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The COLUMNS

FEB-APR 2019

A Publication of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY IN THE

DELICIOUS DISTRICT



IN THIS ISSUE

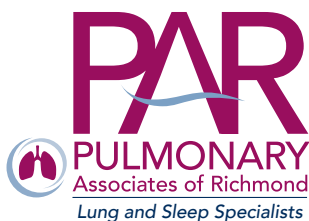
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The mission of the Museum District Association is to unite, protect and advance the interests of the neighborhood in order to realize its potential and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood and community.

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SCOTT CANNADY
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- Newsletter Ads** **STEVE JONES**
MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org

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

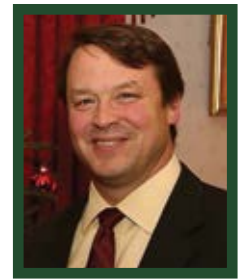
FELLOW RESIDENTS OF OUR BELOVED MUSEUM DISTRICT,

I am pleased to share that in 2019 I will once again have the honor of serving as president of the Museum District Association – a job so nice I get to do it twice! One of the greatest things about the job is getting to write this column. While I love having the opportunity to speak directly to my fellow residents, I think the best part is being featured in our beautiful new *Columns* magazine. This is our fifth, color edition and I am so pleased that the incredible team who came together in 2017 to take *The Columns* to the next level is continuing to provide this great service to our community. If you would like to be part of this terrific publication – through writing articles, helping with advertising or being part of the delivery team, please reach out to us. I have really enjoyed my association with *The Columns*, and I know you will, too.

If the new *Columns* was the best new thing the MDA did to serve our community last year, the best new thing for 2019 has to be our new Delicious District local dining initiative, detailed on in this issue. I think the MDA has done a great job over the years highlighting and celebrating the many wonderful homes in our neighborhood through our annual Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. Therefore, I'm thrilled we are now also drawing focus to our many wonderful neighborhood restaurants. Recent changes to the city's meals tax have increased the financial support made by our restaurants for city schools at a higher level than ever before, so it's only right that we raise our level of support of them, too. Plus, there are few things better than being able to walk out your door and down the street to enjoy a satisfying meal served to you by people who love your neighborhood as much as you. Bon appetit!

Another thing to look forward to this year is the full slate of MDA programs. We'll have great member events like our Spring Fling in April, family events like August's National Night Out, and our Town Hall and Annual Meeting. Last year we were fortunate to hear directly from both Mayor **LEVAR STONEY** and Superintendent **JASON KAMRAS**, our City Council and School Board reps, as well as the good people in our fire and police departments that help keep us safe. This year, in addition to the important happenings of our city and neighborhood, we plan to have speakers on topics of more general interest to the neighborhood, such as its history and architecture. We welcome your suggestions for topics and speakers so we can deliver our best year of programming yet.

They say that most people don't keep their New Year's resolutions past January, so with February here already, that means many of you have an open slot for a new New Year's resolution. Therefore, I challenge you to resolve for this to be the year that you become more involved with your neighborhood. Whether it's joining an MDA committee, volunteering to help with our 25th anniversary Mother's Day House & Garden Tour or attending our next Town Hall, please make 2019 the year that you give a little back to the neighborhood that gives us all so much. **☑**



STEPHEN VERSEN
2019 MDA
Board President

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD
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DEDICATED VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Museum District board is looking for a dedicated volunteer to manage the MDA Twitter and Instagram accounts. This is a great opportunity to quickly communicate to our neighbors relevant news, as well as to highlight the beauty of the neighborhood through pictures. If you are interested, contact MDAcommunications@museumdistrict.org.



Scott Fields, Beth Bostian and Ben Hopkins accept Star Awards at the MDA Annual Meeting held at Temple Beth El in November 2018.



Janine Lester, city arborist, was recognized with the Star Award.

ANNUAL STAR AWARDS RECOGNIZE FOUR FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

by MA POWERS

This past November the Museum District Association board of directors recognized three residents and one city employee who demonstrated exceptional support to the neighborhood throughout 2018. Congratulations and thank you to these outstanding individuals!

The three residents that collectively make up the creative team behind recent significant changes to the overall image of the MDA were presented with Star Awards.

BETH BOSTIAN, graphic designer extraordinaire, cheerfully makes herself available to the board for long-term projects and last-minute needs. Perhaps the most significant of Beth's contributions has been to the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. Over the past three years she has completely rebranded the tour with bright graphics, beautiful advertisements and a stellar guidebook. She has also been instrumental in securing homes for the tour. Additionally, Beth is the person behind the application of our new signature column logo to numerous items such as flags, bags, social meeting platforms and publications.

BEN HOPKINS, with his vast marketing expertise, has made his skills available to the MDA throughout the past year as we have redesigned *The Columns* magazine. Ben was the visionary for many of the changes you see in the quarterly publication. It was Ben who proposed the new color format. He works regularly with the printing company to select materials and negotiate costs. He is also part of the ad sales team and was instrumental in bringing a new creative director to the *The Columns* team.

SCOTT FIELDS, layout designer and creative director, is the mastermind behind the layout and graphic design of the newly redesigned *Columns* magazine. Scott not only organizes the layout of articles, photos and ads for each issue but he also develops material and creates ads for each issue. Scott has lived in the Museum District for decades and his love for the neighborhood shows as he is a constant source of community building ideas and implementation tactics. He has the innate ability to remain calm throughout the entire process and makes the work seem effortless. The talents that Scott brings to the table are numerous, including the design of the 2019 Delicious District restaurant campaign featured in this issue.

JANINE LESTER, city arborist, was recognized with the Star Award as the city employee offering outstanding support to the MDA during 2018. Janine has worked closely with the MDA for the past few years to improve and protect our neighborhood trees. Recently, she personally transplanted trees in the Museum District on a Saturday morning in the pouring rain. We applaud Janine for her commitment to the city, her accessibility to its residents and her willingness to assist the MDA.

The COLUMNS

A Publication of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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- SCOTT CANNADY Content Editor
- SCOTT FIELDS Graphic Designer
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- 1/4 Page (3.67" W x 4.9" H) \$200
- 1/2 Page (7.5" W x 4.9" H) \$335
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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.



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BELMONT LIBRARY EVENTS

New! Free Classes

No fee or registration required for these classes.

- **Beginning January 5**, we will be offering an ongoing Saturday course (10 -11 am) in **beginner level French**.

Camille Zendzian will teach this class to interested teens and adults. Camille is a VCU student and works as a French tutor.

- **Beginning January 9**, we will be offering a **weekly computer class** for all levels of computer skills.

Joseph Nalluri, local resident and highly qualified technology expert, will teach a class here at Belmont on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Dr. Nalluri is doing post graduate work at VCU.

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 a parent.

Fiction Focus Book Club

3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:15 AM

Join our adult book discussion each month. This book group begins again in Feb. of 2019 after taking a winter break.

GRASP

Mondays from 6:00-7:45 PM

Need money for college? GRASP provides advisors, free of charge, to answer financial questions and inform you about the FAFSA process. To receive any federal student aid, you must complete the FAFSA.

By appointment only, an advisor will be available to assist you at Belmont Library in Richmond from 6:00-7:45 pm on Wednesday evenings during the school year. **Call (804) 527-7772 to schedule an appointment.**

Library Yarns

Thursdays from 10:30-Noon

If you like to knit, crochet or create other types of handwork, join this informal group at the Belmont Library. Bring your current project/s. Adults and teens are welcome.

Technology Q & A

Each Wednesday from Noon-2:00 PM

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.



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MDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIDS FAREWELL TO THREE BOARD MEMBERS

by MA POWERS



MATT HOGAN

Anyone who knows **MATT HOGAN** knows how deeply he will be missed as part of the MDA board of directors. Matt joined the board in 2015 as environment chair and has provided leadership in this role with his calm demeanor and sense of humor. He has been a visionary for our Adopt-A-Tree program and he has kept us laughing through many Saturday morning alley clean-ups. Matt has been a calming influence on the board and contributed thoughtful

insight into issues presented to the MDA and the city at large. We have been fortunate to have Matt on the board and to get to know his beautiful wife Emily and adorable son William. Thank you Matt for your dedication and service over the past three years. 📍



JOHN REYNA

JOHN REYNA has retired from the board of directors after a three-year commitment serving as zoning and land use chair. John's professional knowledge and experience as an architect provided unique insight in overseeing dozens of special use permits that came before the board during his tenure. Loaded with patience and diplomacy, John mentored committee members and provided guidance to the board for evaluating development and

zoning changes in the district. His fellow board members will miss his practical, common sense approach to decisions, his eagerness to be part of the team, and constant willingness to assist with any event or project. We are pleased that he will continue as a zoning committee member and active resident. Thank you, John! 📍



JASON DUFILHO

The tenure of **JASON DUFILHO** has come to completion. Jason served as the very first capital projects chair for the MDA. The position was created in 2015 by former MDA president, Stephen Thompson, in an effort to oversee ventures with significant spending. As the inaugural capital projects chair, Jason not only defined the role but created structure for implementing major projects in the district.

He was responsible for the renovation of the Roseneath median and for creating a protocol for the constant repair needs along the corridor. Jason also developed structure for replacement and maintenance of the blue street signs in the neighborhood. He conducted a physical inventory of the signs in the Museum District and developed a plan to straighten the blades. Jason and his father actually designed and forged a tool to straighten the signs! In addition to his contributions to the board, Jason opened his home to the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour in 2017. The home highlighted Jason's incredible talents as an artist and architect and was a tour-goer favorite. We are grateful for Jason's contributions and the opportunity to count him among our friends. 📍

THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THREE NEW DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD

by MA POWERS



NICK SIMOPOULOS

NICHOLAS "NICK" SIMOPOULOS is a native of Washington, D.C. who moved to the Museum District in 2012. Nick runs his own law firm, Simopoulos Law, PLLC, which focuses on education, employment, civil rights and personal injury law. Before starting his own firm, he served as an assistant city attorney for the City of Richmond and, most recently, the manager of the Attorney General of Virginia's civil trial practice. As a member of the MDA

board and in his role of city liaison for the board, Nick is looking forward to contributing his years of public sector experience not only to cultivate a strong relationship between the City of Richmond and the Museum District, but also to serve the needs of the people in the Museum District. Nick appreciates the neighborhood for its walkability and feel, but also because of the people who call it home.



MARK MEIER

MARK MEIER recently joined the board of directors in the capacity of environment chair. As a Kensington Ave. resident, he enjoys easy walking access to a variety of services and other parts of the city. Mark has long admired the tree cover, beautiful homes and gardens of the Museum District. He looks forward to helping maintain the greenery of the neighborhood and improving stormwater management, as well as native plant use. He is also excited to

meet more of his neighbors and contribute to an area that has already brought him much joy.



KYLE ELLIOTT

The board welcomes **KYLE ELLIOTT** into the position of zoning and land use chair. Kyle is a graduate of the University of Virginia and The College of William and Mary School of Law. Kyle began his career as a Richmond city attorney where he defended the City and its officers in a variety of tort matters. Kyle is now an associate at the law firm of Ogletree Deakins, focusing on employment litigation and employment counseling. Kyle is also a

2018 graduate of UVA's Sorensen Institute Political Leaders Program, where he spent the last year traveling the Commonwealth and learning about the public policy issues affecting Virginia. Additionally, he serves as the president of the Richmond Bar Association-Young Lawyers Section, and the Greater Richmond SCAN, Inc. board of young professionals. We are fortunate to have Kyle join us and navigate issues of planning and zoning as they come before the MDA.

Welcome aboard Nick, Mark and Kyle! 📍



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Woman's Club members enjoying the holiday season

MDA WOMAN'S CLUB HAVING A FUN AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

by **BETH SHUMAKER**

The Museum District Woman's Club kicked off another year of fantastic programs in September and, to date, boasts a membership of more than one hundred ladies. The first meeting of the year was at the stunning, Spanish revival home of Page Edgerton on Grove Ave. where guests tasted a variety of wines joined by old friends and new. In October, the group heard from Richmond artist, Ed Trask, who shared his journey from the days when dilapidated buildings served as his gallery walls to becoming a world-renowned and in-demand muralist. In November, local interior designers and creators of the Dip-a-di-do-da dip bowls Myrf Bowry and Leah Dodge entertained with their story about how the simple desire to hide a container of hummus when entertaining unexpected guests led to a product that became a Customer Choice Award winner on the Home Shopping Network, was featured in Good Housekeeping magazine and has now been sold all over the country.

December brought about celebration at the annual social held at The One Bed and Breakfast on Boulevard and the group's giving back to the community through support of the Richmond Cycling Corps. Selected as the 2018 non-profit beneficiary, individual members of MDWC and the MDWC as an organization made monetary contributions and donated requested items to support the youth group. Richmond Cycling Corps uses the sport of cycling to empower youth in public housing to break free from systemic poverty. To learn more, visit their website at www.richmondcyclingscorps.org.

The MDWC meets the third Wednesday of each month between September and May and all ladies, 21 and over, who work, reside or own property in the Museum District are welcome and invited to join. Dues are \$40 for the year, a small price for membership considering the caliber of our speakers, food and an ever-flowing selection of wine. For more information about the MDWC, to join, and for information about upcoming events, please visit us at www.mdwc.org



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Art Chadwick, Jr.



CHADWICK & SON ORCHIDS: A FAMILY LOVE AFFAIR

by LIZ BRYANT

ART CHADWICK, JR. came by his love of orchids naturally. His father had a lifelong love affair with the plants and Art grew up around them. He has a degree in electrical engineering, but decided early on that corporate America was not for him. So, in 1989 he and his father founded Chadwick & Son Orchids with one greenhouse in Powhatan County. Fast forward 30 years and the business now boasts 11 greenhouses in addition to the retail store in the Museum District.

The bulk of Chadwick’s business isn’t in sales, but rather service. They have about 2,000 clients who have between one and 500 of their orchids that they “babysit” at their greenhouses.

“People are very attached to their orchids and they’re like family,” Chadwick said. “They give them back to us and for \$2 a month we board them and bring them back. We’ve had clients for 30 years now, the same orchid. We recycle over and over again forever.”

In the store, you can’t help but notice all the pictures of famous people – a lot of them first ladies of the United States – with orchids. Chadwick explained that it’s all about legacy.

“Every first lady since 1929 has had an orchid named after her and that practice just kind of stopped in the 1980s,” he said. “So then we started naming them. Every first lady from Barbara Bush through today we have named. We send the flowers to them. We meet with them. They’re very excited. Then we donate plants to the U.S. Botanic Garden so everybody can see them. And it’s been a great thing.”

Creating a new hybrid is a delicate process. And the growing time from germination to blooming takes seven years. When the plants



THE BULK OF CHADWICK’S BUSINESS ISN’T IN SALES, BUT RATHER SERVICE. THEY HAVE ABOUT 2,000 CLIENTS WHO HAVE BETWEEN ONE AND 500 OF THEIR ORCHIDS THAT THEY “BABYSIT” AT THEIR GREENHOUSES.

bloom is when you name them and register them with the Royal Horticulture Society where they keep track of all hybrids going back to the 1800s. Chadwick estimates there are hundreds of thousands of hybrids around the world.

Visitors are welcome at the greenhouses; no appointment necessary. Check out their website at www.chadwickorchids.com for directions and hours of operation. You’ll also find information on caring for the plants.

And if you’re wondering about Arthur Chadwick, Sr., he’s now 88, living in Delaware and still having a love affair with orchids.

“He still has his greenhouses and waters the plants regularly. He can’t wait to get up in the morning to see what’s in bloom.” **E**

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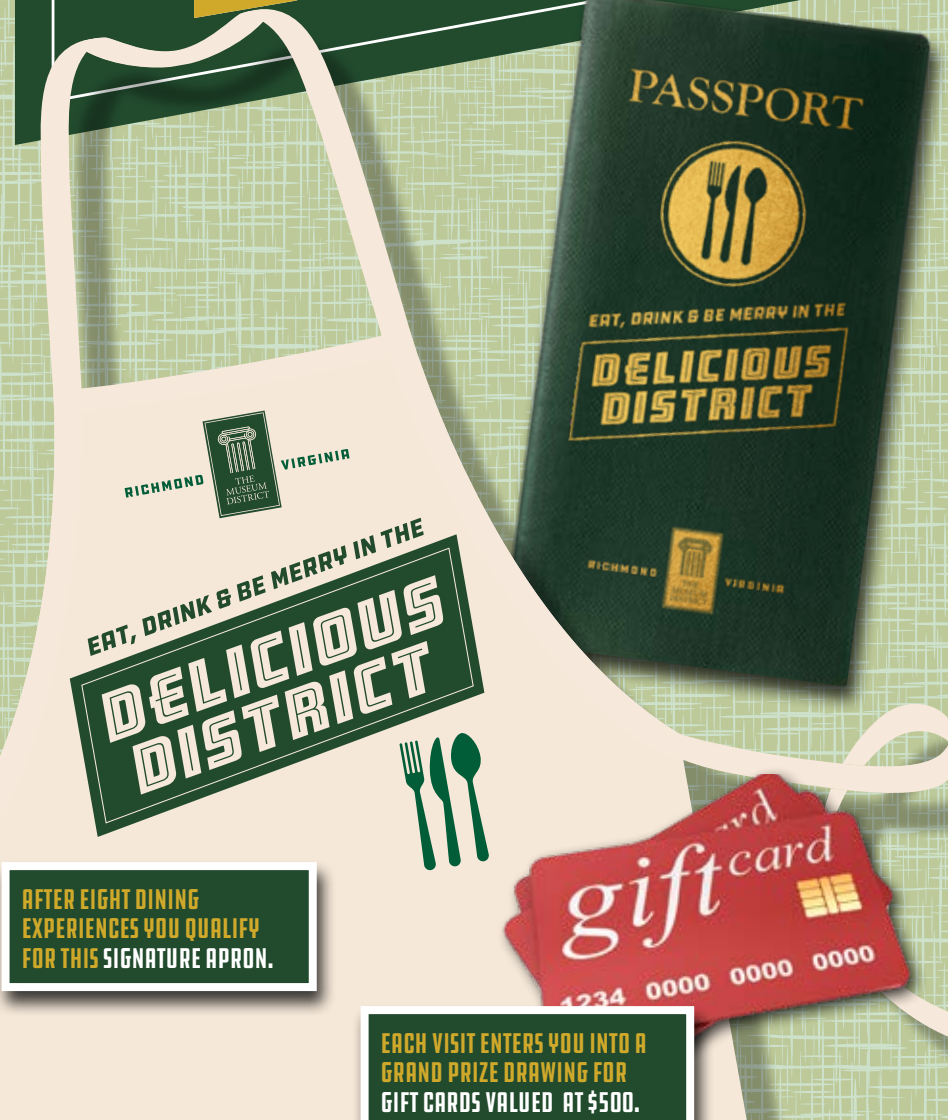
DELICIOUS DISTRICT

If you love to eat, you've got to love the Museum District. We have 17 places to eat and drink, each offering a unique atmosphere and specialized flavor. Visit these locally owned restaurants to get a taste of the *Delicious District* and win some fun rewards!

Enjoying the best of the Museum District is easy and rewarding. Simply pick up a passport at any of the restaurants, make a purchase and have your passport validated. After eight dining experiences you qualify for a signature apron. Each visit enters you into the drawing for the grand prize basket full of gift cards from participating restaurants valued at \$500. To redeem prizes and to be entered into the drawing, drop your pre-addressed passport in the mail. This promotion begins on February 1, 2019 and wraps up on Labor Day, September 2, 2019. Passports must be postmarked no later than September 16, 2019. Prizes will be mailed or hand delivered after September 16, 2019. The grand prize winner will be notified via email and/or phone. See map on pages 12 and 13 for restaurant locations.

It's important to remember that when you dine in RVA you support Richmond Public Schools through the meals tax.

Visit DELICIOUSDISTRICT.ORG for more information.



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N. Boulevard

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN CHESNEY

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AKIDA*

606 N Sheppard Street
(804) 359-8036

Wooden tables & a modest bar fill out this traditional Japanese restaurant known for its sushi.



CHINA PANDA

616 N Sheppard Street
(804) 355-6888

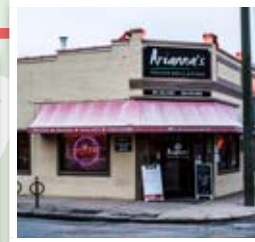
Chinese classics, including many made with tofu, primarily for takeout, free delivery.



SHEPPARD STREET TAVERN

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LITTLE SAINT

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(804) 303-9772

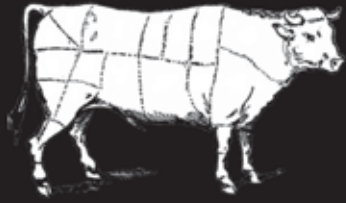
Thoughtfully sourced food + drink including organic and sustainable cuisine catering to a variety of diets, late-night bar service with high-end cocktails.

N. Boulevard

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HISTORIC HOUSE PLAQUES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

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.



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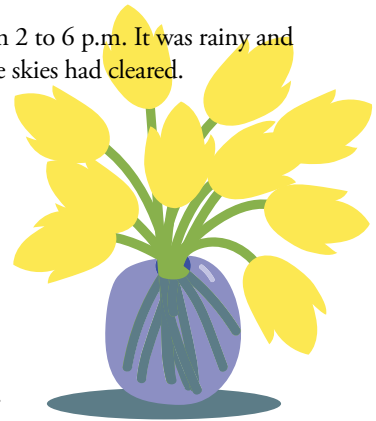


MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR: FUN FACTS

by **PAGE ALCORN**

Our silver anniversary is upon us! It is hard to believe that it has been 25 years since the first-ever Mother's Day House & Garden Tour in 1995. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful and historic neighborhood with its many amazing neighbors and friends. Thank you to all who have and will open your homes and volunteer with us; it takes a neighborhood! Below are some fun facts about the original tour. Cheers to many more!

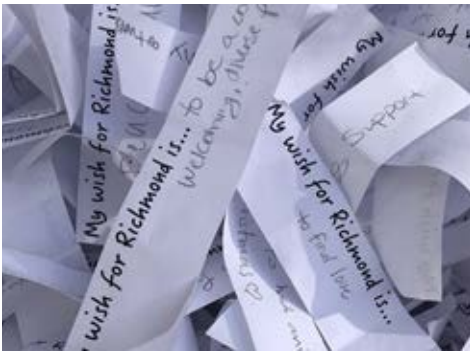
- The first tour was May 14, 1995 from 2 to 6 p.m. It was rainy and windy that morning, but by 2:00, the skies had cleared.
- There were eight tour sites:
 - 3100 Monument
 - 3129 Monument
 - 3208 Monument
 - 3213 Monument
 - 3406 Monument
 - 420 N. Sheppard
 - 2926 Kensington
 - The Confederate Memorial Chapel.
- Our neighborhood was the West of the Boulevard Civic Association (WOBCA) at the time; we obtained historic status only 18 months earlier.
- Tour tickets were \$10 in advance, \$12 the day of the tour.
- Buying a ticket got you \$10 off a historic district plaque, normally \$55. (They're \$75 today.)
- More than 400 guests attended and the tour cleared \$2,771 after expenses.
- \$1,500 of that profit was earmarked for the next tour, with the remaining \$1,271 going to "pay for projects to enhance our neighborhood."
- Our anchor institution, then known as the Virginia Historical Society, featured a "West of the Boulevard Neighborhood" exhibit at the time. VHS gave ticketed tour patrons \$1 off their usual entry fee of \$3.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
THIS YEAR'S TOUR:**

SUNDAY, MAY 12

**VISIT WWW.MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



MUSEUM DISTRICT RESIDENTS WIN “BEST IN SHOW” AT INLIGHT RICHMOND 2018

by **BEN HOPKINS**

“**R**iver City Reflections” by Museum District residents and artistic duo Leila Ethesham and Carl Patow was named Best in Show at InLight Richmond 2018, a public exhibition of contemporary light-based artworks held November 16 – 17 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibit showcased works by artists from all over the country.

The theme of this year’s exhibit was to imagine an ideal community – ONE Richmond. The question was how to reconcile the stark contrast between the revitalization, creativity and growth represented by “RVA” and the divided, challenged and struggling reality of “Richmond.” The artists were invited to consider that dynamic and imagine an ideal community – ONE Richmond.

“When we heard InLight was going to return to the VMFA, we both knew immediately that we wanted to do a project, and that it had to involve the waterfalls and the reflecting pool,” Patow explained. “Then we asked ourselves, how do we bring that positive theme of healing into an artwork that would have light and engage people in a conversation?”

Patow and Ethesham’s solution was to invite the public to write down a wish for Richmond, put it in a waterproof, illuminated container and send it on a spectacular trip down the multi-level waterfall to a pool that represented the community’s collective hopes for a brighter future. “We were thrilled when the public responded so positively,” added Patow.

The 3,500+ collected wishes are being scanned for display on the exhibit’s website, www.mywishforrichmond.com.

About InLight Richmond: Organized by 1708 Gallery, InLight Richmond is a FREE, public exhibition of light-based art and performances. Each year, InLight Richmond features performances, sculpture, video, and interactive projects that illuminate pathways, walls, sidewalks, green spaces, and kicks off with the Community Lantern Parade. InLight was created in 2008 on the occasion of 1708 Gallery’s 30th birthday. Thus was born this free, public art exhibition that offers Richmond the opportunity to engage with contemporary art outside the gallery walls and to experience the city in new and unexpected ways.



3500+ PERSONAL WISHES FOR RICHMOND FLOATED DOWN THE VMFA WATER TO FORM A BRIGHTLY LIT POOL OF THE CITY’S HOPES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

THEATRELAB IN DOWNTOWN RICHMOND BRINGS YOUNG, CREATIVE ENERGY TO RVA THEATER

by **SCOTT CANNADY**


DEEJAY GRAY is the artistic director, board member, actor, director, producer and everything else that is required of him at TheatreLAB. DeeJay, who grew up in Goochland and who has been in theater in some, way, shape or form his entire life, had an idea to create his own theater. Over the course of several years, and with the help of a great deal of local theater mentors and close friends, he made it happen. Starting out as a theater company, first at Firehouse Theatre and then at RVA Event Space at Plant Zero, TheatreLAB now has its own basement theater space at the corner of 3rd and East Broad Streets. This space is open, yet surprisingly intimate. Much of the renovation was done with the blood, sweat and tears of DeeJay and his local theater friends and mentors. He was helped along by an Indiegogo crowdfunding capital campaign that doubled the original target amount of \$10,000.



EACH SEASON IS BASED ON A THEME. THIS YEAR IT IS "IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" AND EACH OF THE WORKS PRESENTED IS BASED ON THIS THEME.

The TheatreLAB space is very flexible, which allows producers to create black box and theater-in-the-round audience experiences. TheatreLAB is set up as a 501(c)3 non-profit with a working board that helps out creatively and with whatever is needed to keep TheatreLAB running. DeeJay's mantra for TheatreLAB is to "create, collaborate and cultivate." Each season is based on a theme. This year it is "in pursuit of happiness" and each of the works presented is based on this theme. In its short life of only six seasons, TheatreLAB has been honored to receive a great deal of Richmond Theatre Critics Circle awards for its actors, directors and producers.

TheatreLAB depends on its dedicated volunteer creative talent as well as ticket sales, subscriptions and donations. More than anything else, DeeJay wants an engaged audience to see TheatreLAB's performances. The theatre seats approximately 50 persons and each audience member is a critical component of the live theater experience. The audience also feeds off the vulnerability, emotional force and skill of the creative performance talent.

Located in The Basement at 300 East Broad St., TheatreLAB is close to a GRTC Pulse stop, as well as several public parking lots. Additionally, TheatreLAB is within easy walking distance of some of the best restaurants and bars in the downtown area. To learn more about TheatreLAB, check out their website at www.theatrelabrva.org. Most importantly, go see a show and support local Richmond theater whenever you can. 

PRE-PERFORMANCE BLESSING

“ *what you are doing is important work.
and together you are doing more than any one of you could
do alone.
tonight, when people leave the theater, they will leave with a
bounce in their step, a smile in their heart.
what was impossible will seem possible.
what was doubtful will seem full of hope.
sadness will reveal itself as a capacity and a yearning for joy.
this is important work. our world needs it.
so when you go out there,
feel grateful to the audience for coming to receive this gift.
feel grateful to one another for enabling you to give it.
feel grateful to yourself for having the courage and the
dedication to
go out there and give it.
and with your heart full of love,
let it go.
all of your hard work, your many hours, your hopes and fears,
let it all go.
and receive the blessing.* ”

- KIMERER LAMOTHE

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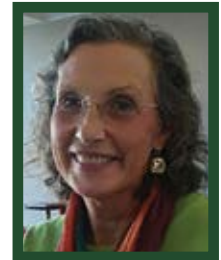


GETTING ANTSY TO GET INTO YOUR GARDEN AGAIN?



I grow weary this time of year of the garden gods saying, “And now’s the time to sit inside sipping tea and studying seed catalogs.” Really! I say, “cold comfort indeed, give me something to actually do in my garden.”

There are plenty of outside gardening games to play right this very minute. For starters, it’s a great time to turn those final leaves and perennial leavings into nourishing, nurturing mulch. I have a great new toy for this purpose. It’s a leaf mulcher/shredder. It’s a small electric SunJoe. I haven’t bought a bag of mulch for a year, though I might soon succumb to an over-dusting to spruce things up a bit.



JANIE WILSON

Then there is winter pruning to consider. Once again, Virginia Cooperative Extension provides a comprehensive guide with their Shrub Pruning Calendar (<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-462/430-462.html>). Some Museum District favorites that need our winter attention include: Beautyberry, Boxwood, Butterfly-bush, Crape Myrtle, Gardenia, Roses, Rose-of-Sharon and Hydrangea.

I intend to be brave with my shrub rose this year. I have been squeamish about cutting it back, and it’s gotten leggy. I may need an expert to hold my hand – with a name like Queen Elizabeth she is a bit intimidating – so I’m going to see what I can learn from the Richmond Rose Society (<http://www.richmondrosesociety.com/index.htm>).

Late February brings lots of fun stuff to do. I like to wake up my Irises after their winter nap by brushing away their mulch blanket and exposing their sun-loving rhizomes. Liriope owners, February is action month for us. Lets get out there and give that monkey grass a haircut. Cut just above the new growth that should be showing up. You’ll be glad you did come summer.

If all else fails, there’s nothing like a trip to our neighborhood orchid store, Chadwick & Son (<https://www.chadwickorchids.com>) to brighten my day. They grow internationally acclaimed orchids. Their store at 203 N. Belmont is a steamy delight on a chilly day. Better yet, take a winter drive out to Powhatan to visit their extensive greenhouse at 1240 Dorset Rd. If that doesn’t shake off the winter doldrums, nothing will.

Happy Winter Gardening, gang.



LIVING WITH PETS

CAT ALLERGIES: CAN THERE BE SNUGLING WITHOUT THE SNEEZING?

by LIZ BRYANT



ou love cats, but every encounter ends with itchy eyes and a runny nose. Might there be a way to be snuffle-free and still enjoy good-quality feline companionship?

Dr. Patrick Powers is a Richmond-based allergy and immunology specialist. He says that those allergic to cats react to a protein called Fel d 1 found in cats' urine, dander and saliva. Cats clean themselves licking their fur, he says, "so rubbing against us makes for a very potent 'allergy delivery system'." And because the Fel d 1 molecules are tiny and sticky, they are what Dr. Powers calls the "nuclear bomb" of allergies, thus making feline allergies among the most difficult to manage.

Approximately 10 percent of the population suffers from allergies in general. And about 30 to 40 percent of those have pet allergies, with the cat allergy being the most common.

According to petMD, while there are no 100 percent "hypoallergenic" cats, there are breeds that produce less dander or less of the Fel d 1 protein and might be compatible companions for allergy sufferers. To increase your chances of finding a feline that won't trigger your symptoms, petMD recommends considering the following breeds: Balinese, Bengal, Burmese, Colorpoint Shorthair, Cornish Rex, Devon Rex, Janavese, Ocicat, Oriental Shorthair, Russian Blue, Siamese, Siberian and Sphynx.

In his practice, Dr. Powers has seen patients who have tried "hypoallergenic" cats, but ultimately ended up needing shots. "People who start immunotherapy (allergy shots) to cat allergen will develop a tolerance to cats," he says, "So this may be a good plan for someone who is living with cats (a newlywed who marries a spouse who has cats, for example)."

If you decide to go the "hypoallergenic" cat route, a Google search will lead you to rescue organizations for just about any breed, so you can adopt knowing you are providing a loving home to an animal in need.

Now you just need the catnip mice! 🐭



HOUSECLEANING
BY SANDRA ASENCIO & MARLENE GONZALES
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museum district
references available



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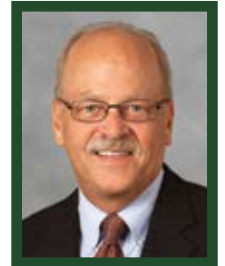
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Richmond 23220
(804) 358-3779
Jeffrey W. Taylor, DVM



WALK YOUR PET TO THE VET

MUSEUM DISTRICT REAL ESTATE POTPOURRI

It appears that a more normal real estate cycle is appearing in the Museum District with a historically reliable winter slowdown. On a larger, national perspective, the strong sellers' market of the past few years appears to be becoming more balanced. Homes are still selling well, but without the frenzy of the past year. The spring season should be interesting to see how many dormant buyers get back into the market and if the frenzy returns. Overall 2018 was good year with sales increasing by 25 percent over 2017.




STEVE JONES
Joyner Fine Properties

Interest rates are having an impact on the market. Although rates are still historically low, a one percent increase in interest rates equates to a 10 percent reduction in buying power. So, if someone qualifies for a \$300,000 loan at 3.5 percent interest rate, their limit would be \$270,000 at a 4.5 percent interest rate. Given that entry level into the Museum District is in the mid-\$300s this may affect affordability for some interested buyers. By the same token, if you are planning to sell a home, your buyer pool may be diminished as interest rates rise. It appears that rates will rise in 2019 so if you are thinking about buying or selling a home pay attention to this.

**OVERALL 2018 WAS GOOD YEAR
WITH SALES INCREASING BY
25 PERCENT OVER 2017.**

There were some significant sales in the Museum District in the fourth quarter of 2018 including 3101 Monument Ave. at \$1,300,000 and 2225 Monument Ave. at \$955,000.

Although not the Museum District, activity in Scotts Addition and the Boulevard will have a positive impact on Museum District real estate. There are numerous apartment development projects with over 1,000 units that will become available in the near future. Obviously, developers believe there is a huge demand to live in the area. The continued commercial development in the area also appears to be accelerating, as well, with many businesses relocating their headquarters to Scotts Addition and the continued transformation of the Broad Street and Boulevard corridors. This momentum is also driving development westward with preliminary studies to redevelop the Westwood/Dabney Rd. areas and the already started Top Golf facility.

It remains a good thing to be in the Museum District! 



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ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATIONS HIGHLIGHT BEAUTY OF RICHMOND HOMES

by **AMANDA SCUDDER**


MCKENZIE GATES, artist and owner of Monarch Creative Studio, has a keen eye for detail, a gift that ultimately helped her find her calling. While she has a degree in interior architecture and worked with architects and a custom builder before the recession, she turned to retail when architectural jobs evaporated. She was living in the Cookie Factory Lofts when she met her husband William, who was living in an industrial apartment in Shockoe Bottom. They shared a love for Richmond's historic architecture, adaptive reuse and walkable neighborhoods.

When William's work required them to move to Georgia, they made the best of it, but a year-and-a-half later, they were more than ready to return. While contemplating what would come next, McKenzie noticed that monarch butterflies, a symbol of transformation, started appearing everywhere she went. She paid attention to the sign and realized that it was time to reconnect with her love of art and architecture. In March 2018, she founded Monarch Creative Studio, offering original handmade architectural illustrations.

Now, McKenzie uses her gift of observation to capture the essence of the places people care about. One of her favorite parts of the process is learning about the history of the structure and why it is important to her clients. She asks what they love most about the house, as well as what season and time of day they would like depicted. Then, she develops a three-dimensional understanding of the building from photographs taken from different vantage points.

She creates a black and white line drawing using archival-ink pens in a variety of weights to achieve different effects. Everything is hand drawn on acid-free paper. She adds color using architectural markers that allow her to blend and manipulate the colors. Some clients request personal touches, such as their dog in the front yard, their cat in the window or a symbol representing someone they love.

McKenzie loves drawing buildings in the Museum District and created a series of prints that includes one of a row of houses on the Boulevard. A friend, recognizing Carl and Sue Patow's home, bought it for them as a gift. They loved it so much, they asked McKenzie to do another. The Patows recall, "She was delightful to work with! She came to the house several times to talk about what we wanted and explain her process. The way she renders is very detailed but doesn't feel overly heavy or drafted. The final product is really lovely, very bright and cheery." McKenzie enjoyed working with them as well. "Sue and Carl knew the details of their home's history and the architect," she said. "It was really interesting!"

Several prints from the Museum District series and other local buildings are available at Amy's Hallmark, 13718 Hull Street Rd., Harbour Pointe Parkway, Midlothian. Additional information can be found at www.monarchcreativestudio.com. 



MCKENZIE USES HER GIFT OF OBSERVATION TO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF THE PLACES PEOPLE CARE ABOUT.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

CITY

Mayor Levar Stoney	804-646-7970
Chief Administrative Officer - Selena Cuffee-Glenn	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 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
andreas.addison@richmondgov.com	
Kimberly Gray (2nd District)	804-646-6532
kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com	
Parker Agelasto (5th District)	804-646-5724
parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com	

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
edoerr@rvaschools.net	
Scott Barlow, Richmond 2nd District	804-929-6571
jbarlow3@rvaschools.net	
Patrick Sapini - Richmond 5th District	804-929-6930
psapini@rvaschools.net	

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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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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- for general info, including 2018 tour pics www.museumdistrict.org > events

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