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Richmond City Council


4th District News


Update on COVID-19

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We have a few highlights for you this week.

- City Council held a very brief, remote meeting on Thursday to introduce legislation that lays out a framework for us to hold public meetings remotely. Check out the legislation in [this link](#) and send any feedback to [our clerk](#).
- In this newsletter we have several resources (see below) for small businesses owners. Fourth district liaison [Aaron Bond](#) has become well-educated on program options and is available to help answer questions you may have regarding available options.
- Governor Northam issued [Executive Order #55](#) on Monday that places further restrictions on our movements (stay at home order) and park access. Yesterday our park system took [further action](#) to close some of the parking lots where they have observed large groups gathering over the last few weeks. In our district, Pony Pasture parking lot will be closed on weekends until further notice.

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VMFA Coloring Pages

For young and old and everyone in between! Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is letting you bring a piece of the museum home with you. [Download and print these coloring pages](#) featuring art from the museum. This is just another way to stay home and stay engaged during the pandemic.

I will continue to keep you updated via this newsletter and my [Facebook page](#). Fourth district liaison Aaron Bond and myself continue to work remotely to keep things moving along for our district and the city. You can reach us via email or on our cell phones - [Kristen](#) 804-503-1313 and [Aaron](#) 804-767-0841.

Please remember to keep social distancing, wash your hands, stay home if you can and exercise from a distance! I have been outside exercising almost daily and I love seeing my friends and neighbors from a safe distance. Richmond is strong! We will get through this quickly if everyone does their part. Stay safe & healthy!

Additional Resources for COVID-19:

- [City of Richmond COVID-19 updates](#)

- [City Departmental overview of services](#)
- [VA Dept of Health COVID-19 updates](#)
- *A call center has been established by Richmond/Henrico to answer FAQs about COVID-19. (804)205-3501 - calls answered from 8am-8pm.*
- [Richmond Public Schools COVID-19 updates](#)
- [Volunteer for RPS food distribution site](#)
- [Access RPS food distribution sites](#)
- [At home educational resources](#)
- [Richmond Public Libraries](#)
- All trash and recycling pick-ups remain on the normal schedule.
- [Office of Aging and Disability Services hotline](#)
- [Parks & Recreation](#)
- [Dominion Energy COVID-19 update](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [Verizon](#)
- [Department of Public Utilities \(Gas/water\)](#)
- [GRTC updates](#)
- [YMCA of Greater Richmond Resource Directory](#)

Chamber RVA COVID-19 Resources

Chamber RVA is actively coordinating with regional partners to address developments related to the coronavirus and impact to businesses and the community. As part of this work, the chamber is collecting data so that localities and economic development organizations can identify financial resources and develop financial programs to support our business community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take Chamber RVA's [Greater Richmond Region COVID-19 Business Survey](#). Also, please visit the chamber's [COVID-19 webpage](#) where they have outlined resources pertinent to small business, employee, and general public needs.

Richmond Economic Development Authority Small Business Disaster Loan

The Richmond Economic Development Authority announced yesterday the Richmond Small Business Disaster Loan Program (COVID-19), which will offer interest-free emergency loans of up to \$20,000 to small businesses within city limits.

The program is intended to provide relief to small businesses who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Monies will go toward paying employee wages, empowering local, small businesses to continue operating and keep employees on their payroll.

The maximum loan amount for the program is six months of current employee wages or \$20,000, whichever is less. Loan payments will be disbursed over six months. Businesses with 25 employees or less may apply.

Repayment of the loans will be deferred for six months, followed by 48 months of no-interest payments.

Small businesses interested in applying should fill out the application and provide the required documentation via email. The application will be available starting Monday, April 6, on the city's [COVID-19 webpage](#). Funding is limited. Applications will be considered in the order they are submitted.

Happy Census Week!

Did you receive a mailer about responding to the census online? I received mine last week and completed it yesterday. It took 6 minutes to complete the information for myself, my son and daughter. Find those 6 minutes today and complete it!

Here are a few reminders about the census:

- All residents need to be counted and one's citizenship status does not matter.
- Everyone in a household needs to be counted, including children.
- One uncounted person can lose the City \$20,000 in Federal funding over the ten years until the next Census.
- It's easier than ever to complete the Census online, over the phone, or by mail, and only takes a few minutes.
- The Census is completely confidential and secure. The personal information you provide is only used in order to count the population.
- The Census questionnaire is available in 12 languages other than English, both online and over the phone.
- Filling out the Census is a fun activity to do with the family while everyone's home – teach your kids about the importance of making everyone count.

[Go here to get started.](#)

Senior Resources & Services

If you are or know a senior adult or person with disabilities who is in need of information, resources, or services at this time, please contact the City's Office of Aging and Disability Services at 804-646-1082 or Senior Connections: The Area Agency on Aging at 804-343-3000. Both of these agencies are available Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm. These agencies are providing home delivered food items, well-check calls, and many more resources to residents in need.

In response to COVID-19, certain retailers have dedicated certain hours for only seniors to shop. Here is a list of larger retailers that have senior only shopping hours:

Publix - Tues & Wed 7 - 8 am

Walmart - Tues 1st open hour

Target - Wed 8-9 am

Costco - Tues & Thurs 9 - 10 am

Dollar General - 1st hour daily

Big Lots - 1st hour daily

Whole Foods - 8 - 9 am daily

Fresh Market - Mon - Fri 8 - 9 am

30 in 30 Green Grants Program

Keep Virginia Beautiful is accepting applications to its 30 in 30 Green Grants Program. The program is designed to empower groups all across Virginia to make an environmental impact in their own communities. These grants are awarded to schools, parks, counties and towns, environmental groups, associations, non-profits, and service organizations in four different categories: Community Beautification, Cigarette Litter Prevention, Litter Prevention, and Recycling. Click [here](#) for more information about the program and to apply!

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