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The

# COLUMNS

FEB - APR 2023

A PUBLICATION of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

# THE SUNKEN GARDEN

AN ITALIAN-INSPIRED GARDEN OF YESTERDAY

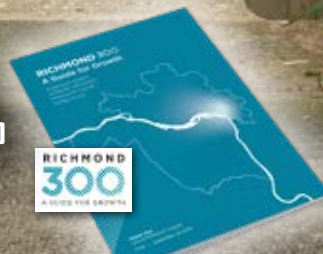
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*The mission of the Museum District Association is to unite, protect and advance the interests of the neighborhood in order to realize its potential and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood and community.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

# HELLO NEIGHBORS!



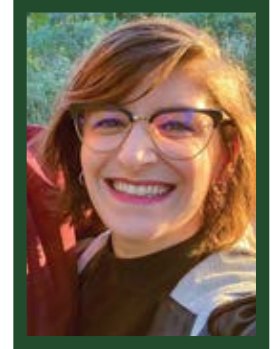
Having been a member of *The Columns* committee for the last three years—first as a writer, then as the editor and chair—I can't say I ever expected to be writing to you now as the Museum District

Association's 2023 board president. But here I am, and what an honor it is. I'm grateful to the board and our members for putting their trust in me to fill what are, at this point, gargantuan shoes.

For those who don't know me, I grew up just 20 minutes south of Richmond in Midlothian, and then attended the University of Virginia, graduating in 2011 with my bachelor's degree in Environmental Thought and Practice (a mouthful, I know). My husband and I then moved to Chicago, where I worked with nonprofits helping refugees and people affected by homelessness live with dignity.

After enduring seven hellish winters in the very windy city, we returned to Richmond in 2019 to be close to family and start one of our own. Today, I'm the proud full-time mom of a spunky 2-year-old son (and a begrudging terrier who will never forgive me for having a human child).

Despite being slightly intimidated to take on the role of board president, I'm more so excited to have the opportunity to get to know and serve you all, my neighbors. It's going to be a great year (is this how manifesting something into reality works?), and I'm determined to uphold our mission to unite, protect and advance the interests of our wonderful neighborhood. Please say hello if you see me out and about! ☑



**JANINE DOYLE**  
2023 MDA PRESIDENT

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE MUSEUM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION'S 27TH MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023 RAIN OR SHINE**

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 To volunteer | [HTvolunteer@museumdistrict.org](mailto:HTvolunteer@museumdistrict.org)  
 To sponsor/advertise | [HTsponsor@museumdistrict.org](mailto:HTsponsor@museumdistrict.org)  
 Past tour photos and more | [museumdistrict.org/mothers-day-tour-md](http://museumdistrict.org/mothers-day-tour-md)

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## BELMONT LIBRARY

**All locations of Richmond Public Library are now open! We are ready to welcome you back.**

Our meeting rooms and study rooms will soon be open to reserve online. While virtual programs continue online, many locations are providing onsite programs outside.

Explore our updated website <https://rvalibrary.org/> for continuing updates to programs and library access. Also check out our new, advanced, library catalog to search for items and place holds.

**New to the neighborhood?** Get a head start by applying for an e-card, giving you some immediate library privileges. Once you visit an RPL branch, you can convert your e-card to a physical card and check out materials. <https://rvalibrary.org/services/get-card/>

**Need legal forms?** Check out <https://subscriptions.uslegalforms.com/gale/forms.html> for free access to Gale Legal Forms, The Leading Online Publisher of National and State-specific Legal Documents. This is a terrific source of commonly used forms like divorce or wills in Virginia. You can access this database from any computer. You will be asked to enter your RPL library card number.

We are no longer offering curbside service because all of our RPL locations are now open to the public. And because we are no longer quarantining returned library items, library users can get their items with less wait time! Our hours at this time are Monday-Friday 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Saturdays 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Programming remains virtual at this time.

### 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.

### 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](http://RichmondPublicLibrary.org) • 804-646-1139



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## The COLUMNS

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**INSIDE THE MDA**

# MDA 2022 STAR AWARDS



Each year, the Museum District Association presents the Star Award to a resident and a city employee/entity for exceptional dedication and service to the neighborhood. Let's meet this year's winners.



## MDA RESIDENT STAR AWARD: GAIL AUSTIN

Gail Austin tirelessly served as logistics coordinator for *The Columns* from 2018-2022, overhauling the magazine's route assembly and delivery processes to develop a system that allows our volunteers to quickly and efficiently deliver over 5,500 magazines every quarter. We could not be more delighted to recognize Gail with an MDA Star Award, and we are beyond grateful for the many hours she devoted to this publication.



## MDA COMMUNITY STAR AWARD: RICHMOND FIRE DEPARTMENT, STATION 18

We're fortunate to have the Richmond Fire Department, Station 18, in our neighborhood on N. Thompson St. These hard-working first responders serve residents in our neighborhood and all across the city to ensure our safety. We're proud to honor them this year as our MDA Community Star Award recipients. 🇺🇸

*Thanks so much to our winners for their dedicated service!*

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## RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

### SUE PATOW

Sue is exiting the MDA board after eight years of service to our neighborhood in a number of capacities. She's truly a force to be reckoned with and very wise in how she approaches community and civic engagement. She has worked tirelessly over the past three years to support Albert Hill Middle School while making sure the teachers know how much we appreciate them. We're truly grateful for Sue's legacy of hard work and civic-mindedness. The MDA board will greatly miss her contributions.


### KYLE ELLIOTT

Kyle Elliott served the MDA well in his capacity as chair of the Zoning and Land Use Committee in 2019, president in 2020, and immediate past president in 2021 and 2022. Kyle led the board through the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty and civil unrest of 2020. Kyle has been an asset to the neighborhood and we're sad to see him roll off the board. Despite moving out of the neighborhood, he will continue to bring his gifts for advocacy and civic engagement to the city of Richmond.

### DOUG ALLEN

Even if just for a short time, Doug Allen made a tremendous impact on our community as the MDA's public safety chair. His insights as a member of the board and Zoning & Land Use Committee have been invaluable. While we're sad to see him leave the neighborhood, we're excited for his next adventures, whatever they may be!

### PAIGE ALCORN

Paige is rolling off the board after her role as chair of our 2022 Mother's Day House and Garden Tour, the MDA's biggest annual fundraiser. Paige led us through a record-breaking year with over 975 tickets sold. This enabled us to donate \$5,500 this year in addition to the \$1,500 that we typically allocate to the MDA Scholarship Fund. We're lucky to have had Paige's leadership in 2022 and are thrilled that she's staying with us as a House Tour Committee member. 

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### HENRY FROST PUBLIC SAFETY



Henry is excited to join the board as safety chair. He is new to the neighborhood, having moved to Park Ave. with his wife Kate and their dog Roo earlier this year. Before that, he lived on Monument Ave. after moving to Richmond from Charlottesville, where he did masters programs in business and public policy. Henry loves being outside and exploring, whether it's cool new businesses around the neighborhood or backpacking trips through the mountains. Coming from Boston, Henry is very much enjoying making the Museum District his new home.


### KAREN LEBO MOTHER'S DAY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR



Karen Lebo is the 2023 Mother's Day House & Garden Tour Committee chair. She loves the way this event brings residents of the MDA together in support of our neighborhood. Karen has lived in the MDA for over 34 years. She previously worked as a lawyer in the state government where she specialized in environmental and administrative law. In private practice she managed a team whose work focused on compliance with ethics and professional responsibility rules and regulations. Recently retired, she's been working on home improvement projects and took a bike trip to Italy. In her spare time, Karen enjoys playing golf and tennis.

### BEN HOPKINS THE COLUMNS



Ben returns to *The Columns* as editor/chair after previously serving from 2017 – 2021. He and his wife Beth Bostian have lived on N. Belmont Ave. for 15 years in a home that was featured on the 2016 Museum District Mother's Day House & Garden Tour. He works remotely as copy director for a Maryland advertising agency that specializes in senior living marketing. He's a passionate but mediocre golfer, plays on a trivia team that's regularly booed by opposing teams, and is co-owner of two absolutely ridiculous French bulldogs, who are named for a notorious North Carolina swindler and Barney Fife's girlfriend from the pilot episode of *The Andy Griffith Show*. 





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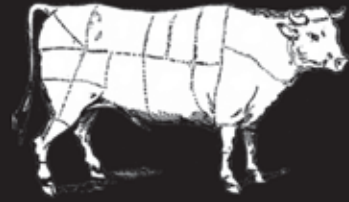
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# MDA 2022 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

**T**hanks to everyone who attended the Museum District Association’s 2022 Annual Meeting. The evening began with an update on planned renovations to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in fall 2024. Richmond Police Department’s Sector 311 Lt. Mike Phibbs and the Richmond Fire Department’s Station 18 Capt. Chris Armstrong also provided a public safety update.

After recognizing our 2022 Star Award winners (*see page 5 for the full story*), the following organizations each received \$1,000 grants thanks to record ticket sales for our 2022 Mother’s Day House & Garden Tour:

- Albert Hill Middle School for a special project to be determined by Principal Ivy
- The Belmont Branch of the Richmond Public Library
- FeedMore’s Meals on Wheels program
- Health Brigade
- Humphrey Calder Community Center for after-school programming



2022 House Tour grantees

We concluded the meeting with a recap of our work in 2022 as well as approval of the 2023 MDA Board of Directors slate:

- Beth Bostian, Communications
- Sarah Busch, Secretary
- Jon Ciccone, Technology
- Danielle Cohen, Programs
- Caley Crawford, Past President
- Janine Doyle, President
- Henry Frost, Public Safety
- Robin Gordon, Membership
- Karen Headley, Zoning & Land Use
- Karen Lebo, House Tour
- Justin Litterst, Capital Projects
- Karen Redford, Treasurer
- Emily Sanfratella, Environment
- Allison Elliott Schutzer, City Liaison
- Beth Shumaker, Museum District Woman’s Club Liaison (*non-voting*)

We hope to see you at our next MDA event in 2023!



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# REFRESHED. RENEWED. REBUILT.

by **MA POWERS**

**T**here's a new little shop in the neighborhood that is packed full of goodness and coziness. Hygge (hyoo-guh or hoo-guh), a Danish word quickly becoming part of our vernacular, means finding comfort, pleasure and warmth in simple, soothing things including a cozy atmosphere or feeling of friendship. Hygge is the perfect word to describe Re on N. Sheppard St. Owner Valerie McDonald is a designer, renovator, artist and decorator. Her personable nature and lively spirit make her a fast friend and trusted retailer.


Valerie has a background designing and renovating homes. She's worked with her equally talented husband Michael for 35 years to restore historic homes. It was only recently that Valerie



*Valerie McDonald, owner of Re on Sheppard St.*

made her dream of opening a retail location a reality. Now there is a magical little spot in the Museum District. Re is much more than a storefront—it's a way of life. Re is about refreshing, renewing and rebuilding what's already present by rearranging it, or reimagining. The shop is full of fun, useful items that inspire you to surround yourself with comfort. In addition to refurbished furniture, reimagined wares and vintage treasures,

there are new items, too! It's nearly impossible to go inside and not spy something unique for yourself or a gift for a friend. The prices, which start at only a few dollars, are also great.

Re is located in the historic building at 905 N. Sheppard St., between Grace and Broad. Check out their Instagram account @Re\_RVA for photos of current merchandise and visit the shop Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 







**AROUND THE  
DISTRICT**

# THE SUNKEN GARDEN

**THE GARDEN CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF INTERCONNECTED YET DISTINCT SECTIONS, ALL FRAMED BY TIDY HEDGEROWS AND BRICK GARAGES FESTOONED IN CLIMBING ROSES IN THE WARMER MONTHS.**



# "ANYONE WHO THINKS THAT GARDENING BEGINS IN THE SPRING AND ENDS IN THE FALL IS MISSING THE BEST PART OF THE WHOLE YEAR; FOR GARDENING BEGINS IN JANUARY WITH THE DREAM."

— Josephine Nuese, Author, *The Country Garden*

by **AMANDA SCUDDER**

**M**ay I present for your winter dreams the story of a special sunken garden tucked away on the corner of N. Arthur Ashe Blvd and Kensington Ave. Chris Small is the dedicated custodian of this historic property, built circa 1925. He purchased the home, poised on its 80-foot-wide lot, in 1994. He renovated the house first, then turned his attention to the neglected splendor beyond.

"We had to cut down 31 trees—it took a long time!" he remembers. In addition, the pond, which is original and can be seen in a 1930s aerial image of the block, required a major refurbishment to become water-worthy once again. Now, a cut-leaf Japanese maple casts a beautiful reflection on the surface.

Chris credits landscape architect Anna Aquino with creating a plan that preserved the original classical structure while incorporating some features that are especially meaningful. Inspired by Chris's love of Italy, Italian cypress trees were incorporated along the streetfront. A cluster of peonies passed down through the generations flank a walkway.

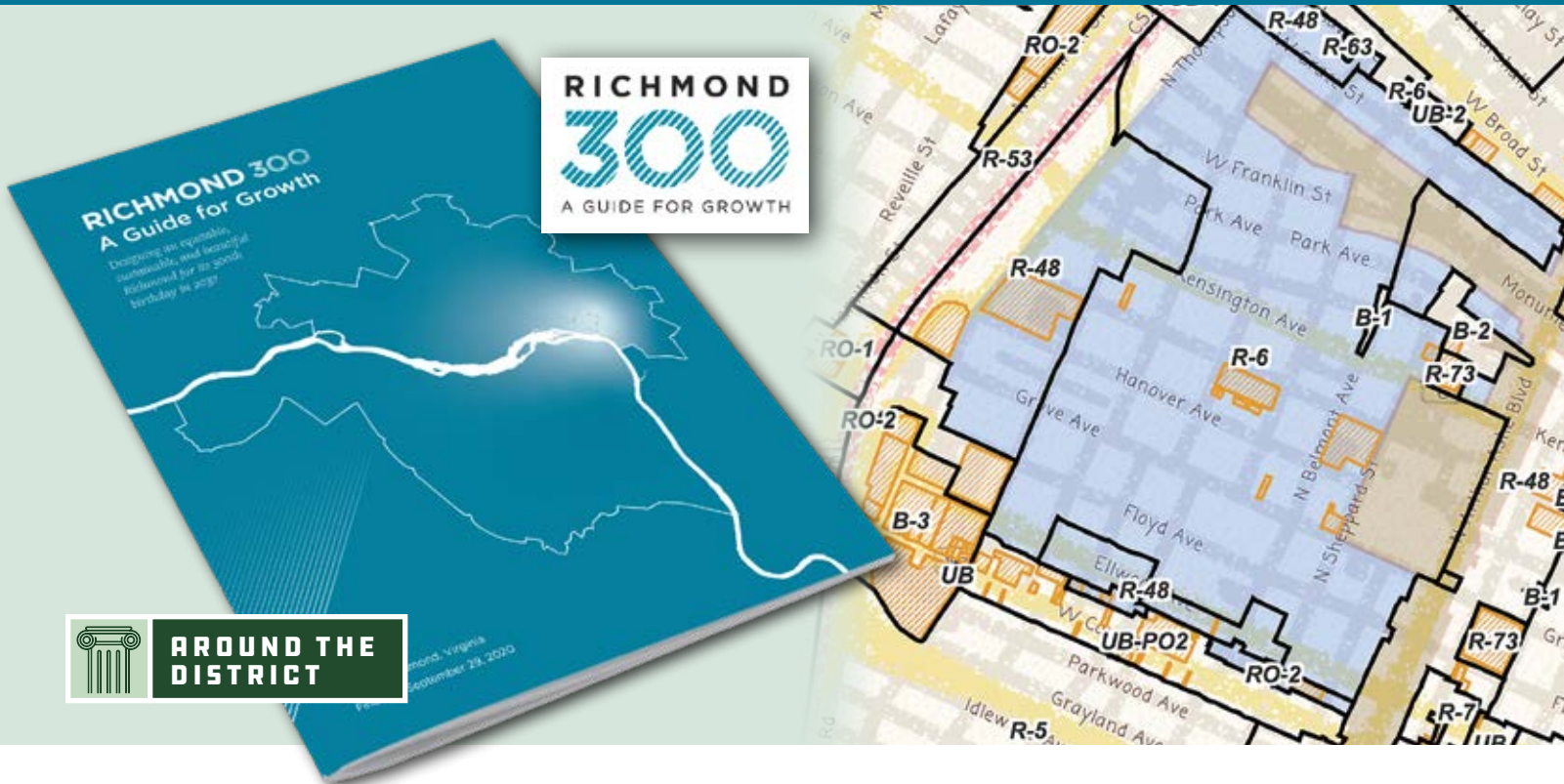
The garden consists of a series of interconnected yet distinct sections, all framed by tidy hedgerows and garages festooned in climbing roses in the warmer months. The sunken garden is formed by a berm, which was popular in the 1920s to elevate homes above the street. While the quatrefoil beds were designed to be viewed from inside the house, it's also delightful to sit where moss-covered steps and a bubbling fountain mute the city soundtrack.

The upper garden incorporates an interesting bit of Richmond history. Hand-dressed limestone slabs that Chris salvaged from a previous renovation of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture across the street now form steps throughout. A circular patio contains more slabs, one of which features the letters "UT", which is a remnant of the museum's first attempt to install the Patrick Henry quote that now adorns the front of the building, "I know of no way of judging the future but by the past."

Judging by this Italian-inspired garden of yesterday, a spring renaissance is practically guaranteed! Wishing you happy midwinter dreams! **E**



# DIGGING IN FURTHER TO THE RICHMOND 300 MASTER PLAN



 **AROUND THE DISTRICT**

## NODES, NEIGHBORHOODS, GREAT STREETS... OH MY!

by **KAREN HEADLEY**  
MDA Zoning & Land Use Committee Chair

**L**ast issue, we introduced an overview of the new Richmond 300 Master Plan (R300). It's nearly 250 pages long and contains recommendations for different areas throughout the city. It also defines different areas, some of which are identified as nodes, neighborhoods and great streets. These definitions and distinctions are important because several fall within our neighborhood.

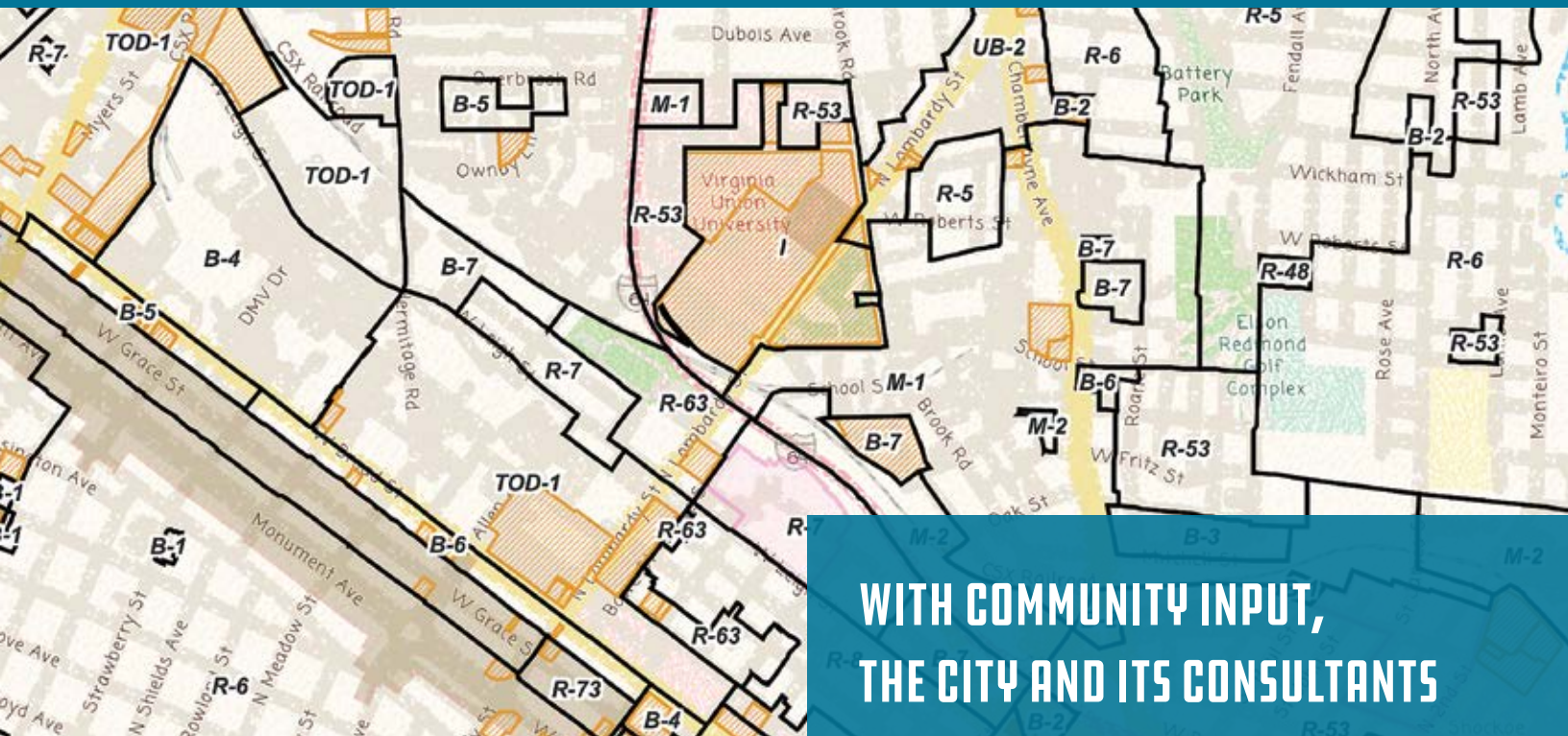
*Nodes* are places in Richmond that can either accommodate additional growth in jobs and population, or are major activity centers to be preserved and enhanced. Each node will be subject to further review and zoning consideration as the city moves to adopt the new master plan.

Carytown is defined as a *National/Regional Node*, which is an area with significant cultural, entertainment, government and business destinations as well as shopping, housing and unique attractions.

Additionally, the triangle area encompassing Patterson and Park from N. Sheppard to Arthur Ashe Blvd. is defined as a *Micro Node*—a notable place that provides mixed-use destinations within primarily residential areas and helps to create a unique sense of place within many of Richmond's historic urban neighborhoods. *Micro Nodes* are a model for future development as new neighborhoods emerge.

R300 also discusses and outlines *future land use designations* including language and guidance as to how each of these areas should look and feel in the future. The Museum District is designated as *Neighborhood-Mixed Use* in the new master plan, being predominantly residential and including various housing types with features that engage the street. These areas also offer a small percentage of non-residential uses, including as restaurants, churches and retail—at the corners. While this designation for future land use isn't zoning or law, it's meant to serve as guidance for the future look and feel of our neighborhood as the city continues to grow and adapt to the new master plan.





**WITH COMMUNITY INPUT,  
THE CITY AND ITS CONSULTANTS  
WILL SOON DEVELOP NEW ZONING  
CATEGORIES THAT ACHIEVE THE  
GOALS SET FORTH IN R300.**

*Great Streets* are significant entrances to the city, which serve as major connectors between city destinations and should serve as prominent promenades to the city. Monument Ave. and Arthur Ashe Blvd. are considered *Great Streets* and may be used as models for future major thoroughfare development.

## RE-WRITING THE ZONING ORDINANCE

One of the first *Big Moves* recommended by R300 is to rewrite the city's zoning ordinance. This means developing new zoning category descriptions for the entire city and then mapping the new zoning categories to every parcel in the city. This is sure to be a 3- to 5-year process. The zoning ordinance is a legal document that outlines what property owners may build on their land and how the building and site must be designed. The current zoning ordinance was primarily written in 1976, but has been amended over the past several decades. Many of the objectives in R300 have strategies that suggest revisions to the Zoning Ordinance and some may include areas within the Museum District as referenced above.

With community input, the city and its consultants will soon develop new zoning categories that achieve the goals set forth in R300. We recommend you get to know the R300 plan, located at <https://www.rva.gov/planning-development-review/master-plan>. The MDA will also do its best to keep you

abreast of these community input opportunities. Visit <https://www.museumdistrict.org/> for more information.

## RICHMOND'S CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE

As we wait for the city to rewrite its zoning ordinance, you can learn about the current ordinance by visiting <https://rva.gov/Planning-Development-Review>. Also, learn how the MDA handles Special Use Requests in our neighborhood for projects that don't adhere to the current zoning ordinance by visiting <https://www.museumdistrict.org/zoning>.

It's important to note that the MDA is not notified of demolition permit requests nor is it asked to provide a position on demolitions of existing homes. Demolition is a right allotted to property owners except in cases of Old & Historic Districts. While there are several blocks within our neighborhood that have been designated as Old & Historic Districts, the majority of the Museum District is not registered as Old & Historic. **Q**





*“People tell us, don’t ever take it down.”*

**— JUSTIN BOWERS**

*Owner of house at SE corner of  
Kensington and Roseneath*



“People walk by just to see what we have up.”

— ALISON NOBLE

Owner of house at NW corner  
of Floyd and Sheppard

# 'TIS THE SEASON... ALL YEAR LONG

by LIZ BRYANT

**W**hile the sentiments from onlookers are similar, two residents in the Museum District approach their outdoor decorating quite differently.

Justin Bowers, who lives on the SE corner of Kensington and Roseneath, says he was “never a seasonal decorator.” Alison Noble, on the other hand, who lives on the NW corner of Floyd and Sheppard, has always loved holiday décor. She says that when she was growing up her father was much like the dad in the movie *Christmas Vacation*. In fact, he still helps out—a family tradition, you might say.

Justin’s interest was piqued a couple of years ago when he saw a giant skeleton in Home Depot. He was enthralled by the scale but didn’t have a front yard large enough to accommodate it. That was not a deterrent, though. In 2021, he found out when the skeletons would be released (it was a Halloween thing), and he snagged one in Colonial Heights. But then, what to do with it?

“It was an excuse for me to learn how to use a welder,” Justin says.

The 12’ tall, plastic skeleton named Skelē (pronounced Skel’-ee), is attached to the side of Justin’s house with welded brackets. The whole thing weighs about 75 pounds and took about a week to install.

Justin says his girlfriend Jessica Davis thinks that Skelē is pretty

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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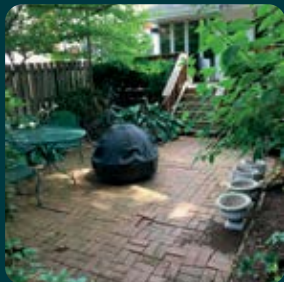
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## NEST REALTY

WE KNOW THE RENOVATIONS *and* THE NEIGHBORHOOD

BEFORE



AFTER



Tim and Kasey Hayes purchased their home with us in 2018 and since then have undergone a thorough and thoughtful renovation both inside and out of their beloved Kensington Avenue home. Tim, an architect that works with historic buildings and homes, paired his sensibility for space with Kasey's impeccable eye for design. Check out our Instagram, @NestRealtyRichmond, for more before and after of their renovation.

MUSEUM DISTRICT	2020	2021	2022
Number of Sales	98	90	97
Average Price	\$444,619	\$444,356	\$555,329
Median Price	\$430,700	\$455,000	\$535,000
Days on Market	21	14	10
Avg. Price per SF	\$259.64	\$273.39	\$333.06
Avg. Size	1,792	1,683	1,663

\*Information from CVRMLS for closed transactions through November 30th, 2022 and includes all detached, attached, and duplex properties.



SCAN QR CODE TO  
HEAD TO OUR  
INSTAGRAM



## 'THIS THE SEASON

*continued from page 17*

neat and is encouraging of his newfound penchant for adornment. And while Skelē initially joined the family for Halloween, he's been decorated for other major holidays as well.


Alison, who shares her home with her husband Ryan Maxwell, has always decorated for Halloween and Christmas, but started expanding the collection at the beginning of the pandemic. Alison loves inflatables. Clearly. First it was St. Patrick's Day, then Easter, Cinco de Mayo and Memorial Day, followed by Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day. Never a dull moment at the Noble-Maxwell home.

One might wonder about storage for this operation. With the exception of the Christmas decorations, the other inflatables fit quite nicely, Alison says, "in a giant zipper bag."

While Alison brings the vision, enthusiasm and creativity to decorating, Ryan provides the technical support. Together they make a good team.

Both Justin and Alison say they love how their decorations are received by passersby. Selfies are common occurrences at both houses, and they share the feeling that their ornamentation adds something positive to the neighborhood. Justin also hopes Skelē can help bring awareness to important issues. He even has his own Instagram account—@SkeleRVA—where you can see what he's up to.

And let's not forget the gift of fun that all the decorations provide for anyone who sees them. As Alison says, "Every time I come home, it brings a smile to my face."

Go check them out and you may find yourself smiling too. 



*The many faces of the 12' tall, plastic skeleton named Skelē (pronounced Skel'-ee), is attached to the side of Justin Bower's house with welded brackets.*



*St. Patrick's Day and Halloween are but a few holidays that are decorated at the Noble-Maxwell house.*









# WINTER IS COMING

by **ALLISON ELLIOTT SCHUTZER**


*Licensed Realtor, The Steele Group, Sotheby's International Realty*

**T**he housing market cooled down steadily throughout 2022 and is on track to have the sharpest annual drop in sales activity in over a decade as we enter 2023. This is a somewhat predictable forecast;

interest rates have been rising, prices are climbing and inventory remains tight as there are more buyers in the market than sellers willing to sell. However, home price growth remains strong with the low supply of inventory. That's good news for owners living in our neighborhood! There are still plenty of shoppers shopping, and the Museum District remains one of the most sought-after places to live in Richmond. The best thing you can do for your property is take good care of it. This time of year, that means winterizing your home. This short list will prolong the life of your historic property and help maintain its value should you wish to sell in the near future.



- Disconnect all outdoor hoses and bring them indoors.
- Bring outdoor furniture indoors or protect with weather-proof covers.
- Check your foundation and exterior brick for cracks or needed repairs.
- Have your roof and gutters inspected for defects before the snow and freezing rain hits.
- Have your fireplace, chimney and flue cleaned and inspected. Even if your home does not have a functioning fireplace, you may still have a flue and chimney that services your furnace and requires upkeep.
- Cut back any outdoor plants and cover any plants that may need extra warmth during winter months.
- Weatherproof windows and doors. This can be as simple as adding a little weatherstripping around the periphery.

Out of the home during the day? Try setting your thermostat below 65 when you're not in the house. This is a great way to save energy and avoid overworking your heating system. 



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Visit [MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG](http://MUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG)  
for more information.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

#### CITY

Mayor Levar Stoney .....	804-646-7970
Citizens Assistance .....	804-646-7000 or 311
Public Works ( <i>Leaf and trash collection, sidewalks and tree maintenance, etc.</i> ) .....	804-646-6430
Building Permits, Inspections .....	804-646-4169
Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement .....	804-646-6398

#### POLICE & FIRE

Emergency .....	911
Fire Non-emergency .....	804-646-6640
Police Non-emergency .....	804-646-5100
Crime Stoppers .....	804-646-6733
3rd Precinct .....	804-646-1412
Animal Control .....	804-646-5573
..... (after hours)	804-646-5123

#### RVA311

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

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

#### CITY COUNCIL

Andreas Addison (1st District) - <a href="mailto:andreas.addison@richmondgov.com">andreas.addison@richmondgov.com</a> .....	804-646-5935
Katherine Jordan (2nd District) - <a href="mailto:katherinejordan@richmondgov.com">katherinejordan@richmondgov.com</a> .....	804-646-6532
Stephanie Lynch (5th District) - <a href="mailto:stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com">stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com</a> .....	804-646-5724

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

#### SCHOOL BOARD

Jason Kamras, School Superintendent - <a href="mailto:jkamras@rvaschools.net">jkamras@rvaschools.net</a> .....	804-780-7700
Elizabeth Doerr (1st District) - <a href="mailto:edoerr@rvaschools.net">edoerr@rvaschools.net</a> .....	804-929-6624
Mariah White (2nd District) - <a href="mailto:mwhite4@rvaschools.net">mwhite4@rvaschools.net</a> .....	804-221-9389
Stephanie Rizzi (5th District) - <a href="mailto:srizzi@rvaschools.net">srizzi@rvaschools.net</a> .....	804-929-6930

To watch school board proceedings and meetings:

Go to: <https://goboarddocs.com/vsba/richmond/board.nsf/public>

#### VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Del. Dawn Adams (68th) - <a href="mailto:DelDAdams@house.virginia.gov">DelDAdams@house.virginia.gov</a> .....	804-698-1068
Del. Betsy Carr (69th) - <a href="mailto:DelBCarr@house.virginia.gov">DelBCarr@house.virginia.gov</a> .....	804-698-1069
Del. Jeffrey Bourne (71st) - <a href="mailto:DelJBourne@house.virginia.gov">DelJBourne@house.virginia.gov</a> .....	804-698-1071
Sen. Jennifer McClellan (9th) - <a href="mailto:district09@senate.virginia.gov">district09@senate.virginia.gov</a> .....	804-698-7509
Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (10th) - <a href="mailto:district10@senate.virginia.gov">district10@senate.virginia.gov</a> .....	804-698-7510

#### US CONGRESS (DISTRICT 4)

As of press time, this seat was vacant following the passing of Rep. A. Donald McEachin. The next issue will have contact information for the new representative chosen by special election on February 21.

#### US SENATE

Sen. Mark Warner .....	DC Office - 202-224-2023
.....	Richmond Office - 804-775-2314
Sen. Tim Kaine .....	DC Office - 202-224-4024
.....	Richmond Office - 804-771-2221



# THE PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

Adapted by editor 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.



**JANINE DOYLE (AND OBIE)**

2023 Museum District Association  
Board President

## WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

*Sitting by a campfire on a crisp fall day with the people I love.*

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

*The hairs on the back of my neck stand up whenever I think about the deep sea. I hate the idea that there are tons of night-marish creatures creeping around down there, completely unseen...*

## WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

*I'm endlessly impressed by my sister's talent and tenacity as an artist, especially in the face of great adversity. She owns a hugely successful business (Black Rabbit Tattoo), founded the Anime Ink Convention (which is now expanding to cities beyond Richmond) and prides herself on fostering an “everybody's welcome” atmosphere in what can often be an isolating industry, especially for women.*

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

*Taro boba tea; can't get enough.*

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

*Not being pushy enough with my parents to teach me Italian when I was young and a better sponge for learning languages.*

## WHAT OR WHO IS THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

*My immensely patient, kind and goofy husband.*

## WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

*I'd love to be a good dancer. I'm always blown away when I watch professional dancers do their thing.*

## WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

*As I'm writing this, I'm feeling pretty content. My husband is back home after a long weekend trip, my toddler son is finally getting over his 100th cold of the season and my dog is happily napping on my lap.*

## WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

*Having a dang child. Shout out to all of you who have done the same—it's insane and we're extraordinary.*

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

*Can't beat the life of a happy house cat, can you?*

## WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

*Willful ignorance.*

## WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

*People are not exclusively good or bad; we're all living in the gray.*

## WHAT'S THE MOST RICHMOND THING YOU CAN DO?

*Apparently getting a Duke's Real Mayo tattoo. 🇺🇸*







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