

The

# COLUMNS

**BEHIND THE SCENES WITH  
MUSEUM DISTRICT MURALIST  
NILS WESTERGARD**

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COVER PHOTO: JUSTIN CHESNEY

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# DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS



FAMILY

## Stories at the Museum

Every 1st & 3rd Saturday, 11:00 am



EXHIBITION

## Inside Looking Out: The Art of Queen Stovall

Exhibition closes on Sunday, October 14



BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

## Vintage, Upcycled, & Refurbished

September 15, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm



EXHIBITION

## The Commonwealth and the Great War

Exhibition closes on Sunday, November 18



UPCOMING  
EXHIBITION

## FRESH PAINT:

Murals Inspired  
by the Story  
of Virginia

Opening  
October 17, 2018

Registration is required for Behind the Scenes Tours. Exhibitions and Stories at the Museum are included with suggested admission.

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VirginiaHistory.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.*

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To reach any of our board members by phone, please call 804-410-1632 and leave a message stating the person you wish to reach.

*The board meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of most months at All Saints Presbyterian on Grove Avenue. If you would like to make a presentation to the board, please email or call the president.*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**O**ver the past few months, the MDA board engaged in a discussion of priorities for the organization. While we remain committed to our ongoing activities and responsibilities, the board identified three areas in which we want to grow.

The first, and perhaps the most important, is increasing membership. We are proud of the hundreds of households and individuals that join each year, but considered as a percentage of the neighborhood, we have some room for improvement. To that end, we are creating a membership committee to increase our outreach and engagement to even more of our residents. In addition to the homeowners who make up the bulk of our membership, we are especially interested in having renters and businesses play a bigger role.

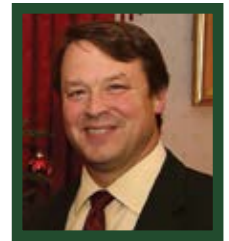
The second priority area is growing and diversifying our funding sources. Our organization has been fortunate over the years to benefit from the great work of our house tour committee.

The 2018 Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour was among our best yet. And for those who volunteered, you know what a well-organized enterprise it is. The proceeds raised through this event are far and away the most important source of funding for the MDA. Additionally, funds raised through the event also go to a number of other area non-profits. While we expect an even bigger success next year as the tour celebrates its 25th year, we are looking at ways to complement this support going forward – perhaps through an event that highlights the restaurants and businesses in and around our neighborhood.

The third focus area for the MDA is improving communication and cooperation with the City, particularly in areas that involve services and capital expenditures in our neighborhood. Our organization spends what we think is a meaningful amount of money each year undertaking different tasks to improve the neighborhood. However, that spending is dwarfed by what the City spends on maintenance and improvements. While neighborhood needs often overwhelm these municipal resources, it is our belief that by investing our time to provide our partners in the City the best information possible, more of those city dollars will come to our neighborhood and be more impactful when spent.

For example, if we compile a detailed list of sidewalks in need of repair and make sure that list gets to the right people in the City, then we have empowered them more effectively to deploy their work crews to our neighborhood. These crews are then more likely to be prepared to address all these issues when they visit. The same approach works for maintaining our urban forest. By cataloging the dead and damaged trees in our neighborhood, it lets our city arborists spend their time addressing the problems, not just diagnosing them. That's why I'm thrilled MDA past president, MA Powers, has taken on the role of MDA city liaison to help build these partnerships.

I'm excited about these three new priority areas for the organization and hope you are, too. These efforts to grow our membership, grow and diversify our funding and better partner with the City to improve our community will be made all the more effective with your involvement. To that end, the MDA is actively seeking community members who want to participate in these initiatives – whether as a committee member or just volunteering for a few hours on a particular project. Please reach out to me at [MDApresident@MuseumDistrict.org](mailto:MDApresident@MuseumDistrict.org) if you would like to learn more. **□**



**STEPHEN  
VERSEN**

*2018 MDA  
Board President*

**OUR EFFORTS TO GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP, GROW AND DIVERSIFY OUR FUNDING AND BETTER PARTNER WITH THE CITY TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE MADE ALL THE MORE EFFECTIVE WITH YOUR INVOLVEMENT.**



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This free biennial exhibition features spectacular fresh floral designs inspired by art in VMFA's world-class collection.

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- **Lewis Miller** of LMD New York, renowned designer, author, and Instagram sensation
- **Remco van Vliet** of New York's Van Vliet & Trap, master Dutch florist and designer for The Met

To see a full list of events or to purchase tickets, visit [www.VMFA.museum/FAF](http://www.VMFA.museum/FAF)

## VMFA

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## WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MUSEUM DISTRICT?

If so, please send an email to Matt Suttle, communications director, at [MDAcommunications@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAcommunications@museumdistrict.org) to be added to our weekly Monday email which is packed full of news and events occurring in your neighborhood.

### The **COLUMNS**

A Publication of  
THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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



MUSEUM DISTRICT - RICHMOND VA



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Please pass your copy on to someone else!



# YOU NEED A TREE!

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MDA'S ADOPT-A-TREE INITIATIVE

Visit [www.museumdistrict.org/adopt](http://www.museumdistrict.org/adopt) by August 31 to make a lasting and leafy contribution to our neighborhood.

*"Leave the Neighborhood Better Than You Found It."*

## WANT TO HELP PRUNE AND CARE FOR MUSEUM DISTRICT TREES?

## JOIN THE RICHMOND TREE STEWARDS!

The Richmond Tree Stewards are looking for a few dedicated volunteers from the Museum District to attend training to become certified tree stewards and help care for trees in the Museum District and other city neighborhoods. Formal Richmond Tree Steward training begins each January with a 10-week course packed with information and delivered by excellent speakers. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings in the Round House in Byrd Park. To become a certified tree steward, one must attend the classes, complete community services hours that double as "on the job" training and pass a pruning exam.

Why is training necessary? After planting, city trees need ongoing structural and safety pruning which is done by or with the approval of the city Urban Forestry Division. To make sure the trees are pruned properly, the City of Richmond requires a permit approved by the city arborist for that area. The Richmond Tree Stewards are a trained group that the city arborists can call on to assist them.

If you care about Richmond's urban forest and want to be a community resource, please visit [www.richmondtreestewards.org/contact](http://www.richmondtreestewards.org/contact).



No bears or volunteers were harmed in the making of this alley cleanup.

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPRING ALLEY CLEAN-UP

The Museum District Spring Alley Clean-up was a smashing success! A great time was had by all and volunteers removed nine tons of trash from our neighborhood alleys.

*A very special thanks to our hard workers:*

- Pauline Brickman, Christine Clarke, Paul Daszkiewicz, Marie de Percin, Christopher Dunn, Matt Hogan, Steve Jones, Debbie Kearns, Tom Kearns, Karen Kelly, David King, MA Powers, Jessie Reuben, Fred Rosen, LuAnn Tarren, Bob Turton, Louise Turton and Stephen Versen.

# BEHIND THE SCENES WITH MUSEUM DISTRICT MURALIST



PHOTO: JUSTIN CHESNEV

# NILS WESTERGARD

by MA POWERS

**N**ils (pronounced “Neals”) Westergard is an illusive artist who magically transforms blank walls, seemingly overnight. His style of wall art is, more often than not, recognizable even without his black butterfly logo. In addition to being part of the burgeoning RVA street art scene, the 26-year-old Museum District resident travels extensively, enhancing buildings throughout the US and Europe.

Richmond has been home to Nils for the past eight years, since he left Falls Church to pursue film studies as a freshman at VCU. The film education he undertook strengthened his photography skills which now serve as the base for his current work of stenciling and painting. Each piece begins with a photo, which he mentally breaks into layers and colors. The imagined layers then guide the painting sequence. He likens the process to his own “paint by numbers” system. The planning for large murals is done ahead of time in his studio and then executed very quickly on site. The layering technique is also used to create framable prints through an intensive stencil-making process, taking up to 30 days to layer and cut by hand. Each stencil is then used to produce prints until it literally falls apart.

Any blank wall is a potential canvas for Nils. In fact, much of his work evolves out of conversations with property owners who wish to adorn their walls with art. Commissioned work goes through a mutual decision process with the owner and the artist, but Nils has



**NILS HAS FOUND A WAY TO COMBINE HIS HIGHLY SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL SKILLS WITH PHENOMENAL ARTISTIC TALENT TO PRODUCE INTENSELY DETAILED, EMOTIONAL WORKS OF ART.**

been known to paint for free so that he can bring one of his own photographs to life. Many areas of the city do not have restrictions on paint color or choices so it's ultimately up to the building owner to decide the subject of the mural or allow for the artist's free reign.

When left to his own devices, Nils gravitates toward women as subjects, particularly with long hair that mimics a veil or drape. His paintings tend to de-emphasize clothing, except for the occasional hat, because fashion defines space and time -- the antithesis of his work. Faces, shoulders and hair dominate his paintings around the Museum District and the greater Richmond area in a recognizable style with paint literally dripping from the surface. The characteristic dripping technique evokes emotion and also has the practical application of covering more surface area. Here lies the root of Nils' success: he has found a way to combine his highly specialized technical skills with phenomenal artistic talent to produce intensely detailed, emotional works of art.

A quick online image search produces hundreds of photos of original works by Nils, some of which can also be seen while strolling through the Museum District, Scott's Addition and Fan neighborhoods. Nils has even painted on abandoned mattresses in the alley only to find that someone quickly cuts away the image, leaving behind the foam and frame! Follow his adventures on Instagram @nilsrva. [G](#)





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

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

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# Belmont LIBRARY

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

In addition to books, e-books, recorded books, and DVDs, we offer programs and classes, meeting room use, wireless Internet access, fax service, free notary service and public use PCs. Belmont now accepts credit/debit cards and offers self-checkout!

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

## BELMONT LIBRARY EVENTS

### Storytimes

Book Babies (infant-17 months) –

**Mondays @ 10:00 & 10:45 AM**

Toddler Time (18-36 months) – **Mondays @ 11:30 AM**

Currently, there is no preschool storytime being offered at BE. Check our webpage for other times and locations.

[www.rvalibrary.org](http://www.rvalibrary.org)

### Chair Yoga

Museum neighbor **Linda Dunn** is the instructor for this FREE adult class at the Belmont Library each **Tuesday in July 10:30-11:15** (no class on July 10). Call 646-1139 to reserve your space. Interest and attendance is growing!

### GED Classes

Belmont Library will be offering Adult Education Summer Sessions **July 9 – August 8**. Class will be held **Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1:00-4:00 pm**.

To register, please contact the Adult Career Development Center at 804.780.8311. Registration fee is \$15.00.

### Lego Club – 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 4:30 PM

We provide the LEGOs – you provide the imagination! For grades K-6 with a parent.

### Fiction Focus Book Club

**3rd Wednesday of each month @ 10:15 am**

Join our book discussion each month for Richmond adults age 55 and older. Upcoming titles include:

- Queen Sugar: Bazile - Aug. 15
- Handmaid's Tale: Atwood - Sept. 19
- Five-Carat Soul: McBride - Oct. 17

### Summer Reading - for all ages~ kicks off June 16 – stay tuned for exciting 2018 information!

Join us for a fun, event-filled day to kick-off our Summer Reading Program. Pick up your reading BINGO card and get started! Terrific grand prizes! Check out [www.rvalibrary.org](http://www.rvalibrary.org) for Summer Reading more information!

### Library Yarns - Thursdays 10:30 - noon

If you like to knit or crochet, join this fun time of creativity at the Belmont Library. Bring your portable handwork project of any kind for an informal group experience. Teens and adults welcome.

### Technology Q & A

Bring in your laptop, Kindle, Nook iPad or cell phone and get help from staff during a 30-minute session **each Wednesday noon-2:00**. Registration is required. Call 646-1139.

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

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



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# MDA PRESENTS FIRST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AT THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

by **MA POWERS**

Several years ago, members from the Museum District Association board of directors and the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour committee discussed using proceeds from the house and garden tour for a scholarship fund for area students. After many months of planning, and a change to the standing rules of the MDA, the house tour committee was able to direct proceeds from the 2017 tour into a scholarship to be awarded to a Thomas Jefferson High School student for post-secondary education. Earlier this year, under the direction of MDA school liaison Hannah Abbey, the MDA Board of Directors formed an official scholarship committee that coordinated with Thomas Jefferson High School to create an application and selection process. On May 31, the school hosted its Senior Awards Program for the Class of 2018, and I was very happy to present our first scholarship award that had been years in the making.



*Marshaé Day*


## MARSHAÉ DAY, THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE ANNUAL MDA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD, WAS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP OF \$750 AND A BOX OF "TOOLS FOR SUCCESS."

In addition to her involvement in a variety of extracurricular activities, Marshaé worked 25 hours a week during her senior year to pay rent. In her essay she detailed the financial gap between grants and loans and the actual cost of tuition at James Madison University. She expressed her motivation to close this gap through outside scholarships in order to pursue her goal of majoring in political science and attending law school.

I would not describe myself as intimately involved with Thomas Jefferson High School, yet I became particularly emotional as parents and classmates cheered for students called to the stage to accept awards and honors. I was overcome with feelings of pride and hope for the future when I listened to the accomplishments of the young people in my city. I did not have the opportunity to meet Marshaé prior to the award ceremony and because the award is a surprise, I did not expect to meet her in person until she accepted the award. However, I had the opportunity to watch her graciously and humbly accept repeated awards and honors before it was my turn to congratulate her on her success. Marshaé was the recipient of several sizable scholarships that afternoon, including the largest one presented by the Class of 2007. I am confident that she was able to close the financial gap.

At the ceremony, the keynote speaker, Jane Cooper Johnson, advised students to view life through a lens of love. She described the challenges she faced in the 1960s as the first African-American student to integrate Richmond Public Schools when hate speech could be heard in the halls of Thomas Jefferson High School. A member of the TJHS Class of 1966, Johnson spoke with compassion and fondness about her high school years despite the difficulties she faced. Following her ovation, roughly 20 community awards were presented ranging from \$500-\$5000.

We honored our first recipient, Marshaé Day, with a scholarship of \$750 and a box of "Tools for Success" that contained a small tool kit for her dorm room and a fashionable academic planner. Marshaé is an emancipated student who maintained solid academic credentials and strong school attendance throughout her years at TJHS. In

The MDA also presented the school with a plaque to be engraved with the scholarship recipient's name each year, which will be placed in the office at TJHS. The plaque is meant to symbolize the commitment of the Museum District Association and its members to supporting TJHS students. In an effort to ensure continued support of the scholarship for graduating seniors, the MDA board recently voted to open the scholarship fund to donations from residents. Information on making a donation can be found on our website or by emailing [MDAschools@museumdistrict.org](mailto:MDAschools@museumdistrict.org). 

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# BELLE & BEAU CO.

by **AMANDA SCUDDER**

**B**air salon, eco-friendly products, vintage apparel, children’s clothes, classic vinyl and video games ... I must be talking about the shops of Carytown, right? Actually, you can find all of this and more at Belle & Beau Co., the Museum District’s own one-stop style-and-shop, located at 407 Cleveland St.

Co-creators Tiffany Browning and Teresa Justis share a passion for quality service and vintage style. They previously operated a small salon in Scott’s Addition, but when it was time to grow their business, luck was on their side and they found the perfect Museum District location. “This is such a sweet neighborhood. We love it here!” Browning and Justis, both Museum District residents, agree. “It’s great to be able to walk to work!”

While the location was ideal, it took three months, major elbow grease and the proverbial village to make the dark and dated space feel fresh and modern. Tiffany recalls, “From July to October, we painted every surface by hand.” One family member helped update the electrical systems, while another built custom shelves and tables using wood from a fallen tree. This now bright and airy salon features a beautiful mural by Nils Westergard and a tiny courtyard garden outside. Inside you see white walls, warm accents, a vintage Tiffany-blue oven, and Opal, the friendly shop dog. When you walk in, it feels like home, only better!

Belle & Beau currently has three chairs and five stylists specializing in color, cut, curl and texture. The adjacent retail space offers an expertly curated selection of clothing, accessories, and accoutrement

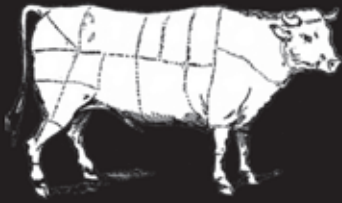


*Opal welcomes visitors at Belle & Beau Co.*

from the 1960s to 1990s. Wearables for men, women and children are attractively displayed alongside Polaroid cameras, vinyl and surprising comebacks like cassette tapes and Walkmans. Tiffany and her beau Keith Goldsmith, who runs the retail component, keep the inventory fresh and interesting with regular expeditions to thrift stores and yard sales, both local and from afar.

In addition to vintage, Belle & Beau Co. offers a wide selection of R+Co styling products. “We love the brand and the aesthetic,” Teresa explains. “The products are ethical, vegan and smell amazing!” Belle & Beau Co. is also a partner pick-up spot for the Hummingbird Gardens Flower Club, a Community Supported Flowers program, and the salon stocks Hummingbird Gardens’ custom salt blends. There is even a “Belle & Beau Co. Blend” with notes of coriander and jalapeño that is floral, slightly spicy and delicious! Tiffany says, “It’s nice for people to have more than one reason to come in. They can stop by for a cut and stay to find something unique to complement their new look.” **Q**

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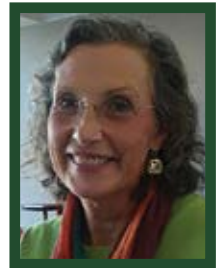
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## TRADE YOUR GRASS FOR GLORY

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I'm talking about the glory of a garden that rewards you and your neighbors year-round. If I can do it, you can, too. Now, I'm no master gardener, just a girl who loves to plant plants.

Throughout my life I have gardened in Westover Hills, Stratford Hills and Moseley. But nothing compares to the Museum District! Everything (well, almost everything) you stick in the ground grows and grows and grows.



JANIE WILSON

Our garden did take some initial investment. When we moved here in 2015, our lawn was a mess. Crabgrass and dandelions set off inappropriately chosen and misplaced shrubs. But with a little bit of vision, and a will to get dirty, we managed to create a pretty glorious garden.

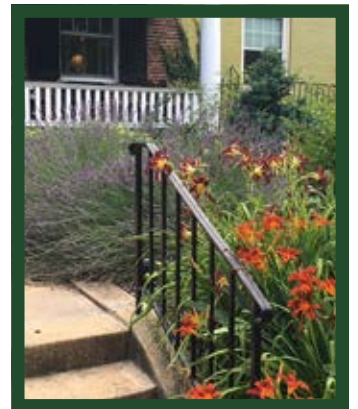
We're not the spring chickens we once were, so I hired in a local organic gardener to replant the foundation plants, dig the rain garden and help us get rid of that crabgrass mess. Fall is the perfect time for grass replacement. Here's how we did it.

First, we laid down a thick layer of paper. My new favorite is brown contractor paper. You'll find it in the paint aisle at Lowe's. Two layers should do the trick. I have used newspaper before, but it takes at least four to five layers, and that's a lot of RT-D. Put the paper right on top of the grass -- no need for chemical weed killers.

Next, our garden helper shoveled on about four inches of mulch. I know that's a lot, but let me just remind you what a lawn mower costs, plus stinky gas, plus seed, crab-killing fertilizer, aeration and your Saturday afternoons trying to get the fool stuff to grow.

Over the winter we just let nature do its thing. When spring arrived, we had a nice, naturally fertilized canvas ready to paint with lavender, rosemary, daylilies, irises and fun ground-covers that love our magic little micro-climate.

Now I am trying a native ground-cover called Silent Carolina. I bought out Elwood Thompson's supply, but I am guessing there will be plenty to share by next fall.



**NEXT ISSUE:** *How I made my own rain garden.*

# LEASH LAWS PROTECT US ALL

by LIZ BRYANT

**A**ccording to the Richmond City Code (Sec. 4-243) "It shall be unlawful for any dog to run at large. For purposes of this section, a dog shall be deemed to run at large while roaming, running or self-hunting off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner's or custodian's immediate control. 'Immediate control,' for purposes of this section, means confinement of the dog by a fence, tether or leash. Any person who permits such person's dog to run at large shall be deemed in violation of this section, and upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor."


While pretty clear, and while most neighbors in the Museum District follow this law, there are instances when we may encounter someone with their dog off leash. Richmond Animal Care & Control recommends several options for dealing with this. Speaking directly to them in a polite manner to remind them of the law and that it is in place for their safety, as well as the safety of others, might be all that is necessary.



If the person does not respond well to your comment, or if they have a history of non-compliance, your best bet is to notify Animal Control at 804-646-5573 (weekdays during business hours) or 804-646-5123 (after 5 and on weekends). Animal Control can only issue a summons if they see the crime, but say if they can ascertain where the offender lives, they are happy to do a "knock and talk."

If a bite occurs, that takes things up a notch. If you are bitten by any dog and skin is broken call 911 or Animal Control at 804-646-5123 (at any hour). They will submit a report to the Health Department. If another dog is bitten by an off-leash dog call Animal Control at 804-646-5573 (after hours/weekends leave a message). It is very important that these issues are reported so they can help the victim and potentially charge the owner of the off-leash dog.

Finally, an unattended dog might simply be lost. If you can safely confine him, do so and call Animal Control to pick him up or take him yourself to the shelter located at 1600 Chamberlayne Ave. Don't feed the dog, but offering fresh water is encouraged. If you can't, or don't feel safe confining him, still call Animal Control and provide as much description as possible as to location and condition of the animal.

For more information on Richmond Animal Care & Control services and hours, please visit their website at [www.richmondgov.com/animalcontrol](http://www.richmondgov.com/animalcontrol). 



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Presented by  
Jim Garrett, Esq.  
Museum District Resident

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# PROPOSED CARYTOWN EXCHANGE DEVELOPMENT ANCHORED BY PUBLIX SUPERMARKET

by **SCOTT CANNADY**

**T**he Carytown Exchange Development, which will replace the current Martin's grocery store and the retail shops located within the existing shopping center, is scheduled to begin demolition in late 2018. The Carytown Exchange will be bordered by Ellwood Ave. to the north, West Cary St. to the south, Nansemond St. to the east and Thompson St. to the west. The new retail stores are slated for construction some time in 2019, with stores opening in the fall/winter of 2020. The timeline for this project as of the date of this article is still a work in progress.

The Martin's grocery store will be demolished, as well the rest of the retail space currently within the shopping center, with the exception of the CVS store, which will remain open during and after construction. The Union Bank and Trust building also is likely to remain and is not a part of the development plan. The proposed anchor tenant will be a Publix supermarket.

Regency Centers, a shopping center development firm based in Florida, is the developer in charge of this project. Retail space will total approximately 120,000 square feet. The Publix building will be 49,000 square feet, with the rest of the proposed tenants sharing approximately 71,000 square feet, with stores averaging 1,200 square feet in size. Many of these stores will be single story shops that will face Cary St. to the sidewalk and will, according to the developer, "reflect the charm and character of Carytown" and will bring the new storefront buildings up to the sidewalks in order to "engage pedestrians." It is expected that

approximately 20 to 25 tenants will occupy this retail space. The location will include a large, two-story 500-car parking deck opening onto Ellwood Ave. Parking will be free to the public.

The sloping nature of this corner of Carytown brings unique challenges to the development. To appreciate the size and scale of this project, it is recommended that you visit the Carytown Exchange website at [www.carytownexchange.com](http://www.carytownexchange.com). This website also includes a list of FAQs. Existing businesses, other than the CVS, will likely need to find alternative locations. There will be no residential space included in this development. Access points in and out of the property are planned be reduced to six from the current 10. Exact locations were not known as of press time.

The developer hosted a "meet and greet" community meeting with a large turnout in the old Martin's store on May 8. Museum District residents expressed concern to the developers as well as city traffic engineers about the traffic in and out of the proposed parking deck bordering Ellwood Ave., the current traffic congestion that already exists on Nansemond St. between Ellwood and Cary Street and the difficulty getting in and out of the current shopping center at Nansemond and Thompson streets. The zoning for this project is considered "by right," which means that the developer will not need a variance in existing zoning standards or a special use permit from the City.

The Museum District Association will continue to follow the progress of this development and will report any major changes or updates in the weekly e-newsletter. **E**

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



by **MA POWERS**

The Museum District Association is pleased to report another highly successful tour season. Ticket sales were the highest on record with over 1,200 tickets sold and with as many as 700 people visiting individual homes throughout the neighborhood. Proceeds from the 2018 tour also totaled \$20,000, one of the highest recorded. Twenty-five percent of these proceeds will be donated to non-profit organizations in the immediate area and to a Thomas Jefferson High School Scholarship sponsored by the MDA. Recipients will be announced at the fall Town Hall Meeting. The tour is a tremendous event with many moving parts. The listings below are an attempt to highlight our partners and express our gratitude for continuing support of the Museum District.

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

Meredith Branch LLC  
Belmont Branch Library  
Anne Hughes DeCamps  
Ellwood Thompson's Offices  
Susan and Steve Jones  
Anna and Jeff Laughlin  
Barbara "Bosha" Nelson and Peter Nash  
Lauren Nelson and Robin Ten Kate  
Boni Newall  
Maria and John Shugars

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

Black Hand Coffee  
Bobby+April, Real Estate Brokerage  
Ellwood Thompson's Market  
J. Emerson Fine Wines and Cheese  
Jennifer Fleming, Realtor  
Fresh Market  
Tommy's Garden  
Gearharts Chocolate  
Ukrop's Catering

## 2018 Mother's Day House & Garden Tour Committee

Paige Alcorn	Zoe Anne Green
Beth Bostian	Katherine Hartwell
Melinda Clapp	Martha Harville
Larry Clapp	Karen Lebo
Sharon Considine	Elizabeth Nemacheck
Trish Geier Fields	Billy Poarch
Jennifer Fleming	MA Powers

## Ticket Outlets

Buddy's Place, 600 N Sheppard Street  
Chadwick & Son Orchids, 203 N Belmont Avenue  
Cocoanut Jewellery, 405 N Ridge Road  
Ellwood Thompson's, 4 N Thompson Street  
Mongrel, 2924 W Cary Street  
Tweed, 4035 Lauderdale Drive  
Williams & Sherrill, 2003 Huguenot Road

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Richard Barrett	Martha Harville	Wendy Shannon
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Colin Beirne	Ben Hopkins	Benjamin Skromne
Su Boer	Anna Hues	Ed Slipek
Barbara Bonn	Chris Hues	Chris Smith
Barbara Booth	Debbie Kearnes	Jenny Smith
Beth Bostian	Tom Kearnes	Pat Stewart
Wyn Brown	Karen Kelly	April Straus
Larry Clapp,	Jo Lee Kenney	Sue Swartout
Melinda Clapp	Sally Kutz	Luann Tarren
Chris Clarke	Karen Lebo	Charles Terrell
Pat Clifford	Janine Lester	Gillian Thaxter
Lance Clifton	Muriel Lewis	Lisa Thayer
Turner Cole	Bob Mark	Miriam Thorpe
Mark Considine	Janice Mark	Lillian Turner
Sharon Considine	Trudy McCarty	Bob Turton
Bobbie Crowell	Mary Meadows	Leah Turton
Zoe Darby	Larry Meyer	Louise Turton
Chris Dunn	Wilma Milam	Liz Van Lear
Linda Dunn	Tolson Musick	Jan Varnier
Scott Fields	Phyllis Musser	Theresa Varnier
Trish Fields	Elizabeth Nemacheck	Cate Venable
Jennifer Fleming	Kerri Palmer	Stephen Versen
Cindy Foster	Neil Palmer	Pat Warhurst
Gary Foster	Chase Peak	Dina Weinstein
Harriet Foster	Diana Plasberg	Mary Weiser
Justin Friedrichs	Billy Poarch	Juliet Wiebe
Chris Gardner	Jennifer Pollard	MaryEllen Wilkinson
Jim Garret	MA Powers	Suzanne Woodside
Lori Garrett	Karen Redford	Kathy Yates
Meghana Gowda	Jessie Reuben	

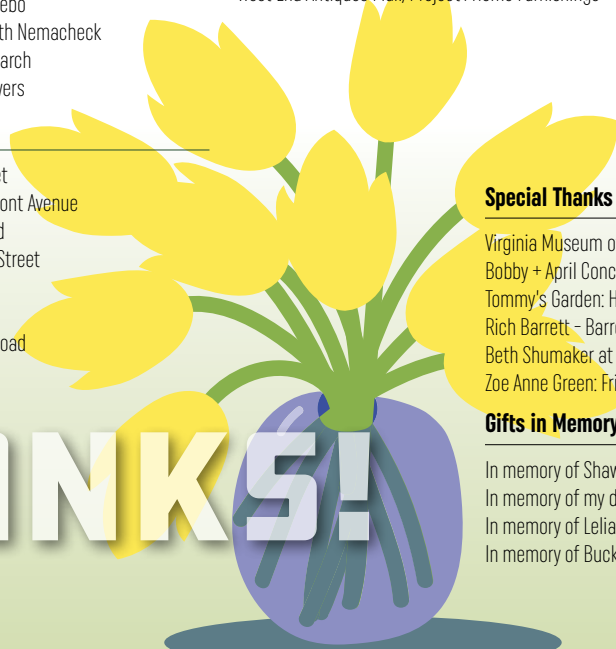
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Beth Shumaker at Taylored Printing  
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# THANKS!







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PHOTO CREDIT: GRTC

# INCREASING NEIGHBORHOOD WALKABILITY WITH GRTC PULSE


by **LIZ BRYANT**

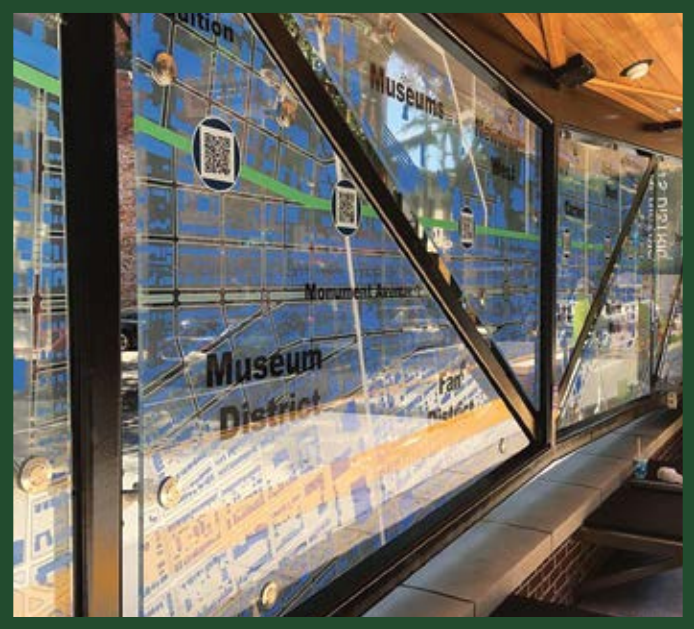
**I** enjoy living in the Museum District for many reasons, chief among them is that the location is so convenient for many of life’s essentials and incidentals. We can easily walk to many wonderful eateries and most shopping is within a short drive. And now that we have GRTC Pulse, my neighborhood walkability has expanded greatly.

We live within just a few blocks of the Scott’s Addition Pulse stop, so I can hop on and be at Willow Lawn in just a few minutes. Once there, I can walk to Target or Barnes and Noble or Kroger or Staples or DSW. You get the idea. I’m getting my errands done and I’m getting in some exercise. Hopefully I don’t spend too much at DSW, but that’s another story for another day.

The Pulse also expands our walkability to restaurants. Now any restaurant up and down and near the Broad St. corridor is fair game. No worries about parking or having that second glass of wine. We are enjoying expanding our culinary footprint.

Navigating the Pulse is easy. At each stop there is a touch screen kiosk where you purchase tickets to ride. And there are plenty of options from single trips to monthly passes. There is an overhead sign to let riders know when the next bus is expected and a huge, colorful glass map to show the full route and the neighborhoods through which the Pulse passes.

Along with the advent of the Pulse, GRTC has also redesigned its regular bus service. To learn more schedules, routes and all that is new with GRTC, visit their website at [ridgegrtc.com](http://ridgegrtc.com). 



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# FIREHOUSE THEATRE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF PERFORMANCE IN RICHMOND

by **SCOTT CANNADY**

**F**irehouse Theatre located at 1609 W. Broad St. is celebrating its 25th year of performances. Firehouse is a local non-profit theatre that offers original works, published plays, and showcases professional actors and local performers. Firehouse also has additional performance outlets including Firehouse Studio and Firehouse Fringe, to deliver cutting-edge comedy, dance, performance art, poetry, spoken word, burlesque, magic and live music.

In 1993 Fire Station House #10 was being decommissioned at the same time that five theatre artists – Bill Gordon, Anna Senechal Johnson, Harry Kollatz Jr., Carol Piersol and Janet Wilson – were looking for a space to put on a show. Each of these local artists was either a student of renowned method-acting teacher Sanford Meisner or studied under a Meisner-trained teacher. Eventually Firehouse was able to obtain ownership of the building.

Over its 25-year history, Firehouse has premiered new plays, created and encouraged new work, hosted emerging and established artists from many disciplines and has earned a reputation as a center for cutting-edge performance. Firehouse encourages patrons to obtain yearly memberships in order to help the theatre manage their budget effectively over the course of a season. Individual memberships are \$250 and entitle members to attend every show for a year. Firehouse is a very intimate theatre with 99 seats. The environment is welcoming and unpretentious, with wine and beer and other refreshments available at a reasonable cost before the show and during intermission.

Joel Bassin, the producing artistic director, began working at Firehouse in 2015. Joel is a passionate, engaging, friendly and energetic force. Joel relocated from New York to Richmond with his wife Laura. He considers himself fortunate to have been able to work and make a living in the performing arts his entire life. Before coming to RVA, Joel was chair of the Hunter College department of theatre and an independent producer of experimental performance. Joel brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, but is also open to new



*Joel Bassin at Firehouse Theatre, photo credit: gayRVA.com*

performers, new ideas and new concepts in performance. The concern for Joel and the Firehouse board, as well as almost all local theatres in Virginia, is the limited amount of local, state and national funding for theatre arts in addition to the difficulty in obtaining local business and corporate support. Firehouse operates on a shoestring budget that results in the staff and artists essentially subsidizing the theatre by taking very low salaries and fees.

Firehouse has an excellent, informative website at [www.firehousetheatre.org](http://www.firehousetheatre.org). The site provides information on upcoming performances, ticket prices and ways to contribute to the theatre. Experiencing the raw, visceral experience of live theatre in an intimate setting from well-trained, talented performers that expose their vulnerability is something every Museum District resident should take advantage of as much as possible. Without patrons willing to give a small portion of their entertainment budget to support the great local theatre here in Richmond, it would cease to exist. Over the next few issues of *The Columns*, we will be showcasing our local theatres to inform residents of this great local entertainment resource. **■**



**FIREHOUSE IS A LOCAL NON-PROFIT THEATRE THAT OFFERS ORIGINAL WORKS, PUBLISHED PLAYS, AND SHOWCASES PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND LOCAL PERFORMERS.**

# ELECTION INFORMATION



## BALLOT INFORMATION NOVEMBER 6, 2018

Go to the Department of Elections website or the Virginia Public Access Project website at [www.vpap.org](http://www.vpap.org) and enter your full address to determine who your elected representatives are and what local, state and federal districts you are in.

### RICHMOND CITY

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Ryan McAdams (Republican)

### U.S. SENATE ELECTION

Incumbent Tim Kaine (Democrat)  
Corey Stewart (Republican)  
Matt Waters (Libertarian)

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

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andreas.addison@richmondgov.com  
Kimberly Gray (2nd District) . . . . . 804-646-6532  
kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com  
Parker Agelasto(5th District) . . . . . 804-646-5724  
parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com

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

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edoerr@rvaschools.net  
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Delegate Betsy Carr (69th) . . . . . 804-698-1069  
Del. Jeffrey Bourne (71st) . . . . . 804-698-1071

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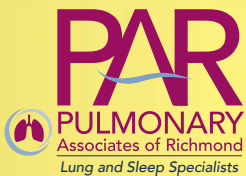
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