

# NORTH OF THE JAMES®

“Truth and facts, no alternatives.”

# My Outdoor Project

Let Victor Make Your Outdoor Project, His Outdoor Project



**HARDSCAPING** patios, walkways, raised beds, stairs  
**LANDSCAPING** no job too large, or too small  
**CUSTOM-FENCING** and **MULCHING**

Contact  
**VICTOR AYALA**  
master mason and landscaper  
**804 912 9789**  
[my\\_new\\_project@outlook.com](mailto:my_new_project@outlook.com)

## TABLE of CONTENTS

- 4 COVID-19 STORIES Bellevue Mutual Aid: Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
Enlightened views, coupled with progressive values, lead to compassion, so, it's no wonder that just as COVID-19 finally struck as a reality in March, Bellevue residents, rather than hoarding for themselves, thought instead of their neighbors' needs.
- 6 BUSINESS PROFILE Outdoor Projects With Victor Ayala**  
America just got greater. Victor Ayala back in January became an American citizen. He has carved out a remarkable life for his wife and daughter, and created his own business My Outdoor Project. His skills in hardscape and landscape are unparalleled.
- 9 BRIEFS Around Town**  
Northside Grille Reopened June 11; Summer Sessions at The Painting Class Begins July 8
- 10 COVID-19 STORIES Senator Tim Kaine: This Land Is Our Land**  
Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, a man of the people, a man of faith and compassion who seeks the North Star of an ever more perfect Union even during this global pandemic and these divisive times, was good enough to take time out of a very busy schedule to talk with NORTH of the JAMES.
- 14 COVER STORY A Monumental Change: It Is Time**  
It may not have been "the shot heard round the world," but it was an excruciatingly long and violent video seen and heard by billions of people across the Earth. Every single one of them heard the pleas of a black man who was killed in the most violent of manners by a white man who was supposed to protect and serve him.
- 21 HIDDEN HISTORIES Mother's Day: An Anti-War Holiday**  
Here are a few facts to keep in mind on Mother's Day. Our current celebration actually originates from a woman who wrote what is arguably one of the most famous war anthems of all time—"The Battle Hymn of the Republic".
- 22 BOOK REVIEW Mother Ocean: The Last Frontier**  
The current pandemic knocked my brain so off kilter that for several weeks I could not comprehend what I was reading. Night after night I perused the same five pages or so. But at last I found a book so compelling I was forced to pay attention: "The Outlaw Ocean."

### COVER IMAGE:

Painting by Jason Bennett

## NORTH OF THE JAMES®

Independently owned and operated.

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

Copyright 2020® by NORTH of the JAMES magazine. All rights reserved. Views and opinions by our writers do not necessarily represent those of NORTH of the JAMES magazine. NORTH of the JAMES magazine is not responsible for claims made by our advertisers.

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

PO Box 9225  
Richmond, VA 23227  
804 218 5265  
northofthejames.com

editor/publisher

**CHARLES G. MCGUIGAN**

art director

**DOUG DOBEY** at Dobe Design

web designer

**CATHERINE MCGUIGAN**

contributing writers

**DALE M BRUMFIELD**  
**MARY ELFNER**  
**ALANE CAMERON FORD**  
**ORION HUGHES**  
**JACK R JOHNSON**  
**ANDREW CHURCHER**  
**ANNE JONES**  
**CATHERINE MCGUIGAN**  
**FRAN WITHROW**

contributing photographer

**REBECCA D'ANGELO**

account executive

**AREINA-GAIL HENSLEY**

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

**DOT'S**

**BACK INN**

4030 MACARTHUR AVENUE ★ 266-3167

**Pre-Order and Curbside Pickup**  
**7 Days a Week, 11am-8pm**  
**Menu on Our Facebook Page**

**DEMI'S**

MEDITERRANEAN KITCHEN

4017 MACARTHUR AVENUE  
RICHMOND, VA 23227  
804 525 4576  
INFO@DEMISVA.COM

**TAKING PRE-ORDERS FOR FAMILY MEALS**

**ORDER AND CURBSIDE PICKUP AT DOT'S BACK INN**

**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR**  
**UPCOMING FAMILY MEALS**

# Bellevue Mutual Aid: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

**B**ELLEVUE—BOUNDED by Hermitage and Brook roads to the east and west, and Laburnum and Westbrook avenues to the south and north—is one of the most progressive neighborhoods in the city, peppered liberally with well-informed citizens—artists, writers, musicians, craftsmen, teachers, lawyers, and many other professionals—a group of people as diverse as the 1,200 homes—each architecturally distinctive—that make up this unique community of the Northside.

Enlightened views, coupled with progressive values, lead to compassion, so, it's no wonder that just as COVID-19 finally struck as a reality in March, Bellevue residents, rather than hoarding for themselves, thought instead of their neighbors' needs.

I'm sitting at a picnic table at Holton Elementary School surrounded at a safe distance by five Bellevue residents who were instrumental in launching a local mutual aid group.

"As the Coronavirus pandemic broke out," says Liz Pettit. "I was thinking about my neighbors, especially those who are immunocompromised or might be losing their jobs, and wanted to be sure that as a neighborhood we were there for each other."

Liz, who founded Bellevue Mutual Aid, had learned on social media about a group over in Fulton. "They were delivering meals to neighbors in need," Liz says. "And I was inspired to contact our Bellevue Civic Association (BCA), and work on setting up a neighborhood-based mutual aid group to ensure that all of our neighbors would have access to food and resources, if they needed it."

The BCA encouraged Liz, and helped reach out to its members to recruit volunteers for the fledgling mutual aid group.

Not long before Liz made her request of the BCA, that neighborhood group had formed a committee for engagement and outreach. It is chaired by Donald Glazer.

"It was sort of a natural progression in which the civic association had an



From left: Jami Bricker, Donald Glazer, Elaine Summerfield, Micah Morris, and Liz Pettit.

interest in being involved in providing community support," Donald says. "And the mutual aid group wanted to provide an avenue for community support in Bellevue. We thought we would join forces."

In fairly short order, the BCA pitched in, handing out fliers to every household in the neighborhood. "Twelve hundred houses were informed about the mutual aid group," says Donald, who became a sort of de facto liaison between the civic association and the mutual aid group. "Through that effort and phone calls and organizing, we ended up with a mutual aid group. Right now, we have between forty and fifty volunteers."

It was Micah Morris who mapped out Bellevue, slicing it up into manageable sections. "When we were thinking about how best to reach everyone, we took a geographic approach," Micah tells me. "First, we broke the neighborhood into quadrants and then from there we started to zero in and ask folks if they were willing to be block captains."

A block captain has a variety of responsibilities. "They let their neighbors know about the resources available to them if they need anything," says Micah. "They do check in calls, and are just generally available if a request came in for someone who lives on that block."

Using this approach, bonds the neighbors in each block of Bellevue. "Folks have been stepping up to volunteer and really help each other out," Micah

says. "We also do weekly calls where we check in with each other, talk about projects that we're working on."

To date, the need for assistance in Bellevue has been minimal. "We haven't had a ton of need in the Bellevue neighborhood yet, which is very good," says Liz Pettit. "But we're still maintaining our network to make sure that if any needs do arise, we're ready to spring into action."


Elaine Summerfield, who is running for Richmond City Council this November, was involved with Bellevue Mutual Aid early on. "As people came together around Bellevue Mutual Aid, a lot of the energy was behind people having a strong desire to do something," she remembers. "When you think back to March, which was like a lifetime ago, people were scrambling, thinking, 'Okay, we're going to need assistance, perhaps ourselves, but in the meantime we can be helping others and we can be sharing what we have with our neighbors in Bellevue, as well as across the community.'"

Although Bellevue residents haven't needed much in the way of assistance, there are areas of our city where there is a keen need for some of life's basics. "We have done something that included a supply drive and a food drive to collect items for people who were facing, maybe, food insecurity, or couldn't access those paper goods that were disappearing off the shelves," says Elaine. "So those items were distributed through partnerships with the RVA Mutual Aid group, which is a larger

mutual aid group that's really active in the community, as well as with Community 50/50, and the Jackson Ward Youth Team serving the Jackson Ward and Gilpin communities, and also at the Calhoun Center in Gilpin Court. Just making sure that our neighbors were surviving and thriving as much as possible. That has really been a way to get people involved, but I think we can be doing more."

Less than a year ago, Jami Bricker moved into Bellevue. She liked the houses, the tree-lined streets, but mainly the people and the sense of community there.

"As soon as I moved to the neighborhood, I got involved with the civic association and offered to assist with social media so when they started up the mutual aid effort they reached out and asked if I would help them with social media," says Jami. "So I set up the Facebook and Instagram accounts that we use to try to increase our visibility and find out the best ways that we can direct our efforts."

Jami Bricker looks out to the raised beds that surround Hudson House at Holton's Dandelion Garden. Standing a good twelve feet apart, and each sporting a face mask, are the other members of the Bellevue Mutual Aid group. Jami gestures towards them. "It all gets done with a lot of help from these guys, and all our volunteers," she says. "It's really been a group effort." 

To get involved, visit [facebook.com/groups/bellevuemutualaid](https://facebook.com/groups/bellevuemutualaid)

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



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

# Outdoor Projects with Victor Ayala

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

AMERICA JUST GOT GREATER.

**S**ITTING ACROSS FROM me on the front porch is a man I am proud to call amigo. We are nursing a couple of tall gin and tonics, the lime tangy, the quinine bitter, the glasses chilled to the touch and sweating as profusely as both of us.

Back in January, I made my way down to the Federal Courthouse at 7th and Broad streets where my friend Victor Ayala would be sworn in. Although I was unable to actually see him take his oath, I was there in the waiting area as he became an American citizen. And it is an honor to now have him woven into the fabric of this nation. His presence, and that of his family, makes America a much greater Experiment than it has ever been before.

Victor came here as a boy, just sixteen year old. His back story, like that of many immigrants, is absolutely harrowing (you can hear the full details of it in an audio story at: [northofthejames.com](http://northofthejames.com))

As soon as he arrived in Richmond, Victor went to work learning skills that would help lay the foundation of the business he would eventually create—My Outdoor Project. “My first job was in landscaping,” he tells me at a safe distance on my front porch. “We would put in new beds, clean the existing beds, mulch, trim. I was learning it all. That was seventeen years ago.”

He later encountered a man named Gary Daniels, a seasoned mason, who saw great potential in the young Victor Ayala. “He was a good man,” says Victor. “And he gave me a good job. He had a gift to push people to do more and to learn.”

Anytime business went slack in either landscaping or masonry, Victor would take whatever job he could find. “Charles, you know how it is for us immigrants, we have to hustle,” he says. “Sometimes they tell you, ‘We don’t have work and you have to wait for two weeks.’ So you don’t stay home and wait for that two weeks, you move on and find other work.”

Frequently, that work was in construction. At the time, a lot of older buildings in downtown Richmond were undergoing major renovations to



*Victor Ayala of My Outdoor Project.*

satisfy a new demand for residential housing. “I would do carpentry, hang drywall, just about anything,” he says. “I am always learning.”

And perfecting his skills. Victor has done contract work for a number of landscape businesses over the years. He would primarily handle the hardscaping, and his masonry skills are unmatched.

Four years ago, he took the plunge and opened his own business. Fusing the multitude of skills he’s acquired over the years, he can do pretty much

anything in terms of, as his business’s name suggests, outdoor projects.

“We do a little bit of everything,” Victor says. “We do patios. We do sidewalks. We also do steps and stoops.” From raised beds of river stone to fire pits and outdoor kitchens, My Outdoor Project can handle any job, big or small. “We do fencing,” says Victor. “We build decks. We do landscaping, and even lawn maintenance.”

After consulting with a client, Victor makes recommendations. He sometimes suggests a client go to Pete

Rose out in Glen Allen, where Victor buys most of his stone for hardscaping. “They have it all,” he says. “Blue-stone, flagstone, limestone, river rocks, cobblestones. They also have nice displays of fire pits and outdoor kitchens. They’re really nice with the customers, and help them to choose the right product.”

If a client is considering landscaping as well, they can inspect some of the best plant material in the area right next door to Pete Rose’s at Glen Allen Nursery, which are both located on Old Staples Mill Road. “You can walk

# Fin & Feather Pet Center, Inc.

Established 1959



www.fin-feather.com

**OPEN 7 Days a Week**

**RICHMOND**  
5208 LAKESIDE AVE  
(Convenient to I-64, Powhite & I-95 interchange.  
Just off Exit 80, across from Franco's)

**262-6681**



**Pond Center Open Year Round**

**ALL PONDS  
AND POND SUPPLIES  
\$50 OFF**

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

For use in Pond Center only. Not valid with any other discounts, with other coupons, discounts, sale items, cat litter and dog or cat food. Expires 7/10/20



**PONDMASTER**



**Free  
Tropical  
Fish**

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

Limit \$5.99 value.  
Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 7/10/20

**Dog & Cat Food**



**\$2.00 OFF** Dog or Cat food up to 8 lbs.  
**\$3.00 OFF** Dog or Cat food of 12 lbs. to 25 lbs.  
**\$5.00 OFF** Dog or Cat food of 26 lbs. or more  
Valid for Precise, Eukanuba, Natural Balance and Iams brands only.  
Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 7/10/20

**SAVE ON PET SUPPLIES**

**\$10 OFF**

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

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts, cat litter, dog or cat food.  
Not valid on Frontline or Advantage. Expires 7/10/20

**\$8 OFF GROOMING**



**262-1801 (New Customers Only)**  
With Coupons Only. Not Valid With Any Other Offer. Expires 7/10/20



**FREE PARAKEET**

With Purchase Of Parakeet Set-Up  
Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 7/10/20



**15% OFF  
REPTILE SUPPLIES**

With Purchase Of A Reptile

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 7/10/20

**CUTE DOGS AND CATS  
FOR ADOPTION**

Cute Kittens and Cats For Adoption  
Through Richmond Animal Care and Control

## A SHARPER PALATE

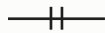
Catering & Events

# Order Family Meals To-Go!

Pick-up or Delivery TUES-SAT

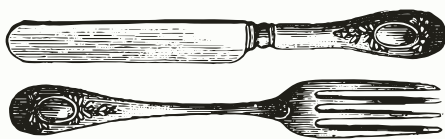
ORDER ONLINE:

**ASharperPalate.com**



OR BY PHONE:

**804-553-0495**



5511 Lakeside Avenue | Henrico, Virginia 23228

## BUSINESS PROFILE

through and choose any plants, trees and shrubs you want," Victor says.

One of the things Victor reminds people of is that patios and other outdoor projects can grow with time.

"The good thing about doing a patio is that you're going to start enjoying it with the family to make a special moment," he says. "If you think you need to add more patio, do it later on. And you can start making family memories right away."

Victor says that during these COVID-19 times it's particularly desirable to have an outdoor refuge.

"It's tough to be at the house all the time," he says. "Twenty-four hours inside; it's crazy. Right now, especially right now with all this pandemic, if you've got a patio, you can have the space six feet apart, and you can be out there talking to your neighbor or a friend, someone who is special, and you don't have to bring them inside to your house, just be out there on the patio."

Above all else, Victor prides himself on being up front with his customers. "I think you just have to be honest with the people," he says. "I've got experience, I'm going to do my best. This is what I can do, this is what I can bring to the table, and this is how much it's going to cost."

If money is an issue, Victor suggests paring the project down to a bare minimum. "Maybe all you can afford right now is the crushed stone base for the patio," he says. "Put it down and then put up one of those fire pits from Lowe's, the ones you can move around. Just put it in the middle, then bring the chairs, and have some good times. One day you're going to have the money to put pavers on the top. Then you can build it out."

He tells me about his own backyard, and how much time he and his family spend out there. His daughter, Diana is now ten years old. His wife, Jasmine, works side by side with him in the family business. "She's the one who does the office work," says Victor. "I'm good in the field, but I'm really bad on the office stuff. Jasmine helps me a lot, and we love our backyard."

And then he speaks of gratitude, and how he sometimes can't believe his own good fortune.

"I really am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to be in this country," Victor tells me. "When I look back on my past and I see everything I have come through and what I am right now, it's because of the grace of God."


He enjoys visiting other countries, most recently Peru, where he does mission work for his church. "People will tell me, 'You in America, you've got everything. It's easy for you,'" he says. "And I tell my story, 'Look I had to leave my mom and my whole family when I was sixteen. I had to put my life in danger. I had to do a lot of things and now I have another life. When you are young you think the money is going to solve everything. It's not about the money. It's about having faith in God.'"

In the wake of Hurricane Maria, Victor had travelled to Puerto Rico with his church group. He and fellow congregants from El Camino Baptist made their way to the town of Utuado, twenty miles outside of Arecibo, home to the world's largest single-unit radio telescope, an observatory that can see some of the most distant galaxies in the universe, can train its eye on the furthest reaches of creation.

For seven days, Victor and his friends toiled under the Caribbean sun, doing whatever work needed be done, while restoring hope to people who felt both frustrated and deserted.

"We worked with local pastors," Victor tells me. "If somebody needed help cleaning their house, which had been under ten feet of water, we would go in and clean the floors, and wash the walls and the ceilings. Whatever needs they had, we would help. We supplied labor. And we tried to give some hope to people because I think that was a big need over there."

Victor reaches for his gin and tonic, and sips slowly, then looks around my front yard. Before even considering an outdoor project, Victor recommends the homeowner let their imagination run wild. "Just go out to your backyard and imagine what you want," he says. "Spend time talking with your family. Put a couple chairs around where a fire pit might be, and imagine the patio's there."

Victor Ayala looks over at me and smiles. "I love my job, Charles," he says. "Doing something for happiness. At the end of the day, it's hard work. But I enjoy when I finish a patio, when I finish a project. It just feels so good. People's dreams come true." 

**My Outdoor Project**

804 912 9789

[my\\_new\\_project@outlook.com](mailto:my_new_project@outlook.com)



Recent mural at Stir Crazy Cafe

**252 573 8428**

**smcclaning@yahoo.com**





## Northside Grille

REOPENED JUNE 11



Owner Shanan Chambers reopened her popular Northside eatery earlier this week. They will follow all protocols for Phase 1 of Virginia's reopening.

Northside Grille will be open 11am till 8 pm seven days a week with outdoor and social distanced dining only. Tables will not be bussed until the party leaves. And though it is a limited menu, there are many savory dishes to choose from. For the time being Sunday brunch will not be served. Along with patio dining, the Grille offers curbside service and pickup with beer and wine to go.

*Northside Grille*  
1217 Bellevue Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227  
804 266 4403

## Summer Sessions

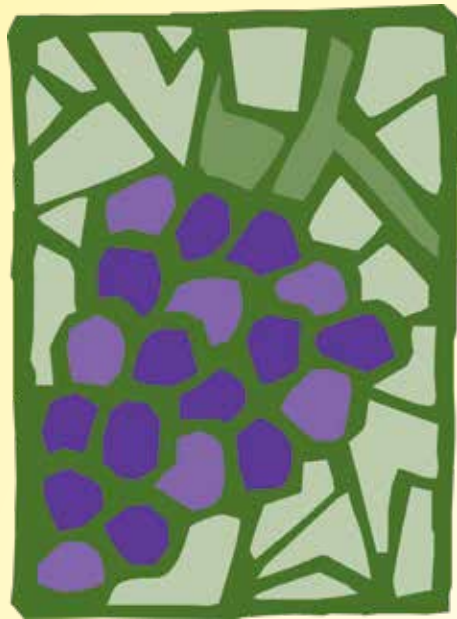
**AT THE PAINTING CLASS BEGINS JULY 8; REGISTER NOW**

Choose from Wednesday or Thursday classes. Wednesday session is 1:30 till 4:30 pm beginning July 8, for nine 3-hour classes. Thursday session is 6:30 till 9:30pm beginning July 9, for nine 3-hour classes. Classes are for students at any level of mastery from the beginner to the advanced student.

Brenda has an open lesson or discussion for the first 30 minutes of class and then two and a half hours of painting and individual instruction. An extra free painting date will be announced toward the end of the nine-week session.

There is a strict limit of ten students per class; first come, first served. Cost is \$220 per student. For more information please call Brenda at 804 564 6979.

*Brenda Stankus*  
*ThePaintingClass.com*  
1229 Bellevue Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227



# Once Upon a Vine

-  **DUE TO THE RECENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC WE WILL NOT BE HOSTING ANY FRIDAY NIGHT BEER AND WINE TASTINGS, OR FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**
-  **BASED ON STATE RECOMMENDATION WE NOW LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INSIDE THE STORE TO TEN (10). PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE AT ALL TIMES.**
-  **SUNDAY-THURSDAY, NOON-7PM; FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOON-9PM**
-  **YOU MUST WEAR A FACE MASK TO ENTER THE STORE**
-  **WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO SERVE ALL OF OUR FABULOUS CUSTOMERS**
-  **PLEASE BEAR WITH US THROUGH THESE TRYING TIMES**

**CALL 804 726 9463  
4009 MACARTHUR AVENUE**

# Senator Tim Kaine: This Land Is Our Land

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

**Editor's note:**

*This interview took place nine days before the brutal murder of George Floyd.*

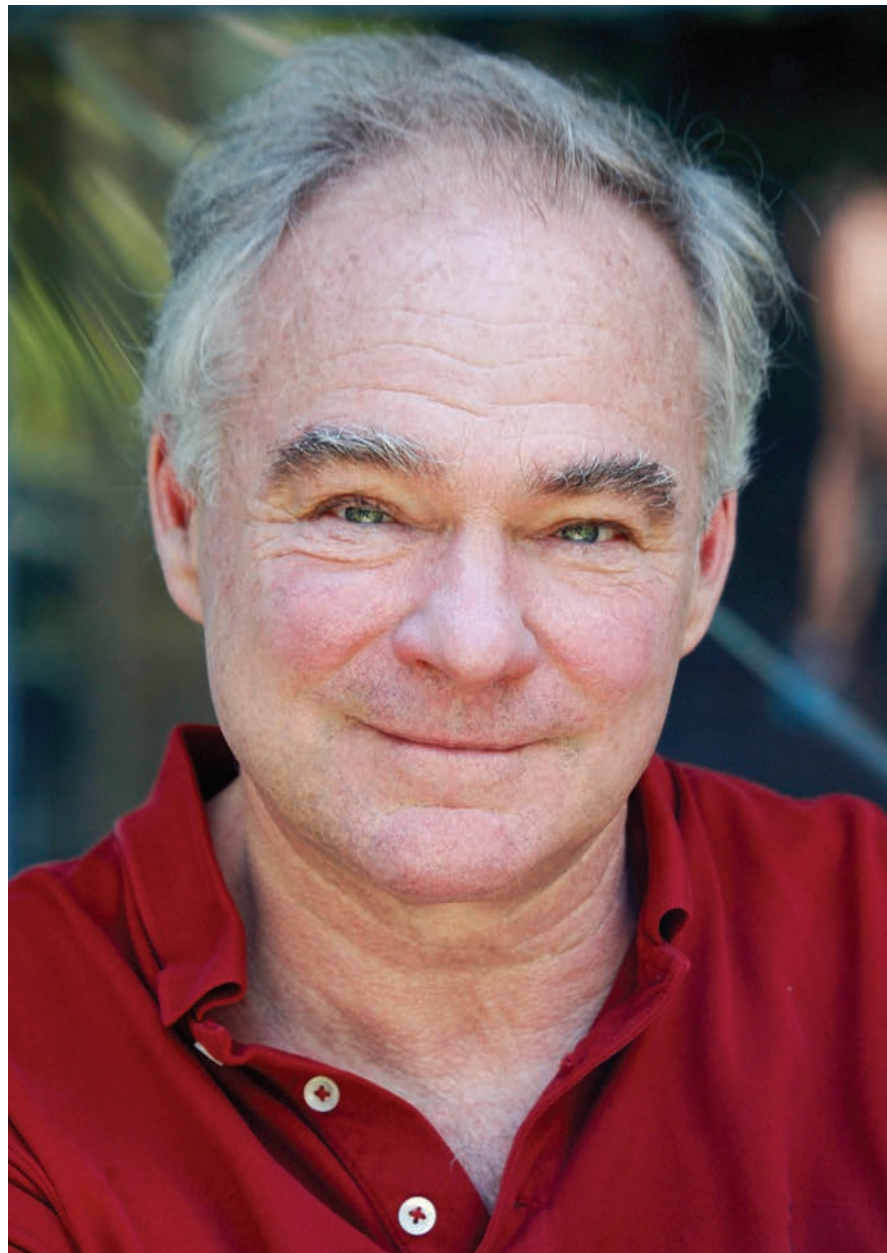
**S**ENATOR TIM KAINE of Virginia, a man of the people, a man of faith and compassion who seeks the North Star of an ever more perfect Union even during this global pandemic and these divisive times, is good enough to take time out of a very busy schedule to talk with me a few weeks ago from his front porch in the Northside. He has just returned from DC, and long days and nights in the US Capitol.

Eight hours before President Obama would deliver a moving commencement speech to every 2020 graduate in America, Tim mentions a program he started called Everybody's a Graduation Speaker. "I have been thinking about the class of 2020 high schoolers and college kids," he tells me. "And they're cheated a little bit, they don't get the real graduation experience or the prom experience . . . so I decided to do something fun."

His Senate office put out a call to graduating seniors across the Commonwealth. "We said, if you want to be the graduation speaker, video yourself giving a ten-minute graduation speech and email it to my office," says Tim. "And we've gotten submissions from all around Virginia. Starting on Monday May 18 we're going to start posting one a day of these graduation speeches . . . on our Senate webpage and put them out for all Virginians."

It is sunny, bright, the air thick with the sweet smell of just-bloomed magnolias, and the twittering of birds. I'm standing fifteen feet from the front stoop of a house on a tree-lined street in Ginter Park. Sitting up on the top step, dressed in faded blue jeans and a maroon knit shirt, Senator Tim talks about the state house in Michigan, which is closed today because of threats made against Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

"The archetypal picture recently is the one of the people in the Michigan capitol yelling in the faces of State Police," he says. "And you think about some-



Senator Tim Kaine.

body with no mask on who potentially has coronavirus intentionally trying to infect somebody by standing six inches away and yelling in their face. I'm outraged when I see those pictures."

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

stand the full nature of who we are."

About once a week, Tim reviews the comments on his social media page. "You have to read the comments to see the degree of hatred and bigotry and anger that many people have, because if you don't understand that, you don't fully understand who this country is," he says. "Again, I don't think it's a majority. You see more love and friendship and companionship than you see that, but you can't kid yourself that it doesn't exist. There is a lot of hatred and a lot of bigotry and a lot of anti-Semitism. So it's a scary moment we're living in, but I tend to view it as not the creation of something, but the revela-

tion of something that's been there all along. Virginia has more scar tissue than anybody else when it comes to this issue."

Asked if he has faith in the preservation of the Republic, Tim nods. "I have faith for two reasons; one would be a theological reason, and then the other would be a historical reason," he says.

After summarizing the story of Job from the Old Testament, Tim considers its true meaning. "I think we sometimes go through things because we're being tested," he says. "And the answer from the Book of Job is, it wasn't because you're bad, it wasn't because the universe is pointless. This is a test. Will you hold to your principals and your faith even while tested, and because he (Job) does, what was lost to him was restored."

Then Tim turns to the other reason, the one grounded in historic fact.

"I think if you look at American history, you can basically say the whole history is explained by Jefferson stating that our key value is the equality principle, and that was reaffirmed by Lincoln at Gettysburg, so both the founder of the modern Democratic Party and the founder of the modern Republican Party said this is the key principal," Tim says. "But if you look at that as a North Star, what you see is we advance and then we retract, we declare our independence with high-minded ideals, but then we're burdened by a Constitution that enshrines slavery. And then we go through the bloody expiation of sin that was the Civil War, and we make advances with the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, but then Reconstruction immediately is ended, and now we're into Jim Crow. We do Brown versus Board, but then massive resistance. We retract, but we don't go as far back as before we stepped forward. We go back and start pushing again."

Tim invites me to consider Virginia's own checkered past.

"Look at what's happened in Virginia since I was born in 1958," he says. Of that year 1958, he mentions massive resistance and segregation, how women were barred from attending

# Ready for a NEW beginning?



dangeloRVArealtor



*Creating Community  
One Home At A Time*

Featured On HGTV  
House Hunters

Complimentary Portrait  
Session At Closing

Rebecca D'Angelo  
Realtor®

Licensed in VA

804.874.9709

Virginia Capital Realty  
1106 N Thompson  
RVA 23230



# HOBNOB

eat. drink. socialize.

**Curbside Pickup Available**  
Daily, 3:30pm-7:30pm  
Sunday Brunch, 9:30am-1:30pm

Check Out Our Small But Mighty  
Menu On Our Website

**6010 Hermitage Road  
Richmond, VA 23228**

**hobnobrva.com**

**804 264 7400**

# McDONALD, SUTTON & DUVAL, PLC

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW



## FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

Personal Injury Small Business/Corporate Law Civil Litigation  
Family Law Estate Law Criminal Representation and Traffic

5516 Falmouth St Suite 108 Richmond, VA 23230

Telephone: 804 643 0000 Email: [webmail@mcdonaldsutton.com](mailto:webmail@mcdonaldsutton.com)

Or call us at our new office in New Kent: 804 932 3444



## The Mill is open for curbside pickup & carryout only.

For your safety we've updated our systems to now include contactless payments and online ordering.

### Order Online:

themillonmacarthur.hrpos.heartland.us

### You can download the mobile ordering app here:

retailsystemsinc.com/heartland-guest-app-download

To keep our staff and community healthy, all CDC Covid-19 guidelines will be followed. At this time, we will be limiting the number of people allowed in the restaurant for pickup — in-house dining is NOT currently available. A face covering or mask will be required to be worn by all who enter the restaurant (patrons, staff, vendors, etc). No mask = no problem; when you get here to pick up your order just ring the bell and we'll come out to you.

Thursday - Saturday:  
11am - 8pm

Serving Brunch on Sunday only:  
10am - 3pm

CLOSED: Monday-Wednesday

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

**4023 MacArthur Avenue**  
**804 716 1196**  
**www.themillva.com**

University of Virginia among other state colleges, how only one out of a hundred Virginians was foreign-born.

"And guess what?" says Tim. "We were also poor, we were at the bottom quarter per capita income."

But with progress, things changed. These days, one out of every eight or nine Virginians is foreign-born. "We're in the top quarter per capita income," he says. "The only (other) state that's moved bottom quarter to top quarter in per capita income since 1958 with us is North Dakota. They discovered oil. We discovered that if you put artificial barriers between people, you're not going to be as successful as you would be otherwise."

We then turn to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the federal response to this global crisis. "Anthony Fauci is an expert," Tim says. "And we've got other experts who are doing really good work in the federal government. The Trump team has some really sharp people."

Having said that, Tim adds, "I think the Trump administration has horribly mishandled this because there's no conceivable reason why the United States, which had our first case the same day that South Korea did, now have eighty plus thousand deaths, and South Korea should have two hundred and fifty. By early March we were still the same, our unemployment rates were still the same. Now South Korea's unemployment rate is at four percent, and ours is at fifteen percent. They pursued a strategy that was very different than the strategy that was pursued in this country."

He recalls those early, critical weeks, when every minute counted in containing a virus that spread like pollen in Richmond springtime. "For six to eight weeks," says Tim. "We had a commander in chief/president saying, 'It's not a problem. It will go away. Democrats and the media are blowing it out of proportion. We've got five cases, they'll be gone by the end of month. It will get better when the weather gets warm. You could inject disinfectant.' He downplayed the risk, and then preached a lot of nonsense about it. If you've got good advice coming from Dr. Fauci, but then the president, who has a much louder microphone, countering it, then you're going to find our response isn't as good."

Tim mentions a particularly bizarre occurrence that recently emanated from the White House.

"I think it was three Thursdays ago," he says. "President Trump did a

press conference and he rolled out with his team the three phases to reopen our economy."

Tim and the rest of Virginia's federal delegation were on a conference call with Governor Ralph Northam. "So you were on the call with the president when he was announcing it, what do you think?" Tim asked the governor.

"Science-based, sound, we're going to follow it," Governor Northam said.

Tim was pleasantly surprised that the federal guidelines were in keeping with a strategy endorsed by scientific experts and a governor who is also a doctor.

But then of course the tweeting began, early the very next morning.

"President Trump is tweeting out 'Liberate Virginia, liberate Michigan, liberate Wisconsin,'" says Tim. "Governors are trying to apply the guidelines that he had given less than twelve hours before. And President Trump is trying to foment insurgency in the midst of a global pandemic. It's shocking. You cannot look any Virginian or American in the face with a death toll now north of eighty thousand and climbing, and say it had to be this way. Because the experience of other nations in the world show, no, to the contrary. We have forty-five times the death rate in South Korea, three times the death rate in Germany, twice that in Canada, dozens of times the death rate in Australia or Japan or Vietnam or New Zealand."

Congress, according to Tim, has provided the resources needed to combat the pandemic. Between the third of March and the twenty-fifth of April, the legislators passed four major bills, and at the time of this interview, were working on a fifth.

"There are basically five pillars," says Tim. "Aid to individuals and families. Aid to small businesses. Loans to large businesses. Aid to state and local governments. Aid to hospitals and the broader healthcare network. Those five pillars are what we're focused on. I'm particularly working on two, hospitals and healthcare network, because I'm on the health committee, and state and local government aid because I'm a former mayor and governor. Senator Warner's focused on the small business and large business pieces of it because of his roles on the banking and finance committees, so we're trying to do that. We can provide the resources and then we can give the platform to the best evidence and the best science. We did that on a bipartisan basis on the health committee this week."


Tim has been impressed by leadership of our governors—Republican and Democrat alike. "Mike DeWine in Ohio, Larry Hogan in Maryland, Charlie Baker in Massachusetts," says Tim. "I mean there's some Republican governors who've done great work in this."

Then Tim gives the current administration credit where credit is due.

"And let me be fair Charles, because I've been really critical of the Trump administration," he says. "It's also important, if you're critical, to point out things where they're doing well. So, they have people like Fauci and others who are sharp. And here's something that I've been pleasantly impressed with. We passed four big pieces of legislation, acting quickly. I'll say this about the Trump team in the implementation of what Congress has done, they've been really, really good in implementing and then adjusting. I'm very, very praiseworthy of the administration on that."

He singles out Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. "He's been the negotiator on the administration's side," says Tim. "How do you get the four bills in a row that are virtually unanimous in a divided time? Well the nature of the emergency pulls us together. But you've got to have somebody at the White House who you can deal with and trade with and Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin has been their key guy on the bills that we've passed, and has done a good job."

So the public health management of this has been abysmal, the effort to implement the resources that have been provided, I give the administration high marks on that.

Looking to the future, Tim considers the resiliency of the economy and the American people. "This is not an economic collapse driven by economic conditions," he says. "It's all driven by the pandemic. The economy had a lot of internal weaknesses and challenges, but it also had a lot of strengths in January and February. So what do we do? We've got to get over the public health crisis. That will be the single best thing we can do for the economy. So the health care response is the key, but what we have to do is have a bridge to get people through, and so again, aid to individuals, small businesses, large businesses, state and local governments, hospitals, healthcare sector." 

*To hear the full audio story, and watch a special front porch concert featuring Tim Kaine on harmonica and vocals, please visit [northofthejames.com](http://northofthejames.com)*



**WILLARD  
PAINTING**

*Quality Painting  
Guaranteed Results  
Free Estimates*

**GREG WILLARD**  
743-8237

**DECATUR'S  
GARAGE**

**Round the Car Service**

Bellevue's Full-Service  
Auto Repair for 25 Years

Bobby Shore

4031 MacArthur Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227

(804) 262-7582

**CFI VACUUM**

SALES  SERVICE

On all bags and accessories with this ad

Mon-Fri, 9-5 | Thurs, 9-6 | Sat, 9-2  
7601 Brook Road | 262-9683  
www.cfivacuum.com

**Pet  
Sitting  
Services** 

**DONNA DUFFIELD**

**(804) 397-6720**

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



**ENRICHING  
LIFE'S  
JOURNEY**

**M**et Judy – artist, singer, mother of three and proud resident of Hermitage Richmond. For 70 years, we have been connecting with residents, families and loved ones to fulfill our mission of Enriching Life's Journey – whether you live independently or require assistance, memory support or health care services, our approach encourages you to set your own pace. Enjoy an outing to many attractions, stroll down our tree-lined streets, or express yourself in our creative arts studio – the choice is yours.

**HERMITAGE**  
RICHMOND  
PINNACLE LIVING

CELEBRATING  
**70**  
YEARS

804 474 1800 | HERMITAGERICHMOND.ORG



# A Monumental

IT IS TIME

IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN “THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD,” but it was an excruciatingly long and violent video seen and heard by billions of people across the Earth. Every single one of them heard the pleas of a black man who was killed in the most violent of manners by a white man who was supposed to protect and serve him. That, while three other police officers stood by and did nothing to stop the brutality, which they could have done any time during those eternal nine minutes before George Floyd gave up the ghost. Everything is now changed for good and all; there is no going back. George Floyd’s murder shone a retina-scorching light on racial inequities that have dominated our nation since even before its birth. Those who refuse to see them were already blind.



**T HAD** all the hallmarks of a modern day lynching, and it was horrific,” State Senator Jennifer McClellan told me. “Having done quite a bit of work on uncovering and elevating the stories of lynching in Virginia, that was my first reaction. Add that to the list.”

It’s quite a long list, too. From 1882 through 1968 alone, about 3,500 black men were lynched in this country, the overwhelming majority of those murders, about 80 percent of them, committed in southern states. It all rose out of the Jim Crow era, when white southerners decided African-Americans should remain dehumanized, and essentially enslaved. These white men resented their terrific defeat at the hands of the Union, and scorned a peaceable Reconstruction. Instead of accepting the equality of all human beings, they reaffirmed their commitment to the lunatic notion of white supremacy. That’s when the Confederate statues started springing up like a bumper crop of poison mushrooms throughout the South like those on Monument Avenue, which are soon to be gone (temporary court injunctions aside). For there has been a palpable awakening of the American psyche since the sadistic slaughter of George Floyd.

“I went out to a couple of different protests on Sunday, and then I went to the march on Monday from the Capitol to the Lee monument,” said Senator McClellan. “There was a genuine shift in the air. This is not just, ‘We’re going to rise up and then go back to life as normal.’ It really feels like we’re going to rise up and commit to change.”

Throughout the country, and around the world, mil-

lions are demanding justice. Among the protesters’ rallying cries is “Black Lives Matter”, which is even the new name of a section of the street the White House in Washington D.C. faces. The protests have spread from cities to suburbs and even out to the rural reaches of America.

“Part of it was the commitment and passion I saw on a wide variety of faces, whether it was college students or boomers,” Senator McClellan said. “It’s hard to describe. It is a different energy than I have felt at any other time before. Something’s different, and you can feel it and you can see it. It’s the beginning of real change, and we’ve just got to keep the momentum up.”

Back in March, the Virginia General Assembly adopted bills that permit localities to remove Confederate memorials at their discretion. This legislation allows municipalities to “remove, relocate, contextualize, cover or alter” these monuments. By April, Governor Ralph Northam had signed the bills into law.

The adoption of these bills came more than three years after the Charlottesville City Council voted to remove statues of Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson from municipal parks, which was in response to the bloody massacre of nine African American congregants in the basement of a church in South Carolina (this is important to keep in mind for the end of this story). That vote by council in Charlottesville spurred one of the most hideous moments in Virginia’s 21st century history. On a hot August night three years ago, alt-right, neo-Confederates, neo-Nazis, Klansmen, and right-wing militias descended on Charlottesville like a plague. At night, they carried torches, bleating racist and anti-Semitic



State Senator Jennifer McClellan

BY CHARLES MCGUIGAN  
PHOTOS BY REBECCA D'ANGELO

# Change



Lee Monument pedestal, before statue placement, c. 1890.



Noah Scalin's iconic image of a statueless Lee Monument, 2020.

slogans, while wielding semiautomatic weapons, and waving the Confederate battle flag alongside the flag of the Third Reich and the coopted Gadsden flag of the tea party.

The following day would see even more mayhem and the vilest kind of vitriol, along with carnage. A white supremacist named James Alex Fields, Jr. revved the engine of his car, dropped it into gear, and drove head on into a crowd of counter-protesters. He murdered Heather Heyer, and injured 19 other people. This neo-Confederate pleaded guilty to 29 federal hate crimes and was sentenced to life imprisonment, with 419 additional years for good measure.

As we talked about the removal of the Confederate statuary on Monument Avenue, Senator McClellan talked about kinds of monuments. "This is a good first step to heal old wounds," she said. "But now, we've got to address the systemic monuments to white supremacy and Jim Crow."

Which is exactly what people seem to be doing. "The first step, which I hope we're taking now, is to really acknowledge and recognize and understand how systemic inequity has been built into education, government, healthcare, transportation, and justice," said the Senator.

It will need to be a concerted effort, according to Senator McClellan. "I think every individual and every organization, whether it's government, business or

non-profit—everybody needs to take a really good hard look, do some soul-searching, and say, 'What am I doing to either address the systemic inequity or make it worse, whether if it's intentional or not.'"

Already corporations around the world are doing just that, as are individuals and communities of every size and description. But there needs to be more.

"There are some policy changes that many of us have been proposing for decades," said Senator McClellan. "Some of them we passed this year, and we made a good start on education funding, and we've been making progress on access to healthcare. We made a very little of progress on criminal justice reform, but a lot of it got pushed off to study. There's way more to be done on that. And those are things that need to happen at the local, state and federal levels. We need to make sure that all of that energy that we are seeing at the protests is sustained on legislation. Legislative action and doing that systemic change is a long process. It's not going to happen overnight."

We will also have to be willing to examine our own history, not the apologist version of it that has been foisted on the public for countless generations. "We really have to understand the history of our country and our Commonwealth," the Senator said. "We are a government founded on the ideals of life, liberty and equality for everyone, but our actual founding, four hundred years ago, was a government and a colony

and a system built by land-owning white men, land they stole, by the way, and built on a hierarchy with them at the top."

Revisionist history is finally nothing more than a sort of brainwashing of the masses. "The reason our history has been glossed over is a very successful propaganda campaign of white supremacy," said Senator McClellan. "Once you dehumanize, you can get away with it, and look at a person as property. And we see that rhetoric today with the immigrants."

Later, standing on a median strip, facing the Lee statue, the base of which is festooned with punk-pretty tags and slogans, Senator Jennifer McClellan told me something that didn't surprise me.

I've lived in this neighborhood for almost 20 years and today is the first time I've ever set foot on that circle, just because everything it symbolized was so painful I would try to ignore it as much as I could," she said. "And I never realized how much of a burden that was until I heard it was coming down." She smiles behind her facemask; you can tell by the way her eyes upturn. "To be out here and see kids taking graduation pictures up there, young families who are here for the history moment," she said. "It is something to see because it's the beginning of healing. But, we've got a long way to go and now we have to address the systemic inequity which is just as much a monument to white supremacy as this statue."

# B

**BACK IN** 2017, I interviewed Delegate Jeff Bourne for a profile piece featured on the cover of *NORTH of the JAMES*. During the course of that interview, he told me a story that has agitated me ever since. Jeff, at the time, sported no beard. Most days that I saw him at Stir Crazy Café, he was clean-shaven, and dressed impeccably in a Navy blue blazer, crisp white shirt, rep tie, charcoal gray slacks. Tacked to the left lapel of his jacket was a brass and enamel pin depicting the great seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia. And he drove a late model BMW sports car. Jeff told me that on Saturdays he would sometimes travel up to the Lowe's on Parham to purchase supplies for a home improvement project. Instead of his weekday dress, he might be wearing sweats. His face might be cast with a shadow of stubble. He told me that once he crossed the line from Richmond into the county to our north he might be pulled over by the local police. For no reason, other than being a black man dressed down and driving an expensive car. And it had happened on more than one occasion. When I asked him if he had had "the talk" with his son, who was just four at the time, Jeff shook head. "No," he said. "But I'm going to have to soon."

During a recent interview with Jeff, I mentioned the incidents of him being pulled over for no reason, other than what appeared to be racial profiling. "My experiences were mild compared to the examples we've seen over the last decade or so," Delegate Bourne said. I then asked if he has had "the talk" with his son.

"What I struggle with is finding the line between being brutally honest, but also communicating that reality to an eight-year-old," said Delegate Bourne. "I mean we can have a much more mature conversation now. (Keep in mind, the child is just eight.) I've always had the conversation with my daughter, who's much more mature. She's going to be twelve in a couple of weeks. So having to explain to them about how things just aren't the same for everyone is a very difficult proposition. Especially when you're trying to raise a young black boy who has become, throughout our history, seen as a threat or a threatening figure."

During the recent protests about the use of excessive force by police, and the murder of African Americans, Delegate Bourne has been particularly taken by certain signs held aloft by black children. "I've seen a bunch of pictures with a black kid holding up a sign that says, 'When did I become a threat and not a baby?' And it's true, you see it all

over, and that's why I'm so encouraged by this moment in our history."

It is like any other time Delegate Bourne has ever seen. "I think we are in a real watershed moment in our history," he said. "We have squandered opportunities throughout our lives, but I think this one feels different to me. I think it's harnessed an energy and a commitment to making the changes that need to be made in a lot of people."

And it crosses lines of gender, religious belief and skin color. "I've had a lot of my friends who don't necessarily share the same skin color as me say, 'You know, the last week has changed my perspective on a lot of different things and opened my eyes to so many things I just wasn't aware of,'" said Delegate Bourne. "So, I think if we can get there and continue down that path, we can make the changes that need to be made."

Real change comes only with broad, sweeping policy changes.

"I am working as hard as I ever have in trying to develop a legislative package along with some of my colleagues about how we specifically deal from a policy perspective with the use of force and the police killings," Delegate Bourne said. "And really try to bring more equity and fair policing practices and all of that because you know we've got to do something. And so we're going to do as much as we can. We are going to put them in place."

Virginia's ever-growing Black Caucus is firm in its commitment to equity and justice.

"The Black Caucus has been firm in this proposition," Delegate Bourne explains. "We don't have permanent friends or enemies. We have permanent interests, and our interests lie in making sure that communities of color are treated equally and equitably under all the laws so that everyone

truly can take advantage of opportunities that they have before them."

What the world has seen since the barbaric murder of George Floyd is much more than a series of protests.

"It is an uprising," Delegate Jeff Bourne said. "And I think the removal of the monuments are a piece of what is going on. They are very, very emblematic of the progress that we're going to be able to make in very short order. You know, for years and years and years Richmond has struggled with what to do with the monuments, and they have resisted taking them down or doing anything else to them. And now you can see there is real movement to remove them, both the one that the state controls, and I was super pleased to see the unanimous voice of City Council saying we need to remove these."

**SECOND** District Councilwoman Kim Gray, through a series of phone calls, was able to achieve the unanimity of the entire council body, which will formally vote July 6 on the issue. Councilwoman Gray has an utterly unique perspective on both the monuments and the protests. For one thing, all the Confederate statuary, save for Matthew Fontaine Maury, reside in her district. And a good portion of some of the more violent protests have occurred in her district, much of it within hailing distance of her home.

"I'm at ground zero," she told me. "I live near Abner Clay Park."

The turmoil in the streets over the past couple weeks has had a direct impact on her life, and the lives of her neighbors and constituents. "My youngest son, who is twelve, was in the house when all this stuff was happening downtown and there were plumes of tear gas in the neighborhood and smoke coming through our windows,"



Delegate Jeff Bourne



Councilwoman Kim Gray



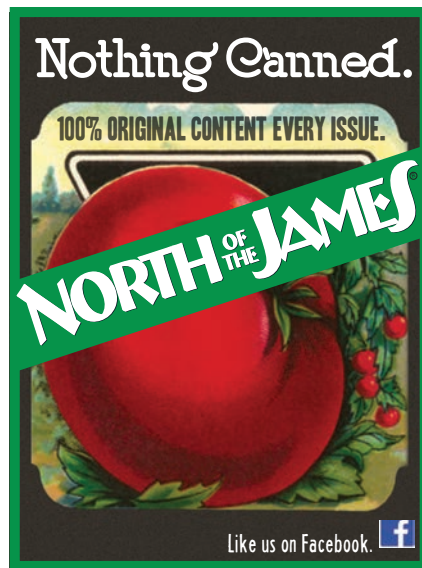
Councilwoman Gray recalled. "I've had him isolated because he's very fragile because he has asthma. I had to make the decision Saturday to move him because of all the burning rubber, smoke and tear gas."

Up until the point of this interview, she had not yet watched the entire nine-minute video that documents George Floyd's murder. "My heart breaks for him and his family," the Councilwoman said. "I could not finish watching the film. It just tears me apart to think that that could happen and that there were other officers who could have done something, who chose not to."

A social activist herself, Councilwoman Gray understands the need to protest. "Peaceful protests are always welcomed," she said. But she takes issue with those who participate in violent and destructive activity. She mentioned Waller and Company Jewelers on Broad Street just a few blocks from her home. "They have been in business for 120 years," she said. "They started off in the same neighborhood where my grandfather lived a hundred years ago. And they're part of our fabric and our history." Next, she mentioned a Jackson Ward dentist. "Dr. Randy Adams has served our community and our children as a dentist for over thirty years," said Councilwoman Gray. "He specializes in seeing children with disabilities and special needs. He's a needed resource for our children and our community, and his place was hit Friday night along with Waller. There was also an attempt to burn the Hippodrome and the 2C Apartments. Those two buildings are an important part of our Jackson Ward history, of Black Wall Street, of the Harlem of the South. We've been out there fighting people off because if you're really about black lives and supporting black people, you don't set fires in my historically black neighborhood and tear up black businesses."

The 2nd District Councilwoman opposes this kind of behavior to any business. "No businesses should be subjected to vandalism, fires, any of the things that are happening because we depend upon those investors, those people who come into our community," she said. "We depend upon them. The Rite Aid Pharmacy serves all of the community around here. The Wells Fargo is the bank that many of my neighbors use."

Some of the property damage caused more hardship to people who were already having a difficult time. "Our bus service was shut down," she said. And there are so many people who could not get to work because a bus was set afire, and it was not safe to ride buses.



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

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

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

**4026 MACARTHUR AVENUE**  
Order Online at  
[zorbaspizzarichmond.com](http://zorbaspizzarichmond.com)



**WE'RE HERE TO HELP**

**Have a new project that you've been considering?**

Do you need a logo and branding for a startup business, or do need to get your existing business back on it's feet?

**Dobey Design is here to help**

We've been helping businesses like yours brand and market themselves to the community for over thirty years

Take a minute, have a look at our portfolio, and let us know what we can do for you  
**[DobeyDesign.MyPortfolio.com](http://DobeyDesign.MyPortfolio.com)**

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER



1221 BELLEVUE AVENUE RICHMOND VA 23227  
804 553 3866

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

EARLYBIRDBISCUIT.COM

**BERRY'S  
PRODUCE**



*Hanover's Best  
Homegrown*  
Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers  
*plus*  
Dutch Kettle & McCutcheons  
Jams, Jellies and Pickles  
Montana Gold Breads

9592 Chamberlayne Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

569-9005

10-7 everyday

MAIN STREET LAW

**John G LaFratta**

**Criminal Law  
Traffic Violations  
Estate Planning  
Family Law**

EDUCATION:

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

PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS AND  
MEMBERSHIPS:

Richmond Criminal Bar  
Association  
Virginia Bar Association  
Richmond Juvenile Bar  
Association  
Caroline County Bar  
Association

john@mainstlaw.com

804.355.1800

So, I absolutely oppose violence on every level. I oppose vandalism and burning out of our buildings down. So absolutely not, I'm never in favor of that aspect of what I've been seeing in the past several days."

When asked about the tear gas fired at a group of protesters on Monument Avenue more than twenty minutes before an 8 pm curfew, Councilwoman Gray said this: "I was subjected to tear gas out on Broad Street, and I know what it feels like. Definitely, someone made a big mistake in releasing that tear gas."

Councilwoman Gray believes some of the problems we've seen in recent weeks are the result of a lack of balance.

"I always want to balance what I'm doing and what I'm saying with public safety and protection of our people," she said. "It's a delicate balance. And I think a lot of what we're seeing right now with the tear gassing and the violence that's happening in our communities and the vandalism is a result of not striking that balance very well, and not taking action against aggressive officers."

She was quick to add: "There are many, many more well behaved officers than there are aggressive ones. But it doesn't matter when you're the one encountering that bad one. It means nothing to know that there are really good ones out there. I hear a lot of talk about defunding the police, but I've been down here calling for the police and fire for their assistance when things are happening, and I know in those moments when you're on your own and you don't feel like anybody's going to come to your rescue, it's a very scary thing. And I think we need to take a breath and have a longer conversation about what our policing looks like, and to take a breath and see what happens."

She talked about the two young police officers who were recently shot on Southside in what appeared to be an ambush. "They are recovering," said the Councilwoman. "They're improving. One of them was in surgery for seven hours, and he has several more surgeries ahead of him. These are rookie cops. They're not the bad guys who are out here. They're here to protect and serve us, they're not the ones who are out here doing the evil things."

Our conversation shifts back to the monuments. "I am here to represent the will of the people," Councilwoman Gray said. "If the will of the people says, we need to remove them, I'm gonna do what the will of the people says. The monuments need to come down; they need to be removed."

It's odd how history sometimes comes full circle. Days after the decisive Union victory at Gettysburg, a baby by the name of John Mitchell, Jr. was



Rose Simmons

born into slavery in Jackson Ward. He was a brilliant young man, prolific write and a courageous activist. At the age of twenty-one he became editor of The Richmond Planet, an African American newspaper. He would later serve two terms as an alderman, representing Jackson Ward. Along with several other councilman of the time, he vehemently opposed the erection of monuments to Confederate leaders. Here is what he wrote well over a century ago regarding the Civil War monuments in Richmond: "This glorification of States Rights Doctrine — the right of secession and the honoring of men who represented that cause will ultimately result in the handing down to generations unborn a legacy of treason and blood."

Symbols of white supremacy and racism can inspire horrific acts of domestic terrorism. Consider the battle flag of the Confederacy, the stars and bars.

**"THIS** symbol of racial terror and racism was real enough to motivate someone to massacre nine people," Rose Simmons told me during a telephone interview. "It carried enough power for him to embrace it and to murder nine innocent people."

Among that group of innocent people known as the Emanuel Nine was Rose's beloved father, Daniel L. Simmons. Daniel was slain with eight other people who were attending a Bible study class in the basement of Emanuel Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina. A twenty-one year old white supremacist and neo-Confederate aimed a Glock 41 and fired hollow-point bullets into men and women, old and young, all the while shouting racial epithets.

"As I look back on it," Rose said. "Actually next week will be the fifth year commemoration, as we say, of that horrible shooting. It's been a journey is what it's been."

Her father, a disabled Army veteran

# Classic Touch Cleaning

Simplifying Lives  
One House  
At a Time!

Residential Cleaning

1229 Bellevue Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227

(804) 262-6979

E-mail: [classicouchcleaning@verizon.net](mailto:classicouchcleaning@verizon.net)

Website: [www.classicouchcleaning.com](http://www.classicouchcleaning.com)

# NorthSide Grille

Welcome Back!

Open 11am till 8pm,  
Seven days a week

No Sunday brunches

Outdoor seating only

Appropriate social distancing

Limited menu

Curbside service or pickup

Beer and wine to go

No tables pre-bussed until  
the party has left

1217 Bellevue Avenue • 266-4403

## EXPERIENCE A NEW KIND OF JEWELRY STORE

WE ARE CURRENTLY UNABLE TO CONDUCT  
BUSINESS AS USUAL DUE TO SUPPLY CHAIN  
INTERRUPTIONS RELATING TO THE OUTBREAK,  
AND ARE AVAILABLE BY PHONE.

Hand-Made Jewelry and Jewelry Repair  
By Our Team of Designers and Artisans

Private Show Room

[kambourianjewelers.com](http://kambourianjewelers.com) | 804 585 3014



KAMBOURIAN  
JEWELERS

Artfully Yours.

Monday through Saturday  
By Appointment

5706 Grove Avenue  
Suite 203  
Richmond, Virginia 23226

and retired minister, earned a master's degree in social work and later a doctor of divinity. He worked for years as a vocational rehabilitation specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Here's my father," said Rose. "He went after the American dream. Not only did he seek or pursue it, he accomplished it, he achieved it. And fifty years after the end of the Civil Rights movement, he was gunned down in his retirement in the basement of a church, by a twenty-one year old, self-proclaimed, Confeder-

ate flag-waving, white supremacist."

Rose's grandparents were sharecroppers, the institution of slavery in a more modern era, and as a high school student in Columbia she could not understand why the Confederate flag flew from a mast on the summit of the state capitol. This was in the late 1970s. "There were protests to get the flag removed, but it never came to pass, they could never do it," she said. "It took nine dead bodies in the basement of a church to spark the interest for that flag to be removed."

Since that time several Confederate statues have been taken down from public display and placed in museums. "That's where they belong," said Rose.

She is encouraged to see the international protests against the cruel murder of George Floyd, and so many other African Americans slain by police. "I'm for it a hundred percent," said Rose. "I don't agree with the violence and the looting because that's a low level mindset, and that's not what the real protesters are out there for."

Rose Simmons loves American history, particularly the Civil War era, but she wants the statues off Monument Avenue. "Not only am I glad to hear that they're going to be removed," she said. "I want to be there when the statues come down."

Maybe the age of monuments to flawed human beings has finally passed, furred and forgotten, maybe, to make way for an avenue of gardens that glorifies our diversity. **N9**

**KN95**  
**FACE MASKS**

**FDA**  
**REGISTERED**



**IN VIRGINIA, MASKS ARE CURRENTLY MANDATORY AT ALL BRICK AND MORTAR ESTABLISHMENTS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO OFFERING THE HIGHEST QUALITY, FULLY TESTED AND CERTIFIED MEDICAL PROTECTIVE GEAR.**

- **ULTRA LIGHT AND BREATHABLE**
- **SAME PERFORMANCE RATE AS N95 MASK/95% FILTRATION RATE**
- **ELECTROSTATIC FILTERS THAT CAPTURE THE NANO-SIZED COVID-19 VIRUS**
  - **BETTER OVERALL PERFORMANCE THAN ALL OTHER MASKS**
  - **FDA REGISTERED**
- **SHIPS QUICKLY FROM WILLIAMSBURG, VA**

**DON'T RISK YOUR LOVED ONE'S WELL-BEING BY USING SUB-STANDARD MASKS FOUND AT A LOWER COST!  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE, AND ORDER TODAY!**

**WE WELCOME INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS SALES**

**757-510-4559 | WWW.EMERGENCYMASKUS.COM**

## HIDDEN HISTORIES

### Mother's Day AN ANTI-WAR HOLIDAY

by JACK R. JOHNSON

**H**ERE ARE A FEW facts to keep in mind on Mother's Day.

Our current celebration actually originates from a woman who wrote what is arguably one of the most famous war anthems of all time—"The Battle Hymn of the Republic".

Her name was Julia Ward Howe. In 1872, Julia Howe started our current Mother's Day tradition, specifically dedicated to world peace because she had become so distraught by the death and carnage of the Civil War. In her announcement, she called on mothers everywhere to come together and protest what she saw as the futility of their sons' killing. She called for an international Mother's Day celebrating peace and motherhood.

Here are some of her forceful words, set in verse:

Arise, all women who have hearts!  
Whether your baptism be of water  
or of tears!  
Say firmly:  
We will not have questions answered  
by irrelevant agencies,  
Our husbands will not come to us,  
reeking with carnage,  
For caresses and applause.  
Our sons shall not be taken from us  
to unlearn  
All that we have been able to teach  
them of charity, mercy and patience.  
From the bosom of a devastated  
Earth a voice goes up with  
Our own. It says: 'Disarm! Disarm!'

After Howe's death, a West Virginia women's group led by Anna Reeves Jarvis began to celebrate an adaptation of Howe's holiday. And on May 10, 1908, the first official Mother's Day celebration took place at Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, and a church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The West Virginia event drew a congregation of 407 and Anna Jarvis arranged for white carnations—her Mother's favorite flower—to adorn the patrons. Two carnations were given to every Mother in attendance. Today, white carnations are used to honor deceased mothers, while pink or red carnations pay tribute to mothers who are still alive.

Happy Mother's Day! **NBJ**

## The Cane Connection

*Professional Caning  
and Chair Repair*



**Sign up for a caning class!**

Class Saturday mornings  
Tuesday-Friday, 10-6; Saturday, 10-2  
*Specializing in fine antique and  
your everyday furniture*

**6941 Lakeside Avenue  
Richmond  
261-6555**

## AXSELLE AUTO SERVICE

FAMILY OWNED AND  
OPERATED FOR 69 YEARS

*Fair Price,  
Done Right,  
On Time*

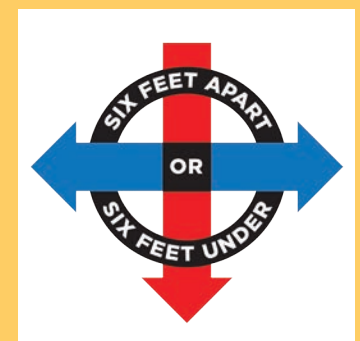
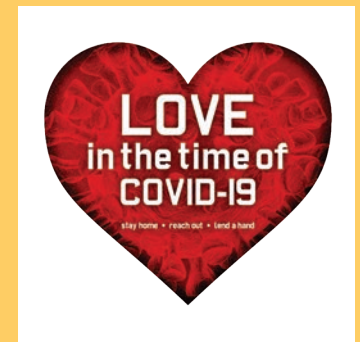
YOUR FULL SERVICE  
NEIGHBORHOOD AUTO  
SERVICE CENTER

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7-5:30

5519 LAKESIDE AVENUE  
RICHMOND, VA 23228

**266-3574**

AUTOSERVICERICHMOND.COM



## SPREAD LOVE NOT CONTAGION

Show you care when you wear one of these shirts or masks to market, to get some fresh air, or to your essential job.

T-shirt designs, masks, and prints at  
**DobeyMerch.Threadless.com**

PLEASE WEAR RESPONSIBLY



## STIR CRAZY CAFÉ

4015 MacArthur Avenue  
Richmond, VA

### We Are Back!

Order Online and  
Contactless Curbside Pickup

Safety of our staff and customers is still our #1 priority. So, we will be operating with new hours, and contactless curbside pickup. We will also be wearing masks and gloves, and following the CDC guidelines for restaurant service.

Wednesday through Saturday,  
8am- 3pm;  
Sunday, 8am – 1pm

We'll keep you posted with all the newest info on our website, and on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

Order online at [stircrazycaferva.com](http://stircrazycaferva.com)

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

**804 864 0264**

**StirCrazyCafeRVA.com**

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

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

## BOOK REVIEW

# Mother Ocean: The Last Frontier

by FRAN WITHROW

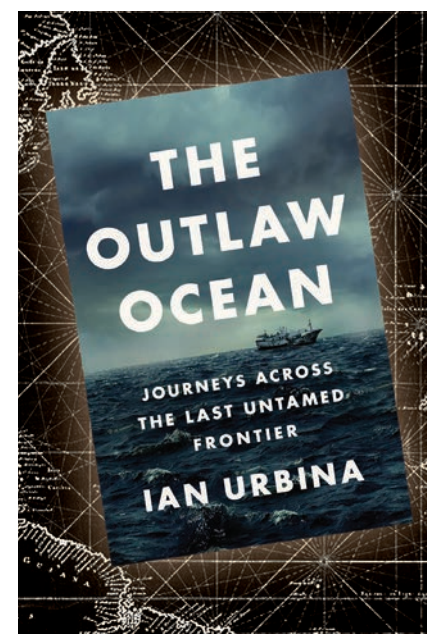
**T**HE CURRENT PANDEMIC knocked my brain so off kilter that for several weeks I could not comprehend what I was reading. Night after night I perused the same five pages or so. But at last I found a book so compelling I was forced to pay attention: "The Outlaw Ocean."

You are likely already familiar with the "outlaws" confronting our oceans. We've heard about piracy, overfishing, illegal fishing, water pollution, and generally acting like the ocean is both a limitless resource and a convenient garbage dump. However, author Ian Urbina opened my eyes even further to ways we abuse the vast waters that cover most of the earth.

Urbina is fearless reporter for The New York Times who travels the world in search of a story. For this book, he does a little of everything. He willingly joins an international conservation police force chasing down an illegal fishing boat. He witnesses potentially dangerous altercations between ships of different nations. He observes the plight of sea slaves and talks with those struggling to rescue them. His findings are truly insightful.

Little did I know that policing the seas is almost impossible. The watery boundaries between various nations can be difficult to determine. Boats can change flags easily, making them harder to find if they are working outside the parameters of the law. And laws vary from nation to nation, adding further challenges.


While piracy, unsustainable fishing practices, and pollution are problems, an equally disturbing but lesser known issue is sea slavery. Young men desperate for money pay an agency to get them a job on a fishing boat. There they may work for years to pay back the agencies and make some money for themselves. They are frequently subject to abuse, even locked in boat holds to prevent them from jumping ship. That fish you ate for supper last night? There are a multitude of reasons they are not dramatically more expensive, and one is cheap labor from sea slaves.



Sometimes boats run out of money and are abandoned in a harbor somewhere. The crew, stranded with no money, is stuck. Who pays to get them home? Nobody wants that responsibility. And if a ship needs costly repairs, it might be easier to sink it than to get it fixed.

Cruise ships are problem too, for many reasons, just one of which is how some of them quietly expel their sewage into the ocean rather than pay to get rid of it legally.

The oddest chapter of all is one about the Bates family, who "conquered" an abandoned British anti-aircraft platform in 1966 and declared it a principality named Sealand. Astoundingly, the British government repeatedly failed to take the platform back. Fifty years later, Sealand still stands, manned by one lone caretaker.

Urbina's writing style is eminently readable. He has done a remarkable job of revealing the challenges faced by our oceans. With courage, tenacity—and a very patient wife at home—he lays open the myriad of problems the oceans face, as well as ways to solve them. Let's hope we heed the call. 

***The Outlaw Ocean: Journeys Across the Last Untamed Frontier***

By Ian Urbina

\$30.00

Alfred A. Knopf

560 pages



# FARMERS' MARKET

## Open Year Round

More Info at [www.LakesideFarmersMarket.net](http://www.LakesideFarmersMarket.net)

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

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

YEAR ROUND FARMERS' MARKET

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



Lakeside  
Business  
Association

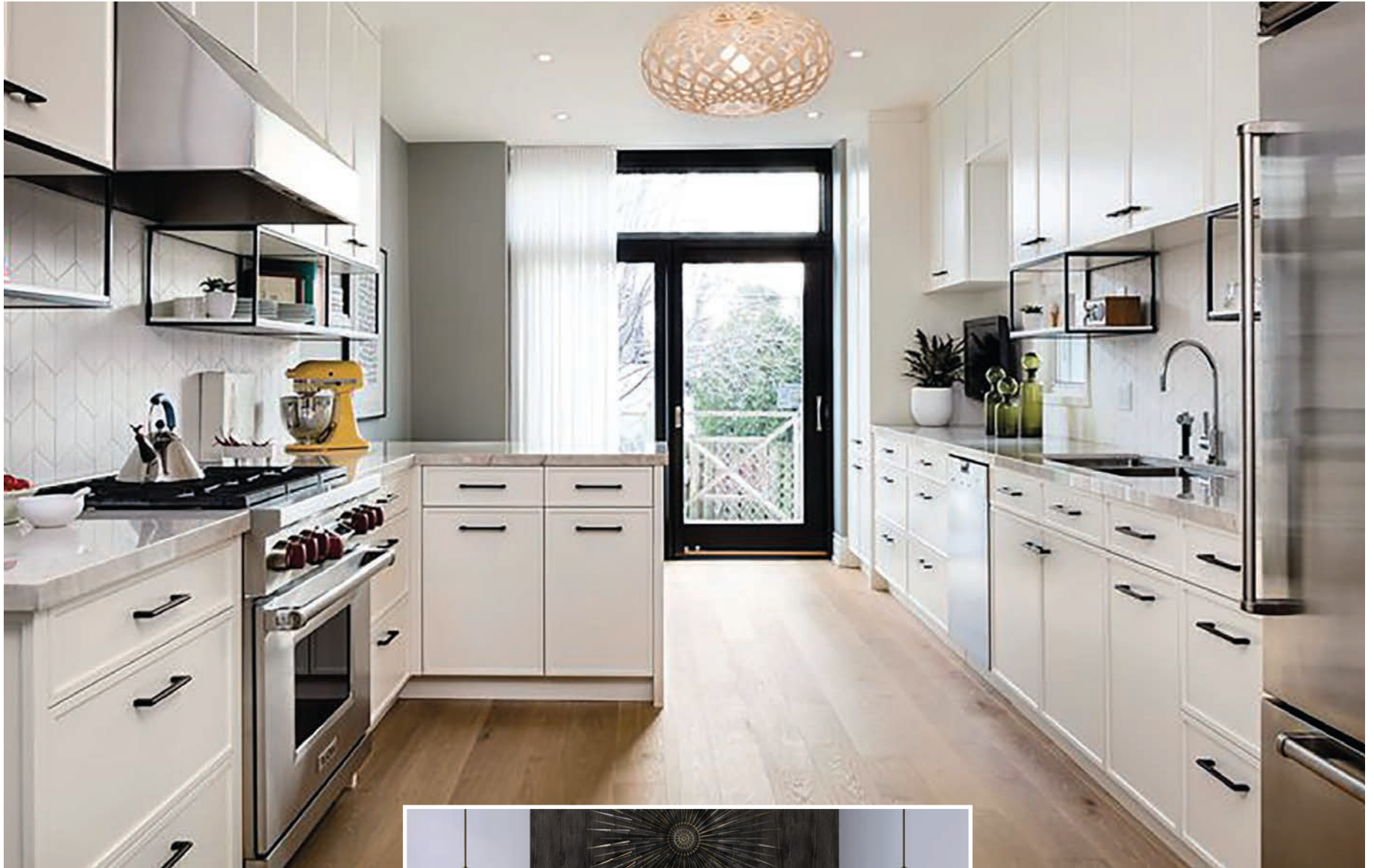


[www.BackToTheMarket.com](http://www.BackToTheMarket.com)

Visit us on FACEBOOK for the latest seasonal hours



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



NOW PROUDLY  
OFFERING  
**Winndom**  
Mattresses

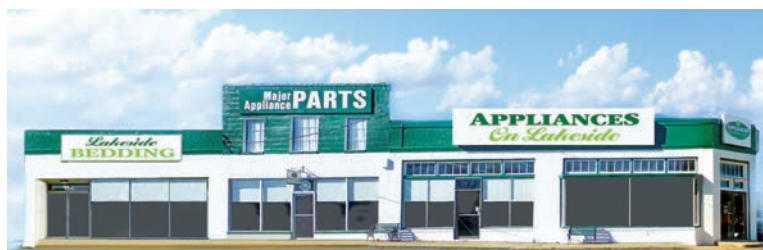


Voted Richmond's  
Best  
Appliance Store.

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



LakesideBedding.com



AppliancesOnLakeside.com