



This Week in the Fan

January 23, 2021

What's Upcoming

- 1/25 - City Council Meeting
 - 1/25 - VCU Spring Semester Begins
 - 1/26 - Proposed City Zoning Ordinance Listening Session
 - 1/27 - Special Meeting of FDA Board
 - 1/28 - Proposed City Zoning Ordinance Listening Session
 - 1/31 - Extended Deadline to apply for the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program
 - 2/1 - City Planning Commission Meeting
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Around the Fan

The FDA Needs You!

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

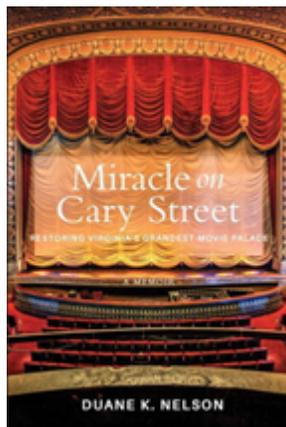
- park stewards to help care for all of our beautiful Fan parks. If you have an interest, please contact [Chris Morem](#).
 - Fan Village Leaders to help your neighbors "age in place". If you have an interest, please email fanvillage@fandistrict.org to learn more about this way to help seniors in our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

A special meeting of the FDA will be held on Wednesday, 1/27 7pm to discuss an application for a special use permit for 2515 Rear Hanover Avenue to convert a garage into a single-unit apartment.

For more information, or to share your thoughts, please contact:

- FDA President - president@fandistrict.org, or
 - FDA Zoning Committee Chairperson zoning@fandistrict.org
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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](#).



Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes

The City is proposing changes to its Zoning Ordinance that will provide more clear and consistent pathways to establish emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing uses, as recommended by the Richmond 300 Master Plan, the Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, the Regional Affordable Housing Framework, and the proposed Equitable Affordable Housing Plan.

The ordinance is slated to be discussed at the City Planning Commission meeting on Monday, 1 February @ 1:30 p.m.

The city is offering public listening sessions via Microsoft Teams (links below) for discussion on the proposed amendments.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

- Michelle Peters, Deputy Director, HCD @ 804-646-3975 or michelle.peters@richmondgov.com
- Kevin J. Vonck, Deputy Director, PDR @ 804-646-3741 or kevin.vonck@richmondgov.com

Tuesday, 26 January @ 6 p.m.

- Join on your computer or mobile app
- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Or call in (audio only)
- [+1 804-316-9457](tel:+18043169457), [745419052#](tel:+18043169457745419052) United States, Richmond
- Phone Conference ID: 745 419 052#

Thursday, 28 January @ 6 p.m.

- Join on your computer or mobile app
- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Or call in (audio only)
- [+1 804-316-9457](tel:+18043169457), [990913822#](tel:+18043169457990913822) United States, Richmond
- Phone Conference ID: 990 913 822#



Richmond City Council
The Voice of the People
Richmond, Virginia

New 2nd District City Council Liaison

Sven Philipsen is the new 2nd District City Council liaison, working with Katherine Jordan. Sven was born in the Fan and is a VCU graduate.

City Council Liaison Contact Information:

- Sven Philipsen
- Sven.Philipsen@richmondgov.com
- 804 814 3220

City Council Meeting

The next City Council meeting is Monday, January 25 @ 6pm. To see the agenda as well as information for other upcoming meetings, refer to the [city council calendar](#).

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](#).

Richmond 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.

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

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.

- [Richmond Regional website](#) Call 804-205-3501 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) if you need assistance.
- [State Health Department website](#) (It is a link located on the main VDH page: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine>)

Good to Know

City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities offering utility relief assistance

Deadline to apply for the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program has been **extended to January 31**, from the original deadline date of January 17.

City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities customers who have fallen behind on their utility bills as a result of an economic hardship due to COVID-19 are encouraged to submit applications for utility relief.

The utility relief assistance program is designed to be a one-time opportunity with one payment per household or business. Funding for the program is limited, so don't delay in applying.

This opportunity is to help customers pay down or pay off high utility bills as a result of COVID-19 and avoid future utility service disconnections at the end of the pandemic's state of emergency.

The application process is simple, takes less than 5 minutes to complete, and requires no documentation. Drop by one of these locations to fill out or drop off a completed application:

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

Customers can also request an application via email to DPUCares@richmondgov.com or by calling (804) 646-4646.

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

- Be a customer (residential or non-residential) of the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities with active utility service;
- Have experienced/been impacted by an economic hardship due to COVID-19;
- 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 relief or financial assistance for their City utility services; AND
- **Submit the completed application so that it is received by DPU on or before January 31, 2021.**

With limited funds available and the application deadline quickly approaching, eligible customers are encouraged to apply immediately. More information, including the application, are available at www.rva.gov/public-utilities.

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.

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.