Summer 2020: Looking Back, Moving Forward

These last few months are ones we will never forget, and ones that will forever reshape our neighborhood and city. In the midst of trying to adapt to a pandemic that has already changed the way we live, we saw our skies, streets and parks transformed both for the short term – and, in some cases, forever.

Our unique memories reflect myriad daily rituals during the last months - parents juggling kids and work, neighbors protesting in support of Black Lives Matter, individuals struggling with isolation, business owners fighting to stay afloat, residents dealing with extended civil unrest, and often we are a combination of several of the above.

As we reflect on our experiences, FanFare offers images from our past, a visual record of the present and even glimpses of what the future might bring. The work of developing policies and rebuilding trust is harder to capture in images and requires our active involvement.

Watch for continuing information as the FDA works closely with residents and city leadership to communicate next steps through our weekly member emails and via the FDA Facebook page. We hope residents will participate actively as we collectively move forward in the months ahead.

Left: Unveiling of J.E.B. Stuart Monument on Monument Avenue, May 30, 1907, Edyth Beveridge, V.47.109.65

Inside This Issue
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Holiday House Tour Update
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President’s Message  By Martha Warthen

We thought we’d seen everything 2020 had to offer when one of the largest social justice movements in history arrived in our neighborhood. As we’ve all learned, a front row seat to history brings with it stress and anxiety that we were already feeling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some added stress for the board has been attempting to represent our members at this tense time. We have been grateful for your emails since we can’t represent you effectively if we don’t know what you’re thinking and feeling. As with many other issues, we’ve discovered that FDA members have very diverse views on the subjects of the monuments, the protests and law enforcement. We’ve attempted to represent you all in our official statement regarding the protests, which you can read on page 6, and where you will also find the contact information for Fan area elected officials. We encourage neighbors to contact their City Council and General Assembly representatives who are tasked with work much more difficult than the drafting of statements and want to hear from their constituents.

The pandemic and the protests aren’t the only forces affecting our neighborhood. The future of the Fan as well as the City itself will be greatly impacted by the Richmond 300 project to establish a new City Master Plan. Once the Master Plan is adopted, there will be additional public processes to institute new zoning to align with the new Master Plan. Keep an eye on your inbox and our Facebook page for updates.

Finally, I want to close with a heartfelt thanks to our outgoing President Jerry Beverage whose term ended at our May 20th membership meeting (talk about timing!). Jerry was instrumental in working with the City on a number of fronts, most recently getting short-term rental legislation adopted.

Neighbors also know him as the volunteer captain for the Holiday House Tour – an enormous task involving the recruitment and management of hundreds of volunteers, as well as managing our parks for two years. Jerry, thank you!

Sincerely,

Martha

Martha Warthen
FDA President
Reimaging Monument Avenue Exhibit, Revisited

In 2019, the Valentine Museum hosted the international design competition “Monument Avenue: General Demotion/General Devotion” organized by the local Storefront for Community Design and VCU’s mObstudIO.

The competition asked participants to reconsider Monument Avenue, but little did anyone know the conversation would turn from the hypothetical to the immediate less than a year after the exhibit closed in December of 2019.

FanFare received permission from the Valentine Museum to reprint two different entries depicting possible future uses for the J.E.B. Stuart statue and base as companion images to the side-by-side cover photographs of the statue being erected and removed. To view all entries, go to www.monumentavenuegdgd.com

Center for Productive Conversations imagined a grounded J.E.B. Stuart statue surrounded by interpretive granite blocks.

PRIMORDIAL MASKS: MONUMENT unVEILING entry envisions the pedestal repurposed for a rotating display of VCU art.

FanFare is published three times a year (April, August, December) by the Fan District Association (FDA) for the benefit of Fan residents and businesses.

FanFare is mailed directly to all FDA members. For non-FDA members, it is available for download from our website at www.fandistrict.org and at several central drop sites in the Fan.

Editor: Katherine Jordan, fanfare@fandistrict.org
Advertising: Katherine Jordan, advertising@fandistrict.org

Bulletin Board

Aug 20
8:15pm
Classics in the Courtyard, “Goodbye Mr. Chips”
First Baptist Church Courtyard, FREE • Restrooms will be closed & bring your own refreshments

Aug 27
8:15pm
Classics in the Courtyard, “Dr. No”
First Baptist Church Courtyard, FREE • Restrooms will be closed & bring your own refreshments

Aug 28
Adopt-A-Tree Application Deadline

Sept 7
Labor Day

Sept 8
First Day of School for Richmond Public School (distance learning)

Sept 14
Richmond 300 introduced at City Council**
6pm

Sept 22
Richmond 300 presentation**
1pm
Land Use, Housing, & Trans. Committee

Sept 28
Richmond 300 Vote to adopt at City Council Meeting**
6 pm

Oct 5
FDA Monthly Meeting*
7pm

Oct 6
National Night Out (pending)

Oct 13
Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration www.elections.virginia.gov/registration

Oct 23
Absentee ballot application deadline (through the mail)

Oct 31
Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot application deadline (in person)

Oct 31
Halloween

Nov 2
Election Day
7 pm
Presidential election plus U.S. Senate & House of Representatives, and Richmond Mayor, City Council & School Board races

Nov 3
FDA Monthly Meeting*
6am-7pm

*Location unavailable at time of printing, confirm at fandistrict.org

**City Council Agendas can change. Refer to https://richmondva.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx for the latest information. To sign-up for public comment, email CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com
The Fan Woman’s Club Revamps Historic Home Plaques

Since 1985, the Fan Woman’s Club (“FWC”) has been responsible for the production and distribution of historic plaques for Fan homes. These plaques designate a home is registered with the Fan Area Historic District and National Register of Historic Places, and also indicate the year in which the home was built.

Currently, the icon on the historical plaques depicts the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee; however, the FWC Board has been evaluating alternative graphics for the past year. In an effort to expedite the revamp, the Board is currently liaising with a local designer. Once completed, alternative designs will be voted on by the FWC membership and the new plaque option will be available to Fan residents shortly thereafter.

FWC President, Christie Wisotzki: “This is something that has been discussed for quite some time and has become a top priority for our Board. We look forward to seeing the new designs on homes throughout the neighborhood.”

Ordering information will be circulated when the updated plaques become available. To request a new plaque, visit www.fanwomansclub.org/historic-plaques.html.

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.

HOT WEATHER KILLS! WARNING!

Working with Coleen Butler Rodriguez as my husband and I searched for our first home in The Fan was a dream experience. She is incredibly knowledgeable about the market, the area, and the types of homes we visited. We are comfortable moving into our first home knowing we had a true professional and advocate working for our family and we can’t recommend Coleen enough!  ❖ RACHEL MCRADY
A Message from the Fan District Association

The Board of Directors of the Fan District Association supports the current movement for social justice prompted by the tragic death of George Floyd. This is a momentous and historic time in the civil rights movement, and Richmond is one epicenter.

Our organization has been silent for too long. We support current efforts to establish racial equality, to eradicate structural racism and to build a more just and equitable society for all people, regardless of their race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation.

While we don’t agree with all of the protestors’ tactics, that does not disqualify their concerns. We want to be allies in a common pursuit.

Let’s all bear responsibility and take action together. We call on our elected officials, including the governor and the mayor, to collaborate in enacting reasonable governance and reforms for the common good. Specifically we respectfully request that:

- The City take immediate responsibility for holding a meeting with neighborhood organizations and activists to discuss how we move forward to address concerns of protesters and mediate the unlawful and disorderly aspects of the protests.
- The City and Commonwealth appoint a liaison to whom residents can express concerns and give and receive real-time information and suggestions concerning events taking place that can be quickly and accurately communicated to our neighborhood.
- The City create a commission on justice and policing, including a facilitator, the administration, protest leaders and other citizens to create a meaningful dialogue on what the City can do to create policies that will address the concerns of the protesters.
- Legal authorities work together to enhance safety for all by enforcing basic laws equitably and impartially.

In this historic time, let us all redouble our efforts to achieve racial and social equality in our community.

Monument Avenue Preservation Society Statement

The Board of Directors of the Monument Avenue Preservation Society stands in opposition to racism and oppression. We support our neighbors of all races in our collective quest for justice and equality. Black lives matter, and we support the initiatives to remove the Confederate monuments from Monument Avenue.

For too long, we have overlooked the inherent racism of these monuments, and for too long we have allowed the grandeur of the architecture to blind us to the insult of glorifying men for their roles in fighting to perpetuate the inhumanity of slavery.

When Mayor Stoney’s Commission recommended removing the statue of Jefferson Davis and adding context to the remaining Confederate monuments, we felt like we were moving forward to a thoughtful reconciliation of the issue. Unfortunately, too much time has passed without any meaningful action to design or implement any additional context. We feel that moment has passed.

If our silence has been perceived as approval of the intimidation implied by the monuments, we apologize. Hear us now: we support the decisions of the governor, the mayor and city council to remove the monuments. We look forward to being a part of the re-envisioning of the future of our avenue.
Fan Area Elected Representatives:

Not sure who represents you?
Look it up here:
https://apps.richmondgov.com/applications/propertysearch
and
https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov

School Boardmember Scott Barlow (2nd District)
jbarlow3@rvaschools.net | (804) 929-6571

School Boardmember Patrick Sapini (5th District)
psapini@rvaschools.net | 804 929-6930

City Councilwoman Kim Gray
(2nd District)
kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com | (804) 852-4427

City Councilwoman Stephanie Lynch (5th District)
(804) 646-5724 | electstephanielynch@gmail.com

Delegate Betsy Carr
(804) 698-1069 | delegate.carr@betsycarr.org

Senator Jennifer McClellan
(804) 698-7509 | district09@senate.virginia.gov

Delegate Jeff Bourne
(804) 698-1071
delibourne@house.virginia.gov

Delegate Dawn Adams
804) 698-1068 | DelDAdams@house.virginia.gov

Commonwealth Attorney Collette McEachin
(804) 646-3500 | colette4rva@gmail.com

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Code Enforcement & Zoning zoning@fandistrict.org
Grants grants@fandistrict.org
Safety & VCU safety@fandistrict.org
Membership membership@fandistrict.org
Programs & Events programsandevents@fandistrict.org
Parks & Trees parks@fandistrict.org
Liaison, Fan Area Business Alliance faba@fandistrict.org
The Driveway Drag show performed for a special Fan honoree.

Sunday Funday with Bea's Musical Quarantine Bingo on Park Avenue.
COVID didn’t stop book launch for Fan Neighbor Rachel Beanland

When Fan resident Rachel Beanland sold her first novel, “Florence Adler Swims Forever”, to Simon & Schuster in early 2019, she couldn’t have foreseen that she’d be releasing the book in the middle of a pandemic. By this spring, her pre-publication tour had been cut short, her book tour had moved online, and it looked like her launch party would be cancelled. To ensure her neighbors and friends could still celebrate, Beanland offered “launch parties in a box,” for pre-ordering copies from Chop Suey Books. On launch day, she delivered books and party boxes to her neighbors, and everyone celebrated that evening on Instagram Live. “It wasn’t a traditional launch party,” said Beanland, “but it was really rewarding to get the chance to put the book directly in people’s hands.”

“Florence Adler Swims Forever” is Barnes & Noble’s July Book Club pick, Amazon’s Featured Debut for July, & an Indie Next pick.

There’s no place like home

June 20, 2020 (Summer solstice)
Mary Genevieve Weissend marries Jason Davis Cadow at the Weissend Family courtyard. The original wedding was supposed to take place at Monumental Church on May 2, 2020 with a reception at VMFA. Although different than planned, the intimacy made it even more special and memorable.
Fan Art Stroll Recap

The Fan Art Stroll on June 25 & 26 was a socially-distant opportunity for inspiration and fun, featuring Fan resident artists, crafters, and musicians. The idea arose when Sally Holzgrefe decided to expand her husband’s solo art show on his porch, to a Fan-wide opportunity for all area artists. A second Fan Art Stroll will take place on Thurs/Fri, October 8 & 9. To participate as an exhibitor or porch host, contact sallyholzgrefe@gmail.com; for updates, follow www.facebook.com/FanArtStroll.

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

Sunday worship online at 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Webcast: fbcrichmond.org/watch
Broadcast on TV8 at 11 a.m.
Congregation Beth Ahabah suffered damage the first night of citywide protests. VCU students Kelsey Levitt and Carson Sturges transformed the boarded windows into a mural.

Neighbors throughout the Fan added signs and offerings of solidarity.

Customers, friends and staff rallied behind veteran and small business owner Leonard Blue, whose Fan store Experimax was looted in the early hours of May 31st.
Fan Neighbor Documents Protests

Wendy Goodman Humble has been photographing the Black Lives Matter protests since they started. Below she shares some of her favorite images from June and July. Humble’s work has also been featured on VPM.org, RVA Magazine and Richmond Grid social media accounts.
FABA Forum: A Payroll Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Update

Earlier this month the SBA released the complete database of all 5 million PPP loans issued to date. For loans above $150,000, the data include company name, address, demographic information, date the loan was issued, and number of employees. For loans under $150,000, the name and address were omitted.

Releasing this data has caused anxiety among borrowers because the data seemed incomplete. After reviewing the data, many companies were reported as having zero or one employee, even though their loan amounts were over $150,000, signaling many more employees. This raised concerns that inaccurate data would cause audits or adversely impact a review. The reality is the data reflects the input from lenders who were working around the clock to issue the loans as fast as possible and, as per the CARES Act, gave borrowers the benefit of the doubt that the loans were necessary and employees were to be kept on the payroll.

For most borrowers, the inaccurate data will be of no consequence. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees, sole proprietors, or independent contractors will not be the target for harsh reviews or audits, and while those borrowers who received over $2 million in PPP funds have a much higher likelihood of audit, the real targets will consist of fraudsters lying on loan documents.

We at FABA are prepared to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs navigate the loan forgiveness process. A thorough and complete loan forgiveness application will increase the likelihood for loan forgiveness and reduce the odds of an audit or review.

Find out more online at fanareabiz.com
Grants Spotlight

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fan District Association Board voted to give Health Brigade and the Holli Fund $3,000 each. This additional $6,000 in grants is above the $25,500 already awarded as part of the FDA’s 2020 community grants program.

Health Brigade, formerly the Fan Free Clinic, is Virginia’s oldest free and charitable clinic offering an array of medical, mental health, community outreach and care coordination services for low-income and uninsured persons. The grant from the FDA allowed them to upgrade their telehealth services to accommodate patients virtually.

The Holli Fund offers financial grants to food service community members experiencing economic crises. They have raised over $250,000 and issued over 250 grants.

Grant Winners 2020

William Fox Elementary PTA
Strawberry Street Festival
$4,000

Higher Achievement
Binford Achievement Center
$2,000

ART 180
After School Art Programming at Binford
$3,000

Visual Arts Center of Richmond
Binford Art After School
$2,500

Binford Middle School
House Championship Celebration
$500

The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design
2019 Centennial Celebration Sponsorship
$1,500

Monroe Park Conservancy
Family Movie Nights
$500

The Holli Fund
Emergency grant for food service workers experiencing a financial crisis
$3,500

Health Brigade
$3,000

Friends of Meadow Park
Improvements to Meadow Park
$6,000

Metropolitan Community Church of Richmond
Vickie Hester Food Pantry
$500

Feed More
Meals on Wheels Program
$500

Fan Graffiti Removal
$5,000
The 58th Annual Meeting and Membership Appreciation Event

Thank you to the 100-plus members who “attended” (via Zoom) the Fan District Association’s 58th Annual Meeting and Membership Appreciation Event on May 20th – what a fun evening we had!

Originally scheduled to take place at the VMFA’s Amuse, members instead met virtually to celebrate the extraordinary volunteer work of neighbors and local businesses. The reduced cost of the annual meeting allowed the FDA to donate additional grants during the Covid-19 pandemic to two local organizations, Health Brigade (formerly Fan Free Clinic) and the Holli Fund, which provides financial grants to food service community members experiencing economic crisis.

After a brief review of FDA financial information and key activities by out-going President, Jerry Beverage, the baton officially passed to incoming President, Martha Warthen. New Board members were nominated via a virtual election using Zoom’s voting process. Congratulations to Tricia Bryant, Melissa Savenko, Julia Seward and Lacy Williams for their successful nominations!

Best Residential Renovation awards recipients included the newly-completed duplex at 1501 Hanover Avenue and the single family home at 1924 Hanover Avenue.

Attendees also voted on the Best Commercial Renovation award among a pool of impressive nominees including Brunch, Moonrock Gelato, Hungry Hearts Salon, Barrio Taqueria & Tequila and Starbucks. Congratulations to all our local businesses for their nominations, and especially to Brunch, which was voted the Best Commercial Renovation by the meeting’s attendees. Many thanks to our members who submitted the above nominations. We are delighted to have so many impressive nominees who are dedicated to the betterment of our community.

Jerry Beverage wrapped up the agenda by honoring two special FDA members for their outstanding volunteerism and dedication of countless hours and energy to improving the Fan. Congratulations and thank you to Katherine Jordan and Colin Kelly!

Several lucky attendees on the Zoom call were awarded gift certificates to local restaurants, and one lucky member scored a night’s stay at the Quirk Hotel!

Finally, a big thank you to each of our members for your participation not only in this year’s unique Annual Meeting but also for your ongoing efforts - however big or small - in making our neighborhood the special place it is.

The FDA is working hard to continue uniting, informing and improving our neighborhood. While we may not be able to gather for a while, we will work to stay connected and foster community in every way possible.

Programs & Events

Annual Meeting Awards

Outstanding Home Renovation:
1501 Hanover Avenue & 1924 Hanover Avenue

Outstanding Commercial Renovation:
Brunch

Distinguished Volunteer:
Colin Kelly

Volunteer of the Year:
Katherine Jordan
Holiday House Tour 2020 Update
By Kimberly Hitchens & Cherie Mehler, HHT Co Chairs

Due to the uncertainty regarding the coronavirus, the Fan District Association’s board has made the very difficult decision to cancel the holiday house tour this year. It was cancelled during WW II and came back strong, and we plan to repeat that in 2021. The committee is brainstorming other fundraising avenues in order to supplement the FDA’s grant program.

We’re proud to live and work in the Fan!

We bring new life to old homes.

{status quo}
damp cement basement

{FAN-tastic}
basement recreation area

Cabinetry & Construction
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Short-Term Rental Regulations Adopted

In June, City Council adopted an ordinance to regulate Short-Term Rentals (STR). STR’s are rentals for fewer than 30 days that are often advertised on Airbnb, Craigslist and other sites. The new rules went into effect July 1, 2020. Below are excerpts from the regulations, which can be found at www.richmondgov.com/PlanningAndDevelopmentReview/ShortTermRentals.aspx

Short-Term Rental Fact Sheet

The ordinance permits short-term rentals as an accessory use to a dwelling unit or permitted accessory dwelling unit in all zoning districts that permit residential uses under the following conditions:

Who can operate a short-term rental: The short-term rental operator shall be the property owner. The short-term rental shall be on the lot of the operator’s primary residence with the operator occupying the lot at least 185 days each year.

Approval Process: Certificate of Zoning Compliance (CZC) is to be obtained on a biennial basis. The Biennial Fee for CZC is to be $300, which is intended to cover administration and monitoring costs. Each Certificate of Zoning Compliance shall be effective from January 1 of the year in which such certificate is obtained to December 31 of the following year, regardless of the date on which the owner obtains the certificate.

Advertising: The Certificate of Zoning Compliance approval number must be posted on all advertisements for the property.

Number of nights a short-term rental can operate: No limit.

Number of persons who can rent per night: The total number of adult renters shall be limited to two adults per available sleeping room. Double booking, which consists of more than one booking transaction occurring at the same time, is not allowed. The number of children per rental is not limited. Occupancy may be further limited under the Building Code.

Number of sleeping rooms available for rental: Limited to a maximum of 5 sleeping rooms.

Unhosted vs. Hosted Stays: This legislation does not distinguish between hosted and unhosted stays; whole house rentals (unhosted stays) are permitted in all zones as the operator is not required to be on site during the stay.

Signage: Short-term rentals are permitted to have signage as permitted by the district.

Parking: No additional parking is required for the short-term rental use.

Events: Events and gatherings of persons other than the authorized lodgers are prohibited from occurring at the short-term rental.

Applying for a Short-Term Rental Permit:

Beginning July 1, 2020, applicants can apply for a Short-Term Rental Permit through the City’s Online Permit Portal (https://energov.richmondgov.com/EnerGov_Prod/selfservice#/home).

Reporting a Zoning Violation regarding a Short-Term Rental:

If you are aware of a property operating a Short-Term Rental without a Short-Term Rental Permit or in violation of the rules for operating, contact the Zoning Administration office via (804)646-6340 or send an email to: PDRZoningAdministration@richmondgov.com. Additionally, complaints can be submitted via RVA311.

Please provide a detailed description of the violation and an accurate property address. Once an alleged violation is reported to the office, it is assigned to enforcement staff for investigation by researching records and, if necessary, performing an on-site inspection. If the office determines that a property violates a zoning requirement, a Violation Notice & Correction Order is sent to the owner and/or occupant of the property. The violator is normally given thirty (30) days to abate the violation, as Virginia law requires a 30-day appeal period. If a violation is not abated or an appeal filed, a summons may be issued for criminal court. Violation of the Zoning Ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor, subject up to a $2,500 fine and/or up to a year in jail.
Getting to Know New Police Chief Gerald Smith

Earlier this summer, FanFare attended a press briefing for new Police Chief Gerald Smith. Smith built his 29 year career at Charlotte Mecklenburg PD, which Fan neighbors might recall is the department that hired away Richmond’s former Police Chief Rodney Monroe. Monroe served in Charlotte from 2008 through retirement in 2015. According to the Richmond Times Dispatch, both Monroe and former Richmond Police Chief Alfred Durham recommended Smith for the job here.

On the personal side, Smith arrived in advance of his family who will be moving this Spring. In his downtime, he enjoys reading crime novels by writers like James Patterson. The following is an edited version of questions the Chief fielded from the room.

What prompted you to take this job?
I’ve spent my entire adult life dedicated to this profession. The advice I always got was to take the assignment you can contribute to...I’m here because I want to make a difference.

What changes did you observe in your old police department under Richmond’s former Police Chief Rodney Monroe’s tenure?
He overturned the apple cart at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. I hope to do the same here. We were a good police force when Monroe came, but we got even better under his leadership.

And how does RPD compare to the department you’re leaving?
Compared to the department I just left - same issues. Same morale, which is very low...They feel an unfair burden has been placed on them.

What is your response to calls to defund the department?
The question is not defund the police; it’s fund the change.

What are some early actions you are pursuing to get to know our city?
I’ve scheduled walkarounds with City Council...I like to be on the ground. I like to be amongst the people and amongst the issues.

What message would you most like residents to hear as we move through the summer and into fall?
We are in a time of change, and what we need is a guiding philosophy. What we need is community involvement - and community involvement within department leadership.

FanFare hopes readers will answer that call, and be involved in community meetings about public safety in Richmond. We know you have opinions! To stay up to date, follow RPD on their FaceBook page: www.facebook.com/RichmondPolice and sign-up for their newsletters: www.richmondgov.com/Police/Newsletters.aspx
No one knows your home better than you do. And no one knows what it takes to sell your Fan District home better than Chris Small.

Last year Chris created over 20 multi-offer transactions for his clients. Contact him today to see how he can do this for you when you sell your home.

804-350-0879 | chris@smallre.net | chris.theRVAlife.com
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Discover St. Michael’s!
Now is the time to apply for the 2021-2022 school year.

Kindergarten Virtual Open House
Wednesday, October 14 and Wednesday, November 4

Middle School Virtual Open House
Wednesday, November 11

St. Michael’s Episcopal School
10510 Hobby Hill Road, Richmond, VA 23235

For more information and to register, visit www.stmschool.net/welcome
Annual Adopt-A-Tree Kick-Off
By Betsy Coffield, Adopt-A-Tree Chair

The annual Fan District Association’s Adopt-A-Tree program officially kicked off on July 1st. Now in its 10th year, this program allows Fan residents to purchase a healthy tree to place in your sidewalk tree well next to your home or a neighbor’s home. Over the course of the last nine years more than 650 trees have been planted, ensuring that our neighborhood retains its urban forest landscape.

If you would like to order a tree, simply fill out the enclosed application. Cost of the tree is $50.00 for non FDA members and $25.00 for FDA members. You may purchase tree(s) for a neighbor, but keep in mind that YOU are responsible for the care and watering of every tree you purchase. You may order as many trees as you can effectively take care of.

Please be sure to read the care and watering instructions on the application. Your signature states that you agree with watering the tree at least once a week (more in HOT weather) and that you will not use pesticides or add other vegetation around the tree until the saplings roots have a chance to become firmly rooted (about two years).

Please have your application back to the FDA by August 28th. You can mail or drop off your application with your check at the FDA office at 208 Strawberry Street. Please be sure to make checks payable to the FDA.

Also, I would like to welcome our new City of Richmond Arborist, Sam Lilly, who replaces Janine Lester in the Urban Forestry office! Welcome Sam!
City of Richmond
Urban Forestry Division – “Committed to Richmond’s Trees”
Adopt - A - Tree Program
Application/Citizen Tree Maintenance Agreement

Please fill this application out completely, and return to this address by September 1st:
FDA Adopt - a - Tree
208 N Strawberry Street
Richmond, VA 23220

$25 per tree for Fan District Association members
$50 per tree for non-members

Checks must be included and payable to The Fan District Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
Applications are accepted between July 1st and September 1st for the planting season, which runs from November 1st of this year through April 15th of next year. Any application received after September 1st will be returned unprocessed.

Applicant Name:______________________ Phone:_____________ Email:____________________
Address (including zip code):
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
Planting Address (if different):
_______________________________________
_______________________________________
_______________________________________

Street Name_________________________

MAP KEY
Where relevant, please indicate on the map the approximate location of the following items:

△ Existing Tree
X Tree Stump
★ Desired location of tree(s) to be planted
⬆️ Utility Pole

Tree Maintenance Agreement

Conditions - To adopt a tree, you must agree to care for the tree as follows.

1. To ensure your new tree’s survival, your portable drip irrigation device must be filled with water at least once a week for the first two years during the growing season.
2. Mulch should not be piled up against the tree trunk. Keep grass and weeds out of mulch.
3. Do not cultivate or otherwise disturb soil under the tree (do not plant under trees.)
4. Keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from tree to avoid wounding trunk.
5. Fertilize only with slow release formulas, if at all.
6. Do not use herbicides that may leach into the soil around the tree
7. Inspect the tree often to detect problems early. Report problems to Urban Forestry.
8. Remember that you are donating to a program to help replant trees on city property, and as such, the site(s) that you select isn’t available and plant ready, a different site may be selected, but there will not be a refund of your charitable donation.

My signature indicates my agreement to the conditions listed immediately above.

Signature: _____________________________________________ Date:____________________

For more information please access our website: http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicWorks/UrbanForestry.aspx
For the most current VCU Information: 
https://together.vcu.edu

See what buyers and sellers have been saying about your Fan Realtor!... ★★★★★

- "For a first-time home buyer, I could not have asked for a better guide, representative and realtor. Jack was attentive and on-point throughout the entire process. A pleasure to work with."
- "We loved working with Jack. He assured me at every turn and took every crazy call or text without hesitation. It was seamless thanks to him!"
- We experienced patient guidance through necessary procedures. We felt we had a personal advocate for our needs. A relative could not have been more attentive!
- Jack provided prompt and honest guidance and advice in finding a house in the Fan. His hallmarks are patience and professionalism. We recommend Jack with no reservations.
- Was a breath of fresh air to work with Jack. Very prompt feedback on showings. To the point, well organized and a good marketeer. Sold our house within 24 hours. Very good experience.
- "Jack is professional, extremely knowledgeable of the housing market and knows the area inside and out. He has great follow up - always timely and with thoroughness- and provided excellent advice and guidance. He always finds a sensible, practical solution. Jack has integrity and very high standards. In addition, he is fun and always positive and constructive. He is the first person I would call if I was in the housing market again."
Fan District Association Membership

Join or renew online at fandistrict.org/membership/join (existing members use your email as your username), OR complete the form below. Please make your check payable to Fan District Association and mail to:

    FDA Membership
    208 Strawberry Street
    Richmond, VA 23220

☐ Returning member  ☐ New  ☐ Gift, courtesy of

Membership Category:

☐ Student/VCU: $5  ☐ Friend of the Fan: $25

Mailing Address:

Fan Property Address: (if you own a home in The Fan, but do not reside there)

______________________________  _______________________________
Name:                        Name:
______________________________  _______________________________
Email:                       Email:
______________________________  _______________________________
Phone (h/w):                 Phone (h/w):
(  c):                       (  c):

The FDA is an all-volunteer neighborhood organization. Please let us know your interest in serving on any of the following committees:

☐ Code Enforcement and Zoning
☐ Communications (Fanfare/Social Media)
☐ Fan Village
☐ Grants
☐ Historic Preservation
☐ Holiday House Tour
☐ Lighting
☐ Membership
☐ Parking
☐ Programs and Events
☐ Safety / VCU
☐ Trees and Parks

Questions or Comments: email membership@fandistrict.org
Special Notes

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