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Dear Fourth District Friends,

Budget season is upon us, and this week the Mayor's Administration will be hosting a Budget Town Hall at **Huguenot High School this Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 6-8 p.m.** I want to encourage Fourth District residents to show up and make your voices heard.

These town halls are designed to both engage the public and gather data that will inform the Mayor's proposed FY26 budget. Through mock budgeting activities you will learn more about how the City's budget works and share their high-level priorities directly with the Administration. If we care about how resources are allocated next year, this is an important moment to participate and have your voice heard.

If you're able to attend, I hope you will. Let's make sure the Mayor

## In this issue:

- Jahnke Rd Improvement Project is **FINALLY** starting!
- Mayor's Budget Town Halls
- 2025 End-of-Year Crime Statistics
- Upcoming Events
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## Constituent Corner:

- Number of Constituent Emails Responded to Last Week: **101**
- Number of PUBLIC 311 tickets in the 4th District Last Week: **57**
- Top Issues from Constituents: **Trash collection, infrastructure concerns**

## Quick Notes:

Click [here](#) to access the Fourth District Fridays Newsletter Library

Code Refresh comment period extended until **March 1**.  
See all materials and provide feedback [here](#).

## Lane Closures

**5201 Sylvan Court** cul-de-sac between Sylvan Road and cul-de-sac of Sylvan Court on **Mon., Feb. 16 and Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily**

**Why and Details:** Replacing severe lateral and pavement restoration. **Property owners will have access to their**

will. Let's make sure the Mayor knows what matters most to the Fourth District.

For those who cannot attend in person, there are meaningful ways to participate online. You can view the presentation and register online [here](#). If you can't make it on Tuesday there will be a recording of the budget town hall presentation online. Residents are encouraged to watch the recorded session in its entirety and then take the budget prioritization survey.

More about these sessions can be found later in this newsletter.

The budget reflects our values. Let's make sure ours are clearly heard.

With Fourth District Love,

*Sarah*

properties within the closure area.

#### Triple Lane Closures on Powhite Parkway

The Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority announces triple-lane closures on multiple dates on the Powhite Parkway (VA 76) to support construction for the upcoming transition to all-electronic tolling.

The closures will occur on:

**Sat., Feb. 14 at 6 a.m. to Mon., Feb. 16 at 6 a.m.**

Alternating triple right-lane closures on Powhite Parkway (VA 76) southbound

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

**Why and Details:** Starting Monday, Aug. 25, crews began replacing water mains and laterals under Longview Dr from Rockfalls Dr to Wallowa Rd and Hathaway Rd from Longview Dr to Old Westham Rd. Traffic control measures are in place as alternating lanes on Longview Dr will be closed between Rockfalls Dr to Scottview Dr.

**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 Rd Improvement Project is **FINALLY** starting!

No, you're not seeing things — the Jahnke Road Improvement Project is **finally** starting! I know those of you who have been around for awhile might be having some trust issues (this has been a *long* time coming), but the time has finally come.

The project will begin construction during the **week of Feb. 23** and is scheduled for completion in **Spring 2028**.

I know this is a *very* long time. However, we all know that South Richmond has long faced under-

### #2 - City: Mayor's Budget Town Halls

Budget season for Fiscal Year 2027 (beginning July 1, 2026), kicks into full gear over the next few weeks.

As a reminder, under Richmond's form of government, the Mayor develops a proposed budget, which he presents to Council. Council then reviews the budget, makes amendments, and approves the final budget. While I'll continue to share key dates for the budget process over the coming weeks, some of the biggest ones to keep in mind are:

- **March 11:** Mayor submits his proposed budget to Council

investment, particularly from an infrastructure perspective, and I'm extremely grateful that the City is making such a significant investment in this crucial corridor in our district. This project will significantly enhance safety for WHES students, families, and staff, along with all users of Jahnke Road.

For more information about the Jahnke Road Improvement Project, you can review this week's [press release](#) as well as the [project webpage](#) on the DPW website. You can also review the 4th District newsletters from [Feb. 14, 2025](#), [May 30, 2025](#), and [Nov. 14, 2025](#).

For detailed project questions, you can contact the Project Manager, Winston Phillips, at [winston.phillips@rva.gov](mailto:winston.phillips@rva.gov).

- **March 23:** Public hearing on Mayor's proposed budget at regular Council meeting
- **April 13:** Public hearing on Council's proposed amendments
- **May 11:** Public hearing on Council's amended budget and final vote
- **May 15:** Deadline to approve RPS budget
- **May 30:** Deadline to approve City budget

Please note: all dates are subject to change and, of course, I will share any alterations to the calendar.

As Council is not involved in drafting the proposed budget and only has a few short weeks to amend it, it is extremely important to ensure the Mayor and his team hear from residents directly — budget priorities are much more likely to be in the final budget if they are included in the Mayor's proposed budget. As mentioned in my introduction, I **highly** encourage you all to consider attending one of the Mayor's Budget Town Halls so you can provide your feedback directly. Those upcoming town halls are:

- **Tuesday, February 16, 6-8 p.m.:** Huguenot HS
  - [Register here](#)
- **Saturday, February 28, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.:** Annie E. Giles Resource Center
  - [Register here](#)
- **Saturday, February 28, 2-4 p.m.:** Hickory Hill Community Center
  - [Register here](#)

If you're unable to attend one of the remaining sessions, you can also watch the [recording](#) of an earlier town hall and provide your feedback through the Mayor's [budget prioritization survey](#).

### #3 - City: 2025 End-of-Year Crime Statistics

On Jan. 29, RPD Chief Rick Edwards held a press conference to address the 2025 End-of-Year crime statistics. I remain grateful to Chief Edwards for his steadfast leadership and to everybody at RPD for their tireless work to keep Richmonders safe.

The presentation that Chief Edwards provided was extensive, and I encourage you to watch the [press conference recording](#) and review the slide deck thoroughly. That being said, there are a few key statistics that I thought were worth highlighting:

- **Decrease in major crimes:** Richmond experienced 9,037 major crimes in 2025, down from 10,265 in 2024, which was a **decrease of 12%**.
  - The "major crime" classification includes murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, arson, burglary, larceny, and auto theft.
- **Decrease in non-fatal shootings:** Richmond experienced 171 non-fatal shootings in 2025, down from 200 in 2024, which was a **decrease of 15%**.
- **Gun Violence Hotspots:** While I strive to ensure that there are no gun violence hotspots anywhere in the City, none of the 13 hotspots identified in 2025 were in the 4th District.
- **Decrease in property crime:** Total property crime decreased by **14%** (from 9,301 in 2024 to 7,993 in 2025), including significant reductions of 26% for residential burglaries and 41% of theft of motor vehicles.

Additionally, Chief Edwards provided updates on a couple of key programs:

- **Operation Vaporize:** The City, through Code Enforcement, launched this program in December to ensure vape/tobacco shops were complying with all regulations and to provide enforcement to those that were not. This program is tracking 97 vape shops, with 55 having been inspected and 32 closed/placarded. The City has also issued **587 violations**.
- **Spring Forward:** This is a coordinated effort to reduce violence among Richmond's youth during the Spring Break season. Lasting from March 28-April 5, RPD and the Office of Gun Violence Prevention are coordinating with numerous community partners on programs and activities. Full details can be found in the presentation, and you can also read more about the program in this [article](#) from The Richmonder.

Lastly, I want to highlight a distressing statistic: there were 472 firearms stolen from vehicles in 2025. Although this is down from 542 in 2024 (a decrease of 13%), I cannot believe it has to continue to be said that Richmonders **should not be leaving firearms unattended in vehicles**, even if the vehicle is locked. Firearm ownership carries a high level of responsibility, and I want to continue to implore all firearm owners to ensure their firearms are stored safely and are never left unattended.

## Upcoming Events

### February

**Mon., Feb. 16** City Offices Closed for Presidents' Day

**Tues., Feb. 17, 7 p.m.** FHNA Meeting @

### March

**Mon., Mar. 2, 4 p.m.** Organizational Development Committee Meeting @ City Hall

**Tues., Feb. 13, 7:15 p.m.** SCA Meeting @ Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

**Tues., Feb. 17, 7:15 p.m.** SCA Meeting @ Southampton Recreation Association

**Tues., Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m.** Mayor Avula's Budget Town Hall @ Huguenot High School

**Wed., Feb. 18, 6-7 p.m.** **VMFA Lecture on African American Art** @ Westover Hills Library

**Mon., Feb. 23, 6 p.m.** City Council Meeting @ City Hall

**Sat., Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.** Richmond Invasive Species Awareness Week Work Event w/ Friends of Forest Hill Park @ Forest Hill Park (RSVP [here](#))

**Tues., Mar. 3, 6-7:30 p.m.** Richmond Parks Master Plan Engagement Session @ Veil Brewing Company (4910 Forest Hill Ave)

**Mon., Mar. 9** City Offices Closed for International Women's Day

**Tues., Mar. 10, 6 p.m.** City Council Meeting @ City Hall

**Wed. Mar. 11, 3 p.m.** Mayor presents proposed budget @ City Hall

**Wed., Mar. 11, 7 p.m.** WHNA Meeting @ Westover Hills United Methodist Church

**Sat., Mar. 14, 9 a.m.** Run for the Hills 5K @ Forest Hill Park

**Tues., Mar. 17, 7 p.m.** FHNA Meeting @ Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

**Tues., Mar. 17, 7:15 p.m.** SCA Meeting @ Southampton Recreation Association

**Mon., Mar. 23, 6 p.m.** City Council Meeting @ City Hall (and public hearing on the Mayor's proposed budget)

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## Council Catch Up

### This week:

**February 9:** City Council held our regular meeting. Key papers that were adopted included ordinances surplusing a City property at 500 N. 10th St. to facilitate the City Center development, moving the Mayor's budget proposal submission date from March 27 to March 11, and several to make an impact on the opioid crisis as well as resolutions to request the Mayor submit budget proposals based on tax rates of both \$1.20 and \$1.16 and to increase wages and benefits for the City's contract janitors. We also had a proclamation ceremony recognizing the 95th birthday of former Governor and Mayor L. Douglas Wilder. You can watch that recording [here](#).

**February 12:** The Education and Human Services Committee held their regular monthly meeting. They heard a presentation on early childhood development and held discussions on RPS and the City's human services portfolio. They also approved papers funding the expansion of life skills programing at MLK Middle School and two programs to impact the opioid crisis. You can watch that recording [here](#).

### Next week:

**February 17:** The Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting. They will hear presentations on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Code Enforcement Outreach and Education. Key papers for consideration include amending City Code related to Chesapeake Bay preservation areas and Erosion Stormwater Management Program fees, expressing Council's support for and request the Commonwealth Transportation Board provide funding for the City's SMART SCALE projects, and committing to work with City Administration on energy efficiency best practices. You can tune into that meeting [here](#).

**February 18:** The Finance and Economic Development Committee will hold their regular

**February 18:** The Finance and Economic Development Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting. They will hear an update from CAO Donald about RVA Pay and Process Improvements. Key papers for consideration include a funding process for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, amending the ordinance concerning Diamond District funding, and the issuance of certain bonds. You can tune into that meeting [here](#).

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## In the News

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

[Watch the Council meeting from Feb. 9](#)

[Council asks Avula admin to consider lower property taxes, higher pay for contract janitors](#) (The Richmonder)

[Avula, six City Councilors strike compromise on Affordable Housing Trust Fund](#) (The Richmonder)

['Go to the future': Powhite Parkway tolls shutdown as crews install all-electronic tolls](#) (12 On Your Side)

[New Richmond transportation director calls 2026 'year of the pedestrian'](#) (12 On Your Side)

[Richmond's Jahnke Road improvement project nearing construction after more than a decade](#) (Channel 8 News)

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## Important Contact Information



### Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

#### Fourth District City Councilmember

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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?



DEPARTMENT OF  
CITIZEN SERVICE  
AND RESPONSE



### 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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