

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Summer 2017

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.

Published by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

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

# Forest Hill Flyer

## Run for the Hills Brought Out the Neighborhood

The cool March weather didn't keep the dedicated athletes from coming out to run as they raced through the Forest Hill neighborhood on March 18, 2017. A total of 183 runners, some with dogs or strollers, donned complimentary t-shirts and waited eagerly 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 earned prizes were

- Men—Todd Van Luling and Mark North
- Adult Woman—Shaina Donahue
- Young Adult Woman—Frances Heller
- Boy—Jack Salley, age 7
- Girl—Lotti Stefanovich, age 13
- (Jack and Lotti shot across the finish line together!)
- Dog—Risoli, Mark Feldpausch ran as Risoli's human

Congratulations to all the winners and to the many participants who finished in their own time. Thanks to you, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association raised approximately \$5,000 to give back to the neighborhood through programs and events. Thank you to the volunteers and the numerous folks who cheered on the runners. You make a fun run even better!



### What's Inside!

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# The President's Message



By Whit Clements

Ah....Forest Hill in the spring and summer is something that everyone should be able to experience. Fortunately, we already live here so all that we need to do is walk out our front doors. This spring started out

with a great turn out for the Forest Hill Run for the Hills 5K. Then the Mother's Day Music in the Park concert saw the annual start of the series hosted and sponsored by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA). The summer calendar is going to stay full with the monthly concerts for Music in the Park, Movies in the Park (from the City of Richmond), an ice cream social for the residents of the 4th District, and of course the 43rd Street Art festival (with FHNA as a sponsor). Your membership in the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association directly helps to allow these activities to occur.

There is another way to increase the impact of your membership in the FHNA as well—attend one of the monthly meetings. On the third Tuesday of each month (except July) we meet at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church at 7 p. m. The FHNA brings in speakers from community organizations who give us the scoop on what is going on around town. It is also a fabulous opportunity to hear about what has been happening in the neighborhood from the Richmond Police Department and our City Councilperson.

For example, at the he May meeting of the FHNA, we found out that the city has not received any bids to dredge the lake at Forest Hill Park. This is concerning news. Dredging is something that the city has neglected since the lake restoration occurred. During that same meeting, we had a wonderful presentation from the VCU ICA about the new contemporary art museum opening this fall. Richmond is in for another cultural treat! I invite you to come to the next meeting and see what new developments there are in the neighborhood.

Enjoy the summer and remember to drive carefully in the neighborhood. With the nicer weather, there are a lot more people out enjoying the neighborhood.

*Whit Clements is the current president of the FHNA and is very excited that the Little Nickel restaurant will be opening soon!!*

## Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2016-2017

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

P.O. Box 13201, Richmond, VA 23225-9998

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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.

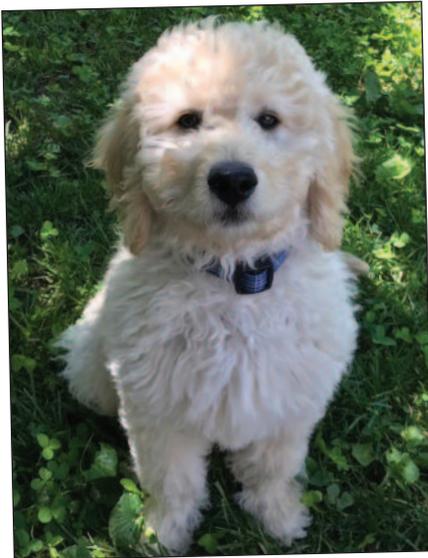
The scholarship deadline this year is July 1, 2017. All materials must be postmarked by that date. The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the recipient by the FHNA during the August 2017 membership meeting.

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 2017 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).

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## Meet Yoshi, A New Member of the Neighborhood



*What is your name and the name of your humans?*

My name is Yoshi and I live with my humans Adam, Mayumi, Kai and Nami. I also live with my furry brother and sister, Motto the Guinea Pig and Sophia Spy the cat.

*Where and when did you find your home?*

I was born in February in Abingdon, Virginia. I moved to my forever home in April when I was eight weeks old.

*What's your heritage?*

I am a very proud Golden Doodle.

*What is your favorite toy and/or activity?*

I love going on walks in the neighborhood, especially when I get to pick up my little humans from Good Shepherd Episcopal School. And just like the rest of my family, I'm a big *Star Wars* fan. My favorite chew toy is Yoda. I like to chew on his ears.

*What is your best trick?*

I'm adorable, there's nothing like puppy dog eyes from a puppy.

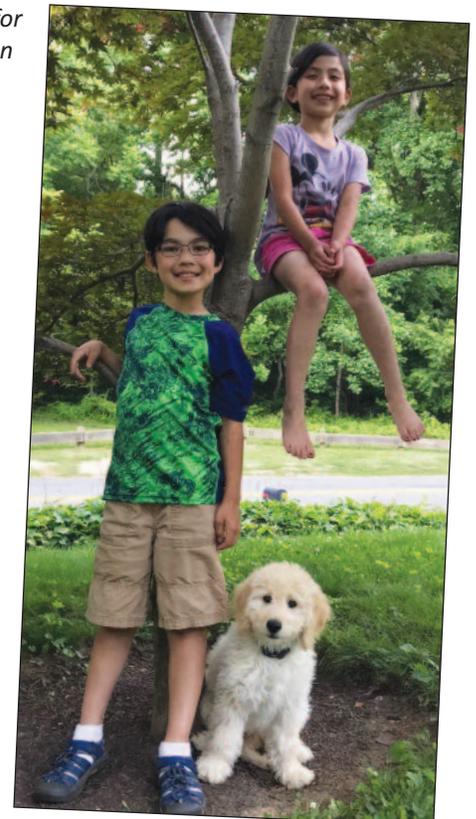
*What are your best traits?*

My humans like the fact that I don't shed and that I take long naps because I get tired easily.

*What else would you like your admirers to know?*

My name means "good" in Japanese, although people often think I'm named after Super Mario's little green dinosaur. I love living in Forest Hill because there are so many parks where I can run and play and meet other canine friends.

*The Gray family has lived in Forest Hill for 10 years. They often can be seen biking around the neighborhood or jumping on the rocks at the James River.*



# Reclaiming the Park for Native Plants

By Pat Wood

March 25, 2017 was a sunny, dry day—perfect weather for the Friends of Forest Hill Park to continue their war on invasive plants. Armed with clippers, gloves, a weed wrench, and saws, a group of hardy volunteers attacked the enemy with vigor.

The group, including VCU students and two ladies from Goochland, pulled up English ivy, euonymus, and Chinese honeysuckle. David Ridderhof manned the weed wrench for three hours, pulling privet out of the ground by its roots! A mother and her Boy Scout sons cut large ivy vines from our native trees.

There was so much energy in the air, it was amazing that the group paused long enough to have their photo snapped. Some of the removed invasive plant sections were too large to bag and made quite bulky piles of rubbish for the city to collect.

By the time this issue of the Forest Hill Flyer goes to press, Friends of Forest Hill Park will have been back in the park again on April 22 and May 20 to wage war on the non-native species.

The upcoming dates for invasive plant removal are June 24, July 22, and August 26. Visit [friendsofforesthillpark.org](http://friendsofforesthillpark.org) for more details. Come out and help the volunteers (community service hours available) reclaim the park for the native plants, one non-native at a time.

*Pat Wood is President of Friends of Forest Hill Park.*



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# A Message from Our Council Representative



Since my swearing in on January 3, 2017 the bulk of our time as a council has been spent on developing this year's budget. Through a long series of budget meetings, including an 18-hour marathon that stretched through the night, we have amended the mayor's proposed budget and come to agreement on funding for next year. My amendments focused on the priorities that I outlined throughout my campaign.

I believe they represent a step in the right direction.

In the capital improvement budget, I emphasized public safety and was able to fund the installation of a new traffic signal at Forest Hill Avenue and Westover Drive, and traffic calming measures on Bliley Road. In the operations budget, I prioritized parks, services, and financial accountability. My proposals funded two new full-time positions in the James River Park System (one in maintenance, one in programming), ensured the continuation of vacuum leaf pick-up through a fee-based on-demand service, and transferred funds within the council budget to engage an independent financial advisor to provide council with unbiased analysis of administrative proposals.

Of course, education remains a top priority for me. I proposed a plan, that was supported by all eight of my colleagues, to return the \$8 million of fund balance to the schools to support one-time expenses in technology and facilities. Also, by using some of the fund balance to pay off school bus leases we were able to free up \$1 million in on-going city operating funds.

I am also proud to say that, as a council, we were able to support pay scale compression for police and fire, and funding for libraries.

The budget process was long, slow and sometimes arduous and we didn't always agree. I believe, however, that we could work collaboratively as a council, and with the mayor's administration to move Richmond forward.

In more local news, I have been in communication with the Westover Hills Neighborhood Association in recent months on proposed bike lanes for Westover Hills Boulevard. Details about the proposal are available at [richmondgov.com/bikeped/](http://richmondgov.com/bikeped/). A survey was put out to the community in March/April, and the city received an overwhelming response. There were many residents who had questions about the proposal, as well as possible unintended consequences of taking Westover Hill Boulevard traffic from four lanes down to two lanes. Based

on the feedback and more analysis, the city will continue to study the issue and will gather more data over the next couple months. I hope to have another update for the community in the August/September timeframe, and then we will engage in another public discussion. I appreciate everyone's input and attention to this issue.

As always, please reach out to me or my liaison, Bryce, anytime. I can be reached at [kristen.larson@richmondgov.com](mailto:kristen.larson@richmondgov.com) and at **804-646-5646**. Bryce can be reached at [Bryce.Lyle@richmondgov.com](mailto:Bryce.Lyle@richmondgov.com) or **804-646-5646**. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I hope to see you soon.

*The Honorable Kristen Larson represents the Southwest 4th District in Richmond. You can reach her at [Kristen.Larson@richmondgov.com](mailto:Kristen.Larson@richmondgov.com) or 804-339-8393.*

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# From our School Board Representative



A lot has been said of the Richmond School Board's decision to mutually part ways with current leadership. Perhaps even more than what has been said is what hasn't. That is most unfortunate. I believe that taxpayers have a right to know why their elected officials take the action that they do and it's why yours truly always errs on the side of more

disclosure rather than less. I believe it's best to say what you mean and mean what you say.

As it relates to leadership, for eight months on the campaign trail I was candid in my assessment of Richmond Public Schools leadership. When I took office I was no less forthcoming. Even when some of my colleagues preferred not to address the subject and even when the attorneys cautioned against saying too much, I spoke.

For me, the impetus for my decision regarded something that I spent a lot of time talking about on the campaign trail. Though in full disclosure, I should share that upon assuming office I committed to retaining intellectual honesty and objectivity and hoped that I could persuade, influence, and cajole current leadership to adopt at least some of my values and/or approaches to include what I characterize as a "radical deference to autonomy" for our principals and teachers.

Some persons have characterized my approach or at least part

of my approach as something called "site specific." That isn't important. What is important is that I just happen to believe that what we need most is maximum freedom for our staff to work without much oversight. I trust our principals and teachers to perform best when they are their own bosses.

Despite my best efforts, it became clear to me that leadership was unprepared to adopt my philosophical preference for radical autonomy. That is okay, it doesn't make one person wrong or one person right—it's just a difference.

Now that we have chosen to pursue a new approach, what does that mean for our schools? First, I need to share that I have no interest in taking forever to identify new leadership. I am committed to moving in an expeditious way. My intent is to have a new leader in place by the fall. Second, I have zero appetite for hiring someone who constitutes a "safe" pick with the "right" credentials and orthodoxies. I want an unconventional leader who is prepared to take big risks, upset the apple-cart, challenge the status quo, and pilot new programs. I want a leader who is entrepreneurial and has a track record in building and/or turning around a large organization. As Mayor Stoney said, "I want a transformational leader."

*Jonathan Young represents the 4th District on the School Board for the City of Richmond. You can reach him at 804-929-7006 or [jyoung7@rvaschools.net](mailto:jyoung7@rvaschools.net).*

## Got Potholes?

The city's Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for maintaining the surface condition of streets, sidewalks, and alleys throughout the city. The Roadway Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining the city's approximately 1,860 lane miles of roads and 832 lane miles of sidewalks. In addition, Roadway Maintenance also maintains Richmond's 3,000 alleys, which equate to 200 miles.

City Roadway Maintenance Division crews repair potholes all year, even during winter months, to keep the roads safe for city residents and visitors. Residents are encouraged to take action and report all potholes. Presently the city is receiving about 25 pothole reports each day. To give you an idea of the magnitude of the city's pothole work, Roadway Maintenance has repaired nearly 70,000 potholes since 2011.

You can report a pothole location 24 hours a day online using SeeClickFix, or you can call in a request using the city's 3-1-1 Customer Care system during business hours.

When winter ends and the temperature rises, the city's crews step up their pothole repair efforts. During this accelerated repair period, DPW also conducts more road inspections to ensure all required repairs are identified. Permanent repairs and improvements are scheduled for the annual paving season which runs from April 1 through the end of October, weather permitting.

In the event your vehicle is damaged by a pothole, you can file a damage claim through the City Attorney's office. You can reach that office by calling 804-646-7940. An investigation will be conducted once your claim is filed. The results of that investigation will determine the outcome and resolution of your claim. From the personal experience of some Forest Hill residents, if the pot hole has NOT been reported to the city prior to vehicle damage, a resident is unlikely to recover damages. So, please report ALL potholes to the city's system.

*Thank you to David Lynch for this information about potholes. For more details, contact the City of Richmond at [richmondgov.com](http://richmondgov.com).*

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# Thank You to Our Flyer Volunteers

The Forest Hill Flyer is the quarterly newsletter of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. Written, designed, produced, and delivered by volunteers, it reaches every home in the Forest Hill neighborhood with updates on social and charity events, city and park news, new commercial development, and even neighbor profiles and celebrity pets.

More than 700 copies of the Flyer are hand-delivered each quarter. In addition, extra copies are printed and delivered to neighborhood sites and events throughout the year. Taking over the job of Distribution Manager for the Flyer is Diane Pendleton, a member of the FHNA board. The intrepid volunteers who deliver the Flyer to your homes are Whit Clements, Jennifer Curran, Colleen Dee, Bob Hamrick, Jacqui Jones, Robley Jones, Phil Licking, Michele MacPhee, Luke McCall, Mary McNeil, Carolyn Paulette, Carolyn Reece, the Thomas family, Nancy Thompson, and Christine Waldron.

**Thanks so much for all you do!**

# Bluebird Trail in Forest Hill Park

By Laura Dysart

We are off to an exciting start on the Forest Hill Park Bluebird Trail! Vivienne Bruzzese and I monitor the bluebird trail, which includes making sure the 10 boxes are in good shape; preventing ants, wasps, and predators from bothering our birds; and recording data.

The Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior and the students of the Good Shepherd Episcopal School have been involved in education and the monitoring of the boxes. Trail monitors record data each week about the activity in the boxes including the number of nests, eggs, hatchlings and birds fledged. These statistics are reported to the Virginia Bluebird Society. Bluebird trails are helping bring back and conserve the Eastern Bluebird population. Boxes on the trail are reserved for native bird species. This season, we have three boxes with bluebird eggs, and one box with chickadee eggs. Chickadees are a native species and welcome in the boxes.

If you are interested in monitoring, or going along to experience the bluebird boxes, please contact me at [lauradysart@verizon.net](mailto:lauradysart@verizon.net). It's important not to open the nest boxes if you have not been trained to do so.

You can find out more information on the Bluebird Trail project throughout Virginia at [virginiabluebirds.org](http://virginiabluebirds.org). The site also offers educational information for kids including an egg identification game, a cavity nester matching game, and a bluebird activity book.

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<p><b>May 14</b>  <b>Mothers Day</b>          Afro-Zen Allstars          6-8pm</p>	<p><b>July 9</b>          Illegal States          Brass Band          6-8pm</p>	<p><b>September 10</b>          Full Moon Fever          5-7pm</p>
<p><b>June 11</b>          RVA School          of Rock          6-8pm</p>	<p><b>August 6</b>          The Moogly          Blues Band          6-8pm</p>	<p><b>October 8</b>          The Slack Family          5-7pm</p>

 [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)  
 Special thanks to Westover Hills & Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations, the Office of Kristen N. Larson and the Fine Folks of the City of Richmond Parks and Recreational Department.



## Please Help Your FHNA

The city has requested that the FHNA remind folks that glass and alcohol are NOT allowed in any Richmond City Park, including Forest Hill Park.

In addition, to abide by city laws, we are being asked to enforce the parking rules in the area behind the Stone House. This area will be saved for drop-offs, vendors, and band and handicap parking. The yellow curb area must be clear at all times for emergency vehicles. We will be barricading this area off earlier in the day so that it can be clear for the concert.

We are asking for volunteers to help us with this new aspect of the event. The time slots for volunteering are 4:30-5:30 / 5:30-6:30 / 6:30-7:30 (in Sept/October moves up an hour). High school students would receive community service credit. If you can help us manage the barricades, please email [ForestHillAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:ForestHillAssoc@gmail.com).



**Forest Hill**

# *At the Westover Hills Library*

## Mark Your Calendar for these Hot Summer Events!

**LITTLE DANCERS DANCE PARTY.** Tuesday, June 6, 11-11:45 a.m.  
Join Ms. Kim as she leads little ones ages two through five years old in easy-to-follow dance moves. Participants will receive a free “Baby Dance” DVD to take home. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Limited to 12 so please call 804-646-8833 for reservations.

**SUMMER READING KICKOFF!** Saturday, June 17, 10:30-noon  
It’s time for summer reading at Westover Hills Library! Get signed up and stay for some camp-style crafts, snacks, and more!

**CHILDREN’S SINGER CHRIS CAMPBELL.** Thursday, June 22, 2 p.m.  
Singer and ventriloquist Chris Campbell will have kids ages two through 10 laughing and singing with his rollicking songs and hilarious puppets. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

**BARBEQUE THE PIG IS BACK.** Tuesday, June 27, 1 p.m.  
Meet Barbeque, Richmond’s cutest pig and his owner, Sara, as they raise awareness for Ranger’s Refuge at Gallastar in Afton, Virginia. All ages welcome. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

**CAMPING FUN WITH VIRGINIA STATE PARKS.**  
Wednesday, June 28, 1 p.m.  
Camp out in our meeting room with stories, songs, snacks and more! Presented by Virginia State Parks. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

**RECYCLING STORYTIME WITH CVWMA.** Thursday, June 29, 11 a.m.  
Join us for a special story time with Denise Ritchie from Central Virginia Waste Management. Listen to stories about how we can help the earth, and create a beautiful wind catcher from recycled water bottles. Families welcome.

**IT’S MAGIC WITH THE AMAZING MR. B.** Wednesday, July 12, 3 p.m.  
The amazing Mr. B is back with all new magic tricks and reading tips! Fun for all ages—children younger than 10 should be accompanied by an adult.

**A.W.A.R.E. ANIMAL REHABILITATION.** Thursday, July 13, 1:30 p.m.  
Meet some of Virginia’s wild inhabitants and learn how they have been rescued and rehabilitated by this compassionate group of volunteers! Children younger than 10 should be accompanied by an adult.

**POPCORN! STORY AND S.T.E.M. ACTIVITY.** Tuesday, July 18, 1 p.m.  
Find out what’s behind the magic of popped corn! For kids grades kindergarten through fifth. Children younger than 10 should be accompanied by an adult.

**CHILDREN’S ENTERTAINER CHUCK SHIELDS.** Thursday, July 20, 1 p.m.  
Chuck Shields will keep you laughing and singing with his magic, music, and more! Fun for all ages. Children younger than 10 should be accompanied by an adult.

**SEASHELLS S.T.E.M. ACTIVITY.** Tuesday, August 1, 1 p.m.  
Learn to identify and classify seashells in this hands-on learning experience. For grades kindergarten through fifth.

**DIG THOSE DINOSAURS! S.T.E.M. ACTIVITY.** Tuesday, August 8, 1 p.m.  
Learn about dinosaurs, then uncover your own “fossil” in this fun learning experience for grades kindergarten through second accompanied by an adult.

**SUMMER READING FINALE!** Saturday, August 12, 2-4 p.m.  
Did you finish your summer reading? TERRIFIC! Now celebrate with drop-in crafts, snacks and more. Children younger than 10 should be accompanied by an adult.

**Help from Master Gardeners**  
Get help with your gardening questions from certified Master Gardeners. Saturdays, June 10, June 24, July 8, and July 22 at 10 a.m. to noon.

**Richmond Origami**  
Join Richmond’s beginning-to-advanced paper-folding club! All levels of folders are welcome. Children younger than 10 should be accompanied by an adult. Saturdays, June 24, July 22, and August 26 from 1-4 p.m.

**LEGO Club**  
What could you build if you just had the right Legos? We provide the Legos—you provide the imagination! For grades kindergarten through sixth with a parent. Lego Club meets Tuesdays, June 20, July 18, and August 15 from 4-5:30 p.m.

**In Stitches!**  
Enjoy conversation and project ideas while completing your knit, crochet, cross-stitch, smocking, or other hand craft works. Open to older teens and adults, the meetings are every Thursday from 2-4 p.m. (There will be no meetings on June 22 or July 13.)

**Westover Hills Library Advisory Group**  
Interested in libraries, reading, and your community? We welcome your input! Join us at the library on Tuesday, June 6 from 7-8 p.m.

**Fiction Focus**  
Come join our senior book club! We meet the third Friday of each month February through October. Books and discussion questions are provided. This group is sponsored by Richmond Public Library and the City of Richmond Office on Aging and Disabilities. We want your insights into the books we read, so please join us on June 16, July 21, and August 18 from 10 a.m. to noon.

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

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

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

**There will be no Storytimes June 1, 6, or 8. The library will be closed on July 4.**

# Keep River Safety in Mind this Summer

In Forest Hill, the James River is one of our most cherished resources. You can check river conditions for boating, swimming, and fishing on the James at the James River Association website at [jrava.org](http://jrava.org). To stay safe on the water, please take a look at the following reminders from the James River Association.

## Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Research and tell someone your route and schedule
- Carry maps of the area
- Watch weather and river conditions
- Do not paddle alone

## Use Proper Equipment

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) with whistle attached
- A hat to shield the sun or helmet if kayaking in rapids
- Water shoes or sneakers
- Waterproof or quick drying clothing
- Dry bag packed with small first aid kit, flashlight, a small knife, bug repellent, sunscreen, and snacks
- Drinking water—take more than you think you'll need

## Safety on the Water

- Scout rapids Class III and up
- Portage around big rapids and dams
- Do not stand up in rapids if you capsize—float through them with your feet up and pointing downstream
- Get off the river if you hear thunder or see lightning

In addition, by law, when water levels are at five feet and above at the Westham Gauge, everyone on the river must wear a lifejacket. **When water levels are at nine feet or above, no one is allowed on the river without a high-water permit.** To get a high-water permit from Fire Station 13 at 411 East Commerce Road, or call **804-646-8296**.

**Remember—life jackets save lives!**

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# Mark Your Calendar for the Dual Primary!

by Robley Jones

Most states have federal and state elections on the same year. Not so Virginia! The joke is, "Virginia has elections only in years ending with a number." The historical origin of this practice goes back to the "Byrd Machine's" efforts to suppress the size of the electorate in state elections.

This year, we will not only have a November 7, 2017 election, both major parties will hold state-run primaries on June 13, 2017. The ballot will include state and local candidates.

Please remember that although we do not register by party in Virginia, you can participate in only one of the primaries, Democratic or Republican. At the polling place you will be asked, "In which primary do you wish to participate?" Your answer will determine which ballot you receive. The primaries will be held at your usual voting location. For almost all FHNA members, this is Precinct 402 at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church.

Although the official ballot is yet to be certified, it appears that the following candidates will be on the ballots. Remember, if an election is not contested within the party, there is no primary.

## Democratic Primary

Governor – Ralph Northam v. Tom Perriello

Lt. Governor – Justin Fairfax v. Susan Platt v. Gene Rossi  
Richmond Sheriff – C. T. Woody v. Antoinette Irving

Richmond Treasurer – Tavaris Spinks v. Nicol Armstead

## Republican Primary

Governor – Ed Gillespie v. Corey Steward v. Frank Wager

Lt. Governor – Bryce Reeves v. Jill Vogel

If you are NOT registered to vote at this time, you cannot participate in the June 13, 2017 primary. You can register online at [vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation).

If you have questions regarding the upcoming elections, or if you wish to volunteer to work the polls, please contact Robley Jones at [robleyj@aol.com](mailto:robleyj@aol.com).

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# Welcome to Cindy's Labyrinth

By Phylliss Hunt Moret

Being better stewards of God's green earth was the topic of discussion on April 5, 2014, at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church (FHPC) led by Aimee Bushman, Virginia Grassroots Coordinator from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. We learned that front lawns like ours are called "slip and slides" because grass is not a good filter to absorb rainwater back into the earth; and instead, the water slides to the street and drains into the river, taking undesirable, untreated pet waste and fertilizer chemicals with it.

Inspired to play a more active role, we began discussing ways we could become good and better stewards of the earth. We conferred with knowledgeable people who offered their generous time and expertise on watershed management: Suzette Lyon of Richmond Tree Stewards, Bill Shanabruch of the Ready Creek Coalition, and Jacob Bauckman of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Bayscapes, rain gardens, and cisterns were all considered. Native trees, shrubs, and a labyrinth with a permeable surface and butterfly garden were selected for priorities of impact and became our big wishful concept.

The labyrinth was especially intriguing for serving both us and our community. Meditative labyrinth walking is an ancient spiritual practice along a maze that symbolizes our journey of faith. The concentric circles weave and twist, but always carry the seeker to the center, a place of meditation and illumination. The exit path then takes the seeker back into daily life in the world.

Our dear friend Cindy Creasy had a big smile on her face when she learned about the labyrinth and butterfly garden; but succumbed too soon to pancreatic cancer in July 2014 before our big wishful concept became a reality. She is remembered as a loving wife and sister, faithful member and elder of the church, exceptional editor of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and treasured friend.

The criteria for our big wishful concept was for a more earth-friendly front lawn with labyrinth and butterfly garden to memorialize our friend Cindy Creasy in as beautiful and inspiring manner as Cindy lived; add native trees for shade over Phideaux Field dog park and the parking lots, and low growing buffer plantings to capture rainwater runoff; use native plants that attract butterflies, birds, and humans; be a place to sit and linger in reflection, gratitude, and joy for God's many blessings; and demonstrate Forest Hill Church's hospitality to all by creating a visible community outreach with a spiritual message for us and our neighbors and churches in the bigger community surrounding Forest Hill.

The concept became reality thanks to numerous people. Generous memorial contributions from Cindy Creasy's family and friends made Cindy's labyrinth, butterfly garden, and benches possible. The design and master plan was penned by



gifted landscape architect Drew Harrigan of Four Winds Design (a RiverWise preferred designer). Materials and construction were made possible by the talents of Sneed's Nursery and Garden Center. The labyrinth is made of permeable surfaces surrounded by a butterfly habitat, and encircled with an evergreen hedge, pink dogwoods, and a berm. A gift of 21 red maple, cherry, rose of Sharon, and redbud trees from Cindy's friend Roseann Walling are planted along Phideaux Field and 44th Street. Gifts from patrons of Phideaux Field enabled the new trees and shrubs along Forest Hill Avenue.

In addition, Rowe's Canopy Row of large red oak trees and pink and white dogwood around the front parking lot were made possible by family and friends of long-time member and elder Maurice Rowe who died in November 2014. Maurice would be pleased since he served on the Keep Virginia Beautiful Board of Directors from the late 60s and as its president from 1994 to 2009. This new reality publicly declares FHPC to be a good steward of the earth and a welcoming faith community for all! As Cindy's sister, Anne Creasy Dail, said, "It was important to her for the church to reach out to the whole community. It amazes me her impact keeps going on and on."

You are invited to Cindy Creasy's Memorial Labyrinth and Butterfly Garden at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 4401 Forest Hill Avenue! Please come walk, sit, and meditate a while. It's open to you and churches in the bigger community surrounding Forest Hill.

*When Phylliss Hunt Moret relocated from NOVA to Richmond in 2010 for a new position at VCU, she quickly identified Richmond's better quality of life, her attraction to Forest Hill, and choice of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church for her spiritual journey due to its welcoming people and constant hospitality.*

# Summer Safety Begins at Home

By Judith Warrington

Ah, warm weather...soaking up the sun, grilling on the deck, working in the yard, going on vacation. Summertime living may be relaxing, but it's not the time to be lax about safety. After all, visits to emergency rooms increase by 27 percent during the summer months! Here are a few reminders that can help keep your family and your property safe this summer.

## **Control mosquitoes and watch out for ticks.**

Last summer introduced us to the threat of the Zika virus in the U.S. and gave us another reason to consider mosquitos more than a nuisance. To reduce the mosquito population in your yard, don't give them a place to breed. Regularly dump standing water from plant saucers, gutters, or any other places in your yard where rainwater can collect. If you have a rain barrel, wrap the downspout access with aluminum foil to help keep mosquitos out. You can also use a nontoxic, donut-shaped mosquito dunk in fish ponds, water features, and rain barrels to kill mosquito larvae. These are available in the garden department of most hardware stores.

Because of our mild winter, the Centers for Disease Control is warning that this will be a particularly difficult tick season. Make a thorough tick check part of your routine for yourself, your kids, and your pets. Find an insect repellent that works best for you.

## **It's not the heat, it's the humidity.**

Actually, it's both. Yardwork, running, and playing are good exercise for people of any age, however it is easy to overdo it in the heat. That's why staying hydrated is vital. Drink water even if you don't feel particularly thirsty and avoid working or playing during the hottest part of the day. Wear a hat and don't forget your sunscreen!

Be especially mindful of the heat's impact on children and the elderly. Children who are not hydrating, yet engaging in physical activity, are susceptible to heat-related illness. Older folks are especially prone to heat for a variety of reasons. Please check on

your elderly neighbors during periods of extreme heat.

Even pets can succumb to heat illness. Schedule dog walks and activities for early morning or evening. Hot pavement can burn tender paws. It's better for you, too. Make sure pets have water and shade...and you know better than to leave your dog (or your children) in a hot car, even for a few minutes!

## **Be safe in the yard and home.**

Before you cut the grass, pick up the pinecones, toys, and any other potential projectiles. Keep children and pets out of the way while you mow.

It's grilling season, so remember that grills can retain heat for a long time. Make sure yours is in a safe location away from activities and wooden decks or porches. Never empty hot coals into supercans—they can cause a fire.

When it comes to repairs and maintenance around the house, maybe you can, but maybe you shouldn't. Trimming trees, climbing on the roof, removing the invasive squirrels from the attic—sometimes it's better to be safe than sorry. Calling a professional is often the best idea.

## **Keep your home safe while you're away.**

Don't advertise your vacation on social media. Wait until you get back to share photos on Facebook and Instagram. Stop newspaper and mail delivery, arrange for someone to mow your lawn, and set lights on timers. Make your home look lived in while you are not there. Most important of all, tell your neighbors that you'll be away!

If you need additional eyes on your property, you can file a Home Watch/Business Watch Request with the Richmond Police Department. An online form is available at [richmondgov.com/Police/Documents/HWBW.pdf](http://richmondgov.com/Police/Documents/HWBW.pdf). Fill out the form, return it to the precinct, and an officer will do a drive-by check of your home or business while you are away.

Make this a safer summer by making sure your good judgement doesn't take a vacation.



*Michael and Penny Kucera came home to a surprise early in the spring. A deer shed one of his antlers in a tree in their front yard. Look closely and you can see where he was rubbing against the branch. Deer are a common sight along West 43rd Street at Reedy Creek. The males shed their antlers every year after mating season, and then grow a new set.*

*Photo by Michael Kucera*

# FHNA Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 3	Neighborhood Yard Sale, 8 a.m.-noon
Saturday, June 10	Neighborhood Walking Tour, Stone House, 9:30 a.m.-noon
Sunday, June 11	Music in the Park, RVA School of Rock, 6-8 p.m.
Tuesday, June 13	State and local primaries
Tuesday, June 20	FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m. at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
Saturday, June 24	Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior meet at the Stone House, 10 a.m.-noon
Saturday, June 24	Friends of Forest Hill Park invasive species removal in the park, 9 a.m.-noon. Meet near the stone pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Tuesday, June 29	4th District Meeting, Huguenot Community Center, 6:30 pm
Sunday, July 9	Music in the Park, Illegal States Brass Band, 6-8 p.m.
Saturday, July 22	Friends of Forest Hill Park invasive species removal in the park, 9 a.m.-noon. Meet near the stone pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Saturday, July 29	Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior meet at the Stone House, 10 a.m.-noon
July	No FHNA meeting
Sunday, August 6	Music in the Park, The Moody Blues Band, 6-8 p.m.
Sunday, August 13	4th District Ice Cream Social sponsored by Kristen Larsen in Forest Hill Park, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, August 15	FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m. at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
Saturday, August 26	Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior meet at the Stone House, 10 a.m.-noon
Saturday, August 26	Friends of Forest Hill Park invasive species removal in the park, 9 a.m.-noon. Meet near the stone pyramid across from Brookside Road.

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

## Membership Form

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)  
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