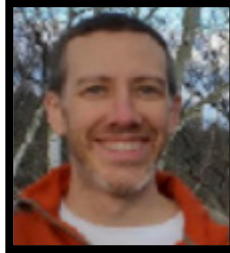


THE OXFORD OBSERVER

VOLUME 15 ISSUE #1 SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER OXFORD COMMUNITY
AN AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER SERVING 590 HOMES

SPRING 2024

Presidents Message



Happy Spring, everyone! Winter seems to always go by in a blip. We are still putting the finishing touches on the Greater Oxford Civic Association (GOCA) annual meeting but make sure to pencil it in for Tuesday, April 9th. The annual meeting is your opportunity to meet board members and fellow neighbors, engage with speakers, get more involved and provide feedback regarding the GOCA programming. Our programming typically includes: the annual meeting, annual yard sale, National Night Out, Otoberfest, yard of the month and the holiday entryway contest. We also continue to publish the award-winning Oxford Observer quarterly. Our Facebook page and Website are updated as needed and monitored routinely. The GOCA committee welcomes new neighbors, monitors crime (often none to report) and monitors and works towards improving infrastructure. I hope you will join us at the annual meeting. You don't need to be a GOCA member to attend, but we'll be happy to help you join the GOCA at the annual meeting (for a mere \$20/year) if you haven't done so by then. Looking forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

One last note: I will be stepping down from the role of GOCA Vice President at the annual meeting. It has been my privilege to fill in during the unexpected board changes this past year. I have the utmost confidence in the slate of Officers and Board members that we will vote in at the annual meeting.

Anthony C. Corcoran

Upcoming Oxford Events



DONUT FEST
MARCH 23
9 AM - 11 AM



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GOCA ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 9
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Page 2

OXFORD YARD SALE
APRIL 27
8 AM - 12 PM



Page 6

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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Contributing Writers: Niki Sabbath, Larry Sabbath, Pat Parsons, Trip Cash, Mike Martin, Wayne Gauthier, Al Yancy, Alie McArdle and Courtney Tolmie.

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**

Welcome New Residents

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.



Annual Meeting

April 9, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING



Be sure to save the date for the Greater Oxford Civic Association's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. The meeting will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Parkway, Richmond, VA 23235

Refreshments will be provided by the GOCA Board during the social gathering from 6:30-7:00 p.m. The business meeting and program will start at 7:00 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m. We are still designing our agenda. Please check our web site: <https://www.oxford-civicasociation.com> or our Facebook Page: Greater Oxford Civic Association for more information.

The GOCA is continuously working to improve the quality of our neighborhood. Come and meet the GOCA Board members, mingle with your neighbors, learn about the efforts being made by your Association, and hear knowledgeable speakers discuss important topics that can affect all of us! If you need more information or would like to volunteer to help with the Annual Meeting, please contact Courtney Tolmie at (434) 242-1684.

Hot Coffee and Doughnuts for Everyone!



Well, we missed having our Oxtoberfest because of inclement weather, so we're hoping to make up for that disappointment. How about sharing some hot coffee, hot chocolate, fresh locally made doughnuts and some light conversation with neighbors?

Saturday, March 23rd, at the Barningham Strip, we'll be serving all of the above from 9:00-11:00 in the morning; we'll be giving away a free dozen doughnuts to every fifth person showing up!



There will be five dozen to take home, but plenty for everyone to enjoy that morning.

These doughnuts are from the local "Doughnuts Company" on Midlothian Turnpike, and they compete with best out there, whether glazed, cake, jelly or crème! So, join us and enjoy an easy Saturday morning with neighbors and delicious fresh doughnuts!

Oxford Garden Club News

By Patricia Parsons

A Gardner's Prayer

Written by Oxford Garden Club member, Marlene Scott

*Give us oh Lord
A day filled with hope and flowers
Rain when needed to quench the thirsty earth
Days of sustaining sunshine, giving us
Energy and strength to garden yet another day.
Never let us forget Your great gifts of
Everlasting love, life and nature's bounty
Revealed daily, as we diligently toil in our homes
and gardens.
Amen*

Guests are always welcome at the regular meetings of the Oxford Garden Club held the third Tuesday in the months of September through April (unless otherwise noted) at:
Manwood Temple of Masons
6787 Forest Hill Ave.
Richmond, VA, 23235

Refreshments, at 9:00 AM; meeting at 10:00 AM. If you are not a member, but would like to attend one or more of our meetings, please contact our program director, Ashley Makay at 804-437-2891.

David Pippin, back by popular demand, will wow members at our April 16 meeting with a floral design program. Our civic and conservation topic will be Explore Local Farmers' Markets.

Have a wonderful Spring!

RECIPE CORNER Favorite Family Recipes



Vegan Peanut Butter Cookies *Family Recipe from Alie, Graham, and Maddy*

This recipe is quick, super easy, and can be made with ingredients you probably already have in your kitchen. If you don't use plant milk in your home, regular milk can be substituted but the recipe will no longer be vegan.

Ingredients:

1 cup peanut butter
1 cup sugar
6 tablespoons of plant milk (we like oat milk!)
1 cup flour
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract (go for pure extract instead of imitation if you can)
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 pinch of salt

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix together the peanut butter and sugar in a bowl until creamy. Add in vanilla and milk while mixing.
3. Then, add baking soda, flour, and salt.
4. Take the dough and form cookie dough balls. Place onto a greased cookie sheet and press criss-cross with a fork.
5. Bake for 11 minutes or until the bottom is golden brown.
6. Enjoy!

Bonus:

Up the sweetness by adding dark chocolate chips to the dough.

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

SnoopMaster: Money, Pickle Ball and Oxford Christmas Contest Scandal

Money is coming to the 4th district for street repair and "fortification". Some of this will be just outside of Oxford, but part of a million-dollar grant will be used to improve Cherokee Road and possibly other streets in the area. This grant is separate from the funding at hand for the traffic calming tables; many have been clamoring for their installation. The good news is that Kristen Nye will be having a meeting with residents asking for some suggestions as to where some of this money should be used.

Stony Point Fashion Park is contemplating Pickle Ball courts at the former Dick's Sporting Goods store, giving more of us the opportunity to join the millions now countrywide on this "new" sport. Very popular now, especially for seniors, the sport is like tennis, using a smaller paddle as opposed to racquet and a plastic "wiffle" ball and a much smaller court. "Easy on the joints" is what I've heard from one 89-year-old player. Whether the Dick's facility will have a membership arrangement or a pay by hour option hasn't been determined yet. There also has been some discussion about a possible brewery coming into Stony Point Fashion Park, making this area a true destination for a variety of food and beverage choices.

The Mayoral Race is shaping up with registered or rumored runs by current or former City Council members. Micelle Mosby, Chris Hilbert, Andreas Addison and others such as Garret Sawyer, Maurice Neblett and surprisingly rumored, Ann Holton. It was said that she could then run for a Congressional seat and then the Senate to take her husband Tim Kaine's place; I hate to break it to you, but she'll be over 75 years of age and I doubt seriously she'll be wanting to take on a Senate campaign at that point. If Tim retires, she'll probably be ready to move to another phase of life also. Snoop discounts this as a true rumor.

Micelle Mosby has raised the most money as measured in November of 2023 at \$104,913 with Garret Sawyer coming in second at \$100,302. Chris Hilbert had raised \$31,464 and Maurice Neblett, \$125. No recent data are available to reveal current funding.

Now - the gripping news you've been waiting for: Holiday Decorating Contest Judges are deemed to have "gotten it wrong" by an anonymous text to one of the board members. This was directed to the "Best Traditional" award ... the most difficult as it's the most prominent theme. I was assured that this year, two nights were devoted to copious note taking and repeat visits to locations to get different perspectives on the nominees. Let me say, the GOCA Board is quite pleased to see that folks are taking this enterprise seriously; it's heartening to know that people care about the activities we plan. Now, it's been rumored for years that this was quite a party amongst volunteers on the committee, and it wouldn't surprise me if some sherry was "spilled" in the process of determining these awards this year. In fact, Snoop volunteered for this a few years back. After about a gallon of egg nog, there were quite a few red noses in that vintage Sedan DeVille including one dude named Rudy that seemed to be more preoccupied with roofs and chimneys than front doors. That Fat Caddy Santa Sled overfilled with cheery faced ... or maybe cherry faced, volunteers ventured out to all 603 houses in Oxford ... that's a lot of front doors, friends! Our designated driver's arthritic knuckle wrapped steering wheel pulled around every corner to find the right calming combination of warmth, tranquility, and peaceful nostalgia that a traditionally decorated door brings. Upon deciding on the "right" one, we sat there, calm, and peaceful - relieved to finally have a winner. Rudy was snoring - all was calm, all was bright - in spite of the car shaking with some undulating hips to Brenda Lee's Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree blaring from the cassette player. Blissful, we'd accomplished our task.

Community Yard Sale



Declutter your house, put extra cash in your pocket, and pick up some good deals! Here's what you need to know to participate in the Oxford Community Yard Sale, organized annually by the Oxford Civic Association.

When: Saturday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., rain or shine

Cost: \$10 for members / \$30 for non-members (\$10 plus one-year membership dues). The cost helps cover advertising in the Chesterfield Observer and the Richmond Times-Dispatch as well as printing signs and maps. All proceeds go to community improvement.

Registration: Send payment to Courtney Tolmie, 8342 Charlise Road, Richmond, VA 23235. Include name, address, and phone number.

Deadline: Registration and payment must be received by Monday, April 15, to participate.

Signs will be posted directing customers into our neighborhood and maps will be printed and delivered to each sale location. The maps can be given to customers so they can find their way to each participating site. Call Courtney Tolmie at 434-242-1684 for more information.

Preparation Tips

- Check the attic/basement/shed in addition to the main house.
- Have other family members scour bedrooms and closets for items they no longer want or no longer fit.

- Clean items that need it. Throw clothes into the dryer to remove wrinkles.
- Put items in original boxes with related paperwork, if possible.
- Be realistic about the price. Remember, you want to get rid of what you're selling. What would you pay for it?
- To speed up the pricing process, print labels. You can also make zones: \$1 zone, \$5 zone, etc. Indicate a zone with a colored sticker.
- Gather boxes, bags, and newspapers to wrap purchases.
- Have an extension cord handy to demonstrate how electronic items work.
- Have small bills and change on hand. Plan to keep money in a secure area – possibly on a money belt.

Yard Sale Day Tips

- Present items in a pleasing and organized way (by size or type) and keep them off the ground if possible.
- Put items that show well near the street to attract more customers.
- Let customers know if you're willing to negotiate on price.
- Slash prices as the yard sale ends.
- Have fun! Enjoy talking with your neighbors and others around the community.

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Kristen Nye

*City of Richmond
Councilwoman, 4th District*



Greetings, Oxford friends and neighbors!

I hope this message finds you enjoying a productive and balanced start to 2024! We have certainly hit the ground running very quickly at City Council, and I know there are so many great initiatives happening right here in our neighborhood as well.

As always, my office and I remain accessible to answer any questions and/or assist with any of your city services-related needs, but in the meantime, I'm happy to provide a few community-wide updates:

Traffic Light at Cherokee & Huguenot:

I'm thrilled this important safety project is finally complete! So far, I've heard lots of positive feedback for the increased safety it has provided, including the additional pedestrian infrastructure, which is a standard "best practice," but as with any new project, additional feedback is always welcome – if you have any thoughts or questions, you would like us to pass along to DPW, please do let me know!

City Budget Season:

We are in the thick of the City's annual budget process. As you may know, the mayor drafts the budget and submits it to City Council; we then amend the budget as needed and then formally approve it. The mayor will introduce his budget to Council in late March and then we will hold a number of public hearings on it over the ensuing two months. Throughout my time on Council, I have said that I feel the budget is one of Council's most important responsibilities, so I will be sure to communicate about it with you regularly, so you know how your City dollars are being spent.

Meals Tax Issues:

I know many of you have seen reports about the significant issues in the Finance Department related to the collection of meals taxes. At our February 12th meeting, the Council unanimously passed legislation to codify how certain meals tax payments are applied, which is the first in many steps to create a fair and transparent meals tax collection process. Richmond is a "foodie town" and we need to be doing everything we can to support our incredible restaurants, especially after many of them suffered so greatly during the pandemic. Please rest assured that the Council cares deeply about our restaurants and is committed to ensuring we make the appropriate changes so they can continue to thrive.

Next District Meeting:

My next District Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 20th from 6pm-7:30pm at Westover Hills Elementary School. The agenda is still in development, but please mark your calendars for some important discussions related to our district!

On a personal note, I wanted to share that I was honored earlier this year to be elected unanimously by my colleagues as President of City Council. I wouldn't be here without the support of the 4th District and I'm so thrilled to have even greater opportunities to expand our incredible district.

Thank you all for everything you're doing to make the 4th District such an incredible place to live! I look forward to seeing you all at your annual meeting on April 11th – please don't hesitate to reach out in the meantime if there is anything we can do to assist.

Sincerely,

Kristen

kristen.larson@rva.gov

804.646.5646

Betsy Carr

*House of Delegates,
78th District*



Virginia's 78th District took effect in the Fall of 2023.

Virginia's 78th District encompasses a major portion of the City of Richmond. North of the James River, it spans from the Capitol in the east to the University of Richmond in the west, and includes Northside communities west of Chamberlayne Avenue. South of the James River, the District spans from Powhite Parkway in the east and Stony Point in the west.

Communities included are Bellevue, Byrd Park, Carillon, Carytown, City Stadium, The Diamond, Fan District, Kanawha Trace, Laburnum Park, Lock Green, Maymont, Monument Avenue, Monroe Ward, Museum District, Oregon Hill, **Oxford**, Randolph, Rosedale, Sauer's Garden, Scotts Addition, Sherwood Park, Shockoe Slip, Southampton, Stony Point, Stratford Hills, Three Chopt, Uptown, West Avenue, West Grace Street, Westhampton, and Windsor Farms.

Our district consists of many notable places and attractions including Hollywood Cemetery, the James River Park System, Maymont Park, Brown's Island, the Carillon and Virginia's War Memorial, Byrd Park, and Bryan Park.

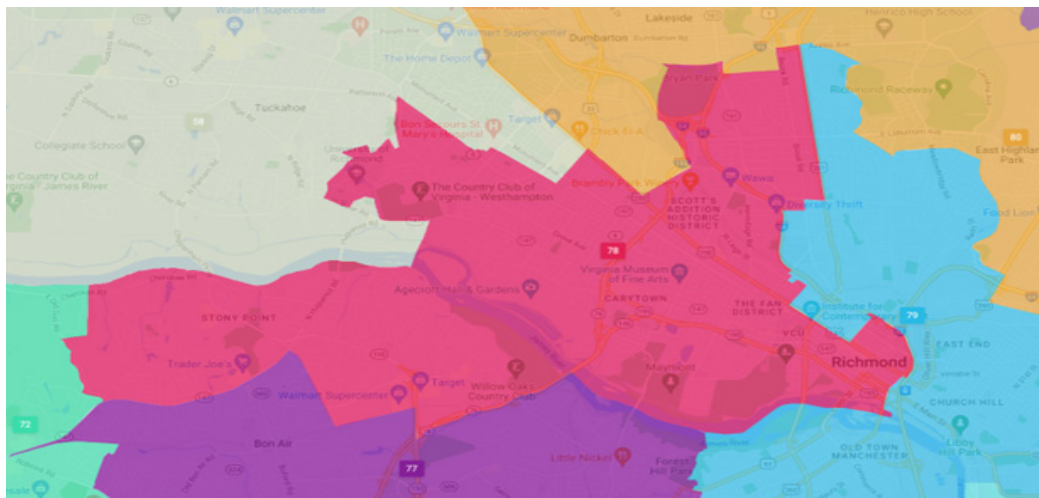
Museums and cultural institutions in the District include the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, the Science Museum, the Children's Museum, the American Civil War Museum, the Branch Museum of Architecture, the Valentine Museum, the State Capitol, the Institute for Contemporary Art, and the Modlin Center for the Arts.

Institutions of higher education in the District are Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond.

Richmond Public Schools serve students in the District at Albert Hill Middle, Binford Middle, Carver Elementary, Fisher Elementary, Fox Elementary, Henderson Middle, Holton Elementary, Huguenot High, John B. Cary Elementary, John Marshall High, Lucille Brown Middle, Maggie Walker Governor's School, Mary Munford Elementary, Open High, Richmond Community High, Southampton Elementary, and Thomas Jefferson High.

You may want to discover where and when your local neighborhood or civic group meets, so that you can participate in its activities. If you would like help connecting with your neighborhood association, please contact my office by calling 804-698-1069 or sending an e-mail to delegate.carr@betsycarr.org to receive more information.

Source: <https://www.betsycarr.org/the78thdistrict>

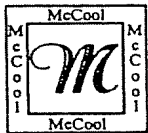


GOCA Treasury Report January, 2024



INCOME:	1,325.00
EXPENSES:	20.99
CASH BALANCE:	3,815.63

McCools of Bon Air



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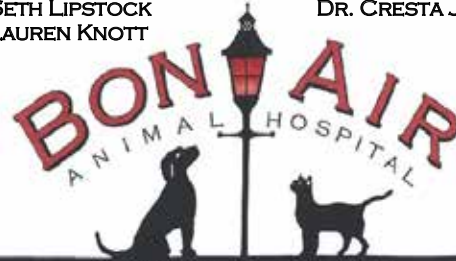
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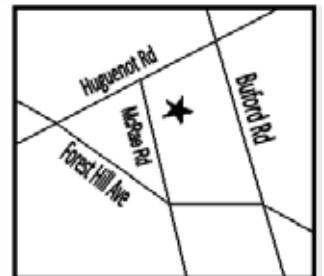
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Mark S. Miller
*Chesterfield-Board of
 Supervisors
 Midlothian District*



With the new year comes new possibilities and renewed hope and energy. I'm so proud of what we accomplished in 2023 as a community, and I look forward to what's to come.

The Midlothian District has been a flurry of activity. A groundbreaking ceremony was held January 19 at the site of the new A.M. Davis Elementary School, which will replace the current facility built in 1964. The project is expected to be completed in August 2025.

We officially opened the doors of the new Midlothian Library on January 31. I'm thrilled for our community to experience all that the new facility has to offer. From improved seating for lounging or working and a new digital media center, to an outdoor learning classroom and reading garden, be sure to check out the new space.

The county will reach a milestone this year, celebrating its 275th anniversary. Officially created on May 25, 1749, Chesterfield was formed from a part of the County of Henrico. A yearlong celebration is being planned to honor our past and focus on our bright future. Activities and special events will be posted soon on chesterfield.gov/cfield275.

Lastly, my board colleagues and I will host a series of budget town hall meetings in March focused on the proposed FY2025 budget. Mark your calendars for the Midlothian District budget town hall meeting, which will take place March 14 at the new Midlothian Library from 6:30-8 p.m.

As always, please email or call with any questions or concerns.

Mark
millermark@chesterfield.gov
[804-768-7397](tel:804-768-7397)

Thefts From Cars
by Mike Martin

Petty theft from unlocked cars in Oxford usually occurs in the warm months when school is out. However, in December a car that was parked in a lighted driveway close to the road was illegally entered one night.

Lock your car doors. Include checking your car doors when you perform your evening routine of locking your house doors.



Car Theft

Creating Memories That Last A Grandparent's Guide to Kid-Friendly Hotspots

By: Alie McArdle

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." —Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Nowhere is this sentiment more profound than in the context of bonding with your grandchildren. As they grow older, the challenge of keeping them engaged and creating meaningful interactions becomes more nuanced.

Richmond offers so many family-friendly destinations for you and your grandchildren. These hotspots not only provide entertainment but also serve as the backdrop for creating memories they'll remember forever.

Young Children

For the little ones in your life, play focused on keeping them stimulated nurtures the formative years while strengthening your bond. Explore these vibrant and family-friendly destinations in RVA for enriching moments with your grandchildren.

Children's Museum



The Children's Museum sparks children's development by involving families in the joy of play, recognizing that collective play not only fosters a deeper understanding but also

accelerates overall growth.

Pro Tip: The Children's Museum offers a special grandparent membership. You can learn more by visiting www.childrensmuseumofrichmond.org/

Location: 2626 W Broad St, Richmond, VA 23220

Maymont

Maymont offers a world of exploration perfect for little ones. Between the expansive gardens, petting zoo, and educational programs, there's much to see and do, making it perfect to visit again and again.

Pro Tip: Plan a picnic during your visit. Bring snacks or lunches and head to the designated areas.

Location: 1700 Hampton St, Richmond, VA 23220

Park 365!

Designed for inclusiveness, this park provides a welcoming space where children and adults of all abilities can come together to play, learn, and build friendships. With specially designed features like accessible treehouses, supportive swings, and sensory play areas, PARK365 ensures everyone can participate in the fun.

Pro Tip: Only service animals are allowed. Keep the doggos at home for this one!

Location: 3600 Saunders Ave, Richmond, VA 23227

Kids Workshops at Lowes

Discover a world of creativity with your grandkids at Lowe's DIY Kids' Workshops! These engaging sessions offer a hands-on experience for children to explore their artistic and construction skills in a fun and safe environment. Guided by Lowe's experts, your grandkids can enjoy crafting and building projects, emphasizing both creativity and teamwork. With a variety of projects, from woodworking to painting, each workshop provides an opportunity for shared learning and quality time.

Pro Tip: Register beforehand. You can view a list of upcoming workshops at www.lowes.com/l/shop/lowes-events — make sure you select which Lowe's location you'd like to go to.

Location: Any Lowe's location (I recommend the location at Sheila Lane since it's close to our neighborhood!)

For the teens

Let's face it — interacting with teens can be hit or miss. One day they're chatty and the next they're allergic to questions. If this isn't your experience, you're one of the lucky ones.

Teens are often at a crossroads trying to find their place between being a kid and heading into adulthood. The following suggestions are meant to encourage bridging the gaps in your relationship brought on by teen angst and their need to feel independent.

Hotel Green

Check out Hotel Green, an immersive miniature golf course focused on the "hotel" theme. As you navigate the course together, discover hidden art exhibits, adding an extra layer of excitement to your game. Keep in mind that Hotel Green is 21+ after 5 PM, you can pop by on Thursdays from 2PM - 5PM and on the weekends before 5PM. Don't forget to snap a photo in the iconic bathtub — because your visit to Hotel Green wouldn't be complete without it!



Pro Tip: You cannot call Hotel Green. They are phone-free.

Location: 508 E Franklin St, Richmond, VA 23219

Red Door Escape Room

For a clue-like adventure, head to Red Door Escape Room, where collaboration is key. Work together to unlock the mysteries behind your chosen escape room story. Together you'll tackle puzzles, decipher codes, and unravel secrets as you navigate through immersive challenges.

The escape rooms at Red Door provide the perfect platform for intergenerational bonding, allowing you to share your wisdom while embracing the creativity and ingenuity of your teen grandchild.

Pro Tip: Book ahead to ensure you get a spot!

Location: 11800 W Broad St # 1216, Richmond, VA 23233

Whitewater Rafting



Explore the scenic James River from a unique perspective — inside a raft with RVA Paddlesports! The experienced guides ensure a safe and exciting environment for you and your grandkids. Worried about

trying something new? Before you say, "I could never do that" or "I'm too old," remember that RVA Paddlesports believes in challenge by choice, making white water rafting accessible to everyone.

Pro Tip: Unlock an exclusive discount by using the code "OXFORD," when you make your reservation.

Location: 1511 Brook Rd, Richmond, VA 23220, Call (804) 898-0697 to make your reservation.

Rage RVA

If you're looking for something to really spice things up, check out Rage RVA. Rage RVA is your ticket to smashing stuff — guilt free. Surprise your grandchild with an unconventional afternoon that sparks conversation about their thoughts and emotions. This experience provides the perfect opportunity to let your intrusive thoughts go wild together, encouraging open communication in a liberating environment. Plus, you'll probably surprise them for booking something like this!

Pro Tip: Book ahead by calling (804) 309-3410. Then, go for lunch and strike up meaningful conversations about your life experiences and their current state of mind.

Location: 2403 W Main St, Richmond, VA 23220

(Continued on Page 14)

Creating Memories That Last *A Grandparent's Guide to Kid-Friendly Hotspots*

(Continued from Page 13)

For all ages

For entertaining grandkids of all ages, the following activities are perfect for spending time together.

Science Museum of Virginia

Explore the wonders of science at the Science Museum of Virginia. With its expansive exhibits and interactive displays, the museum offers a fun and educational experience for visitors of all ages. The Boost exhibit, focusing on innovation and technology, is a must-see for curious minds.



Pro Tip: Don't skip the planetarium, they always have educational and engaging movies planned.

Location: 2500 W Broad St, Richmond, VA 23220

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

Stop and smell the roses at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Take a leisurely stroll, soaking in the beauty of nature. The gardens host seasonal events and educational programs, making it an ideal destination for family outings.

Pro Tip: Book a private guided tour to get the most of your visit together.

Location: 1800 Lakeside Ave, Henrico, VA 23228

As you enjoy these kid-friendly hotspots, savor each moment, for in the blink of an eye, they become the lasting memories that define a lifetime.

My name is Alie and I write about living life more intentionally. If you liked this piece, you can read more of my work at thislittle-life.com.

Surge Trampoline Park

With multiple trampolines, foam pits, and exciting activities, this park is perfect for energetic visitors of all ages. Kids can bounce, jump, and flip to their heart's content in a safe and entertaining environment.

Pro Tip: Secure a spot and book in advance.

Location: 1406 N Parham Rd Suite A200, Richmond, VA 23229

Kings Dominion

Experience the thrill of roller coasters, water rides, and family-friendly attractions at Kings Dominion. This amusement park promises a day full of excitement and entertainment for all ages. From adrenaline-pumping rides to live shows and delicious dining options, Kings Dominion has something for everyone.

Pro Tip: Bring a reusable water bottle for each person so you don't get dehydrated!

Location: 16000 Theme Park Way, Doswell, VA 23047



Alie McArdle

Copywriter | Content
Writer | Social Media
Strategist

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Burglar Proof Your Sliding Glass Doors



Glass sliding doors allow you to view the beauty of the surrounding landscape without obstructing your view like a regular door would. However, they can also be a target for unwanted intruders without any security in place.

Sliding doors are often hidden from view and located around the back of the home, which can seem inviting for some intruders. Another security challenge is that it can be easy to forget to lock your sliding door before leaving, providing the perfect opportunity for a burglar to walk straight in.

Here are the most common ways a burglar can bypass a sliding door:

Lifting the door out of the track

Because sliding glass doors have heavy-duty rollers that glide along tracks and don't have hinges, burglars can attempt to pry and lift the door out of its track when trying to enter.

Smashing the glass door

For a more direct approach, burglars can smash the tempered glass of the sliding door itself by throwing or striking it with a heavy object.

Bypassing the lock

Most sliding doors will typically have a locking device consisting of a simple latch. This presents a security challenge as intruders can easily break or bypass this lock by 'jiggling' the sliding door until the lock breaks.

How to Improve Your Sliding Door Security

But don't let this scare you, as there are many ways you can improve the security of your sliding glass door and make it more secure to deter would-be intruders.

Use tracker blocks

Sliding screen door rollers open and close horizontally on both the upper and lower tracks. Naturally, one of the simplest ways to increase the security of your sliding door rollers is to put an obstacle, such as a tracker block, in the track to prevent movement.

You can make the tracker block by cutting a wooden broom handle down to size to fit the bottom track. This is a quick and easy way, and while it's not secure proof, it definitely adds a level of security and prevention you didn't have before. Also, it's worth noting that this is nice to have for toddlers and the elderly, preventing them from opening the door.

Reinforce the glass

Your sliding glass door is made up of large sheets of glass. For a would-be burglar, this presents a nice, easy break-in (provided you haven't reinforced the glass).

Simply applying security film to the inside of the glass can really improve the strength of the glass sliding door. This film makes it super tough to break through the glass. It can also protect against kids playing ball sports close to the window and prevent broken glass from an errant ball toss/kick.

You can buy rolls of security film for between \$10 and \$30 per roll, depending on the type, brand, and size. Though not difficult, successfully applying security film to a sliding door is a tedious task and we suggest that this be a two-person job, as it's almost impossible to do on your own. We might suggest you consider looking to outsource this to a pro.

Add a secondary lock

Locking your sliding door might be an obvious solution, but more often than not, the reality is that your sliding glass door won't have a deadbolt. In most cases, it will use a simple latch that is clamped onto the door. To give your locks more power, we suggest installing a steel secondary lock system such as a deadbolt.

Continued on Pg 16

Burglar Proof Your Sliding Glass Doors

(continued from Pg 15)

To install it, you can either contact a handy person or do this yourself. If you want to roll up your sleeves, here's what you need to do: drill the screws holes into both door jambs and the sliding frame door. Then simply screw the loop lock into place.

Floor mounting

To stop burglars from lifting your sliding glass door out of the track, you have the option of mounting the sliding door to the floor. This can be done by simply installing a heavy-duty floor latch that hooks onto the bottom of the door that you can easily attach/detach using your foot.

Install alarms & sensors

Sometimes the most effective way to stop unwanted intruders is to deter them, and nothing deters burglars more than an alarm blaring in their ears. You can install door sensors that will go off once they detect the sliding door being smashed or someone trying to pry it open. You can also install additional home security cameras for maximum security and to record the intruder.

Close the blinds/curtains

Another simple yet effective way to deter burglars is to close your blinds or curtains before leaving. An open view of your entire living room allows the intruder to easily scope your home and identify any valuables they can steal. With an obstructed view, the burglar won't be able to see your valuables and will think twice before going to the effort of breaking in.

Source: <https://anthonyinnovations.com.au/blog/guide-to-improving-sliding-door-security/#:~:text=Simply%20applying%20security%20film%20to,an%20errant%20ball%20toss%2Fkick>.

Bon Air History Old Bon Air Post Office

Editor's Note: The following text and photo are from the Facebook page "Old Images of Richmond" and are reprinted with permission from Christopher B. Coleman

Old Bon Air Post Office is located at the intersection of Rockaway and McRae roads. The building is typical of small-town post offices, but a rare survivor.

It is a simple one-story rectangular frame and weatherboarded structure situated on a brick pier foundation and is topped by a gable roof with exposed rafter ends. A small two-bay porch extends across the gable-front building.

An important building for visitors and residents alike was the former Bon Air Post Office. The Bon Air Post Office was the center of social life in Bon Air. The women of the community would sometimes come twice a day to get their mail and catch up on the gossip. The building was constructed in 1916 on Rockaway Road. The train was used to transport mail from the main post office in the city to Bon Air twice a day. Miss Julia Powers was named the first postmistress and held that position for 29 years. She had an unorthodox way of running the office. She decorated the outside with flowers and in the back of the building she even raised chickens, whose eggs she sold to the ladies coming to pick up their mail. "Chicken feed was kept in "the lobby"; and, the children, who stopped in after school to collect the mail or inquire about a lost baseball glove, made a game of finding the eggs that Miss Julia's hens had laid under the porch. The Missionary Society held their regular meetings at the Post Office.

The mail was transported from the railroad station by Dr. C. M. Hazen, who during his retirement found it entertaining to load the mail in a wheelbarrow and push it up the hill. In 1952, the post office was moved to a larger facility in the brick building that used to house Perrow's Store. After its closure, the new St. Michael's Episcopal Church used its offices for their nursery school.



The small building served as the local post office from 1916 to 1952 and is now owned by the Bon Air Community Association, who purchased it in 1975. Despite its size, limited use, simple construction, and porch replacement, it has survived intact and nearly unaltered since its construction. The post office is now owned by the Bon Air



Community Association and with its consent, permission was given to for the restoration as a volunteer project.

Sources: Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia; Images of America Chesterfield County, Frances Watson Clark; dhr.virginia.gov; Lois H. Keane; Richmond Times-Dispatch; Hazel Memorial Library Foundation

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Oxford Real Estate Round-Up 2023 *by Wayne Gauthier, Joyner Fine Properties**



Top Sale - **8524 Trabue Rd.** -

One of the earlier built homes has landed as our top sale in Oxford in the last three months. This handsome Cape had a mindfully renovated kitchen and a family room in the basement that is an incredible space for lounging or entertaining. Great mature landscaping and a wonderful lot contributed to this home, taking this report's Top Sale award.

Nov. 1, 2023 - Jan 31, 2024

<i>Address</i>	<i>Fin SF</i>	<i># Bedrooms</i>	<i>Style</i>	<i>Sales Price</i>	<i>Sales Date</i>
8335 Whitewood Rd	2446	3	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$423,000	2023-12-04
3100 Archdale Rd	3092	4	Cape	\$449,950	2023-11-20
8321 Trabue Rd	3520	5	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$569,000	2023-12-04
8524 Trabue Rd	3333	4	Cape	\$635,000	2023-11-03

* Data taken from the Chesterfield and City of Richmond tax records and the Central Virginia Regional Multiple Listing Service. Transactions Recorded between 11/01/2023 -01-31-2024. Wayne Gauthier, Joyner Fine Properties, is a Licensed Real Estate Agent in Richmond, Virginia.

GREATER OXFORD CIVIC ASSOCIATION DUES FOR 2024 - \$20

First Notification for 2024

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

Email _____

I would like to assist with the association's work. My interests include:

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

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

Greater Oxford Civic Association Board 2023-2024

Officers:	Name	Email
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Vice President	Anthony Corcoran('26)	profdingding@hotmail.com
Secretary	Michelle Emrich ('26)	michelleemrich9@gmail.com
Treasurer	Courtney Tolmie ('26)	the.tolmie@gmail.com
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	Mike Martin ('23)	
	Linda MartinJ('26)	lbdmom@me.com
	Niki Sabbath ('24)	nhs46ff@gmail.com
	Evelyn Klumb ('26)	MamaKlumb514@aol.com
Emeritus Member:	Pat Parsons	pjparsons1@yahoo.com

Thank you to our 2024 Paid Members!

As we kick off 2024, we are excited to share that we already have 141 Oxford households that have paid their 2024 membership! We want to share a big thank you to everyone who has already paid; you can see these updates in the list of paid addresses below. If you have questions about your 2024 payment based on this list, please email oxfordcivicasoc@gmail.com and we can check our membership records. And a “thank you in advance” to members who have not yet sent in their 2024 dues but plan to do so soon!

8131 Abbey Road	3301 Archdale Road	8252 Barningham Road
8142 Abbey Road	4227 Arrowhead Road	2845 Bicknell Road
8355 Abbey Road	4330 Arrowhead Road	3000 Bicknell Road
8368 Abbey Road	4400 Arrowhead Road	3016 Bicknell Road
8401 Abbey Road	4508 Arrowhead Road	3112 Bicknell Road
8411 Abbey Road	4516 Arrowhead Road	2867 Brixham Drive
8443 Abbey Road	4541 Arrowhead Road	2876 Brixham Drive
8041 Ammonett Drive	4544 Arrowhead Road	2906 Brixham Drive
8101 Ammonett Drive	4601 Arrowhead Road	8323 Charlise Road
8111 Ammonett Drive	4619 Arrowhead Road	8333 Charlise Road
8119 Ammonett Drive	4626 Arrowhead Road	8342 Charlise Road
8130 Ammonett Drive	4647 Arrowhead Road	8367 Charlise Road
8208 Ammonett Drive	4682 Arrowhead Road	8311 Cherokee Road
8216 Ammonett Drive	4686 Arrowhead Road	8349 Cherokee Road
8217 Ammonett Drive	4687 Arrowhead Road	8350 Cherokee Road
8225 Ammonett Drive	4690 Arrowhead Road	8359 Cherokee Road
2909 Archdale Road	8200 Barningham Road	8412 Cherokee Road
2920 Archdale Road	8209 Barningham Road	8420 Cherokee Road
3024 Archdale Road	8217 Barningham Road	8423 Cherokee Road
3031 Archdale Road	8220 Barningham Road	8430 Cherokee Road
3111 Archdale Road	8225 Barningham Road	3021 Darnley Drive
3141 Archdale Road	8233 Barningham Road 3	030 Darnley Drive
3213 Archdale Road	8236 Barningham Road	3050 Darnley Drive
3111 Darnley Drive	3234 Sherbrook Road	2631 E Weyburn Road
3121 Darnley Drive	3263 Sherbrook Road	2800 E Weyburn Road
3154 Darnley Drive	3328 Sherbrook Road	2805 E Weyburn Road
8100 Duncaster Road	3339 Sherbrook Road	2815 E Weyburn Road
8137 Grimsby Road	3350 Sherbrook Road	2822 E Weyburn Road
8319 Halesworth Road	3520 Sherbrook Road	2830 E Weyburn Road
2913 Halstead Road	3716 Sherbrook Road	2838 E Weyburn Road
2921 Halstead Road	3801 Sherbrook Road	2839 E Weyburn Road
2939 Halstead Road	3818 Sherbrook Road	2846 E Weyburn Road
8225 Halstead Road	3914 Sherbrook Road	2913 E Weyburn Road
8508 Halstead Road	3924 Sherbrook Road	3121 E Weyburn Road
3915 N Huguenot Road	4036 Sherbrook Road	3617 E Weyburn Road
3925 N Huguenot Road	8233 Trabue Road	3631 E Weyburn Road
8613 W Huguenot Road 8	331 Trabue Road	3717 E Weyburn Road
8127 Lethbridge Road	8511 Trabue Road	3819 E Weyburn Road
8175 Riverside Drive	8512 Trabue Road	3849 W Weyburn Road
8201 Riverside Drive	8546 Trabue Road	8362 W Weyburn Road
8420 Rubimont Road	8610 Trabue Road	3703/ 3705 W Weyburn Road
8430 Rubimont Road	8613 Trabue Road	3700 Whitewood Road
8437 Rubimont Road	8636 Trabue Road	3817 Whitewood Road
8440 Rubimont Road	8663 Trabue Road	8310 Whitewood Road
3001 Scherer Drive	8676 Trabue Road	8319 Whitewood Road
3020 Scherer Drive	2600 E Weyburn Road	4245 Wycliff Drive
3231 Scherer Drive	2621 E Weyburn Road	

Holiday Decorating Contest Results
December, 2023

Best Overall Decor

3101 Scherer Dr.

Trina Jaehnigen & Doug Alexander



Most Innovative Decor

2838 Weyburn Rd.

Hank & Deborah Artz



Best Traditional Decor

8314 Charlise Rd,

Robin & Collen Good