

Monticello Road: a Community Photography Project  
by  
Peter Krebs

**M**onticello Road is a photography project that celebrates the people and places along the mile length of this historic by-way from its base at Moore's Creek to its terminus at Belmont Bridge with stops in the neighborhoods and businesses along the way. I live on this road; I walk it daily and am intimately acquainted with it. Yet I am constantly surprised by what I see there.

It began a year ago when I decided to photograph the sites and sights along my journey as I walked from my home to my studio. It took me several hours to cover just a few blocks, there was so much to see. Since then, I have re-walked and re-photographed the road dozens of times during different seasons and talked my way into a number of homes and businesses to witness people's lives in their own spaces.

I have been astonished by the community's reaction: total enthusiasm. It has not been easy for one with my shy person-

**The history, Monticello Road**

ality to approach strangers and ask to photograph them but the rewards have been incredible. Very often the people who had seemed the least approachable have been the nicest. I've learned that other people are as shy as I am—or more so—but incredible lives lurk just beneath the surface. They're actually eager to share, given a chance and a little effort and persistence on my part. That has been my experience with Virginia Industries for the Blind. The big white building seems inscrutable from the outside and one would not guess what a convivial place waits within. Fortunately, William and the rest of the staff there have been more than welcoming. He actually reached out to me and invited me for a visit. I could not be more glad that he did. During my hour-long tour, I took many photographs that I will treasure and a few that are good enough to share. More significant though were the amazing people I met—full of interesting and inspiring stories.



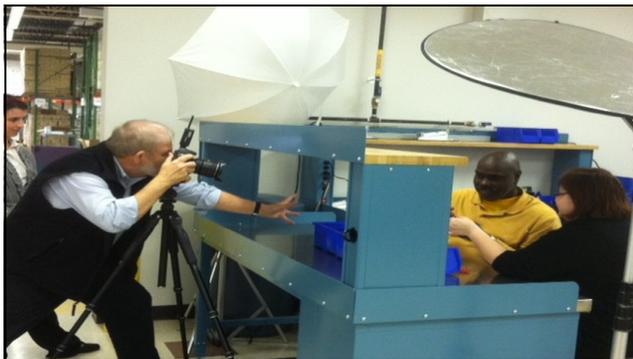
VIB Charlottesville-Peter Krebs

It was time very well spent and I can hardly wait to go back. My project began as an effort to study and learn more about my street. That has been very successful but it has also brought a much greater reward. I have forged a place for myself within that community and found a way to bring people together through photography. I am incredibly impressed by most everyone I meet and I am proud to share a community with them.

*Photographs from Monticello Road will be exhibited at The Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative April 6-27, 2012. There will be corollary events during the course of the exhibition, including an artists' roundtable, storytelling, a film screening, a school visit, site tours and more. Artist Peter Krebs grew up in suburban Maryland and moved to Charlottesville with his wife and son in 2009. He exhibits nationally with solo gallery shows in Washington, Paris, New York, and Virginia. He has a degree from the College of William and Mary and attended the Vermont Studio Center and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. He is represented in many viewing libraries and is currently in residence at the McGuffey Art Center*

For more information, please [www.culturecurrent.com/peter](http://www.culturecurrent.com/peter) or contact Peter Krebs, [eter@culturecurrent.com](mailto:eter@culturecurrent.com) or 434-293-9276.

Behind the scenes



Above photo: Eric Jackson, Megan O'Toole, and photographers Mark Mitchell and Jamie Parker. Bottom photo Larry France and photographers Mark Mitchell and Jamie Parker



Last month, VIB worked with Paris Ashton, Creative Director, DGS, Office of Graphic Communications, along side Mark Mitchell and Jamie Parker Photography, to complete our brochure and marketing materials project. In our efforts to modernize, and revitalize VIB, all new photos were taken. These photos consisted of employees at work, in our plants and retail stores, to focus on the products and services that VIB offers, boasting VIB's campaign,

**'Showcasing Might of People without Sight!'**

The new material will be used in a variety of ways, such as developing new brochures, pamphlets, price sheets, and other handouts to provide to existing and potential customers. This will serve as informational insights into the mission and how it drives VIB, providing employment, developing skills, and creating sustained individuality.

The pictures will also be used to adorn the hallways of VIB plants and stores, to highlight employees and their accomplishments.

**New lobby adds modern feel**

VIB Charlottesville has just recently remodeled its lobby area, to add a more modern look. It is complete with tile floor, display case of VIB products, and a new monitor to view. The monitor features pictures, scenes, people at work, a slide show presentation, along with a brief VIB video, 'Every Purchase Creates Jobs!' VIB hopes this will provide a warm, yet modern first impression to visiting customers.



VIB Charlottesville

**Welcome to the VIB Team!**

- Eugene Breen-Mark Center
- Kenneth Williams-Richmond
- Debra Wilkerson-Belvoir
- Jason Teal-Salem VAMC
- Jason Jude-Charlottesville



### Two for the Price of One

**S**andy Clark joined VIB as a Collections Representative at the Court Debt Collections Office (TAX) on January 10, alongside her Golden Retriever, Micah, who is the first guide dog on a VIB Service Contract customer's site.

"We are prepared with a dog guide sensitivity training", Megan O'Toole, VIB's Vocational Coordinator said. "Some people have just never been around dog guides and don't know how to react". CDCO Director, Kathy Lohr remarked that Mika has been well received without any concerns whatsoever. Change is no stranger

to Sandy. Born in Puerto Rico as an "Army Brat", Sandy has lived all over and had a varied career. She honed her business skills in her own catering business and customer service as a licensed practical nurse. CDCO was particularly interested when they learned she had three years of experience in tax preparation for Jackson Hewitt. While Sandy is excited with the change in her career, it's just another day at the office for Micah.



Sandy Clark & Micah

### Remembering one of our own

#### Robert M. Burke Jr.

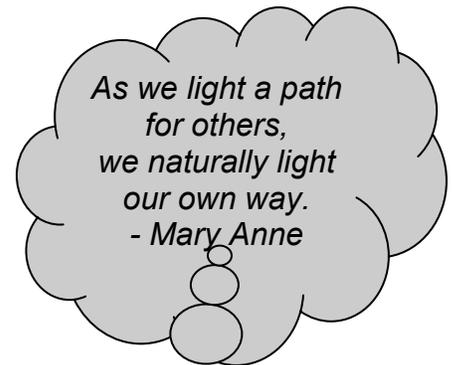
**R**obert M. Burke Jr., 62, of Charlottesville, Virginia, died on Sunday, January 1, 2012, at the University of Virginia Medical Center. He was born in New York City, the son of Robert M. Burke Sr., of Amissville, Virginia. He was predeceased in death by his mother, Patricia Burke; and his brother, Michael Burke.

Bobby worked for the Virginia Industries for the Blind and was a very active member in the community. He was the president of the Thomas Jefferson Lions Club, Vice President of the Board of Directors of JAUNT, served on the Chart Committee, and was actively involved with Charlottesville Parks and Recreation. Bobby was also a member of the Rugby Avenue Church of

Christ. Though burdened with many challenges in his life, Bobby never let his handicaps limit him in any way. He was known for his good spirit and positive attitude. His endless optimism kept him involved with a broad variety of interests and was an inspiration to everyone he came in contact with. He is survived by his sister, Deborah Burke of Amissville, Virginia; and his niece, Brooke Brady of Charlottesville, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, VIB employees gave monies collected, to the  
[Thomas Jefferson Lion's Club](#)  
 PO Box 7137  
 Charlottesville. 22906  
 Attn. Ben Bealor

Friends may sign the guestbook at  
[www.hillandwood.com](http://www.hillandwood.com).



**Bobby Burke worked with VIB since 1993**



VIB Charlottesville  
1102 Monticello Rd  
Charlottesville VA 22902  
434-295-5168

## VIB's Mission

The Virginia Industries for the Blind (VIB) is dedicated to developing and providing excellent customer service, retail opportunities and quality manufactured goods for our customers, which will empower blind and visually impaired Virginians in achieving their maximum level of gainful employment and career development.



VIB Richmond  
1533 High St  
Richmond VA 23220  
804-786-2056

## Safety comes first

### They Sure Don't Make Them Like They Used To, and Boy I'm Glad They Don't.

By Catherina Hogg

I will be the first one to admit that I am not a "car person." You know the type I am talking about; the person who can diagnose a car problem by the sound of a faint clunk. Or the person that can tell you the difference in the grill and fin styles between a 1955 Chevy Bel-Air and the 1956 model. No, I am not that person. To me a vehicle should be able to get me from point A to point B in relative comfort at a reasonable cost. I don't need a navigation system, a DVD



player, or an on-board popcorn maker. However one thing I do want is to know that my car will protect me in case of an accident.

In November I had the opportunity to visit the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Vehicle Research Center as part of the Commonwealth Program. The IIHS is an independent, nonprofit, scientific, and educational organization dedicated to reducing the losses-deaths, injuries, and property damage-from crashes on the nation's highways. The Institute is wholly supported by automobile insurers. The IIHS conducts a number of tests that affect everyone who has ever sat in a car. You name it and they have tested it, resulting in many advances in vehicle safety. Some of the tests include: head re-

straint, child restraint, frontal crash, side crash, bumper strength, and roll-over.

Two of the cars were the inspiration for the title of this article. The IIHS wanted to see if older cars were really built like "tanks" and which car would be safer, a new model or a classic. To determine this they crashed a 1959 Chevrolet Bel Air into a 2009 Chevrolet Malibu while each car was traveling at 40 miles per hour. The Malibu's occupant compartment remained intact with ample survivor space around the driver dummy. However, the Bel Air's compartment collapsed, and the resulting forces on a



driver in a real world crash would have been fatal.

What I saw in the Display Hall was very interesting but I will say the best part of the experience was watching the crash test of a new vehicle. I can't go into too many details because the test results have not been made public but it was impressive. Let's just say the car needed a really big band-aid when it was over but the dummies inside didn't.

So remember you are safer than your parents were, thanks to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.