



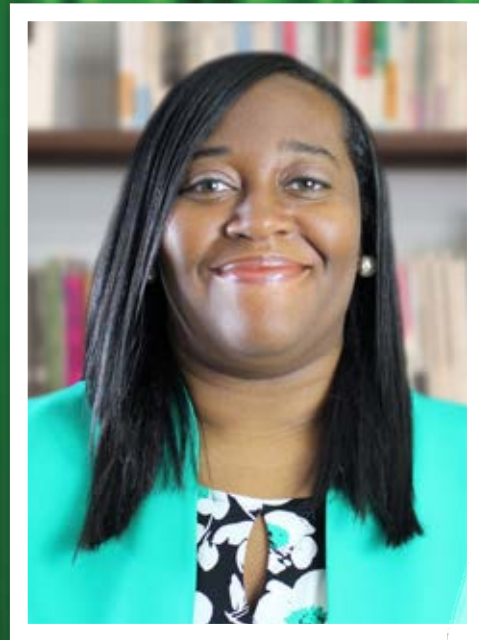
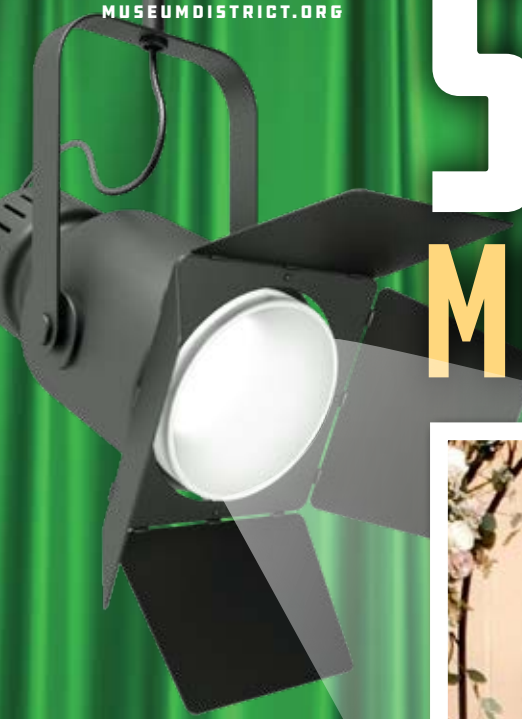
The COLUMNS

FEB - APR 2021

A PUBLICATION of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG

STARS *of the* MUSEUM DISTRICT



2020 STAR AWARD WINNERS MA POWERS *and* TASHIANA IVY

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MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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

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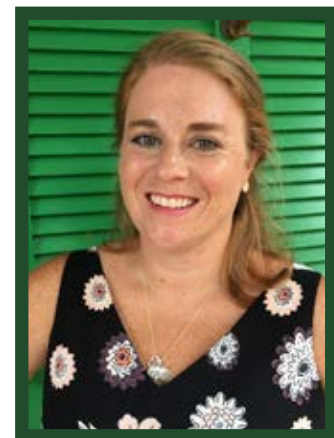
To reach any of our board members by phone, please call 804-410-1632 and leave a message stating the person you wish to reach.

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

I'm truly honored to be this year's Museum District Association Board President; the shoes of the past presidents that I am tasked to fill are large. The MDA board has a strong history of amazing leaders and members, and I'll strive to maintain this legacy. My family and I have lived in the Museum District for 10 years. My husband Andy and I are the proud parents of three school-aged children. We brought all three of our babies home from the hospital to the Museum District and plan to watch them grow up here. For the last decade (and then some), I've worked in federal agriculture policy while also being mom and general schedule-keeper of our household. My husband Andy works in financial sales and has a deep and abiding passion for the game of golf.



CALEY CRAWFORD
2021 MDA PRESIDENT

My family and I just wrapped up our holidays with a fair amount of disappointment and grief. We miss our family. This past holiday season, we didn't get to see grandparents or most of our family because of the coronavirus pandemic. But we look to 2021 with hope. I hope we'll get to see our relatives soon. I hope we'll stay healthy. I hope our neighborhood stays healthy this year and that we, as a neighborhood, continue to be hospitable and kind.

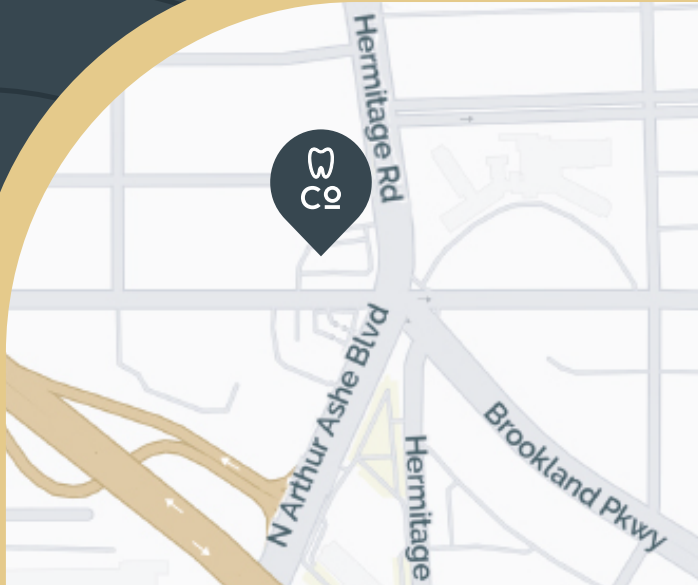
As I look to this year as board president, I want our members to know how greatly appreciative we are of you. You stuck by us in 2020 when things were unknown and uncertain. While we couldn't do our regular MDA events in 2020, I'm hopeful that in 2021 the MDA board can creatively plan safe events to honor our current members and attract new ones. And while I'm saddened by the cancellation of the 2021 Mother's Day House & Garden Tour, I'm reminded of the fact that cancelling these important events is important to keep our neighborhood and each other safe. Stay tuned as we make plans for 2022.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve our neighborhood. I personally became involved in the MDA board because of speed and traffic on Grove Ave. I hope to continue this mission across the neighborhood into my term as MDA president. We'll continue to work with the city to make our neighborhood a safe place for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and visitors to our esteemed neighborhood museums. Please let me know if there's anything you'd like to discuss with me about our neighborhood or any way we can help you navigate the city. Again, I look forward to serving as board president this year. 📍

THE MDA BOARD HAS A STRONG HISTORY OF AMAZING LEADERS AND MEMBERS, AND I'LL STRIVE TO MAINTAIN THIS LEGACY.



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INSIDE THE MDA

NEW FACES ON THE MDA BOARD

by **ALLISON SCHUTZER**



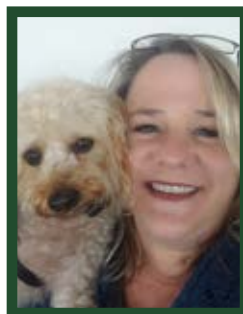
CALEY CRAWFORD
PRESIDENT

Caley Crawford has taken on the role of president for the board. For the past three years, she has been an active participant on the traffic committee and most recently as the safety chair for the board, leading the way for traffic 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. She lives on Grove Ave. with her husband Andy and their three children.




ZACK RATHNER
PUBLIC SAFETY

Zack is a marketing and communications professional and graduate of VCU. After moving to the Museum District with his wife in 2019 (they met at an improv class in DC), Zack began enjoying front porch chats with his neighbors. It was through these chats that he noticed frequent traffic safety issues, and that prompted him to get more involved with the MDA. Zack and Sara share their Kensington Ave. home with their two cats and new dog.



KAREN HEADLEY
LAND USE AND ZONING CHAIR

Karen is no stranger to the board, having previously served for six years as president, house tour chair and chair of *The Columns* committee. During her time away from the board, she continued to contribute to the neighborhood, helping with *The Columns* and alley clean-ups. Look for her out walking the southern part of the neighborhood with her rescue dog Louie. 



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MDA HONORS NEIGHBORHOOD STARS

Each year, the Museum District Association board of directors recognizes a resident and a city employee who have shown exceptional dedication to the neighborhood throughout the year. This year, we are pleased to showcase the following and thank them for their support of the Museum District throughout what we can all call an extremely challenging 2020.

MDA RESIDENT STAR AWARD: MA POWERS

by LIZ BRYANT

A force blew into the Museum District nearly a decade ago, and its name was MA Powers. In late 2012, MA and her husband Patrick purchased a house on Floyd Ave. and began an extensive, year-plus-long, LEED-certified renovation, resulting in a showplace that adds beauty (and a positive environmental impact) to our neighborhood. It was a homecoming of sorts, as MA and Patrick had begun their married life 34 years ago in an apartment on Roseneath Rd.



MA POWERS

Not content to simply live in a neighborhood, former school principal with a knack for organization and leadership dove right into involvement on the board. And the Museum District has benefited greatly from that. Everything from the Mother's Day House & Garden Tour, to the Delicious District restaurant promotion, to the transformation of *The Columns* into a magazine-quality publication, MA's fingerprints are on it.

"The award is meaningful to me, as I have been on the other side several times, honoring residents who have dedicated a part of themselves to the neighborhood," MA told us. "I am grateful for the relationships that evolved during my time with the association and am thankful that the board trusted me to represent the community and allowed me to be part of the good works carried out by the MDA. The star is a cherished reminder of time well spent."

Many question why MA hadn't been honored before now. Well, she served on the board from 2015 to 2020. Star Award recipients are selected by the board. So there's the rub.

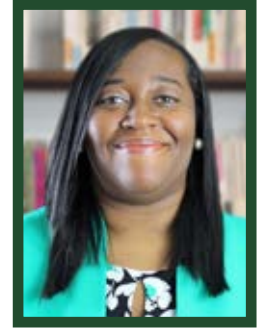
"I wish MA could have gotten this award much sooner," said board member Beth Bostian. "But the honorees are selected by the board, and MA has always been on the board, so she would never have allowed it."

Reinforcing why MA Powers was the perfect pick this year. **Q**

MDA COMMUNITY STAR AWARD: TASHIANA IVY

by BEN HOPKINS

Tashiana Ivy has only been principal at Albert Hill Middle School since 2019, but she's already had a big impact. "Tashiana's contagious enthusiasm and total commitment to the students and staff has really made a difference in the community," says MDA School Liaison Sue Patow, adding that "Her energy and love for the school are infectious."



TASHIANA IVY

From having her eighth graders write and ask questions during the 2019 State Delegate Candidates Forum held at the school to plans for having students volunteer for the next MDA Mother's Day House Tour, Principal Ivy works hard to give her students real-world learning experiences outside the classroom. She started a new tradition at the school with last year's Halloween Pumpkin Carving contest and is in the process of launching a Tutoring/Mentoring program she believes is going to be "phenomenal."

Principal Ivy says she's honored and humbled to win the Star Award. "I truly do what I do to serve and because it's the right thing to do, so it means the world to me to be recognized."

With a grandmother who was a Richmond City Schools assistant superintendent, Ivy says education is in her blood, but that wasn't the original plan. "I was only going to teach for three years, then go to medical school," she explains. "And I fell in love with teaching." She likes being a principal because it gives her the opportunity to "make an even greater difference because you're not only impacting students and families, but teachers as well."

She describes her career as a wonderful journey, and we're glad our neighborhood is part of it. **Q**



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NEW FACES ON RICHMOND'S CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD



THE ELECTION OF 2020 not only brought us a new President and Vice-President, but we have some changes in local leadership as well. Here's a quick recap of the City Council and School Board contests that included the Museum District:

- The 1st District saw no changes. **ANDREAS ADDISON** was re-elected to City Council and **LIZ DOERR** was re-elected School Board.
- The 2nd District has two new faces. **KATHERINE JORDAN** joins City Council and **MARIAH WHITE** is the new School Board representative.
- The 5th District re-elected **STEPHANIE LYNCH** to City Council and welcomes a new School Board member in **STEPHANIE RIZZI**.

Profiles follow on the newly electeds who responded to our request for interviews. Contact information has been updated in the local government directory found in this issue on page 22.

KATHERINE JORDAN

**2ND DISTRICT
CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

by **LIZ BRYANT**



One of the new faces on Richmond City Council representing part of the Museum District is **KATHERINE JORDAN**. But she is in no way new to public service.

Born and raised in Richmond, Jordan has a master's in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. She lives in the Fan District with her family (husband, two daughters, a cat, and a dog) and has held various community leadership roles, including secretary of the Green City Commission (where she spearheaded the NetZero Resolution) and president of the Fan District Association. Jordan says she has enjoyed working with elected officials and likes being the person a neighbor can go to for help. The open council seat provided an opportunity to broaden her impact.

"When Kim [Gray] decided to run for mayor, I saw an opportunity to give back to Richmond in a larger way," Jordan said. "I also felt strongly that the 2nd needed a council representative with an educational and professional background in planning to make sure neighbors stay engaged in the city's growth."

Priority one for Jordan is helping the city manage and recover from the pandemic. "Once we get to the other side of that, and I'm confident we will," she said, "my priorities are those I heard across the district: Richmond Public Schools, equitable community-supported growth, and the environment."

Jordan also feels it's important for residents to play as large a role as they are able in the government process and says that being involved in your neighborhood association is a great place to start. "From there," she said, "I hope residents will look at the many commissions and boards that need citizen input. If you have time, follow the City Council meetings and committees, and always feel encouraged to provide input through your elected representatives at every level of government."

As we move into 2021, Jordan hopes city residents will stay active in moving forward from the challenges of 2020. She suggests shopping and eating locally as much as possible, checking on your neighbors, and extending grace to yourself and others.



"The people of Richmond have incredible heart and ingenuity," she said, "and I know we'll emerge stronger and more resilient because of 2020."

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CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD

continued from previous page

STEPHANIE RIZZI
5TH DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD REP-ELECT

by **ALLISON SCHUTZER**



Stephanie Rizzi is a long-time educator and has spent the last 12 years teaching full-time at VCU. She has two sons, one of whom is currently a Richmond Public Schools student and another who is an alumnus. Her hobbies include step aerobics and yoga, gardening, and caring for her two dogs. Her long history of activism and community engagement ultimately led to her candidacy for School Board Representative.

Growing up, school was a refuge for Rizzi. Now she is looking for ways to serve. Her motivation behind running for 5th District School Board was the slow but steady decrease in funding, as well as the district's rising dropout rates, particularly among Latinx students. "I have watched our schools slowly get abandoned and defunded when funding should be increasing. Our kids are our most valuable resource, and the way schools are funded and cared for should reflect our willingness to invest in them."

Rizzi feels strongly that teachers must hold power in the decisions being made, and she intends to improve teachers' autonomy within the system. "Teachers are professionals. They have degrees. They are experts and should not be treated as though they have no agency." Rizzi is eager to revisit disciplinary action across the Richmond Public Schools system, citing Senator Jennifer McClellan's Bill, SB 729, that will return disciplinary decisions to individual school administrators, as opposed to a one-size-fits-all approach. "I will work to ensure more actually is done to emphasize care and deemphasize punishment."

Community engagement will also play a key role in the success of our schools, and Rizzi says she will never make a radical policy decision without first contacting impacted stakeholders. Rizzi plans to involve educators, parents, and the community in all decisions about curricula, rezoning, and funding.

The new School Board held its first meeting on Monday, January 4, and Rizzi was eager to get to work. "I am so grateful that my community has expressed confidence in me and entrusted me to serve as its School Board Representative... I look forward to beginning the work of making sure all of the wonderful kids of RPS receive a world-class education that we all can be proud of! 



MUSEUM DISTRICT ARTIST SHINES A LIGHT ON REDLINING IN RICHMOND

by **BEN HOPKINS**



CARL PATOW

Carl Patow's installation "*Richmond Residential Security*" was one of 19 works chosen to be part of InLight Richmond 2020, an exhibition of light-based art and performances held November 12–15 online and at socially distanced sites throughout the city.

The paired themes of the exhibition, "Safety and Accountability," were inspired by the racial unrest that put Richmond on the national stage. Patow's installation addressed the discriminatory banking practice of "redlining." The installation consisted of eight illuminated 5' x 8' sections of a 1937 color-coded "Residential Security Map" of Richmond that was designed to guide financial institutions in their lending decisions. Different colors represented the level of risk the mapmakers calculated an institution would assume by issuing a mortgage in each area. Red-colored areas were deemed to be the highest risk, in part because of the race or national origin of the residents. Patow outlined the red "high risk" areas on each map with lighted red wire, which made the installation especially impactful at night. A line of red rope light stretched in front of all the maps to drive home the reality of the practice.

"I'd been interested in redlining for a while," explained Patow, "and came across the map long before InLight. The map is visually stunning, and its impact on the growth of our communities makes it very compelling."

Another important part of the installation was its location on the dramatic, crescent-shaped façade of the Moore's Auto Body and Paint Shop building at 401 W. Broad St. The building, which was home to a historic black-owned business, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Each night of the exhibit, Patow was on hand to answer questions and engage visitors in conversation about redlining and their vision for the future of Richmond. "This map helped shape Richmond over 100 years ago, and I wanted people to think about what they want the city to look like 100 years from now—and what it will take to get there," he said.

This is not Patow's first time in the InLight spotlight. "*My Wish for Richmond*," an installation he created with Museum District resident Leila Ethesham, won Best in Show at InLight Richmond 2018.

To learn more about the installation, visit www.richmondresidentialsecurity.com.

To learn more about InLight Richmond 2020, visit www.1708inlight.org/inlight-2020. 



“ZOOM ETIQUETTE”

**LET'S POLISH UP OUR VIDEO
CONFERENCING SKILLS TO
ENSURE THE IMPRESSIONS
WE'RE MAKING NOW ARE THE
BEST THEY CAN BE.**

by **LIZ BRYANT**

With social distancing and many people still working remotely, business communication looks quite different these days. This means a lot of meetings we used to have face-to-face are being conducted virtually via video conference. One thing that we have learned is that even when we are post-pandemic, it's a fair bet that video conferencing will remain a major form of communication. So let's use this time to polish up our skills to ensure that the impressions we're making now are the best they can be and that we can carry over our virtual talent to whatever our normal will look like post-COVID. And let's have some fun doing it!

LET'S START WITH THE VIDEO CONFERENCE. WHETHER YOU'RE THE LEADER OR AN ATTENDEE, PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. SET UP YOUR COMPUTER SO THAT THE CAMERA IS AT OR ABOVE EYE LEVEL.** You don't want to be looking down at your desk. This is not a good look for anyone. Trust me on this.
- 2. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ADEQUATE LIGHT AND THAT IT'S COMING AT YOUR FACE FROM IN FRONT OF YOU.** This is most flattering and will help others to see you clearly.
- 3. CHECK OUT YOUR BACKGROUND.** Many people are working from makeshift offices in spare bedrooms, kitchens or dining rooms. You are inviting colleagues and clients into your personal space, so make sure it reflects the professional you. That means bed made, dresser clear, closet door shut. Think of how a hotel room looks when you check in. Same if you're in the kitchen. No one needs to see the empty wine bottle from last night's dinner.
- 4. DRESS FOR WORK.** At least from the waist up. People see me in a blouse and jacket and don't know if I'm wearing a skirt and pumps or Lululemons and Allbirds. It's okay to be comfortable, but make sure that what others see is professional.
- 5. LEAVE THE SNACKS OFF THE CALL.** It's okay to sip on a hot or cold beverage, but leave the sandwiches and chips until you're off camera. Seeing someone eating can not only be distracting, but potentially off-putting, as well.
- 6. USE THE CAMERA FUNCTION ON YOUR COMPUTER TO CHECK OUT HOW YOU AND YOUR BACKGROUND LOOK BEFORE JOINING THE MEETING.** This way you can make any necessary adjustments before others see you.
- 7. TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND BE READY TO SHINE.** You've done your preparation. It's show time!

FOR THE MEETING ITSELF, IT'S ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS. LET THE FOLLOWING BE YOUR GUIDE:

- 1. IF YOU'RE THE HOST, SEND OUT AGENDAS AND OTHER RELEVANT MATERIALS IN ADVANCE.** Let attendees know what the expectations are for the meeting so they can be prepared. The day of the meeting, send a reminder email with the agenda and materials attached. This will be helpful to anyone in your meeting who perhaps is not as organized and needs to have the information easily at hand.
- 2. ARRIVE ON TIME.** Which means a few minutes prior to the start of the meeting. This gives everyone time to announce themselves and get settled so the meeting itself can begin at the appointed hour. If you must arrive late, simply join the meeting. No need to announce yourself. People will know you're there when you have input later in the meeting.



MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ADEQUATE
LIGHT AND THAT IT'S COMING AT
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- 3. WHEN YOU CALL IN AS AN ATTENDEE, ANNOUNCE YOURSELF AND THEN MUTE YOUR PHONE OR COMPUTER MICROPHONE.** This is especially important if you might have interruptions like a barking dog or chatty child.
- 4. START THE MEETING ON TIME.** Just as if you were meeting face to face. People's time is still valuable. And we're still respecting it.
- 5. KEEP YOUR MICROPHONE MUTED UNLESS YOU'RE SPEAKING.** A bit of outside room noise might not be too bad, but multiply that by the seven people in the meeting and it becomes quite distracting and annoying. And please know how to—and then actually do—unmute yourself when it is your turn to speak.
- 6. CONTRIBUTE WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING PERTINENT TO CONTRIBUTE.** Don't crowd the space with unnecessary input. If on video, nod in agreement. No need to vocalize.
- 7. BEFORE ENDING THE MEETING, MAKE SURE FOLLOW-UPS AND ASSIGNMENTS—AND THEIR DEADLINES—ARE CLEAR.** This will end the meeting on a positive note and help ensure that subsequent meetings are equally productive.



The great thing is that these are all practices that can benefit us as we work remotely, but will also carry over as benefits when we return to a more normal way of life. Which we will. And these are all things that we can improve upon—and get comfortable with—through practice. Do you think Norah O'Donnell didn't have butterflies the first time she walked onto the set of the CBS Evening News? Use your nervousness to inspire you to practice and hone your skills. And remember to have fun! **E**

Liz Bryant is president and founder of Liz Bryant Business Etiquette. If you have questions about "Zoometiquette" or other aspects of business or social etiquette, you may reach her at liz@lizbryantbusinessetiquette.com.



MEET SALLY AND CALLIE: THE ALLEY COUSINS

by **LIZ BRYANT**

Remember the TV show *Bewitched*? Elizabeth Montgomery played Samantha Stevens, who was a good witch. She also played the role of Serena, her not-so-well-behaved cousin. We have a similar family dynamic here in the Museum District.

Some of you live next to Sally the Alley. We envy you. Sally is well-groomed (weeds are pulled or trimmed), her friends (the trash cans) are neat and orderly, and her skin (the road surface), ah, her skin, is like Estee Lauder herself is Sally's fairy godmother.

In contrast, Sally's cousin Callie the Alley doesn't take care of her appearance. She has sloppy grooming, is always entertaining messy friends who chew with their mouths open, and her skin, well, could benefit from a day at Elizabeth Arden.

We shouldn't write off Callie as a lost cause though. Block by block, even house by house, we can help Callie be more like her cousin Sally. The first, easiest and most impactful things to start with are Callie's friends, the trash cans. Pick up loose trash and keep the receptacles lined up neatly. If the can is overflowing, wait until after pick-up to put out your garbage bag. Don't add to the problem. If your alley seems to have a short supply of super cans, contact the City to inquire about getting more.

Next, let's work on Callie's grooming. Pull weeds. It's good exercise, gets you out in the fresh air and makes an immediate impact. And if your property has been the victim of a graffiti vandal, you can remove the paint yourself (Goof Off is a great product for this, depending on the surface) or register to have the City do it free of charge. Visit the Public Works website at <http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicWorks/GraffitiRemoval.aspx> for more information.

And finally, help Callie improve her complexion. If there are potholes, report them to the City. You may not be able to get your alley resurfacing (though it can't hurt to ask), but neighbors can do their part by raking gravel to smooth out uneven areas and doing their best to keep Callie's "face" as presentable as possible.

Right now the Museum District seems to have more alleys like Callie than like Sally. But if we work together, we can change that. We have neighborhood pride. Let's show that off. Today is a good day to start. **□**



THIS IS SALLY.

SALLY THE ALLEY IS WELL-GROOMED (WEEDS ARE PULLED OR TRIMMED), HER FRIENDS (THE TRASH CANS) ARE NEAT AND ORDERLY, AND HER SKIN IS LIKE ESTEE LAUDER HERSELF IS HER FAIRY GODMOTHER.



THIS IS CALLIE.

CALLIE THE ALLEY DOESN'T TAKE CARE OF HER APPEARANCE, HAS SLOPPY GROOMING AND HAS MESSY FRIENDS.



TWO SMALL SHOTS FOR MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND: COVID-19 VACCINATIONS BEGIN IN VIRGINIA

by **ALLISON G. SCHUTZER**

As COVID-19 vaccination programs ramp up across the Commonwealth, Museum District resident **DR. MATT SCHUTZER** spoke to us about his experience receiving the first of two injections of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

You were offered the chance to get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine less than a week after the FDA granted it emergency use authorization. How did you come to the decision to proceed with the injection of this brand new class of medication?

This was not a choice I took lightly, but I ultimately decided the benefits outweighed the risks. A study of over 40,000 participants deemed it to be safe and effective. While there remains some degree of uncertainty regarding long-term effects, severe effects seem to be unlikely. When I compared this theoretical risk to the known risks of the virus, the decision became clear. This pandemic has taken an appalling number of lives in our country and has made countless others seriously ill, including some of my friends, family, and colleagues. As hospitals around the country are being filled to capacity, the vaccination effort is essential to curtail this very real and acute problem.

Why do you think it's necessary for health care workers to be vaccinated before the general population?

Public health experts have recommended health care workers receive the first wave of vaccinations in order to protect those who are most vulnerable. While many of us are fortunate enough to be in good health, our patients often make up a high-risk population. The primary reason health care workers are being vaccinated is to allow us to remain in the workforce without the risk of exposing those we care for.

There seems to be a great deal of enthusiasm for the vaccine among health care workers. What do you think is the impetus behind this?

I believe there's a sense of responsibility among my colleagues to set an example for the population at large and demonstrate our confidence in the medication. Defeating this virus will be a community effort, and we can only expect others to receive this vaccine if we ourselves are willing to do so. Already, several patients



Dr. Matt Schutzer getting the first of two vaccines against COVID-19.



have asked me if I'm going to take the vaccine, and I hope that it helps with their own personal decisions when I can answer yes.

As of this writing, it's been about 24 hours since your injection. How are you feeling?

Physically, I haven't had any side effects other than a sore left arm. It is possible that the second shot may be harder. Emotionally, there is a sense of relief in knowing that it will significantly reduce the risk that I could catch the virus and potentially spread it to others. I'm thankful that I've been able to stay healthy until now and grateful for those who volunteered for vaccine clinical trials.

Do you have any special plans for after you complete your second shot?

To be honest, I do not think much will change early on. We are enjoying a low-key holiday here in Richmond, but will make up for lost time with my family up north at a date to be determined. It will take time and patience for vaccines to get distributed throughout the community. It would be both risky and disrespectful to prematurely do away with basic COVID precautions such as masks and social distancing. I'm hopeful that as more of the population becomes vaccinated, we can turn things around with this virus and gradually move beyond the physical, psychological, social, and economic harm that it has caused.



STEADY AS SHE GOES

by STEVE JONES

As has been the case for quite some time, there are very few homes for sale in the Museum District. As of the end of 2020, there is only one single family on the market along with three townhomes/condominiums. Single family home sales in 2020 were below the 2019 level, with 69 sales compared to 86 in 2019. This apparent slowdown can be attributed to COVID-19. The rate of home sales in the summer and fall outpaced 2019 levels. The average time it takes to sell a home in the Museum District dropped from 13 days in 2019 to nine days in 2020. The average sales price for single family homes has also increased by about 4%, although many factors can influence that number. On the other hand, the condo market was very active, with a year-over-year sales increase from 34 in 2019 to 47 in 2020.

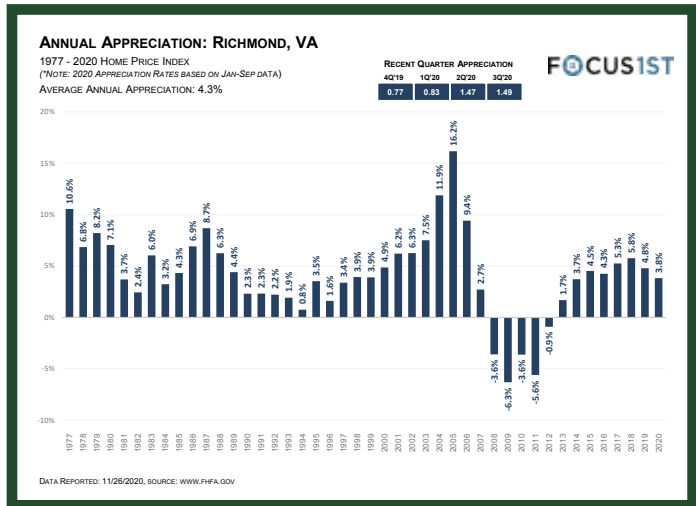


STEVE JONES
Joyner Fine Properties

Nationally, the summer and fall markets were extremely hot, with dramatic increases in both new and existing home sales and home prices, which rose 11.4% from a year earlier. The price increase has some concerned that first-time homebuyers are being shut out of the market. It's important that more inventory becomes available to these buyers. The market did show signs of slowing to a more sustainable pace at the end of the year.

For the Richmond Metropolitan area, the accompanying graph shows that 2020 continued the fairly stable appreciation rates we've sustained over the past five years. If fourth-quarter numbers match expectations, annual appreciation should come in right around 5% for the year. Inventory levels are down 51% over the past 12 months, with about a one-month supply of homes for sale. A "balanced" market has around a five to six-month supply.

Until we're past the pandemic, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, it's advisable to take precautions when showing homes on the market. Common practices include having only the actual potential buyers view the home (no friends, relatives, family, etc.), social distancing, mandatory face masks, hand sanitizer at the entrance to the home, doors ajar with lights on, and providing wipes for visitors to use when they need to touch a surface. **G**



THE RATE OF HOME SALES IN THE SUMMER AND FALL OUTPACED 2019 LEVELS. THE AVERAGE TIME IT TAKES TO SELL A HOME IN THE MUSEUM DISTRICT DROPPED FROM 13 DAYS IN 2019 TO NINE DAYS IN 2020.

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DON'T FORGET THE LEASH

by LIZ BRYANT

EXCERPT FROM RICHMOND CITY CODE (SEC. 4-243):

"IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY DOG TO RUN AT LARGE . . . ANY PERSON WHO PERMITS DOG TO RUN AT LARGE SHALL BE DEEMED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, AND UPON CONVICTION THEREOF, SHALL BE GUILTY OF A CLASS 4 MISDEMEANOR."

Of all the things brought about by the pandemic, one positive to note is that more people have been adopting animals. We have seen an increase of dogs and their "parents" walking through the streets of our neighborhood. And that's a good thing. While most folks are responsible and have their dogs on leashes, there are those who opt to walk leashless. And that's not a good thing. Nor is it legal.

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

While pretty clear, and while most neighbors in the Museum District follow this law, there are instances when we may encounter people with their dog off leash. You have a few options to deal with this. Speaking directly to them in a polite manner to remind them of the law and that it is in place for their safety, as well as the safety of others, might be all that is necessary.

If someone does not respond well to your comment, or has a history of non-compliance, your best bet is to notify Animal

Control at 804-646-5573 (weekdays during business hours) or 804-646-5123 (after 5 and on weekends). Animal Control can only issue a summons if staff see the crime, but if they can ascertain where the offender lives, they are happy to do a "knock and talk."

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

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

For more information on Richmond Animal Care & Control services and hours, visit the website at www.richmondgov.com/animalcontrol.

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.

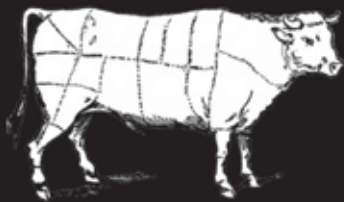
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WALK YOUR PET TO THE VET

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.**

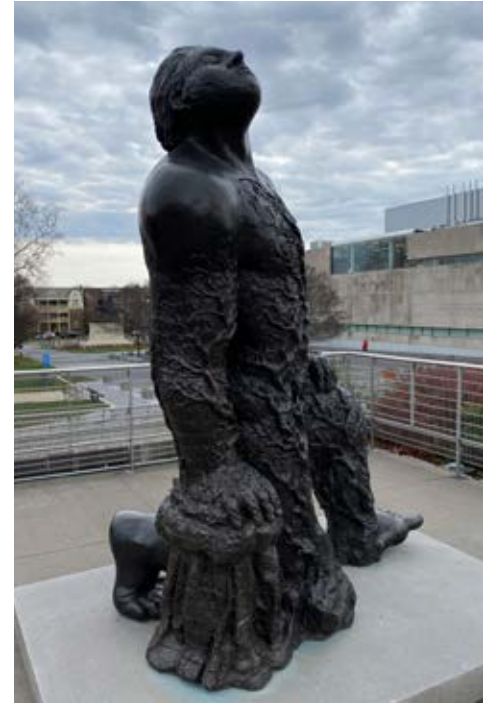


Wilton House Museum

Opening February 2021

215 S. Wilton Road
Richmond, VA

www.wiltonhousemuseum.org



YARD ART

by JANIE WILSON

TAKE INSPIRATION FROM OUR GRANDEST NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN AND EXPRESS YOURSELF AND CHARM US WITH YOUR FRONT YARD.



Our Museum District gardens are an expression of our joy—and a joy for all to see. Recently my neighbor said to me, “I love living in this place. Anything goes. Everybody gets to express themselves however they want. It’s so refreshing!” I couldn’t agree more. And if you look around, you will see everything from perfectly manicured lawns, to tiny gnome gardens to giant blow-ups for every season. It’s just delightful.


Why not, really. After all, the Museum District is named for all the wonderful museums that surround us, and among those museums is found one of the best examples of yard art in the country.



JANIE WILSON

I’m talking about the VMFA sculpture garden. Are we not the luckiest residents in Virginia to be in walking distance of *Chloe* by Jaume Plensa, *Man and Vegetation* by Sandro Chia, *Red Reeds* by Dale Chihuly, *La Riviere* by Aristide Maillol and of course *Rumors of War* by Kehinde Wiley?

Here’s the best part, as I often tell my grandkids: we own them all. Yes, we do indeed, (thanks in part to some amazing donors along the way). We, as the good people of the commonwealth, decided that we should all own yard art of the highest caliber.

So, take inspiration from our grandest neighborhood garden and express yourself. Plant a beautiful pallet of perennials, gather a gnome or two, inflate an Easter bunny or invest in your own lovely sculpture. Go ahead and charm us in your own front yard. We’ll all get a kick out of whatever you choose to share 



TREE TIPS

WE ASKED THE CITY'S URBAN FORESTRY EXPERTS FOR SOME TREE TIPS, AND THEY SHARED THIS HELPFUL ADVICE.

by CHRISTINA NUCKOLS

There are more than 120,200 trees on city property throughout Richmond. They bring beauty to our community, provide shade for neighborhood strolls, and serve as shelter for birds and squirrels. But what if one of those trees happens to be looming over your parking spot, ready to drop a limb through the windshield of your new car?

Can the city help you prune or remove it? How do you submit a request, and how long will it take to get a response? We asked the city's Urban Forestry experts for some tree tips, and they shared this helpful advice.

HOW CAN HOMEOWNERS KNOW WHETHER A TREE IS ON THEIR PROPERTY OR CITY PROPERTY?

In most cases, homeowners can refer to the [online tree inventory](#), conducted between 2013 and 2015 to identify all trees located in public rights of way. If the tree appears on the city inventory, you can be reasonably sure it's a city tree. The interactive map shows the address, tree ID number, and species for trees on public property. Whether or not you need to submit a request to the city, the inventory is a fun way to learn more about the trees in your neighborhood. It can be found on the City's website on the Urban Forestry page at www.ci.richmond.va.us/PublicWorks/UrbanForestry.aspx.

HOW DOES THE CITY SET PRIORITIES FOR TREE PRUNING AND TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS?

City officials give top priority to trees that pose an imminent risk to persons or property. When a city resident submits a request, an arborist will assess whether an urgent safety con-

cern exists. If not, city officials set priorities based on how long requests have been on the waiting list.

WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A TREE PRUNING OR TREE REMOVAL? WHAT TYPES OF INFORMATION SHOULD THEY INCLUDE IN A REQUEST?

The most important piece of information to provide is the correct location, based on the closest actual street address. Then, describe your observations or concerns about the tree, and be sure to include a phone number where the arborist can reach you if there are any questions.

HOW LONG DOES IT TYPICALLY TAKE TO FULFILL A TREE PRUNING OR TREE REMOVAL REQUEST, AND HAS COVID-19 HAD AN IMPACT ON THE TIMING?

The pandemic has had an impact on many services, and Urban Forestry is no exception. Nailing down a specific timeline is almost impossible, as each tree is prioritized differently, according to circumstances that are unique to that tree. Keep in mind that inclement weather will also affect the timing of these service requests.

WHAT CAN HOMEOWNERS DO IF THEY HAVE A PENDING REQUEST BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL DANGER FROM A DANGLING LIMB OVER THEIR CAR, PROPERTY OR SIDEWALK?

Citizens can contact RVA311 or Urban Forestry for an update on their pending requests.

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.



TASHIANA IVY

*2020 Star Award Winner
and Principal of
Albert Hill Middle School*

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

Sitting in a room surrounded by family and friends laughing after a good meal.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

My greatest fear is being lost in the woods.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Michelle Obama, "When they go low, we go high." Her life inspires me as a professional, wife, and mother.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

Not having the opportunity to speak to my grandmother before she passed.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

I would love to be able to sing. A soul singer like Patti LaBelle, Aretha Franklin, or Gladys Knight.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

I love a nice handbag. I'm just beginning my collection but loving the journey.

WHAT OR WHO IS THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

God first. I am fortunate to be surrounded by love from my husband Danny, my boys Grayson and Grant.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

#MissionPossible. I am beyond proud of my staff, students, parents and the Albert Hill community. The resilience, determination, grit, and excellence they have shown through the pandemic is awe inspiring. We can do anything together! Every Tiger, Every Day!

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

Being an educator. I have spent the past 16 years working with the most amazing students, parents, and colleagues.

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

I would come back as a fluffy, plush, fleece throw so that I could always give a hug and be a comfort to those who need it.

WHAT DO YOU REGARD AS THE LOWEST DEPTH OF MISERY?

The lowest depth of misery would be being alone. To live life without my family would be unimaginable.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

Injustice and discrimination of any kind.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE?

Peacefully in my sleep surrounded by the people who care about me.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

Have integrity, have faith, and love conquers all.

WHAT'S THE MOST RICHMOND THING YOU CAN DO?

Going to a festival. 2nd Street, Jazz, Watermelon, Bacon, Folk, Greek, etc. So many great ones and too many to name. 📍



LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

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 (Leaf and trash collection, sidewalks and tree maintenance, etc.)	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
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US SENATE

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

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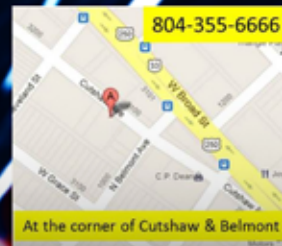
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Rob has numerous credentials and awards, all earned through long experience. He is a Class A licensed design/build contractor, a Certified Green Professional, an accredited HVAC system installer, and a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist. Yet there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

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Belmont LIBRARY

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

In addition to books, e-books, recorded books, and DVDs, we offer programs and classes, meeting room use, wireless internet access, fax service, free notary service (please call ahead for this service) and public use PCs. **Belmont now accepts credit/debit cards and offers self-checkout!**

Please be aware of the following changes:

Updated Hours: *The Belmont Library is open for curbside pick-up only.*
Monday-Friday 10:00-5:00 • Saturday 1:00-5:00

The Library is offering the following services curbside:

- Checking out, returning, renewing items, and placing items on hold, printing, and faxing. We will print documents up to 10 pages for free.

All in-library events and programming is currently suspended.

Notary service is temporarily suspended.

Faxing charges are temporarily suspended.

Meeting rooms and study rooms are not available.

Virtual Programming for kids:

Please register for each program using the following link:

<https://rvalibrary.org/kids/virtual-programs/>.

Book Babies and Toddler Time Storytime – Every Tuesday 10:30-11:00 via Zoom

The Lounge: A virtual teen space on Discord – Every Tuesday 3:00-5:00 via Discord

Get Crafty Together Workshop – Every other Wednesday 4:30-5:30 via Zoom

LIVE Preschool Storytime – Every Thursday 10:30 via Zoom

RVA Library Storytime Shorts – Every Friday via YouTube

Upon registration, the patron will receive a link to join the Zoom call.

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



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