

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Summer 2011

# Forest Hill *Flyer*

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings held every second Thursday at 7:00 pm at The Stone House

We are seeking story ideas and articles for upcoming issues. Please send suggestions to martha\_cooper@verizon.net

For Ad Sales please contact Phil Licking at fhnaweb@gmail.com

Published by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

### 2011 Publication Dates

July 1 - Ads/Articles Deadline 6/1/11

Sept. 1 - Ads/Articles Deadline 8/1/11

Dec. 1 - Ads/Articles Deadline 11/1/11

## *Forest Hill Historic Designation Filed*

By Carolyn Paulette, Chair, Historic Designation Committee & Nancy Kraus, Consultant

The Historic Designation Committee delivered the Forest Hill nomination to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) on Friday, June 3, 2011. The Committee has taken seriously the DHR Board's request to "bring a lot more" evidence to support our early history. By digging deep into hundreds of deeds, historic maps and plats, and other primary sources, we have been able to reveal the extraordinary story of Forest Hill, first explored and mapped in 1607. We have discovered a remarkable collection of sites and structures that illuminate a new thread of history for Forest Hill.

Forest Hill located less than two miles from the downtown core of Richmond is roughly defined on three sides by water, namely the James River and Reedy Creek. The Falls, an area of "islands, rocks, shoals, and un-navigable water," and the land mass encompassing Forest Hill were first explored and mapped in 1607. The earliest settlers were attracted to the abundance of springs, the lush forests of oak and pine, and the level plateaus of Forest Hill, one of the largest and highest elevations in the Richmond metropolitan area. The natural features shaped Colonial and nineteenth-century residential and industrial development in Forest Hill.

The district also includes the 105-acre Forest Hill Park which lies at the heart of nineteenth-century commercial enterprise and the subsequent development of the subdivision called "Forest Hill Park." The Forest Hill Park land



Three mansions survive from the first half of the nineteenth-century.

was purchased at the same time that the subdivision land was purchased. The primary artery through the district is Forest Hill Avenue which follows the corridor of one of Virginia's earliest river roads, mapped in 1804.

Three mansions survive

The majority of the early nineteenth-century sites and structures are directly associated with Maple Crest, circa 1815, a rare survivor of a plantation house in an urban environment.

Two early nineteenth-century buildings are of antebellum stone construction on Southside. One is a stone office that may be related to the quarry or some other industry. The other is Boscobel (or Stone House), the only surviving antebellum stone dwelling on Southside.



After the inauguration of the Forest Hill Street Railway at the turn of the twentieth century, Forest Hill was built out as a "streetcar suburb." This layer preserves exceptional diversity of residential architecture which illustrates the progressive unfolding of American architectural design: Victorian-Queen Anne; Colonial Revival; Italian Renaissance, Modern, etc. The neighborhood is also enriched by examples of the International style associated with two nationally recognized architects, Frederick Hyland and George Matsumoto.

**The Department of Historic Resources has 90 days to review the nomination. It will be presented to the DHR boards on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. in the auditorium of the Virginia Historical Society on the Boulevard. A large showing of support from area residents of the historic district will help gain the Boards' approval of the nomination.**

Many thanks to the members of this committee who have worked and supported this cause for two years: Valerie Ashley, Trish Sankey, Joy Glass, Shannon Taylor, Matt Taylor, Bill Luebke, Jerami Boyce, Rachel Peterson Boyce, Pat Nussman, Mary Godsey, Dwight Wood, Pat Wood, Rob Huddleston, Lee Shewmake, and Sue Cline.



## Know your Neighbor - Dorna Braswell

by Martha Cooper

Music in the Park, the Forest Hill yard sale, the Holiday Party and other events just don't happen without planning and implementation. Dorna Braswell is some of the force behind all the action. Dorna has chaired the social committee for the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association for the past two years. Dorna said she became involved with the association when she went to a meeting, and the former chairman talked her into signing up to be on the committee.

When asked why she spent so much effort on all these events, she said, "I love seeing friends and neighbors out and about enjoying themselves. They wear the Forest Hills tee shirts and caps, carry the bags, and fly the flag with pride."

Dorna is a native of the area. She grew up in Chester, went to L.C. Bird and later to Radford University. She was living on Patterson Avenue when she decided she needed more space. She had friends in Forest Hill and frequently took walks with them around the neighborhood. She was interested in one particular house on 42nd Street, and didn't make a decision until her four-year-old god daughter pointed at it and said, "Dorna, look your house is for sale." She signed the deal in early 2000 and moved in a few months later.

It wasn't a piece of cake. Dorna wanted an older house, and like many people, learned quickly what old houses involved. She replaced the electrical system, and added air conditioning. "I also knocked down walls," she said. "I wanted to be able to get out of both sides of the bed." In the meantime, she had an "Inspiration Wall" where she posted pictures of what she wanted to do. Two years after moving in, she used her "Inspiration Wall" to remodel the kitchen.

The yard was another problem. Hurricane Isabel knocked down a tree which allowed her to have a parking space which

was a good thing. The yard had overgrown bushes, ivy, and was a total disaster. She went to work and removed all the problem growth. Then she had an erosion problem. She called in a landscaper who helped solve her problems.

The end result is a beautiful home that she opened up for the last Forest Hill house tour. Dorna loves decorating and is now in the process of talking her mother into painting her chunky old furniture white, which, she said, "will never happen."

Dorna is always looking for volunteers to help her out signing up members, selling Forest Hill merchandise, or in lots of other ways. If you are interested in volunteering a little time, email [foresthillassoc@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillassoc@gmail.com).



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# President's Message from Richard Day

South of average...closer to paradise.



I am writing this from the comfort of and also festive atmosphere of Granite Pool. Interestingly, I lump Granite, Forest Hill Park, Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream, the Asian grocery, farmers market and O'Tooles all into the same melting pot. That pot is called the quality of life that we so enjoy, due to our home location, Forest Hill. This area is fantastic, as you know. The people, the

businesses, the landscape, the park, the architecture, all gel together so well, and make such a vibrant and strong neighborhood that I really can't imagine living anywhere else in Richmond. Oh, and I almost forgot, the River.

In fact it was the river that drew me to the Southside. When Rosemary and I decided to move back to Richmond in 1996, my only condition in selecting a house was that it be near the James River. Naturally we ended up on the south side, because it has the best access to the river.

It was shortly after I moved here, that I became aware of the stigma associated with the "The South Side" (I am not originally from here, but Rosemary is). It is just bizarre, and seemingly rooted in some kind of class divide. Silly as that attitude is, it is not the case in Forest Hill. We have come a long way baby. Over the last 14 years (my time here), I have witnessed so many great things come about that have enhanced our quality of life, that I have to remind myself that this was an awesome area back before a lot of amenities existed. It has just gotten better.

So rarely do I hear any derogatory under the breath comments about the "South Side" anymore. This is probably due in part to the number of Northsiders that come to the farmers market every Saturday to buy their veggies and such. Commerce or not, they surely can't help but notice what a great neighborhood we have, and incredible park we share. Nor can they deny that when it comes to sledding down a slippery slope, it is the slope in Forest Hill Park that draws them.

So this year there are an above average number of issues that require a lot of citizen input. Issues that can hopefully further enhance our quality of life here in the hood. Since it is the power of people that really gets these things done, I am asking everyone to please remain alert and fully informed about these issues, so that you all can have relevant and much needed input to not only accomplishing certain tasks, but also so that the outcomes are ones that the majority desires. Please stay on the lookout for important meetings, emails, and actions that will call for your input, because positive change will only happen with your involvement. Issues that are pending or to be active soon are: historic designation for Forest Hill; traffic slowing solutions to Dunston and Reedy; and a light or functional solution to crossing Forest Hill Avenue safely without risking life and limb. "The best defense against a usurpatory government, is an assertive citizenry"- William Buckley. In addition to the working issues that require government solutions, there will also be more fun activities that will require some human capital.

Let's work together to add to the most recent list of great things to come, such as the lake restoration, additional restaurants up and down the street, music in the park, and more controlled and improved hike and bike trails.

## *Sunday in the Park with Friends to be in August*

Sunday in the Park with Friends has been moved from July to the end of August to avoid the mid-summer broiling heat.

The new date is Sunday, August 28th from 12 noon til 5pm.  
It's fabulous fun for everyone! Volunteers are welcome- contact  
Lee Shewmake, co-president at [leeshewmake@yahoo.com](mailto:leeshewmake@yahoo.com).

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
**Shredding  
Party!**

**Tuesday, August 2, 2011  
5-8pm**

**Forest Hill Presbyterian Church  
4401 Forest Hill Avenue**

**Bring as many personal documents  
as you want! No Limit!**

SUGGESTED ITEMS: utility bills, card and  
bank statements, receipts, documents  
with account numbers, addresses,  
social security numbers, etc.

Shredding will be done on-site in a  
shredding truck by Kodiak Shredding.

**Staples and paperclips are okay!**

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**Forest Hill**

## Good Shepherd Names Head of School

Good Shepherd Episcopal School recently announced that Michael Woodruff (Mike) will be the new Head of School beginning June 1, 2011. Mike comes to Good Shepherd Episcopal School from Hargrave Military Academy, in Chatham, Virginia, where he served as Dean of the Center for Integrated Studies (Middle School). He and his wife and their two young children have recently moved to the Forest Hill Neighborhood to join both the school and surrounding community. Mike has school leadership experience, having served as Headmaster at Woodlawn Academy prior to joining Hargrave. Before moving into administration roles, Mike spent more than a decade teaching students in grades 1st through 12th. Good Shepherd Episcopal School is an independent school serving children Preschool through 8th grade.



For more information about the school, please contact Good Shepherd Episcopal School at 231-1452 for more information and a tour, or visit [www.gses.org](http://www.gses.org).



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## Save the Date! National Night Out

National Night Out is on Tuesday, **August 2, 2011**. The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and Neighborhood Watch will host a SHREDDING PARTY for Forest Hill residents. Last year residents shredded over 2 tons of paper! Don't miss this opportunity to shred old bills, receipts, legal documents, or any paper containing personal information such as your name, date of birth, and social security number. Details will be posted on the website later this summer and emailed to residents on the association's distribution list and Neighborhood Watch list.

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# Patrick Henry School Cites First Year Milestones

By Kristen Larson

As Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA) completes its first full year of operation, it is important to provide an update on the major milestones accomplished this year. As the first charter school in Richmond, the first elementary charter school in state, and one of only four charter schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia, PHSSA has forged forward working in tandem with Richmond Public Schools, parents and stakeholders. Here are some of our milestones:

- Opened its doors to the first 150 students housed in the Education Center at the Woodland Heights Baptist Church in August, 2010.
- Completed a successful lottery for our second year of operation accepting over 225 students to exceed our charter requirements for year two.
- Implemented the first phases of the \$100,000 National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant to study rain water run off at the PH building.
- Received \$50,000 from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund that was a matching grant to go toward the implementation of smart pads and cloud technology for our students.
- Received grants over the last two years totaling in excess of \$650,000 toward academic programs and operations. Received a gift of one week "Composer in Residency" program from Kid Pan Alley, compliments of Jacquemin Family Foundation and VMFA.
- Received 100 new library books from the Heart of America Foundation for our new library.
- Installed the first stages of a new playground with ADA features over spring break with over 50 parent volunteers as well as teachers, board members, and community volunteers. Installed the first gardens at the Patrick Henry building over the same time period. The gardens being an integral aspect of our entire curriculum.
- Successfully completed the first 501c3 audit that was provided by Goodman & Company, LLP
- Completed a construction schedule that will allow Patrick Henry to start renovations on or about June 15, 2011 and to start classes in the renovated building by December 1, 2011. Have closed on a \$200,000 loan from Self Help Federal Credit Union for half the of the Phase 1/1A construction costs.
- PHSSA was the only public school in the greater Richmond area to participate in Junior FIRST LEGO League, a program geared to children aged 6 -9 years old that utilizes a modified FIRST LEGO League (FLL) framework.
- PHSSA was selected to represent the entire Commonwealth in a national traveling forestry exhibit of the Forestry Exchange Box, a program of the American Forest Foundation. The exhibit was presented in February to state officials including Virginia State Forester and the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. The Forestry Exchange Box is part of Project Learning Tree that encourages teachers and students to take their lessons outdoors and into the woods to experience nature and learn about the importance of forests.



The PHSSA community thanks all of its supporters for their countless hours of work in making this school another school choice opportunity for the families of the city of Richmond. For more information about PHSSA, visit the Patrick Henry website at [www.patrickhenrycharter.org](http://www.patrickhenrycharter.org) or call the school at 804-888-7061.

## Summer Reading: Read books. Win prizes.

This summer reading could be more rewarding than ever through the Summer Reading Program at Richmond Public Library. From now until August 13, children who read 10 books or 30 Read-to-Me books will have a chance to win a Dell laptop. Teens who read five books could score an iPad 2. Adults who read five books may win a \$100 VISA gift card.

The program kicked off June 18th with games, crafts and Jonathan the Juggler at the Westover Hills Library. But it's not too late to get in on the fun. Stop by the library to sign up. You could be a winner.

# Gardening in the Heat

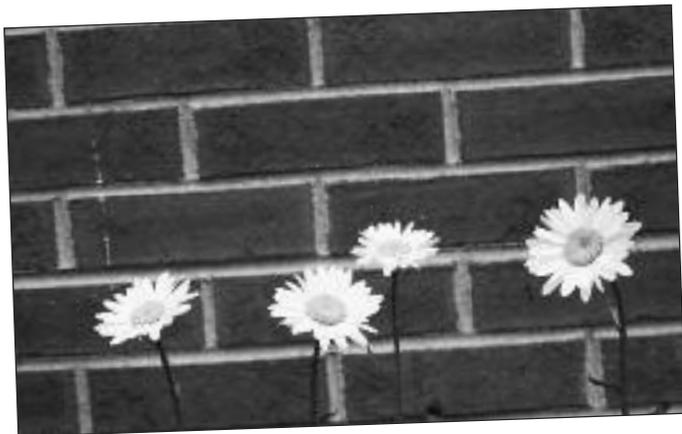
By Viki Atkinson

The dog days are here, whether we like it or not. So how do you keep your garden from literally wilting in the heat? Here are a few tips to keep things growing as the temperatures climb:

*Choose drought-tolerant plants.* Do some homework online. Ask the garden center staff for suggestions. If no one is available, read the back of the label that comes with the plant before you make your purchase. If the label says that the plant likes moist soil, then it's probably not the best choice for our summers of mostly 90-degree days. Black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, salvia, catmint, coreopsis, sedum, and daylily are just a few of the many perennials that can take the heat and keep right on blooming. Many landscape roses, like the Flower Carpet® and Knockout® varieties, perform extremely well in the heat once established.

*Plant early.* Don't plant a brand new garden in the middle of summer. Even if you water constantly, the plants will be so stressed by the heat that they'll struggle and might not make it even with regular watering. Get your plants in the ground as early as you can. The ideal time to plant perennials, shrubs and trees is actually in the fall. Since these plants go dormant during the winter, their root systems have plenty of time to get established before the growing season.

*Mulch your garden beds.* Mulching accomplishes several things. It keeps the weeds down, reducing the amount of time you spend out in the heat maintaining your garden. It helps the soil retain moisture and therefore reduces the amount of watering needed. It also improves the soil. Earthworms, which aerate and do other wonderful things for the soil as they wriggle through it, prefer cool earth to travel through. Mulch helps to keep the soil cooler, which encourages the earthworms to come up from the depths and do their magic closer to the surface. The choices these days are endless when it comes to mulch. Even pine straw and leaves will do the trick—and anything you choose will be better than leaving the ground to bake in the sun.



*Water deeply.* Instead of tossing a few drops of water on your garden each day, water for a long period of time once or twice a week. This will encourage roots to reach more deeply into the ground. Shallow watering means shallow roots, which won't be able to do the job of keeping your plants hydrated during the really hot times.

*Water wisely.* Don't turn on your sprinkler at high noon, when the water is going to evaporate before it has a chance to do your plants any good. Early in the morning or in the late afternoon/early evening is best, with a slight nod to the morning since this will avoid mildew and other moisture-related diseases to which some plants are susceptible. A drip irrigation system is the most efficient way to water and would be well worth the investment if you have a large garden.

*Let your grass grow.* Set your lawnmower on the highest setting and keep your grass at least 3" high during the summer. The longer the grass, the deeper the roots.

*Use moisture crystals in your containers.* Watering those pots full of brightly-colored annuals can practically become a full-time job in the summer, and these little miracle pellets can keep your plants happy and reduce your watering at the same time. When you water the plant, the crystals absorb the water (they look like clear gelatin when wet). As the soil dries out, the crystals release the water, making it available for the plant. The first summer I discovered these, I went from watering my containers twice a day to once a day.

Keeping these tips in mind will make getting your garden through the summer a little less challenging, and your garden, being less stressed, will reward you with more vigorous growth and blooms!



# Area Sees Business Changes

By Jerry Miller

Forest Hill Avenue has seen a few changes over the last few months. While the commercial areas continue to attract new tenants, we have also lost some old time favorites.



Liberty Valance, a long time favorite, closed its doors recently. This will certainly be missed by the folks that enjoyed the down home breakfast, the tasting sizzling steaks and the Friday/Saturday karaoke. Hibachi Express opened at the Wal-Mart/Lowes center early this year—serving fast and tasty Japanese favorites. Chicken Mania opened at 7524 Forest Hill Avenue and is serving Peruvian rotisserie chicken, pasta, ceviche, sandwiches, and desserts in a counter-service cafe with casual dining room. The Asian Galaxy opened across from Target and offers sushi, Japanese, Chinese and Thai menus. Crust and Cream opened at 4610 Forest Hill and serves pizza, sandwiches, ice cream and frozen yogurt. They provide carry out and have a small eating area. Further down the street next to Crossroads Coffee, the Parkside Café opened. Parkside has an eclectic menu and can satisfy just about every palate.

The Citgo gas station at Forest Hill and Cherokee was purchased by Martins (yes, the same folks that bought Ukrop's). They will be building a Martins-branded gasoline station with convenience center. The hours of operation will likely be 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight. They expect to completely

reconfigure the site and build a modern store to supplement the gas service.

The Stony Point Shopping Center (Huguenot at Forest Hill) has completed its facelift. The facade has been updated to allow for larger, lighted signage on each store front. Benny's BBQ restaurant will take the former Belle Cuisine spot and will open in the next couple of weeks. Alchemist officially closed its location at Stony Point Shopping Center and is now focused solely on their store at the Stony Point Fashion Park.

Stony Point Fashion Park has also seen some changes. 2 Friends Gift Shop is a gift boutique offering unique gifts, jewelry and fashions. Always on the forefront of fashion, BCBGMAXAZRIA offers premier collections of dresses, handbags, and accessories for the confident, modern woman. Bebe opened a store with its signature look of hip, sophisticated, body conscious fashions — the ultimate expression of a woman's personal style.

Posh Boutique joined the fashion line up with the hottest trends in designer men's and women's fashion apparel, shoes and accessories. SimplySoles is a must-see store carrying women's designer shoes and fashion accessories for the stylish and shoe-obsessed. Finally, Vintage Jewelers and Custom Designs provides a warm and personalized atmosphere to shop for jewelry.



## From our Council Woman

Dear Neighbors,

When it's summer in Richmond, that can mean only one thing...more and more people enjoying Forest Hill Park. From the South of the James Market every Saturday to the Music in the Park series to just the opportunity to walk and enjoy, Forest Hill Park is a wonderful amenity.

We are moving forward on several fronts this summer. As we have mentioned before, we are working with the city administration for new, safe and attractive guard rails along Riverside Drive in Forest Hill and Westover Hills. The project will take more than a year, but I expect to see the first sections going into place this summer. It will replace the old, ugly and unsafe rails currently in place, and will be a real boost for our community.

On other traffic related issues, I am happy to announce that the Department of Public Works has applied for federal permission to use a new type of safety light on Forest Hill Avenue, to provide safer pedestrian crossing of Forest hill. At the time I write this, I am not certain which intersection will be marked, but it will be in the 41st, 42nd, 43rd Street area. There will be only one intersection chosen, and only two in the entire city, if approval is granted.

Engineers are also working with residents who live south of Forest Hill to determine appropriate traffic calming measures. When those measures are ready, the recommendations will be reported back to the FHNA.



Our traffic engineers are to be commended for continuing to look at new solutions to some of the pressing problems of Forest Hill traffic.

We are making progress on our citywide redistricting. Federal law requires all localities to examine their election districts following the census and to make adjustments if necessary. At this point, it appears there are few adjustments needed in the Fourth District. There will continue to be well-publicized public meetings through the rest of the year, with the hope that our district plan will be approved by the Justice Department before the end of the year.

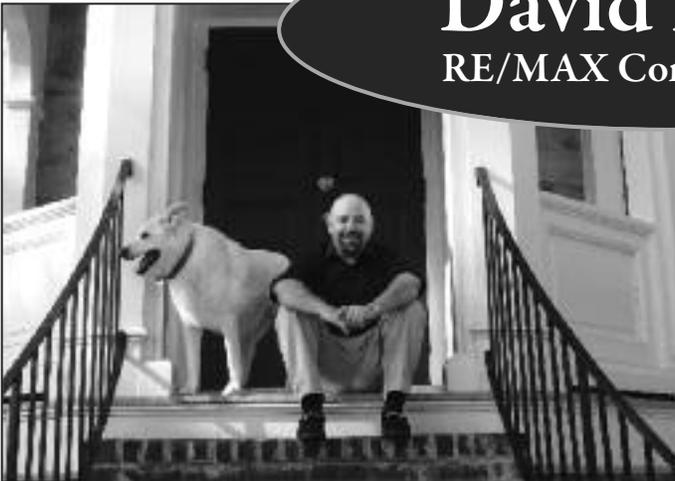
I look forward to seeing you at the market, enjoying the park and our community.

Thanks,

Kathy

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# Celebrity Pooch Ordell



What's your name and age?  
Ordell Boylston Samson, about 11+ years old

Who's your human?  
I have a Mommy & Daddy (Amy & Dave Samson) and two human "siblings" Kate (6yrs.) and Beckett (5yrs.)

Where and when did you find your home?  
My Mommy found and rescued me right here in Richmond almost nine years ago. I had a lot of problems then and even ate garbage because I was so hungry all the time, but now I live the pampered life on West 48<sup>th</sup> Street!

What's your heritage?  
Well, I hail from Boston of course! I am a true gentleman of a Boston Terrier with a ton of energy and a funny little personality.

What's your favorite toy?  
I do have quite a collection of stuffed animals to play with, but who needs toys when you have things like bubbles or a sprinkler? My favorites!

What's your best trick?  
Oh, this one is easy...Mommy gets a cookie and yells for me to clean up my animals. Then I sit and look at her slightly confused and really cute while she picks all my stuffed friends up and puts them in the basket. Then I get a cookie for it!! I can do all the standard dog tricks (sit, shake, roll-over, etc...), but that one is really my best effort.

What are your best traits?  
Well, my snoring is probably what I am known best for, but I also happen to be really sweet and love to snuggle up under a blanket with my humans. I am pretty easy-going, but can also be very protective of my yard and my siblings. Don't be surprised if you hear me barking "Hello" when you walk by!

What else do you have to say about yourself?  
One of my favorite summertime activities is going to the James River. I love to swim and play in the river, and even though I am not the best swimmer because of my tiny paws and short snout, I just cannot help myself! So, if you ever see a snorting Boston Terrier swimming in the mighty James River with a family, come on over and say hi!



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11:00 am to 1:00 pm

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 July 29 - beer, wine & music 5:30 - 7:30  
 Aug. 12 - beer, wine & music 5:30 - 7:30  
 Aug. 28 - beer, wine & music 5:30 - 7:30

Summer tasting Hours (June-Aug.): 5:30 - 7:30

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# Senior Book Club - Fiction Focus

If you are a senior citizen and like to read, the City of Richmond's Office on Aging and Disabilities, in conjunction with the Richmond Public Library System, has a book club going at Westover Hills United Methodist Church.

The group, "Fiction Focus," meets the third Thursday of each month from 10 AM to noon, has about ten active participants and would like to see more people join. The library purchases the books, and participants may keep their copies to build a library or add to what they have. Participants must be 55 years old or older and be residents of Richmond to be members.

The program began in February at United Methodist and at the North Avenue Library in Northside. The Northside book club meets the third Tuesday of each month at the same time. Both groups read the same books.

For July, the groups are discussing the Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski. Books to be read and discussed during the following months are:

August – Handle With Care by Judy Picoult

September – Safe Haven by Nicholas Sparks

October – Trouble Down the Road by Betty Griffin

November – Riesling Retribution by Ellen Crosby

The groups will not meet in December due to the holidays. If you are interested or have questions, you should call Yvette Jones, manager of the Office of Aging and Disabilities at 646-3054.

**Make a Note...**  
*Music in the Park is gearing up for another great season. Mark your calendars and get ready to boogie!*

**July 10 • 6-8pm**  
**3rd Wave**  
*Surf Rock*

**August 21 • 6-8pm**  
**Southern Blues**  
*Blues*  
*The Old Dominion Model A Club will be here with their automobiles built from 1928-1931*

**September 11 • 5-7pm**  
**Circuit Riders**  
*Americana*  
*Alternative-Rock*

**October 9 • 5-7pm**  
**Faculty Lounge**  
**Lizards**  
*Old School R&B*

**Music In The Park**  
 Forest Hill Park

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

Logos: Dominion, UptownColor, David Lynch

## 6th Annual Yardsale

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Forest Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale was a big success. Of course, for some, it started earlier than requested and lasted longer than they wanted, but isn't that always the way? The traffic was high for those closer to the market and those who had a few close by neighbors showing did better than the singles but overall money was made. The ad in the Times Dispatch and the map on Hills & Heights along with Craig's List made a difference. Thanks to all for making it another successful year.

Mark your calendar for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Forest Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale.



## Thinking of Selling Your Home?

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# Farmer's Market Memories

By David Lynch

I can remember the smell as if it was this morning. Every Saturday when I was a young boy my grandfather would make his version of cinnamon toast. He would toast the bread until it resembled pumpernickel and slather it with butter, sugar and cinnamon, which explains my preference for burnt toast and love of butter. We were always in the car before the smoke cleared, on our way to our neighborhood farmers market. Once there we would browse the farmer's produce, flowers, baked goods and wares. We would always come home with canned preserves, breads, and meats for the week. It is still one of my favorite memories from my childhood.

I try to relive it each Saturday at our South of the James Farmers Market. Every Friday, we start texting, emailing or calling our friends. Are you going to be at SOJ Sat? What time? Are you going to eat breakfast? Save us a seat at the table. If one of us can't make it, the text might be, bring me a cherry pie, whoppie pie, a pound of coffee, homemade pimento cheese and the list goes on. The SOJ market has become an intrinsic part of our live. It provides us a place to catch up with our friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Whether you come for the baked goods, arts & crafts, plants & flowers, entertainment or just to unwind and be with friends, hopefully you will be able to create your own cherished memories as well.



South of the James Market  
@ Forest Hill Park  
Forest Hill Ave & 42nd Street  
SATURDAY'S from 8 am - 12 pm  
May 7, 2011 - December 3, 2011



Souther of the James Market  
4910 Forest Hill Avenue

WEDNESDAYS from 3 pm to 8 pm  
April - October

SATURDAYS from 10 am to 12 pm  
December - April



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Information at my  
website and also at  
[richmondneighborhoods.org](http://richmondneighborhoods.org)

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

# Mystery Pyramid Unmasked!

By Laura Dysart

Armed with a machete, a giant Weed Wrench, long-handled loppers and a pitchfork, four members of the Friends of Forest Hill Park's elite Weed Whacker team hacked through thick underbrush and vines to uncover the mysterious stone pyramid in Forest Hill Park. Laura Dysart, Sally Kannemeyer, Ann Mays and Suzette Lyon set out Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to remove the high-value targets smothering native plants and covering the pyramid: mimosa, English ivy, poison ivy, and other invasive weeds. Their mission was part of the official Virginia Invasive Plant Removal Day at sites all across the state.



The mission was also the first action step in the overarching master plan for Forest Hill Park created by Robert Wright, an environmental scientist who grew up playing in the park. One part of Wright's plan seeks to preserve the native species in the park, as well as to attract birds and wildlife.

Clearing the invasive vines and saplings from the pyramid site is the first small step in implementing Wright's comprehensive and inspiring vision for Forest Hill Park. And it's going to take all of us, one whack at a time, to make that vision a reality.

Calling all volunteer gardeners and friends of Forest Hill Park!

## Monthly Volunteer Work Party at Forest Hill Park

Hosted on the **3rd Sunday** of each month

4 pm - 6 pm

Meet at the Stone House

**Goal: Habitat restoration of the Old Azalea Garden**

Wear sturdy shoes and long sleeves. Bring work gloves, pruning tools and a weekend warrior spirit.

Cold drinks and energy bars provided. Raffle of a few super prizes!

July 17  
Aug 21  
Sept 18



Oct 16  
Nov 20  
Dec 18  
Jan 15

*We Need You!  
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](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)

**FREE  
Tote Bag & Decal  
when you join!**



**Forest Hill**