



# The Columns *Summer 2015*

*A Publication of the Museum District Association*



## The MDA invites you to Adopt-A-Tree through the City of Richmond's Adopt-A-Tree Program

**Adopt-A-Tree and the MDA will pay half the cost!**

**Friday, August 14, 2015** is the deadline to sign up for the Adopt-A-Tree program through the MDA. If you sign up by then, the Museum District Association will pay 50% of the cost, but only if you are a member of the MDA.

The MDA will contribute \$25 of the required \$50 tax-deductible contribution for MDA members who wish to participate in this year's program. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, August 14. Applications postmarked after that date will be returned. Trees will be planted later this fall or in the spring, depending upon the species.

Participants in the program agree to water the tree for the first two years as outlined in the application found on page 23 and in the Citizen Tree Maintenance Agreement found on the City of Richmond's website.

The tree canopy in Richmond is one of the most vital aspects of urban living. Trees help keep houses and yards cool, improve air quality, absorb rainwater, and help boost property values.

**PAYMENT AND APPLICATION MUST BE MAILED IN (Snail mail).**

Please print and complete the Adopt-A-Tree application form (**Page 23**) and send a check for \$25 (payable to the MDA) **no later than Friday, August 14** to:

Museum District Association  
ATTN: Adopt-A-Tree  
PO Box 7186  
Richmond, VA 23221

*Please put Adopt-A-Tree on the front of the envelope.* Due to City of Richmond requirements, envelopes postmarked after August 14 will, unfortunately, have to be returned.

**Contact [mdaenvironment@museumdistrict.org](mailto:mdaenvironment@museumdistrict.org) for more information.**

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**Museum District -  
Richmond, VA**



# President's Column

Steve Thompson, 2015 MDA Board President

Dear Neighbors,

This year is shaping up to be one of the best ever for the Museum District Association. Summer marks the half way point of being 2015 MDA President and is a great time to check in with the board goals. At our January retreat the MDA board agreed to two goals which were to increase the MDA visibility both in media and at public functions, and create a Capital Projects position. The board's thought was to increase our visibility and have a Capital Projects Chair to oversee larger neighborhood projects. Thereby, residents will experience and see the value of MDA membership, which will ultimately grow our organization. I am pleased to announced that Jason Dufilho was voted in as our new Capital Projects Chair!

The Annual Spring Fling with over 150 in attendance was the largest I have seen! The weather was marvelous for the April 30 event held at the beautiful Monument Avenue home of Bill and Linda Muse. Several times throughout the evening members said the home and gardens were lovely, and hors d'oeuvres catered by Savory Grain were delicious. I enjoyed meeting several members including a couple who recently moved into the neighborhood from Northern Virginia specifically for the walkability. I also spent a few minutes discussing rental issues with a neighborhood landlord couple who live just west of 195 and own one of the art deco buildings in the Museum District.

Did you attend the annual Mother's Day House & Garden Tour, which is our largest fundraiser? Thank You to the over 600 people who bought tickets, homeowners who opened their homes for a great cause, and the almost 100

volunteers who worked as docents! The annual summer picnic was held at the green space across from Albert Hill Middle School, and was a great event to close out the end of another school year.

Over the next few months we will schedule several more events, including our annual National Night Out block party, a Town Hall focusing on the UCI World's Bicycle Race impacts to the Museum District, and the Annual Meeting. With all of the events and functions scheduled throughout the year it is easy to see the value of a \$15 MDA tax deductible membership. We have 123 new members so far this year, increasing our overall organization by 8% as of early May.

Did you participate in the MDA survey in May about the GRTC Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Pulse plan? The plan as proposed in April would eliminate all left turns into the Museum District from Broad Street when heading west except for a proposed new left turn at Broad and Boulevard. The MDA board felt the best way to respond was to ask residents, business owners, and their employees for feedback. The 262 responses helped to formulate a letter we sent to GRTC officials requesting at least three left turns. I am especially proud that other neighborhood organizations are following the MDA's lead in responding to BRT plans. The MDA will continue to stay involved with this process. For more information, see the article on page 8.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,  
Steve Thompson

## Museum District Association

Founded 1964

PO Box 7186  
Richmond, Virginia 23221  
804-410-1632  
museumdistrict.org

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

## Advertise In The Columns

### Quarterly Advertising Rates

- \$85 1/8 Page 3.67" x 2.4"
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- \$245 1/2 Page 7.5" x 4.9"
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If you want to write on the wall in the Museum District make sure it's on Facebook!



Museum District -  
Richmond VA

# Mark Your Calendar!

## Upcoming Events in the Museum District

What	When	Where
National Night Out	August 4, Tuesday 6:00 - 8:00 PM	3100 Block of West Grace Street See page 6
Town Hall Meeting	August 27, Thursday Refreshments: 6:15 - 6:30 PM Meeting, 6:30 - 8:00 PM	St. Benedict School, 3100 Grove Avenue (Please enter via ramp on Belmont Ave) See page 5
Fall Alley Clean-Up	October 10, Saturday Meet at 7:45 AM	Starts at Albert Hill Middle School (3400 Patterson Avenue) See page 5
Election Day	November 4, Tuesday	Polling stations open 6:00 AM - 7:00 PM

To be notified via email of all Museum District safety alerts, announcements, and events, please sign up for our eCards by visiting [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org) and entering your email address in the bottom right corner under "Mailing List."

For more details and updates visit [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org)

### Board Of Directors

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M.A. Powers  
[MDAsecretary@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAsecretary@museumdistrict.org)

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[MDAtreasurer@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAtreasurer@museumdistrict.org)

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Colleen Wallace  
[MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org)

#### Programs

Sue Patow  
[MDAprograms@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAprograms@museumdistrict.org)

#### Zoning/Land Use

Stephen Versen  
[MDAzoning@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAzoning@museumdistrict.org)

#### Newsletter Editor

Karen Headley  
[MDAnewsletter@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAnewsletter@museumdistrict.org)

#### Communications & Website

Erica Lamberta  
[MDApr@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDApr@museumdistrict.org)

#### Environment

Kimberly Reiff  
[MDAenvironment@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAenvironment@museumdistrict.org)

#### Membership

Claire Sanderson  
[MDAmembership@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAmembership@museumdistrict.org)

#### House & Garden Tour Liaison

Patrick Tanner  
[MDAhousetour@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAhousetour@museumdistrict.org)

#### City Liaison

Zoe Anne Green  
[MDAcityliaison@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAcityliaison@museumdistrict.org)

#### Public Safety

Melissa Oefelein  
[MDAsafety@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAsafety@museumdistrict.org)

#### Code Enforcement

Linda Dunn  
[MDAcode@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAcode@museumdistrict.org)

#### Capital Projects

Jason Dufilho  
[MDACapitalProjects@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDACapitalProjects@museumdistrict.org)

#### Newsletter Distribution

[MDAnewsletterdelivery@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAnewsletterdelivery@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 7:00 PM on the third Monday of most months in the conference room at St. Gertrude High School. If you would like to make a presentation, please email or call the president.

Enjoy films  
each Thursday night in August.

# CLASSICS *in the Courtyard*

<b>August 6</b> The Adventures of Robin Hood	<b>August 13</b> The Time Machine
<b>August 20</b> The Apple Dumpling Gang	<b>August 27</b> We're No Angels

8:30 p.m. – free admission  
In the courtyard  
of Richmond's First Baptist Church  
Monument & Boulevard  
www.FBCRichmond.org • 804-355-8637

## HOT WEATHER KILLS! WARNING!

If your pets are like ours, they love to go with you. When you pick up the car keys they are at the door dancing to go. But, summer is no time for your pets to go with you and wait in the car. Hot cars can kill pets! Don't make the mistake of taking your pets with you, and then leave them in the car. The heat in the car intensifies quickly. Just a few minutes of waiting in the hot car is dangerous to your pet. Your pet can suffer heat exhaustion and/or stroke. If your pet is a victim of overheating, wet your pet with cool water, and call us for veterinary assistance immediately.

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## An Important Message from MUSEUM DISTRICT PARENTS

"Our Museum District kids are now in the Fox Elementary attendance zone because of the leadership provided by our School Board member, Glen Sturtevant. Glen is on our side, fighting to stop the teacher cuts that threaten to eliminate course options at our schools, including Albert Hill Middle School. He understands the unique needs of the Museum District. That's why we're supporting him for Virginia Senate and we encourage you to join us."

– Scott and Katie Henry

GlenSturtevant.com f  

CALL: 804-601-4046 Paid for by Friends of Glen Sturtevant

## TOWN HALL MEETING AUGUST 27



The Museum District Association will host a Town Hall Meeting for the neighborhood on Thursday, August 27. Based on the success of the previous two meetings, we are holding it in the evening. This popular event is designed as a forum around the Richmond 2015 UCI Worlds Bicycle Races and their impacts to the Museum District. Representatives from Richmond 2015 and the Richmond Police Department will be on hand to discuss the races, traffic, road closures, and what to expect. The MDA has been working with Richmond 2015 for more than a year and is excited to provide a forum to answer questions and provide an ongoing dialogue.

Please plan on attending to find out how this important nine-day event will affect you as a resident, business owner, or employee of the Museum District. Representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department, as well as our elected officials will be invited.

**Where:** St. Benedict School, 3100 Grove Ave. (Please enter via ramp on Belmont Ave)

**Time:** Refreshments 6:15 - 6:30 PM; Meeting, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

This meeting is open to all residents and business owners in the Museum District.

## FALL ALLEY CLEAN-UP



We Need Your Help To Keep  
Our Neighborhood Beautiful!

Fall Alley Clean-up will be the morning of  
Saturday, October 10.

Scheduling the alley clean-up in October will allow us to pick up unwanted furniture and other debris from the moving and rental turnover that accompanies the beginning of the school year.

Volunteers will meet at Albert Hill Middle School, 3400 Patterson Avenue at 7:45 a.m. on October 10 to enjoy coffee and donuts before breaking into teams and hitting the alleys.

If you are interested in helping with the alley clean-up, please contact: MDA Environment chair Kimberly Reiff at [mdaenvironment@museumdistrict.org](mailto:mdaenvironment@museumdistrict.org).

It takes dozens of volunteers to cover every alley. And we have a lot of fun!

## The Museum District Loses a Neighbor and Friend

Elizabeth Brown Pryor

Our neighborhood lost an amazing person when Elizabeth Pryor was killed in a tragic car accident on Grove Avenue near Mary Munford Elementary School the afternoon of April 13. A diplomat, historian and author, her first two books were "Clara Barton, Professional Angel" and "Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters." She had just completed a first draft of a book on Abraham Lincoln. In spite of her powerful intellect and impressive accomplishments, Elizabeth was approachable, warm and funny. She travelled and lived in many places but found her home in the Museum District and was a cheerleader for Richmond in general and our neighborhood in particular. She loved all the greenery and was amazed at the number and variety of birds here. She also appreciated the walkability of our area and you could often see her walking to Carytown with her leather shopping tote.

For those of us lucky enough to have known Elizabeth as much more than just a neighbor, we will miss her very much. We plan to honor her memory by gathering for wine, good food and conversation more; maintaining a curious mind; taking advantage of travel opportunities; and especially, nurturing civic pride for the Museum District. It is our hope that this spirit will spread throughout the neighborhood and make it an even better home for all of us.



*- This piece was contributed by several of Elizabeth's friends in the neighborhood.*



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Night Out Block Party

**When:** Tuesday, August 4 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
**Where:** 3100 Block of West Grace Street

The MDA will again host a National Night Out block party event. This year’s party will take place in the 3100 Block of West Grace Street, where music, food, and drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the neighborhood event. City of Richmond Police and Fire Department Representatives will be on hand. Children always enjoy getting to explore the fire truck from our neighborhood Station 18. Special guests in the past have included Ellie the RFD arson dog, RFD Chief and Museum District resident Robert Creecy, and the RPD Chief of Police. Come out and meet over 100 of your neighbors who attend this family friendly, fun event.

The introduction of National Night Out (NNO), “America’s National Night Out Against Crime,” by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. That first year, 2.5 million Americans took part across 400 communities in 23 states. National Night Out now involves more than 37.8 million people and 16,124 communities from all across the country and around the world.



Instagram

**The Museum District now has an Instagram account!**

Follow us at  
museumdistrictrva  
or you can follow us online at:  
[instagram.com/museumdistrictrva](https://www.instagram.com/museumdistrictrva)



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# Meet Our New MDA Board Members

## Jason Dufilho, Capital Projects

Jason is a Richmond native who has loved living in the Museum District for the past nine years. He is currently renovating his 1921 Stuart Avenue home where he lives with his dog, Zoey, and is looking forward to the completion this summer. An architect with BCWH in Richmond, his favorite things about the Museum District are its buildings and its people. He is looking forward to putting his knowledge to work and helping to make the neighborhood even better in his role as the Capital Projects Chair!



The Capital Projects position is new to the MDA board. Jason will be responsible for handling capital improvement projects the board has identified and selected as being of benefit to the community. The position may entail forming a committee and/or involving other board positions as needed to plan, fund, and complete said project(s).

## Melissa Oefelein, Public Safety

Melissa and her family relocated to Richmond in 2012 and purchased and renovated their Grove Avenue home in 2013. When relocating to Richmond, their house criteria was to live in an area with sidewalks and to walk to locally owned venues, which they happily found. Melissa has many hours of community service leadership experience and is enthusiastic to serve as MDA's Public Safety Chair. Professionally, she works as a Realtor with Virginia Capital Realty and teaches several fitness classes at Gold's Gym. Her husband is Matt and her two energetic boys are Andrew and Camden. She looks forward to meeting more neighbors of the Museum District and hopes to see you all at National Night Out on August 4.



**Interested in Getting More Involved with the MDA?** There will be several board positions becoming available, including Secretary and Advertising. Contact MDA Board President, Steve Thompson at [MDAPresident@MuseumDistrict.org](mailto:MDAPresident@MuseumDistrict.org).



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**Story Time Programs and Other Events**

**Book Babies** - Mondays 3:30 PM and Tuesdays 10:30 AM  
Interactive story time for infants birth - 24 months with an adult

**Toddler Time** - Tuesdays: 11:15 AM  
Interactive story time for ages 18 - 36 months with an adult

**Preschool Story Time** - Thursdays: 11:15 AM & 3:30 PM  
Interactive story time with songs, stories and rhymes for ages 3 - 5 with an adult

**Music and Movement** - Mondays: 3 PM ages 1- 6.  
Your child will be enriched in this environment full of songs, storytelling, fine and gross motor movements, and social interactions, aiding in his/her development. Scientific research reveals that exposure to music enhances the learning process in young minds.

**Computer Training** - Wednesdays: 12 - 2 PM  
Belmont will offer free one-on-one computer sessions for adults. Sign up in advance at the desk for a half-hour session.

**E-Reader Tutorials** - Wednesdays: 12 - 2 PM  
Bring your questions about E-books, E-readers, online resources or Microsoft applications, etc.

***SUMMER CHALLENGE 2015!***  
***Through August 22***

READ More! DO More! CREATE More! and EXPLORE More!

It's not too late to join our Summer Challenge! The new menu of options gets you out and exploring the world around you. Research shows that children can lose up to two months of learning in the summer.

This year you will earn points for our Summer Challenge! 50 points is all you need for great prizes!

- 25 points - a book & an entry into our grand prize bike drawing!
- 50 points - a drawstring bookbag (while supplies last) and a 2nd entry into our grand prize bike drawing!

There are 26 ways you can earn points by exploring the library and the city! So many ways to earn your points and you can do the same ones as many times as you like!

The Belmont Library is located at 3100 Ellwood Avenue  
and is open Monday through Saturday:  
Mondays & Wednesdays 12 - 8 PM  
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10 AM - 6 PM  
Saturdays 10 AM - 5 PM

More information can be found at  
[RichmondPublicLibrary.org](http://RichmondPublicLibrary.org)

**The Pulse: GRTC's Plan  
For Bus Rapid Transit in RVA**

**GRTC BRT – The Pulse**

Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) is proposing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to go from Willow Lawn to Rocketts Landing, traveling along the Broad Street corridor between the two. The \$54 million project will consist of 14 stations, one of which will be at Cleveland and Broad St.

We encourage all residents to become better informed about the proposed Bus Rapid Transit project. Much has changed and will continue to change in the coming months. The MDA has joined a coalition of seven civic associations, RVA Coalition for Smart Transit, to seek a more inclusive process to limit any disruptive and possible negative impacts on the neighborhoods and businesses most closely affected by the multi-year project.

Upcoming GRTC Meetings

University of Richmond, 626 E Broad St, suite 100  
Please use the entrance at the corner of 7th and Broad  
Monday, July 27, 2015 from 12 – 1:30 PM

Tuesday, July 28, 2015 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Also on July 27, GRTC will brief Richmond City Council on The Pulse/BRT  
Monday, July 27, 2015 at 4:00 PM

Richmond City Hall - Council Chambers  
City council meetings are open to the public.

For more information: <http://www.ridegrtc.com/brt>





# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mother's Day House & Garden Tour

by Patrick M. Tanner, House Tour Chair

This May, the Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour celebrated 21 years featuring homes on the Boulevard, Grove, and Floyd Avenues, as well as the Confederate War Memorial Chapel and St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

## Attendees

More than 600 daughters, sons and their mothers (and a few fathers and husbands) made their way up and down the tree-lined streets of the Museum District for a day of fun and quality time. On display were the old and new, as homes of both architectural and historical significance met with the new and renovated. This year the home of noted Richmond architect, Charles M. Robinson, 2901 Grove Avenue, was met with delight as guests made their way through this Spanish-mission style home. In addition, guests were offered the opportunity to tour a LEED Gold certified home, 3200 Floyd Avenue, which offered insight on how to be environmentally responsible and use resources efficiently.

## Benefactors

Proceeds from this annual event are invested in the Museum District to address environmental and safety issues. Additionally, donations are made to local non-profits. This year's recipients will include Albert Hill Middle School PTA, William F. Fox Elementary School PTA, and P.A.L.—Prevent a Litter Veterinary Hospital.

"It was a great day to be out and about in the Museum District," noted Steve Thompson, MDA board president. "We're very lucky to live in such a great neighborhood, with so many people who are willing to open their homes to a good cause."

The Mother's Day House & Garden Tour is the single-largest fundraising event produced by the MDA.

## Committee

Without a doubt, this year's tour would not have been the success it was without the hard work and dedication of the House & Garden Tour Committee, including Turner Cole, Zoe Anne Green, Heather Kauffman, Allison Mann, Arax Mitchell, Jessie Reuben and Amanda Scudder.



Also, we greatly appreciated the support of the honorary chair, The Honorable Jonathan T. Baliles, councilman, Richmond City Council. And many thanks to the advertisers, sponsors, and ticket outlets, all of whom are key to the tour's success!

## Homeowners



Finally, the tour would not be possible without the cooperation and support of the owners of the beautiful homes, including Richard and Kate Barrett, Mark and Sharon Considine, Anna Currence, Page Edgerton, Carl and Sue Patow, Patrick and Margaret Anne Powers, and Carter and Annie Snipes.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Diane Andrews  
Advait Apte  
Christine Arceneaux  
Temple Avery  
Grace Barron  
Tina Barron  
Anne Baskerville  
Clay Blancett  
Jodi Bock  
Su Boer  
Beth Bostian  
Dorna Braswell  
Wyn Brown  
Carolyn Buletza  
Will Case  
Sue Chaplin  
Larry Clapp  
Melinda Clapp  
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Chad Clinger  
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Anne De Camps  
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Linda Dunn  
Susan Edwards  
Karen Elliott  
Lissi Ewees  
Rosemary Fahed  
Rea Giblin  
Jim Goetzinger  
Joyce Goetzinger  
Sallie Grant  
Emily Griffey  
Penny Gugino  
Franklin Hamilton

Karen Headley  
Laura Horwitz  
Connie Kauffman  
Heather Kauffman  
Peter Kauffman  
Karen Kelly  
Steve Kelly  
Beth Kennan  
Jolee Kenney  
Sue Le Grand  
Allie Mann  
Karen McCombs  
Mac McLaughlin  
Vicki McLaughlin  
Nicky Mitchell  
Phyllis Musser  
Daphne Page  
Susan Plunkett  
Billy Poarch  
Howard Pugh  
Karen Redford  
Jessie Reuben  
Donovan Reynolds  
Saint Mark's  
Amanda Scudder  
Andy Scudder  
Evelyn Scudder  
Sudharshana Srinivasan  
Patricia Stewart  
Janet Strath  
Sue Swartwout  
Harrison Taylor  
Robert Traub  
Lis Turner  
Joanna Tyka  
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# Public Safety Report

By Steve Thompson, MDA Board President

The MDA presented the firefighters at Station 18 with two trays of hors d'oeuvres remaining after the Annual Spring Fling in order to say thank you for all the hard work they do every day to make the Museum District safer.

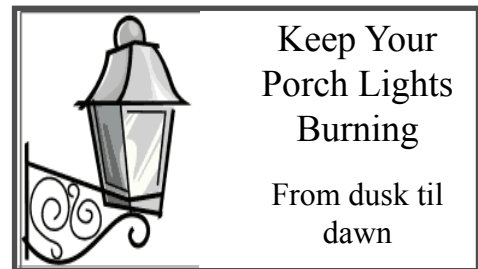
2015 is almost half over and our year-to-date incidents are down 21% from 2014, 14.5% from 2013, and 34% from 2012!\*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Number</b>	165	209	193	251

Theft From Motor Vehicles (TFMV) and Shed Break-ins are two crimes of opportunity that usually increase with warmer weather, and with your help we can lower or prevent them from rising this year. Residents are

reminded to leave nothing of value in sight such as cell phones, change, GPS devices, phone chargers, and sunglasses. There have been 17 TFMVs year to date in 2015 compared to 20 in 2014, and 4 (24%) of these crimes occurred from **unlocked** vehicles. Locking your car or shed will help reduce your chances of becoming a victim!

\*All results are January 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 26<sup>th</sup>



*When you notice something out of place, including an abandoned vehicle, contact the police non-emergency line: 804-646-5100.*

## Richmond Police Department Spotlight *Meet Officer Letchford*

**Name:** Blake Letchford

**Title:** Officer

**How long have you been with the RPD?** Nine Years

**How long have you been in Sector 311?** Five Years

**What is unique about patrolling in the Museum District?** It is a very diverse area, between the students, renters, home owners, and even the homeless.

**What is a fun fact that most people don't know about you?** I played college football.

**What is the most exciting/rewarding thing about your job?** If I make a difference for just one person that I come into contact with, I feel good about my day at work.

**What is a typical day like for you?** Up at 7:00 AM in the morning and go to bed at 3:00 AM in the morning, all filled with being a husband, a father, and work.



**Why is it important to report suspicious/out of place activity? How does it help?** As a Police Officer, we don't know everything; therefore we need the community to help us as police officers.

**What is something citizens can do to prevent/deter crime?** Take common sense and apply it to their everyday life. Don't leave valuables in a vehicle, which is able to be seen by those looking to commit crime.

# EIGHTH ANNUAL SUMMER FAMILY FUN PICNIC

Friday, June 12, marked the end of the school year and the unofficial beginning of summer with the occasion being celebrated with our annual picnic held in the field in front of Albert Hill Middle School. Over 100 of our fellow Museum District residents along with Councilman Jon Baliles and School Board member Glen Sturtevant gathered for live music and have some dinner. We were also pleased that fire station 18 sent a truck for the kids to climb upon and a contingent to dine with us.

The MDA provided music by Brent Small, the One Man Band, a buffet dinner from Chipotle, and ice cream cones provided by Jay Morris, the owner of Ice Cream Connections. We also enjoyed an amazing donated cake made and decorated by Graham Haddock of Cakes by Graham on Cleveland St. It was warm and humid but the storms held off and we were all able to enjoy the company of new and old friends and, this year, finish the cake! The swelling number of children was an encouraging sign that the Museum District is more and more becoming a destination for families in the City and we were thrilled to once again work with Albert Hill Middle School to hold this event.

It was great to see you all - have an awesome summer!





## Recycling Carts Are Here!

You may have heard that the City ended curbside recycling and began to collect recycling in the alley (or wherever your Supercan is currently collected.) By now, you have received your large 96 gallon carts. The new carts are green, with a blue lid. Most of the Museum District is collected on RED Mondays.

Here are the details:

- 1) New 96 gallon carts (same size as Supercans) were delivered during the week of July 13 to the sidewalk in FRONT of residences. This is to ensure that residents are aware of the carts, and that they are delivered to the correct address.
- 2) Residents are requested to move the carts to the rear of their property as soon as possible.
- 3) There will no longer be curbside collection once the new carts are delivered.
- 4) Alley collection began Monday, July 20. Place your new recycling carts next to your regular solid waste Supercans.

- 5) Recycling remains on an every-other-week schedule.
- 6) The carts have radio frequency tags matching each cart to a particular address.
- 7) Points are awarded for recycling, and are redeemable at local businesses.
- 8) Existing curbside bins do not need to be returned.

For more information and FAQs, please visit the City website: [Richmondgov.com/RichmondRecycles/index.aspx](http://Richmondgov.com/RichmondRecycles/index.aspx)



The Museum District Association commends the City for making this change to alley collection. It will keep our curbsides free of bins and the overflowing conditions that often arise.

# FIX THIS HOME - KEEPING YOUR GRILL READY ALL SUMMER LONG

## GRILLING SAFETY

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

## SAFETY TIPS

- ⇒ Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- ⇒ The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- ⇒ Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- ⇒ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- ⇒ Never leave your grill unattended.

## CHARCOAL GRILLS


- ⇒ There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- ⇒ If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- ⇒ Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.



## PROPANE GRILLS


Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.


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HENRICO DOCTORS' / PARHAM DOCTORS' / RETREAT DOCTORS' / HANOVER EMERGENCY CENTER / WEST CREEK EMERGENCY CENTER



# West of the Boulevard Design Overlay District: A Little Bit of Insight

*By Stephen Versen, MDA Zoning & Land Use Committee Chair*

One thing all residents of the Museum District can agree on is that we live in a special place, one that our unique built environment has helped to create. However, not everyone knows about the unique safeguard our neighborhood has to help us maintain the consistency and integrity of our built environment: The West of the Boulevard Design Overlay District. This article provides a brief background and overview of this important ordinance.

## Background

In 1994 our neighborhood was placed on the National Register for Historic Places as a registered Historic District. The district is made up of over 1700 structures; predominately of single family and duplex dwellings intermixed with small apartment buildings and small commercial buildings. The variety of architectural styles in the area includes Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Romanesque Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Queen Anne and Craftsman. As one of Richmond's most popular early 20th century neighborhoods, the West of the Boulevard District is also significant as an early example of planned community development of a middle-class streetcar suburb closely linked with Richmond's westward expansion.

Despite this great diversity of architectural styles, the neighborhood's buildings convey a uniformity in scale, materials, setback, and detail. Each block within the District has the unique qualities of scale, uniform setback, building proportion, and the uninterrupted rhythm of the streetscape. The combination of these blocks into a single neighborhood creates the distinct urban fabric of the West of the Boulevard Historic District.

## Infill Properties

However, much of the infill development occurring in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century disregarded these qualities. These contemporary buildings often lacked the appropriate scale, proportion, and detail needed to make new construction compatible with the existing historic structures. There was growing concern in the neighborhood that these non-compatible structures were diminishing the overall cohesiveness of the neighborhood and that future insensitive and non-compatible infill buildings would further threaten the streetscape and integrity of the district as a whole.

## Design Overlay District

To address this threat the West of the Boulevard Neighborhood Association (which changed its name to the Museum District Association in 2001) began the process of creating a design overlay district for the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Association held a series of informational meetings throughout the neighborhood and conducted a survey of residents as well; nearly all the input received was in favor of creating the district. This effort culminated with the Planning Commission's Approval of the Design Overlay District on December 16, 1996. This was the City's first such district, and to this day is the only district of its kind in the City.

The goal of the Design Overlay District is simple and straightforward: to preserve the unique architectural fabric and character of the neighborhood. It accomplishes this by regulating certain types of development, including: new construction, alterations, rehabilitation, and demolitions. The design focus is on conserving the general design character of an area, rather than on individual build-

ings. It's important to note, that only exterior changes to buildings or structures within view from the public right-of-way may be regulated. The administration or enforcement of the district occurs primarily through the existing building permit process. A property owner within the district must receive design approval from the City before receiving a building permit for certain types of improvements.

## Guidelines

The guidelines were developed based on a visual survey of the prominent characteristics of the contributing buildings in the Historic District. Ultimately, nine specific building features which most effectively characterize and define the District were identified – all are part of a building's street façade.

The nine features are:

- Height of Cornice
- Front Setback
- Building Material
- First Floor Elevation  
(height above ground)
- Front Porch
- Width of Building
- Roof Form
- Fenestrations
- Front Door



3025 Floyd Avenue

## Results

In general, the requirements for each of these elements seek for the new construction to be in line with the buildings that surround it. However, there is an understanding and appreciation in the guidelines of the diversity that characterizes the neighborhood as much as those nine elements unite it. So, while the goal of the guidelines is to define a building's characteristic's based on the majority of buildings, the guidelines also state the importance of allowing a range within each characteristic for new construction so that each new building can express its own individuality.

Some recent examples of new, in-fill construction that were impacted by our Design Overlay District are: 3025 Floyd Avenue, 3213 Floyd Avenue, 3402 West Franklin Street and 3027 & 3029 Park Avenue (and their counterparts on Patterson Avenue). The next time you see these buildings, take a moment to appreciate the extra effort that their property owners, the City and our Design Overlay District made to ensure that these buildings contribute to the architectural fabric and integrity of our neighborhood.

The complete Design Overlay District guidelines, which were the major source of content for this article, can be found at: [Richmondgov.com/CommitteeUrbanDesign/documents/WestOfTheBoulevardDesignGuide.pdf](http://Richmondgov.com/CommitteeUrbanDesign/documents/WestOfTheBoulevardDesignGuide.pdf)

For more information on the guidelines, please contact Jeff Eastman who administers them on behalf of the City:

Jeff Eastman  
Dept. of Planning and Development Review  
804-646-6348; [Jeff.Eastman@richmondgov.com](mailto:Jeff.Eastman@richmondgov.com)



# UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

## RICHMOND 2015 | USA

### Richmond 2015: Counting Down to the Races!

We are just weeks away from the UCI Road World Championships, taking place in greater Richmond from September 19 through 27. With the event drawing near and excitement mounting, more and more people throughout our community are beginning to understand the opportunities that an event of this magnitude will bring to our region.

Richmond 2015 wants to ensure everyone in the community can take full advantage of the races and related events and activities. So here are some highlights, complete with links for additional information. This is the first time these races have been in the U.S. since 1986.

**The UCI Road World Championship Races:** First and foremost, the races themselves! What's involved? Nine days, 12 races, and 1,000 of the world's top cyclists from over 70 Nations.

Visit [Richmond2015.com](http://Richmond2015.com) for detailed information on the course maps, the race schedules, and what to expect around the city.

**FanFest:** Just steps from the Start and Finish Line, FanFest will be the hub for all the World Championships action! FanFest will offer more than 100 vendors and exhibitors featuring their products and services, ranging from top cycling companies with the latest gear to local shops, populating the "Virginia Row" and showcasing Virginia products. FanFest will take also include:

- The Official UCI awards ceremonies taking place at the end of each day
- LIVE Music, COLD beer and GREAT food
- A KidZone for play and exploration
- Opportunities for fans to take pictures with riders and get autographs
- LIVE daily coverage of the race will be shown on big screens in the FanFest
- Cycling interactives for adults and kids

FanFest will be held September 20 through 27 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

**Conquer the Cobblestones:** Want to know if you have what it takes to conquer the UCI Road Circuit course? Sign up for the Conquer the Cobblestones cycling event on Friday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and ride the official race course for yourself! Visit [Sportsbackers.org/Events/2-15-ride](http://Sportsbackers.org/Events/2-15-ride) for more information and to register.

**Volunteer:** Get the best seat in the house. Work as a volunteer along the race route or at a race-related event. There are lots of opportunities and shifts to choose from.

Visit [richmond2015.volunteermanage.com](http://richmond2015.volunteermanage.com) to learn more.

**For Businesses:** Looking to make the most of this unique opportunity for your business? Check out a dozen ways to get your business involved by visiting [retailmerchants.com/richmond2015](http://retailmerchants.com/richmond2015)

### And Coming Soon:

Later this summer and leading up to the races, look for information on

- The official **transportation plan and website**, complete with information on road closures, parking, shuttles, and navigation tips.
- The free **Richmond 2015 mobile app** which will place real-time race information in the palm of your hand.
- Free, public **"Get Race Ready"** information sessions which will be held throughout the region during the first two weeks of August.
- A **calendar of events** chock full of fun things to do – from the opening ceremony on Brown's Island to the awards ceremonies at the FanFest – everything in between!

To receive emails when as this information is released, contact [Jenna@richmond2015.com](mailto:Jenna@richmond2015.com)

# THINK SUMMER

# THINK GRILLING



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# UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE MUSEUM DISTRICT

*By Steve Thompson, MDA Board President*

In less than three months the Worlds will take place right here in Richmond. Are you ready? Do you live along one of the three race routes that will go through the Museum District? Let's make sure we are prepared and ready to show over 300 million viewers and 450,000 spectators how beautiful and lovely our neighborhood is!

Races in the Museum District on the Boulevard

- Team Time Trial Training - Saturday, September 19  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Women's Team Time Trial - Sunday, September 20  
11:30 AM to 12:55 PM
- Men's Team Time Trial - Sunday, September 20  
1:30 PM to 3:35 PM

Within a month it is expected the Richmond Police Department will release its road closure plan and information for navigating around town during the races. The MDA board continues to remain active and engaged with Richmond 2015 and is appreciative of the inclusion in events.

Due to the potential impact on Museum District residents, business owners, and their employees, the MDA is holding

a second Town Hall in late August to focus on the race impacts. Our almost two-year partnership with Richmond 2015 has allowed for us to schedule this Town Hall with representatives from their organization and RPD. For more information about the Town Hall in August please refer to the article on page 5 to get the latest information on the UCI Road World Championships please visit [Richmond2015.com](http://Richmond2015.com).

## Fly your American Flag

The National Society Of The Daughters Of The American Revolution's Bermuda Hundred Chapter is hoping Richmonders will join their campaign entitled "Flags Over Richmond." They invite you to fly your American flag during the nine-day event in order to welcome 1000 of the world's best cyclists to the United States and Richmond!




## *Another Lovely MDA Spring Fling*

More than 125 members of the Museum District Association enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk with their neighbors at the annual Spring Fling.

Once again Linda and Bill Muse graciously opened their lovely home and gardens for the party. We were fortunate the weather held, allowing us to enjoy the outdoors, flowering shrubs, and spring flowers. The patio provided a great place to talk with neighbors and meet new members of the community. Conversations focused on a variety of topics, the Floyd Avenue Bike-Walk plans, the upcoming bike races, how to take care of newly planted trees, and the hot new restaurants that have opened in the Museum District. Catered by Savory Grain, using locally sourced ingredients, the food provided a fresh spring menu. Ardent Craft Ales provided the beer and Mother Nature provided the abundant stars!

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# A Word from State Delegate Manoli Loupassi



*The MDA Newsletter Editor, Karen Headley, sat down with 68th District Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, Manoli Loupassi to learn more about his work for our district.*

## **How long have you been representing the Museum District in state and local politics?**

I began serving the City of Richmond in 2000 as the city councilman for the First District. During my six years on city council, I served on the finance committee, the economic development committee, the public safety committee and also served as Vice-Mayor and President of the City Council.

In 2008, I was elected to the Virginia General Assembly. Since then, it has been my honor to serve the 68th District as your Delegate. During my time in the General Assembly, I have been Chair of the House Subcommittee Judicial Selections and I have served on the Courts of Justice Committee and the Commerce and Labor Committee.

## **As Delegate, what have you made as priorities for the Commonwealth of Virginia?**

- Making our schools even better by requiring schools to spend more money in the classrooms, where children learn and teachers teach.
- Fighting to control excessive governmental spending and to eliminate wasteful spending.
- Supporting measures to help small businesses, which aids in job creation.
- Fighting to keep our community safe, by supporting the criminalization of synthetic drugs, substances which particularly threaten the minds and lives of our young adults.

## **What accomplishments have you been most proud of during your time as Delegate?**

- Just this past year, I lead the charge that allows for the City of Richmond to convert 20 traffic lanes to bicycle lanes while ensuring they continued to receive the state maintenance payment they would receive if all lanes moved vehicular traffic. I felt this was important because providing a safe bicycling lane will promote a healthier lifestyle and be better for the environment. Additionally, it will be safer for all to have the bicycles out of the lanes of vehicle traffic.
- I also served as chief patron this year on a bill that protects the reputation and identity of anyone falsely

accused of a crime. This law, which went into effect this past spring, holds liable anyone who publishes police charges and arrests and then requests money in return for removing that information.

- I am also proud to lead a subcommittee that will evaluate the current process of driver's license suspension as a collection method for unpaid court fines and costs. In many cases, these are citizens down on their luck with small infractions but major court fees that they cannot pay. Losing their driving capabilities will only perpetuate the cycle and we need to get them back into regular society so they can work to reverse their financial situation. I look forward to seeing what we learn.

## **What motivated you to get into public service?**

My Dad came to America from Greece with \$20 to his name and started The Robin Inn. I grew up in Richmond and in that restaurant - where at the age of ten, I started working, washing dishes and mopping floors. It is there that I learned the value of a dollar. And my dad taught me the importance of hard work and giving back to the community.

After Law School, I chose not to join a large law firm. My conscience led me in a different direction. I decided to give back to the community that had so blessed our family. With crime destroying our communities, I decided to go to work as a prosecutor— locking up child abusers, drug dealers, drunk drivers, and murderers.

My sister now manages the Robin Inn and I am married to my wife of 18 years, Hyde, and raising three wonderful children, Doxey, Stewart, and Manoli. I hope to instill the same civic and community minded values in them that I learned from my Dad.

## **How can the Museum District residents, your constituents, stay more connected with you and the happenings at the Virginia General Assembly?**

I always appreciate hearing from those I represent, and I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or would like to help our efforts. I hope you will take time to look over my website at [DelegateManoliLoupassi.com](http://DelegateManoliLoupassi.com) and join the "Friends of Manoli" team today, or call my office any time: (804) 440-6223.

# No One Knows Your Home Better Than You Do.

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Richmond, VA 

# Neighborhood Business Profile

## Cakes By Graham *Contributed by Colleen Wallace*

The Museum District is lucky to have a local spot for any cake needs you may have. With more than two decades in business, Graham Haddock has been serving cake to those in Central VA right here in our own at 718 N Cleveland. In 1991, Graham completed a 15-year career in the British Army Catering Corps. After serving in England, Northern Ireland, Norway, Germany, and the United States, his final assignment was as Senior Technical Instructor at the culinary exchange program at Fort Lee, Virginia. He continued his culinary interests in the civilian market at two bakeries in Richmond until January 1994, when he formed his own business, Richmond's only Custom Cakery, Cakes by Graham.

Graham has been a member of the International Cake Decorating and Exploration Society (I.C.E.S.) and Virginia I.C.E.S. since 1991; and has demonstrated at the I.C.E.S. convention and at local events. He judges at local events and at the Fort Lee Annual culinary competitions. Graham is the proud father of three lovely daughters and his interests include beach music ("shag") dancing, salt water tropical fish, log homes, and antique cars. His primary passion is getting to know his clients and designing extraordinary cakes. No challenge is too big and he enjoys bringing ideas to life. Graham offers anything between an 8" round cake that feeds 15 people to the completion of a cake for 1000 folks to celebrate a gentleman's 100th birthday!

Graham has received numerous awards including:

- Voted Best Wedding Cakes 2012-2013, Richmond Magazine Aisles A Awards
- Voted Best Pastry Chef 2011, Richmond Magazine
- Voted Best Groom's Cake 2011, Richmond Magazine
- Wedding Wire rated since 2011
- Voted Best of Virginia Wedding Cakes since 2010
- Voted Best of Weddings since 2010, The Knot
- Voted Best Wedding Cakes, Richmond Magazine since 2004

Cakes by Graham's mission is to provide clients with high quality, uniquely designed cakes for life's celebrations. Their team of artisans is committed to providing a friendly and easy-to-use way of ordering the most extensive, innovative, high-end cake artistry ranging from traditional to modern custom creations in the Richmond area. These creative cakes are fairly priced and exceed the client's

needs, giving them exceptional customer experience and value.

The business strives to provide employees a professional environment that fosters creativity, encourages engagement, and sustains high ethical practices in a business where all are appreciated.

Graham is deeply involved with Massey Cancer Center and in particular with ASK, a childhood cancer foundation with a goal to make life better for children with cancer. ASK has raised over \$3.5 million dollars donated towards the pediatric oncology department at VCU.



Graham Haddock, owner of Cakes By Graham, delivers a complimentary cake to the MDA's Summer Picnic

**If you have a celebration coming up,  
don't hesitate to contact Cakes by Graham!**

[Richmondcakes.com](http://Richmondcakes.com)

## Cakes by Graham

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**City of Richmond**  
*Urban Forestry Division – "Committed to Richmond's Trees"*  
**Adopt-A-Tree Program**  
 Application/Citizen Tree Maintenance Agreement

*Please fill out this application and return to: Adopt-A-Tree Program  
 Museum District Association, PO Box 7186, Richmond, VA 23221.*  
 Check for \$25 must be attached and payable to: "The Museum District Association (MDA)."  
 We will only accept check payments.

Applications are accepted through Friday, August 14, 2015 for the November 1 - April 15 (2015/2016 planting season).  
**All applications must be postmarked no later than August 14 or they will not be processed through the Museum District Association and will be returned.**

*Please print legibly (All information is required).*

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ *(Most communication will be via email)*

Address (including zip code) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Planting Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Name (if on corner): _____		Street Name (if on corner): _____	<p align="center"><b>MAP KEY</b></p> <p>Where relevant, please indicate on the map the approximate location of the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>△ Existing Tree</li> <li>S Tree Stump</li> <li>☆ Desired location of tree(s) to be planted</li> <li>↑ Utility Pole</li> </ul>
Street Name _____			

**Tree Maintenance Agreement**

**Conditions - To adopt a tree, you must agree to care for the tree as follows.**

1. To insure your new tree's survival, your portable drip irrigation device must be filled with water at least once a week for the first two years during the growing season.
2. Mulch should not be piled up against the tree trunk. Keep grass and weeds out of mulch.
3. Do not cultivate or otherwise disturb soil under the tree (do not plant under trees.)
4. Keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from tree to avoid wounding trunk.
5. Fertilize only with slow release formulas, if at all.
6. Do not use herbicides that may leach into the soil around the tree
7. Inspect the tree often to detect problems early. Report problems to Urban Forestry.

My signature indicates my agreement to the conditions listed immediately above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information please access our website: <http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicWorks/UrbanForestry.aspx>

**Email: [mdaenivonement@musuemdistrict.org](mailto:mdaenivonement@musuemdistrict.org)**

**Museum District Info Line**  
804-410-1632

Mayor Dwight Jones  
646-7970

Chief Administrative Officer  
Selena Cuffee-Glen  
646-7978

Citizens Assistance  
646-7000 or 311

Public Works  
(Leaf and trash collection, sidewalks and tree  
maintenance, etc.)  
646-0999

Building Permits, Inspections  
646-6955

Environmental/Housing Code  
646-7448

Emergency  
911

Fire Non-emergency  
646-6640

Police Non-emergency  
646-5100

Crime Stoppers  
780-1000

3rd Precinct  
646-1412

Jon Baliles (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
646-5349  
jonathan.baliles@richmondgov.com

Charles Samuels (2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
646-6532  
charles.samuels@richmondgov.com

Parker Agelasto (5<sup>th</sup> District)  
646-6050  
parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com

Del. Manoli Loupassi (68th) - 440-6222

Del. Betsy Carr (69th) - 698-1069

Del. Jennifer McClellan (71st) - 698-1171



**MUSEUM  
DISTRICT  
ASSOCIATION**

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\*By providing your e-mail address, you will be joining the MDA eNewsletter distribution list.  
Check here \_\_\_\_\_ if you DO NOT want to receive email updates about MDA events.

I would like more information about volunteering with the MDA. Volunteer opportunities are detailed in the *About* section of our website: [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org).

Types of Membership**		Amount	Check Desired Membership Level
Individual	Includes one membership		
	Member	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Senior Member (65+)	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household	Includes two memberships		
	Household	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Senior Household (65+)	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	Includes two memberships	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*\*Members who do not live or own property in the Museum District are non-voting FRIENDS of the MDA.

Would you like to contribute additional support to the efforts of the MDA?

If you wish to donate additional tax-deductible gifts to support the efforts of the MDA, please indicate the amount of the enclosed gift. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*CONSIDER JOINING ONLINE -- IT IS EASY!\*\***

Just visit [MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG](http://MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG) to pay with a credit card via PayPal

\*\*\*Dues and gifts are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the MDA \*\*\*

P. O. Box 7186 RICHMOND, VA 23221-0186 (804) 410-1632 MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG

***West of Boulevard Historic District Plaque Order Form***



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose a \$75 check, payable to Museum District Association and mail to: P.O. Box 7186, Richmond, VA 23221-0186. Turnaround depends upon meeting a minimum order.

Properties located within the nationally registered "West of Boulevard Historic District" will be issued a West of Boulevard plaque. Properties on 2800 - 3300 blocks of Monument Avenue, West Franklin Street, south side of West Grace Street, and side streets within are part of the Monument Avenue Historic District and should contact:  
Fan Woman's Club, P.O. Box 4321, Richmond, VA 23220.