



# ALWAYS HOME

This year's Parade of Homes celebrates a 'new era of living'

By JOAN TUPPENCE

The Elderberry's unconventional exterior hints at a bold interior: The dark green millwork in the dining room, above right, is echoed on a smaller scale throughout the house. Bursts of color are balanced by neutral tones, such as the white and natural wood kitchen with its airy, illuminated cabinets and gold hardware.

Photos courtesy of Biringer Builders

**H**omebuilding styles, household gadgets and neighborhood amenities have changed dramatically over the past 70 years, but the popularity of the Richmond region's Parade of Homes stays consistent.

"Generations of families have enjoyed touring [the] Richmond Parade of Homes as their source for finding a builder, floor plan and home design that best suits their needs. In this 70th year, we come to find greater appreciation for the role home plays in our everyday lives," said Danna Markland, CEO of the Home Building Association of Richmond.

The free home showcase returns this year on Oct. 2 with more than 45 featured homes. It will run Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. during the first four weekends of the month (excluding Halloween weekend).

Builders have spent the last year "rigorously perfecting the homes for this new era of living," Markland said. "There are a variety of options in this year's show, from condos to single-family homes."

The entries this year are located throughout the greater Richmond area and include the counties of Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent and Powhatan. Prices range from the mid-\$200,000s to over \$1 million. All of the homes will be available for virtual viewing. On-site viewing protocols will follow the most current COVID-19 health guidelines from the state of Virginia. (For more info, see the calendar on Page 19.)

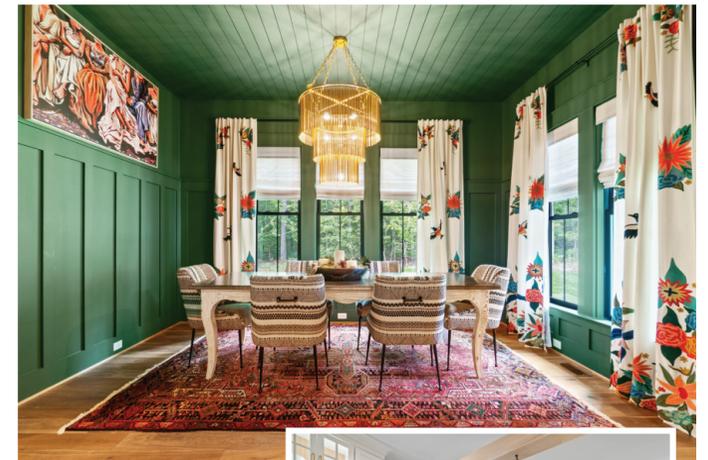
Here are just a few of the homes on display in Chesterfield County:

## The Elderberry by Biringer Builders

Address: 5500 Singing Bird Drive, Summer Lake

Square footage: 4,125

Price: \$1.1 million



Named for the midnight-dark fruit of the elderberry bush, the first thing you'll notice about this stylish model is its sophisticated curb appeal: The HardiePlank black ash exterior features a natural stain entranceway with matching porch columns and decorative corbels and shutters.

"This house is completely custom with a unique plan that we haven't built before," said John Waters, president of Biringer Builders, which built the home for this year's Homearama showcase, held in July in Chesterfield's Summer Lake community.

Inside, white and light wood tones are offset by deep green wall and ceiling treatments in the dining area and a sizable wet bar with corresponding green cabinetry, establishing a bold but soothing color palette that echoes throughout the house in bursts of natural and painted millwork.

The elegant, updated farmhouse-style home has a semi-open floor plan with arched passageways and large cased openings connecting the kitchen, dining area and family room. A sunlit library is tucked away off the latter, with French doors for peace and quiet. The gourmet kitchen includes a stunning La Cornue range from France, black and gold accessories, illuminated glass-front cabinets and prominent wood ceiling beams.

The home also has a study and mudroom on the first floor, as well as an outdoor covered patio space and four upstairs bedrooms. The owner's suite includes a luxury bath with vaulted ceiling, large shower and vintage-style clawfoot tub. A centrally located two-car garage and three porches complete the package.

## The Belle Maison by LeGault Homes

Address: 5518 Singing Bird Drive,  
Summer Lake  
Square footage: 4,121  
Price: \$1.3 million

Another 2021 Homearama entry, this striking modern farmhouse design sports an exterior of contrasting black and white siding with natural timber columns framing large, elevated front and side porches.

The home's spacious interior lobby is enhanced by a bar-turned-private bourbon tasting room with lighted open shelving. The lobby spills into the large family room with a micro-cement fireplace and sliding glass doors that open onto a patio and calming waterfall feature.

The boho-inspired interior layers neutral earth tones with multiple organic elements that include Unmanila rope ceilings and custom-made jute stairway railings.

"This is a spectacular home with a large amount of details that are one of a kind. It shows you the amount of time and detail my wife and I put into it," said Pat LeGault of LeGault Homes.

The oversized gourmet kitchen includes light-toned, floor-to-ceiling cabinetry, top-of-the-line JennAir appliances, a farmhouse sink and an 11-foot island with Delta Brizo faucets.

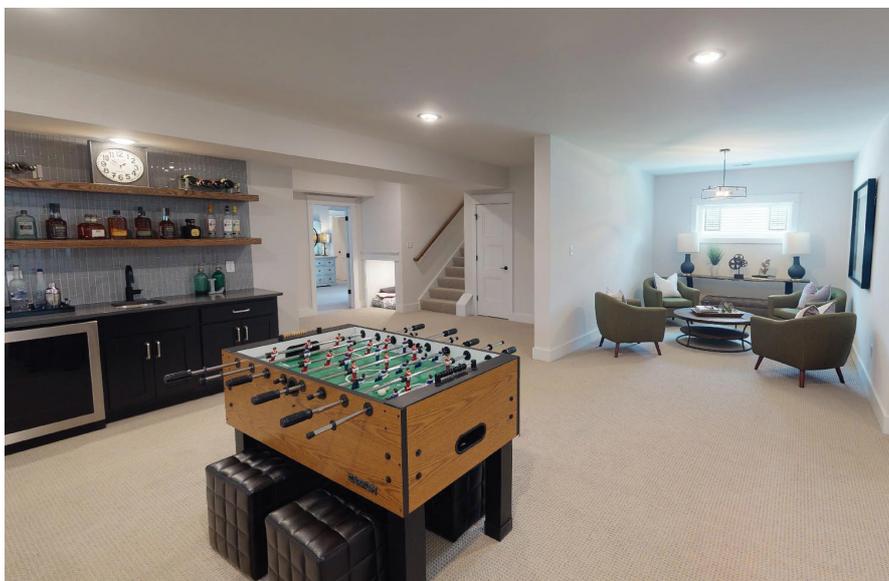
The upstairs owner's suite features luxury walk-in closets complete with a Samsung steam cleaner. Floor-to-ceiling tile in the main bath, a coffee bar with mini-fridge, and a massive double shower with center tub give it a spa-like feel.

In addition to the porches, the home also includes four outdoor living spaces: a large patio off the family room, a patio and outdoor kitchen complete with grilling area, mini-fridge and kegerator off the dining room, and two upstairs balconies.



Photos courtesy of LeGault Homes

**The Belle Maison is a striking modern farmhouse with a boho-inspired interior. Natural elements like rope ceilings combine with luxury features like the private bourbon tasting room, above left. The abundant outdoor living spaces include two patios, two porches and two balconies.**



Photos courtesy of Lifestyle Home Builders

**Flex space is the name of the game in The Tiffany, where a full finished basement provides ample room for a bar, gathering and gaming areas, a classroom and home theater. A basement bedroom and first-floor owner's suite easily accommodate multigenerational living, and barn doors off the kitchen lead to a study for remote work or homework.**

## The Tiffany by Lifestyle Home Builders

Address: 18055 Cove Creek Drive,  
Magnolia Green  
Square footage: 5,078  
Price: \$799,950  
(Plan starts at \$547,950)

Built on a full, finished basement, this charming home allows for extra entertainment space – think home theater, classroom, fitness room.

"There's something to fit your lifestyle needs throughout the home," said Kevin McNulty, president of Lifestyle Builders. "There is a trend for multigenerational living, and you can see how that would work really well in this home."

The board-and-batten exterior and gray stone foundation harken back to old mill town houses, while the interior is bright throughout with large, open spaces. The five-bed-

room, two-car garage home includes a family room, large morning room, laundry and kitchen with black and white tile that serves as a backdrop for a 36-inch gas range and cooking area with oversized island.

The first floor includes a study off the kitchen that can be closed off with barn doors and a large owner's suite with direct access to the covered rear porch and patio.

Second-floor bedrooms are adjacent to a loft that could be used as an exercise studio. There is also a bedroom in the basement, as well as a bath, theater room, wet bar and classroom area.



# Health Matters

## Waiting for the green light?

It's already legal. What you need to know about Virginia's medical cannabis program

BY DONNA GREGORY BURCH CONTRIBUTING WRITER



ILLUSTRATION BY LARISSA TYLER

**W**ith the backing of Gov. Ralph Northam, Democratic majorities in both houses of the General Assembly, and growing public support, Virginia could well be on the doorstep to legalizing recreational marijuana use. As the General Assembly session kicks off this week, efforts to legalize cannabis will be front and center. But even if legalization passes, it could take up to two years to sort through the myriad issues – establishing stringent regulations for how and where cannabis is sold, for example, and how it would be taxed – according to a work group established by the General Assembly last year. In the meantime, however, medical cannabis use is already legal in Virginia. And it's gaining acceptance in the medical community as an effective treatment option for everything from chronic pain to autoimmune conditions to seizure disorders.

Last year, the Virginia General Assembly voted to replace the terms “cannabidiol oil” and “THC-A oil” in the state code outlining the commonwealth’s medical cannabis program with the more general term of “cannabis oil.” That change allows dispensaries to sell products with higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the most well-known cannabinoid from the cannabis plant, in addition to cannabidiol (i.e. CBD oil) and THC-A oils, which were previously approved for patient use. Legislators also agreed to allow each of the state’s cannabis processing facilities to open up to five additional dispensaries to sell medical cannabis products. Virginia currently has medical cannabis dispensaries in Richmond, Portsmouth, Bristol and Manassas. More will likely open later this year. So what do you need to know if you’re interested in participating in the medical cannabis program? Here are a few frequently asked questions.

### Is it legal to use medical cannabis?

THC is scheduled as a controlled substance and is still illegal, according to the federal government. However, the past two presidential administrations have allowed states to set their own laws governing the use of medical cannabis. That trend is expected to continue under the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden. In Virginia, approved patients are legally allowed to possess medical cannabis products without fear of state prosecution.

### What medical conditions are eligible for the medical cannabis program?

Any diagnosed condition or disease is allowed. Virginia Del. Dawn M. Adams, who is a doctoral nurse practitioner and one of the state’s

registered practitioners, says most of her medical cannabis patients live with chronic pain or some sort of inflammatory or autoimmune illness. “I see a lot of people with fibromyalgia and ... autoimmune [conditions] such as multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel syndrome or Ehlers-Danlos, and then a fair amount of cancer-related pain, and then a lot of [patients with] anxiety and sleep disturbances,” Adams says. “Lastly, [I see] people who have other reasons for chronic pain and who are mostly trying to either get off or stay away from narcotics.”

### How do I apply for the medical cannabis program?

The first step is to obtain a written certification from a medical doctor, a doctor of osteopathy, a physician’s assistant or a nurse practitioner licensed by the state’s medical board. The following links provide a list of state-registered practitioners who can certify patients for the medical cannabis program:

- [dhp.virginiainteractive.org/lookup/index](https://dhp.virginiainteractive.org/lookup/index) (Scroll down to find “registered practitioner for cannabis oil” and then click “search.”)
- <https://www.vanorml.org/doctors>

“If the practitioner determines that they can benefit from the use of cannabis oil, then they would provide the patient with the written certification,” says Annette Kelley, deputy executive director of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy. “The patient would then apply [for the medical cannabis program] online (license.dhp.virginia.gov/apply/) with the Board of Pharmacy. The patient needs to submit a copy of their written certification and a copy of their proof of age, identity and residency to the board, and then we will process that application. Once everything is in order, we will provide the patient with a registration card.”

There is a \$50 registration fee for first-time applicants, and a \$50 annual renewal fee. Those fees do not include the cost of seeing a medical provider in order to be certified for the program. It currently takes about 30 days for the board of pharmacy to approve new patient applications for the medical cannabis program. There are around 9,000 patients enrolled in the medical cannabis program at this time with about 500 new applications submitted each week, Kelley says.

### Where is the closest dispensary to Chesterfield County?

Green Leaf Medical of Virginia opened the Richmond area’s first medical cannabis dispensary in late November at 2804 Decatur St., building 30. For more information, visit [leaf.com/virginia](http://leaf.com/virginia) or call 800-484-0303. State law allows Green Leaf to open up to five more dispensaries in its respective health service area, which includes Chesterfield and Henrico counties. However, the state is still in

the process of enacting regulations to govern new dispensaries. “Those regulations have not yet received final approval from the governor’s office,” Kelley says. “There’s a very detailed process that regulations go through before they receive approval, so those cannabis dispensing facilities cannot open until those regulations are in place.” Green Leaf did not respond to the Chesterfield Observer’s request for comment on when the company might open additional dispensaries in the region.

### What can I buy at the dispensary?

Dispensaries are allowed to sell capsules, sprays, tinctures, oils, creams, gels, lozenges, patches, suppositories, lollipops and inhalation products extracted from cannabis oil. Product selection varies by dispensary.

### What documentation will I need to visit the dispensary?

When visiting for the first time, you will need to provide the dispensary with your medical cannabis card, a government-issued photo ID and your medical provider’s certification letter. You will be required to present an ID and your medical cannabis card during each visit.

### Will the Virginia General Assembly consider additional cannabis-related laws during the 2021 legislative session?

Currently, all cannabis products sold by dispensaries in Virginia are extracted from cannabis oil. State law does not allow dispensaries to sell the actual plant material, or flower, from cannabis plants, but that may change this year. “There will be a legislative effort to add

“Currently, Virginia’s program is an extraction-based model. That was a fine place to start. But not every patient needs a highly processed, highly refined product.”

– Jenn Michelle Pedin, executive director of Virginia NORML

botanical cannabis to Virginia’s medical cannabis program in 2021,” says Jenn Michelle Pedin, executive director of Virginia NORML, a nonprofit that advocates for legalizing cannabis. “Currently, Virginia’s program is an extraction-based model. That was a fine place to start. It ensured that we were meeting the needs of our most medically fragile patients, but not every patient needs a highly processed, highly refined product, and in fact, most patients, particularly seniors, are most comfortable with cannabis in its botanical form because that’s what they’re used to.” There may be bills introduced to address the employment and parental rights of the state’s medical cannabis patients. “Even though it’s legal for patients to participate in Virginia’s medical cannabis program, they can still lose their jobs, lose their children, lose their housing [and] lose their opportunities for education, including student aid,” Pedin explains. Last year, Northam signed legislation to decriminalize marijuana possession. As of July 1, 2020, possessing up to one ounce of marijuana is now a civil violation punishable by a fine of up to \$25 with no arrest and no criminal record.

### What if I need more information about medical cannabis or the commonwealth’s medical cannabis program?

Here are some resources to get you started: Board of Pharmacy, [dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy/pharmaceuticalprocessing/patients.htm](http://dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy/pharmaceuticalprocessing/patients.htm), 804-367-4456 Virginia NORML, [vanorml.org](http://vanorml.org) “How medical marijuana works and which conditions it treats,” [webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/medical-marijuana-faq](http://webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/medical-marijuana-faq) “What medical marijuana works for,” [aarp.org/health/drugs-supplements/info-2019/cannabis-for-medical-conditions.html](http://aarp.org/health/drugs-supplements/info-2019/cannabis-for-medical-conditions.html)



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