

Benjamin B. West

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A multimedia journalist known for versatility. Comfortable writing everything from breaking news to longform narratives and creative nonfiction. With a boots-on-the-ground mentality, I'm eager to be in the thick of things, writing about my community and making human connections. I've spent years developing skills in photography, social media and design in addition to my writing.

My work has been published by dozens of news outlets across Virginia as well as by The Washington Post, the Miami Herald and other news platforms across the U.S.

Journalism Experience

Local Voice Media

June 2018 — Present

- Produce hard news, including crisis coverage, as well as features. Have written about topics ranging from Hurricane Florence as it bore down on the city to the legendary tunnels running under William & Mary
- Work both solo and collaborative with tight deadlines
- Manage two daily newsletters with an audience of more than 8,000

RVA Mag

January 2019 — Present

- Have honed magazine-style feature reporting through human interest and investigative stories, including an in-depth examination into the abrupt, unexplained disappearance of a beloved Richmond auto body shop
- Pitch stories based on readers' interests and my intimate knowledge of the mainstream and underground community

Capital News Service

January 2019 — Present

- Report on state government and politics under strict deadline for clients across the country
- Have tackled subjects ranging from race relations and school safety to President Trump's business dealings and the Freedom of Information Act
- Track down and interview high-profile political players at Capitol Square
- Navigate the bureaucracy of government documents to dig up under-the-radar stories of the utmost importance

Skills

- Associated Press Style
- Print/Online writing

- Broadcast writing
- Social media management
- Adobe Creative Suite
- Email newsletter clients (Mailchimp)
- Media hosting clients (WordPress)
- Professional photography equipment
- Professional audio equipment

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University

Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications

Concentration: Digital Journalism

Minor: Creative Writing

Graduating in May 2019