

2nd District News



December, 2011

Richmond, VA



**Councilman
Charles Samuels**

Richmond City Council
900 E. Broad St., Ste. 305
Richmond, VA 23219

Richmond City Council Mission Statement

To represent citizens in creating and amending local laws, providing government policy and oversight, and approving the City budget.

Mark Your Calendar!

District Meeting

**2nd District
Meeting**

March 8, 2012

Retreat Hospital

2621 Grove Avenue

In the Classroom

5:30 - 7 p.m.

Dear Neighbor

The holidays and winter months are approaching much faster than usual, don't you think? What happens to the time? It is easy to miss the "spirit" of the season which are the blessings we have and the good people that are all around us making Richmond a great place to live.

Many of these people are the dedicated employees of the City of Richmond – and there are a lot of them. We hear about inadequacies in the City over and over but seldom do we hear about the jobs that are well done with efficiency, kindness and expertise. I am also amazed at the number of people who are willing to serve on Boards and Commissions for the City.

Richmond has volunteers and professionals at many agencies and churches across the City that provide for children, the poor and homeless people in Richmond. Others take care of people in hard times, in illness and in pain.

We have volunteers and professionals that enrich our lives, teach us and entertain us. We have a rich and diverse selection in theater, sports, music, and arts of all kinds.

There are neighborhood organizations – the 2nd District has 28 very active groups – all over Richmond. They keep the City clean, donate goods and services, and generally have an eye on things. They organize to help the needy, take care of the elderly, mentor children, work in schools, churches, and the arts. They provide expertise and guidance in everything that we do.



Take time for a deep breath and pause for a moment. There is goodness, kindness, beauty and hope everywhere. We are certainly blessed with good people in Richmond – and that truly is the spirit of the season.

Happy holidays and Happy New Year to all.



Good Citizen, Henry Samuels,
went to vote on November 8th!

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Councilman Charles Samuels recognizes the Fan District Association and their officers on the event of their 50th Anniversary at the November 14th formal Council meeting.



Richmond City Council
The Voice of the People | Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Code of Virginia and Richmond City Charter, Richmond City Council, as the governing body of the City of Richmond, does hereby and officially recognize the

Fan District Association of the City of Richmond, Virginia
50th-Year Anniversary

The Honorable Members of Richmond City Council, the governing body of Richmond, do hereby unite in solidarity and common purpose to recognize, honor and celebrate the Fan District Association of the City of Richmond in commemoration of its 50th-Year Anniversary in Richmond, Virginia.


Established October 12, 1961, the Fan District Association is a volunteer neighborhood organization comprised of residents and businesses in Richmond's historic Fan District Neighborhood. Located in the heart of Richmond's North Central 2nd District, Richmond's Fan District Neighborhood is renowned for its cozy tree-lined streets, grand residences and architectural styles that includes the internationally-renowned Monument Avenue.

This 85-block Victorian neighborhood is located immediately west of the city's downtown commercial area. Its name was derived from the physical layout of the streets that resemble a traditional hand-held "fan" shape as it spans west from the downtown area. The neighborhood's boundaries begin at the western side of Belvidere on the east and encompass area from the south side of West Broad Street on the north, over to the south side of West Main Street on the south, and up to the eastern side of North Boulevard on the west.


Since its creation, the Fan District Association has been actively involved in protecting and promoting historic preservation, restoration, neighborhood beautification and safety. With an estimated population of 13,475, the Fan District Neighborhood is by far the largest populated neighborhood in the City of Richmond.

NOW THEREFORE, Richmond City Council is proud to recognize, honor, celebrate and bestow the Richmond Recognition Award on the Fan District Association of the City of Richmond in commemoration of its 50th-Year Anniversary in Richmond, Virginia; and, thanks its many members and supporters who have volunteered their time, talent and treasure over the years in helping to make the Fan District Neighborhood and the City of Richmond.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto given under our hands and presented this 14th Day of November, two thousand eleven, of the Common Era, in the two hundred twenty-ninth year of the City of Richmond, in the two hundred thirty-sixth year of the Commonwealth of Virginia and United States of America.



The Honorable Kathy Guadagno
President, Richmond City Council
Councilwoman, Southwest 4th District



The Honorable Charles R. Samuels
Councilman, North Central 2nd District
Richmond City Council

Richmond City Council | Richmond City Hall | 900 East Broad Street | Richmond, Virginia 23219 | U.S.A.

A Busy Time for Schools

With the first nine weeks a memory and the Fox centennial celebration completed, Richmond schools are definitely not taking it easy. There are several initiatives underway throughout this school year:

Rezoning - School attendance zones are being revised across the city in a Rezoning process that will take place all school year. You can stay connected with the entire process via the Rezoning link on the RPS home page, or at the link below. <http://web.richmond.k12.va.us/AboutRPS/Rezoning/Links.aspx>

Athletics changes - Attention has been spreading on the potential realignment of Richmond high school athletic competitions to help our kids compete against schools of comparable size. A group of RPS parents has a facebook page dedicated to the cause, "Level the Playing Field for RPS Athletics," so check it out for media links, background information and more.

Teacher Accolades - The Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce honored the RPS top 10 Teachers of the Year last week, and Altria and Capital One awarded the deserving teachers with gift bags.

School Gardens - The RPS Garden Task Force has made great strides in connecting students with their environment, as it announced this week that 28 RPS schools now have gardens. This partnership with many supportive organizations has brought new life—literally—to school grounds and classroom lessons, including the recent blooms and bounty at our own Carver and Fox elementaries, Binford Middle and TJ High.

With the budget process for the 2012/2013 school year already underway, and the Middle School Renaissance bringing more resources and direct mentors to the city's 8 middle schools, there are many ways to get involved with our schools whether or not you have school-aged children. Just reach out to the RPS Office of School-Community Partnerships at 819-4382 or e-mail mtimmons3@richmond.k12.va.us.

Richmond's mobile website (<http://m.richmondgov.com>)

The City of Richmond has launched a mobile website (<http://m.richmondgov.com>) to provide residents a quick and easy way to get to information and online services on smartphones. This mobile website is a condensed version of the City of Richmond website (www.richmondgov.com) and is designed to display information on small screen smart phones such as iPhone, Android and Blackberry Bold.

The mobile website offers real time information on traffic conditions; access to latest City news and events, information regarding refuse collection, utility payment, personal property taxes, business licenses, bids and proposals and the MPACT program. Richmond visitors can use the site to obtain information about cultural venues, museums, landmarks, family fun and tours.

A good question:

What do the different colored markings on the street mean?

- Red - Electric
- Yellow - Gas Oil
- Orange - Communications
- Royal Blue - Water
- Green - Sewer
- Hot Pink - Temporary Survey
- Purple - Irrigation
- White - Proposed Excavation



Different colored markings mean different things. These markings are placed to ensure that nothing is below the markings will interfere with digging in the area. The federally-mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number is 8-1-1. It's designed to protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. 8-1-1 is easy to remember and easy to use.

Whether you're a homeowner or contractor, one phone call to 8-1-1 starts the process and it's free. For more information, visit www.call811.com



Requesting Services

Several citizens have asked that the information below be provided to all citizens. Many people call Council offices expecting services to be provided by the Council. The Council cannot provide services - the administration is in control of all staff and equipment for the City. The City Charter says:

Sec. 5.03. - Richmond City Charter

".... Ultimate responsibility for hiring, removal and other personnel decisions, and for the directing of city personnel, shall reside in the chief administrative officer, unless expressly provided otherwise in this charter. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the mayor, council and its members shall deal with the administrative services solely through the chief administrative officer, and neither the mayor, council nor any member thereof shall give orders either publicly or privately to any subordinate of the chief administrative officer. "

It is a misdemeanor for Council or Council staff to ask for or demand service or work to be done by an employee of the administration staff.

FEEDMORE - Help turn hunger into hope!

FeedMore is the umbrella organization of the Central Virginia Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and the Community Kitchen. These groups ensure hunger relief for our entire region, which includes the city of Richmond as well as four other cities and 31 counties.

FeedMore's programs target the most vulnerable people in our community. The **Food Bank's Distribution Program** distributed more than 19 million pounds of food to local people in need last year alone.

Children need a reliable food sources that go beyond free and reduced meal programs during school hours. **The Backpack program** fits right into children's backpacks at the end of the school week to ensure that they have enough to eat over the weekends. Others receive hot evening meals through the **Kids Cafe program**, which serves students in after-school programs across the region.

For many Central Virginians, financial troubles and crises lead to struggles putting food on the table. Some of the "food deserts" right here in the city have help from the **Mobile Pantry program**, fresh food that drives right into underserved areas, reaching over 20,000 individuals in the past year.

The **Meals on Wheels program** provides daily, home-delivered meals to eligible neighbors who are homebound and cannot shop or cook for themselves.

The **Hunger Hotline** connects requests for food with a nearby feeding program and the **Summer Feeding** effort ensures children have breakfast and lunch when school is out. In the 2nd District, we're fortunate to have this neighbor in our backyard, because hunger is as well. And it's good to know that with the help of many of us, we're able to fight hunger locally and across our entire region.



Councilman Charles Samuels and Delegate Jennifer McClellan "shake and bake" as they volunteer in the kitchen at FeedMore!



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Councilman Charles Samuels

900 E. Broad Street, Suite 305

Richmond, VA 23219

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Mark Your Calendar

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2nd District Meeting
 March 8, 2012
 Retreat Hospital
 2621 Grove Avenue
 In the Classroom
 5:30 - 7 p.m.



Leaf Collection 2011-2012

DIY - do it yourself - dispose full bags at these locations:

East Richmond Road

3800 East Richmond Road

(at Jennie Scher Road)

The "Powerline"

8600 Huguenot Road

at NW corner of Chippenham Parkway

Maury Street Landfill

2900 Maury Street

BAG - bag and go - use the city pick-up service

Place your bagged leaves near your property line in preferably paper, biodegradable bags. Public Works will take plastic lawn/leaf bags too. They will collect up to six bags on regular trash days. During your neighborhood's vacuum collection cycle they will take all the bags of leaves you have. For more information visit:

www.RichmondGov.com or call 3-1-1 or 646-LEAF

Christmas Tree Recycling

2011-2012 the City has had the following venues:

- East Richmond Road Convenience Center through Jan. 14
3800 East Richmond Road, yard waste area
- Richmond Southside Transfer Station
3520 N. Hopkins Road, yard waste area
- "Bring One for the Chipper event" Jan. 7, 2012 from 9 am- 2 pm
Parker Field Annex, 1710 Robin Hood Road - Open to all localities
- Residents can set trees by Supercans for collection with garbage

Your 2012 CVWMA Curbside Recycling Schedule

CVWMA will be mailing out the 2012 curbside recycling collection schedules on Monday, December 26th. Be sure to look for your schedule in your mailbox. If you do not receive it by early January, please call the Recycling Hotline at 340-0900.

www.JustStartRecycling.org