

# 4<sup>th</sup> District Update



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November 2008

Dear Neighbors,

By the time you receive this, the election will be on us. I hope everyone takes the time to vote on November 4th.

There is a link to the State Board of Elections on my website, [www.kathygraziano.com](http://www.kathygraziano.com), where you can find your voting precinct and other information. The Registrar can also be reached at 646-5950.

I have been working on some very interesting and important issues. As Vice Chair of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, I have been working on a plan to create a Central Virginia Regional Transit Authority. We have worked at the regional level for more than six months on a proposal to go to the General Assembly in January. The proposal currently under consideration simply creates the structure of the Authority and does not, at this point, create a revenue source. It will permit funding for mass transit as well as for construction projects in the region. We have a hard road ahead, but I am convinced that, as our problems are regional, so are our solutions.

On another subject, the Friends of James River Park has submitted a request that Riverside Drive be designated a Scenic Byway. The designation would be the first in the city and one of the first in the Commonwealth for an urban byway. Riverside Drive, from Cowardin west to Huguenot Road, is a priceless part of our city, providing access to historic neighborhoods and the James River Park system. It is the only street-level view of the James River in the city. Several neighborhood associations have joined in the request, so I am hopeful that we can help protect the scenic nature and the street safety of Riverside Drive.

We are also eagerly awaiting the issuance of a contract for the dredging and restoration of Forest Hill Lake. Many may not be aware of it, but there is a wonderful lake at the bottom of Forest Hill Park. It has been sadly neglected for a number of years, but the parks department is planning a major restoration which we hope to have completed this winter.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities is also considering a Parks Master Plan. The draft plan is being shown to advocacy groups and will go to the Planning Commission and the City Council for approval. (see article inside)

As my second two-year term draws to a close, I want to thank all of you who have been so helpful and so supportive. This is a bigger than a one-person job, and all of your help has made it a real joy. Thanks again.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Kathy".

*Paid for by Kathy Graziano for City Council*

Councilwoman Graziano

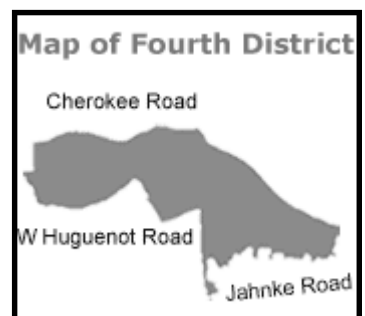


## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NEXT DISTRICT MEETING

Meet the (Next) Mayor

**November 12, 7:00 pm**  
**St Luke Lutheran Church**  
**7757 Chippenham Pkwy.**

*Please see back cover for  
more information.*



## BROADCAST DIGITAL TELEVISION IS COMING

Congress mandated that over-the-air broadcast television stations convert to all-digital television broadcasting by February 17, 2009. The change to digital broadcasting will free up frequencies for public safety communications (such as police, fire, and emergency rescue) and provide new commercial wireless services, including mobile broadband. This transition is known as the Broadcast Digital Television (“DTV”) transition.

So what does it mean for you?

If your TV is hooked up to your local cable system or another subscription video provider, your service will not be impacted.

If you own an “analog” TV set that is not connected to cable and you use “rabbit ears” or an antenna, you will not be able to watch broadcast TV channels on it as of February 17, 2009.

If you are unsure whether your TV is “analog” or “digital,” look for a label that says “Integrated Digital Tuner,” “Digital Tuner Built-In,” “Digital Receiver,” or “Digital Tuner,” “DTV,” “ATSC,” or “HDTV” (High Definition television).

If your TV has any of those labels, you should be OK and do not need to take any other action

If you are a consumer who relies on over-the-air/antenna reception of local broadcast signals for your analog TVs, you will have to do something as a result of the switch to digital broadcasting. Otherwise your TV set will no longer receive local broadcast TV signals as of February 19, 2009.

You can choose one of three options:

- Purchase digital converter boxes to use with your current TV’s (\$40.00 government issued coupons are available by visiting to [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov), or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009.) Note: coupons are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Purchase a new digital TV.
- Connect your analog TV to the service provided by your local cable company or another video service provider.

## PARKS MASTER PLAN DEVELOPED

The City of Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities began developing a master plan for the future of the city's parks and recreation in April 2007. With the help of a national consultant specializing in parks and recreation, DPRCF completed an assessment of our parks, facilities and services; conducted public focus group meetings; and surveyed the general population.

Now, the findings have been compiled into a draft master plan, and it is once again extremely important that the Department have your feedback, direction and input. “We want our vision of the future to be your vision of the future,” the department says.

The plan has been through a series of public discussions, and will be presented to the City Council Land Use Committee in November. That meeting is scheduled for November 18th, at City Hall, at 3:00 pm. Details of the master plan are available on the city website, [www.richmondgov.com](http://www.richmondgov.com), then select the Parks Department.

## RCYCLE YOUR PAPER PRODUCTS WITH SOUTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Southampton Elementary School, which is one of our high-performing city schools, is also taking the lead in neighborhood recycling. The school now has a big red recycling bin in the turning circle. Use of the bin, which is for paper products only, is free for students, parents, and the entire neighborhood.

The bin is yet another of Linda Bennett's initiatives, which is a real asset to our neighborhood and to Richmond schools.



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## CITY LEAF PICK-UP SCHEDULE

The first cycle of the City's vacuum leaf collection service, a popular service appreciated by many Richmond residents, will begin on **November 10th**. Please remember that leaves should be raked to the property line before the date listed on the schedule and delays may occur due to inclement weather and equipment failure.

2008-2009 Leaf Collection Schedule

Collection Zone	Cycle 1 Date	Cycle 2 Date
Bellevue/Ginter Park/Washington Park	11/17 - 11/28	01/12 - 01/16
Westover Hills/Forest Hill/Woodland Heights/Swansboro	11/24 - 11/28	01/12 - 01/16
Maymont/Byrd Park/Oregon Hill/Carillon	12/01 - 12/05	01/19 - 01/23
Stony Point	12/15 - 12/31	01/26 - 02/06
Windsor Farms/Univ. of Richmond/Far West End	12/08 - 12/19	01/26 - 01/30
The Fan	12/22 - 12/26	02/02 - 02/06
West of the Boulevard	12/22 - 12/26	02/02 - 02/06
Broad Rock/Brookbury	11/17 - 11/21	01/19 - 01/23
Church Hill/Fulton	11/10 - 11/14	01/05 - 01/09
Worthington Farms	12/08 - 12/12	02/09 - 02/13
Northside/Highland Park	12/29 - 01/02	02/09 - 02/13
Westover Gardens	12/01 - 12/05	02/02 - 02/06
Bellmeade	11/10 - 11/14	01/05 - 01/09
Strafford Hills/Willow Oaks	12/22 - 12/31	02/16 - 02/27

## **DISTRICT MEETING TO HOST (NEXT) MAYOR**

For our District Meeting we have invited the mayor-elect to join us.

Of course, we don't at this writing know who that will be, so we have invited, and have received acceptances from, the leading candidates.

The meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday, November 12

7:00 pm

St. Luke Lutheran Church,

7757 Chippenham Parkway

*Paid for by Kathy Graziano for City Council*

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