

4th District Update



6948 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225
900 E. Broad St., Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23219

Phone: 320-2454

Fax: 320-6030

Email: kathy.graziano@richmondgov.com
Website: www.kathygraziano.com

November 2007

Councilwoman Graziano

Dear Neighbors,

As autumn turns into winter, there are some very important developments taking place and some important decisions facing our residents and City Council.

The Department of Public Utilities has presented to council a proposed change in the city water and sewer rates. The proposal is designed to shift some of the burden of water and sewer costs from the small residential users to the larger commercial and residential users. By changing the "tap fee" structure, new developers will pay the actual costs, or something close to them, to add additional connections. Currently the tap fees are a fraction of the actual cost to the city for new construction hookups and a fraction of what the counties charge developers. Two meetings have been scheduled with the Director of Public Utilities to learn about the new rate structures and the reasons behind the proposed changes - see back cover for details.

As most of us in the Fourth District know, we have no effective plan for managing stormwater. With the reassignment of the program from the Department of Public Works to the Department of Public Utilities, there is now a strong commitment to address both routine maintenance and plan for future improvement.

DPU is proposing the creation of what is called a "stormwater utility" in which every property owner in the city, some 76,000 parcels, would be charged a fee to handle run-off. The fee is designed to raise the funds to take care of the routine "ditches and drains" work, which is far behind schedule, and to provide a revenue stream for major improvements in the future. The plan's details will be presented to council and, by law, to each of the nine City Council districts for public comment and discussion.

Finally, the Department of Community Development is proposing significant improvements in the permits and licensing section of the Building Commissioners office. As you may know, it often takes weeks or months to get the most routine transactions completed with the current structure and staffing. This year, City Council's budget earmarked additional funds for the office with the understanding that the funds could only be spent for upgrading these services.

Thanks to all who have given so much to our district, as community leaders, as members of volunteer boards and commissions and as friends and advisors. Let's make 2008 a great year for Richmond.

Kathy



MARK YOUR CALENDAR COMMUNITY MEETINGS

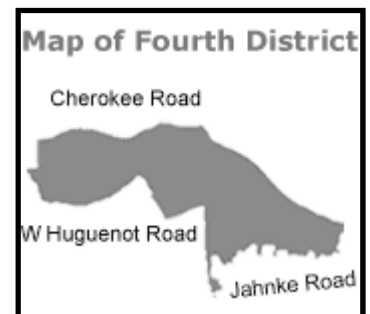
November 14, 6:30 pm

Forest Hill Presbyterian
Church
at 4401 Forest Hill Avenue

November 15, 7:00 pm

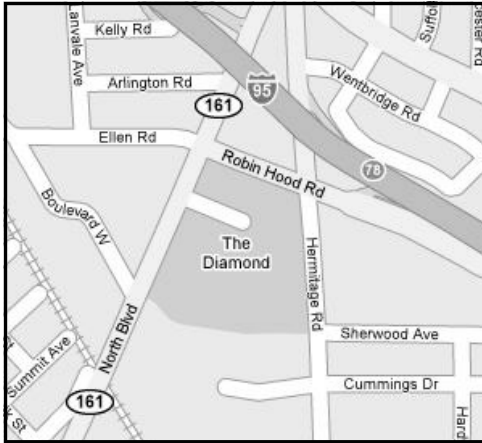
St. Luke Lutheran Church
at Custis and Chippenham

See back cover for more



HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION DAY SET

A Richmond Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on November 17, from noon to 4 pm, in the front left parking lot of the Richmond Diamond. Cars will enter the parking lot from the Avenue of Champions and exit onto the Boulevard.



Funds were added to the Department of Public Works budget by City Council during the budget process this year to establish and maintain a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program or to procure an outside vendor to operate a hazardous waste collection program.

A similar ordinance, patroned by Mrs. Graziano and Chris Hilbert, was passed by City Council in 2005. The ordinance authorized the Department of Public Works to establish a household hazardous waste service to provide residents with collection points for certain household waste. Unfortunately, the administration did not implement the program but held a one-day collection.

Household hazardous waste will be collected on November 17 from Richmond residents only. Each participant must provide proof of Richmond residency. There is no fee for household hazardous waste. Hazardous waste from businesses or residents of other localities will not be accepted.

Residents of all localities can also drop off electronics to be recycled. A small fee will be charged for electronics only.

NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

When owners do not maintain property up to city standards, they may receive a notice of violation from city inspectors. The notice will generally spell out a time period to correct the violations. If the violation is not corrected, the property owner may be summoned to court.

So what are some of the standards?

- Owners must remove trash and refuse from yards, sidewalks and alleys. Grass and weeds must be trimmed to less than 12 inches.
- All motor vehicles must be both in operating order and display a current license or be fully enclosed in a garage.
- All buildings, including sheds and garages, must be in good repair and structurally sound.

The "Guidelines for Property Maintenance Codes," published by the Department of Community Development, is available at

www.kathygraziano.com
click on "Links to Services"

www.richmondgov.com
click on "Community Development"

or call the Department of Community Development at 646-6419.

JAMES RIVER PARK

We expect to complete work shortly on the conservation easement for James River Park to provide permanent protection from residential and commercial development.

It's been a long time coming, and I especially want to thank the city staff and citizens who have been working on this crucial project.

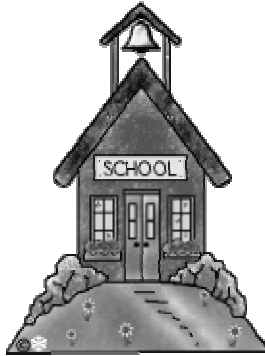
Patrick Henry School Initiative

The Patrick Henry School Initiative (PHSI) is comprised of members of Richmond Southside neighborhoods who are committed to reopening the Patrick Henry Building as an innovative charter school that offers high quality elementary education in a nurturing environment to any Richmond City child.

Mission Statement

The PHSI mission is to establish a K-5 school based on meaningful parent, educator, and community involvement. The school intends to provide the children of our ethnically and socio-economically diverse Richmond community with an academically rigorous science and liberal arts curriculum that emphasizes environmental awareness and social responsibility.

Forest Hill Park, adjacent to the Patrick Henry building, offers a rich natural learning area. The school will integrate interactive subjects, from biology class to painting lessons. Through the school's progressive approach to learning, students will develop the advanced academic skills, strong personal values, and critical social and cultural understandings they need to become effective citizens in today's complex and evolving world. They will leave elementary school with knowledge of core scientific principles and an appreciation for the arts that will serve them in future grades and throughout their lives.



Henry building, offers a rich natural learning area. The school will integrate interactive subjects, from biology class to painting lessons. Through the school's progressive approach to learning, students will develop the advanced academic skills, strong personal values, and critical social and cultural understandings they need to become effective citizens in today's complex and evolving world. They will leave elementary school with knowledge of core scientific principles and an appreciation for the arts that will serve them in future grades and throughout their lives.

The school will reach out to the community by requiring parental involvement as a condition of enrollment and by creating lasting partnerships with the city's universities, science and art museums, and other non-profit educational centers. Patrick Henry Charter School will provide a neighborhood atmosphere within the larger city limits. It will create an environment where parents, staff, and community members are integral partners who share responsibility for the educational development and personal growth of all the area's children.

Contact: Gina Wojtysiak, 233-5096 (9:00 am—4:00 pm)

NEW HOMES PLANNED

Richmond's Fourth District continues to be an attractive place for new home construction.

One development being discussed is on Duryea Drive in the western part of the district. The proposal calls for 51 new homes. Seventeen will be on "estate" sized lots, while an additional 34 homes are planned for smaller Traditional Neighborhood Design lots. Most of the smaller lots will have garages in the rear, with service alleys, low maintenance homes and yards, and sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. The sidewalks will tie into walking/biking trails throughout the property.

At the other end of the district, a proposal in the early stages is calling for 62 townhomes on a property lying just east of Bliley Road and south of Forest Hill Avenue. Many of these homes will also be served by rear-entrance garages and have sidewalks and curbside amenities.

Both developers have held community meetings to discuss their proposals with neighbors.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We are trying something different this quarter. Since city department heads are not permitted to come to Council District meetings, we have cancelled our November meeting.

Instead, two groups of neighborhood associations will be having meetings to hear Chris Beschler, Director of Public Utilities, discuss proposals to redesign the water and sewer rate structure and to create a stormwater utility. Under these proposals, water rates will be lower for most people, but there will be a new fee created for stormwater management.

We encourage you to attend one of the following meetings:

November 14, 6:30 pm - Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

4401 Forest Hill Avenue

Sponsored by the Forest Hill, Westover Hills and Forest Hill-Bliley Road Associations

November 15, 7:00 pm - St. Luke Lutheran Church

7757 Chippenham Parkway. (corner of Chippenham and Custis)

Sponsored by the Southampton Citizens Association and Wayland Civic Association

Councilwoman Kathy Graziano
6948 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225