

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Fall 2013

Forest Hill Flyer

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. See you there!

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

Published by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

For Ad Sales please contact David Lynch at adsalesforesthillflyer@gmail.com

The 43rd Street Festival of the Arts Benefits CARITAS this Year

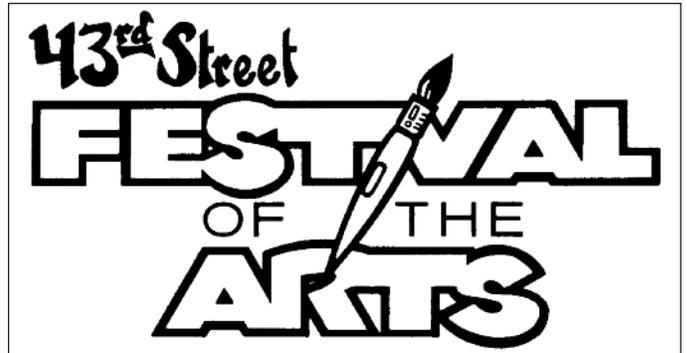
By Robin Cage

It is that time again! On Saturday, September 14, 2013, the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts will be back for its 22nd year in the Forest Hill neighborhood. The festival will feature 75 fine artisans selling their wares from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. From pottery to painting, jewelry to turned wood, it is a great place to find unique handmade art you won't find at any other venue!

Our local musicians will provide great entertainment all day. The line-up this year includes Rachel Leyco (10 a.m.), OminOtagO (11:30 a.m.), Blue Line Highway (1 p.m.), Bluz Catz (2:30 p.m.), and Rattlemouth (4 p.m.)

Delicious food is available from our food vendors, and kid activities such as street art and face painting make it a great event for the whole family.

The festival is also a fund raiser for CARITAS, a fine Richmond organization that networks with churches to provide shelter and help for individuals and families in need of assistance. Our new artist-designed T-shirt (always a collector's item!), the art raffle,



and donation jars will help raise money for people in crisis.

It promises to be another great event. Hope you will join us and support your local artisans and community!

Robin Cage is the owner of the 43rd Street Gallery. Check out the gallery's Facebook page for up-to-date information and photos of new art at the gallery. You can find more information about CARITAS at www.caritasshelter.org



Sunday in the Park with Friends drew a crowd of all ages. See page 19 for details. Photo by Ian Mills

Proposed Crisis Facility Update

By Shannon Taylor

On July 2, 2013 the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) withdrew its application to the city for a special use permit for 4405 Forest Hill Avenue. RBHA needed a special use permit in order to successfully open a crisis facility within a residential district. Although no reason was given for the withdrawal, it appears RBHA had several hurdles to overcome before it could successfully obtain the permit, including concerns expressed by the city and significant opposition from several neighborhood associations. When asked what RBHA intends to do with the property, its director, Dr. Jack Lanier, responded that RBHA has not made a decision. Regardless of what happens next, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association will keep tabs on the situation to keep residents informed about the future of this charming, circa 1902 Colonial Revival home located in the heart of our neighborhood.

What's Inside!

**Get Your Tickets Now
for Forest Hill Fest—back cover**

First FHNA Community Scholarship Winner—Page 6
Rain Barrel Workshop—Page 17
Know Your Neighbor—Page 18

Traditions in the Making



By Shannon D. Taylor

I've been thinking a lot about traditions recently. This summer I furiously attempted to sew a Christmas quilt for my two-year-old son so that we could begin a memorable tradition of cuddling under it during the holiday season. Another tradition I want to continue is writing letters to my son like my father did for me ever since I was a young adult. He congratulated me on life's accomplishments and encouraged me, which is something I want to share with my son. I have written him letters since before he was born. I hope when he reads them he'll know how much he means to me.

Whether it's passing down family letters or quilts, using grandma's pie recipe, or hosting annual gatherings, traditions can be part of everyone's life and bond us to each other.

My family recently enjoyed dinner at O'Toole's with a neighbor and I was struck at how much more meaningful the meal was than simply talking to him on the street or at FHNA meetings. Somehow the physical act of eating, drinking and sharing stories created a nice familial bond—a bond I intend to nurture with more shared meals.

This experience heightens my excitement about our upcoming Forest Hill Fest (aka: our first neighborhood block party!) on October 5, 2013. The party is for members, so if you haven't joined the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association yet, it only takes a few clicks on our website, www.foresthillneighborhood.com. I can't wait to eat, drink, listen to live music and hang out with friends. My hope is that the occasion will create more bonds between many Forest Hill neighbors. So please join the FHNA and take part in the Fest, an event that is surely to become another Forest Hill family tradition. See you there!

Shannon D. Taylor is the president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. She says she is still working on the quilt. It is, after all, a labor of love. And it's more than three months until Christmas!

Jack Berry from Venture Richmond to Speak at FHNA Meeting on September 17

Venture Richmond is an organization made up of business and community leaders who want to enhance the vitality of our community. Some of the group's events include the Richmond Folk Festival, 2nd Street Festival, and RVA Fireworks on the James. Jack Berry, executive director of Venture Richmond, will tell us all about upcoming events and his goals for Richmond. He will also discuss what our community can do to help make Richmond an even greater place to live.

For more information on Venture Richmond, go to www.venturerichmond.com.

Presentation of *Histories and Pictures of Old Southside Now Online*

Did you miss Dr. Charles Williams' presentation of *Histories and Pictures of Old Southside* at the April meeting of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association? If you did, you're in luck! You can now see or share his full presentation online through the efforts of Larry Ware of WareEver Productions who captured the night digitally. He has generously allowed the FHNA to post his recording of the event on their website.

Dr. Charles Williams, a life-long South Richmond resident, regaled his audience with recollections about his home town. As the people gathered at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church viewed a screening of vintage photographs, Dr. Williams described each scene and commented with personal anecdotes.

To view this wonderful presentation, go to www.foresthillneighborhood.com and click "updates." *Histories of Old Southside* will be on that page. If you would like further information about WareEver Productions go to www.wareeverproductions.com, or email Larry at larry@wareeverproductions.com.

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

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

the gallery is blooming with visual treats...
Chihuly inspired pots and glass, jewelry, birdhouses and fine art

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

43rd Street Festival of the Arts
Saturday, September 14, 2013 • 10am-5pm

Serving the Neighborhood for Five Decades

By Bill Craig

For more than 50 years the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church Child Care Center (FHPCCCC) has been providing quality care and early childhood experiences to children in and around the 23225 zip code. Jan Clarke, the center's director, has been a part of that effort for 35 of those 52 years. Originally called the Forest Hill Day Nursery, the center was opened in 1961 by church member Fannie Pharr. "Ms. Jan" came aboard as a teacher in 1978, was named assistant director in 1980, and took over as director in 1985.

"At this point, I have the son of one of my former students. The dad came here when he was two," said Ms. Jan, smiling.

With a capacity of 60, the center is licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services to serve children between ages two and 10. The center's current roster, however, includes children between ages two and five. Ms. Jan oversees a staff of 10 teaching and support staff and estimates that 65-70 percent of the center's current families come from the Forest Hill, Westover Hills, and Woodland Heights neighborhoods.

Though Ms. Jan is not a fan of the "What's your mission?" question, she has no problem articulating the center's approach to child care.

"We strive to provide a warm Christian atmosphere for children emphasizing Christian themes and objectives. We provide a needed service to the community and to young families with a quality program. Our goal is to nurture, protect and guide the children as they learn, and to let each child sparkle in some way each day."

A totally unscientific survey of present and past FHPCCCC families indicates that that mission is being accomplished.

"Our three girls have all been blessed to attend the FHPCCC. It is rare to find a place that really loves and embraces your children and that is why they have thrived in their time there. Two have moved on to elementary school and were well prepared academically and socially thanks in part to the preparation from FHPCCC," said Danielle Darden.

As Mike Swain said, "Our son always enjoyed the center and the other kids always seemed to be happy. The facility, while



In 1979, parents and students gathered on the church lawn for a festive field day.

dated, was always clean and secure. And we loved the fact that hot lunches were provided."

And in the words of Olivia Ponder, "We love the center for so many reasons. Everyone knows your child and you. You know your child is loved and has personal attention each day. It's a very relaxed environment, unlike some of the larger, corporate chain centers which are so impersonal, in my opinion. The center has been in the neighborhood for years, so in many ways it is an institution. And it also reminds me of the centers I went to as a child. It has a very old-fashioned feel—in a good way!"

In addition to glowing praise about the center itself, parents are highly appreciative of the work that Ms. Jan does daily with their children.

"The BEST thing about FHPCCCC is Jan Clarke. She is the catalyst and the glue. She also runs a very tight five-year-old class and our son was very prepared for kindergarten," Swain said.

Given its more than five decades of operation, it is no surprise the center now has a sizeable alumni society, including many Forest Hill neighborhood teenagers and young adults who spent their formative years at FHPCCCC.

"It's not unusual to tell others where our children go and hear, 'My kids went there 20 years ago!'" Darden said. "It is a center with great tradition that many alumni remember with fondness. Many of those teachers are still there. That is a testament to the center that there is so little turnover of teachers. They are committed and invested in continuing the tradition of providing excellent and loving care to our littles."

Joanna Craig, 26, of Brooklyn, New York, attended the center as a child and later worked there as a teacher.

"FHPCCCC is a place where I may have spent more time than in my own home on Forest Hill Avenue. I have so many fond memories there, not only as a child, but also as a teacher. FHPCCCC is the place that solidified my decision to go into the world of education because of the teachers I had there, and later in my life, the children I took care of there."

The Forest Hill Presbyterian Church Child Care Center operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is currently enrolling. For more information, call 804-230-2380 or email childcare@fhprichmond.org.

Bill and Michele Craig have lived in the Forest Hill neighborhood for 34 years. Their two daughters are alumnae of FHPCCCC.



These cuties are some of Ms. Jan's current charges.

Saturday, October 12
Noon - 4 p.m.
at Forest Hill and 43rd Streets
Free admission*

**tickets will be sold for individual games and activities*



fall festival '13

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Family Fun • Live Music • Food
Moon Bounce • Mega Slide
Carnival Games and Prizes • Crafts
Jewelry • Art • Accessories • Home Décor

Special thanks to our sponsors:

Visiting Angels
Left Handed Photography
Cielito Lindo
True Tattoo
Complete Care Center for Women
Broadscope Media



Creating Individual Paths to Success

- ❖ Pre-K through 8th Grade
- ❖ Low Student-to-Teacher Ratio
- ❖ Affordable Tuition
- ❖ Strong Sense of Community
- ❖ Before- and After-School Care
- ❖ Instructional Support for All Grades

NOW ENROLLING

4207 Forest Hill Avenue
804.231.1452
www.gses.org



Celebrity Pet – Peanut the Great

By Bo Williams

What is your name? My name is Peanut. My age is undetermined. I magically appeared on the doorstep, and I reside with Bo Williams and David Lynch.

Do you have any nicknames? Plenty. I am so confused because everyone seems to have their own name for me, and one human, David, has a lot. Some of them are Peanuttty, P-Weezie, P-Neezie, P-Schizzle, Peanut Butter, NBatA (from that horrible surgery, thanks John Butcher for reminding me of it all the time!), PB&J, and if I am bad it is “Your Cat.”

What’s your heritage? Truly, it’s amazing. I am one part alley cat, one part magic show tiger and one part dog.

What is your favorite activity? I love life. I can occupy my day by staring into the kitchen, slipping into the house in between people’s legs, sleeping under the azaleas, catching rodents, and having stare downs with my neighbor Calaf. I also enjoy fighting backyard battles Don Quixote style.

What is your best trick? I am not sure it is a trick, but I love to run up and greet my family at their cars when they are getting home. I also think it is the best to curl up next to you and put my paw on your leg. I am a touchy feely kind of cat.



Photos by Bo Williams

Who is your best friend? I love my neighbor Nami. She is four years old. Every time she sees me she comes up real quiet so she doesn’t scare me, then she rubs behind my ears.

Bo Williams creates design and layout for the Forest Hill Flyer. He is also a board member and resident of Forest Hill for more than 10 years. He owns and operates Total Printing Company, which prints the Forest Hill Flyer. David Lynch is in charge of Ad Sales for the Forest Hill Flyer and is a neighborhood real estate agent. He has lived in Forest Hill for more than five years.

Forest Hill Fest to Feature Local Adventure for Kids

By Shannon D. Taylor

To keep our little ones entertained at the Forest Hill Fest on October 5, 2013, we are lucky to have a special adventure created especially by Josh Czarda who owns Ravenchase Adventures! What is a Ravenchase Adventure? It’s a combination of *DaVinci Code*, *Goonies*, and *Harry Potter* where players must use clues to figure out a series of riddles, cyphers and mysteries.

Who is Josh Czarda? He graduated from the University of Richmond School of Law. A Richmond native, Josh started Ravenchase Adventures after creating a game for his younger brothers who were going through a difficult time dealing with their very ill mother. As Josh shopped for Christmas gifts that year, he found a metal detector and compass, inspiring him to create an outdoor adventure for his brothers. After scouting out locations in and around town, he found the perfect spot to bury a real treasure chest. The boys loved the game, and although the clues were challenging, they figured everything out on their own.

Watching the faces of his small brothers as they dug up the buried treasure was priceless. The boys felt so proud and the adventure gave them something to remember for years. Josh has continued creating magical moments for children and parents alike. Some of his past participants include movie producers and CEOs, and regular folks like us. My husband and I have participated in two adventures and can attest to how fun and unique the games are. Successful completion is dependent on team work and a love of problem solving!

Want your kids to play at the Forest Hill Fest? Then purchase tickets to the Forest Hill Fest! Details and more information on the festival are on the back cover of this issue of the Forest Hill Flyer.

If you are interested in learning more about Ravenchase Adventures, please visit www.ravenchase.com. To become a member of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, go to www.foresthillneighborhood.com.

Kaleigh Thomas Winner of 2013 FHNA Community Service Scholarship

By Linda Mills

With roots firmly planted in Forest Hill, Kaleigh Thomas became the first to earn the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship.

"I have lived in Forest Hill for all my life and have never known another neighborhood," says Kaleigh. "This neighborhood has singularly been an integral part of my childhood and my maturation into a young adult."

And what an inspiring young adult she has become.

Kaleigh graduated from Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies earlier this year. With her applications to colleges boasting such a well-respected high school, an excellent grade-point average, and extensive community service, she had to decide between several prestigious schools who were courting her. But her love of all things international drew her to the University of South Carolina's Honors College.

"I applied to the University of South Carolina really at the encouragement of my mother because it had the number one Honors College and International Business School in the nation," Kaleigh says. "I was pleased with the flexibility and opportunities that were offered within majors and within the university as a whole. Most importantly I felt comfortable calling it home for the next four years."

At this point, she plans to major in International Business with a focus in marketing and a minor in International Studies.

She is also toying with a minor in a foreign language—either Spanish or Russian. After her four years in South Carolina, Kaleigh isn't sure where she'll call home next. She hopes her studies in international business will lead her overseas.

"My dream is to be a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S.

Department of State and work overseas in a U.S. Embassy," she says. "It's something that I at least want to try to do. It's an extremely selective process to become a Foreign Service Officer. After working in embassies all over the world I'm not really sure what I'll do!"

But you can be sure that whatever Kaleigh does, she will succeed. And you can be sure she'll come back to Forest Hill where her roots are strong, at least in between flights to exotic destinations.

"For most of my life I've been dreaming of going away, getting out of Virginia, going to college, and then jetting all over the world. But there is no doubt that I am going to miss Richmond, and more specifically Forest Hill. It will always be home."



Linda Mills has delighted in watching Kaleigh and her brothers grow up and become an integral part of the neighborhood.

Reedy Creek Coalition needs new volunteers to help with ...










Tree Plantings
Stream Walks
Educational Workshops
Watershed Protection Audits
Water Quality Testing
Writing articles for Website/Facebook

+++++

No Experience Needed!

Email us!

Email: reedycreekcoalition@gmail.com Website: <http://reedycreekcoalition.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ReedyCreekCoalition>

The Best Neighborhood

By Kaleigh Thomas

My earliest memories are filled with different aspects of Forest Hill from walks in Forest Hill Park to playing in the thousands of cherry blossoms on Taylor Avenue. I remember helping clean up debris after Hurricane Isabel hit, as well as climbing on the fallen trees. I remember the first time that I played in Reedy Creek, and how I even filmed a horror movie one summer with my brothers back in those woods.

Whether it's a walk with my dog or a walk with my friends, Forest Hill Park is present in my everyday life and, in my opinion, is the best thing about living in Forest Hill. As far back as I can remember, the park is a common thread among my memories. I've spent many of my days there for my own birthday parties, scavenger hunts, capture the flag games, and water gun fights. The park is how I've gotten to know some of my friends through walks and lake-side chats. The park is how I've gotten to know my neighbors from friendly waves to friendly conversations. The park is how I've learned about all the neighborhood has to offer from Music in the Park to the South of the James Market. When I'm in Forest Hill Park, I feel a sense of community incomparable to any other place that I have been in all my life.

In the 18 years I have lived in Forest Hill, the neighborhood has given me uncountable happy memories, a debt that can in no way be repaid. Yet over the years, I have tried to give back to

the community that has given so much to me. I have participated in several Forest Hill Park clean ups and even planted trees in the park. It is important to me to help keep one of the most special places in this neighborhood beautiful. It is important to me as well to help those who share my community and I have made it a point over the years to always lend a helping hand to neighbors. Recently, I've been getting involved in the actual Forest Hill Neighborhood Association itself. I attended my first meeting this past spring and helped hand out the Forest Hill Flyer early this June. A community cannot exist without the help and dedication of those within it. In just a few minutes you can make someone's day a little brighter.

The greatest challenge of our community is achieving complete unity among all residents of the Forest Hill neighborhood. Complete unity may be impossible, but if we strive to do the impossible, it's more likely that we will do all that actually is possible to develop a strong and supportive community. Community is all about connections.

When I was younger, there weren't many children living in the neighborhood and definitely no children my age. It pleases me to see more and more families moving into the neighborhood because these kids will be able to grow up together and their connections with each other will be the beginning of even more connections between the residents of Forest Hill.



**OPENING
DOORS.
CHALLENGING
MINDS.**



Kindergarten Open House for
Parents of Prospective Students
Tuesday, October 29 | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Please call or visit our website for more information.
804.272.3514 | stmschool.net

St. Michael's Episcopal School
Expanding Knowledge, Building Character, Making a Difference

St. Michael's Episcopal School accepts qualified students without regard to race, religion, national or ethnic origin.



wepro@earthlink.net

WareEver Productions

www.wareeverproductions.com



804.375.9004

Specializing in Video Events including Forums, PowerPoint Presentations, etc.

For all of your audio and video needs:



- Photography
- Videography (Standard and High Definition Formats)
- Audio Recording, Mixing and Mastering
- CD/DVD Authoring, Mixing and Mastering (Standard and Blu-Ray)
- Analog to Digital Conversion (Vinyl and Tapes to CD/DVD media)

Halloween Howl in Forest Hill Park!

Start designing your pooch's costume now and get a leg up on the competition! Bring your dog decked out in costume to socialize with neighbors and participate in activities including Best Pet Trick, Dog/Owner Egg Spoon Race, and Farthest Fetch! Awesome prizes will be awarded! The event will culminate with a pet/owner dog parade. Parade prizes will be awarded for the following categories: Best Dog/Owner Duo, Scariest Dog Costume, Cutest Dog Costume and Best Dog Costume Overall.

Even if you don't have a dog, come out and cheer on our neighborhood pups! Halloween snacks for people and dogs will be available.

Admission is free, but monetary donations will benefit Ring Dog Rescue (ringdogrescue.org), so please consider bringing a donation. Ring Dog Rescue is a rescue group dedicated to the "Bully Breeds," which is defined as any dog having bulldog lineage. They are a nonprofit organization and are currently listing adoptable "bullies."

Visit the Friends of Forest Hill Park's website (friendsofforesthillpark.org) for more information closer to the event. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Laura Dysart at lauradysart@verizon.net. This event is brought to you by the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior (activity coordinators and judges) and the Friends of Forest Hill Park.

Mark your calendar for the Halloween Howl with a canine costume event, parade and competition on Sunday, October 27, 1-3 p.m. at Forest Hill Park, near the Stone House.

CritterTown BathHouse



Everything you need to wash & dry your pet
Over 25 brands of quality dog and cat foods
Plus toys, treats, collars, leashes and more

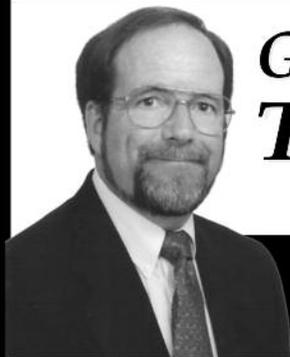
Bring in ad for 25% OFF bath!
Stratford Hills Shopping Center
Forest Hill Ave at Hathaway Rd



(804) 320-1096 www.crittertown.com

Self-Service Pet Wash & Market

"You clean your pet and we'll clean the mess"



Guess what happened this year?
The Market took off!

Thinking of Selling Your Home?
CALL JIM DONOHUE!

- Forest Hill Expert
- Forest Hill Resident for 30 Years
- Integrity and Proven Track Record
- 17 Years of Experience
- 20 Sales in 2012
- Friendly, Personal Service

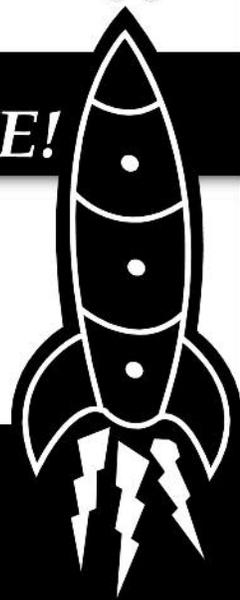
*If You're Thinking of Selling Call Jim for
a FREE Market Analysis of your home.*



Jim Donohue

233-4685 (home) 484-3323 (office)

Jim.Donohue@LNF.com



Westover Hills United Methodist Church Offers Mothers' Support Group

Are you a mother of small ones who are up to five years old? Are you looking for a caring, supportive community right in your own backyard? As a mother of little ones, do you unwind by enjoying a cup of coffee or tea? Would you like to talk with other moms to share experiences? Are you an expecting or brand new mother who is feeling excited, exhausted, sad, elated, isolated, joyful, overwhelmed or all of the above? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then the Westover Hills United Methodist Church (WHUMC) Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is the place for you!

So what is WHUMC MOPS? Established in 2011, our MOPS group is a caring community that offers friendship, fellowship, and support to mothers of preschoolers and new mothers. At WHUMC MOPS, you come just as you are to build friendships, be encouraged, and gain practical parenting strategies while your small ones are cared for onsite by our loving staff. No matter your age, ethnicity, background, lifestyle, or beliefs, we invite EVERY mother of a preschooler to join our group!

So what happens at MOPS? At WHUMC MOPS, you may hear an interesting speaker who will encourage you with a relevant talk that relates to your life as a mom. You will also be able to participate in discussion groups addressing topics applicable to your life. And at some meetings we engage in a creative activity or try a new skill—just for fun!

The best way to get started is to come! Our first meeting of this year takes place on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at WHUMC. We meet regularly on the first and third Tuesday of each month September through May. Please visit the WHUMC MOPS website for additional details and registration information at www.whumc-mops.org. If you have any questions, please contact us at 804-232-1769 or whumc.mops@gmail.com.

Sabrina, Karen, Julia, Deborah, and Andrea (Westover Hills), Erika and Ally (Woodland Heights) are all part of the team who would love to have you join MOPS.



Elizabeth Perry
Dog walking • Pet/house sitting • Pet taxi

503 • 209 • 9133
eperry23@hotmail.com

Special rates to new clients • References provided • Bonded & insured

TICER CONSTRUCTION

GENERAL CONTRACTING
(LICENSED AND INSURED)

SPECIALIZING IN:

CARPENTRY PROJECTS
PAINTING PROJECTS
TRIM WORK
RENOVATION
SHEETROCK REPAIR
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

*I would be happy to meet with you
and give you a free estimate.*

COLEMAN TICER
5026 DEVONSHIRE ROAD
RICHMOND, VA 23225
(804) 233-1848

*Pauline Hillsman is pleased
to announce the arrival of:*
paulineschildcare.com



Born August 2011 and now accepting visits.



Pauline's

*At home childcare for infants and
toddlers, ages 3 months-3 years.*

*Located just off Forest Hill Avenue
1731 Leicester Rd., 23225*

Bluebird Trail Comes Alive in Forest Hill Park

By Laura Dysart

Monitoring began this spring for a seven-box Eastern Bluebird trail in Forest Hill Park. Volunteers have been monitoring the boxes by soaping them to prevent wasps, greasing the poles to prevent ants, removing invasive sparrow nests from the boxes, and maintaining the trail. Volunteers have also kept a log of all nests, eggs and hatchlings week to week.

Two separate nests of chickadees (a native, welcomed species) have fledged in Forest Hill Park, and we have had two nests of Eastern Bluebirds for a total of ten bluebirds hatched in Forest Hill Park as of July 24, 2013! What a success! Eastern Bluebirds are a native species of birds that are not only beautiful, but useful. They eat large numbers of destructive insects and their songs are considered lovely. Eastern Bluebirds are a conservation success story. Thanks in part to people who added bluebird nesting boxes to their landscapes, these bright blue and orange birds, considered rare 50 years ago, are now found throughout the eastern U.S.

Thank you to Christina Woodson, of the Virginia Bluebird Society (www.virginiabluebirds.org) for bringing this project to the park, training volunteers, and continuing to be involved! The group would also like to thank Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream for housing our bluebird monitoring kit. Neighborhood volunteers include Vivian Bruzesse, Vincent Revene, Sarah McClellan, Alicia St. John, Laura Dysart and several youth from the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior. We appreciate everyone's hard work to help promote the Eastern Bluebird population in Forest Hill Park!

Laura Dysart oversees the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior. If you would like volunteer for this exciting Eastern Bluebird Trail experience, contact Laura at lauradysart@verizon.net.



Newborn Eastern Bluebirds huddle in one of the bluebird houses constructed and monitored by the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior. Photo by Brandon Dysart

Jammin' On!

May 12th
6-8 pm
Mother's Day Square Dancing Blowout!!!!
 The Beer Ticks featuring Grant Hunnicut with special guests Gene & Gayla

June 9th
6-8 pm
The Taters
 Roots Rock, Pop, Country, Skiffle and Americana

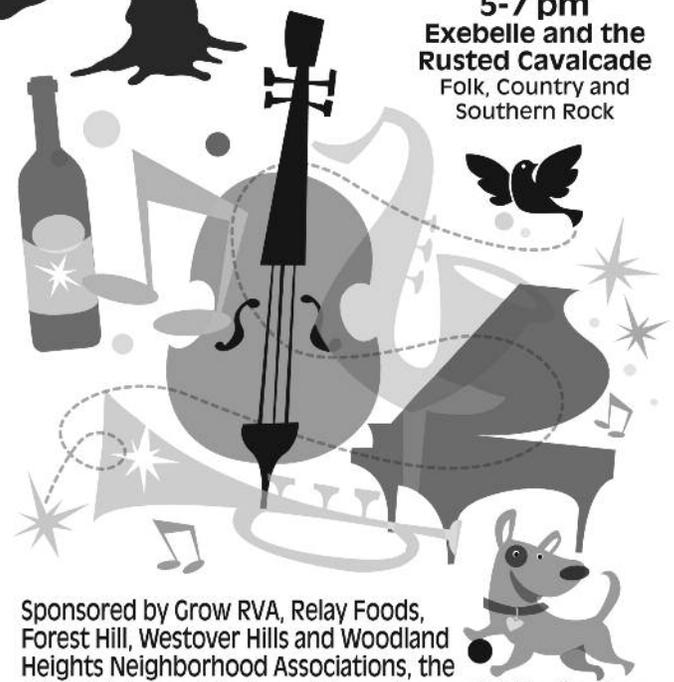
July 7th
6-8 pm
The Dhomatics
 Original Soul and R-n-B

August 18th
6-8 pm
3rd Wave
 Surf Music

September 8th
5-7 pm
Trongone Band
 Grateful Dead and Friends Sounds

October 6th
5-7 pm
Exebelle and the Rusted Cavalcade
 Folk, Country and Southern Rock

Relay
 FOODS



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

Renovation Loans
Lend money today - based on
tomorrows value.



TURN THIS ↓



New kitchens / baths -
Upgrade systems - New Roof -
Additions - Complete
renovations - You name it!



INTO THIS →

“The worse the house,
the better”

Attend the bi-
monthly
Home Buyer /
Renovation Lending
workshops to learn
more about how to
save or improve an
old house.

Information at my
website and also at
richmondneighborhoods.org

THE RICHARD DAY RENOVATION LOAN TEAM
804-855-4421 / fixandfinance.com

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

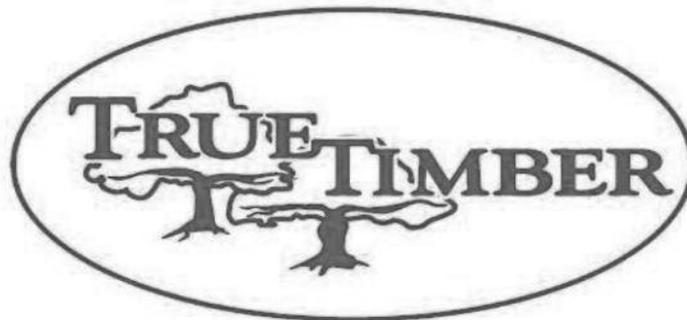


**VOTED #1 TREE SERVICE BY READERS OF
RICHMOND MAGAZINE!**

Call us and find out why!



**Free Estimates
and Property
Inspections**



**4 Certified
Arborists on
Staff**



- Tree Pruning
- Tree Removal
- Stump Removal
- Plant Health Care
- Cabling/Bracing
- Lightning Protection



804-218-8733 (TREE)

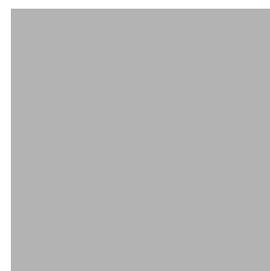
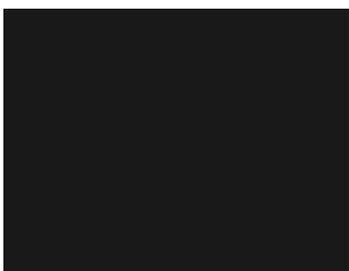
www.truetimber.net



ENVOY

of Westover Hills

Consulate Health Care is one of the nation’s leading providers of Senior healthcare services, specializing in post-acute care. Operating more than 200 centers nationwide in 21 states, we offer services ranging from short-term transitional care to Alzheimer’s and dementia care.



Our Services

- 24-hour skilled nursing care
- Comprehensive post-acute care
- Physical, occupational and speech therapies
- “Journey Home” discharge planning program
- Long-term care services
- Alzheimer’s and dementia care
- Care for medically-complex patients

Other Services

- Assistance with Applications for Financial Assistance
- Transportation
- Recreational Activities
- Beauty/Barber Shop
- Church Services

Reimbursement

We accept reimbursement through Medicare, Medicaid, commercial insurance, managed care contracts, and private or self support.



4403 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225
Ph. (804) 231-0231 | Fax (804) 231-9538

Order Your Plaque!

Look for the Forest Hill Historic District plaques as neighbors install them. They are visible from the street and add a touch of class and distinction to the homes they adorn. Show off our historic district by displaying a plaque on your house.

FOREST HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT PLAQUE ORDER FORM

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Plaques may be ordered in brass with black engraving or bronze with black background.

BRASS PLAQUES: _____ cost is \$95.00 including delivery and engraving of the construction date for the individual house.

BRONZE PLAQUES: _____ cost is \$200.00 including delivery and the construction date for the individual house.

MOUNTING TYPE: _____

(Screw mount is recommended for wood or siding over wood.

Invisible Mount is recommended for brick and stucco.)

- Make checks payable to the Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee and deliver/mail to Carolyn Paulette, 4312 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225.

- Turnaround should be 4 to 6 weeks depending on meeting minimum orders. Contact Carolyn at 232-6644 or cmp4312@yahoo.com with questions.

- We would like to verify the construction date for your property with you before we have it engraved on your plaque. We will use the date that the city tax records provide or the date our research provides unless you have other documentation.

- **The next order for plaques will be sent in on October 1, 2013.**

Get your order in today!

A Message from Our School Board Member



Dear Forest Hill Neighbors,

Since I took office in January, the last eight months have been extremely busy. In March, the Richmond Public Schools (RPS) School Board balanced the district budget for the first time in recent history. In April, the board and superintendent Dr. Yvonne

Brandon announced that she would leave the district at the end of June. The board voted to close several schools and rezone our elementary schools to alleviate overcrowding and repopulate under-enrolled schools.

The Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, located on Semmes Avenue, was given a five-year charter extension and a 25-year lease on the building so that the Patrick Henry Board will be able to acquire financing and continue renovations on the 90-year old building. The RPS School Board also recently approved another charter school that will serve a population of students with significant cognitive disabilities and who typically graduate with special diplomas. This school will open in September with 10 students and will be co-located at George Wythe High School. The school will ultimately serve a total of 40 students.

In July, we welcomed Dr. Jonathan Lewis as our interim superintendent. Dr. Lewis will be with RPS until the end of this year. He hails from Fauquier County and is tasked with top priorities that include reorganizing our transportation system and ensuring that school rezoning is successfully executed.

Moving forward, the board is looking at converting the district to a 10-point grading scale, possible year-round school calendars, a school uniform discussion and the improvement and expansion of our International Baccalaureate (IB) program. In the fourth district, the new Huguenot High School on Forest Hill Avenue will open in January 2015 and will feature a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum.

To stay updated, please visit my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KristenNLarson or email me at knyelarson@gmail.com to be added to my regular email updates. You can also call me with any questions at 804-503-1313.

Thank you,
Kristen

Kristen Larson represents the fourth district as a member of the Richmond City Public Schools School Board.

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.

Yes, I'm interested in volunteering with FHNA!

Pay online at www.foresthillneighborhood.com
or by check made payable to Forest Hill Neighborhood Association
ATTN: Ramon Puzon, FHNA Treasurer
4400 Stonewall Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225

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



Forest Hill

For more information visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com

Need flexibility with insurance payments?

Just say the magic words
"Hello, Nationwide"



Get insurance fast with
cash, check or charge...
Automagically.

GET A FREE QUOTE TODAY!

Ralph E Sweeney
(804) 232-7790
sweener@nationwide.com



©2008 Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Nationwide Life Insurance Company. Home office: Columbus, Ohio 43215-2220. Nationwide, the Nationwide Framemark, On Your Side and Life Comes at You Fast are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Not available in all states. We offer non-Nationwide homeowners insurance products only in FL.

**Forest Hill
Neighborhood Association
2013-2014**

www.foresthillneighborhood.com

OFFICERS

Shannon D. Taylor, President
Luke McCall, Vice President
Ramon Puzon, Treasurer
Robley Jones, Secretary

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Janet Bowers
Dorna Braswell
Sue Cline
Richard Day
Linda Mills
Carolyn Paulette
Bo Williams

FLYER

Linda Mills, Editor
Bo Williams, Design and Production
David Lynch, Ad Manager
foresthillflyer@gmail.com



YOU'D NEVER BUILD A HOUSE BY YOURSELF, SO WHY BUILD YOUR FINANCES THAT WAY?

A Prudential financial professional can assess your situation. Draw up a plan. And help you build a secure future. **To learn more, call me today.**



Steve Knipe
 The Prudential Insurance Company of America
 4860 Cox Road
 Glen Allen, VA 23060
 Office 804-727-2584
 Steve.Knipe@Prudential.com
 www.prudential.com/us/steve.knipe

INVESTMENTS | INSURANCE | RETIREMENT

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark, NJ and its affiliates. Securities products and services are offered through Pruco Securities, LLC. Each company is solely responsible for its own financial condition and contractual obligations. © 2013 Prudential Financial, Inc. and its related entities. Prudential, the Prudential logo, the Rock symbol and Bring Your Challenges are service marks of Prudential Financial, Inc., and its related entities, registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. 0239345-00001-00



Prudential
 Bring Your Challenges®

Attention Homeowner!

DON'T PUT IT OFF!

**I BUY HOUSES – CA\$H, FAST
 CALL TODAY! (434) 962.4585**



I am a private investor looking to BUY homes in your area. I will pay CA\$H for your home. If your home or personal needs fit any of the following reasons, please call for a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL estimate on selling me your home.

- ✓ Behind on payments?
- ✓ Out grown home?
- ✓ Bad tenants?
- ✓ Divorcing or separating?
- ✓ Recent job loss?
- ✓ Relocating for work?
- ✓ Need money to pay bills?
- ✓ To stop foreclosure on your home?
- ✓ Home needs repairs (strapped for cash to fix)?
- ✓ Not enough equity to pay a real estate commission?
- ✓ Estate that needs to be sold?

"Throughout the transaction they have been professional and courteous. They have done what they said they would do. We are extremely grateful for their intervention into our situation. We would highly recommend their services to anyone who needs to get their home sold quickly."

-L. Hodgson



My group, Peregrine Properties is a private investment company - NOT a realtor or real estate agency. We offer several unique ways which allow homeowners like yourself to quickly sell their house without the usual time delays, fees, and hassles of traditional home selling. Best yet, we DON'T CHARGE ANY FEES OR COMMISSIONS to buy. Call me today at 434.962.4585 for your FREE, no obligation, confidential consultation.

James River Association Offering Rain Barrel Workshop in Forest Hill

Build a Rain Barrel at a Discount When You Become a River Hero Home

Join your neighbors for a rain barrel party sponsored by the James River Association (JRA). Now's your chance to build your own rain barrel for only \$35! (The rain barrel as pictured below usually retails for nearly \$120.) The friendly folks from JRA will provide the barrels and hardware, and even help you put yours together.

The only requirements for attending this workshop are that you live in Forest Hill, which is part of the James River watershed, and that you apply for your property to become certified as a River Hero Home by JRA.

When you become a certified River Hero Home you'll receive a variety of perks! You'll get a lawn flag and pole plus a window decal to proudly announce your dedication to the James. In addition, your membership card will get you discounts at many local nurseries, garden centers and businesses that provide landscaping products. But the best perk of all may be your special invitation to the annual River Hero Home Lawn Party held each year in September. It's JRA's way of thanking you for your river-friendly landscaping practices that are helping to reduce pollution in Reedy Creek and the James River.

"We are delighted to be certified as a River Hero Home and help improve our waterways. Being a River Hero Home has not only improved our landscape and our runoff problems, it has saved us a lot of money!" says David Mills, a resident of Forest Hill who uses two rain barrels on his property. "We have ordered mulch from Yard Works and purchased gorgeous plants from Sandy's Plants, all at a discount. Help the river and save money at the same time. Can't beat it!"

So mark your calendar for this fun neighborhood event. Join us to sip coffee, munch treats, chat with neighbors and save the James River!

WHERE: 1102 W. 42nd Street

WHEN: Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 11 a.m. to noon

WHAT: Learn about the benefits of rain barrels for water conservation and build one to take home. It's easy! JRA staff will be there to show you how.

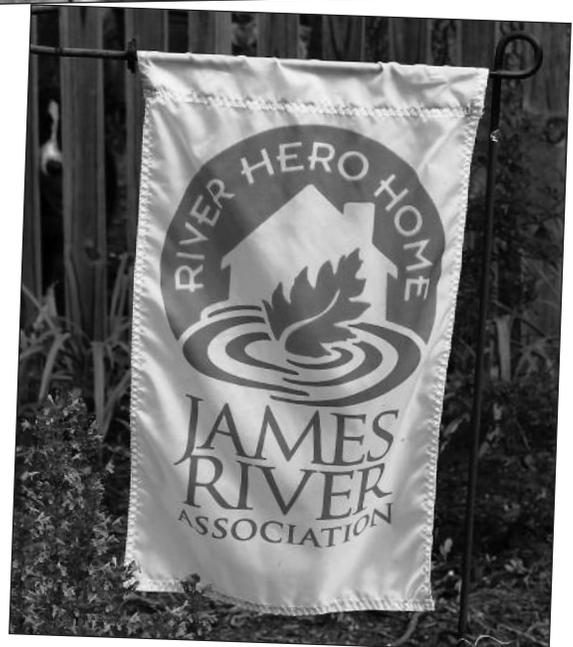
COST: \$35

HOW: Please register by October 21, 2013. Pre-registration for this rain barrel workshop is required. Attendance is limited to 20 people. Sign up today!

Once you have registered, please send a check payable to the James River Association for \$35 to:
Michelle Kokolis - Watershed Restoration Project Manager
James River Association
9 South 12th Street, 4th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

You must apply to become a River Hero Home prior to the workshop at www.jamesriverhero.org. Please note on your application that you will be attending a JRA Rain Barrel Event and provide the date and name of the event (Forest Hill). If you are using the rain barrel made at this workshop to qualify as a River Hero Home, select "Rain Barrel" as your River Friendly Practice on the River Hero Home application.

For more information and to register, please contact Michelle Kokolis at 804-788-8811, extension 204, or email mkokolis@jra.org.



Know Your Neighbor

Not Just Pounds and Bunches

By Judith Warrington

We call our neighborhood “country in the city” and nowhere is that more true than at the Reedy Avenue home of Charlie and Gina Collins and their children, Mae and Conor. They live in the city and operate Victory Farms, a 4.3-acre Certified Naturally Grown farm on Osborne Turnpike in Henrico County. Fortunately for us, they also share some of their bounty with the neighborhood at their urban farm stand in their front yard.

Prior to moving to the Forest Hill neighborhood in early 2012, the Collins family lived in Hanover from 2006 to 2011.

“We saw the neighborhood while working at the South of the James Market and liked the variety of houses and the big lots,” said Gina.

Today in their large backyard, berries grow along a fence that backs onto the woods. To one side a greenhouse is home to seedlings, while healthy and vibrant nursery stock resides in neat rows of recycled plastic flats awaiting a trip to the farm where they will grow to maturity. It looks like the yard of a very efficient and successful gardener. There’s also still plenty of open space and Charlie says it’s going to stay that way because Conor is quite the soccer player.

After the family moved in, they learned that the house had a prior agricultural history. A neighbor told them that during the 1950s the yard had contained a large garden, a fruit orchard, chickens, and even some livestock. Despite this, Gina vows that she will not be joining the urban chicken movement.

“We get beautiful eggs from a friend in Hanover,” she said, “and I’d rather let him care for the hens. This is the first time we’ve lived separate from the farm. It’s a good working arrangement.”

And being only a few minutes’ drive away from the farm suits them just fine, because it means they don’t feel like they have to work 24/7.

Since farming usually runs in families, it’s somewhat of a surprise that neither Charlie nor Gina grew up on a farm. Charlie’s father was an organic gardener in suburban Chicago and an uncle owned a dairy farm in Wisconsin. Gina’s agricultural background was even less direct. “I married into it,” she explained, “though my grandfather was a vegetable farmer in California from the 1930s through the 1950s.”

The couple’s farming interests started in earnest when they were in college.

“Charlie worked for a printing company when I met him and was undecided about a major at Arizona State University. I encouraged him to work toward a degree doing something he loved. He ended up in botany and our tiny backyard garden at our first house turned into a business just a few years later,” said Gina. Since then the couple has lived, and farmed, in Maine, Arizona and Virginia.

The Collinses have sold produce at farmers markets and through CSAs, but, “I’m not just selling pounds and bunches,” says Charlie. Today, being successful means he had to modify the business plan and begin to sell to chefs again. That, it turns

out, is his real passion. He currently sells to local restaurants and to chefs that he calls, “great creative people.” They appreciate fresh produce, specialty items, and want something beyond the garden variety tomato. To meet

their needs, the farm grows more than 60 varieties of specialty and heirloom vegetables throughout the year.

Charlie and his four-person crew at Victory Farms do all the growing and harvesting, while Gina, who works at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, handles the business end, plus the marketing, website, and emails. Another Forest Hill neighbor, Dena Lakin, handles the day-to-day farming assistance, sales and the produce stand.

Before this most recent farming venture at Victory Farms, Gina said her husband had stated: “No more farming, I’m going to teach.” Yet he has managed to combine both! Victory Farms is currently working with Patrick Henry Charter School to develop a mini-farm on the school grounds. And, to help others grow better plants, he wants to offer composting classes in Victory Farms’ new barn.

To learn more about the farm and which restaurants enjoy their produce, visit www.victoryfarmsinc.com.

For a real taste of country in the city, stop by the Victory Farms urban farm stand at 4500 Reedy Avenue on Wednesday afternoon between 4:30 and 7 p.m., or on Saturday morning between 8 a.m. and noon.

Judith Warrington is a long-time Forest Hill resident and backyard gardener. She harvested amazing green beans and burn-your-mouth peppers this year!



Not your average market fare—fresh figs and edamame are some of the interesting offerings at the Victory Farm urban farm stand. Photo by David Mills



Gina Collins loves talking with neighbors about the produce her family farm grows. Photo by David Mills

Another Great Day at Sunday in the Park

By Carolyn Paulette

I hope you did not miss this year's ninth annual Sunday in the Park sponsored by Friends of Forest Hill Park, and supported by the three neighborhood associations and Kathy Graziano. Neighbors were sitting on blankets picnicking or riding their bikes through the park. It was a bit warm, but it was the last day of June after all. A breeze was blowing, the band was playing, children were laughing. A great day for Sunday in the Park!

A visitor to the event wrote in appreciation, "I know this type of event takes a lot of work, but why make it only an annual event? The park looks so lovely...and being in green places helps kids. The park is such a great mix of cultures. The hula hoopers were a huge hit!"

The Dog Town Hoopers awed admirers as they whirled their hula hoops to the music. They also helped children learn to use the magic hoops. When the children tired of hula hooping, they went to the interactive craft tables provided by Good Shepherd Episcopal School, FFHP Junior, Westover Hills Library Advisory Group, and Virginia Bluebird Society.

When they wanted to be active again and maybe climb a tree, they visited Riverside Outfitters to learn about tree safety, or they visited the Tree Stewards to learn about how to care for trees. In addition, many local conservation groups offered fun and valuable information that taught both children and adults how to keep Reedy Creek, the James River, and the Chesapeake Bay clean.

Several tents were crowded with attentive children who were either watching as Heidi Rugg from Barefoot Puppet Theatre brought stories to life, or were waiting patiently in line for the clowns to paint their faces. Some wandered over to enjoy Deborah Fellman from Balloon Entertainment as she created balloon hats.

It was hot. But kids and adults just strolled over to the misting tent to cool off. Many adults enjoyed a tour of the Stone House where the air conditioner was running and guides were explaining trolley car memorabilia and the Manchester Canal.

Many of the food trucks lured folks with mouth-watering scents and diverse menus. We all enjoyed Gelati Celesti Ice Cream, Boka Tako, Great Pizza, Goatocado. Free cookies and water were donated by Nabisco, Sue Cline and the Good Shepherd Kitchen, and Food Lion. Thanks also go to CVS, Walgreen's, Martin's, Kroger, Food Lion, and Costco.

Carolyn Paulette is a member of the board of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and on the board of Friends of Forest Hill Park. For more information on FFHP, go to www.friendsofforesthillpark.org.



Some of the most visited booths provided environmental education on how to conserve our precious Reedy Creek, James River, and Chesapeake Bay. Photo by L. Kathryn Thornton



Kids had a "ball" playing at the booth where Wayne Swatlowksi of Woodland Heights sold his wonderful marble jewelry. The name of his company is "Marble-ous Creations." Photo by Ian Mills



Many visitors enjoyed the display in the Stone House that provided information on the Manchester Canal. Photo by Carolyn Paulette



Photo by Ian Mills



Forest Hill Fall Fest! Block Party

FHNA Association Members and Fun Friends ONLY



**Saturday,
October 5th
3-7pm**

On 42nd Street at
Dunston & Rhodes Avenues



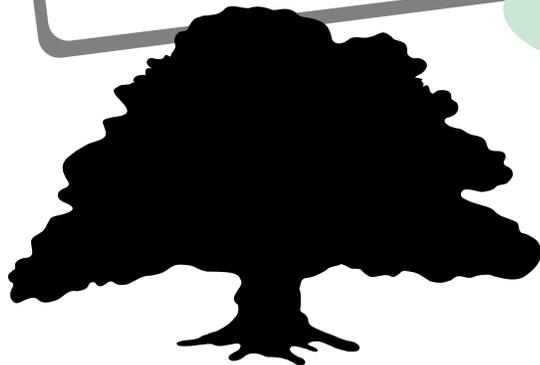
Bands!

Food!

**Festive
Drinks!**

**Kids
Activities!**

**Ravenchase Adventures
Treasure Hunt**



Forest Hill

Purchase your tickets early!
Each ticket includes dinner
AND 2 drink tickets...
AND Kids under 18 FREE!

Ticket Prices

Pre-order by September 15th:
\$10 per FHNA Member
\$15 per Fun Friend

Order after September 16th
and the day of:
\$20 per FHNA Member
\$25 per Fun Friend

Get more information at
www.foresthillneighborhood.com