

THE OXFORD OBSERVER

VOLUME 13 ISSUE #4

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER OXFORD COMMUNITY

WINTER 2022

AN AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER SERVING 590 HOMES

Oxford Annual Holiday Contest



Here's your chance to display your creativity and holiday spirit! The judges for the Annual Holiday Entryway Contest will be driving around the neighborhood sometime December 19 and December 23 between 7:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. (depending on weather), so be sure to turn on all your holiday lights and decorations that week! Winners will be awarded in the categories of Best Traditional, Most Innovative, and Best Overall. Winners will be listed on the website by December 24.

The judging criteria are:

- **Best Traditional:** The judges will consider the doorway entrance, front porch, and entry stairway (if applicable) and will look for designs in keeping with a colonial or Victorian style. Natural elements in the decorations are encouraged but not necessary. The entryway should be visible from the street by use of flood or spot lighting.

- **Most Innovative:** The judges will look for originality in the decorations of the doorway entrance, front porch and entry stairway (if applicable). This will be an opportunity for contestants to showcase creativity in the use of materials. The entryway should be visible from the street by use of flood or spot lighting.

- **Best Overall:** The judges will evaluate the entire décor of the house and lot; they will consider all the above criteria.

Signs will be posted in the winners' yards. If you have any questions about the contest, contact Valerie Garrett at 804-305-3595. Consider getting into your own car during that week and treating yourself to a wonderful holiday tour around the neighborhood. Good luck and best wishes to all contestants!

We Need Oxford
Member Support



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*Citizen Town
Meeting*



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Front Porch Cameras



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Maggie Walker



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WWW.OXFORDCIVICASSOCIATION.COM

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Observer Staff

The Oxford Observer is a quarterly publication of the Greater Oxford Civic Association.

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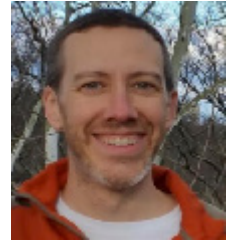
The Observer welcomes articles of interest to Oxford residents.

Articles may be emailed to:
nhs46ff@gmail.com

Published each season by the volunteers listed above.

A Note from the Editor: We will be updating the new website with news items between Observer publications. Send any news items to Niki Sabbath at **nhs46ff@gmail.com**

Presidents Message



As always, fall in Richmond, delivered some gorgeous weather. It's hard to believe that winter is right around the corner.

We enjoyed another great Otoberfest on Saturday, October 15th. About 130 of our amazing neighbors joined us for games, German food, and, of course, festive beverages. The weather could not have been better – about eighty degrees and sunny. Neighbors lingered at the tables and connected over food and drink while soaking up the beautiful weather. I believe that this was also the largest number of young children that I have seen at an Oxford event in the nearly fifteen years that my wife and I have lived here. I know our little Monster - he'll be three in December - enjoyed playing with his new friends. He even tried climbing into someone else's stroller (sorry about that). I don't think he has ever seen so many strollers in one place before. I hope that everyone who came out for the event enjoyed it; those of you who were unable to join us this year, I look forward to seeing you next year. Many thanks (again!) to the planning committee that made Otoberfest possible.

Information about our annual holiday entryway/ decorations contest is in this issue of the Observer. Please look and consider participating. Winners will be announced in the Spring issue.

Lastly, I want to give thanks to the various folks in and around Oxford whose work supports our community – first responders, teachers, everyone in a cleaning profession, delivery drivers, front line, and retail workers. I want to make sure that you all know that your work is acknowledged and very much appreciated. Thank you! Likewise, I invite everyone who reads this to take a moment when you are out and about or, when you get a delivery to say, "Thank you!" to someone who makes your life better.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year,

Anthony C. Corcoran

Treasury Report

October, 2022



INCOME:	1,048.55
EXPENSES:	492.22
CASH BALANCE:	3,286.15

Your 2023 Oxford Membership is due!



Since the pandemic, our membership – and bank balance – have fallen precipitously. To continue to offer the services and events you’ve come to expect, we need to increase our membership.

The Greater Oxford Civic Association has been as active as possible for you! Here are some of the activities we accomplished in 2022:

- We continue to get the Observer out each quarter on schedule; it is put together by volunteers and delivered by your block captains.
- We conducted a National Night Out on August 2nd this year with food, drinks, and a general good time together!
- We held our annual picnic – Oxtoberfest – on October 15 this year; it is paid for by our dues with no extra charge to Oxford residents.
- We conducted the monthly Yard of the Month contest from April to September which encourages our residents to beautify their yards.
- We deliver welcome packets to our new residents with information about Oxford as well as businesses, churches, and other activities in the area.
- In December, the holiday decorations contest generates a lot of participation with some beautiful winners.

- We implemented easier ways for all of us to pay our dues with an electronic option
- We keep our website and Facebook pages up to date with current information and activities.
- The Board continues to work with the City of Richmond on various infrastructure issues: clean-up, drainage, and sign repair.

All these activities and more make our community vibrant. Many of you have moved here from places that have monthly dues. What we do for a mere \$15.00 a year is one of the best uses for your money and it helps you become part of Oxford. Our neighborhood has remained strong over the years due to the combined efforts of all our individual residents, led by your Board.

Our goal is to have over 350 of our residents as members – we need your support to hit this goal!!

Annual dues for GOCA are only \$15.00.

There are two ways to pay:

You can send your check with the dues form on Page 4 to:

Greater Oxford Civic Association,
P.O. Box 3881, Richmond VA 23235 or

If you prefer to pay via Pay Pal, please send \$15 to OxfordCivicAssoc@gmail.com
(Recipient listed id: Courtney Tolmie, GOCA Treasurer).

Please include your address in the payment memo so that we can note that you have paid.

GREATER OXFORD CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2023 DUES - \$15.00

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Address _____

Email _____

I would like to assist with the association's work.

My interests include: _____

Please make check payable to the Greater Oxford Civic Association and mail to:

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Richmond, VA 23235

Greater Oxford Civic Association Board 2021-2022

www.oxfordcivicassociation.com

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	Trip Cash ('22)	cashinsurance@aol.com
	Valerie Garrett ('22)	vgarrett3023@gmail.com
	Mike Martin ('23)	
	Sharon Shaw ('25)	sharonshawj@gmail.com
	Niki Sabbath ('24)	nhs46ff@gmail.com

OctoberFest 2022 ... the BEST yet!

The autumn sun gleaming on the traditional Octoberfest Blue and white decorations teaming with comfortable temperatures and low humidity ... a more perfect day couldn't have been ordered!

Not sure if neighbors were quite ready for what all hoped to be a "post" Covid outdoor gathering, we were very pleased to see to approximately 120 people venture onto the Barningham Strip this year. We also took the opportunity to remind neighbors exactly where the Barningham Strip is located! As a result, we had many more from the north side of Chippenham Parkway than in years past.

Plenty of beer and hard cider awaited our guests along with grilled brats and hot dogs, homemade sauerkraut, fresh vegetables and fruits, cheese trays, hot pretzels and traditional pastries, many of which were homemade. Outdoor versions of familiar games such as Jenga being played by all ages of revelers capped the spirit of a true festival.

The biggest surprise? The number of very well-behaved toddlers. For some, this being their first outdoor party. Dogs of all sizes were also seemingly amused with the spirit and affection of the crowd.

While our Board is a bit smaller than usual this year, all hands were on deck from planning to execution along with some extra hands from volunteers Evelyn Klumb, Peg Shannon, and the graciousness of the surrounding neighbors allowing us to use their portions of the Virginia Power right of way. Thanks to Doug and Trina Alexander for shuffling their outdoor recreational vehicles and allowing us to "siphon" their electricity for the music! The big blue tent was donated for our use by our friends at Bliley's Funeral Home and saved us \$400! The total cost for the event was over \$2400. We invite all neighbors, whether they've paid their membership dues, but we're finding our coffers a bit bare at this point. If you haven't paid your \$15.00 dues, we ask that you please do so! We have other expenses such as the Observer, upkeep of the signs and landscaping, web site maintenance, and the Annual Meeting. We need you!

Thanks to all who volunteered and all who came to visit us. Just a reminder for next year, same place ... 8300 block of Barningham Road between Bicknell Road and Scherer Drive ... look for the iconic Virginia Power towers. Join us for a good time and an opportunity to meet new residents, make new friends and enjoy old acquaintances!



Welcome New Residents

The Greater Oxford Civic Association would like to welcome the following new residents to the Oxford community. If you are a new Oxford resident or you know of a new resident in our neighborhood, please contact Michelle Emrich at michelleemrich9@gmail.com to receive an Oxford neighborhood newcomer packet. This packet, provided by the Oxford Civic Association, is filled with information about Richmond in general and our area in particular, and gives us an opportunity to meet and greet our new Oxford neighbors. We very much want to reach each and every one of our new neighbors, but we need you to let us know when a packet is needed.

Welcome To Oxford!

Joseph and Alyson Baxter and their son Elliott.

8670 Trabue Road.

Rob Stephens and Stevie McFadden
and children Adley (16) and Fletcher (11)

2926 Mohawk Drive.



Halloween in Oxford



3001 Weyburn



8249 Barningham



2864 Bicknell



2908 Mohawk



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4th District Update

By Councilwoman Kristen Nye



Dear Friends and Neighbors of Oxford Neighborhood,

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the fall beauty in our neighborhoods. Thank you to everyone who attended by district meeting on October 27th. I am always so grateful for the robust participation we see in the 4th District, and I was so pleased to see that continue last month.

As we all know, property assessments continue to rise in the City of Richmond and the average increase across the City for FY23 was 13%. In response to the continued increase in assessments and subsequent tax bills, I introduced legislation to reduce the City's tax rate from \$1.20 to \$1.16. The FY23 budget was based on an estimated 9.25% increase in assessments, meaning my proposed reduction would bring the amount of taxes collected in line with what was budgeted. The legislation advanced out of the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee on October 20th and is scheduled for a final vote before the full Council on November 14th.

As Council considers the tax rate legislation, among several other legislative initiatives that will have a direct impact on residents, I wanted to take the opportunity to remind you all of the importance of making your voice heard before the full Council. While I will always remain connected to residents and serve as your voice on Council, it is especially helpful when residents speak before Council directly. You can speak in-person at any Council meeting by simply attending the meeting and lining up when the Clerk calls for public comment. You can also speak virtually by contacting the City Clerk's

office at 804-646-7955 and selecting option 3 or emailing written comments to CityClerksOffice@rva.gov. Virtual speaking sign-ups and written comments are due by 10am on the day of the meeting.

Recently, the Richmond Police Department launched a campaign to educate residents about catalytic convertor theft and spray paint residents' convertors to deter potential thieves. While the available slots for this program filled up almost immediately, I have been assured that more opportunities will soon become available. I will update you as soon as I receive additional information and will continue to work with RPD on public safety measures for our district and City.

I have also had many conversations with residents about zoning, development, and other topics related to the City's master plan, RVA300. Given how pervasive these topics are with our residents, I am planning a meeting in the 4th District with City leaders who are responsible for implementing the master plan. Stay tuned for additional details!

Lastly, I wanted to share that Timmy Siverd is our new 4th District Liaison! He brings experience in higher education and local government and has enjoyed getting to meet and work with so many of our residents in a short time. Please feel free to contact him at Timothy.SiverdJr@rva.gov or 804-646-5646 any time he can be helpful.

As always, you can stay up to date on 4th district meetings, announcements, and events by subscribing to my e-newsletter. Please email Timmy if you need to be added to the newsletter. Thank you all for your continued engagement with our city and district and I look forward to hearing from you any time I or my office can be of assistance.

Sincerely,
Kristen Nye

From Betsy Carr

69th House of Delegates



Greetings to my Oxford Neighbors:

Fall always brings lovely weather and the accompanying festivals and sporting events. Happy belated Diwali to those who observe. The pace of events and activities is picking up in preparation for both the holidays and pre-legislation seasons. I hope you and your loved ones are enjoying the colors and changes of fall.

Election Day

I hope you all voted. Participating in elections is essential to ensuring our system of governance is fair, representative, and productive. On this year's ballot, Virginians voted for their representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. You can see whose district you are currently in, and which of the new districts you will be voting in for this coming election at Who's My Legislator? (virginiageneralassembly.gov) Note that these are the first elections being held in the newly redrawn districts. On that same website, you can look into changes at the state level, which will be on the ballot for the June primary and November general elections in 2023.

Daylight Saving Time Expired

On November 6 at 2 AM, the previous period of Daylight-Saving Time expired, meaning our clocks fell behind 1 hour. This will last until March 12, 2023.

There is some confusion on whether or not the practice of switching clocks between Daylight Saving Time and Standard Time is over. This arises from the U.S. Senate's passage of a bill to keep the U.S. in Daylight Saving

Time year-round. Although this bill did pass the Senate, it has not been acted upon in the House of Representatives, which it must also pass before heading to President Biden's desk. Therefore, we are still set to fall back on November 6 and spring ahead on March 12. Plan accordingly.

JLARC Reports

On Monday, October 17, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) met to present their research and recommendations on several important issues such as affordable housing, progressive tax structure, gaming, and the feasibility of a Petersburg Casino.

You can watch the entire presentation at JLARC's YouTube Channel. You can read JLARC's reports at this link: <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/reports.asp>.

Appropriations Tour of Hampton Roads Region

Earlier this month, I joined my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee (the committee that decides how taxpayer dollars will be spent), for a tour of the Hampton Roads Region. This tour affirmed my appreciation of some of our Commonwealth's proud academic institutions, engines of commerce, and invaluable pieces of living history.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing Fort Monroe, which is not only a National Historic Landmark but also the largest stone fort ever built in the United States, site of the future 1619 African Landing Memorial and host to a rich and diverse history. We also spent time admiring the natural beauty and facilities and accommodations of First Landing State Park, one of 41 state parks in Virginia.

We enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Virginia International Terminals and the Port of Virginia, which was recently recognized as a top-performing port in North America by The World Bank.

(Continued on Page 10)

Betsy Carr
(continued from Page 9)

We also visited another vital contributor to our Commonwealth, Newport News Shipbuilding, which is the sole producer of aircraft carriers and one of two producers of nuclear-powered submarines in the United States. These destinations were exemplars in scale and technological primacy.

Additionally, our tour included Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University, an HBCU (historically black college and university) with 68% of its population receiving Pell Grants. Old Dominion University's Institute for Coastal Adaption and Resilience has been a potent collaborator in promoting and advancing coastal resiliency efforts and innovation, both by leading projects and partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. These two universities are excellently preparing our Commonwealth's students for the future.

Richmond Civilian Review Board

Richmond City Council passed an ordinance to establish a Civilian Review Board. The City is now proceeding with its recruitment process to fill the positions on the board. You can read more about the process at the press release at this link: <https://richmondvacitycouncil.blogspot.com/2022/10/richmond-city-councils-next-steps.html>.

Operation Catalytic Converter Crackdown

Authorities in Central Virginia are teaming up with local partners to try to prevent catalytic converter thefts, which have been on the rise. You can have your catalytic converter painted for free at this website: <https://converter.midasofrichmond.com/>.

Thank You It is an honor to serve in the House of Delegates. Please never hesitate to contact me at delegate.carr@betsycarr.org or 804-698-1069 if I can be helpful to you.

Sincerely,
Betsy Carr

Citizens Meet with Kristen Nye ***By Niki Sabbath and Al Yancey***

On October 4, Oxford neighbors met with Councilwoman Kristen Nye to discuss the recent increase in home assessments Richmond residents have received due to the increase in real estate prices in the area. She had been invited by the Greater Oxford Civic Association Board to our meeting to address Oxford residents' specific concerns on this topic as some of us on the Board had been contacted by our residents. Even though the overall Richmond real estate increase is said to be about 13 percent, many of us have seen increases near or above 20% for the last couple of years due to the steep rise in the sale prices of homes in our neighborhood. Although the real estate market is said to have cooled with the rise in interest rates, the market demand in our area is still extremely strong despite the rising interest rates. Normally the vacancy rate of homes is about 15-20 percent; in September 2022, it was 1 percent, according to the Richie McKeithen, Richmond City Assessor.¹

Ms. Nye has introduced a bill to reduce the tax rate by 4 cents, which would lower the rate to \$1.16 per \$100 assessed value on a home - or about a 3.3% drop. Her proposal has advanced out of committee, but Mayor Stoney's office does not support a tax reduction at this time. A member of the audience suggested that a reduction of .10 cents would be more appropriate to offset the recent increases.

Ms. Nye encourages all residents to contact any city council members they know to support her bill to lower taxes. We encourage all our residents to contact Ms. Nye about this and we on the Board will continue to monitor this serious issue as well.

¹ <https://www.nbc12.com/2022/09/07/richmond-property-values-jump-assessments-hit-mailboxes/>

Front Porch Cameras

By Larry Sabbath

The homes of many Richmond residents are protected by security systems. For years the primary option for the homeowner was to hire a private security firm to install door and window sensors and perhaps motion detectors inside the home. More elaborate installations may include a camera. Such a system usually includes a 24-hour monitoring system that alerts police in case of a possible break-in. It may also include fire detection.

A more recent development is the front door camera. These devices can be a relatively inexpensive method for identifying activity on the porch. They detect motion and use the home's Wi-Fi system to send a message to a resident's smartphone. Live video from the porch can then be viewed via an application on the smartphone. Some of these cameras can be integrated with a doorbell to enable a resident to see who is visiting and in some cases may include voice communication.

Many of the cameras on the market today are relatively inexpensive and can be installed by a handy individual. However, there are significant differences among the products being offered that may help determine whether "do it yourself" makes sense. The most relevant issue is the power source. Options for powering cameras include hard wiring, batteries, and solar.

Most of these cameras have rechargeable batteries as an option. But a critical consideration for the buyer is how long the charge will last. Some reviewers have cited the need to recharge in as short as three weeks, yet others have cited some batteries that last up to a year. Battery life can often be extended by adjusting motion sensitivity or recording length.



Be aware that the purchase of a camera and possible installation are not the only expenditures incurred. A small monthly fee is typically charged to store recordings in the cloud.

Other issues to consider include:

- Response time—how long after detecting motion does it take the camera to record
- Resolution—what quality picture do you want
- Angle of coverage—cameras differ on how wide an area is viewed
- Night vision—the quality of recording at night varies. Some higher end cameras include lighting.
- Privacy—some may be concerned with who has access to the stored recordings.
- Additional camera locations—should the back door be covered? Multiple cameras can be included in your Wi-Fi application

Front porch cameras may serve to let a homeowner know who is making a delivery or has been on the porch. It may also serve to deter someone from stealing a package. But such a camera does not substitute for a complete home security system. Such systems have traditionally been installed by professionals but are now available to the do it yourselfer.

Oxford Real Estate Round-Up 2022

by Wayne Gauthier



Top Sale - 3713 Whiteway Rd - For another month, the top seller in our neighborhood had been significantly updated and modernized. Taking walls down to open what was once a closed off kitchen puts this home on the forefront of current design trends. The 3,302 square feet and 4 beds is comparable to many new construction offerings these days but can't offer the convenience of the Oxford neighborhood. Homes appreciate at a higher rate in our community if investments are made in the proper upgrades and improvements. The Average Sale price in this period was \$507,700 and the average size was 2,872 sq. ft.

Aug 16, 2022 - Oct 30, 2022

Address	Fin SF	# Bedrooms	Style	Sales Price	Sales Date
8531 Trabue Rd	2040	4	Ranch	\$425,000	2022-08-17
3525 E Weyburn Rd	2015	3	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$455,000	2022-09-02
8341 Charlise Rd	2484	4	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$480,000	2022-08-16
3300 Archdale Rd	4082	4	2-Story, Ranch	\$498,000	2022-08-29
3303 Archdale Rd	3306	3	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$584,000	2022-10-14
3713 Whitewood Rd	3302	4	Modern, Ranch	\$600,000	2022-08-17

Data taken from the Chesterfield and City of Richmond tax records and the Central Virginia Regional Multiple Listing Service. Transactions Recorded between 08/16/2022 - 10/30/2022.

Wayne Gauthier, Joyner Fine Properties, is a Licensed Real Estate Agent in Richmond, Virginia.

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RECIPE CORNER
Favorite Family Recipes

Whipped Cream Pound Cake
Submitted by Peg Shannon

Ingredients:

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
3 cups sugar
6 lg. eggs
3 cups unsifted all - purpose flour
1 cup (1/2 pt.) heavy cream
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Directions:

Grease and flour a 10-inch Bundt pan.
In a large bowl with an electric mixer, beat butter until fluffy. Add sugar and beat until well combined. Add eggs one at a time beating after each addition. Stir flour into butter mixture alternately with heavy cream. Beat in vanilla.
Pour batter into the prepared pan and set into a COLD oven. Heat oven to 325* and bake 75 min. until light golden brown.
Cool cake in the pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes Remove cake from the pan and cool completely on a wire rack.
May be served plain or with a variety of toppings. (your choice). Freezes well.

If you would like to share an old favorite recipe for a future newsletter, please send it to Niki Sabbath at nhs46ff@gmail.com

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Scan QR for your Oxford Home Value



Maggie Lena Walker (1864-1934), c 1885.

Editor's Note: the following article is from the Facebook page "Old Images of Richmond" and reprinted with permission from Christopher B. Coleman

At the turn of the 1900's, Maggie Lena Walker was one of the foremost female business leaders in the United States. She gained national prominence when she became the first woman to own a bank in the United States. Walker's entrepreneurial skills transformed black business practices while also inspiring other women to enter the field.

Walker was born to Elizabeth Draper, a former slave, who worked for abolitionist Elizabeth Van Lew, Richmond's most notorious Union spy during the Civil War. Mrs. Walker's biological father, a 22-year-old Irish immigrant, Eccles Cuthbert, was a Confederate soldier and nurse at Richmond's Chimborazo Hospital complex. In 1868, when Ms. Draper married a fellow Van Lew servant, William Mitchell, her daughter took his name. After Mitchell's murder in 1876, to make ends meet, his widow washed laundry with the help of her children. She lived with her mother, stepfather, and a sibling in a house on College Alley near the Medical College of Virginia. She attended the Old Lancasterian School, and later the Navy Hill School, and became a member of First African Baptist Church in 1878.

When Walker graduated in 1883, she was among ten students in her class who gained national fame in their unsuccessful protest demanding use of Richmond's public facilities for their graduation ceremonies. After graduation, Walker taught school for a time and continued her own education by taking classes in accounting. In 1886 she married Armstead Walker Jr., a successful bricklayer and contractor. They had three sons, one of whom died in infancy. They also adopted a niece.

When Walker was 14, she joined the Independent Order of St. Luke's, an African American benevolent organization that helped the sick and elderly in Richmond. Within the organization, Walker held many high-ranking positions.



While she was still a young teenager, Walker joined the Good Idea Council # 16 of the Independent Order of the Sons and Daughters of St. Luke, a fraternal organization. She worked her way up in the organization to Right Worthy Grand Outside Sentinel, Inside Sentinel, Grand Messenger, Vice Chief, and by 1890, Chief. In 1899 Walker was elected as Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

When Walker took the helm, the organization had about \$32 in assets and \$400 in debt. Using her business acumen, Walker launched a number of ventures that bolstered the organization's coffers and membership rolls. Under Walker's leadership, the group began printing a newspaper, the St. Luke Herald, in 1902. She encouraged African Americans in Richmond to harness their economic power by establishing their own institutions through the newspaper.

In 1903 they opened a three-story brick building that housed the St. Luke's headquarters, a print shop, and a lecture hall and meeting space that could be used by the public.

Most notable, under Walker's leadership, the organization founded the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank on November 2, 1903, and she became the first African American female bank president in the nation. The bank was a powerful representation of black self-help in the segregated South. The Penny Savings Bank not only attracted adults but Walker worked to appeal to children by passing out bank books which encouraged them to save their money.

In the spring of 1905, she opened the St. Luke Emporium, a department store, which moved in November to 112 Broad Street.

In 1915, Walker's husband was killed by her son, after he mistook him for a burglar. Her husband's passing left her in charge of a large estate.

She continued working for the Order of St. Luke's but also held leadership positions in other civic organizations, including National Association of Colored Women (NACW). During Walker's thirty-five-year tenure, the Independent Order of St. Luke's membership grew to more than 100,000, including more than 20,000 children, in twenty-three states, with a strong presence in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. Walker's leadership and success catapulted her to national fame. She also served as the Vice President of the Richmond chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

By 1924, the Penny Savings Bank had spread to other parts of Virginia and included more than 50,000 members. While other banks collapsed during the Great Depression St. Luke's Penny Saving survived. Unfortunately, with the economic downturn that marked the Great Depression, Walker and the leaders of the bank were forced to merge with two other banks to become Consolidated Bank and Trust and moved to downtown Richmond.

Towards the end of her life, Walker was slowed by health issues. After an illness in 1928, Walker was forced to use a wheelchair, which required that an elevator be installed in her house, and that the items necessary for her daily use, like her car and desk, be specially fitted to accommodate her. Although limited in movement, Walker remained a leader in the Richmond African American community. She fought arduously for women's rights as well. For much of her life Walker served as board member of the Virginia Industrial School for Girls.

On December 15, 1934, Walker died from complications due to diabetes. Walker's house in Richmond has since been designated a National Historic Site by the National Park Service.

Sources: womenhistory.org, nps.gov

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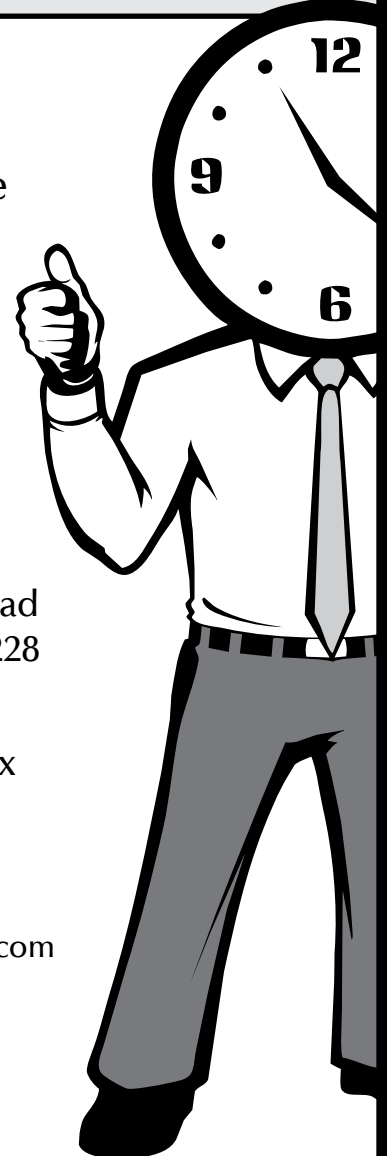
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Richmond Department of Public Works

LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

2021-2022



DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) OPTIONS

1). Compost or Mulch
Improve soil structure, balance soil's pH & increase water retention
Need to order a compost bin?
Email: AskPublicWorks@rva.gov

2). Dispose of loose leaves at:

East Richmond Road Convenience Center (ERRCC)
3800 East Richmond Road
Richmond, VA 23223
Accepts only loose leaves or leaves in biodegradable bags

Maury Street Landfill
2900 Maury Street
Richmond, VA 23224
Accepts only loose leaves or leaves in biodegradable bags

Transfer Station
3506 North Hopkins Road
Richmond, VA 23224
Note: accepts ALL bagged leaves

BAGGED COLLECTION OPTION

Beginning October 4, 2021

- Up to 10 bags collected on normal trash day
- Biodegradable plastic bags preferred
- Place bags near supercan

VACUUM SERVICE OPTION

Available November 1, 2021
\$30 for each vacuum request

Vacuum service may be delayed during inclement weather.

- Make sure leaves are raked to the curb or property line but not into the street or gutter
 - Leaves must be raked and ready for pickup when service request is made
 - Remove sticks, stones or other objects that may damage equipment
- Leaves will be picked up within 15 days from date of request

Payment Methods:
Include on Utility Bill
Make online request at RVA311.com
or by calling 3-1-1

OR

Mail (check/money order only)*
City Hall
Attn: DPW Vacuum Service
900 East Broad Street, Room 704
Richmond, VA 23219

*A service request ID number is generated for requests made through RVA311.com, please include that number on your check/money order.

Go to: www.rva.gov/public-works or call 3-1-1 or 646-LEAF

Sector 4 -OXFORD
TUESDAY TRASH COLLECTION
Bagged Leaves will be picked up between
Dec 14 and Dec 31

SNOOPMASTER

Signs of Controversy?

A curious resident recently asked, "Whatever happened to the 'controversy' of the erection of Oxford signs with the residents of Stratford Hills?"

... which played out on the Next Door social media platform last year.

Wow! ... could Snoopmaster's evil twin (you know, the snarky one) have a field day with that one! Emails traded very quickly between Board Members for the Oxford Civic Association in early October of 2021 when a Board member was tipped off about the maelstrom being propagated on Next Door regarding our signs. You know, the ones we worked hard to pay for, got permission to erect including a permit from the City or County when on public property ... or generous individual landowners ... which included numerous visits to City Hall and the Urban Design Committee to get approval. The ones that have had prior signs on some of those sites since 1960 when Chippenham Parkway opened.

The "long term" resident carped about "who's the person who single handedly has taken it upon themselves to re-name Stratford Hills and better question WHY? ... I've seen you tending to the signs so please share why you decided to take it upon yourself to label our area as such?" The inquisitor, pardon, inquirer (watch it Snoop ... get that twin from over your shoulder!) also wanted to know "who's permission do you have to erect these signs to rename Stratford Hills... I don't recall anyone asking me/neighborhood ... (who's behind) 'the moving of these Oxford signs on Cherokee and Chippenham' ... 'and worst of all, that huge new sign at Huguenot and Cherokee? Who said it was, "okay"? Regarding the new naming of Stratford Hills, the inquirer wanted to know "who is making that a thing"?

Our intrepid Infrastructure Chair flew into action, (even before asking the permission of the Board to do so and had to apologize later) quickly wishing to calm down the situation before we had armed citizenry on both sides of Rattlesnake Creek ready to defend their turf... wrote a "short" tutorial (guy tends to be a bit pedantic when given the opportunity) explaining the development of the area back to 1936. This opus by our Chair went into the

history of the area and the fact that Oxford (Oxford on the James, Oxford Hills, Oxford Addition, and just plain Oxford) has been around as a separate sub division since 1952 and has had numerous signs of different material and type since the 1950s. Careful to point out that there is no intention to overshadow the folks of Stratford Hills, but merely a tradition to replace existing signs and erect new ones as a way of promoting our neighborhood as one that's vital and proud of it's being ... even offering to help Stratford Hills erect signage of their own ... what A Guy!

Well, sadly, it went downhill after that. There were many ardent Oxford residents (and two from Stratford Hills) lending support of our attempt to explain and defuse the situation while monitoring the quickly unfolding developments online ... the inquirer then attempted to label our signs as "divisive and elitest". I dunno ... have you ever traveled down Shirley Road ... or Stratford, especially close to the river? These homes make my humble Oxford abode look like an outhouse ... pardon, outbuilding (I said, get outta here Twin!). While some might take the signs as possibly creating a divide (other than geographical) I can truthfully say as a long time Oxford resident of 23 years and since 1955 as an adjacent resident, never would these be "signs" of elitism or pretension. We're just not that kind ... nor have reason to be.

I will say though, while feeling a bit defeated by not winning over this would be convert, we've not had a single incidence of vandalism at the Cherokee/Huguenot site. Not one. Prior to the public airing of the explanation, we'd had numerous attempts to displace the sign by pulling it out of the ground and the theft of the post finials. At least we've calmed someone down. We also have new welded finials and steel reinforced concrete mooring. Yep, a bill of about \$800. By the way, upon investigation, the complainant doesn't live in Stratford Hills after all ... he lives in Cherokee Hills ...in the Stratford Hills "area".

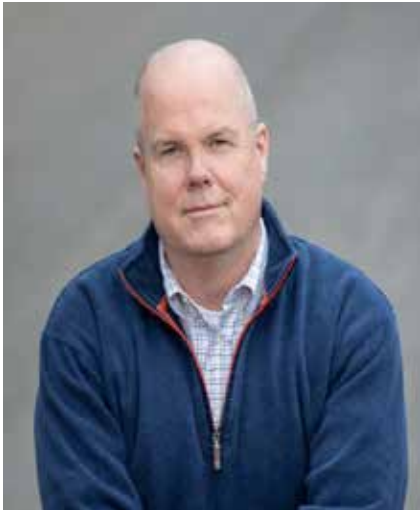
When in doubt, check your deeds.! Keep those questions coming!

If you have a question regarding an issue on life in Oxford, please visit our web site at: www.oxfordcivicassociation.com under the tab "Questions for Board" or mail your question to Oxford Association, P.O. Box 3881, Richmond, Virginia 23235. If you have a question, but don't wish it to be published, please still contact us using the Post Office Box. Let us know you wish a private response; be sure your contact information listed. Questions will be answered by the Infrastructure Chair or President.

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Music for Burglars

One of the best deterrents against burglars is to leave the stereo or television on while away from home since burglars prefer to enter and pilfer quiet houses.



Planting Desirable Yard-Sized Trees

Attractive tree species that are smaller in size than the forest giants oaks, maples, tulip poplars, and loblolly pines include evergreens such as Holly, Cedar and Hemlock, and deciduous trees such as Dogwood, Japanese Maple, Black Gum, and Crepe Myrtle. While trees can be planted anytime as long as they are watered for one to two years, it's best to plant in the fall when the tree is dormant and there is plentiful moisture in the ground. You likely will not have to start watering those trees until late spring of the next year. Don't plant a tree in a location where a stump was ground out, however. While a tree will grow fast there, when it gets larger it may tip over in the loose, highly organic soil.

The Next Annual Oxford Yard Sale will be in April 2023

Our next Annual Oxford Yard Sale will be in April 2023 on a Saturday, the date to be determined later. So, start filling your boxes with your unused, unneeded items which, will become someone else's treasures, and put cash in your pocket. Oxford has having one of the best yard sales in Richmond. Join in next spring. It's fun and you'll make some new friends from the neighborhood.

Meet Anne-Marie Irani
Owner of Natalie's Taste of Lebanon
By Niki Sabbath

Some of you may remember Max's Positive Vibes Cafe, a restaurant in Stratford Hills Shopping Center. A dedicated advertiser in the Oxford Observer, Positive Vibes unfortunately closed recently. But from every lemon, comes lemonade: Natalie's Taste of Lebanon has moved into the space previously occupied by Positive Vibes. Natalie's is a wonderful addition to the dining choices near our neighborhood!

Natalie's Taste of Lebanon was in Glen Allen from December 2016 until April of this year. Both Natalie's and Positive Vibes are associated with the Positive Vibes Foundation. Positive Vibes closed during the pandemic, and the lease was ending in the Glen Allen space; it was a no-brainer for Natalie's to take over the location of Positive Vibes. What a stroke of good luck for our neighborhood! Good food with the same mission: to provide employment in the restaurant business for individuals with disabilities.

The Positive Vibes Foundation trains students for work in the food service industry, hospitality, and grocery business. Areas of training include, according to its website: "cleaning and sanitizing, proper use of kitchen utensils, food safety, commercial dishwashing, communication in the workplace, interviewing, and job seeking. The program typically lasts four weeks and culminates with a graduation ceremony. Each graduate, in the end, is prepared for job seeking, interviewing, and working in the foodservice industry." Since 2004, the Positive Vibes Foundation has trained over 1700 graduates for employment in the food service industry. The training includes an internship working in a restaurant. Natalie's now employs six graduates of the program.

Positive Vibes Foundation partners with the Chesterfield and Henrico Public schools to find students.

Anne-Marie Irani, owner of Natalie's Taste of Lebanon, was born in Lebanon but did her medical training in Boston, where she met her husband, Larry Schwartz; both are allergists here in Richmond. She has lived in the United States since 1980. They have three sons, Paul, Marc and Danny and a daughter, Natalie, for whom the restaurant is named. In addition to completing the Positive Vibes Foundation's training program, Natalie has completed the Food Service Assistant Career Studies Certificate under the Pave Certificate program at J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College. She is currently the hostess at Natalie's.



Anne Marie & Natalie

Anne Marie has decorated the restaurant with Lebanese paintings and other art-work. She picks up decorations when she visits Lebanon. She has not visited Lebanon since the pandemic, but hopes to in the near future. She individually oversaw the décor, which is Mideastern with a modern flair. She has not visited Lebanon since the pandemic but hopes to visit in the near future to see family and purchase more artifacts for the restaurant.

If you haven't dined at Natalie's Taste of Lebanon, I encourage you to give it a try. The atmosphere is casual and the food delicious. The chefs prepare healthy and authentic Lebanese food, often using Anne Marie's family recipes; there are also vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options. There is a private room for rental, plus outdoor seating is available. There are special events at Natalie's such as Tummy Tuesdays (belly dancing) or jazz nights. Check nataliesrva.com or their Facebook page for details. Natalie's is located at 2825 Hathaway Rd. in the Stratford Hills Shopping Center.





Please present this ad when visiting Natalie's and receive one small Mezza option free with the purchase of any signature entrée.



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