

The Forest Hill Neighborhood
Association Newsletter

Summer 2015

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

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Membership to Vote on Design for Forest Hill Roadside Markers

By Carolyn Paulette

Since many visitors to Forest Hill often confuse the area with Westover Hills or Woodland Heights, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association created a committee to design a sign to identify the neighborhood and to recognize the National Forest Hill Historic District. Dorna Braswell, Whit Clements, Carolyn Paulette, and Shannon Taylor served on this committee. Their goal was to create acceptable designs, and to find the best price from several different sign companies.

The plan is to install at least two signs on the east and west ends of Forest Hill Avenue as it passes through the neighborhood, and possibly to install a third sign on Riverside Drive. Some historic districts in the city have three signs, although normally the city only permits neighborhoods to establish two signs. Other city restrictions about placement of signs restrict our installation to particular areas.

See the two design choices below which will be black and white on a dark green background. Each sign will consist of two signs that sandwich a cast-aluminum pole in the same dark green with a decorative base. Members of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association will vote on one of these designs at the membership meeting on June 16, 2015. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. Membership dues must be current in order to vote.

Carolyn Paulette, a 45-year resident of Forest Hill, is chair of the Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee.



Our 5K Fun Run!



**See Page 17 for coverage of the
Forest Hill Run for the Hills!**

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The President's Column



It's Your Neighborhood. Join Us!

By Shannon D. Taylor

Greetings neighbors! Does anyone else think 2015 is flying by? How is it June already? Not only are our personal lives busy, but so is our bustling neighborhood. There are a ton of activities happening this season, beginning with our Trash to Cash neighborhood yard sale on June 6. Look for official yard sale maps at any home with a green Forest Hill Tree sign! Having participated for several years, I can share that although it takes some sweat equity, the payoffs can be large—both financially and in connecting with neighbors and visitors to our community.

On June 2, 2015 the Valentine Museum is hosting a Community Conversation where Forest Hill Neighborhood will be featured. I will present a brief history of the neighborhood (thanks to notes from the Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee) and share some pictures of our area. If you're new to the neighborhood or missed out on past meetings where we've learned about our neighborhood's unique history, this is a great opportunity for you. Go to thevalentine.org/calendar/forest-hill for more details.

Coming soon to our streets are historic neighborhood signs. Erecting "Forest Hill" signs has been a goal of the FHNA for several years. It is now coming closer to fruition. At the June 16 membership meeting, FHNA members will vote on the final sign design. Ultimately the design must be approved by the city through the permitting process, but we are confident based on preliminary conversations with the city, that both sign candidates are acceptable. If you are interested in participating in the vote, please attend the June meeting and make sure your membership dues are up to date.

On a personal note, it has been a true pleasure to serve on the association's executive board these past few years. I've met wonderful people and established great relationships with so many neighbors—something that was only possible through my membership. If you only felt a fraction of the happiness and satisfaction I've gained through volunteering, you'd be very lucky. Which is why it is with mixed emotions that I'm stepping down after this year.

My family obligations are about to grow as my husband and I are expecting our second child in early August. Because of this happy event, I will not be able to devote the time and energy I feel is needed to accomplish executive board responsibilities. You deserve leadership that can take the association to the next level, and I'm certain there is a fabulous leader waiting in the wings to be elected in November.

And while the powers that be will probably let me write one more article as your president, I figure I better share this sentiment with you now, before I become sleep deprived! I hope everyone has a wonderful summer. And if you see a frazzled mom with an infant in one arm, grabbing a four-year-old young man with the other and chasing an escapee dog later this summer, please send good vibes my way!

In addition to FHNA business, Shannon is busy nesting and preparing herself for the challenge of "two under five."

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2015-2016

www.foresthillneighborhood.com

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Dena Lakin of Victory Farms shows members of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association how to get the best from their fresh vegetables. She demonstrated how to make a spinach and kale salad with homemade salad dressing at the April meeting.

A Message from Our Council Representative



Dear Forest Hill Neighbors,

I hope all is well! As I write this, spring has been pretty wet and cool. Certainly, the hot temperatures will be here when you read this.

I recently heard some good news from Parker C. Agelasto, councilman for the Central 5th District. The pedestrian crosswalks and walk signs have been approved for the

intersection of Forest Hill Avenue and Roanoke Street. Look for the changes to be made soon.

There has been a question about the city's Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and Reedy Creek. DPU is looking into a device called a Bandalong Litter Trap. It is designed to float in waterways to capture litter before it flows farther downstream. It uses the current to guide debris into a trap. This would be a huge help in keeping our local waterways clean. The organizations and alliances involved are the City of Richmond, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Reedy Creek Coalition, and Groundwork RVA. Currently they are working together to help support this initiative with DPU, and to plan, fund, install, and maintain a Bandalong Litter Trap to capture debris at an appropriate location on Reedy Creek. The cost of the project is approximately \$200,000. The cost does not include operations and maintenance. This project is in the early stages. We'll keep you posted.

Although the gas main repair on Forest Hill Avenue west of Westover Hills Boulevard does not affect Forest Hill's immediate

area, I thought I would give you a quick update. The work is finally winding down. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, DPU is looking at finishing connections and closing of the old gas main (thankfully, they will not need to remove the old gas main) within the next few weeks. Then they will be able to pave Forest Hill Avenue from Westover Hills Boulevard west to Powhite Parkway. I know we all can't wait for that!

The city is getting ready to host the 2015 UCI Road World Championships September 19-27. More than 1,000 cyclists from more than 70 countries will participate in the nine-day event. We can expect to see hundreds of thousands of onsite spectators, as well as a worldwide TV audience in the millions. For more information, including volunteer opportunities, please go to richmond2015.com.

Please remember that school will be out soon! Be on the lookout for children as you drive through the neighborhoods.

I invite you to call or stop by my district office at 6948 Forest Hill Avenue to share your ideas, concerns, and discuss issues. It's probably a good idea to call before you stop over. Your involvement with my office has and will continue to be vital to setting policy and providing services that improve our community and quality of life. I value your input. Follow me on Twitter (@kathygraziano).

The Honorable Kathy Graziano is councilwoman for the Southwest 4th District in Richmond. You can reach her at kathy.graziano@richmondgov.com or 804-320-2454.



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Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship Deadline July 1.

Are you a graduating high school senior who has put your mark on the neighborhood with your volunteer efforts? If you have been serving your community, your efforts have made you eligible for the third annual Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship.

The scholarship deadline this year is July 1, 2015. All materials must be postmarked by that date and sent to the address below. The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the recipient by the FHNA during the August 2015 membership meeting.

If you are interested in the Forest Hill Neighborhood

Association Community Service Scholarship, you can find all the details and the application on the FHNA website at foresthillneighborhood.com. A full article about the scholarship is in the Spring 2015 issue of the Flyer, also available on the website. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the application in the mail, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: **FHNA Community Service Scholarship Committee, 4206 Riverside Drive, Richmond, VA 23225**. We will send an application back to you. For any other questions, contact foresthillflyer@gmail.com.

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meets the third Tuesday of each month, except for July. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 4401 Forest Hill Avenue.

Volunteers Credited for Sunday in the Park's Success

By Carolyn Paulette

Sunday in the Park with Friends on April 19, 2015 in Forest Hill Park had a bit of something for everyone. Deborah Fellman of RVA Balloons was back with her balloon creations by popular demand; Stories Comics encouraged children to create their own super hero; students from Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts painted faces; Jonathan the Juggler, entertained with his magic card tricks; Magical Puppet Shows and Magic Ducks were a hit with the children; Laura Dysart and the Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth Group helped children make buttons and demonstrated how they manage the bluebird houses in the park; Westover Hills Elementary had children create paper bag hats; Good Shepherd Episcopal School created UVB light bracelets; and Westover Hills Library helped children make book marks, and discussed its new rain garden. For the more adventurous children, Richmond police, fire, and ambulance crews demonstrated how to defuse a bomb and showed off their rescue equipment. Environmental groups, Reedy Creek Coalition, Tree Stewards, Bridge Park RVA, and Virginia Bluebird Society provided conservation information and demonstrations.

In the Stone House, Matt Zipperer, Maggie Southwick, and Carolyn Paulette provided information and photos about the history of the Stone House. Thanks to Alex Ritter and Maggie Southwick for the upstairs tours. Elizabeth Watkins Morris and Kathleen Maitland of Halloway House in Petersburg showed their collection of 19th century clothing and accessories. Outside by the Stone House, the Pooch Pad welcomed dog lovers and their pets.



Elizabeth Watkins Morris and Kathleen Maitland of Halloway House in Petersburg bring history to life at the Stone House.

Six different bands appealed to a variety of musical tastes thanks to Keith Ashley and his superb array of bluegrass, rock, folk, and country groups—Whiskey Rebellion, Sturgeon City, ICB, Altered Takes, Broad Street Ramblers, and The Blue and the Gray.

Thanks to our neighborhood sponsors—Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, Westover Hills Neighborhood Association, and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, as well as the city's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities. Also, thanks to our many commercial sponsors for their donations—Farm Fresh, Food Lion, Kroger, Martin's, Target, Walgreens, and Walmart. A special thank you to the Food Lion on Buford Road for donating water, and to Deirde Brown of Walgreens for having a booth to check blood pressure and give away gifts.

Thank You Volunteers!

A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped do whatever they were asked with a smile.

Blu and his park crew
Alex Johndrow
Andrew Peters
Ann Mays
Anna Quinn
Anne and Eric Thomas
Bryce Lyle
Cathy Spence
Christie Owens
Colin Thomas
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Happiness on the Bluebird Trail

By Laura Dysart

The Bluebird Trail in Forest Hill Park is off to a great start in its second year with a trail of 10 bluebird boxes. As of May 1, 2015 we have three bluebird nests. Two nests have five hatchlings each, and the third has five eggs. The trail also has a chickadee nest with seven eggs, which are hatching as this is being written. The bluebirds will often have two broods in a season, so let's hope for lots of new bluebirds and chickadees in our park!



Monitoring the trail involves making sure the boxes are in good shape, checking the predator guards, applying petroleum jelly to the base to prevent ants, removing wasps, and soaping the box to prevent wasp

nests. If sparrows build nests in these boxes, trained monitors remove the nests, since sparrows are an invasive species. The 10 boxes in Forest Hill Park are in place for native birds and to promote the declining bluebird population. Only trained monitors should open

these boxes because there is a point when it is dangerous for the baby birds to have the box opened. For more information on bluebirds and the Bluebird Trail initiative go to the Virginia Bluebird Society website at virginiabluebirds.org.

Laura Dysart sponsors the Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth Group. The young volunteers have been trained to monitor the bluebird nests and much of the success of the Bluebird Trail goes to them. She also gives huge credit to Vivienne Bruzesse who monitors the trail every other week.



Turn Your Trash Into Cash!

Forest Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale

Saturday • June 6th • 8am-noon

Everyone who signs up will be listed on the official map, plus we'll run an ad in the Saturday Richmond Times Dispatch and notice on Hills & Heights along with Craigs List showing our map and listing your address.

For Forest Hill Association members its **FREE**. For Non-Members the cost is just \$15 per household for the membership, but the deadline to sign up is May 31st.

**For Sign Up or Questions contact Dorna Braswell
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Visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com for more information.



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Celebrity Pet

Jane Eyre—Happy and Dignified

By Jane, as told to Pat Dodson

What is your name and the name of your human?

My name is Jane Eyre and my human, Pat, is the one who gave me my name. She likes to read a lot, and she knew I had a tough start in life, and that I needed a dignified, literary name to help me find my way in the world.

Where and when did you find your home?

Well, I started out at the SPCA, and I thought I had it made. The SPCA folks are good people—mostly liberal democrats—and they’ve even abolished the death penalty. I could breathe a sigh of relief and wait for the right family to appreciate my special talents (we’ll get to those later). It didn’t take too long. I’m pretty cute. I was adopted by a family that looked nice enough. Mother, father, little girl, even a grandmother. I was set, I thought.

But something wasn’t right; they didn’t quite take to me. They put me out on the streets a few times and the animal control officers called them. I’ve got one of those chips, so I’m hard to get rid of. They took their time coming for me. Talk about embarrassing! To make matters worse, I was at the animal shelter, not the SPCA, and that place makes me a little nervous. Finally, they came, and I thought I’d give them another chance, but it was just one thing after another. I couldn’t please those people. The mother took me back to the animal shelter and said right in front of me that I was too much trouble. Just like that. No appeal process. No lawyer. Nothing. In the slammer. Shawshank without a trial. Then the next day the father comes in and says his wife was wrong, and he wants me back! After the night I had, listening to all the pups whimpering for their moms, I was willing to give it another chance, even though I knew I couldn’t trust him.

But then a couple of weeks pass by, and the father dumps me back at the shelter. In the end, even Granny got in on the act. “She’s just too noisy,” the old lady says. Finally, the animal shelter people said, “Enough.” They knew something was up. After all, the family could have just taken me back to my pals at the SPCA (and gotten a full refund), but no, they didn’t want those folks knowing their true colors.

I was worried about my rep. Get returned by a family once and before you know it people think you’re a bad dog. But lucky for me, my mom, Pat, was out looking for an adorable dog with special talents, and she doesn’t believe idle gossip. She had her 84-year-old mom with her. I wasn’t too eager to have another grandmother after my last one, but I took a chance. They were the total opposite of my first family. The first time I ran off, you should have seen the way Pat cried. I do it every now and then just to see how much she loves me. She roams around the neighborhood sobbing and usually I’m just waiting to get found. She gives me extra treats and hugs when she finds me.

What’s your heritage?

I’m a wire-haired Jack Russell.

What is your favorite toy and/or activity?

I love my Kong—especially when it’s stuffed with peanut butter—and I really enjoy anything with a squeaker. I can get a squeaker out in 10 seconds flat. Pat’s always worried I’m going to swallow the squeaker. Do I look like I was born yesterday? I love walks so I can run into some of my neighborhood pals. I like to disrupt Pat’s dinner parties. I hone in on the one person at the party who isn’t crazy about dogs and I woo them. Jump in the lap. Lick the face. You should see the expressions they make!

What is your best trick?

I’m an excellent whiner. Suppose Pat gets home from work and she’s tired. Maybe she thinks she wants to watch a little *Law and Order* instead of walk her sweet little dog right away. But I can look at her with my sad eyes and whine the most pitiful whine you’ve ever heard. I tell you she’s putty in my hands! We’re out the door in no time.

What are your best traits?

I’m very affectionate and I love old people, especially my grandmother, who lets me snuggle with her during her naps.

What else would you like your admirers to know?

I just want to give a little shout out to all my friends who make Forest Hill such a great neighborhood—Clooney and Logan and Eddie and Iggy and Maggie and Buddy and Cesar and Gracie and Rascal and Matilda and Rasta and Boone and everyone else!

Pat Dodson has lived in Forest Hill for nearly six years where she enjoys the abundance of trees and the diversity of architecture. Her neighbors—along with their canine and feline companions—have made Forest Hill a wonderful place to call home.





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If Walls Could Talk

By Nick and Monica Rumsey

The old saying about the stories you'd hear if walls could talk is more than true in the case of our 105-year-old home in historic Forest Hill. Years ago, when we first began bringing our old Federal Revival, stucco-covered home into the 21st century, we had no idea that we'd learn so much about the tradesmen who built it back in 1910, or the people who have lived here since then. We are only the fourth family to own this house, so you know it's a place that takes hold of you, heart and soul, and keeps you here for a generation or more. We've been here for 35 years.

In all that time, we have done just about everything an old house would need to make it livable in today's high-efficiency, high-tech world. We put on a new roof, restored crumbling pillars and pediments, upgraded the wiring to a whopping 400-amp service with new outlets in almost every room, added insulation and replaced cracked plaster walls, refinished beautiful old quarter-sawn pine floors, rejuvenated old windows, put in a super-high-efficiency boiler-hot water heater, and installed air conditioning and ceiling fans to make it comfortable in every season.

But you'd never guess what came out of the woodwork as all that work progressed. First off, a stack of yellowed paper advertising flyers, with tasty biscuit menus on the back, dropped out from under the slate roof tiles as Nick reworked the roof. Then, when we tore cracked plaster out of an upstairs ceiling, out dropped a mint green gauzy nightgown, with brownish stains on the side from who knows what: Rust? Blood? Creepy! More old-timey souvenirs appeared as we were converting an old "trunk room" into an en suite master bath. Who knew we would find old "tobacco cards," sporting pictures of faraway places like Egypt and Paris,



hidden behind the walls? And of course those carpenters and plasterers might need a drink or two to stave off their thirst, so several little whisky bottles tumbled out from between the floor joists.

A few treasures even came from somewhere else: a neighbor looking through a postcard bin at an antique shop gave us a sepia-toned postcard showing this very house—originally frame, not stucco—not long after it was built, with tiny saplings where towering trees now stand. Another old photo, passed on to us by the previous owners, shows the first family, the Weisigers, sitting and rocking on the broad expanse of our grand front porch.

We've tucked all those old mementoes into a "treasure box" for the next family to enjoy, so they can take their turn imagining the people who built and lived in this old house. We plan to sell it sometime soon, so if you're looking for a place with a character all its own, you might want to live here yourself someday.

When not restoring an antique house, Nick Rumsey builds model boats and enjoys the great outdoors, hiking, canoeing, swimming, and skiing. Monica spends her free time walking their dog, gardening, sewing, and taking "selfies" of Mother Nature.



Tell Us about Your Home Project

We're looking for home renewal stories for future issues of the Forest Hill Flyer. Have you refurbished a bathroom, modernized a kitchen, or remodeled a basement? Have you experienced less glamorous projects like replacing a sewer line, installing a new furnace, or evicting bats from your attic? We would be delighted to hear from you! Please contact foresthillflyer@gmail.com to contribute your own story of loving a fabulous Forest Hill home.

Happy Anniversary!

The Little Free Library in Forest Hill Park celebrated its one-year anniversary during this year's Sunday in the Park with Friends in April! The Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth Group made and decorated the box, and helps keep it stocked. The Little Free Library was funded by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, the Westover Hills Neighborhood Association, and the Woodland Heights Civic Association. With people borrowing and donating books throughout the year, the library saw a lot of action. The Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth Group would like to thank the community for all of the wonderful book donations. To donate books, you can either place children's books directly in the box, or contact Laura Dysart at lauradysart@verizon.net. The youth group tries to monitor the box at least once a week.



Order Your Plaque Today!

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.



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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.
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Know Your Neighbor Balloon Artist Deborah Fellman

By Judith Warrington

As we talked in a local coffee shop, Deborah Fellman's hands were always busy, expertly twisting and shaping a long, slender, air-filled tube into what will become a flowered headband to delight a little girl. She creates balloon art like some people knit: effortlessly and almost without looking.

Deborah said: "I always wanted to be an artist, but there was no art in me. I can't sing, I can't dance, I can't draw a straight line or draw a circle. But with balloons, I don't have to. Balloons are circles or lines. I came to appreciate that I like simple lines."

She first tried balloon twisting to entertain her two young nephews. When she purchased a "learn balloon art" kit at Borders Books, she made everything in the book the first night. "Because I came late to it, I don't think of myself as an artist," she said. But when she talks about her talent, it's clearly in an artist's terms. To create balloon art, "You think in modules with combinations of ovals and rectangles. You look at things and reverse engineer them." It's an ability she comes by naturally, since her father was an engineer. But making a living as a balloon artist was never a career she envisioned for herself. "I didn't see this coming," she says with a laugh.

When Deborah moved to Forest Hill in 2004, she was working in process governance for a large financial institution in Richmond. Just three months after she moved into her new home, Tropical Storm Gaston filled her crawlspace with five feet of water and took out every system in her home. For extra income she started doing balloon art at events. It soon became her profession and has since grown into a thriving business, RVA Balloons. She regularly orders balloons in lots of 5,000!

As a working artist, Deborah attends as many as six balloon conferences a year where she both teaches and learns. Last winter in Rochester, she and 60 other twistors (that's what balloon artists call themselves), worked for four days and two nights to build "Balloon Manor 2015: The Amazing Air-Filled Underwater Adventure," an installation that filled a five-story atrium with Neptune's kingdom comprised of 40,000 balloons and weighing 300 pounds. That's a lot of latex and air! The installation had to be carefully engineered and blueprinted in order to be suspended from a monofilament framework. This colorful wonder was on public view for nine days before its creators held a popping party.

Her art is filled with magical moments. She tells the story of a puppy sculpture she made for a little boy at an event. When the balloon popped the little boy came back to her on the verge of tears. She told him not to worry, "I'm a balloon animal veterinarian." And she made him a new dog. "I love those moments when you make their world right again!" She always tries to customize a piece to the child, whether it is hair or skin color, or using a color element of the clothing they are wearing. Every piece is meant to go with that child.

Her ephemeral creations regularly delight patrons at Legends

Brewing Company on bluegrass night and O'Toole's for St. Patrick's Day, at neighborhood events in Forest Hill Park, and some of the area's farmers markets. Last holiday season she worked at "Illuminate," at Meadow Event Park for 47 evenings. She was so busy she hired a college student to help her with inflating and making the basic shapes. They made a

lot of reindeer, snowmen and Elsa sculptures from "Frozen"! That was also the first time she charged per piece for her art.

Running a balloon-based business can be a challenge. "You can say you do balloon art," she said, "but what people envision is a three-twist dog." That's the dismissive term balloon artists use for the simple one balloon wiener dog sculptures popular with birthday party clowns. (Sorry, clowns, that's not art.) To overcome this misconception she lets her work speak for itself through her "five headbands and an elevator speech" guerilla marketing strategy. Her innovative and successful tactic consists of visiting a potential client and leaving a box of five headband samples and a business card.

"I see where balloons need to go," says Deborah laughing, "Every event has a logical, meaningful way to incorporate balloons," And she means it. She has created large scale sculptures and table centerpieces for events where you might not envision balloons.

Of course, every artist aspires to create a great work. So what does Deborah want to create? She answers without hesitation: "A Chihuly chandelier made out of balloons!"

Through her balloon art Deborah has met so many people in the neighborhood. "I'm privileged to do what I do," she said. By the time she exited the coffee shop, she'd left a little bit of happiness behind...a small boy wore a green alien on his head, his sister had a pretty princess headband, and a very happy adult had a flowered headband. Make yourself happy and prepare to be amazed. See some examples of Deborah's work on her RVA Balloons Facebook page or at rvaballoons.com.

Judith Warrington is a long-time Forest Hill resident who fondly remembers a special balloon from her childhood. Thank you, Aunt Thelma!

Deborah is scheduled to teach balloon art workshops at Good Shepard Episcopal School's summer camp program in June. She will also be at Legend Brewing Company on July 3, 2015 for the downtown fireworks.



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Election Awareness

By Robley Jones

In Virginia we only have elections in years that end in a number. All but five states (Virginia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Louisiana and Mississippi) and a host of cities with mayoral elections, have their state and federal elections at the same time, but we have what are commonly referred to as “off year elections.” As a matter of fact, this year we are going to have two elections—primaries on June 9, and the general election on November 3, when we will elect all 140 members of the Virginia General Assembly.

On June 9 Forest Hill residents will have the opportunity to vote in the Democratic primaries for the 69th House District where incumbent Delegate Betsy Carr is being challenged for the nomination by Preston Brown; and for Senate District 10 where Emily Francis, Daniel Gecker, and Alexander McMurtrie are seeking the nomination.

Please mark June 9 and November 3 on your calendars and be sure to participate in our electoral process. Virginia has open primaries, so you do not have to be a Democrat to vote in a Democratic primary. If you don't vote you lose your right to complain about who is elected.

Robley Jones has deep roots in Forest Hill—many of his relatives lived here as he was growing up, including his paternal grandparents. When he moved here in 2007, he felt he was coming home.



Send Us Your Critter Encounter Stories!

Do you have a critter story? Funny, scary, astounding, sweet, weird—we'd love to hear them all! Just write down your encounter with nature and email it to foresthillflyer@gmail.com.

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CHRISTIE'S
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At the Westover Hills Library

Mark Your Calendar for These Events!

Summer Reading Kickoff!

Saturday, June 13, 1 p.m.

Get your summer reading off to an amazing start with the magic of Mr. B! His magic will astound you and his jokes are guaranteed to bring a smile to your face. Fun for all ages!

Meet BBQ the Pig.

Saturday, June 20, 10:30 a.m.

Come meet the cutest pig in Richmond and his owner, Sara Andrassy! BBQ will perform some fine swine tricks and pose for photos afterward. This amazing pig is trying to raise awareness for Rangers Refuge at Gallastar in Staunton, Virginia, a nonprofit sanctuary, dedicated to caring for more than 100 discarded pet pigs as well as other animals in need.

Plant Clinic. Saturday, June 20, July 11, and August 8, Noon-2 p.m.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners will be at Westover Hills Library to help you with your gardening, turf, pruning, insect, plant disease, and other garden-related questions.

Unmask Yourself! Saturday, June 27, 2 p.m.

Join artist and instructor Sarah Hand for a free mask-making workshop for tweens and teens.

The Amazing Teacher. Tuesday, June 30, 2 p.m.

Steve Somers, the Amazing Teacher, makes learning fun using tricks, illusions, drama, puppetry, stories and music! Don't miss out on this nationally-acclaimed program!

Pirates! Thursday, July 9, 2 p.m.

Have fun singing and playing along with Dream Entertainers' Pirate Boy! Hearty fun for young pirates of all ages—and YES, you can wear a costume! Call 804-646-8833 by July 8 to register.

Animal Rescue. Monday, July 13, 11 a.m.

Learn how to protect Virginia's wildlife with AWARE, an animal rescue and rehabilitation organization. Call 804-646-8833 by July 11 to register.

Princesses Unite! Thursday, July 16, 2 p.m.

Have fun singing and playing along with Dream Entertainer's the Frog Princess! And YES—please wear a costume! Call 804-646-8833 by July 15 to register.

Make a Fairy Jar. Monday, July 20, 3 p.m.

Create a magical jar that glows in the dark! Craft for children ages six through 12. Please bring a small, clean glass jar. Call 804-646-8833 to register.

Make Your Own Computer Game.

Wednesday, July 22, 1 p.m.

Learn to make your own computer games with RPL's David Folmar. For children ages 10 and older. Call 804-646-8833 by July 21 to register.

Create with Legos. Saturday, July 25, 2 p.m.

What could you build if you just had the right Legos? Come build with ours and see where your imagination takes you! Call 804-646-8833 by July 24 to register. Designed for tweens and teens.

Animals Can Be Superheroes, Too.

Tuesday, August 4, 11 a.m.

Join the Backpack Storyteller, Deborah Alsko, for tales of brave animals.

Recycling Heroes. Wednesday, August 5, 2 p.m.

Learn how kids can help save the earth with tips from Central Virginia Waste Management Authority. Don't miss the magic recycling machine!

Make a Wind-Powered Vehicle.

Tuesday, August 11, 3:30 p.m.

Race a car that YOU design and run using only your imagination and the power of the wind! For kids ages six and older. Please call 804-646-8833 to register by August 10.

Make a Bristle Bot.

Tuesday, August 18, 3:30 p.m.

It's a robot! It's a toy! It's a . . . toothbrush? Yes! And YOU are the designer! For kids ages six and older. Please call 804-646-8833 to register by August 17.

Summer Reading Finale.

Saturday, August 22, 1 p.m.

You finished your summer reading! Congratulations! Now celebrate your accomplishments with us. Enjoy treats and tricks with Basa the Clown and see if YOU are the winner of a brand new bicycle!

African Dance Lessons with Claves Unidos.

Saturday, August 22, 3 p.m. Learn some smooth African dance moves with Kevin Lamarr Jones of Claves Unidos. Kids ages five and older. Call 646-8833 to register by Aug. 21.

Fiction Focus.

June 29, July 17, and August 21 10:15-Noon

Join our seniors' book club! We meet the third Friday of each month, February through October to read books and discuss them.

Fiction Focus is sponsored by the Richmond Public Library and the City of Richmond Office on Aging and Disabilities. We are reading *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self* by Danielle Evans on June 19, *The Hit* by David Baldacci on July 17, and *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith (J.K. Rowling) on August 20. We're always looking for a fresh opinion, so join us!

Book Babies

Interactive story, music, and play time for babies up to 18 months and their parents/caregivers.

Thursdays, June 18 and 25; July 2, 9, 16, and 23; August 13, 20 and 27 at 10 a.m.

Toddler Story Time

Early literacy story time features books, music, and rhymes for 18-36 month-olds and their parents/caregivers.

Tuesdays, June 16, 23 and 30; July 7, 14 and 21; August 11, 18 and 25 at 11 a.m.

Family Story Time

Early literacy story time with music, books and rhymes for children accompanied by an adult.

Thursdays, June 18 and 25; July 2, 9*, 16 and 23**; August 13, 20 and 27 at 11 a.m.

*Special Guest—the VCU Tooth Fairy

** Special Guest—Nutzy, mascot of the Richmond Flying Squirrels

Westover Hills Library Advisory Group

Interested in supporting your library? We meet the first Saturday of each month September through June at 9 a.m. Join us on June 6, 2015.

Are you interested in Training on Demand?

The Westover Hills Library staff offers 30-minute training sessions to help you learn more about computers, eReaders, and even applying for jobs online. All appointments are held on Mondays between 10 a.m. and noon, and Wednesdays between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Call 804-646-8833 to make an appointment or for more information.

All Richmond Public Libraries will be closed on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4.

Fun Run Brings Out the Neighborhood

Folks showed up on two feet, four feet, and wheels for the 7th Annual Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 5K Run for the Hills. It was gloriously sunny spring day as 113 runners, walkers, and moseyers completed the course as it wound through the neighborhood and Forest Hill Park. There was a tie for the first time in the men's category: Spencer Norman and Devin Lacks tied for fastest male. Rosemary Barber crossed the finish line as fastest female. Many thanks to our sponsors and volunteers who helped raise more than \$1500 for the FHNA!



Sean Hickey of Relay Foods was on hand to present runners with a nutritional powerhouse (banana) after the race.



Runners at the start.

Myles Swain, eight, was the fastest kid in the race!



Pam Faulkner and Willow, a three-year-old mixed breed, were the first person/pooch team to finish the race. Both smiling!

Friday Flicks!

Stop by the Westover Hills Library
Fridays this summer to enjoy
a cool family-friendly movie at 2 p.m.

June 19—*Finding Nemo*

June 26—*Sleeping Beauty*

July 10—*The Karate Kid*

July 17—*Peter Pan*

July 24—*Pee Wee's Big Adventure*

July 31—*Frozen*

August 7—*Toy Story*

August 14—*Big Hero 6*

August 21—*Megamind*

August 28—*Despicable Me*



Marjolein de Wit and her constant companion Ben led the runners through the course.



The Nosey Neighbor

By Alexis Morehouse Thompson

"I wonder what that house went for?"

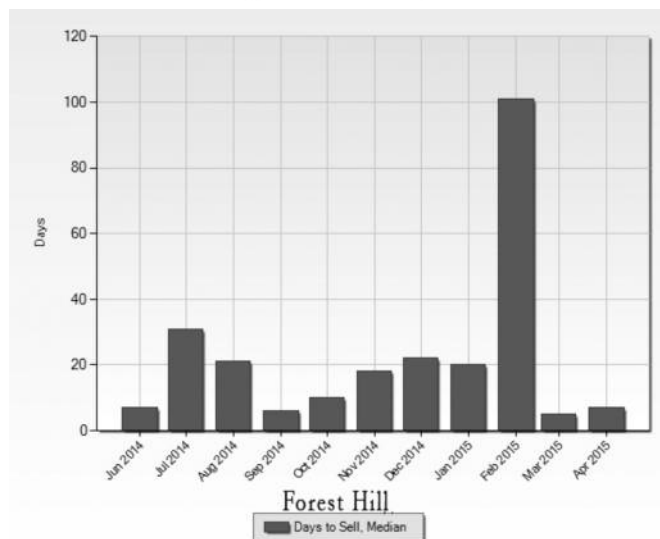
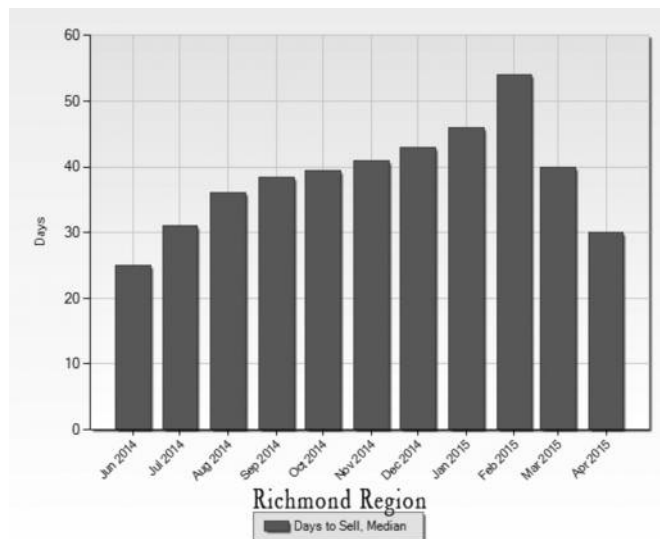
"Did their house sell that fast or did they just take it off the market?"

"Wow, they must have a renovated kitchen for that price."

For some people, talking about properties, renovations and sales is like talking about the weather. There's always something new on the horizon and just wait a few minutes and the market winds will shift in another direction. Well, the winds of 2015 seem to be picking up, and after experiencing some ridiculously fast sales in the area, I ran a few neighborhood real estate reports. As suspected, we are crushing the competition!

These two charts on the right show median days on market for the last year. Richmond region sales, the graph on top, hover in the 30-50 days-to-sell range, with a fast market taking over this April. While for lucky Forest Hill homeowners, illustrated by the graph on the bottom, the median days-on-market tends to stay between 10-25 days (except in February...we were too busy sledding in the park!) Take a look at the sales for 2015 and if you want to indulge your inner nosey neighbor, just email me (alexisthompsonrealtor@gmail.com) for a Forest Hill sales feed so you can find out if those neighbors did, in fact, renovate that kitchen!

Alexis is a proud Forest Hiller who, in addition to working in residential real estate, also provides consulting for economically distressed communities in Virginia as they work to rebuild their small business and entrepreneurial ecosystems.



Homes Sold Recently in Forest Hill

	Beds/Baths	Sq. Ft.	Sales Price	Days on Market
1022 W. 47th St	2/1	1172	\$140,000	49
4200 Springhill	3/2	1520	\$212,000	4
4403 Stonewall	3/1	1400	\$213,000	25
4300 Hillcrest	4/2.1	2300	\$215,000	20
1810 W. 45th	3/1.1	1670	\$230,000	53
1208 W. 46th	2/1.1	1500	\$234,900	6
4202 Hillcrest	3/1.1	1360	\$250,000	6
4503 Stonewall	3/2	1627	\$253,000	20
1104 W. 42nd	3/2	1462	\$280,000	6
1017 W. 47th	3/2	1811	\$298,000	101
4214 Riverside	3/2	2014	\$340,000	4
1110 W. 42nd	3/2.1	2961	\$519,000	0

Love Your Park, Earn Your Hours

Are you a middle school or high school student who loves Forest Hill Park? Would you enjoy earning community service hours by participating in fun park events? Do you appreciate the wildlife in our park?

We would love to recruit you to the Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth Group.

The FFHP Youth Group helps with park clean ups, Bluebird Trail monitoring and several events held in Forest Hill Park. Some of the most enjoyable activities are working at the children's activity table during Sunday in the Park with Friends each April, planning and running the Halloween Howl Dog Parade the Sunday before Halloween, and providing children's activities for Victorian Christmas with Santa at the Stone House. We have a great group of volunteers, but would love to have you!

Please contact Laura Dysart at lauradysart@verizon.net if you are interested in receiving emails about volunteer opportunities for youth in the park.

Your Neighborhood Wants You!

Please join the FHNA and become part of a friendly and active group that works for the good of the neighborhood.

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Date: _____

FREE
Tote Bag & Decal
when you join!



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

For more information visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com

Summer Safety Tips

Once again, warm weather is upon us. Unfortunately, that can mean a rise in break ins as criminals try to take advantage of unlocked sheds and open windows. The Richmond Police Department shared these suggestions for keeping your property safe with members of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association at a recent meeting.

- **Use Lights.** Criminals like to work in the dark. Install dusk-to-dawn lights. If you have them already, turn them on and make sure they are working correctly.
- **Lock Your Doors.** Unlocked doors can be an open invitation to someone looking to steal from your home. Make sure doors and windows are closed and locked before going to bed or leaving the house.
- **Take Valuables With You.** Don't leave valuables in your car! Leaving cell phones, purses, computer bags, or even visible coins in your car can draw unwanted attention. Place items in your trunk, or better yet, take them inside. And as a deterrent, always lock your car whether you have valuables in it or not.
- **Clean Up Your Alley.** As a city resident, you are responsible for your alley. Can the police identify which house is yours if there is a 911 call? Putting numbers on the back of a garage or fence could help officers identify where they may need to be. Keeping the alley clean and maintained is also a good idea. Don't give criminals a place to hide.
- **Call 911!** If you need police or notice something or someone not right or suspicious, call 911. The Richmond Police Department allocates officers and officers' time based on incidents and calls. If you see or hear something, say something! It will help the neighborhood.

Music In The Park

Forest Hill Park



Free Music!

May 10 • 6-8 pm

The Atkinsons
(Alt-Country/Americana)

July 12 • 6-8 pm

Hotel X
(African Jazz Funk)

September 6 • 5-7 pm

Elana Lisa and the Hot Mess
(Hot Jazz and Swing)

June 14 • 6-8 pm

Tin Can Fish Band
(Folk Rock & Roots)

August 9 • 6-8 pm

Mighty Joshua & Zion #5 Band
(Reggae)

October 4 • 5-7 pm

New Misty Centrals
(Folk-Pop & Rock)

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



Check us out
on facebook!

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www.foresthillneighborhood.com