

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Fall 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

Licking at fhnaweb@gmail.com

Dec. 1 - Ads/Articles Deadline 11/1/11
For Ad Sales please contact Phil

Published by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2011 Publication Dates

THE 43rd STREET FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS Neighborhood show celebrates 20 years of music, art, and fun.

Saturday, September 17, 2011 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

By Robin Cage

The 43rd Street Festival of the Arts is returning to the Forest Hill Neighborhood this month for its 20th annual event. Seventy

selected regional artists and craftsmen will show and sell their work. There will also be live music, local food, and special activities for children. Proceeds from the festival will benefit Freedom House, our local homeless provider.

Many of the artisans have been with the show since the beginning.

Some of our locals like Cris Pool, Lee Hazelgrove, Steven Glass, Foust, and Robin Cage are perennial favorites. New artists come on board each year to provide variety and fine craftsmanship in many media. This year's juried outdoor show will include paintings, prints, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, glasswork, and more. Original works of art will be available for purchase and exhibitors will be on hand to discuss and sell their work.

The musical line up this year includes some recent favorites: 10 am. Rachel Leyco, 11:30 am. Susan Greenbaum, 1:00 pm. Blue Line Highway, 2:30 pm. Bluz Catz, and 4 pm. OminOtago.

The unique selection of contemporary art, fantastic local musicians, great food and a loyal neighborhood crowd round out this event.





Special thanks go out to everyone in the area who supports this show and allows all the other Richmonders to come join for the day.

All are invited to enjoy the party and celebrate our 20th year!

Just a Minute!

By Vicky Hamrick

www.foresthillneighborhood.com!

Greetings from your FHNA Secretary!

One of my duties as your secretary is to prepare minutes from the monthly meetings, which are held the second Thursday of each month but July at 7:00 p.m. at The Stone House in Forest Hill Park. Many of you may not be able to attend the monthly meetings, and many of you may not know that the minutes are posted to the website each month, usually a week or so prior to the next meeting.

So what's in a minute? Technically, they are to record the actions assigned and decisions made at a meeting. According to Roberts' Rules of Order, "in standard form, the minutes should generally include only what was done, not what was said." (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition).

The FHNA meeting minutes are that, and a little bit more. In an effort to keep everyone informed of neighborhood goings-on, we include a summary of the reports given by our treasurer, our councilperson's office, the RPD 2nd Precinct, and all currently active committees within the FHNA, including social, safety, membership, park improvement, historic designation, and communication (i.e., The Flyer).

It's important to keep in mind that minutes are, as implied by the name, brief. They aren't a verbatim transcript of the meeting, but we do our best to have enough detail to alert our neighbors of upcoming events, volunteering opportunities, current issues the neighborhood may be facing, and any special guests that speak at meetings.

You're strongly encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the FHNA and see for yourself what's happening in the 'hood. But if you can't, you can still keep up online at our great website.

Halloween Howl: Canine Costume Parade and Competition

Sunday, October 30, 1:00 p.m.

Start designing your pooch's costume now and get a leg up on the competition! Arrive at the circular drive in front of the Stone House in Forest Hill Park on Sunday, October 30th for the Second Annual Halloween Howl sponsored by Friends of Forest Hill Park. There will be plenty of games for you and your canine companion starting at 1:00 p.m. prior to the parade at 1:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded and a fun time for all! Even if you don't have a dog, come out and cheer our neighborhood pups on! Visit the Friends of Forest Hill Park's website for more information closer to the event, or if you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Lee Shewmake at leeshewmake@yahoo.com.

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Forest Hill Flyer

President's Message from Richard Day



We here on the South Side, have it better than the North Side, in many respects. Don't get me wrong, there are lots of great things north of the James, such as restaurants, Carytown, museums, etc.... But there are amenities we have that the North does not, which were mentioned in the previous column.

Richmond is a great city. Sure it has

its issues, but doesn't every American city? That said, we should acknowledge what the city on the whole does to support our little Shangri-la. They support the park. Our counsel person, Ms. Graziano supports Music in the Park, the Farmers Market, other more politicized matters, and of course the infrastructure. At the end of the day however, it is the grass roots efforts of our cities citizenry that does a lot of the heavy lifting.

What we do as a community is a good example of that; including all our neighbors, the executive board, and the many committee volunteers. Everything we do as a group is for the greater good of the community. Anyone that attempts to do something that is not for the greater good quickly distinguishes themselves. So it is with our long history, that most efforts, agendas, goals, and aspirations have been for the greater good, and the citizenry will always ensure that. I am hopeful that by the time you read this, we will be on our way to landing some solutions to the speeding problems on Reedy and Dunston, as well as a remedy to the ongoing challenge of crossing the gauntlet known as Forest Hill Avenue.

Other events are keeping our social calendars fully populated. In August, we had the Shredding Party, another installment of Music in the Park, and also Sunday in the Park. Coming up this

fall are two more Music in the Park events, and several more weeks of the Farmers Market, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There is also the monthly Forest Hill Gardner's Club. If you are interested, let our webmaster know and we will get you information. Outside of Forest Hill is one of the greatest events of the year, the Richmond Folk Festival. This coming October let FHNA be well represented with many a pair of dancin' shoes.

A wine party is long overdue. The rules for initiating and hosting this are very rigid. Send out an email that you want to host a wine party. Provide some light snacks or go hog wild with a large spread. Price of admission to your hovel is one bottle of wine or other popular libation, or maybe a foodstuff. The last one took place in October of 2010. Though the rules are somewhat complicated, I have faith many are aptly capable. By the way, this is not the same event as the Forest Hill Men's Auxiliary Club, which as a male, I am not at liberty to discuss.

One idea I have been thinking about is in line with a website I used to frequent, called Spoccer.com. Spoccer.com is the online pick up soccer site. Go there, see where folks are playing, and show up. A site for mountain bike enthusiast that prefer to ride with a group rather than alone could be quite useful. We have such a network of fantastic trails, that one way to promote more riding would be a similar page, but have it limited to our area. All individuals simply post when they are riding, and invite others to join them. I am hereby flying this up the flagpole to see if anyone solutes.

The dog park at FH Presbyterian Church is healthy and active. When visiting, you might run into a current or past Celebrity Pooch. Speaking of pooches, I wonder who the next Celebrity Pooch will be?

Have a good time!

FHNA Elections for Officers and Board Coming Up in November

By Vicky Hamrick

It's not too early to start thinking about electing a new president, or re-electing an old one and you won't have to wait until 2012. The FHNA by-laws establish one-year terms for all officers of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, and two-year terms for board members. So in addition to the offices of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, four out of seven board seats will be also be open. Nominations should be submitted to fhnaweb@gmail.com and voting will take place at the November 10 meeting of the association. Please keep in mind that your membership dues must be current and you must be a resident of the Forest Hill Community to be eligible to vote.

Nominate a neighbor, or nominate yourself. Serving on the Association's board is rewarding and a great way to meet others in the Forest Hill Community, as well as an opportunity to be part of what makes this such a great place to live!

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Forest Hill Historic District Nomination Sept. 22nd, 10 a.m., Virginia Historical Society

Carolyn Paulette

On September 22, 2011, at 10 A.M., the State Review Board and the Historic Resources Board will evaluate the Nomination Report for the Forest Hill Historic District Nomination for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The meeting will be at the Virginia Historical Society Auditorium, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. Residents can show their support by attending the meeting. Each attendee will have a three-minute opportunity to speak in favor of the nomination.

At this meeting, the Boards will review and discuss the merits of the Nomination. They may (1) recommend changes; (2) ask questions; (3) request more information; (4) vote to approve the Nomination; (5) vote to send the Nomination to the National Park Service for intensive level review. It is important for residents who live within the historic district to let the Boards know that you want Forest Hill listed on the State and National Registers.

Listing in the Registers is an honorary designation. No restrictions are placed on a property. A property that is listed in the Registers is also eligible for historic preservation tax credits. Tax credits off-set the cost of renovations if the applicant follows DHR guidelines.

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The Nomination Report is posted on the HistoricForestHill.com website. Please take time to read at least the Summary paragraph on page 3 and the Statement of Significance on page 198.

Residents shred personal papers at National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 2, 2011, Forest Hill and Woodland Heights sponsored a shredding party for National Night Out. One-hundred residents brought over 2800 pounds of documents for shredding by Kodiak, a professional company from Lynchburg, Virginia. Everyone stayed cool with ice-cream as we watched personal papers get shredded. Identity thieves use our names, birthdates, social security numbers, addresses, bank account numbers, checks, medical papers, etc. to steal money and identities. Destroying documents is a great way to thwart criminals from ruining your good name and credit. This is the second shredding party hosted by FHNA and WH, and another good example of how your nominal association dues help pay for activities benefiting the residents of our great neighborhood!





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Know your Neighbor

Robley and Jacqui Jones Make Forest Hill Home

Jacqueline (Jacqui) and Robley Jones, both previously married, chose Forest Hill as the best neighborhood to start their new life together. They purchased their home on 4112 Springhill in March of 2007 and plan to spend their retirement years together in Forest Hill.

Jacqui, has two adult children, Caitlin and Will, and teaches kindergarten at Evergreen Elementary in Chesterfield. Robley also has two adult children, Heather and Mellissa, and two grandchildren, Shelton and Eli. Robley is Director of Government Relations and Research for the Virginia Education Association.

The neighbors may see Jacqui walking, violin strapped over her shoulder, as she heads to practice with the Forest Hill Adult String Ensemble (FHASE) or gardening in the yard. They often see Robley putting in the miles early in the morning as he is an avid runner, heading out with a fishing pole in hand or riding out on his motorcycle. Jacqui is a long way from her childhood home in Muskegon, Michigan. She was attracted to Forest Hill by the eclectic architectural styles, the beautiful park, and the beautiful tree-lined streets.

Robley's love of Forest Hill began when as a child he visited his grandmother and other relatives who built homes in the neighborhood. Jones says, "When I walk in Forest Hill I feel I am among the ghosts of my ancestors. My grandparents, Dr. Thomas David Jones and Helen Wheeler Jones, built a home on the next block, 4205 Forest Hill Avenue. That house was demolished after Dr. Jones's death to make room for the expansion of Good Shepherd Church.

My mother, Dorothy Shelton, and her parents, Maude and Stuart Shelton, lived in Maple Crest, the old home at the end of Cedar on New Kent, during the Depression. They had rented out their Ginter Park home and moved in with Stuart's brother, Dr. Turner Shelton, to weather the tough times. Dr. Shelton used to walk from Maple Crest to his medical office on Semmes Avenue. Robley had other relatives scattered throughout Forest Hill and Westover Hills.



Robley says his early memories of Forest Hill Park include walking the park with his paternal grandmother, and fetching water for her at the old spring that used to be near the Stone House. "I remember going to Forest Hill Park with the Thunderbird Day Camp as a child."

Robley is very active in the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. He serves on the board, and oversees policies and procedures at meetings. He also came up with idea and chaired the committee for the Forest Hill Regatta.

When they moved to Forest Hill in 2007, Jacqui was finding a new home, and Robley was coming home. Both love the neighborhood and the wonderful neighbors they have found.

FHNA Updates and Revises Rules of the Association

Every dues-paying member of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association should review changes to the association's bylaws due to be voted on Thursday, September 8, 7 PM at the Stone House. Most of the changes are for clarifying the language and eliminating inconsistencies. You may review the changes on the website at Foresthillneighborhood.com or if you do not have access to the Internet, you may find copies at the Westover Hills Library or call 233-4011.

Putting the Garden to Bed

By Viki Atkinson

The year is turning. The trees are trading their tone-on-tone greens for a riot of orange, yellow and red. Days are getting shorter, and most of us are thinking of putting away our shovels and winding up the garden hose. However, autumn is actually a great time to prepare the garden for next spring, so here are a few things you might want to think about doing before you put away your gardening gloves.

Plant trees, shrubs and perennials. Fall is the perfect time for planting. It's not hot, so you won't have to do as much watering, and the plants won't be as stressed. Come winter, the aboveground part of the plant will go dormant or die back, leaving the plant to concentrate on establishing a strong root system. The result? A happier, healthier, more mature plant will greet you next spring.

Move existing trees, shrubs and perennials. Do you have a

shrub that has outgrown its location but would look great in that spot on the other side of the house? Now is the time to move it, for the same reasons listed above.

Plant spring bulbs. Who doesn't love to see the cheery yellow of daffodils dotting gardens and parks and fields? Check out your garden center; it will be stocked with a variety of bulbs at this time of year.

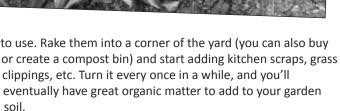
Grow cool weather veggies. Spinach, lettuce, turnip greens, collards and more can be harvested until the first frost (and sometimes beyond).

Divide existing perennials. This is a great time to divide plants. As mentioned above, they're getting ready to go dormant, and the new divisions will have the entire winter to get settled.

Sow grass seed. The same principle applies here. Sow your grass seed now, and it will be lush and green in the spring and more likely to survive the heat next summer.

Start a compost heap. Forest Hill is blessed with an abundance of leaves in the fall, so you might as well put them





Create new garden beds the lazy way. No-till methods of making garden beds have gained popularity in some gardening circles in recent years. With "lasagne gardening," you layer leaves, straw, peat moss, grass clippings or whatever organic materials you have and simply leave them to decompose over the winter, leaving you a bed of rich organic soil to plant in the spring.

So don't be so quick to tuck away your tools. Fall gardening tasks might not give you instant gratification, but next spring you'll be glad you were so industrious now.



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Forest Hill Resident

Patrick Henry School Launches Major Renovation

By Kristen Larson

By Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA), Virginia's first elementary charter school, has authorized the beginning of construction on the Patrick Henry School Building with an expected completion date of November 2011.

"It's been a long wait and the PHSSA families and staff has been extremely patient," said Sharon Burton, PHSSA President. "There is a dumpster in front of the PH Building and the demolition has begun – this is an incredible milestone for Patrick Henry and all of its supporters. Facility renovations can be a huge challenge for charter schools and we are no exception. The launch of this construction is a turning point for the school."

PHSSA is upgrading the building, located at 3411 Semmes Avenue, with renovations to address ADA, VDOE and city code requirements. The project renovations are broken up into three phases. PHSSA is currently working on the first phase of construction, which will be complete in November 2011, and includes the east basement, the cafeteria and the 1st level of the classrooms. The General Contractor for the project is Brooks & Co. and the architect is BAM. Services for both companies were obtained with the assistance of Richmond Public Schools procurement department.

The location of the PH building plays heavily into the school's STEM based curriculum and the use of the Forest Hill Park in that curriculum. In November 2010, PHSSA and RPS signed a 3-year lease on the PH Building, which is tied to the length of the school's charter. Under the terms of the PH charter and the lease, PHSSA is tasked with upgrading the PH building to bring it

into compliance. The project renovations are expected to continue until 2013.

Long-range upgrades to the almost 90 year-old school building include more ADA upgrades, replacing missing kitchen equipment and restoring the windows to make the building energy efficient.
PHSSA has created Patrick Henry Charter LLC, a financial



mechanism to allow us to use

State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Parts I and II of the state Historic Tax Credit (HTC) application have been accepted and approved. PHSSA hired Sadler & Whitehead Architects PLC to help apply and process the HTC. The HTC is worth in excess of \$250,000 to PHSSA over the term of the renovations.

Fundraising, a small portion of grant funds, historic tax credits, and a loan have provided the necessary funds for phase one. To complete phases two and three of the renovation, PHSSA is currently in negotiation with two lenders who provide financial loans to charter schools.

Good Shepherd Episcopal School's Fall Festival 2011 Saturday, October 22nd from Noon to Four 4207 Forest Hill Ave (corner of Forest Hill and 43rd Street)

We hope everyone will come out and join Good Shepherd Episcopal School for our fun-filled community wide fall festival for all ages- rain or shine! In addition to many carnival games, football toss, cupcake walk, pumpkin bowling, moon bounces, giant slide and creative crafts, the school will host a vendor alley this year selling unique goods. If you are a vendor interested in a table please contact Laura Dysart at lauradysart@verizon.net. The school will also host a fabulous bake sale and book sale. Food vendors will be available, so come out and listen to music, grab a bite to eat, and do some shopping. Games and activities will be available for children of all ages. Admission is free; tickets are sold for individual activities. All proceeds benefit the Good Shepherd Episcopal School. Good Shepherd Episcopal School is celebrating it's 40th year in the community, come out and help us celebrate!

From our Council Woman

Dear Neighbors,

It's hard to believe it is September, since the summer and the heat seemed endless. But we head into the fall with some real accomplishments to talk about.

City Council, after much debate, has approved the proposal for a new jail, adjacent to the present site. Construction should begin before the end of the year.

Council is also working toward a mandated redistricting plan for local elected offices. We held public outreach meetings in August to get city input, and we are moving forward. The Fourth District has very few, very minor changes, so there should be no disruption for Forest Hill or Fourth District voters. That's good, because the community of interest we have build over the past ten years is real and valuable.

Council also passed, at my request, a new tax exemption program for veterans disabled in the line of duty. While it does not affect many people, those it does affect will greatly benefit by being relieved of real estate taxes.

I'm also looking forward to seeing the outcome of the new flash signal at Forest Hill Avenue and 43rd Street. It was supported by a federal program and is experimental, so I am interested in

seeing the data captured on how often it is used. Tom Flynn of the Traffic Engineering Division gets the credit for following this project to a conclusion.

In conclusion, I need to add a personal note. As you may know, my liaison David Hathcock is retiring October 1st. We will all miss him. He has been a tireless advocate for the district and its residents.

I look forward to seeing you at the South of the James Market for the rest of the year. Until then, thanks for your support.

Kathy



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Celebrity Pooch Banjo Taylor

What's your name and age? Banjo Taylor. I think I'm 4 or 5 years old.

Who are your humans? Mat and Shannon Taylor.

Where and when did you find your home? About three years ago I ran away from a mean household where I was neglected and mistreated. Since finding my true home with Mat and Shannon, I've gained 20 pounds, am showered with hugs and food, and have my own warm bed to sleep on. I love it here.

What's your heritage? I'm a mutt but I've been told that I look part German shepherd and part hound.

What's your favorite toy? I don't have a favorite one, but I'll play with whatever you give me! Tennis balls, stuffed animals, whatever! My new human brother Jackson has a lot of toys but I leave those alone. Both Jackson and I love chewing on toys though.

What's your best trick? I have a few tricks up my sleeve! I prefer the disappearing act, which involves sneaking out of the back yard when nobody's looking. However, my humans really like that I can shake hands, like a proper gentledog.

What are your best traits? Not to brag or anything, but I'm a really good guard dog. I keep out the mailman every day. I also keep Jackson safe when he's napping. Otherwise, I'm a good couch potato who snuggles with my humans. I also can run really fast and love to be chased by my friends at the dog park. Nothing like a good run to keep this bod in shape!

In your opinion, what law should all dogs follow? Since both my humans are attorneys, I have tremendous respect for the law. I firmly believe all dogs should yield the right of way to cars.



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ASSET ALLOCATION: A KEY TO PORTFOLIO SUCCESS

By Steve Knipe

For many investors, investing typically begins with one stock or mutual fund. Over time, other selections are added because many people understand it may not be prudent to invest everything in a single security, even if it has a "blue chip" reputation. However, just "spreading money around" in a haphazard way may create only an illusion of diversification. If you have assembled a "hodgepodge" portfolio, you may not know the extent to which your investments are (or are not) consistent with your objectives. How do you go about setting up a framework which tailors your investments to your particular circumstances?

A sound portfolio management strategy begins with asset allocation – that is, dividing your investments among the major asset categories of equities, bonds and cash. Since each type of investment category has unique characteristics, they rarely rise or fall at the same time. Then, you can make finer distinctions within each asset category (i.e., diversification). Combining different asset classes could help reduce risk, although it doesn't eliminate market risk altogether. Still two nagging questions remain: What factors guide the asset allocation process? How much of a portfolio should go into each category. To answer the first question, the main objective of asset allocation is to match the investment characteristics of the various investment categories to the most important aspects of your personal investment profile – that is, your tolerance for risk, your return and liquidity needs, and your time horizon. Investing according to your risk tolerance will help keep you from abandoning your investment program during times of market turbulence. One way to measure your risk comfort zone is to ask yourself how much of a loss in a one-year period you could withstand and still stay the course.

Finding an appropriate match for you means balancing your tolerance for risk against the different volatility levels of various asset classes. For example, if you have a low tolerance for risk, that fact may dictate a portfolio that emphasizes conservative investments while sacrificing the potentially higher returns that usually involve a greater degree of risk.

Return need refers to the income and/or growth you expect a portfolio to generate in order to meet your objectives. For example, retirees may prefer a portfolio that emphasizes current income, while younger investors may wish to concentrate on potential growth.

Your personal time horizon extends from when you implement an investment strategy until you need to begin withdrawing money from a portfolio. For example, a very short time horizon (less than 5 years) is probably best served by a conservative portfolio emphasizing safety of principal. On the other hand, the more time you have to invest, the greater risk you may be able to withstand because you have time to recover from market downturns.

The short answer to how much of a portfolio should go into each category is that asset allocation is more a personal process than a strategy based on a set formula. There are guidelines to help establish the general framework of a well-diversified portfolio. For example, you may decide on the need for growth in order to offset the erosion of purchasing power caused by inflation.

However, building an investment portfolio that is right for you involves matching the risk-return tradeoffs of various asset classes to your unique investment profile. One final point that is worthy of emphasis – when you put together your own asset allocation strategy, you should combine all your assets (i.e., your investments and retirement savings). That way you can ensure that all your assets are working together to help meet your goals and objectives. Keep in mind, investment return and principal value will fluctuate with changes in market conditions so that shares may be more or less than original cost. Diversification cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses.

Help Out Your Park

Do you love Forest Hill Park? Would you be interested in helping from time to time? The Friends of Forest Hill Park is trying to track all volunteer hours performed on behalf of the park. Go to friendsofforesthillpark.org and click on the volunteer tab- there you will find volunteer opportunities such as the Monthly Volunteer Work Party hosted on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Go to the website for more information. Volunteer tracking forms can also be found under volunteer information. The forms will be shared with the City in an effort to track City Wide Park volunteerism.

Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior, for youth in 6th grade and up, are always looking for new members. This group meets about once a month and volunteers for Forest Hill Park events as well as assists with clean ups, plantings and other needs of the park. Please contact Laura Dysart at lauradysart@verizon.net if you are interested in Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior.

Forest Hill Flyer



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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

Date:



Oct 16 Nov 20 Dec 18 Jan 15

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

Membership Form

	0- 1 F		
Name(s):			
Address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Phone:			
E-mail:			
☐ Household Membership \$	315	Orporate Annual Membership \$30	
☐ Yes , I want to join the Neighborhood Watch and receive e-mail updates	☐ Yes , please send me email updates on current neighborhood events.	Pay by cash or check payable to Forest Hill Neighborhood Association ATTN: Zac Sheldon, FHNA Treasurer	

about crime and safety in No emails please. our neighborhood.

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For more information visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com

