

The Forest Hill Neighborhood  
Association Newsletter

Summer 2016

# Forest Hill Flyer

**Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month 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](mailto:foresthillflyer@gmail.com).

Published by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

For Ad Sales please contact David Lynch at [adsalesforesthillflyer@gmail.com](mailto:adsalesforesthillflyer@gmail.com)

## Mayoral Forum Scheduled for September FHNA Meeting

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association will host a Richmond Mayoral Candidate Forum on September 20, 2016 at the membership meeting. This will be an opportunity for the mayoral candidates to speak directly to the residents of the Forest Hill neighborhood. The candidates will present opening comments, as well as answer questions selected from submissions from the attendees. The event will allow direct access to the individuals who want to lead Richmond for the next four years. More details about the events will be publicized in September, but mark your calendars!

## What's Inside!

The 5K—page 11

Sunday in the Park—page 13

Know Your Neighbor—page 14

FHNA Calendar—page 16

***Music in the Park  
Kick Off page 9***

## 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 fourth annual Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship.

The scholarship deadline is July 1, 2016. All application materials must be postmarked by that date. The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the recipient by the FHNA during the August 2016 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](http://foresthillneighborhood.com). A full article about the scholarship is in the Spring 2016 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, P.O. Box 13201, 1021 Hioaks Road, Richmond, VA 23225-9998**. We will send an application back to you. For any other questions, contact [foresthillflyer@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillflyer@gmail.com).



# The President's Message



By Whit Clements

I have a small confession that needs to be made. My family and I have lived in Forest Hill since 2010 and we just attended our first Music in the Park on Mother's Day. We had an amazing time. Beyond Instant Karma's music, it was great to see the park full of happy smiling people enjoying the evening and the kids out playing. There isn't anything specific that stopped us from going before, and now I wish we had. This year

we decided to make a change, and going to Music in the Park was one of the things we wanted to do. Just making this one change enriched our day and increased our appreciation of this wonderful neighborhood that we are fortunate to live in.

Change is happening all around us on many levels. The city is going to see political changes this year with the election of a new mayor, a new city council person in our 4th district (thanks for all the years of service and hard work, Kathy Graziano!), and other local and national elections. The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association is going to be in the midst of this change by hosting a Mayoral Candidate Forum at our meeting on September 20, 2016. The FHNA wants to make sure that the residents of our area have their voices heard by the candidates. They need to know what matters to us.

There is change afoot as well within the FHNA right now, some of it is small and some of it will be larger. On the small side you will notice in this issue that the address for the FHNA has changed to a P.O. Box. This was done in order to have a consistent address for all correspondence and one that wouldn't change as frequently. The larger change is something that needs the input and support of all Forest Hill residents. In the next several weeks, an online survey will go out to the FHNA membership to gauge what you like, what you don't like, and suggestions for what you want the FHNA to be or do. Please take a few moments to let us know what you think. The goal of the officers and the volunteers on the board is to make this an engaging association and your input will help us greatly.

See you at the next Music in the Park!

*Whit Clements is president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and is seen around the neighborhood with his wife Cara as they push a cutie in a stroller and walk their pooches.*

## We need you!

Don't let these seats stay vacant! Your Forest Hill Neighborhood Association is looking for a secretary and treasurer to join the crew of fun volunteers. Being a part of the association leadership is a great way to get to know your neighbors and make a positive difference in your community. You'll love it! To volunteer, contact Whit Clements at [clements.whit@gmail.com](mailto:clements.whit@gmail.com).

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2016-2017

[foresthillneighborhood.com](http://foresthillneighborhood.com)

P.O. Box 13201, 1021 Hioaks Road, Richmond, VA 23225-9998

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# A Message from Our Council Representative



Dear Forest Hill Neighbor,

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the April FHNA meeting so I was not able to announce this at that meeting—I am not running for re-election to represent the 4th District on Richmond City Council. I can't believe it's been 12 years since I was first elected. I have truly enjoyed representing Forest Hill and the 4th

District. I certainly have a soft spot in my heart for the Forest Hill neighborhood, especially, the park with the South of the James Farmers Market and the lake. I have enjoyed getting to know and work with many of you over the years.

Providing the increased funding requested by schools will be difficult this year because of the lack of resources. On a positive note, the mayor, school superintendent, school board, business community, and city council have come together to form a taskforce to find a revenue stream that will provide a consistent source for funding schools. I look forward to coming up with solutions.

There has been some much needed paving in the area. I'm excited to see Cedar Lane finally get some attention. I'm pushing for more in the future.

There is a new Richmond Police 311 Sector Lieutenant, Harold Giles. He attended the April FHNA meeting and is planning on attending future meetings to give updates on police activity. Lieutenant Giles' email is [Harold.giles@richmondgov.com](mailto:Harold.giles@richmondgov.com).

Nothing says warm weather and summer more than the SOJ Farmers Market's summer hours. It is now open from 8 a.m. until noon. Summer also signals Music in the Park. I look forward to attending concerts that run throughout the summer into October.

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. By the way, you can now 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](mailto:kathy.graziano@richmondgov.com) or 804-320-2454.*

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## **Ask Jim**

### ***Question:***

***Has the real estate market in Forest Hill recovered?***

The short answer is, "Yes."

First let's look back at what happened. Our market was doing just fine until October 2008. There were other parts of the country where real estate was already hurting. Prices had almost doubled in many parts of the country from 2000 – 2007. At that point, adjustable-rate mortgages that had balloon features were coming due. Buyers had taken out loans at low rates that had to be refinanced in three to five years. The interest rates available were much higher than the original rate. Home owners either could not qualify for loans at the higher rate, or they could not afford the new monthly payment. People were walking away from their homes and the banks were stuck with houses they did not want.

Thus began the sad story of foreclosures and short sales. Meanwhile, Wall Street had packaged risky mortgage loans and sold them to investors. This all came tumbling down in October 2008 when it looked like the economy was going to collapse. We started to hear terms like "credit default swaps" and "derivatives." Wall Street firms and banks were failing all around us. The movie "The Big Short" gives a good account of what happened. The bottom fell out of the economy and didn't start

coming around until the beginning of 2013. People lost their jobs, homes, and more.

How did this affect our homes? For the first time in anyone's memory, the value of our homes declined significantly. It was the worst market in the neighborhood ever. Mortgages were difficult to obtain. Investors with cash made fortunes buying foreclosures for 30 to 50 cents on the dollar.

In the Richmond market, including Forest Hill, we saw declines of 20-25 percent. This loss of equity prevented many people from moving because their houses were worth less than what they owed on them. Starting in 2013, however, the market and prices started to head slowly up.

The market in 2016 is the reverse of those recession years. Now it's a complete seller's market. There are many buyers and homes are selling quickly. In Forest Hill, 14 days is the average number of days on market for 2016 listings. Prices range from \$100,250 – \$409,950 with the average sale being \$273,596.

So the real estate market is back! Sales are up and the prices have returned to pre-recession levels and better.

*Jim Donohue has been a Forest Hill resident for 33 years. He and with his wife Carol have raised two sons in the neighborhood, and have a Walker hound named Daisy. Jim has been a licensed Realtor® with Long & Foster for more than 20 years. He does most of his business in Forest Hill and the adjacent neighborhoods. Please send your real estate questions to Jim at [jim.donohue@lfn.com](mailto:jim.donohue@lfn.com).*

# Community Cleanups Unite Neighbors

By Tom Walsh

When I first moved to Forest Hill Terrace, I would walk around with my dog passing litter that had blown out of dumpsters or been carelessly discarded out of cars with little thought. I found myself saddened and embarrassed by the mess. It looked terrible and sent the message that we don't care about our community. So I would pick up each bit of detritus while I tried (and failed) to understand why this problem exists. I would think to myself, "Why would someone do this?" and "Why I am I the only one that cares?" as I slowly reached my boiling point.

I began photographing and sharing my surroundings on social media. Though I still can't answer the first question, the answer to the second could not have been clearer: I am NOT the only one who cares! The response from my neighbors has been overwhelming and positive. I am not alone in my desire to live in a cleaner and safer neighborhood. I live amongst many beautiful, caring people.

I realized the answer isn't just about communicating what others are doing wrong (which I had already begun) but, more importantly, celebrating what we can, and will, do right.

After one of my first posts, a neighbor and I walked the neighborhood filling nine garbage bags. Later, we began a neighborhood group "For the Love of Forest Hill Terrace" and quickly discovered the entire online community was of the same mind.

We reached out to RVA Clean Sweep, an anti-litter cleanup group, and scheduled an on-going hour-and-a-half monthly cleanup series. RVA Clean Sweep provides all of the supplies and arranges for the trash collection after the cleanup. The volunteers just need to show up.

After we finished our first community cleanup, the neighborhood looked great! We had a glow from both the experience of doing something good and a sense of camaraderie of meeting awesome neighbors for the first time.

Last April, more than 50 local volunteers partnered with RVA Clean Sweep, neighbors, Reedy Creek Coalition, and Parker Agelasto's 5th District Cleanup to remove 116 bags of trash/recycling, 11 tires, eight TVs, two bikes, and a scooter from four sites within the community.

RVA Clean Sweep has been positive experience creating a structured cleanup. If you volunteer for these cleanups, you get outside, you get to meet your neighbors, and you get to show you care about your community and the environment. It's so easy to do and makes such a huge difference. When I walk around the neighborhood now, I see a reason for optimism and a reason for pride. Instead of passing the grey house, the big house, and the cool house, I'm passing the homes of new friends who show they care about the community.

More details of our cleanups, and cleanups taking place in Forest View, can be found on RVA Clean Sweep's Meetup page, [meetup.com/RVA-CleanSweep](https://www.meetup.com/RVA-CleanSweep). You can also find RVA Clean Sweep on Facebook at [facebook.com/rvacleansweep](https://www.facebook.com/rvacleansweep), and Twitter @rvacleansweep. Their email is [rvacleansweep@gmail.com](mailto:rvacleansweep@gmail.com).

We're united by a desire to live in a clean and safe neighborhood. We've got work to do, but we've taken huge steps forward and we will continue this momentum. If we're positive and united, it's impossible for us to fail. We look forward to seeing you at a cleanup!

*Tom Walsh is general manager of Canine Adventure, and has lived in Forest Hill for two years. He works diligently to keep our neighborhood clean and safe.*

## Forest Hill Walking History Tours



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# A Message from Your School Board Member

Dear Forest Hill Friends,

I have had a busy few months working on the budget that was delivered to the city administration in early February. The initial budget included a request for an additional \$18 million to help fund long-overdue teacher pay scale adjustments and the second year of implementation of the Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Academic Improvement Plan. The budget was vetted by city council and was finalized in May.

On the facilities front, we just wrapped up 18 community meetings to discuss and share information on the findings from the RPS School Board-sanctioned Facilities Task Force (FTF). Visit the RPS website at [richmond.k12.va.us](http://richmond.k12.va.us) for an overview of FTF Option 5 that has been approved by the RPS School Board. The launch of Phase 1 of this plan was included in our five-year capital budget request. Our budget represents the priorities of our school system. Attracting and retaining top talent, improving our district academic performance, and creating a safe and sound environment for our students and staff are all reflected in this budget request.

The school board recently received names of possible school closure recommendations from the superintendent and his team. The list included Armstrong High School, Swansboro Elementary School, Southampton Elementary School, and J.B. Cary Elementary School. Overby Sheppard Elementary School is proposed to move buildings to Clark Springs Elementary School, and three specialty programs will be consolidated in other buildings. In addition, administrative offices are proposed to be moved and consolidated into other buildings.

I am hopeful that we will see some additional funding from the city council this year to help close the budget gap. The school board and school administration are aggressively seeking additional cuts we can make if we do not receive the full \$18 million we requested. I will continue to explore all options and support cost-savings measures that have the least impact in the classroom. I am "hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst."

The RPS School Board approved a new Constituent Services Policy that provides a standardized process to respond to requests and inquiries from citizens throughout the community. In support of this policy, RPS encourages interested parties to utilize the Let's Talk! portal to submit questions, concerns, suggestions, or other feedback. Submissions are accepted 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Submissions can be submitted to school leadership, school board members, and district communications offices via the RPS website at [richmond.k12.va.us](http://richmond.k12.va.us).

*Kristen Larson is the Richmond Public Schools School Board representative from the 4th District. You can contact her at any time with questions and/or comments on Facebook at [facebook.com/KristenNLarson/](https://www.facebook.com/KristenNLarson/), on Twitter @kristenRVA, via email at [klarson@richmond.k12.va.us](mailto:klarson@richmond.k12.va.us), or by phone at 804-908-4230 or 804-503-1313.*



*Kristen shows her artistic side at Westover Hills Elementary School Art Night.*

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Recycling Perks is excited to be working with the City of Richmond to raise awareness about the benefits of recycling, to save the city revenue, and to increase customer traffic for local businesses.

Did you know that residents of the City of Richmond can save up to \$25 a month just for recycling? If you recycle using the large cart with a blue lid, you are eligible for the free Recycling Perks program. Recycling Perks rewards households in the community that recycle curbside. Your household earns points in an online account each time your cart is placed at the curb or where your trash is picked up on recycling day. The points can be redeemed for exclusive specials and deals at local businesses. You can start saving today by registering at [recyclingperks.com/purl/SFREEMAN](http://recyclingperks.com/purl/SFREEMAN).

Are you a local business? You can participate too! Simply offer a reward that we will advertise on our website, and enjoy being part of a program that supports your community and your business. There is no cost to participate. We invite you to become a Reward Partner and we will work with you to design a reward that will benefit your customer and your business. Your reward will be equally distributed throughout the local community as a reward for recycling. Our recycling residents will support your business as a result of your participation in Recycling Perks. Please contact your Local Market Manager, Shannon Freeman, at [sfreeman@recyclingperks.com](mailto:sfreeman@recyclingperks.com) for more information.



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DIAMOND HEIST - NEIL DIAMOND

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Music in the Park started off with a bang, or rather a gently weeping guitar, as Instant Karma entertained a record crowd on Mother's Day with Beatles favorites. The fabulous picnics were accompanied by singing, dancing, and hula hooping. Join your neighbors for Music in the Park and enjoy more cover bands this summer.

# At the Westover Hills Library

## Mark Your Calendar for These Fun Summer Events!

### *On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!*

Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to noon

Summer reading is fun with Beanstack, our exciting online service! Earn badges, share reviews and get a weekly book suggestion tailored to your age and interests. We'll have plenty of interesting books on hand to grab your attention throughout the summer, along with drop-in crafts and prizes.

### *The Backpack Storyteller presents "Active Listening Stores."*

Saturday, July 16 from 10:30 to noon.

Bring your listening ears and energetic body to this interactive Storytime presented by the Backpack Storyteller, Deborah Alsko. No sitting still allowed! For ages three and older, accompanied by an adult. Please wear appropriate shoes.

### *Leonardo's Music!*

Thursday, July 21 from 11 a.m. – noon.

Leonardo strums into town with his humorous, high-energy musical program that inspires little rockers to become big readers! This highly-interactive performance has plenty of sing-a-longs, hand signs, dance moves, and volunteers jamming with the band. His program inspires imagination, creativity, and a love of reading in audiences of all ages and abilities. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

### *Chess Club*

Learn, practice, and compete under the guidance of Richmond Chess Initiative. Find out more about tournaments and how to become a rated player. The Chess Club meets on Mondays from 6-7:45 pm.

### *LEGO Club*

What could you build if you just had the right Legos? Come build with ours and see! We provide the Legos, you provide the imagination! For grades kindergarten through sixth with a parent. Lego Club meets Tuesdays, June 21, July 19, and August 16 from 4-5:30 p.m.

### *Fiction Focus Book Club*

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're always looking for a fresh opinion, so join us! June 17, July 15, and August 19 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

### *Crafty Afternoon!*

Learn a new craft and take home your creation. Tuesday June, 14, 4-5:30 p.m. Ages 11-16.

### *Westover Hills Library Advisory Group*

Are you interested in libraries, reading, and your community? We welcome your input! Join us to help make a difference at Westover Hills Library. Join us on Tuesday, June 14, 7-8 p.m.

### *Book Babies Storytime*

Interactive story, music, and play time for babies up to 18 months and their parents/caregivers. Thursdays at 10 a.m.

### *Toddler Storytime*

Early literacy story time features books, music, and rhymes for 18-36 month-olds and their parents/caregivers. Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

### *Preschooler Storytime*

Early literacy story time with music, books and rhymes for children ages three to six years old accompanied by an adult. Thursdays at 11 a.m.

**There will be no Storytimes during the weeks of July 11 and July 19.**

**All Richmond Public Libraries will be closed July 4, 2016.**

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# The 5K Brought Out the Neighborhood

The dismal March weather (didn't we have a lot of that?) couldn't keep the die hards from coming out to run, and cheer on the runners, as they raced through the Forest Hill neighborhood on March 23, 2016. More than 147 folks donned complimentary Run for the Hills t-shirts, and stretched while waiting for the starting bicycle to lead them off. After a lovely run through the neighborhood, the winners were awarded gifts at the finish line.

Those who came in first in their categories were:

**Man - Frank Locascio, 17:00 minutes**

**Woman - Haley Billingsly, 20:35 minutes**

**Dog - Greta, 19:26 minutes (Ted Baker ran as Greta's person)**

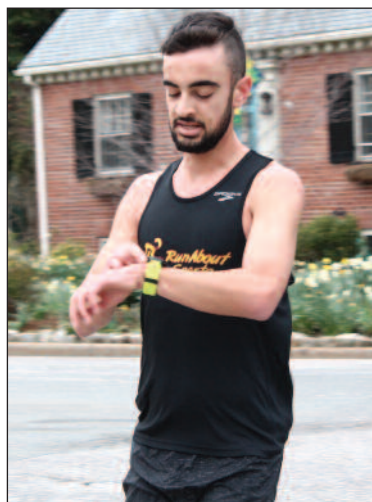
**Boy - James Puzon (11), 24:49 minutes**

**Girl - Francis Heller (16), 24:01 minutes**

It's fun to note that the winning man and woman are engaged. More races in their future? Congratulations to all the winners and to the many participants who finished on their own time. And thank you to the volunteers who made it all possible!



*5K organizer Stacey Maples and Ted Baker congratulate Greta, the fastest dog in the race.*



*Frank Locascio was the first male runner to cross the finish line.*





# 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.



## FOREST HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT PLAQUE ORDER FORM

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

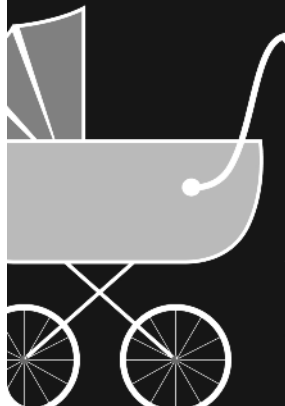
Invisible Mount is recommended for brick and stucco.)

- 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 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 **Junel 15, 2016. Get your order in today!**

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# A Shiny Sunday in the Park with Friends

By Carolyn Paulette

Thanks to gorgeous weather and fabulous activities, Sunday in the Park with Friends was another beautiful day in the neighborhood.

It was an especially amazing day for the young folks! Face painting creations by Falcon Faces and Ivy, and balloon hats by RVA Balloons created magical children who ran about all afternoon. Local schools (Westover Hills Preschool, Westover Hills Elementary School, Good Shepherd Episcopal School, Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, and Ephesus School), as well as Westover Hills Library, kept children happy making buttons and digging in plant boxes. Magical Puppets and Magic Ducks performed puppet shows that kept audiences spellbound. Children enjoyed Riverside Outfitters' lessons on climbing trees using ropes. And as always, everyone loved Johnathan the Juggler.

Newell Racing Car #48—just their size—gave kids the thrill of sitting in the driver's seat. For all children who ever dreamed of being a fire fighter, the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services brought out the ladder truck. Anyone who aspires to be a police officer or admires their profession, had an opportunity to visit with two canine units, as well as McGruff the Crime Dog, a CSI vehicle, and an armored vehicle.

For the older folks among us, Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior and the Virginia Bluebird Society gave us an update on the bluebirds nesting in their boxes in the park. Three conservation groups taught neighbors the importance of our wildlife, trees, and streams: Reedy Creek Coalition, Tree Stewards, and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The Forest Hill Historic group provided old photos of Forest Hill in its heyday as a street car suburb and even gave a walking history tour of the neighborhood. In the Stone House, the Virginia Homespun Dance Ensemble brought back to life the experience of families in the 1800s who danced the Virginia Reel and the Quadrille in their living rooms.

Five different bands played music to fit everyone's tastes: ICB, Cluster Funk, Altered Takes, Backseat Drivers, and Mo De Bree. Richard Bland showed his collection of street car memorabilia. If anyone was hungry, Friends of Forest Hill Park gave out free cookies and water, and several food vendors sold hot dogs, barbecue, hamburgers, ice cream, wraps, and lemonade. It was an active day in the park.

We are grateful to our sponsors and ask that you let them know by frequenting their businesses: O'Toole's Restaurant, Advanced Plumbing, Kathy Graziano, Cafe Zata, Ellersoul Records, True Timber, Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream, DaVinci's Pizza, Sneed's Nursery, Riverside Outfitters, TSRS, Inc., The Nest, Maldini's, Walgreen's, Critter Town Bath House,

Richard Bland Trolley Car Memorabilia, Walmart, Food Lion, Ukrop's Homestyle Food, Target, Kroger, Martin's, and Farm Fresh. In addition, join your neighborhood associations to help make events like this possible in Forest Hill Park. Let Westover Hills Neighborhood Association, Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, and Woodland Heights Civic Association know that you appreciate their support of Sunday in the Park with Friends.

And finally, we wish to thank the students who volunteered: Leia Ivey, Coner Collins, Alex Johndrow, James Puzon, Jonas Conefall, Dylan Zipperer, A.J. Robinson, Shyanne Holley, Kiara Bolden, Andrew Peters, and Jacob Owens. Special thanks to Brittany Berry for bringing her Falcons out to help with the set up and Face Painting. Thanks to the Ephesus Marching Band for marching right up Forest Hill Avenue to our festival. Adult volunteers who deserve our gratitude are Maggie Southwick,

Matt Zipperer, Anne Parham, Charlotte Hinson, Pat Wood, Kathy Spence, Monaca Palao, Whit Clements, Bryce Lyle, and Mary Godsey. Many hands can make a community, especially on a spring day in Forest Hill.

*Carolyn Paulette is the secretary of Friends of Forest Hill Park.*



*Virginia Homespun Dance Ensemble performed 19th-Century dances in the Stone House during the celebration in the park on April 24.*



# Know Your Neighbor When I Grow Up!

By Blue

I want to be a guide dog when I grow up!

My name is Blue and I am six months old. I live in Forest Hill with my raiser, Jana. She has volunteered to show me the world for the next year, so that when I am about 18 months old I can go to guide dog school. My parents are both guide dogs and I want to grow up to be just like them. Jana teaches me good house manners and lots of fun things like "sit," "down," "come," and "heel." I have to pay close attention to her voice and her hands and always look at her when she says my name so that I know what to do next. When I do the right thing, I often get a treat and lots of praise! My favorite thing she says to me is, "Let's go!" because that means I get to go someplace fun and learn something new.

I have lived in Forest Hill since February when I traveled down to Richmond in a big white van from New York where I was born at the Guiding Eyes for the Blind campus. I was only eight weeks old when I got here and I was a little timid, but Jana gave me lots of love so I soon felt at home. Jana and I go to class once a week with the other puppies in the area who want to be guide dogs too. We get to play a little and then we learn something new that we practice when we are at home. At class I see my brother, Bentley, who looks a lot like me, and also my best friend, Thor, who is a German Shepherd. I get to go just about everywhere with Jana so that when I become a guide dog nothing will be new to me.

About a month ago I had my first guide dog test. I thought it was going to be really hard because I had to show the teacher everything I know how to do. But she kept telling me I was doing a really good job so that made me happy and I had fun. I was able to wear a blue vest that says "Guiding Eyes for the Blind" for the test and because I did well they let me bring the vest home to wear every day! I am so excited that I passed that test and I am proud of my vest. One day I will wear a guide dog harness like my mom and dad, but first I have to get bigger and pass more tests.

For now I am busy learning about the world. Jana and I go to restaurants, grocery stores, Home Depot, Starbucks, CVS, and places close by like Outpost, Crossroads, and the Westover Hills Library. We love to hike on the Buttermilk Trail and walk all around Forest Hill Park. Sometimes we drive for a long time in the car and end up at the beach where I take long walks on the sand and play in the ocean. When I get big and I am a guide dog, I will be able to

be with my person all day long every day! I think that will be the best part about being a guide dog. I hope one day that I can guide my person on hikes in the park and long walks by the ocean and show them the world. I think they will like that!

Jana says that being a volunteer puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes is awesome! She really loves me and says she will miss me when I leave but, like her children who are now grown and doing their own thing in the world, she wants me to grow up to do something important to help people.

If you want to find out about being a puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, please look at the website [guidingeyes.org](http://guidingeyes.org). You can also watch for my friend, Tully, who visits with Heather Sullivan on NBC Channel 12 some mornings, or see pictures on Facebook at Guiding Eyes Richmond Puppy Raising Region. Guiding Eyes volunteers are the nicest people in the world and Forest Hill is a great place to grow up!

*Jana, husband Tyler, and two cats have lived in the neighborhood for about five years. Blue is Jana's first Guiding Eyes puppy, although dogs have always been a part of their family. They embrace the challenges of living in a 93-year-old home and love the diversity and culture of city life.*





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# FHNA Calendar of Events

<b>Saturday, June 4</b>	<b>Neighborhood Yard Sale, 8 a.m.-Noon</b>
<b>Sunday, June 12</b>	<b>Music in the Park, Fear of Music, 6-8 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 21</b>	<b>FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, July 1</b>	<b>Deadline for FHNA Community Service Scholarship Application</b>
<b>Sunday July 10</b>	<b>Music in the Park, Life on Mars, 6-8 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday, August 1</b>	<b>Deadline for info and advertisements for the Fall Forest Hill Flyer</b>
<b>Sunday, August 7</b>	<b>Music in the Park, Diamond Heist, 6-8 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 16</b>	<b>FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, September 11</b>	<b>Music in the Park, Big Pay Back, 5-7 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, September 17</b>	<b>43rd Street Festival of the Arts, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 20</b>	<b>FHNA Membership Meeting and Mayoral Candidate Forum</b>

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)  
or by check made payable to Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

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