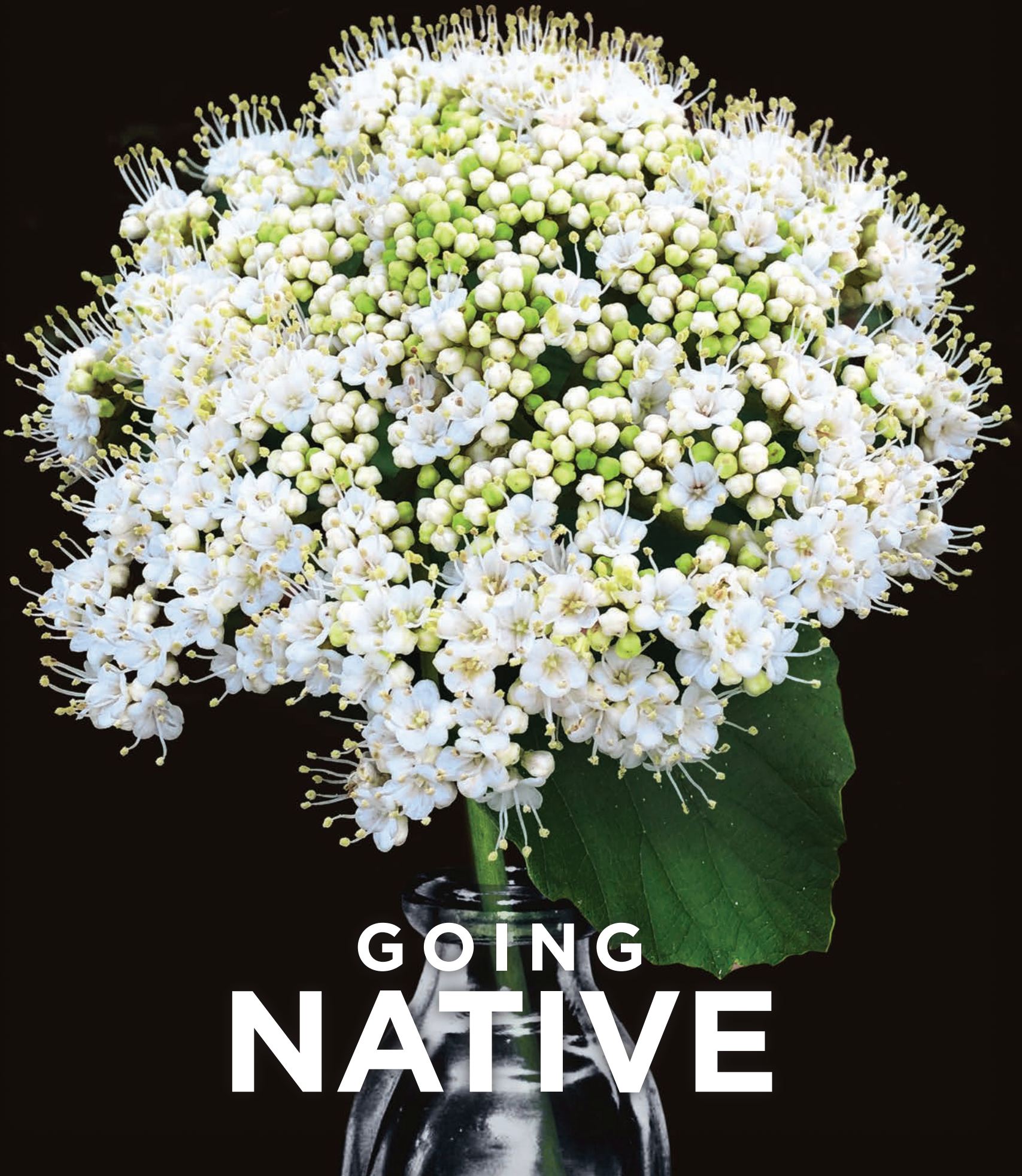


NORTH OF THE JAMES®

"Truth and facts, no alternatives."



GOING NATIVE

My Outdoor Project

Let Victor Make Your Outdoor Project, His Outdoor Project



HARDSCAPING
patios, walkways, raised beds, stairs

Contact
VICTOR AYALA
master mason and landscaper

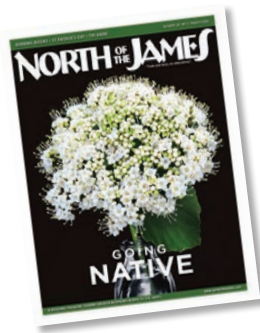
804 912 9789

my_new_project@outlook.com

TABLE of CONTENTS

- 4 DIVERSIONS St. Patrick's Day: A Curse and a Blessing**
I was born on St. Patrick's Day. When I was younger, this was a boon to me. It was a holiday where everyone felt like celebrating, but weren't beholden to family plans. Then I got older. I'm a little grumpier about it now.
- 6 FROM THE ARCHIVES Citizen Kaine**
From July 1996 Councilman Tim Kaine is a man of the people. His father ran an iron-working shop in the stockyards of Kansas City, and as a high school student at Rockhurst, a parochial school, Tim traveled to Honduras to the site of a Jesuit mission. That changed his life for good and all.
- 8 HIDDEN HISTORIES A Short History of Book Burning**
Book burning is as old as time, reaching at least as far back as 213 B.C., when Emperor Shih Huang Ti foolishly thought that if he could burn all the documents in his kingdom, history would begin with him. Eight centuries later, according to Time magazine, the Caliph Omar heated Alexandria's baths "by burning some 200,000 objectionable books belonging to its famous libraries."
- 10 COVER STORY Going Native with Bill Shanabruch**
As staggeringly complex as the environmental catastrophe is, by tackling one small space at a time, we might be able to bring back entire ecosystems, intricate webs of life that are on the verge of collapse because of human intrusion and defilement. It can all start with that small plot of land that surrounds your home. And after scraping away the monocultures of turf grass, and invasive bushes, trees and plants, a homeowner can replace them all with truly native species, which, among other things, can help restore our streams and river—even the Chesapeake Bay.
- 14 CITY BEAT From Councilwoman Lambert**
This month—Senior Tax Relief Program, Redistricting, Child Care Subsidy Program, Noise Ordinance, Gun Violence, Covid Update, Photo Speed Ticketing
- 15 BOOK REVIEW Documenting Jim Crow on Leather**
"Chasing Me to My Grave" chronicles the life of Winfred Rembert who grew up during the Jim Crow era. Painting on leather, he documented his life, even depicting his own near lynching.
- 16 COLUMN Art**
Landscapes by Jason Bennett at Eric Schindler, Artspace Satellite Exhibition at CVA / U-Turn Inc., March Art Exhibits at the Main Richmond Public Library, Tsherin Sherpa: Spirits at the VMFA, Works by Lilian Kreutzberger at 1708 Gallery
- 18 FEATURE Journey of a Veteran**
Unveiled last month at Hunter Holmes McGuire Hospital, this stunning mural shines a searing light on the tribulations of veterans.

Cover photo-illustration by
Doug Dobe



NORTH OF THE JAMES®

Independently owned and operated.

NORTH of the JAMES® magazine is published every month. Letters to the editor are welcome, but become the property of NORTH of the JAMES magazine. Letters may be edited for clarity and length. Although we invite unsolicited manuscripts, we cannot be accountable for their return. The publisher is not responsible for errors.

Copyright 2022 by NORTH of the JAMES magazine. All rights reserved. Views and opinions by our writers do not necessarily represent those of NORTH of the JAMES magazine. NORTH of the JAMES magazine is not responsible for claims made by our advertisers.

For media kits and ad rate information, write or call:
NORTH of the JAMES MAGAZINE

PO Box 9225
Richmond, VA 23227
804 218 5265

editorial: charlesmcguigan@gmail.com
advertising: charlesmcguigan@gmail.com
northofthejames.com

editor/publisher

CHARLES G. MCGUIGAN

art director

DOUG DOBEY at DOBEY DESIGN

contributing photographer

REBECCA D'ANGELO

web manager

CATHERINE MCGUIGAN

social media manager

BRIGETTE KELLY

contributing writers

**DALE M BRUMFIELD
ALANE CAMERON FORD
ORION HUGHES
JACK R JOHNSON
ANNE JONES
BRIGETTE KELLY
CATHERINE MCGUIGAN
CHARLES BR MCGUIGAN
FAYERUZ REGAN
FRAN WITHROW**



1221 BELLEVUE AVENUE RICHMOND VA 23227
804 553 3866

119 NORTH ROBINSON STREET RICHMOND VA 23220
804 335 4570

TUESDAY-FRIDAY 7AM-1PM SATURDAY 7AM-NOON

EARLYBIRDBISCUIT.COM

Classic Touch Cleaning

Simplifying Lives
One House
At a Time!

Residential Cleaning

1229 Bellevue Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

(804) 262-6979

E-mail: classictouchcleaning@verizon.net

Website: www.classictouchcleaning.com



Wonderful food, best
brunch in Richmond.
— Urban Spoon

Serving locally farmed
produce, poultry, and
meat with vegetarian,
vegan, & gluten free
options available.

REOPEN FOR DINE-IN

OPEN 11am-9pm Tue-Fri

Or Order Online:

themillonmacarthur.
hrpos.heartland.us

You can download the mobile ordering app here:

retailsystemsinc.com/
heartland-guest-app-download

To keep our staff and
community healthy, all CDC
Covid-19 guidelines will
be followed.

The owners and staff would
like to thank you all for your
continued support and
understanding as we look
forward to seeing and serving
our community again!

Located in Richmond VA's
historic Bellevue District at
**4023 MacArthur
Avenue**

804 716 1196

themillrva.com

DIVERSIONS

St. Patrick's Day: A Curse and a Blessing

by FAYERUZ REGAN

WAS BORN ON ST PATRICK'S

Day. When I was younger, this was a boon to me. It was a holiday where everyone felt like celebrating, but weren't beholden to family plans.

Then I got older. I'm a little grumpier about it now. Richmond beer crawls seemed innocuous at first, until one year a bar crawl blocked the entrance to Bowtie Cinemas. You see, the movie theater is my house of worship, and nothing excites me more than the moment the lights go down. Every year on my birthday, I treat myself to a film.

But there I sat on Arthur Ashe Boulevard, being ordered to make a U-turn five minutes before showtime. Just so people can day drink in flashing shamrock necklaces. I wondered how the Irish would feel about this parody of their culture. It was safe to assume that the majority of this mob had never been to Ireland.

It's a breathtaking place, and the people were so friendly that my husband and I were suspicious of them at first. We rented a car and explored the country, marveling at the ancient castles and picturesque villages. We lodged in bed & breakfasts from Dublin to Limerick, feasting on proper Irish breakfasts and endless cups of tea. I was a little disappointed we didn't find ourselves in a traffic jam involving a flock of sheep; it always looks so romantic in movies.

As I white-knuckled the steering wheel, I spotted a young couple stumbling through the intersection. The girl wore a Lucky Charms T-shirt two sizes too small, and her boyfriend wore a Dr. Seuss top hat, only with green and white stripes. I couldn't help myself. I rolled down the window. "You know what they do in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day?" I asked them. They swayed their drunken heads in my direction. "They go to church."

To this day, when friends and family treat me to a meal, they feel entitled to slap ridiculous leprechaun get-ups on me (per photo). I always oblige. They know my pet peeve, and their sweet faces light up at my public humiliation. Plus, they're paying.



Fayeruz (on the right) smiling on the outside, though the get-up she's wearing has her dying on the inside.

All is not lost, however. Our mid-sized city is hellbent on delivering big-city culture, and in March it comes in the form of the Irish Festival in Church Hill. The event isn't usually held on St. Patrick's Day, but rather is adjacent to it. I cannot confirm if this is to distance themselves from green beer and fighting couples. I can confirm that it's taking place this year on Saturday, March 26th and 27th from ten till six. They're kicking off their 35th year with a parade on Saturday morning.

Like a bar crawl, there will be beer aplenty, but unlike a bar crawl, there will be Irish dancers and Celtic musicians. There will be bagpipes and children's activities. Among the many vendors are Irish crafts, homemade "Irish lasagna" from the Ladies of St. Patrick's, and fish and chips prepared by Rare Olde Times Irish Pub. The icing on the cake is that the proceeds from this event will be split among a list of worthy charities.

In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, here's a simple Irish recipe for a cold winter's day...

4-Ingredient Irish Soda Bread

Ingredients:

- 4 cups flour (unbleached & all-purpose)
- 1 ¾ cups buttermilk
- 1 ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt

Instructions:

- 1 Preheat your oven to 400F
- 2 Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl
- 3 Slowly add the buttermilk into the bowl and mix until a sticky dough forms
- 4 Place the dough on a lightly-floured surface.
- 5 Knead for 15 seconds, or until the dough comes together into a sticky ball
- 6 Place the round of dough onto a lightly floured baking sheet
- 7 Press the mound to flatten a bit, then if you'd like, dust with flour
- 8 Coat a serrated knife in flour
- 9 Cut an X (about halfway deep) into the top of the loaf
- 10 Bake the bread in your preheated oven for 30-40 minutes, or until the loaf is golden
- 11 Pro Hack: If it's ready, the bread should sound hollow when tapped
- 12 Cool on a wire rack to get that crunchy crust
- 13 Allow the bread to cool for at least 15 minutes before tucking into it

This dense bread pairs well with salted butter and a cup of hot tea. Have a happy St. Patrick's Day! 🍀

Your Local Full-Line **STIHL**[®] Dealer
Since 1969!



Arthur's Electric Service, Inc.
8910 Brook Road • Glen Allen, VA 23060 • 804-264-2513

Citizen Kane

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

COUNCILMAN TIM KAINE is a man of the people. His father ran an iron-working shop in the stockyards of Kansas City, and as a high school student at Rockhurst, a parochial school, Tim traveled to Honduras to the site of a Jesuit mission. That changed his life for good and all.

After high school Tim earned a bachelor's degree in economics and then went to Harvard Law School. But instead of getting his law degree right away Tim took a year off and returned to El Progreso, Honduras where he taught basic carpentry and welding skills to impoverished teenagers.

"I remember how strange it seemed one day with these seventy Honduran students banging and sawing away so that I couldn't even hear myself think," Tim remembers. "Here I was in a place as far removed from Harvard Law School as you could be on the same planet."

In that alien land, Tim began to notice traits among people that surprised him. "The whole experience really turned me around," he says. "There was this incredible coexistence of poverty with tremendous faith, happiness and spirit." When he returned stateside it often struck him that his countrymen who had everything materially seemed to suffer a general malaise. "But there was none of that in Honduras, even though the people were extremely poor," he says.

Tim recalls a specific example at Christmas one year as he traveled on mule through the mountains accompanied by a Jesuit. They came upon the simplest, meanest hut Tim had ever seen. "The guy who lived there was sick, malnourished, but as Father Patricio and I left, this man gave us this big bag of food—gourds and fruits," Tim tells me.

As the pair left the village the priest turned to Tim and said, "You know, Tim, it takes a real humble person to accept food from a poor person." Those were Tim's exact thoughts at that moment.

"It's as if the priest was reading my mind," he says

The Jesuits in Honduras, because of their diligence in working with the poor, became folk heroes to Tim. He

remembers one in particular, a priest by the name of Guadeloupe Carney. Tim had never seen him.

"He was a sort of spectral presence," says Tim. "He was thrown out of Honduras and moved to the mountains of Nicaragua. He was a liberation theologian and simply preached to the workers in the banana plantations owned by United Fruit."

Tim says Father Carney often preached with New Testament stories as a basis. He told banana plantation workers that they never had to look at themselves as Samaritans or other second-class citizens.

One evening, Tim got the chance to finally meet Father Carney. "It was an enlightening time, one that I'll never forget," he says. A year later, Father Carney slipped across the border into Honduras and was apprehended by local militia and summarily executed. "I admired the traits of these people," says Tim. "What they did for the sake of justice. And I learned very much from them."

It may have been the Jesuits who inspired Tim to do both the civic work and pro bono legal counsel he is known for, which stamped him as a liberal during his campaign to win the Second District City Council seat in Richmond. His association with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (he ended up winning for that organization one of the largest settlements in history against a company that practiced redlining) and his service in El Progreso raised the eyebrows of some of the older powers-that-be in the Richmond area, including the owners of a food store chain that is known for its adherence to extreme conservative views. But Tim never toned down his rhetoric; he stayed true to his beliefs.

"I am a liberal and proud of it," he says. "I am a liberal in the classical sense of the word, in terms of liberty and the ideals of Thomas Jefferson." Tim is something of an iconoclast, and therefore impossible to label. "You might use personalism to describe me," Tim says. "I do not believe, for instance, that government should crush people. I'm not a big institution person and am very much in favor of decentralization. On fiscal issues I tend to be very conservative. And I am distrustful of all big institutions. I favor giving economic power to small businesses."



I ask him if he would consider a higher political office, perhaps following in the footsteps of his father-in-law, the former Governor Linwood Holton, and Tim smiles. "Well I'd like to serve on Council for another four or six years," he says. "I don't see myself running for the Senate. Not at this time. I guess there's part of me that would like to see my wife living in the Governor's Mansion again." And then he changes the subject.

When he begins talking about some of the cases he's tried, Tim becomes animated. He smiles when he talks about settlements for the underdogs, shakes his right fist with jubilation when he describes courtroom victories.

Consider Saunders versus GSC (General Services Corporation). GSC owns a number of apartment complexes in Richmond and elsewhere. "This was the first one of these cases tried in the country," says Tim. And we won, setting a precedent." At the time of the case in 1987, GSC's primary advertising was through the distribution of a forty-page brochure. "This brochure featured about four hundred people," Tim explains. "But only one was an African-American." And GSC did not distribute the brochure at primarily black universities like Virginia Union. "They were distributing at predominantly white institutions like VCU and U of R," Tim says. Judge Robert R. Merhige ruled in favor of the plaintiff, and found GSC guilty of discriminatory intent. But on the eve of the trial, GSC came out with a new brochure that featured blacks and whites alike.

"That brochure, incidentally, became a model of a non-discriminatory brochure," he says.

One of the oddest cases Tim ever tried was down in Mecklenberg County and it had all the gothic intrigue of a good Southern novel. An older woman by the name of Judy Cox, who was something of an animal rights activist and worked part-time at a correctional facility, charged the local government was not properly tending to stray animals. The hierarchy at the Baskerville Correctional Institute were "tight with the Board of Supervisors," according to Tim.

"Some of the state investigators dragged a local lagoon and found hundreds of dog skeletons, each with a single bullet through the skull," Tim says. Meanwhile, Judy Cox was having trouble with stray dogs roaming her property. She called the game warden, requesting a dog trap and was told that it would be dropped off at the correctional facility. One day, after work, Judy asked for the dog trap. A guard gave it to her.

A few days later Judy received a call from the correctional facility and was asked if she had stolen a dog trap. "Judy was completely shattered by this," Tim remembers. She was arrested that afternoon by state police and local papers carried on their front pages banner headlines. COUNTY SUPERVISORS BLAST ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, read one, according to Tim. Judy was subsequently fired.

As it turned out, supervisors conspired with employees of the correctional institute. There were two guards in the room when Judy picked up the dog trap and though one claimed she stole it, the other would not sway from the truth. "This one guard, a woman, refused to lie under oath," says Tim, who proved in court that elected officials and employees of the correctional facility were guilty of charges of conspiracy and violation of civil rights. "Public reactions were printed in all the newspapers," Tim says. "The case was settled positively in favor of the client." He pauses, then adds with a grin: "We had to call it the Hounds of the Baskerville."

In the telling of these war stories, Tim can't contain his enthusiasm. Each case he tackled with gusto, and much of his work has been done pro bono. Every year he donates at least two hundred and fifty hours of legal work, and this year the Richmond Bar Association presented him with the Pro Bono Publico Award. This award, incidentally, is the only framed document that adorns his office. There are no framed degrees or other certificates, just this one award that notes his work for those who cannot afford legal counsel.

That says a lot about this man. You could easily see him leading the Commonwealth. And, someday, perhaps, even the Nation.



Editor's Note:

This was our cover story in July of 1995, just eight months after our inaugural issue. Tim later became Mayor of Richmond, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, Governor of Virginia, US Senator (an office he still holds), and the 2016 Democrat nominee for Vice President of the United States. I have known Tim now for more than 25 years, and in that time he has been consistent in his political philosophy. Unlike the vast majority of other politicians I have interviewed over the years, Tim has not wavered in his foundational values, for he is a true statesman.


The first interview I ever did with him was on his back porch where we talked late into the night, nursing a few bottles of Yuengling. On the front porch of that same house in Laburnum Park, I visited Tim in May of 2020, and we talked at length about the pandemic and other pressing issues. This was nine days before the sadistic murder of George Floyd.

Sitting up on the top step, dressed in faded blue jeans and a maroon knit shirt, Senator Kaine talked about the state house in Michigan, which was closed that day because of threats made against Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

"The archetypal picture recently is the one of the people in the Michigan capitol yelling in the faces of State Police," he says. "And you think about somebody with no mask on who potentially has coronavirus intentionally trying to infect somebody by standing six inches away and yelling in their face. I'm outraged when I see those pictures."

When I asked if he'd ever seen anything like this before, he reminds me that he spent seventeen years as a civil rights lawyer before going into politics. "I think the election of a President Obama says something very true about who America is, but the election of a President Trump also says something very true about who America is," he said. "I don't think these folks are the majority, but if you don't understand that there are some hate currents that are in this country, then you don't really understand the full nature of who we are."

I had asked Tim earlier in the interview if he'd play a tune on the harmonica. He brought out a number of them, spread them out on the brick stoop, then selected one, and played "This Land Is Your Land", and even sang several verses of that folk classic. (If you'd like to see the video of Tim playing Woody Guthrie's timeless anthem, follow this link to our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6GyGLIfm44>)

Tim and his wife Anne Holton have now sold their home on Laburnum Park Boulevard, but have no intention of leaving the city. "Anne and I have decided to sell our Richmond home of thirty years and move downtown," he said. "We love our house, neighborhood, and neighbors. But now that we're empty nesters, we'll downsize. We're excited to stay in the heart of RVA." 

HOBNOB

eat. drink. socialize.

Tuesday-Friday 11am-11pm
Saturday 5pm-11pm, Sunday 9am-3pm

**Lunch, Dinner
Sunday Brunch
To-Go Orders**

**6010 Hermitage Road
Richmond, VA 23228**

hobnobra.com

804.264.7400

MD CLEANING SERVICES



OWNER MARIA GARCIA

Committed to creating healthier and happier homes across Richmond by using non-toxic and environmentally friendly products!

Houses, Apartments and Offices

**Call or text 804-687-4007,
or email mdcleaningservices15@gmail.com
for a free estimate!**

References Available

A Short History of Burning Books

by JACK R. JOHNSON

“WITH HIS symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his solid head, and his eyes

all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house jumped up in a gorging fire that burned the evening sky red and yellow and black. He strode in a swarm of fire-flies. He wanted above all, like the old joke, to shove a marshmallow on a stick in the 10 furnace, while the flapping pigeon-winged books died on the porch and lawn of the house. While the books went up in sparkling whirls and blew away on a wind turned dark with burning.”

Book burning is as old as time, reaching at least as far back as 213 B.C., when Emperor Shih Huang Ti foolishly thought that if he could burn all the documents in his kingdom, history would begin with him. He also decided to bury alive those scholars who continued to teach any idea that somehow predated him.

Eight centuries later, according to Time magazine, the Caliph Omar heated Alexandria's baths “by burning some 200,000 objectionable books belonging to its famous libraries.”

When the Mongols sacked Baghdad in 1258, “the waters of the Tigris were said to have run black with ink from all the destroyed books.”

The Mongols of course were not the only ones. Christians happily got in on the act. In 1492, after the Spanish conquered Granada, the last Muslim kingdom in Western Europe, they emptied the city's treasured libraries and burnt their contents.

Catholics also torched the writings of Protestant reformer Martin Luther. Later, they forced Galileo to recant his scientific observation that the Earth was not, in fact, the center of the universe under penalty of torture and then death. Legend has it that after he recanted his views, Galileo muttered, “And yet it moves,” under his breath.

Infamous Nazi book burnings in 1933 targeted thousands of books deemed “un-German,” including the works of Jewish authors like Franz Kafka, Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud, as well as “corrupting foreign influences” like Ernest Hemingway.



Spurred by Senator Joseph McCarthy, in the 1950s many in our own government hunted for pro-communism books to burn, everything from Henry David Thoreau's “Civil Disobedience” to John Steinbeck's Nobel Prize winning “Grapes of Wrath.”

We here in Virginia are not immune, either.

One favorite story comes from our very own Richmond News Leader. In 1966 When the Hanover County School Board voted unanimously to ban “To Kill a Mockingbird” from their schools, author Harper Lee sent in an editorial letter.

She accused the board members of being unable to read, and sent them a donation to be used for their re-enrollment in grade school.

Here's the full letter, as it appeared in the paper:

“Editor, The News Leader:

Recently I have received echoes down this way of the Hanover County School Board's activities, and what I've heard makes me wonder if any of its members can read.

Surely it is plain to the simplest intelligence that “To Kill a Mockingbird” spells out in words of seldom more

than two syllables a code of honor and conduct, Christian in its ethic, that is the heritage of all Southerners. To hear that the novel is “immoral” has made me count the years between now and 1984, for I have yet to come across a better example of doublethink.

I feel, however, that the problem is one of illiteracy, not Marxism. Therefore I enclose a small contribution to the Beadle Bumble Fund that I hope will be used to enroll the Hanover County School Board in any first grade of its choice.

Harper Lee”

In addition, The Richmond News Leader offered to send free copies of the book to the first 50 school children who requested a copy. These books were paid for out of the aforementioned Beadle Bumble Fund, a newspaper fund taking its name from the memorable character in Dickens' Oliver Twist. Formed for the purpose of “redressing the stupidities of public officials.” All 50 copies were given away.

Alas, that fund was apparently exhausted by the time of Virginia's 2021 Governor's race.

During his campaign, Governor Youngkin ran an ad featuring a mother who wanted Toni Morrison's Pulitzer-

Prize-winning “Beloved” removed from her son's school library. Terry McAuliffe, the then-governor, vetoed these efforts, and his 2021 Republican rival, Glenn Youngkin, based much of his closing message on the banning controversy. This statement of course, aligned with Youngkin's decision to make the teaching of Critical Race Theory a topic worthy of banning, itself, despite the fact that it has never been taught at the high school level. Fortunately, Youngkin's tip line for parents to report school administrators or teachers who advance such ‘divisive’ topics has received near universal ridicule.

Still, other Virginia counties are following the Governor's lead. According to the Fredericksburg-based Free Lance-Star newspaper last week:

“The Spotsylvania County School Board has directed staff to begin removing books that contain “sexually explicit” material from library shelves.”

The board voted 6-0 to order the removal.

Two board members, Courtland representative Rabih Abuismail and Livingston representative Kirk Twigg, said they would like to see the removed books burned.

“I think we should throw those books in a fire,” Abuismail said, and Twigg said he wants to “see the books before we burn them so we can identify within our community that we are eradicating this bad stuff.”

They did not appear to be joking.

It's not just Virginia. A Tennessee school board recently voted to ban *Maus* — Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel based on his father's experience at Auschwitz — claiming it contained material that was inappropriate for students.


In Kansas, after one parent objected to the language he found offensive in “The Hate U Give,” a novel about the aftermath of a police officer killing a Black teenager, the Goddard school district started pulling several well-known books from school libraries, including “The Handmaid's Tale” by Margaret Atwood; “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison; and “Fences,” a Pulitzer prize winning play by August Wilson.

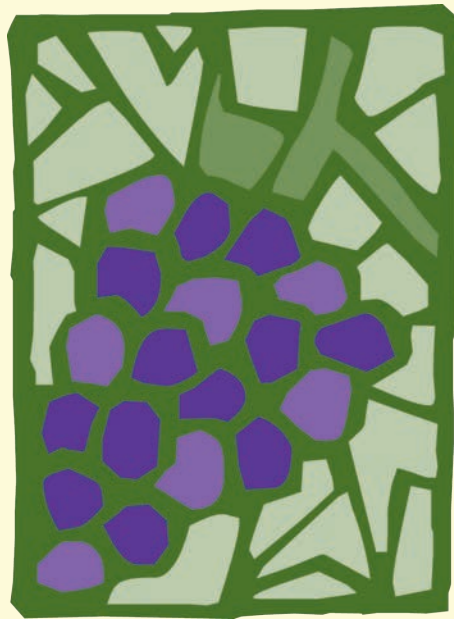
The people who believe in these bans are sometimes racists or buffoons, as Harper Lee has noted, but the folks who oversee them, like Heinrich Goebbels or Joe McCarthy, are deeply cynical political manipulators. And if history is any guide, given sufficient power, they can become some of the most dangerous people on earth.

At least one famous book lover, Levar Burton has advocated a good solution—read the banned books. Last week, he appeared on the Daily Show with Trevor Noah,

“Recently, the number of books being targeted has gotten out of control, and the type of books that are being targeted now are very revealing,” Noah said. “They're banning books about race, gender, sexuality, emotions, history. Guys, that's *all* books.”

“There are plenty of books to choose from,” Burton added. “But you know what? No — read the books they don't want you to. That's where the good stuff is.” Burton had only one thing to say as he left the show: “Read banned books!”

Note: The quote at the beginning of this article is from Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. In the society of *Fahrenheit 451*, which is based on censorship of ideas and control of people's thoughts with entertainment, “there is no greater danger to the status quo than a citizen who is curious to learn about their world.” Incidentally, since its publication 69 years ago, *Fahrenheit 451* has been banned on numerous occasions. 



Once upon a Vine

SUNDAY-THURSDAY, NOON-7PM
FRIDAY, NOON-10PM SATURDAY, NOON-9PM

**JOIN US FOR WINE
AND BEER TASTINGS
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
FROM 5PM-8PM**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
BEER TASTING
MARCH 17, 4PM-7PM
IRISH STOUTS, ALES AND BEER**

DRINK RESPONSIBLY: DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

**CELEBRATING 18 YEARS
KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED THAT WE CAN HAVE OUR
MAY CUSTOMER APPRECIATION AND ANNIVERSARY PARTY**



WE THANK ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR LOYALTY AND THEIR PATIENCE



**WE WERE VOTED AS THE BEST WINE AND BEER STORE BY VIRGINIA LIVING MAGAZINE, RICHMOND MAGAZINE AND STYLE WEEKLY!
THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR US!**

**CALL 804 726 9463
4009 MACARTHUR AVENUE**

GOING NATIVE

WITH BILL SHANABRUCH

WHEN I ASK BILL SHANABRUCH, WHO OWNS REEDY CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL, about his business, he smiles, and says, “Restoring watersheds—one plant at a time”.

A

S STAGGERINGLY complex as the environmental catastrophe is, by tackling one small space at a time, we might be able to bring back entire ecosystems, these intricate webs of life that are on the verge of collapse because of human intrusion and defilement. It can all start with that single small plot of land that surrounds your home. After scraping away the monocultures of turf grass, along with the invasive bushes, trees and plants, a homeowner can replace them all with truly native species, which, among other things, can help restore our streams and rivers—even the Chesapeake Bay.

For most of his life, in one capacity or other, Bill has been immersed in the wonders of the natural world. After earning undergraduate degrees in biology and chemistry from Notre Dame, Bill attended graduate school at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) where he studied life on its most fundamental level.

“I’m a molecular geneticist by training,” he says. “I just loved being able to understand how things work at a molecular level. It’s just amazing. My area was DNA repair in mutagenesis.”

After spending a few years in a lab at MIT doing post-doctoral work, he took a teaching position at Tufts. Four years later he went to work in the biology department at University of Richmond where he taught and conducted some research in molecular biology.

When he left U of R, Bill took a position that would alter the course of his professional life. “I ended up working for about three years with a non-profit called Greater Richmond Area Health Education Center,” he tells. “This program was really ahead of its time in

recognizing that the long-term way to deal with underserved areas was to actually improve STEM education. We focused on science education.”

The water quality course he taught put him in touch with volunteer water monitoring efforts and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). “So I ended up taking a part-time job with DEQ,” he says. When a full-time position as an environmental specialist opened up at the agency, Bill got the job. A couple years later he became regional biologist for the piedmont.

“It was a great job to have,” Bill says. “The major task of the regional biologists was to assess water quality by collecting macro invertebrates—aquatic insects, mollusks and crayfish.”

For the next thirteen years he would study the intricacies of water quality. He monitored the water of the Chickahominy and the pristine Dragon Run which downstream becomes the Piankatank River. He slogged through swamps and was mystified by the variety of flora and fauna. And then something that affected the stream running through his own backyard would end it all.

“The polite way of saying it was I had a disagreement over what constitutes environmental quality,” says Bill.

At that time the General Assembly created a grant called the storm water local assistance fund (SWLAF), which DEQ could distribute to local governments to address storm water issues. “It was a perfectly fine program,” says Bill.

Over the next couple years, Richmond would become the recipient of a number of these grants. One of them was for Reedy Creek.

“But instead of actually determining whether it was a good site to do

a restoration, what the city did was they simply chose an area that the city owned so they would not have to get any easements or work with property owners,” says Bill.

Well over half the area the city had targeted needed no restoration at all. “It was a really bad project,” Bill says. “They would have devastated the lake downstream (in Forest Hill Park), and they were going to take down hundreds of mature trees. They were going to do so much damage in the process.”

Being a considered citizen who owned property along the creek, Bill voiced his opposition publicly. At community meetings he pointed out the problems with the proposed creek restoration. And then, just hours before he was to attend another public meeting, Bill was at his DEQ lab sorting insects when the deputy director entered the room.

“He said something to this effect,” says Bill. “There were complaints about you to central office, and if it happens again, you can expect to hear from central office.”

Bill was stunned, and for the next couple weeks he considered his options. Then one afternoon as he and his wife, Diane Pendleton, were heading down 64 to Williamsburg for an overnighter, he made his decision. “I just felt like I would never be able to live with myself if I didn’t do everything possible to stop the Reedy Creek project,” he tells me. “My interpretation of what happened in my lab with the deputy director was that they were trying to silence me.”

So Bill quit, but was now armed with volumes of knowledge he had acquired over the years working for the state agency, and understood the integral role native plant species play in the health of streams and rivers.



Natives, Centrosema virginianum (Spurred Butterfly Pea), and Eutrochium dubium (Coastal Joe-pye Weed)

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN



“To improve water quality, you have to worry about what you’re doing on the land, and how to improve uptake of nutrients and increase infiltration of storm water,” Bill says. “To do that, you need native plants and trees.”

But not just any native plants. You need to use native plants that are adapted specifically to your region. As Bill considered what he might do after leaving DEQ back in 2015, he became increas-

ingly intrigued with a company called Earth Sangha that operates in Northern Virginia.

“They’ve been around for over twenty years now and my nursery is totally inspired by what they did,” says Bill. “Earth Sangha is a native plant nursery that only handles local ecotype plants. They collect the seeds locally and grow them out. Which is what we at Reedy Creek do.”

Even while Bill was still working for DEQ, he often thought about an Earth Sangha-like nursery. “I recognized that we need this local ecotype nursery in Richmond,” he says. “I actually created a business plan of sorts back then.”

In the summer of 2016, after he had left DEQ, Bill was strolling through his own yard which sits on a little less than half an acre. That’s when he decided to start a native plant nursery in own. All he would need were seeds. But these seeds would have to be harvested locally. And there’s reason for this.

Bill invites me to think about the so-called native plants that are frequently sold at Big Box garden centers. “Let me address cultivars,” he says. “So the horticulture industry will change upon demand. More people started to want native plants so they’ve starting to handle native plants, but the problem is a lot of them are handling what they’re now calling ‘nativars’, which is a cultivar of a native plant.”

The problem with a nativar is that it may have originated hundreds or thousands of miles away from where you live. “For all you know a cultivar they’re selling originated from a native plant that came from a population in Minnesota,” says Bill.

And the problem with this is that nativars are not specifically adapted to

our area. “They come from a different population and may not be able to take our climate or our soils,” Bill say. “Their genetics are a little different from a true native plant, so there’s a good chance they won’t thrive here long-term.”

There’s another problem with nativars. “A local ecotype plant that’s part of a local population has coevolved for thousands of years in this location,” says Bill. “And those plants are going to have full ecosystem services. And what I mean by that is that it’s going to have all the interactions with all the other plants and the animals and the soil microbes and the fungi. And the nativars won’t have these kinds of interaction.”

The key to a native plant nursery then is to have access to local seeds, so that became Bill’s first quest.

During his work at DEQ, Bill had met a couple who have a conservation easement property along the Chickahominy River in eastern Henrico. On this tract there is a massive wet meadow, home to scores of native plants. Bill asked them if he could collect seeds from their property, and they granted him permission.

He begins describing the variety of plant species that call this wet meadow home. “The diversity is impressive,” he says. “There are at least fifty species of grasses. There’s New York ironweed, and

SAVE THE DATE

HERMITAGE | RICHMOND

You’re invited to our Life Plan Community’s **free** and **family-friendly** spring events!

BLESSING OF THE PETS

WHEN: SATURDAY,
APRIL 23, 2022

TIME: 10:00 A.M. -
12:00 P.M.

SHRED-IT EVENT

WHEN: FRIDAY,
APRIL 29, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M. -
12:00 P.M.

ARTS ON THE LAWN

WHEN: SATURDAY,
MAY 14, 2022

TIME: 10:00 A.M. -
4:00 P.M.

Learn more at HermitageRichmond.org/Events

804 474 1800 | HERMITAGERICHMOND.ORG | 1600 WESTWOOD AVE. | RICHMOND, VA 23227

The wisest thing to do is follow Mother Nature's lead. "The best thing you can do for water quality is to plant a tree," says Bill. "It's cheap, the roots go deep, and it does an incredible amount of infiltration. And don't rake the leaves. Let them decompose and build the soil which makes it more permeable so infiltration's better."

Bill considers what human beings have done to the biosphere. "What we've created is this downward spiral," he says. "When you plant trees and natives you create an upward spiral because you're going to improve the soil which improves infiltration, you store carbon,

you create the habitat for wildlife."

And then Bill Shanabruch says this: "If you have a native plant, you understand the pollinators that visit it and how it's pollinated, you understand what adult insects are laying eggs on it, you now see birds coming to eat seeds or caterpillars or insects on it, and you understand what's going on and you watch it. It doesn't matter if it's the most inconspicuous little white flower in the world. That plant has value."

To learn more about Bill Shanabruch's business visit: reedycreekenvironmental.wordpress.com 

DECATUR'S GARAGE

Round the Car Service

Bellevue's Full-Service
Auto Repair for 25 Years

Bobby Shore

4031 MacArthur Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

(804) 262-7582

Pet Sitting Services



DONNA DUFFIELD

(804) 397-6720

Loving Care where your pet is most comfortable—their own home!

ENRICHING
LIFE'S
JOURNEY

LIFE LESSON #29
YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH FUN.

DISCOVER NEW HOBBIES AND PURSUE YOUR OLD ONES

At Hermitage Richmond, the only thing you have to change is your address.

Imagine life as you live it today, but with a full calendar of engaging events and social outings.

At our Life Plan Community in the heart of historic Ginter Park, you can craft, garden, relax, and play — you control your day. Hermitage Richmond takes away the hassles of homeownership, provides great amenities, and a secure plan for your future — all with no entrance fee!

SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY!

HERMITAGE
RICHMOND



804 474 1800 | HERMITAGERICHMOND.ORG
1600 WESTWOOD AVENUE | RICHMOND, VA 23227



**Zorba's
EXPRESS**
Pizza - Pasta - Subs

FULL ITALIAN MENU
N.Y. Style Pizzas
Baked Spaghetti
Fettucini Alfredo
Lasagna - Manicotti
Ravioli - Tortellini
Veal Marsala
Chicken Marsala
Veal Parmigiana
Chicken Parmigiana
Eggplant Parmigiana
Calzone - Stromboli
Selection of Subs
Selection of Salads
Tiramisu - Canoli
And Much More!

FREE DELIVERY
Monday-Thursday, 11am-10pm;
Friday & Saturday, 11am-11pm;
Sunday, Noon-10pm

4026 MACARTHUR AVENUE
Order Online at
zorbasexpressrichmond.com

MAIN STREET LAW

John G LaFratta

Criminal Law
Traffic Violations
Estate Planning
Family Law

EDUCATION:
University of Richmond,
TC Williams School of Law, JD
University of Richmond, Robins
School of Business, MBA
North Carolina State
University, BA

PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS AND
MEMBERSHIPS:
Richmond Criminal Bar
Association
Virginia Bar Association
Richmond Juvenile Bar
Association
Caroline County Bar
Association

john@mainstlaw.com
804.355.1800

CITY BEAT

Monthly Update With Third District Council-woman Ann- Frances Lambert

by **BRIGETTE KELLY**



Ann-Frances Lambert

possibly amending the noise ordinance. There was a discussion about it at the January Government Operations meeting.

GUN VIOLENCE

The senseless deaths and social disruptions brought about by gun violence has to be addressed. Last year council secured \$1.5 million from American Rescue Plan funds that will go to gun violence prevention.

COVID UPDATE

All of Richmond and Henrico Health District (RHHD) COVID-19 testing events will no longer require an appointment in order to get tested. This change affects the Richmond Raceway CTC and other RHHD run events.


RHHD also holds community-based COVID-19 testing events in partnership with community organizations.

To find a walk-in testing clinic or to make an appointment, call 804-205-3501, or visit vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city

PHOTO SPEED TICKETING

Speed monitoring devices have been proposed throughout school and construction zones. In the future, the city may expand photo speed enforcement in residential neighborhoods, on bridges, and in city parks.

GRTC SEEKS BUS DRIVERS

GRTC is hiring bus drivers, operators, and maintenance staff. Sign-on bonuses of \$5,000 to new full-time operators, and \$8,000 is being offered to full-time mechanics. Applicants need a Virginia driver's license. GRTC will train new drivers and help them earn their CDL (commercial driver's license). To apply visit ridegrtc.com/about-us/employment 

Editor's note

Each month Third District Council woman Ann-Frances Lambert will let her constituents and all other Richmonders know what City Council is doing for them.

SENIOR TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

THE CITY OF RICHMOND's Department of Finance currently has two exemption options available for citizens who are either: age 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled.

The deadline to apply for the Tax Freeze or Tax Relief program is March 31.

REDISTRICTING

The Richmond Decennial Voter District Redistricting process began in early October and will include nearly twenty public meetings and discussions, public hearings, engagement sessions, with a final public hearing in April.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Virginia families now have until May 31 to apply for the Child Care Subsidy Program which provides financial assistance to parents paying for child care.

The program was expanded this year to allow parents to seek money for childcare. Applications for the program were extended to this month.

NOISE ORDINANCE

The City is looking at revisiting and

**AXSELLE
AUTO
SERVICE**

FAMILY OWNED AND
OPERATED FOR 70 YEARS

*Fair Price,
Done Right,
On Time*

YOUR FULL SERVICE
NEIGHBORHOOD AUTO
SERVICE CENTER

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7-5:30

5519 LAKESIDE AVENUE
RICHMOND, VA 23228

266-3574

AUTOSERVICERICHMOND.COM

**The Cane
Connection**

*Professional Caning
and Chair Repair*



Contactless Drop off
and Pick up

Tuesday-Friday, 10-6
*Specializing in fine antique and
your everyday furniture*

6941 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond
261-6555

Documenting Jim Crow on Leather

by FRAN WITHROW

WINFRED Rembert was born in Georgia in 1946 and his mother quickly gave him to her aunt to raise.

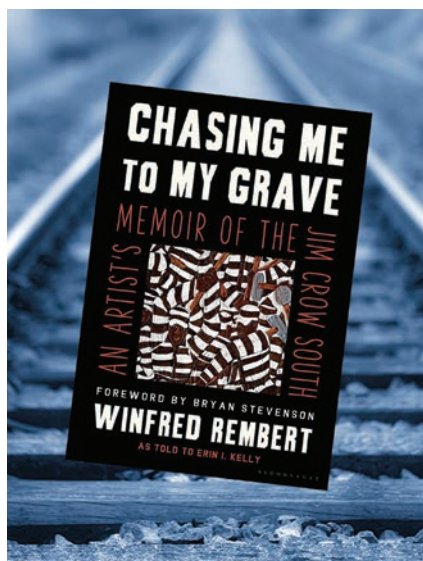
Rembert grew up during the Jim Crow era, got involved in a Civil Rights demonstration in 1967 and stole a car to get away from two white police officers. When caught, he was taken to jail and held for a year without charges being brought against him. Finally he overcame a guard and escaped, but was quickly caught, stripped naked and nearly lynched. He spent seven years on chain gangs as a result.

Rembert met his wife, Patsy, while in prison, and after his release, he struggled to find jobs to support his growing family. (He and Patsy raised eight children and never lost their deep love for one another.) He resorted to drug dealing and went to prison again. But Patsy had faith in him and reminded her husband that he could do anything. At the age of fifty-one and with his prison days behind him, he started painting memories of his life on pieces of leather.

The results are incredible.

Rembert, who died in 2021 at age 75, left behind a deeply moving collection of work documenting life during the Jim Crow era. He painted even when the subject matter made him physically sick. He depicted his near lynching, life on a chain gang, working in cotton fields, and being given away by his mother. His artwork is vibrant, and the themes are a poignant revelation of both the sorrows and the joys of his life.

Rembert told his story to Erin Kelly, a Tufts philosopher, and the resulting book, "Chasing Me to My Grave," is just astonishing. The book is Rembert's oral history but also includes a generous number of his paintings. Some of the paintings are shocking: lynchings and beatings by police. Others are touching: Rembert's lifelong search for his birth mother's love, scenes of camaraderie in town and with family. "Colored Only: State Law" signs are often seen in his art.



His work is a superb yet sobering testament to the relentless suffering and damage experienced by Black people during the Jim Crow era. The legacy of racism was so strong and pervasive Rembert said it would be "chasing him" to his grave.

Rembert talks unabashedly about his prison days, struggles with drugs, and how trying to appease white people created a lifelong sense of vulnerability. He explains that he painted even though the trauma of dealing with a lifetime of racism would cause him to wake up screaming at night.

Reading "Chasing Me to My Grave" is like listening to an older neighbor sit and recall their life. The compelling artwork simply brings that life into stronger relief.

The last painting in the book, "Looking for My Mother," continues to reverberate with me. In it, Rembert, very small, is walking along the railroad tracks, ever searching for the woman who gave him away. There is no end to the tracks in sight, but he keeps on going, perpetually optimistic and never giving up hope.

A fitting end for a book about a remarkable artist. **NJ**

Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South

By Winfred Rembert

\$30.00

Bloomsbury Publishing

286 pages



STIR CRAZY CAFÉ

4015 MacArthur Avenue
Richmond, VA

**We are now open for
dine-in service**

Open 7 days a week from
7:30am to 3:00pm!

Baked goods (muffins, scones, cookies!)
now available for purchase online!

ORDER ONLINE at StirCrazyRVA.com

Delivery now available exclusively
through LoCo - a locally owned delivery
co-op! Order via our website or
download the LoCo app

locorichmond.coop

LoCo

Please stay safe and healthy! We will
continue to keep you posted with all the
newest info here and on our Facebook
and Instagram!

Be safe, be kind, and we look forward
to serving you!

804 864 0264

StirCrazyCafeRVA.com

[facebook/stircrazyrva](https://facebook.com/stircrazyrva)

[instagram/stircrazyrva](https://instagram.com/stircrazyrva)

Tsherin Sherpa: Spirits At the VMFA



Fly High, 2019, by Tsherin Sherpa. Metal leaf, acrylic and ink on canvas

A CAPTIVATING exhibition of paintings and sculptures by the globally acclaimed artist Tsherin Sherpa is now on display at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Artist Tsherin Sherpa was born in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1968, and immigrated to the United States 30 years later.

Tsherin Sherpa: Spirits, the artist's first solo museum exhibition, tells a story of loss, struggle and re-empowerment. "Not only are Sherpa's works in the exhibition visually mesmerizing, but each is layered with meaning. Part autobiography, part social commentary, they contain the artist's contemplation of struggles faced by Tibetans and other displaced peoples while inviting viewers to examine their own experi-

ences with loss and re-empowerment," said exhibition organizer Dr. John Henry Rice, VMFA's E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art.

Free admission to this exhibit is being extended to all employees of the Commonwealth of Virginia employees, and all preschool through 12th grade teachers. Active-duty military and their immediate families can also receive free admission through VMFA's year-round extension of the Blue Star Museums program. Show runs through October 16.

For additional information, call 804 340-1400 or visit VMFA.museum

VMFA
200 North Arthur Ashe Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220

LANDSCAPES BY JASON BENNETT AT ERIC SCHINDLER

Landscapes by Jason Bennett in oil, gouache, and digital. Exhibition runs through March 26.

"Landscapes" features a collection of paintings (utilizing oils, gouache, and digital media) completed primarily onsite in various locations throughout Richmond. "The intent of the work is to study visual phenomena with paint—light, color, shape, texture, and edges," says Bennett. "And to appreciate the beauty of our ever-changing world."

Eric Schindler Gallery
2305 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA



Landscape painting by Jason Bennett



Lilian Kreutzberger, Surfacestructure, digital photo on plastic, at 1708 Gallery

WORKS BY LILIAN KREUTZBERGER AT 1708 GALLERY

1708 Gallery is pleased to announce look&feel | surfacestructure, the first solo exhibition in the U.S. by Dutch artist Lilian Kreutzberger. Kreutzberger's ongoing practice seeks to make the ever-advancing relationship between digital and physical domains tangible. This exhibit examines the influences digital interfaces have on architectures of the material world. Visitors will encounter paintings, laser-cut wood compositions, and sculptural objects

that ask: If digital space was initially designed to mimic the physical world, then how is the material world responding to the now digitally lived experience? Kreutzberger positions this inquiry by considering both systems of display used for the reception of art and the negotiation between built forms, urban design, and historical architectural theory.

This exhibit runs through April 24.

1708 Gallery
319 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23220

MARCH ART EXHIBITS AT THE MAIN RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Gellman Room features "Theme & Variations—Highlights from the COVID Times" artwork by students of the Art Department of John Tyler Community College in celebration of Youth Arts Month.

In the Dooley Foyer, and Dooley Hall experience original artwork by students from Richmond Public Schools in celebration of Youth Arts Month.

On the 2nd Floor Gallery you'll find artwork by the students of Open High School in celebration of Youth Arts Month.

Paintings by Brenna Doherty are on display in the Dooley Foyer Atrium.

The library's permanent collection includes works by Anne Newbold Perkins.

All exhibits run through March 30.

Richmond Public Library
101 E. Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23219

ARTSPACE SATELLITE EXHIBITION AT CVA / U-TURN INC.

Entitled "Theme & Variations - We Thought COVID Would Be Over By Now", Artspace's satellite exhibition features works produced by students who took advanced water color classes last fall at John Tyler Community College. The following artists created bodies of work for this exhibition: Elaine Harris, Linda Hollett-Bazouzi, Hannah Jones, Roni Kingsley, Nishchay Patel, Sallie Lupton Rugg, Janet Scagnelli, and Jeanette Wermuth. The exhibit was curated by Michael A. Pierce, a fine arts instructor at JTCC, who taught the water color classes. Show runs through May 29.

For more information, contact Michael A. Pierce at Mapierce2001@comcast.net

CVA / U-Turn Inc.
2101 Maywill Street
Richmond, VA 23230

Fin & Feather

Pet Center, Inc.

Established 1959



www.fin-feather.com

Open Seven Days a Week

5208 LAKESIDE AVE

Convenient to I-64,
Powhite & I-95 interchange
Just off Exit 80, across
from Franco's

262-6681



Pond Center Open Year Round
**ALL PONDS
AND POND SUPPLIES
\$50 OFF**

\$50 OFF any purchase of \$300 or more
\$25 OFF any purchase of \$199 to \$299.99



For use in Pond Center only. Not valid with any other discounts,
with other coupons, discounts, sale items, cat litter and dog or cat food.
Expires 4/8/22



**FREE
TROPICAL
FISH**

Buy One at Regular Price,
Get One of Equal or Lesser
Value Free

Limit \$5.99 value.
Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 4/8/22

DOG & CAT FOOD



\$2.00 OFF DOG OR CAT FOOD up to 8 lbs
\$3.00 OFF DOG OR CAT FOOD 12 to 25 lbs
\$5.00 OFF DOG OR CAT FOOD 26 lbs or more

Valid for Precise, Eukanuba, Natural Balance and Iams brands, only.
Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 4/8/22

Save on Pet Supplies
\$10 OFF

\$10 OFF any purchase of \$60 or more
\$5 OFF any purchase of \$35 to \$59.99
\$2 OFF any purchase of \$15 to \$34.99

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts, cat litter, dog or cat food.
Not valid on Frontline or Advantage. Expires 4/8/22

\$8 OFF GROOMING



at Fin & Feather

262-1801 New Customers Only

With coupons only. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 4/8/22



**15% OFF
REPTILE SUPPLIES**
With Purchase Of A Reptile

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 4/8/22

Dance with us!



2021/22 Class Season

Covid 19 prices

“Nutcracker” opportunities,
ballet, pointe, jazz, variations, lyrical, contemporary,
conditioning, creative movement, belly dance, tap

Scott Boyer | Lindsay Rhyne Hudson | Lucy Smith

Diane Hale School of Dance joins
Scott Boyer Teaches Dance

Let us send you more information, class schedules, and prices
call: 804 264 6725 | email: scottboyerteachesdance@yahoo.com

FEATURE

Journey of a Veteran Unveiled at McGuire

by **BRIGETTE KELLY**



Portion of Journey of a Veteran as it nears completion.

ARTIST ED TRASK, known for his signature murals that adorn exterior walls throughout the city, most recently completed a work with fellow artist Jason Ford that honors American veterans. Unveiled last month at Hunter Holmes McGuire Hospital this stunning mural shines a searing light on the tribulations of veterans.

“The Central Virginia VA Health Care System has been looking for an opportunity to partner with folks in the community for a mural for a long time,” says David Hodge, who heads up the public affairs office at the VA Hospital. “The piece intends to create a sense of unity and will bring enrichment to the patients’ lives.”

The mural illustrates the lives and stories of servicemen and servicewomen. “As a muralist, my most important responsibility is being a storyteller,” Ed Trask tells me during a recent interview.

To create his portion of the mural, which is titled Journey of a Veteran, Ed interviewed multiple veterans to discover what they went through during combat, and how these experiences affected them.

Ed took iconic symbols from each veteran’s storyline and incorporated them into the mural.

One veteran Ed interviewed provides wheelchairs for the Paralympics Games. Another teaches martial arts

for those in an East End community. And a veteran who served as a nurse in the Afghanistan war now volunteers at McGuire.

“This is what heroism and patriotism means,” says Ed.

He also describes the difficulties of recreating the veterans’ experiences on canvas, “I don’t know their world,” says Ed. “I don’t know what it’s like to go to war, I don’t know what it’s like to be faced with a life or death situation like all of them have.” Ed adds that working on this piece was a humbling experience for him. “I took a lot of things for granted,” he says.

Ed Trask asked Jason Ford, a good friend of his and fellow muralist, to help him bring this art to life. The two met several years ago while working on a project created by Mending Walls—a public art organization that brings people from different backgrounds and cultures together.

“We went to the VA to conceptualize a vision,” says Jason. “I wanted it to be meaningful, not only to myself, but for those who are a part of this process, and for the people who will see it on display.”

Jason says the opportunity to speak with real-life heroes was rewarding. “A lot of these stories go untold and it’s going to affect you,” he says.

Jason also noticed that the veterans he interviewed were both humble and selfless. “They don’t see themselves as heroes,” he says. “They’re helping people, out of love and respect . . .” **NE**

**Buying? Selling?
Call Rebecca**



Listing Agent | 3609 Brook Road | \$770,000

Rebecca D'Angelo
REALTOR®

Creating Community
One Home At A Time

804 874 9709

Virginia Capital Realty

1106 N Thompson Street
Richmond Virginia 23230

dangeloRVarealtor

LICENSED in VIRGINIA





FARMERS' MARKET

Open Year Round

More Info at www.LakesideFarmersMarket.net

WELCOME TO THE FOURTEENTH SEASON AT LAKESIDE TOWNE CENTER
6110 LAKESIDE AVENUE | HENRICO/RICHMOND VA 23228

OFFERING FARM RAISED PRODUCTS, BAKED GOODS, FRESH SEAFOOD,
AND PLANTS AND FLOWERS

YEAR ROUND FARMERS' MARKET

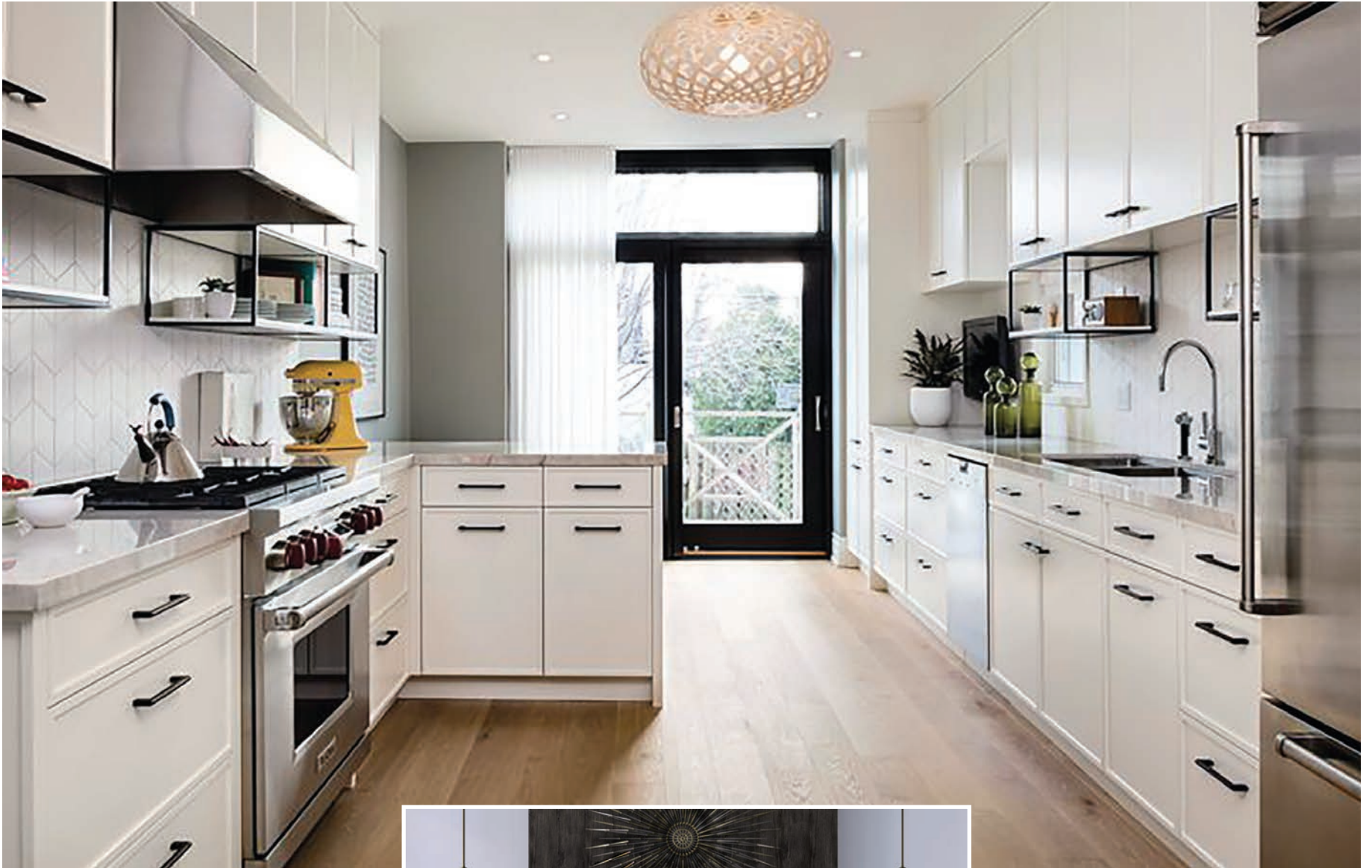
THE FARMERS' MARKET WILL BE OPEN SATURDAY MORNINGS AND WEDNESDAYS.
FOR MARKET HOURS VISIT US ON FACEBOOK.



QUICK AND EASY
FREE PARKING FOR CARS AND BICYCLES—ALL ON A
FLAT SURFACE AND VERY HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Visit us on FACEBOOK for the latest seasonal hours 

Beautiful homes are created at the Corner of Lakeside & Dumbarton.



NOW PROUDLY
OFFERING
**Winndom
Mattresses**

See us on
houzz

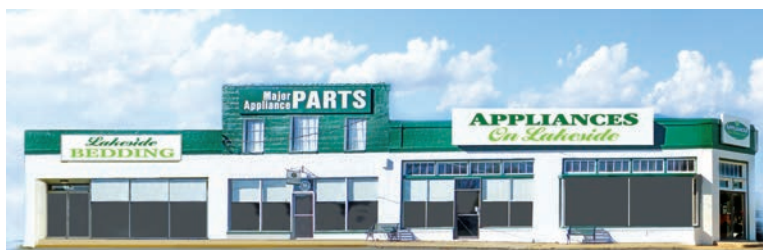


Voted Richmond's
Best
Appliance Store.

From Appliances On Lakeside to Lakeside Bedding, our consultants will work with you to create your beautiful home. And, we're all under one roof! 5418 Lakeside Avenue in Richmond. Parts for all major brands, too! **(804) 266-7621**



LakesideBedding.com



AppliancesOnLakeside.com