

From: Richmond City Council, First District rvafirstdistrict@gmail.com
Subject: First District Newsletter - March 2022
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To: rcatrow@gmail.com



Welcome to our monthly newsletter, we missed you! We want this newsletter to be valuable to you, so please [share feedback](#) with us and give suggestions on stories you'd like to read!

Forwarded this email? Subscribe for future updates [here](#).

We are back!

Hello First District!

Hope everyone is having a great start to 2022. I am both happy and sad to share that Daniel Wagner has taken a new role as Statewide Transit Planner for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. This is an amazing position for him that aligns with his passion for better transit. He will be missed but will remain involved with the future of Richmond's multi-modal transportation projects.

I am proud to introduce you to Whitney Brown. Ms. Brown will be our new First District Liaison, or as I refer to the position, the First District's Chief of Staff. She comes from the Governor's Office where she worked for the Secretary of Administration. Whitney is born and raised in Richmond and attended Maggie Walker. She received her B.S. in Science at Penn State University. She is currently completing her Masters's in Public Administration at VCU. Needless to say, she is a great addition to our office for the First District.

Needless to say, it has been challenging juggling the duties of City Council with my professional and personal commitments without staff support for over three months. However, we are back to our regular schedule and look forward to engaging with you by email, phone, newsletter, and at in-person First District events and town halls. I look forward to seeing you all next week at our first First District Town Hall.

In this newsletter, we provide updates for the following topics:

- First District Town Hall - Tuesday, April 5th at [6pm](#) at Mary Munford Elementary or on Zoom
- George Wythe HS Update
- Civilian Review Board
- Elderly Tax Relief

- Redistricting Engagement Meeting Schedule
- CVWMA & Recycling Collection Issues
- Fire Alarm - change your batteries!
- COVID testing information
- RVAStrong information
- RVA311 Links for Submitting Service Requests

Happy to serve,
Andreas Addison
First District City Council

First District Town Hall: April 5th at 6pm

We'll be back to meeting **in person** on Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 6pm at Mary Munford Elementary. We will also have a virtual option for those that prefer to attend virtually.

We will be discussing service updates, RPS updates, and other news and information. Have a chance to meet our new council liaison, Whitney Brown.

Tuesday, April 5th at 6pm, join with the link, or call-in info below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85947157388?pwd=MUtXbndscDhKdFc3NVkrQmdlV3YyQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 4715 7388

Passcode: 279295

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85947157388#,,,,*279295# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,85947157388#,,,,*279295# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 859 4715 7388

Passcode: 279295

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85947157388?pwd=MUtXbndscDhKdFc3NVkrQmdlV3YyQT09>

George Wythe High School

There has been a lot of press coverage about the battle over the new George Wythe High School. I sit as Chair of the Land Use, Housing, & Transportation Committee and serve on the Planning Commission. Both bodies have been exploring the implementation of the Richmond 300 Master Plan and its future impact on our city's future. Here is a summary of the situation and position I have taken:

1. **Capacity vs Enrollment** - the argument has been made by School Board that enrollment projections for George Wythe HS supports 1600 students. However, the current enrollment at the new feeder middle School, River City, is already at capacity at 1500 students. While projections are estimates for enrollment, build the school for a capacity that it can grow into for the next 50 years.
2. **Operating vs. Capital Budget** - I fully support funding the needs of schools delivery of education in the classroom. I will continue to support the operating budget for Richmond Public Schools. School construction and maintenance is a revenue aligned debt decision that is part of our bond strategy. Our Capital Budget is a commitment to invest our revenues for the next 20-30 years. It is my elected duty to assure that investments of tax-payer dollars are spent properly.
3. **Tucker and Highland Springs High Schools** - Henrico just built two new replacement high schools, both at a capacity larger than the former schools and both at 2000 capacity. Why then, in a city that is seeing incredible growth, would we build a replacement high school at the same capacity that exists today?
4. **City Council vs School Board** - I will commit to releasing the funds to School Board tomorrow with the commitment to build the school at a capacity of 2000. I cannot support funding anything less than that for our children.
5. **Developments impact on Enrollment** - an argument against every development project that has come before the city has been met with opposition from the potential impact on nearby school enrollment. How then, can the same people that make that argument, not support building a larger school for the same reason?
6. **Majority vs Unanimous** - much has been said about what School Board wants, but as I have dealt with on Council previously, a majority isn't always the whole. While it can get decision made, five votes out of nine shows divide over the issue. To make a budget amendment by Council, takes six votes, which was not achieved last night. It is my hope we are able to get to a negotiated solution in the coming weeks.
7. **Its School's Money** - in truth, it is your money. City Council must approve requests for funding as is our defined fiduciary duty. Schools only has the funding beyond state allocated funding, from City Council's approval. It is our money to invest together. There is no fight over powers, duties, or responsibilities. School Board makes funding requests that City Council decides on how to approve. Collaboration and cooperation should be the goal, not blame and finger pointing.
8. **George Wythe HS should already be getting built** - plans for the new high school were in process of approval last year for 2000 student capacity. Then School Board decided to take over the construction process which delayed the process and then voted to build a smaller school. City Council has not delayed the plans, School Board did last year.

It is frustrating to be in a stalemate over the size/capacity of new school. Our students deserve for this process to be a straight-forward investment in their future. For once we are not arguing about the need to invest more in our public schools, but rather how we invest in our public schools. There are so many pressing needs for our public schools that a fight over the capacity of a new building should be the easiest decision. Yet here we are. I will continue to fight for improving public schools. I commit to working with our School Board members to find a solution together that we can all support.

Civilian Review Board (CRB)

Earlier this month, the Mayor formally introduced a paper to establish a Civilian Review Board (CRB). You can read the Mayor's full proposal [here](#). The proposal was discussed at the Public Safety Committee Meeting and Governmental Operations Committee Meeting this month and will be before Council on May 9th, for a vote.

There are currently two versions of the CRB before the Council. One is from the Task Force that was completed last year and the update from the Mayor's Office. [Here is a side-by-side comparison](#)

Our Police Officers serve an important role in our City. Throughout my career, I have participated in observing Police Academy Training, ride-a-long's with officers, and completed the "Shoot. Don't Shoot" scenario training. My support for a CRB is to create accountability for their actions when they go beyond the defined duties and powers of their position. It is my hope that we are able to find a solution that protects the rights of our residents while also supporting the job of our officers. If you have a question about the proposed CRB, please reach out to our office at 804-646-5935 with any questions.

Elderly Tax Relief - Deadline March 31st



FOR MANY 65+ OR DISABLED RICHMONDERS

REAL ESTATE TAX RELIEF IS AVAILABLE

You must apply, recertify or reapply each year to benefit.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

CALL 3-1-1 TO LEARN:

If you're eligible

Whether to apply, reapply, or recertify

How to help a loved one apply



CALL 3-1-1 OR SCAN TO APPLY.



The city offers real estate tax relief for elderly and disabled residents

Learn more about the program [here](#) or by calling RVA311

Richmond, VA — The city is accepting applications and recertifications for the Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled program. **Existing participants in the program must submit application and recertification documents by March 31, 2022 to remain in the program. New applicants must submit a full application by June 15, 2022.**

Participants in the program can apply for tax relief or a tax freeze. Tax relief partially or fully exempts residents from real estate taxes, depending on their income and assets. A tax freeze

exempts residents from paying any increase in real estate taxes over the course of the three-year period while in the program.

Tax relief or freeze runs on a three-year cycle. Participants in the second and third years must submit their recertification by March 31 annually. When the three-year cycle is complete, participants must submit a full application.

If you or a loved one is unsure of whether you should apply, recertify, or reapply call (804) 646-6015.

Eligibility

Residents are eligible for the program if, as of 2021, they:

- Are 65 years of age or older or permanently disabled;
- Own and live in their own home;
- Have an annual household income less than \$60,000;
- Have owner and spouse assets totaling less than \$350,000 (excluding the value of their home and one acre of land); and
- Are current on their real estate taxes.

Accessibility

All associated forms and instructions are available in Spanish on the Department of Finance webpage.

If you are a caretaker or loved one of an elderly or disabled Richmonder and would like to help them apply, the Department of Finance wants to empower you to do that. You can fill out the Authorized Representative Form, [found here](#), or present your Power of Attorney document to enable you to apply on behalf of an individual.

The City is making an effort to promote this program directly to potentially eligible participants. If you would like to support this effort by hosting an information session, airing an interview, or distributing materials, please contact (804) 646-6015. We'd be honored to have your help.

Other Resources

To learn more about the program, download application and recertification forms, and read a helpful FAQ, visit <https://www.rva.gov/finance/assistance>.

Click here to download the program brochure in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Redistricting

First District is growing!

Council is seeking comment and feedback on the final draft redistricting map for Council and School Board districts. You can view the interactive draft map [here](#). Email your thoughts to redistricting@rva.gov, or submit comments via the [City redistricting survey](#) by April 8th.



Richmond City Council
2021/2022 RICHMOND DECENNIAL VOTER DISTRICT

REDISTRICTING

Richmond, Virginia U.S.A.

You are invited!

All Richmond residents invited & encouraged to participate!

Upcoming Meetings

- ▶ **Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
Public drawing of Richmond Voter District Map Options
- ▶ **Thursday, February 10, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
Public drawing of Richmond Voter District Map Options
- ▶ **Friday, February 11, 2022; Noon-2:00 p.m.**
Public drawing of Richmond Voter District Map Options
- ▶ **Monday, February 14, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
Richmond City Council Formal Meeting
- ▶ **Monday, February 28, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
Richmond City Council Formal Meeting
- ▶ **Tuesday, March 1, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
30 Day Public Comment Period on draft Redistricting plan/plans begins
- ▶ **Monday, April 11, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
Richmond City Council Formal Meeting
- ▶ **Monday, April 25, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
Richmond City Council Formal Meeting
- ▶ **Thursday, May 26, 2022**
Adopted Redistricting plan takes effect

Meetings subject to updates.

QR Code Instructions:

Open your phone's camera and aim it at the QR code below to connect to the Redistricting Web Portal for more helpful Meeting information, links, etc.



More Info

Every 10 years (Decennially), following the release of the U.S. census, voter districts are updated (reapportioned/redistricted) to reflect population shifts during that time. Richmond Voter Districts are to be reapportioned in 2022.

Visit the Redistricting Web Portal for Information/Engagement videos and more info.

Missed a session or want to see again? Please also find the direct links to past Information and Engagement Meeting Videos!

<https://www.rva.gov/richmond-city-council/redistricting>

Share

Please share comments, data, ideas, questions, alternate plans, etc. at meetings and/or via:

- Mail: Richmond Redistricting; Richmond City Hall; 900 E. Broad Street, Suite 305; Richmond, VA 23219

- fax: 804.646.5468 - tel: 804.646.2778 - email: redistricting@rva.gov

Contact Your Councilmember

Please contact the Richmond City Council member representing you for more information and/or to share thoughts, ideas, etc.: www.rva.gov/richmond-city-council/council-contacts

Recycling Collection Issues & Delays

I share in your frustration and concerns about the issues with our recycling collection. CVWMA is a regional authority focused on our recycling collection efforts. This service is paramount to our City and needs to be dependable. Over the last several months there have been noted issues with consistency in collections with missed collections over many weeks. Being that recycling is only collected once every two weeks, one missed collection can have huge impacts in our community. This is unacceptable service delivery especially since we pay for this service on our monthly utility bills. I am aware of the issue and have felt its negative impact personally. We are going to work with City Leadership to find how we can address this issue as they are a separate authority and are not under the direct control of the City, however, we are a significant contributor to their operations and are working on solutions.

Here are a few articles explaining the situation:

<https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/cvwma-recycling-pickup-delays-omicron-covid>
<https://www.nbc12.com/2022/02/07/cvwma-recycle-pick-up-returns-regular-schedule/>

However, service delivery that is already paid for must meet expectations and I am committed to getting this addressed.

Check your fire alarm batteries

We "sprung forward" and moved our clocks an hour ahead and now we prepare for our spring cleaning. Unlike your clocks which remind us to be changed, be sure to make time to check your smoke/fire alarms and change the batteries. We have had several fires recently and protecting your home, belongings, and lives depend on functioning protection systems.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS **AND** CHECK YOUR FIRE ALARM



Beware of fire hazards.

Cooking, heating, electrical outlets, cigarettes, and candles are common fire hazards.

Check fire alarms.

Test smoke alarms every month. Replace the batteries every year.

Know what to do.

Create a fire escape plan with exit points for every room in your home.

**Fire
prevention
starts
with you!**

Conduct a fire drill.

Practice your fire escape plan. Know how to stop, drop, and roll.

Ask for help.

Know who to call in case of a fire. Stay calm and give them your address with landmarks.

Vaccine eligibility for kids aged 12-15

Reminder: All children aged 12 and above are now eligible to receive vaccinations. The Richmond and Henrico Health District are also now accepting walk-ups for their vaccination sites with no appointment needed. More information about vaccine events and locations can be found here: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/>

Why get your adolescent vaccinated



The Pfizer vaccine is now available for adolescents aged 12-15 years.
By getting your child vaccinated:

- You'll protect them from COVID-19.
- You'll make schools safer for everybody.
- While adolescents are less likely to have serious illness than adults, they can spread the virus.
- Those who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19, so that means no missing school, sporting events or other social activities due to an exposure.



Visit vaccinate.virginia.gov or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682) to find an appointment for your child's FREE COVID-19 vaccine.



VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Free Covid-19 Testing

FREE COVID-19 TESTING in your community.

REGISTER CALLING OUR HOTLINE
(804) 205-3501



Call 804-205-3501 to register for free community testing. Events are subject to change or cancellation. Locations are accessible for wheelchairs and other mobility support devices. [Click here for non-community testing options.](#)

Additionally, you are now able to order free at home rapid COVID tests via the U.S. Postal Service. Head to COVIDTests.gov to order up to 4 rapid tests.

Who do I call for assistance?

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO
HELP AND THOSE WHO NEED IT

RVAStrong

Fallen tree limbs? Power outage in your neighborhood? Here's a helpful infographic on who to call.

How to get help in Richmond

804-972-0813
Greater Richmond Continuum of Care

- Homeless crisis line (8 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 1-9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday)

1-866-366-4357
Dominion Energy (24 hours)

- Power outages, live wires

804-646-4646, option 1
Richmond DPU (24 hours)

- Natural gas and water service (utility emergency)
- Raw sewage backup (If you can see the raw sewage)
- Downed street lights pole (utility emergency)

**Call 311, visit RVA311.com
or use [RVA311 app](#)**
Richmond 311
(Call during regular business hours)

- General information
- Social services
- Replacement trash cans
- Streetlight, sign repairs
- Stormwater, clogged storm drains
- Road, alley, sidewalk repairs
- Real estate, property tax questions
- Code enforcement, zoning issues

804-646-5100
Richmond Police (24 hours)

- Police report, nonemergency police
- Traffic signal out
- Downed tree emergencies (blocking road, in power lines)

Call 911 or text 911
(24 hours)

- Immediate Police, Fire or Emergency Medical Services
- Flooded roads



Don't forget to submit requests via [RVA311](#)

If you have a non-emergency concern, please use [RVA311](#) to report the issue. Issues such as potholes, broken sidewalks, damaged or missing signs, and fallen or dead tree limbs are some examples of what you are able to report in [RVA311](#).

You can use the [RVA311 website](#), the RVA311 mobile app (available for [iOS](#) or [Android](#)), or reach the RVA311 call center by dialing 311 or 804-646-7000 to submit a request. RVA311 is also a great source of information for social services and other city-related questions. The Richmond Police Department non-emergency number is (804) 646-5100. If you are experiencing an emergency, please dial 911.



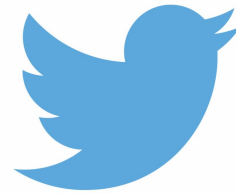
As always, thank you for the opportunity to represent the 1st District and to advocate for our community's needs and vision for moving the City of Richmond forward.

Please contact me if you need any additional information or have other questions. I am happy to provide any support and assistance as needed during this unusual circumstance and situation.

Sincerely,
Andreas Addison
First District City Council Representative
804.646.5935
andreas.addison@rva.gov

Whitney Brown
First District City Council Liaison
804.646.5935
whitney.brown@rva.gov

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