



# *Spring 2016* **The Columns** *A Publication of the Museum District Association*

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## **Mother's Day House & Garden Tour** **Sunday, May 8·1-6 PM**

Now in its 22nd year, the 2016 Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour provides a rare opportunity for guests to go inside some of Richmond's most beautiful and historic homes, gardens, and institutions.

In addition to being a fun and inspirational event, the tour proceeds from this annual event are reinvested in our neighborhood for beautification and enhanced safety. Additionally, donations are made to local nonprofits. Previous recipients have included Albert Hill Middle School PTA, Prevent A Litter Veterinary Hospital, and ACTS (Area Congregation Together in Service).

In order to continue these efforts, the Museum District Association relies on the well-attended Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. This popular event would not be possible without the support of those who graciously open their doors and the many guests who visit each year.

**See pages 12 through 14 for more information on this year's tour.**

**BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY ONLINE**

**[www.MuseumDistrict.org](http://www.MuseumDistrict.org)**

**Or from the following locations**

Advance tickets may be purchased through Saturday, May 7 at one of the following locations:

- Chadwick & Son Orchids (203 N Belmont Ave - 804-359-6724)
- Mongrel (2924 W Cary Street - 804-342-1272)
- Ellwood Thompson's (4 N Thompson St. - 804-359-7535)
- Martin's (Carytown - 804-353-0676)
- Martin's (Village Shopping Center - 804-288-5263)
- Williams & Sherrill (2003 Huguenot Road - 804-320-1730)
- Coconut Jewelry (11800 W. Broad Street - 804-360-9634)



**Museum District -  
Richmond, VA**

Join us for the MDA's Spring Fling on April 28 between 6 and 8 PM  
More information on page 9



# President's Column

M.A. Powers 2016 MDA Board President

Greetings Neighbors:

Each MDA president comes on board with a notion of legacy or a list of intended accomplishments for his or her term. As I enter the second quarter of my one-year term as president, I feel a sense of urgency to push forward toward my goals for 2016:

1. *Complete three capital projects adopted by the board in prior years:* Roseneath median improvements, street sign repair and replacement, and banners at key entry points of the Museum District. These are fairly self explanatory and are under way for action in 2016.

2. *Enhance resident engagement and make improvements.* There are a multitude of ways for us to connect with one another and many of you are taking advantage of those resources. Technology is driving much of our communication. We have about 1,000 residents registered on Nextdoor and about the same amount following our Facebook page and subscribing to our email list. If technology is not your thing, and the newsletter is your main connection to the larger neighborhood, we want to know. Look inside for a survey about the newsletter.

In regards to goal #1: We have a committee working on the long-range plans and anticipate launching the first phase of the Roseneath median project this spring. This phase includes placement of bollards in the median close to alleyways where large trucks have impeded onto and damaged the grass, and the addition of

concrete fingertips at the corners for safer crossing. We also plan to remove dead and damaged shrubs, plant additional trees in the empty tree spaces, control the weeds and grow some decent lawn grass. This is a financially reasonable and physically attainable goal for the median this year. Blue street signs are on order to replace damaged and missing corner markers. Banners indicating the boundaries of the Museum District are the next capital project.

In regards to goal #2: The job of the board of directors is to serve you, our residents. In addition to the responsibility of maintaining common areas for enjoyment and safety, we strive to host informative meetings and fun social events. In order to do this, we must connect with you.

Recently we made significant changes to our website. We did this in an attempt to engage more residents and communicate more effectively. The address is the same: [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org). The new site is filled with photographs of our gorgeous neighborhood and drop-down menus for our news, events and documents. You are able to RSVP to events, read notes from meetings and keep up with important news coming from the board of directors.

Enjoy your spring and don't forget about our fabulous Mother's Day House & Garden Tour, now in its 22nd year. This is our only fundraiser. Help make it a success.

Museum District Association  
 Founded 1964  
 PO Box 7186  
 Richmond, Virginia 23221  
 804-410-1632  
[museumdistrict.org](http://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

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\$420	Full Page
\$735	2-Page Spread

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Contact our Advertising Manager,  
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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

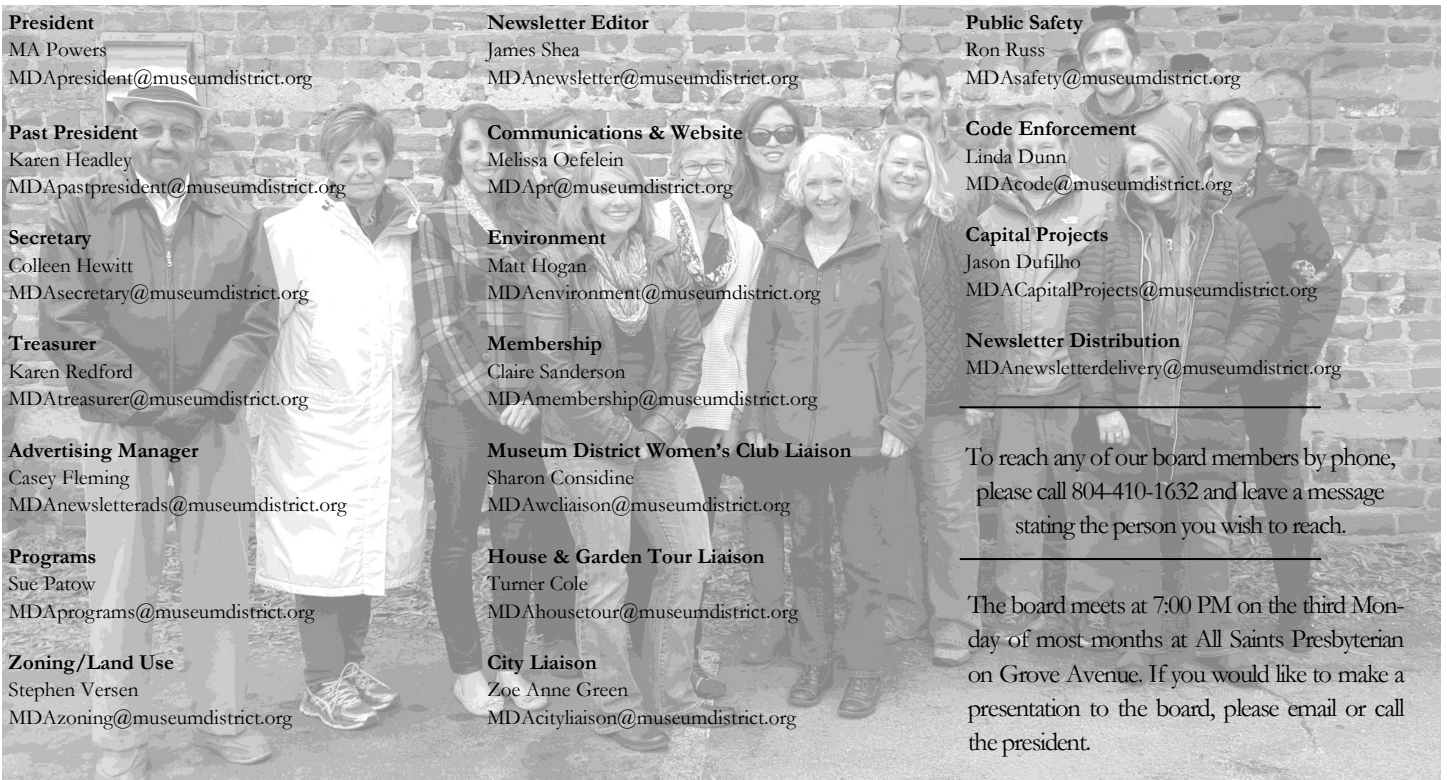
What	When	Where
Spring Fling*	April 28, Thursday	3319 Monument Ave.
Mother's Day House Tour	May 8, Sunday	Throughout the Museum District
Family Picnic	June 17, Friday	TBA

\* Members-Only Event. Please join in advance at [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org) or you may join at the door. More information regarding all of these upcoming events can be found throughout this issue of *The Columns*.

To be notified via email of all Museum District safety alerts, announcements, and events, please sign up for our emails 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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<p><b>Programs</b> Sue Patow <a href="mailto:MDAprograms@museumdistrict.org">MDAprograms@museumdistrict.org</a></p>	<p><b>House &amp; Garden Tour Liaison</b> Turner Cole <a href="mailto:MDAhousetour@museumdistrict.org">MDAhousetour@museumdistrict.org</a></p>	<p>The board meets at 7:00 PM 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.</p>
<p><b>Zoning/Land Use</b> Stephen Versen <a href="mailto:MDAzoning@museumdistrict.org">MDAzoning@museumdistrict.org</a></p>	<p><b>City Liaison</b> Zoe Anne Green <a href="mailto:MDAcityliaison@museumdistrict.org">MDAcityliaison@museumdistrict.org</a></p>	

# Richmond Moves Forward with Rapid Transit Project



By *Zoe Anne Green*  
City Liaison

In February, City Council passed the final step towards the introduction of bus rapid transit to the region. The route, from Willow Lawn to Rocketts Landing, will be a combination of curb, median, and mixed-traffic lanes for the dedicated buses. Preliminary infrastructure work has begun. The design-build contractor is ex-

pected to be selected in April, and work should begin soon after that.

The City is developing a website, similar to what was used for the UCI Bike Race, to help business owners, residents, and patrons navigate during each phase of the project. During construction, businesses along the route will be OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Locally, the Cleveland Street station was selected by a VCU masters class in Urban Planning as a project. Members of the MDA and Scotts Addition boards are meeting with the students as they explore and visualize the type of retail and commercial development that could complement Broad Street and the Scotts Addition and Museum District neighborhoods. This information will be shared with and utilized by the City to inform the next steps near our closest station.

The entire BRT project is expected to go live in October, 2017. More information is available at [www.ridegrtc.com/brt/](http://www.ridegrtc.com/brt/)



## EVERYTHING ACHES

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# MDA Holds Successful Town Hall at Temple Beth-El

By Sue Patow  
Programs Chair

Over 65 Museum District residents attended the town hall meeting on March 9. Highlights of the meeting



included an update on the Floyd Bike Walk project by Travis Bridewell, of Traffic Engineering. It is about 85 percent complete. Stop lights and signs were replaced with yield signs in

the circles and pedestrian crosswalks will be painted no later than May. Additional discussion focused on raised crosswalks and how emergency vehicles and buses will navigate the circles. Traffic engineers will be working with police and fire, as well as residents, to ensure safety and will try to consider all concerns.



Will Palmquist, a representative of Richmond City Planning and Development, discussed the plans to make the Broad Street/BRT pulse corridor a mixed-use area. The City is very interested in community input. A survey has been created for residents to give their input. The link to the survey can be found on the MDA website. If you have ideas or concerns, this is a great way to let them know.

City officials were also on hand to provide updates on issues impacting our community. Jon Baliles, First District City Councilman, addressed the city budget, which was just released to the City Council. He anticipates a difficult budget period due to the proposed budget shortfall. Fire Chief Robert Creecy reminded us that it is important to make sure that each household not only has smoke detectors, but that they are operational. Firefighters are happy to come to your home to change

the batteries, install or provide new smoke detectors. Lt. Nate Bynum and bike officer Glendon Cox of the Richmond Police Department reminded us to “SECURE YOUR PROPERTY!”



Recent car break-ins have been a result of people leaving valuables in their cars and not locking them. In response to concerns raised about how to improve the use of roads shared by pedestrians, residents, and cars, they will look at ways to educate the community.

Thank you to Temple Beth-El for hosting the meeting.



**William K. Grogan**

Attorney at Law

203 E. Cary Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Phone: 804-788-4600

Fax: 804-788-4693

# New Traffic Circles Create Challenges for Drivers on Floyd

By Ron Russ  
Public Safety Chair

The recent installation of traffic circles at several Floyd Avenue intersections should be approached with caution and an understanding of how to navigate them and proximity parking restrictions.

The city is placing no parking signs at least 15 feet from each corner to assure clearance of oversized vehicles such as school buses and fire engines. If you park closer to the intersection than 15 feet, you will risk the possibility of being struck by an oversized vehicle.

The city is in the process of evaluating the safest speed limit and a change from the usual residential limit of 25 miles per hour may be reduced to 20 miles per hour. Raised crosswalks may also be installed at certain intersections. Adding a few seconds to your travel time and observing the regulations is certainly worth preventing vehicular damage to you or someone else.

Slow down and prepare to yield to traffic as you approach the circle.

## VDOT recommendations on traffic circles:

- You must yield to the traffic already in the circle.
- Stay to the right as you approach.
- If turning right: Place your right turn signal on until you have exited the circle.
- If you are going straight: Remember to yield and process slowly around the side of the circle and continue on your way.
- If you are turning left or making a u-turn: Slow down and prepare to yield as you approach the circle. Enter and stay in your lane throughout the circle. You must yield to traffic, cyclists and pedestrians already there. Signal your turn. Slowly proceed.



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## Community Spotlight: RPS Board Member Dawson Boyer



**Did you grow up in Richmond?**

I consider myself a Richmond native, but I was born and grew up in Henrico County. I am a product of the public school system and graduated from Douglas S. Freeman High School. From there I graduated from the Virginia Military Institute. After VMI, I returned to Richmond to work for NewMarket Corporation and purchased a home in the city. Over the last eight years, I have spent a good deal of time volunteering with non-profits that mentor or support high school-aged children. For the past few years, this involvement has been with the Tee Jay Vikings Fund, a non-profit that raises funds to support and enrich the academic, athletic and extracurricular activities for students attending Thomas Jefferson High School. My full-time job is with Long and Foster as a real estate agent, and I also co-own Boyer's Ice Cream and Coffee (5808 Grove Ave) with my family. My wife and I live in the near west end, and we have two children.

**Why did you apply to fill the vacant school board seat?**

Through my work at Thomas Jefferson with the Tee Jay Vikings Fund, my awareness and desire to help Richmond's students has continued to grow. When Sen. Sturtevant was elected to the Virginia senate and announced he would be vacating his school board position, my initial feelings were mixed. Although I was excited for him, I was sad we were losing someone who had been such a great advocate and supporter of the students and the work the TJVF was trying to accomplish.

**How will you address the current budget challenges at the school district? Do you support closing schools?**

With the unveiling of the mayor's proposed budget, the challenges that RPS now faces are even greater than we originally thought. I believe schools are the cornerstones of their communities, and it is a fact that schools impact real estate values, economic growth and are critical to the long-term success of the city. When addressing the current budget challenges my goal is to get as many people involved as possible. If you live in the City of Richmond, regardless of whether or not you have school-aged children, the Richmond Public School system does and will continue to have an impact on your life. With that in

mind, we need all Richmonders to be advocates for our children. It is time for all the people of Richmond to become awake and alert and voice support for our schools, which have been grossly neglected for over 30 years. Tax increases are not the answer, new fees are not the answers. The answer is placing the education of children as a high priority and not as a line item that keeps getting bumped down the list.

**What are some qualities that will make you a good school board member?**

I have a deep passion for the success of students; I have an awareness of the conditions in which some of our most underserved students live and endure through an internship I worked in the spring of 2008. Over the course of the last four years, I have talked with and spent time with RPS students through different organizations and I know some of their stories. I understand the needs of those who have special needs, as I have a brother who is severely mentally handicapped. My family and I own a small business, so I have experienced what it is like to have significant financial needs with minimal resources. I also believe the principles instilled in me at VMI provide me with a combination of qualities that are crucial to this position.

**What are some goals that you would like to accomplish while you finish the current term?**

My main goal in this current term is to work with my colleagues on the school board, City Council, and the mayor to come up with a plan that addresses the immediate needs of our academic facilities and student needs. Once we have accomplished this goal, we will next need to establish a strategic, long-term (five-10 year) plan to ensure that we avoid the current conditions.

**What have been your initial thoughts so far after being selected?**

Since my appointment, I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with many, many people. I have been humbled by the parents out there who make unbelievable sacrifices every day and tirelessly advocate for their children. I have been extremely impressed with the RPS faculty and staff. They are a group that is passionate and committed to the success of their students, and they pour so much of themselves into their school and students.

# Belmont Library



*Inform \* Enrich \* Empower*

The mission of the Richmond Public Library is to inform, enrich, and empower Richmond's residents: to enrich lives and expand opportunities for all citizens by promoting reading and the active use of cultural, intellectual, and information resources through a dedication to excellence and professional service.

In addition to books, e-books, recorded books and DVD's, we offer programs and classes, meeting room use, wireless Internet access, fax service, and public use PCs. Notary service is also available by appointment at each library.

## ***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.

Celebrate with a special Fairy Tale Storytime.

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

in-

**Inform \* Enrich \* Empower**

RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
www.richmondpubliclibrary.org

# The Columns' reader survey



The Museum District Association has been publishing and distributing *The Columns* newsletter to area residents. We are considering changes to the publication, and we want to hear from you, our readers. We have developed a survey. You can fill out the survey below and mail it back with the envelope that is inside. Or, you can fill out the survey on Survey Monkey. The address is: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBPTPDP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBPTPDP) or a link is available at [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org) under memberships-news.

1. How would you rate the quality of the content provided in the MDA's quarterly *Columns* newsletter? 1 - 5 with 5 being highest. (Circle one) 1 2 3 4 5
2. How often do you read *The Columns* newsletter? (Circle one) never, rarely, occasionally, often, every issue
3. Do you prefer receiving *The Columns* newsletter hand-delivered hard copy to your door? Electronically?
4. Did you know *The Columns* is currently available electronically at [MuseumDistrict.org](http://MuseumDistrict.org)? yes or no (Circle one)
5. Please rate the length of *The Columns*: too short, just right, too long. (Circle one) Briefly explain why.
6. Please rate the frequency of issues (quarterly): too infrequent, just right, too frequent. (Circle one) Briefly explain why.
7. What do you like most about *The Columns* newsletter? (Please be as specific as possible)
8. What other ways do you get information about the Museum District?
9. What changes do you recommend?
10. Would you like to be a part of a focus group to make our newsletter and other communications the most effective possible? If so, please provide your name, phone number and email address.



# Museum District Association Spring Fling

## Spring Fling

April 28, 2016-Adult members only

3319 Monument Avenue

6:00-8:00 PM



The annual Spring Fling brings together neighbors and community supporters in a casual setting at a neighbor's home on Monument Avenue. In 2015, over 120 people attended! Special thanks to the Muse family for hosting our event again this year. Please plan to join us!

For planning purposes, RSVPs are a must. If you plan to attend, please let us know by Monday, April 25 at [rsvp@museumdistrict.org](mailto:rsvp@museumdistrict.org) or leave a message at 804-410-1632.

The Museum District Association is able to host events like the Spring Fling because of the support of its members. We strive throughout the year to make our neighborhood a great place to work and live!

## RICHMOND NEW LAWN MAINTENANCE LAW

In helping to keep our city beautiful, Richmond residents created laws requiring property owners to keep grass, weeds, and similar vegetation under a height of 12 inches; prevent shrubs or trees from blocking sidewalks, streets, alleys, or public right-of-ways; and, clean up fallen trees and branches. To help increase our vigilance and beautification efforts, these laws were updated this year by Richmond City Council Ordinance # 2015-191. Some highlights include:

- **First Violation = \$200 Charge + Clean Up Costs**  
Mandatory \$50 civil penalty. Additional \$150 Administrative Fee plus Clean Up Costs apply if violation is not abated by property owner within 48 hours and then cleaned up by City.
- **NO Notice Given on Future Violations During Growing Season**  
After first violation you are automatically charged for each new violation during that year's growing season, which runs March 1 to November 30.
- **Each Future Violation = \$350 Charge + Clean Up Costs**  
Mandatory \$200 civil penalty. Additional \$150 Administrative Fee plus Clean Up Costs apply if violation is not abated by property owner within 48 hours and then cleaned up by City.
- **Clean Up Costs for Each Violation are Based on Property Size**  
City uses lawn and garden contractors for clean up.
- **Three Violations = Class 3 Misdemeanor = Fine up to \$500**  
Three violations within 24 months is a Class 3 Misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

**R** REPORT a violation by calling call 311.

**I** INFO: For more information, please call the Richmond Department of Planning and Development Review Division of Code Enforcement, at 804.646.6398.

Richmond, Virginia U.S.A.

## Begins March 1, 2016

## Take the Museum District quiz

Contributed by Edwin Slipek

1. Until the 1970's the Ritz, a notorious bar, was located in the Devi's Triangle near Sheppard & Park. What stands in the space now?
2. The Pauley Center at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts once was built for what purpose?
3. What is the name of the popular underground restaurant in the Museum District?
4. What are St Gertrude's school colors? What is its mascot?
5. What two very Virginian evergreens characterize the grounds of the Virginia Historical Society?
6. When the Boulevard was first built in the 1870s, what public nuisance did it inadvertently create?
7. When did the VMFA open it's doors?
8. What three east-to-west streets in the Museum District do not connect to streets of the same name on the Fan side of the Boulevard?
9. What is the highest topographical location in the Museum District?
10. What are two commonly used, earlier names for the Museum District?

Answers on page 17

# Blind Program adopts Museum District for Training



*A student with a visual impairment works with a trainer in the Museum District. It's part of a program through Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired.*

By M.A. Powers  
President

After months of observing people gathered on street corners in blind-folds in the Museum District, I decided to ask what was happening. An instructor explained that her students were part of a training program offered by Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VRCBVI), located on Azalea Avenue in Henrico County.

ent travel. Curious for more information, I visited the website of the VRCBVI and within seconds of viewing the short introductory video, I recognized my neighbor. I had met Melody and her husband, Mark, at the voting precinct a few years ago. I started a conversation with Mark about his VA Tech sweatshirt. Had it not been for the two of them using long, white canes, I would not have known that they were blind. Excited to learn that Melody was the director of VRCBVI, I called her to talk about the work that takes place in our neighborhood.

Melody and Mark welcomed me into their home for our meeting. I was a bit nervous at first, because I have never had a blind friend and was afraid that I might offend them with my myriad of questions. They immediately put me at ease and told me that they welcomed the opportunity to answer questions and dispel myths surrounding blindness. In addition to answering numerous questions, they offered advice on how to best support my neighbors who are blind. They shared their backgrounds with me. Melody is completely blind. She lost her sight at age 8 due to

Students and instructors travel to the Museum District regularly, because the diverse environment presents nearly every obstacle a blind person may face during independ-

Story continued on page 11

## New Board Member

### Colleen Stevens Hewitt, Secretary



Colleen was born in Germany but primarily grew up in McLean, Virginia. After studying architecture at Virginia Tech University, she moved to Richmond and worked for two, now defunct, national retailers in their construction departments.

Since moving to the Richmond metro area, Colleen and her husband Henry have remodeled several homes including one in Churchill and most recently, their home on Monument Avenue.

Colleen loves the easy access and proximity to restaurants, shopping, museums and other activities that the Museum District provides.



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genetic changes in her body. Mark became blind at age 40, about 16 years ago.

Following our conversation in their home, I was invited to attend a mobility class in the neighborhood. The instructor, Becky, is a seeing individual who chooses to wear a “sleep shade” while training so that she experiences the same thing as her students. Taylor is a young man who lost his vision in a car accident a little over a year ago and Jimmy, a bit older, lost his vision slowly over a span of decades. Melody joined the class with me, and we talked as we walked through the Museum District. Jimmy and Taylor, both advanced in their program, were challenged to navigate from 3300 Grove Avenue to 425 N. Belmont Avenue. It was a bit of a treasure hunt watching them find their way to Chicocca’s for lunch.

By the time you see blind students in the neighborhood, they have completed months of intensive training and have created miles of mind maps, memorized street names and sidewalk placement. Mobility lessons here lead to skills that translate to any urban or rural setting.

### How can you help?

- When you approach a blind person on the sidewalk, it is best to speak to them. Don’t avoid them or be afraid or embarrassed. Just say “Hello” and move along as normal. Jumping out of their way is counterproductive to their skill-building program.
- If you are driving, it can actually be detrimental to tell a blind person that it is clear to cross the intersection while you wait for them to cross. They are trained to listen to the traffic, from every direction. It is best to drive through carefully and let them take their time to cross when they are ready.
- Keep tree limbs from hanging over your sidewalk!
- Encourage the city to repair potholes and uneven sidewalks.
- Remove your trash cans from the sidewalk as quickly as possible after trash pick-up.
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# 22nd Annual Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour Sunday, May 8 — 1-6 P.M.



***Cayla and Brenden Flora***  
***3213 Floyd Avenue***

Built in 2015 by Kyle McLaughlin for homeowners Brenden and Cayla Flora, this 1,700-square-foot, Craftsman-inspired home is surprisingly spacious and exceptionally charming. The open floor plan and central kitchen provide a flexible configuration that is perfectly suited for entertaining. With amenities like a screened porch, patio, master suite with two walk-in closets, living room pool table, and energy-efficient everything, this home offers plenty of modern conveniences. This synergy of old and new is accomplished through careful attention to detail. Throughout the home, soft gray walls, hardwood floors, and granite counters serve as a contemporary backdrop for vibrant local art and eclectic furnishings. The homeowners have a knack for turning salvaged items into treasures. An unusual hand-crafted dining room table is just one of the creative ideas visitors will discover behind the Tantalizing Teal front door.

***Lila Lee***  
***2818 Floyd Avenue***



This unique Gothic Revival home is guarded by gargoyles, which, as it turns out, are actually quite welcoming. The current homeowner has lived here for seven years and was drawn to the castle-like exterior. While only about 1,700 square feet, the home has ample storage. Other draws were the back porch, courtyard, and open layout. A previous owner had removed the wall between the front parlor and dining room, leaving one large space for entertaining. The current homeowner completed several renovations, including a modern kitchen with soapstone counters and an elegant white marble bathroom on the second floor. While little is known about the history of the house, the homeowner did find a box in the attic, labeled “2818 Floyd Ave. Archaeology.” Artifacts from the homeowner’s history are also present, including a biscuit bowl, a butter churn, and a hand-made quilt, as well as a collection of German crystal, Polish pottery, and pitchers she collected during her time abroad.



***Karen and Joe Sokohl***  
***3321 Floyd Avenue***

This 1926 brick townhouse has remained relatively unchanged over the last 90 years and has many of the original details that were popular in homes of this era, including beautiful French doors and hardwood floors. Yet when the Sokohls moved in, the kitchen was badly in need of an update. They completely renovated it, installing new appliances, cabinetry, and ebony bamboo flooring. They opened the kitchen to the dining room and added a cheerful sun room. The result is a harmonious contemporary space that connects the interior with the spacious backyard patio and pavilion. The colorful walls are the perfect backdrop for interesting local folk art, including a Valdes painting and several pieces that combine salvaged architectural details with vintage Dementi Studio photographs. The homeowners also have an artfully displayed collection of 1950s kitchen and bar ware, unique musical instruments, an antique turntable, and an impressive selection of vinyl. There is something for everyone to enjoy in this charming home.



***Brent and Amy Dillie***  
***3317 Floyd Avenue***

Homeowners Brent and Amy Dillie have extensively renovated this lovely urban farmhouse. Once a dark and overgrown property, 3317 Floyd Avenue has been completely transformed and is an outstanding example of what a little elbow grease and a lot of vision can accomplish in these wonderful historic homes. The first floor is flooded with light from new energy-efficient windows that blend seamlessly with the 1920s character of the home. A neutral pallet of white and grey allows the architecture, high ceiling, and stone fireplace to take center stage. While many original details remain, the kitchen has been completely redone. New Ikea cabinets were customized with semi-handmade doors and a local cabinetmaker installed an efficient pantry that tripled the storage space.

***Craig and Elizabeth Scott***  
***3211 Patterson Avenue***



Built in 1920 by Muhleman and Kahoe, Inc., 3211 Patterson Avenue is a welcoming Colonial Revival that has been thoughtfully renovated to meet modern needs without sacrificing any of its original charm. The house was in excellent condition when Craig and Elizabeth Scott bought it almost two years ago. Previous owners had built a spacious addition and judiciously reworked the layout of the original rooms to create an open flow with a large kitchen and family room and plenty of storage. The homeowners were also attracted to its generous front porch, original glass, and beautiful hardwood floors, as well as its proximity to restaurants, shops, and museums. With its abundant natural light and high ceilings, the home is also ideal for displaying the extensive collection of art and antiques curated by Craig's father over his lifetime.

***Matt and Meagan Cinder***  
***108 N. Auburn Avenue***



The homeowners were drawn to the Museum District because of the character of the houses and the walkable neighborhood. They managed to find a house that was just right and ready for the finishing touches. The kitchen had been recently remodeled and the previous owners had added a first floor powder room and updated the second floor full bath. All that was left to do was make it their own. The result is colorful and creative, with bright, graphic textiles and lots of Pinterest-worthy ideas, many of which the homeowners have done themselves. Talent evidently runs in the family. The beautiful hand-crafted coffee table in the living room is a wedding present made by the homeowner's grandfather, the curtains were made by her mother, and much of the art was painted by the homeowner herself. A particularly fun room is the sunlit nursery.

***Beth Bostian and Ben Hopkins***  
***523 N. Belmont Avenue***



This 1918 brick townhouse fits a tremendous amount of fun and function into less than 1,600 square feet. The front porch has been comfortably decked out, providing the homeowners with three-season entertaining space overlooking the intersection of Belmont and Patterson. Inside, the generous openings connecting the kitchen, dining room, and living room create a desirable connectivity and flow that make the house seem much larger than it is. In 2012, the current homeowners completed a significant renovation. On the first floor, the kitchen was completely made over. Upstairs, the original full bath was updated and a fourth bedroom was converted into an en suite master bath and walk-in closet. The addition of heating and air conditioning in the sun porch made it possible to transform the space into a bright, beautiful home office. These contemporary updates enhance the home's livability and are complimented by a fascinating mix of collectibles, modern and vintage art and accessories, and mid-century furnishings.



***Lia Lash and John Batchelor***  
***3128 Kensington Ave.***

Visitors will be charmed by this fantastic home before they even enter it. A few minutes on the generous front porch is all it will take. Over the last five years, homeowners John Bachelor and Lia Lash, who is an interior designer, have completely transformed the house, creatively reworking the layout and making room for a coveted second full bath and second floor laundry room without adding on to the original footprint. Throughout the house, bold, contemporary touches have been thoughtfully paired with traditional details. Penny tiles and shelving made of reclaimed wood frame the original fire place. A huge walnut slab brought from Pennsylvania was joined with a custom base made locally by Moser Originals to form a magnificent dining table. In 2012, the homeowners took down the wall separating the dining room and kitchen, creating a sophisticated modern great room.

***Bob and Janice Mark***  
***3301 Stuart Ave.***



The front porch of 3301 Stuart Avenue looks like it has been here since 1911, but when Janice Mark purchased the home as a fixer-upper in 1996, only the base remained. Fortunately, she had a compelling reason to rebuild it to its original beauty—she needed a home for a very special porch swing, one that her great grandfather handmade for her grandmother. Extensive interior repairs were needed as well, but the Flemish bond brick structure with large windows had good bones. They had the plaster repaired and had crown molding installed. They also had a new fireplace designed. A new kitchen and half bath occupy the original footprint and a sunroom addition provides lovely views of the garden and carriage house. The homeowners are avid collectors of Craftsman and Art Deco furniture and pottery. Visitors will enjoy the many whimsical touches in this delightful home.

***Hospitality Center***  
***Virginia Historical Society***  
***428 N. Boulevard***

The Virginia Historical Society is the 2016 Museum District Mother’s Day House & Garden Tour anchor institute. Refreshments, restrooms, parking, and ticket sales will be available at this location.

The Virginia Historical Society (VHS) has recently completed a number of notable renovations that have significantly changed the way visitors enter and interact with this Museum District landmark. Renovations include a new south entrance and a striking Boulevard plaza, beautiful new exhibition galleries, and a multi-purpose learning center.

The VHS was founded in 1831. Its collections were housed in various locations around Richmond before finding a permanent home in 1946 when the VHS absorbed the Confederate Memorial Association and its holdings. Since 1959, the VHS has been located on North Boulevard.

Admission to the museum and research library is free. Fees vary for special exhibitions, lectures, and programs.

***Art in the Alley***



*Be sure to visit “Art in the Alley” when exiting 3213 Floyd Avenue.*

**Advance Ticket Sales: \$20**

Tickets are \$20 before the close of business on Saturday, May 7. Tickets purchased online at [www.museumdistrict.org](http://www.museumdistrict.org) will be available at the Hospitality Will Call, located at Virginia Historical Society on Sunday, May 8 starting at 12:30 PM. Tickets are also available at local retail stores (See the front page).

**Day of Tour Ticket Sales: \$25**

Tickets on the day of the tour can be purchased at the Hospitality Center, located at the Virginia Historical Society. The ticket price on the day of event is \$25. Tickets can be purchased with cash, check, or credit card.

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- The effect of the Federal Estate Tax law change on every estate plan.
- The change to Virginia's Power of Attorney and Health Care Laws (Advance Medical Directive) and their impact on you and your family.
- How Probate and unnecessary delays and costs can be avoided.
- How to provide for your own care and well-being and that of your loved ones even if you become mentally incapacitated.
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- How you can protect your children's inheritance from predators, greedy nonfamily members, and bad marriages.



Jim Garrett  
Attorney-At-Law

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# MDA to Improve Roseneath Road Median

By Matt Hogan, Environmental Chair, and Jason Dufilho  
Capital Projects Chair

Stretching over half a mile from Monument Avenue to Grove Avenue, the Roseneath Road median is one of the largest swaths of green space in the Museum District. For many area residents, Roseneath is a main north-south thoroughfare through the neighborhood, connecting Broad Street to Grove Avenue. This year, the board has committed to the beautification of the Roseneath median and to its maintenance and upkeep going forward. This effort is being led by the Roseneath committee, which comprises several board members and neighborhood residents.

You may have noticed the Roseneath Road median has areas of soil damage from vehicle traffic during and after the snowstorm that took place in January. The first step in the improvements will be to fill the current ruts with new soil and grass seed. The next step will be to establish grass over the entirety of the Roseneath Road median. Preparation will begin in early April and

seeding will occur in the fall. Though it will take two to three years before the grass is fully established, we're confident it will be worth the wait.



One of the primary goals of future improvements will be to prevent further damage to the median from vehicle traffic. This will include the installation of decorative bollards at the intersections of alleyways to prevent vehicles from driving over the median at these locations. Another key goal of the project is pedestrian safety, which will involve paving the ends of the median at cross streets to provide pedestrians with a safe place to stand when crossing Roseneath Road.

We're looking forward to seeing the transformation of the Roseneath Road median, and hope you are, too! Stay tuned for additional developments on this project in the coming months!

## Museum District quiz answers

1. Arianna's Grill
2. Residence for destitute female relatives of Confederate veterans
3. Chiocca's Deli
4. Green & White, Gators
5. Boxwood & Magnolia
6. Drag strip for cars
7. January 16, 1936
8. Patterson, Cutshaw and Ellwood
9. The park atop the VMFA parking garage
10. West of the Boulevard & Upper Fan

The questions and answers were provided by Edwin Slipek. He has examined Richmond's every block and alley. After studying at Boston University and Virginia Commonwealth University he remained in his home town to study its past. Formerly architecture critic for the Richmond Mercury, Slipek is currently senior contributing editor at Style Weekly where he has been architecture critic for 15 years. He is an adjunct professor of architectural history at VCU. For his writing and teaching, Slipek was awarded Honorary Membership in the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects.



## Please Keep your Porch Lights Burning at Night

The Richmond Police Department asks that residents leave lights burning from dusk to dawn on front and back porches. Hardware stores even have timers that will do the remembering for you! It is a proven fact that leaving your front and back porch lights burning from dusk to dawn helps deter crime for you, your neighbors, and the entire Museum District.

While you're at it, please consider installing motion detectors near your garage and alley to deter crime there as well.

It costs just pennies a day, so, please consider leaving these lights on year-round to help fight crime. Everyone will benefit!

# Museum District Set to See Several Capital Projects

By Jason Dufilho,  
Capital Projects Chair

As the first board member to hold the position of Capital Projects Chair, I've initially been tasked with ushering through three projects from our community's wish list. These projects include: the Street Sign Project, the Roseneath median development, and the neighborhood banner project.

## The Street Sign Project:

Each of the street signs within the Museum District have been surveyed to identify and evaluate levels of disrepair or locations of missing signs. In cooperation with the City of Richmond, these signs will be repaired or replaced to keep our streets easily identifiable, distinguished, and presentable. Our neighborhood's upkeep and safety remain top priorities.

## The Roseneath Project:

The Roseneath project's main goal will be to preserve and beautify the median on Roseneath Road while at the same time addressing some of the practical issues and safety concerns that the median presents to residents, city maintenance service vehicles and passers through. A special thanks to Museum District resident, Karen Kelly, for her help assembling the landscape drawings and to VHB for their engineering assistance.

## The Neighborhood Banner Project:

Museum District pole-mounted banners, similar to those found in Carytown, will be located at key entry points throughout the Museum District. This is intended to provide an inclusive feel and a marked and inviting gateway into our community. Museum District banners will also distinguish our unique Richmond community from other districts in the area. The design for the banners are underway, and we hope to have them flying soon.

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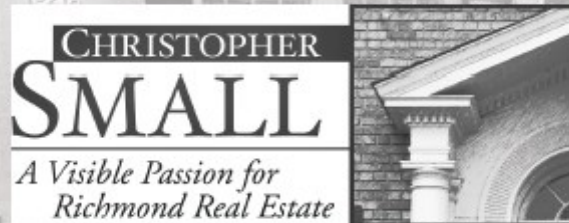
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I would like more information about volunteering with the MDA. Volunteer opportunities are detailed in the *About* section of our website: [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org).

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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.