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VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

Monday, July 14, 2025

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



MIKE KROPF, TIMES-DISPATCH

Rapper Urfavgrannie is seen Friday at GoodPeoples Studios. "I have inspired a lot of people who thought they were too old to rap," Grannie said. "My goal is to continue to inspire."

# Grannie gains TikTok following as a rapper

At 60, she spreads stories of hardship, hope, community



GWYNNDOLYN MILES

Urfavgrannie is a Richmond-area hip-hop artist with a growing social media following. The rapper, whose real name is Deneen Marie Scott, has 355,000 followers on Instagram, 397,900 on TikTok and 51,000 subscribers on YouTube. Her most popular YouTube video has well over a

million views. After a life on the streets, fighting to make it out of poverty, she's now using her lyrics to reach others who are still living it. She prefers using her alias rather than her legal name.

Grannie, 60, grew up in Norfolk, going in and out of numerous foster care homes since she

was 5 years old. When she was 10, she ran away for the first time. "I just encourage everybody to live their life, because you're really not guaranteed tomorrow," Grannie said. From there, her life became a cycle of being taken to a new foster family, running back to the streets, then being picked up by police and detained until her next foster placement.

"Anytime people ask me where I'm from, I always say the streets," Grannie said. "The streets is liter-

ally what raised me."

At the end of May, Grannie released a song called "Black Hands." In it, she talks about how throughout her life on the streets, it was the Black community that gave her support.

Please see GRANNIE, Page A11

**VIEW:** See more photos of Grannie by aiming your cellphone camera at the QR code and clicking the link. **NEWSVU**

## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

# Exhibit spotlights Jackson Ward's history

From founders to early development to eminent domain

CHELSEA JACKSON  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Jackson Ward is often celebrated for being the "Harlem of the South" or "Black Wall Street," but a new exhibit at the Library of Virginia digs deeper into the historic neighborhood's roots.

In "House to Highway: Reclaiming a Community History," the story of Abraham Peyton Skipwith, Jackson Ward's first known Black homeowner, is rediscovered.

"We know a lot about Maggie Walker, we know a lot about John Mitchell, but they stood

## 'House to Highway' opening celebration

**When:** Thursday at 4 p.m.

**Where:** Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad St.

**Admission:** Free

**More info:** lva.virginia.gov/events/exhibitions/house-to-highway

on shoulders," says Sesha Joi Moon, co-creator of The JXN Project, a nonprofit dedicated to telling the stories of Jackson Ward, with her sister, Enjoli Moon.

Please see JACKSON WARD, Page A5



VALENTINE MUSEUM

The gambrel-roofed Skipwith-Roper Cottage as seen when it was at 400 W. Duval St. In February 1793, it became the first known property owned by a Black person in what would become Jackson Ward.

## ST. FRANCIS

# Hospital to erect two new buildings

Chesterfield center keeps expanding as demand climbs

ERIC KOLENICH  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

St. Francis Medical Center has begun its latest expansion, a medical office building and outpatient surgery center. It comes just one year after the Midlothian hospital cut the ribbon on its latest redevelopment project.

It's part of a race between health care providers to capture the market in Chesterfield County, which is growing and aging.

St. Francis leaders held a ceremonial groundbreaking Wednesday for the three-story, 90,000-square-foot office building and surgery center that Bon Secours health system will build on the St. Francis campus. The health system has not identified the building's cost.

"This has become an old habit for St. Francis to have groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings, which means there's been a lot of growth," said Joe Wilkins, the hospital's president.

Please see ST. FRANCIS, Page A3

## RICHMOND FINANCES

# City spending nearly \$500K on consultant

Department plagued by recent difficulties

SAMUEL B. PARKER  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

City officials have spent nearly half a million dollars in the past year on consulting services to help Sheila White run the beleaguered Department of Finance, records obtained by The Times-Dispatch show.

Invoices and contracts, obtained through a Virginia Freedom of Information Act request, show that officials have paid consultant Anne Seward of Anne Seward Consulting LLC \$493,000 since July 9, 2024, for "staff and advisory support services to the director of finance."

Please see SEWARD, Page A11

**VIEW:** Read the invoices referenced in this story by aiming your cellphone camera at the QR code and clicking the link. **NEWSVU**

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