



# VIRGINIA MASONRY NEWS

The Virginia Masonry Association is an organization comprised of masonry contractors, manufacturers and suppliers that promote masonry construction in Central Virginia by providing a source of education for masonry apprentices, architects, contractors, homeowners and high school masonry programs.

## VMA Masonry Apprenticeship Training Program Back in Class since February 9, 2021!

VMA's Masonry Apprenticeship Training Program re-opened its doors to eight apprentices eager to learn the art of masonry on February 9th. Of the eight Apprentices, six are continuing the class that began in Spring 2020, but was halted due to COVID-19 restrictions, and two are new Apprentices. VMA is extremely grateful to its members for all of their contributions of time, materials, expertise and support as we strive to train a skilled



masonry workforce. VMA is also very excited to have Chris Simmons return as instructor of the classes. Chris was the VMA Apprenticeship Instructor for several years before his retirement from Henrico County Public Schools about five years ago. Any of his former students will tell you what an amazing teacher he is and VMA is fortunate to have him training our apprentices.



STRENGTHENING THE MASONRY INDUSTRY...ONE SKILLED APPRENTICE AT A TIME.

Would you like more information about our Apprenticeship Training Program?  
Visit [www.virginiamasonry.org](http://www.virginiamasonry.org) or contact VMA at [vma@virginiamasonry.org](mailto:vma@virginiamasonry.org).

## Henrico County Awards VMA Member Highest Honor for Involvement with CTE Students

**CTE = CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

On March 2, 2021, Mike Chaney of James River Exteriors was surprised when he was presented with the Ray Tate Memorial Award, Henrico County's highest CTE award. After rolling into James River's parking lot in a large, clearly marked RV, Mac Beaton, Henrico County's CTE Director presented the award with a crowd of witnesses, including VMA Members, James River Exterior employees, members of Mr. Chaney's family, several grateful representatives from Henrico County's CTE program and HBAR (Home Building Association of Richmond) as well as Richmond's



Mike Chaney of James River Exteriors and VMA Board Member accepts the Ray Tate Memorial Award from Mac Beaton of Henrico County Public Schools. Also pictured: Danna Markland of HBAR and Marcia Meighan of VMA.

WTVR CBS

Channel 6, who

aired coverage of the event during that evening's news broadcast.

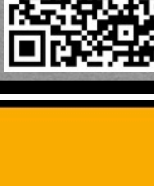
VMA is very proud of Mike and his efforts, not only with Henrico's CTE

program, but also his dedication to recruitment, training and

apprenticeship for the masonry industry overall.



Scan this code to watch the WTVR news clip or the Henrico County CTE video of the event. Or visit the VMA Facebook page!



## Calling all VMA Members!

We're looking for masonry education topics that are already approved by AIA. Do you have presentations prepared and approved by AIA on topics relating to masonry? VMA would like to start offering virtual Lunch & Learn opportunities to the Architectural, Design and Engineering communities. Anything MASONRY goes! Able to offer LU's? Even better! Let us know what topics you are able to offer. We would like to schedule monthly, virtual Lunch & Learn's by as many VMA members as possible. If you'd prefer, grab an industry cohort and give them a double-dose of great masonry-related information! Simply email your topics with descriptions to Marcia at [vma@virginiamasonry.org](mailto:vma@virginiamasonry.org). Lunch & Learn's will be presented by VMA.



## Masonry Alliance in Virginia

Members of the VMA Board of Directors have been meeting with members of the Blue Ridge Masonry Association and VMA-Tidewater Chapter (together "Alliance") to discuss the dire need for workforce development in Virginia with regard to masonry. While it is fairly certain that there will be an alliance between the three groups as a statewide effort, how this alliance will be organized is still under discussion. The original intent of the alliance was to create a statewide workforce development program that will hopefully create eligibility for potential monies from the pending Block Check-Off Program. The hope is that these funds will assist in creating a broader-ranging, stronger masonry apprenticeship outreach throughout Virginia through the employment of a full-time workforce development coordinator who will be actively engaged with students, educators and apprentices through recruitment, training, masonry competitions and more. In December 2020, the Alliance held an in-depth discussion with Lynn Nash and Gary Joyner of NCMCA who have been instrumental to the creation and success of their workforce development efforts in North Carolina. The information they shared is invaluable and every word is being considered.

For more information about the Block Check-Off Program, please visit [CMUcheckoff.com](http://CMUcheckoff.com)



## MASONRY INSTRUCTORS NEEDED!!

FOR FALL 2021 AND BEYOND

ARE YOU WILLING TO SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TEACHING  
THE NEXT GENERATION OF MASONS?

DO YOU HAVE AN EMPLOYEE WHO WOULD  
MAKE AN EXCELLENT INSTRUCTOR?

The VMA Apprenticeship Training Program will soon require multiple instructors.

If interested, please contact Marcia at VMA at (804) 690-9049 or

[vma@virginiamasonry.org](mailto:vma@virginiamasonry.org)

## VMA is Connecting Employers with Employees

**DOLI Returning Citizens Registered Apprenticeship Initiative (RCRAI)** - VMA is working with the VA Department of Labor and Industry to assist those being released from the Department of Corrections in finding stable employment that provides for growth opportunities. Many of these individuals will have been trained in masonry during their incarceration and are ready to work! The VMA Apprenticeship Training Program has been listed as an employment opportunity with the DOLI for returning citizens. All responses received will be shared with all VMA contractor members.



## 2021 VMA Board of Directors

**Mike Chaney**, James River Exteriors

**Wayne Young**, Bearing Masonry

**Matt Ferguson**, Masonomics

**Rusty Hobson**, James River Exteriors

**Greg Kastelberg**, Southern Brick Contractors

**Thomas Parrish**, Riverside Brick & Supply Co.

**Jeff Carlson**, Skyline Brick

**Joe Rioux**, Argos Cement

**Stone Strotmeyer**, Allied Concrete Products/  
Oldcastle

**Mike Lewis**, Workrite

**James Tavenner**, Shade & Wise Brick Company

**Randy Daniel**, Seaboard Concrete

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 23 - VMA Board Meeting; 3:30pm**



Be sure to like us  
on Facebook!



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