

FROM RUGS TO
ROOFERS, OUR
READERS CAST
THEIR VOTES
FOR THEIR
FAVORITE SHOPS,
EXPERTS AND
HOME SERVICE
PROVIDERS IN OUR
ANNUAL SURVEY.

2021 READERS' FAVORITES



By PAULA PETERS CHAMBERS, TOM JAKOB, VALERIE PARKER, TAYLOR PETERSON, HOLLY RODRIGUEZ, JOAN TUPPONCE

PG. **68**
home decor

Richmond studio **Morris + Norris**
made the custom, hand-painted,
shaped and sanded wooden build-
ings throughout our Readers'
Favorites survey. Visit
morrisandnorris.com
for your own tiny
heirloom.

PG. **72**
building & home
improvement

PG. **75**
moving, cleaning
& organizing

PG. **76**
curb appeal

Reader's Favorites 2021

HOME DECOR

Bed Linens

FRAÎCHE ON THE AVENUES

5805 Grove Ave.,
804-282-4282,
fraichehome.net

You'll find products from exclusive vendors at Fraîche that you can't find elsewhere in the Richmond area. The store has a wide selection of merchandise, from home decor and bridal gifts to furniture and baby items. "Our customers really like items from vendors Juliska, Simon Pearce and Matouk Linens," says store manager Kendall Sexton. "We also have a nice selection of gift items for any occasion."

2. Yves Delorme

Rugs

CAPEL RUGS

3995 Deep Rock Road,
804-290-8800,
capelrugs.com

Capel Rugs large selection of rugs includes popular braided rugs with new styles in oval and rectangular shapes. "They wear like iron and are two sided," says manager McKenzie Shill. "They are still locally made in North Carolina." And Capel sells more than just rugs. The store carries a large selection of boutique furniture, upholstery and accessories that are all "cash and carry," Shill says. Want something special? Check out the Kazak rugs from Pakistan.

2. Amir Rug Exchange
3. Costen Floors

Carpet and Rug Cleaner

HADEED-MERCER RUG CLEANING INC.

804-358-3811,
mercerrugcleaning.com

Gone are the days of hanging out rugs and beating them with a stick. Hadeed-Mercer, founded in 1936 as Mercer Rug Cleansing, washes rugs by hand, using decades of experience to ensure each rug gets the treatment it deserves. Services range from simple cleaning to spot and stain removal, color restoration and repairs. Free pickup and delivery includes moving furniture, if necessary, along with returning the room to its original state.

2. Cap Dry
3. Citro-Solution

Embroidery Shop

ATLANTIC EMBROIDERY

1507 Parham Road, Ridge Shopping Center, 804-282-5027, atlanticembroideryworks.com

At Atlantic Embroidery, employees have an artistic eye for design and a thorough understanding of embroidery. They have "developed the skill to make the tradition of embroidery complement both the classics and the latest trends," says team leader Amy Ellis. Look for creative specials throughout the year as the company celebrates its 15th anniversary.

2. Sassy Bee
3. Hometown Embroidery

Window Treatment Fabricator

LHS DESIGNS

804-794-7882,
lhsdesigns.net

"It's been a strong year because everybody is at home, wanting to fix up and redo," says Leisha Schutt, owner of LHS Designs. Looking toward 2021, she says automation is a growing trend. "Customers want to open and close window treatments through use of their smart devices," she says. "They also [use this feature] when they are not at home" for security reasons.

2. U-Fab Interiors
3. Specialty Draperies

U-FAB INTERIORS

7921 W. Broad St., 804-888-8322, u-fab.com

For more than 12 years, U-Fab Interiors has served Richmond as a "one-stop shop for all things fabric and fabrication," says co-owner Travis Hamilton. In 2020, U-Fab helped the Richmond community by manufacturing face masks during a shortage. "Much like RVA, we handle a wide range of style," Hamilton says. "We do everything from funky, crazy mid-century pieces to pieces from Europe in the 1700s and 1800s."

Fabric

2. Artée Fabrics & Home
3. Joann

Upholstery Services

2. Lakeside Upholstery

MULTI-CATEGORY WINNER

SHADES OF LIGHT

4924 W. Broad St., 804-288-6515, shadesoflight.com

Featuring a collection of more than 15,000 lighting and home decor products, Shades of Light has offered decorative home lighting and lighting repair for more than 35 years. "We take on everything from changing out defective sockets to cleaning, restoring and rewiring huge chandeliers," merchandise and marketing manager Walter Froh says. The company also makes custom pieces. "Bring in a decorative vase and other decorative accessory and we will turn them into a stunning one-of-a-kind table lamp or pendant," he says.

Lamp Fixture Repair

2. McHugh's Restorations
3. Lamp Emporium

Lighting Fixtures

2. Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
3. Commonwealth Lighting of Virginia



Plants

THE GREAT BIG GREENHOUSE

2051 Huguenot Road, 804-320-1317, greatbiggreenhouse.com

"Everyone can have a green thumb, but you need some techniques and knowledge to make that happen," says Bobby Lewis, vice president of marketing for Meadows Farms Nurseries, Great Big Greenhouse's parent company. "We have a knowledgeable staff who can help guide consumers to make the correct purchases and use those products in the way they will be successful." Look for expanded contact-free pickup and online workshops in 2021.

2. Strange's Florist and Garden Center
3. Sneed's Nursery

Interior Designer

KATHY CORBET INTERIORS

5206 Markel Road, 804-310-2597, kathycorbetinteriors.com

Now more than ever, owner Kathy Corbet stresses how important it is to "love your home." Tech savviness helped Corbet communicate with clients remotely this year. And in a time when working from home is becoming the status quo, Corbet's passion for interior design has become even more fulfilling. "It just feels good at the end of the day when I've installed something and somebody is thrilled," Corbet says.

2. Sara Hillery Interior Design
3. Dana McKenna Designs

Reader's Favorites 2021

HOME DECOR

(CONTINUED)

Traditional Furniture

VIRGINIA WAYSIDE

Virginia Wayside, 10500 Patterson Ave., 804-740-3124, vawayside.net

"We've been here for close to 57 years now," says Rob-in Childress, vice president of Virginia Wayside Furniture. "I think people know our reputation and come to us for that." With a stock of almost entirely American-made products, as well as some of the most choice gun safes in the state, Virginia Wayside continues to provide returning and new customers quality fixtures year after year.

2. Haverty's
3. Gates Antiques Ltd.

Antiques

WEST END ANTIQUES

2004 Staples Mill Road, 804-359-1600, westendantiquemall.com

"We want to help people make the right decision about an antique — one that will not just be exciting and interesting, but one that may well hold its value," says Steph Hedrick, vice president of operations. Throughout the year, antiques has become highly popular, according to Hedrick. "Our theory is that people have awakened to the need for their home being way more special to them personally."

2. Gates Antiques Ltd.
3. Sheppard Street Antiques

REVIVAL CONSIGNMENT

9750 Gayton Road, 804-750-2200, revivalconsignment.com

For the staff at Revival Consignment, staging and working with consignment wares has become an art form. Seamlessly combining antiques and contemporary pieces, Revival features an ever-changing inventory of furniture, rugs, art and more. "Revival is never the same store twice," owner Whitney O'Connor says. "Every week our inventory turns over, with new art and one-of-a-kind pieces hitting the floor daily." The retailer is hoping to expand and enhance its online platform in 2021.

Consignment Furniture

2. Impulse
3. Izzie's Consigning With Grace

Home Accessories

2. Bridget Beari

Furniture Repair and Refinishing

CATHER'S FURNITURE SERVICE

7617 Staples Mill Road, 804-262-3030, [facebook.com/Cathers-Furniture](https://www.facebook.com/Cathers-Furniture)

"I believe this family-owned business was my destiny," says John Cather. He was taught the trade of furniture refinishing, caning and repair as a teen by his now 85-year-old father, Robert L. Cather. He's thankful for the key customers who sustained the business, which he calls a "labor of love" during 2020. "A lot of business comes from referrals."

2. Tinker's
3. Gates Antiques Ltd.

Midcentury Furniture Dealer

METRO MODERN

1919-B W. Cary St., 804-402-1919, metromodern.biz

Metro Modern owner Sally Ramert loves action movies, but her focus is hardly ever on the plot. "They always have really fabulous midcentury furniture," she says with a laugh. And the love goes both ways — several pieces from her showroom appeared in the movie "Men in Black III" and in episodes of the AMC series "The Walking Dead." She hand-picks all of her inventory, she says.

2. Epoch Furnishings

Custom Furniture Maker

BRANCH FURNITURE + DESIGN

804-869-6215, branchfurnitureanddesign.com

Using traditional woodworking techniques, Branch Furniture + Design crafts products to last a lifetime. "The bigger our client's ideas, the better we get," says owner Paul Weimer. "We'll never deliver anything we aren't completely proud of." One recent commission was to create a 10-foot-long farmhouse table and bench using an upright piano from the client's grandmother. "We integrated various parts from the piano and built them into the table," Weimer says.

2. Seth Woods
3. Iron Oak

Modern Furniture

LADIFF

24 S. 14th St., 804-648-6210, ladiff.com

A fixture in Richmond for more than 40 years, LaDiff is known for funky modern furniture. President and co-owner Sarah Paxton says many customers reach out to the store looking for large furniture pieces for the interior of the home, but La Diff offers much more. "We have a huge lighting gallery, rugs, carpets and one of the largest outdoor collections in Richmond," she says.

2. Urban Dweller



Decorative Painter

ART TO DI FOR

804-894-1409, diane@arttodifor.com

Artist Diane Williams travels the world each year to hone her skills. She is committed to “staying on top of current trends and colors as well as what designers are cued in on,” she says. Her latest addition is murals on canvas, painted in her studio on thin canvas and applied to a wall or ceiling with easily removable paste “so if you move, you can take it with you,” she says.

2. H.J. Holtz & Son 3. Jacob's Ladder

Frame Shop

FAN FRAME & FINE ART

214 N. Robinson St., 804-353-4559, fanframe.net

“We are one of the few framers left in the city that joins all our frames with wood glue and finishing nails,” says owner Jo Cudlip. Now open only by appointment — a change welcomed by customers and staff alike — Cudlip says the store’s reputation is key to its success. “Framing is a luxury item,” she notes. “We have a loyal following because people know if it’s not perfect, it doesn’t go out the front door.”

2. Rick's Custom Frame and Gallery



Painter

H.J. HOLTZ & SON

3106 W. Moore St., 804-358-4109,
hjholtzandson.com

Company president Rick Holtz says a top-notch paint job requires two things: quality paint and quality painters. “We don’t let anyone paint for us until we have trained them,” he says, adding that his team’s low turnover rate benefits customers. “Our craftspeople work together exceptionally well. Because people live in their homes as we work, we want to minimize disruptions and get the job done as quickly as possible.”

2. N. Chasen & Son
3. Jacob's Ladder

Paint and Painting Supplies

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

804-282-5464,
sherwin-williams.com

On top of 24 Richmond locations, Sherwin-Williams has been working to enhance its online tools to make finding the perfect paint even easier. “We offer the ColorSnap Visualizer for the web and the mobile app, which allows you to virtually paint your scene,” Richmond district manager Geoff Mills explains. Sherwin-Williams is excited to introduce new interior latex paints, self-cleaning exterior products, and a Living Well Collection in 2021.

2. Spectrum-Benjamin Moore

Wallpaper Hanger

BARDEN'S DECORATING INC.

804-598-4802, muffybarden@gmail.com

Owner Muffy Barden says she is “beyond grateful for the 32 years of amazing projects the Richmond community has awarded us.” The company enjoyed some challenging projects last year that included wallpapering the new CARITAS Center and installing a continuous wallpaper mural encompassing the ceiling, soffits and walls of a Powhatan kitchen.

2. H.J. Holtz & Son
3. N. Chasen & Son

Art Gallery

CROSSROADS ART CENTER

2016 Staples Mill Road,
804-278-8950, crossroadsartcenter.com

Owner Jenni Kirby is proud of Crossroads’ vast inventory of diverse art. “For several years, we have had an online sales component to our business, which allowed us to thrive during 2020,” she says. They have added free local delivery, curbside pick-up, Artists in Residence spaces and a virtual personal shopper program. All are welcome to attend Crossroads’ art openings via the gallery’s Facebook page.

2. 1708 Gallery

Reader's Favorites 2021

BUILDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

Tile

MORRIS TILE DISTRIBUTORS

2280 Dabney Road, 804-353-4427, morristile.net

Morris Tile has thousands of tiles in its showroom and a 50,000 square-foot warehouse, enabling customers to visit and find the tiles they need. For nearly 50 years, the locally owned family business has worked with contractors and directly with homeowners. The company uses sustainable materials and practices in its offices to minimize its carbon footprint at six locations across Virginia and North Carolina.

2. Mosaic Home Interiors
3. Costen Floors

General Contractor

GARDNER CONSTRUCTION CORP.

8107 Larcom Lane, 804-640-7713, gardnerbuilt.com

Travis Gardner's team is equally at home replacing existing woodwork or building a custom door from salvaged lumber. "We are 100% invested in the jobs we do," he says. "We want to work for people who value and appreciate the level of passion we're going to put in every project." During the pandemic, the company distributed gift cards to local firms. "When the small businesses in our community thrive, we all thrive," Gardner says.

2. Fabling Built
3. Homelink

Architect

SWA ARCHITECTS

1551 E. Main St., 804-782-9444, smsarchitect.com

Managed through Main Street Realty, SWA Architects focuses on multifamily housing in the Richmond area. "Our most special touch I think is our public art that we develop with local artists," architect Beau Woodrum says. "You can see that at our latest project Scott's View in Scott's Addition." The firm hopes to positively impact the city as a whole, through design. "We consider the surrounding urban environment and try to speak to it at all times," he says.

2. Commonwealth Architects
3. 3North

Kitchen & Bath Designer/Installer

HOMELINK

13807 Village Mill Drive, Suite 307, 804-378-3580, home-linkamerica.com

As a family-owned business, Homelink strives to keep overhead low, providing a custom approach for less-than-custom prices. "With a focus on high-end kitchens and baths, it is important that each project meet our client's personal vision and budget," says company president Bill Maslink. "This year, our goal is to continue to provide thoughtful, functional spaces, while working closely with clients on safety measures."

2. Custom Kitchens Inc.
3. Dana McKenna Designs

Countertops

ARTISTIC STONE DESIGN

11321 International Drive, 804-594-7069, artisticstone-richmond.com

Customers of Artistic Stone Design are guided through projects by the company's in-house kitchen designer. "That's unique to the stone fabrication business," says president Jon Rathke. The 21-year-old business is seeing a huge shift in the market from the use of natural stone to quartz surfaces. "That represents about 50% of our sales," he says. The company also provides shower panels, outdoor kitchens and fireplaces.

2. Classic Granite
3. Capitol Granite

Cabinetry

CUSTOM KITCHENS

6412 Horsepen Road, 804-288-7247, customkitchensinc.net

Custom Kitchens has served Richmond homeowners for more than 60 years. Owner Richard Hendrick learned from his dad, founder and designer David Hendrick, about offering luxurious renovations regardless of the size of the bath or kitchen. "We figure a way to bring it all together and have a beautiful project," Richard says, adding that continuing trends include white interiors, painted cabinets and requests for different woods (quarter-sawn, white oak and walnut).

2. Chesapeake Bay Cabinet Co.
3. Virginia Cabinetry LLC

Basement Waterproofing

B-DRY WATERPROOFING AND FOUNDATION REPAIR

804-597-6562, bdry.com

Keeping your budget in mind, B-Dry develops solutions that will permanently solve your water or foundation issues. "Our patented basement waterproofing and foundation repair products have been proven effective and durable," says president Todd Prosan. "Our staff is highly trained, licensed and insured. Through combinations of online scheduling, virtual assessments and digital tools, we'll be bringing tremendous flexibility and simplicity to our customers."

2. The Drying Co.
3. JES Foundation Repair

**Architectural Salvage
CARAVATI'S INC.**
104 E. Second St., 804-232-4175, caravatis.com

What keeps an 80-year-old company relevant in 2021? "The passion for what we do and customer service," says Caravati's co-owner Elaine Kastelberg. This year, the architectural salvage company attracted artists, who took advantage of \$25 industrial cart sales. The staff at the go-to materials resource for old home restorations, renovations and repairs is excited about 2021 and can't wait for their customers to come along for the ride.

2. *Class and Trash*
3. *Governor's Architectural Antiques*

**Carpenter
N. CHASEN & SON**
804-353-4563, nchasen.com

At N. Chasen & Son, dedicated employees set a foundation for great work, says manager Shane McCartney. Also, all work is completed in-house. "We don't subcontract anything, which helps us stay on top of our quality and helps us control the outcome of the project," he says. Looking forward in 2021, he says the company expects some growth but wants to continue to focus on quality, not expansion.

2. *Fabing Built*
3. *Jacob's Ladder Construction*

**Home Media
Sales/Installation
AVICO**
804-495-0594, avico.xyz

Avico custom-designs projects based on budget, desired outcome and future requirements, and it tests products and solutions before implementing them in clients' homes. "It's great to see how powerful and life-changing the solutions can be firsthand and then share that joy with other people," says owner Scott McNutt. The company's new health and wellness program keeps employees happy and healthy, "leading to a healthy relationship with our clients."

2. *Livewire*
3. *Sound & Image*

**Glass Projects
ACE GLASS**
11525 Midlothian Turnpike, No. 105, 804-379-3368, aceglass.com

Ace Glass stocks all sizes of glass and mirrors for everything from residential and commercial glass and mirror services to antique vehicle glass and custom-cut glass services. The company has recently invested in a windshield recalibration system. "This prevents our customers from having to take their vehicle to the dealership after we replace the windshield," says CEO Justin Reed.

2. *Budget Glass*
3. *Binswanger Glass*

MULTI-CATEGORY WINNER

COSTEN FLOORS

9840 Mayland Drive, 804-527-2929, costenfloors.com

The Costen family has been flooring us since 1948. "I believe it's our installers. They truly enjoy what they do, and it shows," says president Tripp Costen. "They keep updated on trends and technology. Want to imagine a tile in your home? Our extensive online library has a built-in floor visualizer." What do customers want in 2021? Costen says customers want "more colors, the louder the better ... with new innovative products that make life easier and more enjoyable."

Flooring
2. *ProSource*
3. *Floor & Décor*

Flooring Installer
2. *Builder Décor*
3. *Howdysell Flooring*

Flooring Refinisher
2. *Builder Décor*
3. *Heritage Floors of Hanover*

Reader's Favorites 2021

BUILDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

(CONTINUED)

AC and Heating
**JAMES RIVER AIR
CONDITIONING CO.**
804-358-9333,
jamesriverair.com

Family-owned for more than 50 years, James River Air may be as synonymous with owner Hugh A. Joyce's bow tie as with the company pledge to not charge for a service appointment if the technician is late. With both residential and commercial divisions, the company prides itself on keeping up with current technology and building relationships through preventative care and maintenance agreements.

2. Woodfin
3. Air-Pro Mechanical

Handyman
MR. HANDYMAN
804-270-7272, mrhandyman.com/richmond

Mr. Handyman has specialized in small to medium-sized repair, maintenance and improvement projects for homes and businesses for 20 years. Owner Gina Chapman says the skill set of her staff helps clients save money. "If a client wants their front door painted, needs crown molding work and drywall put up, we can do all of those things instead of the client having to call three different places."

2. Fabling Built
3. Blue Krews

APPLIANCES ON LAKESIDE

5418 Lakeside Ave., 804-266-7621, appliancesonlakeside.com

Staffers at Appliances on Lakeside enjoy helping customers find a product that fits both their home and lifestyle. The company is currently renovating its showroom and has brought in new appliance lines such as Sharp. "We choose product lines that are well represented and supported by the manufacturers," says owner Tammy Kelley. Popular product lines include the Cafe line by GE as well as employee favorite Traeger Grills.

Appliance Repair
2. Little Appliance
3. Residential Appliance
Specialist

Appliances
2. Ferguson

MULTI-CATEGORY
WINNER

Homebuilder
JONES HOMES
804-362-9413,
joneshomescustombuilders.com

With a full-service team located in-house, as well as a list of qualified and vetted professionals, Jones Homes has added personality and enthusiasm to the homebuilding process in Richmond for over 10 years.

2. Gardner Construction Co.
3. Theta Homes

Plumber
**CARROLL PLUMBING,
HEATING & COOLING**
2108 Maywill St., 804-424-5864, carrollplumbingva.com

"Customer service has been our first priority since 1968," says Carroll's owner Courtney Gregory. The plumbing team has always believed in safe practices. That standard is more important than ever in light of the unprecedented challenges of 2020. "The people are amazing at supporting us," says Gregory of her locally based, woman-owned company, which has proudly served Richmond since 1968.

2. Nuckols Plumbing & Gas LLC
3. Robinson's Plumbing Service

Electrician
DAVIS & GREEN ELECTRICAL
132 Brandon Road, 804-312-5422, dgelectrical.com

Davis & Green Electrical prides itself on retaining talent for 25 years or more. "We work hard to make our employees feel valued, and they in turn work hard to treat our customers well," says customer service manager Jennifer Robinson. In 2020, they created the Davis & Green Apprenticeship Program, and in 2021, they'll roll out their new Whole Home Comfort plan offering services for heating and air systems, generators and electrical systems.

2. Craven Electrical Services
3. Smartwire 360

Pest Control
**LOYAL TERMITE
& PEST CONTROL**
804-409-2346, loyalpest.com

Bugs and pests can be a major headache. Loyal Termite & Pest Control has cleared this problem up for homeowners and businesses for more than 60 years. The company is always looking to add new lines of business, says district manager Derek Vaughan. "Due to COVID-19, we've added disinfecting services to what we offer," he says.

2. Dodson Bros. Exterminating
3. Pestmasters

MOVING, CLEANING & ORGANIZING



Mover

MOXIE MOVERS

804-928-1111, moxiemovers.com

As an art student, Jesse Whitacre worked as a mover, and after a few years, he decided to strike out on his own. Whitacre says business has been up by about 10% since the start of the pandemic in March, and the key to consistent success is happy employees. "If it's a great place to work for my workers, that translates into a better customer experience," he says.

2. *My Guys Moving and Storage* 3. *Two Men and a Truck*

Closet Designer/Installer

CLOSET FACTORY

804-559-0001, closetfactory.com/locations/richmond

"Being organized changes people's lives," says Teresa Mueller, who co-owns Closet Factory with her husband, Brian. They are very passionate about the custom closet and organizational systems they create. "Being organized — where everything's in its place — calms your life," she says. This past year, they saw an uptick in the business of designing home offices.

2. *Closets of Virginia* 3. *Inspired Closet*

Real Estate Agent CABELL CHILDRESS GROUP

804-340-7000,
cabellchildress.com

The ongoing motto at Cabell Childress Group is "Personal Attention, Proven Results." "We truly take a vested interest in each and every transaction we participate in," says CEO Cabell Childress. The company is expanding its team and investing in technology and tools to make "the home buying and selling process much easier for our clients and agents."

2. *Liz Moore & Associates*
3. *Joyner Fine Properties*

Housecleaning Service

THE MAIDS

804-323-9006,
themaids.com/143

In 2020, the Maids continued to provide exceptional housecleaning services, even in a year when personal space is coveted. "While we are a family-owned, local business, being part of a nationwide franchise provides us access to new technology. We now have the ability to allow our customers to schedule appointments online, track their team's location and expected arrival time."

2. *Merry Maids*
3. *Molly Maids*

Estate Specialists/ Auction Houses

GATES ESTATES

9200 Stony Point Pkwy,
Suite 110, 804-347-0453,
gatesestatesllc.com

Thanks to a new 3,500-square-foot location at Stony Point Fashion Park, Gates Estates is more able than ever "to keep our clients, our customers and us safe," says owner Tim Gates. With a family history spanning more than 400 years in Richmond, Gates Estates prides itself in its namesake. "People know who we are, and we have our history and our reputation," Gates says.

2. *Cannon's Auction*

Home Organizer MINIMA

804-592-0345,
minimaonline.com

COVID-19 has had a silver lining for Kristen Ziegler, owner of Minima and a professional organizer. She says that business has remained steady, with the demand for her expertise extending beyond physical spaces. "I've worked with clients on everything from organizing their online calendar to helping them with productivity and time management, and managing other digital spaces," she says.

2. *In Good Order*
3. *Cut the Clutter*

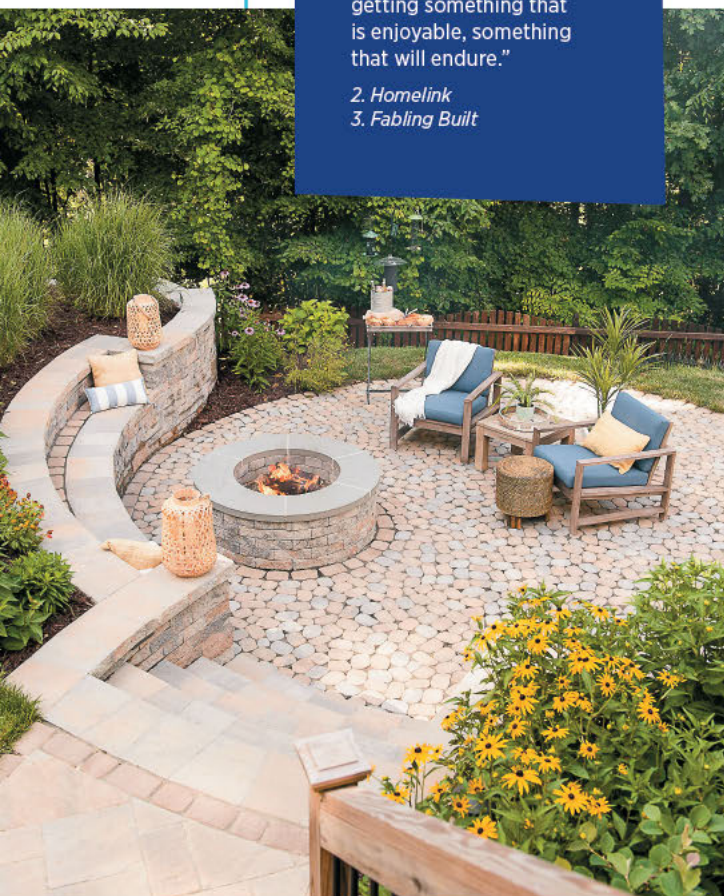
Reader's Favorites 2021

CURB APPEAL

Deck Builder
OUTDOOR DREAMS
 804-592-1305,
outdoordreamsva.com

Outdoor Dreams was established 15 years ago as a landscaping company that evolved into decks and patios, then continued to grow. Attention to detail is key to the company's success, says co-owner Greg Koehler. "We take time to make sure what we build is built to last, to give clients peace of mind that they are getting something that is enjoyable, something that will endure."

2. Homelink
3. Fabling Built



Fence Builder
MINOR'S FENCES INC.
 804-752-0096, minorsfences.com

Minor Hairfield got started in the fencing business at age 15 in 1979. Since then, he has held himself to a high standard, and he requires the same of his staff. "Whether we are at a rental house on Lakeside or a multimillion-dollar home in Windsor Farms, the money we get paid comes from our customer's paychecks," he says. "We owe it to them to get it right."

2. Hurricane Fence Co.
3. Cartwright Landscaping

Window Washer
PERFECT REFLECTION
 5828 Willow Oaks Drive, 804-475-2238, perfectreflectionwindowcleaning.com

Safety is a top priority for customers, workers and properties alike at Perfect Reflection, a pressure washing, window and gutter cleaning company. Owner Joshua Erb says the time and effort put into every detail of the job makes them stand out. "We are a small business that truly values people, honesty and hard work," he says.

2. Spotless Window Cleaning
3. Top Gun LLC

Windows and Doors
SIEWERS LUMBER & MILLWORK
 1901 Ellen Road, 804-358-2103, siewers.com

Family-owned and -operated, Siewers Lumber & Millwork has strived to provide the highest quality building materials since its inception in 1884. "We always try to look at what we would want to put in our own homes, and find products that are superior to other products on the market," says Vice President Michael Siewers.

2. Richmond Window Corp.
3. Custom View

Tree Care
TRUETIMBER ARBORISTS
 804-218-8733, truetimber.net

After 22 years, Truetimber Arborists finds itself right at home in a city as green as Richmond. Owner Scott Turner says that Truetimber aims for a zero-waste model by repurposing byproducts "rather than just seeing them go up in smoke." "Hopefully, all the time we're doing that, we're fostering appreciation for trees," he says.

2. Davey Tree Service
3. Arborscape

Driveway Repair
PRO-SEAL SERVICES
 804-379-7921, proseal.com

A family-owned business, Pro-Seal Services offers paving and seal coating in the greater Richmond area. Vice President K.J. Stroud says honesty has been an important factor for growing their customer base over the last 20 years. "We are always very honest and tell you what's going to last and what's not going to last," he says. "We all put our passion and our hearts into every job that we do."

2. Pete's Paving



Rofer

JACOB'S LADDER

804-255-9142, jacobsadder.com

The roof is just the beginning, says president Seth Dorotich. "We pride ourselves on knowing the entire exterior of your home and how it functions," he says, noting that siding and trim repair is often needed along or below roof lines, but they can easily be overlooked. The company, founded in 2003, is locally owned — not a franchise. "All of our managers actually grew up attending the same church," he adds.

2. Hardesty Roofing 3. Master Pro Services

Power Washing

ENVIROWASH

804-744-2974,
envirowashinc.com

Protecting homes and property is something Envirowash has been doing for 20 years. One well-known client: the Virginia Executive Mansion. Owner James Herbert says his company's success isn't based on what they do, but what they don't do: "We don't push water to storm drains; we don't kill plants; we don't damage light fixtures; we don't have water intrusion. We're very proactive in anticipating problems."

2. Richmond Powerwashing
3. Blow Away Power Washing

Masonry

CRADDOCK MASONRY INC.

804-359-4101, craddockmasonry.com

Craddock Masonry started 30 years ago with a wheelbarrow and a pickup truck, says vice president Cayce Craddock, son of the founder. The company does additions and customized work for homes. Craddock says customers appreciate their willingness to match brick and mortar so the work looks authentic, as well as their hands-on approach. "Our customers see us on the job, throughout the whole project, on a daily basis."

2. Stonee Masonry

Chimney Sweep / Repair

COUGOT'S CHIMNEY SERVICE

804-798-0855, cougotschimneyservice.com

Cougot's loves servicing its Central Virginia base. "Examining chimneys for repairs, inspections and safe venting keeps us working [all] year long as a professional venting company," says owner Dan Fitzpatrick. This chimney sweep and repair company has stayed consistently busy since March 2020 because people have been home identifying repair needs. "The year 2020 was a very wet year with more calls coming in for water issues, which includes leaky chimneys," Fitzpatrick says.

2. Chimney Saver Solutions
3. Neat Sweep

Gutter Cleaning

WRIGHT'S GUTTERS

804-405-6481, wrightsgutters.com

In addition to offering high-quality XTreme Gutter Guards, Wright's Gutters has over 20 years of experience in installing, repairing and cleaning residential and commercial gutter systems. Wright's also offers its services at 15% off for veterans and first responders.

2. Mind in the Gutter
3. Ace Handyman

Reader's Favorites 2021

CURB APPEAL

(CONTINUED)

MULTI-CATEGORY WINNER

CARTWRIGHT LANDSCAPING

804-381-8204, cartwrightlandscaping.com

"Our awesome, loyal customer base gives us the opportunity to work our craft and let us be who we are," says Cartwright Landscaping owner Jeff Cartwright. Their landscaping services span lawn maintenance, irrigation/drainage, lighting, custom welding and carpentry. What's new for Cartwright in 2021 is its expansion into putting greens and new hardscaping. "We branched out to do putting greens with various partners in the industry to get the scope of our jobs expanded," he says.

Landscape Designer

2. Waterstreet Studio
3. Cross Creek Nursery

Landscape Maintenance Service

2. Weeded Lawn Service
3. Virginia Green Lawncare



Outdoor Furniture
SUMMER CLASSICS HOME
7905 W. Broad St.,
804-935-3075, summerclassics.com

"When people come into our showroom, we want them to feel like they are at home," Traci Lantzy, owner of Summer Classics Home says. Boasting a large collection of frames and fabrics, the company offers highly customizable outdoor furniture tailored to the needs of each client. "Our furniture is made to last," Lantzy says. "When you buy furniture from Summer Classics, you will have the frames forever."

2. Bon Air Hearth, Porch and Patio
3. JoPa Co.

Outdoor Lighting
INARAY DESIGN GROUP
1731 Arlington Road,
804-368-3797, inaray.com

President Todd Peace says outdoor lighting is about creating an inviting, balanced scene, without sharp edges of light and dark. "We look at what makes a property unique during the day, and we highlight that at night," he says. The most natural lighting includes many sources, carefully placed and calibrated to provide the desired effect. "We want a diffused, nice smooth overlap," he says. "You need to create layers."

2. Livewire
3. Outdoor Dreams

Hardscape Designer/Installer
COMMONWEALTH CURB APPEAL
804-577-8444, commonwealthcurbappeal.com

"We are one of the original hardscape-focused companies in Central Virginia," says chief outdoor officer Josh Goff. They are the go-to for outdoor kitchens, fire pits, pools and water features, as well as landscape services. "CCA became a Coastal Source dealer in 2020, which has allowed us to now offer immersive outdoor audio to our projects," Goff says. Increased demand for pool installations from 2020 will keep CCA busy into 2021.

2. Outdoor Dreams
3. Homelink

Garden Tools & Supplies
STRANGE'S FLORIST & GARDEN CENTER
12111 W. Broad St, 804-360-2800; 3313 Mechanicsville Turnpike, 804-321-2200, stranges.com

Strange's Florist & Garden Center has a little something for every plant lover. "In the past year, Richmonders discovered or branched out in their gardening pursuits — including those without a traditional yard," says William Gouldin, the fourth generation to run the family-owned firm. Gouldin plans to enhance their container and patio supplies to include lightweight pots with new designs as well as exotic houseplants and new varieties of blooming hardy plants.

2. Great Big Greenhouse
3. Cross Creek Nursery and Landscaping

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Reader's Favorites 2021

CURB APPEAL

(CONTINUED)

Swimming Pool Installer

ULTIMATE POOLS

804-749-4706, ultimatepools.com

Pools are a backyard luxury any family can enjoy, so it's fitting to have one installed by a family business with more than 40 years of combined experience in the industry. Ultimate Pools helps with building, refurbishing and servicing pools, spas and water features.

2. JoPa Co.

3. Outdoor Dreams

Spa/Hot Tub Sales

LUXURY POOL AND SPA

3426 Pump Road, Henrico, 804-364-3577; 15552 WC Commons Way, Midlothian, 804-794-7721; luxurypoolandspa.com

"We are very fortunate to be in the type of business that when people were home due to COVID-19, we could provide services when they were deciding how to have a staycation," says Luxury Pool and Spa owner Logan Antozzi. Hot tub installs are steady. "We are the only company — that we know of — that has saltwater hot tubs due to added health benefits, no chemicals," he says.

2. Play-Mor Pools

3. JoPa Co.

Welder/Ironwork

SMALL AXE FORGE

12040 Karen Drive, 804-916-9918, [instagram.com/smallaxeforge](https://www.instagram.com/smallaxeforge)

Specializing in custom metal work, Small Axe Forge prides itself on creating unique pieces that are built to last. "Being small gives us the ability to work with customers through every step of the process," co-owner Kalita Pennington says. "The owners are involved in making sure quality doesn't get lost in oversight or outsourcing." Pennington says the company is looking forward to opening up a new office space in 2021.

2. West End Machine and Welding Inc.

3. Mike's Machine & Welding

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