

From: Councilmember Sarah Abubaker sarah.abubaker-rva.gov@shared1.ccsend.com
Subject: Brief Updates - 7.17.2026
Date: July 17, 2026 at 3:31 PM
To: danielapple@me.com

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An Important Message from City Councilmember Abubaker

Dear Fourth District Friends,

While this is the first week of our "summer break" from our formal newsletter, I have a couple of quick updates that I wanted to promptly share.

Lane Closure - Forest Hill Ave from Hathaway to Chippenham

Yesterday morning, DPU sent a press release about a "water renewal project" that starts on Monday to replace a water main that is at the end of its lifespan. Full project details are below, and you can also read the full press release from DPU [here](#).

Who: City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities

What: Water Main Renewal/Replacement

When: Monday, July 20 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday for approximately three months

Where: 6800-7100 blocks of Forest Hill Avenue from Hathaway Road to Chippenham Parkway

Project Scope: Crews are replacing an end-of-life water main

Project Impacts: Starting Monday, July 20, crews will be replacing the water mains in the 6800-7100 blocks of Forest Hill Avenue from Hathaway Road to Chippenham Parkway. Traffic control measures will be in place as traffic will be channeled to one lane on the westbound side of Forest Hill Avenue. This project is anticipated to take up to three months, barring any weather delays or unforeseen circumstances.

Notes:

- DPU sent the press release yesterday morning and had not notified my office in advance. I apologize that I wasn't able to share this information with you sooner and have provided my expectation for more timely communication with DPU.
- In the fall, DPU will be performing the final phase of the sanitary sewer replacement in this area. While those details are not currently available yet, we will be hosting a virtual community meeting in late August for DPU to be able to share them with residents directly. I regret that this area will be under construction for so long, but appreciate the City making investments in our district's critical infrastructure.

River Safety Day - Saturday, July 25

Tyler Twyford, Interim Director of Outdoor Recreation for the James River Park System, is hosting River Safety Day next weekend! River Safety Day grew out of a commitment to keep Richmonders informed during the river's busiest months and collaborates with the Richmond Fire Department and Office of Immigrant and Refugee Engagement to reach as many Richmonders as possible.

In addition to hosting this important event, Tyler and JRPS are trying to elevate the following river safety tips:

- Wear shoes in the water to protect your feet
- Be aware of the river level. You can always check the levels through the [National Water Prediction Service](#).
- Take note of any logs, rocks, or debris downstream of you. The current may carry you that way if you're not paying close attention.
- If you fall in moving water, float on your back with toes and nose up and your feet pointed downstream.
- Check out river safety videos and more at jamesriverpark.org.

What: River Safety Day

When: Saturday, July 25 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Pony Pasture

Special Notes: Come expecting robust conversations about the James, an opportunity to swim through a rapid, and delicious refreshments. Wear a bathing suit and bring a friend!

As a reminder, while I may send important and/or time-sensitive updates like this over the next few weeks, our next full newsletter will be on **Friday, August 14**. Please stay indoors as much as possible and prioritize your health this weekend!

With 4th District Love,

Sarah

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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 like the recent water outage, 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



DEPARTMENT OF
**CITIZEN SERVICE
AND RESPONSE**

WHO TO CONTACT

Emergency?	• Police • Fire • Medical	>	Call 9-1-1
Urgent?	• Power outage • live power wire	>	Dominion Energy 866-366-4357
	• Natural gas • water • raw sewage • downed streetlight	>	Richmond Public Utilities 804-646-4646
	• Tree blocking road • tree on power line • traffic signal out • file a police report	>	Non Emergency Police 804-646-5100
	• Homeless crisis	>	Continuum of Care 804-972-0813
Permits?	• Permits • Inspections	>	Planning and Development 804-646-1628
Over 70 non-emergency requests including:			
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		RVA 311 3-1-1 or 804-646-7000
			online at RVA311.com
			Use the RVA311 mobile app

- Damaged tree assessments
- Parking Issues

Use the 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

Richmond City Council | 900 E Broad Street Suite 305 | Richmond, VA 23219 US

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