



This Week in the Fan

January 16, 2021

What's Upcoming

- 1/17 - Deadline to apply for the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program
 - 1/18 - Last day to see Treasures of Ancient Egypt: Sunken Cities at VMFA
 - 1/18 - COVID-19 vaccination campaign expands to include some Phase 1b frontline essential workers
 - 1/25 - VCU spring semester begins
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Around the Fan

The FDA Needs You!

The FDA is looking for a few volunteers to fill the following roles:

- park stewards to help care for all of our beautiful Fan parks. If you have an interest, please contact [Chris Morem](#).
- Fan Village Leaders to help your neighbors "age in place". If you have an interest, please email fanvillage@fandistrict.org to learn more about this way to help seniors in our community.

MLK Weekend & Lobby Day

The Richmond Police Department is dedicated and committed to ensuring public safety before, during, and after Lobby Day 2021.

The Department is continuing to monitor activity in and around Richmond, as well as working with other law enforcement agencies. Operations and personnel are in place to address public safety needs.

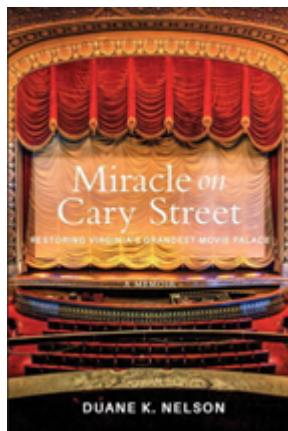
In anticipation of events, signs prohibiting firearms will be placed throughout the city to inform those who may gather that firearms are prohibited at permitted events and events that would otherwise require a permit, as well as areas adjacent to such events. Please report any suspicious activity immediately by calling the non-emergency line at 804-646-5100 or 911 for emergencies.

If you live or work in the area surrounding Capitol Square and downtown, you should expect disruptions to your usual routines. Traffic will be impacted starting at 6 a.m. on Sunday, January 17 until 6 p.m. Monday, January 18.

Road closure information can be found here:

<https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/richmond/richmond-police-announce-road-closures-ahead-of-lobby-day>

For the latest information, please check out the Richmond Police Department social media accounts: twitter: [@RichmondPolice](#) FB:RichmondPolice



Byrd Theater Memoir: Miracle on Cary Street

“Miracle on Cary Street: Restoring Virginia’s Grandest Movie Palace,” a memoir by Duane K. Nelson tells the behind-the-scenes story of how the Byrd Theatre was saved by a handful of die-hard fans and turned into Richmond’s beloved movie palace. It is full of secrets, scandals and ghost stories.

Released in late November, signed copies of “Miracle on Cary Street” (\$14.99, Little Star) are available locally at the Fountain Bookstore at 1312 E. Cary St., Bygones Vintage Clothing at 2916 W Cary St., Chop Suey Books at 2913 W. Cary St. and Book People at 536 Granite Ave. It is also available from Amazon or Barnes & Noble.



Introducing Game Parties!

Now booking for January and February.

You, your friends, and your gaming system playing on the BIG SCREEN! (up to 10 people)

Day & evening times available.

[Click for details](#)

New Historic Plaques Update

You may start to see the beautiful new plaques around our neighborhood. The initial order has arrived.

Haven't ordered one yet? It's not too late to get yours!

To purchase, [click here](#).



Museums

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Treasures of Ancient Egypt: Sunken Cities closes on January 18, but there are still many things to see and do.

[Check out the calendar for events.](#)

Children's Museum of Richmond

A visit to the Children's Museum isn't just fun (although it definitely is that!). It's an opportunity for the whole family to play and learn together.

From fundamental concepts to socialization skills, language development, and much more, recent research shows that play has a positive impact on a child's academic performance. To put it another way, when children play ahead, they get ahead!

[Get Tickets](#)

Looking for fun ways to enrich your kids this holiday season? [Sign up for socially distanced family classes!](#)



Virtual Second Semester

RPS has officially announced that schools will remain completely virtual for the second semester beginning on February 8, 2021. Further updates will be shared in [RPS Direct](#) and posted to the [#ReopenWithLove section of our website](#).

Support Our Schools

There are many ways to support RPS and #ServeWithLove! RPS needs volunteers to support [meal distribution](#), [technology distribution](#) and [school supply kit packing](#). You can also learn more about how to [Donate to RPS](#).

Need help? Call the RPS Family Support Helpline at 804-780-6195 and learn more about [other resources available to families](#).



RPD

Police Advisories

When the FDA Board receives a Police Advisory or Electronic Update from the RPD, the notification is posted on the [FDA Facebook page](#). Additionally, it typically appears in the Richmond Times-Dispatch the next day.

A complete, up to date listing of [Advisories](#) is available on the RPD [website](#).



VCU COVID-19 Updates

Spring Semester starts January 25

VCU will begin the spring semester with students taking virtual classes as a result of the ongoing surge of the COVID-19 virus.

All classes will begin virtually, except in instances where a student is involved in clinical and field placements, practica, co-ops, internships and other work-related experiential learning activities. This means that previously planned in-person classes and the in-person component of hybrid (blended) courses also will take place virtually.

Spring semester [start dates](#) remain unchanged (Jan. 25). Students can find updated information regarding their courses at <https://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/scheduleofclasses>. The university will evaluate the feasibility of resuming in-person instruction as originally planned by mid-February, with the hope of returning to in-person and hybrid courses on or before March 8.

Sign Up for VCU Alerts

Being an informed member of the community is essential to staying safe. Take a moment to [read about what you should \(and shouldn't\) do](#) during specific types of emergencies, [familiarize yourself with the different types of alerts](#) that Virginia Commonwealth University sends out and [learn about the Clery Act's role](#) in campus emergency communications.

Information [for parents of VCU students](#) and [members of the local community](#).

Join the Friends of VCU Libraries

Join the Friends of VCU Libraries and receive borrowing privileges with convenient [front-door pickup](#) at your neighborhood library -- James Branch Cabell Library! More information about the Friends is [available here](#).

[Free online programming](#) at VCU Libraries continues: [Community Zooms](#) on a wide variety of topics, [Friends of the Library Book Club](#) meetings, lectures, and workshops. All are welcome.



[Covid-19 Dashboard](#)

[Covid-19 Testing Sites](#)

COVID Vaccine Information

The Richmond Health District will begin expanding its COVID-19 vaccination campaign to include some Phase 1b frontline essential workers on Monday, January 18. Specifically, workers in the first three categories of Phase 1b, will now be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines (Police, Fire, and Hazmat; Corrections and homeless shelter workers; and Childcare/PreK-12 Teachers/Staff). Vaccines will be administered through a combination of regional mass vaccination events, as well as partnerships with various providers. Vaccination of Phase 1a populations will continue as the we open up to Phase 1b.

This step is only the beginning of the Phase 1b vaccination process; other populations that qualify for vaccines in Phase 1b—like individuals aged 75 and older—will be offered COVID-19 vaccines in the coming weeks.

If you live or work in Richmond City and think you may qualify for a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a or Phase 1b, please visit vax.rchd.com to fill out a COVID-19 interest form. Call 804-205-3501 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) if you need assistance.

It is recommended that residents should sign-up for both the local and the statewide vaccine programs. The state sign-up form is located at <https://vdh.jebbit.com/amkwk6m1?L=Owned+Web&JC=Vaccine> and on the page www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine.

Good to Know

Phone Down, It's the Law



Effective January 1, 2021, it is illegal to hold a handheld personal communications device (e.g., your smartphone) while driving a moving motor vehicle on Virginia highways.

Violations are subject to a fine of \$125 for the first offense and \$250 for the second and subsequent offenses.

Richmond Department of Public Utilities offers Utility Relief Assistance

Richmond Department of Public Utilities is currently accepting applications from customers who have fallen behind on their utility bills as a result of an economic hardship due to COVID-19.

Funding is designed to be a one-time opportunity, with one payment per household or business.

This assistance is in addition to the moratorium suspending disconnections issued by the City in early March, which remains in effect.

Extended payment plans have been established as well as automatic payment plans for eligible customers. As always, customers experiencing economic hardships are encouraged to contact DPU at (804) 646-4646 to discuss their payment options.

To be eligible for funding under this Relief Program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a customer of the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities with active utility service;
- Have experienced/been impacted by an economic hardship due to COVID;
- Have fallen behind on their City water, wastewater, or natural gas utility bill for services during the period of March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020;
- Have not received any other forms of local relief or financial assistance for their City utility services; **AND**
- Submit a completed application where all information is valid and legible. Please read instructions carefully.

Your [application](#) must be received by midnight Sunday, January 17, 2021.

- City Hall | 900 E. Broad Street, Room 115
- East District Initiative | 701 N. 25th Street
- Southside Community Services Center | 4100 Hull Street

City of Richmond Real Estate Tax Exemptions

The city of Richmond currently has two exemption options available for citizens who are either age 65 or older or who are permanently and totally disabled. Both of these exemptions apply only to real estate taxes.

Qualification for either of these exemption programs is based on the income and net worth of the property owner, plus the income of others living in the household.

[Click here for complete details.](#)

Important Links

- [Fan District Association Website](#)
- [Museum District Website](#)
- [Richmond City Government](#)
- [Richmond City Health Department](#)
- [Richmond City Public Schools](#)
- [Virginia Commonwealth University](#)

Questions? Suggestions? Comments?

Please reach out to news@fandistrict.org. We want to hear from you!

- Like us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Twitter](#)

The FDA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.