



The
COLUMNS

MAY - JULY 2021

A PUBLICATION of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

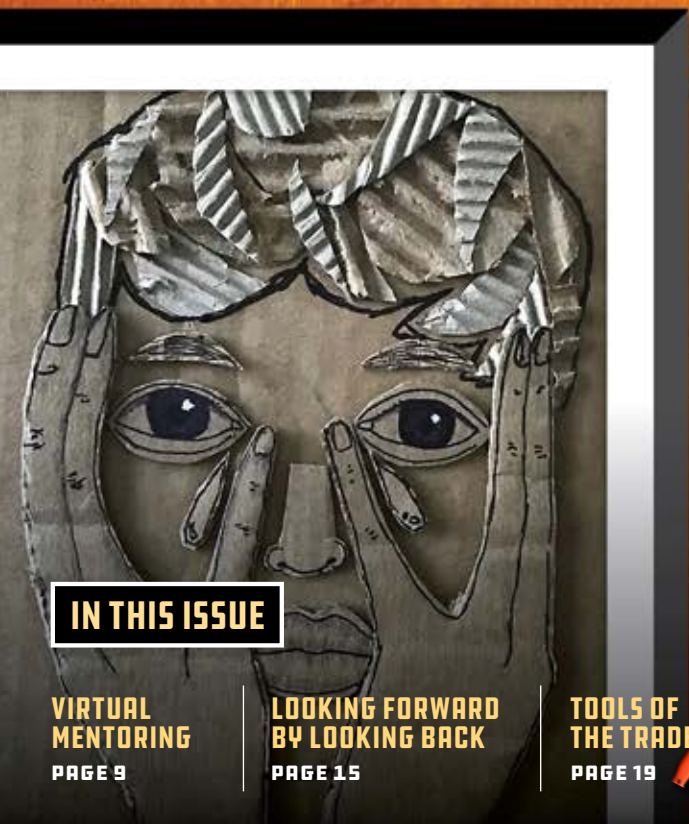
MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG



*ART in the
time of COVID*

AT ALBERT HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

PAGE 12 ▶

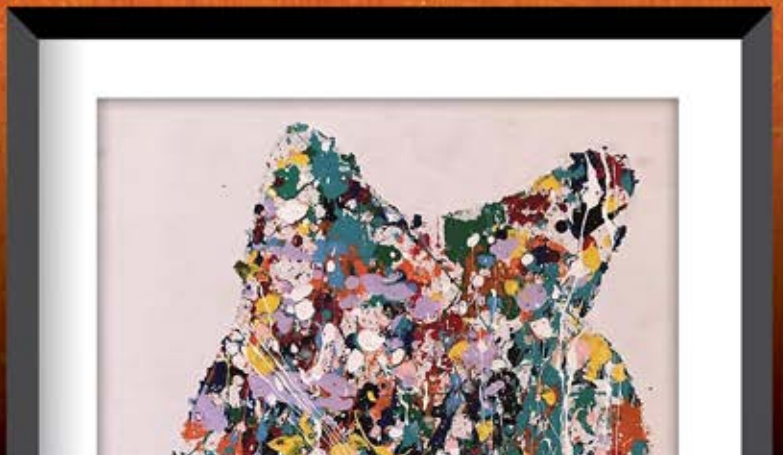


IN THIS ISSUE

VIRTUAL MENTORING
PAGE 9

LOOKING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK
PAGE 15

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
PAGE 19





Food. Wine. Fun.

Need anything else? At Publix Aprons® Cooking School, you'll enjoy a completely unique dining experience. Explore our wide variety of classes.

Wine & Dine Demos: Take a night off and let our chefs do the cooking!

Hands-On: Master new skills as you work alongside our chefs.

Kids & Teens: We'll entertain and engage your future chefs.

Chef's Table: Part demo, part hands-on, this class is highly interactive.

To learn more about our social distancing policies, visit publix.com/cookingschool.

Publix Aprons Cooking School
at Nuckols Place
5400 Wyndham Forest Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23059
804.527.1498



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

- President** CALEY CRAWFORD
 MDAPresident@museumdistrict.org
- Past-President** KYLE ELLIOTT
- Treasurer** KAREN REDFORD
 MDAtreasurer@museumdistrict.org
- Secretary** CYNDI SCHULTE
 MDAsecretary@museumdistrict.org
- Business Liaison** JENNIFER FLEMING
 MDAbusiness@museumdistrict.org
- Capital Projects** STEPHEN VERSEN
 MDAcapitalprojects@museumdistrict.org
- City Liaison** ALLISON SCHUTZER
 cityliaison@museumdistrict.org
- The Columns** JANINE DOYLE
 MDAnewsletter@museumdistrict.org
- Communications** BETH BOSTIAN
 MDAcommunications@museumdistrict.org
- Environment** EMILY SANFRATELLA
 MDAenvironment@museumdistrict.org
- House Tour** PAIGE ALCORN
 MDAhousetour@museumdistrict.org
- Membership** ROBIN GORDON
 MDAmembership@museumdistrict.org
- Museum District
 Woman's Club Liaison** OPEN
 MDAwcliaison@museumdistrict.org
- Programs** OPEN
 MDAprograms@museumdistrict.org
- Safety** ZACK RATHNER
 MDAafety@museumdistrict.org
- School Liaison** SUE PATOW
 MDAschools@museumdistrict.org
- Technology** OPEN
 MDAtechnology@museumdistrict.org
- Zoning** KAREN HEADLEY
 MDAzoning@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.



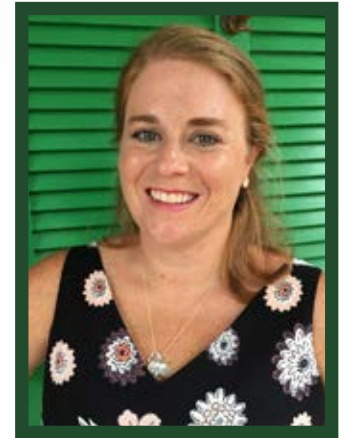
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



HAPPY SPRING, MUSEUM DISTRICT NEIGHBORS!

This past winter felt long, cold, and dark to me, and I'm thankful for the shining sun and blossoming flowers.

In the last issue, I wrote about my hopes for this coming year, and the advent of spring renews those hopes. In simple terms, I'm hopeful that the tulip bulbs I planted in the fall will have survived the winter and our urban squirrel population looking for food. I'm hopeful that the Lenten roses I planted in late fall survived the installation of our holiday lights and yard ornaments. On a global scale, I continue to be hopeful that we will soon see an end to the pandemic, now that we have recently seen the one-year anniversary of the state-wide shutdowns.



CALEY CRAWFORD
 2021 MDA PRESIDENT

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum District Association and the House Tour Committee made the difficult decision last year to cancel the 2021 Mother's Day House and Garden Tour. This edition of *The Columns* is historically dedicated to this event. The MDA House Tour Committee that plans and organizes the annual event is currently planning for a May 2022 tour, in watchful expectation. We plan to make a final decision about the 2022 tour later this summer, taking into account many variables, including the state guidelines and spread of the coronavirus.

Last spring, my family joined the masses buying bicycles as a COVID-safe activity to escape our house in the height of the pandemic. We all are excited to get our bikes back out and roam our city this spring and coming summer. With that excitement also comes a bit of trepidation as a mother watching her little chicks ride their bikes in the road alongside cars. My family will not be the only ones hitting the pavement with the warmer weather and longer days; our Museum District streets will come to life with more pedestrians and cyclists. This mother hen asks you to please watch your speed and put your phone away (in accordance with city and state law) if you're driving in the neighborhood and other streets in the city of Richmond.

Please feel free to contact me if you need assistance from the MDA or if there are areas of the neighborhood that need our attention. We greatly appreciate neighborhood input and welcome you to join the Museum District Association as a member, if you have not already. Your participation and partnership in the Museum District Association is valuable and greatly appreciated.

To join the Museum District Association, visit www.museumdistrict.org/join.

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE



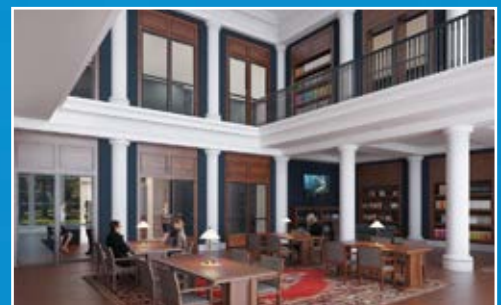
Reimagining YOUR State History Museum

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY ON A \$30 MILLION TRANSFORMATION

- New Exhibition Spaces
- New State-of-the-Art Orientation Theater
- Renovated Research Library
- New Education & Meeting Rooms
- Reimagined Museum Shop
- New Café
- New Outdoor Spaces

► HISTORY MATTERS ... NOW MORE THAN EVER!

JOIN US AS WE BECOME THE MUSEUM VIRGINIA NEEDS AND ALL VIRGINIANS DESERVE.
Learn more, see sponsorship and naming opportunities, and make a donation
at VirginiaHistory.org/OurFuture



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



YOU CAN JOIN ONLINE!

Visit **MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG** for more information.

The **COLUMNS**

A Publication of
THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

- JANINE DOYLE Content Editor
- BEN HOPKINS Content Editor & Sales/Writer
- ANDREW CRAWFORD Sales
- SCOTT FIELDS Graphic Designer
- JUSTIN CHESNEY Photographer
- GAIL AUSTIN Distribution Coordinator
- STEVE JONES Writer
- LIZ BRYANT Writer
- CHRISTINA NUCKOLS Writer
- MA POWERS Writer
- ALLISON SCHUTZER Writer
- LOUISE TURTON Writer
- JANIE WILSON Writer

QUARTERLY ADVERTISING RATES

- 1/8 Page (3.67" W x 2.4"H) \$125
- 1/4 Page (3.67" W x 4.9" H) \$200
- 1/2 Page (7.5" W x 4.9" H) \$335
- Full Page \$575
- 2-Page Spread \$1095

We offer a 10% discount for advertisers who pay for one year in advance.

Contact our Advertising Manager at MDAnewsletterads@museumdistrict.org.



MUSEUM DISTRICT - RICHMOND VA



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



Please pass your copy on to someone else!



INSIDE THE MDA

NEW FACES ON THE MDA BOARD



ROBIN GORDON
MEMBERSHIP

Robin Gordon, our new Membership Chair, has lived on the 3000 block of Floyd since November 2019. She moved from Northern Virginia in July 2019 and is loving the outdoor, music and food scene in Richmond. As an avid hiker, Robin is currently attempting to hike every trail in Shenandoah with plans to hike the Grand Canyon and Grand Tetons in 2021. She is a CPA with her own financial planning and tax practice, which gives her a lot of freedom to do the things she enjoys. And one of them is getting to know her neighbors in the Museum District. Robin hopes to plan some social events for MDA members as soon as COVID-19 becomes more manageable.



CYNDI SCHULTE
SECRETARY

Cyndi Schulte, our new Secretary, moved to Richmond in August of 2020 and happily chose the Museum District as her and her husband Greg's new home. Cyndi loves the walkability and all the local shops and restaurants in the neighborhood and is excited and eager to engage more with her new neighbors and to participate in bringing a sense of community back to all of our residents. Prior to moving to Richmond, Cyndi has worked as a teacher, a CPA and a photographer for several years. Cyndi is originally from the Pacific Northwest but has lived in California for the past several years. She has family in Richmond—a sister in Henrico and parents in Midlothian. She is grateful to be able to move to Richmond, her "forever home," and looks forward to many years of volunteering with the MDA board.



EMILY SANFRATELLA
ENVIRONMENT

Originally from Florida, Emily and her husband AJ moved to the Museum District in 2015. Emily is a partner at Waukeshaw Development, where she focuses on hospitality and real estate development projects. You can frequently find her walking around the grounds of the VMFA, chasing her kids all over the Devil's Triangle, and running to 7-11 in the early morning hours for milk and the paper. As the new Environment chair, she's excited to work on beautifying the neighborhood's streets and public spaces. **C**

THE RICHMOND TOUR GUYS

RICHMOND'S STORYTELLERS

**NEW Signature Premiere Tours
from Richmond's Leading
Walking Tour Company**

Church Hill | Shockoe | Capitol

BOOK NOW

richmondtourguys.com

COVID-safe protocols including
Personal Tour Receivers—hear your guide
while socially distanced

Get Discounts and Special Tours
through our Local Members Program

Delivering Richmond Stories Since 2014

THANK YOU

BLACK HAND COFFEE

Thanks to Black Hand Coffee for providing
(really good) coffee to The Columns
delivery team this quarter!

BLACK HAND IS LOCATED AT
3101 PATTERSON AVENUE

BURRITOS PICKED FRESH FROM THE VINE.

That's not a thing. But getting
fresh, frozen burritos and bowls
delivered to your door is a thing.

eatsouscasa.com



THANKS

THANKS TO DEPARTING MDA BOARD MEMBERS

Special thanks to **PAM WHISENANT**, who served as Museum District Woman's Club Liaison. She joyfully juggled positions on both boards for the past year. Pam constantly sought out creative ways for the groups to support one another and was always willing to lend a hand where needed. We're grateful for her innovative spirit and look forward to seeing her at upcoming events.

When **KEVIN BOJARSKI** joined the board several years ago, he ushered in a new wave of technology for the MDA. He joined the board just as a new website was launching and social media was exploding, and his expertise and foresight have been invaluable. Kevin routinely anticipated needs and prepared for the ever-changing landscape of communication and engagement. His presence and willingness to assist others was always a comfort to less tech-savvy board members. Even with an extremely busy life, Kevin fulfilled his responsibilities, volunteered to help others and assisted with events. Thank you, Kevin, for years of service to the neighborhood!

EMILEE HASBROUCK joined the board in 2019 as the Code Enforcement chair. With her keen legal mind and dedication to her community, Emilee served as a liaison between the residents of the Museum District and the City to ensure adherence to a variety of ordinances related to trash, noise, and neighborhood upkeep. Emily has been instrumental in informing residents about the City's 311 network for reporting code concerns. Her hard work has kept our community safe, healthy and a wonderful place to live. Her infectious personality will be missed, and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. She will remain a tremendous asset to our neighborhood and Richmond.

In January 2015, **MA POWERS** began one of the most consequential and impactful terms ever on the MDA Board of Directors. She served as President for two years, as well as Chair of the House Tour committee and as a key member of *The Columns* magazine committee. MA was the driving force behind the creation of the color version of the magazine and the Delicious District restaurant promotion. She is also responsible for improving the MDA's communication with our residents, including the *This Week in the Museum District* weekly email, as well as our organization's support of our local schools, including the MDA's Thomas Jefferson High School Post-Secondary Scholarship. Throughout her tenure, she brought dozens of volunteers into the organization to serve on committees and the board. After stepping down at the end of 2020, MA was awarded the MDA's highest honor, the Star Award, for her incredible service and contribution to the neighborhood. Thank you MA Powers!

After first opening her home for the MDA's Mother's Day House and Garden Tour, **LAUREN NELSON** joined the MDA Board in 2018 as Membership Chair. Lauren made several innovations in how our organization engages current and prospective members. She helped bring our membership rolls into the 21st Century by improving our online membership registration process and allowing for easy annual renewals. She also improved the MDA's (pre-COVID) outreach to the many young professionals living in our neighborhood through more casual neighborhood happy hours and social events. We wish Lauren well as her work takes her back to her native Oregon and thank her for service to the MDA. **E**

GET A HISTORIC PLAQUE FOR YOUR HOUSE!

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. Under *Resources*, go to *Marketplace*, and you will see a link for house plaques.

Chiocca's



NOW SERVING TAKEAWAY SANDWICHES & PITCHERS

**OPEN DAILY NOON TO 8PM • 425 N BELMONT AVENUE
CALL 804.355.3228 TO ORDER • MENU ON FACEBOOK @CHIOCCASRVA**

Over 600 pillows
and more



JANET BROWN
interiors

1124 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard | 804-358-9548 | janetbrowndesign.com  



• ALL • SAINTS

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship Jesus Christ and engage with the truth as it
is revealed in the Bible

For worship times and to reserve a seat in our socially
distanced seating, please visit allsaintspres.org

PAID ADVERTISEMENT | THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY POLITICAL CANDIDATE

DEMOCRAT FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**KYLE
ELLIOTT**

FORWARD THINKING • ENGAGED LEADERSHIP



We Can Do More

Kyle is running for the House of Delegates to bring progressive leadership back to the 68th District. As the former President of the Museum District Association, and current board member, Kyle understands the importance of community engagement. As a Delegate, he will fight for more school funding, criminal justice reform, and better support for small businesses and working families.

Vote By June 8th

Early Voting Starts April 23rd

www.Kyle4VA.com

Paid for by Friends of Kyle Elliott





IT TAKES A VILLAGE

by **ALLISON C. SCHUTZER**

This year, the Museum District Association was proud to launch the Virtual Mentor Program at Albert Hill Middle School (AHMS).

The first of its kind, this program has become the pilot program for virtual mentorship across Richmond Public Schools (RPS)—a testament to the impact of strong community leadership. It's no secret that one of the keys to success in raising our children is presence. In a time when being physically present is harder than ever, several of our fellow community members stepped up to the plate.

Currently, the school day at AHMS runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with each virtual class period lasting roughly one hour. Our program pairs each volunteer with a teacher based on the individual's subject strengths and schedule. Mentors communicate directly with their teachers and login to the virtual classroom to work with small groups of students as they complete their daily class assignments. The teachers at Albert Hill had one request: that each mentor remain in the same classroom each week in order to develop a rapport with their group of students. It quickly became clear why.

"The screen full of black boxes," recounts Ana Peret-Gentil, an MDA Mentor. "We would all agree that's the hardest part." And she is 100% correct. RPS students are not required to have their computer or tablet screens turned on while in class,

making it all the more difficult for volunteers and teachers alike to connect.

The rule isn't coming from a negative place. Welcoming your classmates, teachers or even a stranger into your home life would be a big change for these students—one we genuinely can't ask them to do. But it does serve as a reminder of the degree to which school can be an escape for many students. It was at this moment that the MDA tutoring program shifted into a true mentoring program.

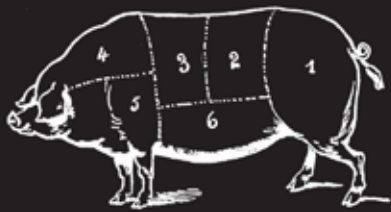
The main goal is to connect with students on a personal level. It's our duty to find ways to ask how they are doing, reminisce on more positive times and imagine a more positive future. We share personal and relatable stories with our students, encouraging them to hold on and reminding them they're not alone. It's equally important to remind our teachers that as their neighbors, we're part of their support system as well.

"I don't know what half of my students even look like," says Claire Weir, an eighth grade English teacher at Albert Hill. "It makes things very difficult, just calling attendance at the beginning of class in hopes that there is a student on the other end ready to answer and ready to learn."

In addition to the Mentor Program, the MDA has also organized a handwritten postcard campaign designed to thank and encourage our teachers to hold on and push forward. Words of encouragement matter. While we all face our own daily obstacles in the midst of this global pandemic, we must never forget to lean on one another for support and encouragement. We're all in this together, and only together will we see it through. **E**

THINK SPRING

Mother's Day . Memorial Day . Everyday



“Our meat comes from farmers,
not factories.”

BELMONT
BUTCHERY

15 N. BELMONT AVENUE • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23221
BELMONTBUTCHERY.COM • 804.422.8519

AT-HOME ART PACKS



MAKE ART ON YOUR OWN TIME!

These **fun boxes** are packed with the supplies and instructions you need to complete three unique visual art projects, designed by professional art teachers. Each pack also includes access to **video tutorials** for two of the three projects, led by the teachers who designed them.

\$65 per pack

WANT A NEW PACK EACH MONTH?

Sign up for an At-Home Art Pack subscription to get fresh, new projects every 30 days, delivered right to your door!

\$600 subscription
(One pack each month for 10 months)

Order packs online at visarts.org
or call (804) 353-0094.



INSPIRING JOY, LAUGHTER & LEARNING (non-stop) SINCE 1919.



Offering Our Families:

- Our commitment to full-time, in-person, classroom learning.
- Common sense safety measures to keep our school happy & healthy.
- A challenging, faith-filled, Classical curriculum for JK-8.
- Talented and dedicated faculty to nurture and support your child's continued growth.
- Well-prepared graduates and conscientious citizens.
- A warm and welcoming small-school community.

Join us this Fall!

INQUIRE TODAY!
SaintBenedictSchool.org

Classes are filling up. Don't delay.

Proud to be Richmond's oldest parochial school.

Saint Benedict Catholic School • 3100 Grove Ave. • RVA 23221 • 804.254.8850





A SURGICAL APPROACH TO NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT

by **LIZ BRYANT**

Dr. Steve Leibovic and his development partner Dan Gecker have big plans for a block of property on the edge of the Museum District. Under Lebar, LLC, Leibovic and Gecker purchased the multi-site holdings in December 2019. The parcels, formerly owned by Manuel Loupassi, include now-vacant used car lots, parking lots and a building formerly used by a restaurant supply company. Plans include a multi-unit apartment building, as well as single-family townhomes.

Leibovic and Gecker have worked together on real estate transformations before—on the Cookie Factory Lofts, which Leibovic now manages. His property management firm, Pondok Management, led by his wife Julie Sidharta, oversees 650 apartments in the Richmond area. The Cookie Factory Lofts, originally home to the production facility of the Southern Biscuit Works (later Famous Foods of Virginia) and well-known for its one-and-a-half story rooftop sign reading “Home of FFV Cookies and Crackers,” was considered by many a spark for the continued development of the land abutting the intersection of Broad St. and Arthur Ashe Blvd. The area now boasts more apartments, a grocery store and a selection of entertainment and dining venues. Gecker, an attorney, is well known for his work (along with Robin Miller) of restoration and development in the Manchester neighborhood.

Regarding the unique names Lebar and Pondok, it turns out they have a special meaning too. Julie Sidharta is from Indonesia and a tie to her heritage is important. Lebar means “broad”—appropriate for the location on Broad St.—and Pondok means “dwelling,” which is quite fitting for a residential management company.

The Leibovics actually met through a residential housing connection back in 1979. He was in medical school at Stanford, she there in graduate school. A message on a bulletin board (remember those?) seeking a housemate brought them together. Marriage followed, as did a move to the East Coast. They



THE NEGLECTED BLOCK OF 2900 BROAD STREET BETWEEN SHEPPARD AND WAYNE STREETS.



Dr. Steve Leibovic

“We like projects that are of sufficient scale to transform a neighborhood.”

began dipping their toes in real estate during his medical residency in Boston when they purchased a duplex as an investment—to live in one unit while renting out the other—because, as he says, “you know, residents don’t make any money.” A move to Richmond to start his orthopedic practice (he specialized in hand surgery) in 1990 led to additional real estate prospecting with the purchases of several multi-family properties in the Fan. His first, as he terms it, “big project” was renovating the structure now known as The Southern Stove Lofts, located at the NE corner of Hermitage Rd. and Leigh St., two blocks north of Broad St.

While Leibovic has worked on renovation and restoration of other properties, this one will be his first “ground up” building project. Regarding a timeline, Leibovic says it will likely take nine to 12 months for planning and development prior to building, though demolition of the existing structures could begin within four to six months. Plans for the Broad St. property, on the south side of the street from Sheppard to Wayne, call for a 150-unit apartment building with first floor retail and underground parking. In the vacant lot on the north side of Grace St., Leibovic and Gecker envision single-family townhomes, perhaps with a contemporary design. Once a relationship with an architect is finalized, conceptual renderings will be available.

Much like his career as an orthopedic surgeon, Leibovic says he is most proud of work “he has done with his own hands.” And while he won’t be wielding any hammers, he says with a laugh, the fact that he has played a leading and active role in revitalizing buildings and properties for a new life means a lot. Both provide satisfaction, he says, “to help people and help the community.” **C**

We will be following this project, so look for updates in future issues of *The Columns*.

*“Try your best and know
that things will get better.”*



a look inside *online art instruction*

By now, just over one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, most people are aware of the adversities our schools have faced with remote learning.

by **MA POWERS**

It's been tough. The challenges have been vast. We hear first-hand accounts from beleaguered students who struggle to remain engaged and the same from teachers who fear they're falling short of reaching classroom objectives. In the midst of the doubts and fears, I recently caught a glimpse of some fabulous artwork coming out of Albert Hill Middle School (AHMS). Curious about how this was happening, I reached out to AHMS veteran art teacher Sharon Russell.

From the very onset of our virtual meeting, Ms. Russell put me at ease with her warm and direct demeanor. I learned that this is her 25th year in the classroom, 23 of which have been at AHMS. She began as a teacher of U.S. History and English and later, because she is certified to teach multiple subjects, became the Visual Art teacher. She strives to blend the three closely related disciplines. Despite the obstacles of remote learning, her classroom objectives have not changed much, and she and her students have done their best to stay true to the standards of learning and hands-on art experience.

The online day begins with Community Circle, during which mindful breathing and relaxation are modeled for about 15 minutes. Students are also presented with a prompt to get them talking and listening to one another. Following circle time, most classes are one-hour blocks consisting of both synchronous group work and asynchronous, individual work time. Ms. Russell has all 8th grade classes this year so she knows many of her students from previous art classes. She begins lessons with a bit of historical background and the studying of notable works, making observations and responding with facts and individual thoughts. Ms. Russell embraces the natural way current events




"I'm honored to work with the staff at Albert Hill Middle School... going beyond the call of duty and elevating each other's level of care."

— SHARON RUSSELL

and social issues find their way into lessons and conversations, and eventually into her students' works of art.

When it comes to actually making art remotely, students are given specific assignments, just as they are in the traditional in-person classroom. All the work is done at home, and photos of finished products are sent to Ms. Russell. Supplies are limited this year, largely to what students can forage at home or from the basic art kit provided by the school. Additional supplies have been donated by some of her friends who are professional artists. She, along with many other teachers, has also personally delivered various school supplies, meals and other necessities to school families throughout the pandemic. It's clear our teachers are holding up students in many ways beyond the classroom.

The hour I spent with Ms. Russell filled me with hope. I imagine her smiling, supporting her kids through the pandemic and reminding them to "Try your best and know that things will get better." I see hope in the work produced by the talented 8th grade students in our community. 



HOT WEATHER KILLS! WARNING!

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

• FAN VETERINARY CLINIC •

307 North Robinson Street
Richmond 23220
(804) 358-3779
Jeffrey W. Taylor, DVM



WALK YOUR PET TO THE VET

Need space?

All donations are tax-deductible!

Schedule free pickup
of large items **804-353-8890**

1407 Sherwood Ave. Richmond, VA 23220

DIVERSITY THRIFT

Over 15,000 s.f. of bargain treasures



Learn more at DiversityRichmond.org

CUTSHAW AUTOMOTIVE®

Convenient Automotive Services

OIL CHANGE

\$10 Off

(valid 30 days, does not
include taxes and fees)

**STATE
INSPECTION**

50% off

(regularly \$20)

(valid 30 days, does not
include taxes and fees)

10% OFF

**any repair
over \$100**

(valid 30 days, does not
include taxes and fees)

**WOMEN
OWNED**

☎ 804-355-6666

✉ CutshawAutomotive@yahoo.com

CAREFREE CAR CARE

3105 Cutshaw Ave. Richmond VA 23230





MONUMENT AVENUE: LOOKING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK

by **LIZ BRYANT**

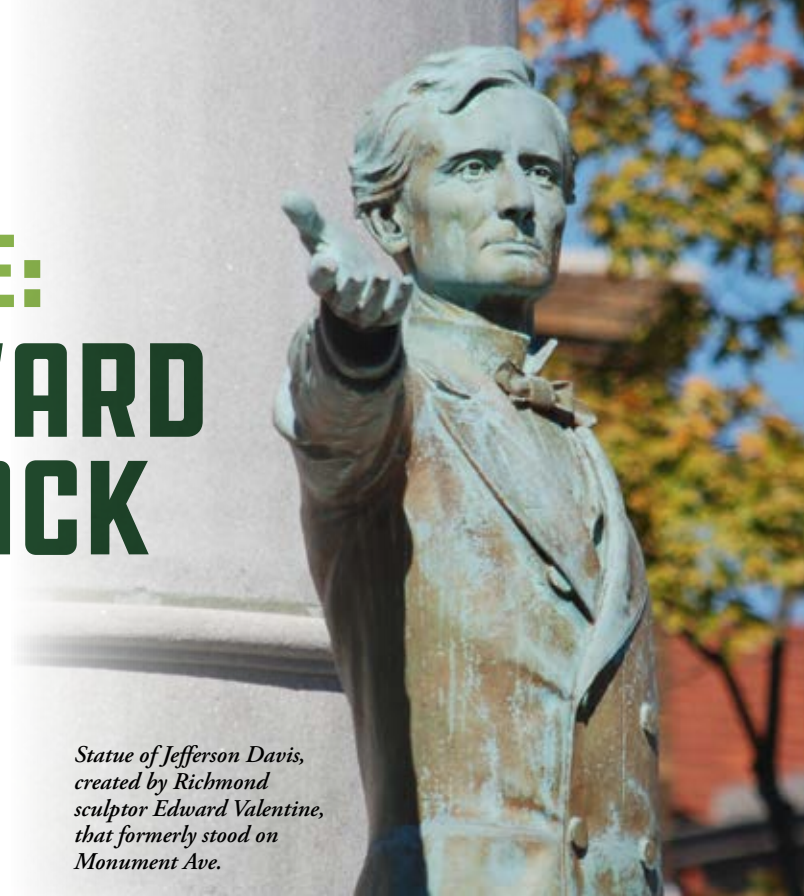
BILL MARTIN is director of The Valentine, the museum which describes itself as having been collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond stories for over a century. His words describe quite accurately The Valentine’s approach to historic preservation. Case in point: the statue of Jefferson Davis which formerly stood at the intersection of Monument and N. Davis Avenues.

Martin spoke about the statue in March at “Recording Our Past to Chart Our Future,” a virtual forum hosted by the Museum District Association, The Fan District Association and the Monument Avenue Preservation Society.

The Davis statue was created right here in Richmond by renowned sculptor Edward V. Valentine, in a studio that still stands on the property of the museum that bears his family name. Valentine served as the first president of the museum from its opening in 1898 until his death in 1930. The monument, with its pedestal and multiple arc-forming columns, was built in 1907 under the direction of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Much of the monument framing remains, but the Davis statue itself was taken down by protesters on June 10, 2020.

Where is the statue now? Martin says it is owned by the City of Richmond. Several proposals were submitted to the City Council last year regarding the future of the piece. The Valentine submitted one of those proposals and hopes to obtain the statue—now with a dented head and splattered with pink paint. The decision rests with the City, and a determination date has not been set. Martin would like to have the statue to put it on display—with proper context—on the property where it was created more than 100 years ago.

In the 1990s, the “monumental vocabulary began to change in Richmond,” said Martin. Over the next several decades we saw the Arthur Ashe, Jr. statue go up on Monument Ave., the Richmond Slavery Reconciliation statue in Shockoe Bottom,



Statue of Jefferson Davis, created by Richmond sculptor Edward Valentine, that formerly stood on Monument Ave.

“Institutions can change and acknowledge the past, but aren’t trapped by it.”

the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial in Capitol Square and the Maggie L. Walker Plaza and Statue in Jackson Ward.

And that vocabulary will continue to evolve. Governor Ralph Northam tapped the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to lead a community-driven initiative to reimagine the look and feel of Monument Ave., where Confederate monuments stood for generations. The fate of the one remaining statue of Robert E. Lee still rests with the courts.

In late 2020, VMFA Director and CEO Alex Nyerges told ABC 8News that the museum will bring together “urban planners, historians, historic preservation people and of course, art historians and most of all, artists” from around the world to work on the design.

Martin said he wants The Valentine to play a supporting role in the work.

“The last year has called us to listen and learn about ourselves,” he said. “This is a unique Richmond moment. This is an opportunity to do something important for the country.”

For more information on The Valentine’s history and work, visit their website at www.thevalentine.org. 

WILTON UNCOVERED

Archeology Illuminates an Enslaved Community

No known record exists of their fates. Little written record exists of their lives. The objects that they owned, purchased, cherished, resented, broke, played with, and discarded are all that remain to tell their stories. **This is Wilton Uncovered.**



Self-guided tours of the historic home and "Wilton Uncovered" are available by appointment.

Visit www.wiltonhousemuseum.org to book your tour!

804-282-5936
215 S. Wilton Road
Richmond, VA



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
\$225
celebrate
NEVER LEAVING
THE HOUSE!
Just kidding

9x12 Home Portrait

- CHOOSE THE SEASON ●
- CHOOSE THE SKY ●
- ADD YOUR PETS! ●

McKENZIE SHILL
● RVA ARTIST + OWNER ●

(910) 540-3698



MONARCH



LET'S NOT GET LOST

by LIZ BRYANT



With the weather warming up, we naturally want to spend more time outside. That means our front and back doors will be open more and that can lead to your cat or dog slipping out.

To help reduce the chances of your beloved companion becoming lost, consider the following:

1. Make it a practice to affirmatively check to be sure doors are securely closed each time you enter or exit your home. It only takes a second for an escape artist to slip out.
2. Following an afternoon or evening of being in and out, make sure to lay eyes on all your animals inside the house. That way if someone did get out, you'll have a jump on the search timewise.
3. Have your animals microchipped, as well as equipped with a collar and ID tag. Make sure that your microchip and ID information are up to date.
4. Have a photo of your pet easily accessible should you need it for a lost pet notice.

Despite our best intentions, sometimes our animals do get lost. If that happens, here are some tips to aid in the reuniting:

1. Contact local animal shelters and animal control agencies. Provide them with a detailed description of your pet, as well as a current photo.
2. Do a search of your neighborhood. Do this several times a day. Ask neighbors, your postal carrier, delivery people, anyone who may have spotted your animal. Distribute photos with your contact information.

3. Advertise. Put up "lost pet" notices around the area. They should include a good photo, description of your animal and ways to contact you (phone and email). Ask retail establishments, veterinary offices, restaurants—anywhere people gather—if they will allow you to put a notice. Place advertisements in newspapers and with radio stations. Include your pet's sex, age, weight, breed, color and any special markings.
4. Use the internet. Post on sites like PawBoost and Nextdoor, in addition to your own social media feeds. Make sure to include a photo and details about when and where your pet was lost.
5. If it's a cat that is lost, conventional wisdom is that they generally don't venture far from home, but rather are very adept at hiding close by. For this reason, putting out a humane trap (a cage trap that will catch an animal without harming it) with some fragrant food (like tuna fish or sardines) is a great way to lure back your lost kitty. This actually worked recently for a friend of mine whose escape artist cat had slipped out.
6. Finally, do not give up. Minutes seem like hours and days like weeks when a loved one is missing. Being vigilant in your efforts will increase the likelihood of a happy reunion.

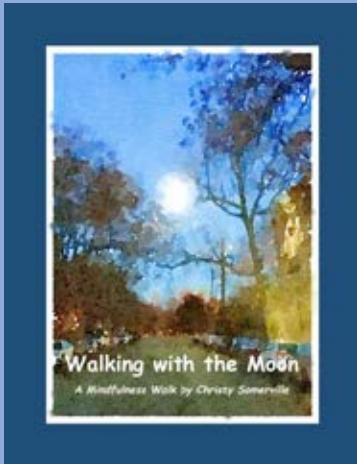
NOTE: A lot of people ask about the idea of putting a soiled litterbox outside to lure back your lost cat. Our research found conflicting guidance. Some organizations say it will provide a scent clue and draw your cat back, while others say it has the potential to draw other cats who may be territorial and prevent your cat from returning home. 📌



COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- **FACT SHEET | HOW WAS THE COVID-19 VACCINE TESTED?**
<https://bit.ly/2Q5781E>
- **FACT SHEET | WHAT SHOULD I DO WHILE I WAIT FOR THE VACCINE?**
<https://bit.ly/3ummSw7>
- **FACT SHEET | WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET THE VACCINE?**
<https://bit.ly/2PZr3Pv>
- **FACT SHEET | I JUST GOT THE COVID-19 VACCINE, NOW WHAT?**
<https://bit.ly/3ugE9a2>

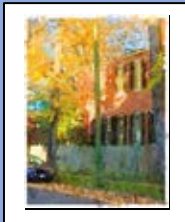
I Wrote a Book!



ABOUT A
MAGICAL,
MINDFUL,
MOONLIT
WALK

*in the
Museum
District!*

Find *Walking with the Moon* by Christy Somerville on Amazon.com



The community of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

individuals and families of all kinds
has long been committed to inclusion,
warmly welcoming all persons.



We invite You to Visit

Sundays at 10:30am via Zoom

520 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard - 358.4771

www.stmarksrva.org



- Estate Planning
- Estate & Trust Administration
 - Elder Law
 - Veterans Benefits
- Special Needs Trusts
- Trustee Services

Join us for an educational webinar!

Wills vs. Trusts

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.

Visit www.carrellblanton.com/seminars for all dates and times of our webinars.

Or, if you're ready to meet about your estate plan, please call (804) 285-7900 to schedule an in-person or virtual consultation with attorneys James W. Garrett and David A. Thornton.



*Our practice is problem solving,
our passion is planning, and our goal is your peace of mind.*



LOCAL GARDENER



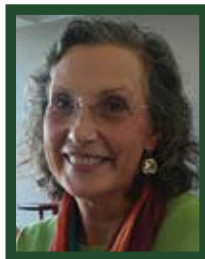
TOOLS OF THE TRADE

All gardeners have beloved tools. Like talismans, they grant us wisdom, courage and success in our endeavors.

EPISODE 1 JAPANESE GARDEN KNIFE

by JANIE WILSON

My *Japanese Garden Knife* is my No. 1 top talisman. Part of its magic stems from its origin—a charming garden center in Ivy, Virginia, on a warm sunny day. I'm with my gardener buddy, Louise. We're wandering around in that dreamy way gardeners do in such places, when Louise begins to ooh and coo. She has laid eyes on a *Japanese Garden Knife*! "Oh Janie!" she exclaims. "You need this thing! It's the best tool you will ever know. In fact, I'm just buying it for you right this minute." Louise is a good friend! Over the years, I have learned to accept her wisdom unquestioningly. The acquisition of this marvelous tool is one reason why.



JANIE WILSON

My knife is sharp on one side and serrated on the other. Its fine point digs the best little holes on the planet—perfect for planting pansies or petunias. And if you encounter those dreadful trumpet vine roots, just whack the pesky things like a samurai warrior and Bob's your uncle. It beats any common trowel I've ever known.

Folks, this is important around here—my knife never meets a dandelion it can't conquer. It's brilliant for getting those bulb depths just right. Potting is a breeze. And really, it just digs delightfully. You can make a cozy hole for a perennial of any persuasion. Honestly, this tool is so perfectly purposeful that I once wrote (and actually published) a haiku in its honor:

serrated trowel

serrated trowel

three houses—three gardens planted

gift of a wise friend

Seems fitting, don't you think, for an extraordinary tool bestowed upon me by an exceptionally good friend? So, get out there and find your own Japanese Garden Knife. And while you're at it, grab one for a friend. Or better yet, grab that good buddy and go to the garden center for your own dreamy acquisition experience. You too might end up memorializing the whole affair in poetry. **E**

BOOKKEEPING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

Let us tailor a plan that best suits your business - weekly and monthly plans available. We specialize in QuickBooks.

We also support popular retail/restaurant systems that include MarginEdge, LightSpeed, LAVU, Clover, MobileBytes, and Square.



Bookkeeping Solutions & Consulting, LLC

To learn more about us, call or visit our website:

804-677-3077

www.bookkeepingRVA.com



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

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

**Cabinetry &
Construction**

INCORPORATED

Rob
We bring ~~new~~ life to old homes.

ROBWRIGHT@CABINETY-CONSTRUCTION.COM | 804 497 3491 | WWW.CABINETY-CONSTRUCTION.COM

In times like these,
Richmond's First Baptist
Church is here for you.

Sunday worship online & in-person
at 8:30 & 11 a.m.

Call 355-8637 to register to attend.

Webcast: fbcrichmond.org/watch
Broadcast on TV8 at 11 a.m.

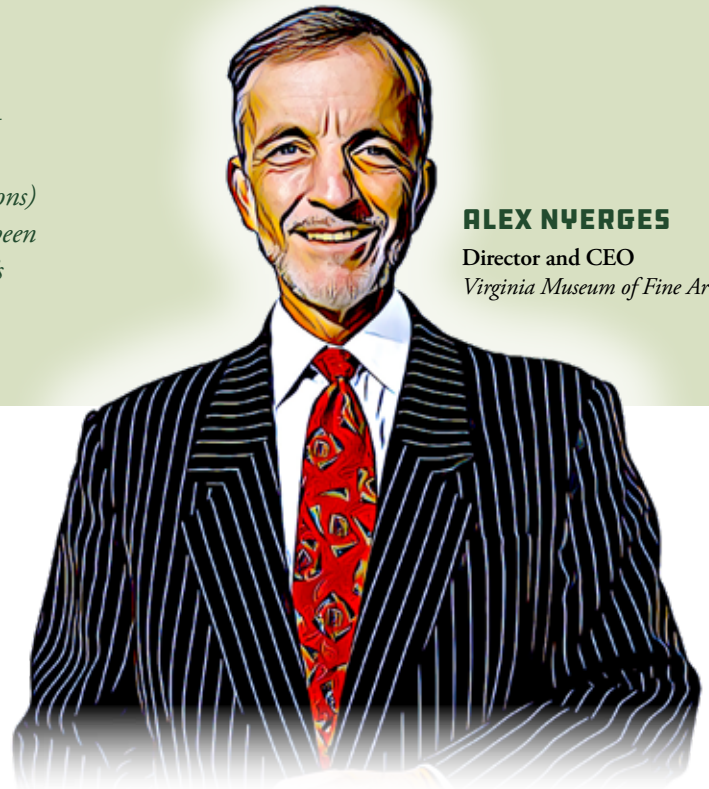
2709 Monument Avenue • Richmond, VA 23220 • 804-355-8637 • fbcrichmond.org



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.



ALEX NYERGERES
Director and CEO
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

A world that is filled with peace and beauty.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

The forces of evil will prevail over those of justice and peace.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Sterling Lott, a great friend and former colleague in Washington, D.C.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

Not having enough time on this earth.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

The skills that would have earned me a place in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

Great photography equipment and materials.

WHAT OR WHO IS THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

My wife, Kathryn. Oh, and my son, Robert, my daughter-in-law, Ashley, my granddaughter, Joelle Laroux, my brothers...my list is long.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

Filled with hope and promise.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

Having a son who is the embodiment of creativity and promise.

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

Die?

WHAT DO YOU REGARD AS THE LOWEST DEPTH OF MISERY?

The death of my mother and then my father. I am who I am thanks to them. They taught us well.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

Bad manners and poor taste.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE?

Die. Oh, OK. Old. And peacefully.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

Dream no small dreams. Anything is possible.

WHAT'S THE MOST RICHMOND THING YOU CAN DO?

Communing with art and friends at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. 



CITY

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

POLICE & FIRE

Emergency.....	911
Fire Non-emergency.....	804-646-6640
Police Non-emergency.....	804-646-5100
Crime Stoppers.....	804-780-1000
3rd Precinct.....	804-646-1412
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 that 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) - andreas.addison@richmondgov.com	804-646-5935
Katherine Jordan (2nd District) - katherine.jordan@richmondgov.com	804-646-6532
Stephanie Lynch (5th District) - stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com	804-646-6050

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

SCHOOL BOARD

Jason Kamras, School Superintendent.....	804-780-7710
Elizabeth Doerr (1st District) - edoerr@rvaschools.net	804-929-6624
Mariah White (2nd District) - mwhite4@rvaschools.net	804-221-9389
Stephannie Rizzi (5th District) - srizzi@rvaschools.net	804-929-6930

To watch school board proceedings and meetings:

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

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Del. Dawn Adams (68th).....	804-698-1068
Del. Betsy Carr (69th).....	804-698-1069
Del. Jeffrey Bourne (71st).....	804-698-1071
Sen. Jennifer McClellan (9th).....	804-698-7509
Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (10th).....	804-698-7510

US CONGRESS (DISTRICT 4)

Rep. A. Donald McEachin.....	202-225-6365
------------------------------	--------------

US SENATE

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

The MDA Mother's Day House & Garden Tour wants to hear from you!



Help us decide what to do in 2022.

The 2022 **Mother's Day House & Garden Tour Survey** is coming. Should 2022 be a traditional in-home tour? Would you consider opening *your* home for a tour a year from now? If yes, we want to know! If not, what other forms could this tour take, and which of them would you most enthusiastically support?

Be on the lookout for a survey in *This Week in the Museum District*, the MDA Monday email newsletter* and add your voice to the conversation.

*What?! You don't subscribe to *This Week in the Museum District*? Sign up now at museumdistrict.org/subscribe.

RIVER CITY ROMANCE

Southern Blessings



HER FAMILY SECRET

Haunted by her past, Savannah Lee wants to help an orphaned, six-year-old boy and other foster children find their perfect families. But to get the word out, she needs to team up with Beckett Rhoads, a newspaper reporter who pushes all her buttons. Beckett hopes to break down Savannah's defenses to reveal the story he knows she's hiding. But can he get 'up close and personal' enough to uncover her secrets without putting his own heart at risk?



HER REDEEMING FAITH

When war-weary ex-soldier Gray Bristow returns to their Virginia hometown, Ruthie Chandler barely recognizes the man he's become, and her heart breaks for her former fiancé.

Haunted by memories of who they used to be, Ruthie keeps her distance. That is until her antiques boutique erroneously sells his ailing grandmother's heirloom doll.

Determined to track down the family treasure that holds the secret to Gray's past—and his healing—Ruthie reunites with her lost love for this essential mission. Praying with all her heart and soul that her unwavering love can restore his missing faith and at last, bring him fully home...to her.



HER HEALING GRACE

Café owner Paisley Smythe will never forget the way Sam Worth of the mounted police failed her in her darkest hour. So when she learns Sam is on the hunt for a friendly vagrant suspected in a series of burglaries, she's determined to prove the man innocent.

Join local author Carolyn Greene in three heartwarming romantic tales. Carytown friends and business owners each find their own Southern Blessings in a love as rich and enduring as the city that brings them together. Order now from your favorite online bookseller.

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 programming (sometimes virtual) designed for all ages, we offer books, ebooks, audiobooks, DVDs and online magazines (over 3,000) <https://richmondpubliclibrary.overdrive.com/collections/featured/3>

Wireless internet access, public computer use, fax services and free notary service (please call ahead for this) are available at all locations. **Belmont now accepts credit/debit cards and offers self-checkout!**

Thank you for your patience during the past year as we have adapted our hours and services to meet current demands for health and safety. Our building continues to have daily cleaning and receives a weekly treatment of electrostatic antimicrobial spray. Throughout the past year, we have quarantined all returned materials, gradually reducing that time period now to 24 hours.

STAY INFORMED BY:

- **Reading the MDA (This Week in the Museum District) email update** – it's a terrific source of the most up-to-date information. Have you signed up for this?
- **Checking out our RPL website** reopening guide <https://rvalibrary.org/reopening/>
- **Exploring our website** to discover events, concerts and other special happenings. <https://rvalibrary.org/events/>
- **Checking out our virtual programming** for children and teens <https://rvalibrary.org/kids/online-programs/>. Here you will find weekly storytimes, crafty sessions, author highlights and classes of all kinds.

Currently, we are offering curbside services only, 10:00-5:00 Monday-Saturday. However, we expect that we will SOON begin to expand in such a way that you will be able to come inside our building! We've missed you.

At this time, meeting rooms are not available.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can access library resources, popular and classic ebooks and over 39,000 downloadable audiobooks through the **Libby App** (also known as *Overdrive*). Just use your RPL library card and make sure to download Libby onto your device. Check out up to 25 items at a time.

The Belmont Library is located at 3100 Ellwood Avenue.
For information: RichmondPublicLibrary.org • 804-646-1139



Richmond
Public Library

INFORM
ENRICH
EMPOWER

No one knows your home better than you do.
And no one knows what it takes to sell your
Museum District home better than Chris Small.

Contact Chris today to find out how he can get your home sold.
804-350-0879 | chris@smallre.net | chris.theRVAlife.com

