



Community

NEWSLETTER · APRIL 2017

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About the Church Hill Association

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For more information on joining the CHA, please see our website at: www.churchhill.org, or fill out the application included in this publication.

CHA Mission

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote a sense of unity and common endeavor among all the residents of the St. John's Church, Church Hill North, and Chimborazo Old and Historic Districts, other residents of the East District, and other interested persons, in order to develop a stable, desirable urban neighborhood.

MEETINGS & NOTICES

Historic Preservation and Land Use Committee Meeting

First Tuesday of each month: 6:00 pm
 Location: Patrick Henry Pub

Generally held on the Tuesday before the Board meeting at the Patrick Henry Pub, 2300 E. Broad Street at 6:00 pm

UPCOMING MEETING: APRIL 4
 UPCOMING MEETING: MAY 2

CHA of RVA Board Meeting

First Thursday of each month: 6:00 pm
 Location: Patrick Henry Pub

Generally held on the first Thursday of every month at the Patrick Henry Pub, 2300 E. Broad Street at 6:00 pm

UPCOMING MEETING: APRIL 6
 UPCOMING MEETING: MAY 4

Membership Meeting

Location: St. John's Parish Hall

Generally held on the third Tuesday of every month in St. John's Parish Hall, 2401 E. Broad Street, at 7:00 pm.

UPCOMING MEETING: APRIL 18

If any member wishes to attend any Zoning or Board meeting they are most welcome, but please check with John Sieg at president@churchhill.org for updated meeting times and dates.

Call for Photos

What does Church Hill look like to you?

Send us your iconic shots of the neighborhood and see your image in the Newsletter! Let's find some new angles that show the changing Church Hill - or a new view of the old classics like Libby Hill Park.

Send images to: newsletter@churchhill.org



Letter from the President

Dear Church Hillians,

Don't you love Springtime! Neighbors are outside walking, biking and simply enjoying everything Church Hill offers. Each year we see more young families with children and pets playing in our parks and enjoying the scenery and fresh air. Church Hill is such a great place to live and relax! I encourage everyone reading this newsletter to reach out and join the CHA or RVA's efforts to sustain Church Hill as the destination of choice for anyone interested in history, great dining or simply a place to relax and enjoy nature.

Church Hill is **home to great restaurants and bars**. Among those are several receiving YTD 2017 honors including James Beard nominee (awards are expected March 15th) Brittany Anderson, chef and co-owner of **Metzger Bar and Butchery**, named a semifinalist for best chef Mid-Atlantic category. Evrim and Evin Dogu, bakers and co-owners of **Sub Rosa Bakery**, James Beard semifinalists for the new Outstanding Baker category. **Nota Bene** won Richmond Magazine's 2017 Elbys 'Best New Restaurant' and Triple Crossing won the 'Brewery of the Year' award. **The Roosevelt** was named by Southern Living as the best bar in Virginia and listed as one of the top 10 bars in the South. Congratulations to all!

Our Historic Preservation and Land Use Committee was successful working with the developer who agreed to limit the height of his Pear Street construction to 5 stories, to construct an attractive building that is in keeping with neighboring structures and to preserve the view-shed over his Peach Street property. This outcome will protect the wonderful view of the James River from Libby Hill Park; a view that is so important to the City of Richmond and to everyone who visits our community! This is another example of a builder and the CHA of RVA finding common ground that benefits all.

Speaking of cooperation, I'd like to mention **new construction on Franklin Street between N 29th St and Sugar Bottom**. Several builders own property along this neglected stretch of Franklin and have approved plans for new home construction and beautification of existing structures. The builders met with our Membership, listened to our interests, and gained our support for their plans. I'm sure their homes will greatly improve this portion of our community.

Many of you have seen the neighborhood '**Tree Stewards**' in action across our community. Their work has been the subject of articles in our newsletter and other publications. They were recognized for their efforts by the Richmond City Council on March 13th. Please thank them for their year-round efforts to plant and sustain our Church Hill trees! For more information, and to get involved, feel free to contact Joel Cabot joel.cabot@yahoo.com or Trish Bernal trishbernal@gmail.com.

I'll end this note by clearing the air regarding CHA of RVA. In a March edition of Style Magazine the Church Hill Association was misrepresented by one of our residents as being opposed to low-income projects, trying to influence Union Hill's position on the Venable Street housing project and as being elitist. It is unfortunate that someone who isn't a member of CHA of RVA, and who doesn't attend our meetings, would be so bold as to misrepresent our intentions in print.

The facts are:

1. The CHA of RVA has taken no position regarding the Venable Street development. It will be located well within Union Hill's district and so any position is theirs to take.
2. The CHA of RVA hasn't done anything to influence the Union Hill Association one way or the other regarding this project or any other project. We do share Membership Meeting agendas with each other and, as with other East End associations, we do our best to be supportive neighbors.
3. CHA of RVA members have been and remain supportive of affordable and mixed income housing within Church Hill. Some of our members are concerned whenever developers try to profit by building high density, low income only, housing. That model traps residents in a cycle of poverty while benefiting the developer.
4. Membership in the CHA of RVA is open to anyone with interest in our community. Our annual dues are nominal and members kindly receive discounts from many local shops and vendors. In February we held a free Mardi Gras themed dinner at the Robinson Theater for anyone interested in joining our Association. A great time was had by all!

Best regards,
John Sieg, President CHA 2017

Why I Write

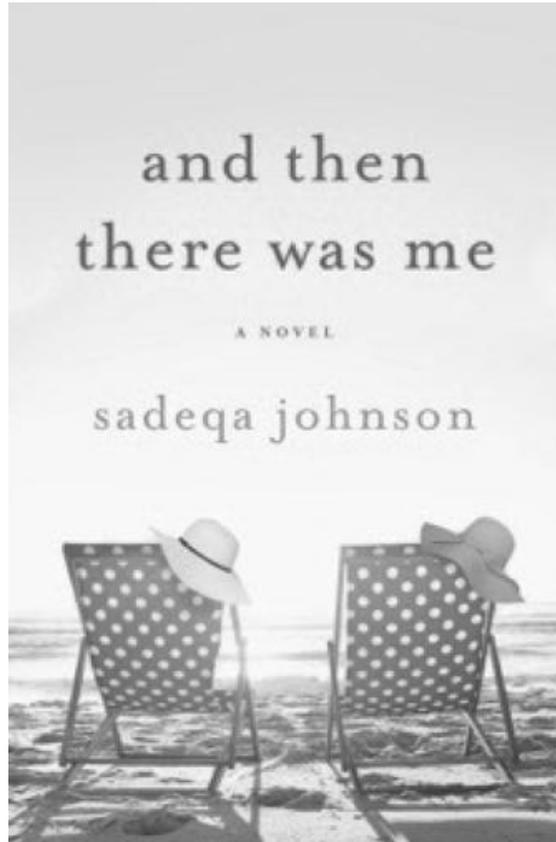
I write because I can. Writing is like breathing, and when I go too long without clutching my pen, I start to choke. I'm cranky when I don't write, hard to get along with, not my best self. I write because when I don't, I feel an enormous amount of guilt. Like I'm neglecting my garden and surviving off of spoiled fruit. I'm childlike when I write, open, raw, innocent and forgiving. Between the page I am able to surrender my will to a higher source. It is my prayer, my ultimate connection with God.

I write because I've always written. From my diary in fourth grade with my neat Catholic school penmanship, to the pen pal letters that traveled across the country to kids I only knew through the written word but loved. Stories and characters won't leave me alone and I welcome them everywhere. Writing is clearing, euphoric, orgasmic. It's delicious when the words

press together to make a sentence that I want to savor like a sweet treat. I'm like a mad scientist when it comes to getting a paragraph right and will labor for hours on the same passage, and when those words start to sing there is no sweeter melody.

I write because it's necessary. When I quit my job in publishing to stay home with my children, I wrote to feel whole again. To feel important. I write to complain, to make sense of the world and to escape it.

I write because it is my gift to the world, my way of honoring the scribes who've come first and those who are on their way. I write to show them. For my children, I write to make them proud. I aim to inspire. When someone reads my novels, I want them to think if Sadeqa can do it, so can I. I write because it's possible.



Sadeqa Johnson

A former public relations manager in the publishing industry, Sadeqa Johnson is the author of three books and, lucky for us, calls Richmond home. Her latest, *And Then There Was Me*, is available at most

book stores on April 11. Find her at www.sadeqajohnson.net. If you write, or would like to, join James River Writers at one of our many events. See jamesriverwriters.org for more.



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Richmond Times-Dispatch



88.9 WCVE






Richmond Cycling Corps

By: Matt Crane

Amelia? Who is she? What does she have to do with
Richmond Cycling Corps?

We will tell you who she is, but first, let us tell you why she matters so much to us. You see, Amelia represents everything that lies at the core of the Richmond Cycling Corps mission. One might guess, at this point, that she is a new, high tech, carbon fiber bicycle component. We wish it were that simple! (If it were, we could order as many of her as we wished)

If only it could be so straightforward as just bikes. Training after school. Tuning the suspension for each rider. Carbohydrate

heavy breakfasts on race day. Warm up laps. Pep talks on the start line. We wish that these were the primary facets of our programmatic work.

But then behavior comes into play. Growing up in public housing places unusual demands upon a young person. This arena of society's ladder has high rates of incarcerated adults, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, domestic violence, and emotional neglect. Tragic forces that result in trauma. Trauma which leads to emotional deregulation, violent behavior, and a constantly heightened state of defensiveness. This is then coupled with a bleak and fraught environment, physically and emotionally detached from mainstream society.

Two examples of this. First: the downtown YMCA, last week. Richmond Cycling Corps youth are playing pickup basketball with a group of older men, when a comment is made that one of our youth (we won't name names) takes offense to. The immediate response is to violence. To a stranger...during a friendly game in the middle of the afternoon. We restrain the youth in question, and take him to the team van outside. It requires over an hour of one-on-one work to calm him down. The next day, he agrees to ride his bike to the Y with a handwritten note apologizing for the incident.

Second example: we obtained a part-time job washing work vans

at a friend's company for a youth who has shown lots of promise. On the third day at this job, he decided not to show up, because he "didn't feel like it." To him, this was the normal course, he has many examples of it in his home environment. He is not wrong for not grasping the concept of accountability, it is just a concept still outside of his ken. He was let go from the position, and later that day stole a car left running on the street. He is currently serving jail time as a consequence for this action.



We can provide the opportunities. And yet, if you are a young person living in the sub-culture of public housing, you very likely possess a set of behavioral traits that will render you incompatible with the standards required of you in mainstream society. And so, without intensive work aimed at effecting behavioral shifts, placing opportunity (whether that be a job, bike racing, or otherwise) is putting the cart before the horse. We absolutely must steer the ship, or else all we are effecting is a re-arrangement of the deck chairs.

So yeah, Amelia. Amelia Kirby is our brand new full-time staff member! We are thrilled to have her. She is a wonderful human being who has demonstrated an incredible ability to connect with our youth. She is patient, and quick on her feet, which will go far over here. Conveniently, she also happens to be a very talented bicycle racer who brings a strong understanding of the sport to our program's epicenter (Amelia races for the elite Richmond based **Sweet Spot Cycling Team**). The work she will be doing with us is the effort that truly pulls youth back from the brink. Mentoring. One-on-one sessions. Tutoring. Being a force to develop resiliency. Her efforts will ensure that we give these youth a lot more than just the chance to ride mountain bikes.

It is the Amelia Kirby's that do work behind the scenes to make our mission possible. She will be there for our youth on a constant and unwavering basis. Please help us in welcoming Amelia to the team, and to out work with the youth of Richmond's public housing. A huge thank you for your support that makes it possible!

Matt Crane is a former professional cyclist who spent a number of years on the U.S. National Cycling team before retiring from the sport. He now happily lives in Richmond, where he is the Director of Development for Richmond Cycling Corps.

Email: matt@richmondyclingcorps.org

Phone: (706) 540-2340

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Interview with Marianne Pitts with the City of Richmond, by Christina Mastroianni

Recently I had the opportunity to correspond with Marianne Pitts, Secretary of the Planning and Preservation Division of the City of Richmond Department of Planning and Development Review to learn more about the Commission of Architectural Review (CAR). If you are a homeowner of a property in a designated Old and Historic District, it is essential to be aware of what CAR is, why it's important and how to contact the staff. There are 16 Old and Historic Districts in Richmond City and the St. John's Church Old and Historic District was the first, established in 1957. In the same year, as a result of this first designation, City Council established the Commission of Architectural Review. The Old and Historic Districts in and around Church Hill are:

- St. John's Church Old and Historic District
- Church Hill North Old and Historic District
- Chimborazo Park Old and Historic District
- Union Hill Old and Historic District

CM: What is the Commission of Architectural Review?

MP: The Commission of Architectural Review (CAR) is the City's official historic preservation body and helps to preserve the unique qualities of historic neighborhoods and sites by reviewing any proposed alteration, rehabilitation, construction, or demolition within designated City Old and Historic Districts. The Commission is composed of nine members: one representative each from the Better Housing Coalition, the Richmond Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Historic Richmond Foundation, and the Richmond Association of Realtors, and five from the citizenry at large. The Commission has developed guidelines to assist the public and the Commission in planning for and reviewing exterior modifications within the districts. The Old and Historic Districts of Richmond, Virginia, Handbook and Design Review Guidelines can be found here: http://www.richmondgov.com/CommissionArchitecturalReview/documents/Old_Historic_Dist.pdf

CM: Why is CAR Important? What's its significance?

MP: The Commission of Architectural Review and City Old and Historic Districts are important as they provide a means to protect the character of the City's historic neighborhoods. The City Old and Historic Districts are created only by citizen request and are established by residents who seek the designation as a way to protect the qualities that make their neighborhood unique.

CM: If I am a homeowner in an Old and Historic District when should I contact CAR?

MP: Citizens should contact the CAR Secretary prior to beginning any exterior work to their property as staff can advise the level of review required and how to best proceed to meet the intent of the Commission's Guidelines. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required when any proposed work alters the exterior appearance of the property as it is viewed from a public street, sidewalk or alley though maintenance and in-kind repair does not require Commission or staff review. There are many items that can be administratively reviewed and approved by the CAR Secretary if they conform to the Commissions Guidelines including paint color, fences, composite decking, and composite siding on secondary elevations.

CM: How do I contact CAR and with whom should I speak?

MP: The Secretary to the Commission is Marianne Pitts who can be reached at (804)646-7550 or Marianne.pitts@richmondgov.com

CM: What happens if I get a citation?

MP: Most citations are a result of citizen not realizing that the work they are doing to their property requires Commission review. You should stop work immediately, retain any historic fabric that was removed and contact the Commission Secretary. The Secretary will explain the nature of the violation and how to abate the violation. In most cases, you will be required to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the work that was completed without review and approval.



Two New Arrivals at Chimborazo Playground

by Kirsten Taranto

Two ten- foot- tall River Birch trees were recently planted in tree wells located in the Chimborazo Playground central plaza in an ongoing effort to beautify the playground. They were donated by the Richmond Tree Stewards’ Community Roots program which is funded by a grant from the Overton and Katherine Dennis Fund.

Planting muscle was provided by the Tree Stewards and members of Les Boulefrogs Petanque club. Trish Bernal of the Tree Stewards assisted in site selection, provided guidance to ensure the trees were planted correctly and obtained necessary permits from the City of Richmond’s Departments of Urban Forestry and the Parks and Recreation.

Les Boulefrogs have committed their club to nurturing the trees until they are firmly established. So, look out for River Birch leaves popping out in the Spring!





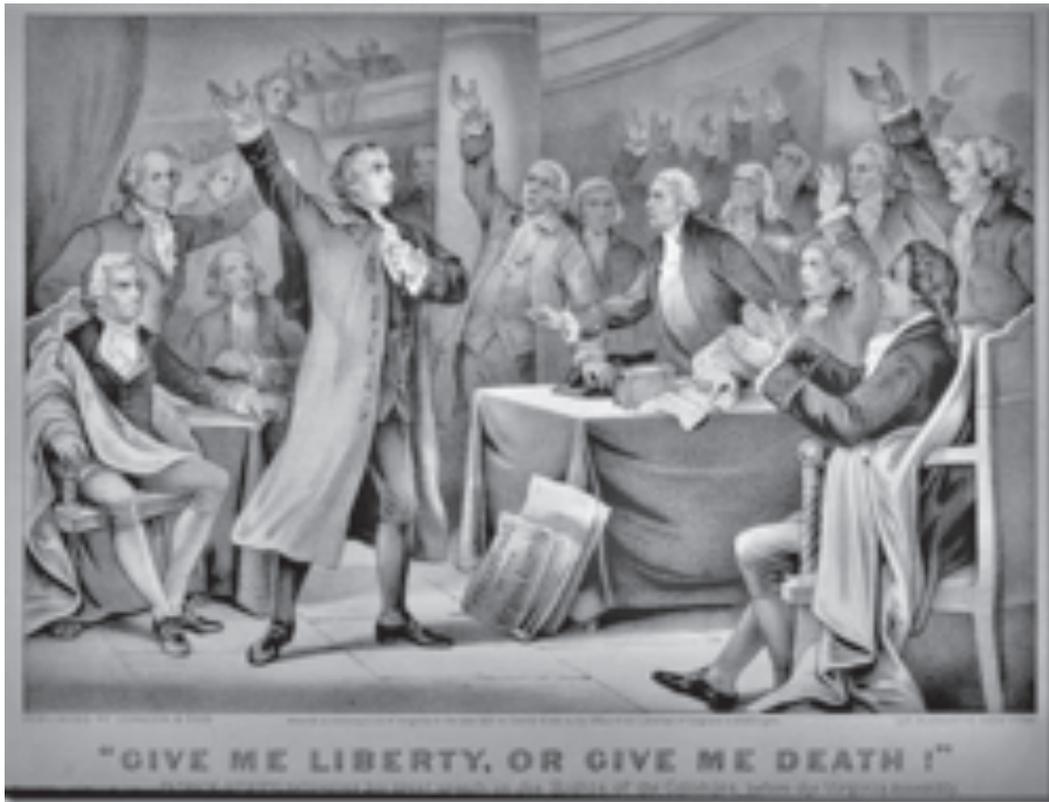
You are invited to attend the outdoor dedication of a Marker honoring Richmond Hill's Building & Grounds as a Historic Landmark of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Tuesday, April 4th
at 11:00 a.m.**

*to be followed by
Midday Prayers and Lunch*

RSVP

retreats@richmondhillva.org – or – 804.783.7903



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RVA EAST END FESTIVAL 2017: THE GIFT OF ARTS AND MUSIC

MAY 5-6, 2017 | CHIMBORAZO PARK, 3200 EAST BROAD ST. RICHMOND, VA 23223

The RVA East End Festival: The Gift of Arts and Music will be an inclusive community celebration highlighting the diverse neighborhoods and unique quality of Richmond's East End. Proceeds from the festival will be used to support and enhance music education in Richmond Public Schools East End.

Performances by the Richmond Symphony and many more will take place during the two day neighborhood festival devoted to the arts. Other activities include a variety of performances by local artists and schools, a Kids Zone, food trucks, beer garden and vendor booths. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music! Festival admittance is free and open to the public.

The RVA East End Festival 2017 in conjunction with the Richmond Symphony will showcase talented artists, outstanding school programs and exceptional community groups during this 2-day festival.



Volunteers are a vital component to the success of the community festivals. From set-up to tear-down and everything in between there is a volunteer opportunity to fit your skill set! See any of these sites for further information:

www.facebook.com/rvaeastendfest
twitter.com/rvaeastendfest
instagram.com/rvaeastendfest



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HYSTERIC

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Saturday, May 20th

▣▣ FROM 9 A.M. UNTIL ? ▣▣

*** OPEN TO EVERYONE +**

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

**No space assignments – Set up as early as you like,
the shade tree spots in the park go fast.**

Come early, stay late – wholesome fun for the entire family!



Newsletter Content & Advertising

The Editor would like to offer a reminder that your neighborhood newsletter is in need of monthly content, including:

- Informative, educational, historical articles with a focus on Church Hill;
- Photographs to go with articles and/or pictures that represent the neighborhood (will be printed in black & white, 300dpi, JPEG or TIF file, must be credited, and remain the property of the person submitting);
- Environmental or safety information that pertains to the neighborhood;
- Letters to the Editor (as space allows, 250 words);
- And more!!

Editorial Policy

Submissions for inclusion to the Church Hill Association's newsletter are welcomed. Editorial Policy does not allow for personal attacks or inappropriate tone, profanity, or anonymous submissions. Submissions may be edited for space and editorials should not exceed 250 words. CHA will not print editorial letters that are abusive or non-truthful. It is only as a courtesy that we may occasionally print letters from non-members when they add value to the conversation. Final approval of all submissions rests with the Board of Directors. The Church Hill Newsletter is distributed by volunteers throughout the Church Hill neighborhood (North and South of Broad Street). We also distribute to several area merchants. A total of 1200 issues are distributed monthly.

Due Dates

Copy must be submitted by the 14th of each month to newsletter@churchhill.org.

Ad submissions must be received before the 15th of each month for the upcoming issue.

Send Materials

Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Send ad files to: newsletter@churchhill.org

Ad Size, Pricing & Specifications

Half-page: \$60 at 7.5" x 4.75"

Quarter-page: \$45 at 3.5" x 4.75"

Full-page: \$115 at 7.5" x 10"

Back cover: \$125 at 7.5" x 10"

Black and white art only

File formats: 300 dpi, PDF, TIF or JPEG

Files must be sized correctly

Borders must fall within the size of ad space

MSWord, .DOC or .DOCX files will not be accepted

Payment

10% discounts for orders of 3 months or more.

Payments for ad space should be received no later than the 15th of each month for the upcoming issue. No ads will run if payment has not been received.

Payment by check only to:

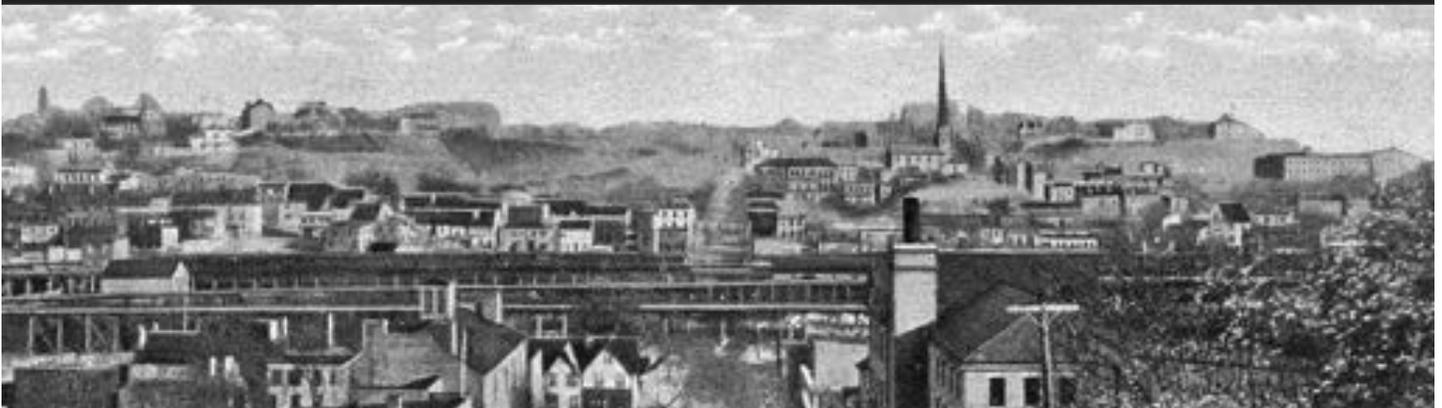
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Contact

If you are interested in advertising in the Church Hill Newsletter, please check the website for ad specifications at ChurchHill.org, or email questions to newsletter@churchhill.org.

What's Next?

What corner of Church Hill's history would you like to explore?
Send suggestions for the next historic article to: newsletter@churchhill.org



Meet Some Local Businesses



Congratulations to Evrim Dogu and Evin Dogu of Sub Rosa Bakery and Brittany Anderson of Metzger Bar and Butchery for their 2017 James Beard Award nominations! These awards are the Oscars of the food world and we as their lucky neighbors and customers know they richly deserve this wonderful honor.

James Beard was an American food writer, cookbook author, and teacher. He was host of the first television program on food and an early champion of American cuisine and local products and markets. He was a mentor to generations of food industry professionals and ordinary people interested in wonderful things to eat. When he died in 1985, the James Beard Foundation was formed. In 1990 the foundation established the James Beard awards for excellence in food and beverage connected industries, giving out the first awards in 1991.

The awards are given annually in a wide range of categories encompassing chefs, bakers, wine and beverage programs, restaurateurs, service, cookbooks, television, and print journalism. Evrim and Evin are nominated in the Best Baker category, which is nationwide. Brittany is nominated in the Best Chef Mid Atlantic, which includes chefs from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. This is not the first time our neighborhood has seen this honor - Lee Gregory of the Roosevelt is a three-time nominee for the Best Chef Mid Atlantic. Again we congratulate and wish Evrim, Evin, and Brittany all the best even though we know that now those reservations, pastries, and bread are going to be even harder to come by!

By Karen Jones



Local Referrals are Now Online

The listing of recommended local contractors and artisans has moved to the Church Hill Association's website <http://www.churchhill.org/living/historic-home-resources/>. The listing consists of recommendations by Church Hill Association members and other residents of Church Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. These recommendations are not endorsed by the Church Hill Association of RVA and it is in no way responsible for the quality of the work performed. If you have additional recommendations please feel free to contact Amy Beem at membership@churchhill.org.



Photo by Isabelle Cabral



2401 E. Broad St.
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www.saintjohnsrichmond.org
 (804) 649-7938

Come, Lift Your Spirit!

Sundays at St. John 's Church

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (no music)
- 9:40 a.m. St. John's Forum, Parish House Parlor
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Children's Chapel, Keeper's Cottage
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour, Parish Hall
Nursery available 8:15- 12:15

Holy Week & Easter

Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday

- 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. The Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour

Thursday, April 13—Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing

Friday, April 14—Good Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 15—Holy Saturday

- 2:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16—Easter Day

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Baptism & Eucharist
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour

Yoga Is Back with Andrea Bleck Smith

Thursday Mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall
 Small fee applies; bring your own mat



We are a caring,
 spiritual community
 joyfully embracing and
 nurturing all,
 serving God, each other,
 and the community.



St. John's Church Foundation

Sunday, April 23
 Public 'Liberty or Death' Reenactment
 celebrating Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

- 1:00 p.m. Advanced ticket holders seating begins.
- 1:15 p.m. Doors open to the Public.
Seating is first-come, first-served
- 1:30 p.m. Music begins
- 1:45 p.m. Show begins

This event is free but you may purchase \$5 tickets in advance to avoid the line.
www.brownpapertickets.com;
 Search St. John's Church

"I know not what course
 others may take;
 but as for me, give me liberty
 or give me death!"
 —Patrick Henry





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pam Webb

Pam@QuillTheatre.org

804.519.3040



Quill Theatre, in partnership with the University of Richmond, is proud to present the next in our 2016-17 season, *The Heir Apparent*, written by **David Ives**, adapted from *Le Légataire universel* by Jean-François Regnard. This effervescent comedy, nominated for the **The Charles MacArthur Award** for Outstanding New Play, combines modern language with rhyming couplets to bring a breath of fresh air to a classic French farce.

This production is directed by the critically acclaimed international director of theatre and film **Paolo Emilio Landi** (pictured right.) Landi's career has spanned over twenty years, producing shows in Italy, France, Lithuania, Russia, as well as the United States. He comes to Virginia as a guest professor at the University of Richmond teaching "Translation in Context" for the Theatre department, as well as a course on Comedy in the Italian department.



The Heir Apparent is set in Paris in 1708, and tells the story of the penniless, but handsome, Eraste and his love for the fair Isabelle. All seems to be going well for the young couple, except one thing; Eraste can't inherit his elderly, miserly Uncle Geronte's fortune until the old man dies. The multiple strands of the plot unravel with endlessly fast and funny wit, with contemporary slang bringing this classic 18th century story into the 21st century.



The show will run from **April 7th - 29th** at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in the **Leslie Cheek Theater**; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. There will be a special preview performance on **Thursday, April 6th**. Tickets can be purchased through the VMFA's Visitor Services, or through QuillTheatre.org.

Tickets

General Admission - \$30

Quill Theatre Subscribers and VMFA Members - \$25

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Production Team

Cast

GERONTE - Richard Travis

CRISPIN - Adam Valentine

LISETTE - Sara Heifetz

ERASTE - Matt Bloch

ISABELLE - Rachel Rose Gilmour

MADAME ARGANTE - Boomie Pedersen

SCRUPLE - Kenneth Putnam

Production

Director - Paolo Emilio Landi

Production Manager - James Ricks

Stage Manager - Corrie Yarbrough

Set Design - Reed West

Costume Design - Liz Hopper

Light Design - BJ Wilkinson

Prop Design - Jessica Smith

Volunteers & Homes Needed for CHA of RVA Holiday Festivities December 2017

You have likely heard many people around you lately say that they want to do something positive in their respective communities to counteract the harshness of our political times. People seem to feel the best way to improve the toxic atmosphere is to find a way to do good deeds that will benefit others. What a great and very American reaction. We are doers!

Fortunately, there are some terrific opportunities to do good works here in our own neighborhood through the Church Hill Association of RVA. One way is to get engaged in the CHA's Annual Holiday Weekend activities. Yes, it's spring, but it's never too early to plan for the big holiday weekend which includes our Friday night Candlelight Walk, Saturday night Holiday Party and Sunday afternoon House Tour. CHA is planning now for a great 2017 holiday season. Please join the Holiday Events Committee in planning and conducting our holiday festivities. Contact Genni Sasnett at the email address below to join one of the three sub-committee (Candlelight Walk, Holiday Party or House tour) or to offer general assistance.

CHA needs approximately twelve neighbors who will volunteer to open their treasured houses or condominiums on the afternoon of Sunday December 10, 2017 for guests to experience the sights and sounds of holidays past and present in our community where Richmond began. Note that docents will be in all the homes during the tour to share details about your lovely homes and to ensure their security. We need to identify all homes by this coming June 1st, so we can properly promote this spectacular event. We're starting to plan in earnest now, so please join us in this labor of love. Contact: Genni Sasnett at: sasnettsara@outlook.com or 202/812-4504. Don't assume someone else is going to volunteer their home or time so you don't need to. We need you all!

Here are some ways your participation helps Church Hill and its residents:

- Several thousand dollars are raised each year through these events and awarded to local charities to benefit the greater Church Hill community. Though we have a great time and enjoy ourselves thoroughly every year, the best part is knowing that after the weekend is over, others in our community will benefit
- Visitors learn more about our neighborhood and its attractions, including our gorgeous architecture, historic sites and vibrant businesses
- We gain support from people outside of the neighborhood for the preservation of our historic architecture and the important view shed from Libby Hill, for which Richmond was named.

There are some special benefits available to you if you choose to place your house on tour. Because we are a 501c3, some expenses that you may incur to prepare and participate in the house tour may be tax deductible. All home participants receive one free CHA membership for the year and two House Tour tickets. Your friends who volunteer for a shift as docents at your home will also receive free tour tickets.

Come help us celebrate

Volunteer your home or time and support your Church Hill Community!

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Erin King
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Moniker game remains a constant for Richmond Roads

By Robert C. Layton

Special Correspondent | Posted: Sunday, August 2, 1998 1:33 pm

For more than 100 years, there was no need to name the few streets of Richmond. It was mid-18th century before the naming process began with the typical alphabetized assignment to streets running east and west and numbers for the north and south corridors.

The original north and south boundaries ran from present-day Broad Street south to what is now Cary Street. The current streets 17th through 25th were designated 1st through 9th in the original plan, forming the east and west boundary. As the area expanded and population grew, other systems were implemented. Names were given to streets in the 1780s. The new name would begin with the letter formally used for that street. "A" Street became Arch Street because there was a bridge over it. "B" Street was changed to Byrd Street for William Byrd, founding father of the city. "C" Street was converted to Canal Street for obvious reasons. "D" Street preceded Dover Plank Road, which later became Cary Street. Elm Street initially replaced "E" Street and eventually became Main Street.

Franklin Street was an easy choice for "F" Street, being named for Benjamin Franklin. "G" Street was switched to Grace (the Grace of God) Street because of the number of churches on it. "H" Street was called Haxall after the great Haxall Mills, which at the time was located on "G" Street at Shockoe Creek. However, the name did not stick. It was the broadest street in the city, and people had always spoken of it as "Broad Street," so Broad Street became its official name.

Numbers for houses and business establishments were proposed as early as 1811, but they weren't used officially until 1866. In an even-handed

approach, residents representing a cross-section of occupations, a slave, a Russian and Native Americans joined well known national leaders and high-ranking military officers having streets named in their honor. Two notable exceptions stand out today. The current directory does not include a street named for either George Washington or Robert E. Lee.

It can be argued Washington is remembered by Westmoreland Avenue and Mount Vernon Street. In the case of Lee, at one time there were five Lee streets, but overreaction to the problem left the city without any.

The naming process was not without controversy and interesting stories. It was and remains an arduous task to maintain a coherent street plan. Duplications and similar designations have necessitated alteration on numerous occasions. One hundred fifty-six needs for correction were identified in 1921. A July 1931 letter from a Richmond resident pointed out 270 duplications (25 percent of all named streets at the time) existed. In 1945, 285 streets were under review. According to a September 1970 Times-Dispatch article, 821 streets in the metropolitan area were nominated for name change.

The 1945 realignment provoked debate when 25 streets were assigned names of Richmonders who had died in World War II. There was an immediate outcry. Residents felt the short, insignificant streets, some located in slum areas, were inappropriate. The issue was not resolved until March 1946. At that time, changes using cities, towns, and counties in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, in place of the names of the war dead, were approved.

A 1970 proposition for street-name change caused another ruckus. Philip Morris tried to rename Bells Road to Marlboro Country to gain advertising advantage from the signs that would appear with that name as a major artery off Interstate 95.

Bells Road was the only street in Richmond named for a slave. Gabriel Bell was the one selected for the distinction. He was credited with saving Lt. Col. Miles Selden, commander of the Virginia Militia and other wounded soldiers during a battle in the War of 1812. The hero was given his freedom and property for his effort. He made good use of the land and was a trailblazer, constructing the first segment of the Old Petersburg Turnpike.

Philip Morris misjudged the furor that was generated by residents, black and white, who packed the council chambers for the hearing and their successful demand to continue the tribute.

Jaywalking was a source of agitation and at the same time played a role in one of the most unique street assignments - one with no name. In the 1950s, during a period of police crackdown on jaywalking, one of the most flagrant instances of the violation occurred on 6th Street between Broad and Grace Streets. People insisted on crossing back and forth between the city's biggest departments stores - Miller & Rhoads and Thalhimers.

So many tickets were issued at this site that complaints arose and soon reached the Richmond City Council. The matter was resolved by passing an ordinance making the alley walkway officially a street, and thus permission was granted for shoppers to cross with caution. No street designation was ever given to the walkway that is now covered by 6th Street Marketplace.

HOW MANY IN A NAME?

Viewed from the greater metropolitan perspective, the need for street name revision is apparent. The following listing of names and the number of streets that share the same designation make a strong case for getting started right away. Only streets with 10 or more entries are listed.

Animals: More than 100 animal names including Buck, 21; Deer, 30; Dove, 17; Eagle, 11; Elk, 11; Fox, 57; Quail, 21; Raven, 12; and Swan, 15.

People: Chest, 21; Franklin, 15; King, 38; Lee, 17; Mason, 20; Prince, 13; Queen, 14; Saint, 33; Sir, 13; and Twin, 10.

Trees: Over 30 types totaling more than 500 street names including Ash, 49; Beech, 15; Birch, 12; Branch, 16; Cedar, 47; Cherry, 10; Elm, 30; Forest, 39; Hickory, 18; Holly, 42; Laurel, 23; Maple, 22; Oak, 81; Pine, 55; Poplar, 17; Walnut, 19. Connected to this category: Branch, 16; Forest, 39; and Acorn, 4.

Colors: More than 200 street designations including Black, 12; Blue, 17; Gray, 10; Grey, 9; Green, 55; Red, 29; Rose, 21; Silver, 14; and White, 44.

Directions: East, 25; North, 35; South, 37 and West, 83.

Places: Castles, 27; Cottage, 11; Court, 20; Farm, 14; Fort, 16; Glenn, 65; Harbour, 14; Hill, 49; Meadow, 31; Mill, 44; Mount, 19; Park, 28; Port, 18; and Ridge, 41.

Nature: Autumn, 12; Brook, 40; Copper, 10; Clover, 14; Country, 22; Creek, 15; Iron, 14; Ivy, 12; Lake, 51; River, 50; Rock, 35; Sand, 27; Sea, 16; Shady, 12; Summer, 36; Warren, 12; Water, 36; Wind, 38; Winter, 20 and Wood, 100.



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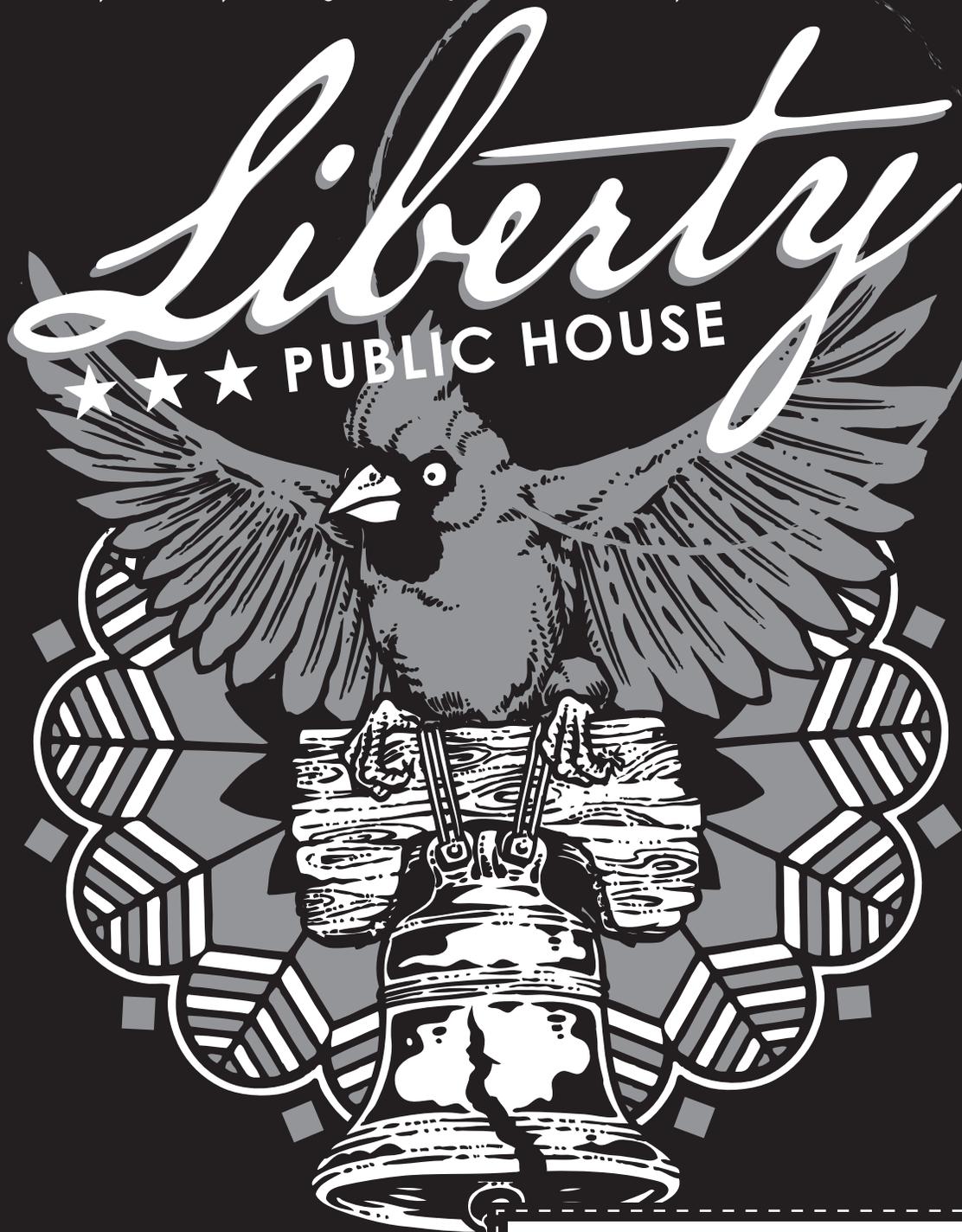
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Get your membership card and start enjoying!

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1. For the website, go to: <http://www.churchhill.org/cha/join/>
2. Mail the form below to PO Box 8031 Richmond, VA 23223 or
3. Bring the form to the next membership meeting or CHA event.

NOTE: CHA of RVA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your membership is tax deductible to the full extent of the law as no goods or services are received in exchange for your contribution.

Church Hill Association (CHA) Membership Form

Membership is valid one year from date of joining.

New Member Renewing Member Date: _____

Membership is Individual, not by household. Email is used only for communicating information to members.

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Member Name #2 _____ Email: _____

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Who was Jennie Scher?

By Heather Dinkin

On January 16, 1941 the Richmond City Council approved an ordinance that ordered “the names of Lewis Street and Mill Road...be...changed and known as Jennie Scher Road.” At that time, she was the only woman to merit such an honor in Richmond. The street connects two of the city’s Jewish Cemeteries, Oakwood and Sir Moses Montefiore.

But who was Jennie Scher?

Jennie was born May 1866, the youngest of the six children of Aaron Michal Borker and Jidas Kanzor in Kovno, Lithuania. She emigrated to the US with her mother and siblings on November 12, 1876 and married Isaac Scher, a tailor on July 22, 1888. When the Borker family arrived here, it joined an old and thriving Jewish community of 2600, about 4% of Richmond’s overall population, many of whom lived in and owned businesses in Shockoe Bottom. The Richmond Jewish community was proud of having one of the six Colonial Congregations. It was also a community that was about to grow very quickly with the influx of more than 13,000 Eastern European Jew mostly by 1920. A demographic growth mirrored throughout the country.



She probably also lent aid to Richmond’s own settlement house, at 19th and Broad, the Neighborhood House, established in 1912 by the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Association. For 40 years it served first newly arriving Jewish children and later all the poor in Shockoe Bottom with a full program of social, recreational, and even religious activities. The center offered literary groups, sewing, woodworking, drama and arts classes as well as sports in a tiny gym, and dances for service men during the WWI. It also housed the Sir Moses Montefiore Religious School when it grew too large for the synagogue to hold.

Jennie Scher was one of the affluent young Jewish women around the US that helped through philanthropic work to settle and integrate this wave of Jewish newcomers into the American family. Rabbi Myron Berman writes of her in his definitive book *The Richmond Jewry: Shabbat in Shockoe 1769-1976*, “She devoted her life to philanthropic causes”. She was a founder and lifelong leader at Sir Moses Montefiore Synagogue, founded about 1891 (which was located at 11th street between Marshall and Franklin). “She also headed the Ladies Hebrew Aid Society for many years, which was founded in 1897, and located in the YHMA building (on 8th Street between Marshall and Clay). Every few months, a few ladies collected a quarter from each of its members to create an emergency fund. Until 1956, the fund was used to give assistance to Richmond’s indigent for the purchase of coal, milk,



food and medicine. Many recipients later became members. For many years, she also served as president of Hebrew Sick Aid Society, which provided medical care, hospitalization and nursing care to the needy”. It became the nucleus of the Beth Sholom Home of Virginia, housed first in the Fan, and now today is an enormous complex on John Rolfe Parkway, serving senior citizens, Jews and non-Jews.

A wonderful article for *Style Magazine* by Ed Slipek about the Jews of Shockoe Bottom gives a firsthand account of the work of women like Jennie Scher:

“The elegant German ladies would travel to the non-elegant areas and literally teach the new arrivals the language and mores of America,” an older Richmond woman said.... “There are many, many Jews living in sumptuous West End homes now whose roots were in that [settlement] House ... and who learned their first English from a Schwarzschild or a Mrs. Thalhimer.”

Jennie Scher also raised five children. A descendant wrote of her, “Jennie Scher Road is named for her because of her determination to help others less privileged. She gave half of everything she had to the poor. Her piousness was well known in Richmond.” Jennie Scher died on February 25th 1938, she is buried at Sir Moses Montefiore Cemetery.

RICHMOND’S JEWRY SHABBAT in Shockoe 1769-1976 by Myron Berman *United States Jewry, 1776-1985*, Volume 1

By Jacob Rader Marcus

Up from the Valley by Ed Slipek *Style Weekly* June 4, 2013
Sir Moses Montefiore Cemetery, 2016 *World Religions & Spirituality Project*, <http://www.wrlrels.org>



Community Roots and Libby Hill Park Mulching Day a Great Success

by Trish Bernal, Richmond Tree Steward

Friends of Libby Hill Park, Church Hill Planters, and Richmond Tree Stewards had a successful planting and mulching day on Saturday, March 18th. Many neighbors came out to support the effort to mulch over a hundred trees and plant eight trees. Six of the trees were donated as part of the Richmond Tree Steward's Community Roots program funded by a generous grant from the Overton and Katherine Dennis Fund. Two trees were provided by the Church Hill Planters in memory of Shelby Long, a longtime Church Hill resident. Two Sycamores and one single stem River Birch were planted in tree wells on Franklin Street where it borders the park. Two tulip poplars, two Princeton Elms, and a White Oak were planted in the park itself. Richmond Tree Stewards provided hands on help and guidance to ensure the trees were planted correctly. The Friends of Libby Hill Park enlisted the help of many neighbors to mulch and help with planting the trees. Refreshments were provided by volunteers and were served throughout the morning in the Park House. A big thank you goes to all the volunteers who made this day a huge success.





Church Hill Contacts

Police and Safety

Emergencies: 911

Non-Emergency Police: (804)646-5100

1st Precinct Station front desk, staffed most hours:
(804)646-3602

Fire Station #1: (804)646-4229

Church Hill Crime Watch: (804)343-3628

Commonwealth's Attorney/Sector Prosecutor:
Colette McEachin: (804)646-4845

Lt.Minton: (804)646-0574, cell (804)240-9158
Daniel.Minton@richmondgov.com

Lt Jeremy Sayles: cell (804)283-0856

Sector Lieutenant: Lt McRoy:
(804)646-0574, cell (804)283-0856

Neighborhood Maintenance

Citizen's Assistance: (804)646-7000

Citizen's Request Service Online:
<http://eservices.ci.richmond.va.us/applications/citizensrequest/frmNewEntryType.asp#>

City of Richmond Public Utilities: (804)646-3000

Code Violations related to historic preservation:

Marianne Pitts: (804)646-7550
marianne.pitts@richmondgov.com

Commission of Architectural Review:
(804)646-7550

Zoning Administration: (804)646-6340

Housing Code Enforcement: (804)646-6419

Environmental Control: (804)646-7448

Graffiti Hotline: (804)646-1406

Truancy Hotline: (804)646-ABCD

Northeast District Parks Maintenance:
(804)646-3216

State and Local Government

Governor Terry McCauliffe
Virginia State Capitol, 3rd Floor
(804)786-221

Senator Rosalyn R. Dance
Virginia Senate District 16
Capitol Office
(804)698-7516
district16@senate.virginia.gov

Delegate Delores L. McQuinn
Virginia House of Delegates 70th District
General Assembly Building
(804)698-1070

Senator Jennifer L. McClellan
Virginia Senate
(804)698-7509
deljmcclellan@house.state.va.us

Delegate Jeffrey Bourne
Virginia House of Delegates
(804)698-1071

Mayor Levar Stoney
City of Richmond
900 E.Broad St.,2nd Floor
(804)646-7970

**7th District Richmond City Council Member
Cynthia Newbille**
(804)646-3012
cynthia.newbille@richmondgov.com

**7th District Richmond City School Board Member
Nadine Marsh Carter**
(804)929-6894
ncarter@rvaschool.net

Richmond City School Board
(804)780-7716

East District Agencies

East District Families First: (804)646-4508

EDI-W.I.C: (804)646-0775

Health Center: (804)780-0840

Social Services: (804)646-7212

VA. Cooperative Extension: (804)786-4150

Richmond Resources

Animal Control: (804)646-5573
after hours: (804)646-0546

Better Housing Coalition: (804)644-0546

Black History Museum: (804)780-9093

Richmond CenterStage: (804)225-9000

Children's Museum of Richmond: (804)474-7000

Edgar Allan Poe Museum: (804)648-5523

Historic Richmond Foundation: (804)643-7407

James River Association: (804)788-8811

Library of Virginia: (804)692-3500

Museum of the Confederacy: (804)649-1866

Richmond Ballet: (804)344-0906

Richmond Coliseum: (804)262-8100

Richmond National Battlefield Park:
(804)771-2148

Richmond Symphony: (804)788-1212

Science Museum of Virginia: (804)367-6552

St. John's Church Visitor Center: (804)648-5015

Valentine Richmond History Center:
(804)649-0711

Venture Richmond: (804)788-6466

Virginia Historical Society: (804)358-4901

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts: (804)340-1400

Virginia Opera: (804)643-600

Virginia War Memorial (804)786-2060

Churchhill Association of RVA Announces Improved Digital Presence

CHA of RVA is working to optimize our digital footprint, and to make our community resources more accessible. We have launched a barebones Facebook Page (facebook.com/chaofrva) and an Instagram (@chaofrva) and we hope to see you out “in the networks.” Over the next several months we will also be working on a website relaunch. We will distribute a brief survey by email to all digital subscribers, and taking feedback at member meetings to find out what community members would most like to see on the site. Please take part! We invite your ideas, talent and creativity! If you have any(especially high resolution photographs of places, people, events or things in the community)current or archival, please send to chaofrva@gmail.com with related information and photo credit and help us to populate the new site with the stories of our neighborhood.



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