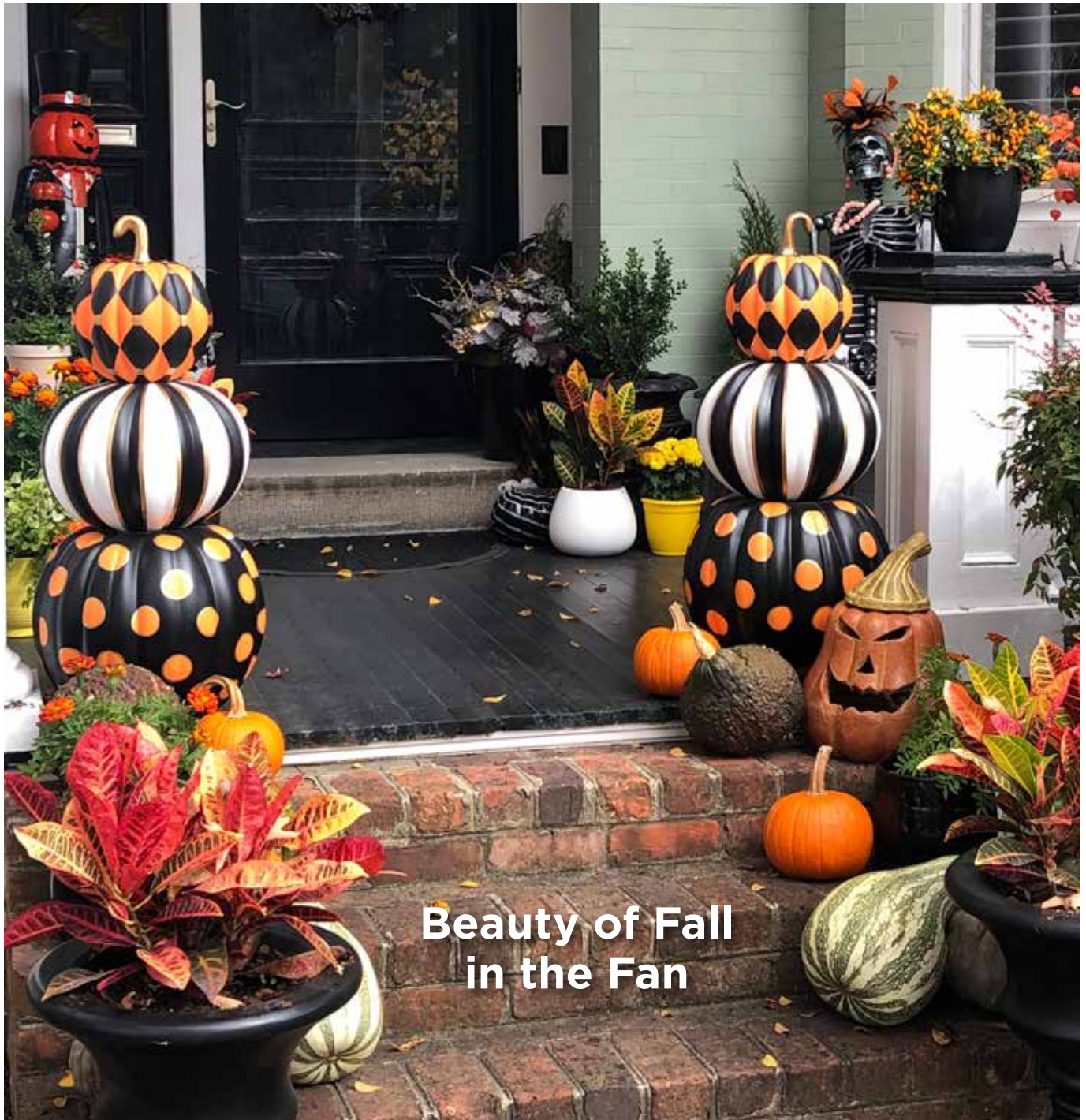


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Welcome to the Fall *Fanfare*!

By Rebecca Keller



Rebecca Keller
FDA President

Suddenly, it is August and Back to School is on the horizon! Where has the summer gone? I hope everyone has had an opportunity to spend time relaxing with family and friends.

Neighbors who attended Fan Night at the Diamond enjoyed a perfect June evening for a ballgame and had a wonderful time. On August 1st, Fan residents gathered for our annual National Night Out at Meadow Park to say “thank you” to our first responders. Families enjoyed hot dogs, snow cones, and games while visiting with local police and firefighters.

This fall marks a change for the Fan District Association Board. We will no longer meet on the 1st Monday of the month but, instead, will meet on the 3rd Monday to avoid schedule conflicts with City Council meetings. This change will enable representatives from our Board and Richmond’s City Council to work more closely and be better informed.

In this issue, you will find an article on how Special Use Permits (SUPs) work for commercial and residential development in Richmond. Applications for SUPs are on the rise in our community, and it is important for you to know the process and the roles that the FDA Zoning Committee, FDA Board, Planning Commission, and most importantly YOU have in the process. Whether you are filing the application or want a

say in another’s application, you have a voice. Per the City Planning Department, “where it has been determined that underlying zoning regulations cannot be met, a [SUP] may be granted by City Council to provide relief from zoning regulations.” For more information, see rva.gov/planning.

Also in this issue, check out the feature articles on the Branch Museum of Architecture & Design, a neighborhood treasure, as well Dogwood Middle School (formerly Binford Middle School). In addition, see what all the FDA Committees have been up to: Infrastructure, Parks, and Grants to name a few. You’ll also find fun fall recipes, a new feature called “Vintage Fan,” and a puzzle page for our children!

If you or your business is not a member of the FDA, I encourage you to join. It is a great way to stay connected with what is happening in our neighborhood and stay up to date on city issues that impact it. Members receive weekly email updates in addition to other benefits. You can find business and individual membership forms in this *Fanfare*. Also, be sure to check out all the information on our website: www.fandistrict.org.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Please share a recommendation or concern by sending an email to president@fandistrict.org.

Yours in community,

Rebecca

Fanfare is published four times a year (February, May, August, & November) by the Fan District Association (FDA) for the benefit of Fan residents and businesses.

Fanfare is mailed directly to all FDA business and residential members. Non-FDA members can download Fanfare editions from our website at www.fandistrict.org or pick one up at several drop sites around the Fan.

Consider joining the FDA in order to receive this quarterly publication in your mailbox! Simply complete the Individual or Business Membership Form contained in this issue.

Editor: fanfare@fandistrict.org

Advertising: advertising@fandistrict.org

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A Conversation with Dogwood Middle School's 2023 Teacher of the Year, Kristina Mitchell

Article by Katie Schwieder, Editor

On a mid-summer day, I had the pleasure of meeting with Kristina Mitchell, Dogwood (formerly Binford) Middle School's Spanish teacher and 2023 Teacher of the Year. Also a recipient of the REB Award for Teaching Excellence, Kristina came to Dogwood in 2019 after teaching in Henrico County for 6 years. She has enjoyed the richness of the arts-integrated focus at the school.

"We began teaching with arts integration 8 years ago, thanks to a Kennedy Center grant," Kristina explained. Teachers were given the opportunity to complete a series of workshops over a 2-year period at the Joan Oates Institute for Arts Integration at the University of Richmond. Kristina calls this the "best professional development experience" she's ever had, as teachers learned to dance, act, practice visual arts, even write poetry as they thought about how to incorporate these elements into their classrooms.

How does this enrich their instruction? Though sometimes challenging, Kristina and her colleagues work to create cross-curricular experiences in which students enjoy creative, hands-on, collaborative learning that infuses their core courses with the arts – music, theater, visual arts, writing, and so on. Kristina loves the fact that the school is smaller than most middle schools (around 500 students); therefore, teachers and staff know their kids well. Plus, its location in The Fan District allows for "walking field trips" to the Visual Arts Center, VMFA, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Science Museum of Virginia, even the El Pope restaurant for a Latin American-themed lunch.

Dogwood Middle is also known for its incredibly talented students. They have both a theater and dance company and host 4 showcases every year. This past spring, they performed *SpongeBob the Musical* to enthusiastic audiences. The production was largely student-led which gave the kids a sense of ownership and leadership. Dogwood has an active and involved PTA, and the school appreciates its incredible partnership with the Visual Arts Center which provides students with all kinds of art instruction.



In addition, Dogwood students can participate in a robust after-school program called Higher Achievement that provides "academic enrichment, mentoring, and social-emotional support." Many Dogwood students go on to specialty high schools in the Richmond area.

"For a little arts school, we're also very competitive in sports," Kristina points out. Despite not having athletic fields like other middle schools, Dogwood has co-ed squads in soccer, flag football, track, softball, and tennis. They also have boys' and girls' basketball teams.

The joy for Kristina is seeing her 8th graders leave the school "with confidence that they can take a risk and think about things differently. Whatever they accomplish, whether it's little things or big, they know that we're here cheering for them." We wish the Dogwood Wolves a great school year!



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A Fan Treasure: The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design

Article by Lucy Northup, Branch Spokesperson

For the past 104 years, the Branch House has stood proudly on Monument Avenue cornering Davis Avenue. Its massive presence on the historic road has been a symbol of wealth and status for the better part of the 20th century. In 2015, The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design was born from a desire to bring life back into the stalwart home and shake up the creative scene in Richmond.

Built in 1919 by renowned architect John Russell Pope, the Branch House was home to small-town tycoon, John Branch, and his wife, Beulah, along with their three children and a large domestic staff. Its original interiors are still intact, earning it a spot on the National Landmark Registry. At 72,000 square feet, the house was - and remains - the largest single-family home in Richmond. Anyone who sees the sheer magnitude of the Tudor Revival house will quickly understand why no one has attempted to break the record. With two-story oriel windows, crenelated parapets, and hidden gargoyles, the only thing missing from the exterior of the manor is an

alligator-filled moat.

Using the backdrop of a home that once symbolized exclusionary class distinctions, The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design is returning it to a house of the people. The Branch envisions a world where innovative, equitable, and beautiful design is valued as essential to improving lives and a sustainable future. "Equity is one area where we can make a contribution," says Visitor Experience and Programs Manager, Kristen Christian. "We want to engage with communities who typically are not invited to the proverbial design table - women, or people of color, for example." Recent programs have included a panel discussion on Diversity and Design and a lecture on the cultural impact of Virginia's Colonial architecture. On the horizon, Christian promises programs with themes of diversity, empowerment, and accessibility.


Currently on view at The Branch is an exhibition that highlights Virginia Tech's Center for Design Research titled "Modeling a Vision: Design, Technology, and Impact". It focuses on sustainable architecture, human-based design, and multi-faceted problem solving with its fascinating FutureHAUS. This futuristic home takes its inspiration from processes used in the automotive industry; whereby, prefabricated capsules are transported to the house location, making every house customizable and quicker to build. The house is solar-powered and energy efficient, and it integrates technology like smart mirrors and slip-fall detectors in the bathroom. The exhibition is on view until September 2023.

The Branch feels confident about its place in Richmond's future. "Richmond is a city teeming with design energy," says Executive Director Sharon Aponte. "Creatives are relocating to the city for its arts and culture scene, and The Branch hopes to harness that energy to create a better Richmond. The Branch is evolving to become Richmond's hub for designers and the design-interested. We want to be at the center of design conversations in Richmond."

Come visit The Branch at 2501 Monument Avenue. The museum is open from 10am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday and 1pm-5pm on Sundays.

For more information, visit branchmuseum.org or follow The Branch on Instagram or Facebook.



A photograph of four musicians walking down a city street. From left to right: a man in a grey turtleneck holding a double bass, a man in a dark blue turtleneck holding a violin, a man in a dark blue blazer over a maroon turtleneck holding a violin, and a man in a black turtleneck holding a violin. They are walking towards the camera on a cobblestone street with modern buildings in the background.

vcuarts

PHOTO: JIYANG CHEN

MARY ANNE RENNOLDS

Chamber Concert Series 2023-24

Hermitage Trio

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | 3:00 PM

Isidore Quartet

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 | 3:00 PM

**Academy of St Martin in the
Fields Wind Ensemble**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | 3:00 PM

Diana Adamyan, violin

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 | 7:00 PM



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VCUarts Music and other upcoming concerts and events.



VCU



The “New York Style” Street Sign Post Restoration Program

Article by Coleen Butler Rodriguez, Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation

A little-known organization in the Fan, called the Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation (The Foundation), began in 1976 and has worked quietly to support projects and educational programs to enhance and preserve The Fan District. Our projects, both large and small, have contributed to the neighborhood’s success and beauty. Projects have ranged from buying and renovating dilapidated homes to publishing an acclaimed book on Monument Avenue. To learn more about The Foundation’s accomplishments over the past four decades, visit MonumentFanFoundation.org.

The Foundation is launching a new project which involves something you see every day when you walk, drive, or bike: original historic street sign posts. They have graced our streets since the neighborhood’s development in the early 1900s. The Foundation and the FDA are already working together to manage the street sign program to make sure the historic style blades are used.

Now, we will turn our attention to the historic posts. Let’s take a look back at the design of our neighborhood. In the past, people put more thought and care into designing the materials of our environment. From bridges to buildings to street sign posts, City planners and architects considered design and function. They prioritized aesthetics over cost because they felt it added to residents’ quality of life. As The Fan developed, builders carefully designed homes with detailed fireplace mantels, newel posts, and radiators, together with columned porches, intricate trim, and leaded glass windows. They took care to design other elements of the neighborhood as well, including our street sign posts.

Originally called “New York Style

Street Sign Posts,” the ca. 1910 posts are dark green iron posts with a turned, tear-drop form base and a decorative acanthus-leafed band covering the straps that hold the street sign in place. Over the years, the City replaced the original sign posts with anything that a street sign can be strapped to. About 75 of the original New York Style Street Sign Posts remain and most of them are damaged, corroded, or have peeling paint.

Maintaining the original fabric of The Fan is important. Today, our homes are sought after and not in danger of demolition as they were in the 70s and 80s. It is time to look after other original pieces of our community that make it unique and beautiful. The Foundation has begun a fundraising campaign to repair and renovate each original New York Style Sign Post. The City supports our efforts, and between city funding, historic preservation grants, and gifts from Fan residents, we hope to start renovating the posts this fall, so they can go on serving us in style for another century!

The cost of the project is about \$40,000. If you would like to “adopt” a particular street sign post in The Fan, any donation is appreciated! If you have a post that’s near and dear to you, a contribution of \$400 will ensure that that post is renovated. Use the QR code or go to MonumentFanFoundation.org to contribute.





The Fan Arts Stroll

Photos by Christy Lantz and Michael Radtke

More Photos from the Fan Arts Stroll in May!





Helping the Community: The Fan District Association Awards its Community Grants for 2023

Article by Kim Vullo, FDA Vice President

On the heels of a successful Holiday House Tour, funding for the FDA community grant program returned to near pre-pandemic levels. The grant application period ran from February 28 to April 15 with a total of 14 organizations requesting funds.

Special thanks go to the 2023 FDA Grants Review Committee for their incredible work. Kathy Lanning, Chair, Nancy Costello, James Dill, Chris Morem, Chris Peterson, Caroline Steadman, and Nicole Velez reviewed submissions and considered each application thoughtfully to see if it supported the goal of reinvesting in our community and contributing to the vibrancy and spirit of the Fan and our City.

A total of \$24,000 in grant monies were awarded to:

William Fox Elementary PTA:

\$2000 to support its Strawberry Street Festival that funds Fox programs and office supplies

Friends of the Richmond

Mounted Police: \$1000 for trading cards that RPD distributes to children during community and educational outreach

Tequila and Deadlifts: \$1000 to create a vegetable garden and supply fresh produce to their partner community fridge and pantry

Visual Arts Center: \$1000 for scholarships awarded to Dogwood Middle School (formerly Binford) students attending the Art After School program

Higher Achievement Program: \$2000 to provide academic liter-

acy skill-building, social-emotional learning activities, and high school placement support at Dogwood Middle School to help scholars succeed on their path to college

Uptown Community Garden:

\$2000 to enlarge six new gardening plots as well as provide mulch and native plants to a shade garden and borders in order to make the Garden an oasis for neighbors and gardeners of all skill levels

Richmond Tree Stewards: \$2000 to support the structural health of trees in the Fan as well as ensure safety by removing dangerous limbs and clearing sidewalks

Health Brigade: \$2000 to provide affordable, comprehensive health care and wellness services access

for low-income adults delivered by volunteer medical professionals

Robinson Street Association:

\$2000 for streetscape improvements including new banners and trash and graffiti removal along its commercial corridor

Richmond Public Library: \$5000 to support and expand system-wide summer programming that allows children 2 - 13 to engage in STEM and the Arts

Ronald McDonald House: \$2000 to upgrade their playground and install a new Miracle Recreation Dynamics Lab play set

Orchard House School: \$2000 for auditorium bathroom renovations

Congratulations to these wonderful organizations!



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Kindergarten Open House

Wednesday, October 25, 9:30 a.m.

Middle School Open House

Wednesday, November 15, 9:00 a.m.

St. Michael's Episcopal School

10510 Hobby Hill Road, Richmond, VA 23235

For more information and to register, visit [**www.stmschool.net/welcome**](http://www.stmschool.net/welcome)



Skyglow

Article by Julia Seward, Parks & Trees Committee

Fan residents often forget what an amazing treasure our neighborhood can be after sunset. Flits of lightning bugs abound as kids grab a jar to carefully collect and release. On a clear night, a pantheon of stars far above the trees can draw us to the universe. Watch enough evenings, and the moon's ceaseless stages go from just a sliver to a full "cow jump over the moon" jolly face. Moths cavort around doors, almost ethereal in their silent pursuits as crickets and even an occasional frog become our white noise.

Increasingly, much of this nocturnal activity is affected by skyglow, man-made light pollution caused by artificial light scattering back to the ground and robbing us of a natural night cycle. Researchers report that it affects not only the night sky but also sleep patterns, the habits of birds and pollinating insects, even growth cycles of trees and flowers. This unhealthy canopy of light can reduce our quality of life.

So, how can we affect skyglow? Several practitioners suggest practical ways we can reduce light pollution. Importantly, remember to use night light judiciously in our streets and yards. Consider bulbs that have cool tones, not bright white tones (like

many LEDs). If possible, install lights so that they shine down, not upward. Beyond light needed for safety, use only as much light as needed and turn off lights when done. Consider where lights are mounted and the impact on both you and your neighbors and use timers and motion detectors.. While some skyglow is inevitable in urban settings, especially to ensure safety, a number of communities are consciously thinking about how to invite back the pleasures of a summer evening. Let's create a Fan habit of enjoying our natural night cycle.

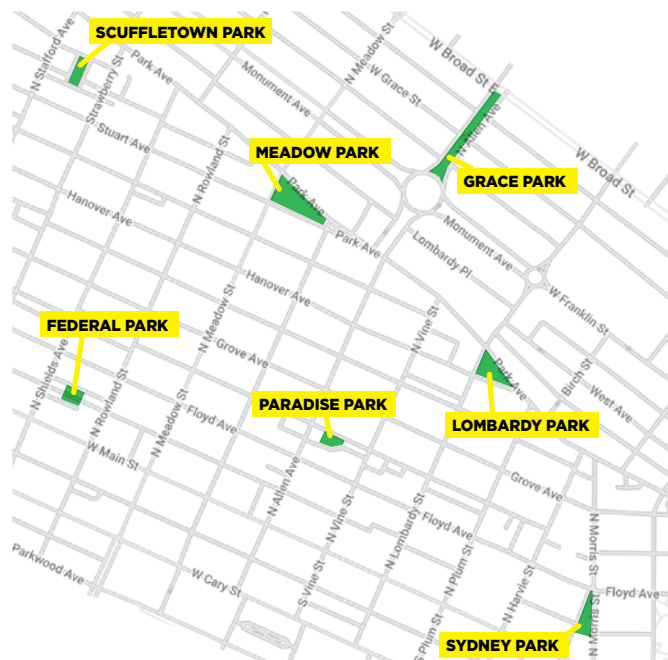
To learn more about what's happening in the sky, check out the Science Museum of Virginia's Astronomical exhibits and night sky viewing throughout the year: smv.org/

- To find out how Richmond and other communities support dark nights:
audubon.org/lights-out-program
richmondaudubon.org/lights-out-richmond
- Some additional information about skyglow and light pollution:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skyglow

Parks Update

Article by Chris Morem, Parks Chair

The FDA Parks Team has had a busy spring and summer! We hired a contractor to re-do the pavers on the sidewalk at Meadow Park and planted thousands of flowers in and around the statue area. At Lombardy Park, we power-washed the walls, planted flowers, and installed new wood beams around the swing set. We planted annuals and native perennials at Sydney Park, Scuffletown Park, and Paradise Park, and at Federal Park, we power-washed the playground, replaced the wood beams in the sitting area, and installed "Children at Play" signs. We hope you enjoy the beauty of our Fan pocket parks!





Bulletin Board

For the latest goings-on in the Fan and about town, please see Madison Pastore's weekly e-newsletter, published each weekend and emailed to FDA members!

If you're not an FDA member, please complete the Membership Form in this Fanfare magazine!

Also, check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/Fandistrict

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Safety Reminders

Some suggestions to keep our neighborhood as safe and crime-free as possible:

- When you travel, ask a neighbor to look out for your mail and packages. Submit a "HOLD" request to the post office.
- Consider asking your delivery people to ring your doorbell when they leave something on your porch, so you can retrieve it.
- Use outdoor lighting/motion sensing spotlights on your porch and in back alleys to discourage late night theft and vandalism.
- Always lock your car when you exit it ... even if you plan to "be right back" to pick up groceries or luggage. NEVER leave an unattended car running with keys in the ignition.
- If you walk, run, or ride a bicycle during non-daylight hours, be sure to wear bright reflective clothing along with using flashlights or other lighting gear. Use appointed crosswalks and avoid cutting across busy intersections where a driver might have a blind spot.
- Observe ALL posted speed limits in the Fan and give pedestrians the right of way. When in doubt about a speed, assume it's 25 mph. Use caution at any intersection as small children, pets, and elderly neighbors might have a slower response time to your car's arrival.
- If you drive an electric car, assume pedestrians can't hear you coming.
- Reduce potential trip hazards in front of and around your home by removing fallen branches and sweeping up leaves and trash from sidewalks.
- And, as always – if you SEE something, SAY something!
- For emergencies, call 911
- The non-emergency Richmond Police Department phone number is (804) 646-1412

VCU Disturbance?

The VCU police jurisdiction is bounded to the west by Lombardy St. In the event of a disturbance within this area, contact Officer Luke Shrader by phone at (804) 828-9649, or via email at lsrader@vcu.edu. To report anything west of Lombardy, contact the Richmond City Police.



Our Richmond Police Department

3rd Precinct Liaison
Sergeant Marvin Marsh
Marvin.Marsh@Richmondgov.com
804-646-0400

Important Links

- Fan District Association Website fandistrict.org
- Museum District Website - museumdistrict.org
- Richmond City Council Meeting Calendar <https://bit.ly/3Tdyuhm>
- Richmond City Government - rva.gov
- Richmond City Health Department <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/>
- Richmond City Public Schools - rvaschools.net/
- GRTC News & Updates - ridegrtc.com
- Non-Emergency Issues - Dial 311 or click on www.RVA311.com



New Trash Cans

Article by Greg Holzgreffe, Infrastructure Chair

It's the little things that make a difference, and you'll notice 13 new, decorative trash receptacles as you walk around the Fan! Yes, some have become so popular that they overflow before the City has a chance to empty them. But be patient! The FDA is working with the City to have the trash cans emptied more often than once a week, or, if necessary, have slightly larger receptacles installed in the popular locations.

As a friendly reminder, call 311 to report non-emergency items that the City should address, such as a leaking water meter, dead tree, street sinkhole, bulk debris pickup, sidewalk repair, and so on. If the City does not repair the problem within 60 days, please email infrastructure@fandistrict.org along with your 311 tracking number, and we will contact the City to check on the delay on your behalf. Thanks so much for your support to keep the Fan looking beautiful.



What is RVA 311?

RVA311's Mission:

To empower Richmond residents to get their non-emergency service needs met and help City government understand and respond to citizen needs effectively, with high customer satisfaction.

What RVA311 does:

We assist residents by getting their non-emergency concerns or questions answered - or delivered to the correct team for investigation - so services

or assistance can be provided. Our highly trained call center agents, and our intelligent self-service website and mobile apps handle requests related to potholes, sidewalks, stormwater, tax billing, street-lights, social services programs, and more.

We partner with over 20 different City agencies, and in 2021, RVA311 provided assistance or supported our City partners in responding to over 81,000 requests.

For more information, visit:
rva.gov/citizen-service-and-response/about-rva-311





Dealing with Graffiti: Some Tips from the City of Richmond

Article by Laura Bateman & Steve Nuckolls

The City of Richmond is a living canvas with walls painted by local and international artists. Home to over 100 murals, RVA has become a favorite destination for street art enthusiasts. As residents of the Fan District, we are fortunate to live in a vibrant neighborhood that contains many of these beautiful murals. However, we are increasingly seeing our walls defaced by graffiti tags which detract from the allure, creativity, and livability of our neighborhood.

Graffiti of the non-mural type seems to come and go in waves. The City of Richmond has established a task force of police detectives who investigate graffiti vandalism, ensuring that it is cleaned up and that responsible parties are held accountable. This puts Richmond in the forefront of American cities working to combat graffiti vandalism.

If vandals spray or paint graffiti on your property, and it's visible from a public right-of-way such as a street, sidewalk, or alley, the City has the authority to remove the graffiti. Here's what you can do:

- Report all graffiti through the RVA311 app or at RVA311.com. The Department of Public Works will investigate and determine the proper course of action.
- Take photos of the graffiti to help the City identify it and track down the perpetrators.
- Fill out a Consent to Enter and Release of Liability Agreement form as soon as possible. Return or mail the form to City of Richmond / Attention: D.P.W. Graffiti / 1654 Commerce Rd / Richmond, VA 23224.

Richmond's DPW is working on creating a Graffiti email box which will make it possible to report and submit this form electronically. Check the City's DPW Graffiti webpage: rva.gov/public-works/graffiti-removal as well as RVA311

- Clean up the graffiti as soon as possible. Lingering graffiti often breeds more. Apply World's Best Graffiti Coating, a product said to be ideal



for historic brick and masonry. This protective coating is "permeable and allows the surface to breathe which prevents graffiti from penetrating the substrate." graffitiremovalinc.com

- Install motion lighting and security cameras. Older areas of the City like ours contain alleys, plentiful walls, and brick structures that become prime territory because of lack of light.
- Use landscaping to deter graffiti vandals. Consider planting climbing, native, non-invasive vine plants on large, exposed walls if feasible. Native shrubbery can also be an effective deterrent.
- Think about commissioning your own mural. The City does not have a role in approving murals on private property unless the mural is painted on a City Old and Historic District building. In these cases, the property owner should file an application with the Secretary for the Commission for Architectural Review BEFORE painting the mural. Check out the Commission's "Mural Guidelines" on p. 75 of the *Old & Historic Districts of Richmond, VA: Handbook & Design Review Guidelines* for more information.

To learn more about the City's efforts, visit the Richmond DPW Graffiti webpage: rva.gov/public-works/graffiti-removal.

Richmond has an active ordinance governing graffiti found in [Article V, Sections 11-132 through 11-135](#).



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and Important Issues



Stay Up-to-date on Road Closures
and Temporary No Parking
Notifications



Stay connected to development
and proposed projects in your
neighborhood



Exclusive Access to
Members-Only Info



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HAVE A BUSINESS IN THE FAN?

**Affordably advertise your business as a business
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For just \$50 a year you will have exclusive advertising
space on our Fan Business Directory web page.

Stay informed about pertinent issues to your business, get
more involved in your community, and stay up-to-date
about additional advertising opportunities through
neighborhood events.

Scan the QR code to join the FDA electronically, or fill out the form
below and mail it along with a check to 208 Strawberry St Richmond,
VA 23220. Please make the check payable to FDA Membership.
Membership fee is a once-a-year annual payment.

Mailing Address:

Fan Property Address (if you own in the Fan but do not reside there):

Contact Information:

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

The FDA is an all volunteer neighborhood organization. Please let us know if
you are interested in serving on any of the following committees:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement and Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications (Fanfare/Social Media) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs and Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/VCU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday House Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and Parks |

For More Information
fandistrict.org



Thank you

To our wonderful FDA Business Members

A. Ian Lim, Realtor
Rob Jones, Alliance Group
Anne M. Wrinn, LLC
Berman Kappler Properties
Boba Tea Shop
Crossroads Art Center
First Baptist Church of Richmond
Gary Martin, Realtor
Gina's Love Vegan Soaps and Body Collections
Hair Motif
HappyWe3, LLC
Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU

James Hammill
Kevin Green
Mitch Martin, Matters Accounting Solutions
Mike's Jazz Café
Richmond's First Baptist Church
Riggs Ward
SB's Main Street Love Shack
Scoop LLC
Scott Garnett, Associate Broker
Tequila & Deadlifts Gym
Whitehead Gardens Inc
Wise Art Tattoos

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Advertising space on our Fan Business Directory web page
fandistrict.org/Fan-Business-Directory/



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and proposed projects



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in Fan special events and
advertising opportunities



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meetings with police



Be Informed
about Richmond happenings and
need-to-know City issues



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How Does the FDA Zoning Committee Work?

Article by Melissa Savenko, Zoning & Code Enforcement Chair

On December 14, 2020, the City Council adopted Richmond 300: A Guide to Growth (rva.gov/planning-development-review/master-plan). The Master Plan sets out the vision and guidelines for the City of Richmond's development through 2037, its 300th anniversary. As a result, the Fan District is seeing an increase in proposed development projects, and the FDA Zoning Committee and the FDA Board are reviewing more Special Use Permit ("SUP") applications than usual. Here is the process for how the FDA Zoning Committee reviews and analyzes SUPs and other land use matters.

First, a developer or homeowner who wants to do a project in the Fan that requires an exception to existing zoning rules often begins by talking to the City's Department of Planning and Review ("Planning" - see AskPDR@rva.gov). If the project requires an SUP, the Planning Staff will recommend that the developer or homeowner contact the relevant neighborhood association, in our case the FDA Zoning Committee, to informally discuss the proposed project and any anticipated obstacles. It is also a chance for the Committee to present potential concerns based on past, similar projects. The proposed project is usually not public at this early stage because its design may change significantly between the time of the initial informal meeting and its presentation to City Council.

If the applicant decides to proceed, he or she files the application with the City. The Planning Commission schedules a hearing date and posts it on their website. The City formally notifies the neighborhood association by email and provides a copy of the SUP application and supporting documents. The City also mails notification to all homeowners within 150' feet of the proposed project.

Once the FDA Zoning Committee receives notice of the application, we contact the applicant and invite them to present their project to the Committee at our monthly meeting (6 p.m.

on the third Tuesday of the month at the FDA office). Community members concerned about a proposed project are encouraged to send letters, emails, or petitions to the FDA Zoning Committee (zoning@fandistrict.org), and/or attend the meeting in person.

The FDA Zoning Committee reviews all of the information provided - the application, the applicant's presentation (if any), and feedback from the community. It also reviews the six (6) factors set forth in Section 17.11(b) of the City Charter, namely that the project shall not:

1. Be detrimental to the safety, health, morals and general welfare of the community involved;
2. Tend to create congestion in streets, roads, alleys and other public ways and places in the area involved;
3. Create hazards from fire, panic or other dangers;
4. Tend to cause overcrowding of land and an undue concentration of population;
5. Adversely affect or interfere with public or private schools, parks, playgrounds, water supplies, sewage disposal, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences and improvements; or
6. Interfere with adequate light and air.

After review and discussion, the FDA Zoning Committee votes to **oppose** or **not oppose** the proposed project. Note: It is the long-standing policy of the FDA that we do not vote to support any particular project.

The FDA Zoning Committee communicates its vote to the FDA President, and that recommendation is presented for vote at the next FDA Board Meeting (held the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the FDA office). Community members concerned about a proposed project may speak for

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FANFARE MAGAZINE

Fanfare, the FDA's quarterly news magazine, reaches over 1,000 member households and is published in February, May, August, and November.

FANFARE EDITORIAL CALENDAR

January 24 Ads due for Spring issue, published in February

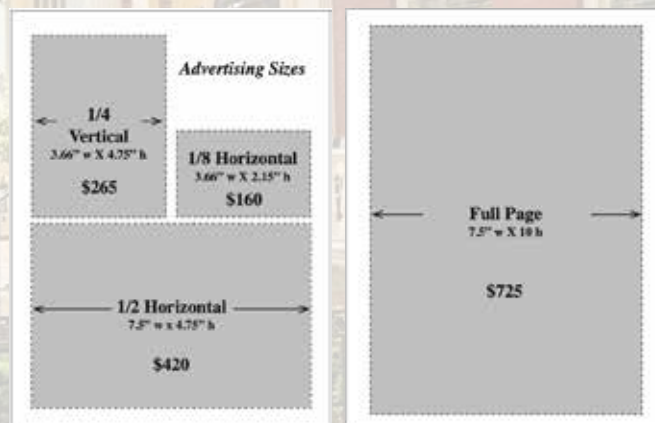
April 24 Ads due for Summer issue, published in May

July 24 Ads due for Fall issue, published in August

October 23 Ads due for Winter issue, published in November

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Please submit a business card size file as well as any future updates to news@fandistrict.org.



or against it at the FDA Board Meeting. The FDA Board votes to either accept or reject the FDA Zoning Committee's recommendation, and this becomes the official position of the FDA.

The FDA President or the FDA Zoning Committee Chair then communicates the FDA's position to oppose or not oppose a particular project to the Planning Commission who then discusses it and votes on the SUP at their meeting (first and third Mondays at 1 p.m. at City Hall). Residents may attend in person or virtually, and there's a citizen comment period. The Planning Commission's recommendation is forwarded to the City Council for their vote. City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month with work sessions beginning at 4:00 pm and formal meeting at 6:00 pm

In addition to the multiple opportunities for citizens to make their voices heard, individuals and groups can present their opinions and concerns to our Councilpersons, Katherine Jordan (2nd) and Stephanie Lynch (5th), as well as their liaisons, Sven Philipsen and Amy Robins.

If you have questions about zoning and code enforcement in the Fan, please reach out to zoning@fandistrict.org.

City Council Contacts



District 2
Councilor Katherine Jordan
katherine.jordan@rva.gov

Sven Philipsen
Council Liaison
sven.philipsen@rva.gov
Office: (804) 646-6532



District 5
Councilor Stephanie Lynch
stephanie.lynch@rva.gov

Amy Robins
Council Liaison
amy.robins@rva.gov
Office: (804) 646-5724



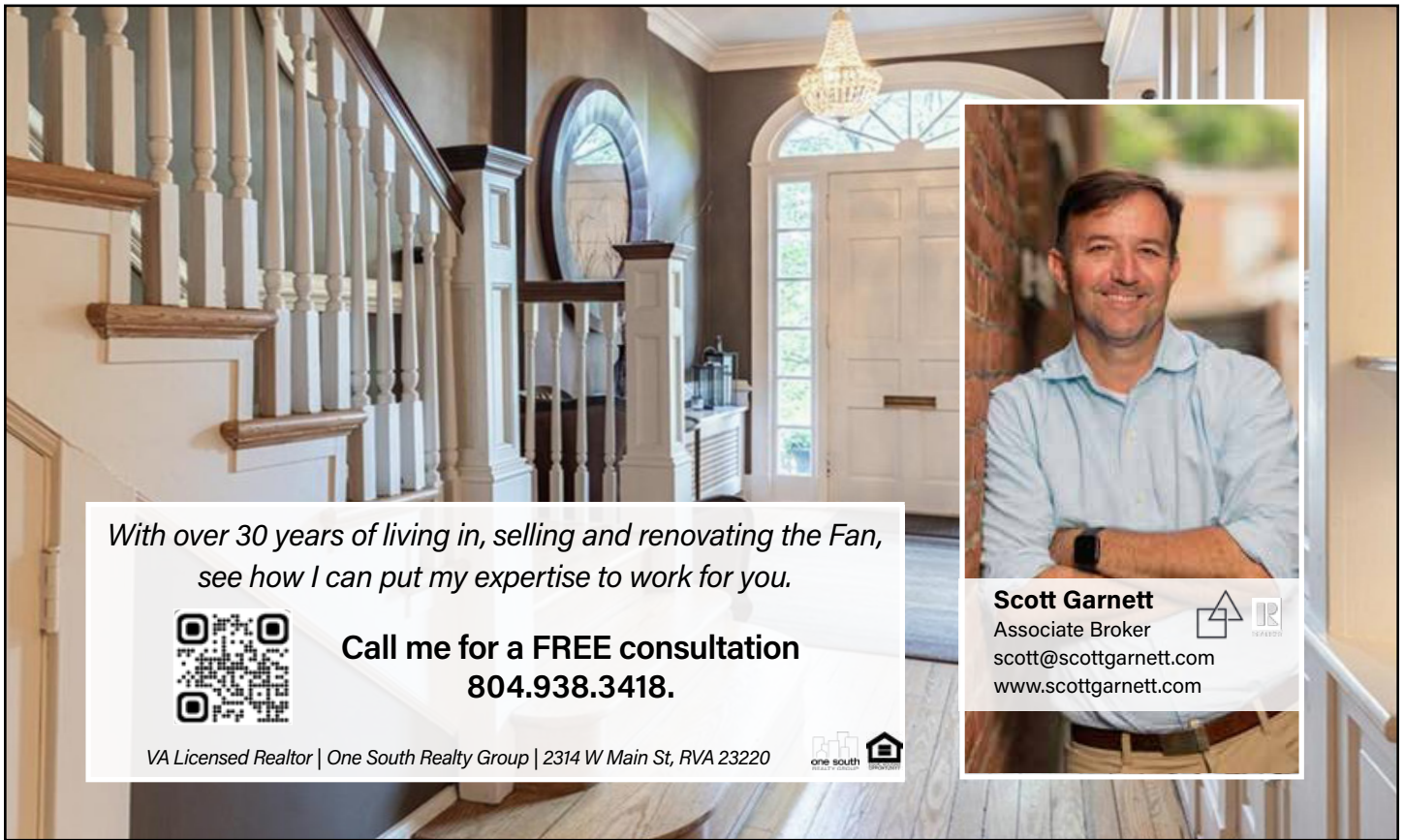
National Night Out 2023

Article by Katie Schwieder, Editor


After weeks of oppressive heat and humidity,

Tuesday night, August 1st, brought comfortable temperatures and a lovely breeze to the annual National Night Out event, held at Meadow Park. A wonderful turnout of neighbors greeted local fire, EMT, and police officials to thank them for their service and to celebrate a pleasant evening in this pretty little pocket park. Families enjoyed free hot dogs, fresh squeezed lemonade, and yummy ice cream as well as a chance to climb aboard a firetruck or take a selfie with McGruff the Crime Dog. Other neighbors brought lawn chairs and settled in to listen to "Magnolia," a popular local band whose songs span the genres of rock & roll, soul, country, and blues. An absolutely perfect night!


National Night Out happens in thousands of communities across the U.S. on the first Tuesday of each August to "promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live" (www.natw.org). If you missed this year's celebration, put Tuesday, August 6, 2024, on your calendar now!




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Meet Your Fan District Association Board Members!



Rebecca Keller
President

Rebecca and her husband, Brian, moved to Stuart

Avenue in the fall of 2017 from western Hanover County. They chose the Fan for its vibrancy, walkability, and historic charm. They enjoy the theater, restaurants, and shopping all while leaving their car parked. They love the convenience and sense of community.

Rebecca has enjoyed getting to meet so many wonderful people over the past year and looks forward to the new year ahead!



Kimberly Hitchens
Membership

Kimberly Hitchens has been a proud resident of The Fan

District since 2014, alongside her husband, Robert Davis, and their adorable dog, Zelda. As full-time realtors with Shaheen, Ruth, Martin & Fonville, they have a deep appreciation for the Fan's walkability, unique architecture, and rich history.

Over the years, Kimberly has actively served the community, taking on roles such as Chair of the Holiday House Tour and Safety Liaison. Apart from her community involvement, she finds joy in gardening, live music, hiking, and biking.



Greg Holzgreffe
Infrastructure

For 33 years, Greg and Sally have lived in three homes on Hanover Avenue

and raised one daughter, three dogs, two cats, and a hamster. Greg is an architect, biker, gardener, RVA researcher and tour guide, and a hobby artist.

Greg has worked for several architectural firms in RVA, most recently Glavé & Holmes. He is a project architect for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, in charge of the historic renovation of various historic buildings and homes in the area.



Gary Levin
Treasurer

Gary is a CFO and tax preparer for individuals and

small businesses. Gary loves living in the Fan because it reminds him of his childhood neighborhood in Boston. If you've answered the "Chalkboard Question of The Day" on Floyd Avenue, you know where Gary lives!



Chris Morem
Parks & Alleys

Chris has been a resident of the Fan since 2017. You will

find him helping out in the seven parks across the neighborhood and coordinating the Spring/Fall Park Clean Ups. Yes, he is the one who puts those neon door hangers on your doors looking for park volunteers!



Madison Pastore
Communications

Madison moved to the Fan two years ago after marrying

her husband, a passionate Richmond native, and immediately fell in love with the charm, architecture, and walkability of the neighborhood. She quickly decided she wanted to get more involved in the community and found a good fit in the role of Communications Chair where she brings her passion for volunteer work and a love of graphic design and marketing to the job.



Melissa Savenko
Zoning & Code Enforcement

Melissa is a native of Richmond who

grew up in historic homes in Bellevue and Ginter Park. She has lived in the Fan continuously since 1999, a time when the Fan was considered rather gritty. Melissa practiced corporate healthcare law before becoming a real estate agent. She is currently with Long & Foster.

Melissa hopes that the rapid changes in Richmond's building environment can successfully meld innovation and development with respect for the City's rich architectural history.

I continued on p. 24 →

Behind the Curtain: A Series on Mental Health

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- Sundays, Sept. 24-Nov. 12
- 5-6 p.m., Suite 280
- Snack supper, 6 p.m., \$5
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- One in five people in the U.S. live with mental illness and nearly a quarter struggle with addiction.
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Julie Seward
City Affairs

A Fan District resident for over 30 years, Julie still

marvels at the beauty of our intergenerational neighborhood.

She is an active participant in many civic endeavors and especially appreciates the FDA's work in preserving the character of the Fan in an ever-changing city.



Ted Theofanos
Schools

Ted moved back to the Fan in 2008 with his wife, Stephanie, and their two young children.

Ted has been in the IT field for almost 25 years and works mainly from home

for a large government contractor in the DC Metro area.

Ted and Stephanie have proudly sent their children to RPS schools from Pre-K onward.



Kim Vullo
Vice President

Kim's career has taken her all over the country. When

she moved to Richmond 10 years ago, she wanted to live in an area that didn't look like the homogenized tracks of land that occupy many of the places she'd visited during her travels.

Together with her husband, Paul Benson, and their Calico cat Shirley, Kim found their home, a labor of love as all old homes are, and moved to the Fan nine years ago. She enjoys the

uniqueness of The Fan and its annual events.



Daniella White
Secretary

Daniella grew up in Ginter Park, and except for her col-

lege years at Virginia Tech, she has lived in Richmond ever since. Together with her husband, Michael, they have enjoyed raising their two daughters in this wonderful and diverse neighborhood. She is very excited to be a new board member of the FDA and looks forward to helping preserve and improve the things that make the Fan such a great community.

Membership Update

Article by Kimberly Hitchens, Membership Chair

We were delighted to welcome new and returning members for a night of fellowship at our annual membership meeting, held at The Branch House Museum, on May 17th.

The Membership Committee has been reaching out to newcomers to the neighborhood to share our association's mission as well as the benefits of membership in the FDA. We encourage individuals, businesses, and those who own a home in the Fan but live elsewhere to become members. Members receive weekly e-newsletters as well as the quarterly *Fanfare* delivered to your mailbox. Importantly, membership provides you with information and a voice in what's happening in the neighborhood as well as in Richmond City.

Do you have a neighbor who is interested in joining the Fan District Association, or are you curious about the benefits of your membership? Feel free to contact me at membership@fandistrict.org to learn more or to find out how you can get more involved. Together we can build a happy and strong community!

Spotlight on Fan Neighbors!

In each edition of *Fanfare*, we would like to acknowledge a neighbor who has made a special contribution to our community. If you have a neighbor whom you think deserves the "spotlight," email **Katie Schwieder** at fanfare@fandistrict.org. Be sure to provide details about this person's contributions and your contact information, so we can follow up with you.



Why Join the FDA?

Stay Informed about City Events and Important Issues



Stay Up-to-date on Road Closures and Temporary No Parking Notifications



Stay connected to development and proposed projects in your neighborhood



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JOIN THE

FAN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Scan the QR code to join the FDA electronically, or fill out the form below and mail it along with a check to 208 Strawberry St Richmond, VA 23220. Please make the check payable to FDA Membership.

SELECT A MEMBERSHIP TYPE

☐ **Individual**
\$25

The Individual membership is for one person. It allows voting and full benefits of FDA membership.

☐ **Household**
\$30

The Household membership is for up to two people at the same address. Both members may vote and have identical benefits with the FDA.

☐ **Student/VCU**
\$5

The Student membership is available only to full-time students.

☐ **Friend of the Fan**
\$25

The Friend of the Fan membership is for those who work or are otherwise connected to the Fan, but do not live within the District itself.

Membership fee is a once-a-year annual payment

Mailing Address:

Fan Property Address (if you own in the Fan but do not reside there):

Primary Contact:

Secondary Contact:

For Household Memberships

Name: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

The FDA is an all volunteer neighborhood organization. Please let us know if you are interested in serving on any of the following committees:

- ☐ Code Enforcement and Zoning
- ☐ Communications (Fanfare/Social Media)
- ☐ Grants
- ☐ Historic Preservation
- ☐ Holiday House Tour

- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Parking
- ☐ Programs and Events
- ☐ Safety/VCU
- ☐ Trees and Parks

For More Information
fandistrict.org



Vintage Fan

Lombardy & Grace Street Intersection, ca 1939



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION AND THE VALENTINE MUSEUM (PHC0076/0001#X, 46.01.356)



Fan Night at the Richmond Flying Squirrels Game!

On a balmy Tuesday evening in June, Fan neighbors gathered at the Diamond to eat classic baseball cuisine (aka hot dogs and hamburgers with ALL the relish!) and watch the home team slide past the Harrisburg Senators by a score of 3 to 2. Everyone had a great time!



Butternut Squash Soup with Harvest Salad & Crusty Bread

With fall in the air, here's an easy, healthy dinner fit for company!
This recipe serves 4-5 people, but you can double or triple it for a crowd.

Soup Ingredients

- 1 butternut squash (3 lb.)
- 1 T. fresh sage, chopped
- 1 lg. yellow onion
- 1/2 T. fresh rosemary, minced
- 1 tsp. fresh ginger, grated
- 4 T. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup pepitas (can substitute pumpkin seeds)
- 3-4 cups vegetable broth
 - freshly ground black pepper

Instructions

Peel, seed, and cube the squash. Chop the onion. Heat 2 T. olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add onion, salt, and several grinds of fresh pepper, then sauté until the onion is translucent, about 5-6 minutes. Add the butternut squash and continue to cook until the squash begins to soften - about 8-10 minutes. Add garlic, sage, rosemary, and ginger, then stir until fragrant (about 1 minute). Add the broth, bring to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook until the squash is tender, about 25 minutes. In the meantime, sauté pepitas in olive oil with a dash of sea salt until lightly browned. Set the pepitas aside.

Let squash mixture cool slightly, then pour it into a blender or food processor, working in batches. Blend until smooth, adding more broth if necessary. Spoon into individual bowls, and top with roasted pepitas. Serve with the harvest salad and a loaf of your favorite bread (and maybe a glass of your favorite Virginia white wine!).

Harvest Salad

- 6-8 cups of salad greens (whichever kind is your favorite)
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup pickled beets, sliced
- 1/2 cup goat cheese, crumbled
- 1 Granny Smith apple, sliced into bite-size pieces
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup pecans - either candied (or plain)

Instructions

Mix together and dress with a champagne dressing or an apple cider vinaigrette. Enjoy!





Fall Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. The seed of an oak tree.
4. A team game played with a brown oval ball.
6. The parts of a tree that change colors in autumn.
8. A large bird that is cooked for dinner on Thanksgiving.
9. A common round red or green fruit that is made into pie or cider.
12. The first day of fall when the sun crosses the celestial equator.
13. A ride in a wagon carrying hay.
14. A very large yellow flower that can grow over 6 feet tall.

Down

1. A figure set up in a crop field to scare away birds.
3. An outer layer of clothing worn to keep warm on a chilly day.
5. A colorful fall tree that is grown for its sap that is made into syrup.
7. A large round fruit that is carved with faces for Halloween.
10. A grain plant that yeild kernels set in rows on a cob.
11. A yard tool used to gather and pile leaves.



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