

4th District Update



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April 2007

Councilwoman Graziano

Dear Neighbors,

As I write this, City Council is in the middle of budget deliberations. Final budget adoption is scheduled for May 29, although that may change.

Mayor Wilder proposed setting a tax rate of \$1.25, a good first step. But most members of Council thought we could do better, so on April 9th, we set a rate of \$1.23 per hundred dollars of valuation.

That means we have to make some cuts in the Mayor's proposals and to make some hard choices.

I thought I would share with you my priorities as I approached the budget this year. My first, of course, is to set a tax rate as low as possible while providing the revenue necessary to fund the essentials for our government, public education, public safety, public infrastructure and public employees.

This year, I am about keeping promises. I am supporting a budget amendment to fully fund tax relief for seniors and disabled on fixed incomes. I am supporting an amendment to extend vital Cost of Living Adjustments to our retirees. I am supporting plans to keep our infrastructure and drainage promises to our neighborhoods, especially Staffordshire.

When it comes to public education, council is prepared to take a "tough love" approach. We are proposing to provide level funding to the School Board for the next two years as the School Board continues its program of reducing overhead and directing spending to the classroom. That's an approach we all support, but it will have to be done with available dollars.

I cannot close this letter without thanking you for all the help and support you have offered me for the past two and a half years. Being on City Council is more than a one-woman job; it takes all of us.

Our District Meeting is scheduled for May 16, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Parkway, at 7 pm. The Director of Public Utilities is attending to discuss the proposed stormwater utility and the rate-setting process for sewer and water rates. Please come!



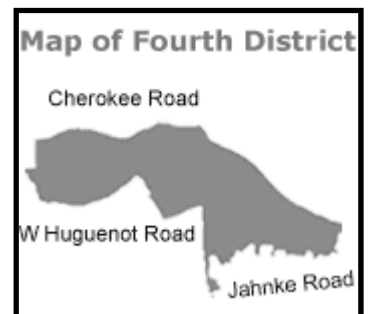
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 3—Farmers Market Opens

May 16—District Meeting: Stormwater Utility and Sewer and Water Rates

June 9—It Starts in the Parks Family Festival

July 15—Sunday in the Park with Friends



Kathy

Sunday in the Park with Friends

This year Kathy and The Friends of Forest Hill Park will be once again co-sponsor "Sunday in the Park with Friends" on July 15 from noon to 4 pm in Forest Hill Park.

As in past years, the event will be an old fashioned day in the park with games, tours, food, and music. Programs for the day include tours of the historic Stone House with a historical display documenting the use of the house as a library and community center; nature tours within the park; Audubon Society members providing information about birds in the park; a nature scavenger hunt; and participation from the Richmond Police and Fire departments. Field games will be organized for the children, and a clown will be on hand for face painting.



guests will represent a variety of talent in the Richmond area. Look for fliers at local merchants for performance times for each band.

Now three years old, the event has grown in size and reputation, and we anticipate another large crowd this year. The event has also garnered financial support from such corporate sponsors as Verizon, Dominion, and the Westover Hills Merchants Association. We are grateful for their support that helps to sponsor this environmentally educational and fun day in the park!

Anyone interested in helping out with children's games, food service, publicity or other tasks may contact Debra McClane at 233-3890 or d_mcclane@hotmail.com.

Free hot dogs, watermelon, and water will be available courtesy of Spring Run Bottling Company and Ukrops. Our musical

The City requests that any four-legged family members at the picnic remain on a leash at all times!

Farmer's Market Opens in May

With an opening day scheduled for May 3rd, the 17th Street Farmers' Market is expecting a banner season in 2007. New limits and boundaries on Market programming explore creative ways to define the 17th Street Farmers' Market as a farmers' market and not simply a public market. Narrowing the focus is expected to yield positive benefits for both the Market and its many customers.

Bakers' Bonanza, new this year, will feature the area's best bakers as they bring their cakes, pies, pastries and breads to market. Bakers' Bonanza is intended to be a more intimate event, affording visitors the chance to sit and enjoy the sweet concoctions provided by local bakers, as well as the camaraderie provided by friends and community. As always, the Market will continue be an assortment of growers and crafters selling their homegrown, handmade products.

PS: Kathy says they have the best cut flowers, plants and fresh pasta!

Duryea Drive Development: Richmond developer John Hanky is pursuing plans to develop a residential community off Duryea Drive in the southwestern portion of the district. The 51-home development is planned to include a mixture of large and small lot development. The small lot neighborhood would be served by alleys and rear facing garages. Construction will generally be of brick or brick veneer.

The proposal calls for communal green space and a gate house on Duryea. The development is across the road from the Staffordshire neighborhood. Hanky has scheduled at least one public meeting with area neighbors, and more may be scheduled.

Police Cars At Home

If residents think they are seeing more police cars in our neighborhoods, they are right.

Police Chief Rodney Monroe has just announced a plan to allow an additional 40 police cars to be taken home at the end of the day. A careful reading of the map of the home locations shows that many of those cars will be in the Fourth District.

Marked police cars in residential neighborhoods are generally considered to make a neighborhood safer. Law-breakers are more apt to move on if they know a neighborhood is well policed, and the marked cars give that impression.

For more information and a look at the map, go to www.kathygraziano.com.

"There are three things that can help prevent accidents: pay attention, drive the speed limit, and be patient," says Traffic Sgt. John Bowman.

Following is a list of the 10 worst intersections with the number of accidents for 2006:

1. Belvidere & Leigh 27
2. Belvidere & Broad 20
3. Hamilton & Broad 14
4. Allen & Broad 14
5. **Chippenham & Forest Hill 13**
6. Broad & Harrison 13
7. Jefferson Davis & Maury 13
8. Hermitage & Laburnum 12
9. Warwick & Broad Rock 12
10. 2nd & Franklin 12

Trash And Solid Waste Facts

The supercans used by the Department of Public Works make trash collection more efficient, saving money and time. But for some people, the large cans also present a problem. If a homeowner is physically unable to move the cans, it is possible to have trash picked up at the back door. Forms are available through the Department of Public Works, or from the Graziano Fourth District Office at 320-2454.

It's also important to remember that there are rules for putting a can out and picking it up. The can should go out the night before collection, and then brought back off the street before the end of the day of collection. It makes our neighborhoods more attractive and our streets safer if the cans are picked up promptly.

It Starts In The Park

Put Saturday, June 9, on your calendar and plan to attend the second annual "It Starts in Parks Family Festival" in Byrd Park sponsored by Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities.

This free outdoor family festival will fill the park around Fountain Lake from 10 am to 3 pm with healthy and fun activities and games for all ages, from children to senior citizens. From athletic events and competitions, to board games and art projects, this festival offers something for everyone. Come try out the bungee jump or rock climbing wall, see nature exhibits, enjoy live entertainment, visit with a host of health-conscious exhibitors, play games, win prizes and enjoy a day in the park with your friends and family.

Rain date: Sunday, June 10
2 pm – 6 pm

Repairs At The Library

Repairs at the Westover Branch Library are in the home stretch.

A contract has been let (finally) for a new piece of equipment for the air conditioning unit. The air conditioning work joins major renovations to permit disability access as well as the replacement of the broken and buckled sidewalk along Westover Hills Boulevard.

The work was paid for by a Graziano budget amendment last year, some of the Mayor's City of the Future funding, and some funds from the Department of Public Works sidewalk repair account.

Thanks are due to the DPW, the contractor, the library staff and all those who made the projects possible.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

District Meeting

Director of Public Utilities
Will Discuss
Stormwater Utility and
Sewer & Water Rates

May 16, 7:00 pm
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7757 Chippenham Parkway

www.kathygraziano.com

We are really excited about the redesign of our website. While the much as it several impor- tures that will access city information



**We're on the
web!**

about our community.

site will look has, it will have tant new fea- help residents services and

When completely functional, users can go directly to a link for the Citizen Request for Services site or to a site to request city forms and documents.

In addition, we are going to be posting important city papers, such as agendas and schedules and links to ordinances and resolutions under consideration by City Council or a council committee. We will also provide links to provide addresses for city leaders to encourage comment on important issues under discussion.

The newly designed site is being constructed at no cost to our residents and involves no public funding.

Councilwoman Kathy Graziano
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