

IN THIS ISSUE

STARS OF THE MDA PAGE 5



COFFEE & CONVERSATION PAGE 13



CARING FOR INDOOR PLANTS

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FROM THE START

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SALVATION at Richmond's First Baptist Church

Community worship to anticipate and celebrate the most important season of the year for Christians.

Journey to the Cross Wednesday evenings, February 26 - April 1, 6:15 pm

Palm Sunday

April 5, 8:30 & 11 am
A joyous celebration marks
the beginning of Holy Week.
(webcast live at
fbcrichmond.org;
11 am service
televised live on TV8)

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 6:30 pm
A service of darkness
and reflection recalling
the final hours of
Jesus' human journey.

Easter Sunday

April 12, 8:30 & 11 am (webcast live at fbcrichmond.org; 11 am service televised live on TV8)



Richmond's First Baptist Church • Monument & Arthur Ashe Boulevard • 804-355-8637 • fbcrichmond.org

MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION Founded 1964

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



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOHKD OF DIKECIOK2
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Zoning Jack Middleton

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.

MDAzoning@museumdistrict.org

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.



of the Museum District Association. I thank my neighbors for their support, as well as our incoming MDA board. The MDA is a tremendous organization and I would be remiss if I did not thank our outgoing president Stephen Versen for his leadership over the last two years. I am excited to be the next steward of the MDA. During my tenure I hope to make some small, positive impact to our neighborhood, and, by extension, the City of Richmond. The MDA will continue to focus on our neighborhood schools, conscientious development and community engagement.



KYLE ELLIOTT 2020 MDA BOARD PRESIDENT

While I have had the opportunity to meet many of you, I hope to meet everyone who is involved in the MDA, as well as those who are invested in the betterment of our neighborhood. The Museum District is my home, in the city I love. I adopted Richmond as my home eight years ago. After graduating from the University of Virginia, I attended law school at the College of William & Mary. Upon graduation, I joined the Richmond City

Attorney's Office. For three years, I defended the City and its officers in all civil lawsuits. I have since transitioned to private practice, to the law firm of Ogletree Deakins, where I counsel and advise employers on federal and state employment laws.

I have been a resident of the Museum District for the last five years. It is without question the best place to live in the city. From our walkable streets, varied businesses, excellent I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF
THE MUSEUM DISTRICT FOR
THE LAST FIVE YEARS. IT IS MY
LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
THAT INSPIRED ME TO BECOME
MORE INVOLVED IN THE MDA.

restaurants and incredible museums, there is nowhere else I would rather live. It is my love for our neighborhood that inspired me to become more involved in the MDA.

This past year I served as the chair of the Land Use and Zoning Committee. The Museum District is a dynamic neighborhood. Our zoning allows us to review and consider development that often requires special use permits and variances. In this way, while development is in high demand — especially denser residential — our neighborhood association has the ability to weigh in and make our recommendations to the City Council on almost every new project. The MDA will continue to engage developers in a transparent process, provide feedback and advise the City on the comments and concerns of our residents.

In addition to the MDA's popular and historical events — Spring Fling, Mother's Day House & Garden Tour and National Night Out — be on the lookout for more young professional happy hours, member recruitment events and volunteer opportunities with our schools. These community socials have been a tremendous success and foster a stronger neighborhood by bringing us together more often.

I invite you to reach out to me and say hello. I want to be a resource for you and assist you in whatever capacity I can as president of the MDA. I am so inspired by all the great work of the MDA board and look forward to carrying on that tradition over the next year. I hope to meet each and every one of you soon!



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.
- Protecting your loved ones' inheritance from estate taxes, lawsuits, and failed marriages.
- Maximizing total control of your assets and your privacy.
- Providing for your own care and well being, and that of your loved ones, even if you become incapacitated.
- Avoiding Probate and unnecessary delays and costs.
- 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.

Wills vs. Trusts

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Join us for a thought-provoking discussion of the basics of estate planning and discover which plan is right for you and your loved ones

WEINSTEIN JCC

5403 Monument Avenue Richmond, VA 23226

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm



Presented by Jim Garrett, Esq. Museum District Resident

To register please visit www.carrellblanton.com/seminars or call (804)285-7900

> Carrell Blanton Ferris & Associates, PLC 7275 Glen Forest Drive, Suite 310 Richmond, VA 23226

Belmont HBRARY

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, wintellectual, 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 (please call ahead for this service) and public use PCs.

Belmont now accepts credit/debit cards and offers

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 at 10:00 AM and Wednesdays at 4:00 PM Toddler Storytime (18-36 months) – Mondays at 11:00 AM

Lego Club

3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM

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

Toddler and Preschool Free Paint

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM

Toddlers and Preschoolers can allow their imaginations to run wild while finger painting during this hour-long free paint! Because who doesn't like to get a little messy?

Library Yarns - Thursdays 10:30 AM-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 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.

Weekly Tuesday course - 1:00-2:15 PM

Beginners level French. **Camille Zendzian** is the instructor. No fee or registration required.

GRASP - College Financial Assistance

Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 PM

GRASP Financial Aid Advisors help students and families with financial aid and scholarships so students can make their higher education goals a reality. By appointment only.

Fiction Focus Senior Book Club

Third Wednesday the Month 10:15-12:15

Free for ages 55±. Must be a resident of the City of Richmond and have a Richmond Public Library card. Books provided for one-month loans.

LEGO Hearts STEM Challenge

February 4 - 4:30-5:30 PM

How many ways can you build hearts out of LEGOS? Join us for a fun Valentine's Day STEM LEGO challenge!

Love Stinks Chocolate Party (teens)

February 10 - 4:00-5:00 PM

Back by popular demand! Escape the mushiness and join us for a party where cupids & flowers are strictly prohibited. Instead, we'll be crafting, gaming, listening to heartbreaking music, and of course...eating chocolate!

Tape Resist Watercolor Painting

March 5 - 4:00-5:00 PM

Using only watercolor paints, tape and paper, give your mind a rest after school with this relaxing painting technique!

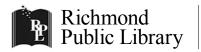
Upcycled Book Journals/Scrapbooks

April 28 - 3:00-4:30 PM

We will be giving these old books a new purpose by assembling personalized journals and scrapbooks to suit your taste!

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.

For information: RichmondPublicLibrary.org • 804-646-1139



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The COLUMNS

A Publication of
THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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1/4 Page (3.67" W x 4.9" H)	\$200
1/2 Page (7.5" W x 4.9" H)	\$335
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We offer a 10% discount for advertisers who pay for one year in advance.

Contact our Advertising Manager Steve Jones at MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org.







MUSEUM DISTRICT - RICHMOND VA



THE COLUMNS is printed paper that contains 10% post-consumer waste.

Please pass your copy on to someone else!

INSIDE THE MDA



Linda & Bill Muse

Mark Olinger

MDA HONORS NEIGHBORHOOD STARS

ach November the Museum District
Association Board of Directors recognizes
one resident and one city employee who
have demonstrated exceptional support to the
neighborhood throughout the year. This past year, however,
the board recognized four residents and a city employee for
their continuous support of the Museum District.

LINDA & BILL MUSE were recognized for years of generously sharing their beautiful Monument Avenue home with MDA members during the annual Spring Fling. They have also graciously opened their home for the Mother's Day House &

Garden Tour twice, most recently in 2019. We appreciate the trust they extend and their seemingly endless hospitality.

ERIC & KATHERINE BRAKMAN were recognized for faithfully maintaining a dog waste station on Grove Avenue for six years. They purchased and installed the station at their own expense in 2013. Since then, they have hauled thousands of pounds of dog poop. Surprisingly, the Brakmans do not even own a dog of their own. Thank you from many dog owners!

*The Grove Avenue waste station was recently retired. Persons interested in assuming ownership of the station may contact any MDA board member.

MARK OLINGER, Director of Planning & Development Review for Richmond, was honored for his service to not only the Museum District but the entire City of Richmond. Mark has been spearheading the Richmond 300 Master Plan for the past few years and has hosted numerous resident forums to receive input about the growth of Richmond over the next 20 years. He is a tireless advocate for the city and its residents. The MDA appreciates that Mark makes himself accessible and carries out his duties with optimism.



Fric Brakman



CHANGES TO THE MDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by MA POWERS

RETIRING MEMBERS

The board bids farewell to **JE55IE REUBEN** as liaison for the Museum District Woman's Club. We will miss her laughter and sense of humor at the board meetings but are happy to announce her recent membership on the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour committee. Jessie and her husband Jay participated as homeowners for the tour and have been enthusiastic supporters of the neighborhood. We are pleased to keep Jessie in the ranks of leadership for the MDA.

MRTT SUTTLE is leaving the board after tenure as communications director. Anyone who the receives the Monday e-news from the MDA is familiar with the professionalism and talent that Matt brought to the board. We are excited for Matt's recent engagement and extend best wishes as he starts a new chapter with his fiancée. Hopefully they will find their way back to the Museum District some day.

The board bids farewell to **NICK SIMDPOULDS** who served as city liaison for the past year. In addition to starting a law practice, Nick and his wife Jodi welcomed a baby girl in 2019. We wish them well as they adjust to their growing family.

RUN RUS5 has retired from the board after several years of service as the safety chair. Ron provided thorough crime statistic reports and practical safety guidance for residents. Fellow board members appreciated his positive approach to life and level-headed contributions to issues before the board. We look forward to seeing Ron enjoying his retirement, listening and dancing during jazz nights at the VMFA.

NEW MEMBERS



ALLISON SCHUTZER is now serving as city liaison for the board of directors. Allison has lived in the Museum District for the past five years with her husband Matt. She is a licensed real estate agent with the Deborah Edgar Real Estate Group as well as the brokerage's event coordinator. Allison was first drawn to MDA leadership as development increased rapidly on her block of Ellwood Ave. Richmond is growing and changing. Allison believes it is up to its current residents to mold the future into a safer, more beautiful,

well-informed and diverse community. The Museum District can carry the torch in this endeavor. Allison hopes to be the voice representing all voices within our community to the City of Richmond. In her spare time, Allison enjoys singing with the Richmond Symphony and writing creative nonfiction.



The board of directors is thrilled to officially welcome **BETH BUSTIAN** as communications chair. Beth has been contributing to the board for the past few years as a graphic design and marketing consultant. She is also a long-time member of the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour committee. Joining the board is a natural evolution due to her skills and leadership. Beth was the recipient of the 2018 MDA Star Award for her outstanding support of the community. She recently took over management of the

Monday e-news, so look for her to make her mark in your inbox. Beth and her husband Ben Hopkins share their home with sibling French Bulldogs named Hilda Mae and Gaston.



CALEY CRAWFORD has taken on the role of safety chair for the board. For the past two years she has been an active participant on the traffic committee, leading the way for calming measures in the neighborhood. Caley is originally from Athens, Georgia and bleeds red and black (Go Dawgs!). She has worked in federal agricultural government relations for over a decade. Caley is excited to be a member of the MDA board and work for the common good of the Museum District and our fair city. She resides on Grove Ave. with

her husband Andy and their three children.



Janine dutle has joined the board of directors as *The Columns* representative. Janine moved to the neighborhood in May 2019 with her husband Connor after living in Chicago for seven years, although she is not new to the area having grown up in Midlothian. With a background in nonprofit marketing and communications, Janine eagerly joined The Columns committee in September, penning her first piece in the November 2019 - January 2020 issue about a new Richmond nonprofit. Janine can often be found walking

her terrier Obie through the VMFA Sculpture Garden or visiting her sister's tattoo shop on Belmont Ave.

PAM WHISENANT is the new Museum District Woman's Club liaison to the board of directors. Pam is a Grove Ave. resident and has been an active member of the Woman's Club for several years. She brings with her community building experience and has already begun sharing ideas for collaboration.



JACK MIDDLETON is now serving as the Chair of the Land Use and Zoning Committee. After growing up in Henrico, Jack moved to the Museum District four years ago upon graduating from the University of Virginia. He currently works for a real estate development firm focusing on multifamily projects throughout the southeast and wanted to lend his knowledge of the development process to promote the growth of a healthy and livable Museum District. Outside of work Jack enjoys experiencing Richmond's

burgeoning food and beverage scene as well as Richmond's many natural amenities. E

6 FEB - APR 2020



MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR COMMITTEE DONATES \$5,000

by MA POWERS

he MDA Mother's Day House & Garden Tour celebrated its 25th consecutive annual tour in May 2019. Despite the threat of torrential rain, the tour was a resounding success with record-setting sales and donations. Each year the tour committee gives 25 percent of the proceeds to local non-profit organizations that provide services to the immediate area. Representatives from each of seven local organizations were present at the MDA Annual Meeting in November to share information about the specific services they provide to residents in need in our area. Each of the following received a check in the amount of \$500:

- Albert Hill Middle School PTA
- Belmont Library
- Humphrey Calder Recreation Center
- Health Brigade
- Prevent-A-Litter (PAL of Carytown)
- TeeJay Viking Fund (Thomas Jefferson High School)
- Tree Stewards of Richmond

An additional \$1,500 will be awarded in the spring to selected graduating seniors at Thomas Jefferson High School. ■



Representatives from local non-profit organizations attended the MDA Annual Meeting.

RESTORE, ENHANCE AND TRANSFORM:

PROVIDING SPECIALIZED TATTOO SERVICES

by JANINE DOYLE

t's likely no surprise that Richmond takes the number three spot in the country when it comes to the number of tattoo shops per capita (14.5 shops per 100,000 people). Just take a glance at any passerby and there's a good chance you'll spot a tattoo.

For many, tattoos are a form of selfexpression. They might convey a personal passion, pay homage to a loved one or simply emphasize a certain aesthetic.



Linda Dunn of MediTattoo Services

For others, tattoos can be a form of restoration. **LINDA DUNN**, a resident of the Museum District for 20 years, discovered permanent cosmetic tattooing in 2019 and began pursuing it as a way to continue her life's work.

"I've been a nurse since 1996, but recently my experience had changed," Dunn said. "I wasn't working in a hospital any longer and

was missing the patient contact, missing doing something where I knew I was making a difference in someone's life."

Paramedical tattoo services can be applied in a variety of instances, including correcting skin tone discoloration as a result of skin trauma, reducing the appearance of scars and providing realistic post-mastectomy tattoos.

"For people who have battled breast cancer, this kind of cosmetic tattooing is often the last piece of the puzzle," said Dunn. "They've gone through so much for so long; they are coming to me victorious, and they are looking to move on."

The process to become licensed for this specialized service is no small feat. Dunn has completed over 200 hours of training in order to obtain her Master Permanent Cosmetic Tattooer license, and she is now eager to start providing services to people who often feel these tattoos are the "completion of a long journey."

Dunn plans to open a clinic in January 2020. To find out more, visit www.meditattooservices.com or call Linda at 804-306-9584.





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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 though

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.



INCORPORATED

We bring new life to old homes.



The HD Bros team outside their new Museum District office.

HD BROS

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE VIDEO POWERHOUSE

by BEN HOPKINS



hat happens when four friends who grew up together graduate from VCU with degrees in Criminal Justice? You guessed it — they form a real estate photography and video production company.

HD Bros has been in business since 2012 and was founded by **CHRIS SMITH**, **DAN GLIFTON**, **NICK KIME** and **ROB MALAN**. Smith serves as Creative Director; Clifton is Product Engineer; Kime is the company's Marketing Director; and Malan is General Manager. "We started out shooting photos and videos for pretty much anybody who would hire us," says Smith. "We had made videos for school projects, of ourselves skateboarding and various other things that made us laugh, so we had some skills and decided to take on freelancing. We kinda figured we didn't want to work for anybody else."

The friends' big break came just months later thanks to Smith's and Clifton's parents, who worked for the same real estate agency. At that time, real estate videos were not as popular as they are now. "...we gave it a shot and it ended up working in our favor. The timing was right and we knew what we needed to do."

The volume of work quickly outgrew the co-founders' capacity, so they established relationships with videographers in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., northern Virginia, Richmond and Los Angeles. HD Bros currently has nine videographers in the field taking pictures and videos of homes for sale; and they're looking for more. The majority of the HD Bros team works out of their newly leased Museum District office, editing videos, creating new products and marketing the company.

Their services include video tours of homes for sale (including aerials by FAA-certified drone pilots), profile videos of real estate agents and computer-generated 3D "tours" of homes not yet built. They also license video footage of various neighborhoods (Museum District footage is coming soon, they say). The team works quickly, delivering finished videos with music and graphics in as little as 24 hours. During their busy season in the spring, HD Bros can shoot, edit and deliver up to 100 home tours. They were working on almost 50 different projects the week I interviewed them in December.

To learn more about HD Bros and see some of their work, visit www.hdbros.com.

DURING THEIR BUSY SEASON IN THE SPRING, HD BROS CAN SHOOT, EDIT AND DELIVER UP TO 100 HOME TOUR VIDEOS.



A YOUNG BLACK MAN, DRESSED IN RIPPED JEANS AND NIKES SITS ATOP A HORSE 30+ FEET IN THE AIR.

HIS CHEST RAISED AS THOUGH HE'S LEADING INTO BATTLE.

RUMORS OF WAR (2019), KEHINDE WILEY'S FIRST AND LARGEST THREE DIMENSIONAL PUBLIC ART PIECE,

NOW LIVES ON RICHMOND'S ARTHUR ASHE BOULEVARD.

GRSTING A NEW NARRATIVE

by ALLISON C. SCHUTZER



ehinde Wiley first came to Richmond in 2016 to present his exhibit *A New Republic* at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. On December 11, 2019, Wiley returned to Richmond.

One thousand men, women and children stood crowded under a gray and drizzly sky that was threatening to open up at any moment, but the air was full of excitement. Governor Ralph Northam and Mayor Lavar Stoney spoke of inclusivity and how to embrace the future. Wiley reflected on the artwork itself and the narrative he's trying to create.

Wiley said his statue was not meant to honor one individual or culture. "Yes, I hired someone and I said, 'please, hold this pose.' But, then I looked at the faces of many African American men. It's about a society that can include all of us. We should all be proud of what this America looks like."

Wiley started receiving widespread recognition after painting the presidential portrait for Barack Obama in 2018. The inspiration to create *Rumors of War* came to Wiley two years prior while driving down Monument Ave. here in Richmond. For many citizens of Richmond, these monuments represent a painful history. *Rumors of War* is modeled after J.E.B. Stuart's monument located at Stuart Circle at the intersection of Monument Ave. and Lombardy St. Erected in the early 1900s, long after the end of the Civil War, many feel this memorial is now worth discussing.

Wiley said of his work, "Simply by virtue of announcing on the same scale, in the same language, in the same bronze and stone that a young black man can be positioned in the same monumental language, it allows you to see someone who's oftentimes relegated to the peripheries elevated to the status of an icon."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

A NEW NARRATIVE

continued from previous page

"Language" and "position" are elements Wiley pays close attention to in all his work. And Rumors of War is not Wiley's first equestrian portraiture. This subgenre of portraits features a subject on horseback, usually a person of high status or nobility, to suggest a sense of chivalry. Wiley uses this appropriation to reveal what we as art viewers have traditionally seen as power and privilege in mainstream art and propaganda throughout history.

A great example of this is Wiley's Napoleon Leading the Army over the Alps (2005), which is an adaptation of Jacques-Louis David's Napoleon Crossing the Alps (1800-1). Wiley's well-executed oil on canvas painting first captures our attention in a familiar way, shedding light on what we understand and accept as authoritative: the posture, the light, the expression of the subject. He then includes fantastical elements: color, pattern and a young man wearing a bandana and Timberland boots in lieu of Napoleon Bonaparte. And when you learn Napoleon's real crossing of the Alps was by mule days after his infantrymen, one might wonder: which painting is more misplaced? Or is this simply a different time and place in need of a new nobility and elevating the status of all? Can we change something unimaginable into the imaginable while creating a more tolerant and inclusive America?

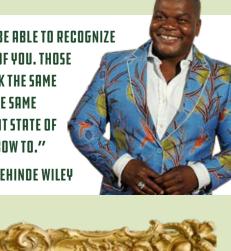
Kehinde Wiley says yes. "The dignity it takes to be able to recognize the neighbor in front of you. Those people who don't speak the same language or occupy the same cultural tendency. That state of grace is something to bow to."



The unveiling of Rumors of War at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

"THE DIGNITY IT TAKES TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEIGHBOR IN FRONT OF YOU. THOSE PEOPLE WHO DON'T SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE OR OCCUPY THE SAME **CULTURAL TENDENCY. THAT STATE OF** GRACE IS SOMETHING TO BOW TO."

- KEHINDE WILEY







Bonaparte Crossing the Alps at Grand-Saint-Bernard by Jacques-Louis David (left) and Wiley's adaptation (right)

12 FEB - APR 2020



CURATED COFFEE AND CASUAL CONVERSATION

by OLGA KLUG



hen you walk into Blanchard's Coffee Roasting Co. at 3121 W. Broad St., you almost immediately feel a sense of calm. Blanchard's opened the first of two cafés in the Richmond area on the edge of the Museum District in October. The space is comfortable, light, airy and has a sense of energy. "The design is based on simplicity and attention to detail that comfortably focuses the customer on their own coffee experience," says Stephen Robertson, Blanchard's director of sales and marketing.

As a former Museum District resident, Stephen was very excited about this location because it felt like coming home. Architectural firm Fultz & Singh Architects designed the space of this 1938 Art Deco building into something casual yet elegant while retaining some of its original elements. Even the outdoor patio is refined and comfortable.

Blanchard's launched in Richmond in 2005 as a coffee roaster dedicated to traceable, sustainable sourcing and thoughtful roasting. This coffee shop is Blanchard's first foray into the retail market. A second café is expected to open next year on Forest Hill Ave. and their warehouse is located on Westwood Ave.

Blanchard's offers a full coffee menu plus baked goods from Ellwood Thompson's, Ukrop's White House rolls and chicken salad and a simple seasonal menu of handcrafted toasts from Brenner Pass. During evening hours, the menu will transition to a selection of charcuterie and cheese boards along with a limited wine and craft beer selection. The air is filtered, the water is still or sparkling (to cleanse the palate), the music is curated by Space Bomb Studios, the flowers are from Pomona Plants and the art is by Sometimes Gallery. Blanchard's is all about supporting Richmond's local businesses.

Blanchard's wants to push the beverage conversation forward in their industry, so they will offer classes on coffee home brewing, plus wine and beer classes and tastings. The coffee, food and specialty beverage program will rotate regularly in response to the newest coffee releases.

The café is across from the eastbound Scott's Addition Pulse bus stop. Stephen feels the consistent ridership has a positive impact on their location. The popularity of the Pulse line has exceeded goals and currently has about 6,100 riders each weekday, nearly double the goal of 3,500.

For more information, go to their website (https://blanchardscoffee.com/) and follow @blancharsbroadstreet on social media for regular updates.



"THE DESIGN IS BASED ON SIMPLICITY AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL THAT COMFORTABLY FOCUSES THE CUSTOMER ON THEIR OWN COFFEE EXPERIENCE."

- STEPHEN ROBERTSON OF BLANCHARD'S COFFEE

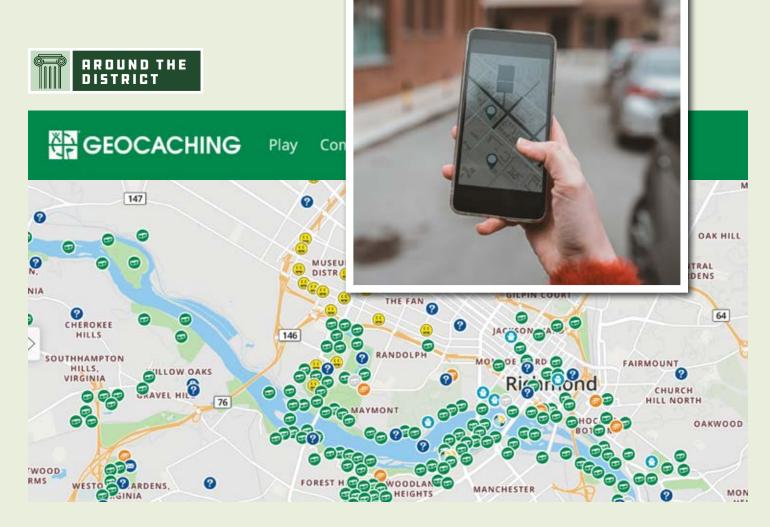


Save the Date

for the 26th Annual MDA Mother's Day House & Garden Tour

Sunday 10 May 2020 Be a part of it:

- to nominate a home (yours or someone else's) MDAhousetour@museumdistrict.org
- to sponsor/advertise in tour materialsHTsponsor@museumdistrict.org
- for general info, including 2019 tour photos......www.museumdistrict.org > events



THE UNDERGROUND WORLD OF GEOCACHING

by MA POWERS

f you are a little stir crazy and need some outdoor winter fun, consider geocaching, the world's biggest outdoor treasure hunt. Geocaching is an activity in which participants use a GPS or a smartphone to hide and seek containers at secret locations marked by coordinates.

There are millions of caches hidden around the world. In fact, there are 1,600 in the Richmond area, including three or four in the Museum District. Caches vary in size from film canisters to lunch boxes, each containing a log book and potentially prizes as well. Many are hidden in plain sight while others require a significant amount of searching off the beaten path.

TOP FIVE REASONS TO BECOME A GEOCACHER:

- **1. GEOCACHING GETS 400 OUTSIDE.** Geocaching almost always requires that you get outside. Caches have descriptions and hints so that you can decide ahead of time to take a walk through the city, go on a hike, ride a bike or drive the car for a quick grab-and-go find.
- **2. GEOCACHING TAKES YOU PLACES YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN.** The majority of caches are hidden in interesting and historical locations. Geocaching is a fabulous activity when traveling because caches are typically hidden in and around local points of interest. There may be caches hidden in Richmond locations that you have yet to discover.

- **3. GEOCACHING CONNECTS YOU TO A GLOBAL COMMUNITY.** There are more than three million active geocaches hidden worldwide. Geocaches can be found in 191 different countries on all seven continents (even Antarctica). More than 642 million "finds" have been recorded since the game started in 2000. There are meet-ups, forums, and group events.
- 4. GEOCACHING FOSTERS BONDS BETWEEN FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Geocaching is a wonderful group or family activity. Some caches require head scratching or puzzling at home before actually searching for the container. Some caches require quite a bit of sleuthing once in the proper location. Problem solving can be easier and more interesting when shared with a friend.

5. GEOCACHING 15 FUN AND REWARDING. It can be exhilarating to finally find a miniature container, disguised as a bolt, along a fence on a crowded city street. Discovering a spectacular overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway can turn a boring afternoon into a beautiful one. There are literally millions of adventures waiting to be had through geocaching. Get out there!

Visit **geocaching.com** to create a profile and start searching. You will need a trail name, a smartphone and/or a handheld GPS.





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LACK OF INVENTORY HAMPERING THE REAL ESTATE MARKET

s has been the case for a number of years, the shortage of homes for sale continues to restrict the local, regional and national real estate markets. While interest rates remain below 4% and home appreciation continues to be solid, the number of homes for sale and months supply of inventory continue to shrink. This is especially evident in the first-time buyer market. As people stay in their homes longer the move-up buyers have



STEVE JONES *Joyner Fine Properties*

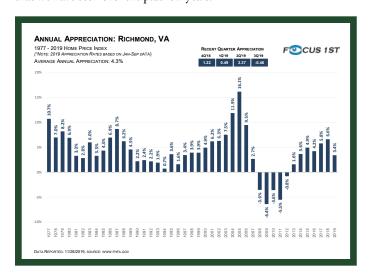
no place to go and therefore stay in their homes, which limits the first-time buyer market. The average stay in a home is now over 10 years.

Fortunately, the Museum District is pretty resilient and continues to have fairly steady year-over-year activity. There were 17 homes sold in the 4th quarter compared with 13 in the 4th quarter of 2018 with the price per square foot increasing by a whopping 19% (many factors play into this number). Condo sales are also steady with 5 being sold in the 4th quarter of both 2018 and 2019 and the price per square foot increasing about 8%.

There are only 5 condos and 3 single-family homes for sale as of this writing.

From a national perspective new home construction is at the highest level since 2007, so the industry is attempting to correct the inventory imbalance but will take some time.

The Richmond Metropolitan Area has been experiencing some volatility regarding home appreciation levels. You will note on the graph below that 3rd quarter appreciation actually turned slightly negative after a very strong 2nd quarter. Through the 3rd quarter of 2019, appreciation stands at 3.4%, so a reasonable 4th quarter will put 2019 in the +/-5% that we have seen over the past few years.



Like the many styles of homes in the Museum District, there is a plethora of diversity among its residents as well. Learn more about your neighbors in our "At a Glance: Museum District" infographic. THE MUSEUM DISTRICT AT A GLANCE **AGE STRUCTURE** 24.5% YEARS OLD HOUSEHOLD TYPES 47.5% MARRIED MAJOR OCCUPATIONS 11% 13.5% FOOD MANAGEMENT EDUCATION MORE DATA ON WWW.STATISTICALATLAS.COM



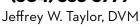
TAKE CARE OF MY TEETH, TOO!

Yes, your pets need dental care! More than 85% of adult dogs and cats have periodontal disease. This painful infection can lead to bad breath and tooth loss. Even worse for your pets. bacteria from the mouth can spread infection to other parts of the body. You can help prevent teeth and gum disease with an easy routine of home and professional dental care. Care starts with the veterinarian-a complete dental exam and professional cleaning. Next use at home dental care products. It's simple! Give your pet the great tasting C.E.T. Chews or Hills T/D as a daily treat! Your pet will love the Chews and you are taking a step toward good oral hygiene. Contact us and start your pet on good dental care.

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PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR THE RICHMOND SPCA'S 18TH ANNUAL DOG JOG AND 5K RUN

by TABITHA TRELOAR



he Richmond SPCA's 18th Annual Dog Jog and 5K Run, presented by Holiday Barn Pet Resorts, will be held Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the non-profit organization's humane center at 2519 Hermitage Rd. The event, which

raises more than \$166,000 in lifesaving support, brings together about 3,000 people and 600 dogs.

Museum District resident Laura Windsor is the chair of the Dog Jog and 5K Run planning committee for 2020. Windsor has taken part in the Dog Jog for many years, and for the past couple of years, formed a team of "dog-joggers" with her co-workers at Williams Mullen law firm and their four-legged companions.



"Now I get a group of friends and co-workers together every year and make it a big group outing with their dogs," Windsor said. "Last year, we had about 20 human and 12 dogs participating in the event. It is such a fun day for everyone!"

Neighbors can find and support Windsor's fundraising page in the participant search at www.richmondspca.org/dogjog, or register to participate and make fundraising pages of their own.

The day's activities begin with a competitive, chip-timed 5K run/walk for humans only followed by a dog and stroller-friendly, leisurely, one-mile Dog Jog. Throughout the morning, supporters will enjoy the pet-friendly vendors, featuring a Kids Fun Zone packed full of fun crafts, giant inflatables, face painting and more, as well as dozens of vendors offering giveaways.

Funds raised through the Dog Jog and 5K Run support the care of thousands of homeless animals and the lifesaving programs and services the Richmond SPCA provides the community. In its most recent fiscal year, the Richmond SPCA cared for 4,091 dogs and cats, transferring thousands of animals in need from public shelters across Virginia to its humane center. The organization also operates the Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital, the first of its kind in the Commonwealth to provide low-cost, full-service veterinary care for the pets of low-income guardians, pets in government shelters and those adopted from the Richmond SPCA.

For more information about the Richmond SPCA and the Dog Jog and 5K Run, visit richmondspca.org.

18 FEB - APR 2020



REDEEMING MY 'D' IN INDOOR PLANTS

by JANE HOLLIDAY WILSON

n my senior year at Virginia Tech, I took a "crip course" on indoor plants. It was the only "D" of my college career. I needed an easy class to balance out my interior design presentation class, which was rumored to require all-nighters

to survive. *Indoor Plants* seemed perfect. After all, I had raised an avocado from seed and was harboring an entire family of spider plants in my apartment. No one told me, though, about the mandatory memorization of Latin names required to pass. Nor did I consider the challenge of staying awake at 8 o'clock on cold Thursday mornings (after my weekly all-nighter) scribbling said Latin names as they flashed by on the slide projector.



JANIE WILSON

I still can't tell you the Latin name of a single plant, but I have learned a thing or two about raising indoor plants since then. Partly because I believe it's good to have plants among us. Experts say indoor plants can boost mood, concentration and creativity, reduce stress, clean the air and even prevent sore throats. Here's a fun article about all this from The Sill: https://bit.ly/35sgB6b.

But my most effective teachers have been the green family members I've acquired over the years, including the orchid my husband gave me when we first got married (recently restored by Chadwick & Son Orchids [www.chadwickorchids.com] here in the neighborhood), his grandmother's massive angel wing begonia and this strange thing my father nursed for years until he nearly drowned it.

SO WHAT HAS ALL THIS INDOOR PLANTING TAUGHT ME?

- **SUNLIGHT IS KEY.** Most "green people" enjoy an east or west facing window.
- PLANTS WILL ADHERE TO A GROUP WATERING AGENDA. Mine have politely agreed to an every-other-week (or so) schedule, a little more in winter.
- THEY REALLY MUST HAVE DRAINAGE. Forget those pots without saucers. It's impossible to tell what's happening in there.
- EVERY NOW AND THEN GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT. My favorite is Jobe's Organic All-Purpose Granular (https://bit.ly/35HuY6A). It's very smelly so don't apply it before hosting the Mother's Day Tour.
- STUDIES SHOW THEY *Love* a good conversation.

So, don't worry too much about what your plant is called. Latin isn't all it's cracked up to be. Do feed your sweet things and give them the love they deserve for improving our inner world. And please do say, "How do you do, dear philodendron," now and again.



My husband's grandmother's beloved Begonia









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THE PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

Adapted by BEN HOPKINS

The Proust Questionnaire is a series of questions about personality that became popular in the late nineteenth century. While French author Marcel Proust did not write the questions, his answers (and the questions) were published in 1890. Modified versions of the questionnaire have been used over the years by James Lipton as part of his show "Inside the Actor's Studio" and Vanity Fair magazine, which features the answers of celebrities in the back pages of each issue.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

Surrounded by friends and family on a Sunday afternoon with something delicious cooking in the oven and a single malt Scotch in my hand.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

Spider attack. I don't mess with them and they don't mess with me.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Tiger Woods. Tiger isn't without his controversies but his path to redemption is part of the American story. I love golf and Tiger inspired me to take up the sport. But beyond that, he broke barriers and introduced a new generation to a segment of American culture that wasn't always so welcoming. He is an incredible athlete and proud winner and I'd love to hear his thoughts on everything.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

I love to indulge in golf. New equipment, playing beautiful courses around the world, and lots and lots of golf balls...unfortunately.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

Not continuing to play the violin. I grew up playing most of my life. I love music, but the violin wasn't the coolest instrument you could play in high school, so I stopped. I wish as an adult I still knew how to play as well as I once did.

WHAT OR WHO IS THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

I love my family. They are my rock and support system.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

To have the vision and creativity of an incredible artist. I am a cinephile and film would be my medium of choice.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

I am excited! The President of the MDA has the honor of representing our neighborhood and imparting some small impact on the City. The City and Commonwealth are undergoing dynamic change. I am excited at the incredible opportunities this presents us to help shape the



KYLE ELLIOTT

MDA President

place we call home and make it reach its full potential.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

Passing the Virginia Bar Exam. It represents a lifetime of work, intense studying, and dedication. Being a lawyer has opened so many opportunities for me and I could not be more proud of that achievement.

IF YOU WERE TO DIE AND COME BACK AS A PERSON OR A THING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would love to come back as an astronaut in the Apollo program. I am fascinated by the

cosmos. To explore space and be the first to travel off our planet and walk on the surface of another celestial body is one of the most audacious things you could do.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

A picture of me and my Fox Terrier, Pepper, planting a pear tree together at my childhood home.

WHAT DO YOU REGARD AS THE LOWEST DEPTH OF MISERY?

Seeing injustice in the world but lacking a voice or the ability to do anything about it.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

People who aren't genuine. Be authentic and tell me how it is and I will do the same for you.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE?

Doing something great.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

I hate losing more than I love winning.

WHAT'S THE MOST RICHMOND THING YOU CAN DO?

Tubing down the James River, while listening to No BS! Brass Band while drinking a Hardywood IPA and growing a beard.



CITY

Mayor Levar Stoney	804-646-7970
Chief Administrative Officer (Vacant)	804-646-7978
Citizens Assistance	804-646-7000 or 311
Public Works (Leaf and trash collection, sidewalks and tree maintenance, e	etc.)804-646-0999
Building Permits, Inspections	804-646-6955
Environmental/Housing Code	804-646-7448

POLICE & FIRE

Emergency	
Fire Non-emergency	
Police Non-emergency	804-646-5100
Crime Stoppers	804-780-1000
3rd Precinct	
Animal Control	804-646-5573
(a	fter hours) 804-646-5123

RVA311

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

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

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

CITY COUNCIL

Andreas Addison (1st District)	804-646-5935
andreas.addison@richmondgov.com	
Kimberly Gray (2nd District)	
kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com	
Stephanie Lynch (5th District)	804-646-6050
stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com	

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

SCHOOL BOARD

Jason Kamras, School Superintendent	.804-780-7710
Elizabeth Doerr, Richmond 1st District	
edoerr@rvaschools.net	
Scott Barlow, Richmond 2nd District	804-929-6571
jbarlow3@rvaschools.net	
Patrick Sapini - Richmond 5th District	804-929-6930
psapini@rvaschools.net	

To watch school board proceedings and meetings:

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

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

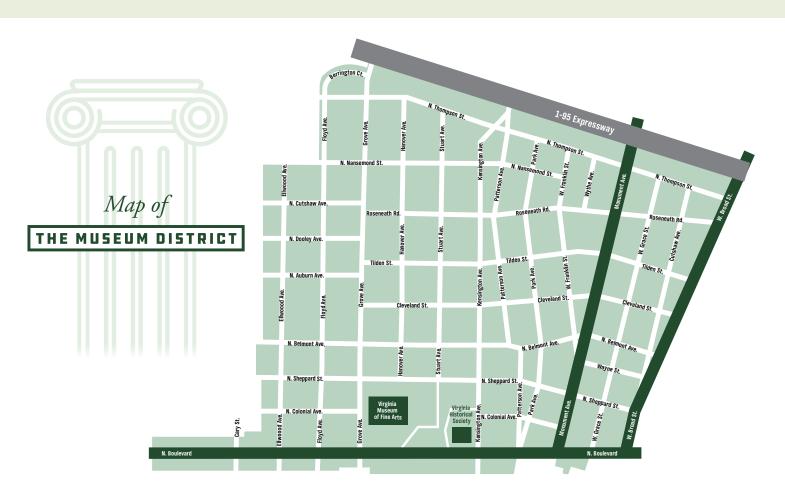
Delegate Dawn Adams (68th)	804-698-1068
Delegate Betsy Carr (69th)	804-698-1069
Del. Jeffrey Bourne (71st)	.804-698-1071

US CONGRESS (DISTRICT 4)

A. Donald McEachin. 202-225-6365

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Tim Kaine	202-224-4024



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