



The

# COLUMNS

MAY-JULY 2019

A Publication of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG



25<sup>th</sup>  Annual

# MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

HOUSE PREVIEW STARTS ON PAGE 10 ▶

COVER PHOTO: RICH BARRETT, BARRETT HOME PHOTOS

**IN THIS  
ISSUE**

**DELICIOUS DISTRICT  
REMINDER**  
PAGE 5



**STAY RVA**  
PAGE 9



**A LOOK INSIDE  
FIRE STATION #18**  
PAGE 16



# THE GALLERY MIDTOWN



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THIS AD  
TO WAIVE  
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from whom  
all blessings  
flow

Praise Him  
all creatures  
here  
below

*Doxology*

Praise  
All  
Around

Praise Him  
above  
ye  
heavenly  
host

Praise Him  
Father,  
Son  
and  
Holy Ghost

## **Doxology: Praise All Around Choir Concert** Sunday, May 19, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Doxology, an expression of praise to God, will come alive in this concert by the choirs of Richmond's First Baptist Church: the Church Choir, One Accord (the Church's audition adult chamber choir), the Youth Girls' Ensemble, FirstRingers handbell choir and instrumentalists.

This concert includes choral and instrumental works that encompass a remarkable variety of styles, including Renaissance, Romantic, 20th century, African American spirituals, hymn anthems and jazz by Mendelssohn, Palestrina, Andre Thomas, Dan Forrest and Will Todd.

This joy-filled concert is **FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.**



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

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

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

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


# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**A**s we all know, spring is the season of renewal, so what better time than now to renew your membership with the MDA! Your support enables our organization to help keep our public areas clean and functional, ensures harmonious private development and brings the neighborhood together at events throughout the year. These events include the MDA Spring Fling, our annual membership appreciation gathering, being held on May 2 this year in the beautiful home and garden of Monument Ave. residents Bill and Linda Muse. This a great way for members to meet and mingle with their neighbors and learn more about the organization. You may renew your membership online or at the door.

Spring is also a time for spring cleaning, and so the season finds many of our volunteers hard at work preparing their homes and grounds or our upcoming 2019 Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. Now in its 25th year, this event is always a lot of fun, and is far and away the most important fundraiser for the MDA. So not only does your attendance guarantee you a great day out in the neighborhood, it funds the work of the MDA all year.

Some of the special projects the MDA has taken on over the years have been to improve and maintain public green spaces in the neighborhood. These efforts have included rehabilitation of the median on Roseneath Rd. and the Floyd Ave. traffic circles. Another major undertaking was the purchase and installation of our attractive blue historic street signs and sign posts at intersections. Now, the MDA is preparing to take on another major improvement project for the neighborhood – and we need your help!

As I shared at our recent Spring Town Hall, the MDA board has committed to work with Albert Hill Middle School to add a new amenity that will benefit both the school and our neighborhood. On Patterson Ave., across from the main entrance to Albert Hill, is a large green space nearly the length of a full city block. This beautiful lawn, in the heart of the Museum District, is one of the few large green spaces in our neighborhood. Working in coordination with the school and the Albert Hill Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the MDA is planning to construct a pavilion in that space to provide an outdoor gathering and learning area for students during school hours and neighborhood residents on the weekends. The recently constructed pavilion at Mary Munford Elementary School is providing inspiration and a model for this effort.

We realize this is no small undertaking. We know this will take a tremendous amount of support from our organization, the neighborhood and other sponsors to be successful. It will require significant interaction and coordination with the schools. However, we also know it will be a worthwhile endeavor and that this neighborhood and our organization are up to the task. To demonstrate the priority our organization is giving to the project, we are creating a new board position, to be supported by a committee of volunteers and fellow board members, whose primary purpose is the construction of this facility. We are now seeking committee volunteers and leaders to guide us through the process. If you share my enthusiasm for this exciting endeavor, please contact me ([mdapresident@museumdistrict.org](mailto:mdapresident@museumdistrict.org)) to discuss your interest and ideas. 



**STEPHEN VERSEN**

2019 MDA  
 Board President

**NOW IN ITS 25TH YEAR, THE MDA MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER FOR THE MDA. YOUR ATTENDANCE GUARANTEES YOU A GREAT DAY OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND IT FUNDS THE WORK OF THE MDA ALL YEAR.**

# Wills vs. Trusts

*It's not about the Documents...It's about the Results*

**Join us for an educational seminar!**

## What We Will Discuss:

- Estate Planning options: which work and which do not.
- How second marriages and blended families change the rules in estate planning.
- How the 2017 tax law changes affect estate planning.
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- Providing for your own care and well being, and that of your loved ones, even if you become incapacitated .
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- Avoiding court appointed guardianships in the case of a disability.
- The 2009 changes to your Advanced Medical Directive.
- The 2010 changes to your Power of Attorney.

**WEINSTEIN JCC**  
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Richmond, VA 23226

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7pm**  
**Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 7pm**



Presented by  
**Jim Garrett, Esq.**  
Museum District Resident

**To register and for additional seminar dates  
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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

### Weekly Free Classes

*No fee or registration required for these classes.*

**Weekly Saturday course** (10-11 am) of **beginner level French.**  
**Camille Zendzian** is the instructor.

**Weekly Wednesday computer class** (5:30-6:30) for all levels of computer skills. **Joseph Nalluri** is the instructor.

### Storytimes

**Book Babies** (infant-17 months) – **Mondays at 10:00 AM**

**Toddler Time** (18-36 months) – **Mondays at 11:00 AM**

### Chair Yoga

**Tuesdays at 10:30 AM**

Museum neighbor **Linda Dunn** is the instructor for this FREE adult class. Due to limited space, the class operates on a first-come first-served basis.

### Lego Club

**3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM**

We provide the LEGOs – you provide the imagination! For grades K-6 with an adult.

### Fiction Focus Book Club

**3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:15 AM**

Join our adult book discussion each month. This book group begins again on March 20 of 2019 after taking a winter break.

Join the exciting discussion of the book *The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears*, facilitated by Dorothy Woodson, neighbor and friend of Belmont Library!

### GRASP

**Mondays from 6:00-7:45 PM**

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

By appointment only, an advisor will be available to assist you at Belmont Library in Richmond from 6:00-7:45 pm on Wed. evenings during the school year. (First night is Oct. 10, 2018.)

**Call (804) 527-7772 to schedule an appointment.**

### Library Yarns

**Thursdays from 10:30-Noon**

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

### Technology Q & A

**Each Wednesday from Noon-2:00 PM**

Bring your laptop, Kindle, iPad or cell phone and get individual help from staff during a 30 minute session. Call 646-1139 to reserve your space.

**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.

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**Richmond  
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EMPOWER**

EAT DRINK & BE MERRY IN THE

# DELICIOUS DISTRICT

The *Delicious District* is a restaurant crawl through the Museum District taking place now through September 1. Residents and visitors are collecting stickers to win fun rewards. Don't miss out! Visit [DELICIOUSDISTRICT.ORG](http://DELICIOUSDISTRICT.ORG) for details. Every time you dine in RVA, you support Richmond Public Schools through the meals tax.

PASSPORT



EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY IN THE DELICIOUS DISTRICT



Front row (L to R) Kim Gomez, Danny Gomez, Amy Wentz, DeJuana Ponton Artis, Ashley Hall  
Back row (L to R) Ajay Brewer, Bryce Lyle, Evan Feinman

## 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!

# STAY RVA

by SANDY TORMOEN

**T**wo years ago, a diverse group of new Richmond residents formed the coalition STAY RVA (Support Together Area Youth) to encourage residents to stay in the city, put down roots and get involved in supporting their neighborhoods' local public schools.



According to Kim Gomez, one of the founding members of the coalition, the main purpose of the group is to provide opportunities for new and longtime residents to develop relationships through community conversations called STAY CHATS. In these discussions STAY RVA hopes to promote candid dialogues about the importance of neighborhood school vitality and the role that the community can play in the success of our city schools. STAY RVA also addresses topics such as the historical inequities and resource challenges facing our schools and what it is like to have one's child attend a city school.

## STAY RVA HOPES TO PROMOTE CANDID DIALOGUES ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL VITALITY AND THE ROLE THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN PLAY IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR CITY SCHOOLS.

In addition to facilitating dialogue, STAY RVA is also action oriented and focuses on how they, as individuals and families, can work together with schools to help communicate, support and expand upon the many positive efforts that are taking place in our city's school system and for our city's youth. STAY RVA has gradually expanded its engagement in schools across the city over the last two years and hopes to reach as many as 10 schools this year to support afterschool programs, school projects and other identified needs.

To find out more and learn how you can get involved, check out [www.stayrva.org](http://www.stayrva.org), join their monthly newsletter list and follow the group on Facebook and Instagram.

It's a great time to join us for summer fun!



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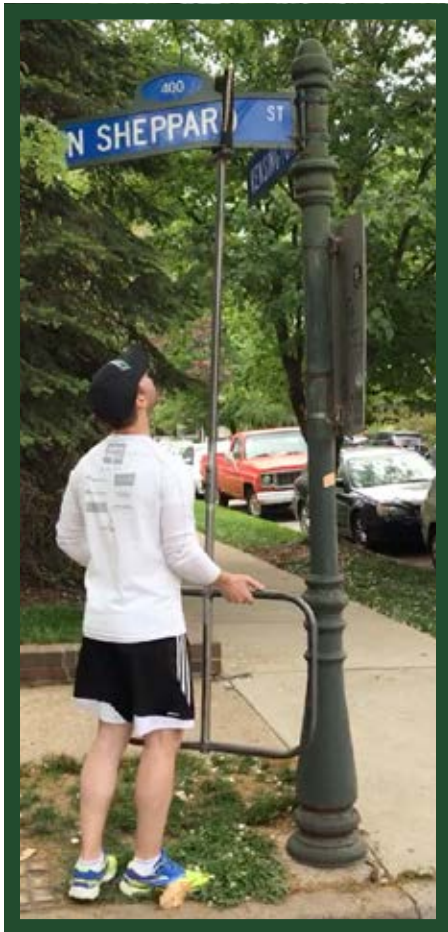
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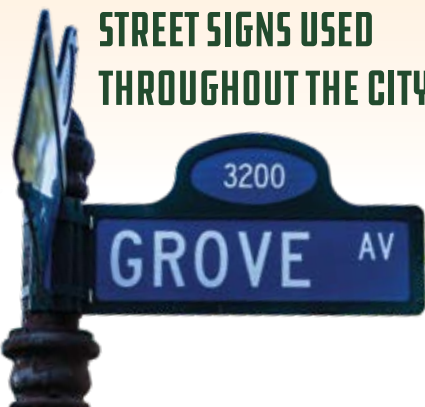
# SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

by MA POWERS



Jason Dufilho straightens a street sign in the Museum District with the tool he hand-crafted for the task.

**THE SIGNS, WHICH CONSIST OF A DECORATIVE FRAME AND COLORFUL BLUE INSERT, ARE REPLICAS OF ORIGINAL STREET SIGNS USED THROUGHOUT THE CITY.**



**R**ichmond City Council voted in February to change the name of the Boulevard to honor the late, great tennis star and humanitarian, Arthur Ashe, Jr., who was born and raised in our city. With new signs designating Arthur Ashe Boulevard going up soon, it seems fitting to recap some history of the blue street signs in the Museum District.

The concept for historic street signs in the Museum District was actually borrowed from the Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation which has supported specialized street signs in the Fan for decades. In 2004, the Museum District Association (MDA) sought to address the state of disrepair of existing signs and to define the boundaries of the neighborhood. With guidance from the Fan District Association (FDA), MDA representative Andy Scudder lead the charge to obtain approval from various local associations and the City of Richmond. The design was reviewed for technical fabrication, accuracy of information, height of letters and compliance with national highway and transportation standards. There was a bidding process and multiple permit applications were required before installation began. Andy credits his wife Amanda for getting him involved in the project and is thankful for the emotional support he received from former MDA president Jennie Smith and the board of directors throughout the arduous process.

Across the Museum District there are a total of 266 historic street signs in 130 unique locations, each verified by volunteers walking the streets with clipboards in hand, and recorded in city documents. Original implementation cost was around \$80,000. Manoli Loupassi, who at the time represented the 1st District on City Council, worked with then 2nd District councilman Bill Pantele and 5th District councilman Marty Jewel, to request and receive \$43,000 from the City's Capital Improvement Budget over a three-year period. Loupassi also petitioned the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Virginia Historical Society (now the Virginia Museum of History & Culture) to each contribute \$3,000. Remaining funds were gathered through private donations and \$11,000 was received from the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour.

The signs, which consist of a decorative frame and colorful blue insert, are replicas of original street signs used throughout the city. Historic posts were restored where possible and some new posts were installed. Signs were also attached to existing utility poles as necessary. Block numbers appear in the oval above street names, providing useful information. Signs along Monument Ave. were fabricated in brown to keep the historic avenue consistent. After four years of collecting funds and finalizing plans, the signs were installed in early 2009.

In recent years, many of the signs throughout the neighborhood have become bent, otherwise damaged, or gone missing all together. Start-up funds for the program were depleted back in 2009 and the MDA did not have a system in place for repair or replacement. In 2015, the MDA allocated \$3,000 for sign maintenance and elected a capital projects director who was tasked with developing a plan for the signs. Jason Dufilho began his role by walking the entire neighborhood, examining every sign and updating the recorded inventory. After a year-long process of identifying a fabricator, developing specifications and negotiating costs (\$150 per sign), it became clear that the MDA needed to streamline replacement costs by straightening signs where possible. Jason, a local architect and construction guru, began to brainstorm sign-straightening strategies to fix existing signs. He sought advice from the FDA and his father, Mac Dufilho, a Midlothian resident. Jason and Mac, armed with artistic talent and mechanical expertise, configured a design and hand-forged a tool. Jason then set out to develop a protocol, agreeable with the city, for the storage of the materials and the replacement of signs as needed. The FDA was once again instrumental in assisting and partnering with the MDA throughout the reboot. Both the FDA and the MDA now own their respective replacement blanks and count on the City to print the street names and install signs as needed.

The myriad of efforts that have gone into the blue street signs can easily be overlooked without knowledge of their evolution and history. The signs bring definition and character to the Museum District. It took a team to bring the signs to fruition and it takes a team to continue the tradition. Jason retired from the board in 2018, after four years of service. Be sure to let us know if you are interested in assisting with the inventory or the straightening of our distinctive street signs. [E](#)

# CRISTO REY RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL SET TO OPEN FOR 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

by LIZ BRYANT

**M**any high school students have part-time jobs. But how many have jobs as an integral part of their academic education? At the new Cristo Rey Richmond High School, opening on the former Benedictine High School campus in the Museum District in the fall, the answer is all of them.

The Cristo Rey model began 23 years ago in Chicago. The Jesuit religious order took a traditional private school model to neighborhoods where the families couldn't afford private school. They needed robust fundraising to pay for it and some of the business leaders came



**PETER MCCOURT**

up with an idea that asked the question, "What if instead of just giving you money for a student, what if we created some kind of an internship program for these students?"

Peter McCourt is president and CEO of Cristo Rey Richmond High School. He explained that the internship work study program has a dual benefit. By senior year most students have had two or more jobs. At the end of their sophomore year they'll take

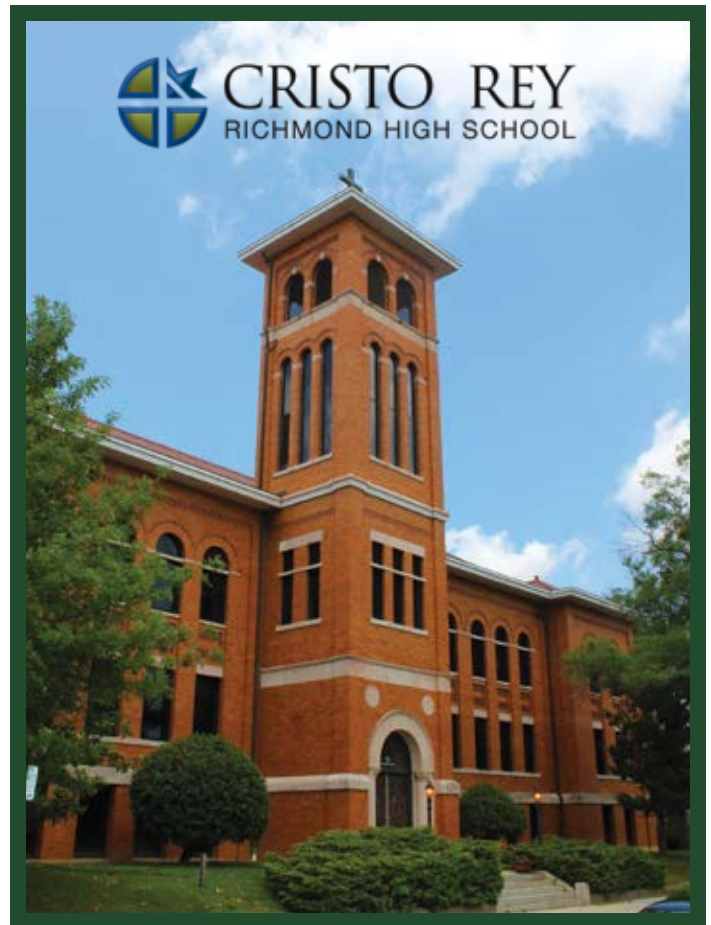
their college aptitude test and that will give them and the school an idea of what they may select for their major. "And if they're not in the job that they should be, they can be placed in a company their junior year that has that," he said. "We want them to have had at least one year's exposure to that field or discipline before applying to college."

Cristo Rey's Corporate Work Study is the only US Department of Labor approved corporate work study program for 14-year-old students as part of their academic program to enter the workforce.

There is also the monetary component. As a practical matter, students are earning 65 percent of their tuition. "The company contracts with the school a fee for service contract to pay the school directly for their employment," explained McCourt. When it comes to tuition, 65 percent is earned from the corporate work study. Up to 10 percent is to be contributed by the family and all families are from limited income backgrounds. "That's the exclusive mission of the school," McCourt said. Much like a sliding scale, the maximum any family would pay would be \$2,000 for the year. The remainder of the funds needed come from traditional fundraising.

There are 35 Cristo Rey schools nationwide. One hundred percent of the 15,500 graduates have been accepted to college. McCourt says he expects the inaugural class of 110 to be full. And this group will be in a unique position.

"You usually walk into high school and there's a legacy that you're a part of," he said. "Well these students and these first faculty members are going to create the legacy. So that's exciting and thrilling. We have to do it with consideration of the future. So the traditions that we start with, or the customs that are part of being at Cristo Rey School, will be important to do with an eye toward the legacy that we're creating for the future."




**"OUR MISSION IS TO TRANSFORM RICHMOND BY TRANSFORMING STUDENTS' LIVES."**

**— PETER MCCOURT**  
*CEO of Cristo Rey Richmond High School*

The 2019-20 school year will start with freshmen. Each year a class will be added until they reach the full complement of a full high school. Cristo Rey rents the school building from the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. They share the parking lot with St. Benedict's Church. And the location in the Museum District, well, according to McCourt, it's ideal.

"Our mission is to transform Richmond by transforming students' lives," he said. "And we're going to be a caring and compassionate place that provides a safe learning environment for students, as well as becoming a catalyst for change in their families' life and hopefully in the community as a whole. And we can't do that without a great neighborhood relationship."

For information on admissions, employment and volunteer opportunities, please visit the Cristo Rey website at [www.cristoreyrichmond.org](http://www.cristoreyrichmond.org). 





# MCGREGOR'S SERENITY SALON

by **CHRISTINA NUCKOLS**

**A**n appointment at McGregor's Serenity Salon feels more like a pop-in visit to catch up with friends, and that's the way owner H. Scott McGregor likes it.

The salon is typically decked out to celebrate the latest holiday. McGregor and stylists Debbie Criner and Mary Jo Myers keep up a steady banter on the latest restaurants and neighborhood happenings. And tiny dogs watch in amusement as their humans get shorn.

"We celebrate our 12th anniversary this June," McGregor said. "It's hard to believe. It's gone pretty quick. We're just so thankful to be here. It's a good location. The Museum District has a small town feel about it. Richmond is really little villages within a city."

McGregor was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Alexandria. He previously owned a salon in Fairfax and has worked in establishments in Northern Virginia and Richmond over a 45-year career. He made Richmond his home after his mother passed away, and he worked in other salons until the opportunity arose for him to open his shop on Sheppard St.

His earliest memory of the area stems from his childhood, when he would visit his grandmother, who lived nearby and would warn him to steer clear of the Devil's Triangle. McGregor threw himself into the new business, doing the design work on the building and overseeing its refurbishment.

"It was kind of the jewel on the block," he said.

The salon is a reflection of McGregor's personality and interests. His knack for interior design extends from a high school job helping decorate the Woodward & Lothrop department store in D.C. His canine companions – Mugs the Pug and Scamp, a Yorkie Lhasa – inspired him to make the salon "pet friendly" from its first day in business, a distinction still proudly noted on the front door.

"We have people walk by with their dogs, and we run out and give them a treat," McGregor said. "They're not even our clients."

It's no surprise that some of his clients have been with him for 18 years. He credits those friends and his co-workers with helping him cope with recent health challenges.

"It was painful to get up each morning," he said. "When I got to work, it helped me because it wasn't all about me. This job takes me to the level where I don't have to think about it."

How long does McGregor plan to keep welcoming puppies and their people?

"Until I can't because I would miss it," he said. "Getting up and going to work is a bright part of my day. I love making people feel good about themselves." **E**



**"WE CELEBRATE OUR 12TH ANNIVERSARY THIS JUNE. WE'RE JUST SO THANKFUL TO BE HERE. THE MUSEUM DISTRICT HAS A SMALL TOWN FEEL ABOUT IT. RICHMOND IS REALLY LITTLE VILLAGES WITHIN A CITY."**

**— SCOTT MCGREGOR**  
*Owner, McGregor's Serenity Salon*



(L to R) Debbie Criner, Scott McGregor, Mary Jo Myers

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN GREENEY



**THIS YEAR'S TOUR** *offers*  
**NINE DISTINCTIVE HOMES,**  
*all featuring* **THEIR OWN**  
**PERSONALIZED GRANDEUR.**





## HOUSE PREVIEW



PHOTOS: RICH BARRETT, BARRETT HOME PHOTOS

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual

# MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

by **BILLY POARCH**

*We look forward to  
SEEING YOU, SUNDAY, MAY 12,  
AS WE CELEBRATE *this*  
SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THIS  
*very special* TOUR IN RVA!*

**T**wenty-five years ago, the Annual Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour was born! It has come a LONG way from its humble beginning from clearing \$2,000 to more than 10 times that this past year.


Proceeds have gone to beautification and maintenance projects in the district, the placement of all new street signs several years ago to proudly mark our streets and also to local non-profits to help them with their work in our community.

The tour provides visitors from far and wide the opportunity to see the beauty that we all take for granted on a daily basis. It also offers an opportunity for residents to showcase the Museum District to those who live outside our treasured neighborhood.

This year's tour offers nine distinctive homes, all featuring their own personalized grandeur.

The tour is a walking one, but there will be a trolley running continuously during the day from 1 to 6 p.m., making stops near the homes on the tour and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. The museum will serve as a refreshment center, ticket sales outlet, will-call center for online ticket sales and will also offer complimentary parking and serve as a restroom facility.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 12 as we celebrate our Silver Anniversary of this very special tour in RVA! While you are on the route, look for 'Nita Parry, our honorary chair, as she and her husband Jack will be joining us from their home in Annapolis. The house tour was 'Nita's baby and we owe her a tremendous amount of thanks!

For more information on ticket locations and homes, visit [WWW.MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG](http://WWW.MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG). 





# THESE *beautiful* HOMES WILL BE FEATURED in this year's **MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR.**

## **3304 W. FRANKLIN ST.**

*Melinda and Larry Clapp*



Since they moved to the neighborhood in 2015, Larry and Melinda Clapp have been lovingly updating, restoring and renovating their W. Franklin St. home. The gorgeous kitchen had already been done, and the couple's love of art and their design and construction skills are evident everywhere -- from the stunning master bath upstairs and colorful guest and grandkids' rooms to the finished basement and beautifully lit and

landscaped yard. Of special meaning to the couple is the huge antique dinner bell on a post in the yard. For years in Chesterfield, many generations of Larry's family were summoned in for dinner by the clang of this bell. A final surprise and well-kept secret in the garage will delight all those antique car buffs out there!

## **428 ROSENEATH RD.**

*Courtney Clements*

Built in 1926, this charming corner house on Roseneath has been home to Courtney Clements for 11 years. Occupied for 60 years by the previous owners, the house passed on many original features including plaster walls, lovely sets of French doors and most of all, the potential for updating to present-day amenities and Courtney's tastes. To that end, Courtney gutted and renovated the kitchen, extended the house by six feet, converted a pantry to a half-bath and landscaped the yard. Not to be missed is the stunning sculptural quilted copper siding covering the bay window and back porch area. Viewed from the yard, its warmth, unexpected texture and design are a unique visual treat. All of Courtney's upgrades, including her gorgeous antique corner cupboard, new floors, central air and gas-log fireplace say, "Welcome to this place; I've made it my own."



## **304 N. BELMONT AVE.**

*David Hensley and Shawn Welk*



A color- and-texture-filled feast for the senses awaits all visitors to this dramatic space. David Hensley and Shawn Welk completely gutted, opened up and transformed the original structure from a traditional, formerly Catholic Diocese-owned property into a hip contemporary space. Walls of orange, blue and apple-green, combined with generous exposed brick, an occasional black wall, and cutting-edge finishes make this home

a show stopper. Living, dining and kitchen areas are open to each other for easy flow and expansive sense of space. Gorgeous concrete countertops, exposed ductwork and a vibrant glass tile backsplash are kitchen highlights. The second-floor guest room and bath are also in keeping with the owners' contemporary style. Back stairs leading down to the kitchen and yard, with pergola and hot tub, will leave you wishing to move right in!

## **3407 MONUMENT AVE.**

*Dee Ann and Jim Remo*

Built in 1940, Dee Ann and Jim Remo's stately home is a testament to their love of local artists, color and architectural detail. The home's exterior belies its spacious interior. The foyer, living, dining and kitchen/family room walls are each a different color, and a perfect marriage of elegance, fun and function. Original local art abounds on all. Don't miss the faux blocks painted on the powder room walls. Upgrades and renovations include built-in bookcases, a charming kitchen alcove and even a flat screen TV that deceptively doubles as a painting when not in use. An added surprise is the finished basement: clean, modern and ready for a gathering. Outside the spacious and beautifully landscaped yard boasts a hot tub and welcoming seating area. Its clean lines are anchored by a charming garage accented with classic French doors and a wonderful pair of old lanterns. A very elegant home!





# HOUSE PREVIEW

## 3428 GROVE AVE.

*Charlie Caldwell and Scott Finn*



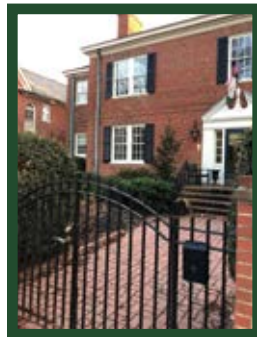
English Village, one of Richmond's first cooperatives, is an outstanding example of a planned community. The 1920s multi-family residence was designed by Richmond architect Bascom J. Rowlett. Its Tudor-inspired brick and half-timbered dwellings sit companionably together around a manicured central courtyard. Unit 3428, previously dark and dated, had remained essentially unchanged since the 1950s. The current owners acquired the

unit in 2016, affectionately dubbed it Mole End, and undertook a major renovation to modernize the interior. The light-filled design, inspired by their time in Europe, includes an inviting contemporary kitchen, a hidden half bath and remarkably clever storage.

## 3319 MONUMENT AVE.

*Bill and Linda Muse*

Built as a duplex in 1946 and converted to a single-family home in 2004, 3319 Monument Ave. is both elegant and inviting, inside and out. Formal gardens and bluestone pathways flank the dignified entryway and traditional gas lamps flicker beside the door. Inside, elegant rooms flow effortlessly from one to another around a striking two-story marble foyer. Last open to the public in 2014, a kitchen transformation and the addition of a sparkling fresh-water swimming pool, substantial stone fireplace and extensive landscaping make this show-stopping home especially worth another visit.



## 3207 KENSINGTON AVE.

*James and Julie Behne*

Set slightly above the sidewalk, the porch of 3207 Kensington Ave. offers a perfect vantage point from which to enjoy this lovely block.



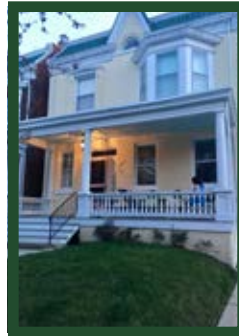
Inside, paintings by the homeowners' talented families add interest to this beautifully updated home, which was move-in ready when the current owners purchased it last year. A compact galley kitchen makes the most of every inch and connects the formal front rooms to the sunny, colorful family room at the back. From there, wide glass doors open onto a trellised patio and inviting swimming pool. All of this in an

incredible, walkable neighborhood. It's like living in a vacation destination all year!

## 3029 GROVE AVE.

*Melissa Oefelein*

This bright and sunny family home on the corner of Grove and Belmont Avenues boasts wide, spacious rooms and a number of beautifully maintained original details, including intricately




patterned inlaid hardwood flooring in the front rooms and two sets of fully functional mahogany pocket doors. The original 1919 footprint, including an original first floor powder room, remains intact. In the renovated kitchen look for the one-of-a-kind pair of custom over-island light fixtures by Richmond resident Kenneth Byrd, as well a collaborative art piece by the entire 2018 Fox Elementary School student community.

## 2901 MONUMENT AVE.

*Bellevue Homes and Pareto, LLC*

Three new town homes at 2901 Monument Ave. occupy a previously undeveloped 3,900 square foot lot on the corner of Monument and Colonial. Developers Jeremy Connell and Jon Rasich partnered with architect Joseph Yates, a long-time Monument Ave. resident, to make the most of this rare opportunity for new construction in a historic neighborhood.



All the units have three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, optional elevator, one- or two-car garage and rooftop patio with panoramic views of the surrounding neighborhoods of the Fan, Museum District and Scott's Addition. The unit facing Monument also has three levels of porches, providing several perfect places from which to watch the Monument Avenue 10k. 



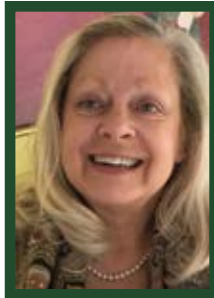
**BE SURE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TOUR TROLLEY THAT WILL RUN CONTINUOUSLY FROM 1 TO 6 P.M.**

# WHAT INFERIORITY COMPLEX?

## The MOTHER OF THE MUSEUM DISTRICT HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR *Speaks*

by **OLGA KLUG**

**E**veryone wants to feel good about their neighborhood, but that wasn't necessarily the case 25 years ago. Juanita ('Nita) Parry knew the homes of the Museum District were just as beautiful as those in the Fan and VCU area, but felt that somehow the district had an inferiority complex. 'Nita grew up in Georgia where southern home and garden tours were the norm. She attended many of them with her beloved grandmother, which instilled in her love for the preservation and restoration of historic homes. In 1994, she wanted to do something to showcase the neighborhood she loved living in. At the time, there wasn't much going on in Richmond for Mother's Day besides brunch, and after reading about a Mother's Day tour in Galveston, she decided to try to bring that same event to Richmond. Luckily, it wouldn't compete with the Fan District's established tour in December, and she was able to talk the West of the Boulevard Civic Association into providing the seed money needed to start the event.



'NITA PARRY

'Nita recalls there were six homes that first year, but May 8, 1994 started out cloudy and rainy. As the morning progressed, it rained harder and harder as she put it, "It was raining, cats, dogs and bunnies." 'Nita says her knees were sore from praying, but, "God looked down on me and the weather cleared up!" The first Mother's Day Museum District House & Garden Tour was a success.


The year before the tour began, in 1993, the Museum District was recognized as a Federal and State Historic District. 'Nita and her husband Jack were integral in this process. 'Nita recalls going to every property with a single register nomination form to make sure each home was registered, even though some left quite a bit to be desired. At the time, it was the largest district of historic homes in the state.

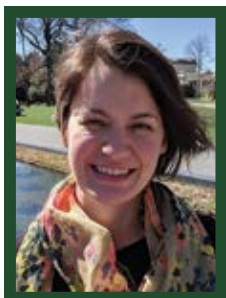
She is both surprised and gratified that the Mother's Day Museum District House & Garden tour made it all the way to its silver anniversary! Her favorite home is still Maury Place, 3101 West Franklin,

**'NITA WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO SHOWCASE THE NEIGHBORHOOD SHE LOVED LIVING IN AND AFTER READING ABOUT A MOTHER'S DAY TOUR IN GALVESTON, SHE DECIDED TO TRY TO BRING THAT SAME EVENT TO RICHMOND.**


the one she and Jack purchased back in 1978 with a leaky roof. The home was sitting empty and had been vandalized while heirs could not come to a decision about its sale. Their realtor talked them into letting the Parrys rent it and, ultimately, purchase it. When she stepped into the entryway, she says, "The elegance and splendor overshadowed the peeling paint, bare, unattached electrical wires and musty smells. We had found our home." The name of Maury Place references the Matthew Fontaine Maury statue that stands across from it on Monument Avenue, but the house actually predates the statue. In fact, Monument Avenue wasn't even paved west of the Boulevard back in 1916, when the house was built. (The Maury statue was unveiled in 1929.)

'Nita and her husband Commander Howell "Jack" Parry have since retired and live in Annapolis and are active volunteers in all things Naval Academy, they travel the country in their RV with their rescue cocker spaniels.

But, up until she left Richmond, 'Nita was constantly involved in nearly a dozen different civic roles, serving as the president of the West of the Boulevard Association, being a member of the Council of Historic Richmond Foundation or chairing the City of Richmond's Commission of Architectural Review. When asked how she feels about her legacy in the Museum District she says, "Amazement. But I knew from those early days that the Museum District had the potential to be as great as the tour in the Fan! We just needed dedicated residents to make it happen. Y'all are the living proof of that vision." 



## MCKENZIE SHILL MONARCH CREATIVE STUDIO

**F**eatured on the 2019 tour is the work of home portrait artist McKenzie Shill of Monarch Creative Studio. McKenzie combines her architectural training with a designer's eye for individual detail to create beautiful full-color portraits of historic landmarks, primary residences and vacation homes. This year's tour guests will have the opportunity to meet McKenzie and view examples of her work at the home of Larry and Melinda Clapp at 3304 W. Franklin St. Be sure to stop by! 



For more information on ticket locations and homes, visit [WWW.MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG](http://WWW.MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG).

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# A LOOK INSIDE FIRE STATION #18

by MA POWERS



**F**or more than 80 years there has been an active fire station on Thompson St. in the Museum District. The building dates back to 1938 and has continuously served as Richmond Fire Department Station 18. Many residents have been comforted by the immediate response of Engine 18, long-ago nicknamed the “Carytown Express” because of the speed at which it can travel through the neighborhood when responding to calls. Station 18 covers a unique area made up of row houses, businesses, places of worship, schools and museums that are each historically significant to the City of Richmond. Providing fire and life protection for Museum District residents, business owners and visitors is a tremendous responsibility for the crew.

There are three platoons of personnel that work rotating shifts at Station 18. Each shift consists of three firefighters and an officer so that there are typically four firefighters on board each day. Station 18 also houses a rehab unit called the “Flying Squad.” It is named for old tactical squads that responded on technical rescues and working fires. These were specialized squads comprised from the best and most aggressive firefighters. Today the rehab unit is made up of volunteer retired firefighters from Richmond and surrounding localities. Each duty day is 24 hours long and each firefighter works an average of 10 days per month, working every other day on the long stretches with a few days off in a row. While on duty, firefighters live at Station 18 and are responsible for the building in much the same way as a homeowner. In addition to station upkeep, administrative and logistical duties, cleaning, shopping and cooking, there is physical conditioning, fire and EMS training and responding to emergencies. Station 18



## ADVICE FROM STATION 18

- Slow down and pull over when you see emergency lights
- Smoke alarms, smoke alarms, smoke alarms, smoke alarms
- Stop at stop signs
- Don't leave a stove unattended when cooking
- Don't drive distracted
- Put down the cell phone while driving
- Practice safety in all you do
- Please use Station 18 as a resource, we are certainly here to help in any way we can!

boasts a four-minute response time within the district covering Malvern Gardens, Museum District, Windsor Farms and Carytown. All firefighters are certified at the level of Virginia State Firefighter II and EMT. Some personnel have additional extensive training in the areas of fire, rescue and EMS, including the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Course, Special Rescue, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operations and Advanced Life Support.

The crew at Station 18 offers multiple services to help residents maintain safety in their homes and businesses. Home safety inspections, smoke detector installations and battery checks are made upon request. They are also available to bring the engine to local events. As weather permits, the bay doors will be open and folks are invited to stop in for a visit and meet the crew! 📺

## FUN FACTS ABOUT FIREFIGHTERS IN THE MUSEUM DISTRICT



**DENNIS DAY** has been with Station 18 for 16 years. He is originally from Eureka, CA and became a firefighter after leaving the military. He volunteered at a fire station in North Carolina and felt that the work and camaraderie of the fire service would offer what he was missing from serving as a Navy SEAL. He enjoys wood working, working on cars and spending as much time as possible with his family.

**JENNY ELROD** worked for a veterinary hospital and as a dog trainer before becoming a firefighter. She has a degree in criminal justice and at one time aspired to work search and rescue with a police K9. Observing family members that were firefighters ultimately lured her into the profession. She believes the job allows her to be present and attempt to resolve moments in which other people need some level of help. Jenny has been at Station 18 for about four years, but has been a firefighter for 13 years. She is currently the only female at Station 18.

**MIKE MILLER** has the longest record of service with nearly 30 years as a firefighter. The Mechanicsville native has been with Station 18 for just under two years and has been around fire service his entire life.

**JEREMY MUSHINSKI** is originally from Santa Clarita, CA and has been a fire fighter for nine years. When he was 12-years-old he was skateboarding in his neighborhood with his younger brother who was

riding a big wheel. A driver did not see his brother and drove right on top of him, pinning him down until the fire department arrived. His brother is doing great today with just a scar on his forehead and the terrible memory of being pinned underneath the car. At age 12, Jeremy decided to become a firefighter to save lives and make a difference.

**OMAR SALIM** has been at Station 18 for 15-and-a half years and dreamed of becoming a firefighter after watching "Ghostbusters" slide down fire poles. His special role within Shift B, beyond regular duties, is to keep everyone smiling. Some days are happier than others, but a well-timed joke can put a smile on any face. He is a movie buff and has a collection of 3,000 films.

**TONY WELLS** is a Richmond native who enjoys playing vintage Fender guitars and working with a good crew. He loves the Museum District and can be spotted at Ellwood Thompson's, Burger Bach, Mellow Mushroom, or thumbing through vinyl records at Plan 9. His career as a firefighter spans 15 years with RFD.

**LIEUTENANT ROB SCHMIDT** has lead a life of service including 29 years active and reserve duty with the US Navy, Virginia National Guard and the US Coast Guard. He lives in the Museum District and has been with RFD for 20 years, the last four at Station 18. His career has provided inspirational experiences, allowed him to meet some truly great people and given him the opportunity to do things he would never have done otherwise. Serving the community and the country has truly been his life-long ambition. He views his role at Station 18 as a combination of cheerleader, scheduler and keyboard operator. He does most of the decision making, but credits the firefighters for doing the heavy lifting. 📺



Shift A: John Kuper, Rodney Spruill, Patrick Stewart



Omar Salim, Jenny Elrod, Rodney Fleming, Mike Miller



Shift C: LT Rob Schmidt, Jeremy Mushinski, Chadwick Waddy, Dennis Day (Not Pictured Tony Wells)



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# NATIVE PLANTS MAKE OUR GARDENS HAPPY



You hear about native plants all the time these days. So, I decided to head over to **Sneed's Nursery** – just across the Huguenot Bridge at 8756 W. Huguenot Rd. – to get the skinny from the experts.

Patrick Gravel, their nursery lead, explained why we should consider natives as we spruce up our Museum District gardens for spring.

Natives support our local pollinators -- those little flying friends who keep the balance of life going. Additionally, they are a good replacement for invasive exotics rampant in our neighborhood. Some of the most common invasives include:

- Nandina – berries are poisonous to some birds (*yuck*)
- Barberry – harbors ticks (*double yuck*)
- Wild Wisteria
- Ornamental Pairs



JANIE WILSON

You may think that you have control over these guys as I did with the wild wisteria growing in my back yard. Think again! Birds spread their seeds throughout the natural environment, nosing out our good friends. So, natives can help us protect the environment well beyond the bounds of our own little gardens.

## HERE ARE SOME OF PATRICK'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

### SHADE

- Virginia Sweetpire
- Smooth Hydrangea
- Wild Ginger

### GRASSES

- Creeping Sedge – shady lawn alternative
- Switch Grass – needs sun
- Pink Muhly Grass – needs sun

### SUN

- Arrow-wood Viburnum
- New England Aster
- Mountain Mint


### VINES

- Carolina Jessamine
- Trumpet Honeysuckle
- American Wisteria

It is a fallacy that natives will just grow better than other plants. You have to be site specific, and non-natives can often be a better choice.

## THERE ARE EVEN SOME NATIVES TO AVOID:

- Poison Ivy – well obviously!
- Trumpet Vine – very difficult to control
- Virginia Creeper – can become a nuisance
- Pokeweed – very “weedy” and potentially invasive

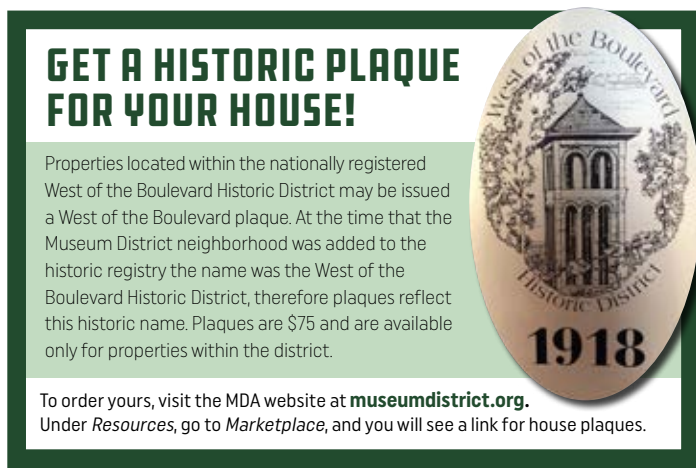
Sneed's carries many natives all year round, but mid-March to mid-June is high season. If want to learn more about these plants, Patrick recommends Doug Tallamy's site, Bringing Nature Home, at [www.bringingnaturehome.net](http://www.bringingnaturehome.net) and the Virginia Native Plant Society at [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org). Better yet, stop by Sneed's for a visit. 

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Properties located within the nationally registered West of the Boulevard Historic District may be issued a West of the Boulevard plaque. At the time that the Museum District neighborhood was added to the historic registry the name was the West of the Boulevard Historic District, therefore plaques reflect this historic name. Plaques are \$75 and are available only for properties within the district.

To order yours, visit the MDA website at [museumdistrict.org](http://museumdistrict.org). Under *Resources*, go to *Marketplace*, and you will see a link for house plaques.



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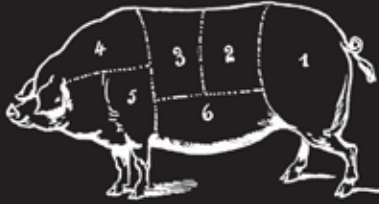


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 **LIVING WITH PETS**

*Julia (left) and Charlotte Bryant*

## IT'S KITTEN SEASON!

by **LIZ BRYANT**

**L**et's get kittens. Let's get two." Wisest words ever spoken by my husband.


We had been mourning the loss of our beloved Lila who died much too young from lymphocytic leukemia. We had always had a cat, adopted as an adult. Preston thought this time we should get newbies. And get two.

So, what did we know about kittens? As it turns out, not too much. But that's OK because we four learned together. Julia and Charlotte became our charges at the tender age of 3 months. They had the whole bathing and litterbox thing nailed, so we were off to a good start. They also somehow knew not to chew on electrical cords, so we knew they were smart, too.

As they grew, their personalities developed. Even though they are littermates, they are quite different. Julia is an extrovert and enthusiastically greets everyone who come to the house. Charlotte is an introvert and sits back looking at us as if to say, "Our guests have been here for five minutes. Isn't it time for them to leave?" Julia likes little toys and plays fetch. Charlotte likes big toys and loudly stalks them. They both love both of us, and we them, but Charlotte is more attached to me and Julia more to her dad. They are alike in that they are both early risers. They wake us for breakfast at 4:00 AM. Who is in charge at our house?

Our beautiful, sweet girls have just turned 7 and we cannot imagine our lives without them. When you add an animal to your family, you're adding unconditional love – which goes both ways – and more pure fun and joy than you could ever imagine.

We are now in what's known as kitten season, the time of year when there is an abundance of little ones awaiting homes at area shelters. We adopted in July of 2012.

"Let's get kittens. Let's get two. Let's get these two." Best decision ever. 



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Animal Control	804-646-5573
	(after hours) 804-646-5123

## RVA311

RVA311 is the City of Richmond's new centralized format for easily reporting, filing and tracking all resident service requests.

Replacing the old SeeClickFix system, RVA311 is a full-scale online and mobile app solution which allows residents to record service requests directly to various government entities including the Richmond Police Department, the departments of Public Works, Public Utilities, Social Services and Finance and the Department of Planning and Development. Requests for service cover everything from pothole reports, broken streetlights and damaged infrastructure to unlawful dumping, sanitation concerns, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and much more. The system is very user friendly, and even includes a FAQ section to help with general questions about taxes, parking and other city-related functions.

To get started, residents can go to [www.rva311.com](http://www.rva311.com) and set up an account for reporting. Once issues or complaints are filed, they can be tracked from inception, to assignment and ultimately through to conclusion.

## CITY COUNCIL

Andreas Addison (1st District)	804-646-5935
<a href="mailto:andreas.addison@richmondgov.com">andreas.addison@richmondgov.com</a>	
Kimberly Gray (2nd District)	804-646-6532
<a href="mailto:kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com">kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com</a>	
Parker Agelasto (5th District)	804-646-5724
<a href="mailto:parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com">parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com</a>	

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

## SCHOOL BOARD

Jason Kamras, School Superintendent	804-780-7710
Elizabeth Doerr, Vice Chair & Richmond 1st District	804-929-6624
<a href="mailto:edoerr@rvaschools.net">edoerr@rvaschools.net</a>	
Scott Barlow, Richmond 2nd District	804-929-6571
<a href="mailto:jbarlow3@rvaschools.net">jbarlow3@rvaschools.net</a>	
Patrick Sapini - Richmond 5th District	804-929-6930
<a href="mailto:psapini@rvaschools.net">psapini@rvaschools.net</a>	

To watch school board proceedings and meetings:

Go to: <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/richmond/Board.nsf/Public>

## VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Delegate Dawn Adams (68th)	804-698-1068
Delegate Betsy Carr (69th)	804-698-1069
Del. Jeffrey Bourne (71st)	804-698-1071

## US CONGRESS (DISTRICT 4)

A. Donald McEachin	202-225-6365
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## US SENATE

Mark Warner	202-224-2023
Tim Kaine	202-224-4024



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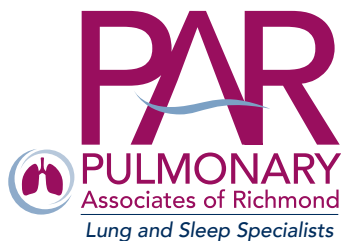
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