



# The COLUMNS

AUG-OCT 2019

A Publication of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG



## THE MARKETS OF THE MUSEUM DISTRICT

**IN THIS ISSUE**



**ROBOT COMPETITION SUCCESS AT TJHS**  
PAGE 7



**ARTHUR ASHE BOULEVARD DEDICATION**  
PAGE 13



**PAGE 10**

**PICKLEBALL HITS THE MDA**  
PAGE 15

15<sup>th</sup>  
Annual



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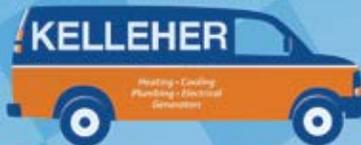
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Magazine . . . . .	LIZ BRYANT and SCOTT CANNADY <a href="mailto:MDAnewsletter@museumdistrict.org">MDAnewsletter@museumdistrict.org</a>
Magazine Ads . . . . .	BEN HOPKINS <a href="mailto:MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org">MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org</a>

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**he word historic is an often-used and accurate description of the Museum District – I mean, we've got museum right there in the name! For many, a neighborhood described as historic denotes a place preserved, frozen in time. However, for residents of our neighborhood, we know this description doesn't give the full picture of our community.

Sure, we love to mark the growing age of our buildings and community endeavors, as they are a great source of pride. For example, we were thrilled to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Museum District Association's Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. Despite a weather forecast calling for showers all day, the tour enjoyed near record turnout and barely had any rain at all. The House Tour committee's years of experience were on full display, with every detail of the event anticipated and every volunteer prepped for success. Once again, the funds raised from the tour will fund the work of the MDA, as well as support a number of charities impacting our neighborhood.

This year we are also celebrating another important 25th anniversary for the neighborhood; the 1994 listing of the West of The Boulevard Historic District in the United States National Registry of Historic Places. This listing was the culmination of years of work by neighborhood residents, which provided a wonderful record of the 249 acres and 1,763 contributing structures that make up the core of our neighborhood. Historic designation also provides access to significant state and federal tax credits, critical to supporting historically appropriate building rehabilitation. And as if that weren't historic enough, our neighborhood also includes the Arthur Ashe Boulevard Historic District, which was listed in 1986, as well as a portion of Monument Ave., the nation's only street honored as a National Historic Place.

While we celebrate our history and historic buildings, our neighborhood also supports and celebrates the many positive changes taking place. A great example are the thoughtful and beautiful improvements taking place inside our historic buildings – some of which are highlighted during our Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. By opening up floor plans and adding modern amenities and tasteful additions, we are making our neighborhood's buildings relevant and functional for a new generation of residents. The institutions living here are no exception, as witnessed by the beautiful new expansions and grounds of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

I also believe the Museum District Association fits into this mold of preserving and celebrating what we have, while growing and changing to be relevant to the needs of today. Just in my short time with the organization, we have created self-directed and self-supporting committees to carry out two of our most important activities: the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour and The Columns quarterly magazine. We have also created new board positions to manage capital projects, support our schools, interact with city government, and improve and manage our web and social media presence. The organization continues to attract capable and committed residents to serve on the board and committees, while undertaking new initiatives like the Delicious District dining promotion and the pavilion project at Albert Hill Middle School.

Yes, we live in a historic neighborhood, but we also realize we are adding to that history each day. We invite you to join with us, your neighbors, and the businesses and institutions living here, and in making your contribution to this wonderful place we all call home. **■**



**STEPHEN VERSEN**  
 2019 MDA  
 Board President

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN WITH US,  
 YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND THE BUSINESSES  
 AND INSTITUTIONS LIVING HERE, AND  
 MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS  
 WONDERFUL PLACE WE ALL CALL HOME.**



Rob Wright is Cabinetry & Construction. He's on every job. He's the designer/builder, owner/worker, dreamer/pragmatist. Rob envisions improvements and makes them happen, always careful to honor the spirit of the original architect. So whether he's enlarging a small closet or renovating an entire kitchen, you know the change is in harmony with the home.

Rob has numerous credentials and awards, all earned through long experience. He is a Class A licensed design/build contractor, a Certified Green Professional, an accredited HVAC system installer, and a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist. Yet there is no board of accreditation to validate his most significant skill—creativity. Hundreds of proud homeowners do that for him.

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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, wintellectual, 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, free notary service (please call ahead for this service) and public use PCs. **Belmont now accepts credit/debit cards and offers self-checkout!**

**The Belmont Library is located at  
3100 Ellwood Avenue.**

## BELMONT LIBRARY EVENTS

### Storytimes

**Book Babies** (infant-17 months) – Mondays at 10:00 AM

**Toddler Time** (18-36 months) – Mondays at 11:00 AM

### Chair Yoga

**Tuesdays at 10:30 AM**

Museum neighbor **Linda Dunn** is the instructor for this FREE adult class. Due to limited space, the class operates on a first-come first-served basis.

### Lego Club

**3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM**

We provide the LEGOs – you provide the imagination! For grades K-6 with an adult.

### Toddler and Preschool Free Paint

**Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM**

Toddlers and Preschoolers can allow their imaginations to run wild while finger painting during this hour-long free paint! Because who doesn't like to get a little messy?

### The 2019 Summer Reading Program – Explore Your World – has begun!

**Stop by any Richmond Public Library to register for a Passport.**

- Register for a Passport
- Attend programs or check out books to acquire stamps in your Passport
- Win prizes!

### Fiction Focus Book Club

**3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:15 AM**

Join our adult book discussion each month. This book group is ongoing and will continue through to October!

### ESL Class (Starts September 9)

**Monday and Wednesdays at 12pm**

This a beginners' English class for **adults**.

### Technology Q & Aw

**Each Wednesday noon-2:00**

Bring your laptop, Kindle, iPad or cell phone and get individual help from staff during a 30 minute session. Call 646-1139 to reserve your space.

### Let's Talk Richmond

Come join the community conversation about current relevant topics of interest. (See website for dates and times)

### Weekly Saturday Course

**Each Saturday from 10-11:00 AM**

Beginners level French. **Camille Zendzian** is the instructor. No fee or registration required.

### Tea Time

**Each Saturday from 10-11:00 AM**

Join us for a casual gathering for tea, cookies, and conversation. Get to know others in our community!

**Hours:** Monday & Wednesday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

**For information:** [RichmondPublicLibrary.org](http://RichmondPublicLibrary.org) • 804-646-1139

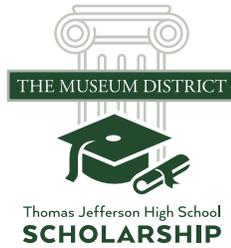


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# MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES TWO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AT THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

**A**t the direction of the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour, two scholarships were awarded from 2018 tour proceeds. Each student will receive \$750 in the fall to be used toward expenses for post-secondary education. Both students maintained a minimum 3.0 grade point average and exhibited strong leadership by being active in their communities.



*Mamadou Ba will attend George Mason University to study engineering. He was captain of TJHS Track and Cross County teams. He was a year-round athlete and served as a mentor to younger students on a variety of teams.*



*Juana Gabriela Rodriguez will attend George Mason University to study nursing. She served as a teen ambassador for SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment) and is of the first generation in her family to attend college.*

To serve on future scholarship selection committees or to donate to the MDA TJHS Scholarship Fund contact: [MDASchools@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDASchools@museumdistrict.org)

## The COLUMNS

A Publication of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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We offer a 10% discount for advertisers who pay for one year in advance.

Contact our Advertising Manager Steve Jones at [MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org).



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## CHANGING FACES ON THE MDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by MA POWERS



DEBBIE KEARNS

The Museum District Association announces the departure of **Debbie Kearns** from the board of directors. We are grateful for the service Debbie offered as code enforcement director since the beginning of 2018. As a retired New York City police officer, Debbie brought a myriad of skills and experiences to the role. She was committed to improving the neighborhood, maintaining safety and navigating city policies. Debbie was highly organized and routinely volunteered to support MDA activities and events. We already miss her, but wish her well as she settles into her new life in Church Hill.



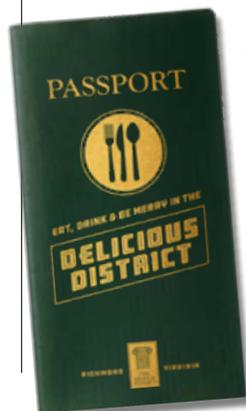
EMILEE HASBROUCK

The MDA board of directors is pleased to welcome **Emilee Hasbrouck** into the role of code enforcement director. Emilee has been a resident of the Museum District for the past seven years. Her hobbies include reading, gardening and cooking. She loves the walkability of the neighborhood and its unique, beautiful homes. She enjoys taking walks through the VMFA gardens with her Beagle-Basset Hound Humphrey, visiting Chop Suey Books and getting ice cream at Bev's with her family. Emilee is a University of Richmond School of Law graduate and currently serves as the assistant capital defender at the central office of the Capital Defender representing clients facing the death penalty.

## DELICIOUS DISTRICT CONTINUES THROUGH LABOR DAY

- Pick up a passport at participating restaurants
- Make a purchase and have your card validated
- Eight dining experiences qualifies you for a signature apron
- Each visit enters you into the drawing for the grand prize, a basket full of gift cards from participating restaurants valued at \$500
- Promotion ends on Labor Day, September 2, 2019
- To redeem prizes, drop your pre-addressed passport in the mail
- Passports must be postmarked no later than September 16, 2019

*Remember: Every time you dine in RVA, you support Richmond Public Schools through the meals tax!*

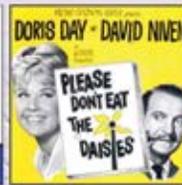


# CLASSICS *in the Courtyard*

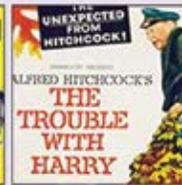
Enjoy memorable films each Thursday night in August  
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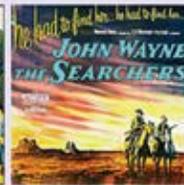
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with Love



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Please Don't  
Eat the Daisies



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The Trouble  
with Harry



Aug. 22  
The  
Searchers



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# THOMAS JEFFERSON STUDENTS FIND SUCCESS IN ROBOTICS COMPETITION

by **LIZ DOERR**

*1st District School Board Representative,  
Richmond City Schools*

**T**he Thomas Jefferson Robotics Team experienced a meteoric journey this year as they won several local and regional competitions securing a spot at the World Robotics Championship. The students, teachers, and parents are rightfully very proud of the team that won difficult competitions against local and regional schools (including many specialty and private institutions) to become our local RPS hometown heroes.

At a high level, teams had six weeks to design and build a robot that could acquire and place hatch panels on a cargo ship and/or rocket, deliver cargo into the cargo ship and/or rocket, and return the robot to its platform docking station. To learn more about the competition visit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destination:\\_Deep\\_Space](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destination:_Deep_Space).

Volunteer coach and local STEM advocate Kou Vang offered the following testimonial “This has been an amazing year of success, and I attribute it to the great leadership of our outstanding seniors, and the dedication from all team members to understand the game, create an objective plan, hold themselves accountable, and execute in a timely fashion. They learned a lot about not just STEM, but how to make collaborative and objective decisions, lead teams effectively, network with the community, and influence others (especially at competition). Their selflessness as the season went on was a maturation of teamwork – leveraging each other’s strengths and working together to improve each other’s weaknesses. I am so proud to have been a part of such an amazing team, and the development of such truly amazing leaders.”

The team placed in the quarter finals in Richmond, semi-finals in Portsmouth and finals at the District Championship in Fairfax before going onto the World Championship. At the World Championships they placed 46th in the division while capturing the hearts and minds of Richmond Public Schools back at home.

Please join me in heartily congratulating these amazing students that helped put RPS on the map as a leading district for STEM education. The team raised \$49,189 from local community members and organizations (including the Museum District Association) to finance their competitions and supplies. Thank you to the entire Richmond community for rallying its support around this talented group of young people. **📍**

**MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG**



PHOTOS BY CHRIS JOHNSON

**THE TEAM PLACED IN THE QUARTER FINALS IN RICHMOND, SEMI-FINALS IN PORTSMOUTH AND FINALS AT THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP IN FAIRFAX BEFORE GOING ONTO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.**



*Top photo: Part of the Robotics Club Team at one of the many robotics competitions.*

*Above photo: The robot itself in the classroom at TJHS, named 2998.*

*Left photo: A pin of 2998 made by the students.*

## **NAMES OF ROBOTICS CLUB MEMBERS**

- Tyquan Battle
- Richard Branch
- Summer Campbell
- Hannah Clark
- Justin Daniels
- Mya Fife
- Langston Gaetano
- Amia Graham
- Kofi Hawley
- Jaycin Hill
- Taylor Hilliard
- Quinton Jones
- Jayquan Jordan
- Myca Lester
- Eric Luna-Melo
- Loki Moore
- Eddy Munoz
- Mahki Riley
- Keith Rozier
- Brian Simo
- Javar Valentine
- David Whitley
- Co-Captain – Ben Skromne
- Co-Captain – Knisya Johnson
- Lead Mentor – Kou Vang

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# THE UNDERGROUND KITCHEN: DELICIOUS DIVERSITY BORN IN THE MUSEUM DISTRICT

by **BEN HOPKINS**

**I**magine being invited to a dinner party for 60 to 70 really cool people with great taste. At a chic location that's only revealed the day before. With a secret menu of mind-blowing dishes prepared by hot, up-and-coming chefs matched with wines chosen by a world-class sommelier. And an atmosphere inspired by an exclusive restaurant in uber-chic Ibiza. Now, imagine all that here in Richmond.

Welcome to the Underground Kitchen (or UGK), founded in 2013 by Museum District resident Micheal Sparks and three partners. Sparks' partners today are Kate Houck, COO, and Alexia Billiard, CFO.

The "underground supper club" concept has been popular in larger cities for years, but Sparks and his partners are bringing it to Richmond with the kind of flair you'd expect from a group for whom throwing over-the-top dinner parties was a competitive sport.

Here's how it works: Sparks and his partners select a theme and a city, then choose a chef from a diverse database of hundreds of chefs who have asked to cook for UGK. Sparks and his partners help the chef choose the menu and work with a hand-picked sommelier to find the perfect wine pairing for each course of the meal. Next comes sourcing of the finest, freshest, chemical-free and responsibly grown ingredients – some of which come from a two-acre farm partnership between UGK and Virginia State University.

Sparks estimates the UGK has held between 250 and 300 events in Richmond, D.C., Chicago, New York and other east coast cities. As of this writing, team UGK had just returned from New York City, where they had been invited by the James Beard Foundation to cook at the prestigious James Beard House. "Most chefs wait a lifetime to go to James Beard to cook. We did it in six years," said Sparks. In fact, the UGK event was so popular that there was a waiting list of 100 people and 16 people were escorted out after sneaking in without tickets.

**THE UNDERGROUND KITCHEN BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH A SHARED EXPERIENCE OF FINE DINING, COMMUNITY AND A SENSE OF OCCASION. FROM THE SECRET LOCATION TO THE UNDISCLOSED MENU, IT'S ALL ABOUT SURPRISE, DELIGHT AND THE ART OF THE MEAL.**

What started as a "pop-up dining society" featuring buzzworthy Richmond chefs has morphed into what Sparks calls an "experiential dining company" where diners get to know both the food and the chefs behind it. The company is now on an "Americana Tour," celebrating the marriage between America and other cultures. As each dish is served, the chefs behind them explain its significance in shaping their view of America, sort of an autobiography in food.

UGK Corporate has held events for several companies, including a holiday party for The Grio/The Weather Channel in New York City that was so successful, many attendees bought tickets for the UGK public event being held the very next day.

Sparks and his partners have ambitious plans for UGK. "I guess by this time next year we'll be doing events in California," he said confidently. They're currently converting a 31-foot Airstream trailer into a mobile test kitchen and tasting room. A wine club is in the offing; and Sparks hints about a program where there will be a UGK happening everywhere in the US every night of the week. To learn more about where UGK will be popping up, visit [www.theundergroundkitchen.com](http://www.theundergroundkitchen.com). Bon appetit! **E**



CLEVELAND MARKET



KRAMER'S MARKET

STOREFRONT PHOTOS BY JUSTIN CHERNEY



PATTERSON MINI MART



DAXACA LATIN MARKET



BELMONT BUTCHERY



7-ELEVEN



704 NEIGHBORS





# THE MUSEUM DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETS

by **MA POWERS**

**T**he charm and walkability of the Museum District can be attributed largely to the unique businesses scattered throughout the neighborhood. In particular, are several well-stocked markets offering a full array of basic grocery items as well as specialty foods and local novelties. Most are locally owned and operated. Shop local, meet the owner and support our neighborhood amenities! 



## BELMONT BUTCHERY

Artisanal hand-cut meats, house-made sausages, fresh sliced-bacon and provisions from a European-style storefront. Many local and exotic meats. Refrigerator case stocked with wine, cheese, local eggs, greens and breads. Refurbished cast iron skillets also for sale.

**15 N. BELMONT AVE. • (804) 422-8519**

*Monday-Friday: 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.*

*Saturday: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.*

## CLEVELAND MARKET

Basic food and toiletry items, student supplies, bagged ice, grilling supplies, frozen treats, pet foods and local products. Lottery tickets, wines, cigars, vapes, incense, candles and last-minute affordable gift novelties.

**801 N. CLEVELAND ST. • (804) 213-0505**

*Daily: 9 a.m.-11:30 p.m.*

## KRAMER'S MARKET

Large selection of grocery basics and many popular luxury items like sparkling water, assorted snacks, candy and pet foods.

**406 N CLEVELAND • (804) 359-2199**

*Sunday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m.*

*Friday and Saturday: 8:00 a.m. -11:00 p.m.*

## OAXACA LATIN MARKET

Handy Latin groceries, selection of fresh vegetables, canned and frozen foods.

**610 N. SHEPPARD ST. • (804)201-9083**

*Daily: 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.*

## PATTERSON MINI MART

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## 7-ELEVEN

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## 704 NEIGHBORS

Large inventory of standard groceries, frozen meals, wine, beer, cigarettes, ice cream, greeting cards, gift items, bagged ice.

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*Monday-Thursday, Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-10:30 p.m.*

*Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.*



# MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR CELEBRATES ANOTHER RECORD-SETTING YEAR

by **BILLY POARCH**

**T**he Museum District Association is pleased to report another highly successful tour season. It seemed as if it rained everywhere except in the Museum District on May 12! Hundreds of visitors were seen on the streets of our beautiful neighborhood admiring nine homes, including new construction, and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Net income from the 2019 tour was also the highest ever coming in at over \$20,000. Twenty-five percent of these proceeds will be donated to non-profit organizations in the immediate area and to a Thomas Jefferson High School scholarship sponsored by the MDA. Recipients will be announced at the fall Town Hall meeting.

'Nita Parry, the founder of the house tour 25 years ago, came back to Richmond from Annapolis to serve as the honorary chair of what is now being called a "Richmond tradition."

The 25th annual tour could have never happened without the assistance of MANY people. This listing is an attempt to highlight our partners and express our gratitude for their continuing support of the Museum District. 

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

### The tour would not be possible without the support and generosity of those who graciously opened their homes and facilities:

James and Julie Behne  
Bellevue Homes and Pareto, LLC  
Charlie Caldwell and Scott Finn  
Melinda and Larry Clapp  
Courtney Clements  
David Hensley and Shawn Welk  
Linda and Bill Muse  
Melissa Oefelein  
Dee Ann and Jim Remo  
Virginia Museum of History & Culture

### Businesses that contributed gift certificates, goods and services directly to our homeowners and tour guests:

Ellwood Thompson's	MA Powers
Jim at J. Emerson	Chadwick & Sons Orchids
Black Hand	Fresh Market
Gearhardt Chocolate	Kroger
Tommy's Garden	CVS
Ukrops	

*This year's tour committee worked hard all year long to bring the best house tour possible. Without the work of these wonderful neighbors, this tour would not be the success that it is.*

### 2019 Mother's Day House & Garden Tour Committee

Paige Alcorn	Zoe Anne Green
Beth Bostian	Katherine Hartwell
Melinda Clapp	Susan Hudgins
Larry Clapp	Olga Klug
Anne DeCamps	Karen Lebo
Trish Geier Fields	Billy Poarch
Jennifer Fleming	Amanda Scudder
Liz Forman	April Straus

### Ticket Outlets

Buddy's Place, 600 N. Sheppard St.  
Chadwick & Son Orchids, 203 N. Belmont Ave.  
Ellwood Thompson's, 4 N. Thompson St.  
Mongrel, 2924 W. Cary St.

### Sponsors

Abundance Organizing, Amanda Scudder  
Anne Hughes DeCamps, Decorative Painter  
The Barking Lot: Professional Pet Grooming  
Barrett Home Photography  
B K Martin Construction  
Black Hand Coffee Co

Bobby + April Concierge Real Estate  
Buddy's Place  
Carrell Blanton Ferris: Attorneys at Law  
CBS 6 /Virginia This Morning  
Chapman's Certified Auto Repair  
Chiocca's Downstairs Deli & Bar  
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The One Bed & Breakfast  
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Wilton House Museum

### Special Thanks

Virginia Museum of History & Culture:  
Hospitality Center and Parking  
Bobby + April Concierge Real Estate: Trolley Sponsor  
Tommy's Garden-Hospitality Center Flowers  
Rich Barrett of Barrett Home Photos: Photography  
Beth Shumaker: Printing

### This year, we also held a special 25th anniversary party that was sponsored by the following people:

Beth Bostian & Ben Hopkins  
Fred & Kathy Duckworth  
Jennifer Fleming  
Liz Forman  
Zoe Anne Green  
Susan & Pat Hudgins  
Olga Klug  
Grayson & Sara Page  
Carl & Sue Patow  
Billy Poarch  
MA Powers  
Jesse Reuben  
Stephen Versen  
Senator Tim Kaine *who made a surprise visit to the party.*

*It takes an army of volunteers for the Museum District Mother's Day H & G Tour*

## Volunteers

Hannah Abbey  
Paige Alcorn  
Deirdre Aldridge  
Gerry Alferio  
Barbara Ambrose  
Jessie Atkinson  
Gail Austin  
Deborah Barbee  
Kate Barrett  
Richard Barrett  
Su Boer  
Kevin Bojarski  
Barbara Bonn  
Beth Bostian  
Janet Brown  
Wyn Brown  
Liz Bryant  
Kate Burns  
Donna Cercone  
Liam Chambers  
Larry Clapp  
Melinda Clapp  
Leslie Clark  
Pat Clifford  
Lance Clifton  
Turner Cole  
Sharon Considine  
Dianne Cottrell  
Anne DeCamps  
Jon Dillon  
Liz Dillon  
Joey Ellen  
Kyle Elliott  
Lara Estep  
Seth Estep  
Kinan Fadl  
Trish Fields  
Jennifer Fleming  
Liz Forman  
Gary Foster  
Harriet Foster  
Justin Friedrichs  
Gus Fulleborn  
Shelley Fulleborn  
Meghana Gowda  
Zoe Anne Green  
Anne Grier  
Michael Grove  
Katherine Hartwell  
Paige Harvey  
Bobby Hicks  
Ben Hopkins  
Susan Hudgins  
Madeline Hunter  
Brittany Jobe

Steve Jones  
Bobby Jones  
Karen Kelly  
Olga Klug  
Vincent Klug  
Sally Kutz  
Karen Lebo  
Bob Mark  
Janice Mark  
Kyle Martin  
Trudy McCarty  
Mary Meadows  
Arax Mitchell  
Angela Mucha  
Mike Mucha  
Tolson Musick  
Phyllis Musser  
Lauren Nelson  
Noreen O'Brien  
Kerri Palmer  
Neil Palmer  
Marty Palmore  
Carolyn Palombo  
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Jennifer Pollard  
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Miriam Thorpe  
Anne Tomsky  
Lillian Turner  
Jan Varnier  
Theresa Varnier  
Cate Venable  
Stephen Versen  
Matt Webb  
Dina Weinstein  
Mary Weiser  
Debbie Welch  
Mary Ellen Wilkinson  
Kathy Yates



*David Harris, Jr, nephew of Arthur Ashe, Councilwoman Kimberly Gray, and Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney reveal new street and highway signs for Arthur Ashe Boulevard.*

# NAME CHANGE HONORS RICHMOND NATIVE ARTHUR ASHE, JR.

by **MA POWERS**

**O**n Saturday, June 22, 2019, the Richmond community celebrated the dedication of Route 161 (formerly Boulevard) as Arthur Ashe Boulevard. The new name honors the late Richmond native, tennis great, and humanitarian Arthur Ashe, Jr. The ceremony, held at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, was covered extensively in the news and social media both locally and nationally. Many of Ashe's relatives, City officials, and Virginia politicians, were present for the historic moment. Georgia Congressman John Lewis delivered the keynote message. Street signs bearing the new name along Arthur Ashe Boulevard in the Museum District were installed immediately following the ceremony.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS ON ARTHUR ASHE BOULEVARD PROVIDED BY THE RICHMOND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

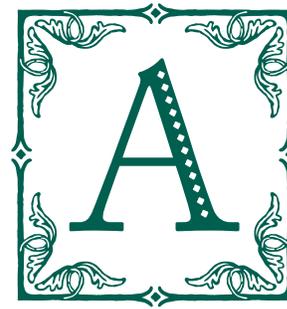
- The United States Postal Service will deliver packages and letters with Boulevard designation for up to one year. USPS entered the name change on March 25, 2019, so mail must bear the new name as of March 25, 2020, after which mail will be returned to sender.
- Emergency Response (911, Police, Fire, Ambulance) have made the change to their systems.
- Property deeds do not need to be changed. Future transactions will include the new address.
- Utility providers were notified of the name change on May 15, 2019.
- Map programs such as Bing Maps, Google and MapQuest have all been notified to make changes to mapping software. Changes should be complete by the end of the quarter.
- ABC licenses for restaurants will receive name change at renewal.
- Richmond Finance has committed to make adjustments to business licenses without cost to customers.
- Personal forms of identification such as driver's licenses, social security cards, and passports should be changed in a timely fashion as with any personal move. Please refer to the individual organization for regulations.



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 Museum District Resident

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# PICKLEBALL: A SPORT YOU'LL WANT TO TRY

by **LIZ BRYANT**

“It’s just fun. Everybody is nice. Everybody is very helpful to new players. So, it’s just a positive environment.”

This is how Museum District resident Pam Stump describes pickleball, which she plays generally four to five days a week. Pickleball, you say?

It was a new term to me, too. And a new sport. As it turns out, it’s quite popular here in Richmond. So much so that we have our own Richmond ambassador to the USA Pickleball Association. Her name is Diana Garland, she’s a volunteer, and she is charged with finding new places for people to play and teaching them the sport. We have pickleball here as a partnership between the association and the City of Richmond.

In the Museum District, pickleball is offered inside the Humphrey Calder Recreation Center during the school year. There is dedicated time for both beginners and more experienced players and schedules should be set in late August. Participation in pickleball at the rec center is restricted to adults over the age of 50. And while you get a feeling of collegiality in the group, there’s a bit of competition, too.

“And there’s a lot of strategy,” said Pam. “Once you get used to playing and you know the rules, there is strategy just like tennis,” which she played for 50 years before trying pickleball. “So, the higher up you go in levels, the more strategy you’ve got. I’m still working on strategy,” she added with a chuckle.

Watching the game, you are reminded a bit of tennis. There’s a net and players hit a ball back and forth that looks a bit like a wiffleball (it’s heavier, though) using paddles that resemble a cross between a racquetball racquet and ping pong paddle. When I visited I heard a lot of cheering and laughing. Clearly much fun was being had. I decided then and there that I would be trying this new-to-me sport.

Many people who play have experience with tennis and find pickleball to be easier on their knees. But even if you’ve never held a racquet or paddle of any kind, Diana says you should give it a try. When starting

**IT’S A BIT LIKE TENNIS WITH A HEAVIER WIFFLEBALL AND USING A CROSS BETWEEN A RACQUETBALL PADDLE AND A PING PONG PADDLE.**



out, you can borrow a paddle, so all you need to bring is a good attitude and be ready to enjoy yourself.

Richmond offers both indoor and outdoor pickleball for all skill and age levels. For more information on times, locations, and the pickleball community, visit their Facebook page at [RVAPickleball](https://www.facebook.com/RVAPickleball). You may also reach out to Diana with questions via email at [rvapickleball@gmail.com](mailto:rvapickleball@gmail.com) or text at 434-760-1898. 



*(L to R) Pickleball player Nancy Whitehurst, Diana Garland, and Richmond Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Chris Frelke cut the ribbon to open outdoor pickleball courts at Randolph Community Center*

*(Top Photo) Pickleball action at Humphrey Calder*



## A LOOK INSIDE ROSENEATH'S CREATIVE SPACE

by **MA POWERS**

**B**ehind Temple Beth El on Grove Ave. sits an unassuming two-story brick building, easily overlooked along Roseneath Rd. Dedicated in 1957 as Temple Beth El Religious School, the site has served a variety of purposes over the past few years. Currently, The Innerwork Center (formerly the Chrysalis Institute) occupies the first floor for classes, gatherings and administration. Integral Yoga leases space for two yoga studios in the rear of the building as well. Also located on the first floor is Temple Beth El's Mikveh, a cleansing bath used for immersion rituals. Little known to the general public are the art and music studios on the second floor. In total, there are seven private studios along the pristine upper hallway. Each has a separate, locked entrance from the quiet corridor. In this issue, The Columns takes a close-up look at one artist and her studio.

For three years, Holly Markhoff has been traveling from her home in Henrico County to the Museum District to paint. Her studio overlooks Grove and Roseneath and allows her to draw energy from the vibrant neighborhood. Holly can often be spotted strolling the sidewalks or visiting Chop Suey Books in Carytown for inspiration. Born in New York City, she confesses that she loves city life and hopes to return to living in the Museum District or Fan District one day. Meanwhile, she spends her workday in the 350-square foot studio that is full of natural light and nurtures her creative processes.

Holly was raised by two highly creative parents who earned money through more technical work but always fostered the arts in their home. She has worked as a mental health counselor for Chesterfield County, as well as a Judaic studies teacher and art spe-

cialist at area Hebrew schools. Over the past decade, painting gradually became her full-time career.

The Museum District studio is a reflection of the artist herself: lively, colorful and a little messy. It is exactly what one would imagine an artist's studio to be. There are huge paintings in all stages of production around the room, some leaning and others lying flat so that lacquer can dry evenly. There is sunlight, music and well-worn carpet to catch spills from cans of house paint leftover from projects or purchased from the mistake shelf at paint retailers. Her large-scale, contemporary pieces are fresh and fun, often depicting flowers or groups of ladies. Samples of her work can be viewed on Instagram, @hollymarkhoffartist.

Next time you are on Roseneath Rd., check out the building for something new and exciting. Look up and you might see Holly peeking down at you for inspiration on her next piece! **📍**



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN CHEENEY

*Holly's work can be found locally at Chasen Galleries and Crossroads Art Center, as well as galleries in Virginia Beach, Florida and Pennsylvania.*



PHOTOS BY STEVEN CASANOVA

## AT THE VALENTINE

# MONUMENT AVENUE: GENERAL DEMOTION/GENERAL DEVOTION

by ERIC STEIGLEDER

**O**n July 4, 2018, the Valentine opened Monumental: Richmond's Monuments (1607-2018), an ambitious exhibition that explored the role, history and context of over 40 public monuments in and around Richmond. We invited members of the public to not only delve into the story behind our monumental landscape through archival images, original photography and multimedia slideshows, but to respond with their own ideas and join the conversation, both in person and on social media.

This exhibition was the first of its kind to use Richmond's many monuments to take a larger look at what we have chosen to remember as a city and what we have chosen to forget. It also paved the way for a new exhibition: Monument Avenue: General Demotion/General Devotion, which opened to the public on Valentine's Day of this year. But while Monumental focused on the past, this exhibition looks toward the future.

*Monument Avenue: General Demotion/General Devotion* began as an international design competition to create a contemporary response to Monument Ave. The Storefront for Community Design and the mObstudiO at VCUArts invited teams of planners, architects, designers, artists, academics and individuals to submit proposals that would conceptually re-imagine this historic and controversial boulevard.

Importantly, the aim of the competition was not to solicit concrete proposals that would be enacted, but instead to garner design inspiration for how we may consider moving forward as a community.

Over 70 proposals were submitted. Twenty finalists now adorn in the walls of the Stettinius Community Galleries at the Valentine, with the remaining 50 viewable on a screen in the space. The exhibition also features a voting station where visitors can fill out a ballot and vote for their favorite design.

**THIS EXHIBITION WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO USE RICHMOND'S MANY MONUMENTS TO TAKE A LARGER LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO REMEMBER AS A CITY AND WHAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO FORGET.**

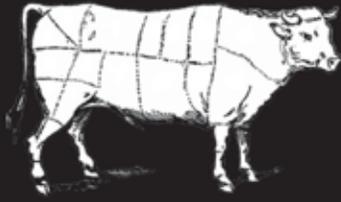
A jury of content experts will choose a winner at a public event in late November, along with a People's Choice Award.

An essential part of our response to this city-wide debate has been our approach as an institution: the Valentine neither opposes nor supports the removal of any monuments; our aim is more nuanced. We want to inspire important and uncomfortable discussions about who we were as a community when the statues were erected, who we are today and the kind of Richmonders we hope to be in the future.

Our mission as an institution has always been to engage, educate and challenge a diverse audience by collecting, preserving and interpreting our shared history, using Richmond's past to inform the present and shape the future. As always, we believe we can best serve the people of the region through thoughtful programming, community engagement and strategic partnerships like this one with our friends at the Storefront for Community Design and the mObstudiO at VCUArts and an emphasis on the unifying power of Richmond Stories.

*The Valentine, Richmond's oldest museum, offers a bold series of rotating exhibitions, innovative history tours, specialty programming and other unique opportunities to learn the story of this important and diverse region. Visit us Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1015 East Clay Street. Find us online at [thevalentine.org](http://thevalentine.org) for events, tours and more.* 

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# THE ART OF YEAR-ROUND COLOR

*Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas.*

– Elizabeth Murray



friend provided Elizabeth Murray’s perfect quote for this edition’s topic. Are you, like me, attempting to paint your own year-round canvas? As I walk around our charming neighborhood, I see that many of us are, and with great success.

Years ago, in a different garden, I was faced with an ugly little hillside plagued with poor soil. A local nursery’s guru gave me this mantra: daffodils, irises and daylilies. All three love yucky soil. In fact, they actually improve it over time. And you get a rainbow of color from early spring to late summer if you’re lucky.



**JANIE WILSON**

This was the first thing I planted in my Museum Garden. I had a small hill that needed a quick, economical fix. I added tall sedum that took my garden color well into the fall. This is a great treatment for those pesky median areas as well.



**DAYLILY:** Sun loving daylilies are infinitely varied in height and color, bloom from late may through the summer, depending on the variety and are happy to hang around in lousy soil.



**WINTER DAPHNE:** Oh how wonderful to walk out of your door in late winter to the scent of shade loving winter daphne! There are some marvelous examples sprinkled all around The District.

I depend on camellias to take me into Christmas. My tall hana jiman (nicknamed eyelash) shows off pale pink tinged white blooms through Halloween. Then low-growing showa no sakae frames the front porch with deep pink blooms from December sometimes well into February.

Interesting berries help us to get through winter, too. But the wrong holly choice, and you have a massive tree on your hands instead of a nice shrub. The purple punch of beautyberry is so welcome on those dreary winter days too, as long as you are willing to pluck the many seedlings it creates.

And when you think you just can’t stand another day of winter, there’s nothing quite so welcomed as fragrant winter daphne and cheerful Lenten rose to greet us from February well into April. There are some stunning examples throughout the neighborhood. They bring us right back around to daffodils again.

So, as fall approaches and the local greenhouses swell with product, consider how you might paint your own year-round garden canvas.

Questions? Email me at [jane.wilson0109@gmail.com](mailto:jane.wilson0109@gmail.com). Happy gardening! 🌱

## GET A HISTORIC PLAQUE FOR YOUR HOUSE!

Properties located within the nationally registered West of the Boulevard Historic District may be issued a West of the Boulevard plaque. At the time that the Museum District neighborhood was added to the historic registry the name was the West of the Boulevard Historic District, therefore plaques reflect this historic name. Plaques are \$75 and are available only for properties within the district.



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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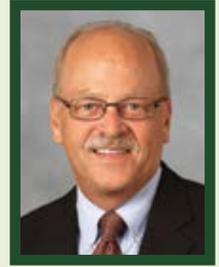
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## MIXED SIGNALS?

**B**y all indications the state of the Museum District real estate market remains strong. As homes in the district have been coming on the market recently, most that are market priced are quickly under contract, many with multiple offers. Area 20 (west of the downtown expressway) and the Museum District continue to set the pace for housing demand in the Richmond metropolitan area. Housing inventory remains very low in both areas.

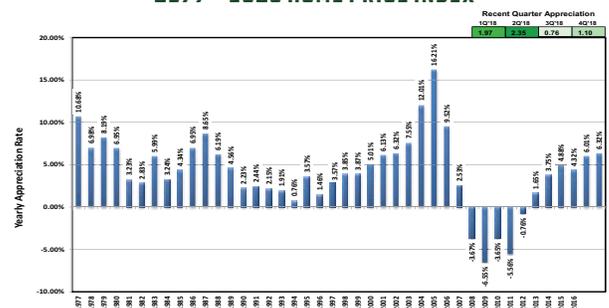


**STEVE JONES**  
Joyner Fine Properties

Helping the housing market are the steady and recently declining mortgage interest rates. Current 30-year rates are below 4 percent, down significantly from the most recent highs around 4.75 percent. Mortgage rates are closely tied to the federal government's 10-year treasury note yield and not closely related to the prime interest rate that is a more publicized number.

There are however some mixed signals when looking at the broader market. A surprising number was the fourth quarter home appreciation rate for the Richmond market (*see accompanying chart*). Expectations were for a bit of a slowdown from the third quarter, but the appreciation for the quarter was up from .75 to 1.27 percent, which made the overall appreciation for 2018 6.6 percent. That marks six straight years of real estate appreciation in the area.

### ANNUAL APPRECIATION: RICHMOND, VA 1977 - 2018 HOME PRICE INDEX



Data Reported: 2/26/2019, Source: www.hfha.gov

Equally surprising was the negative appreciation of -0.2 percent in the first quarter of 2019. That is down from a 2.26 percent appreciation in the first quarter of 2018. The second quarter numbers should bear watching.

Another note to be gleaned from the chart is that, to support the opinion that there is no looming real estate bubble, the appreciation rates before the housing market collapse 10 years ago were over 10 percent and not sustainable. The appreciation rates over a last few years are normal and should be sustainable.

Also, in support of a strong City of Richmond real estate market are numbers from the Richmond Economic Development Authority that show an 11 percent increase in the Richmond City population since 2017 and 35,000 new residents since 2000. The city is becoming a more and more desirable and sought-after place to live. **Q**

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# THE PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

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.*



## MICHEAL SPARKS

Museum District resident Micheal Sparks is the founder and CEO of The Underground Kitchen, an experiential dining company featured in this issue’s Business Profile.

### WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

*Having my business, my life, my partner’s and my family’s lives running on the same accord. The balance is really hard, you know?*

### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

*My greatest fear is that we can’t touch more than the few hundred chefs we work with each year in order to make a difference in their lives.*

### WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

*Barack Obama.*

### WHAT IS THE TRAIT THAT YOU DEPLORE IN OTHERS?

*Dishonesty.*

### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

*Luxurious bath towels and bed sheets. You should sleep in something you’re comfortable in. That’s where you spend six hours, eight hours of your day, you know? And to bathe well, it’s one of my favorite things.*

### WHAT LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST DESPISE?

*The Trump Administration - all of ‘em.*

### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

*Not experiencing America sooner. Exploring America and my family roots, that’s become part of my mission.*

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

*My mother.*

### WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

*Singing. I’d love to learn.*

### WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

*I’ll tell you the truth— the traveling I do is invigorating, you know; it’s great to see all these other places, but I’m missing home a lot.*

### IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

*I’d like the younger generation to experience what we experienced growing up. I think the Internet is screwing up our kids. They’re so caught up with data and we don’t spend the time that our grandparents spent with us telling us about us and who we are. I wish we could teach this younger generation about what it took us to get here.*

### WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

*Watching my mom get old and being there for her. It is exciting. And adventurous because we all got to go there one day, you know.*

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

*Probably a farmer.*

### WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

*My integrity.*

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

*Being deceived by people I love – or am trying to love.*

### WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

*Politics.*

### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE?

*Quietly.*

### WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

*Together we’re strong, divided we’re weak. 🇺🇸*



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

### CITY

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

### POLICE & FIRE

Emergency	911
Fire Non-emergency	804-646-6640
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 which 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>	
Parker Agelasto (5th District)	804-646-5724
<a href="mailto:parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com">parker.agelasto@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, Vice Chair & Richmond 1st District	804-929-6624
<a href="mailto:edoerr@rvaschools.net">edoerr@rvaschools.net</a>	
Scott Barlow, Richmond 2nd District	804-929-6571
<a href="mailto:jbarlow3@rvaschools.net">jbarlow3@rvaschools.net</a>	
Patrick Sapini - Richmond 5th District	804-929-6930
<a href="mailto:psapini@rvaschools.net">psapini@rvaschools.net</a>	

To watch school board proceedings and meetings:

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

### VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Delegate Dawn Adams (68th)	804-698-1068
Delegate Betsy Carr (69th)	804-698-1069
Del. Jeffrey Bourne (71st)	804-698-1071

### US CONGRESS (DISTRICT 4)

A. Donald McEachin	202-225-6365
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### US SENATE

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

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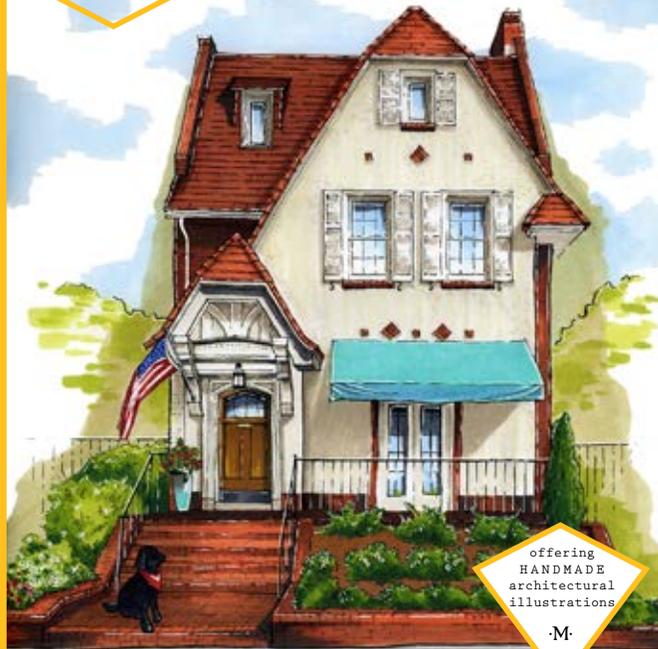
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