



# This Week in the Fan

## February 27, 2021

- 2/28 - Deadline to register for the Richmond SPCA Dog Jog & 5k Run
- 3/1 - Deadline to apply for restaurant grant program
- 3/1 - Citywide Book Read discussion
- 3/3 - 2nd District meeting
- 3/4 - GRTC public meeting to discuss 2022 expansion options

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### **Around the Fan**

#### **The FDA Needs You!**

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

- an editor for our seasonal Fanfare magazine. If you have an interest, please contact [news@fandistrict.org](mailto:news@fandistrict.org).
- 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](mailto:fanvillage@fandistrict.org) to learn more about this way to help seniors in our community.

#### **2nd District Meeting**

The first 2nd District Meeting with Councilmember Katherine Jordan will be held on March 3rd at 6:30.

Topics include COVID-19 relief and vaccination efforts, Richmond 300 amendments, Casino updates, and more.

[Join virtually.](#)

#### **New Historic Plaques Update**

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

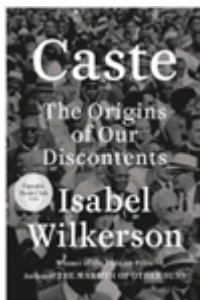
Haven't ordered one yet? It's not too late to get yours!  
To purchase, [click here.](#)



### A Late Winter Gardening Tip

Liriope grass should be cut back to its base in the late winter, because new growth begins in March.

Not cutting it back leads to an overgrown look when the new and old growth are combined.



### 4th Annual Citywide Book Read

Hosted by Dr. Jim Somerville, Sr. Pastor, Richmond's First Baptist Church and David Bailey, Founder and Executive Director of Arrabon, a Richmond non-profit devoted to the work of reconciliation.

This year's book is ***Caste: the Origins of Our Discontents***, by Isabel Wilkerson. Caste is an Oprah's Book Club selection, hailed by Ms. Winfrey as "Required reading for all of humanity."

A Zoom discussion will be held on March 1. You can find more information about the Zoom book discussion on March 1 at either [fbcrichmond.org](http://fbcrichmond.org) or [arrabon.com](http://arrabon.com).

## Museums

### Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



### Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge in American Art

February 6 - August 1

(Dates subject to change. Check before you go.)

VMFA presents Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge in American Art. Explore the artistic legacy of an iconic natural wonder. Depicted and celebrated for centuries, the Natural Bridge is the Shenandoah Valley's breathtaking centerpiece—a towering, primeval witness to human history and timeless muse. The free exhibition examines its image in paintings, prints, decorative arts, photography and more. Featured artists include Frederic Church, David Johnson, Edward Hicks, and many others.

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Calendar of events](#)

### Children's Museum of Richmond

#### The Carousel

A longstanding museum favorite, the Carousel allows guests to be whisked away on a whimsical ride. Tickets are \$2 per child and are available for purchase at the Front Desk. Adults stand for free.

Exhibit Tip: A caregiver may stand with a child for free.



At the Children's Museum, every visit is meant to support, explore, and highlight the healthy benefits of play. The focus is on play for children of all abilities in an environment where the whole family can be comfortable.

Visit any Children's Museum location today to enjoy the unique exhibits and new experiences, always designed to promote learning through play!

[Reserve Tickets](#)



[Submit memories here!](#)

## The Institute of Contemporary Art @ VCU



Fernanda Laguna: As Everybody  
Oct. 10, 2020 – Feb. 28, 2021

Fernanda Laguna: As Everybody is a survey of work by Argentinian multimedia artist Fernanda Laguna, investigating her Surrealist aesthetic and feminist activism. As Everybody, Laguna's first solo exhibition in the U.S., weaves together various facets of her practice as a visual artist, a curator of alternative art spaces, a novelist and poet, and an activist.

[Read More](#)



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### **Now Open with Limited Seating Available**

Limited to 50 tickets each show allows for lots of social distancing.

Bob Gullledge will play on the Mighty Wurlitzer for each performance!

Check the [calendar!](#)

## **GRTC**

### **Regional Transportation Plan is Under Development**

GRTC is developing a Regional Public Transportation Plan that includes plans for expansion of the network by about 20 percent in FY 2022. The 2020 General Assembly created the [Central Virginia Transportation Authority \(CVTA\)](#) which establishes dedicated funding for priority transportation investments in the Richmond region. GRTC will receive 15 percent of these new CVTA funds, of which about \$10 Million is planned to be allocated toward expansion. The Regional Public Transportation Plan, which is required to be submitted to CVTA annually in collaboration with [PlanRVA](#), will identify how GRTC will spend the regional dollars. But first they need your feedback!

#### **Phase 1 Feedback: Alternative Concepts for Expansion (Winter 2021)**

- GRTC will ask the public to review two alternative concepts for expansion in the Richmond region, where one concept prioritizes coverage routes and another prioritizes ridership.

#### **Phase 2 Feedback: Draft Regional Public Transportation Plan (Spring 2021)**

- Based on the input received from Phase 1, GRTC will present a draft Regional Public Transportation Plan for feedback.

#### **How this is Different from Recent Plans**

- Many studies completed in previous years serve as a reference for the regional priorities ([2018-2028 Transit Development Plan \(TDP\)](#) and [Greater Richmond Transit Vision Plan Phase II](#)).
- You can help prioritize how to move forward because transit can focus on different goals and values – Ridership or Coverage.
- You are encouraged to zoom in on the maps in your community and see what options there are for Ridership or Coverage expansion. Learn more at GRTC's [website](#).

Please take the online [survey](#).

A General Public Meeting for Phase I is March 4 from 5-6PM. Click [here](#) for information.

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## **Financial Navigator**



The City of Richmond, in partnership with HumanKind, has launched a Financial Navigator program to help residents manage the financial impact of COVID-19.

Financial Navigators provide one-on-one telephone assistance – at no cost– navigating critical financial issues and making referrals to other social services and resources.

Visit [www.finnav.org/rva](http://www.finnav.org/rva) or call 804-646-MORE (6673) to sign up for this free service.

Please note: Financial Navigators do not provide financial assistance. They help residents triage their financial issues, identify immediate action steps, and make referrals to public programs and services.

For additional information, contact Ronald C. Champion

E-mail: [rchampion@humankind.org](mailto:rchampion@humankind.org)

Website: [www.humankind.org](http://www.humankind.org)

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## **Richmond SPCA**



The Richmond SPCA is remaking the Dog Jog and 5K Run for 2021. The local nonprofit's signature Spring fundraiser will be presented by Holiday Barn Pet Resorts and take place over three days, March 19 through 21.

Participants can opt to run, walk, or jog with their dogs on the official Dog Jog and 5K Run courses at Deep Run Park or to use their own courses in the RaceJoy app and take part from anywhere.

Funds raised by Dog Jog and 5K Run participants will benefit approximately 4,000 homeless animals who will be sheltered at the Richmond SPCA this year as well as the lifesaving programs and services the nonprofit provides for pets and people, including low-cost veterinary care at the Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital.

The fundraising goal for 2021 is \$50,000.

The first 500 registered participants will receive:

- A limited-edition Dog Jog and 5K Run cotton short-sleeved T-shirt
- A Dog Jog and 5K Run medal and pet tag
- A goodie bag filled with gifts from the event's sponsors
- A personal fundraising page to raise donations for pets in need
- Free access to the RaceJoy app for race guidance, time tracking, and eligibility for 5K Finisher prizes

The \$35 early-bird registration deadline is February 28. Free signup is available for those wishing to fundraise only as "cat nap" participants.

For more information or to register, please visit [richmondspca.org/dogjog](https://richmondspca.org/dogjog).

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## RVAgreen 2050 Planning Continues

The RVAgreen 2050 Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Roundtable and Working Groups continue to meet.

The Roundtable worked on principles for equitable community engagement and started brainstorming ways to bring in voices of historically disenfranchised communities that are traditionally underrepresented in planning processes.

The RVAgreen 2050 Working Groups provided feedback on the equity screening tool and worked on a Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment - an evaluation of the potential impacts of climate change to Richmond's community, built infrastructure, and natural resources. As part of this assessment, they are looking at impacts not just to these critical assets themselves, but also the consequences of threats such as heat waves and flooding to public health, economic activities, public safety, and the natural environment.

### **Get involved!**

The Roundtable needs your help and input to create a more equitable, healthy, and resilient Richmond. Check out ways you can [get involved in RVAgreen 2050](#) today!

- [Sign up](#) for email updates.
- Share the opportunity to participate with your community using the [Social Media Toolkit](#).
- Meet with the Office of Sustainability during [virtual "office hours"](#).
- Become an [RVAgreen 2050 Virtual Ambassador](#).

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## Richmond Public Schools

- **Wellness Opportunities for RPS Staff** - Don't miss "Mindful Mondays" and "Be Well Wednesdays" with RPS partners at [SCAN](#) and [BareSOUL](#)! Check your RPS email account for previously sent registration links.
- **RPS Family Academy** - With live workshops and a virtual resource library, the [Family Academy](#) provides RPS families and advocates the opportunity to connect with each other and get engaged with childrens' education and future. Learn more and register for upcoming sessions [here](#).
- **#ReopenWithLove** - For the latest information and resources for families, visit the [#ReopenWithLove](#) section of the RPS website. It includes the most current information about [meal distribution](#) and other critical information.
- **Family Support Helpline** - Questions about reopening? Call the RPS Family Support Helpline at (804) 780-6195 and [learn more about other resources available to families](#).
- **Support RPS** - There are many ways to support RPS and #ServeWithLove! Please consider [volunteering](#), [donating](#), or [partnering](#) with RPS, and for new and existing partners, don't forget to [add your organization](#) to the new [searchable partnership database](#)!

## **Virginia Commonwealth University**

### **VCU COVID-19 Updates**

#### **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.

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## **Richmond Police Department**

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](#).

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## **Good to Know**

### **Governor Announces Additional Funding for Rent Relief Program**

The governor is working with the General Assembly to increase funding towards the Virginia Housing Trust, a statewide approach to help people with home ownership, to provide additional support.

Virginians in need of housing assistance can visit [StayHomeVirginia.com](#) to see which resources are available. To figure out if you're eligible for rental relief, visit [dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility](#) or call 2-1-1.

### **Tax Amnesty Program**

Richmond property owners and businesses may now apply for the city to waive penalties and interest on their delinquent real estate, lodging, meals, or admissions tax payments.

The new tax amnesty program adopted by the Richmond City Council last month is intended to help residents and businesses struggling financially due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the program, the city will erase all penalties and interest on past-due real estate tax payments if property owners pay off the principal tax due or arrange a six-month payment

plan with a 25% down payment during an amnesty period in March. The city also will forgive all penalties and interest on prior admissions, lodging and meals tax bills due before April 21 under similar guidelines in April. Applications and details about the amnesty program can be found online at [RVAStrong.org/taxamnesty](http://RVAStrong.org/taxamnesty).

## 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.](#)

## State Grant Program for Virginia Restaurants

Virginia restaurants have another opportunity for financial relief, thanks to a \$450,000 grant program from DoorDash (a national restaurant delivery service) and the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, the state's division of the National Restaurant Association.

Independently owned restaurants throughout the commonwealth can apply for grants of \$3,500 now through March 1 at [VRLTA.org](http://VRLTA.org).

The grant funds are available to Virginia restaurants that:

- are independently owned with three or fewer locations
- are currently open at at least one location
- have annual revenue of \$3 million or less per restaurant
- have 50 or fewer employees
- and have been financially impacted by COVID-19.

A panel of judges from the restaurant and tourism industries will select who gets awarded a grant while ensuring the grants are distributed across the commonwealth. At least 20% of grants will go to minority-owned and/or women-owned businesses in Virginia. Grants will be distributed by early April.

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## Virginia Department of Health

### Updated COVID-19 Information

Update from the Richmond Health District:

- The Commonwealth of Virginia launched a statewide vaccine pre-registration system to provide a unified and comprehensive process for people in Virginia to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The link to the new system is: [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov).
- All individuals who previously filled out an interest form or signed up for a waitlist to be vaccinated through their local health district were automatically imported into the new statewide system.
- Use that link to verify your registration.
- [vax.rchd.com](https://vax.rchd.com) will continue to have the most up-to-date information and links to the new statewide pre-registration system.
- Call 804-205-3501 to register for free community testing. Events are subject to change or cancellation. Locations are accessible for wheelchairs and other mobility support devices. [Click here for non-community testing options](#).

Have questions? Call the **new** VDH hotline 1-877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682).

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## Richmond City Council

### District 2

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[Sign up for the 2nd District Newsletter](#)

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[Sign up for the 5th District Newsletter](#)

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### **Important Links**

- [Fan District Association Website](#)
  - [Museum District Website](#)
  - [Richmond City Government](#)
  - [Richmond City Health Department](#)
  - [Richmond City Public Schools](#)
  - [Virginia Commonwealth University](#)
  - [GRTC News & Updates](#)
  - [RVA311.com](https://www.rva311.com)
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## Questions? Suggestions? Comments?

Please reach out to [news@fandistrict.org](mailto:news@fandistrict.org). We want to hear from you!

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- Follow us on [Twitter](#)

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