

THE LOCAL SIGNAL

WRIR 97.3FM

What's Inside?

This issue of The Local Signal celebrates WRIR's official move to its new home at 1806 Main St. in Shockoe Bottom, which was marked by the first broadcast on January 17, 2026. The newsletter also honors the legacies of co-founder Bill Lupoletti and volunteer Rev. Q, while announcing that the station successfully met its \$50,000 Fall Fund Drive goal. Readers can also find a sentimental retrospective on the station's original Broad Street roots and updates on the ongoing Capital Campaign.

As Richmond's independent voice, we're excited to keep you tuned in to everything happening both on and off the airwaves. Thanks for being part of the WRIR family — let's dive in!

Edited by: Rian Moses-Hedrick

We will miss, Bill Lupoletti, WRIR co-founder and radio host.

page 4



Let's Stay Together

Phil Ford shares a heartfelt retrospective on 1621 West Broad Street, tracing WRIR's journey from a 2004 basement internet station to a legendary community hub that fostered lifelong friendships and amplified underrepresented voices. As the station transitions to its new home, this piece celebrates the "Richmond original" history etched into those old stairs while toasting the next generation of volunteers ready to build new memories.

Continued on page 10





Monster Mashquerade

Portraits by Miranda Jean

OCTOBER 26, 2025





FALL FUNDRAISING GOAL ACHIEVED!

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE: REACHING THE \$50,000 PEAK

We are thrilled to announce that WRIR 97.3FM met our 2025 Fall Fund Drive goal of \$50,000, thanks to a final, transformative push from River City Givers.

As a group of local women dedicated to magnifying their impact through collective giving, River City Givers selected the Virginia Center for Public Press (WRIR's parent organization) as their Q4 2025 beneficiary. Following a compelling presentation by Vicki Yeroian at their October meeting, the group voted to award WRIR a generous gift of \$5,200.

This contribution did more than just balance the books; it served as a powerful reminder of what happens when "community supports community." By pooling their resources, these women have ensured that our new home remains a vibrant hub for local music, underrepresented voices, and independent news.

To the members of River City Givers and every listener who pitched in: Thank you. We couldn't keep these airwaves independent without you.

The fund drive may be over, but you can still keep donating to the WRIR to make sure our volunteer runned station stays on the airwaves. **DONATE ONCE** or **DONATE MONTHLY**

1959-2025

REMEMBERING BILL LUPOLETTI

Global A Go-Go



With profound sorrow and gratitude, the WRIR family remembers William "Bill" Lupoletti, who passed away on October 31, 2025. Bill was a co-founder of WRIR, the beloved host of Global A Go-Go, and a pillar of Richmond's world music community.

For more than 20 years, Bill brought the sounds of the world to Richmond through his show, championing his idea that "world music is local music from somewhere else." His iconic tagline — "decolonizing your ears since 2005" — encouraged listeners to explore beyond borders and find connection in the universal language of groove. Voted Richmond's Best Radio Show multiple times, Global A Go-Go's reach extended beyond city limits, rebroadcasting on seven other stations internationally.

As a WRIR co-founder, Bill's vision and dedication were instrumental in shaping the station's ethos; from its early days in a basement to its place as a cornerstone of Richmond culture. He was a leader whose generosity and curiosity made every volunteer and listener feel welcome.

Bill was not only a radio visionary but also a passionate connector, using his platform to build bridges for international artists to perform in Richmond. Beyond the airwaves, he was a published economist and financial analyst, but to those closest to him he was, above all, an eternal optimist, a loving husband to Alyssa Salomon, his wife of 38 years, a brother, an uncle, a mentor, and an incredible friend.

Thank you for everything, Bill. As long as WRIR is on air your spirit will groove on with us.

At his wife Alyssa's request, memorial donations in Bill's honor may be made to [WRIR's Capital Campaign](#), to help sustain the station he founded and cherished.

Members of the WRIR community past and present share their condolences and thoughts on what Lupoletti meant to them.

We also remember Rev. Q

Eric Quander (Rev. Q) passed away at work suddenly on 11/4/25. His show White Pill had only just begun, but he was a very dedicated, powerful and passionate person not just about WRIR but community service as a whole. Rev. Q had this silk smooth baritone on the mic, which made him playing Pantera crashing into Brand Nubian all the more fun. He is going to be missed. Eric contributed a whole lot in a very short amount of time with the station. [Family GoFundMe](#)

Bradley "Straw" Stabler, Interim Vice President, WRIR Board of Directors

Bill was the best. One of the most open hearted and passionate music scholars to ever do it. What I have to especially praise is that he was a master of presentation. He always knew how to sequence, how to present, and how to augment what he was playing either through insightful commentary or effusive enthusiasm for the artists he played. He had an infectious spirit. I loved his show from the time I heard it in 2005, and he is one of the volunteers I looked up to. Bill was, and still is, one of a kind.

Phil Ford, host, "The Friday Clock Out"

Bill had a big hand in the station, being a backbone in the early days of its existence. He single-handedly came up with the "Breakfast Blend" concept Monday through Friday morning 6-8 a.m. I remember when I first started volunteering and Bill showed me the index card box which had a listing of the current world music that needed to be played in the rotation. DJs could play more or less what they wanted, but it was Bill that insisted that music from around the world also be represented during those time slots. It was at this moment, as Bill was leafing through some examples in the card box, that he enlightened me to a universe beyond my dumb punk-rock head, which was an entire globe of vibrant, vivacious, decadent energetic, spectacular, creative, experimental and excellent (even superior) music. Bill truly opened my eyes and my ears to what was actually out there. As the years went by, he would also compliment me on my unique balance of playing Cheb I Sabbah or Tinariwen with Dead Kennedys at 6 a.m and that it was quite a wake-up blast. Or he would most always give me the new Juana Molina record to review for the station because he knew I was a big fan. Over the years, I would occasionally see him because he was pursuing other interests in world music, not only did he still have his show at the station, but he also had a big hand in bringing music to this city with the Folk Festival as well as the new venture with Secret Planet which brought these musicians to places like Révéler and Get Tight. Bill not only showed me, but all of us the power of decolonizing your ears with music from around the world in the universal language of groove.

Anna Creech, former Music Director

Bill came to me over a decade ago and talked me into taking up the mantle of music director, a role I eventually filled for 11 years. He rightly saw both my interest in new music and my professional passion for organizing information. Bill was a great example of what a music or genre director could do for a radio station, cultivating the connections with promoters and record labels, and encouraging the flow of new music to the station as well as connecting that music to specific DJs. Aside from being a genuinely wonderful human being no longer in this world, his loss is huge for the station. I have missed seeing him and chatting with him since the pandemic years, and regret not making more of the time I had when I could.

BE IN THE KNOW!

UPDATES FOR THE PUBLIC

Kroger Community Rewards

Did you know there's an easy way to support WRIR, Richmond's all-volunteer radio station every time you shop for groceries—at no extra cost to you?

By enrolling in the Kroger Rewards Program and selecting The Virginia Center for Public Press, a portion of your regular Kroger purchases will go directly to supporting our station's music, news, and community programming.

How to sign up:

Go to **Community Rewards**

Log in to your Kroger account online.

Search for **The Virginia Center for Public Press (#NQ873)** and select it as your nonprofit.

Shop as usual—Kroger does the rest!

Fall Fund Drive Premium Orders

All the only-shirt premiums have been shipped. The bags should be completed any day now. Three separate vendors confirmed our order for the bags, and then cancelled it after discovering they didn't have the stock available. Supply chain issues coupled with the busier holiday season and global carrier boycotts of shipping to the US has made this quarter a challenge to say the least. We did find a vendor with bags in stock. They've been sent out to the printer and should be done very soon. Apologies for the delay in getting them out.

Thanks to all of you for your patience during this unprecedented time for WRIR!

Call for Video Art

Fuschia Freedom Garden has installed a permanent projector with an open, ongoing call for video art. We want to spread the word about this and encourage anyone to submit! [Learn More](#)

SHOUT OUTS!



Packing up the old station.



- Thank you to our station's operations team for understanding the madness that brings WRIR through the air waves: Jesse Oremland, Mike Garrett, Straw Stabler, Jim Nelson, and others!
- Big thank you to all our volunteers who pitched in their extra time to inventory, pack, label, and clean our old station. And another thank you to the volunteers who moved, unpacked, and set up the new station.
- Welcome, Vicki Yeroian, to the VCPP Board for WRIR 97.3FM! Vicki Yeroian is an experienced nonprofit leader and educator who serves as the Executive Director of Podium RVA and has held various leadership roles within the Richmond community, including positions with GLSEN RVA and the VCU School of Social Work. With a strong background in social work and political science, she is a dedicated advocate for community representation and has been a prominent supporter and voice for organizations like WRIR 97.3 FM.
- The WRIR family mourns the loss of Valentine Director Bill Martin. He was a storyteller, historian, innovator, and icon. He was a tireless supporter of local causes and a proponent of this very station. He was a true Richmond original who left an indelible mark on the city that he loved. Thanks for everything, Bill.



CURRENT SHOWS



CHECK IT OUT!

NEW SHOWS!

- Soon to come: Twilight Dispatch Fridays @ 11 PM
- As of Feb 1st, Sunday at 1 PM - Stop The Madness Latino

NEW SPOT OPENINGS

- We have some air time opening up at WRIR and will need to fill the space soon.
- Do you have an idea for a radio show? Hurry and start volunteering at WRIR so you can pitch your ideas.

Stay up to date on current shows by viewing our schedule online.

www.wrir.org/schedule

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12am	House Music Sessions	Just Cause / Double Dream	Richmond Cryptoids	Dog Germs / PND (punk's not dead)	The Church of the Ecstatic	The Mix Room / 56 kbit/s	Guitar Inferno / The Lunar Orbit
1am	Hip-Hop for the Rest of Us	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows	Metal Box	FREQUENCY	A Drone's Life	Neighborhood Wide Web	Interstellar Elevator
2am		encore airing					
3am	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows		Encore Music and Local Talk Shows	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows	Unicorn Power	Live from the Audience
4am	Shows		Shows	Shows	Shows		
5am	encore airing		encore airing	encore airing	encore airing		
6am	The Jaguar Morning Show	Biscuits 'n' Groovy w/ Bee Gee	Where The Bears Sing	Wednesday Breakfast Blend	Breakfast Blend w/ Galaxy Girl & Friends	Life is a Mixtape / MIDI Mornings	Mr. Dad's Storytime
7am							encore airing
8am		Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Clean House / Half Awake
9am	The Sunday Morning Jazz Show	Big Picture Science	With Good Reason	Sojourner Truth	First Voices Radio	The Means of Production / Boom Goddess Radio	The British Breakfast
10am		Radio Ecoshock	The Children's Hour	Civic Cipher	For the Wild	WRIR Presents: Black Coochie (1st)/Discussing Disability (2nd)/OPEN! (3rd)/Final Friday Signal Boost (4th)	
11am	Bebop and Beyond with Mr. Jazz	Food Sleuth Raging Skillet	Mr. Dad's Storytime	How 2 Human/Rising Up with Sonali	Richmond Business Babes	Bumps N Banter	Paul's Boutique / Alley Oop's Noide Oldies
12pm		Brain Box	Confetti Park	What Wakes Me	Women & Politics	Novel Film (1st & 3rd)/The Talking Machine (2nd & 4th)	
1pm	Global A Go-Go	Banji Kaicho	Finding Sounds / Outer Focus	Daily Courtship / Left Field with Duncan	Alternative Milestones	Head Empty Radio	Cause and Effect
2pm							
3pm	Ambiance Congo / The Other Black Music	Richmond Counterculture / Shockoe Sessions	White Pill (1st & 3rd) / Single Use (2nd & 4th)	Dream Girl Radio / EXT SRC	Higher Consciousness	POP Goes The World!	End Of The Century
4pm							
5pm	The Motherland Influence	French Kiss / Stop the Madness Latino	Wide Ear Folk	The Lotus Land Show	The Young Professional / Mid-Atlantic Jams	Friday Clock Out	River City Limits
6pm							
7pm	If Music Could Talk	The Edge of Americana / Time Again Radio	Handful Of Brains	Midtown Swing	Quantum Live Radio / Whatever I Want	Commonwealth of Notions / Deutscher Jam	Panoramic / Club Unity
8pm							
9pm	House of SWE (1st & 3rd) / Otherworlds (2nd & 4th)	The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit / Soul II Soul	Kaleidoscopic Soul / Kristin Star	Mercury Falls	Sunrise Ocean Bender (1st, 3rd) / Altered Circuitry: ReWired (2nd, 4th) / Various (5th)	What the Fontaine?!	FREQUENCY
10pm							
11pm	Just Cause / Double Dream	Richmond Cryptoids	Dog Germs / PND (punk's not dead)	The Church of the Ecstatic	The Mix Room / 56 kbit/s	Guitar Inferno / The Lunar Orbit	House Music Sessions

SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

CLEAN HOUSE

- 7-9AM every 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday
- Clean House Vol. 1 on Bandcamp - this is a compilation of local artists including Christian Luke Brady, Greg Darden, Past Palms, Gardener and more! <https://cleanhouzerecords.bandcamp.com/album/clean-house-vol-1>
- It celebrates reaching 100 shows on-air and it features all RVA or RVA-expat artists- The artwork is also by a VCU grad Emma Barnes so lots of local connections
- It is just \$5 (with the option to pay more) and anything we manage to make I will be donating into the WRIR pot to help us get moved down to Shockoe so please share the link with your friends! I will also be getting physical tapes made next month and will donate a portion of those sales as well

The Motherland Influence

- 5-7PM every Sunday
- Feb. 8. The Motherland influence Superbowl Sunday Tribute to Soccer.
- Two hours of African, Latin and Caribbean Soccer themed music.

The Means of Production

- First Fridays 9-9:30AM
- Hi! I'm Whitney Whiting and I've been producing a limited audio documentary series about how WRIR was born. It's called The Means of Production and features voices of WRIR's earliest volunteers like James Hickman, Dustin Richardson, Chris Maxwell, Ana Edwards, Liz Humes, Bill Lupoletti, Gene Pembleton, and many others.
- The final episode of WRIR's origin story came out Friday January 2 and officially wrapped up the edited series. In the spring, I'll be reaching out to folks on my growing list to set up further interviews about the station's history as part of an oral history archive.
- All episodes of The Means of Production can be found at soundcloud.com/anotherichmond and on Youtube @AnotherRichmond

Alternative Milestones

- Every Thursday 1-3PM
- Fresh off airing the 100th episode on Christmas Day, Alternative Milestones celebrates 2 years on the air the first week of February!

SIFTER FOR THE EAR

- 11:30AM-12PM every Friday
- Interviews, news & reviews of film, TV & streaming by Jerry Williams, aka TV Jerry.

House Music Sessions

- 11PM-1AM every Saturday
- DJ Vince Slay House Music and Legendary Guests!

WRIR is LIVE.....Again!

After two decades of broadcasting from its longtime home at 1621 W. Broad St., Richmond's community radio station, WRIR 97.3FM, has officially turned the page to a new chapter at 1806 Main St. in Shockoe Bottom. The move marks a significant milestone for the volunteer-run station, trading the familiar grit of Broad Street for a fresh space in the heart of the city. The transition was made official on Saturday, January 17th, at 9:00 AM, when Gene Pembleton & Jessica Cundari Reilly, hosts of the beloved British Breakfast, had the honor of helming the very first broadcast from the new studio. It was a fitting start for the new location—blending the station's deep community roots with the excitement of a brand-new era on the airwaves.



Support a Richmond Original. Give to the WRIR Capital Campaign.

YOU are a Richmond original. Always on the lookout for something different. Always ready to push boundaries, challenge authority, and play by rules that *you* write. And always up for DIY-ing just about anything.

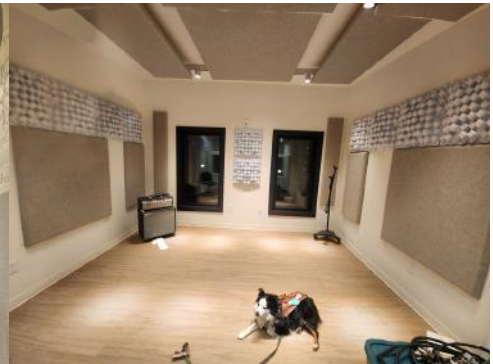
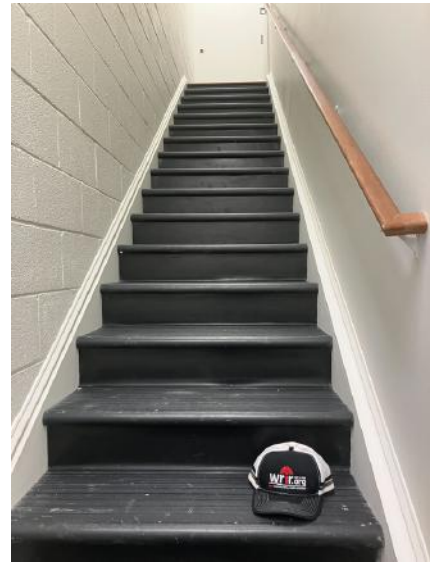
Those are the same things that make WRIR a Richmond original too. From our bare-bones beginnings as an internet-only station in the basement of a building on Broad Street, to creating a 24-hour fully-functioning radio station, we've always done things our own way – just like you.

Now we're doing the biggest thing ever – moving into our new home on Main Street so we can be shoulder to shoulder with the city we love. We'll keep pushing boundaries, challenging the accepted wisdom, and rewriting the rules – only now from our shiny new and accessible new studios and community spaces.

But all those changes come with a price tag. And we're counting on you to help us fund the next phase of WRIR. From one Richmond original to another – we need you, more than ever. We need you right this minute. We need all of you, no exceptions.

It takes all of us to build independence. And that starts with you. Go to wrircampaign.org to learn more and make your donation.

Donate Now



Updates from the new building!



[View our campaign video HERE!!](#)

Written by: Phil Ford

1621 WEST BROAD STREET **A RETROSPECTIVE**



1621 W. Broad Street. So I thought I would write a little retrospective of what this building has meant to me and perhaps many at the station over the years. The station has had strong roots with this building, since its inception in the basement as an internet radio station in 2004. My first brush with the place was when my old band played a New Years Day Fund Raiser on the first floor in front of where a fireplace was located in the pre-Camel days. Restaurant equipment crammed where the bar is now located and civic activist Farid Alan Schintzius zipped around during the event with wispy energy. He then toured us upstairs, his apartment at the time, where he excitedly talked about where the future of WRIR was going to be. Eventually an antennae was built on the roof by brave volunteers and founders like Chris Maxwell, Dustin Richardson, and James Hickman and we were suddenly a legit radio station and on the air.

A huge cast of like-minded folks have come through the doors and slogged up those intimidating stairs. People made friends here, people grew up here. Folks learned how to be DJs, radio hosts, producers, live engineers, underwriters, board members, committee leaders – all the intricacies of what community radio is meant to do with a message of lifting the voices of the underrepresented, inclusiveness and providing a place for local talents to learn, grow and shine. People had the opportunity to be on the radio for the first time in their lives, whether it be their voice or through their music. I remember so many bands and talk show guests coming on shows being excited to be on the radio, their voice was going to amplified across the skies to potentially thousands of listeners. Some of us may take it for granted now, but that really is quite a thing.

People cut their chops here with learning new skills that would open opportunities to last a lifetime. We have had so many people come and go. We have learned the tragedies and celebrations of those who have moved on. People made beautiful friendships here, people started careers here, people formed bands here, people fell in love here, people died here. This building holds lots of beautiful secrets and holds lots of energy and it also gets to hold the history that made this station what it has become. As the Camel takes over the upstairs, they will make their own memories of the space, but let's not forget the time when it housed a powerful community radio station. In the future we may drive or walk by this place, or see a show here, or it could even even years from now, long after all of that is gone and we might be too old to remember a lot of things, but maybe we will recall the time that 1621 West Broad Street once held a powerful group of people that all worked for the same goal; an independent community radio station.

This is not a lament, only an observation, and here is the great part. We are moving to a new building, an opportunity to forge new recollections and stories for the next generation of volunteers. A group of folks that will hopefully experience the same joys, crazy times and other memories in the new space. That is the wonderful thing about community radio stations particularly, is the life that it breathes is brought on by the people that are there and work with it. So let's tip our hats and raise our glasses to the next wave of folks who will be joining us in the future years as WRIR continues to grow and thrive and become a wonderful part of this community in Richmond, Virginia.

Make sure to check out

Friday Clock Out with Phil D.

Friday- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Friday Clock Out with Phil D. will be like punching that work clock right in the face and getting your second wind going for the evening! BLAM-O! Rock out with your clock out!



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Thank you for supporting community radio and local initiatives!

THE CAMEL

Support for WRIR 97.3FM comes from The Camel, Richmond's go-to destination for live music, great food, and a welcoming vibe. With 28 local and craft beers on tap and a menu available late into the night, it's your social oasis. Don't miss their brunch shows and packed calendar of performances featuring musicians from near and far. At The Camel, the mission is clear: to be a home for artists, a hub for RVA's music scene, and a safe, inclusive space for all.

[Learn More](#)

UNDOING RUIN CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

Support for WRIR is brought to you by Undoing Ruin - Conservation Landscaping.

WRIR and Undoing Ruin uplift the Richmond Ecosystem, be it supporting diverse voices or stewarding resilient land use choices.

If you are interested in gardening as non-violent direct action visit Undoing Ruin, to read more about their available services and ecological philosophy.

[Learn More](#)

NORTH OF THE JAMES

Support for WRIR 97.3FM comes from North of the James. They've been publishing real stories about real people for thirty years. From its inception, North of the James has been committed to authentic storytelling, forgoing canned content in favor of narratives that resonate with its readers. This dedication to quality journalism has earned the magazine numerous accolades from the Virginia Press Association for excellence in writing, photography, and design. The latest issue is available online at northofthejames.com.

[Learn More](#)

BECOME AN UNDERWRITER

Are you looking for a unique way to connect with a loyal, diverse, and hyper-local audience? Become an underwriter for WRIR 97.3FM! Underwriting is a non-commercial way to support Richmond's nonprofit community radio station while spreading the word about your business, organization, or events. Your customized on-air announcements will reach our dedicated listeners on broadcast radio, streaming, and archived programs—ensuring your message resonates far beyond a single moment. Plus, your contribution directly supports WRIR's mission to build an inclusive, community-driven radio station. Join us in amplifying Richmond's voice and become an underwriter today! [Learn More](#)



WRIR Gallery

Our amazing WRIR volunteers are the heartbeat of Richmond's community radio! From hosting shows to running events, their passion and dedication keep the station alive and thriving. Huge thanks to everyone who helps us amplify RVA's voice! 📻❤️

Connect with us on our social media channels: [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
@wrir97.3fm

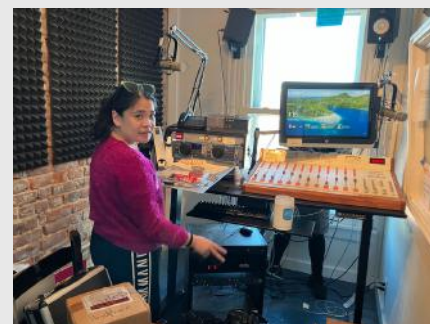
WRIR is 100% volunteer powered.

Become a VOLUNTEER!

We are currently looking for people who like the technical side of radio for our Operations Committee and people who enjoy connecting with others for our Volunteer and Events Committees.

We also are looking for more on-air DJs and Talk Hosts.

[Learn More](#)



Next edition of "The Local Signal"
coming April 2026

DONATE ♥

www.wrircampaign.org

