

## Restoration of Monroe Park's Fountain

Due to the severe nature of the fountain's disrepair (worn paint, oxidation, corrosion of the fasteners for the embellishments, missing decorative components: acanthus leaf and several rosettes), the fountain is slated for an extensive renovation. The fountain will be disassembled and loaded on a flat bed truck and hauled to Robinson Iron Works in Alexander City, AL where the entire surface will be sandblasted down to clean iron. Then it will be coated with a forced air, molten zinc layering, followed by a two part epoxy primer. After a finish coat of two part epoxy the fountain will be reassembled with the missing components made from the original molds held in Robinson Iron Works archives. It will then be returned to Monroe Park, where all of Richmond's citizens can enjoy it.

This restoration is one of the top three priorities as identified by the Monroe Park Advisory Council. The Council was revived early this year after 2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman Bill Pantele nominated 10 citizens from the Fan, Oregon Hill, Carver, and VCU to advise City Council on matters pertaining to Monroe Park, one of the City's oldest parks and one that had fallen into a state of neglect as a result of continued budget cuts.

Restoration of the fountain was made possible by a budget allocation in the City's last budgetary process (championed by Bill Pantele 2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman) and by significant contributions from the Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation (contact Heyn Kjerulf (President) on 359-5180 or Laura Cameron (Public Relations) on 354-9768) and the Fan District Association of Richmond, Virginia (contact Heather Laird (President) on 358-3839 or Kitty Winkler (Vice-President/Public Relations) on 355-6071).

The Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation has been integral in saving properties in the Fan from decay and misuse, such as the properties at the corner of Grove and Harrison, several along W Grace, and even one on Monument Avenue. The foundation produced an architectural art book entitled Richmond's Monument Avenue authored by Richard Guy Wilson, Sarah Driggs, and Robert Winthrop with photography by John O. Peters, who incidentally is on the Monroe Park Advisory Council. The foundation has supported the recently-introduced Tree Steward program for the City of Richmond and a street tree inventory program using computer technology to track Richmond's urban forest. Besides assisting with this Monroe Park project, the Foundation's newest effort is to raise the funds to install historical-type street name signs throughout the Fan District.

The Fan District Association ([www.fandistrict.org](http://www.fandistrict.org)) is a local civic organization formed in 1961 and dedicated to the preservation, restoration and betterment of the urban community, known as the Fan. Its primary purpose is to promote the welfare of the historic Fan District of Richmond, Virginia and its residents. In addition to its annual Holiday House Tour held in December, the Fan District Association sponsors community functions and events like this week's National Night Out festivities in Meadow Park and a semi-annual alley clean-up, hosts a concert series, supports its neighborhood schools, has embarked on renovation and reclamation of many of its pocket and triangular parks, has joined with Tree Richmond and Councilman Bill Pantele to plant street trees along sidewalks, and supports the code enforcement, CAPS, graffiti, environmental, court watch and other civic task forces that better urban communities.

### Members of the Monroe Park Advisory Council

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Patricia R Daniels (Chair)

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Brian Ohlinger

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