



Spring 2017
The Columns
A Publication of the Museum District Association

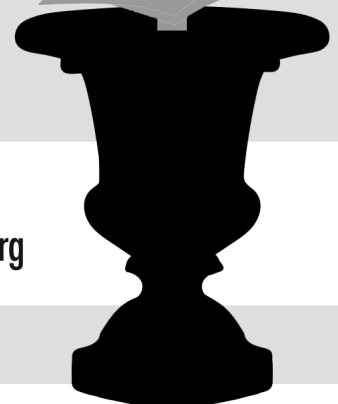
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The 23rd Annual
Museum District Association

MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 14, 2017, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Tickets and information at museumdistrict.org



*Museum District -
Richmond, VA*



President's Column

M.A. Powers, 2017 MDA Board President

This time of year certainly highlights the beauty of our neighborhood. We will soon host a lot of visitors for the Museum District's 23rd Annual Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. Take a look throughout this newsletter for information about the tour. This is our only fundraising event, and we depend on the money raised for safety, beautification and other projects. Please help us keep the neighborhood looking great for the tour.

Other notable happenings in the Museum District keeping board and committee members busy include:

Alley Repairs—With great confidence in our new city leaders, we have collected and submitted a list of alleys in desperate need of repair and long-overdue maintenance. Mayor Stoney and our City Council representatives are working to prioritize and take action on the worst of the worst, though it will take some time to work through the list.

Adopt-A-Tree—Each August the MDA participates in this citywide tree program. Residents pay half of the adoption fee and the MDA pays the other half. Residents select the location and agree to water and nurture the tree for the first few years of its life. If you adopted a tree last fall, it should be in place by now.

Neighborhood Watch—The MDA recently launched our own safety program. We are actively recruiting block captains and making contact lists for emergency purposes. Richmond Po-

lice are supporting our efforts and will help us with posting signs.

MDA Banner Project -- In light of some significant obstacles in displaying banners (city ordinances and production costs) throughout the neighborhood, the MDA is instead focusing on house flags. We are very fortunate to have a talented Museum District resident developing a classic design with some modern elements.

Roseneath Median Project—We are not quite a year into the turf renovation on the median and are beginning to see some signs of improvement. The winter ruts will be filled-in this spring and regular mowing, trimming and weed control will take place throughout the summer. We contract directly with a local landscape maintenance company for these services, and residents are not responsible for any of this work. We do ask that you keep a watchful eye on the trees as they will need watering throughout the summer heat. If you see a green gator bag that is empty, please let us know or fill it yourself. Simply lift the tag of instructions at the top to expose the fill hole.

This Week in the Museum District—If you want to receive our weekly emails with neighborhood news and local announcements, please visit our website at museumdistrict.org/subscribe to sign up.

Feel free to contact me with questions or comments via email at MDApresident@museumdistrict.org.

Museum District Association
Founded 1964
PO Box 7186
Richmond, Virginia 23221
804-410-1632
museumdistrict.org

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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Museum District - Richmond VA

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Events in the Museum District

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>
Mother's Day House & Garden Tour	May 14, Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Hospitality at Virginia Historical Society
Family Picnic	June 6 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Albert Hill MS Park
National Night Out	Aug. 1, Tuesday 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	TBD

For more details and updates visit MuseumDistrict.org

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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.

Levar Stoney: Mayor for Everyone

By Liz Bryant

Some people were surprised that on Nov. 8, Richmonders elected a new mayor outright. One of those people was Levar Stoney, who said, “It kind of blew us all away.”

But Stoney’s goal had always been to win on Election Night and not go to a runoff. In Richmond, to be elected mayor in the general election, a candidate must win a plurality in five of the city’s nine voter districts. Stoney did just that.

“I had a plan,” he said. “I was very strategic. Using data, using every tool we had in the toolbox from knocking on doors, to raising the money, to going to community events. There were many moments when we could have detoured from the plan, because a public poll may have said you were down. We stuck to the plan. And I think that’s the sort of discipline that the campaign builds, the sort of discipline that

you can carry over into governing.”

Stoney is no stranger to discipline or winning elections. He was student body vice president in elementary school, then student body president in middle and

high school, as well as serving two terms as president of the student government at his alma mater, James Madison University. He has made politics his



Mayor Levar Stoney

Continued on next page



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career since graduating from JMU in 2004. Most recently, prior to election as Richmond's mayor, Stoney served as secretary of the commonwealth to Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

His election as mayor fulfilled a promise he made to his father, who died five years to the day before his swearing in.

"Our family is big into say what you mean, mean what you say," Stoney said. "I told him that one day I may run for office. He kept on bugging me about doing it one day. And I said, 'Dad, I'm very young, we'll have time to do it.' And I kept my commitment."

Since taking office on Dec. 31, Stoney has been busy. Spend any time with him and you know the millennial mayor (his 36th birthday was March 20) is enthusiastic. And he clearly is enjoying his new job.

"I'm a people person. I love people. The good ones and the bad ones," he said with a laugh. "But what I enjoy the most is putting smiles on people's faces. Our job is to make people feel good. Not just about themselves, but about their neighborhood, about their community, about their city. I want kids to feel good about their school. I want people to feel good about Richmond. That's the gist of this job. And if you can do that, I think you're doing well."

Stoney is realistic, too. He knows tough decisions will need to be made that won't please everyone. But it's keeping his eye on the ball of creating wins that drives him forward.

"My goal as mayor has been to create a win for the residents of the City of Richmond, all 220,000 of them," he said. "I want a win every day, every week, every month, a win every year. This is not about wholesale change to me, it's about improving and getting better every day for the people."

He and his team will lead the effort to make those wins possible, he says, by focusing on key areas such as public education, public safety and poverty mitigation.

In public education, Stoney says, "Institutionalizing collaboration is key. It's done in other places, and it can be done here. I think people want to avoid conflict moving forward." He says this means the Mayor's office, City Council, and the School Board working together.

Public safety has to continue to be a priority citywide. "No matter what zip code you live in, you deserve a safe neighborhood," Stoney said. "And in my budget you see us making that a priority by ensuring that the firefighters and the police officers that we train are paid properly and paid what they're worth, because they put their lives on the line every day for us."

In regard to the issue of poverty, he says currently 26 percent of Richmonders live under the poverty line. Looking just at children, that number is 40 percent.

"With poverty being at the core of everything we do, community wealth building is very, very important to me," he said. "Community wealth building means workforce development, but it also means economic development. And so with being landlocked, 60 square miles here, the inability to annex—we want to avoid raising taxes—you have to focus on getting people good jobs right here in the city. So, recruiting businesses and retaining and expanding the businesses that we have is the key for us to continue our rise as a New South city."

Stoney says he will be visiting all nine voter districts this year with their council representatives and that he encourages citizens to come out and make their voices heard.

"I said during the campaign that I wanted to be hands on, visible, and transparent," Stoney said. "Transparent also means instead of government doing things to people, we start doing things together. Working with the community to make that happen."

He is the mayor to all of Richmond and has been inspired by the positive spirit he sees around town. "Many people have said, 'I may not have voted for you, but I'm rooting for you.' And that's encouraging. That's where we begin."

Barber Celebrates 26 Years in The District

By M.A. Powers

One only needs to speak with neighborhood master barber Roy Spratley for a few minutes to discover the secret to his success. His kind nature puts you at ease, in or out of the chair.

R.J.'s Barber Shop at 707 North Sheppard Street is definitely a throwback to an earlier time when men routinely crowded into a barber shop for a shave and conversation. Roy laughs fondly about his single-barber chair that dates back to the 1940s.

"It takes five men to move that thing," he said. "They sure don't make them like that anymore."

Roy began his career in a large barbershop downtown where he worked for 13 years before branching out on his own. In January 1990, he leased the quaint space in the area known as the Devil's Triangle. When asked about the changes he has seen in almost three decades of business on Sheppard

Street, Roy described the transformation from a busy, rowdy night-life center to a calmer, more pleasant commercial area with very nice restaurants and places to relax and shop.

"I love it here even more now than I did when I first came here," he said. "I am so content here."

Another change Roy spoke about is the disposable razor. Men can easily shave at home so his business



Roy Spratley owns R.J.'s Barber Shop on North Sheppard. He has operated the business for 26 years in the Museum District.

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is almost entirely haircuts these days. Roy specializes in multicultural haircuts for men and women. He says his greatest joy is people.

He loves meeting people, talking to them, and is quick to offer a kind word or blessing to anyone he meets. He is, after all, an associate pastor of a church in Dinwiddie and a 37-year member of a gospel singing group. That explains his front window, which is filled with figurines of a church congregation – complete with a pastor that actually resembles him quite well. His window display, made up of gifts from clients, received recognition by Style Weekly in 2014 as Best Barbershop Window.

Roy credits God and word of mouth for his success. He believes that character and integrity play a large part in the success of any business, and he strives to show that everyday.

Stop in and see Roy. He will brighten your day. He takes walk-ins only, Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



R.J.'s Barber Shop on N. Sheppard is reminiscent of an era when the barber shop was the center of the male community.

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Belmont Library



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The mission of the Richmond Public Library is to inform, enrich, and empower Richmond's residents: to enrich lives 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.

In addition to books, e-books, recorded books and DVDs, we offer programs and classes, meeting room use, wireless Internet access, fax service, and public use PCs.

Notary service is also available by appointment at each library.

Storytimes:

Book Babies (infant-17 months) – Mondays @ 10:30 AM

Toddler Time (18-36 months) – Mondays @ 11:15 AM

Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5) – Mondays @ 4:00 PM

Family Storytime (all ages) – Saturday, May 27, June 24, July 22 & August 12 @ 10:30 AM

STEM – Thursday, 5/4 and Tuesday 6/13, 7/11, 8/8 @ 4:00 PM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Projects for ages 8-12. Sign up required.

Lego Club – 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 4:00 PM

We provide the LEGOs – you provide the imagination! For grades K-6 with a parent.

Preschool Projects – Thursday, 5/18, 6/15, 7/13, 8/17 @ 4:00 PM

Bring your children ages 3-5 to hear a story and complete a fun project related to art, science, and/or math.

Drop-in Mother's Day Crafts – Saturday, 5/6 from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Kindergarten Readiness Workshop – Wednesday, 5/10 from 6:00-7:30 PM

Join us for an informative and fun Kindergarten Readiness workshop. Learn about simple things you can do to make sure your child is confident and ready for K starting right now!

Senior Book Club – 3rd Wednesday of the month (February-October) 10:15 AM-12:00 PM

Books and discussion questions are provided. Sponsored by RPL and City of Richmond Office on Aging and Disabilities.

Library Yarns – Thursdays @ 10:30 AM

Bring your portable hand projects to Belmont for a fun, informal group experience. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

Reading Adventures @ RPL – Summer Reading Program – June 17 – August 12, 2017

Amazing Mr. B – Saturday, June 17 @ 10:30 AM. Magic show and summer reading program kick-off!

AWARE (Association for Wild Animal Rehabilitation and Education Inc.) – Thursday, June 22 @ 1:30 PM Live animal!

The Belmont Library is located
at 3100 Ellwood Avenue.

Extended summer hours: Monday through Saturday; Mondays & Wednesdays 12 - 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

More information can be found at RichmondPublicLibrary.org

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www.richmondpubliclibrary.org

What Should Thompson Street Look Like?

Join your fellow Museum District residents on Tuesday, May 9 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El (3330 Grove Ave. – take stairs off Roseneath to basement meeting room) for a bold vision of how Thompson Street could be developed and improved in the coming years.

A team of VCU students pursuing their Masters in Urban and Regional Planning have spent the past few months studying Thompson Street (from Cary to Broad) and its adjoining properties, with guidance from faculty, City planning staff, and MDA board members. The goal of this "Planning Studio" is to provide these students with hands-on experience in planning, through the application of theories and methods to a selected real-world project.

At this meeting, the students will present their final product to the neighborhood. Their plans include innovative urban developments at Cary and Broad Streets, improved bike and pedestrian access, a reconfiguration of public spaces, gateway enhancements and new public amenities. After this meeting, you won't see Thompson Street in the same way.

MDA Establishes Neighborhood Watch

The Museum District Association has launched an official Neighborhood Watch program. We held our first block captain organizational meeting on March 29 at the Belmont Library. Residents are working together and coordinating with the Richmond Police Department to monitor crime and keep our community safe. Block captains are not expected to patrol the neighborhood but will reach out to residents for contact information to be used in case of emergencies. More block captains are needed.

If you are interested in helping or participating, please contact safety chair Ron Russ at MDAsafety@museumdistrict.org.

Maymont Opens Renovated Farm Area

By James Shea

Spring is always an active time at Maymont. Flowers are blooming and families are picnicking on the 100 acres. This year, the Maymont farm reopened after a one-year restoration and renovation project.

The farm had not been updated since the 1980s and the entrance and barn were closed last April for a \$3 million restoration effort. Over the last year, workers have been banging nails, sawing wood and improving the facility.

“The farm renovation project is one of the many ways we’re striving to improve the guest experience at Maymont,” said Henry “Buz” Bireline, Maymont’s director of habitats and the Nature Center. “We’re excited to offer closer interactions with the animals in the barn, brand-new rooms for parties and educational programs, readily-available food and beverages and an eco-friendly rain garden that helps protect the neighboring James River. It’s going to be an even friendlier place for visitors to learn and engage.”

A ceremony was held on March 26, and now children have access to Maymont’s wide collection of animals. Visitors to the park can feed the farm animals, watch animal training with the goats, greet Percy the donkey and take photos with the animals. It’s a family-friendly environment.

“We had about 12,000 guests visit the farm on opening day,” Maymont spokeswoman Carla Murray said. “The animals were fat and happy, and most everyone seemed to have a good time during the festivities.”

Maymont was the home of financier James Dooley and his wife Sallie from 1893 through 1925. The estate was a centerpiece of the region and was meant to resemble the grand estates of the late 19th century like the Vanderbilt’s Biltmore in North Carolina. The mansion was completed in 1893, and Sallie worked to improve the grounds throughout her life. The couple had no children and the estate was given to the city of Richmond, which turned it into a park just months later. The City ceded control to the private, non-profit Maymont Foundation, which actively manages the park.

The renovations at the farm are part of a larger revitalization effort at Maymont by the Maymont Foundation.

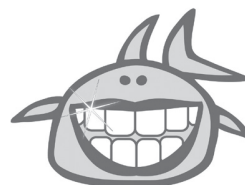


Children pet a goat during the opening of the renovated farm at Maymont.

The “Spirit of Generosity” is designed to preserve and protect Maymont. In addition to the farm renovation, recently completed projects include new signage throughout the estate, new windows at Maymont Mansion and facility upgrades at the Robins Nature & Visitor Center. In the future, Maymont is planning a central administrative office to be located near the farm, renovating exhibits in the Nature Center and constructing a new horticulture building.

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MDA Holds 23rd Mother Day's House Tour

Now in its 23rd year, the Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour provides a rare opportunity for guests to go inside some of Richmond's beautiful and historic homes, gardens and institutions. In addition to being a fun and inspirational event, the proceeds from this annual event are reinvested in our neighborhood for beautification and enhanced safety. Additionally, donations are made to local nonprofits. Previous recipients have included Albert Hill Middle School PTA, Thomas Jefferson High School PTA, ACTS (Area Congregation Together in Service) and Prevent A Litter. In order to continue these efforts, the Museum District Association relies on the well-attended Mother's Day House & Garden Tour.



3123 Stuart Avenue
Jason Dufilho

This 1920s brick townhouse was home to seminarians and priests until 10 years ago when it was purchased by a local architect. Jason has personally completed stunning renovation work, including spectacularly cast concrete counters and sinks and a dining table fabricated from reclaimed joists and studs. The modern update to this classic house is a perfect backdrop to showcase the work of local artists who have donated pieces for display and purchase on the day of the tour. Museum District Association board members will serve as hosts. Be sure to say "hello" and let them know that you live or work in the neighborhood.

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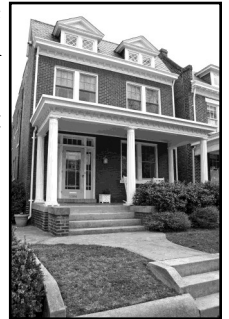
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St. Gertrude High School
3215 Stuart Avenue

Don't miss this beautiful and historic school as you visit the houses on Stuart Avenue. Feel free to relax in the lush, tranquil garden and go inside the historic chapel. The chapel holds some of the most treasured stories of the school's past and its earliest residents. Saint Gertrude High School, Virginia's only all-girls Catholic high school, has served the educational needs of young women for over 90 years. During this time, the school has grown from a 26-member student body to the present enrollment of 261 students.

3304 Stuart Avenue
Bobbie Crowell



This bright and cheery residence has been lovingly decorated by its owner with treasured items from her family's collection and her years abroad. It has recently received a kitchen facelift that blends the old and the new without sacrificing either. The owner has also adapted the upstairs so that it functions as a separate living space. It is a great example of how to reconfigure your home due to changing needs.

3313 Stuart Avenue
Lillian Turner



This cheerful and welcoming house has been created by blending flea market finds and antiques with modern touches. Recent renovations include a wainscoted staircase leading to a second floor master suite with a vaulted ceiling that exposes the bricks and windows of the former attic. This home, like its owner, is full of personality.

3317 Stuart Avenue
Turner Cole



Because this house has changed owners only three other times, the original trim, pocket doors, hardwood floors, and numerous other details look much as they did in 1925 when this brick Colonial Revival was built. Since purchasing the home four years ago, Turner has focused on making his mark on the outside areas. The backyard and enviable outdoor kitchen make this already charming residence even more comfortable.

3208 Monument Avenue
Jay and Jessie Reuben



Behind the stately façade of this Colonial Revival lies a delightfully eclectic mix of periods, styles, and cultures. The ornate features, including Mediterranean-inspired stucco walls, curved doorways, beamed ceilings, carved stone mantle and period light fixtures, are a testament to the craftsmanship of that era. There is much to see in this home, which is also filled with the homeowners' collection of French antiques, and art and furnishings from their native India, as well as mementos from their travels throughout Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. This home is being staffed by members of the Museum District Woman's Club.



516 N. Sheppard Street
Circe Black and Michael Hagan

Tucked away on a side street, this house is perfectly located near museums and restaurants. Having just celebrated its 100th birthday, it still possesses its original doors, knobs, trim and floors. Circe and Michael have taken a “one room at a time” approach to renovations. A second story porch is now a stunning master bath and the kitchen was opened up to create a fabulous entertaining space. Don’t miss the trap door to the basement.

507 N. Boulevard, Unit 8
Molly Squire

Tuscan Villas is one of the most sought-after condominium communities in the city. This is your chance to get inside the private retreat of a local artist. Molly has owned the unit for just a short while, but already she has filled it with her colorful style and original paintings. You will be inspired to live minimally after visiting this small but fully-equipped home.



3232 Grove Avenue
April Straus and Bobby Hicks

The owners of the house are often seen relaxing on their front porch, a favorite feature for anyone who passes by or stops to chat. On the tour, you will be able to see all four floors of this light-filled house at the corner of Grove and Tilden. The interior design compliments the beauty of the front porch.

3327 Hanover Avenue
Under renovation by Bobby + April

Now is your opportunity to step inside an historic home in the midst of a total rehabilitation. Meet the renovation team, see before photos, current plans and the anticipated finished product.



Virginia Historical Society
428 N. Boulevard

This is the second year that the Virginia Historical Society will serve as the Museum District Mother’s Day House & Garden Tour’s anchor institute. We are thrilled to be once again located in this comfortable, beautifully restored, neighborhood landmark. Refreshments, restrooms, parking and ticket sales will be available at this location from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m the day of the tour.

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY ONLINE at www.MuseumDistrict.org. Tickets are also available at the following locations: Tweed (4035 Lauderdale Dr.), Mongrel (2924 W. Cary St.), Williams and Sherrill (2003 Huguenot Rd.), Buddy’s (600 N. Sheppard St.), Ellwood Thompson’s (4 N. Thompson St.), Chadwick & Son Orchids (203 N. Belmont Ave.)

Fire Safety Important for MD Residents

By Scott Cannady

Richmond Fire Department Public Information Officer Lt. Chris Armstrong recently revealed some very important fire safety tips. Along with the importance of maintaining your smoke alarms by replacing batteries at least yearly, you should also buy new smoke detectors after 10 years because of their reduced effectiveness and position smoke alarms in key locations in your house or apartment. Other tips include:

- Consider locating your bedroom on the lowest level possible in case of fire,
- Make sure to clear your dryer of lint and other debris,
- Hire a licensed and certified electrician to make sure your wiring is safe and up to date,
- Always mind your stove and oven when you are

cooking in the kitchen as unattended cooking is the number one cause of residential fire in the City of Richmond,

- Never leave portable heaters unattended,
- Store lawnmowers, other gas-powered equipment and flammable liquids outside of the home.

In service to the citizens of Richmond, Richmond City firefighters will come to your house, complete a home safety survey, and install new smoke alarms with a 10-year battery in the appropriate location(s) free of charge. Museum District residents can contact Firehouse 18 at 412 N. Thompson St. at 804-780-6100 or the main non-emergency number at 804-646-2500.

The Richmond City Fire Department has a monthly newsletter called the Fire and Life Safety Bulletin, which is available online. Also check out the agency's Twitter and Facebook.



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Trimmed Plants Keep District Walkable

By Sarah Weisiger


The Museum District is one of the most walkable neighborhoods in the city. In the spring, the landscaping in front yards provides a visual treat for all the walkers, transit commuters, joggers and people lugging groceries.

However, when plants and trees grow over the sidewalks, the vegetation becomes an impediment to people who depend on getting around by foot. Walkers who may have limited vision can be challenged to weave past obstacles. At night, hedges blocking the sidewalk can make it difficult to see down the block or around the corner.


This spring, the City of Richmond will be enforcing an ordinance regarding obstructions in the right-of-way, according to Thomas Goble with the Richmond Department of Planning and Development Review, Division of Code Enforcement. He reminds property owners that they are responsible for vegetation out to the street and the centerline of alleys adjoining property. This means that the green strip between the sidewalk and the street in front of and beside a house, apartment or business is the responsibility of the property owner.

If your property has vegetation obstructing the right of way, the Division of Code Enforcement may issue a \$50 ticket. If you don't act quickly to remove the obstructions, and the city has to cut them, additional fees will be charged. For general questions about the ordinance, you can call the city at 804-646-6398 or Goble at 804-646-6963.

To report overgrown plants obstructing the City's right of way, call the City's 311 line or use the City's current reporting system "RVA One" online from the home page of the City's website at richmondgov.com. Help keep the Museum District clean and walkable.




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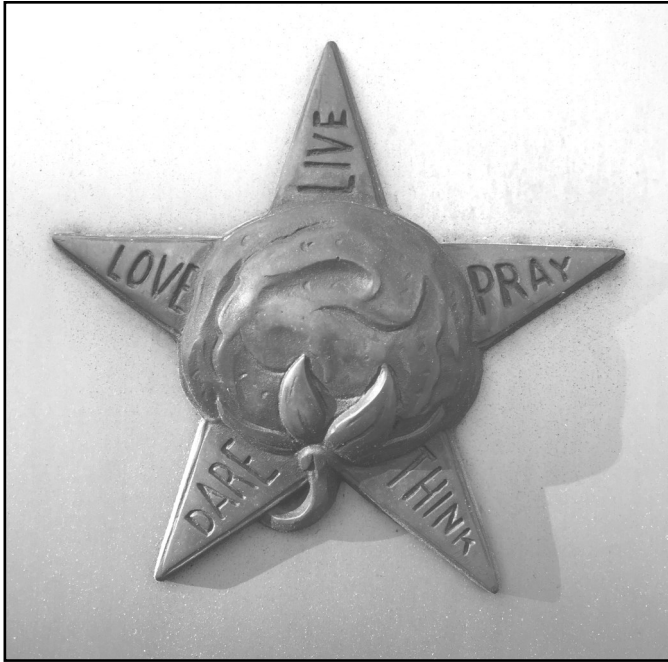
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Where is this in the Museum District?

The Columns is giving away a \$20 gift certificate to Sheppard Street Tavern. To win, you need to email an answer to MDAnewsletter@museumdistrict.org by May 12. All the correct answers will be entered into a drawing. The winner will be notified by email and the person's name will be published in the next issue of the newsletter. Last month's winner was Pamela James.



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- How Probate and unnecessary delays and costs can be avoided.
- How to provide for your own care and well-being and that of your loved ones, even if you become mentally incapacitated.
- Maximizing total control of your property, your assets and your privacy during life.
- The pitfalls of joint ownership, especially with family members.
- How you can protect your children's inheritance from predators, greedy nonfamily members, and bad marriages.

LOCATION/DATES

Weinstein JCC
5403 Monument Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7pm

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7pm

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 7pm

Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 7pm



There is no attendance fee, but seating is limited.

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Special Use Permits Are a Tool for Landowners

By John Reyna

Municipalities create sets of rules governing what citizens can and can't do with their real property. This is done to "promote the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the community; to protect and conserve the value of buildings; and encourage the most appropriate use of the land." While they vary by locality, the general idea is that these sets of regulations, called zoning laws, dictate the use, appearance, density, height and parking requirements for structures that are to be built on a parcel of land and directly affect the property rights of the landowner.

The consequences of zoning laws can have a positive impact on our quality of life, preventing building uses that may not be compatible with the character or needs of an area. If you've ever wondered why you don't find liquor stores adjacent to elementary schools or paper mills next to residential areas, you can thank zoning laws for separating these incompatible uses.

While examples such as these are obvious, and few would argue against these specific applications, you may also notice that interpretations about "health, safety, morals or general welfare" and determinations about "the most appropriate use of land" can be quite subjective. Furthermore, zoning laws are often applied with "broad strokes" and may not consider the particulars of a specific parcel. They can become overly burdensome and restrictive for a property owner. For example, a zoning requirement that a percentage of a residential lot remain open space might make the construction of a house on a very small lot impossible, even though the design may be attractive and an asset to the neighborhood. Landowners must have some recourse.

Through the Special Use Permit (SUP) process, owners can apply for an exemption to zoning requirements that they believe are restrictive for their intended use of a property. The SUP application provides a public process allowing for open debate and requires a vote by City Council for adoption. Often, neighborhood groups, including the Museum District Association, will provide guidance to property owners in crafting their SUPs. This ensures that what is proposed is appropriate for the neighborhood and does not create new problems or unwanted consequences. Depending on the result of this back-and-forth, the MDA may choose to oppose or not

oppose an SUP based on its merits and then express this position to the City. Resident feedback, in the form of conversations, letters and emails are a critical component of this dialogue, and the MDA considers this before taking any position on an application. Because of this, the SUP process may be viewed as a constructive negotiation and an opportunity to craft and preserve the type of neighborhood in which we wish to live.



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Fitness the Focus at Sheltering Arms

By Liz Bryant

“It’s hard to imagine that anything would be better than this, really.”

Margaret Edds, a 36-year resident of the Museum District, is talking about the exercise class she participates in at Sheltering Arms. While well known for their rehabilitation programs, Sheltering Arms also offers a variety of fitness classes. At their midtown location at 2805 West Broad Street, they offer a one-hour core strengthening class.

Margaret signed up on a friend’s recommendation and says she likes the fact that it’s a tough workout, but one you can adapt to your own abilities. And in the six-plus years, she’s been in the class, she’s seen a difference in herself. “I know I’m a lot stronger and in better shape than I was before,” she says.

The workout sessions are led by Carmelo Vazquez, a health and wellness professional who has been with Sheltering Arms for more than 20 years. He’s a big reason many people say they keep coming back.

“Carmelo always says, ‘do what you can,’” says John Rupp who drives from his home in the Willow Lawn area to participate. “He pushes you, but if you can’t do it all, he’s perfectly OK with that.”

Using exercise balls and balance disks, students work to improve stability, balance and overall strength. The class is open to all ages, though right now most participants are retired. The basic pattern of the class covers 15 minutes each of aerobics, core work, weights and stretching. But within that pattern, Carmelo offers a lot of variety and students say it’s rare that any two classes will be exactly the same.

Northside resident Helen Vennard likes what she calls the non-threatening aspect of the program because everyone is at a different ability level. “I don’t feel like I’m competing,” she says. “You’re really just competing against yourself.”

And if you’re looking for morning motivation, Margaret says this class is just the ticket. The fact that you’re there, worked out, and done by 9 a.m. means, as she says with a smile, “that you can go and feel virtuous for



Fitness professional Carmelo Vazquez works with a client.

the rest of the day.”

The class is offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. The cost is \$40 a month for eight classes. For more information on the class or to sign up, call Sheltering Arms at 804-764-5275.



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PACE a Resource for Seniors in Richmond

By Maria Cannady

Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, known as PACE, is operated in Richmond by Riverside Health System based in Newport News. The PACE model of care is centered on the belief that it is better for the well-being of seniors with chronic care needs and their families to be served in the community whenever possible.

A person may be eligible for PACE if he or she is age 55 and over, certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia to be eligible for nursing home placement, able to live safely in the community at the time of enrollment and living in a PACE service area.

PACE serves seniors in Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights. PACE provides the entire continuum of care and services to seniors with chronic care needs while maintaining their independence in their home for as long as possible. Ser-

vices include the following: adult day center; physical, occupational and recreational therapies; meals; nutritional counseling; social work and personal and medical care provided by a PACE physician familiar with the history, needs and preferences of each participant.

The PACE model of care can be traced to the early 1970s, when the Chinatown-North Beach community of San Francisco saw the pressing needs for long-term care services by families whose elders had immigrated from Italy, China and the Philippines. They formed a nonprofit corporation called On Lok Senior Health Services to create a community-based system of care.

To see if you or your loved one qualifies for this program, contact the Richmond City Department of Social Services or Riverside PACE MacTavish at 804-977-5900 (1300 MacTavish Ave., Richmond, Va.) Learn more at npaonline.org.

I WILL JOYFULLY SING & JUBILATE DEO

Concerts at Richmond's First Baptist Church

On **Sunday, May 21** at 7:00 p.m. the Church Choir, Youth Choir and FirstRingers of First Baptist Church will present a concert entitled *I Will Joyfully Sing*. Admission is free and childcare is provided.

On **Sunday, June 11** at 7:00 p.m. One Accord, the auditioned ensemble of First Baptist Church, will present the central Virginia premiere of Dan Forrest's new choral work with chamber orchestra entitled *Jubilate Deo*. This one-hour choral work uses seven different languages in six movements to express the joyous words of Psalm 100. Admission is free and childcare is provided.

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