



Mark Down July 19th for Sunday in the Park

By Debra McClane
Friends of Forest Hill Park

This year's Sunday in the Park with Friends program is scheduled for July 19 from noon to 4pm. The event is co-sponsored by Friends of Forest Hill Park and Fourth District Council Representative Kathy Graziano. As always, the event is free and open to the public.

This old-fashioned "day in the park" will feature free food (hot dogs, watermelon, and ice cream), children's activities and field games, and environmental displays and programs. Our bands this year include Klezm'Or'Ami'm (klezmer band), Van Driver (Celtic), and Cy Taggart's Blues Band.

Environmental groups participating include the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Reedy Creek Coalition, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Audubon Society, the Richmond Tree Stewards, and others.

The Richmond Police will be on hand as will our neighboring Fire Trucks #17 and #20 (emergencies permitting). The historic Stone House will also be open for tours. Please join us once again for this festive day!

Anyone interested in helping out with children's games, food service, publicity or other tasks may contact Robley Jones at RobleyJ@aol.com.

continued on Page 7



Work Begins on Lake Makeover

The lake restoration project began in May and is expected to take about six months to complete, during which time the lower level of the park will be largely closed to visitors. No work is planned for weekends, so the South of the James Farmer's Market will continue as planned and Music in the Park and Sunday in the Park with Friends also are unaffected. See related article on Page 7. Photo: Brent Tennefoss

Historic Designation May be a Benefit

By Sue Cline
FLYER Correspondent

Many neighborhoods in Richmond already benefit from historic designation: the Museum District, the Fan, and Woodland Heights to name a few.

The benefits of being registered on the State and Federal Registers are numerous:

- Brings prestige to the neighborhood for house tours and similar events;
- Makes owners of qualified buildings eligible for tax credits for substantial renovations;
- Qualifies the neighborhood for federal grants, when available, for historic preservation;

- Provides technical assistance from groups like the Department of Historic Resources to preserve the historic nature of the neighborhood;
 - Provides for review of federally funded projects that might impact the neighborhood;
 - Promotes sustainable development.
- continued on page 2*

House Tour Set for September 20

By David Broocke
FHNA Tour Committee

Get Ready! Forest Hill will be hosting its 2009 House Tour on Sunday, September 20th. The tour will follow the 43rd Street Festival (held on Saturday) which promises to bring hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors to our great neighborhood.

This house tour – our third one – will showcase Forest Hill's architectural diversity and history, and will also serve as a key fundraiser. Funds from events such as this are used to support Music in the Park, neighborhood safety programs, park improvements and various charities and service organizations that benefit

our local community.

So mark your calendars because September 20th isn't far away. We still need a few more houses to round out the lineup, so if you'd like to volunteer let us know.

Also, we can use volunteers before and during the tour. Contact Bernard by email at stonewallave@yahoo.com.

Know Your Neighbor

Neighborhood Watch a Natural Extension of Law Career

By Martha Cooper
FLYER Editor

Many of you know Shannon Dion Taylor as Forest Hill's Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. She is a natural for the job taking over from Bill Edmondson when he had to give up this volunteer duty due to other responsibilities.

At the time, Shannon was an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Richmond and had established relationships with the city police and the prosecutor's office. She also had a strong interest in public safety having worked in her job to make Richmond a safer place to live.

She welcomed the opportunity to take over Neighborhood Watch as a way to become involved in the commu-

nity. Shannon said Neighborhood Watch is growing, with 75 people currently on her email list.

"Ultimately," she said, "I would like to have a contact list for everyone in the neighborhood so that if a person saw suspicious activity at someone else's house, they could notify that person by phone or email."

Shannon, who used to live in the Fan, and her husband, Mathew, also an attorney, bought a house on Stonewall five years ago after they became engaged. She said they were attracted to the neighborhood because of the location at first, but now they both really love the area, the friendliness of their neighbors, and the community in general.

At present, Shannon works as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Virginia in the Special Prosecutions and Organized Crime Section.

"My father was a lawyer; so I always had an interest in law as a profession, and knew from the beginning I wanted to be a prosecutor."

She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia. Before entering law school at the University of Richmond, Shannon taught

English in Japan for two years.

"With no friends or family around to depend on, I quickly became very self reliant," she remarked. "I learned to appreciate the traditions of Japan, many of them dating back thousands of years, and gained a different perspective of the world."

On a personal note, Shannon enjoys gardening, walking her dog, and crafts such as beading and sewing. She loves to make gifts for friends.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION *continued from Page 1*

velopment.

There are no real disadvantages to historic designation because State and Federal Historic Designation, unlike the local Old and Historic Designation, places no limita-

tions on renovations unless they involve tax credits.

For more information about historic designation for Forest Hill, visit our new website: HistoricForestHill.com. Be on the lookout for additional information in the mail or at the South of the James Market.



Shannon Dion Taylor and her husband, Mathew, in a family photo.

FOREST HILL
FLYER

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Avoid Promise Of Foreclosure Relief from Scammers

**By Shannon D. Taylor
Neighborhood Watch**

As the number of home foreclosures rise, so do the number of crooks who wish to prey on homeowners. Please be wary of such scam artists, who will telephone and email you and make promises to help negotiate a deal or refinance with your lender.

Of course you'll be asked for the money up-front, and what usually ends up happening is that they take your money and do nothing to help you out of your already difficult financial situation.

On July 1st new laws go into affect to protect Virginia homeowners. It amends the Virginia Consumer Protection Act to clarify that mortgage foreclosure operators are not

permitted to charge advance fees for mortgage foreclosure prevention transactions.

Protect yourselves by avoiding fraudulent mortgage and foreclosure businesses that:

- guarantee it can stop the foreclosure process, no matter what your circumstances are
- instruct you not to contact your lender, lawyer or credit counselor
- collect a fee before providing any services
- require you to make mortgage payments to the company as opposed to your lender or servicer.

If you are having trouble paying your mortgage, work directly with your lender or servicer to see whether a loan modification or other relief is possible. Consult with a HUD-approved foreclosure avoidance counselor, or in the alternative, the Homeownership Preservation Foundation's HOPE Hotline, toll-free at 1-888-995-HOPE, for help.

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The Flyer Profile:

Celebrity Pooch

What's your name and age? My name is Howard and I'll be 5 in August.

Who's your human? Suzanne Snell.

Where and when did you get adopted? I finally got my 'forever home' last year on August 28th. I'm a retired racing Greyhound. I raced for about three years in Florida 'til the nice people at Greyhound Pets of America brought me to Richmond to be adopted. Before that, I was raised in a kennel with other Greyhounds who also raced with me.

What's your heritage? I've heard that the earliest evidence of Greyhounds dates back almost 5,000 years in Egyptian tomb carvings in the Valley of the Nile, but I don't know anything about that.

What's your favorite toy? I'm a pretty serious dog, really, but if my Greyhound buddy, Possum, who came to stay with us in March and never left, is playing with a toy, I'll try to get it from him just for fun. Possum shares everything with me.

What's your best trick? I'm super good at lounging around the house – I'm really great at it. I can also eat a piece of cheese faster than just about anyone. Oh, and did I mention I can run at least 40 miles per hour?

What are your best traits? I'm very calm and polite, I love kids, most other dogs, and all people (especially people). I'm chatty for a Greyhound and have been known to sing a nice tune – in Greyhound language, that's 'roo-ing.'

What else do you have to say about yourself? Everybody tells me I'm pretty.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Security Shams Blossom in the Heat of Summer

By Shannon D. Taylor
Neighborhood Watch

Has a salesman from a private security company knocked on your door recently? As the weather warms up, many of these companies send salesmen to neighborhoods such as ours to conduct door-to-door sales.

**Call 804-786-4700
if you encounter
suspicious security claims**

From personal experience and those of my neighbors, some of the salesmen have used extremely aggressive sales tactics by asking very personal and private questions such as "What type of alarm system you have?" and "Is the system based on a land line or cell-phone?", or "Do you realize a thief can cut the wires to your land line."

In fact, one salesman from a security company called APX went so far as to tell me that he worked for the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

This sounds pretty legitimate right? Fortunately, I knew this was in fact a lie, as DCJS is not an alarm system company but is in fact the state agency that regulates and issues licenses for private security companies doing business in the Commonwealth.

Interestingly enough, I recently discovered that other state agencies in Maryland, Georgia, Nevada, and Louisiana have received numerous complaints about APX, a company based out of Utah.

If you have any concerns about or complaints about salespeople for private security companies, please contact DCJS at 804-786-4700. For more information, check out www.faraonline.org/FARAInfoLInkAugust08.pdf or www.dcsj.virginia.gov/pss/index.cfm.

Kathy Graziano, 4th District City Council

A Summer of Change



Welcome to summer in Richmond. The long-range forecasts call for warmer than usual temperatures with average rainfall. So that means hot, muggy days through mid-September, unless of course, a hurricane disrupts the patterns.

But the weather gives us even more reason to get out and enjoy our parks. The lake at Forest Hill is undergoing a major renovation, with more than 40,000 yards of silt and mud removed, and the historic contours of the lake restored. The engineers are even trapping and relocating the aquatic life, so by summer's end we will be able to enjoy one of Richmond's treasures again.

While the work is going on, the show goes on as well. The Music in the Park series, sponsored by the neighborhood associations, is continuing, and the annual Sunday in the Park event is scheduled for July 19th near the Stone House. The South of the James Market continues at its historic (two years) location at Shelter Two at 42nd Street and New Kent.

The conservation easement for James River Park was signed May 29th in a ceremony featuring Governor Kaine and Mayor Jones. The easement is the first of its kind in the United States and will protect the park from development forever.

On a serious note, July 1 is the start of the city's fiscal year, and this will be a year of austerity. City Council and Mayor Jones' Administration worked closely to close the deficit left by the previous administration and to propose and approve a budget almost \$30 million less than the previous year's plan. The choices were difficult and no one is happy with every detail, but working together, I think we did a good job. As national, state and local economies continue to decline, next year is going to be even more difficult, and additional cuts are almost inevitable.

In closing, I want to thank all the people in Forest Hill and in the neighborhood association for all the help and support you have given my office during the past four years, and we look forward to continuing our very successful relationship.

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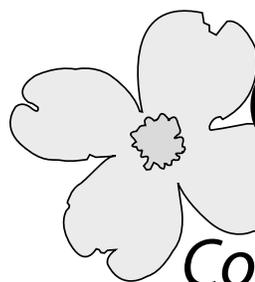
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A Variety of Endeavors Comprise Lake Project

By Debra McClane
Friends of Forest Hill Park

The lake restoration project in the lower level of Forest Hill Park officially began in May with the erection of a security fence around the lake area and the creation of a staging area near the upper level picnic shelters.

The City of Richmond selected Mobile Dredging & Pumping Company from Chester, Pennsylvania, which has significant experience with similar projects, to recreate the shape of the lake by removing about 41 cubic yards of silt and sediment that have filled in the lake over the years.

Metropolitan Environmental Services, Inc., base in Hilliard, Ohio, is also working on the project and was engaged in "rescuing" various fish and

other wildlife from the wetland area prior to the start of excavation.

The project is expected to take about six months, during which time the lower level of the park will be largely closed to visitors. This is a temporary condition, but is necessary for the safety of the crew, as well as park visitors. Only the lower level of the park will be closed to visitors; the staging area near Picnic Shelter #1 will be a busy area, as well, but will not be closed.

No work is planned for weekends, so the South of the James Farmer's Market will continue as planned and Music in the Park and Sunday in the Park with Friends also are unaffected.

Excavation should be completed by August, at which

time the restoration phase of the project will begin. This will include the installation of two catch basins to collect sediment from Reedy Creek and other tributaries to the lake.

Native species will also be replanted in the area. The Friends of Forest Hill Park (FFHP), along with the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, distributed letters to neighbors adjoining the park to let them know about the project and to provide contact information should neighbors have questions. You can view this letter at the FFHP web site under the "What's New" tab: foresthill-park.rpfoundation.org/.

Nathan Burrell with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation has been conducting maintenance on the bike trails in the park. Nathan reported that he and his crews have reclaimed 395 feet of unsustainable trail and have rebuilt 284 feet of new trail. Anyone interested in working on the crew, please contact Nathan at Nathan.Burrell@

Richmondgov.com or 357-8897.

Many non-native species have invaded the park and FFHP supporter Suzette Lyon has been spearheading an effort to eradicate these invaders in the old Azalea Garden area. The garden was planted with large numbers of azaleas in the 1930s and has provided plant stock for the azaleas in Bryan Park.

Bittersweet, English ivy, mimosa trees, privet, and Autumn Olive are a few of the plants that are targeted for removal. The area is already taking on a new look with the removal of ivy from tree trunks and from around healthy native plants.

More information can be found on the FFHP web site under "flora & fauna." If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Suzette at slyon10@yahoo.com.

To become a supporter of FFHP visit our web site. Look for our table at the South of the James farmer's market every other week or so.

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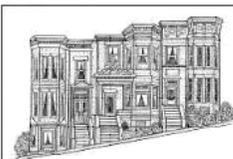
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SUNDAY IN THE PARK *continued from Page 1*

The City requests that any four-legged family members at the picnic remain on a leash at all times!

The Friends of Forest Hill Park would like to thank all of the sponsors who have made it possible to keep this event FREE. They include Kathy

Graziano, Dominion/Virginia Power, Sue Durlak, Fulton Hill Properties, Westover Hills Merchant's Association, Westover Hills Neighborhood Association, Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, Ukrop's Supermarkets, Wal-Mart, and C.T. Woody.



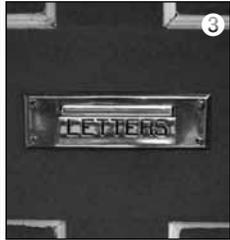
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**HOUSE TOUR
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Can you figure out which homes these photos belong to? See correct addresses on Page 5.



Westover Hills Library Celebrates 50 Years

The Westover Hills Library celebrates a milestone in its history this July. Fifty years ago, in 1959, the library moved to its permanent home on Westover Hills Boulevard and has been providing a vital service to the community ever since.

This important anniversary will be marked by a trio of events sponsored by the Westover Hills Library Advisory Group (WHLAG).

The Celebration. On July 10, there will be an evening soiree at the library from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. Guests will be served hors d'ouvers and a light dinner provided by local caterers. Musical guests are The Carol Covell Trio. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$50 per couple.

The 50 for 50 Campaign. WHLAG is launching a fundraising drive in conjunction with the anniversary celebration – a \$50 for 50 years cam-

paign. Individuals and groups are being asked to consider donating \$50 to improve the library facility.

Goals for this appeal include: mounting the projector system on the ceiling and improving the sound system; new carpeting and a Children's Story Time rug; furniture for the Children's Area; building improvements not covered by City of the Future funds; and, as always, more money toward the acquisition of new books.

The Raffle. You can purchase \$1.00 tickets and win any one of a multitude of prizes donated by local vendors. The drawing will be held July 10 at the library Celebration, and you need not be present to win.

For more information about the raffle, and for donation forms please email to whlag@comcast.net or phone the library at 646-8833.



Self Defense Class

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Watch is offering a class on basic self defense techniques. Training will be provided by the Martial Arts World and costs \$10 per person.

Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2009
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Location: Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
4401 Forest Hill Avenue

RSVP by July 21 to Shannon Taylor at (804) 231-1789 or foresthillsafety@hotmail.com
(Class space is limited so reserve your spot quickly!)



July 19th ★ 6-8pm
Southern Blues
Blues

August 9th ★ 6-8pm
Blue Line Highway
American • Folk Rock

September 13th ★ 5-7pm
Great White Jenkins
Alternative • Country

October 4th ★ 5-7pm
The Big Payback
Funk • Soul • R&B

Sponsored by the Forest Hill, Westover Hills and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations, and the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation along with our corporate sponsors.