

THE OXFORD OBSERVER

VOLUME 14 ISSUE #3

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER OXFORD COMMUNITY

FALL 2023

AN AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER SERVING 590 HOMES

Oxtoberfest
October 14, 2023
2:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Barningham Strip



The Greater Oxford Civic Association Board will be hosting its Oxtoberfest celebration on October 14, 2023, from 2:30 to 5:30. Please join us on the Barningham Strip. Enjoy beer and German fare while socializing with your neighbors. Children and dogs are welcome! This is our biggest event of the year, so please take advantage of free food while meeting your neighbors.

Auto Larceny



Page 5

Prevent Crimes



Page 6

Porch Cameras



Page 8

Citizen Policing



Page 24

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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



I hope you all are having a great summer!

Our National Night Out Party on August 1 was a big success; we are so pleased with the turnout. An article and pictures are in this issue of the Observer. We are planning Otoberfest, which will take place on October 14, from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. It's a great time for residents of all ages and we hope you will put it on your calendar! If you would like to help, please e-mail Sharon Shaw or me for ways to help.

National Night Out Welcome! Or in Spanish – Bienvenido

On August 1, approximately 100 neighbors (one of our best turnouts ever) met on Barningham Strip for National Night Out, an annual event to bring communities and police departments together to promote safety in neighborhoods. We were pleased to meet police from both the City of Richmond and Chesterfield County, plus the ambulance crew. Even McGruff appeared to the delight of both children and adults! Neighbors dined on tasty Mexican cuisine: tacos, enchilada casserole, tostados, corn salsa plus churros and watermelon for dessert. The weather cooperated with moderate temperatures and low humidity. What a wonderful event!

Treasury Report

June, 2023



| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| INCOME: | 110.00 |
| EXPENSES: | 20.99 |
| CASH BALANCE: | 5,016.63 |

Virtually all of us are aware of the crime activity going on, not just in and around Oxford but all over the Richmond area. For many years, Oxford has generally been blessed with a very low level of crime. We on the Board are committed to doing all we can to return to that security and make our neighborhood as safe as possible. It's important to remember that crime is unfortunately not just a recent problem although it flared up this summer. The need for a connected community was one of the main reasons the OCA re-started back in the mid 1980's. Crime watch groups all over the Richmond area formed in reaction to what was happening back then. That is why the OCA (now GOCA) worked hard to get Block Captains on every block of our neighborhood - and we have had them ever since. We will be writing about steps to prevent crime from occurring in a separate article in this Observer.

We are thankful to all of you who have paid your 2023 dues. We have exceeded our 2022 membership level at over 200 hundred homes having joined or re-joined the Association -and we are hopeful that more of you will join in the weeks ahead.

Finally, the leaves will be falling in the very near future. For Richmond residents, you can place them on the street side of your property and the city charges \$30 a pick-up. This is FAR cheaper than private leaf collection costs, so I encourage you to use it. The best time for most of us is in mid-to late December, depending on how cooperative your trees are in dropping the leaves! The city information on how to schedule and pay for the pick-up will be posted on the city's website at the end of September. We will print a more detailed schedule in our winter issue of the Observer.

I look forward to seeing you all at Oxtoberfest!



Oxford Garden Club News

By Patricia Parsons

Horticulture, Conservation or Design. Topics for Garden Club programs usually fall into one of these categories. But cooking? Why Not? Members of the Oxford Garden Club and their guests are looking forward to our October 17 meeting at which Shiela Weisensale will discuss Cooking with Fresh Herbs.

Known for their gardening prowess, Shiela Weisensale and her husband have transformed the backyard of their Ginter Park home into a show-place, featuring among other planted areas, a large flower bed, a cutting garden, a sunroom garden for shade loving plants, and a formal herb garden. I telephoned Shiela to ask if she wanted to make any comments about the upcoming program. She had the following suggestion: "One thing I really love for the clubs to do when I come to talk about cooking with fresh herbs, is to have the refreshment committee for that month make all the refreshments with fresh herbs.

I'll be providing samples of things I've made using fresh herbs from my garden. If other people bring dishes using fresh herbs, it just makes the meeting so much more fun." Given her enthusiasm and spirit of generosity that came across the line, I hung up feeling we're going to have a lively meeting in October!

Our November meeting will include a potluck luncheon and a workshop at which we will make flower arrangements for our own Thanksgiving tables.

If you are not a member of the Garden Club but would like to attend any of our meetings as a guest, please call Ashley Mackey at (804) 437-2891.

The Oxford Garden Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Masonic Lodge at 6787 Forest Hill Avenue next to Dunkin Donuts. Refreshments are served at 9:30 and the meeting begins at 10:00

Not So Secret Garden

By Niki Sabbath

As you enter the parking lot of the Bon Air library, you will see a tall red maple tree at the corner of the library to your left. The root system of a red maple is so dense and complex that it is impossible to grow other plants underneath it. The tree, plus poor drainage in the area, prohibited plants from thriving and left the area neglected and unsightly. Benches previously placed under the tree were sinking into the ground and were unsteady. (See photos)

Last February, Pam ORourke and Evelyn Klumb, members of the Oxford Garden Club, decided to transform the area. Because of the tree cover, plants which enjoyed the shade were chosen: ferns, begonias, hostas, Lenten rose, goats' beard and epemedium. Rocks were collected and a proper drainage system was created. Children have even painted some rocks and put them in the garden. The benches were moved and made more stable in the ground. Pam and Evelyn continue to maintain the garden and are planning for more flowers and shrubs in the fall. Note the difference! Thanks so much for beautifying part of our neighborhood, Pam and Evelyn!





LARCENY FROM AUTO

Chesterfield County Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit (804) 318 - 8699

Did you know that larceny from automobiles is a crime of opportunity that requires little to no skill on an offender's part? Unfortunately, people often leave their vehicles unlocked and keep valuable items in plain view for the world to see. It only takes a little effort to defend against these types of larcenies. By being proactive and adjusting your behaviors a little, you can save yourself a lot of trouble and expense.

- NEVER leave your car unattended – especially if unlocked – with the engine running.
- While out and about, try to park in well lit, high visibility locations.
- Keep your vehicle locked at ALL times. This applies whether your car is in a parking lot or in your driveway.
- Keep windows and sunroofs closed completely.
- NEVER leave valuables, such as purses, laptop computers, portable music players, GPS units, cameras, CDs, weapons, tools, cell phones or cash, in your vehicle. If you must keep purchases in the vehicle while out shopping, for example, keep them in the trunk or completely out of view.
- Do not leave book bags, gym bags or luggage in view as an offender assumes they contain valuables.
- Do not leave your car title, registration or insurance information in your vehicle. Always keep it in your purse or wallet.
- Invest in an auto alarm system. Place alarm decals on the windows to help deter offenders.
- Cut the back of inspection stickers to prevent removal from the windshield.
- Do not hide spare keys in or under your vehicle – offenders know where to find them!
- Do not hesitate to report suspicious persons in or around vehicles.



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How to prevent Crime

By Al Yancey

We all need to be vigilant to prevent crime. We have good contacts within the Richmond and Chesterfield Police who were at our National Night Out; they are currently being pro-active, but they cannot solely be our first line of defense. We – the citizenry - are really the first line of defense in Oxford. Here are ways we can work to prevent crime:

1. Get to know the neighbors on your road. Sue and I advise some of our neighbors, when we are traveling for any length of time, to watch for any unusual or suspicious activity at our home.
2. Get to know your Block Captain. A list of Block Captains and their contact information is in this Observer. Report any suspicious activity immediately to the police, then to your block captain.
3. Mike Martin is the overall GOCA Crime Watch coordinator; his email address is martin1635@comcast.net. Let him know of any such activity. He reports any activity to the GOCA Board at each of our monthly meetings. If we think it appropriate, we will send out a neighborhood-wide notice to all our homes. (We did this with the cars stolen in July 2023).
4. We are blessed with large lots in Oxford. This reduces overall traffic. Be watchful for any unknown faces and unusual vehicles or behavior in your neighborhood. Let whoever goes by know you are watching.
5. Install cameras. Many of our residents already have door cams and others have yard cams. The more we have, the better we can (hopefully) identify the criminals coming onto our property.

6. If you have outside lights, keep them on overnight. We started doing that over a year ago, and with LED's it doesn't cost much in electricity.

7. Lock your car doors and make sure you don't keep anything valuable in your car overnight. Thefts continue to be frequent, and we all must do this if we are going to stop them. It's not just about you or me; If they are consistently finding all cars secured, this may result in them picking another neighborhood.

8. Years ago, I had a problem of someone throwing litter into one of my lots on East Weyburn. I decided I was going to watch them on the night of the week it seemed to be happening, so I parked over on Grimsby Rd. after dark. As I was sitting there, a police car showed up. One of the folks on Grimsby called the police on me as a suspicious vehicle!! I was VERY thankful they did that, as it showed they paid attention to what I am discussing here about vigilance. (Far more important than my litter problem). If you have a gut feeling or concern, don't hesitate to report it.

9. If you see suspicious activity, do not engage the suspects. The police have advised us to call 911 and let them take it from there. You could possibly be putting yourself in danger should you try to take action on your own.

10. Finally, feel free to pass along any suggestions you have to Mike Martin and me and we will share them in future Observers.

*Please consider attending the Citizens Police Academy this Fall
See back cover of this newsletter for information*

Oxford Block Captains

Mike Martin - Crime Watch Coordinator 272-2980

City of Richmond - North of Chippenham Parkway

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| Randy Allen | Huguenot btw Chippenham and Riverside | 320-1675 |
| Cindy & Scott Flowers | W. Weyburn btw Whitewood and Sherbrook | 272-2138 |
| Michelle Emrich | W. Weyburn btw Whitewood and Chippenham | 539-1104 |
| Cathy Edwards | all Charlise | 272-8166 |
| Jacques Fuentes | Chippenham, Whitewood to Charlise | 320-0706 |
| Marc Rondeau | Whitewood btw Charlise and W. Weyburn | 330-0672 |
| Ken Davis | all Sherbrook | 320-6857 |
| Kathy McDaniel | all Halesworth | 272-1948 |
| Peggy Shannon | Cherokee btw Huguenot and Sherbrook | 320-4526 |
| Marge Bailkowski | 4212-4400 Arrowhead, 8350 Cherokee | 356-3628 |
| Janet Hammer | 4601-4690 AH; 8135,8143,8151 Riverside | 323-4288 |
| Audrey Oddi 4 | 411-4549 AH; 8201,8301RS; 4600,4608 OP | 320-6161 |
| Diana Williams | all Wynclyff | 320-9770 |
| Ernie Plante | Blaine, Grimsby, Duncaster, 3523-3921 EW | 370-3716 |

City of Richmond - South of Chippenham Parkway

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| Scott Germain a | Il Sherbrook | 852-2644 |
| Leslie Iachini all Rubimont | | 213-6478 |
| Claire Schlicht herle | Abbey west of Sherbrook, 3366 Sherbrook | 513-3009 |
| Diane & Chris Bacon | Lethbridge, 8122-8142 Aby, 3240-3303 Arch | 323-0366 |
| Sharon Shaw | 3111-3231 Archdale | 320-4393 |
| Charlene & Brennan Hartley | 2901-3110 Archdale | 365-8363 |
| Candice Tam & Dan Park | all Darnley | 307-5630 |
| Dave Lundgren | Ammonett btw E. Weyburn and Stratford | 272-6124 |
| Paulette Wilson (AC 646) | E. Weyburn btw Bicknell and Stratford | 554-3334 |
| Jeff Gill | E. Weyburn btw Ammonett and Bicknell | 272-6040 |
| Tom Sadler | E. Weyburn btw Trabue and Ammonett | 320-2820 |
| Charles Peraino | E. Weyburn btw Chippenham and Trabue | 323-4482 |
| Joe Deloria | all Halstead | 330-0078 |
| Niki Sabbath (AC 703) | Bicknell btw Barningham and E. Weyburn | 867-4637 |
| Gene Louderback | Ammonett btw E. Weyburn and Bicknell | 716-8391 |
| George Parsons | all Barningham | 272-4619 |
| Paula Lowry | Bicknell btw Barningham and Sherbrook | 560-5580 |
| Jim & Mirian Wickham | all Trabue | 272-4916 |

Chesterfield County

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Wiley Ruth | Brixham btw Mohawk and Scherer | 272-2856 |
| Valerie Garretall | Scherer | 305-3595 |
| Patti Bianchi | all Sherbrook Court | 320-8880 |
| Patti Bianchi T | rabue north of Brixham | |
| Marcia Phillips | Trabue south of Brixham | 320-5180 |
| Karen Brower | Halstead north of Brixham | 323-0129 |
| Jerome Bobowski | Halstead btw Brixham and McCaw | 330-7881 |
| Martha & Charlie Donato | Brixham btw Mohawk and Trabue | 355-3156 |
| Jane Tucker | Mohawk btw McCaw and Scherer | 320-3299 |

Front Porch Cameras

By Larry Sabbath

Editor's Note: Because of the recent increase of auto thefts in the neighborhood, we thought this article on front porch cameras, warrants a second publication.

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. These recordings will include
- 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.



4th District Update

By Councilwoman Kristen Nye



Greetings, Greater Oxford Civic Association friends and neighbors!

I hope this message finds you in good spirits and enjoying this exciting – if hot! – season! Whether you're looking forward to sending young ones off to school, feeling bittersweet about sending older ones off to college, or just trying to survive the summer heat/humidity, I hope you've been able to create some positive memories here in the 4th District this summer!

We remain quite busy in the 4th District office and I'm happy to have a number of updates to share with you all:

- **Utility Bills and Tax Accounts:** We continue to see a steady stream of resident inquiries seeking help with their utility bills and tax accounts. If you are experiencing an issue with either of these, such billing for water usage above what seems reasonable or any issue with a real estate or personal property tax bill, please contact my office so we can connect you with the appropriate City agencies.

- **Reedy Creek Cleanup:** I'm hosting a Reedy Creek Cleanup with the Department of Parks and Recreation on the morning of Saturday, September 16th. More details to come, including a start time and specific projects we will undertake, but I wanted to get the date on calendars as early as possible!

- **311 Usage:** Any time you have a concern with a City service or suggestion for improvement (i.e. new speed table or traffic sign), please be sure to enter a 311 ticket. I am eager for you to share those suggestions with my office as well, but getting those tickets into 311 is the best way for me to be able to advocate for the neighborhood's needs with City administration.

- **Safety Considerations:** Our office is receiving many concerns about safety, particularly related to vehicle theft/vandalism. Resident safety remains a high priority for me and I'm in constant conversations with my public safety colleagues, but I want to highlight the importance of personal safety practices. Please be sure you're locking your cars every time and consider using a steering wheel lock (particularly if you have a Hyundai or Kia!). Please also be sure you are reporting suspicious activity and especially theft/vandalism incidents to RPD. We are seeing a severe under-reporting of incidents to RPD compared to social media and it is really important that we are sharing as much information with RPD.

It continues to be my highest honor to serve as your representative on City Council and my office remains open and accessible to you all. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

All my best,
Kristen

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Back Page (part color): \$95.00* *When Available



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FROM BETSY CARR



Dear Friend,

I hope you have been enjoying summer festivities and staying cool during the late summer heat waves. Fall is approaching and preparation for the season is beginning. Below is an update on news of interest.

Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission Recent Findings

The Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) on which I serve recently met to present their findings from a review of Virginia's K-12 education funding and funding formula. The report confirms what is no secret: Virginia underfunds its public education system. What is of importance from this report is the degree to which Virginia underfunds its education system and the discrepancy between the funding formula and the true cost. JLARC's report found that per-student, school districts in Virginia receive 14 percent less than the 50-state average. Regionally, Virginia receives less than Maryland, West Virginia, and Kentucky. This comes to about \$1,900 fewer dollars being spent on each student than the national average. JLARC found that Virginia's Standards of Quality funding formula routinely projects funding needs that are 38 percent lower than what districts actually end up spending. For example, in 2021 the formula calculated a cost of \$10.7 billion. Districts that year spent \$17.3 billion.

Early Voting Locations

The Richmond Electoral Board has reversed its previous decision to close two of the three early voting locations after public outcry. The Board did decide to cancel early voting on Sundays. Beginning September 22, Richmonders can vote early at the Richmond Registrar's office (2134 West Laburnum Avenue), Richmond City Hall (900 East Broad Street), and Hickory Hill Community Center (3000 East Belt Boulevard). Ensuring equal

access to the ballot is vital for our democracy, and I am happy to see the Board reverse their decision to limit access.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Update

The State Air Pollution Control Board voted in June for Virginia to withdraw its participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), an 11 state market that requires electricity producers to purchase allowances for each ton of carbon dioxide they produce. The revenues, which have totaled over half a billion dollars since Virginia began participation in 2021, are used to fund energy efficiency and flood resiliency efforts. In response to the Air Pollution Control Board's vote, a lawsuit is expected to be filed in Fairfax by the Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of environmental groups such as Appalachian Voices, Association of Energy Conservation Professionals, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, and Virginia Interfaith Power and Light. The basis of the lawsuit is that Virginia's participation in RGGI is under the General Assembly's authority, and the Governor's administration does not have the authority to unilaterally decide to withdraw.

RetirePath Program Launch

RetirePath Virginia is a new program, administered by Virginia529, which creates a workplace savings retirement account for employees who are not offered one at their current job. Employers who do not currently offer an employer-sponsored retirement savings option can enroll in RetirePath and give employees a retirement savings account while not bearing any fiduciary responsibility or additional fees. This provides a tremendous boon to the one million private-sector employees who are on their own when it comes to retirement planning.

Employers can learn more, register, and certify existing plans online at: <https://www.retirepathva.com/employers>. If you are self-employed or work for an employer who is not registered with RetirePath, you can still enroll by following this link: <https://www.retirepathva.com/savers>.

House Page Program

The House of Delegates Page program provides 13- and 14-year-old students the opportunity to

work in the General Assembly during the Legislative Session to become deeply familiar with the State's legislative process. Applications are being accepted until October 16, 5 PM. Learn more and apply at: <https://capclass.virginia-generalassembly.gov/PagePrograms/PagePrograms.html#HODPages>.

Thank You It is an honor to serve in the House of Delegates. Please do not hesitate to contact me at delegate.carr@betsycarr.org or 804-698-1069 if I can be helpful to you.

Sincerely,
Betsy

DR. TOM HANEY
DR. SETH LIPSTOCK
DR. LAUREN KNOTT

DR. BONNIE CLINE
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Midlothian District Update

By Midlothian Supervisor Mark S. Miller



Hello Oxford!

As I write this update, I am sitting in my office at Brightpoint Community College, where we are preparing for the Fall Semester. I have served as a Professional Counselor for Brightpoint for the past nine years and getting ready for the Fall Semester is always filled with a great deal of anticipation. I have missed my students so much over the hot, dreary summer. Fall is my favorite time of the year!

As for updates!!!

Midlothian Library

If you have driven by the new Midlothian Library located off Coalfield Road, it might seem as if it is practically finished—at least from the outside. The construction on the inside is now underway with a completion target sometime during the Winter of 2023-2024. The new library will be 25,000 square feet and will have a large community meeting room, an outdoor reading garden, a digital media center, and interactive indoor learning features for kids.

Midlothian Corridor

You may have noticed that the old Best Products building has been knocked down near the corner of Midlothian and Chippenham Parkway. The land is currently being cleared for the new Springline at District 60 which will include a six-story mixed use building with 300 residential units, a 150,000 square foot office building, a green common area, and a sports tournament and entertainment venue. The plans for the 42-acre site will also include walking and biking trails, public lawns, and trees for shade. It is my hope that Springline at District 60 will spur continued revitalization for the area all the way up to Chesterfield Towne Center.

I have also just been informed that Richmond Camera recently sold their buildings in Richmond and are moving their operations to the old

Toys' R Us building on the corner of Midlothian and Turner Road. The facility will handle their photo finishing, storage, and specialty services at the Richmond Pro Lab, which is most of their business.

Midlothian Transportation Projects

There are a bunch of transportation projects planned for the Midlothian District. These include the Bon Air Pedestrian/Bike improvements project which will construct signage and marking a neighborhood byway via Western Road, Lancraft Lane, and Bullington Road; constructing a trail at the Bon Air Library between Bullington Road and Rattlesnake Road; constructing a sidewalk on Pulliam Street between Rattlesnake Road and Polk Street and on Polk Street from Pulliam Street to McRae Road; and constructing an off-road trail from Bon Air Elementary School to McRae Road at Kenwin Road. We are also working on constructing a pedestrian crossing with ADA ramps and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) to provide Bon Air residents access to community amenities across Buford Road.

Midlothian Middle School

Work is still underway to move forward with determining where the new Midlothian Middle School will be located. There are currently four different options being explored, and a decision is slated to be made in early 2024. It is my hope that the space currently being used by the middle school will be dedicated to what I have come to call "Midlothian Green" to be used as open space for events such as Midlothian Arts in the Park, a winter wonderland that will include an ice-skating rink, and a place for year-round concerts. I am also working with folks from Dominion, the Valentine Museum, and Brightpoint to move forward with creating the Virginia Energy Museum that will track the history of energy generation and will include recognition of Midlothian being the first commercial coal mine in the United States.

So many exciting things are going on in Midlothian! Please reach out if you need anything! I can be reached at millermark@chesterfield.gov or via phone at (804) 768-7397.

Have a good rest of the summer! Fall is on its way!!!



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Restaurant Review

Ciao Capri

by Larry Sabbath

Editor's Note: Care to review a local restaurant?

We need your help with a new feature. Richmond and North Chesterfield are home to some great restaurants and new ones seem to be opening all the time. Let's share our favorites with neighbors. Rather than full reviews, a simple description of an eatery including location, type of cuisine, noise level and price is all we need. Let Oxford know why you like it.

Please send your review to nhs46ff@gmail.com.



Niki and I recently met friends for dinner at Ciao Capri, located at 10478 Ridgefield Parkway in Henrico. We are always looking for a dining spot where we can actually hear and understand our companions over good food—and Ciao Capri hits the spot. Seafood is highlighted, befitting the cuisine of the Isle of Capri. Service is friendly and attentive, and prices are moderate. Give it a try. (www.ciaocapri.com, 804-447-6449)

Meet Kimberly and Jeff Gadette By Niki Sabbath

He's a rock'n'roll man; she comes from musical theater. Could this husband and wife find a middle ground to create music together? Being quasi-retired, there was only so much dog-walking (they have two delightful shelties, Fred and Janine), gardening and exercising they could do. Jeff always had his music – he'd been playing bass and guitar in bands since he was in 8th grade – but he needed a vocalist. Lucky for him, that singer was right around the corner ... in the very next room. And so their project of creating music covers on YouTube began.

And what is a music cover? It's a new performance or recording by a musician other than the original performer or composer of the song. Though the lyrics and music need to remain the same, it's more that the performance and style of the piece makes it your own. It wasn't just the challenges involved in recording their audio and video performances, and in piecing the whole project together to ultimately post on YouTube, but initially finding songs that both of them were enthusiastic about. (Their choices involve finding covers that haven't already been done endlessly.) And they mix up the music genres: so far, they've posted songs in such varied styles as pop/rock, torch songs and pop/country.

Lately, they've discovered the beauty of the "green screen" which allows them to perform in front of any kind of background they wish. A jazzy torch song is set in front of an empty stage; their current project will have an over-the-top casino background. From early rehearsal to ultimately posting on YouTube, the entire process is complex, with Jeff employing such software as Garageband, Rip X and Final Cut Pro.

Both the Gadettes have a background in the arts. Kimberly earned her BA and MFA at UCLA, and was an actress/singer in Los Angeles and New York for years. "Including multiple gigs as a singing bartender!" she said.



After a performing career, she became a freelance writer, working primarily as a film critic. Aside from his performing skills, Jeff received his BS and MBA at the University of Utah. However, hailing from the West, they landed in Richmond in 2014. Nine years later, they find that the Oxford community most definitely makes them sing!

Please view Kimberly and Jeff's work online. Their url is https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC97oL64_L9LrB6EyxW9a1A. Another way: go to YouTube.com, and in the search box, input Kimberly & Jeff Music Covers. Enjoy!





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The Story of Maymont

The following photo and history about Maymont are from the Facebook page "Old Images Of Richmond and are reprinted with permission from Christopher B. Coleman.

Long shadows and cold temperatures can mean only one thing, Maymont's annual Christmas Open House. These patrons pictured below are enjoying a chilly ride past the Dooley House in 1997.

In 1886, James and Sallie Dooley acquired farmland on the banks of the James River, where they planned to build a new home. Their architect, Edgerton Stewart Rogers (1860-1901), born and educated in Rome, combined the Romanesque Revival style with the picturesque Queen Anne for the Dooley residence. By 1893, the Dooleys were living in their new 12,000 square-foot, 33-room home, which they named "May Mont," a name which combines Mrs. Dooley's maiden name and the French word for hill.

Among historic house museums, the Maymont Mansion is rare in that no intervening families or adaptive conversions separate us from the original owner's 32-year occupancy.

Despite the fact that no architectural drawings or other early records of its construction and design have survived, its physical integrity and ongoing research has provided a solid base of documentation.

Within six months of Mrs. Dooley's death in 1925, the mansion was opened to the public as a museum. The upper floors' interiors and a large original collection remained relatively untouched until the beginning of the restoration in 1970. Since the nonprofit Maymont Foundation took responsibility for the estate in 1975, extensive conservation and restoration have greatly enhanced its authenticity, condition, and presentation.

Maymont Mansion is a well-preserved document of Gilded Age design and the taste of well-educated, cosmopolitan millionaires. The house also illustrates the dynamic interplay between server and served, working class and upper class and black and white through a compelling exhibition in its restored belowstairs rooms – the culmination of a decade-long research project that was completed in 2005.

Source: Joe Mahoney, Richmond Times-Dispatch, maymont.org

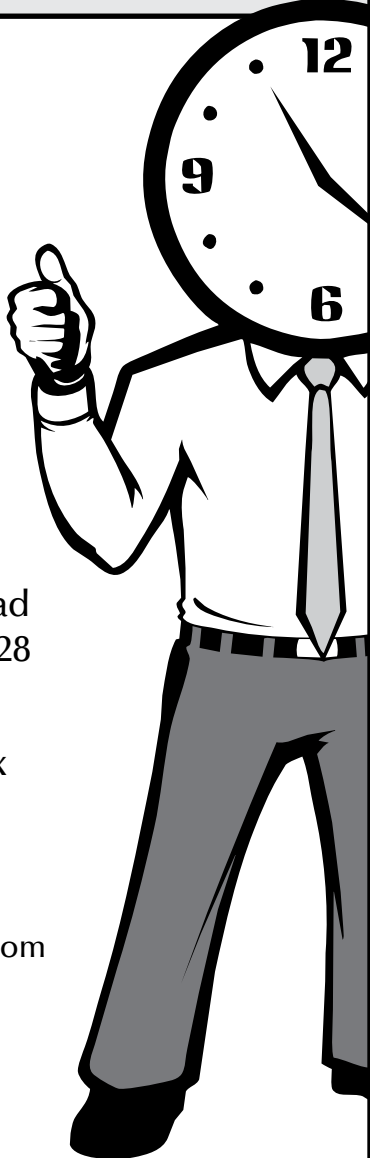


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July Yard of the Month



The Yard of the Month chosen for July is at the home of Jes Santillan and David Clark and is located at **3809 White-wood Road**. This yard was selected for the great variety of plantings, both green and flowering, that are arranged along the front of the house and in the border along the side yard and even extending into the backyard!

August Yard of the Month



The Yard of the Month for August is located at **8119 Ammonett Drive**. It is at the home of Gladys Connatser who has lived there for 37 years! This yard is notable for its thick, green lawn and neatly arranged shrubs along the front of the house as well as the nice edging around the sidewalk and driveway.

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.

Allison Snyder & Reid Alley - 3041 Archdale Rd.

Dianna & Andrew Abell - 3700 Whitewood Rd.

Bennett Slosman & Liz Bradford - 8336 Chippenham Rd

Welcome To Oxford!



Designer House 2023
by Marcia Phillips

As Summer winds down, and Richmond picks up its livelier Fall calendar of things to do and places to see, you will definitely want to check the Richmond Symphony League’s Designer House, running from September 11 through October 9. One of the Grand Ladies on Monument Avenue, the Taylor Estate at 2325 Monument was designed by noted architect Duncan Lee and built in 1915 for Jacquelin Taylor. A superb example of Italian Renaissance Revival , the house, filled with exquisite architectural finishings, has been

brought back to life by the 26 noted designers who have been hard at work all summer. In addition to the House itself, much of the property, including a Charles Gillette garden has been carefully restored. The Estate extends to Park Avenue in the back, and includes the Carriage House Boutique and a café. In addition to the daily House tours, Thirsty Thursdays, featuring music from local favorites, and beer and wine will add to the festivities.

For ticket information, go to the Richmond Symphony League Designer House website.

Oxford Real Estate Round-Up 2023
by Wayne Gauthier



Top Sale - **8135 Riverside Dr** - Update and renovate is the formula for selling a home in Oxford for top dollar. Again the top home sale in Oxford goes to a beautifully renovated home. The total transformation of this home since 2016 drove it to a final sale price significantly over their original list price by almost 32%. Every space was reimagined and thoughtful design brought it to the standards high-end buyers are looking for in these competitive real estate times. Our community continues to offer a great value and is remaining very desirable because of the quality of our homes and the great location we occupy.

May 1 2023 - Aug 15, 2023

| Address | Fin SF | # Bedrms | Style | Sales Price | Sales Date |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|---|-------------|------------|
| 8101 Ammonett Dr | 2444 | 3 | Ranch | \$431,000 | 2023-06-06 |
| 8330 Trabue Rd | 2327 | 4 | Colonial, Custom, Tri-Level/Quad Level | \$440,000 | 2023-08-15 |
| 3700 Whitewood Rd | 2862 | 4 | 2-Story, Dutch Colonial | \$475,000 | 2023-06-22 |
| 8111 Ammonett Dr | 2755 | 4 | 2-Story, Contemporary | \$485,000 | 2023-07-18 |
| 8126 Lethbridge Rd | 1544 | 4 | 2-Story, Cape | \$507,000 | 2023-08-15 |
| 8471 Rubimont Rd | 1932 | 4 | Ranch | \$575,000 | 2023-06-09 |
| 4647 Arrowhead Rd | 3198 | 4 | 2-Story, Farm House | \$757,500 | 2023-05-15 |
| 8135 Riverside Dr | 2985 | 3 | Ranch | \$900,000 | 2023-05-04 |

* Data taken from the Chesterfield and City of Richmond tax records and the Central Virginia Regional Multiple Listing Service. Transactions Recorded between 05/01/2023 -08/15/2023. Wayne Gauthier, Joyner Fine Properties, is a Licensed Real Estate Agent in Richmond, Virginia.

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What'a Up with That?

By Snoop Master

Well, a bit of "THIS and THAT" ...no outside attacks from other neighborhoods. A low drama summer ... kind of lazy ...terribly disappointing to "Evil Twin." He does like a drama, especially if he can create it! However, some drama is brewing in the areas around Oxford, both in Chesterfield County and the City of Richmond. More news of car thefts and car break-ins in our neighborhood has created a bit of concern. A game camera recorded this group checking out the cars in a driveway and lighted carport in Cherokee Estates. The video shows what looks to be a gun tucked into the waist band of one of the perpetrators. Please keep your lights on and call the police if you suspect foul play around your house Do not engage these folks! They very well might be part of an out-of-state gang that the police have been tracking, and they are not amateurs at this.

Looks like the installation at Cherokee and Huguenot is scheduled within the next 12 months. Of course, that's been said before! In contacting Kristen Nye's office as to the "Look" of this installation, Timmy Siverd said that he'd get back with the association after some research. The original plan announced at the public review meeting a few years ago at Huguenot High School proudly announced that it would include a large painted crosswalk with handicap accessible curbing. "It would look somewhat like what you find on Broad Street." There was a somewhat delayed reaction from the audience at that statement; then the ripples of "tittering" laughs began to roll like waves on a pond. Who would dare to cross four lanes of Huguenot Road (a fifth is you include the painted median) safeguarded by two stripes on either side of the crosswalk? To say nothing of the fact that the reduced height curbs for the physically challenged would connect to - what? There are no sidewalks - won't we possible forever? If there were to be sidewalks, where would they lead?

If pleasure walkers want to enter Oxford from either side (Nottingham or Stratford Hills) you have Riverside Drive with minimal shoulders and some paths along the side, but I doubt seriously if we have anyone living on Cherokee west of Huguenot, on Collingbourne Road or Hickory who have a serious need to cross Huguenot to walk the three miles to Publix! Not saying that a sidewalk on at least one side of Cherokee might not be nice for those living on the road; and rumor has it that maybe one that will happen much further (no pun intended) down the road, I don't see ANYONE, especially with a physical challenge wanting to Cross Huguenot Road, inclusive of big white lines and traffic lights or - armed guards. Perhaps money better spent elsewhere, to say nothing of the fact that the fleeting, somewhat rural character of the area would now take on the "glitter" of the inner city. Timmy Siverd has been very responsive to our requests, so I'm sure there will be more design discussion down the road. Let us know if you've any ideas; more will be written as we continue a conversation with Kristen's office.

The only other thing that's caught Snoop's roving eye: the rising value of the homes in Oxford and a number of extensive renovations and new homes. A house at the end of the cul-de-sac on Arrowhead Road (it uses a Riverside address) fetched a tidy \$900,000 in the past couple of months. Completely renovated, it sold quickly; another new build on Wyncliff Road is languishing a bit and has been reduced to \$750,000, but the average value of an Oxford home is increasing quickly. Snoop sees that smile on your face. Go ahead, you can gloat a bit about your investment. Till the next issue, stay safe and enjoy the coming fall. Don't forget Snoop - he loves inquiries. The Oxford web site has a tab for "Questions for the Board" or use our P.O. Box 3881, Richmond, VA 23235.

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