



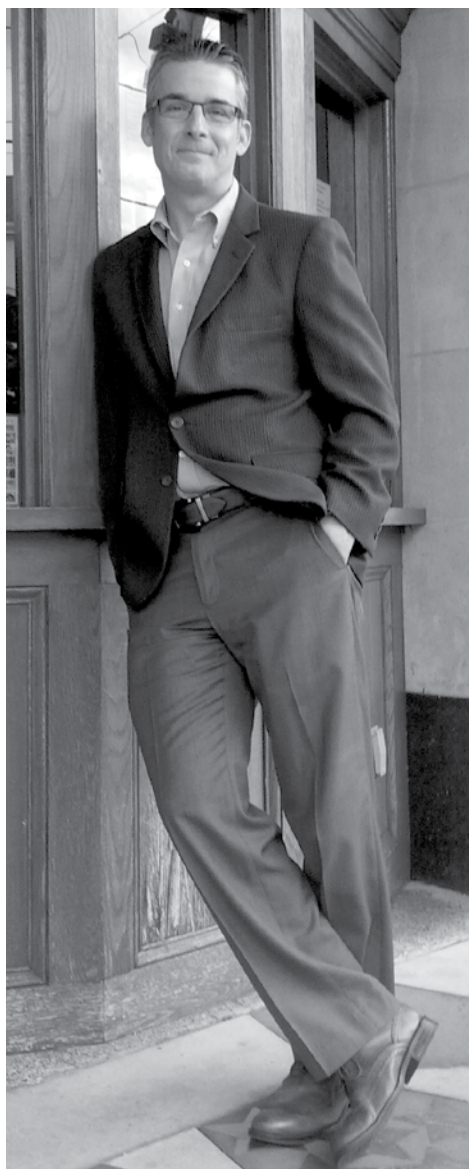
November 2014

Court Reporter

The Greater Raleigh Court Civic League

www.grccl.org

Meet the Grandin Theatre's new chief



Ian Fortier became executive director of the Grandin Theatre in September.

Ian Fortier, the Grandin Theatre's new executive director, has no shortage of ideas for making the most of his 82-year-old movie house. He plans to share many of them at the civic league's Nov. 13 membership meeting, where he'll discuss "my vision for diversifying this strong facility so that it will serve the community for years to come."

Fortier took the helm of the Grandin on Sept. 2, after leaving Jefferson Center as director of patron services. The Vermont native says he fully realizes the community's vested interest in the Grandin.

He happily rattles off a list of the things *he* loves the most about his new job.

"I love walking into this building and feeling 82 years of history.

"I love the enthusiasm of the staff and the board and how all of them are absolutely dedicated to the mission of the [Grandin Theatre] Foundation.

"And I'm thoroughly in love with the potential. With the board, we are always talking about going from where we are to what we see..."

"And at least once a day someone stops me on the street to tell me a wonderfully nostalgic story about the Grandin Theatre, whether it was where they brought their wife on their first date or where they held their wedding."

Fortier's mission is to find ways for the theater to be financially stable, which means using the space in a variety of new ways. "It's our goal to make this place a multi-use facility," he says, "in addition to being the best first-run movie theater that we possibly can be."

A recent, successful event was the Grandin's Oct. 18 screening of the documentary "From Grain to Growler," about Virginia's craft-breweries scene. Before the show, representatives from several Roanoke-area breweries held a beer tasting for the crowd of about 150, according to The Roanoke Times.

Fortier and the board will also consider showing educational matinees, holding business meetings and seminars, and hosting improvisational comedy shows and live music concerts.

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The spotlight is on Ian Fortier at the civic league's Nov. 13 membership meeting.

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From the President

By Kit Hale



On Oct. 11, our neighborhood library, the Raleigh Court branch, closed for the long-awaited and debated renovations to begin. You have to break a few eggs to make an omelet, and we've entered into the egg breakin' stage.

The omelet, or in this case, the new library, will be a deluxe creation with many ingredients. The 11,000-square-foot, \$3.2-million renovation will double the size of the 50-year-old library and will include large adult and children's areas, a bigger and up-to-date computer lab, including a teen "creative lab" center, and meeting space for up to 72 folks. We're hoping we can hold our civic league membership meetings at this facility.

The library will be closed from the time the eggs are broken until cooking ends, which is anticipated to take about 12 to 18 months. That used to seem like a long time when I was a kid, but time has a way of zipping along these days. Back then, the dreaded first day of school ended what seemed like a decades-long summer vacation (which really lasted a little less than three months). Time crept by, except for holiday breaks. Christmas took forever to arrive, made worse by the mandate to be "good" for those ever-present

eyes of Santa. Then, once Christmas got here, it was over in about 6 minutes. Next, it was on to the anticipated last day of school to begin the cycle again. I don't believe I was the only one longing for that final bell — I recall detecting a certain giddiness in my teachers.

Anyway, time seems to fly by these days. Author Michael Altshuler once said, "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." I'll confess, I had no clue who Mr. Altshuler was until I "Googled" him, and am still not real sure. In my book, he is not nearly as famous as our own Beth Macy (although I'm sure Michael's parents would disagree). In any event, I believe him to be insightful when it comes to us having some control over our destiny.

And, as fast as time seems to fly by, I believe it's important to understand that life is not a dress rehearsal. As golfer Ben Hogan said, "As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round."

So, we'll watch as the architects and contractors add the ingredients of bricks, sticks, and glass, and the library adds books, computers, and furniture. Depending on your age and the "time-flies" factor, it'll cook for a short/long year or so, and the result will be something that will enhance our already awesome neighborhood.

Editor's note: All readers and library users need to remember that Roanoke's Main Library, at 706 S. Jefferson St., reopened Oct. 14, following an 11-month, \$3.4 million renovation. 853-2000

"Grand Dames" a revealing look at the women of GVBA

What started as a funny joke has turned into an inspired bit of group marketing for the Grandin Village Business Association. Two years

ago, said Cups Coffee & Tea owner Michelle Bennett, she was sitting in a business association meeting discussing fund-raising ideas when the 2003 Helen Mirren movie "Calendar Girls" popped into her mind. In the film, a group of middle-aged Englishwomen pose nude (or nearly so) for a calendar to raise money for a hospital.



Debbie Stevens,
The Yoga Center



Olivia Byrd,
Rockfish Food & Wine



Michelle Bennett,
Cups Coffee & Tea

Why not borrow the idea for the GVBA's efforts, Bennett thought. "I said it as soon as it came into my head," she said.

Bennett's merchant colleagues weren't immediately sold on the scheme. "We talked and joked about the idea at meetings for a couple of years," she said.

Eventually, Bennett, who has a lengthy background in local mar-

keting, took it upon herself to recruit her pinup partners, having stepped up first among her peers to drop everything (or nearly so) for a good cause.

She says she went person to person, shop to shop, to sell the idea.

One of the significant aspects of what Bennett calls "our weird special little business district" is that more than 60 percent of Grandin Village enterprises are run by women. "Most of the [GVBA] members are women in their 50s and 60s," said Bennett, 54. "They're still working, running their businesses, every day."

(continued on page 9)

Patrick Henry band to perform in Honolulu, Hawaii

On Dec. 7, the Marching Patriots will represent the commonwealth in the fourth annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii. The event commemorates the 73rd anniversary of the invasion of Pearl Harbor, the surprise attack on the U.S. naval base that led to America's entry into World War II.



In spring 2013, parade officials notified band teacher Alex Schmitt and band members that they were selected as official Battleship state ambassador participants. The Patriots are the only high school band in Virginia to represent not only the state but veterans of the USS Virginia throughout the country.

"My grandfather served at Pearl Harbor during World War II," said flute player and PH senior Michelle Besser. "It means a lot to visit and honor his memory and the memories of those that served our country."

"Getting to perform in Hawaii is a great opportunity to show respect for our veterans and to expand our own

musical growth," said drum major Dylan Francis, also a senior.

Fundraising is going well, but the band still needs help from the community in its final push toward Pearl Harbor. To support the Marching Patriots as they embark on this performance of a lifetime, please send donations to "Patrick Henry High School

Band Boosters" at 2102 Grandin Road, Roanoke, VA 24015.

"It's such an honor to represent Patrick Henry, Roanoke, and the commonwealth of Virginia at this prestigious event!" said band teacher Schmitt. "The band has been working hard and we are tremendously excited for our performance!"

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Fall clean-up makes trailhead sparkle

If you've recently visited the Murray Run Greenway trailhead just off of Grandin Road you undoubtedly noticed how spiffy it looks. This is thanks in large part to the energy and hard work donated by a group of Woodrow Wilson Middle School band members, some of their parents and even a pair of grandparents. On Saturday, Oct. 4, these students and adults donned work gloves and their grubbies to pull weeds, scout-out and scourge poison-ivy, pick up trash and

haul seemingly endless loads of mulch to spread over the hilly landscape. Students seen in the picture to the right are: Hannah Hanes, Lily Crawford, Legend Howard, Philip Tomlin, Morgan Thompson, Elijah Burrell and William Fisher. The adults are: Jennifer Tomlin, Todd Tomlin, Ashleigh Lutz, Sophia Thompson, Michael Thompson, Rob Howard, Jenny Harris, Charlie Harris, band director Victor Tuck and civic league greenway contact Bill Hackworth. "We also had



a number of band members get donations but were not able to help with the clean-up," said Mr. Tuck. Thanks to everyone!

A shout-out of thanks

The civic league would like to thank a good neighbor [who has asked to remain anonymous] for voluntarily trimming the bushes that surround the neighborhood sign at Grandin Road and Brandon Avenue. "My objective in offering to trim was to provide a little more safety to the students and public," he told Jake Gilmer, the civic league's immediate past president. Additionally, he brought to our attention several places where the sign's masonry has been damaged. "We will probably need to have all the masonry evaluated later this year as we prepare to replace the sign," said Gilmer.

Stylish scarecrows flock back to Grandin Village

For the second October in a row, village businesses decorated their storefronts with individually designed scarecrows. Thanks to Jenny Prickitt for these snapshots.



Neighborhood home becomes movie set

On Sept. 12, StoneTable Films, a Virginia-based movie company, brought cast and crew into a house in the 2200 block of Carter Road for a day's worth of shooting. The Raleigh Court four-square home, then in-between owner-occupants, served as the scene for segments of "Kicked By Grace," a movie based on the true story of former Roanoke police officer Bryan Lawrence, who was partially paralyzed in 2008 in the line of duty. The film company, whose website says it produces "family friendly films that promote Christian values and the message of hope and encouragement our faith provides," hired several Roanokers for the crew. Roanoke Mayor David Bowers has a one-line speaking role. The movie is expected to debut in 2015.

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Heights Community Church hosts “Wiley Family Christmas” concert

David Stewart Wiley, music director and conductor of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, returns to the Grandin Village this year for another Christmas concert. He will be joined by his talented wife, Leah, and their two children for “A Wiley Family Christmas.” The concert will be in the sanctuary of Heights Community Church (formerly Virginia Heights Baptist Church) on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. The church is at Grandin Road and Memorial Avenue. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, and



Photo courtesy of David Hungate

can be obtained through the church office (344-7748). The office is open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. There is no reserve seating. “A Wiley Family Christmas: Home

for the Holidays!” will feature Leah Wiley, an acclaimed soprano and actress, and Mara and Misha Wiley on violin and cello. Together, the Wileys will perform classical and Baroque Christmas music by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi and other masters, favorite holiday carols and a few musical surprises. Maestro Wiley will also be signing copies of his new holiday piano solo release, “Piano Bells,” and performing selections from that CD.

Come home for the holidays... with the Wiley family!

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(continued from page 1)

At the civic league meeting, Fortier says he will “absolutely welcome” questions from the audience. So come meet the new guy, and bring your questions, suggestions and, of course, your nostalgic stories.

“It’s our job to make sure [the Grandin] is a vessel where more memories can be made,” he says.



Hollywood A-lister greenlights ‘Factory Man’

Our hearty thanks to author, journalist and Raleigh Court resident Beth Macy (above,) who gave a reading and book signing to a packed crowd at GRCCCL’s Sept. 11 membership meeting. Beginning early this summer, Macy’s book, “Factory Man,” earned A-plus reviews and a lengthy stay on The New York Times’ best-seller list for its story of the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Co. in Galax and the factory owner’s battle with dirty-pool-playing Chinese competitors. In her talk, Macy described the process of researching the book, the blessings of a well-timed windfall (her book won the J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award), and her ever-evolving relationship with her prickly protagonist, John Bassett III. Mere days after Macy’s neighborhood presentation, Academy Award-winning actor Tom Hanks announced that his production company, Playtone, will produce a miniseries for HBO based on “Factory Man.” Macy will be a consultant on the miniseries.

Ian Fortier: the preview

Age: 42

Favorite film: “Miller’s Crossing” (1990)

Favorite foreign film: “Life is Beautiful” (1997)

What actor would play Ian in a film about his life: Christian Slater

Hobbies: He’s a commissioned stained-glass artist, an ice-hockey player (his hometown is Burlington, Vermont), and a cyclist; he enjoys snowboarding, hiking, movies and keeping his black labrador, Livy, happy

Last book read: “Benjamin Franklin: An American Life,” by Walter Isaacson

Favorite Grandin Village restaurant: Local Roots

Favorite place in the world: Lake Bled, Slovenia
(Google it. You’ll see why.)

Meet him: Grandin Theatre Executive Director Ian Fortier is the guest speaker at the Thursday, Nov. 13, membership meeting of the Greater Raleigh Court Civic League, 7 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church, Grandin Road at Brandon Avenue. Everyone is welcome.

(continued from page 3)

And that is something to celebrate. So “The Grand Dames of Grandin,” a 14-month calendar on sale beginning Nov. 1, does just that.

The 14 staged shots—taken by Roanoke photographers Cricket Maiden and Patricia Giovannini in the subjects’ own businesses—are mainly studies in age-defying liberation. Each portrait is strategically shot, catered to its subject’s, well, naked ambition and/or personal modesty.

“Everyone has a distinctive style,” Bennett said, adding that the more youthful Grandin Village “calendar girls” are in their 30s and 40s. “Each picture speaks to the individual business.”

And they’re fun, too — a critical piece of the project for Bennett, who said that everything she

does “must be fun, or what’s the point?”

“We’ll do anything to get people who don’t normally come here to visit [the village],” she said of her GVBA associates. “We want to pull in the rest of Roanoke. It’s why we have all of these events,” such as the Grandin Chillagefest on Oct. 25.

Proceeds from the calendar sales will fund future GVBA projects.

Ever since the “Grand Dames” project was launched, Bennett has had a quick answer to a frequently posed question: There are absolutely no plans whatever for a gentlemen’s edition of the calendar.

“This one was hard enough to do,” she says.

Asked to describe her own “Grand Dames” shot, the Grandin Vil-

lage queen of caffeine offers, “There’s whipped cream involved. And steam... lots of steam.”

*“The Grand Dames of Grandin” is \$20 and is available at the businesses of the participating women: Michelle Bennett: Cups Coffee & Tea; Ashley Ernest Shaffner: Urban Gypsy; Katie Clifton: Queenpin Acupuncture; Marilyn Moody: The Yoga Center & The Lifestream Center; Sandra Meythaler: Roanoke Ballet Theatre; Olivia Byrd: Rockfish Food & Wine; Andrea Reid Waide: Reid’s Fine Furnishings; Jenny Prickett: New to Me Consignment Boutique; Debbie Stevens: The Yoga Center; Pennie Ahuero: Viva La Cupcake; Susan Stump: Valley Bank; Cherie Love: Mon Cherie’s Salon; Diane Elliot: Local Roots; Susan Stidham: Soul to Sole

Arlington Road Halloween tradition marks 25 years

By Emily Watts Nester

Fall is finally here. And that only means one thing for the children of Raleigh Court's Arlington Road: It's time for the Halloween Parade. For the past 25 years, on the Sunday before Halloween, children and adults have donned their costumes and gathered to celebrate the haunted holiday.

In 1989, in an effort to get to know their neighbors better, artist, teacher, and creative genius Jenny Shamy, along with Mike and Meredith Naumann, threw a small Halloween get-together in the Naumanns' back yard. They and their combined five children had so much fun, they decided to do it again the following year, but just a little bit bigger. Over the years, the parade grew, and new traditions were born. As more children were introduced each year, they fell in love with the event, and many of them continued to attend despite being full-grown adults and no longer living on the street.

The parade begins the same way each year: Costumed children and their parents meet in the middle of Arlington Road (the street is always blocked off!). Mike Naumann, in the exact same train engineer costume each year, carries the Halloween Baton (reinvented a few times throughout the years by Shamy) and blows the whistle, signaling everyone to line up. Witches, princesses, zombies, superheroes, Harry Potters and an assortment of animals march a hundred yards down part of the hill toward Brandon Avenue, and then back up, all the way



Emily Watts Nester grew up on Arlington Road and returns faithfully every year for the Halloween parade. She is the daughter of Beth Watts, an Arlington Roader for 21 years. The original Arlington Road Halloween kids are Becky, Rachel and Marianne Naumann (now Deary, Burke and Lamb) and Corinne Shamy (now Lawson) and Lillian Shamy.

to Old Sherwood Road, turning once more, and finishing right where they started. Then it's time to eat! A team of volunteers prepares hundreds of hot dogs, and everyone brings a dish and a drink to share. The Halloween treats on the tables are almost as creative as the costumed kiddos scurrying underfoot.

Picnic tables, card tables, lawn chairs and blankets are spread throughout the street and neighbors gather to share a meal and catch up on the news since last year. The parade is the yearly chance to catch up on who has a new baby and which child is in what grade. Of course, for those who have attended since the early years, the conversations have now turned to what colleges their children attend, who is getting married, and who is having babies of their own.

As the eating winds down, the games begin. Rotating in age groups, children participate in two activities: the Hay Game, with Shamy, where the kids dig through a hay stack to find candy, or "the Piñata Tree" with Mike Naumann, where kids take turns whacking at Halloween-themed piñatas. Naumann has been whacked a few times himself but continues to brave the dangers of wildly waving kids.

When darkness begins to settle in, Naumann lights the "campfire." This tradition consists of a few pieces of

Mike Naumann (center), in his traditional train engineer costume, is the center of attention as the neighborhood gathers to play "the Piñata Tree" at the Arlington Road Halloween gathering.



The Halloween parade is the yearly chance for Arlington Roaders to catch up with one another.

wood, carefully stacked in the shape of a teepee, covering the same square of wrinkled tinfoil and tangled string of bright-red, large-bulbed Christmas lights that have been used for well over 15 years. Kids sit in a circle around the fire on upturned kitty litter buckets with Naumann as he strums old favorites such as "On Top of Spaghetti" and "Puff the Magic Dragon" on his guitar.

For 25 years, Arlington Roaders have participated in this tradition, and while there are no signs of its stopping, there is a bump in the road. After a quarter century of planning each and every detail and coordinating the event, Jenny Shamy will be stepping down from her role as the parade's Grand Marshal. Surely another young, crafty, willing mom or dad will step in to fill her shoes, but all of the "old-timers" can't help but be a little sad to be losing her leadership.

To commemorate the parade's silver anniversary, the planning committee put together a special dedication this year. The "piñata tree," located on the property of Paul Begeman and Beth Ruffing, has been in failing health for the last couple of years. At the 2014 parade, a new tree will be planted in the sidewalk strip alongside the old one. Paraders can help scatter dirt on the new planting, and the hope is that when the old tree succumbs to its illness, the new one will be ready to have a rope tossed across its branches for a few hours each year while our children celebrate the pure joy that is Halloween.

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Raleigh Court United Methodist Church



**Casual Worship Service at 8:30 AM,
3rd Sunday of each month
Communion Worship Service 8:30 AM
Sunday School for all Ages 9:40 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM**

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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LAWYERS

Greater Raleigh Court Civic League
P.O. Box 3092
Roanoke, VA 24015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 1: Roanoke Ballet Theatre's "Dracula," 7 p.m., Jefferson Center. \$20-\$40 (children half price)

Nov. 4: Election Day

Nov. 8: Classic Movies at the Grandin Theatre: "Paths of Glory" (1957) 10 a.m., free

Nov. 13: GRCCCL membership meeting with Grandin Theatre Executive Director Ian Fortier. 7 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church

Nov. 22: Grandin Road Holiday Children's Parade, 11 a.m. To volunteer, contact Jake Gilmer, jake.gilmer@gmail.com (904-2051)

Nov. 28: Midnight Movies at the Grandin Theatre: "Almost Famous" (2000) 11:59 p.m., free

Dec. 13: Classic Movies at the Grandin Theatre: "The Shop Around the Corner" (1940) 10 a.m., free

Dec. 14: "A Wiley Family Christmas," 3 p.m., Heights Community Church sanctuary

Dec. 19: Midnight Movies at the Grandin Theatre: "Elf" (2003) 11:59 p.m., free

Dec. 20: Roanoke Ballet Theatre's "The Magic Toyshop," 7 p.m., Jefferson Center. \$20-\$40 (children half price)

Jan. 8: GRCCCL membership meeting: "Building neighborhood awareness and connection." 7 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church

March 12: GRCCCL membership meeting: "School grants." 7 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church

May 14: GRCCCL membership meeting: "Community arts." 7 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church

Membership Form ☐ new member ☐ renewing member

New members are welcome to join the Civic League at any time. You may pay your dues at the next membership meeting. Multiyear or life memberships are welcome! The Greater Raleigh Court Civic League is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Donations may be claimed as charitable deductions for tax purposes.

Please mail your membership dues (\$10 family, \$15 business, or \$100 life membership) or gifts to:

GRCCCL, P.O. Box 3092, Roanoke, VA 24015

Or go to www.grccl.org and click on "JOIN US" to fill out a membership application online.

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