



FLYER

THE FOREST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

New Security Committee
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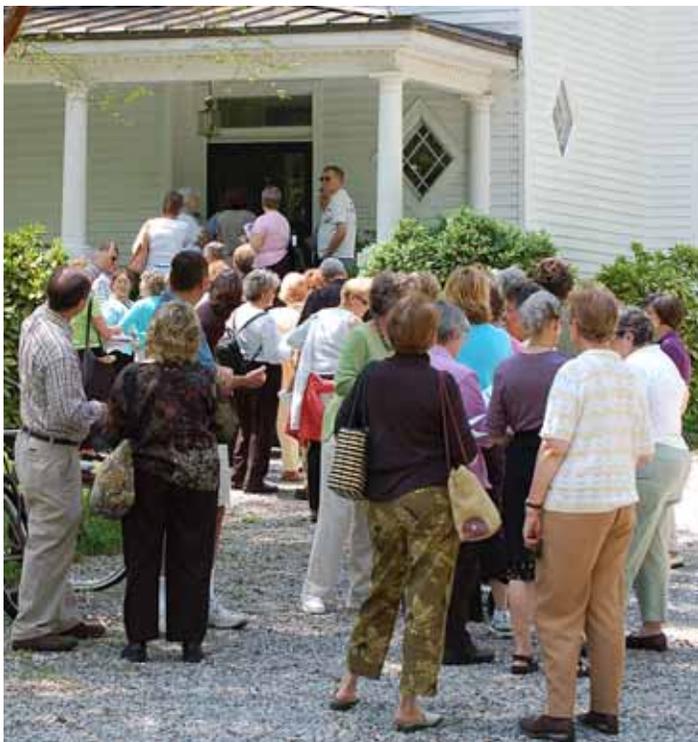
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SCENES FROM THE 2006 HOUSE TOUR, the first ever presented by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. The event drew over 900 visitors and helped raise enough money for the Association to make significant donations to local causes (see article on Page 4). Photos: Brent Tennefoss



Second Annual Event is April 22

Looking to Repeat Success of Last Year's House Tour

On the heels of last year's very successful first tour, The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association will host our second annual house tour on Sunday, April 22, 2007, from noon to 5 p.m.

This year's tour will feature seven houses, one church and other notable historic sites. Tour houses include an Arts and Crafts bungalow with a newly renovated kitchen and master suite, an early 1900's farmhouse in a park-like setting, a brick and slate cape with a beautiful garden and a quaint bungalow with incredible decor.

Forest Hill, a neighborhood tucked between Forest Hill Park and the Westover Hills community, contains, undoubtedly, the most varied architecture in the city of Richmond. From an 1843 stone mansion to grand Victorians, from Federal Revivals to Arts and Crafts bungalows, Forest Hill is filled with architectural gems, churches, art studios and a park that once served as home to the Dip the Dip roller coaster. The neighborhood, bordered by West 41st Street in the east,

Cedar Lane to the west, Riverside Drive to the north, and Reedy Creek to the south, is one of the city's original streetcar suburbs.

Residents have included lawyer Holden Rhodes, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell and sculptor F. William Sievers, who created The Stonewall Jackson statue on Monument Avenue. Current residents include Jonathan the Juggler, potters Lee Hazelgrove, Robin Cage and Steven Glass, and painters Matt Spivey and Steve Hedberg.

A portion of the proceeds from the home tour will be donated to Forest Hill Presbyterian Church for improvements to Phideaux Field, and to the James River Parks through the Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Tickets are available in advance for a discounted price of \$12 and can be purchased at Forest Hill Antiques, among other places.

Tickets are \$15 on the day of the tour at the Old Stone House in Forest Hill Park.

For additional information please call 230-1810.

See House Tour Lineup with photos on Page 9

Assessment Review Deadline is June

The deadline has passed to appeal a real estate assessment to the city assessor.

However, a property owner can still file a request for review by the Board of Review. Forms are available on line, through the Assessors Office at 646-5600, or from City Council Member Kathy Graziano's office at 320-2454. That deadline does not expire until June.

New Safety Committee Keeps Residents Informed

By Susan Winiacki
FHNA Vice-President

Forest Hill resident Luke McCall has agreed to chair the FHNA's safety committee and to coordinate email blasts that will feature crime incident information, suspicious activity and crime prevention measures.

If you are interested in receiving these blind-copy blasts, please send your email

address to safety@foresthillneighborhood.com. Also, the association eventually would like reestablish its block captain system. This system would ask the block captain to make sure pertinent information got distributed to neighbors up and down his or her street, either by email or telephone. Look for more news on that effort in subsequent Flyers.

Congratulations to the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association on its 2nd Annual House Tour

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Forest Hill Park Sign Donated by FHNA

2006 House Tour Proceeds Fund Restoration

By Phil Licking
FHNA President

Friends of Forest Hill Park (FFHP) is seeking to reinstall the historic arched park sign over the Forest Hill Avenue entrance pillars. The sign was erected during the late nineteenth century when the property became an amusement park at the end of the Manchester and Richmond trolley line. It is not clear when the sign was removed, but historical photographs in the collections of the Valentine Museum show the sign in its original location.

In recent years, FFHP has undertaken numerous projects to ensure proper maintenance of the Stone House and the park and restore many of the historic aspects of those elements. A couple of years ago, the railings on the Stone

House steps were renovated and new security gates were installed in the archways beneath the entry porches. This work was completed by

Custom Ornamental Ironwork in Glen Allen. This firm, founded in 1989, has a full service architectural fabrication metal shop and specializes in histor-

ical ironwork and has been enlisted on many of the most prominent jobs in the city including the restoration of ironwork at the Capitol. As its



The Forest Hill Park entrance gate circa 1890-1920. Photo: Cook Collection, Valentine Richmond History Center

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name implies, the firm undertakes projects that require custom design skills. FFHP has again turned to Custom Ornamental to fabricate the arched sign and anticipates that the sign fabrication and installation will be complete in time for the July "Sunday in the Park with Friends" event.

This project has been generously funded by a donation from the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. After the sign project is complete, the remaining funds left from the donation will be used to purchase new trash receptacles for the park.



The park entrance as it stands today. The arch restoration should be completed by the end of July. Photo: Brent Tenfoss

Community Yard Sale Peddle Your Treasures Along with All Your Neighbors

By Susan Campbell
FHNA Correspondent

Spring is coming and it's that time again — spring cleaning and yard sales! Clear out your attics, basements, garages, closets and kitchens and plan to be a part of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Annual Yard Sale. It's on June 2 (the first Saturday in June) from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in your yard or driveway. Contact Susan Campbell (232-5702 or susanc913@comcast.net) or Sarah McDonald (291-1047 or sarahm@richmag.com) for more information or to be a part of the yard sale.

The deadline to sign up for the yard sale is May 19th. All participants will contribute \$10 towards a newspaper ad and will be on a map of the yard sales to be distributed to our eager shoppers! Each participant is responsible for their own signs on the day of the sale.



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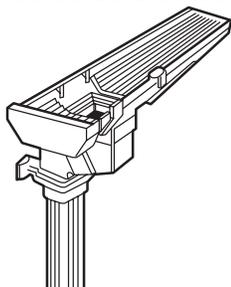


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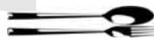
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James River Park System Summer Schedule Filled with Varied Treats

From Staff Reports

James River Park System

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. April Fools begins the heavy use season in the James River Park Service. When the weather is good, the crowds are large: people on the land, migrating fish in the water. We celebrate both.

Sat. April 21: 14th St. Fish Festival and Earth Day, (10 am to 4 pm). Music, art, dance, science, food, and fishing, plus lots of booths and displays about environmental issues, all at the south end of the Mayo Bridge. Lots of parking on side streets plus bus service and valet parking for bikes! Everything is free except the food & drink. Lots of activities for kids, like fishing (equipment and supervision provided) and hands-on exploration of the various kinds of fish in the river.

Sun. April 15, : Hands-On Fish Stocking at the Belle Isle Quarry Pond, (2 pm to 3 pm). Kids get to pick up and release a variety of aquatic creatures to replenish the ecosystem being created at the Quarry Pond.

Sat. June 2: River Fest, (9 am to 2 pm). Community celebration of the river that takes place at the Z-Dam along Riverside Drive just west of the Pony Pasture Rapids. The road is closed, so there are hay-rides, bicycle taxis, children's bike parade, fishing clinics, animal talks, face-painting, folk music, and hot dogs designed to look like salamanders. Park at the Pony Pasture parking lot and walk, or bring your bike.

Sat. June 2: Friends of the James River Park Annual Picnic and membership renewal. (5 pm to 8 pm). Held at the historic and rather attractive old stone Pump House (It's just west of the

Boulevard Bridge toll plaza and well marked with signs.) \$15 gets you a tour, a carrot stick and a cup of wine, plus membership in the premier citizen organization that guides and supports the JRPS. Contact the President of the Friends, Molly Dellinger Wray, at 358-8703 for additional information.

Sat. June 9: River Clean Up and picnic, (8 am to 1pm, but many people arrive at 9). Several hundred people gather at the Reedy Creek Entrance and the Pony Pasture Rapids to patrol the river and the shoreline for litter. Everything is then sorted and recycled and then we have a picnic with free hot dogs and veggie burgers at the park HQ. There are 15 sites to cover and many require a short drive to access. Some are family-friendly (like the 22nd St rocks and Belle Isle) and others are teen and twenty-something challenges (like the Missing Link Trail, and Vauxhall Island), and there's a lot in between.

Sat. June 30: James River Park Day, (9 am to 11 pm). A series of tours and explorations throughout the JRPS. 9 am, Tour of Belle Isle; Noon, Fish Release at Belle Isle Quarry Pond; 2 pm, Frog's Eye Tour of the channels between small islands in the river; 8 pm, Torchlit Walk on the Slave Trail. The cost is \$2 per person per event for the benefit of the JRP Fund.

This is a partial list of activities. Additional programs and volunteer opportunities are presented by the Environmental Educator (Lorne Field) and the Trails Manager (Nathan Burrell) throughout the spring and summer. Call 646-8911, leave a message, and they will call you back.

Support Your Community Online
www.foreshillneighborhood.com

Extreme Games Again Coming to Our Neighborhood

By Marjolein de Wit
FHNA Correspondent

Mark your calendar for an exciting weekend. On June 16 and 17, 2007, the Capital One Adventure Games and XTER-

wakeboarding, and will span the James River from Robious Landing Park, past Belle Island to the deep waters down river from Richmond. Richmond is the only U.S. city with class IV

down your street to Forest Hill Park and James River Park. Fireworks and live music will most likely be held again Saturday evening on Brown's Island. The schedule of events is still being finalized and will be available at www.richmondregion2007.com/capital-one-adventure-games.htm.

Last year our neighbor Greg Hawkins received third place in the event titled River City Rodeo. He also placed third in the men's semifinals called Jammin' on the James. So come out on the weekend of June 16-17 to watch some amazing sportsmen and sportswomen right in our own backyard.



RA East Championship are coming to Richmond. The events will occur simultaneously.

This is the eighth consecutive year that the games are held in the city. The games will center on Brown's Island, Belle Island, James River, James River Park and Forest Hill Park. Events include water and land sports. Water sports include swimming, kayaking, canoeing, rowing regatta and

rapids running through its downtown.

Events on land include running, skateboarding (inline and BMX), mountain biking, and swimming. Information on running, mountain biking, and swimming routes can be found at www.xterraplanet.com/races/race.cfm?id=429#.

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2007 House Tour Lineup

Tour guests with advance tickets are welcome to begin at any home they like when doors open at noon on April 22nd. However, day-of tickets will be sold only at the old Stone House in Forest Hill

Park. From there it's a pleasant stroll to the rest of the houses on the tour.



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Photos: Brent Tennifoss

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Westover Hills Library News

By Laura Dysart

Upcoming Events

Yuri's Night: A Celebration of Outer Space, Thursday, April 12, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

WHLAG will host a special evening event to celebrate Yuri's night, an international celebration commemorating the first human in space- Yuri Gagarin. The library will have a pizza dinner (while it lasts),

fun outer space activities and crafts for children and, if conditions permit, a telescope will be set up to view the sky at the end of the event!

Children are welcome to wear pajamas. A selection of space related books will be available for check out. We hope you will join us for this special first time event!

Summer Reading Kick-Off and Bake Sale

Plan to save the date of Saturday, June 16 for the Richmond Public Library Summer Reading kick-off and a morning of fun-filled entertainment and crafts at the Westover branch. It's a great way to make reading fun over the summer! WHLAG will host

its annual bake sale to raise funds for the Westover Hills branch during the sign up as well. Please consider donating or purchasing baked goods to benefit the library! The summer's program details, incentives and events will be available at the library closer to the date.

Staff Update

Mary Terry, who has been the Westover Hills branch Librarian for the last several years, has left her position. Mary will be greatly missed by the community. Mary had a special gift for reaching out to and connecting with children at the library and helping make it be a fun place to be. Thank you Mary for all that you brought to the library. Please help us extend a warm welcome to our new librarian Clay Dishon, who has filled this position for at least the time being. He comes from the Ginter Park branch and has a special interest in Appalachian and children's literature.

Renovations

Renovations to make the bathrooms and the back entrance to the library accessible by wheelchair are near complete. In addition, the city has responded to concerns about the sidewalks out in front of the library, and we now have a new, safer sidewalk!

The next meetings of WHLAG will take place Saturday, March 24, May 5 and June 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the library. The group plans special community events to promote use of the library as well as provide support and advocacy related to library needs. All are welcome to join us! Contact the library at 646-8833 for more information.

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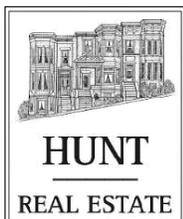
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The Flyer Profile:

Celebrity Pooch



Photo: Brent Tennerfoss

What's your name and age?

Mosby Booker. I am a young 7.5.

Who's your human?

Ann Booker and Dru Stevens are my Moms and Marjolein de Wit is my Aunt.

Where and when did you get adopted?

I was adopted in 1999 on Cary Street from a rescue organization named ARF.

What's your heritage?

I am probably part Chow and part Australian Shephard, but my Moms think I am so beautiful they gave me my own breed: a Norwegian Gray Husky.

What's your favorite toy?

Soccer ball and I also play tennis and basketball (I'm great at rebounding).

What's your best trick?

I can do most dog tricks, but I don't like them. What's the point anyway?

What are your best traits?

Loyalty, patience, very very smart, calm, excellent companion. I love all people, especially children.

What else do you have to say about yourself?

I grew up in the Fan with all kinds of people. I love to talk and wag my tail when I meet people. I am very soft and love to be petted. I speak English and a little Dutch. I am a very good listener. My best friends are Bud Glass and Ben de Wit. I have one brother, Corey, and a sister, Lucy. This is a great neighborhood for dogs. Lots of nice people, trees and parks.

Mayor's Budget Includes Real Estate Tax Reduction



It's spring, Mayor Wilder has proposed a biennial budget, and it's time to get down to work.

The Mayor's budget calls for spending a little more than \$644 million, about \$27 million more than last year. That's an increase of about 4.3% in the total budget.

For revenue sources, it's a different picture.

The mayor is proposing a tax rate of \$1.25/ 100 for real estate. That's a reduction of four cents, and leaves the average real estate tax bill about 11% higher. That's the average. If your assessment increased by less than 3%, your actual bill may be lower next year. If it increased more than 3%, your bill will still be

higher, just not as much.

The Mayor is proposing a 3% increase in salaries for city employees, adding a civilian police cadet corps, increased funding for health care costs, and increases in jail inmate health care. Incentive packages to bring Philip Morris and MeadWestvaco to Richmond will cost a total of

posing a new program to pay for stormwater management. There are no details about how this new utility might work or be funded, but I'll keep you posted.

There's good news that the Mayor's City of the Future plan calls for some important projects in the Fourth District, including paving on Cherokee

Now City Council begins its work. Over the next two months, each department will come before the committees of City Council and before Council to make a case for their budget requests.

In addition, there will be several public opportunities for citizens to express opinions. Council will certainly be looking for places where we can reduce spending while maintaining our essential services.

During this process, it's helpful for all of us develop a set of our priorities ... what's important to us; where do we think we ought to spend our money. Are we spending too much here, too little there?

As always, I look forward to your comments, your advice, even your criticisms. Thanks again for all your help during the year.

The Mayor's City of the Future plan calls for improvement in parks including Forest Hill and James River

\$2.25 million in the next budget.

The Mayor is also proposing significantly higher water and sewer rates, with water rates going up 6% in the next two years, and sewer rates 5.5% during the same period. In addition the Mayor is pro-

posing road and improvements in our parks, including Forest Hill and James River.

These are the Mayor's proposals, and his staff made a very strong presentation that the city would be in serious financial jeopardy if each were not fully approved.

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Online Data Archiving Streamlines Dreary Backup Task

By Brent Tennefoss
FLYER Editor

Everyone should write a will, but many people put it off until the inevitable happens, and then it's too late. And everyone who owns a computer should back up their data, but most people put it off until the inevitable happens, then all you can do is cry.

Well, dry your eyes and read on. There's good news for anyone with a broadband

connection and an aversion to adding extra hardware to their PC. The world of online archiving is increasingly populated with easy-to-use, reasonably-priced (and in some cases free) options.

The traditional methods for PC backup range from manual (drag your stuff to a USB thumb drive), to semi-automated (write your stuff to a CD or DVD), to fully automatic, which involves purchasing special software that

will perform backups at pre-assigned times fully unattended.

There are problems with all those methods, and depending on your knowledge, patience . . . and luck, your success rate will vary.

Does online archiving take away all that pain? Of course not, but the creators of these services have put a lot of effort into making their solutions as user-friendly as possible. So it's worth investigat-

ing, especially since you can usually try the services first before you give out any credit card information.

Two notable competitors in this arena are **Mozy** (www.mozy.com) and **Carbonite** (www.carbonite.com).

Both share similarities in the way they are implemented. To get started you download and install a software component that handles both initial setup and ongoing backup to remote file servers. Once installed, these programs operate in the background and at regular intervals transfer any new files to the server.

The link between your home computer and the online archive is protected by lots of encryption to guarantee the integrity and security of your data. They claim to employ the same sort of encryption used by banks for online transactions.

Mozy has two product levels while Carbonite has only one. To determine which one is best for you initially, you need to figure out how much storage you actually need.

If you don't have a lot of digital photos and music files, and you think your total space requirement is less than 2 gigabytes, then check out Mozy's free backup option.

If you need lots of storage then the playing field is more level between the two. Mozy's unlimited storage option is \$4.95 per month. Carbonite offers unlimited capacity for \$4.16 per month. And you can try Carbonite 15 days for free before you buy it.

These aren't the only players in the online backup game, so look around a little before you settle on a solution. But Mozy and Carbonite have been around long enough to be reliable partners in your quest to preserve your valuable data.

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FOREST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 11 ■ May 9 ■ June 13

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church @ 7:00pm

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

Easter Service Schedule

Thurs, April 5: Maundy Thursday (7 PM Communion)

Fri, April 6: Good Friday (Sanctuary open from 7 AM to 7 PM)

Sun, April 8: Easter Sunday (7:30 AM Service on the Lawn)

All are welcome to worship with us.

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NOTE: Annual membership dues cover calendar year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2007

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Join us for these events:

Open House

April 28 | 10AM to NOON

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May 5 | 10AM to 2PM

Observation Day

May 23 | 8:45 to 11AM