



The COLUMNS

AUG - OCT 2021

A PUBLICATION of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG



Why do birds suddenly appear...?



SIMPLE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR YARD AN ORNITHOLOGICAL OASIS

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Visit the yard of Art and Kay Seidenberg



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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 typically meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of most months. If you would like to make a presentation to the board, please email or call the president.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I hope this edition of *The Columns* finds you well. If you remember my first column at the beginning of this year, I shared my family's disappointment over missed time with out-of-state family, particularly over the holidays, due to the pandemic and how we hoped to see them again soon. I'm happy to report we joyfully kicked off our summer with a reunion of sorts with our Georgia family.

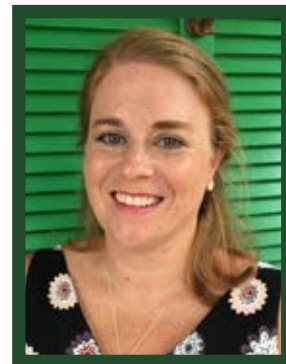
My husband, kids and I thoroughly enjoyed our summer, but we are looking forward to the new school year. We've worked hard; we've played hard; and we've spent joyful time with neighbors, friends, and family now that many of us are fully vaccinated. We are excited to return to the 2021-2022 school year in great expectation of what the year holds. While it would be great to fully return back to normal, I know that many aspects of the pandemic will be with us for a long time. I also find myself wondering what is "normal," and what will the world look like when the pandemic is officially over. One thing I know: My hope for kindness and hospitality remains; I see these qualities in neighborhood residents scraping graffiti and stickers off public property as well as all the porch greetings and gatherings. What is it that brings you hope after the past 18 months?

As you read in our last issue, over the course of the pandemic the Museum District Association, led by Board Members **SUE PATOW** and **ALLISON SCHUTZER**, partnered with Albert Hill Middle School (AHMS) to organize virtual mentors for students in English and Math. The MDA will continue the partnership with AHMS when Richmond Public Schools return to in-person learning in September. We invite you

to join us in these efforts; we will provide additional information, as we are able, in our Monday morning email (subscribe at <https://www.museumdistrict.org/subscribe>). I look forward to the bustle around AHMS on school days and seeing middle schoolers walking in our neighborhood, again.

This edition of *The Columns* includes a handy 2021 voter guide for the November 2 election. This is earlier than usual; historically, we put this information in the fall issue, but we wanted to provide additional time for those in our neighborhood to be sure they're registered and aware of all the issues on the ballot as well as the candidates who are vying for Governor and the Virginia House of Delegates.

Our *Columns* team endeavors to publish a high quality and informational magazine every quarter;



CALEY CRAWFORD
2021 MDA PRESIDENT

Thank you so much to our Albert Hill Middle School tutors:

- ANNE BARASH
- BILL RIDER
- GINA ROMAGNOLI
- ALLISON SCHUTZER
- JEN MCCARTHY
- ANA PERRET-GENTIL
- CHARLES ELLEN
- BRAD KAPLAN
- SUE PATOW
- ANJA THOMAS
- HALLIE CRAIG
- TASSOS KARIES

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PARTNERS IN HISTORY

In 2019, the VMHC partnered with the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia to share collections and resources. Items that have been in storage at the BHMVA will be digitized and this upcoming exhibition will showcase a select group of objects that help tell a more complete history of Virginia.

► **Exhibition on Display**

July 1, 2021 through January 3, 2022

In partnership with the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia



Oliver Hill desk from the offices of Hill, Tucker & Marsh, BHMVA

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► **Exhibition on Display**

August 4 through October 24, 2021

In collaboration with the Virginia Holocaust Museum



PLAN YOUR VISIT

A limited number of galleries are open with reduced admission during construction.

- To purchase timed tickets to visit the museum or to view all upcoming programs, visit VirginiaHistory.org/Calendar



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The **COLUMNS**

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

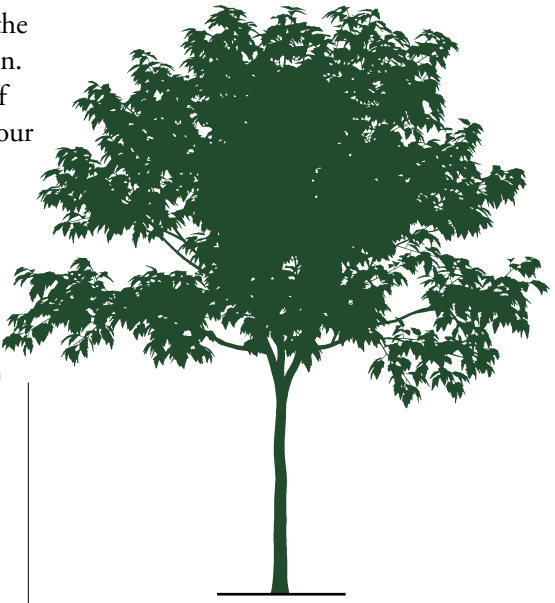
continued from page 3

the voter guide is just one example of the great work of our team. I heard from a few folks in the neighborhood after the last edition that they had been inspired to purchase a Japanese garden knife because of Janie Wilson's gardening article. If you are interested in working with *The Columns* team, please reach out to our editor at MDAnewsletter@museumdistrict.org.

I remain grateful to those who serve on the MDA Board, as well as the many committees that work hard for the Museum District. Our board and committees are completely voluntary and a labor of love for the Museum District and Richmond. If you are interested in joining one of the committees or have interest in open Board positions, please let me know. We'd love for more of our neighbors to join us in these efforts.

I look forward to seeing you all around the neighborhood and meeting you in person. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you'd like to discuss anything regarding our neighborhood.

Grace and peace,
Caley Crawford



WELCOME OUR LATEST BOARD MEMBER

JON CICCONE, the MDA's new Technology Chair, relocated to Richmond in August 2019. After spending 12 years in the D.C. area, Jon and his wife Barbara (a Richmond native) tired of the hustle-



and-bustle, especially the traffic, and retreated to a cozy rowhouse in the Museum District. Jon and Barbara were drawn to the walkability and convenience of amenities provided by the Museum District and Carytown. You can frequently find Jon working from his home office, walking his dog Thorin in the neighborhood and gaming at One Eyed Jacques. Jon is a Software Engineer at *The Washington Post* and is eager to apply his 15 years of experience in technology to advance the mission of the MDA. **C**



GOT AN EMPTY STREET TREE WELL?

Contact MDA Environment Chair **EMILY SANFRATELLA** by Sunday, August 15, to participate in the City of Richmond's Adopt-a-Tree Program. Through this program, approximately 100 new trees were planted in the Museum District in 2020. As we enter the hot summer, these young trees are at their most vulnerable, and they need to be watered regularly (every 10-14 days) in order to survive. The trees have watering bags for this purpose. If the trees survive their first year, there's a good chance they'll make it to maturity. Thanks, volunteers, for your continued dedication! **C**

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CELEBRATING THE 2021 MUSEUM DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

by **SUE PATOW**

Congratulations to graduating Thomas Jefferson High School seniors **TAYANA BROOKS** and **ASHANTAY COLEMAN**, the Museum District Association's 2021 scholarship recipients.

Tayana and Ashantay will each receive \$750 to be used for college tuition. Both students are not only academic standouts but also actively engaged leaders in their school and the community. Tayana will be attending Old Dominion University, majoring in Nursing, and Ashantay is headed to Mary Baldwin University to study Photography and Film. We wish them much success as they embark on their next chapter.

The Museum District Scholarship is given annually to two graduating Thomas Jefferson High School seniors. Funding for this year's scholarships came from the 2019 Museum District Association Mother's Day House & Garden Tour.



THE MUSEUM DISTRICT

Thomas Jefferson High School
SCHOLARSHIP

SETTING THE TABLE FOR ALBERT HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



In late spring 2021, the Museum District Association launched an initiative to create a welcoming environment for Albert Hill Middle School students returning in September. In partnership with many members of our community, the MDA raised funds to purchase nine new picnic tables for outside activities. With the financial support of the neighborhood (and a generous discount from Lowe's), the MDA delivered the tables to AHMS in June. Look for more information in the MDA's weekly e-newsletter (subscribe at museumdistrict.org/subscribe) about ways you can help support our neighborhood public school in the 2021-2022 school year. For more information about the mentoring program or other ways the MDA supports AHMS, please contact the MDA School Liaison, Sue Patow, at MDAschools@museumdistrict.org.

Thank you so much to our generous donors:

- REBECCA SEGAL
- WILLIAM AND AMY RIDER
- MARY ROOP
- ETHAN AND SHANNON LINDBLOOM
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THE COLUMNS EDITOR'S TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

by LIZ BRYANT

Ben Hopkins has worn many hats during his time on *The Columns* committee: ad sales, writer, advisor and, most recently, co-editor. His involvement began five years ago as a new editorial committee was forming and some major ideas were percolating.

“I got the idea to join *The Columns* because I wanted to change it,” Ben said. “The old black and white version didn’t reflect the amazing experience I was having in the neighborhood. I wanted it to be colorful and exciting and fun. It needed to stop being a newsletter and start being a magazine.”

Formerly, *The Columns* had been a delightful black and white (technically ecru) newsletter delivered to front porches four times a year. The new *Columns* would still arrive on doorsteps once a quarter, but in a totally new form. Ben’s neighbor and friend, Scott Fields, would prove to be key to the refreshed design.

“We had great writers who were excited about taking the content to the next level, so it was just a matter of doing the same thing with the design—and I knew we had the right person to do that,” Ben said of Scott’s talents.

Keeping the best of the old and layering in the best of the new, *The Columns* magazine wowed readers and advertisers alike.

“Everybody was so proud of the first color issue and it just kept getting better,” Ben said. “I’ll never forget the joy of being on the committee and the excitement that every issue generated.”

Ben and his wife Beth Bostian (who produces the Museum District Association’s weekly e-newsletter—thanks, Beth!) moved to their Museum District home from Atlanta in 2008 and never looked back.

“If our house had been priced based on the quality of the neighbors,” Ben said with a smile, “we’d never have been able to afford it.”

Don’t worry. While Ben is stepping down from the magazine committee to devote more time to his full-time work, he and Beth remain a major part of the neighborhood.

“Participating in the MDA is a great way to make friends and there’s plenty to do,” Ben said. “Find something that fits your passion and go for it.”

How lucky the Museum District has been to have benefitted from that passion. *Thanks, Ben.* 📍



CARL PATRICK PHOTO



“I got the idea to join *The Columns* because I wanted to change it. The old black and white version didn’t reflect the amazing experience I was having in the neighborhood. I wanted it to be colorful and exciting and fun. It needed to stop being a newsletter and start being a magazine.”

– Ben Hopkins

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ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 2: ARE YOU READY?

by **LIZ BRYANT**



November 2 is Election Day! I have always believed that voting is both a right and a responsibility. We should each exercise our right to vote, and we are lucky that we live in a day and time when access to information on candidates is widely and easily accessible so we can make an informed selection.

The candidates for each office (Source: Virginia Public Access Project) as of our print deadline are listed alphabetically:

GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

- **PRINCESS BLANDING (I)** – www.princessblanding.com
- **TERRY MCAULIFFE (D)** – www.terrymcauliffe.com
- **GLENN YOUNKIN (R)** – www.youngkinforgovernor.com

LT. GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

- **HALA AYALA (D)** – www.halaforvirginia.com
- **WINSOME SEARS (R)** – www.winsomesears.com

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF VIRGINIA

- **MARK HERRING (D)** – www.herringforag.com
- **JASON MIYARES (R)** – www.jasonmiyares.com

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

• 68TH DISTRICT

- **DAWN ADAMS (D)** – www.delegateadams.com
- **MARK EARLEY, JR. (R)** – www.markearleyforva.com

• 69TH DISTRICT

- **BETSY CARR (D)** – www.betsycarr.org
- **SHEILA FUREY (R)** – www.furey4delegate.com

• 70TH DISTRICT

- **JEFF BOURNE (D)** – www.jeffmbourne.com
- **NANCY HUNTER (R)**

RICHMOND SHERIFF, RICHMOND COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY, RICHMOND CITY TREASURER AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICES:

- When we contacted the Richmond City Registrar's Office for information on local candidates, that information was not yet available as of our print deadline. We will provide updates in the MDA's weekly e-newsletter as that information becomes available.

CITYWIDE REFERENDUM

- There is a city referendum on whether or not to allow construction of a casino in South Richmond - learn more here: <https://rva.gov/economic-development/resort-casino>.

All Museum District residents will vote for each of the offices and the referendum. Regarding the House of Delegates, the neighborhood is split into three districts. If you're not sure what district you are in, go to the Virginia General Assembly's website at <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov> and type in your address. All current state and federal representatives are listed, as well as district numbers.

The Richmond City Registrar's website (www.richmondgov.com/registrar) and the Virginia Department of Elections website (www.elections.virginia.gov) are two resources for voter and election information. You will find everything you need to know about the process for registering to vote—whether in person or absentee—deadlines, times for voting, polling locations, what you need to take with you, etc.

If any other items are to appear on the ballot after our print deadline, you will find that information on the websites listed above.

If you do not have access to a computer, or simply prefer to talk to a real person, the phone numbers are as follows:

RICHMOND CITY REGISTRAR: (804) 646-5950
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS: (804) 864-8901

See you at the polls on November 2! 



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Why do birds suddenly appear...?





SIMPLE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR YARD AN ORNITHOLOGICAL OASIS

by **CHRISTINA NUCKOLS**

The influence of a biologist is evident in every corner of Art and Kay Seidenberg's comfortably shaded backyard. A sign reading "Certified wildlife habitat" marks a pond inhabited by plants collected on the James River, the Chickahominy River, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Montana and several other places. Goldenrod, cup plants and coneflowers take root in a prairie micro-ecosystem. A Carolina wren tends her four eggs in a bird box.

Visitors considering how to diversify the bird population in their own backyards might be intimidated, but the Seidenbergs are quick to offer encouragement.

"We're strictly amateurs," Art insists. "You don't have to be a biologist. You just have to enjoy the beauty of the birds."

Art is indeed a biologist, now retired. A specialist in parasitology, his love of birds was inspired by his friendship with Charles Blem, a former pal from graduate school and a colleague at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Charles founded a research project at VCU studying prothonotary warblers more than 30 years ago. The project continues to this day, with tens of thousands of the beautiful golden birds banded to learn about their migration and breeding habits. Art and Kay, a retired nurse, were active in the project for more than 15 years.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

WHY DO BIRDS SUDDENLY APPEAR . . . ?

continued from page 3

The couple's Museum District home is a testament to their continued affection for birds of all varieties. They maximize the diversity of their backyard bird population through simple, inexpensive strategies.

They recommend using two types of bird feeders.* A suet basket is well-known as a magnet for woodpeckers, but many other species of birds will also be lured by the energy-rich cakes, including catbirds. A robin routinely hangs out below the Seidenbergs' suet feeder to pick up scraps knocked loose by other birds.

A traditional bird feeder can be stocked with a blend of small and large seeds. Cardinals and finches appreciate the larger seed varieties. The Seidenbergs have discovered that squirrels turn up their noses at safflower snacks, so the small white seeds are a staple in their birdfeeder.

The couple supplement their feeders with plants that are pleasing to birds, bees and butterflies. Brilliant red cardinal flowers, for example, are a hit with hummingbirds thirsty for nectar late in the summer.

Sadly, the Seidenbergs' beloved yellow prothonotary warblers never visit—those insect eaters stick close to the James River. But the enormous sunflowers that erupt next to the couple's front porch each summer bring typically shy goldfinches out of hiding for a hearty meal.

The Seidenbergs get immense joy watching their graceful visitors, as well as satisfaction that comes from helping the Museum District's feathered inhabitants thrive.

"Many songbird populations are declining," said Kay. "It's nice to give them a hand if you can." 📺



"MANY SONGBIRD POPULATIONS ARE DECLINING, IT'S NICE TO GIVE THEM A HAND IF YOU CAN."

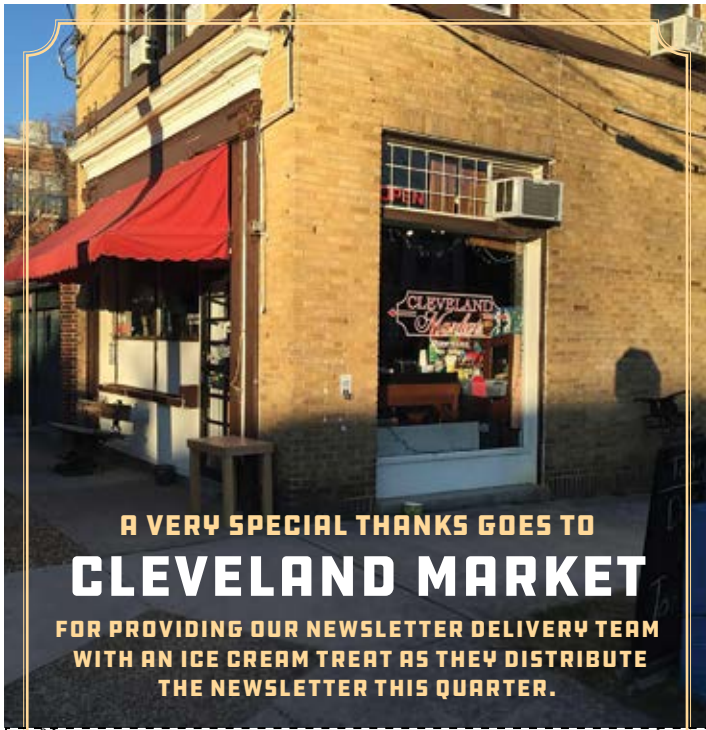
- KAY SEIDENBERG

*In June 2021, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) released a statement about their investigation of a bird mortality event in several states, including Virginia. At the time of our print deadline, the USGS has recommended taking the following precautions:

- Cease feeding birds until the wildlife morbidity/mortality event subsides.
- Clean feeders and bird baths with a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach mixed with nine parts water), rinse with water and allow to air dry.
- Avoid handling birds unless necessary. If you do handle them, wear disposable gloves. If picking up a dead bird, place an inverted plastic bag over your hand to avoid direct contact with the bird.
- Keep pets (including pet birds) away from sick or dead wild birds as a standard precaution.



Visit the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources [website \(bit.ly/2Un2m25\)](https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/bird-mortality-reporting-form) for more information and updates. If you encounter sick or dead birds, you can report it online: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/bird-mortality-reporting-form>



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THE RISE OF THE EMOTIONAL BUYER

by **ALLISON ELLIOTT SCHUTZER**
The Steele Group, Sotheby's International Realty

With people moving to smaller cities like Richmond all across the country, homeowners looking to sell in the Museum District have more influence over the market than ever. But with great power comes great responsibility. 2021 is the year of the emotional buyer. The buyer who has already lost in three bidding wars and is determined to win the fourth; the buyer moving from New York City who has spent the pandemic in a concrete jungle and is ready for a front porch at any cost; the all-cash buyer willing to waive inspections and appraisal; or the buyer from California ready to purchase site unseen. These scenarios and others are driving housing prices up. So many people in the running during this



time of incredibly low inventory is also driving prices through the roof, continuing the strong Seller's market.

While people are moving in from across the country, many Richmond locals are looking to move out of the city. The pandemic and rise of the work-from-home movement have impacted what people need out of their homes and the proximity they need to be from their downtown offices. So why does inventory remain relatively low? Emotions. The anxiety and fear of entering this market, finding your perfect home, and the uncertainty that you will be the lucky winner is creating a form of gridlock.

The good news is that real estate has been and always will be a kind of psychology. It's the business of knowing people, learning their goals and finding ways to achieve them. It requires a leap of faith, courage and a lot of guidance. Creative minds can bend the universe. And emotions can be overcome or even harnessed for the greater good.

So, when will the market slow down? Define "slow." Is receiving 15 offers instead of 5 really a bad thing? Not in the year of the emotional buyer. With so many psychological and other factors weighing into any decision in this competitive market, we can no longer use the highest comp to determine the value of a home. We as individuals are as unique as the homes we live in. And the value of your property is only determined by what another unique individual is willing to pay for it. **Q**



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[BLEEP] HAPPENS

by LIZ BRYANT

Let's face it, [bleep] happens. How we deal with pet waste can make or break a reputation as a good neighbor and animal parent. Here are some things to keep in mind when you head out for your walk:

- **MAKE SURE TO TAKE ALONG A SUPPLY OF PET WASTE BAGS.** It's good to have extra. Your own dog might need them, or you can help out someone else who's been caught bagless. You score extra points for using environmentally-friendly biodegradable bags.
- **ALWAYS PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG,** even if you see other pet waste in the same area. Don't add to the problem.
- **DISPOSE OF THE USED BAGS PROPERLY.** This means ideally in your own supercan and definitely not in a recycling bin.
- **WHILE WALKING, MAKE AN EFFORT TO STEER YOUR DOG AWAY FROM ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS OR YARDS** that look especially well-kept. Also, try to avoid children's toys. Your efforts will be most appreciated. And remember that solid waste isn't the only offender, as dog urine can damage or kill many types of plants.

If doing these things out of a spirit of good neighborliness isn't enough, know that there is an ordinance in Richmond requiring those with dogs to pick up and properly dispose of their waste or possibly face a fine of up to \$250. And your canine companion would most assuredly prefer you spend that money on dog treats or toys. 🐾



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PIECES OF A DREAM

by JANIE WILSON

If you listen closely, and look carefully, you'll find nature all around you in the Museum District.

There's an R&B group that came up in the golden era of the "Philly Sound" called Pieces of a Dream. Check them out on Spotify. I loved them back then, and their music still thrills me today. It makes for inspiring dinner making music, or the perfect background for your next cocktail party. But that's not what this article is about...

...It's about the other day when I was wandering around the neighborhood. As I pattered past houses, shops, schools and religious institutions, I saw a pair of sisters sitting together in St. Mark's meditation garden. Turning a corner, I found robin parents coaxing their fledgling off a tree branch. Bees hovered around a shopfront flowerpot. On the next street, butterflies flirted with lavender blooms. Goldfinches feasted on sunflowers. I even caught sight of a rare flycatcher cleaning up an alleyway.



That's what got me thinking about my old friend. There were literally Pieces of a Dream everywhere I looked. Our whole community has become a garden, a forest, an ecosystem where humans and their natural counterparts delightfully coexist. Each of us taking care of one another. We—animals, insects, plants and humans—are mastering the art of living together, nurturing our planet toward a healthier, more balanced ecosystem that not only refreshes our COVID-worn souls, but helps to restore our planet at the same time.

Pieces of a Dream—that's what it's like to live here in the Museum District. We live in one big, carefully crafted, verdant garden tended by each other. Each one of us cares about the little pieces of earth we've been given to tend. Together, these dreamy little pieces of nature—carefully structured, planted and tended—delight all of us resident birds, bees, butterflies and humans, and help our dear planet thrive. **E**



RICH BARRETT PHOTOGRAPHY





HALLOWEEN ETIQUETTE

by **LIZ BRYANT**



On October 31, ghouls and goblins will take to the streets, some in search of treats, others in search of tricks. While safety is the primary concern, good behavior ranks a close second. Here are five ideas to ensure good fun on All Hallows' Eve:

- 1. IF YOU'RE TRICK OR TREATING, DRESS IN COSTUME.** Come on, it's Halloween after all. But keep it fun and scary, not inappropriate or creepy.
- 2. THOSE OF YOU GIVING OUT THE TREATS,** when you run out of candy, turn off your porch light. Same if you're not participating. Porch light off is the recognized signal for "don't trick or treat here." Because it's Halloween and late-night tricks have been known to happen, go ahead and turn your light back on after the trick or treating has wrapped up.
- 3. TREATS SHOULD BE IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING.** And keep it to candy. You may be well-meaning giving out fruit, but for safety reasons it will be tossed by parents when the kids get home. Plus, remember, it's Halloween and kids like candy.
- 4. CONSIDER NON-CANDY TREATS FOR KIDS WITH ALLERGIES OR SENSITIVITIES.** Glow bracelets or rings, for example, are inexpensive and fun. That way everyone gets to join in the festivities.
- 5. "TRICK OR TREAT" REQUESTING TREATS AND "THANK YOU" UPON RECEIVING TREATS ARE THE MAGIC WORDS.** And it may even earn you an extra candy bar or two.

For safety recommendations, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a great list for drivers and pedestrians. Visit their site at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/halloween-safety-tips>.

The community of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

individuals and families of all kinds has long been committed to inclusion, warmly welcoming all persons.



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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. Under *Resources*, go to *Marketplace*, and you will see a link for house plaques.



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 though 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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CLASSICS *in the Courtyard*

Enjoy memorable films each Thursday night in August
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Aug. 5
Stars in
My Crown



Aug. 12
The Parent
Trap



Aug. 19
It Happened
on 5th Avenue



Aug. 26
And Then There
Were None



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THE PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

Adapted by past editor 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.



LIZ DOERR
Richmond City
School Board Representative,
District 1

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

Taking a shower after a long day at the beach and snuggling slightly sunburnt on the couch with my family.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

People I love passing away. I unexpectedly lost my father and step-father (who was like a father) when they were both pretty young, then had a miscarriage all in the same year. It was a traumatic time. Sorry, getting real here!

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Not super original, but it is truly my Mom. She has an infectious joie de vivre and she is the most resilient, passionate and loving human I know.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

I really don't have any grand regrets but I have lots of little regrets (e.g. why was I buried in my phone when my kid was doing something cute). Just typical day to day stuff that I regret and then try to learn from.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

I would love to have an ounce of athleticism. I also wish I wasn't a terrible driver.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

I eat an inordinate amount of popcorn. I inadvertently served popcorn twice at my wedding (appetizer and dessert) and didn't even realize it until my guests pointed it out.

WHAT OR WHO IS THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

Of course my husband Mike and son Luke. I also really love my cat Sgt. Pepper and my corgi Lady David Bowie.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

An extreme propensity to get things done.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

I am proud of my ability to turn my goals into reality.

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

I'd love to experience something completely antithetical to who I am. Like a professional athlete or a really chill/laid back person.

WHAT DO YOU REGARD AS THE LOWEST DEPTH OF MISERY?

Isolation.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

When people make no effort to care about or understand other people.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE?

A colleague's wife passed away in her living room while dozens of her friends held a goodbye gathering and partied into the night sharing their favorite stories. That seems like a pretty spectacular way to go.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

Work hard, have fun, be nice and don't sweat the small stuff.

WHAT'S THE MOST RICHMOND THING YOU CAN DO?

Get a tattoo, grab some local fancy coffee and a Sub Rosa croissant, and then bike to the river. 🇺🇸



LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

CITY

Mayor Levar Stoney	804-646-7970
Acting Chief Administrative Officer - Lincoln Saunders	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 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 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) - andreas.addison@richmondgov.com	804-646-5935
Katherine Jordan (2nd District) - katherine.jordan@richmondgov.com	804-646-6532
Stephanie Lynch (5th District) - stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com	804-646-6050

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

SCHOOL BOARD

Jason Kamras, School Superintendent	804-780-7710
Elizabeth Doerr (1st District) - edoerr@rvaschools.net	804-929-6624
Mariah White (2nd District) - mwhite4@rvaschools.net	804-221-9389
Stephannie Rizzi (5th District) - srizzi@rvaschools.net	804-929-6930

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

BELMONT LIBRARY

**ALL LOCATIONS OF RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY ARE NOW OPEN!
WE ARE READY TO WELCOME YOU BACK.**

Our meeting rooms and study rooms will soon be open to reserve online. While virtual programs continue online, many locations are providing onsite programs outside.

Explore our updated website <https://rvalibrary.org/> for continuing updates to programs and library access.

Also check out our new, advanced, library catalog to search for items and place holds.

New to the neighborhood? Get a head start by applying for an e-card, giving you some immediate library privileges. Once you visit an RPL branch, you can convert your e-card to a physical card and check out materials. <https://rvalibrary.org/services/get-card/>

Need legal forms? Check out <https://subscriptions.uslegalforms.com/gale/forms.html> for free access to Gale Legal Forms, The Leading Online Publisher of National and State-specific Legal Documents. This is a terrific source of commonly used forms like divorce or wills in Virginia. You can access this database from any computer. You will be asked to enter your RPL library card number.

Thank you for your patience during the past year as we have adapted our hours and services to meet current demands for health and safety. Our building continues to have daily cleaning and receives a weekly treatment of electrostatic antimicrobial spray. Throughout the past year, we have quarantined all returned materials, gradually reducing that time period now to 24 hours.

STAY INFORMED BY:

- **Reading the MDA (This Week in the Museum District) email update** – it's a terrific source of the most up-to-date information. Have you signed up for this?
- **Checking out our RPL website reopening guide** <https://rvalibrary.org/reopening/>
- **Exploring our website** to discover events, concerts and other special happenings. <https://rvalibrary.org/events/>
- **Checking out our virtual programming** for children and teens <https://rvalibrary.org/kids/online-programs/>. Here you will find weekly storytimes, crafty sessions, author highlights and classes of all kinds.

Currently, we are offering curbside services only, 10:00-5:00 Monday-Saturday. However, we expect that we will SOON begin to expand in such a way that you will be able to come inside our building! We've missed you.

At this time, meeting rooms are not available.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can access library resources, popular and classic ebooks and over 39,000 downloadable audiobooks through the **Libby App** (*also known as Overdrive*). Just use your RPL library card and make sure to download Libby onto your device. Check out up to 25 items at a time.

The Belmont Library is located at 3100 Ellwood Avenue.
For information: RichmondPublicLibrary.org • 804-646-1139

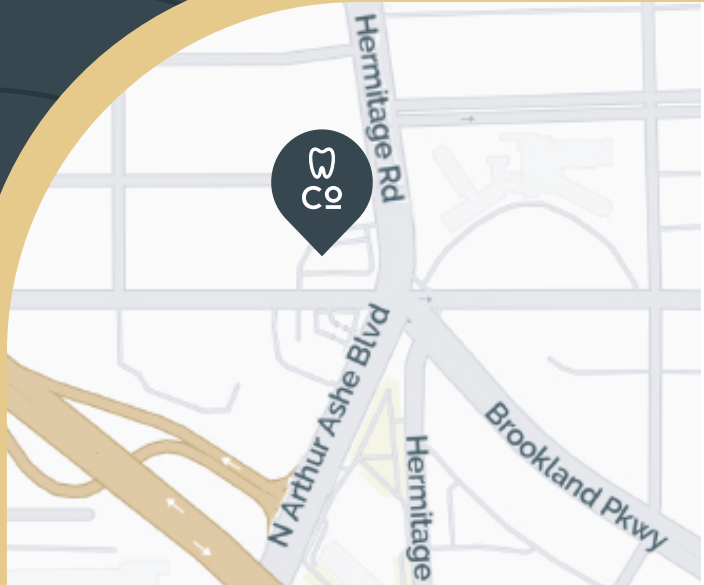


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