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The

# COLUMNS

NOV 2020 - JAN 2021

A PUBLICATION of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

## PRESERVING HISTORY AS IT HAPPENS



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MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Founded 1964

PO Box 7186 • Richmond, Virginia 23221

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*The mission of the Museum District Association is to unite, protect and advance the interests of the neighborhood in order to realize its potential and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood and community.*

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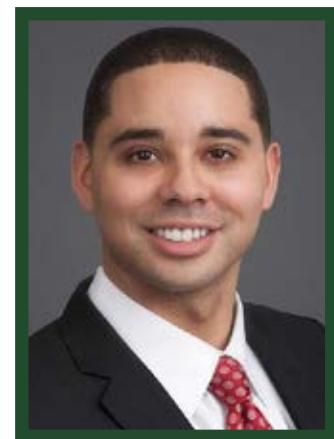
*To reach any of our board members by phone, please call 804-410-1632 and leave a message stating the person you wish to reach.*

*The board meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of most months at All Saints Presbyterian on Grove Avenue. If you would like to make a presentation to the board, please email or call the president.*



**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**T**his has truly been a year of historic change. Our country is facing an unprecedented public health crisis that has inextricably changed our very way of life for the foreseeable future. Our city has been the epicenter of civil unrest that led to necessary and important conversations about racial equality and human rights. While 2020 has not been what any of us imagined or expected, I continue to remain inspired by our adaptability and resolve. I am so proud of how the Museum District has faced this challenging time head-on and banded together as a community to provide support to the most vulnerable among us. As my term as President ends, I have one last call to action for all of us: we must continue to support our young and most vulnerable by supporting our schools.



**KYLE ELLIOTT**  
2020 MDA PRESIDENT

Our neighborhood schools are an indispensable source of opportunity for young scholars. The Museum District is home to a variety of educational institutions with varied innovative pedagogical methods. Throughout the year, our neighborhood schools—and in turn the Museum District—host students from all over the Richmond region, including those experiencing socio-economic hardship. As a neighborhood and community, it's incumbent upon all of us to provide the resources necessary to help our principals, teachers, students and staff to succeed now more than ever.

**AS MY TERM AS PRESIDENT ENDS, I HAVE ONE LAST CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL OF US: WE MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG AND MOST VULNERABLE BY SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS.**

During the pandemic, our students will continue to need supplies, tutors and the comfort we can provide by showing them they're not alone. While we can't address every systemic issue, there are concrete steps we can take to help. The MDA is proud of our graduating Thomas Jefferson High School students and will continue to award scholarships to ameliorate financial concerns, because money should never be an obstacle to realizing one's full potential. Principal Tashiana Ivy of Albert Hill Middle School is doing important work by instituting interview skills and essay tutoring programs. With the assistance of the MDA, we will continue to solicit volunteers to help prepare students for success. Additionally, the school's Boys To Men program is providing mentors to students of color who attend Albert Hill from Gilpin Court. I had the privilege of meeting with a group of young men to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN


*continued from previous page*

work on teambuilding and collaboration skills, as well as discuss the kinds of opportunities hard work and education can provide.

I've had the pleasure of meeting President Pete McCourt of Cristo Rey Richmond High School. Through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, integrated with work-study experience, Cristo Rey students are preparing for success. Cristo Rey's inaugural class consists of approximately 100 students, drawn from over 33 middle schools in the region. The school takes an educational approach that marries academics with internships, develops professionalism and allows students to dream big.

Our Museum District schools are integral to the fabric of our neighborhood. Even if one doesn't have children enrolled in a neighborhood school, the success of our schools is the success of our neighborhood. These students are our neighbors. They will go on to live, work and thrive in Richmond or wherever their hearts may take them. So please help our schools,

**OUR MUSEUM DISTRICT SCHOOLS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE FABRIC OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. EVEN IF ONE DOESN'T HAVE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN A NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, THE SUCCESS OF OUR SCHOOLS IS THE SUCCESS OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

principals, teachers, students and staff. If you're ever in need of a volunteer opportunity, do not hesitate to contact me. I encourage you to take an active role in your community through the MDA. Find a committee you're passionate about or join the Board. You can make a difference. It has been an honor to serve as the President of the Museum District Association, and I look forward to my next stage of public service. 

# Belmont LIBRARY

The mission of the Richmond Public Library is to inform, enrich, and empower Richmond's residents: to enrich lives of and expand opportunities for all citizens by promoting reading and the active use of cultural, intellectual, and information resources through a dedication to excellence and professional service.

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Due to the recent pandemic, we have made adjustments to procedures to ensure the health and safety of customers and staff. Masks are required to enter the library.

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Faxing charges are temporarily suspended.

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These can be found at the following link: <https://rvalibrary.org/kids/virtual-programs/>.

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**Book Babies/Toddler Storytime LIVE** – Tuesdays 10:30 – via Zoom

**Homework Help for K-5 Students** – Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-5:00 – via Zoom

**Virtual LEGO Creators Club** – 3rd Thursday of each month 4:00 – via Zoom

The Belmont Library is located at 3100 Ellwood Avenue.  
For information: [RichmondPublicLibrary.org](http://RichmondPublicLibrary.org) • 804-646-1139



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**INSIDE THE MDA**

# CHANGES TO THE MDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by **MA POWERS**


## RETIRING MEMBERS



**SHARON CONSIDINE** has been an integral part of the board for several years. She originally joined the board as liaison for the Museum District Woman's Club and then became a member-at-large until the position of secretary became vacant. Sharon was always willing to jump in and help wherever help was needed. She cheerfully supported and attended every event and challenged the board to consider all sides of an issue facing the neighborhood. Thank you for many years of service Sharon!

The board is already feeling the absence of **MARK MEIER** in the role of environment director. Mark brought to the board a broad vision for the care of our community and also managed the administrative tasks of negotiating contracts with landscape companies and the City. We are pleased for him and his daughter that he has recently purchased a home, though we wish it could have been in the Museum District. Best wishes to Mark!

**JACK MIDDLETON** may have had a short tenure with the board, but his time with us was quite impactful. Jack directed the zoning committee for the past year knowing that he would soon be off to Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia. As director, he led the committee through several significant and complex special use permits. Perhaps his greatest contribution was the writing of standing rules for the committee, something long overdue as development across the entire city has increased rapidly. Jack has much to offer any community where he lands, and we wish him much success and happiness.

**STACY LUNGFORD** joined the board at the beginning of this year. Anyone who meets Stacy will know immediately why she was perfect for director of programs. Stacy is a high-energy, positive young woman who is always thinking of ways to celebrate life. She has been a breath of fresh air with her enthusiasm and ideas for the neighborhood and the annual Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. Unfortunately, COVID-19 brought all of our events to a screeching halt, and we were not able to fully benefit from Stacy's talents and ideas before she purchased a house outside of the Museum District. She has assured us that she will be close by if we need her help. We hope she will not be a stranger to the neighborhood and wish her happiness as she settles into her new home. 



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Presented by  
 Jim Garrett, Esq.  
 Museum District Resident

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# FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK, SCOTT CANNADY

by LIZ BRYANT

**A**fter working on *The Columns* committee for several years with former co-editor Scott Cannady, I, along with my committee mates were sad to see him and his wife Maria relocate to Tappahannock. He had great editorial input, helped us designate “official beverages” for the committee (Prosecco and Diet Coke were unanimously selected) and was an all-around fun person to have as a colleague on this volunteer effort. I chatted with Scott recently to get some “parting words” from him.

“It’s funny how the things you volunteer for do become some of the things you feel most proud of,” Scott reminisced with fondness on his involvement with *The Columns*. “Meeting such great young people who care about our city and its future, and to see the progression of the newsletter to the slick, awesome ‘news magazine’ it is now made us all so proud.”

Looking at various options for neighborhood engagement, Scott said joining *The Columns* committee was a perfect fit. “I had worked as a reporter for the VCU newspaper many, many, many years ago and missed it.” He noted with a smile that his major byline was, “Will the Clash Tour Come to Richmond?” Spoiler alert: it didn’t. Scott is a writer by profession and enjoys his work as a state agency policy analyst, but that writing is mostly technical and, as he says, “just not the same.” Writing for *The Columns* fed his creative side.

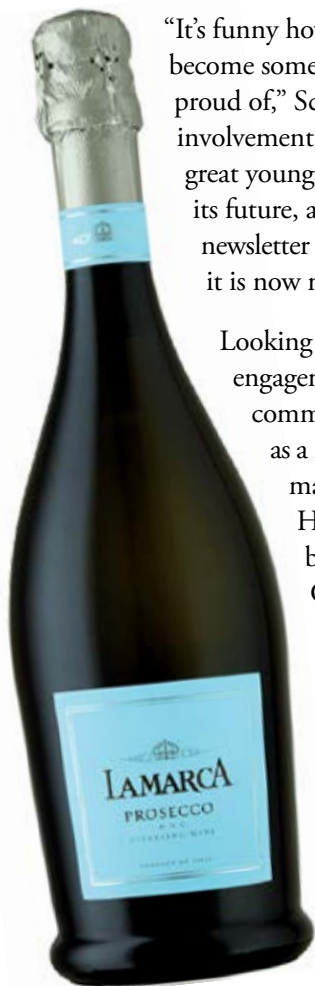


PHOTO COURTESY C'EST LA BREE

Scott and Maria called the Museum District home for eight years before their move to the Northern Neck. They had originally planned to maintain residence in both localities, but when the pandemic hit, they made the decision to let their Kensington Ave. house go. And while they love their “new” house, an 1880-era Victorian, he says there are many things they miss about urban living, among them “drinking cocktails on the porch and judging parallel parkers.” But most of all, “knowing that you could walk out your door and stuff was happening.”

Already making a mark in Tappahannock, Scott’s message for newbies to our city and neighborhood is simple: “You just need to be willing to show up to meetings, listen and learn. If you do that, civic engagement will happen.”

Thank you, Scott, for showing up for us. We’ll miss you. **☐**

**THE TRADITION OF PROSECCO AS THE “OFFICIAL BEVERAGE” AT THE MAGAZINE PLANNING MEETINGS WILL LIVE ON IN YOUR HONOR. THANKS SCOTT!**

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# MUSEUM DISTRICT VOTER'S GUIDE

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THREE DIFFERENT SEATS ON RICHMOND'S CITY  
COUNCIL AND THREE MEMBERS ON THE RPS  
SCHOOL BOARD. ADDITIONALLY, FIVE MAYORAL  
CANDIDATES REMAIN IN THE RACE. THIS IS  
YOUR GUIDE TO WHO IS IN WHAT RACE AND A  
LINK TO EACH CANDIDATE'S WEBSITE TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR PLATFORM SO  
YOU CAN BE AN INFORMED VOTER.

## HELPFUL LINKS

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- Richmond Voter District Maps - <http://www.richmondgov.com/CityCouncil/documents/RichmondVoterDistrictMaps03122018.pdf>
- Department of Elections Citizen Portal - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/>
- City of Richmond Office of the General Registrar - <http://richmondgov.com/Registrar/UpcomingElections.aspx>

## 1ST DISTRICT

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### CITY COUNCIL

Andreas Addison (Incumbent) - [Addisonforcouncil.com](http://Addisonforcouncil.com)  
Michael Dickinson - [Facebook.com/TheRealMikeDickinson](https://www.facebook.com/TheRealMikeDickinson)  
Michael Gray - [Grayforrva.com](http://Grayforrva.com)

### SCHOOL BOARD

Liz Doerr (Incumbent, running unopposed) - [facebook.com/LizDoerrforSchoolBoard](https://www.facebook.com/LizDoerrforSchoolBoard)

## 2ND DISTRICT

---

### CITY COUNCIL

Katherine Jordan - [electkatherinejordan.com](http://electkatherinejordan.com)  
Tavarris Spinks - [tavarrisspinks.com](http://tavarrisspinks.com)

### SCHOOL BOARD

Scott Barlow (Incumbent) - [facebook.com/SchoolBoardScotty](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBoardScotty)  
Mariah White - [linkedin.com/in/mariah-white-605a5a6](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariah-white-605a5a6)

## 5TH DISTRICT

---

### CITY COUNCIL

Stephanie Lynch (Incumbent) - [electstephanielynch.com](http://electstephanielynch.com)  
Nicholas Da Silva - [dasilvaforcouncil.com](http://dasilvaforcouncil.com)  
Jer'Mykeal McCoy - [mccoyforrva.com](http://mccoyforrva.com)  
Mamie Taylor - [mamietaylor5th.com](http://mamietaylor5th.com)

### SCHOOL BOARD

Jennifer Aghomo - [jenny4schoolboard.com](http://jenny4schoolboard.com)  
Decandra Jackson - [jackson5forrps.com](http://jackson5forrps.com)  
David Jones - [davidjonesforschoolboard.com](http://davidjonesforschoolboard.com)  
Stephanie Rizzi - [stephanieforthe5th.com](http://stephanieforthe5th.com)

### MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Levar Stoney (Incumbent) - [stoneyforrva.com](http://stoneyforrva.com)  
Alexsis Rodgers - [alexsisroddgers.com](http://alexsisroddgers.com)  
Kim Gray - [kimgrayrva.com](http://kimgrayrva.com)  
Justin Griffin - [griffinformayor.com](http://griffinformayor.com)  
Tracey McLean - [traceymcleanformayor.com](http://traceymcleanformayor.com)



by CHRISTINA NUCKOLS

# PRESERVING HISTORY AS IT HAPPENS

**IN THE MAY MORNING AFTER RACIAL JUSTICE PROTESTERS SWEEPED DOWN ARTHUR ASHE BOULEVARD, VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE PRESIDENT & CEO JAMIE BOSKET SPOTTED A HOMEMADE SIGN THAT READ “THE RIOT IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE UNHEARD” LYING ABANDONED ON THE MUSEUM GROUNDS. HE PICKED UP THE SIGN AND A FACE SHIELD AND CARRIED THEM INSIDE.**

**T**his was no exercise in executive trash removal. The sign and shield were the latest additions to the museum’s collection of historical artifacts, handed over to a committee of archivists and conservators to be preserved for posterity.

“History just dropped right onto our front lawn,” said Andrew Talkov, Senior Director of Curatorial Affairs. “As historians, we are really focused on trying to tell as full a story as we can. Even though we share the emotions everyone is feeling, we do need to step back and ask what will best represent these events 150 years from now.”

The museum staff has been busily collecting and documenting the chaotic, confusing and cathartic story of 2020. The combination of a global pandemic and a national reckoning on race that rocked Confederate memorials off their Monument Avenue perches has generated piles of potential artifacts. The challenge is to identify which items hold historic value, and to do so in real time.

The museum’s 2020 collection includes a *mélange* of facemasks, posters and photographs of signs announcing business closings. The staff is even in talks to obtain part of a Pulse bus that protesters set on fire — once the criminal investigation and insurance paperwork are completed.

Curators don’t simply wait for artifacts to show up on their doorsteps — they’ve attended rallies this year for everything from gun rights to the Equal Rights Amendment.



“We send curators or staff into the field, primarily armed with business cards,” Talkov said. “We know there are going to be things there that are collectible — signs, stickers, flyers that are representative of the moment. People understand the historic nature of what is happening, but most people don’t save stickers or posters or pamphlets from events or think anyone would be interested in such things. A lot of our collection is made up of objects that could very easily have been discarded or thrown away. It’s a lot easier to collect them now than to chase them down in the future.”

These embedded curators allow the museum to collect not only artifacts for their collection, but living history as told by participants.

“We look for people who stand out or have a particularly strong message,” Talkov said.

The focus on first-person stories is an intentional strategy by the museum staff. They are keenly aware of gaps in the collection created by past reliance on a history told primarily by and about white men.

“The interpretation of history changes based on new information, more inclusive perspectives and who we are as a society,” Talkov said.

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## PRESERVING HISTORY


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The museum's commitment to tell a more inclusive — and thus more accurate — history requires creativity in the midst of a pandemic. The staff is using online initiatives to tell the story of Virginia's confrontations with COVID-19 as well as the struggles across generations to overcome racial discrimination.

The museum partnered with Richmond artists Hamilton Glass and Matt Lively on "All In Together," which Talkov describes as a "group mural project in isolation" featuring contributions on coloring sheets submitted by people across the state. "Mending Walls," another collaboration between the museum and Glass, is a public artwork project focused on social justice themes.

"As a historical organization, this is a moment where we can do a lot of good for our community," Talkov said. "We have a role in building empathy. We want to be a place where all Virginians feel comfortable coming and where they see themselves in the stories we are telling. We are dedicated to being more inclusive in our storytelling, in the history we present and the history we preserve."

Those eyewitness accounts, captured in art and in words, are ultimately more valuable than any mask, protest sign or scorched bus in telling the story of 2020 to future generations. As important as it is to gather as much of this year's history as possible in the moment it's being created, Talkov said the historical process of capturing and interpreting that story will continue at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture for many years to come.

"We want to encourage people to share their stories for the benefit of future generations," he said. "All of this is very raw right now. We understand at this particular time people are very emotional and may not be ready to share. We'll be here when they are." 



*Two photos from a collection of 165 of various signage announcing the closure of businesses along Cary Street taken by Wendy Martin.*

*Notebook image in background was submitted by Carlea Bauman of Fairfax, Virginia. (via social media)*

**AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS TO GATHER AS MUCH OF THIS YEAR'S HISTORY AS POSSIBLE IN THE MOMENT IT'S BEING CREATED. THE HISTORICAL PROCESS OF CAPTURING AND INTERPRETING THAT STORY WILL CONTINUE AT THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.**



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To order yours, visit the MDA website at [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org). Under *Resources*, go to *Marketplace*, and you will see a link for house plaques.

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AROUND THE DISTRICT

# NOURISHING THE GREATER GOOD.

by BEN HOPKINS

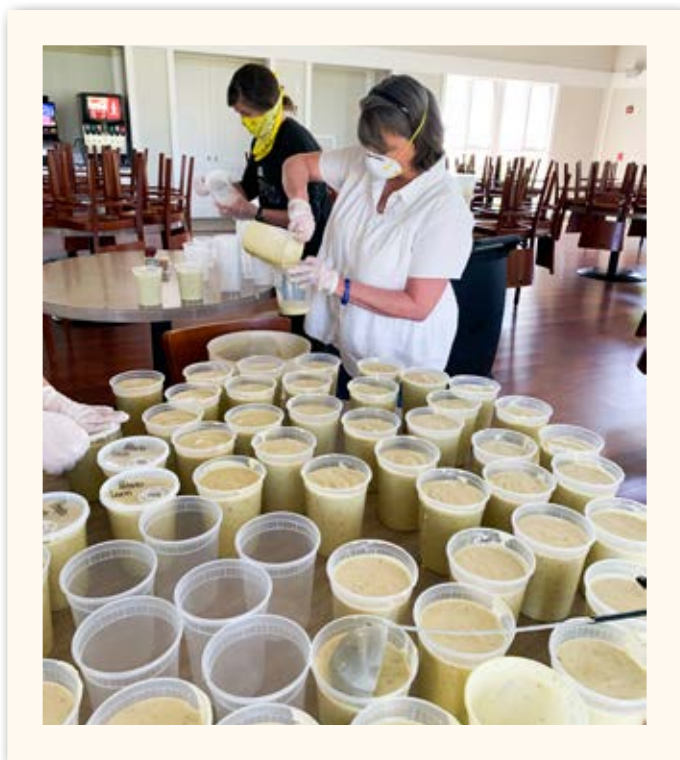
# SINCE MARCH, UGK COMMUNITY FIRST HAS DELIVERED OVER 60,000 FREE MEALS—AND COUNTING.



**C** OVID-19 has changed just about every business, and Underground Kitchen (UGK) is no exception. We first profiled the experiential dining startup and its founder, Museum District resident Micheal Sparks, in 2019. The company was blowing up, booking events nationwide and even getting invited to cook at the prestigious James Beard House in New York City. After lockdowns and social distancing took their toll, UGK had a calendar full of cancelled events and nothing to do. Then, Sparks and business partner Kate Houck did what successful entrepreneurs do: they pivoted.

“We’d been wandering around our houses for two weeks in kind of a daze,” said Houck. “Then Micheal called one morning and said ‘I know exactly what we’re going to do. We’re going to take care of the community.’”

And 501(c)(3) nonprofit UGK Community First was born, turning ingredients bought for now-cancelled events into




meals for sick people in quarantine, at-risk people locked down at home and busy first responders with no time to shop or prepare their own food. The clock was ticking, so the UGK staff of talented chefs, bakers and culinary professionals sprang into action, making and delivering soup, bread and tea.

The meals are simple, but let’s not forget who we’re talking about here. This is UGK, so everything is homemade from original recipes and fresh — often local — ingredients, with all the flair and flavor you’d expect from its nationally renowned chefs (I can tell you from experience that UGK food is amazing). Soups included tomato basil, turkey barley, chicken curry, collards and rice as well as others that changed weekly based on available ingredients. Bread offerings included rosemary focaccia, country boules, pepperoni bread, pretzel bread, French baguettes and more. And the teas were specially selected to complement both. All have been very well-received, and Sparks reports quite a few inquiries from people who liked the soup so much they wanted to buy it for themselves and to give to others.

Several Episcopal churches donated use of their commercial kitchens, storage and facilities to the cause (coordinated by Museum District resident Barbara Ambrose). Farmers and markets in the UGK network donated fresh ingredients. Volunteers donated their time, and businesses and private donors gave money to help keep the project going.



And go it did. To date, UGK Community First has delivered over 60,000 meals at the rate of over 2,500 meals per week to hundreds of families, several schools and 21 agencies throughout the Richmond metro.

The deliveries are continuing, as is the evolution of UGK Community First, which is now consulting to help organizations and nonprofit agencies economically create healthy, non-processed foods for the people they serve. “We want to make Richmond healthy,” said Sparks. Learn more, volunteer or donate at [www.ugkcommunityfirst.org](http://www.ugkcommunityfirst.org). 

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## WHAT, YOU'RE LEAVING?

# PREPARING YOUR PET FOR YOUR RETURN TO THE OFFICE

by LIZ BRYANT

If you have a dog or cat, one of the upsides of being homebound during the pandemic is getting to spend more time with them. You love this and so do they. But what about when you have to go back to your office? Your non-home office. Both dogs and cats can experience separation anxiety, but the good news is that proper planning can help reduce the stress for both animals and animal parents.

*Animal Wellness* magazine offers some suggestions to ease the transition:




1. First, start spending short periods of time away from your pet each day. This can be out of the house, or simply in another room. The point is for them to get used to being apart from you. Gradually increase the time each day.

- 2. Next, don't make a big deal of your comings and goings. You don't want to potentially create additional stress when you depart. Experts suggest keeping it casual.
- 3. Offer some distractions for your pet while you are away. Stock up on fun toys (that are safe for unsupervised playtime) and leave a radio or TV on to create a soothing noise in your house. If they like videos, pop one in the DVD player.
- 4. And finally, get you and your pet on a schedule similar to what you'll experience when you actually return to work. This includes mealtime, walks and playtime, as well as when you get up in the morning and retire for bed.

If you still find that your four-legged friend is experiencing anxiety once you return to work, check with your veterinarian for additional suggestions.

While these tips are designed to help your pet, you may find that they help you too. After all, you're going to miss your dog's wet nose nuzzle as much as your cat will miss being stretched out across your desk within easy reach for tummy rubs. **Q**

## PLEASE KEEP YOUR PORCH LIGHTS BURNING

The Richmond Police Department asks that residents leave lights burning from dusk to dawn on front and back porches. It is a proven fact that leaving your front and back porch lights burning from dusk to dawn helps deter crime for you, your neighbors and the entire Museum District.

While you're at it, consider installing motion detectors near your garage and alley to deter crime there, as well.

It costs just pennies a day, so please consider leaving these lights on year-round to help fight crime. Everyone will benefit! **Q**

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A Virginian Story



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804-282-5936

# FIRE UP THE FIREPIT FOR THESE COLD WEATHER CELEBRATIONS

by JANIE WILSON



**T**he days may be growing shorter and darker, but positive-minded gardeners prefer to consider nature's ancient rhythms. They call to us this time of year. Three mellow, mindful and earthy celebrations lie ahead — the midpoint between fall and winter, the winter solstice and the midpoint between winter and spring. All over the world, and throughout all time, a myriad of festivals have swirled around these dates. COVID-19 need not stop us. Gather your pod and come have fun celebrating these Earthly constants.



**OCTOBER 31:** Halloween, Samhain, All Souls Day and harvest festivals of all kinds occur. Van Morrison (my favorite crooning Celt) sings of Samhain in *Magic Time*, and later in *Celtic New Year*. Seeds have become fruit and now fruit returns to seeds. Consider your ancestors and use what has ripened in your soul to sow seeds of goodness for all.


Set an extra place at the table for the departed, bake an apple pie and host a harvest dinner followed by a fire in your outdoor firepit (if you have one) to ward off evil spirits.

**DECEMBER 21:** The Winter Solstice — the long night of the soul. Celebrations of the return of the light abound — Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Indian Sarasvati and Hopi Soyal are a few. In agrarian times, people wondered if their stores would make it to spring.

Make popcorn garlands and birdseed balls and go out and decorate a tree for our animal friends, who are also wondering if they'll make it to spring. Then steam up some apple cider and head out to dance around that firepit again.

**FEBRUARY 2:** It's more than just Groundhog Day! Celtic Imbolc, Candlemas and Chinese New Year (Feb. 12) all celebrate midwinter's arrival — a time to prophesy and plan for the coming rebirth in spring.

Consider your spring garden plans, then make homemade candles. Light them up, gather your pod and head out for a firepit (Okay, so I like firepits).

These are the sorts of things that old gardeners like me just come to have in our bones. It's a good thing to have there. Join me and let's shine some hopeful light into 2021. Goodness knows we need it. 

**CONSIDER YOUR SPRING GARDEN PLANS,  
THEN MAKE HOMEMADE CANDLES.  
LIGHT THEM UP, GATHER YOUR POD AND  
HEAD OUT FOR A FIREPIT.**



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For over 25 years, I have worked to improve the lives of **all Richmonders** through my involvement in government, non-profit, and civic organizations. **Experience Matters.**



## EDUCATION

I will make education my top priority. Our School system will be **fully funded, accountable and provide a solid education for every child** in our City. We must fix the unsafe and unhealthy school buildings and ensure that 100% of RPS students have adequate broadband access.

## TRANSPARENCY

As your Mayor I will focus on **transparency, efficient city services, expanding workforce development** opportunities and making sure that city funded projects are developed with community input. No more backroom deals.

## SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

My approach to public safety includes restoring the peace while implementing **meaningful reforms** such as the creation of a **Citizen Advisory Board** and the institution of a "Marcus Alert" system.

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# SOME THINGS WILL NEVER CHANGE – THAT’S JUST THE WAY IT IS *(FOR NOW)*

by **STEVE JONES**

**I** feel like a broken (Bruce Hornsby) record, but here goes: low inventory, competitive bidding, higher valuations, creative offers, hot neighborhood, etc., etc., etc.

Things are pretty much the same in Museum District real estate as they were last quarter and the quarter before that. Surprisingly (and thankfully), there doesn't appear to be any downside relative to the market regarding the COVID-19 pandemic or the earlier social unrest that gripped the city.

While year-to-date sales in the Museum District are slightly below the same period in 2019, mainly due to the brief panic at the onset of the coronavirus, sales for June through August were at the same level as 2019. Appreciation levels are continuing the recent trend of a very sustainable 5% per year.



**STEVE JONES**  
*Joyner Fine Properties*

The Museum District remains one of the more popular markets — a great place to be if you want to sell your home. Almost all the single-family homes and condominiums sold in the last quarter had multiple offers and sold for more than the asking price — in an average time of 1-2 weeks. Many would actually sell more quickly, but the trend is to list a home late in the week and review offers a few days later, which increases the number of days on market.

The most expensive home in the MD in the 3rd quarter was \$960,000 and the average home that sold was 2,300 square feet with a selling price of \$525,000. There are currently only two single family homes and four condos for sale in the Museum District.



**THE MUSEUM DISTRICT REMAINS ONE OF THE MORE POPULAR MARKETS – A GREAT PLACE TO BE IF YOU WANT TO SELL YOUR HOME.**

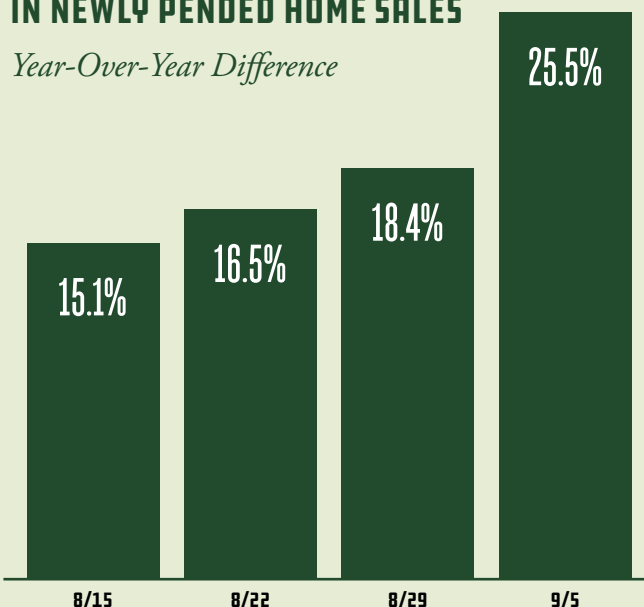
Regarding interest rates, just when you think they can't go lower, they go lower. 30-year mortgages can now be below 2.5%.

These trends seem to be in line with the regional statistics, with the Richmond Metropolitan area also seeing about a 5% appreciation and an inventory level about 45% lower than the same period in 2019.

As many people predicted, the real estate market is playing a strong role in the general national economic recovery at this point. A leading indicator of housing demand is the rate of homes going under contract or "Pending Sales." The graph at left indicates a strong national upward trend that far outpaces the trend in 2019. **E**

## NATIONAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NEWLY PENDED HOME SALES

*Year-Over-Year Difference*



DATA FROM ZILLOW



**CITY**

Mayor Levar Stoney.....	804-646-7970
Chief Administrative Officer (Vacant).....	804-646-7978
Citizens Assistance.....	804-646-7000 or 311
Public Works (Leaf and trash collection, sidewalks and tree maintenance, etc.).....	804-646-0999
Building Permits, Inspections.....	804-646-6955
Environmental/Housing Code.....	804-646-7448

**POLICE & FIRE**

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Police Non-emergency.....	804-646-5100
Crime Stoppers.....	804-780-1000
3rd Precinct.....	804-646-1412
Animal Control.....	804-646-5573
.....	(after hours) 804-646-5123

**RVA311**

RVA311 is the City of Richmond's new centralized format for easily reporting, filing and tracking all resident service requests.

Replacing the old SeeClickFix system, RVA311 is a full-scale online and mobile app solution that allows residents to record service requests directly to various government entities, including the Richmond Police Department, the departments of Public Works, Public Utilities, Social Services and Finance, and the Department of Planning and Development. Requests for service cover everything from pothole reports, broken streetlights and damaged infrastructure to unlawful dumping, sanitation concerns, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and much more. The system is very user friendly, and even includes a FAQ section to help with general questions about taxes, parking and other city-related functions.

To get started, residents can go to [www.rva311.com](http://www.rva311.com) and set up an account for reporting. Once issues or complaints are filed, they can be tracked from inception, to assignment and ultimately through to conclusion.

**CITY COUNCIL**

Andreas Addison (1st District).....	804-646-5935
<a href="mailto:andreas.addison@richmondgov.com">andreas.addison@richmondgov.com</a>	
Kimberly Gray (2nd District).....	804-646-6532
<a href="mailto:kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com">kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com</a>	
Stephanie Lynch (5th District).....	804-646-6050
<a href="mailto:stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com">stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com</a>	

For information on City Council meetings, visit <https://richmondva.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

**SCHOOL BOARD**

Jason Kamras, School Superintendent.....	804-780-7710
Elizabeth Doerr, Richmond 1st District.....	804-929-6624
<a href="mailto:edoerr@vaschools.net">edoerr@vaschools.net</a>	
Scott Barlow, Richmond 2nd District.....	804-929-6571
<a href="mailto:jbarlow3@vaschools.net">jbarlow3@vaschools.net</a>	
Patrick Sapini - Richmond 5th District.....	804-929-6930
<a href="mailto:psapini@vaschools.net">psapini@vaschools.net</a>	

To watch school board proceedings and meetings:

Go to: <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/richmond/Board.nsf/Public>

**VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Del. Dawn Adams (68th).....	804-698-1068
Del. Betsy Carr (69th).....	804-698-1069
Del. Jeffrey Bourne (71st).....	804-698-1071
Sen. Jennifer McClellan (9th).....	804-698-7509
Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (10th).....	804-698-7510

**US CONGRESS (DISTRICT 4)**

Rep. A. Donald McEachin.....	202-225-6365
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**US SENATE**

Sen. Mark Warner.....	202-224-2023
Sen. Tim Kaine.....	202-224-4024



Map of

**THE MUSEUM DISTRICT**



# THE PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

Adapted by **BEN HOPKINS**

*The Proust Questionnaire is a series of questions about personality that became popular in the late nineteenth century. While French author Marcel Proust did not write the questions, his answers (and the questions) were published in 1890. Modified versions of the questionnaire have been used over the years by James Lipton as part of his show "Inside the Actor's Studio" and Vanity Fair magazine, which features the answers of celebrities in the back pages of each issue.*



**GREG MCQUADE**

*Emmy-winning journalist  
and co-anchor of  
"CBS6 Weekend Morning"*

## WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

*Sitting on a beach with toes in sand, a book in my lap and listening to the waves crash onto the shore.*

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

*I absolutely love the ocean, but one of my greatest fears is treading water alone in shark-infested waters. Gives me chills just thinking about it.*

## WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

*My dear friend Jack Myers. He is 97 years old. He served with my late grandfather in WWII. Jack still sings in competitions, can cut a rug, bowls in a league and organizes weekly tennis tournaments. Jack says he likes to stay young at heart.*

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

*Not having children.*

## WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

*Playing the blues on a guitar like B.B. King.*

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

*I live simply and don't consider myself a spendthrift, but I would consider shoes my biggest extravagance. From casual to dress up I am told I have quite the shoe collection. You can tell a lot about a man by the shoes he wears.*

## WHAT OR WHO IS THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

*My girlfriend Melissa. She is the most supportive and thoughtful person I know. Our shelter dog, Lola, who we adopted from the Henrico Humane Society is a close second.*

## WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

*In my line of work, I am always looking ahead to the next story to tell, but I try to be present and enjoy the moment.*

## WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

*Winning 40 Emmy Awards for my storytelling in television. "News Broadcasting" is listed under my career goals in my high school yearbook. I never saw myself working in any other industry.*

## IF YOU WERE TO DIE AND COME BACK AS A PERSON OR A THING WHAT WOULD IT BE?

*I am a huge Elvis Presley fan. I think for one night walking onto the stage in a rhinestone jumpsuit and singing "Burning Love" before a raucous crowd would be a laugh riot and a thrill beyond measure.*

## WHAT DO YOU REGARD AS THE LOWEST DEPTH OF MISERY?

*I try not to dwell on sadness or misery... Not having friends to count on would be miserable. I think of George Bailey at the end of "It's a Wonderful Life." Clarence the angel wrote: "Remember, no man is a failure who has friends."*

## WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

*I really dislike bullying, mean people, littering and people talking in darkened movie theaters.*


## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE?

*I would like to pass peacefully into the afterlife while sleeping with a smile on my face.*

## WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

*Be positive. Be kind. Say "Hello" first and stay young at heart.*

## WHAT'S THE MOST RICHMOND THING YOU CAN DO?

*Brunch then stroll through Carytown. Decide which festival to attend and then toast with friends at a brewery in Scott's Addition. *

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Richmond, VA

