



STAYING *in Touch*

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Kellam's Corner



Spring has finally arrived! I have a feeling we were not alone at the firm in going a little nuts with the constant cold, nasty weather. I've been busy with volunteer legal activities, such as chairing the Norfolk Portsmouth Bar's Professionalism Committee, as well as writing articles for the Virginia State Bar and Virginia Trial Lawyers Association publications on technology and the practice of law. I'll share links to the articles after they are published in the next few months.

The Parks family had a low-key Spring Break, with Kelly and Avery heading to OBX for a few days with Kelly's mother. I stayed behind to work as we had a 4-day trip to South Carolina for a big dance competition for Avery later in the month. Someone has to mind the store, so to speak!

Personal Injury



Wearing a helmet is a must for safe bicycling, but some still refuse to wear one, thinking they look "dorky." Well, what if you could wear an invisible helmet? Two Swedish women have done just that by creating something that looks like a fashionable scarf, but in the event of a collision it explodes outward like an airbag and turns into a helmet. Fashion meets safety! Check out this video to learn more. <http://vimeo.com/43038579>

Did you know?



Each of the suits in a deck of cards represents one of the four major pillars of the economy in the Middle Ages: hearts represented the church, spades represented the military (nobility), clubs represented agriculture (peasants), and diamonds represented the merchant class.



"Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind."

— Theodore Roosevelt

PROTECTING YOUR CREDIT

Summer is on its way, and many people are eagerly planning their summer vacations. If you are going overseas, here are some tips concerning handling your finances. Before traveling, go through your purse or wallet and remove any unnecessary items. You won't need your Norfolk library card in Europe. A slimmed down wallet will make a less obvious target for pickpockets.

Inform your credit card companies where you are going and what dates you'll be gone before you travel, otherwise they may put a hold on your card for suspicious activity and you could be left stranded with no access to finances. Ask them for a number you can call from overseas, as most 800 numbers on cards only work in the US.

Research the area you plan to visit. See if credit cards are widely accepted and, if so, which ones. Also look for the availability of ATMs that you can use. We are complacent in America that an ATM will always give us cash, even if it's not our bank, but this isn't always the case in other parts of the world.

Using a credit card is usually a better and safer option than using strictly cash, especially when traveling overseas. A credit card is small, takes up very little room, and therefore is easy to hide. If it's lost or stolen, it can be canceled and replaced. If you lose a wallet full of cash, you're done. If taking your credit card overseas makes you nervous, you could opt for a pre-

paid credit card instead. This gives you the ease of canceling it if it's stolen and the peace of mind that it can't be connected to your information back home. Also, using a credit card abroad almost always guarantees a better conversion rate. Be cautious though, as some companies charge transaction and conversion fees. Check with your card companies before traveling, so you'll know exactly what it will cost to use your cards. Some companies offer special travel credit cards that give points for money spent on items like hotels and airfare and do not charge conversion fees. That being said, they often have higher interest rates, so do some research first.

Although using credit cards is advised, it is always a good idea to travel with some cash for emergencies. You should already have a small amount of the local currency before you get there. You may need to grab a meal at the airport or a taxi to the hotel and not all places accept credit cards. Also, while we use magnetic strip cards here in the US, most of Europe and Asia use chip-and-PIN cards. These cards have an extra layer of security by requiring a PIN, which our magnetic strip cards don't have. This sometimes causes problems at automated payment machines like gas stations and train ticket kiosks. You may need to use cash or have an attendant help you. Most merchants will want to see your passport, too, to verify that you are the person who is supposed to be using that card.

We welcome your referrals!

We value all our clients. If you refer someone to us, we promise to answer his or her questions and provide first-rate, attentive service. We want to thank you for your referrals and for coming back to us when we can be of service.



Deb Dishes:

Knowing how much I love good chocolate, Lia comes to me with a fork and a container and says, "Do you like flan? Try this." Her mother, Lori had made Chocoflan. As Lia is explaining how it is made using a Bundt pan in a water bath in the oven and how the two delicious flavors separate and form layered goodness, I was letting the smooth, creamy flan and moist chocolate cake fill my taste buds with its deliciousness. We decided this had to go into the newsletter to share! This recipe is too long to list here, but can be found on our website at <http://goo.gl/SwEFOF>. On the restaurant front, another find to share is Sweetwater Cuisine Café located next to us in the Wayside shops. It reminds me of a southern home turned into a restaurant. If you want to stop the noise of your busy day and have a relaxing lunch, this is the place. They offer a variety of soups, sandwiches, salads, po'boys and their own specialties like herb stuffed chicken, meatloaf and my favorite, shrimp and grits. They serve sides like cheddar grits, orzo salad, sweet potato fries, hushpuppies, mac-n-cheese and more. They also have a kids menu. So stop by, relax, and enjoy your meal inside or outside on the patio. Y'all will enjoy it too!

On The Local Front

VIRGINIA'S HAPPY MUSIC

Virginia has been the site of major historical events since the landing point of early settlers, including important battles of the American Revolution, being the birthplace of eight presidents, and many diverse entertainers. With the current worldwide popularity of Virginia Beach's Pharrell Williams' "Happy" song, it is interesting to note that the musicians Virginia has produced is quite an eclectic group. The genres include jazz, classical, pop, rap, and many more.

Ella Fitzgerald was born in 1917 in Newport News and was the first black woman to win a Grammy for her Jazz melodies. Despite a difficult life, she remained optimistic and privately gave generously to family and local child related charities.

Portsmouth's Ruth Brown was once known as the "Queen of the Jukebox." Atlantic records became a powerhouse of R&B, due to her two dozen hits. She went on win a Tony Award. Remember her as "Motormouth Maybelle" in the 1988 film Hairspray? Salem High School's Timothy Mosley's, aka Timbaland, soul-rapper-hip hop style hit Virginia Beach in the mid-90's. It was his friend Missy Elliot (rapper/singer/songwriter from Portsmouth) that helped launch his career and today his productions can be found on music by Justin Timberlake, Madonna, Beyoncé, and Cher, to mention a few.

Other musical talent to call Virginia home include Wayne Newton, Gene Vincent, June Carter, Pearl Bailey, Bruce Hornsby, Charlie Byrd, Patsy Cline, Juice Newton, Clarence Clemons, JoAnn Falletta, Zac Hanson, Chris Brown, The Five Keys, Randy Blythe, Tommy Newsom, Keely Smith, Gary U.S. Bonds, Shirley MacLaine and more!

Family Law:

Getting married seems to produce an endless to-do list. One thing to keep in mind for after the wedding is what to do if you decide to change your last name. Changes should be made as soon as possible. This includes social security and the DMV to start, but don't forget to update your new name with your passport, financial institutions, insurance, work records, benefits provider, doctor's offices, and business associates. Check out our website for more info: <http://goo.gl/cHa1T3>.

Family Time...



Deb's grandson Maxwell turned 4! He had a Monster's Inc party and "Granma" made the cake for her "Doodle." Here he is with Courtney blowing out his candles. They played games in the park and enjoyed the sunny day.



Lia's son Grant (2nd from left) turned 5 recently and had a "Magic" birthday party. Here are all the kids with their magician's hats & wands (made by Lia) waiting for the balloon drop! Yes, that's Bryant at the other end. All the kids had fun playing pin the tail on the bunny, bunny toss and eating bunny cake.





LAW OFFICE OF
KELLAM T. PARKS, PLLC

4164 Virginia Beach Blvd, Suite 204
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-1762
pho: 757.453.7744 | fax: 757.453.7578
www.ktparkslaw.com



Law Office of Kellam T. Parks, PLLC



Law Office of Kellam T. Parks, PLLC



Ktparkslaw



Kellam Parks, Esquire

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Tech Tip:

This month I'm tackling cleaning of your physical computer and next month I'll talk about actions for the operating system/storage. You should periodically clean your computer. Dust and grime can clog fans, which it turn causes your computer to run hotter than it should, lowering its life expectancy. Luckily, cleaning it is simple. You'll need some paper towels, a can of compressed air, rubbing alcohol, a microfiber cloth, water, and vinegar.

Shut down the computer, unplug it, and move it somewhere with some space. Open the case (usually just a few screws on the back) and wipe the fans and vents with a damp paper towel. Use a can of compressed air to blow the dust out of the rest of the insides (there will be clouds of it, so be sure to be somewhere you don't mind the dust blowing).

Next is the keyboard. Turn the keyboard upside down over a trash-can and shake it - you'll be surprised (and probably grossed out a little) by the crumbs and other garbage that has collected in there. Use the compressed air to blow out any stuck items under keys. It is probably grimy, so use the rubbing alcohol to clean the keys themselves. Clean your mouse as well, paying attention to the light sensor to ensure not obscured.

Lastly, you want to clean your monitor with the microfiber cloth (versus paper towels, which may scratch the screen). If the dry cloth doesn't completely clean your screen, you can dampen the cloth with water, or a 50/50 mix of water and vinegar to really clean it. Don't place the liquids on the screen itself, dampen the cloth to ensure no water gets into the device by mistake.

New address? New phone number? New Email? Help us stay current by letting us know. Call Deb at 757.453.7579 or email her at dmontagna@ktparkslaw.com. If you wish to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please call Deb. Thanks!