

At that same event, we celebrated the announcement of Jeffrey Segal as Richmond's permanent Chief of Fire. After months of exceptional leadership in the interim role, his appointment marks an important step forward for the department. Chief Segal has led with steadiness and professionalism, and his selection reflects the city's focus on strengthening leadership and ensuring continuity as these long-term public-safety investments come online.

Together, these milestones reflect a broader commitment: upgrading the tools and spaces that allow our firefighters to serve with excellence, while honoring the heritage and spirit of the men and women who answer the call.

With Fourth District Love,

Sarah

Cherokee Road from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day through Friday, December 5. Traffic control measures will be in place as a detour will be implemented from Old Westham Road and South Drive. The project is expected to be completed in four weeks, weather permitting and barring any other unforeseen circumstances.

Powwhite Parkway Northbound (between the James River Bridge and Forest Hill Avenue)

Why and Details: The Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority (RMTA) will have alternating lane closures on the Northbound side of Powwhite Parkway on the **weekends of November 1, 8, 15, and 22**. Closures will occur from **7 a.m. on Saturday to 6 a.m. on Monday for construction**. Motorists using the Forest Hill Ave on-ramp to northbound Powwhite Parkway should expect delays merging onto the parkway.

Longview Drive (from Rockfalls Drive to Scottview Drive) from **Monday, August 25 for 6 months** (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, weather permitting)

Why and Details: Starting Monday, August 25, crews began replacing water mains and laterals

under Longview Drive from Rockfalls Drive to Wallowa Road and Hathaway Road from Longview Drive to Old Westham Road. Traffic control measures are in place as alternating lanes on Longview Drive will be closed between Rockfalls Drive to Scottview Drive

- Starting Tuesday, September 2 for two weeks, Longview Drive will be closed to thru traffic. This work will take place from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Flaggers will be on-site to direct traffic, detour signs will be in place, and residents will have access to their homes.

Did someone forward you this message? Subscribe for future updates below.

Sign Up for this Newsletter

Three Big Things

Trying to keep up with all that is happening in Richmond can be overwhelming. Every week, I will share the three most important things to know for the upcoming week.

1 - District: Jahnke Road Improvement Project (Slightly) Delayed

#2 - City: Applications for "Healthy Homes" Home Rehabilitation Program

The City's Department of Housing and Community Development is accepting

This is not an update I wanted to share, but unfortunately, the Jahnke Road Improvement Project is experiencing a slight delay.

As you may recall, bids were due on July 15 and a bid was awarded early in the fall. The next step in the process is to establish the

contract, which is taking longer than intended. Based on the successful bid process, DPW hoped to begin construction this month (November 2025), but construction will now begin in January 2026 at the earliest.

The Jahnke Road Improvement Project is still happening - and soon! DPW shared that these delays are totally normal and many contracts have been delayed across localities throughout the country.

Once construction begins (hopefully in January 2026!), it is still scheduled to take two years to complete. Of course, as soon as DPW confirms the contract has been finalized and has a firmer (new) start date for construction, I will share it with you all.

Community Development is accepting applications for its *Healthy Homes* home rehabilitation program, a City initiative designed to help eligible residents make critical repairs that improve the safety, accessibility, and longevity of their homes.

The program prioritizes health and safety repairs, including:

- HVAC repair or replacement
- Roof repair or replacement
- Plumbing and electrical repairs
- Accessibility modifications (such as ADA bathrooms)
- Energy efficiency improvements (such as windows or doors)
- Other urgent home rehabilitation needs, as deemed eligible by program staff

Since its inception in 2023, the Healthy Homes program has invested over \$2 million to help nearly 100 homeowners make critical repairs to their homes.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will remain open until all funds are disbursed; therefore, interested residents are encouraged to apply **as soon as possible**.

More information about the Healthy Homes program, **including the application**, can be found [here](#).

#3 - City: Special Use Permit Process

Throughout my time on Council, I have observed that real estate development is one of the hottest topics for many neighborhoods. That has been particularly noticeable with the Code Refresh process (as a reminder, the Planning Department is releasing their second draft for updates to the Zoning Ordinance on Monday - more to come in next week's newsletter!), but development is still a high priority for many under the current ordinance.

Therefore, I wanted to shed some light on the Special Use Permit (SUP) process. There are many developments throughout the district and City that are **"by-right"** - this means the requested use is consistent with the current zoning for the parcel. Examples of by-right developments include a single-family home on a residentially-zoned parcel or a building for a business on a commercially-zoned parcel.

Often, the requested use does not directly align with the current zoning. Sometimes, the

requested deviation is minor, such as having a slightly smaller setback than what is required, but sometimes it is significant, such as putting a multifamily residential building on a lot zoned for a single-family home. In either of these instances (or many others when the request does not completely align with the current zoning), a **special use permit (SUP) is required**.

The process to apply for a SUP is **lengthy** - there is an **eleven** step process, which

The process to apply for a SUP is lengthy - there is an eleven step process, which includes:

Preapplication

Optional meetings between applicant and Planning staff to discuss project programming, design, and due diligence

Step 1: Application Received

Step 2: Application & Letters Routing

Within 2 working days, the application is routed to reviewing agencies. Letter notifying civic associations within the area and letter to the applicant with civic association information are sent.

Step 3: Comment Letter

Within 30 days of receipt, a letter is sent to the applicant requesting additional information or clarification

Step 4: Meeting with Applicant

If necessary, a meeting with the applicant occurs to discuss requests made in the comment letter.

Step 5: Application Resubmission

The application with additional information is resubmitted within 60 days of the comment letter. The applicant can request additional time if necessary, otherwise the application is withdrawn and a refund of the fees is given.

Step 6: Resubmission Routing

The application resubmission is routed for review by agencies within 2 business days.

Step 7: Additional Information

The applicant is notified within 15 days if additional information is required. If more information is required, the process returns to Step 5. If the application is complete, the process continues to Step 8.

Step 8: Ordinance

If no additional information is required, staff prepares and submits the ordinance to the CAO for review.

Step 9: Ordinance Introduction

Approximately 45 days later, the ordinance is introduced at City Council. Civic associations are notified of Planning Commission hearing date.

Step 10: Planning Commission

Approximately 3 weeks later, the application is heard by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission makes a recommendation to Council.

Step 11: City Council

The Planning Commission recommendation is forwarded to City Council for a vote (at least a week later). City Council makes final decision.

Post-Approval

When required, final plans are submitted for review to meet terms of approval. Work commences.

As you can imagine, this process takes **A LOT** of time - Planning tells applicants to expect **6-9 months** for the **simplest** SUPs, with complex ones taking much longer, often years.

While I tend not to address specific SUPs in this newsletter (most SUPs don't affect the entire district, so I handle them on the neighborhood level), there has been an outpouring of discourse about a recent SUP application for the property at 6101 Forest Hill Ave (currently a vacant lot abutting the Powhite on-ramp). You can read some of the reporting about the application [here](#).

Given the concern, I thought it was a perfect opportunity to share more about the SUP process - both the length and rigor of it. Regarding 6101 Forest Hill, it is currently in Step 3 of the process, which suggests that a final decision is not expected for several months, as the submission to the Council or the Planning Commission is pending. Of course, I welcome resident feedback at all times, but please do understand that the time for formal comment to Council and the Planning Commission will be well into the future (if at all - there's no guarantee that SUP applicants see the process all the way through).

For more information about SUPs or anything related to development from the City side, please review the [Land Use Admin](#) page on the Planning Department website.

Upcoming Events

November

Sat., Nov. 15 Richmond Marathon (expect road closures/travel delays - details forthcoming)

Tues., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. FHNA Meeting @ Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

Tues., Nov. 18, 7:15 p.m. SCA Meeting @ Southampton Recreation Association

Sat., Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Friends of Forest Hill Park Work Event @ Stone House

Wed., Nov. 26-Fri., Nov. 28 City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

December

Mon., Dec. 1, 4 p.m. Organizational Development Committee Meeting @ City Hall

Mon., Dec. 8, 6 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall

Wed., Dec. 10, 7 p.m. WHNA Holiday Potluck @ Westover Hills United Methodist Church

Tues., Dec. 16 FHNA Meeting @ Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

Tues., Dec. 16 SCA Meeting @ Southampton Recreation Association

Wed., Dec. 24-Thurs., Dec. 25 City Offices closed for Winter Holiday

Council Catch Up

This week:

November 10: City Council held our regular meeting. Key papers that were approved included updates to the Open Data Portal, increases to towing fees on private property, two major tourism projects in Scott's Addition, and the residential rental inspection program. You can watch that meeting [here](#).

November 12: The Governmental Operations Committee held our regular monthly meeting. We heard presentations on the Public Utilities Services Commission Annual Update and Combined Sewer Overflow System Update. We also recommended approval for papers amending conflict of interest reporting requirements for certain key board and commissions as well as Mayor Avula's proposal to create a FOIA Library; we forwarded Councilmember Gibson's proposal with no recommendation. You can watch that recording [here](#).

November 13: The Education and Human Services Committee held their regular monthly meeting. They heard a presentation on gun violence prevention efforts and recommended approval for a paper for the City's Plan of Services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Act. You can watch that recording [here](#).

Online Act. You can watch that recording [here](#).

Next week:

November 18: The Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting. They will consider papers approving the Maymont Foundation's continued management of Maymont Park, allowing FlixBus to operate at Main Street Station, establishing a civil penalty for demolishing structures in old and historic districts, and declaring a City-owned property as surplus. You can tune into that meeting [here](#).

November 19: The Finance and Economic Development Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting. Key papers for consideration include the transferring of participatory budgeting staff to the CAO's Office, conducting an inventory and assessing the effectiveness of the City's existing programs to mitigate displacement, and requesting the CAO develop an FY27 budget based on a tax rate of \$1.16. You can tune into that meeting [here](#).

In the News

Here's a few news stories from the week to keep you informed:

[Watch the Council meeting from Nov. 10](#)

[Council recap: Rental inspection program passes, but officials still have to decide where to use it](#) (The Richmonder)

[School board votes yes to changes on collective bargaining procedures](#)
(The Richmonder)

[Richmond City Council boosts affordable housing fund by \\$2M](#)
(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

[Richmond names new fire chief, unveils 'anti-corruption' policy for department](#)
(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

[Richmond gun violence office too new for results, council wants more action](#)
(12 On Your Side)

Important Contact Information



Richmond City Council
The Voice of the People Richmond, Virginia

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Get Updates Fast on Social Media

In fast-paced situations, I will post to my social media channels in real time as I learn new information. It's always a good idea to follow me on Facebook and Instagram and check my stories for quick information.



City Resources

WHO TO CONTACT?



EMERGENCY?

- Police
- Fire
- Medical

Call 9-1-1

URGENT?

- Power outage
- Live power wire
- Natural gas and water leaks
- Sinkholes
- Raw sewage
- Downed streetlight
- Tree blocking road
- Tree on power line
- Traffic signal out
- File a police report
- Homeless crisis

Dominion Energy
866-366-4357

Public Utilities
804-646-4646
then press 1

Non Emergency Police
804-646-5100

Continuum of Care
804-972-0813

PERMITS?

- Permits
- Inspections

Planning and Development
804-646-1628

UTILITIES?

- Utilities billing
- Utilities payments

Public Utilities
804-646-4646

SOMETHING ELSE?

- General information
- Social services
- Trash cans and litter
- Finance and tax questions
- Road, alley and sidewalk repairs
- Streetlight repairs
- Street sign repairs
- Storm water and storm drains
- Code enforcement issues
- Zoning issues
- Damaged tree assessments
- Parking issues

RVA 311
Call 3-1-1 or
804-646-7000

RVA311.com

RVA311 mobile app

Contact Citizen Service and Response with questions or concerns.



Richmond Public Schools

4th District School Board Member [Wesley Hedgepeth](#)



Richmond Public Library



Central Virginia Waste Management

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