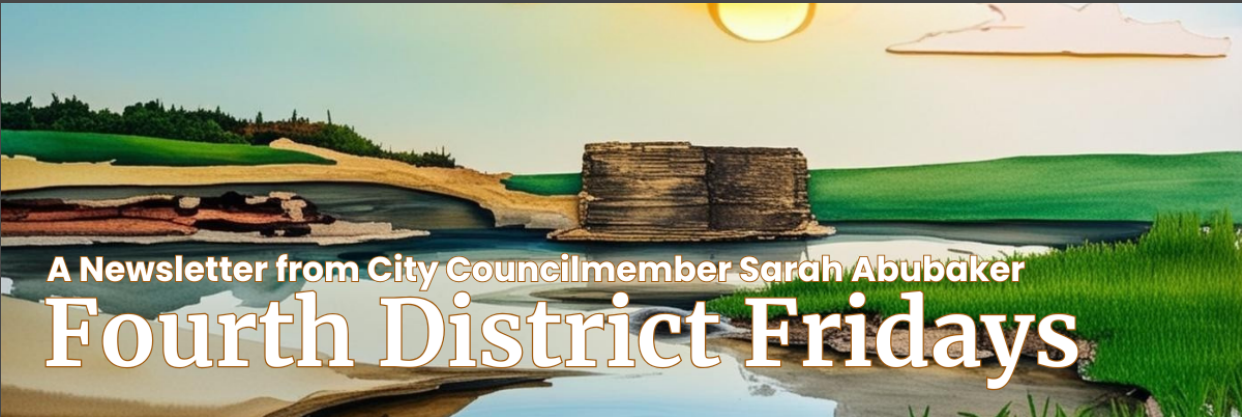


From: Councilmember Sarah Abubaker sarah@rvacitycouncil.ccsend.com
Subject: Fourth District Fridays 9.11.2026
Date: September 11, 2026 at 11:55 AM
To: danielapple@me.com

CA



A Newsletter from City Councilmember Sarah Abubaker Fourth District Fridays

[View as Webpage](#)

September 11, 2026 | Issue 70



Dear Fourth District Friends,

Twenty-five years ago today, I was a 10th grader at Freeman High School. I remember my teacher turning on the television that morning. We stayed in first period, watching in horror as the second plane hit the World Trade Center. I remember the feeling that time had simply stopped. I remember watching first responders run toward burning buildings, fighting against what seemed like a tidal wave of people running as fast as they could in the opposite direction. Even at 15, I understood that I was watching extraordinary courage in the midst of unimaginable tragedy.

And then I remember a student sitting near me turning to me and saying, "I bet you feel bad right now."

It took me a few moments to understand what she meant. She associated me — my name, my appearance, my family — with the terrorists we were watching on television.

Suddenly, amid all the fear and confusion of that

In this issue:

- Latest Update on Pedestrian Beacons at 41st/43rd Streets and Forest Hill Ave
- Reminder - 2026 DPW Neighborhood Cleanup Program
- Details for November 3, 2026 General Election
- Ways to Stay Engaged
- City Resources

Constituent Corner:

- Number of Constituent Emails Responded to Last Week: **55**
- Number of PUBLIC 311 tickets in the 4th District Last Week: **38**
- Top Issues from Constituents: **Code Refresh, 311 tickets**

Quick Notes:

There will **not** be a formal newsletter next Friday, September 18. We will be sending an abbreviated message with final details about the South Richmond Code Refresh Town Hall on September 22.

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

Road Closures/Traffic Impacts

morning, I personally felt another kind of fear. I remember worrying about my dad. Being Middle Eastern, I wondered whether he would lose his job because of it. I wondered what this terrible thing that had just happened would mean for him, for my family, and for people who looked like us.

I have thought about that day many times over the past 25 years. I remember the nearly 3,000 lives that were taken and the families who carried unimaginable loss forward with them. I remember the firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and ordinary people who ran toward danger to help strangers. And I remember a country grieving together.

But I also remember how quickly fear can cause us to look at our neighbors differently. For me, remembering September 11 means holding all of those things at once. It means honoring those we lost and those who ran toward danger when every instinct told them to run away. It means remembering the remarkable ways Americans showed up for one another in the days that followed. And it means remembering that, particularly in moments of fear and uncertainty, we have a responsibility to resist the instinct to decide that someone among us is somehow less American, less deserving of belonging, or responsible for the actions of people they have never met.

Twenty-five years later, that feels like a lesson worth carrying forward.

Today, I hope you will join me in remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001, honoring the first responders and countless others whose lives were forever changed, and recommitting ourselves to being the kind of community that runs toward one another, not away.

With Fourth District Love,

Sarah

The following DPU projects are active in the 4th District with traffic control ***as needed***:

Project: Westover Hills Water Main Repairs Phase II
Area Affected: Westover Hills/Dorchester Road
Current *anticipated* completion: December 2026

Project: Westover Hills Water Main Repairs Phase III
Area Affected: Westover Hills/1600 Block of Prince Arthur Road
Current *anticipated* completion: December 2026

Project: Longview Drive Water Main Replacement
Area Affected: Willow Oaks
Current *anticipated* completion: January 2027

Project: Forest Hill/Gravel Hill Water Main Repairs
Area Affected: Gravel Hill/6800 Block of Forest Hill Ave
Current *anticipated* completion: January 2027

Project: Hobby Hill-Duryea Drive Water Main Repairs
Area Affected: Hobby Hill Farms/10100 of Garfield Road
Current *anticipated* completion: January 2027

Project: Forest Hill Water Main Repairs Phase II
Area Affected: Forest Hill/4200 Block of New Kent Road and 4100 Block of Stonewall Ave
Current *anticipated* completion: September 2026

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: Latest Update on Pedestrian Beacons at 41st/43rd Streets and Forest Hill Avenue

I shared updates about the pedestrian beacons at 41st/43rd Streets and Forest Hill Avenue in my [August 28 newsletter](#) — specifically, that the upgraded beacons were expected to be operational early the week of August 31.

However, if you have traveled through this corridor lately, you've noticed they still aren't operational — which is why I need to provide this additional update.

As I wrote on August 28, DPW agreed to take on additional work to expedite the project, which they completed on August 28 as planned. The only step remaining is for Dominion to turn on the power to the beacons, which they have so far failed to do. Further, they have given a significantly extended timeline of September 23 to complete this crucial step — *over three weeks past the initially agreed upon date.*

Dominion has told me they are "working as quickly as they can to resolve." I have repeatedly expressed to Dominion that this delay is unacceptable and that they are putting 4th District residents' safety at risk.

City agencies have stepped in to fill the void. As I previously mentioned, DPW has gone above and beyond to expedite a resolution for this project, for which I am truly grateful.

Additionally, as you're all hopefully well aware, the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts is this weekend in the direct vicinity of the inactive beacons. Given the high pedestrian and vehicle traffic, I requested for RPD to provide officers for traffic control, and Chief Edwards quickly agreed.

I can be patient and understanding, but when it comes to the safety of 4th District residents, I am unyielding. I am extremely appreciative of the efforts from RPD and DPW, but we deserve better from Dominion.

#2 - City: Details for November 3, 2026 General Election

It is election season once again in Virginia and in Richmond — and with early voting starting **next Friday, September 18**, I wanted to be sure to pass along all the information you need to have your vote counted.

The following races and ballot measures will appear on Richmond City ballots:

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives (4th Congressional District)
- Three proposed constitutional amendments
- One local referendum

Please note: There is a special election for the 6th District School Board seat, which does not apply to 4th District residents and will not appear on your ballots.

Early in-person voting begins on Friday, September 18 and continues through Saturday, October 31 at the Office of Elections (2134 W. Laburnum Ave.). The voting hours are as follows:

- Weekdays: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturdays (October 24 and October 31): 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sundays (October 18 and October 25): 12-5 p.m.

Additional Notes:

- Due to a change in state law, early in-person voting at Hickory Hill Community Center (3000 E. Belt Blvd.) and City Hall (900 E. Broad St.) will **begin on Sunday, October 18 and continue through Saturday, October 31.**
- There will be **no early voting on Monday, October 12** as City Offices are closed in observance of Indigenous People's Day.
- The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is **Friday, October 23.**
- The deadline to register to vote or to update one's voter

better from Dominion.

or to update one's voter registration is **Friday, October 23**. However — voters may register and vote using a provisional ballot in person **after October 23 and through Election Day**, as permitted by state law.

For full information about the upcoming election, please visit the [City of Richmond Office of Elections website](#).

If you have any questions about your voter registration or anything else related to the November election, please contact the Office of Elections directly at vote@rva.gov or 804-646-5950.

#3 - City/District: Reminder — 2026 DPW Neighborhood Cleanup Program

I first wrote about the 2026 DPW Neighborhood Cleanup Program in my March 20 newsletter, but since we're entering the second round of 4th District cleanups, it's the perfect time to send a reminder.

As I shared on March 20, the program details are as follows:

Pickup Times: 8 a.m.-noon (light rain or shine - **place items outside on Friday night**)

Item Placement: wherever your trash is normally placed (curbside or alley)

Items eligible for collection:

- Furniture
- Mattress
- Tires (4 per household)
- Appliances
- Lawnmowers (remove gasoline)
- Carpet
- Bulk or brush items (brush must be cut down into 4-foot lengths and bundled)

Items NOT eligible for collection:

- Electronics
- Construction Debris
- Hazardous waste items
- Glass
- Paint

The remaining 4th District cleanup dates are as follows:

- Westover Hills/Forest Hill: **Sept. 26**
- Westover Gardens: **Oct. 17**
- Stratford Hills/Willow Oaks: **Oct. 24**

- Stony Point: Nov. 7 (Note: this date is listed incorrectly as November 5 on DPW's website. I have confirmed with DPW that the accurate cleanup date is **Saturday, November 7.**)

I know many 4th District households don't reside neatly in one of the above neighborhoods, so please remember you can use DPW's Service Finder to search your specific address and double-check the date of your cleanup.

If you have any questions about the Neighborhood Cleanup Program or refuse collection more generally, please email askpublicworks@rva.gov.

Upcoming Events

September

Sat., Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 43rd Street Festival of the Arts @ 43rd St. & Springhill Avenue

Sat., Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [Recycling, Shredding, and Disposal Event](#) @ 1700 Robin Hood Road

Sat., Sept. 12, 12-5 p.m. [Monthly Open Studio](#) @ Zero Empty Spaces (9200 Stony Point Parkway #144 in Stony Point Fashion Park)

Mon., Sept. 14, 6 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall

Tues., Sept. 15, 7 p.m. FHNA Meeting @ Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

Tues., Sept. 15, 7:15 p.m. SCA Meeting @ Southampton Recreation Center

Thurs., Sept. 17, 5:30-7 p.m. RPS Facilities Modernization Meeting hosted by RPS @ Huguenot High School

Tues., Sept. 22, 6 p.m. South Richmond Code Refresh Forum @ Lucille Brown Middle School (6300 Jahnke Road)

- RSVP and submit questions [here](#)

Mon., Sept. 28, 6 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall

October

Mon., Oct. 5, 4 p.m. Organizational Development Committee Meeting @ City Hall

Mon., Oct. 12 City Offices Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Tues., Oct. 13, 6 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall

Wed., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. WHNA Meeting @ Westover Hills United Methodist Church

Tues., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. FHNA Meeting @ Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

Tues., Oct. 20, 7:15 p.m. SCA Meeting @ Southampton Recreation Center

Mon., Oct. 26, City Council Meeting @ City Hall

Council Catch Up

This week:

September 8: Council held a special meeting to consider a resolution that would signal the

City's formal request to intervene in the Dominion-NextEra merger review. Due to timing, the resolution had to be expedited and considered on the same day, and the motion to do so failed. You can watch that recording [here](#).

September 8: The Organizational Development Committee held our regular monthly meeting. We heard two presentations from Planning Department Staff - the Richmond 300 Annual Report from Planning Deputy Director Marianne Pitts and the Code Refresh Draft Three Report from Planning Director Kevin Vonck. We had two papers for consideration - an ordinance to establish an Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Committee and a resolution to adopt Richmond's Emergency Operations Plan - and both were continued to the October committee meeting. You can watch that recording [here](#).

September 10: Council had a second special meeting to consider the resolution to intervene in the Dominion-NextEra merger review. This time, the resolution was expedited and passed. You can watch that recording [here](#).

September 10: The Education and Human Services Committee held their regular monthly meeting. They heard a presentation about the restructuring of the Non-Departmental Grant process and had regular discussion items with RPS and the Deputy CAO for Human Services. They recommended approval for a paper to accept \$137,038 from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to fund a juvenile detention center program. You can watch that recording [here](#).

Next week:

September 14: Council will hold our regular meeting. All of the agenda items are on the consent agenda, with the most notable including papers to amend City Code concerning native plants and several Special Use Permits. You can tune into that meeting [here](#).

September 16: The Finance and Economic Development Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting. They do not have any presentations scheduled. Key papers for consideration include ones to lower the tax rate to \$1.16 (which I'm co-patroning with Councilmembers Trammell and Lynch) and Mayor Avula's proposal to amend the payment register. 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 July 27](#)

[Council votes to intervene in Dominion-NextEra merger review](#) (The Richmonder)

[Richmond School Board approves selling naming rights inside buildings, but not for entire schools](#) (The Richmonder)

Important Contact Information



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Fourth District City Councilmember

Sarah Abubaker

Fourth District Council Liaison

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sarah.abubaker@rva.gov

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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

Dominion Energy
866-366-4357

Public Utilities
804-646-4646
then press 1

Non Emergency Police
804-646-5100



DEPARTMENT OF
**CITIZEN SERVICE
AND RESPONSE**

- Homeless crisis

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

 LIBRARY



Central Virginia Waste Management

Councilmember Sarah Abubaker | 900 E. Broad St Suite 300 | Richmond, VA 23219 US

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