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## Welcome to the Spring *Fanfare*!

By Rebecca Keller



Rebecca Keller  
FDA President

As I write, the temperature is in the mid-60s and it's drizzling. The smell of my winter-neglected garden is starting to awaken and beckon. I am very excited about this edition. It is brimming with beautiful pictures and informative articles that involve our neighborhood and community.

Before I share our spring events, I wish to thank everyone who made the Holiday House Tour a success. It came very close to not happening, but our community rallied, and we sold over 1700 tickets! People attended from all over Virginia as well as Maryland, North Carolina, Arizona, and Texas! Proceeds from the Tour fund our Grants Program. Look for information about how organizations can apply for grant money.

Onto spring. The Fan Arts Stroll returns on May 16th and 17th. It continues to grow in popularity, drawing artists from around the region. Look for details as they unfold in the weekly newsletter and on our FDA website, [fandistrict.org](http://fandistrict.org).

With spring in the air, we have an article on the rebirth of the Uptown Community Garden on Parkwood Avenue. Our "Eco-Friendly Fan" column will give you tips on how to rejuvenate your own garden!

Also in this edition, you will find interviews with our City Councilors, Katherine Jordan (District 2) and Stephanie Lynch (District 5), in which they share their thoughts on a variety of topics that impact our neighborhood and city.

Look for a construction update at Fox Elementary. Speaking of Fox, many of you will remember that First Baptist Church welcomed Fox's displaced students and faculty to conduct classes at the Church in the months following Fox's fire and before the school moved to its temporary location at Clarks Springs Elementary. In this issue, you'll learn about another important ministry at First Baptist: their work with unhoused clients. This uplifting story may inspire you to become involved.

Finally, check out the VCU Vibes column with information about their sports programs.

These are just a few highlights! I hope you enjoy every page of this beautiful edition.

If you are 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 up to date on city issues that impact it. You can find a membership form in this Fanfare. In addition, be sure to check out all the information on our website, [fandistrict.org](http://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](mailto:president@fandistrict.org).

Thank you.

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 [fandistrict.org](http://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.

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## Fan Arts Stroll 2024! By Katie Schwieder, Editor, Fanfare

**Mark your calendars** for Thursday, May 16th and Friday, May 17th for this year's Fan Arts Stroll! From 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day, you can meander along Hanover Avenue (2000-2500 blocks) and Grove Avenue (2200-2500 blocks) to see paintings, sculpture, jewelry, pottery, fabric art, and photography, as well as listen to live music and taste scrumptious offerings from area food vendors. Registration forms for artists, vendors, home hosts, musicians, and food trucks can be found on the FDA's website [fandistrict.org](http://fandistrict.org). Watch for updates in the weekly e-newsletter!



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# Holiday House Tour 2023 Raised More Money Than Ever!

Article by Marlene Beck, Co-Chair

**This year’s Holiday House Tour** invited visitors into nine beautifully appointed homes that reflected both open and traditional floor plans, contemporary chic, transitional, and classic traditional styles. Homes varied in size from grand residences to condominiums located in a former convent and a cathedral built in 1913. The variety of styles mirrored the unique and lovely character of our Fan neighborhood.

In addition, ticket holders had the unique experience of touring the 27,000 square foot Branch Museum, the Tudor Revival former residence of the John Kerr Branch family, built in 1919. John Russell Pope, the home’s architect, also designed the Jefferson Memorial and the West Wing of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, as well as the Broad Street Train Station (now the Science Museum of Virginia).

Importantly, our team is thrilled to announce that the Holiday House Tour sold 1700 tickets and raised \$58,000, more than any previous year! These funds will return to our community through various Fan District Association grants and activities in 2024.

An event such as this would never have happened without our generous sponsors, gracious homeowners, and an extensive list of volunteers.

As we look ahead to the 2024 Holiday House Tour, we encourage you to consider volunteering or sharing your home! Please email [HHT@fandistrict.org](mailto:HHT@fandistrict.org) for additional information.

On behalf of the 2023 Holiday House Tour committee and team, we wish you a New Year filled with amazing experiences and joyful moments!

Best wishes,  
Heather Williams and Marlene Beck, Co-Chairs







MUCH APPRECIATION AND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU GO TO THE FOLLOWING:

OUR GRACIOUS HOMEOWNERS THAT OPENED THEIR LOVELY HOMES FOR THIS EVENT:

- Leanne & Alex Kurland
- Erin & Matt Smith
- Dana & Wes Marshall
- Ellie & Matt Caplice
- Mary & Andy Radford
- Susannah Smith & Michael Glomb
- Sharon & Jon Miller
- Nancy Everett & Rob Blandford
- Jennifer & Steve Burris
- The Branch Museum

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- Lacy Williams with Joyner Fine Properties
- Karen Stephens with Long and Foster
- Gary Martin with GM Real Estate Associates and Keeton & Co
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- Haley Automotive
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- Patty Loyde
- Betsy Hanson
- Jill Davenport
- Lacy Williams
- Jackie Stevens
- Karen Stephens
- Millie Green
- Barb Dittmeier
- Marlene Beck / Heather Williams

And finally, thank you to all of the 300 volunteers who made this happen by serving as docents, ticket sellers, and assisting at the hospitality stops!

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## FDA Community Grant Program 2024

By Kim Vullo, FDA Vice President and Barb Dittmeier, Grant Committee Chair

The **2024 FDA Community Grant Program** will open on Wednesday, February 28th, and applications for funding consideration will be accepted through Friday, April 12th at 5:00 pm ET. If you, or someone you know is interested in applying, please visit [fandistrict.org/grants](https://fandistrict.org/grants) to learn more and access the application.

The Grant Program is funded through the annual Holiday House Tour and has a long tradition of reinvesting in the neighborhood we call home, as well as supporting children's education initiatives and helping neighbors in need throughout the city. The Grant Committee looks forward to receiving and thoughtfully evaluating this year's applications.

## Fox Elementary's Interior Renovations Now Underway

Article by Sarah Hopkins Finley, Schools Liaison

The work to rebuild Fox Elementary School following the February 2022 fire has shifted to the interior of the school, and renovations are on track to welcome students back at the beginning of the 2025 – 26 school year.

In November, the Richmond School Board authorized the contract with Gulf Seaboard, the General Contractor, for \$30,437,000. Dana Fox, RPS Chief Operations Officer, expressed disappointment that RPS only received one bid for the project; however, she expressed confidence in Gulf Seaboard and their roof work to date. Her communications with other contractors who had initially indicated some interest in the project revealed that the timetable and the complexity of the project because of the school's historic nature made them decide not to submit a bid.

A special grant from Richmond City, together with insurance proceeds and historic tax credits, will fund Fox's renovation and will not detract from other RPS school projects.

The layout of the remodeled school will essentially mirror the original floorplan. However, a reconfiguration of the basement will allow for two additional classrooms which will take away the need for outdoor trailers. Other enhancements will

include new lighting and systems, state-of-the-art technology, and bathrooms inside the kindergarten classrooms.

During construction, workers may need to close adjacent streets and playground for safety purposes.

Stay tuned for more updates as we watch the rebirth of Fox Elementary!



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## Meet Katherine Jordan, Councilor for District 2

Interview by Julia Seward, City Affairs Liaison

### **Fanfare:** Tell us about your background.

**Katherine Jordan:** Like many Richmonders, I was born at St. Mary's and now live in the Fan with my husband, 2 cats, and a dog. We wouldn't have it any other way. Since earning a graduate degree at UVA, my professional career has focused on urban design, planning, and sustainability.

I'm happiest serving my community at the neighborhood, regional, and state levels - whether supporting schools, the state ERA ratification process, regional transportation alternatives, Richmond's Green City Commission, or the Fan District Association as a former president.

I currently chair the City Council's Governmental Operations Committee and also work with the Finance and Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committees.

### **FF:** What part of the Fan is in your District?

**KJ:** I have the privilege of representing the majority of my home neighborhood, the Fan. The Second District currently encompasses all of the Fan neighborhood, except for the south side of Floyd Avenue east of Shields. In January 2025, redistricting will move the line between the 2nd and 5th Districts to Main Street from Arthur Ashe Boulevard all the way to Harrison Street.

### **FF:** How did you become involved in local government and why did you decide to serve on Council? How long have you been on Council?

**KJ:** I am in the last year of my first term on Council. Public office was not in my life-plan, but when Kim Gray stepped down to run for Mayor, I saw an opportunity to contribute more to Richmond and use my personal, professional, and educational background in a new way. How did I get here? I began by working with Fox's PTA, then served as the Fan District Association's President, Grants Co-Chair, and Parks & Trees Chair. Through these roles, I met people at the City and began following Richmond's budget and activities.

### **FF:** What has been most surprising in your role on City Council?



**KJ:** I've been surprised by how much the State limits our ability to address local issues. It's incredibly challenging. We can't even update our own city charter without taking it to the General Assembly! Virginia is an unusual state in that authority not explicitly given to local governments is retained by the State. The State often dictates exactly how we can or can't innovate within City Government. This affects many issues from speed enforcement to tax relief.

### **FF:** What are the front and center issues and your highest priorities?

**KJ:** The City continues to face many challenges from past decades, while also grappling with the lingering effects of the pandemic. Housing affordability, Richmond Public Schools, vital small businesses, street safety, transparent City services, and effective communication are continuing issues. Looking toward 2024 and beyond, community-supported economic development through our small businesses (with a heightened focus on the Broad Street corridor) will be important. I will continue to prioritize the climate emergency, supporting RPS, and helping residents and businesses. Reopening Fox Elementary on time is a huge personal and community priority, and I'm proud we were able to secure \$15 million to support its reconstruction.

### **FF:** What are the good things happening in the Fan right now?

**KJ:** Many GREAT things are happening in the Fan - greening, cleaning, and many fabulous events like the Holiday House Tour, the Easter Parade, and the Fan Arts Stroll. More young families are moving in. Every demographic is important to our vibrancy, from VCU students to seniors

and everyone in-between. We've repaved most of the Fan, and calmed traffic with stop signs and speed bumps. I'm relieved that, through community involvement, we were able to keep the residency requirement for short term rentals.

### **FF:** How do neighborhoods best express their voices to City Government?

**KJ:** A strong neighborhood association is a great start. Residents benefit from having FDA reach and engage residents and collaborate with the City on multiple fronts. We make it a priority to attend neighborhood meetings to hear about your experiences. Your individual voice is crucial in sharing your ideas and concerns at FDA and PTA meetings as well as through City Boards and Commissions and other volunteer groups. City-to-neighborhood communication is a two-way street.

### **FF:** How do you communicate with your constituents and how can we reach you?

**KJ:** Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter to know what's happening at City Hall and in our District and how to become active. Also, consider attending our monthly Second District meetings (generally the 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom) which often include key experts who are leading timely City initiatives. In addition, we are active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Reddit. You can check our social media for relevant meeting details, and we post recordings of the meetings on YouTube.

Lastly, we periodically mail newsletters throughout the Second District. Our last one was in December; another one will come out in the spring. Newsletters are available digitally as well.

If you want to reach me directly, email my office at [Katherine.jordan@rva.gov](mailto:Katherine.jordan@rva.gov) and copy [sven.philipsen@rva.gov](mailto:sven.philipsen@rva.gov) or call us at (804) 646-6532.

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## Meet Stephanie Lynch, Councilor for District 5

Interview by Julia Seward, City Affairs Liaison

**Fanfare:** *What part of the Fan District is in your district?*

**Stephanie Lynch:** I have the honor of representing a tiny, but mighty slice of the Fan from Floyd and Harrison to Floyd and Shields.

**FF:** *How did you become involved in local government and why did you decide to serve on Council? How long have you been on Council?*

**SL:** After falling in love with the City and The Fan during a college visit, I applied to VCU and became deeply engaged in the community including being the 2007-2009 FDA Board student representative. After practicing as a social worker, I turned toward helping people through good governance, better policy, and reformed government systems, and I have State Administration, agency, and General Assembly experience in forging groups toward common goals like successful expansion of low-income healthcare. When my predecessor, the Honorable Parker Agelasto, stepped down, I saw an opportunity to advocate for neighborhood beautification, safe streets, and efficient city services. Elected officials should care, listen, and work for their people regardless of where they live or their income bracket. I am honored to still carry this mantra today.

**FF:** *What is the most surprising aspect of your work on City Council?*

**SL:** Richmond has a unique form of Government, and it was surprising to learn what was legal (and practical) within City Council's purview and authority. Many day-to-day citizen issues are housed under City administration and operation. Success is achieved by working with and through the administration as an "ask" and not a "tell." For example, if residents request a stoplight, more cleaning, sidewalk repairs, or other services, I advocate with the City, but it is not beholden to any request. The Mayor leads, sets the agenda/budget, and has operations authority. Fortunately, Council has a good working relationship with the Administration/Mayor's office and is often successful in pushing acute concerns, but it takes strategy, effort, time, and tenacity. Larger, systemic changes are more complex



and require long-term attention and intention. That said, when you move the needle and make strides in the right direction, it is incredibly rewarding.

**FF:** *What 2024 City issues are front and center? What is your highest priority?*

**SL:** Hot topics that reflect our residents' voices across the City are: (1) affordable housing and increased cost of living; (2) traffic safety and transit access; (3) public schools; and (4) responsive public services and customer service experience. I believe people want the City to evolve into a well-run, highly functional system. For our 5th District, the top issue continues to be traffic safety and safe streets - walking, biking, rolling, and driving through neighborhoods without fear. A homeless service delivery system is a priority and my personal mountain to die on. This year we achieved an historic investment in a year-round homeless shelter, increased shelter capacity through the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care, and a commitment to opening our first fully integrated Housing Resource Center. But this is a long journey with critical outcomes for individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis.

**FF:** *What are the good things happening in the Fan?*

**SL:** So much! As a Fan resident for the better half of a decade, the improvements in infrastructure, traffic, bike safety, and overall neighborhood beautification are inspiring. Equally exciting is seeing families and kids pop back up all over the neighborhood - strolling and biking on the streets, visiting the corner markets, making mayhem on the playgrounds. We have rapid growth in the Fan, but I am hopeful the City continues to do this mindfully. Little unique details make the Fan what it is. I hope we preserve those into the future.

**FF:** *How do neighborhoods best express their voices to City Government?*

**SL:** The FDA does an excellent job engaging City leaders and educating their members on how to get involved in the process. Continue to use your neighborhood civic association as a platform and forum for dialogue and never hesitate to send an invite to a leader of a City Department, Agency, and/or Commission. The direct communication you have with folks administering a program can be incredibly impactful for both parties.

**FF:** *What are the greatest opportunities for residents to become citizen leaders?*

**SL:** My favorite question so far! Get engaged with your civic association and take leadership. Learn about the over 50 Boards and Commissions that Council and the Mayor's office make appointments to. We are always looking for good folks willing to serve. Go to [rva.gov/office-city-clerk/boards-and-commissions](http://rva.gov/office-city-clerk/boards-and-commissions) to check out vacancies.

**FF:** *How does your office communicate with residents?*

**SL:** We attend our civic association meetings, post on neighborhood and City Council FB pages, hold town halls, send twice-a year-mailings, hand deliver "senior bags" with a newsletter and resources, and send out a monthly e-newsletter. Also, we have yard signs with QR codes for newsletter sign-up. Snap a pic and sign-up! Let us know if you'd like to host a newsletter sign-up in your yard or business. You can email us via [amy.robins@rva.gov](mailto:amy.robins@rva.gov) or [stephanie.lynch@rva.gov](mailto:stephanie.lynch@rva.gov). Call our office at 804-646-5724 or call me directly at 804-396-4061.

Town Hall meetings will be held at 6:00 pm on the following Thursdays: 4/18, 7/11, 9/19, and 10/17, locations TBD. Sign-up for the Monthly e-News letter for more info.







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## Caring for Your Property and Our Community

Article by Greg Holzgreffe, Infrastructure Chair

Here are a few reminders about our responsibilities as property owners in the City of Richmond. We are required to:

1. remove snow and ice from the public sidewalk that abuts our properties.
2. keep our sidewalks clean of debris and trash.
3. cut the grass strips and maintain the tree wells that abut our properties.

Dog and other animal owners must remove any waste or excreta by their animal on public and private property. Call 311 to report non-emergency issues to the City, including a leaking water meter, a dead tree, a street sinkhole, bulk debris pickup, sidewalk repair, and so on. Make sure to jot down the tracking number. If you report an item to the City but do not receive a response within 60 days, please send an email to me at [infrastructure@fandistrict.org](mailto:infrastructure@fandistrict.org) together with your 311 tracking number, and we will contact the City on your behalf.

## 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, streetlights, 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](https://rva.gov/citizen-service-and-response/about-rva-311)

## 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 Shradler by phone at (804) 828-9649, or via email at [lshradler@vcu.edu](mailto:lshradler@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](mailto:Marvin.Marsh@Richmondgov.com)  
804-646-0400



### REPORT ISSUES TO RVA 311

311 is the best tool at your disposal to register complaints with the city. Use 311 for the following issues and ALWAYS submit a photo with your report.

- Road, alley and sidewalk repairs
- Stormwater, clogged storm drains, leaking water meters
- Code enforcement and zoning issues
- Streetlight and sign repairs
- Replacement trashcans

**RVA  
311**



To file a report with RVA 311, visit [www.rva311.com](https://www.rva311.com) or scan the QR code.

#FanCares

### USE THE HASHTAG #FanCares

Posting on social media about the Fan? Use #FanCares to show some love or to make your voice heard. The more we use the hashtag, the more united our voices become.



### MIND YOUR CURB

Don't forget! You are responsible for the sidewalk and tree well in front of your house. This includes snow removal, trash and debris removal, and cutting the grass.



### BE VIGILANT

If you see something, say something. Call 911 during a real emergency, such as someone is hurt, property is being damaged or a crime is being committed.



### BE COURTEOUS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

Pick up after your dog, pick up litter on the sidewalk, mind the posted speed limit, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same!

**The Fan is a special place. We all chose to live here for one reason or another and we come together as a community when we take pride in the safety and wellbeing of our neighborhood.**





## From Frigid to Verdant

Article by Julia Seward, Parks & Trees

**This year** winter cold came late to the Fan, but spring is rounding the corner. Camellias showed their colors, but chilly nights signaled patience. As we amble into warmer weather, let's think forward. First, envision your summer yard or stoop. Then consider a March strategy to be ready for the green shoots of April. Is this the year to find more eco-friendly ground covers and reduce mowing? Should spring bulbs be mixed with hearty blooms that are heat and water tolerant? Are more tree cover and shrubbery on your must-have list? Is this the year to increase the number of Virginia species in your green spaces?

Just three practical tips now will have a noticeable impact on spring gardens.

Start with a clean slate. Take advantage of a warm morning to clear winter debris, gently rake away leaves and discard remains of summer foliage. Perhaps use leaves to mulch the base of trees and add a layer of protection over sprouting spring bulbs. Assess trees for damage caused by our windy winter and prune woody limbs - either yourself or with the help of a professional. There are a number of experts working in the Fan area.

Then, think forward. Wait a bit on most fertilizers

but consider the flowers and foliage you want in May. Assess light in your yard and remember that shade and sun-loving plants grow differently. Peruse websites and talk with local garden shops about plants that meet your needs. Be specific about requirements for heat and water tolerance, color, appropriate size for your garden, and upkeep. Ask about new varieties debuting in 2024. And don't forget your alley which often provides bright daily sun.

Finally, consider whether one goal is a nature habitat. Interested in birds? Think seed and fruit bearing trees. Crazy about butterflies? Consider bright colors and nectar. Friend of bees? Look for pollinating plants. Savvy about soil? Mulch to encourage earthworms and other organisms.

Enjoy the last days of winter as we look toward the season ahead.

Interested in knowing more?

[dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder](https://dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder)  
[plantvirginianatives.org/](https://plantvirginianatives.org/)

[fws.gov/story/how-build-pollinator-garden](https://fws.gov/story/how-build-pollinator-garden)

## Uptown Community Garden Blooms Bright

Article by Christine Peterson

**Just two blocks from the Fan**, nestled between Shields and Addison on the south side of Parkwood, sits the Uptown Community Garden (2201 Parkwood). This oasis has sunny benches, a shade garden, and paths for strolling among the 36 rented plots where gardeners grow vegetables, flowers, and pollinator plants. Yet just a few years ago, Uptown was a very different place. This article tells our comeback story and encourages you to visit us.

For years Uptown was a place where people came together to garden and enjoy summer evening dinners surrounded by nature. But things started to move downhill and by the spring of 2022, Uptown had become a dumping ground for tires, garden excess, and who knows what else. Occasional drug deals took place at the picnic tables. Few gardeners had plots, so the place was deserted much of the time, and the plots deteriorated. It was a bleak situation.

Then, a small group of Fan gardeners took action. They talked to Kate Rivara, the Program Manager for Richmond Grows Gardens, an organization that oversees all of RVA's community gardens. Kate swung into action and worked with the Uptown volunteers. In March 2022, AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) sent a team to help us. The NCCC helpers worked alongside Kate and the Uptown volunteers and, in the course of one week, cleaned and transformed the garden and rebuilt the plots. They also created a shade garden.

By June 2022, all of the plots were rented (\$50/year). New and continuing gardeners included people of all ages and ethnicities with varying skill levels. They not only worked their 4 ft. x 12 ft plots, they joined in on socials and worked to keep the entire space mowed, weeded, and tidy. Uptown was once again a happy place.

We were lucky enough to win a Fan District Association grant in 2023 that allowed us to make even more improvements. We are now a delightful space to visit and a flourishing haven for community gardeners. We invite you to come see what we're all about! To learn more about Uptown Community Garden, email [Uptowngardenrva@gmail.com](mailto:Uptowngardenrva@gmail.com).





## First Baptist Church's Ministry to the Housing Insecure

Adapted from Erich Bridges's 9/14/23 Article in *BaptistNews*

*Erich Bridges, a Baptist journalist for more than 40 years, retired in 2016 as global correspondent for the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board. His article about First Baptist Church's ministry to the homeless appeared in a global news journal. First Baptist's Associate Pastor, Matthew Hensley, says Bridges's article "puts a human face to the ministry we offer these folks who sometimes just need to wash the grime and frustration off in our showers."*

In the basement floor of the cavernous First Baptist Church on the corner of Monument and Arthur Ashe Boulevard lies a community area with some round tables and plastic chairs, a back room with racks of donated clothes and shelves of groceries, and some men's and women's shower rooms down a short hallway.

I volunteer here on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays as part of the church's ministry to people experiencing housing and/or food insecurity.

Men and women (and sometimes children) line up on a steep concrete staircase leading down to the basement door. At 11 a.m. sharp, we open the door, and they crowd in to get a cup of coffee or tea, a grocery bag filled with canned and packaged food, plus clothes, toiletries, and showers. They also drop off dirty laundry for washing and pick up clean clothes, charge their phones, get help obtaining a government ID, and pick up their mail if they're using First Baptist as their permanent address.

Sometimes we have hot food brought by volunteers or leftovers from church lunches and dinners.

Beyond that, people tired from walking the streets all day and sleeping in tents or under bridges at night can sit for three hours in an airy room, trade stories with volunteers and other clients, talk to the voices in their heads, use clean toilets, and take a shower.

Only a few other places in town offer free showers, so some folks come in pretty ripe. Others are angry, sick, exhausted. But many of our clients are quite cheerful and friendly, considering what they go through each day. Almost everyone says "thank you" for a bag of groceries or a few shirts and a pair of pants.

Just the other day, a new guy came in mad as hell. He'd been disrespected out on the street, shoved around, stolen from – at least the way he told it – and he wanted to take it out on us in loud and profane terms. We usually don't take much abuse; some former regulars have been banned from the premises for threatening volunteers or other clients. But this guy was having a really bad day and needed to vent.

So, we listened. Then one of our volunteers gently steered him into the clothes closet to check out some fresh duds. Then he disappeared into the showers for about a half an hour. When he emerged, I hardly recognized him. The street grime and rage were gone, at least for an hour or two. He had a beatific smile on his face; it stayed there the rest of the time he was with us. He dug

into a big plate of taco salad, talked with other clients for a while, and apologized for his earlier histrionics as he left.

The same day, a young man staggered in looking close to dead. He had come straight from a local hospital emergency room, where he had been Narcanned twice (injected with meds to counteract a potentially deadly opioid overdose) and released onto the street.

Lisa, our most savvy volunteer who steers between tables in her turbo-charged wheelchair, immediately took him under her wing, hydrating him and making sure he didn't lose consciousness. Lisa is a former parole officer and a survivor of homelessness herself, and she knows how to listen. Really listen. I love watching her bending forward in her wheelchair, head almost touching the head of whoever she's listening to.

We made the young man a pallet in a side hallway, so he could rest a while. Eventually, he ate a meal and took a shower. He still looked a bit shaky when he left, but at least he would survive the day, we hoped.

We know it's a Band-Aid ministry. It's barely a drop in the ocean of need. But it's a drop. These people need much more than we can give. Until they get it, we can offer a smile, a joke, a prayer, maybe the latest sports news. One of our regulars is an expert on classic movies and challenges us to pick one over another and defend our choices. We better come prepared.

*If you would like to learn more about First Baptist's ministry to the housing and food insecure, please contact Matthew Hensley, Associate Pastor, at [hensley@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:hensley@fbcrichmond.org)*

## Community

First Baptist Church's inspirational ministry serves approximately 400 people each week and served over 15,000 clients last year. If you wish to contribute or volunteer, please contact Steve Blanchard at [blanchard@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:blanchard@fbcrichmond.org). Here are some items of need:

- canned beans (16 oz)
- dish detergent (8 to 12 oz)
- canned fruit (16 oz)
- Brillo pads (8-10 count soap pads)
- Cup of Noodles (2.25 oz cups)
- paper towels
- canned pasta (16 oz)
- toilet tissue
- Gatorade (12 oz)
- household cleaner
- peanut butter (16 oz)
- bleach (12 oz bottles)
- Ramen noodles
- fabric softener (10 oz bottles – Dollar Tree)
- saltine crackers (sleeves)
- laundry detergent (10 oz bottles – D. Tree)
- tuna fish (5 oz cans)
- disinfectant spray (7.5 oz)
- blankets or throws
- toilet bowl cleaner (8 oz bottles)
- feminine products (pads)
- trash bags (tall kitchen)
- disposable razors

Items may be dropped off in the outdoor hamper at the church's Mulberry Street entrance (under the green awning). Volunteer trainings are held the first Tuesday evenings of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Church, 2709 Monument Avenue.







## 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
- Exclusive Access to Members-Only Info
- Get Involved in Your Community!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN NOW!



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

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual</b><br>\$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Household</b><br>\$30   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Student/VCU</b><br>\$5              | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Friend of the Fan</b><br>\$25   |
| The Individual membership is for one person. It allows voting and full benefits of FDA membership. | The Household membership is for up to two people at the same address. Both members may vote and have identical benefits with the FDA. | The Student membership is available only to full-time students. | 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:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Secondary Contact:

*For Household Memberships*

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](http://fandistrict.org)



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Communications

Article by Madison Pastore, Communications Chair

Are you a member of the Fan District Association? If not, please join! (see the individual and business membership forms contained in this edition of Fanfare)

As an FDA member, you'll have access to:

- Weekly e-newsletters: these announce upcoming FDA events, alert our neighborhood to important policy and zoning changes, offer opportunities for volunteer work, and provide a calendar of dates for activities in the city.
- Fanfare: Fanfare is our quarterly news magazine, delivered to your door. Fanfare includes a variety of articles and columns – some informational, some educational, others whimsical - written by FDA Board and Committee members, as well as Fan neighbors.
- FDA website (fandistrict.org): the website provides up-to-date information about the Fan District Association, Board and Committee information, and events happening within the neighborhood. Additionally, the website contains a membership portal, access to community resources such as parking zone information, a robust history of the neighborhood, past issues of Fanfare and so much more!
- Follow us on Instagram (@fda\_rva) and like us on our Fan Facebook page!

These communication tools are meant to be informative and catered to what you want to know about your neighborhood. They allow the FDA Board to carry out its mission “to promote the preservation, restoration, and betterment of the community.” Importantly, we want to hear from you! If you would like to see certain content featured, advertise a specific business or event, or have any requests, suggestions, or questions, please send an email to news@fandistrict.org.

Upcoming Events

mar 18	FDA Board Meeting* 7:00 pm*	
mar 31	Easter on Parade (Monument Ave)	
apr 15	FDA Board Meeting* 7:00 pm*	
may 7	Annual Membership Meeting at The Branch Museum (6-8 pm)	
may 16 & 17	Fan Arts Stroll (4-8 pm)	* Board meetings are held at the FDA Office, 208 Strawberry Street. If you would like to present to the Board, please email president@fandistrict.org by noon Monday.
may 20	FDA Board Meeting* 7:00 pm*	
jun 17	FDA Board Meeting* 7:00 pm*	

Important Links

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



Other Perks of Joining the FDA Include:

- 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
- Exclusive Access to Members-Only Events
- Get Involved in Your Community!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN NOW!



HAVE A BUSINESS IN THE FAN? Affordably advertise your business as a business member of the FDA!

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:

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





## VCU Intramurals and Club Sports

Article by Devynn Alston, VCU Student Reporter

If you ask anyone who knows VCU athletics, the first thing they might mention is the storied D1 men's basketball team, coached this year by Ryan Odom, a Fan resident. They remember seeing the team compete in March Madness over the years with an NCAA Final Four showing in 2011. They might know that VCU has other D1 teams that compete in the Atlantic 10 Conference including tennis, track and field, baseball, and golf.

What people may not know is that the VCU athletics department has many more offerings than just their famous D1 teams.

For students who are not athletically gifted enough to play D1, the school has a plethora of club sports and intramural teams for those who wish to participate in sports. Club sports range from archery to figure skating to judo and give non-athletic students a chance to compete with other athletes at a high level. As a member of the women's basketball club team, I find club sports to be interesting because it gives us

the ability to compete against other colleges and universities and provides the same appeal that high school sports did. We travel to different locations and build strong bonds with our teammates.

Another way for students to play sports is through intramurals. They require less of a time commitment than club sports and include dodgeball, volleyball, basketball, and indoor and outdoor soccer. Attending intramural games can be just as entertaining as watching a game at the Siegel Center!

As I continue in my first year at VCU, I have been extremely impressed with the variety of sports opportunities the university offers – for all interests and skill levels. So, put on your black and gold and come cheer for VCU's teams!

*Devynn is a Freshman journalism major at VCU and shares her perspectives on the university.*



## Membership Update

By Kimberly Hitchens, Chair of Membership Committee

**What's new with the FDA Membership Committee?** We are delighted to report that our membership has grown 9% over the past year! Recently, we've welcomed 40 new households to the neighborhood.

We have worked closely with the Program & Events Committee as well as the Board to create opportunities to connect with new neighbors. In November, FDA President, Rebecca Keller, welcomed incoming homeowners and tenants with a brunch reception. The intimate gathering provided a wonderful exchange of ideas and perspectives, exactly the atmosphere that we hope to continue as more neighbors move into our community.

If you are new to the area, or have a friend or neighbor that you think would like to learn more about the work that the FDA performs, please encourage them to reach out to us at [membership@fandistrict.org](mailto:membership@fandistrict.org)

**Members:** Be on the lookout for an invitation to our Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 7th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. This year's event will be at The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design, 2501 Monument Avenue and will be a wonderful evening of celebration, tasty treats, and information about what's happening in the Fan. Keep an eye on the weekly e-newsletter for details!

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**Neighborhood**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

**Sunday, March 24 | 2 – 4 pm**  
**on the Arthur Ashe Boulevard Lawn**

**Egg hunts will be done in waves by age.**

Door prizes during each wave | Take-home treats for all

Egg Hunt will be moved to the Gym in the case of inclement weather.

**Easter Worship**  
**Sunday, March 31**  
**8:45 am in the Chapel**  
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## Vintage Fan

Renaissance on Hanover – Renovated Homes in 1967



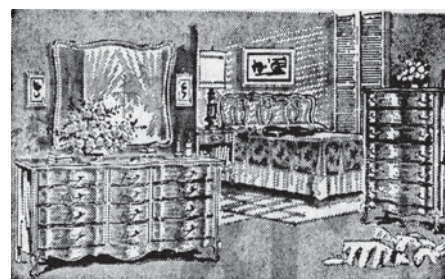
Staff Photos by Amir Pishdad

### Renovations on Hanover Avenue Indicate Fan District's Recent Renaissance

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH; 13 AUGUST, 1967, PAGE 55

#### Cost of a Bedroom Suite in 1967 Sold by Sydnor & Hundley, 108 E. Grace Street

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RICHMOND TIMES  
DISPATCH; 26 AUGUST, 1967, PAGE 5



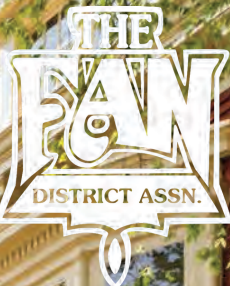
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## ADVERTISE LOCALLY AND AFFORDABLY WITH THE FDA

Convert your local Fan neighbors into your best customers by advertising with The Fan District Association as one of our valued business partners.

The FDA is a non-profit association that represents residential owners, renters, business, educational and religious entities within the boundaries of the Fan District Neighborhood, the largest neighborhood in the city of Richmond.

The FDA works hard to preserve, restore, and improve the community.

The FDA provides several affordable advertising opportunities to help your business reach thousands of local residents.

### Let the FDA work for you!

## 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

### FOR READY-TO-PRINT ADS:

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Advertising Sizes	
<b>1/4 Vertical</b> 3.66" w X 4.75" h \$265	<b>1/8 Horizontal</b> 3.66" w X 2.15" h \$160
<b>1/2 Horizontal</b> 7.5" w X 4.75" h \$420	<b>Full Page</b> 7.5" w X 10" h \$725

We offer a 10% discount for 2 ads and 20% discount for 4 ads of any size!

## WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Reach 1,000+ members of the Fan District Association on a weekly basis.

\$100 = 1 week    \$175 = 2 weeks

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[advertising@fandistrict.org](mailto:advertising@fandistrict.org)

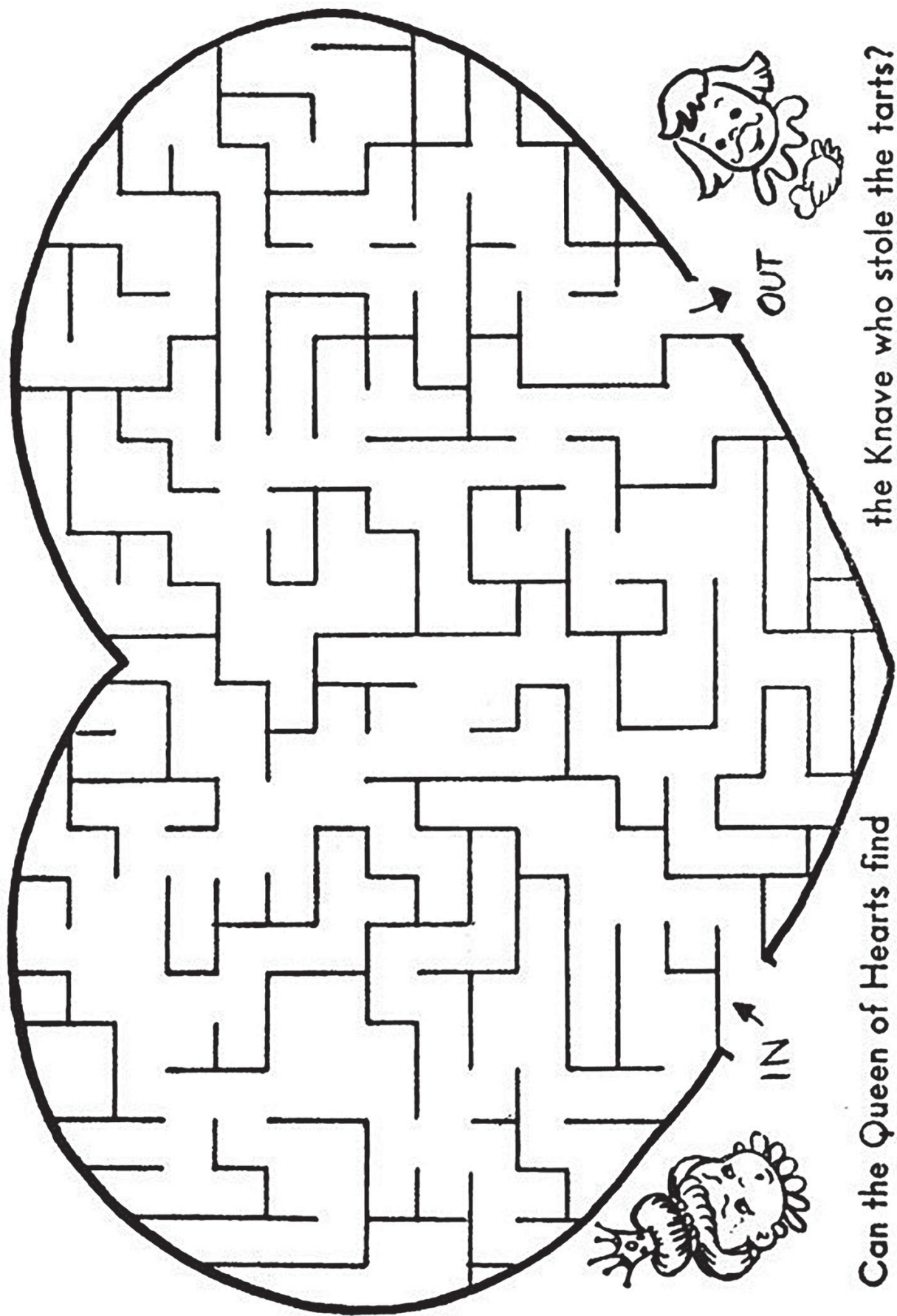
## FDA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

For just \$50 a year, become a business member of the Fan District Association. As one of our valued business sponsors, your business will be featured on the FDA's Fan Business Directory page.

**\*Ad file formats can be PDF, JPEG, TIFF, or EPS**

Please submit a business card size file as well as any future updates to [news@fandistrict.org](mailto:news@fandistrict.org).





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