



The Forest Hill Neighborhood
Association Newsletter

Summer 2012

Forest Hill Flyer

**Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings
held every Third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
at The Stone House - Please Attend!**

We are always looking for stories
about our neighborhood and the
people who live here. Please send
ideas and comments to Linda Mills,
foresthillflyer@gmail.com.

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Neighborhood Association

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Sunday in the Park with Friends, Spring 2012: the Best Yet!

By Sally Kannemeyer

Forest Hill Park was transformed Sunday afternoon, April 29, into a family festival and crafts fair that drew hundreds of folks. The new spring event, Sunday in the Park with Friends, was hosted by Friends of Forest Hill Park. Many dedicated volunteers and members of non-profit groups worked tirelessly to make this event a huge success. We thank them all.

Close your eyes. The sun caresses your face, it's a perfect 70 degrees. Children are giggling and squealing, a bluegrass band is playing, and neighbors are chatting and laughing, lifting your spirits. This is a wonderful place to be!

Now open your eyes and look around. You are at Sunday in the Park with Friends in Forest Hill Park. There is so much to see and do. Where do you begin?

Let's start with the Crafts Fair. There are more than 40 local artisans displaying their handmade wares—beautiful jewelry, ceramics, and paintings. Sweet things for baby, greeting cards, homemade soaps and creams, one-of-a-kind hats, handbags and linen dresses. Vintage luxuries for the home. It's an abundance of talent and treasure.

Sashay over to the music stage, pick up a hula hoop, and start swaying to bluegrass music. Wow – those young women with RVA Hoop Lovers really have some fancy moves with their hula hoops. The kids love them! You could watch them all day.

Look up! There's a boy sitting in that tree! Don't worry: Tru-Timber is teaching the kids safe tree climbing techniques. And the Tree Stewards are also here to teach about the care and love of our trees in the park. Reedy Creek Coalition is demonstrating what we can do personally to keep our creek, lake and mighty river clear and beautiful.

Why are parents and kids mobbing that tent over there? Oh, of course: clowns and face-painting. Always a huge hit! And that tent has a circle of kids enthralled by a storyteller. Those puppets over there are getting into all kinds of shenanigans. Risky the Mascot with the Richmond Raiders is on hand for hugs and high fives. Hear those loud gasps? That's parents and kids watching Jonathan the Juggler perform spectacular juggling feats.

Look at that huge inflatable castle! It's bouncing up and down!



Sunday in Forest Hill Park was a bit different in 1910. The Stone House, complete with wooden porch, is in the upper right corner. The trolleys that ferried leisure-seekers to their destination are toward the back left. What hasn't changed is the sense of community and enjoyment of the surroundings. This photo is from Richard Bland's vintage collection of photos. He had a wonderful Trolley Car exhibit in the Stone House during Sunday in the Park with Friends. He can be contacted at richardleebland@hotmail.com

That's because there are lots of squealing little kids bouncing up and down on it. Oh, to be a kid again!

Let's go down by the tennis courts and see what's going on there. Stacy Rogers, our very own police officer for Forest Hill Park, has organized a fabulous bike event to teach kids bike safety while having tons of fun. Coqui Cyclery, new to the neighborhood, is on hand to perform bike repairs for any kid's bike in need of a little TLC. What a wonderful service for these kids.

There's also an enormous fire truck and police super-van open for inspection. Wide-eyed kids are given personal tours by our local heroes, the firefighters and police officers. And

Continued on page 3

The President's Message



By Richard Day

Forest Hill - South of Average,
Closer to Paradise...

Let's begin this column with a big high five to all the folks on the board of Friends of Forest Hill Park. Sunday in the Park with Friends was a resounding success. Despite narrowly dodging potentially uninviting weather, it turned out to be the best SITP yet.

The amount of activity was pleasantly surprising, and that equates to something for everyone. The music was as good as many Music in the Park concerts; the entertainment from jugglers to magicians was superb; and the activities for kids, including tree climbing and moon bounce, were enjoyed by many a happy child. Personally, I enjoyed seeing the smorgasbord of educational information on such topics as energy efficiency and responsible water runoff. Plus, the arts market area was a nice addition to this year's festivities.

Also, please check out Coqui Cyclery, the latest addition to the long list of merchants in the area. Being an occasional cyclist myself, I find this addition particularly exciting. Being so close to the park and the city's massive amount of trails, this venture should prove to fill a need and experience much success.

Please be aware the historic district application vote will be on June 21, so keep your fingers crossed if you support the application.

I am seeing more activity at the park as the weather turns favorable. Being in the throes of planning summer camps for our sons, I imagined how fantastic it would be if they could be dropped off there every morning to spend the day exploring, learning, experimenting, climbing, biking, and catching tadpoles, fish, and insects. But sadly, simpler times when kids just wandered around discovering and getting into harmless mischief are behind us. Just crossing Forest Hill Avenue could be a life or death trial.

But looking back on the history of our little hood, surely the youths of past generations did indeed embark on aimless adventures with something new to discover in the woods, meadows, and creeks that surround us. Surely the youths of today can do the same, but more likely with some kind of supervision, at least until they reach an acceptably safe age to harness some level of independence.

In closing, there appear to be several charming homes for sale in the area. Lots of Arts and Crafts bungalows or cottages, capes and more are on the market. Sorry that we may be losing some neighbors, but please tell others you know who are interested in Forest Hill. They too could partake in some aimless wandering into a nearby wood. Worked for Thoreau.

Richard Day is the president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association.

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2011-2012

www.foresthillneighborhood.com

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Does Your Dog Bark...and Bark...and Bark?

Now that warm weather is here and windows are open, it becomes even more important for pet owners to monitor their pets' behavior. The City of Richmond has a noise ordinance concerning pets. According to Deborah Puzzo, liaison for 4th District Representative Kathy Graziano, the ordinance is:

Sec. 38-42. - Noisy animals and birds.

No person shall allow any animal or bird to create sound such that it is plainly audible at least once a minute for ten consecutive minutes:

- (1) Inside the confines of the dwelling unit, house or apartment of another; or
 - (2) At least 50 feet from the animal or bird.
- (Ord. No. 2011-119-140, § 2, 7-25-2011)

Ms. Puzzo continues with a summary:

If you are inside your house, and a dog's bark is "plainly audible" at least once per minute for ten consecutive minutes,

OR if a dog is at least 50 feet distant – regardless of where the property line falls in relation to you or the dog and regardless if you are inside or outside – and the dog's "plainly audible" bark occurs at least once per minute for ten consecutive minutes,

THEN there could be a violation – the defendant, i.e., a specific person, would have to be proved to have "allowed" the barking to occur.

This situation would involve a criminal charge, which requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt of every part of the ordinance. Every case is going to rise and fall on its own evidence as that evidence appears to a judge at trial, and in how the judge reads the ordinance.

If a person is interested in filing a complaint, they can call the police [646-5100] or, if considered an emergency, 911.

Although the ordinance exists, as you can read, this is probably not the easiest ordinance to enforce, or for that matter this battle may not be easy to win in a court room.

Dogs will bark. If you are the owner of a barking dog, then you owe it as a courtesy to your neighbors to bring it inside, especially during the evening hours. If you are being disturbed by a barking dog near you, the first step might be to speak with your neighbor. Your neighbor may not realize his or her pet is disturbing your peace and quiet.

Sunday in the Park Continued from page 1

everyone is thrilled to have an up close and personal look at the bomb robot!

Hungry? Thirsty? A fruit smoothie from Crossroads Café and a pork taco, Asian style from Boka Tako is fresh and delicious. Okay – and healthy too!

Time now for reflection and a little history. Enter the Stone House and you are transported back to a time long past, when this was a terminus for the city trolley cars. There is a 96-year-old gentleman, Dr. Charles Williams, who, with a twinkle in his eye, points to the vintage photographs, giving you a glimpse of what it was like to live in South Richmond almost a hundred years ago. You learn all about the amusement park here that drew hundreds of Richmonders every weekend in the spring and summer.

Just like today. If you close your eyes, you could almost be one of those laughing children at that amusement park on a Sunday afternoon in April 1912.

Sally Kannemeyer has lived in the Forest Hill neighborhood for 25 years and keeps falling in love with it. Details provided by Lee Shewmake and Carolyn Paulette

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Know Your Neighbor... Forest Hill's Knight in Blue Armor

By Shannon Taylor

Have you ever wondered who the badge-yielding biker is who patrols Forest Hill Park and the James River? It is Officer Stacy Rogers, Richmond Police Department. Rogers is a seven-year veteran of the department and routinely patrols Forest Hill Park, James River Park, and other city parks. If you haven't met him on patrol, you may have met him at a Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meeting where he is eager to answer citizen's concerns about crime and safety.

Officer Rogers is a long-time resident of Richmond. After a brief move to Moab, Utah, he and his wife moved back to Richmond in 2004 when he chose a career in law enforcement. He wanted a job where he could make a difference in the lives of others.

"I thought, and still think, of it as a noble calling," says Rogers.

An avid outdoorsman, Rogers loves the independence of being a patrol officer responsible for public safety in the parks. As a former parks and recreation student at VCU, Rogers has found the perfect job for him—keeping our public areas safe and making sure people show respect for our parks and laws.

When not working the park beat or caring for his young family, Rogers enjoys adventure racing, rafting, hiking and mountain biking. He especially prefers the adventure races that include 24+ hours of biking, kayaking/canoeing and trekking! Rogers also enjoys listening to music—ranging from folk to heavy metal and country. His favorite Pennywise song, Date with Destiny, provides his mantra—"Live each day like it was your last, you'll live much better that way."

Rogers explains, "It's really hard to stay in the here and now—so many things are going on in life. You want to plan for

this and plan for that and we often forget to enjoy the moment we are in right now. Smelling the scent of honeysuckles in the park or feeling the breeze across your face are such great moments when I allow myself the chance to enjoy them. I should do it more."

Rogers has had several mentors in his life. His first and dearest is his mom, who showed him the meaning of hard work and dealing with people.

"She is the most kind and sweet person you could ever hope to meet," he says.

Maybe that explains why, while growing up, Rogers wanted to be a knight. He was saddened when he was told that it was not a real job in today's world. Little did he know that he would become Forest Hill's very own knight in blue armor.

Rogers has become exactly what he dreamed of as a young child—a man who wears a badge of honor, seeks justice for all, and puts himself in harm's way in order to protect citizens.



Officer Stacy Rogers patrols Forest Hill Park on his bicycle and works with residents of the neighborhood to keep us all safe.

Join Your Friends!

Friends of Forest Hill Park Juniors is Recruiting



Friends of Forest Hill Park Juniors (FFH Juniors) is looking for new members! Members should be in middle school and have a love of Forest Hill Park. All volunteer hours fulfill the Richmond Public Schools requirements for community service hours, and may fulfill requirements at other schools as well.

The Juniors group meets four times a year, usually on a Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Stone House in the park. The group helps encourage people to use the park by sponsoring various activities. They

participate in Sunday in the Park with Friends by manning a table during the event; in Halloween Howl in the Park, the last weekend before Halloween, by organizing and judging the event; and by assisting with park clean-ups scheduled throughout the year.

The FFH Juniors create the plans for these activities with adult supervision. Please contact Laura Dysart at 231-7662 or lauradysart@verizon.net if you know a student in middle school who is interested in being an active volunteer with the park!

Vacation Safety Tips

- Stop regular deliveries for mail or newspapers, or have a neighbor pick them up.
- Use timers for lights, TVs, and radios.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your house and call police if they see anything suspicious—911 is always a good first call for suspicious activity.
- Tell police you're on vacation so they will monitor your house.
<http://www.richmondgov.com/police/documents/HWBW.pdf>
- Don't advertise your vacation on Facebook or automated email responses.
- Leave a car in the driveway or in front of your house—even if it's your neighbor's car.
- Clear out hiding spaces like overgrown bushes under windows.
- Leave your porch lights on.

Community Efforts Pay Off

Parkway Apartments to be Sold

By Jesse McCoy

The Parkway Apartment building on West 47th Street has been the center of controversy for longer than most of the residents around the building have lived in the neighborhood. You may have heard stories of visits to the building by police, fire, and medical emergency units. The building is well known by personnel responsible for the safety and well-being of the community—and not for good reasons.

There were incidents of burglary, vandalism, and vermin infestations in and around the building. Nearby residents were plagued by break ins, slashed tires, and transients. The building's rats and bedbugs have been a constant concern for adjoining property owners.

Walking in front of the building brought its own risks. Tenants of the apartments often threw bottles into the street, and were involved in drug deals and altercations at all hours. The building itself was literally falling down—not safe for the tenants, the emergency responders, or the surrounding property owners.

Despite past efforts by the city and the neighborhood to improve conditions at the apartments going as far back as 2005, the situation was becoming alarming. The last straw for neighborhood residents was a drive-by shooting directly in front of the building in 2011.

The community rallied.

The residents of the block started an email chain to share information. They contacted the owner of the building, who does not live in Richmond. The owner referred the residents to a management company. When the management company would not respond to the residents' concerns, they went to Richmond Police Department's (RPD) third precinct.

Lieutenant McQuail and Officer Kuper immediately responded to the community's need. They set up a meeting to share information between the citizens and officers. Officer Kuper, familiar with the property, turned his attention to the problem. He began documenting the time spent by the RPD at Parkway Apartments. Patrol officers exchanged information with neighborhood property owners. Together, residents and police came up with options to alleviate the immediate threats and create a solution to the issue of the unsafe building.

Lieutenant McQuail increased the visibility of police officers and their vehicles in the neighborhood. He consulted the department's experts on code enforcement, community safety and enrichment, and crime prevention. The precinct even held "roll call" some evenings directly in front of the building. Following "roll call," officers would knock on doors and talk with the building's tenants, as well as the residents on 47th Street. People began to know the officers patrolling the streets. They also got to know their own neighbors.

A Community Assisted Public Safety inspection found multiple safety and code violations in the building. The owner would need to make immediate repairs to keep the building from being condemned. As it was, two apartments were condemned because the conditions were unsafe.

The owner of the building, however, did not make the required repairs. Building inspectors from the city began trying to serve summonses to the owner for the violations. Locating him was not that easy. But with the help of law enforcement officers, the summonses were served.

Finally, our neighborhood presented its case in court. By this point, the groups involved with improving the apartments included community residents; RPD; Richmond City Council, especially President Kathy Graziano, our Southwest 4th District representative; Forest Hill Neighborhood Association; Westover Merchants' Association; the Mayor's Office; Department of Fire and Emergency Services; and the city's building commissioner.

The result of all this effort? Fines in the amount of \$72,500 were levied against the owner of the building. He also received a suspended six-month jail sentence for the violations found in the city's inspections. The judge gave the owner a choice: repair the problems, vacate the building of residents, or relinquish ownership of the property.



After many hours of hard work, neighborhood hopes are high that the Parkway Apartments on West 47th Street will soon be an asset to the community.

A "FOR SALE" sign appeared in the courtyard in front of the Parkway Apartments the very next day.

A bank is now charged with selling the property. The hope is that a group will convert the perpetually dilapidated building into an example of what community effort and teamwork can achieve.

The neighbors are relieved. They are also grateful that this experience has brought them together instead of sending them running to other neighborhoods. The email chain has given way to spontaneous chats in the front yard—not something that happened before.

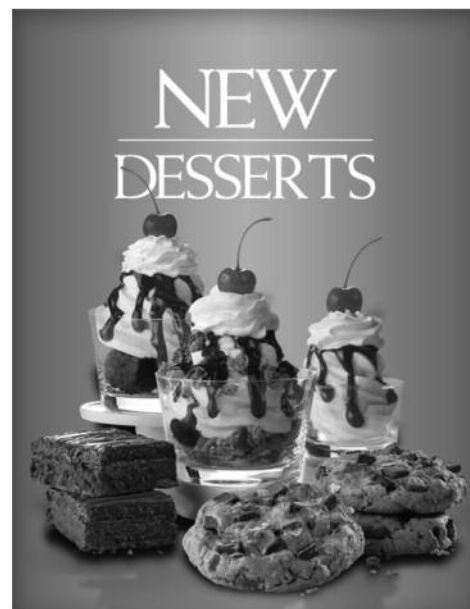
While the Parkway Apartments building has a checkered past, its future offers the opportunity for brighter days for everyone.

Jesse McCoy lives near the Parkway Apartments and feels lucky to have local police officers who will come to his living room in the evening and discuss issues with concerned citizens, then take those issues and create a plan to alleviate them.



BUSINESS MEETING, OFFICE PARTY, LUNCHEON, BIRTHDAY?

****Trays and Packaged Boxed Meals****



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***\$200 Minimum Delivery Order**

“...and a 39 cent box of Tide, Mrs. Gill.”: Remembering Gill’s Market

By Judith Warrington

The neighborhood is fortunate to have a pick-up point for Relay Foods. It’s so simple: place your order online, put the payment on your credit card and pick up your order on Thursday in front of the 43rd Street Gallery. Ironically, 60 years ago you could have called in an order, had it put on your tab and your groceries would have been delivered to your home that afternoon...from that very same spot. Between 1946 and 1969 Gill’s Market was located at 1410 West 43rd Street, the site of today’s 43rd Street Gallery. At least the left side was Gill’s Market. But more on that in a moment!

Back to the home delivery. Because you probably didn’t lock your door back then, (and why would you), your groceries would be waiting for you on your kitchen table when you got home. If there were perishables in your order, the delivery person would probably have put them in the fridge for you. Those are some of the memories that Cary Gill shared about growing up in Forest Hill, the place he still calls home today.

Cary’s parents, George and Bee Gill, ran the neighborhood’s market. From 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, his father was the butcher and tended to the back while his mother took the grocery orders and ran the cash register up front. But Bee always took Monday off to go downtown to the Miller & Rhoads Tea Room. Monday was her day to shop.

Gill’s Market was one of several small family-owned grocery stores in the neighborhood. People could walk to the Triangle Market at Semmes and Forest Hill or the Westover Market on the corner of Westover Hills Boulevard. The Gill’s store served as a meeting place where people from the neighborhood would hang out and talk, pick up a few items or leave an order for a later delivery. Everyone knew everyone, said Cary, so credit was always extended. People came in to pay up every week or so and some balances may never have been reconciled. And the Gills were fine with that—just because it was the right thing to do for a neighbor.

Today Cary has hundreds of receipts from the market written in his mother’s precise script. They transport you back in time...99 cents for a pound of bacon, 33 cents for a pound of Mrs. Filbert’s oleo, 30 cents for a loaf of wheat

bread. For comparison sake: in 1969, 30 cents would have the purchasing power of \$1.84 today.

After school Cary would sometimes help out getting the orders ready for delivery, lining up the brown bags down the aisle and double checking the orders.

Things were different back then in more ways than the prices. “We had everything,” says Cary about the neighborhood in which he grew up. “We knew everyone. We were self-contained. There were four local drug stores, a church on every corner; you could walk to church, or to school.” One of the schools he walked to was the new George Wythe High School. Cary was the first class to attend when it opened in 1961.

Today Cary can recall the layout of the store, from the red sliding-top Coke box where kids would reach in to get a “Tiny” grape drink after school, to the meat cooler where his father would bring out a whole side of beef, slung over his shoulder,

GILL'S MARKET		1410 W. 43rd Street	
GROCERIES & MEATS		Richmond, Va.	
Phone 233-1950		10/16/1947	
M		Mann	
No.		1947	
Reg. No.		Clerk	
ACCOUNT FORWARDED		BEE GILL	
1	1 lb. sugar	71	
2	1 lb. Bacon	99	
3	1 lb. Mrs. F. Oleo	33	
4	1-6 oz. M. H. Sm. T	107	
5	1 pound butter	33	
6	1 apple Butter	41	
7	1 Pancho Flour	37	
8	1 lb. Crisco	41	
9	1 B&S roller	35	
10	1 wheat Bread	30	
11	1 sm. pig rind	30	
12	2 aspd. dog food	63	
13	1 4 lb. side	33	
14		39	
15		714	

Your account stated to date. If error is found return at once.

Your accu- If error is found return at once.

Can you imagine a loaf of bread for 30 cents? Of course, it has been 43 year since Gill’s Market sold items to Forest Hill residents for these prices.

which he would then place on the big wooden cutting block to cut steaks or a roast to a customer's liking. A favorite spot for the kids was the penny candies display, along with the five-cent candy bars up front by the cash register where his mother sat.

Cary's memories of growing up with a grocery store in the family include going with his father at night to the farmers' market to select vegetables and fruit. They'd come back across the old Ninth Street Bridge, what people called "the singing bridge" because of the noise it made, and stop by Awalt's at Semmes and 20th Street to get ice cream. "It was fun for a kid on a school night," he says with a note of fondness in his voice.

Even though his great grandfather owned a store in Greenwood, Virginia that is still a working country store today, and his father owed a store on Brooklyn Park Boulevard before the one on 43rd Street, Cary says his parents discouraged him from going into the business. "I can almost see myself doing that," he says, but adds, "They were right."

When the new Safeway arrived on Westover Hills Boulevard, George Gill knew the times had changed. At the end of 1969, Gill's Market closed. There is something to be said for the convenience of a modern chain grocery store...but don't expect them to extend credit to you without a credit card!

Judith Warrington is a long-time Forest Hill resident and freelance writer. She is also an avid grocery shopper.

Editor's note: What other "forgotten" businesses in the neighborhood do you remember? Contact foresthillflyer@gmail.com and let us know.

Ever wonder why the 43rd Street Gallery has two front doors? Cary Gill said that his parents leased the building from a woman who lived in California. The building had always been two shops. During the time when Gill's Market occupied the left side, Cary remembers that the grocery store's right-side neighbors were alternately a bicycle shop, a State Farm insurance agent, and Mr. Jennings's barber shop.



The Relay Foods truck delivers fresh produce and other ordered grocery items to customers in the area. You can find it on Thursdays parked outside the 43rd Street Gallery, a location that was once a neighborhood grocery store.

43rd Street

GALLERY

1412 W. 43RD ST. • RICHMOND, VA 23225 • 233-1758

Come See What's New!
 hot out of the kiln...
 new work by Robin



the gallery
is blooming with
visual treats...
new pots,
jewelry, and
fine art

GALLERY HOURS
 Tues–Thur 10am–6pm; Fri and Sat 10am–4pm

43rd Street Festival of the Arts
 Saturday, September 15, 2012 • 10am–5pm

Celebrity Pet

Miss Minnie Charms the Neighborhood

What is your name and the name of your human?

My formal name is Minerva, but I go by Minnie, Miss Minnie, and Boo. We don't know what my previous family called me. My primary human is Tom Fenton, but many of my neighbors are alternate parents, aunts, and uncles. It takes a neighborhood to love a dog.

Where and when did you find your home?

I was being dropped at the SPCA in July 2011, by someone who found me wandering in Northside with no identification. Two of my current aunts, Jennifer and Carri, were there and brought me to Forest Hill. They fed me, bathed me, and cut out the worst of my hair snarls. But neither of them was able to keep me.

When my dad saw me, he said, "I think she may have to come and live with me." The next night I came to his (now my) house for cocktails on the back porch and I never left. We celebrate our birthdays together on the July 26. The vet thinks I am three or four years old.

What's your heritage?

We say that I am a Miniature Schnauzer. I look exactly like many of the pictures, but my ears were not docked.

What is your favorite toy and/or activity?

I am not much for running and fetching things or chewing on squeaky things, but I really love to play pull and rip with a rope toy. I can really growl and snarl with that. My absolutely favorite activities are chasing and treeing squirrels and taking nice long walks where I can get on the scent of another dog or an animal.

What is your best trick?

Surely you jest! I am not into begging, lying down, sitting or rolling over. I do like to lie on my back and wiggle on the bed or in the grass.

What are your best traits?

I absolutely love people. I make them feel so good by running up to them and making happy noises when they pet me. I am also a magnificent alarm system. Nobody is going to sneak into my house without me making a LOT of noise. And I can really guard my chews.

What else would you like your admirers to know?

People love my great big ears with the long hair. I notice people looking at me as they drive by and just smiling. That is a good thing, right?

Tom Fenton, Miss Minnie's human, has lived in Forest Hill for 24 years and likes to cook, eat, make stained glass panels, and draw and paint.

Editor's note: We are always looking for Celebrity Pets! And they don't have to be just canine companions, either. If you have a pet you'd like featured in the Celebrity Pet column, just let us know. You or your pet can contact us at foresthilflyer@gmail.com.



Pinwheels for Prevention

During April several hundred blue and silver pinwheels were planted in Forest Hill Park near the Stone House. It was a striking display. The sign near the pinwheels read, "This garden is here to celebrate children in our community during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Pinwheels are a new symbol of child abuse prevention. They represent the hope, health and happiness that [the organization] Prevent Child Abuse Virginia desires for every child in Virginia." The pinwheel garden was also sponsored by Pinwheels for Prevention and Starbucks.



Photo by Ian Mills.

Fourth Annual Run for the Hills Largest Ever

On a beautiful Saturday in March, the fourth Run for the Hills 5K started off early in the morning at the Stone House. This year the weather was picture perfect and drew our largest group of runners, walkers, strollers and canine trotters to date—nearly 275 participants took to the streets of our wonderful neighborhood. A huge thank you goes out to neighbors Peter Hubbel, Dorna Braswell, Phil Licking and Zac Sheldon for making this a wonderful annual event that brings so many people together to celebrate Forest Hill. We would also like to acknowledge all the participants, the volunteers, and the Richmond Police Department for helping make this a very successful and fun run!

Coqui Cyclery – Let's Talk Bike!

By Winnie Canup

The 'hood's newest addition is up and racing! Coqui Cyclery has opened for business in the former King's Appliance building at the split of Forest Hill and Semmes Avenues. After leasing the building last November, partners Spike Toler and Clint Kronenburger spent the next five months completely renovating the building for its April 14 grand opening.

A mountain bike racer for more than twenty years, Spike said she's always thought the Southside could use a bike shop for all the riders on the Forest Hill James River Park trails. After returning from a vacation in Puerto Rico last fall – the shop is named after Puerto Rico's famed tree frogs, the Coqui (ko-KEE) – she decided it was time. She had been working as an apprentice bike mechanic with Clint and proposed the idea to him.

A native of Cape Coral, Florida, Clint's father opened a bike shop there when Clint was seven. "I have spent every year since then honing my skills to become the best bicycle mechanic that I can be. I am very passionate about my craft and strive to keep up with the latest technology in the business," Clint said.

Spike explained the vision she and Clint share for Coqui: "We want this place to be a real meeting place for all cyclists, a sort of Cheers for riders." Along with a service area and walls of bikes and cycling paraphernalia, the shop has a comfortable seating area. Cyclists are encouraged to spend time in the shop sharing road and trail tales. Spike hopes customers will bring their Crossroads and Parkside food and drinks into Coqui to "talk bike." While in the shop, customers will see the frame of artifacts unearthed during the building renovation. A current favorite is a gas receipt for a fill-up at 20 cents per gallon when the shop originally opened as an Amoco gas station. On the walls hang signs unearthed during the renovation that tell more history of the building's former incarnations—Owen's Service and Talley Neon.

In its first ten days of operation, Clint and fellow-mechanic Cory Scott serviced more than 60 bicycles brought in by customers! Coqui Cyclery promises a 24-hour turn around on most repairs. Flats will be fixed on the spot. The shop will carry Giant, Pivot Cycles and Jamis brands and custom-built LandShark cycles from John Slawta, as well as jerseys from locally-owned Road Holland Cycling Apparel (the owner lives in Willow Oaks). Entry level bikes start at less than \$300 and can be ordered and delivered in just two days. The shop also carries children's bikes and toddler's strider bikes. (Those tiny bikes with no peddles and no training wheels are great for teaching balance.)

Be warned. Parking around the new shop is for customers only. As the sign says: "Parking for Coqui Cyclery Only. All others will be TOAD."

Winnie Canup has lived in Forest Hill for 16 years. Her son Will fell in love with mountain biking on the Buttermilk Trail that skirts the James River. This year Will qualified for and competed in the Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championship in New Mexico.



at
Coqui Cyclery



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Your Home Can Be a River Hero Home!

Attend an informational meeting,
Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
at the Stone House, sponsored by the James
River Association

Even if you can't see the James River – or any body of water – from your house, your actions still impact the health of the James River and its tributaries. You can significantly reduce the amount of storm water, chemicals and sediment that flows into local waterways by making your home a certified River Hero Home.



This new certification program from the James River Association (JRA) is open to everyone living within the James River watershed. As a resident of the Reedy Creek watershed, you may already be a step ahead, especially if you've had a property assessment done by the Alliance for the Chesapeake or the Reedy Creek Coalition. If you've already qualified for a credit on your City of Richmond storm water utility, then you may also be qualified for certification as a River Hero Home.

Once your home has been certified by JRA as meeting River Hero Home qualifications, you'll receive an attractive garden flag, window cling, access to a dedicated River Hero Home Google group, exclusive discounts at participating local garden shops, and an invitation to attend the annual River Hero Home Lawn Party.

More information on the program can be found at www.JamesRiverHero.org, or attend a River Hero Home information meeting to be held Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at the Stone House, Forest Hill Park from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (JRA thanks the City of Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation for the use of this site!) Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is requested. To register, for more information or additional meeting dates, contact Michelle Kokolis at 788-8811, extension 204 or mkokolis@jrva.org.

Win a Free Rain Barrel Workshop

Get every home on your block to become a River Hero Home. Groups of 12 to 20 individuals can enter to win a free rain barrel workshop. Participants will build a rain barrel for their home and additional barrels can be purchased for \$35 each. Contact Michelle Kokolis at 788-8811, extension 204 or mkokolis@jrva.org for contest details.

Tune in...

- May 20 • 6-8 pm**
Bio Ritmo
Hot Salsa
- June 17 • 6-8 pm**
Skydog
Allman Bros. Tribute
- July 22 • 6-8 pm**
808
Ska
- August 19 • 6-8 pm**
3rd Wave
Surf Rock Favorites
- September 16 • 5-7 pm**
Blue Line Hwy
Americana Folk Rock
- October 21 • 5-7 pm**
Broad Street Ramblers
Hawaiian Island String Favorites

Music In The Park
Forest Hill Park

Grow RVA
growrva.com

Sponsored by Grow RVA, Forest Hill, Westover Hills and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations, the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation and Council Member Kathy Graziano.

Senior Book Club at Westover Hills Library

On the third Wednesday of every month, you'll find a group of avid readers gathered at the Westover Hills Library discussing books. They're members of the Senior Book Club sponsored by the city's Office on Aging and Disabilities. If you love reading and exchanging ideas about books with others, come to the library to join in the discussion. All are welcome.

The list of books the group will be reading for June through September:

June – **Eve** by Iris Johansen

July – **The Best of Me** by Nicholas Sparks

August – **Trading Dreams at Midnight** by Diane McKinney-Whetstone

September – **Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** by Jamie Ford

The Senior Book Group meets the third Wednesday of the month from 10:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. in the meeting room at Westover Hills Library, 1408 Westover Hills Boulevard. If you have any questions, please contact Yvette Jones at 646-3054 or e.jones@richmondgov.com

Historic Designation for Forest Hill in Sight

By Carolyn Paulette

We are pleased to report that the staff of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources is sending the Forest Hill Historic Designation Nomination to their Boards with the recommendation for approval.* The Boards will meet June 21, 2012 at the Department of Historic Resources on Kensington Avenue at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come for the hearing. In preparation for that meeting and as required by law, the Department of Historic Resources held a neighborhood hearing on May 21, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church at the corner of Forest Hill Avenue and 44th Street.

Thanks to all who attended this hearing in support of the work that the Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee had done for the past three years to achieve historic designation for Forest Hill. Thanks to everyone who gave their time to collect signatures in support of our nomination and who welcomed us into their homes and yards as we completed our survey work. Thanks to the members of this committee for their support and perseverance: Valerie Ashley, Pat Nussman, Pat Wood, Dwight Wood, Joy Glass, Bill Luebke, Rachel Peterson, Jerami Boyce, Shannon Taylor, Matt Taylor, Rob Huddleston, Trish Sankey, Bernard Casey, Mary Godsey, Lee Shewmake, Jacob Owens, Sue Cline, and Christie Owens. And a special thanks to our consultant, Nancy Kraus, who gave many volunteer hours.

**Usually, the Boards of the Department of Historic Resources approve the nominations that the staff recommends for approval. The approval will be final only after the Boards meet and make the decision.*

Carolyn Paulette is the chairman of the Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee.

It's America's Night Out Against Crime!

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

The 29th Annual National Night Out is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. This year, the Night Out is Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from more than 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 37 million people participated in National Night Out in 2011.

National Night Out is designed to

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Check the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association website for more details on National Night Out activities!



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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Westover Hills Merchants Collaborate with City to Increase Safe Parking

The Westover Hills Merchants' Association and the Department of Public Works Traffic Engineering Division have collaborated to identify and improve parking along Forest Hill Avenue in the merchants' corridor.

Parking along the 4900 block of Forest Hill Avenue westbound has been legal, but unsafe, because the parking areas were not readily identifiable. The Merchants' Association requested that the parking area along Forest Hill be marked with a solid white line, telling parkers and motorists that the area was safe and legal for parking. Traffic engineers surveyed the situation, took measurements, and agreed that there was adequate safe lane space to the markings, and the lines were applied the week of April 16, 2012. The project required no acquisition of additional property, and costs were minimal as part of the regular maintenance budget.

The effort is part of the association's plan to provide a better business and consumer climate, and to carry out the recommendations of a VCU study last fall of the merchants' corridor. An association work group is also meeting with the City Department of Community and Economic Development to enhance the corridor's viability as an economic and community resource for residents of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The association is also assisting new businesses to locate in the area. Association president Amen Kawajy has announced a free three-month trial membership for new businesses in the

area. There is a \$25 fee for an existing business that has not previously been a member of the association.

For more information on the Westover Hills Merchants Association, email them at: whma23225@gmail.com.



Looking west on Forest Hill Avenue toward the Jahnke Road intersection, the solid white line now clearly delineates parking along the street.

**We Need You! Only by joining can you
help the neighborhood you live in.
Please take the time and join!**

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Date: _____

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

☐ Household Membership \$15 ☐ 2 Years \$25 ☐ Corporate Annual Membership \$30

☐ **Yes**, I want to join the Neighborhood Watch and receive e-mail updates about crime and safety in our neighborhood.

☐ **Yes**, please send me email updates on current neighborhood events.

☐ **No** emails please.

Pay by cash or check payable to
Forest Hill Neighborhood Association
ATTN: Zac Sheldon, FHNA Treasurer
4114 Springhill Ave
Richmond, VA 23225

For more information visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com

