

# NORTH OF THE JAMES®



## Virginia Supportive Housing

has been working for 30 years to ensure everyone has that most basic of human needs—a home. Begun by a group called the “Instigators”, this organization has helped thousands of Virginians in the pursuit of a roof over their heads. Today, VSH is renovating and expanding one of its existing facilities at the corner of Clay and Harrison streets here in Richmond. When completed, this nearly \$20 million project will serve some 80 individuals. Virginia has the unfortunate distinction of containing five of the top-ten American cities with the highest eviction rates: The River City is number two on that national list. Along with the executive director of VSH, and a case manager, you’ll also meet Willie Davis, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, who not long, was evicted and found himself on the streets, and might have fallen through the cracks had it not been for Virginia Supportive Housing. *continued on page 14*

# TRIMMERS

NO OTHER STRAIGHT  
SHAFT TRIMMER IS  
MORE FUEL EFFICIENT  
**THAN THE SRM-225!**

21.2 CC PROFESSIONAL-GRADE,  
2-STROKE ENGINE

59" STRAIGHT SHAFT WITH  
FLEX CABLE DRIVE

i-30™ STARTING SYSTEM REDUCES  
STARTING EFFORT BY 30%

RUBBER OVER-MOLD GRIP

DURABLE DEBRIS SHIELD  
WITH CUT-OFF KNIFE

SPEED-FEED® TRIMMER HEAD



**\$199.99**

**ECHO**  
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

**5 YEAR**  
CONSUMER WARRANTY  
**2 YEAR**  
COMMERCIAL WARRANTY

**Arthur's Electric Service, Inc.**

8910 Brook Road • Glen Allen, VA 23060 • 804-264-2513

## TABLE of CONTENTS

### 4 BUSINESS PROFILE **Jimmy and Daniella: A Marriage Made on Earth**

When Jimmy came out of the kitchen, just as the lunch rush was winding down, he mopped his forehead with a dry terry cloth bar towel, and as he tucked the towel back into his pocket, he saw a woman who made his heart skip a beat. "It was absolutely love at first sight," says Jimmy Tsamouras, recollecting the moment he first saw the woman who would later become his wife.

### 14 COVER STORY **Virginia Supportive Housing: A Safety Net That Works**

For 30 years VHS has been providing that most basic of human needs—a home. Begun by a group called the "Instigators", this organization has helped thousands of Virginians in the pursuit of a roof over their heads. Today, VSH renovating and expanding one of its existing facilities at the corner of Clay and Harrison streets here in Richmond. When completed, this \$21 million project will serve some 80 individuals. Virginia has the unfortunate distinction of containing five of the top-ten American cities with the highest eviction rates. The River City is number two on that list.

### 20 COLUMN **Briefs**

Martin McNeil at Stir Crazy, Tin Can Fish Band at Eternity Church, 37th Ashland Strawberry Faire on June 16, InLight Richmond 2018 Call for Proposals

### 22 BOOK REVIEW **Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II**

Liza Mundy did massive amounts of research, talked to the surviving code breakers, and read reams of correspondence to write this insightful and informative book. I was astounded at just how intricate these wartime codes could be: encrypted and then encrypted again, with pages and numbers that stretched on and on. Code breakers might toil for weeks or months before making a breakthrough.



COVER PHOTOGRAPH  
by REBECCA D'ANGELO

# NORTH OF THE JAMES

editor/publisher

**CHARLES G. MCGUIGAN**

art director

**DOUG DOBEY** at Dobby Design

contributing writers

**DALE M BRUMFIELD  
BRIAN BURNS  
ORION HUGHES  
JACK R JOHNSON  
ANDREW CHURCHER  
ANNE JONES  
CATHERINE MCGUIGAN  
JUDD PROCTOR  
FRAN WITHROW**

contributing photographers

**REBECCA D'ANGELO**

editorial: charlesmcguigan@gmail.com

advertising: charlesmcguigan@gmail.com

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 2018® 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

www.northofthejames.com

I DON'T ALWAYS  
LEAVE NORTHSIDE,  
BUT WHEN I DO,  
I HEAD TO...

**SHEPPARD STREET  
TAVERN**

**COME EAT, DRINK AND PEOPLE WATCH  
ON OUR DOG-FRIENDLY PATIO**

**2920 PARK AVENUE**  
LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE

JOIN US FOR WEEKEND BRUNCH, AND THE BEST BURGERS IN TOWN

NORTHSIDE OWNED AND OPERATED

f SHEPPARDSTREETTAVERN.COM | 804 340 2920 i

**WILLARD  
PAINTING**

*From the Berkley Hotel  
to a Single Bedroom Wall*

**42 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

*No Job Is Too Big Or Too Small*

**743-8237**  
**GREG WILLARD**

**Licensed & Insured  
Quality Painting  
Guaranteed Results**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

# Jimmy and Daniella A Marriage Made on Earth

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

**W**HEN JIMMY came out of the kitchen, just as the lunch rush was winding down, he mopped his forehead with a dry terry cloth bar towel, and as he tucked the towel back into his pocket, he saw a woman who made his heart skip a beat. She was absolutely beautiful. Dark brown eyes, olive complexion, and a smile spread across her face that radiated sheer joy. He thought of the line “the face that launched a thousand ships,” and was determined to find out this woman’s name.

“It was absolutely love at first sight,” says Jimmy Tsamouras, recollecting the moment he first saw the woman who would later become his wife. That was back when Jimmy and his brother Dean owned Barrister’s Café in the John Marshall Hotel.

“I was having lunch at his restaurant with a mutual friend, though Jimmy and I didn’t know each other at the time,” Daniella Tsamouras remembers. “I was dating somebody else, at the time, and that relationship ended, and shortly thereafter Jimmy showed up.”

“It started with a big bang,” Jimmy tells me. “Then we began talking and we had a lot of things in common, and then we started dating. A couple years later, it was time to do something. Get married.”

We’re sitting at the bar of Demi’s Mediterranean Kitchen on MacArthur Avenue, one of the three businesses the couple owns. Along with Demi’s, there’s Spa 310—a full-service medical spa over in Carytown—and just across the street from Demi’s, a little to the north, is Dot’s Back Inn, which the Tsamouras’s bought from Cookie Giannini a little over a decade ago.

By the time the pair decided to tie the knot, Jimmy owned the very successful Southern Culture Restaurant where Daniella ran the front of the house. A month before the wedding a fire swept through Southern Culture and pretty much gutted the place. Even the mosaic mirrors by Anastasia Konstant that graced the walls on the second floor walls were shattered and

blackened, warped and fused beyond recognition. The fire had apparently been started by a careless smoker in a second-floor bathroom.

“It was devastating,” says Jimmy.

Daniella nods. “You couldn’t see the light at the end of the tunnel,” she says. “But we did get married, and I’m so much happier we’re not working till four o’clock in the morning. We have such a better life nowadays than I think we would have had if we had kept up a Fan bar and restaurant.”

Even back then, Jimmy possessed a wealth of restaurant knowledge, the capital earned from years of education and experience. His family used to own the College Deli in Williamsburg, and he graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York back in 1992. He honed his skills as a master chef in Hawaii, Scottsdale, New York, Hilton Head, and throughout Virginia.

A few years after the fire, back in 2007, the Tsamouras’s bought Dot’s Back Inn from Cookie Giannini, who had started the iconic neighborhood cantina 16 years earlier. At the time of the purchase, Jimmy made an oath to Cookie, and he honored it.

“His pledge to Cookie was that he would maintain the integrity of her vision,” says Daniella. “He was not going to turn it into a high-end fancy restaurant. The neighborhood was concerned because Jimmy’s a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, and they were afraid he would come in and change the concept and he gave his word that he wouldn’t.”

While retaining the essence of Dot’s, Jimmy also enhanced the restaurant. “The first thing we did was improve the ticket time, how long it takes you to get your food,” he says. “The second thing we did is I cross-utilized a lot of things. I made the menu bigger, gave people more choices without buying more products. Cookie had three or four burgers on the menu, and there were a lot of other things that we had in-house that we could add to the burgers just to make them different and just give people more variety.”

Jimmy expanded seafood specials on



*Daniella and Jimmy Tsamouras take time out for a quick portrait.*

the daily menu. “Because I love seafood,” says the chef. “I would make things for myself and people were like, ‘What’s that?’ And I would make it for them, and then I started putting it on the special board. For example: Tuna with a Thai chili lime sauce, salmon with a sun-dried tomato relish, fried catfish with remoulade, grilled swordfish with lemon-caper butter, and scallops with a bourbon brown butter. We always try to have two meats, and about four or five seafood specials. We always have the ribeye, and that’s something that Cookie always used to have.”

About a year after Jimmy took over Dot’s, the restaurant was featured on the Food Network’s “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives,” hosted by Guy Fieri. “The great thing about that show is that at the time everyone—food stars, chefs and stuff like that—were all going to places that were unattainable by the average person, but Guy did brought food places that were more attainable for your average middle-class people.”

Not long after the fire at Southern Culture, Daniella felt a burning desire to change her career trajectory. “I was feeling a little unfulfilled and I was working for other people after the fire,” she says. Then one day when she was thumbing through the classifieds, she

saw an ad for an aesthetics school, and that lit a fire in her skull.

“I plowed through, finished at the top of my class,” she says.

But because she had no experience or clientele, no one wanted to hire her. “So that just drove me into starting my own business,” says Daniella. So, at about the same time Jimmy took over Dot’s Back Inn, Daniella launched her own business.

“I started the spa in November 2006,” Daniella says. “Pretty much within a couple months we had two new businesses.”

“We were both very busy,” says Jimmy. “We didn’t see each other very often unless she came into Dot’s to see me. I was always in Dot’s from 8 am till midnight.”

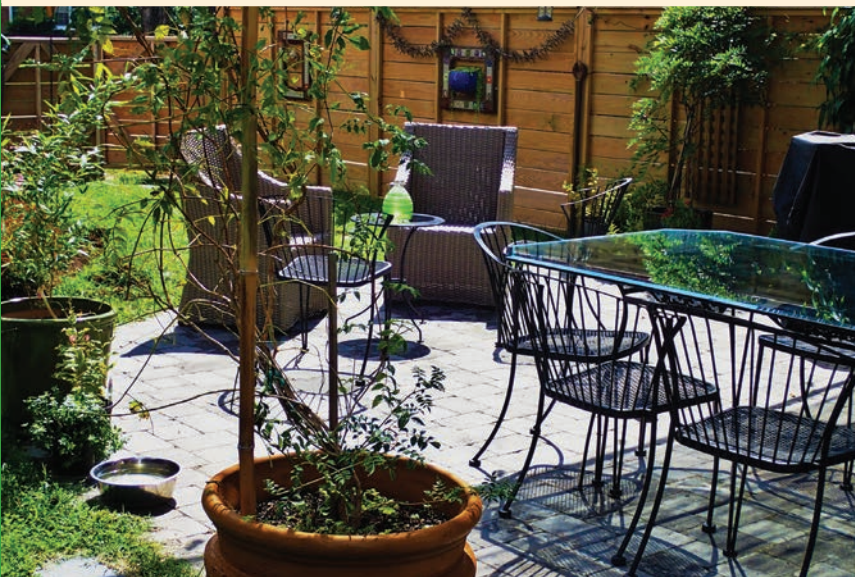
As Daniella prepared to open her business, she sought counsel from older business owners. One of them told her, “Well, the first thing you’ve got to do is register your business name with the courts.”

Almost immediately after hearing that, Daniella was in the John Marshall Courts building talking with a clerk there.

“I want to register my business,” she told the clerk.

# 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)

# ESCAPE MASSAGE & SALT THERAPY ROOM

MEMBERSHIPS, GIFT CARDS &  
SALT PRODUCTS AVAILABLE



## SALT THERAPY

45 Minute Session at Westchester

Commons AND Rutland Commons Shopping Centers

Halotherapy or Salt Therapy helps reduce stress and headaches, increases energy and promotes a better sleep pattern.

### ALSO HELPS WITH RESPIRATORY ISSUES

- Asthma & COPD • Smoker's Cough • Cystic Fibrosis
- Sinus & Ear Infections • Coughs, Colds & Flu
- Sleeping & Snoring Problems • Allergies

### & SKIN CONDITIONS

- Psoriasis • Rashes • Eczema • Acne • And More

## MASSAGE

- Therapeutic • Couples • Prenatal • Deep Tissue
- Hot Stone • Aromatherapy • Corporate Chair

Our massages are full 30, 60, 90 & 120-minute "hands-on" sessions.

## WESTCHESTER COMMONS

15500 WC Commons Way  
(across from Target)  
Midlothian  
794-0445

## RUTLAND COMMONS

9225 Atlee Rd. Suite 5103  
(across from Kroger)  
Mechanicsville  
730-6777

[WWW.ESCAPEMASSAGE.COM](http://WWW.ESCAPEMASSAGE.COM)

OPEN M-F 9AM-9PM, SAT 8AM-6PM, SUN 12PM-6PM

## BUSINESS

"Well what's the name of the business?"

Daniella didn't actually have a name for the business yet, but she knew it was going to be a spa, and she and Jimmy happened to be living at 310 Colonial Avenue at the time.

"So twelve years later we are still Spa 310," Daniella says.

Daniella's first location was a modest, three-room suite in an office building on Thompson Street.

"I was there for about a year," she says. "I started to figure out the nuances of being a new business owner. After that I moved to Robinson Street where I rented a studio." She was building her business at that point, hired her first employee there, and a year later moved to her current location in Carytown.

Today, Spa 310 has thirteen employees, including two aestheticians, three nurses, a medical director, four cosmetologists and two ancillary staff.

"To be a medical spa you have to have a physician oversee the practice," she says. "We do anti-aging services. We do everything from lasers to fillers, from Botox to blowout, and we're working with some modalities that require a medical license so we work under the physician. We do hair removal, vein abrasion, CoolSculpting, laser tattoo removal. We do air color, we do natural nails. We do everything."

Throughout the time she's owned Spa 310, Daniella has constantly studied in her chosen field. "I have my master's in aesthetics," she says. "And I've done extensive post-graduate studies from Denver to Boston to New York. Studying skin."

When she was pregnant seven years ago, Daniella was appointed to the Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetology. She has served under three governors.

"We act as a kind of judiciary panel," says Daniella. "The main focus of board members is to protect the safety and welfare of the population, and to provide avenues for people to work in."

About two years ago, Daniella had heard rumors that the owners of the property her spa sits on was going to be sold. Last year, she and the other tenants there were officially notified.

So Daniella began to look. She contacted an old family friend, a man who is like a second father to her.

"I reached out to Augie Lange and I said, 'We need to find a new space,'" Daniella says. "It took us about nine months to find a space. It was the last space we looked at, and Augie helped to broker that deal."

That new space at 3200 square feet is 1200 square feet larger than the spa's current location. "It's at 5610 Patterson Avenue in Post Office Square," says Daniella.

They've just begun building out the new space, and plan to move in some time this October. Daniella suspects the new location, with its expanded square footage, will be ideal for Spa 310. "People are living longer," she says. "They're in the workforce longer, they want to look younger. You look good, you feel good. It's not vanity; it's maintenance. That's our tagline."

From our vantage point at the bar, actually from pretty much any location in the restaurant, the massive mosaic of a mati tree begs a look, and its scores of watchful, cobalt blue, evil eyes demand more than a passing glance. Matiasmas, or evil eyes, are talismans of a sort, made of glass with a pupil, surrounded by white, and an outer ring of cobalt blue. In many Mediterranean countries, these amulets have been employed since time in memorial to ward off evil spirits.

This iconic image of a tree bursting with matiasmas was a joint effort of Daniella and her sister-in-law, Angie Blankenship, both of whom studied art in college.

Before Demi's opened, Daniella approached Angie.

"I want to make mosaics for the restaurant," she told her.

"I don't know anything about mosaics," Angie said.

"You don't need to know," Daniella told her. "We'll figure it out."

So Daniella contracted a Turkish glass-blower to create two hundred evil eyes, which would become part of the mosaics she and her sister-in-law would make. But those were just some of the finishing touches. There had been a lot more to do.

Daniella remembers that time vividly. It was Halloween and when Jimmy arrived home that night he had news.

"I bought a restaurant today," he said.

"And think I said, 'I'm going to divorce you,'" Daniella says. "And then a week later, after I had time to process it, I said, 'I think I'm in a position now where I'd like to be part of this project. We haven't done a project together in over ten years.' And I think that's what he (Jimmy) really was waiting to hear that I was going to get on board. So he's like, 'Great, here are the keys. And you've got a five thousand dollar budget. Go.' And I was thinking, 'What am I going to do with five thousand dollars?'"



From top: Daniella is always hands-on at Spa 310. Demi's and Dot's nearly face one another on MacArthur Avenue.

Creativity, hard work, and lot of know-how, enabled her to pull it off. They opened January 5, just two months later. One of the biggest projects to tackle was the abundance of pale blonde tongue-and-groove boards throughout the dining room. Daniella drew on skills she had learned from her stepfather when she was still a teenager. "I worked on painting crews for him, and he taught me how to faux-finish wood," she says. "And that's what I did for about a month in the evenings. I was in here pickling all this wood."

"I think Daniella had the vision of keep-

ing things clean and simple, nothing that's going to stand out," says Jimmy.

"That's right," she says. "We wanted modern and crisp and clean. And Jimmy didn't want a Greek restaurant, he wanted a restaurant to encompass all flavors of the Mediterranean."

The restaurant's name, of course, honors their seven-year old daughter, Dimitri, whom her parents call Demi. Which is as it should be because this Mediterranean kitchen is truly a marriage of Jimmy and Daniella Tsamouras. As in all good marriages, they have their separate lives in Dot's Back Inn and Spa



# DEMI'S

MEDITERRANEAN KITCHEN

4017 MACARTHUR AVENUE  
RICHMOND, VA 23227  
(804) 525-4576  
INFO@DEMISRVA.COM

Tuesday – Thursday 5pm – 10pm  
Friday & Saturday 5pm – 11pm  
Sunday 5pm – 9pm

# 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)



Some of the icons that watch over both the staff and patrons at Demi's.

310, but come evening they are reunited under one roof at Demi's. And each day is filled to the max.

"Tuesday through Saturdays I'm at the spa," says Daniella. "I'm there between 8 and 8:30 every day, and then leave by two and run errands, spend an hour with Demi, and I'm here between four and five depending on the day. I'm in the front of the house five nights a week."

"My day starts off at eight o'clock," Jimmy says. "I go check on Dot's, check on this place, just kind of get all my ducks in a row. From that point I'll do all my ordering, and my food menu items, start prepping food, run around, go to Restaurant Depot, Sam's Club, the bank, the accountant's office, and make a pit stop in to see my daughter. Then usually by two o'clock I'm full-time in the kitchen for the night."

Being seasoned business owners, the Tsmouras understand the need for hiring the right people.

"We have amazing staff," says Daniella.

"That's the secret to any good business," Jimmy says. "Having good employees and employees that care about their business and care about their jobs, care about what they do, and how they do things."

"I think we also lead by example," Daniella adds. "I mean we're here in the trenches with them every day."

They consider the other ingredients for a good business model, and Jimmy mentions the almost overnight success of Demi's. "We had an idea of what the projected numbers were going to be and they were modest," he says. "And then, with the support of the neighborhood and good press, it exceeded our expectations."

"We have customers who come here from all over Richmond," says Daniella. "Even though Northside is definitely our anchor, people come from all over. You name it Southside, Hanover."

"We have a couple that comes in every Saturday night from Chesdin Landing," Jimmy says. "What goes on here, what makes Demi's special, is the love and care and devotion. When people come in they get a warm feeling."

"It starts from being greeted at the front door," says Daniella. "Our hostesses always open the door for people, and take their coats."

And across the street at Dot's Back Inn, there is also that sense of welcome. "I think Dot's caters to just about everybody and anybody," Jimmy says.

"White collar, blue collar, no collar," Daniella adds. "That's what's so amazing about Dot's; it's so diverse. Dot's really speaks to what Richmond is."

Jimmy and Daniella have worked in the restaurant industry, in one capacity or other, most of their adult lives.

"We were both raised up in the restaurant business, and we say we're old school," says Daniella. "We've always worked in restaurants."

And it goes deeper than that.

When Daniella's ancestors arrived from Naples, Italy, four generations ago, her great-grandfather opened restaurants in Richmond—one in Shockoe Bottom, another on Church Hill. Jimmy's grandparents, after they emigrated from Greece, opened restaurants in Clifton Forge. "It's in our blood," Daniella says.

Flanking the door frame into the kitchen are an array of icons, saints venerated by the various Eastern Churches—Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and so on. Among these icons hanging on the wall is one of Saint Euphrosynos, patron saint of cooks. The others are patron saints of farmers and servers, and other intercessors related to restaurants. The Tsmouras's daughter, Demi, attends parochial school, and the family belongs to Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral. "Without faith," says Daniella, "you ain't got nothing."

We move away from the bar over to the large mati tree mosaic. "The tree represents life and community and family," Daniella says of the mosaic. "And that's really we felt the Northside really encompasses. We are very community-minded."

To that end, for five years, Dot's hosted a golf tournament that benefitted FeedMore, and the Tsmouras are

**DOT'S**

**BACK INN**

4030 MACARTHUR AVENUE ★ 266-3167

Monday thru Saturday  
9 am to Midnight  
Sunday 10 am to 3

NOW SERVING  
SUNDAY  
BRUNCH



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**



# Professional Pet Grooming by The Barking Lot

All Breeds Of Dogs And Cats

**SHOP LOCALLY, BUY LOCALLY!**

**Cute Dogs & Cats For Adoption**

**Through Area Rescue Groups**

Check out our website or facebook page for adoption stands.

**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 7/6/18



**PONDMASTER**



**pandMAX**

**Dog & Cat Food**



**\$2.00 OFF \$3.00 OFF \$5.00 OFF**  
Dog or Cat food up to 8 lbs. Dog or Cat food of 12 lbs. to 25 lbs. 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 7/6/18

**\$4.00 OFF GROOMING**



**(New Customers Only)**

With Coupons Only. Not Valid With Any Other Offer. Expires 7/6/18



**FREE PARAKEET**

With Purchase Of Parakeet Set-Up

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 7/6/18

**FREE TROPICAL FISH**



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

Limit \$5.99 value. Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 7/6/18



**15% OFF REPTILE SUPPLIES**

With Purchase Of A Reptile

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 7/6/18

**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 7/6/18

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

# 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

# BLUEBIRD PRODUCE

Now at **ONCE UPON A VINE**

On Saturdays 10-4

Hanover tomatoes, squash, peppers, potatoes, onions

## SPECIALIZING IN HEIRLOOM TOMATOES

Everything we sell is grown in Hanover County

### ENRICHING LIFE'S JOURNEY



Meet 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



always involved with National Night Out, Christmas on MacArthur and the Holton Harvest Festival.

Spa 310 has done events with Safe Harbor, which offers shelter from the storms of domestic violence and abuse. The spa also support SCAN, whose mission is to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

“And we’re huge supporters of all the community schools, especially those surrounding our businesses,” says Daniella. “And we try to help as many churches as we can in our communities.”

They do this all for a couple simple reasons.

“You always like to help people,” Jimmy says.

“And we’ve also been in positions before in our life when we’ve needed help,” says Daniella. “You have to pay it forward. Bottom line. We’ve lost restaurant businesses before, so we know what it’s like to struggle.”

Under the most ideal circumstances, marriage can be a difficult proposition. Daniella and Jimmy Tsamouras have learned to balance work with family life, and have been able to put it all in an un-sugarcoated perspective.

“We love each other,” Daniella says. “But we really like each other, too.”

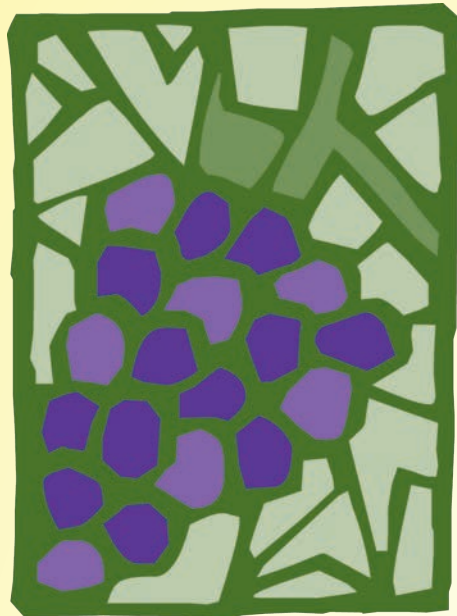
“We’ve been through a lot together and we’ve had a lot of ups and downs,” says Jimmy. “We’ve been very passionate and dedicated. I think, if you’re married and you believe you’re never going to argue or fight or anything, it’s very unrealistic. And if you take things and blow them out of proportion and try to become a victim, I don’t think that really works either.”

“We love hard, we fight hard, we play hard, and we work hard,” Daniella says. **NJ**





**Demi's Mediterranean Kitchen**  
4017 MacArthur Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227  
804 525 4576  
DemisRVA.com

**Spa310**  
3500 West Cary Street  
Richmond, VA 23221  
804 562 7880  
Spa310.com

**Dot's Back Inn**  
4030 MacArthur Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227  
804 266 3167  
DotsBackRichmond.com



# Once Upon a Vine

-  **Wine Tastings Every Friday Night!**
-  **One of the most extensive wine and beer selections in Richmond... something to fit every wallet.**
-  **Nostalgic candies for the kids.**
-  **Selection of cheeses, crackers, chips and sauces.**



**Beer & Wine Tastings Every Friday 5-8 pm**

**Open 7 Days A Week**

Sunday - Thursday 11 am - 9 pm | Friday & Saturday 11 am - 11 pm.

**4009 MacArthur Avenue Phone: 726-WINE (9463) FAX: 726-VINE (8463)**

To get on our e-mail list log on to [onceuponavine@aol.com](mailto:onceuponavine@aol.com)

Look For Us On Trinkin, Follow Us On Twitter



# NorthSide

NEIGHBORHOOD  
... RETAIL ...  
... RESTAURANTS ...  
... SERVICES ...

## LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN

### HERMITAGE ROAD



**HOBNOB 6010**  
eat. drink. socialize.  
Tues-Fri 11-11, Sat 5-11, Sun 9-3,  
Lunch, Dinner, Sunday Brunch.  
To-Go Orders 804.264.7400 hobnobrva.com



**Original Gravity/Final Gravity Brewing Co. 6118**  
Northside's own award-winning brewery, also supplying all your needs for home-brewing & winemaking. 264-4808. OGGRVITY.com



**TWIG 6112 B**  
Vintage and new home decor and gifts, regional and local artists jewelry and fresh flowers. Home styling and staging. Wed-Sat 10-5, 393-1601. facebook.com/LoveWhereLive



**Lakeside Farmers' Market 6110**  
Henrico County's permanent farmers' market. Open Wednesday and Saturdays. Plus, Lakeside Farmers' Market Too. 262-6593. lakesidefarmersmarket.com



**Appliances on Lakeside 5418**  
Appliances, Built-In Appliance Installations and Parts For All Major Appliances. The people you know. The Richmond family you can trust. 266-7621. Appliance.Solutions.VA.com



**Fin & Feather 5208**  
Special values on fish, birds, reptiles and small animals. 262-6681.



**The Water Garden Center 5200**  
We have the area's finest and largest selection of water garden products, plants and fish. 262-6681.

**BRYAN**

### HILLIARD ROAD



**6941 The Cane Connection**  
Professional caning and chair repair. In the Hub Shopping Center. Come take a caning class! 261-6555. thecaneconnection.com



**6929 Chocolate Cravings**  
For the serious chocoholic. In the Hub Shopping Center. Finest quality handmade chocolates. Find us on Facebook. 363 6873. choccravings.com



**5517 Consignment Connection**  
4,500 square feet of fun! Exceptional values everyday. A great opportunity to earn money. Stock changes daily. 261-3600.



**5115 Axelle**  
An old-fashioned service station, family owned and operated for 62 years. Full automotive service & repair. 266-3574.



**5511 A Sharper Palate**  
Personalized menu and event planning. Haute cuisine to comfort food. Imaginative boxed lunches and drop off platters. 553-0495.

## LAKE SIDE

### DUMBARTON ROAD

**1221 Early Bird Biscuit**  
Offering classic buttermilk biscuits with house-made jams, old-fashioned pastries and cookies, lunchtime specialties like chicken salad and pimento

**1217 NorthSide Grille**  
Delicious family dining in the heart of Bellevue. Open every day with brunch

**1229 Classic Touch Cleaning**  
Weekly, biweekly, or monthly

housecleaning to suit your needs. 262-6979. earlybirdscutt.com

on Sundays. 266-4403. northsidegrille.com

**BELLEVUE AVENUE**

**Classic Touch Cleaning**



**NorthSide Grille**

**DECATUR'S GARAGE**  
Round the Car Service

**4031 Decatur's Garage**  
Bellevue's full-service general auto repair for 25 years. Integrity and quality service. Bobby Shore. 262-7582.



**4023 The Mill on MacArthur**  
Dine in, take out. Serving locally farmed produce, poultry and meat with vegetarian and vegan options. Open 11am-10pm Mon-Fri; 9am-10pm Sat & Sun. 716-1196. www.themillva.com

**DEMI'S**  
MEDITERRANEAN KITCHEN

**4017 Demi's Mediterranean Kitchen**  
Greek, Italian, Turkish, Spanish cuisine—from Adana kebabs to souvlaki, from calamari to shrimp Santorini, even empanadas. The freshest ingredients and the most inspired dishes. 525-4576. DemisRVA.com.



**4015 Stir Crazy**  
24 locally roasted gourmet coffees, specialty drinks including frappes & smoothies, full line of teas, fresh baked scones, hearty sandwiches. 864-0264.



**4013 Rich's Stitches**  
Your source for embroidery, imprinted sportswear and advertising specialties. 262-3477. ricshstitches.com.

**Once Upon A Vine**

**4009 Once Upon A Vine**  
700 varieties of wine, 300 types of beer, imported cheeses, fresh deli meats, kegs available on order, wine tastings every Friday. 726-WINE (9463)

**MACARTHUR AVENUE**



**Dot's Back Inn 4039**  
Your neighborhood restaurant. Serving the great folks of Northside since 1990. Family-friendly food and prices. 266-3167.

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

**Zorba's Express 4026**  
Pizzas, subs, full Italian menu, and our world-famous garlic knots and New York style pizza. Delivery. Dine in. Take out. 264-5370. zorbasexpressrichmond.com

**BELLEVUE**

**HERMITAGE ROAD**



**1600 Hermitage Richmond Pinnacle Living**  
The Hermitage has been caring for seniors for over 60 years. Offering independent living, assisted living, memory care, health care, rehabilitation and respite care. 474-1800. hermitage-vumh.com

**HERMITAGE ROAD**

**THE DIAMOND**



**2519 Richmond SPCA**  
Founded in 1891, the Richmond SPCA offers pet adoptions, a pet wellness and spay/neuter clinic, gift shop, fun programs for kids, pet training and more! 643-6785. richmondspca.org

**THE BOULEVARD**



**Kitchen 64 3336**  
Great menu with family fare for lunch and dinner. Brunch on weekends. Enjoy the covered patio. Sweet95 right next door - serving scrumptious ice cream and shakes to beat the heat. 358-0064.

**ELLEN ROAD**

**LABURNUM AVENUE**

**WESTWOOD AVENUE**

**BOULEVARD**

© 2018 NORTH OF THE JAMES Magazine. Map not to scale. **NORTH OF THE JAMES**

# Virginia Supportive Housing

## BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD

**IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE READING THIS** story tonight, lounging on your couch, or lying down in your bed, with plenty of light illuminating the words, and the cool, artificial breeze of an air-conditioner keeping the demons of heat and humidity at bay, consider this: Right now there are more than 100 people actually living on the streets in our fair city, though there are far more who are homeless, some 600, which is nothing by comparison to the tens of thousands of homeless folks in cities like New York and Los Angeles. People without four walls and a roof, indoor plumbing, a stove and a refrigerator, the luxury of climate control, music, TV, cable, Wifi. Not even a single bed. The biggest culprit by far is eviction, and Richmond leads the country at Number Two in this dubious race.

**"IT'S UNACCEPTABLE,"**

says Allison Bogdanovic, executive director of Virginia Supportive Housing. She sits at the table with Willie Davis, a veteran who "experienced" homelessness this past winter; and Anthony Clary, a veteran's case manager for VSH, who helped Willie find a home.

"Thirty years ago a group of volunteers got together in Richmond, and they called themselves the Instigators," says Allison. "They knew there were a large number of folks living on the streets who didn't have a place to live. Back then it wasn't really a strategy, but they knew they needed affordable housing with supportive services, and so they formed Virginia Supportive Housing."

Many organizations with similar goals sprang up across the country a little over three decades ago like a bumper crop of mushrooms. And it was not simply coincidence. It was because of the collateral damage caused by the policies of the Reagan administration, politically-motivated strategies that cast hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets almost overnight. First there was the de-institutionalization of the mentally impaired. And then there was a fiction known as Reaganomics, characterized as trickle-down economics. The idea was that by giving corporations tax breaks, money would begin funneling down to the poorer strata of society. Fact is, the money never really reached the poor; it kept getting inexplicably stuck right near the top where it was siphoned off to bloat bellies already filled to bursting. The rich kept getting richer, and the poor just bottomed out into homelessness.

VSH began attacking homelessness at its core from the beginning. Back in 1992, the organization created Clay House in Richmond's Carver neighborhood at the corner of Clay and Harrison streets. The 47-

unit building contained small, single-resident units with shared shower and kitchen facilities.

"Thirty years later we have sixteen buildings in Richmond, South Hampton Roads and Charlottesville," says Allison. "Each year we serve more than 1,500 people who have experienced homelessness."

That first building in Carver is now undergoing extensive renovation and expansion. Dubbed New Clay House, this facility, with a price tag just under \$20 million, will house up to 80 people in true efficiency apartments, each of which will include a kitchenette with full-size appliances, and a full bathroom. New Clay House will also house a community room, a private courtyard, a computer room, a resident phone room, fitness and laundry room, and off-street parking. EarthCraft Virginia-certified, the new facility will feature a photovoltaic solar array to reduce the building's energy load, and a solar thermal hot water system.

Homelessness continues to be an issue, and VSH is always there manning a safety net to catch those who plummet downward. "We can't build fast enough," Allison says. "And so we partner with private landlords who are willing to rent to our clients, and then we take services to them in their homes."

And it is working. "We can end homelessness," says Allison. "We know how to do this. It's very evidence-based. Over 95 percent of our residents don't return to homelessness because we provide affordable housing."

Many factors can contribute to homelessness, and all of these need to be addressed, but the first thing every human being needs is reliable shelter. "Let's solve their housing crisis first," Allison says. "Make sure they know they're going to have a place to stay

BY CHARLES MCGUIGAN  
PHOTOS BY REBECCA D'ANGELO



*Hands-on and onsite. Allison Bogdanovic, Willie Davis, and Anthony Clary overseeing the progress made at the “New Clay House”.*

and where they’re going to eat, and then surround them with services. And the services are always voluntary, because requiring services doesn’t work. First solve the housing crisis, and then help them set goals and figure out how they want to improve their quality of life. Whether that’s about a job, or whether that’s education, or whether that’s focusing on their physical or mental health, or even addressing substance abuse.”

Homelessness itself is far costlier for society than supplying those in need with housing. “Everybody should want people to live in a stable housing environment,” says Allison. “It’s a basic human right for one thing, but it also makes financial sense. Someone who lives on the streets costs our community between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year. When they live in one of our programs, it’s \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year.”

Politicians from both sides of the aisle embrace VSH and its programs. “We’ve had Republican presidents

and governors support these programs,” Allison says. She pauses to consider one group of people who have all too often experienced homelessness. “The Commonwealth of Virginia ended veteran homelessness by providing enough resources for veterans who are experiencing homelessness so that when they become homeless we can respond to their crises immediately,” she says. “Now that’s not to say that we have enough housing for everybody, but it can be done, and the numbers are coming down, for sure. We can solve this.”

Allison then mentions Michael Desmond’s Pulitzer-prize winning book “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City,” which was released a couple years back.

“Eviction rates in Virginia are the highest in the country,” she says. “Michael Desmond did research through The Eviction Lab (Princeton University’s

nationwide database of evictions) and it shows that five of the ten large cities in the US with the highest eviction rates are in Virginia, and Richmond is number two. The eviction rates in this country now are higher than they were during the Great Depression. There’s a process for the eviction and it starts with the landlord notifying the tenant.”

VSH Veterans Case Manager Anthony Clary nods along as Allison speaks. “Once that writ goes in place, it says you have 21 days to pay up, or 30 days to get out,” he says. “Once that sheriff comes and tacks that on the door, you’re out and they’re not going to let you back in.”

Anthony tells the story of one of his clients who was evicted from her apartment, which led her down a despairing spiral. She was a 25-year old veteran, who, while in service to her country, was brutally raped, and later diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia.

Anthony called her landlord and told him VSH would pay off any of the young woman's outstanding debts.

"Are you sure you want to pay for that?" he asked.

"Well sir," said Anthony. "She served her country, and she's entitled to this."

"But it's almost \$4000," the landlord said.

"Sir, she served her country," Anthony insisted. "This money's here for her. That's what supportive services for veteran's families does. So let me have your W-9 information and I'll get the check cut and bring it to you personally."

Anthony even sent over a promissory note, but the landlord ignored him.

He remembers the call vividly. "When I was on the phone with him, I could feel him looking down his nose, judging her because of where she was mentally," says Anthony. "And she couldn't help where she was mentally."

The landlord filed the writ, the young veteran was evicted, and because of her mental condition she began to drift.

"She was homeless on the street because she had burnt every bridge be-

hind her," Anthony says. "Folks who have an SMI (serious mental illness) are hard for the family to deal with. So folks like that, they kind of go from pillar to post."

She ended up in Georgia, and later in Kansas, and Anthony urged her to study at community colleges in those other states. During her time away from Richmond, Anthony corresponded with her.

"I knew she would probably come back to Richmond, and what I wanted to establish with her first was a trusting relationship," he says. "I told her, 'Hey if it doesn't work in these places, come back and we can help you.'"

Anthony was able to lay a safety net that caught her. "Now I have her linked up with the VA, and she's going to eventually get housed again," he says. "She's also got a voucher. She's only going to have to pay 30 percent of her income for rent, so she'll have enough money to survive. And she's also going to have long-term case management."

He goes back to the time she was evicted. "He (the landlord) threw her out, man," Anthony says. "She was almost



like a ten-year old, and it was breaking my heart. She was on the phone with me and she was screaming, 'They put me out, all my stuff is gone, what am I supposed to do now?' So I met her at the local McDonald's and I was trying to figure out how to help her. She was traumatized, so I never pressed her. Whatever it is she felt like she needed to do, I let her do, but I also informed her that there are services that she could really benefit from."

And now, thanks to the landlord's legal actions, this young woman has a record of sorts. "So it's all on her housing record now," says Anthony. "What

kind of tenant she is, and this stuff follows her. It's like a police record. She had the money to pay, but he rejected it, and now she's stigmatized."

Anthony tells me another story about a pair of veterans, each of whom had done three tours of duty in the Middle East. "They were fine before they went," he says. "And they came back and they were just not there. And they both were trying to work, trying to put their lives back together. One guy asked me, 'Anthony I know you didn't serve, but I know you do this every day so I know you can help me, When does it get better?' It broke my heart."

**NorthSide Grille**

Chart a course to Richmond's finest family neighborhood restaurant in the heart of Bellevue

**Monday through Saturday:** 11am till closing\*  
**Sunday:** 10am till closing\*

Join us **early for brunch** or **dollar tacos later** in the day

\*limited menu after 10 pm

Your Family Friendly Neighborhood Restaurant  
Join Us for Happy Hour Specials 3-6pm, Mon-Fri

1217 Bellevue Avenue • 266-4403

Rebecca D'Angelo  
REALTOR®



Creating Community  
One Home At A Time

dangeloRVarealtor

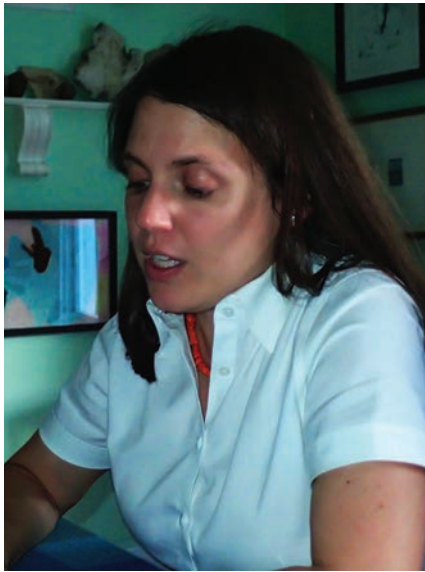
804.874.9709  
dangeloRVarealtor@gmail.com

Virginia Capital Realty  
1106 N Thompson  
RVA 23230

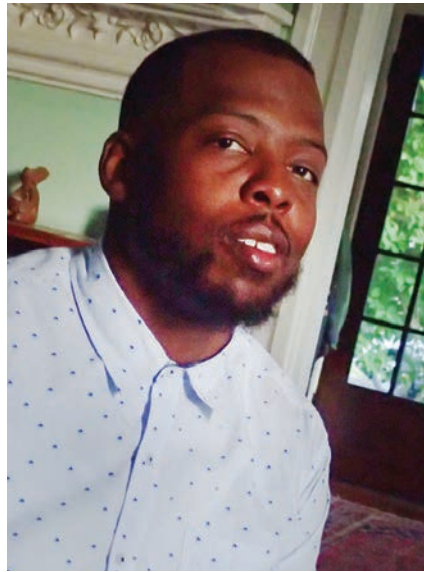
 **VIRGINIA CAPITAL**  
REAL ESTATE





VSH Executive Director  
Allison Bogdanovic.



Anthony Clary, veteran's case  
manager with VSH.



Willie Davis, veteran who  
experienced homelessness.

"This one particular guy was in the same situation as the other young lady," Anthony says. "The landlord ignored us, didn't want to house him, but I caught him in time. Left that check on the desk."

This veteran is trying to do everything he can. "But this guy couldn't go work in a pie shop," says Anthony. "His mental health was just gone. He was gone. And with the medication he was shaking all the time. If they don't

get the help they need, often these guys get dropped through the cracks. So when I get them I try to link them up with every service possible. He didn't know what to do with himself. I grabbed him by hand and took him over to the VA. He needs that case management. He has a fiancé and six babies. He needs that case manager to say, 'Did you remember to do so and so today?'"

After a very long pause, Anthony says,

"I couldn't imagine doing three tours. I can't imagine what this man is going through."

Directly across the table from Anthony, Willie Davis is nodding his head. "Without that feeling of support, you don't know what to do," he says. "Before Virginia Supportive Housing came along, I had no idea what I was going to do. I knew I was going to have to fight tooth and nail to survive. Not to have a place to stay,

but just to survive."

Willie Davis served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps as an artilleryman. He traveled to Malaysia, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines. Not long ago, after living in Baltimore for a few years, Willie returned to his native Richmond.

"I started a job as a maintenance man with a certain hotel here in town," he says. "As part of my salary, I was allowed to live at this hotel for almost a year."

Then one day, without any notice, Willie was told the hotel had changed its policy. "I was paying my bills," he says. "I was doing everything I needed to do, but the rules changed. Suddenly, I was facing eviction."

Willie did have a sister who rented a place in Jackson Ward, and she agreed to let him move in. Before he did move in, however, his sister also received an eviction notice. "I was going to be homeless," says Willie. "I spent a few days in the street and it wasn't nice."

He had not only been evicted, but he also lost his job at the hotel. Every day he would look for work. On one

## COME DANCE WITH US!



(Natalie and Audrey) at

## SCOTT BOYER TEACHES DANCE

Ages 3 to adult, priced from \$210.

**804-798-9364**

[scottboyerteachesdance@yahoo.com](mailto:scottboyerteachesdance@yahoo.com)



## BACK IN THE NORTHSIDE

1221 BELLEVUE AVENUE RICHMOND VA 23227

119 NORTH ROBINSON STREET RICHMOND VA 23220

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

**804 335 4570**

[EARLYBIRDBISCUIT.COM](http://EARLYBIRDBISCUIT.COM)

Come join us...

## Off the Beaten Path



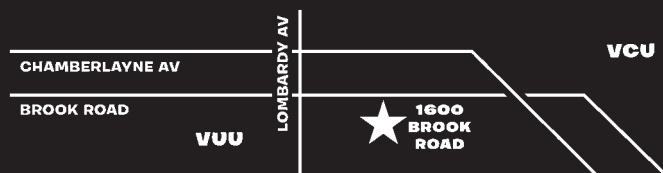
### Straight Up Comfort Food Without All the Hype

7 Days A Week • Orders to Go  
Monday-Friday 7-3 • Saturday & Sunday 8-2

**Breakfast and Lunch Served All Day**

1600 Brook Road • Richmond, VA 23220

**804.225.8577**



of his job searches he met a man who told him about Virginia Supportive Housing. "It was late this past winter, and once I hooked up with Virginia Supportive Housing, things sort of worked themselves out," says Willie. "In the process of them helping me, you know, through their support, somethings came through on my end, as far as getting a job. Things kind of clicked, but it was touch and go for a minute."

Homelessness is not simply a physical condition, it's almost a state of mind. "You can have the best intentions for yourself, but once you get stigmatized with homelessness no one wants to help you, no one wants to support you," Willie says. "You get to feeling low about yourself. Sometimes I wondered how I was going to eat at night. When these guys (VSH) came along, it gave me an incentive to put myself out there to help myself out."

He recalls homeless people he has met. "You're being set up to fail once you cross that line of not being able to pay your monthly rent," says Willie. "You got all these people out here, and I'm talking about hard-working people,

people who work hard every day of their life. They try to take care of their kids, they do what they have to do. They're struggling, but they're making it, and then one slip, one paycheck, and they're messed up. For twelve years, you pay your rent every month on time, and you mess up one time and you can be thrown on the streets as if you just moved in last month."

Allison says that even before reaching the event horizon of homelessness, many people are already on the verge of collapse. "They're already living in trauma because living in poverty is extremely stressful," she says. "The impacts on people's physical health and mental health and their children are extraordinary. And then you add eviction to that."

"That's right," says Willie. "And once you go down that rabbit hole, it's really hard to get out of it. You're in a home, you're in an apartment, you're stable. You have enough food to make it to the next payday. You lose your home, what do you have? What do you hold onto to make it to that next payday? You have nothing. You're going to stay down for a long time now. So it's going




**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  
264-5370**



**Dads and Grads**  
2 watches for the price of one



**KAMBOURIAN**  
JEWELERS

Artfully Yours.

Monday-Saturday, 10-6  
3141 West Cary Street  
Richmond, VA 23221  
804 254 4653  
kambourianjewelers.com


to be harder and harder for you to get back to that level where you were.”

Allison says that many responsible area landlords are examining their own eviction policies. “Just because it’s the law doesn’t mean they have to enforce it that way,” she says. “We all need to look at these policies. As a community, as a Commonwealth, we need to look at them. Because this is not right, and with stable housing, everybody wins.”

Things have steadily improved for those experiencing homelessness in Richmond, thanks in large part to organizations like Virginia Supportive Housing, and Allison Bogdanovic wants to get that story out.

“We’re always trying to make people aware,” she says. “The real stories behind this. That’s what people relate to. Everyone has someone in their family who’s had a crisis. It touches everybody. We say, ‘There but for the grace of God...’”

And before she can finish, Willie Davis says, “Go I.” 



**CITGO**

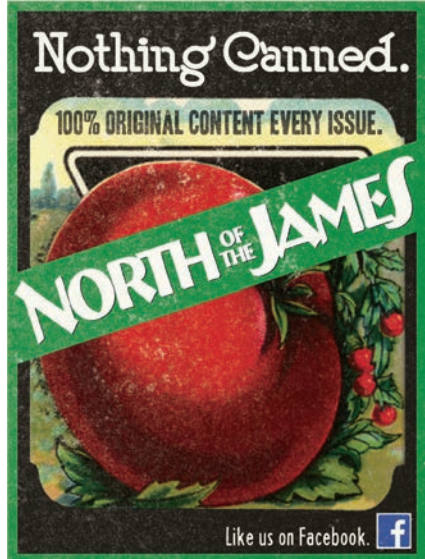
**AXSELLE**

*An Old-Fashioned Service Station*


**Family Owned And Operated For 65 Years**

**Full Automotive Service And Repair**

**266-3574**  
**5515 Lakeside Avenue**



Nothing Canned.  
100% ORIGINAL CONTENT EVERY ISSUE.  
NORTH OF THE JAMES

Like us on Facebook. 



**Pet Sitting Services**

**DONNA DUFFIELD**  
**(804) 397-6720**

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



**HOLLISTER PROPERTIES**

**Thinking about selling your home in Northside?**

**Contact me for a FREE market analysis.**  
I have expertise in Market Valuations, Negotiations, Advertising, Home Staging, Inspections, Appraisals, Investing & Mortgage Financing.



 **Chris Hollister REALTOR®**  
Hollister Properties  
5407 Patterson Ave., Suite 101 Richmond, VA 23226  
**804.240.9415**  
chris@hollistersales.com

**www.HollisterSales.com**



**STIR CRAZY CAFÉ**  
4015 MacArthur Avenue  
Richmond, VA

Monday - Friday  
7am - 5pm

Saturday - Sunday  
7:30am - 5pm

Now Offering Breakfast and Lunch Catering, and Space Rental

Contact Stephanie at  
stephanie@stircrazyrva.com  
or 804 864 0264

804 864 0264  
jordan@stircrazyrva.com

facebook.com/stircrazyrva  
instagram.com/stircrazyrva



*Wonderful food, best  
brunch in Richmond.*  
— Urban Spoon

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

OPEN 11am-10pm Mon-Fri  
9am-10pm Sat & Sun

**DINE IN • TAKE OUT**

**ENJOY BRUNCH**  
Sat & Sun 9am-2pm

**Weekly Specials:**  
Sun • Specialty Burgers  
5pm-close

Mon • Vegetarian & Vegan  
Specials all day

Tues • Family Style Pasta Night  
6pm-close

Wed • Wing it Wednesday  
with \$5 wing specials

Happy Hour • Mon-Fri 3-7pm

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

**804 716 1196**

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

## BRIEFS

### Martin McNeil at Stir Crazy

Martin McNeil performs at Stir Crazy's Third Music Thursdays from 6-8pm June 21. McNeil released his first album for Warner Brothers in the 1990's. Twenty years later he came out with "Martin McNeil & The Dissidents". That album drew comparisons with Neil Young and Ryan Adams, among others.

In 2015 He released his first solo album "Silver Moon". An array of musicians including Brad Pemberton (Steve Earle), Jon Graboff (Ryan Adams) & Jerry Marotta (Stevie Nicks) are featured on the record.

Now a resident of Richmond, Martin McNeil is currently working on a new record.



### Tin Can Fish Band at Eternity Church

Eternity Church invites everyone to bring a picnic supper, and spread out on the lawn at 1200 Wilmington Avenue to enjoy the music of Tin Can Fish Band on Sunday, June 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tin Can Fish Band draws from a wide variety of folk, rock, and roots material

ranging from public domain to bluegrass to Americana and world music, and includes works written by band members. The group entertains across the state, and Eternity is delighted to host the performers at this outdoor concert which will move inside in case in inclement weather.

### 37th Ashland Strawberry Faire On June 16

The 37th Annual Ashland Strawberry Festival will be held June 16 from 10 till 5 on the campus of Randolph Macon College. The Faire includes live music, arts and crafts vendors, and, of course, strawberries.

This year, the Faire's board has donated \$6,000 in scholarship funds to graduating seniors from Hanover County Public Schools, and one to a

Randolph-Macon College student.

Non-profit organizations are offered free booth spaces for visibility or they can buy sales booths for fund raising. In addition, commercial food vendors are required to sponsor and give a percentage of their profits to a non-profit of their choice.

For more information, visit [Ashland-StrawberryFaire.com](http://Ashland-StrawberryFaire.com).




### InLight Richmond 2018 Call for Proposals

1708 Gallery invites national and international artists working in all media and disciplines to submit proposals for the 11th annual InLight Richmond. Proposals for InLight 2018 should involve the viewer, be inspired by, investigate, or interpret themes of light, from light as medium to light as concept.

InLight 2018 will take place on Friday, November 16 from 7 pm till midnight and on Saturday, November 17 from 7 till 10pm at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. InLight is a public exhibition of contemporary light-based artworks.

Deadline for submission is midnight (EST), Saturday, June 30, 2018.

Potential sites for installations and performances include pathways, façades and other walls, sidewalks, green spaces, trees, and more. In addition, a limited number of interior sites might be available. Artists may propose a specific site for both pre-existing and site-responsive works. Please indicate if your work is site-specific on your entry form. 1708 Gallery reserves the right to make final site assignments.

The juror for InLight Richmond 2018 is Kimberli Gant, PhD, the McKinnon curator of modern and contemporary art at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk. 

For more details about InLight 2018 and to apply, visit [1708gallery.org](http://1708gallery.org).

*Your intimate stay  
in the heart of downtown*



LINDEN ROW  
A GREAT AMERICAN INN

100 East Franklin Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 1.804.783.7000 | [www.lindenrowinn.com](http://www.lindenrowinn.com)

# HOBNOB

eat. drink. socialize.

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

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

**6010 Hermitage Road  
Richmond, VA 23228**

**hobnobra.com**

**804.264.7400**

## 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**

**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**

## BOOK REVIEW

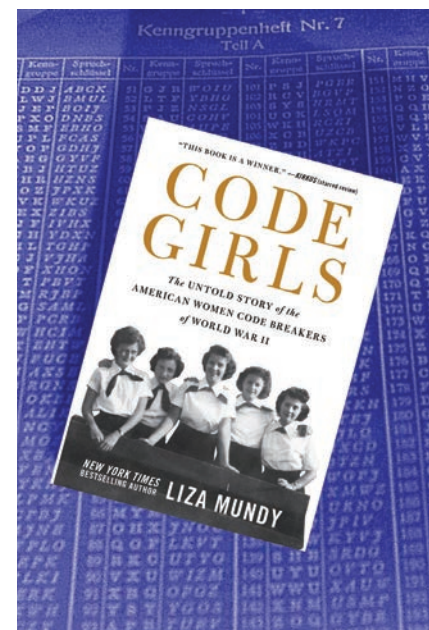
# WW II's Unsung Heroes The Code Girls

by **FRAN WITHROW**

**I**MAGINE THE YEAR IS 1942 and you are a highly intelligent young woman about to graduate from college. Your professor calls you into his office to inform you that the U.S. Navy has a job for you. You don't know what the job entails, but you leap at the chance and off you go to D.C., where you are catapulted into several weeks of intense training. You learn some cursory Japanese (or German, or another foreign language), and massive amounts of math and cryptanalysis. You are warned you will be shot if you talk about your work with anyone. And by the way, your job is crucial to the Allied hopes of winning WWII.

Congratulations! You just became a code breaker. Your mission: decode messages from Axis countries. You will be paid very little, work seven days a week in Washington's heat and humidity, and bunk with several other women in tight quarters. You will work feverishly to decipher messages from the Axis, knowing that if you can figure out Japanese navy encryptions, you can save American lives. Or if you can unlock the secret of the German codes, you can discover where their U-boats are lurking off the coast of Britain.

You will never receive recognition for your work, because you have taken a vow of silence. Even your roommates don't know what you are doing. It's tough work, but your brother and your fiancé are overseas, fighting, and this way you can help too. Liza Mundy did massive amounts of research, talked to the surviving code breakers, and read reams of correspondence to write this insightful and informative book. I was astounded at just how intricate these wartime codes could be: encrypted and then encrypted again, with pages and numbers that stretched on and on. Code breakers might toil for weeks or months before making a breakthrough. And just when they discovered the key, the Japanese would change the code and they would have to start all over again.



This is a must-read about a little known segment of our history and how these intelligent women made an integral difference in winning the war. The competition between Army and Navy code-breaking teams, the sexism faced by the women, the little known African American code breakers: it is all revealed right here.

Mundy does not forget the tragedy of war: some code breakers read messages that indicated their loved ones' ships were targeted by Axis forces, but could do nothing about it. Others experienced a death in the family but could be given no time off to mourn. Many code breakers (like many soldiers) were never the same after the war. The intense urgency of their task, the daily tedium and pressure, and the inability to talk about their work took its toll.

This book highlights a crucial time in American history. Personal, personable, and engagingly written, it marks a milestone for women who wanted to do more than teach or be a homemaker.

The silence is over. It's time to share their stories. **NJ**

**Code Girls: The Untold Story  
of the American Women Code  
Breakers of World War II**

By Liza Mundy

\$28.00

416 pages

Hachette Books



# FARMERS' MARKET

## Open Year Round

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

WELCOME TO THE ELEVENTH 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

OPEN SATURDAY MORNINGS 9AM-NOON and WEDNESDAYS 9AM-2PM



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

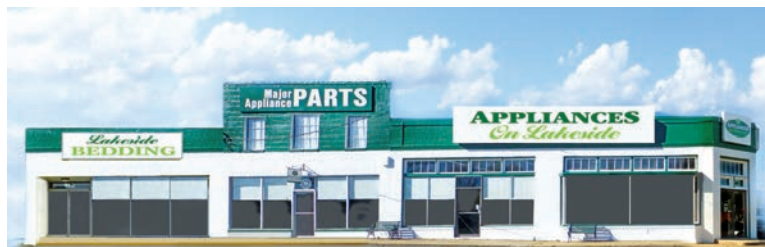


Voted Richmond's  
Best  
Appliance Store.

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